

Field Report: 40 Society Street

June 1989

Field Report: 72 Anson Street

October 1992

Vertebrate Fauna from 40 Society Street and 72 Anson Street,

Charleston, South Carolina

December 1993

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

### Test Excavations at 40 Society Street Charleston, South Carolina

#### Introduction

Test excavations were conducted by The Charleston Museum at 40 Society Street at the request of the property owners, Mr. Houston Eubank, Architect, and Historic Charleston Foundation. Demolition and rebuilding of the kitchen building would disturb a portion of the archaeological record contained in the rear yard. Historic Charleston Foundation, which retains protective covenants on the property, required that limited archaeological testing be conducted prior to construction.

Based on discussions with Mr. Eubank and Mr. Jonathan Poston of Historic Charleston Foundation, it was agreed that limited fieldwork, expected to last three days, would be conducted at the expense of the property owners. Laboratory work and final report preparation, expected to take three weeks, would be funded by Historic Charleston Foundation at a later date. The property at 40 Society is an excellent example of an early nineteenth century middle-class suburban household. Excavations conducted by The Charleston Museum include studies of President Street and 66 Society Street, a few blocks from the present site. As such, the site was expected to yield data relevant to the examination of diet, social status, and evolution of the urban landscape.

#### Methods

Excavations were conducted June 13-14, 1989 at 40 Society by Martha Zierden, Curator of Historical Archaeology and a crew of three. The owners planned to reconstruct the kitchen building, which was dismantled due to instability, put a small extension beyond those foundations, and construct a small fish pond.

The area to be impacted by construction of the fish pond was considered to be of primary importance. Previous excavations in Charleston suggest this portion of the site often yields refuse related to the daily affairs of site inhabitants. Much of this area was covered with debris when archaeologists arrived on site, but space was available to place a 3 by 5 foot unit in the western portion of this area. The square was laid out by pulling tapes parallel to the western wall of the kitchen foundation. The unit measured 3 feet east/west by 5 feet north/south. The northwest corner of the unit was 67.0 feet north of the rear of the main house and 14.5 feet west of the brick garden enclosing wall.

All soils were excavated by shovel and trowel following natural stratigraphy. Soils were dry screened through 1/4 inch mesh. Faunal, ethnobotanical, ferrous, and cultural materials were bagged separately by provenience. Field notes were maintained and color photographs were taken of all aspects of the excavation.

Materials were then removed to The Charleston Museum where they were washed, sorted, and identified. Ferrous and cuprous materials were conserved through electrolytic reduction and distilled water baths. Field records and archaeological materials are curated at The Charleston Museum according to standard Museum policy.

#### Description of Excavated Proveniences

Excavations began with zone 1, which consisted of dark black, cindery soil with bits of brick, plaster, and mortar demolition debris and small fragments of glass. At approximately 4/10 feet below surface, the soil changed somewhat, and the dark grey soil contained a smaller proportion of cinders. There were more artifacts, particularly more iron. This was excavated as zone 1 level 2. Directly beneath this was an uneven lense of compacted burned brick and mortar rubble in a tan sand matrix. This was designated and excavated as zone 2. Two features were noted intruding into zone 2 along the north wall. Feature 1, in the northwest corner, was roughly square while feature 2, in the northeast corner, was rounded. The matrix of both features was identical to the above zone 1 level 2. Feature 2 proved to be poorly defined in profile.

Zone 2 was somewhat uneven in distribution, and bottomed onto a mottled yellow fill sand. This was designated zone 3. Features 1 and 2 continued into this zone. Zone 3, unlike the above zone 2, was relatively shallow. Beneath this was a relatively deep zone of dark grey loam with large chunks of coal and brick. This zone was .4 feet deep. Beneath this was the same dark grey loamy soil mottled with yellow sand. This was designated zone 5, and the first .4 feet was excavated as level 1. Later inspection of the profile suggested that this may have been the top of three superimposed features. Zone 5 was further distinguished from the above zone 4 by the presence of larger artifacts. Zone 5 was also somewhat looser and more friable.

Within the second level of zone 5, swirled pockets of soil and artifacts became apparent. There were lenses of coal, ash and bricks. A small area of yellow sand was noted along the east wall. Excavation of this area as zone 5 level 2 continued until this small area of yellow sand became clearly defined as sterile subsoil. It then became apparent that the swirled dark deposits that continued in the western 2/3 of the unit were part of a large feature that continued into sterile soil. Two smaller features were visible in the eastern profile; these had been

excavated with zone 5. It appears that the large feature that continued into sterile subsoil, designated feature 3, actually initiated at the top of zone 5 and almost completely truncated the two undesignated features.

The remaining dark soils were excavated as feature 3. This large feature and its various lenses sloped to the west at a 45 degree angle. The soils at this point consisted of brick and mortar rubble with very minor amounts of soil. Beneath this was a lense of dark grey soil. A fourth feature was noted along the north wall. This was severely truncated by feature 3, and the original point of initiation and profile were impossible to determine. The remaining tan and grey mottled soil was excavated as feature 4 to subsoil. Excavations were then completed, and stratigraphic profiles drawn.

#### Preliminary Laboratory Results

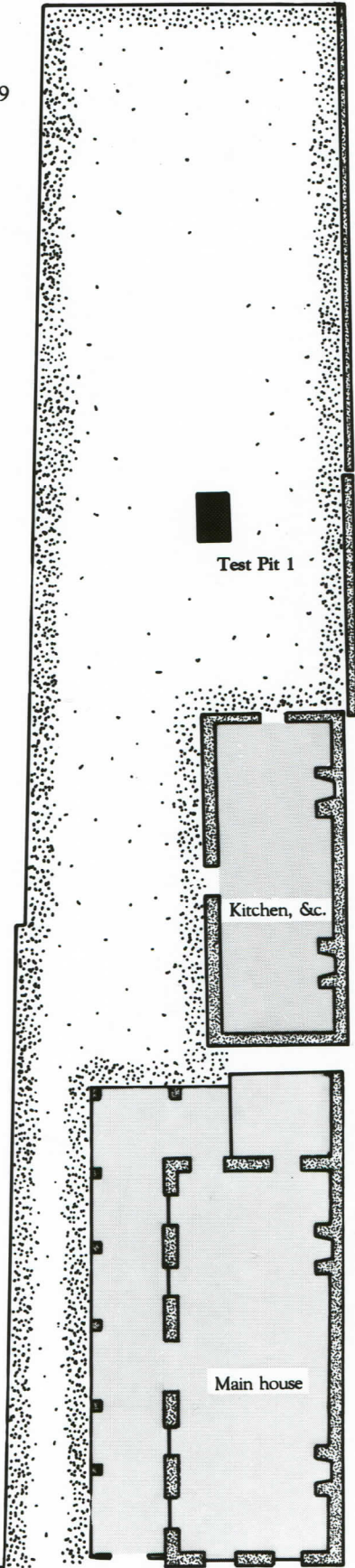
Excavation of Test Unit 1 revealed 15 discrete proveniences, consisting of 5 zones and 4 features. The earliest provenience was feature 4, which dated to the 1830s. Feature 3, immediately above and intruding into feature 4, dated to the 1850s. Zone 5, truncated by feature 3, probably dated to the 1840s. The above zone 4 dated to the 1860s, with zones 2 and 3 associated with the late nineteenth century. Zone 1 and features 1 and 2 date to the twentieth century. A total of 1100 artifacts were recovered from the site. Further analysis awaits funding of this portion of the project.

Provenience Guide, 40 Society St.

<b>FS#</b>	<b>Provenience</b>	<b>TPQ</b>	<b>Date of Deposition</b>
1	TP 1, zone 1 lev 1	decaled ww	20th century
2	TP 1, zone 1 lev 2	milk glass	20th century
3	TP 1, zone 2	molded panel	late 19th century
4	TP 1, fea 1	white porcelain	20th century
5	TP 1, fea 2	whiteware	20th century
6	TP 1, zone 3	annular ww	late 19th century
7	TP 1, zone 4	white porcelain	1860s
8	TP 1, zone 5 lev 1	white porcelain	1850s
9	TP 1, zone 5 lev 2	gilded white porc	1850s
10	TP 1, troweling profile		late 19th century
11	TP 1, fea 3	white porcelain	1850s

40 Society Street

Archaeological Testing, 1989



Society Street

## Field Summary

### Test Excavations at 72 Anson Street

#### Charleston, South Carolina

Excavations in the yard of 72 Anson Street were designed to mitigate the impact of a new garden in the yard. Although the property owner proposed to build raised beds, creation of the garden would involve some tilling and churning of the top foot of soil and some deep excavation to plant trees. Historic Charleston Foundation, which holds protective covenants on the property, proposed that archaeological testing should be conducted prior to ground disturbance. After consultation between The Charleston Museum, Historic Charleston Foundation, and the property owners, it was determined that 3.5 days of fieldwork would be appropriate. During this time, a minimum of two 5' squares would be excavated. These would be placed in areas to be impacted by tree planting and dispersed across the garden area. Excavations commenced on October 12, 1992 and continued through October 15.

#### Fieldwork

Because of the limited nature of the fieldwork and the small size of the site, a trench/unit grid, tied to permanent landmarks, was deemed appropriate. Two units were deliberately located to test portions of the garden to be disturbed by tree planting. The units were tied to the (true) northeast corner of Society and Anson Streets (Point A). From this point we measured 117.9' north, and set up the transit over a point on the outer curb of the driveway at this point (Point B). We then lined back up on the corner, and turned the transit 90 degrees to the east. A point was established along this line at 50.9' (Point C). Again, the transit was moved to this point, and turned to the north. Points were placed at 35' and 40'. From these two points, tapes were used to triangulate a 5' square to the east. This grid north line is 22 degrees west of magnetic north. This first unit was designated Test Pit 1. Subsequently, a 2' by 5' extension to the west was excavated to further expose features. This was designated Test Pit 1-A.

Test Pit 2 was laid out in a similar manner. An east-west line was established between the points on the curb (between Point B and Point C). The transit was set up on this line 41.0' east of Point B. From here, the transit was turned 90 degrees to the north and points were established at 10' and 15'. Tapes were used to triangulate a 5' square to the east.

Elevations were taken relative to an arbitrary point established on site. Datum Point 1 was the pipe gate closure in the center of the driveway. For the purposes of field excavation, this point was given an assumed elevation of 10.0' msl. All elevations are listed as feet above mean sea level, relative to this point.

Excavation of Tet Pit 1 began with Zone 1, which was an imported black topsoil. A sample of zone 1 level 1 was screened and found to contain no materials, so the soil was excavated and discarded to a depth of .4' b.s. (below surface). At this point, the soil appeared somewhat mottled with very sparse shell and brick flecks. These materials were separated and screened as zone 1 level 2. At .6' b.s. a pvc pipe for the garden sprinkler system was encountered. This pipe ran east/west, .9' north of the south wall of the unit. The soils between the pipe and the south wall of the unit were not excavated below this point.

In the majority of the square, the soil evinced some areas of lighter, browner soil and an increase in brick and shell flecking. However, the soil still appeared to be mottled, so a third level of zone 1 was excavated. This third level was only .15 deep. An ephemeral layer of coarse white builder's sand was present at this level. Here the soil changed to a medium-to-dark brown-grey sand with flecks of coal, brick, and shell. This was designated Zone 2. A feature was visible in the northwest corner of the unit. This linear feature, oriented 45 degrees to the square, exhibited highly mottled yellow and black sand fill. The feature had straight sides and was deep. It was excavated in levels, alternating with excavation of the remainder of the unit. The bottom of this feature, which appears to be a 20<sup>th</sup> century ditch or trench, was never reached, due to time constraints and the late date of the feature.

Zone 2 was excavated in two levels to a depth of 1.1' below surface. Beneath this was a zone of medium brown sand with some tan sand mottling. The soil contained some shell flecking, and fewer artifacts than zone 2. There was a concentration of artifacts in the center of the square, suggesting the presence of a feature, but no edges could be detected. These materials were screened separately, however. Zone 3 was excavated in two levels. Near the top of zone 3 level 1, intact brick was encountered along the west wall. This was designated feature 2. The portion visible in the unit consisted of two bricks end-to-end. Subsequent excavation of zone 3 revealed that the feature was at least two bricks deep, mortared in place.

Based on these features, it was determined that further exploration was warranted. To this end, a 2' by 5' extension (Test Pit 1-A) was excavated to the west. Stratigraphy in this unit was identical. Feature 1, the deep 20<sup>th</sup> century trench, continued into this unit and occupied a major portion of the northeastern half of the unit. Once again, the feature was excavated in three levels, alternating with excavation of the zones elsewhere in the unit. At the top of zone 3 we were able to determine that Feature 2 was in fact two lines of parallel brick, suggesting a drain.

Additional excavation suggested that we were at a corner, or perhaps a terminus, of a brick-lined drain. Feature 1 intruded upon, and removed a portion of the drain. The portion remaining in the unit ran north/south, and barely turned a corner to the west before intrusion by feature 1. The drain was three bricks deep, and was somewhat irregular in construction. It appeared that the bricks flared out toward the top. The base of the drain was also brick, laid in herringbone pattern (45 degrees to the side of the feature). The flooring stopped abruptly 1.0' south of the corner.



There was no clear difference between the soils of zone 3 above and the soils within feature 2, but these were excavated separately. The medium grey sand fill contained a concentration of coal and mortar lumps in the vicinity of the unpaved area of the drain, suggesting this may have served as a "sump". This area also contained a concentration of bone and pottery sherds.

Elsewhere in the unit, the soil was a mottled white and light brown-grey sand, and contained no artefactual materials. It appeared to be just above subsoil, so excavations were halted at this point.

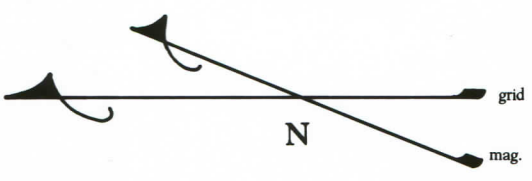
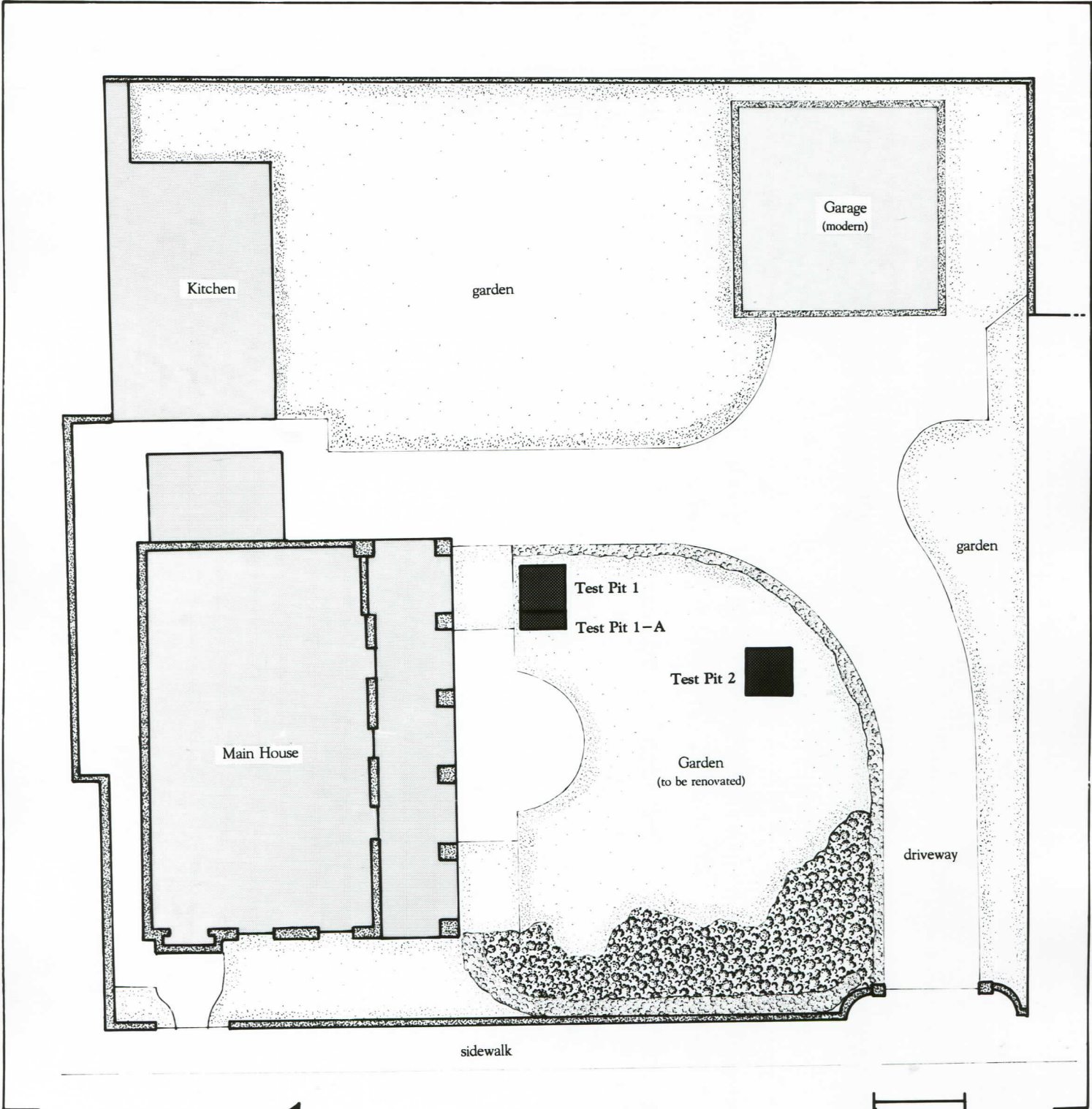
Excavation then focused on Test Pit 2. Due to paucity of materials and time constraints, zone 1, the loamy black topsoil, was excavated to a depth of .5' and discarded. At this point, the same lens of builder's sand was encountered in all except the southern quarter of the unit. Here there was a concentration of wall plaster compacted into the soil. The soil also contained some window glass.

Beneath this, zone 2 was slightly lighter and browner. It was also very loamy and hard-packed. Brick, plaster, coal, and wood increased as excavation continued. Artifacts, including glass, ceramic, and bone, increased as well. Screening of this material began at .9' b.s. and continued to a depth of 1.3' b.s. These materials were excavated as "zone 2 screened." Since only one half-day of excavation time remained, excavations focused on the southern half of the unit. At 1.3' b.s., there appeared to be concentrations of artifacts, but no clearly-defined features. Excavation of a second level of zone 2 continued for .3 feet. At this point, the mottled light tan and medium grey sand designated as zone 3 was encountered. A number of features were also present. In the center of the unit was a square posthole containing some remnant wood. The fill of this post was black soil with large chunks of plaster, suggesting that this feature, designated feature 3, initiated at the base of, or within, zone 1.

The southeast corner of the unit held a concentration of large, almost whole artifacts in zone 2 level 2; here this concentration continued in a circular feature 1.7' in diameter. The fill in feature 4 was identical to the above zone 2. Feature 4 was the only feature in this level to be excavated. The feature maintained its circular shape. It has slightly tapering sides and a very regular, completely flat bottom, .4' from the point of definition and excavation. The feature contained numerous artifacts dating to the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including bisque porcelain figurines. Other features encountered in the unit included two squarish stains. Feature 5 was adjacent to the east wall, and feature 6 was adjacent to the west wall. Both contained fill similar to zone 2, a medium-dark grey-brown sandy loam that was very friable. Excavation of Unit 2 was halted at this point, and units were backfilled.

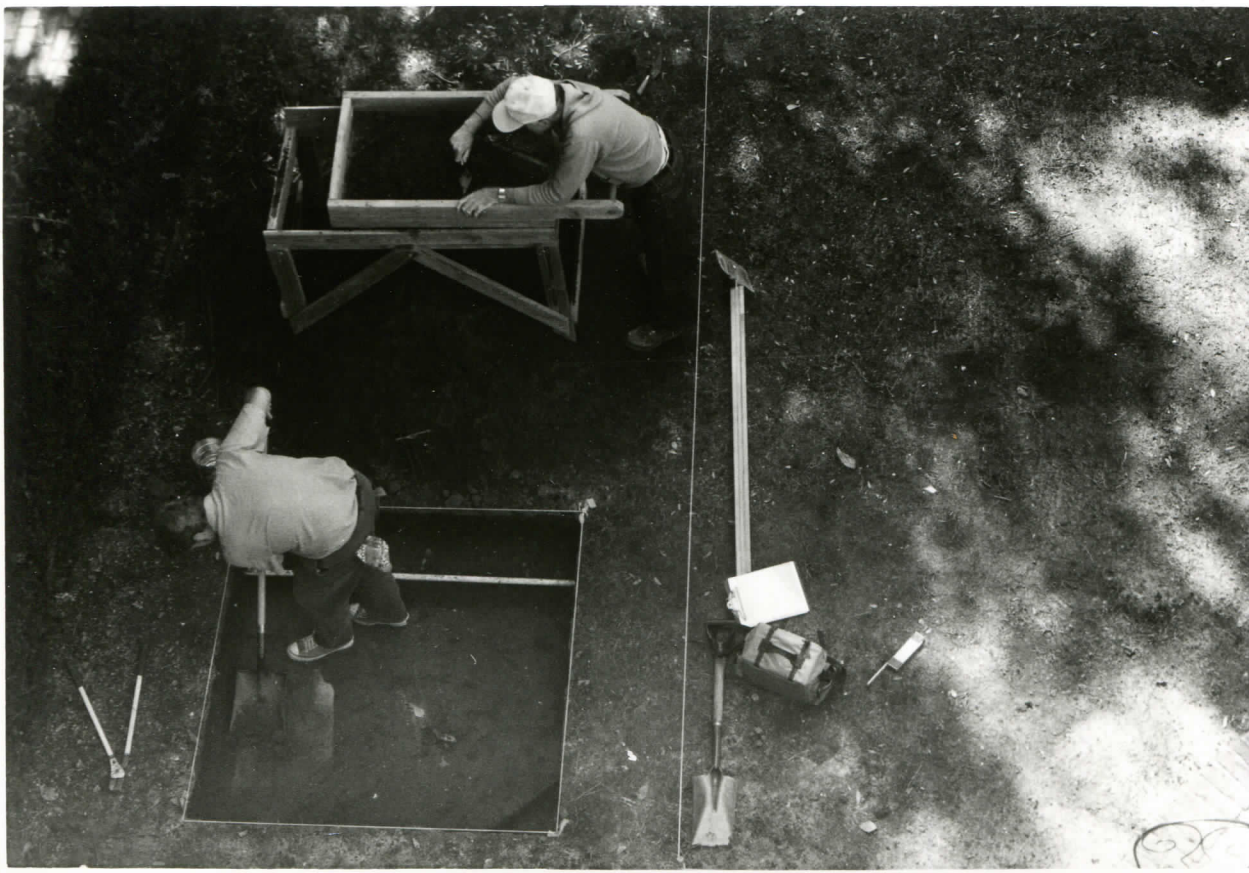
72 Anson – Guide to key proveniences

FS#8	Test Pit 1	Zone 3 level 1	1830s-1840s	midden deposit
FS#10	Test Pit 1	Zone 3 level 2	1820s	midden deposit
FS# 22	Test Pit 1-a	Feature 2	1820s	sand fill in drain
FS# 25	Test Pit 2	Zone 2 level 1	1880s	midden layer
FS# 26	Test Pit 2	Zone 2 level 2	1880s	midden layer
FS# 29	Test Pit 2	Feature 4	1870s	trash-filled pit
FS# 30	Test Pit 2	Zone 3	1860s	zone of light grey sand



**72 Anson Street**  
 Archaeological Testing, 1992







12/8/93

VERTEBRATE FAUNA FROM 40 SOCIETY STREET  
AND 72 ANSON STREET, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Abstract. Vertebrate remains from two nineteenth-century Charleston, South Carolina, sites were examined. The assemblage from 40 Society Street contained 283 bone fragments weighing 1,079.59 gm, with the remains of an estimated 14 individuals. Most of the remains were from the Antebellum Period. The assemblage from 72 Anson Street contained 399 bone fragments weighing 1,184.58 gm and the remains of an estimated 15 individuals. The Antebellum Period and Postbellum Period assemblages were about the same size. These two sites are located near one another, and represent early nineteenth-century, middle-class suburban households similar to those at 66 Society Street and President Street sites. These collections share similar element distributions and high percentages of sawed bones, indicating that purchase of meats was commonly practiced among this group of Charlestonians, if not by their more prestigious neighbors, represented for this time period by the Pringle-Frost site.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The accompanying tables are the result of identification of vertebrate faunal materials from 40 Society Street and 72 Anson Street. The two sites are located in Charleston, South Carolina. Both sites, which are located near one another, represent Antebellum and Postbellum, nineteenth-century, middle-class suburban households similar to those at 66 Society Street and President Street sites studied previously (Frank 1988; Wood 1988). The materials were excavated under the direction of Martha Zierden, of The Charleston Museum. A 1/4-inch mesh screen was used to recover materials from both locations.

Vertebrate remains were identified using standard zooarchaeological methods. All identifications were made by Joel A. Dukes using the comparative skeletal collection of the Zooarchaeological Laboratory, Museum of Natural History, University of Georgia. Bones of all taxa were counted (NISP) and weighed to determine the relative abundance of the species identified. A record was made identified elements. Sex was determined from the presence of spurs indicating male chickens, and of medullary bone found in female chickens in laying condition (Rick 1975). In order to estimate MNI for this study, samples from the two sites were subdivided into antebellum and post-bellum components. Evidence of element symmetry and age



were also considered. Appendix A lists the FS#s from each temporal component from the two sites.

To indicate the number of elements and their location in a carcass, most elements identified for domestic mammals were illustrated. Unillustrated bones are noted in the figure legends accompanying each figure. Although the atlas and axis are accurately depicted, other cervical vertebrae, thoracic, lumbar, and caudal vertebrae, as well as ribs are placed approximately on the illustrations, with the last lumbar location used to illustrate vertebrae which could be identified only as vertebrae. Bones identified only as sesamoids, metapodials, or phalanges are illustrated on the right hindfoot.

Modifications were classified as sawed, cut, hacked, and burned, as well as carnivore and rodent gnawed. The presence of parallel striations on the outer layer of compact bone was used as evidence that a bone had been sawed, presumably before the meat was cooked. Sawed bones are indicated on the figures by straight lines. Cuts are small incisions across the surface of bones. These marks were probably made by a knife as meat was removed from bone before or after the meat was cooked. Cuts may also be left behind if attempts are made to disarticulate the carcass at joints. Some marks that appear to be made by human tools may actually be abrasions inflicted after the bones were discarded, but distinguishing this source of small cuts requires access to higher powered magnification than was available during this study (Shipman and Ross 1983). Hack marks closely resemble

cut marks in their shape and irregularity but are deeper and wider. They may indicate use of a cleaver or hatchet rather than a knife to dismember the carcass. The use of a large chopping tool would result in bone splinters and probably larger cuts of meat than a knife. Burned bone may result from the exposure of the end of a bone to fire while a cut of meat is roasted. Burns may also be inflicted if bones are burned intentionally or unintentionally after discard. Gnawing indicates that bones were not immediately buried after disposal. While burial would not insure an absence of gnawing, exposure of bones for any length of time might result in gnawing. Gnawing by carnivores and rodents would result in loss of an unknown quantity of discarded bone. Carnivores could include a variety of animals, such as coyotes, dogs, foxes, raccoons, and cats, while rodents might be mice, rats, or squirrels.

Relative age of the species identified was noted based on observations of the degree of epiphyseal fusion for diagnostic elements. When animals are young their bones are not fully formed. Along the area of growth the shaft and the end of the bone, the epiphyses, are not fused. When growth is complete the shaft and epiphysis fuse. While environmental factors influence the actual age at which fusion is complete (Watson 1978), elements fuse in a regular temporal sequence (Gilbert 1980; Schmid 1972; Silver 1963). During analysis, bones identified were recorded as either fused or unfused; the bones were then

placed into one of three general categories based on the age in which fusion generally occurs. This is more informative for unfused bones which fuse in the first year or so of life and for fused bones which complete growth at three or four years of age than for other bones. An element which fuses before or at eighteen months of age and is found fused archaeologically could be from an animal which died immediately after fusion was complete or many years later. The ambiguity inherent in age grouping is somewhat reduced by evaluating each element under the oldest category possible.

#### RESULTS, 40 SOCIETY STREET

The assemblage from 40 Society Street was very small, and therefore subject to biases associated with small sample sizes (Grayson 1979, 1981). The assemblage contained 283 bone fragments (NISP) weighing 1,079.59 gm and contained the remains of an estimated 14 individuals (Table 1). Most of the remains were from the Antebellum Period (Table 2); the Postbellum Period assemblage was too small to evaluate (Table 3).

Most of the animals identified were domestic ones (Table 1). These constituted 57% of the individuals. The most common of these were pigs (Sus scrofa) and cows (Bos taurus), which each contributed 14% of the individuals. It was not possible to tell if the caprine was a sheep or a goat. Chickens (Gallus gallus) were also identified, and contributed most of the

domestic individuals (21%). Other animals included an estuarine turtle and a commensal animal. The turtle was the diamondback terrapin (Malaclemys terrapin) and the commensal animal was a rat (Rattus sp.). The terrapin actually was the most abundant single species in the assemblage, comprising 36% of the estimated individuals. Terrapin remains were identified in FS# 7, 8, 9, and 11.

With the exception of the pig, the domestic mammals were represented only by post-cranial elements (Figures 1-3). Half of the pig elements were teeth or mandible fragments. The remaining pig bones were distributed between forequarter and hindquarter (Figure 1). Almost all of the cow bones (80%) were from the forequarter (Figure 2). The caprine was identified from only two bones, one from the forequarter and the other from the hindquarter (Figure 3).

Some evidence for age and sex was observed. The pig and cow included remains of subadults, adults, and indeterminate individuals. Based on degree of fusion, one of the pigs was probably less than 24 months of age at death while the age of the second individual could not be determined. One of the cows was an adult at death and the age of the other could not be determined. Both of the indeterminate individuals were at least 18 months of age at death, and probably older. This same interpretation applies to the caprine individual. One of the chickens was a male and one was a female in laying condition.

A quarter of the bones had been modified; sawed and burned bones were the most common modifications observed (Table 4). Sawed pig and cow bones are noted on Figures 1 and 2 by straight lines; the remainder were of UID Mammal and UID Lg Mammal fragments. All of the burned bone was identified as UID Mammal. Some bones had been cut and a few had been gnawed by carnivores and rodents. One sawed UID Large Mammal fragment and one cut UID Mammal fragment were from the Postbellum Period assemblage.

#### RESULTS, 72 ANSON STREET

The assemblage from 72 Anson Street was also very small. The assemblage contained 399 bone fragments (NISP) weighing 1,184.58 gm and contained the remains of an estimated 15 individuals (Table 5). The Antebellum Period (Table 6) and Postbellum Period assemblages were about the same size (Table 7).

Most of the animals identified were domestic ones (Table 5). These constituted 60% of the individuals. The most common of these were pigs (Sus scrofa) and cows (Bos taurus), which each contributed 20% of the individuals. The caprine was probably a goat (Capra hircus). Chickens (Gallus gallus) were also identified. Other animals identified included a raccoon (Procyon lotor), a Canada goose (Branta canadensis), and a snapper (Lutjanidae). Canada geese have traditionally been

classified as wild birds during analysis of Charleston materials (Reitz 1986), although the ubiquity of Canada geese in Charleston collections suggests they may have been tamed or domesticated. A commensal rat (Rattus sp.) was also identified.

Most of the domestic mammals were represented only by post-cranial elements (Figures 4-6). Almost half of the pig elements were teeth or mandible fragments. The remaining pig bones were from the forequarter and hindquarter (Figure 4). More than half of the cow bones (63%) were from the forequarter and hindquarter (Figure 5). The caprine was identified from only two bones, one was a tooth and the other was from the forequarter (Figure 6).

Some evidence for age was observed. The pig and cow individuals included remains of subadults, adults, and indeterminate individuals. Based on degree of fusion, two of the pigs were probably less than 36 months of age at death while the age of the other one could not be determined. Two of the cows were subadults at death and the age of the other could not be determined. The caprine was a subadult; as was at least one of the chickens.

A small percentage (5%) of the bones had been modified (Table 8). Sawed bone was most common. Eleven of the sawed bones were from the Postbellum assemblage and three were from the Antebellum one. Sawed pig and cow bones are noted on Figures 4 and 5 by straight lines; the remaining sawed bones UID Mammal and UID Lg Mammal fragments. All of the burned bone was identified as UID Mammal or UID Vertebrate.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Study of urban faunal assemblages raises interesting questions about the mechanism by which animal products were distributed in Charleston and other urban centers. To what extent did meat arrive at residential sites from markets and to what extent was on-site slaughter practiced? Ultimately we must ask if it is possible to distinguish between these two avenues. Three aspects of faunal assemblages may provide evidence for the source of meat for each household.

One of these lines of evidence is the number of different taxa present in an assemblage. Although wild mammals, turtles, alligators, fishes, and birds were sold in Charleston via markets, it is anticipated that households relying primarily upon purchased meats probably produced assemblages of discarded animal bones dominated by refuse from pigs, cows, caprines, and chickens. It has been found that high prestige households tend to have more wild animals in their deposits, perhaps because of a desire to set a diverse table and/or because they could obtain foods from their plantations or directly from hunters and fishers (Reitz 1987). When sample sizes are small, as they are in this study, the variety of taxa is usually limited. Although both the 40 Society Street and 72 Anson Street collections contain the remains of a very limited range of animals, this could simply be a reflection of small sample size rather than of acquisition of meat from markets.

Two other lines of evidence involve the types of bones from pigs and cows identified and the presence of sawed bones. It has been argued in other contexts that many households, particularly affluent ones, slaughtered some if not much of the meat they consumed on their own property (Reitz and Zierden 1991). This interpretation is based on the observation that elements from the entire carcass are found in faunal assemblages from many prestigious households. It is likely that these households could draw upon their own herds for meat. In many cases, they also had enough dependents that they could use most of the meat before it spoiled. A smaller household might not have its own herds and might have difficulty disposing of meat before it spoiled. Sawing is a method of processing meat to produce small portions and is usually associated with butcher shops rather than home-butcherings. If sawing was a common butcher shop technique and an uncommon household treatment, this may also be indicative of commercial butchering and sale of meat.

An assemblage representing purchase of meat from a butcher shop, therefore, should have two characteristics. These would be a high percentage of bones from the body (the ribs, vertebrae, forequarters, and hindquarters) and a high percentage of sawed bones. On-site butchering would be characterized by bones from the entire skeleton and a low percentage of sawed bones.

In order to evaluate whether a faunal assemblage has a high percentage of bones from the body, we can compare the



archaeological assemblage with the normal distribution of elements. In the undisturbed artiodactyl skeleton, elements from the head constitute 34% of the bones, those from the body constitute 32% of the skeleton, and elements from the lower leg (forefoot, hindfoot, foot) constitute 34% of the skeleton. It can be seen in Table 9 that none of the mid-nineteenth century collections appear similar to the undisturbed skeleton. This suggests that there was a great deal of post-mortem disturbance, which is consistent with purchase of butchered meats. In most cases there is a distinct tendency for elements to be from the body or head, with elements from the foot most likely to be underrepresented or absent altogether. The most significant exception to this is found in the Pringle-Frost assemblage (Reitz 1990). This collection probably does include the remains of some home-slaughtered animals along with purchased cuts of meat.

Sawing is another line of evidence. Between 8% and 9% of the 66 Society Street and President Street collections were sawed. Sawed bones constituted 8% of the 40 Society Street collection as well; only 4% of the 72 Anson Street collection was sawed. Although sawing was found on 33% of the modified bone in the Pringle-Frost collection, only 1% of the entire Pringle-Frost bones had been sawed. The high percentage of sawed bones in the middle-class deposits is consistent with purchase of meat from markets; while the Pringle-Frost household probably obtained meats from both sources.

Tentatively, therefore, we may conclude that while all of these early nineteenth-century, middle-class suburban households are represented by small samples, it seems likely that each of them acquired the bulk of their meat from butcher shops, vendors, or the public market. This is in contrast to the method of acquisition employed by more affluent households. This interpretation should be tested with large samples.

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Figure 1. 40 Society Street: Pig Elements Identified. Not  
illustrated are 8 teeth. N=16.

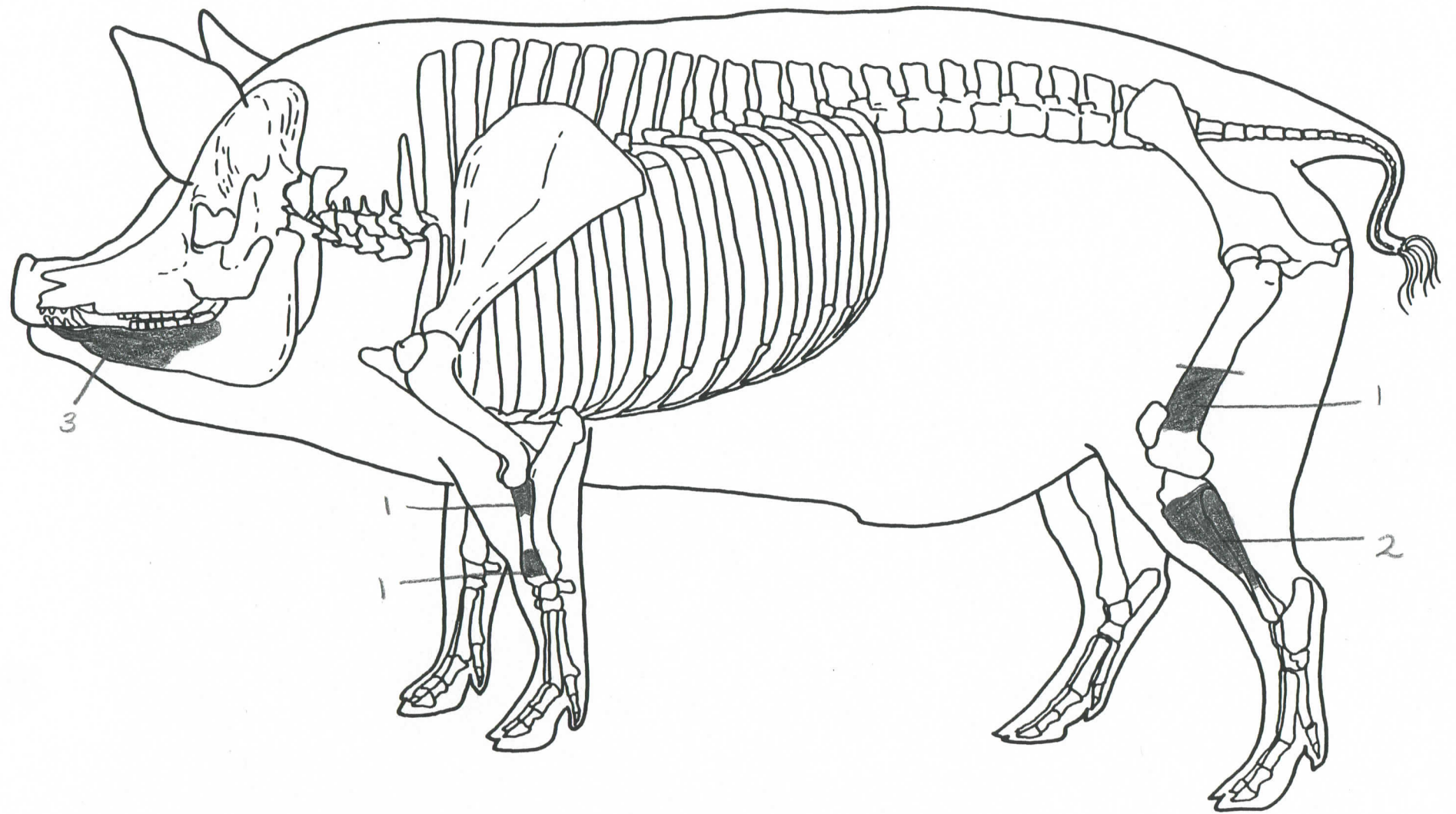


Figure 2. 40 Society Street: Cow Elements Identified. N=10.



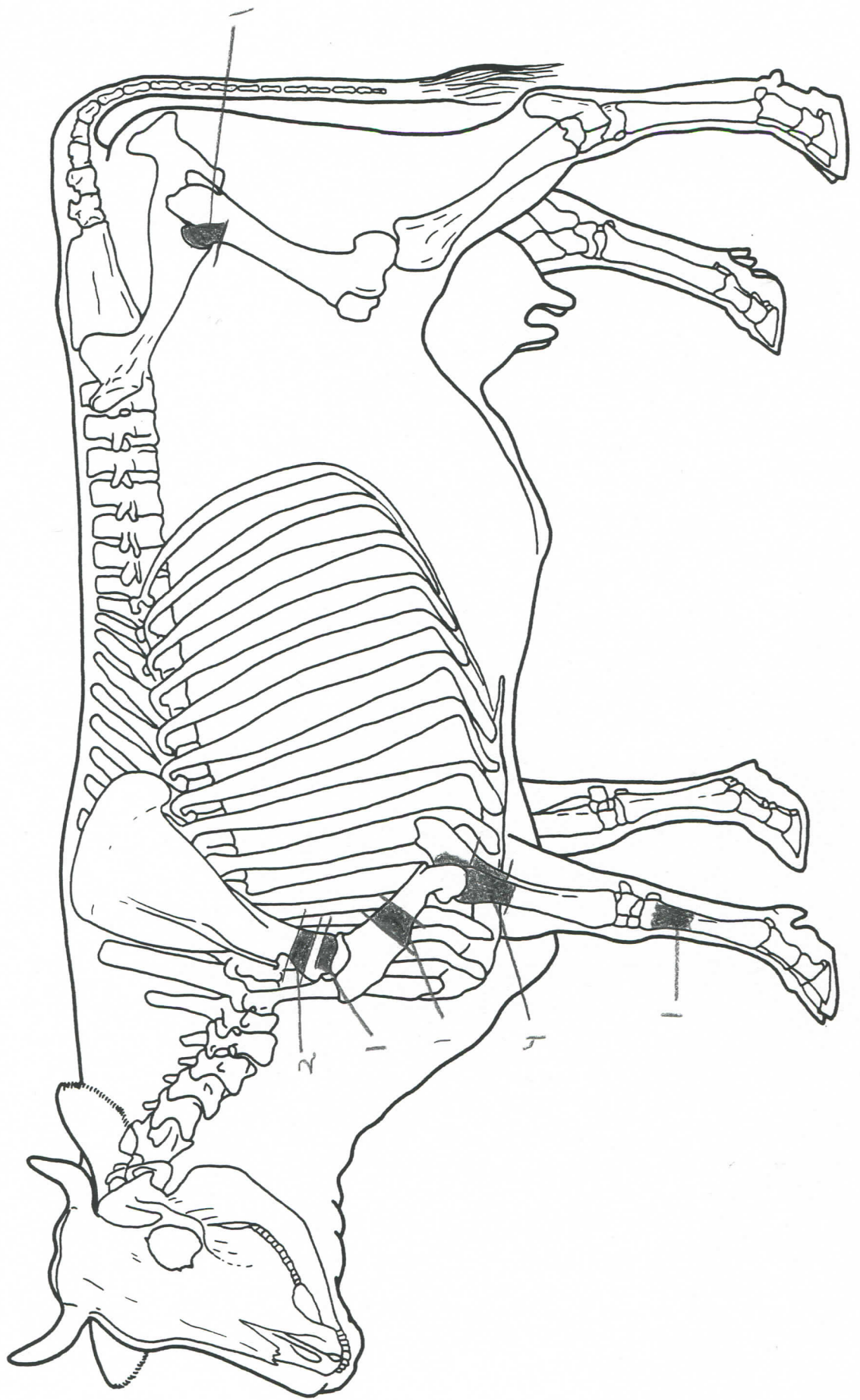


Figure 3. 40 Society Street: Caprine Elements Identified. N=2.

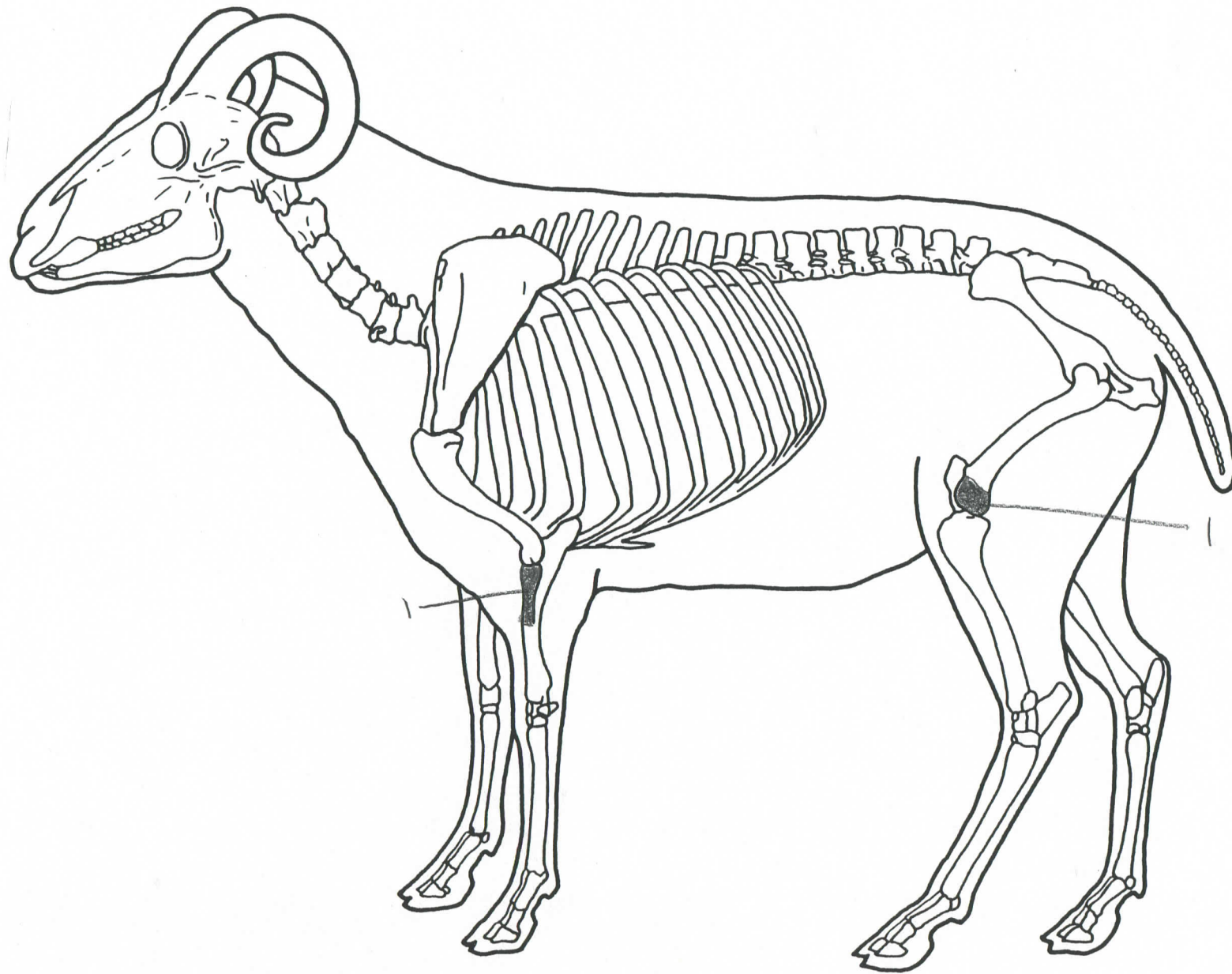


Figure 4. 72 Anson Street: Pig Elements Identified. Not  
illustrated are 3 teeth. N=7.

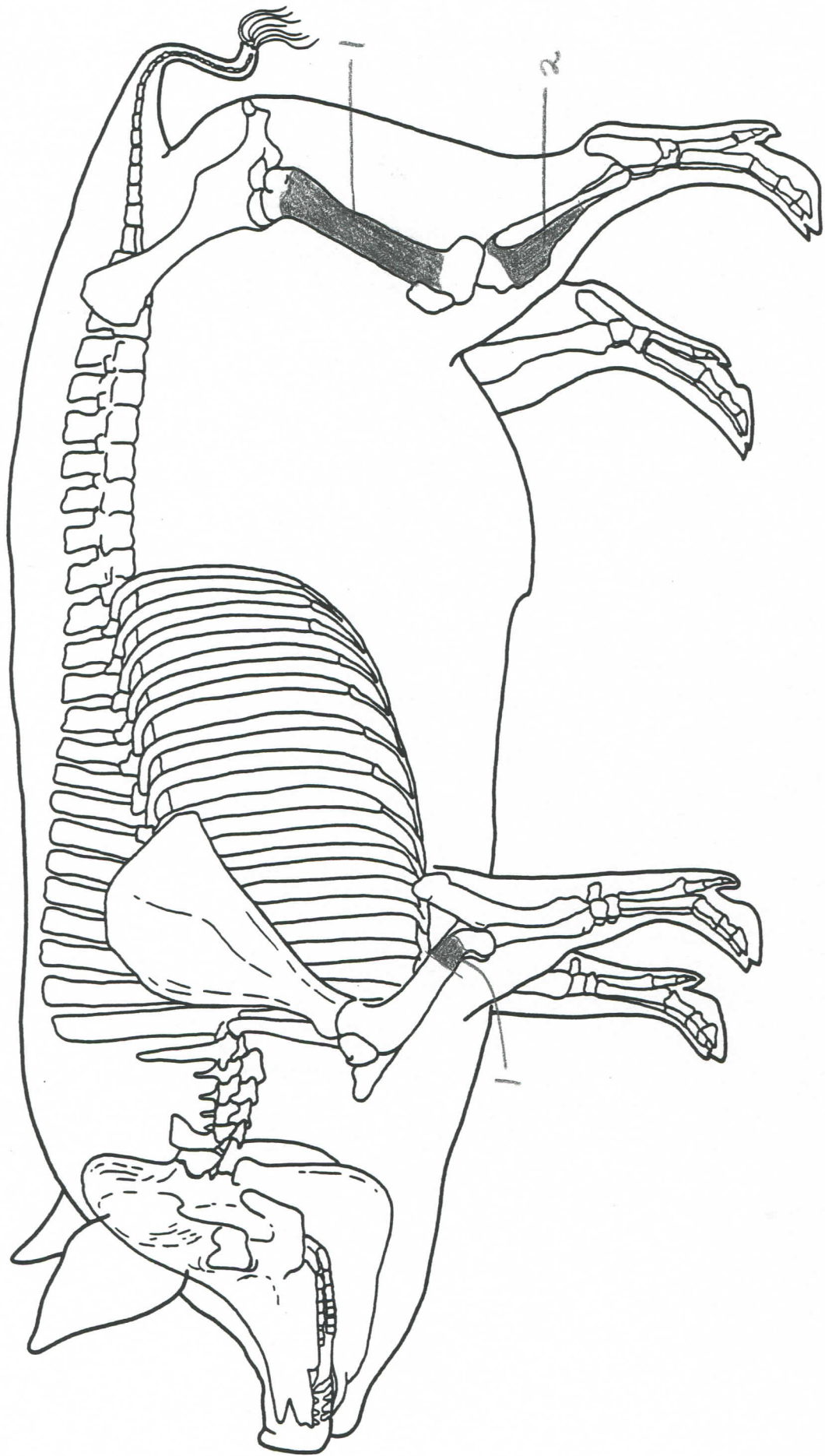


Figure 5. 72 Anson Street: Cow Elements Identified. Not  
illustrated is 1 tooth. N=19.

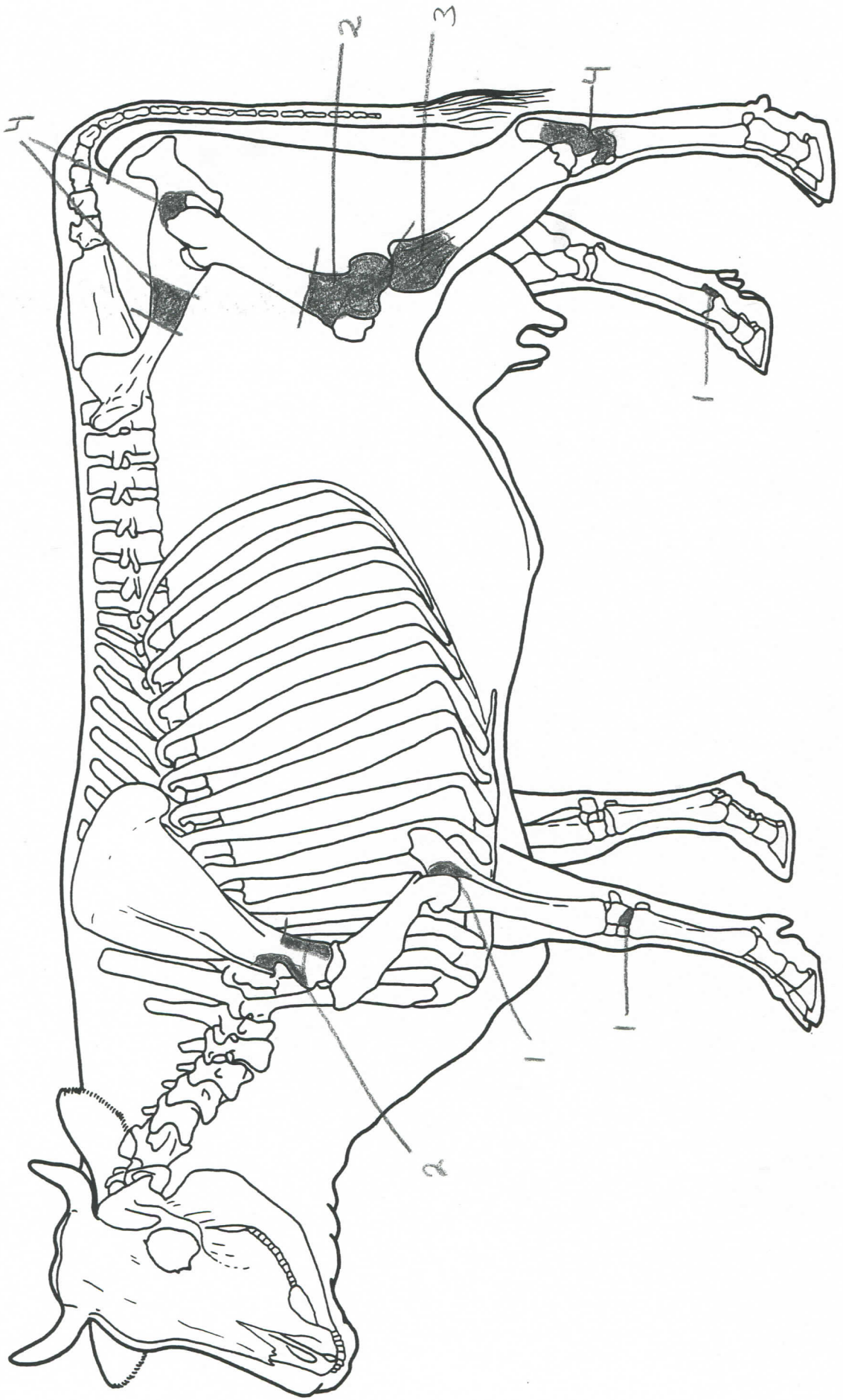


Figure 6. 72 Anson Street: Caprine Elements Identified. Not  
illustrated is 1 tooth. N=2.



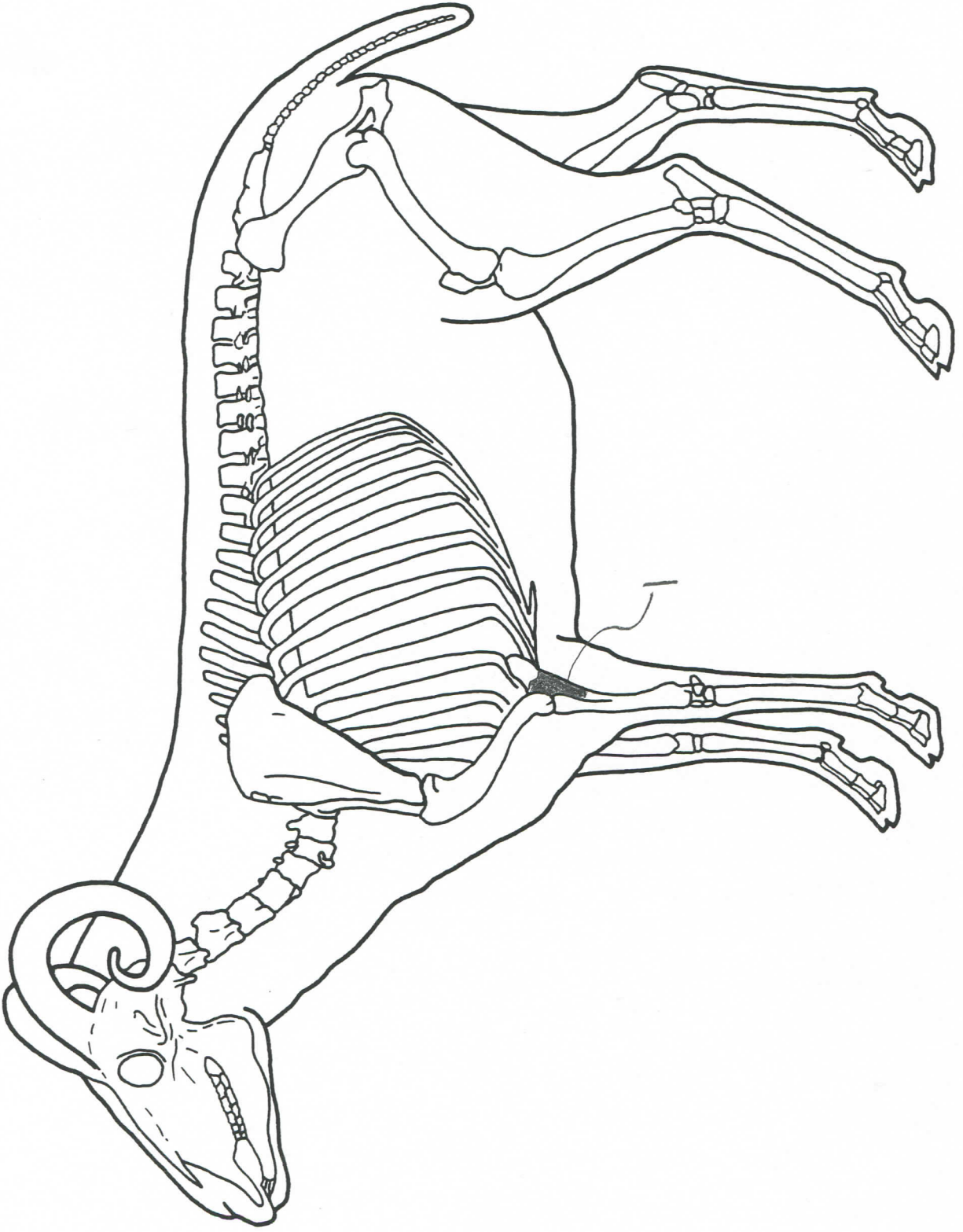


Table 1. 40 Society Street Species List, Antebellum and Postbellum Periods Combined.

	NISP	MNI		Weight, gm
		#	%	
UID Mammal	164			416.00
UID Large Mammal	6			93.82
<u>Rattus</u> sp.	4	1	7.1	1.01
Rat				
<u>Sus scrofa</u>	16	2	14.3	195.75
Pig				
<u>Bos taurus</u>	10	2	14.3	239.99
Cow				
Caprine	2	1	7.1	14.96
Sheep/goat				
UID Bird	6			3.6
<u>Gallus gallus</u>	17	3	21.4	20.04
Chicken				
UID Turtle	20			24.21
<u>Malaclemys terrapin</u>	27	5	35.7	64.59
Diamondback terrapin				
UID Fish	2			0.1
UID Vertebrate	<u>9</u>	<u>    </u>		<u>5.52</u>
Total	283	14		1079.59

Table 2. 40 Society Street Species List, Antebellum Period.

	NISP	MNI		Weight, gm
		#	%	
UID Mammal	152			388.36
UID Large Mammal	5			72.29
<u>Sus scrofa</u>	16	2	16.7	195.75
Pig				
<u>Bos taurus</u>	10	2	16.7	239.99
Cow				
Caprine	2	1	8.3	14.96
Sheep/goat				
UID Bird	6			3.6
<u>Gallus gallus</u>	16	2	16.7	18.69
Chicken				
UID Turtle	20			24.21
<u>Malaclemys terrapin</u>	27	5	41.7	64.59
Diamondback terrapin				
UID Fish	<u>1</u>	<u>    </u>		<u>0.03</u>
Total	255	12		1022.47

Table 3. 40 Society Street Species List, Postbellum Period.

	NISP	MNI		Weight, gm
		#	%	
UID Mammal	12			27.64
UID Large Mammal	1			21.53
<u>Rattus</u> sp.	4	1	50.0	1.01
Rat				
<u>Gallus</u> <u>gallus</u>	1	1	50.0	1.35
Chicken				
UID Fish	1			0.07
UID Vertebrate	<u>9</u>	—		<u>5.52</u>
Total	28	2		57.12

Table 4. 40 Society Street Modified Bone, Antebellum and Postbellum Periods Combined.

	Sawed	Cut	Burned	Gnawed	
				Carnivore	Rodent
UID Mammal	12	4	28	2	1
UID Lg Mammal	3				
Pig	1				
Cow	8			1	
Diamondback terrapin	—	<u>3</u>	—	—	—
Total	24	7	28	3	1

Table 5. 72 Anson Street Species List, Antebellum and Postbellum Periods, Combined.

	NISP	MNI		Weight, gm
		#	%	
UID Mammal	244			394.01
UID Large Mammal	18			129.36
UID Rodent	9			1.83
<u>Rattus</u> sp.	7	3	20.0	2.45
Rat				
<u>Procyon lotor</u>	1	1	6.7	2.94
Raccoon				
<u>Sus scrofa</u>	7	3	20.0	94.93
Pig				
<u>Bos taurus</u>	19	3	20.0	525.23
Cow				
Caprine	2	1	6.7	13.42
Sheep/goat				
UID Bird	5			1.9
<u>Branta canadensis</u>	1	1	6.7	2.62
Canada goose				
<u>Gallus gallus</u>	11	2	13.3	4.95
Chicken				

Table 5. 72 Anson Street Species List, Antebellum and Postbellum  
 Periods, Combined. (cont.)

	NISP	MNI		Weight, gm
		#	%	
Lutjanidae	1	1	6.7	0.18
Snappers				
UID Vertebrate	<u>74</u>	<u>    </u>		<u>10.76</u>
Total	399	15		1184.58

Table 6. 72 Anson Street Species List, Antebellum Period.

	NISP	MNI		Weight, gm
		#	%	
UID Mammal	107			128.71
UID Large Mammal	8			28.67
<u>Rattus</u> sp.	2	1	16.7	0.33
Rat				
<u>Sus scrofa</u>	3	1	16.7	32.39
Pig				
<u>Bos taurus</u>	8	1	16.7	175.68
Cow				
Caprine	2	1	16.7	13.42
Sheep/goat				
UID Bird	3			0.79
<u>Gallus gallus</u>	8	1	16.7	2.56
Chicken				
Lutjanidae	1	1	16.7	0.18
Snappers				
UID Vertebrate	<u>51</u>	—		<u>6.05</u>
Total	193	6		388.78



Table 7. 72 Anson Street Species List, Postbellum Period.

	NISP	MNI		Weight, gm
		#	%	
UID Mammal	137			265.30
UID Large Mammal	10			100.69
UID Rodent	7			1.50
<u>Rattus</u> sp.	7	2	22.2	2.45
Rat				
<u>Procyon lotor</u>	1	1	11.1	2.94
Raccoon				
<u>Sus scrofa</u>	4	2	22.2	62.54
Pig				
<u>Bos taurus</u>	11	2	22.2	349.55
Cow				
UID Bird	2			1.11
<u>Branta canadensis</u>	1	1	11.1	2.62
Canada goose				
<u>Gallus gallus</u>	3	1	11.1	2.39
Chicken				
UID Vertebrate	<u>23</u>	—		<u>4.71</u>
Total	206	9		795.80

Table 8. 72 Anson Street Modified Bone, Antebellum and Postbellum Periods Combined.

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	Sawed	Cut	Hacked	Burned
UID Mammal	6	1		2
UID Lg Mammal	1		1	
Pig	1			
Cow	6	1		
UID Vertebrate	—	—	—	<u>1</u>
Total	14	2	1	2

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Table 9. Comparison of Elements Identified at Several Nineteenth-Century Charleston Sites<sup>1</sup>.

Element Group	<u>Cow</u>									
	66 Society		President		40 Society		72 Anson		Pringle-Frost	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Head	1	3.4	3	60.0			1	5.3	12	13.3
Body	21	72.4	2	40.0	9	90.0	12	63.2	44	48.9
Lower Leg	<u>7</u>	24.1	—		<u>1</u>	10.0	<u>6</u>	31.6	<u>34</u>	37.8
Total	29		5		10		19		90	

Element Group	<u>Pig</u>									
	66 Society		President		40 Society		72 Anson		Pringle-Frost	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Head	10	41.7	1	20.0	11	68.8	3	42.9	30	53.6
Body	9	37.5	3	60.0	5	31.3	4	57.1	13	23.2
Lower Leg	<u>5</u>	20.8	<u>1</u>	20.0	—		—		<u>13</u>	23.2
Total	24		5		16		7		56	

<sup>1</sup> Data from Frank 1988; Reitz 1990; Wood 1988; and this report.

APPENDIX A: Samples Studied from 40 Society Street and 72 Anson Street.

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40 Society Street	
Antebellum FS #	Postbellum FS #
7	2
8	3
9	4
11	6
12	10
13	

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72 Anson Street		
Antebellum FS #	Postbellum FS #	Omitted FS #
8	3	13
10	5	24
11	6	
19	7	
20	9	
22	15	
23	16	
	17	
	18	
	21	
	25	
	26	
	29	

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