

# Pilot Point Site Revisited

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## Historical Documentation

In 1705 Captain Joel Chandler surveyed the Mohegan hunting bounds. During the survey he recorded and utilized the two stone mounds at Pilot's Point as "stations" (V38, p78).

From the 1930's through the early 1950's Oscar Manstan surface collected Native American artifacts on Pilot Point's beach. He also did some limited excavations. The site was named the Manstan site.

In 1950 Robert Seekamp surface collected forty four Native American artifacts from the lower areas of the Manstan Site during two unusually low tides.

In 1952, a short distance up from Pilot's Point on the Menunketesuck River the wetlands were being dredged to create channels. The dredged fill was deposited on the wetlands to create solid land for a housing development with water rights and boat docking in the new channels. In the dredged fill Native American artifacts were being surface collected. This was brought to the attention of Frank Glynn, who arranged to check out the area (V27, p13). F. Glynn contacted O. Mansten and R. Seekamp for additional information about the site. O. Mansten assisted Glynn in an excavation of a pit feature on the point. Frank Glynn rediscovered the two stone mounds, by then heavily covered with poison ivy.

Frank Glynn published an article in the *Bulletin of the Archeological Society of Connecticut* No. 27, December 1953 "The Pilot's Point Submerged Sites". This report did not include the two stone mounds. The mounds were excavated between 1953 and 1954 (V38, p 80).

Frank Glynn wrote up a nearly full report on the two stone mounds (heaps) that was not published. After Frank Glynn's death, Richard Q. Bourn, Jr. with permission from Mrs. Glynn published the report in the *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut* No. 38, 1973.

## Pilot's Point

The point is located at the mouth of the Menunketesuck River and the Atlantic Ocean. It is on the east side in Westbrook, Connecticut. It is midway on the south coast of the state. In Frank Glynn's report on the submerged sites at Pilot's Point he designated separate sites: Manstan site on beach, Seekamp site below normal low tide-line on beach, and the Yacht Basin site up river where channels were cutout. The two stone mounds (heaps) were located on the knoll forming Pilot's Point. (V 27, p12-13)

### *Land Description*

The point was covered by a layer of small cobbles two to three inches deep. On the east side (ocean side) is the name Westbrook Beach presumably sand covered. On the west side a deep layer of peat covers the land adjacent and behind the point (V27, Figures 1 & 2). The top of the knoll is described as looking like "a small copse of cedar trees floating on an expanse of

salt water and marsh.” (V38, p79) The site was originally discovered when the top layer of peat began to erode away on the river bank and exposed a few scattered artifacts.

## **Historic Usage**

### *Hunting & Fishing*

“Excellent duck hunting and bluefishing has, until recently been found between Pilot’s Point and Duck Island.” Spent shotgun shells found on top of the stone mounds attests to duck hunting. (V38, p 79)

### *Fish Pound*

“...during the nineteenth century, off-shore from the site fish pounds were maintained. A shed is said to have existed on the knoll during this time. Considerable evidence of iron-mongery found in the small excavation next to the large boulder may indicate the site of the shed.” (V38, p 79)

### *Clambakes:*

“Fresh clam-shells on top of both mounds bespeak modern clam-bakes.” (V38, p 79)

### *1800’s to 1900’s Artifacts*

“In amongst the uppermost stones a variety of broken glass and pottery which would date from Victorian times to the present was found, as well as spent shotgun shells, iron spikes, etc.” (V38, p 79)

## **Native American Usage**

### Yacht Basin Site

#### *Location*

This site is on the river side a short distance back from the point. When a dredging operation began, artifacts started to show up in the dredged out material.

#### *Artifacts*

Twenty-one artifacts were illustrated in figure 4. Some artifacts were lost because the site was surface collected by local people to begin with. Two bone specimens were found. One was human and the other was from the deer family but much too large for whitetail deer (V27, p 13-17).

### Seekamp Site

#### *Location*

On the tip of Pilot’s Point on the east side of the mouth / junction of the Menunketesuck and Patchogue Rivers where they enter the ocean on Long Island Sound

#### *Artifacts*

On the occasion of two unusually low tides (below normal low tide) the area was walked over. Several cores and twenty-four large to medium sized flakes and chips were found. (V27, p26-27)

### Manstan Site

#### *Location*

It is slightly higher up the stony beach from the Seekamp Site

## *Site*

The site consists of three features and surface collected artifacts

### *Feature 1- Ring of Seven Boulders with Hearth*

The feature was located fifteen feet west of the strand line. An excavation revealed a hearth five feet in diameter lined with flat stone slabs and oval cobbles. The stone floor was level with the base of the seven boulders forming the ring. Size of boulders is not given. The tops of the stones forming the floor of the hearth showed “exposure to moderate to intense heat, while the bottoms of the stones were unmarked.” “Old blue mussel shell was much more abundant than clam or oyster shell.” Glynn noted this because at another local site blue mussel shells predominated the lower zone in an aboriginal pit on the Menunketesuck River bank. (V27, p20)

“Mr. Manstan has stated that he obtained the majority of his finds [242 artifacts] within a fifteen foot radius from the center of this ring. The large number of broken small stemmed points were found here as well as most of the flake and core material.” (V27, p20)

### *Feature 2 – Two boulders and Hearth*

The hearth is located ten feet further west on the beach. Two large boulders showed evidence of firing on one side. “A small excavation between the boulders revealed another slab and cobble floor, ...” “Some of these hearth stones had been so thoroughly exposed to fire that it was possible to crumble them in the hand. Red scorched earth was visible beneath them. Small amounts of old shell were present.” (V27, p20)

### *Feature 3 – Pit*

The feature was located at the “southwestern extremity of the site at low tide.” “A sprinkling of quartz chips were noted resting on a small circle of sand which broke the monotony of the exposed stony ‘crust’ [ground surface].” An excavation showed it was a pit. “It [pit] was fourteen inches wide and one foot deep. It contained eight, fist-sized, thoroughly reddened cooking stones and nothing else.” (V27, p20)

## *Artifacts*

The artifacts are listed as 145 projectile points and 97 tools. Tools were broken down to following categories: scrappers (11), knives (6), adzes (2), grooved gouges (3), celt (1), pendant or whetstone (1), borer (1), banner stone (1), small oval blades (12), medium oval blades (19), drills (2, of which one was made from a broken tool), triangular blades (7), fabricators (3), round blade (1), flake axe (1), turtle backs & cores (6). (V27, pp20-24)

## *Discussion*

The two hearths had similarities. Each had a mix of stone slabs and cobbles that made up the floor. Hearth 1 was ringed by seven boulders. Hearth 2 was placed between two boulders.

The heaviest concentration of artifacts which represent the Late Archaic period were found in association with the hearth ringed by seven boulders.

The Manstan site is flooded daily by high tide. The pit is continuously flooded as it is below the normal low tide line. The hearths are flooded during high tide.

## Stone Heaps I and II

Pilot's Point had two stone heaps. Heap 1 was an oval pile of stones. Heap 2 was another pile of stones attached to a large boulder with clefts which had a small shell midden attached. On the surface they appeared to be two stone mounds. Under and within the piles of stones were found hearths and pits. In each case, the features were confined within the circumference of the stone pile. Hearths and pits on normal camp and village sites are not integrated into stone piles and are not covered with stone piles. The question is why were these?

### *Location*

"The heaps are located on the height of the land at the Point, and they command the half-horizon representing Long Island Sound." (V38, p 78) This statement places the two stone heaps on the highest spot on the point. They are above the high tide line.

### *Excavations*

Excavations included trenching from outside to inside of Stone Heap I, complete excavation of both stone heaps, and test pits outside the heaps. In the first season, a trench six feet wide was started ten feet beyond the mound (I) and extended into the mound (I). During the second season, a trench was started on the east side heading west. Total excavation of the mound (I) was completed the second season (V38, p80).

### *Stone Heap 1*

*Size:* Twelve feet wide by twenty-one feet long by two feet high (maximum) (V38, p80)

*Shape:* Oval mound

*Feature:* "small hole in the center of the northerly mound ... reached down to black earth ..." (V38, p70)

*Orientation:* East and west (V38, p78)

*Construction:*

Information obtained from illustration - Figure 4 (V38, p87) and text on page 80

Humus horizon surrounded the stone mound outside the outer wall

Layer 1 – Loose stones (mound), top surface

Layer 2 – Burnt stones and charcoal (twelve inches thick)

Layer 3A – Stone pavement [author's insert, see text below]

Layer 3B – Black Clay (three inches thick)

Layer 4 – Occupation layer called the Junction Zone; artifacts were recovered across the point from this small-stone surface layer; two different thicknesses were given: V27, p19 "A 'crust' of small stones two to three inches" and V38, p80 "A shovel-wide trench dug out from the mound disclosed that the base of the mound was part of a continuous occupation zone extending four to seven inches under the present surface."

Layer 5 – Clay subsoil

Layer 6 – Glacial till, lowest layer

After the stone mound [layer 1] was removed, "a well defined outer wall\*, outside of which a complete humus horizon had formed. Within the wall was a three inch layer of black clay [layer 3] which was covered by a stone pavement [layer 2A] with hearths, fire-pits and postholes below. Above it [layer 2A] was a compact deposit of burnt stones and fine charcoal [layer 2], also containing stone hearths and postholes." (V38, p80)

\*Wall is shown as a ring of large stones in illustration - Figure 3 (V38, p86).

### *Features*

Twenty features were discovered. They were listed numerically in the original report (V38, pp 80 – 81). In this report, the features are listed by the layers they occur in. Post holes which occur in two layers are listed and discussed under *Post Holes*. Artifacts not found in features are also listed and discussed separately under *Artifacts*.

#### *Layer 1*

Mound of loose stones

Artifacts: “In amongst the uppermost stones a variety of broken glass and pottery which would date from Victorian times (late 1800’s) to the present was found, as well as spent shotgun shells, iron spikes, etc.” Fresh clam-shells were found on top of both stone mounds. (V38, p79)

#### *Layer 2*

Burnt stones, broken stones and fine charcoal

Thickness: twelve inches

Features:

F1 – Double Stone-Ringed Hearth (one on top of the other) (V38, p80)

“Two small stone-ringed hearths, one superimposed upon the other. Two one inch thick slabs of stone formed the roof of the lower hearth and the floor of the upper hearth.”

*Lower Hearth:* “U-shaped, fifteen inches by eight inches, covered by broken slabs. It faces west and contained no shell.”

*Upper Hearth:* “Circular, nine inches diameter. Ringed by small cobbles, it contained six quahog shells.”

Location: “in Layer 2”

F2 – Stone ringed hearth (V38, p80)

Size: Eighteen inches in diameter, six inches deep

Location: Immediately below the loose stone mound

Contained: Small quantity of broken clam shells

F3A – Double Pit (a Lower pit F3B was offset and underneath, see Layer 4) (V38, p80)

Location: “The upper pit extended through Layers 2 and 3.”

Covering: “A triple cover of flat pieces of stone shingles [3 layers of flat stones] were fashioned overlaying [covering] this pit.”

F4 & F5 – Two stone ringed features, listed together (V38, p81)

Size: Six inches diameter

Location: “extended from Layer 2 well into Layer 5”

Contained: Both had black material and chips; “Feature 5 contained a flake of flint which might be a small flake knife.”

Classification: Could not be determined if F4 and F5 were pits or post holes (V38, p81)

F8 – Oval hearth (V38, p81)

Depth: Six inches deep

Contained: A few pieces of quahog shell

Location: Upper part of Layer 2

F17 – Circular/oval hearth (V38, p81)

Construction: Stone lined floor

Size: Fifteen inches by eighteen inches

Contained: Carbon black burnt stone, and a few pieces of shell

Location: Upper part of Layer 2

Total Features: five hearths; one pit; two stone-ringed features either small pits or post holes; fourteen post holes (see *Post Holes*)

### *Layer 3A*

#### Stone Pavement

Features: occur directly on top of stone floor or embedded into the stone floor

F6 – Stone ringed hearth (V38, p81)

Location: “bottom was the stone floor at the lower Layer 2 [Layer 2A]”

F7 – Small hearth (V38, p81) (shown as a stone-ringed hearth in figure 3)

Size: Nine inches diameter

Location: “bottom of Layer 2 [Layer 2A]”

Covering: *Boulder-on-Top* “Into this hearth a large wedge-shaped boulder had been placed as if to plug or seal the hearth. The lower nine inches of this boulder were deeply burnt.” Note: The illustration of the boulder in figure 3 shows a square boulder not a wedge shaped boulder.

F11 – Cobble hearth (V38, p81) (shown as a stone-ringed hearth in figure 3)

Location: “in the floor over Feature 10”

Covering: *Boulder-on-Top* Wedge-shaped boulder had been placed on top of the hearth. “The lower eight inches of this boulder were thoroughly fired.” Figure 3 shows a wedged shaped boulder which coincides with the text description.

F12 – Stone-lined oval pit (V38, p81)

Size: Twenty-two inches by twenty inches by seven plus inches deep

Construction: “box-like walls. Flat stone slabs set vertically on its west and northeast sides gave it this look.” Only feature with this type of construction.

Location: “extended from the floor [stone pavement] of Layer 2, down through black base more than seven inches to subsoil.”

Contained: “black soil, burnt and broken stones, charcoal, and a few bits of carbonized twigs”

F13 – [Circular or Oval] Pit (V38, p81)

Size: Nineteen inches diameter

Location: Layer unknown, next to pit feature 12 on map fig. 3

Notation: “Feature 13 was a fire-pit, with the exception of the box-like walls, was in all other respects a slightly smaller (19 inch diameter) replica of Feature 12.”

F. Glynn called all the pits “fire-pits”. This appears to be incorrect as there is only one pit in which a fire was created, that is pit feature F10 with burnt soil at its base. Burnt soil is not mentioned as the base of any other pit.

F16 – Double Hearth (side by side, attached to each other) (V38, p81)

Shape: Kidney-shaped

Base: “base was stone floor”

Contained: “twelve inches of burnt stone and carbon-black soil.”

F18 – Double Hearth (one on top of the other) (V38, p81)

Location: Base of *Lower Hearth* - stone pavement

Base of *Upper Hearth* – on top of Lower Hearth

Size: Twenty inches diameter

Notation: “The sides and lower part of this upper hearth floor were more burnt at the top.”

F20 – Small Circular Hearth (V38, p81)

Size: Eight inches diameter

Location: “in the stone floor [pavement] and penetrated down through Layer 3”

Total Features: seven hearths; two pits; ten post holes (see *Post Holes*)

*Layer 3B*

Black Clay

*Layer 4*

Horizon with small stones and artifacts covering the point – Occupation Layer

The following features are labeled as “below Layer 3”. Layer 4 is shown on the illustration (Figure 4) but is not mentioned in conjunction with the features. This makes it confusing as to which layer the features start in.

Features:

F14 – Pit (V38, p81)

Shape: “U-shaped”

Size: Nine inches diameter

Location: “extended nine inches below the base of Layer 3” (possibly totally in Layer 4)

Total Features: one pit

F15 – Oval Pit

Size: Fourteen inches diameter by six inches deep

Location: “beneath Layer 3”

F3B – Lower Pit “descended from the base of Layer three” downward into gravel (V38, p81)

Depth: Fourteen inches

Contained: “On the base were found two fragments of a much-decayed blue mussel shell, quartz chips, and two small pieces of carbonized grey birch bark. There was a large amount of black carbon content in the soil of the lower pit.”

F10 – Large Circular Fire-Pit (this stood out because of its size and configuration)

Size: Four feet ten inches diameter by five feet three inches deep. “It was clearly defined in the gravels.”

Location: Starts at the base of Layer 3 or in the top of Layer 4\* and extends down into Layer 6 the glacial till (V38, p87, Fig. 4). In Figure 3 (page 86) the fire-pit is shown on the east side of the Stone Heap I.

Construction:

“The following layers were noted in this pit:

[Additional information inserted in parenthesis]

(See Illustration - Figure 4)

1. Large stones closely massed which probably prevented exploration [Layer 1].

2. Thick deposit of black soil and granite stones, rich in very fine charcoal [Layer 2]. In this deposit artifacts and sherds were found.

(“Here the covering of carbonized earth and loose stone was thickest, and the covering rocks were largest.” The statement appears to combine the top two layers.) (V38, p81)

(Two Standing Stones: “The two rectangular stone slabs on the south-east were well imbedded in the black deposit. There can be no question they were a part of the original stone covering and were vertically placed. They are of further interest because none of their surface showed any sign

of being weathered, which suggests they were either excavated or quarried from the granite outcroppings one hundred feet southeast of the heap, by the builders.”) (V38, p81)

3. A closely fitted floor, chiefly slab-like pieces of stone. [Layer 2A]

4. The whole pit was outlined by a webbing of small stone cobbles.” (V38, p81)

(i.e. “A ring of small cobbles, set vertically, outlined the pit’s circumference.”) (V38, p80)

Below the stone floor:

Gravel refill [backfill] – two to three feet deep

Black soil layer in bottom of pit, approximately one foot deep

Fire-scorched soil formed base, approximately one foot deep

Contained: A few carbonized twigs in the base of the pit

(V38, p80 & 81)

\*Notes:

1) In Figure 4 illustration, Layer 4 the occupation zone is shown but it is not mentioned in the text. This may be a mistake.

2) Glynn made this statement which can not be clarified:

“The uppermost deposit in Layer 6 is composed of closely placed cobbles six to twelve inches in diameter interspersed with red gravel.” (V38, p81)

Total Features in Layers 3 & 4: one large fire pit; three average sized pits

#### *Unknown Layer Locations*

F9 – Shown as a Stone Ringed Hearth in figure 3 (V38, p86)

Listed as “similar in all respects to Feature 6 and 8” (V38, p81)

Feature 6 is a stone ringed hearth and feature 8 is an oval hearth without a stone ring. The statement is confusing.

Location: “in the cobble gravel” again confusing as no layer is listed as cobble gravel, possibly Layer 4

Contained: quartz chips and shell fragments

F19 – Double Stone Ringed Hearth (one on top of the other) (V38, p81)

Size: Thirteen inches diameter

Construction: Each hearth had a stone floor, “two layers of flat burnt stone”

Contained: Lower hearth one carbonized feather

Location: No indication of what layer the hearths were found in was given

Total Features: three hearths

#### *Artifacts*

*Between Layer 2 and Layer 2A*

“In and immediately above the [stone] pavement [in base of layer 2 and embedded in layer 2A] were found – (V38, p80)

Stemmed and barbed projectile points

Stemmed knife

Scraper



Chisel (sic – gouge, celt or adz?)

*Unknown Locations on Site and in Stone Heap I*

Pottery Sherds:

- 1) At least one pot sherd was found within the confines of Stone Heap I. Its general location was marked with an X in figure 3. Its position in the layers is not mentioned. Its type is not stated. (V38, p86)
  - 2) Rim sherds (2) of a Rocker-stamped, Point Peninsula II-type vessel. The location of the two rim sherds was not stated. (V38, p80)
  - 3) One rim sherd with rocker stamped design and two plain sherds of pottery were illustrated in a photograph in Plate 1(V38, p89)
- Mortar & Pestle: shallow mortar, location is not stated (V38, p80)  
Adena-like hoes and spades (numerous), location is not stated (V38, p80)

*Post Holes*

Names: *Upper post holes* shown as round dots with a cross

*Lower post holes* shown as plain round dots

Size: Five inches diameter by six plus inches deep; size came from a single stone ringed post hole under feature F17

Types: *Plain – Upper post holes:* Twelve

*Lower post holes:* Eight

*Stone Ringed – Upper post holes:* Two

*Lower post holes:* Two

In addition there are two small stone ringed features F4 and F5 that may be stone ringed post holes or small pits

Location in Layers:

*Lower Post Holes* - “stone pavement with hearths, fire-pits and *postholes*”

*Upper Post Holes* - “a compact deposit of burnt stones and fine charcoal, also containing stone hearths and *postholes*.” (V38, p80)

Layout:

1) *Interior Perimeter – Inside floor area:*

Upper post holes: six

Lower post holes: six

2) *Interior Center – Inside floor area:*

Upper post holes: two, close together, towards west end

Lower post holes: six, appear to be arranged in sets of two, towards the west end

3) *Exterior – Outside floor area:*

Lower post holes - two (one plain, one stone ringed)

Upper post holes - two (one plain, one stone ringed)

*Upper Level Post Holes Layout (Figure #)*

There are four upper post holes on the west side that form a trapezoid shape that is oriented northeast. The southeast corner hole is stone ringed. Inside the trapezoid layout are two post holes close together. On the east side near the outer edge of the floor are two more plain post holes. On the northeast corner, outside the floor area is a plain post hole. It was covered with an extension of the stone mound (Layer 1). On the southeast corner on the exterior is a

stone ringed post hole adjacent to the floor area. It is isolated from the other post holes and was not covered by an extension of the stone mound (Layer 1).

#### *Lower Level Post Holes Layout (Figure #)*

There are four or five lower post holes on the west side that form a trapezoid shape that is oriented east. A stone ringed post hole may or may not form the northeast corner. There is another plain post hole beyond it. Inside the trapezoid layout are six post holes. They appear to be arranged in sets of twos (pairs). On the east side on the outer edge of the floor is one plain post hole. On the northeast corner outside the floor area is a plain post hole covered with an extension of the stone mound (Layer 1). On the east side is a stone ringed post hole on the exterior. It is a short distance outside the floor area and isolated from the other post holes. It was not covered by an extension of the stone mound (Layer 1).

#### Discussion

In each layout four to five post holes form a trapezoid shape layout which is oriented either east or northeast. This is a possible enclosure formed by posts. On the interior of the east side near the outer edge of the floor area there two plain post holes per upper and lower level. On the exterior of the east side there are two post holes per level, one each of the plain and stone ringed type. The two stone ringed post holes are not cover by the stone mound. The two plain post holes are covered individually by two separate short extensions of the stone mound.

The two sets of post holes show a similar layout pattern. The layout of each set of holes is set one on top of the other. The lower holes show a slightly longer layout than the upper holes. The width of the trapezoid layout of both the upper and lower post holes is approximately the same.

In both the upper and lower post hole layouts hearths and pits are located inside and outside the trapezoid layout of the post holes. There is no set pattern with the hearths and pits.

There are at least two stone ringed post holes from each level. The stone ring around the post holes sets this type apart from the plain post holes suggesting different and special usage. There are two holes from each level placed outside the floor area, again different and specialized usage. The different and specialized usages of the poles suggest ceremonialism.

Woodworking tools and broken gouges were found at the lower Manstan site. The posts could account for the presence of woodworking tools on site.

#### *Patterns found in Stone Heap I*

##### Shell

Blue mussel shell – Pit F3B in lowest layer 5

Quahog shell – Hearths F1 upper part of layer 2  
F8 in layer 2

Clam shell – Hearth F2 top most, just under stone mound, upper part of layer 2

Unidentified shell – Hearth F17

##### Coverings

*Stone Pavement* – slab-like pieces of stone, closely fitted, formed a floor on top of gravel re-fill in large fire pit feature F10

*Stone Pavement & Black Clay* – Stone pavement (type of stone not stated) placed on top of black clay, formed the Layers 2A & 3 which defined the floor space

*Stone Block-on-Top of Hearth:* Triangular stone block (F11) and square stone block (F7), placed on top of burning fire within stone ringed hearths, both were located in Layer 2A

*Flat Stones:* Hearth (F1) covered with two 1” thick slabs, was located in Layer 2

Pit (F3A) covered with three layers of flat stone shingles, was located in Layer 2

### Plain verses Stone Ringed

#### *Plain*

Hearths had stone-lined floor

Post Holes lacked a stone ring around the top edge

#### *Stone Ringed*

Hearths had a stone ring around perimeter of hearths; in addition some of these hearths were stated as also having a stone-lined floor; detailed information was not available for all the hearths, some hearths were shown as stone ringed in an illustration which was not mentioned in the text.

Post Holes had a stone ring around the top edge

### Double Features

#### *Hearths*

F1 stone ringed hearth in layer 2, one on top of another

F17 stone-lined hearth in layer 2, was built over a lower stone-ringed post hole

F11 stone ringed hearth in layer 2A, hearth was built on top of fire-pit feature F10

F16 stone-lined hearth in layer 2A, side by side

F18 stone-lined hearth in layer 2A, one on top of another

F19 stone-ringed hearth, one on top of another, layer unknown

#### *Pits*

F3A and F3B are dug pits placed one above. However, the bottom pit is offset from the top pit so only a part of the bottom pit is directly underneath the top pit. This double pit feature may be by coincidence rather than intentional.

### Post Holes

*Upper* and *lower* post hole layouts are similar to each other (see *Post Holes* for complete write up). Upper post holes occur in layer 2. Lower post holes occur in layer 2A.

### *Discussion*

The “covering” pattern shows variations on the usage. In the hearths and large fire pit, the stone covering was used to close the features. In the stone pavement used to define the large floor, it was used to cover old features and as a base in which to build new features.

The two sets of post holes show similar layouts with minor variations. They indicate the same usage in different stages.

The double hearths show repeated usage of the same hearth with recognition of older and newer versions. The purpose is unknown. This double usage occurred in two stages represented by Layer 2A and Layer 2.

Plain versus stone ringed features show different usage patterns. The pattern showed up in hearths and post holes. The pits were plain with one exception which had two stone-lined walls. The use of stone to outline or edge a feature seems to have significance. This is especially evident in the post holes which came in plain and stone ringed. Both the Upper and Lower post hole sets each had two stone ringed post holes. In each case, one stone ringed post was on the interior and one was on the exterior of defined floor space. The rest of the post holes were plain.

## Stone Heap II

*Location:* East of Stone Heap I

### *Description*

Oval Mound – attached to a large glacial boulder with clefts; “mixed fired stone and shell deposit”, “Shell was abundant throughout this heap, a marked contrast to Stone Heap I.” (V38, p82); four large stone slabs graduating in size are shown on top of the east side of the mound (fig 5, V38, p88)

Shell Heap – small “surficial” [surface]; attached to west side of mound and NW corner of glacial boulder (V38, p82)

### *Size*

Mound – Nine feet diameter by over two feet high, figure 5 drawing notes the stone mound has a depth of 36” (three feet high), the text on page 82 states the mound was forty-two inches high at its maximum point (the mound was likely lower in some places and higher in other places which would account for the different heights / depths given)

Glacial Boulder – Approximately eight feet long by four and a half feet wide, size is taken from scaled drawing fig. 5 (V38, p88)

Shell Heap: Approximately three feet diameter, size is taken from scaled drawing fig. 5 (V38, p88)

### *Artifacts*

- 1) “Quartz cores, flakes and chips were found as well as broken choppers and scrappers.” (V38, p82)
- 2) “A thick, grit-tempered sherd, cord-marked on both sides in the Vinette I style, was found a few feet away from the heap’s base on the southeastern side.” (V38, p82)
- 3) “Mention should be made again of such items as broken whiskey bottles and spent gun shells found among the burnt stone and clam shells marking the top of the heap. There is every reason to believe the white men have continued to use the aboriginal invention of a stone platform for a clam bake.” (V38, p82)
- 4) Pestle deposited in a pit (see Pit under Features) (V38, p82)
- 5) Clam shells and oyster shells, primary shells found in Stone Heap II. (V38, p82)
- 6) “A considerable number of stone tools of chopper types were included amongst the stones used to build hearth upon hearth within the heap.” (V38, p82)

### *Features*

#### Hearth

*Location:* Shown as a rectangular shaped hearth in the middle of the mound close to the boulder’s face (Fig. 5)

*Size:* Approximately three feet wide by four feet long, size is taken from scaled drawing fig. 5 (V38, p88)

### Pit

*Location:* “between two of the fingers [in a split] of the boulder.” (V38, p82)

*Artifact:* “small pestle, with red oxide still adhering to the abrading surface” (V38, p82)

### *Discussion*

Glynn clearly defines a hearth feature, but also mentions the sub-soil surface as having been used to cook on. The short section devoted to Stone Heap II does not give any details on the hearth. The statement, “a platform similar to the one on the flat top” suggests the top of the hearth may have been level. He notes the mound is made up of a mix of burnt stones and shells. It is unclear if Stone Heap II had a covering of non-burnt stones. On page 79, he mentions “fresh clam-shells” were found on top of both mounds indicating mid-1900’s clambakes.

## **Dating**

### *Artifacts*

Projectile Points: Squibnocket Triangle – Late Archaic to Middle Woodland (#7, V27, p21)

Other points unidentified by author (Illustrations: V27, p16, 21, 23, 25)

Tools: Graver (Borer) – Paleo to Middle Archaic (#13, V27, p23)

Gouge – Paleo to Late Archaic (#9, V27, p23)

Adze [or Celt] – Late Archaic to Late Woodland (#8, V27, p23)

Pendent [or Rod] – Archaic (#12, V27, p23)

Atlatl Winged (Banner Stone) – Late Archaic to Transitional Archaic (#14, V27, p23)

Plain Drill – Late Archaic to Late Woodland (#15, V27, p23)

Pottery: Vinette I – Early Woodland / Early Ceramic (V38, p82)

Point Peninsula II (Rocker Stamped) – Middle Woodland / Middle Ceramic (V38, p80)

(Photograph of two types – V38, p89)

### *Shells*

Blue Mussel, quahog, clam and oyster shells were listed for the site. All of these marine shell fish showed up in the archaeological record on Martha’s Vineyard an island off the coast of Massachusetts. (William Ritchie: *the Archaeology of Martha’s Vineyard*, 1969, page 217). According to a chart in the Martha’s Vineyard book all the shellfish species listed for the Pilot’s Point site were utilized from Late Archaic through Late Woodland.

### *Discussion*

Based upon the tool artifacts the site was repeatedly used during the Late Archaic, Transitional Archaic, Early Ceramic and Middle Ceramic periods. The graver potentially pushes the site back to the Middle Archaic but the author’s lack of experience in identifying artifacts makes this dating period questionable.

## **Comparisons: Manstan site, Stone Heap I, Stone Heap II**

### *Standing Stones & Ring Stones*

Manstan Site: 2 tall upright stones with a hearth between them

Stone Heap I: 2 tall upright stones in F10

Manstan Site: 7 large stones form ring around hearth

Stone Heap I: vertically placed stones form ring around F10

The use of outer ring stones and pairs of tall upright stones form patterns. The patterns were used in two different groups of features with minor changes.

#### *Mound Aspect*

Stone Heap I:

Layer 1 is made up of loose stones with a small quantity of shells mixed in

Layer 2 is made up of burnt stones and small pieces of charcoal

Stone Heap II:

Single layer is made up of burnt stones and with a large quantity of shells mixed in.

No layers were mentioned.

Stone Heap I's Layer 2, the burnt stones with charcoal and small quantities of shell is similar to Stone Heap II's overall mound of burnt stones and large quantities of shells. In Stone Heap II the burnt stones and shells are the whole mound. The hearth appears to have been built into the mound as it is stated to form part of the flat top surface. In Stone Heap I the burnt stones represent Layer 2 which in turn had hearths and a single pit built into it. Both represent active stages of usage. However, there are differences. Stone Heap I had the burnt stone layer covered by an additional layer of stones. Stone Heap II had a small shell midden attached to it.

#### *Attached*

Stone Heap I had its stone pavement attached to the pre-existing large pit feature F10 with its two standing stones

Stone Heap II was attached to a large glacial boulder, in addition it had a small shell midden attached

Each Stone Heap was attached to a pre-existing feature with a tall stone(s). Stone Heap I was attached to a man-made feature while Stone Heap II was attached to a natural feature.

#### *Defined Space*

Manstan Site: no defined space

Stone Heap I: a) Lower Level no defined space

b) Middle Level space was defined by the oval of black clay overlaid with stone pavement

c) Upper Level space defined by burnt stone and charcoal layer

Stone Heap II: space was defined by the glacial boulder to which it was attached, the mound is the same width as the boulder

In Stone Heap I the Middle level the stone pavement designated where hearths, pits and posts were erected. In the Upper level the space is defined by a layer of burnt stone and charcoal. The features in each level were confined to the defined space. In Stone Heap II the glacial boulder

defined the width of the burnt stone and shell mound which incorporated a large hearth along with a pit in between a split in the boulder.

### *Clusters of Features*

Manstan site: a cluster of three features

Two hearths, one pit

Stone Heap I: a cluster of twenty features plus post holes in different layers (levels):

Lowest level – one large fire pit, three pits, one possible hearth

Middle level – seven hearths, two pits, ten post holes

Upper level – five hearths, one pit, two small pits or two large post holes, fourteen post holes

Stone Heap II: one hearth, one pit

Within each cluster there are different ratios. The varying ratios indicate changes.

### *Stone Floors*

Fire-pit: Feature F10 had flat stones laid over the top which was used to *close* the pit. The fire-pit pre-dates Stone Heap I. After the fire-pit was closed, the floor forming the base of Stone Heap I was attached to it thus integrating the fire-pit into a later structure.

Layer 2A: In Stone Heap I a stone pavement was laid over a black clay layer outlining the shape of the oval which created the defined floor space. The combination of black clay and stone pavement served two purposes. 1) It was used as a general all purpose set of layers to bury / close three to four features below that were associated with the fire-pit. 2) It was used to designate where future hearths and pits could be placed. In this aspect it was used to *open* a new structure.

### *Low verses High Locations*

Manstan site is situated low on the knoll and is partially flooded by low tide and fully flooded by high tide

Stone Heaps I and II are on the highest spot on the knoll above low and high tide water lines

The differences in locations low verses high, shows the Native American's moved their hearths and pits up the knoll forming Pilot's Point as the sea level rose over time.

### *Discussion*

The comparisons show the Manstan site, Stone Heap I and Stone Heap II have some similar attributes and some variations. The attributes indicate the people who used this site were from the same lineage.

## **Sequencing**

The sequencing was developed through following features that were carried over, features that were added or subtracted, and features that were modified. Key characteristics were used to illustrate the sequence in figure #.

Manstan site: *Stage I*

It is situated low on the knoll and currently is flooded daily by the low and high tides. Its location suggests this is the earliest cluster of features.

Characteristics –

- a) Hearths (2) and pit (1)
- b) Standing Stones – two were erected in one hearth  
Ring Stones – seven surround the second hearth
- c) Three features total
- d) No defined space

Stone Heap I: *Stages II, III, IV*

It was situated high up on the knoll above low and high tide lines. It consists of three levels.

Stage II – Lower Level

The cluster of features was relocated to high ground suggesting it was the next in line.

Characteristics –

- a) Fire-pit (1) and pits (3)
- b) Standing stones (2) and ring stones (vertically placed stones around outer edge) incorporated into the large fire pit (a single feature); this is a change from using these types of stones in separate features in the previous period
- c) Stone Pavement - Flat stones on top of large fire-pit created a floor, this is a new type of feature
- d) Four features, a slight increase over the Manstan site
- e) No defined space
- f) Closure: Fire-pit formally closed by building a stone ring around the top perimeter, erecting two standing stones inside the ring and covering the top with flat stones

Stage III – Middle Level

Characteristics –

- a) Stone pavement over a layer of black clay in an oval shape: stone pavement / floor concept carried over from earlier fire-pit; clay layer is a new addition
- b) Attached – stone pavement oval is attached to the large fire-pit with its two standing stones, a new concept, used instead of relocating site as done previously
- c) Hearths, pits and post holes built into the stone pavement, a new concept
- d) Block of stone (large) used to cover the fire at its hottest in two hearths, this is a new type of feature which had restricted usage
- e) Posts added: this is a new type of feature
- f) Defined space – stone pavement defines where new features are built, this is a new feature / concept
- g) Nine features and ten post holes, an increase of features over the lower level
- h) Closure: deposit of burnt stones, fine charcoal, and a few shells on top, possibly a gradual buildup of the remains of the fires and food, thus creating an Upper Level

Stage IV – Upper Level

Characteristics –

- a) Thick layer of burnt stone and charcoal covered and buried the stone pavement, this is a new feature, which may have been built-up during the Middle Level – Stage III
- b) Hearths, pits, posts built within the burnt stone and charcoal layer, this is a change from the Middle Level in which the stone pavement was used



- c) Flat stones used to cover a pit, this is a change: 1<sup>st</sup> a pit was covered instead of hearths and 2<sup>nd</sup> the stones used to cover change from blocks of stone to flat stones
- d) Defined space: burnt stone and charcoal layer replaced the stone pavement previously used to locate the features
- e) Six features and fourteen post holes, a decrease in features and an increase in post holes from the Middle Level
- f) Closure: Stone mound built over Upper Level closed the structure permanently, it followed the example set with the formal closing of the fire-pit F10 in the Lower Level by using a new stone layer

### Stone Heap II: *Stage V*

It is situated east of Stone Heap I above low and high tide lines.

Characteristics –

- a) Burnt stone and shell mound is carried over from the Upper Level – Stage IV in Stone Heap I
- b) One large hearth and one pit, a decrease in features from the Upper Level of Stone Heap I
- c) Attached: burnt stone and shell mound attached to a glacial boulder, this takes the place of the fire-pit feature with its two standing stones in Stone Heap I that the Middle and Upper levels were attached to
- d) Attached: small shell midden attached to the mound, this is a new feature
- e) No post holes, this represents a subtraction of a feature, it is a change from Stone Heap I
- e) No floor, base is ground surface, it reverts back to the early period in the Manstan site and Lower Level in Stone Heap I
- f) Defined space: Glacial boulder defines the width of the mound and the placement of a pit inside a split, it replaces the stone pavement in the Middle Level and burnt stone layer in the Upper Level of Stone Heap I
- g) Glacial boulder with its split(s) replaces the two standing stones used in the Manstan site and Stone Heap I

### *Discussion*

In each time period a specific feature such as a pair of standing stones is carried forward into the next time period. In some cases, a specific feature is changed slightly as in the block of stone being changed to multiple flat stones. There is evidence of additions as in a new feature such as a stone pavement. There are also subtractions where a feature is eliminated an example is seen in the Upper Level of Stone Heap I. The stone pavement is buried and a layer of burnt stone and charcoal takes its place. The burnt stone layer is carried on to the next period but not the stone pavement.

What can be discerned is beginning with the originators, generation after generation returned to reuse the site time, and again. Each generation passed knowledge up the line to the next generation. They were not static. Periodically they made changes.

## **Conclusion**

## *Historical*

During the 1800's it is said a fish pound was a short distance off shore which had an associated shed. The shed was confirmed by pieces of iron and nails. The shed strongly suggests credence for the unconfirmed fish pound. This places industrial usage on the point.

Starting in the late 1800's and continuing into the 1950's the site was used for recreational purposes. This was evidenced by the broken whiskey bottles, Victorian pottery sherds, spent shotgun shells and fresh clam shells. People came to picnic, hold clambakes, hunt ducks and fish.

## *Native American*

Hearths attest to fires being built on the site. Burnt cooking stones, blue mussel shells, quahog shells, oyster shells and clam shells attest to food being cooked. Two large deposits of burnt stones, shells and charcoal: Stone Heap I with a 21' long x 12' wide x 3"-12" thick layer, and Stone Heap II with a 9' diameter x 3' thick layer. The sizes of the two structures show long term usage. Stone Heap I the larger of the two mounds had a small quantity of shells and no shell midden. The burnt stone layer is excessive in comparison to the small quantity of shells. In addition, there were numerous hearths (15) and pits. This creates a discrepancy in the number of hearths and burnt stones verses the shell remains. Stone Heap II had numerous shells mixed in with the mound and a large hearth as well as a small shell midden. The shell deposit comes closer to matching the burnt stone layer but still seems small.

Stone floor / pavements were used to close the deep fire-pit (F10) and to create a defined space (surface) in which to build new hearths and pits. On top of the stone floor / pavement and hearths, a layer of burnt stone was built-up. Within that layer more hearths were built. The overall structure of Stone Heap I does not meet standard camp or village site criteria. It raises the question of ceremonialism.

The hearths occur at different levels on the knoll and in different layers of Stone Heap I. This indicates long term and repeated use of the site. It fits the profile established with the stone artifacts dating from Late Archaic to Transitional Archaic, Early Ceramic and Middle Ceramic.

At the glacial boulder with the attached Stone Heap II a pit was dug inside a split in the boulder. A pestle with red paint adhered to it was placed inside the pit. This indicates purposeful usage of the split and ritual usage of the pit.

The sequencing showed usage of specific characteristics: a large block of stone placed on top of a fire at its hottest; two standing stones placed on top of a closed fire-pit; and formally closing a fire-pit with a stone ring and flat stones laid on top. This is out of context with camp activity. These examples of use of specific characteristics show ceremonial activity.

Stone Heap I was covered by a layer of loose stones forming a mound. Hearths at camp and village sites are not buried under stone mounds. The mound shows a formal closing activity like the formal closing of the fire-pit many years before which lies underneath it. This is ritual activity.

The site exhibits long term usage. It has five stages. It does not meet the criteria of a camp site. It does show characteristics of ceremonial usage. The ceremony included fire, containment of the fire remains, and small quantities of food. In addition, it included the use of standing stones, a split in a boulder, and stone ringed features for symbolic purposes.

# **Pilot's Point: Two Ceremonial Stone Mounds**

**By Mary Gage**

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## **Introduction**

Frank Glynn during the mid 1950's excavated two stone mounds at Pilot's Point on the south coast of Connecticut. In the *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut*, No. 38, 1973, a report written up by the late Glynn and edited by Richard Q. Bourn, Jr. was published.

Stone mounds and stone cairns in New England are 99 percent of the time all stone. At Pilot's Point, *Stone Heap I* was a stone mound covered a layer of burnt stones and charcoal in which were hearths, pits and post holes. *Stone Heap II* was a mound of stones, burnt stones and seashells with a small attached shell midden adjacent to a large glacial split boulder. Frank Glynn felt Stone Heap I was ceremonial. He looked for potential evidence of cremation but did not find any bone. The type of ceremony held was not determined. Stone heap II was used to cook seafood, principally clams and oysters. This article explores the use of the two stone mounds as intentional ceremonial features.

## **Pilot's Point's Sites**

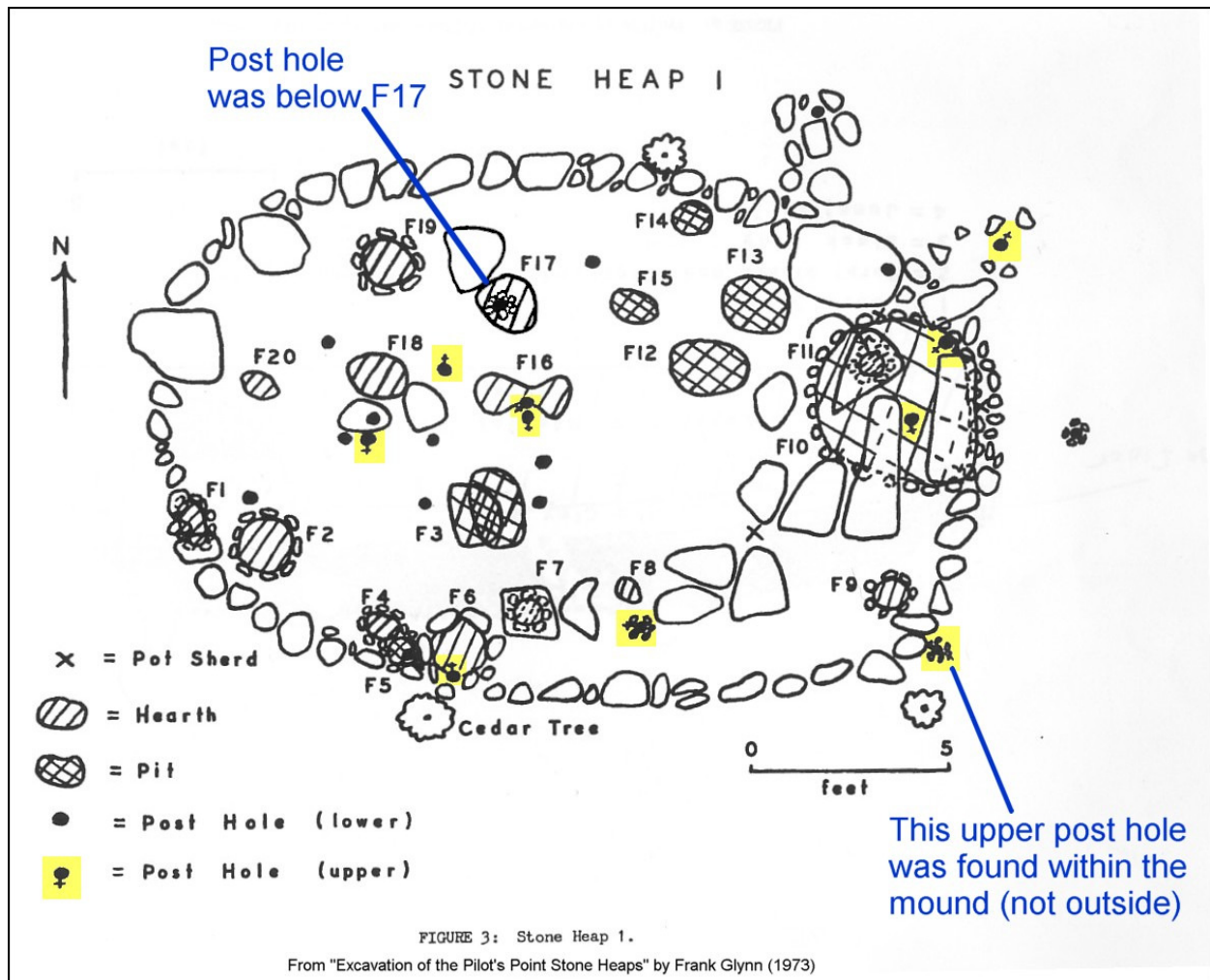
On the tip of Pilot's Point three areas were given site names. The Seekamp site had scattered artifacts. This site was found during an extreme low tide. The Manstan site had two hearths and a pit. This site starts at normal low tide and is completely flooded by high tide. The Pilot's Point site had two stone mounds. This site is above the high tide line.

The Seekamp site may represent artifacts washed down slope from the Manstan site. The Manstan site represents three potential episodes of usage during Archaic times. The pit is the lowest feature on the slope. The two hearths are further up the slope and may represent a rising water level. Eventually this site became flooded by high tide and another move up slope was needed. The Pilot's Point site is furthest up the knoll. The site was built above the high tide line. It had Archaic and Early Woodland artifacts. (Glynn 1953; Glynn 1973)

Rising sea levels forced the people using Pilot's Point to continually move up slope to avoid the sites being inundated with sea water.

## **Notes**

1. Artifacts were found on the site. The problem was their locations were not identified. They can only be used in a general manner to show the site was in use during the Late Archaic on into the Early Woodland periods. For historic usage of the site see Glynn's article.
2. Unless otherwise noted all page and figure references are to Glynn's 1973 article.



## Stone Heap I

*Description by Glynn:* After the stone mound was removed, "a well defined outer wall\*, outside of which a complete humus horizon had formed. Within the wall was a three inch layer of black clay which was covered by a stone pavement with hearths, fire-pits and postholes below. Above it was a compact deposit of burnt stones and fine charcoal, also containing stone hearths and postholes." (p.80)

*Size:* Twelve feet wide by twenty-one feet long by two feet high (maximum) (p.80)

*Shape:* Oval mound

*Orientation:* East and west (p.78)

*Construction:*

Information obtained from illustration (Fig. 4 and text on page 80)

Humus horizon surrounded the stone mound outside the outer wall

Layer 1 – Loose stones (mound), top surface

Layer 2 – Burnt stones and charcoal (twelve inches thick)

Layer 3A\*\* – Stone pavement

Layer 3B\*\* – Black Clay (three inches thick)

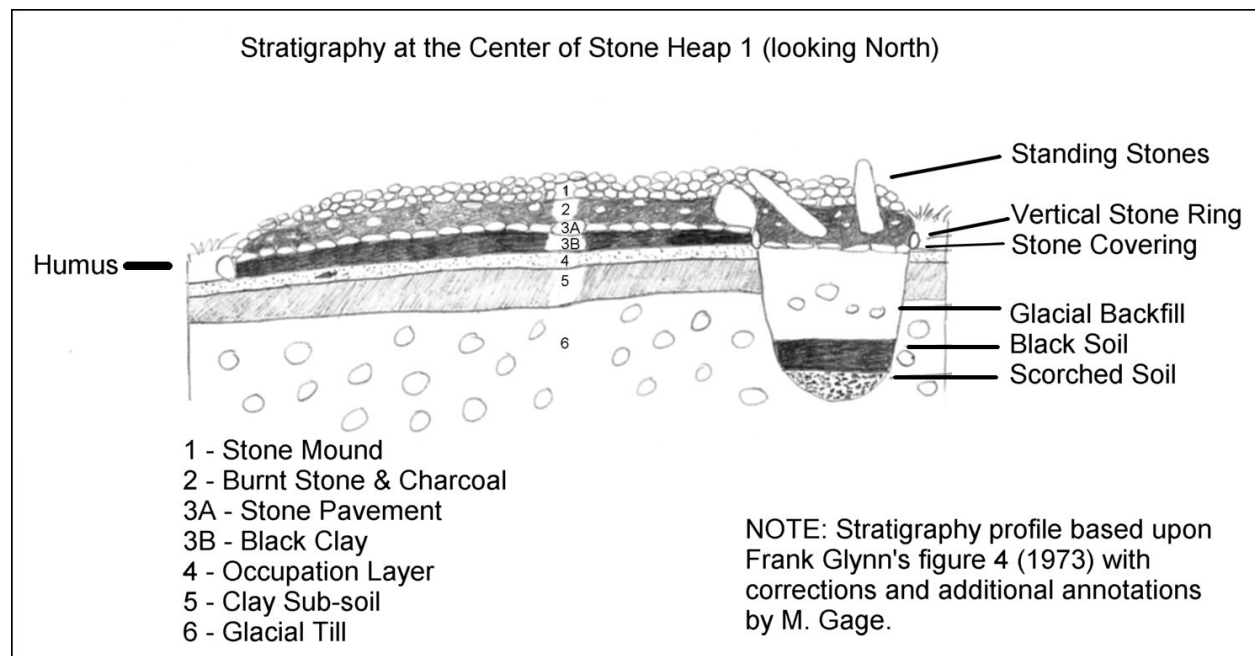
Layer 4 – Occupation layer called the Junction Zone; artifacts were recovered across the point from this small-stone surface layer; two different thicknesses were given: “A ‘crust’ of small stones two to three inches” (Glynn 1953, p.19) and “A shovel-wide trench dug out from the mound disclosed that the base of the mound was part of a continuous occupation zone extending four to seven inches under the present surface.” (p.80)

Layer 5 – Clay subsoil

Layer 6 – Glacial till, lowest layer

\*Wall is shown as a ring of large stones in illustration. (Fig. 3 p.86).

\*\*Layer 3 was divided up into parts A and B to show it was made up of two different materials and for use in vertical location of a few features.



## Discussion

A layer of black clay placed on the ground surface, surrounded by stones forming a perimeter wall defined a specific space. A layer of stones placed on top of the clay created a stone pavement / floor. Built into, on and above the stone floor were hearths, pits and post holes at various depths. These features were buried over time by a gradual build up of burnt stones and charcoal. The burnt stones and charcoal were in turn buried under a mound of loose stones.

## Features

Twenty features were found under the stone mound. In addition there were twenty-four post holes which were not given feature numbers. See *Post Holes* below.

F1 – Double Stone-Ringed Hearth (one on top of the other) (p.80)

“Two small stone-ringed hearths, one superimposed upon the other. Two one inch thick slabs of stone formed the roof of the lower hearth and the floor of the upper hearth.”

*Lower Hearth:* “U-shaped, fifteen inches by eight inches, covered by broken slabs. It faces west and contained no shell.”

*Upper Hearth:* “Circular, nine inches diameter. Ringed by small cobbles, it contained six quahog shells.”

Location: “in Layer 2”

F2 – Stone ringed hearth (p.80)

Size: Eighteen inches in diameter, six inches deep

Location: Immediately below the loose stone mound

Contained: Small quantity of broken clam shells

F3A – Double Pit (p.80)

Location: “The upper pit extended through Layers 2 and 3.”

Covering: “A triple cover of flat pieces of stone shingles [3 layers of flat stones] were fashioned overlaying [covering] this pit.”

F3B – Lower Pit “descended from the base of Layer three” downward into gravel (p.81)

Depth: Fourteen inches

Contained: “On the base were found two fragments of a much-decayed blue mussel shell, quartz chips, and two small pieces of carbonized grey birch bark. There was a large amount of black carbon content in the soil of the lower pit.”

F4 & F5 – Two stone ringed features, listed together (p.81)

Size: Six inches diameter

Location: “extended from Layer 2 well into Layer 5”

Contained: Both had black material and chips; “Feature 5 contained a flake of flint which might be a small flake knife.”

Classification: Could not be determined if F4 and F5 were pits or post holes (p.81)

F6 – Stone ringed hearth (p.81)

Location: “bottom was the stone floor at the lower Layer 2”

F7 – Small hearth (p.81, shown as a stone-ringed hearth in fig. 3)

Size: Nine inches diameter

Location: “bottom of Layer 2 [Layer 2A]”

Covering: *Boulder-on-Top* “Into this hearth a large wedge-shaped boulder had been placed as if to plug or seal the hearth. The lower nine inches of this boulder were deeply burnt.” Note: The illustration of the boulder in figure 3 shows a square boulder not a wedge shaped boulder.

F8 – Oval hearth (p.81)

Depth: Six inches deep

Contained: A few pieces of quahog shell

Location: Upper part of Layer 2

F9 – Shown as a Stone Ringed Hearth in figure 3 (p.86)

Listed as “similar in all respects to Feature 6 and 8” (p.81)

Feature 6 is a stone ringed hearth and feature 8 is an oval hearth without a stone ring. The statement is confusing.

Location: “in the cobble gravel” again confusing as no layer is listed as cobble gravel, possibly Layer 4

Contained: quartz chips and shell fragments

F10 – Large Circular Fire-Pit (this stood out because of its size and configuration)

Size: Four feet ten inches diameter by five feet three inches deep. “It was clearly defined in the gravels.”

Location: Starts at Layer 3 and extends down into Layer 6 the glacial till (p.87 & Fig. 4). The fire-pit is on the east side of the Stone Heap I.

Construction:

The following layers were noted in this pit (Fig. 4):

1. Large stones closely massed which probably prevented exploration.
2. Thick deposit of black soil and granite stones, rich in very fine charcoal. In this deposit artifacts and shards were found.

“Here [feature 10] the covering of carbonized earth and loose stone was thickest, and the covering rocks were largest.” (p.81)

Two Standing Stones: “The two rectangular stone slabs on the south-east were well imbedded in the black deposit. There can be no question they were a part of the original stone covering and were vertically placed. They are of further interest because none of their surface showed any sign of being weathered, which suggests they were either excavated or quarried from the granite outcroppings one hundred feet southeast of the heap, by the builders.” (p.81)

3. A closely fitted floor, chiefly slab-like pieces of stone.
4. “The whole pit was outlined by a webbing of small stone cobbles.” (p.81)  
“A ring of small cobbles, set vertically, outlined the pit’s circumference.” (p.80)
5. Gravel backfill with stones mixed in
6. Black soil
7. Fire scorched soil

F11 – Cobble hearth (p.81 & shown as a stone-ringed hearth in fig. 3)

Location: “in the floor over Feature 10”

Covering: *Boulder-on-Top* a wedge-shaped (triangular) boulder had been placed on top of the hearth. “The lower eight inches of this boulder were thoroughly fired.” Figure 3 shows a wedged shaped boulder which coincides with the text description.

F12 – Stone-lined oval pit (p.81)

Size: Twenty-two inches by twenty inches by seven plus inches deep

Construction: “box-like walls. Flat stone slabs set vertically on its west and northeast sides gave it this look.” Only feature with this type of construction.

Location: “extended from the floor [stone pavement] of Layer 2, down through black base more than seven inches to subsoil.”

Contained: “black soil, burnt and broken stones, charcoal, and a few bits of carbonized twigs”

F13 – [Circular or Oval] Pit (p.81)

Size: Nineteen inches diameter

Location: Layer unknown, next to pit feature 12 on map fig. 3

Notation: “Feature 13 was a fire-pit, with the exception of the box-like walls, was in all other respects a slightly smaller (19 inch diameter) replica of Feature 12.”

Glynn called all the pits “fire-pits”. This appears to be incorrect as there is only one pit in which a fire was created, that is pit feature F10 with burnt soil at its base. Burnt soil is not mentioned as the base of any other pit.

F14 – Pit (p.81)

Shape: “U-shaped”

Size: Nine inches diameter

Location: “extended nine inches below the base of Layer 3”

F15 – Oval Pit

Size: Fourteen inches diameter by six inches deep

Location: “beneath Layer 3”

F16 – Double Hearth (side by side, attached to each other) (p.81)

Shape: Kidney-shaped

Base: “base was stone floor”

Contained: “twelve inches of burnt stone and carbon-black soil.”

F17 – Circular/oval hearth (p.81)

Construction: Stone lined floor

Size: Fifteen inches by eighteen inches

Contained: Carbon black burnt stone, and a few pieces of shell

Location: Upper part of Layer 2

F18 – Double Hearth (one on top of the other) (p.81)

Location: Base of *Lower Hearth* - stone pavement

Base of *Upper Hearth* – on top of Lower Hearth

Size: Twenty inches diameter

Notation: “The sides and lower part of this upper hearth floor were more burnt at the top.”

F19 – Double Stone Ringed Hearth (one on top of the other) (p.81)

Size: Thirteen inches diameter

Construction: Each hearth had a stone floor, “two layers of flat burnt stone”

Contained: Lower hearth one carbonized feather

Location: No indication of what layer the hearths were found in was given

F20 – Small Circular Hearth (p.81)

Size: Eight inches diameter

Location: “in the stone floor [pavement] and penetrated down through Layer 3”

## **Post Holes**

### Types:

*Plain – Upper post holes: 8*

*Lower post holes: 12*

*Stone Ringed – Upper post holes: 2*

*Lower post holes: 2*

In addition there are two small stone ringed features F4 and F5 that may be stone ringed post holes or small pits

Size: Five inches diameter by six plus inches deep; size came from a single stone ringed post hole under feature F17

### Vertical Location:

*Lower Post Holes* – in “stone pavement with hearths, fire-pits and *postholes*”

*Upper Post Holes* – in “a compact deposit of burnt stones and fine charcoal, also containing stone hearths and postholes.” (p.80)

### Location in Feature:

Interior – 12 Lower post holes

8 Upper post holes

Exterior – Without mound cover: 1 Lower stone ringed post hole

1 Upper stone ringed post hole\*

With stone mound cover: 1 Lower plain post hole

1 Upper plain post hole



\* If in upper level, it must be within Feature's level 2

## **Patterns found in Stone Heap I**

### Shell (fragments)

Blue mussel shell – Pit F3B in lowest layer 5

Quahog shell – Hearths F1 upper part of layer 2  
F8 in layer 2

Clam shell – Hearth F2 top most, just under stone mound, upper part of layer 2

Unidentified shell – Hearth F17

### Coverings

*Stone Pavement* – slab-like pieces of stone, closely fitted, formed a floor on top of gravel re-fill in large fire pit feature F10

*Stone Pavement & Black Clay* – Stone pavement (type of stone not stated) placed on top of black clay; formed the floor space for future hearths, pits and post holes

*Stone Block-on-Top of Hearth:* Triangular stone block (F11) and square stone block (F7), placed on top of burning fire within stone ringed hearths, both were located in Layer 3A (stone pavement)

*Flat Stones:* Hearth (F1) covered with two 1” thick slabs, was located in Layer 2

Pit (F3A) covered with three layers of flat stone shingles, was located in Layer 2

### Plain versus Stone Ringed

#### *Plain*

Hearths: stone-lined floor

Post Holes: lacked a stone ring around the top edge

#### *Stone Ringed*

Hearths: had a stone ring around perimeter of hearths; in addition some of these hearths were stated as also having a stone-lined floor; detailed information was not available for all the hearths, some hearths were shown as stone ringed in an illustration which was not mentioned in the text.

Post Holes: had a stone ring around the top edge

Pit: Feature 10 had stones set in a vertical position around the top edge of the pit

### Double Features

#### *Hearths*

F1 stone ringed hearth in layer 2, one on top of another

F11 stone ringed hearth in stone floor was built on top of fire-pit feature F10

F16 stone-lined hearth in layer 3A, side by side

F18 stone-lined hearth in layer 3A, one on top of another

F19 stone-ringed hearth, one on top of another, layer unknown

#### *Pits*

F3A and F3B are dug pits placed one above. However, the bottom pit is offset from the top pit so only a part of the bottom pit is directly underneath the top pit. This double pit feature may be by coincidence rather than intentional.

### *Discussion*

The “covering” pattern shows variations on the usage. The stone pavement used to define the large floor, was used to cover old features and as a base in which to build new features. In the hearths and large fire pit, the stone covering was used to close the features. Of these, two hearths had large boulders placed on top and left in place. This is significant and possibly symbolic. One boulder was triangular shaped. The triangular shape is associated with blocking out uninvited spirits.

The two sets of post holes show posts were used. The exact vertical-location within the layers is unknown. The hearths in the upper level Layer 2 occur at different heights. It is not known if the post holes also occur at different heights. Therefore, it is impossible to do any analysis on the layout of the post holes. The post holes do not match up with hearths therefore they are not thought to be utilitarian.

The double hearths show repeated usage of the same hearth with recognition of older and newer versions. The purpose is unknown.

Plain versus stone ringed features show different usage patterns. The pattern showed up in hearths, post holes and a single large fire-pit. The pits were plain with one exception which had two stone-lined walls. The use of stone to outline / edge a feature seems to have significance. This is especially evident in the post holes which came in plain and stone ringed. Both the Upper and Lower post hole sets each had two stone ringed post holes. The rest of the post holes were plain. Of the plain post holes two were on the exterior of the stone mound. These two plain post holes were covered by two separate stone mound extensions. Both mound extensions were in the northeast corner. This shows deliberate burial or closure of the post holes indicating they had significance and/or importance.

### **Ratios**

#### Post Holes:

Total per level 10 Upper  
14 Lower  
Plain – 8 Upper  
12 Lower  
Stone Ringed – 2 Upper  
2 Lower

#### Hearths: 11

Doubles: 4 (F1, F16, F18, F19)  
Stone Ringed: 6 (F1, F2, F7, F9, F11, F19)  
Plain: 5 (F8, F16, F17, F18, F20)

#### Pits: 7

Fire-pit – Stone Ringed: 1 (F10)  
Plain: 6

## *Discussion*

Hearths show almost equal numbers of plain and stone ringed types. Of the eleven hearths three are doubled up one on top of another and one is doubled side by side. The ratios show hearths outnumber pits 2 to 1. Little is known about the pits.

Out of the twenty hearths and pits only ten have specific vertical placement locations. This is problematic because it does not permit layout patterns to be discerned per level.

Plain post holes far outnumber stone ringed post holes. There are two stone ringed post holes per level which appears to have significance. The number of post holes from the lower level is greater than the upper level but is meaningless without exact starting points in the levels.

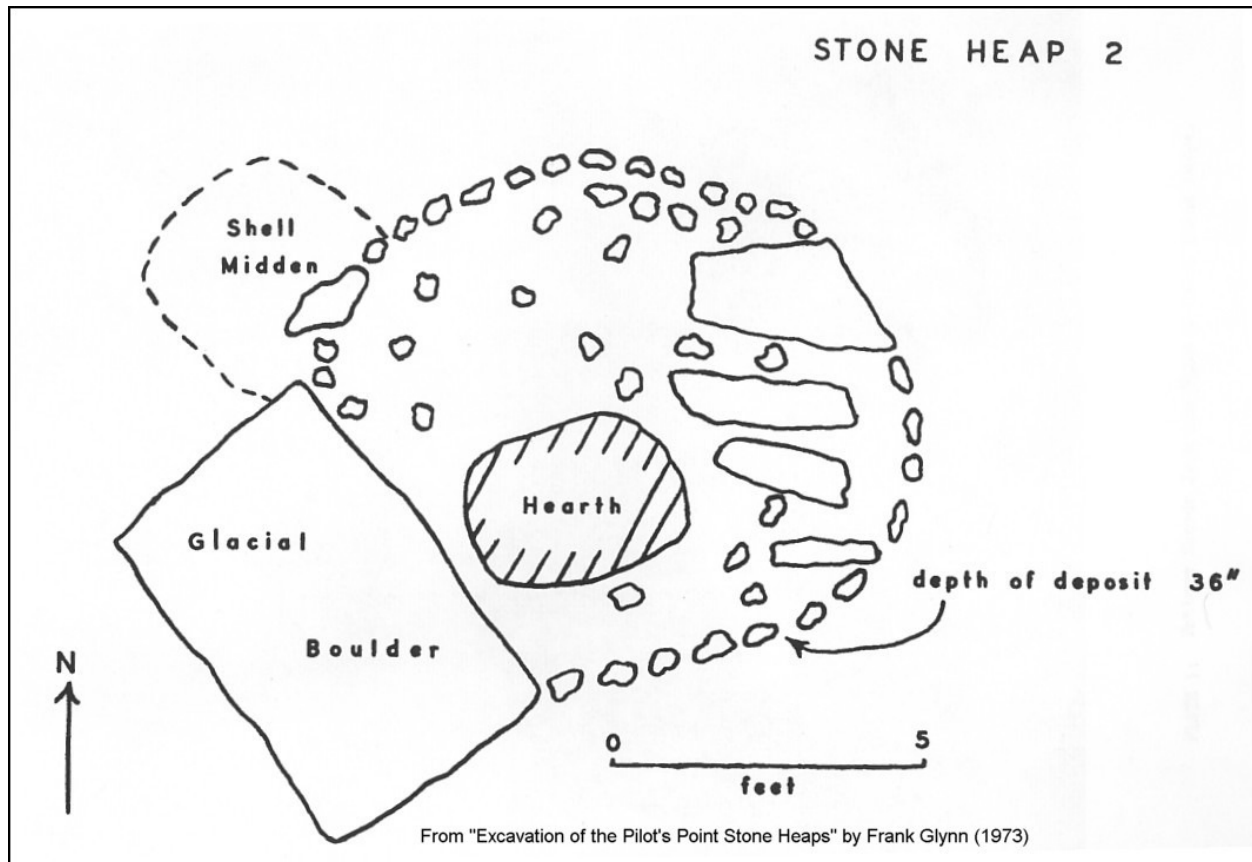
## **Interpretation**

Native Americans created a defined space on the ground in which they built hearths and pits, and erected posts. The posts do not line up with hearths. Two post holes found underneath two separate short extensions of the stone mound indicate the posts had symbolic significance. The posts may have had carvings. Both are on the northeast corner which also may have had directional orientation.

They used the defined space to contain the remains of fires held within it. As the burnt stone layer built up they continued to build new hearths and pits. The minute quantity of seashells found in the pits suggests there may have been a small quantity of seafood cooked. However, the lack of a large quantity of seashells indicates it was not a seafood feast type ceremony.

Several features were purposely closed. The fire-burned boulders used to close two hearths suggest symbolism in the form of blocking out uninvited spirits. At an unknown time the whole feature was closed by covering it with a mound of loose stones. This is uncharacteristic and not used at utilitarian hearths. It signifies the feature was sacred and ceremonies were held at this place.

What brought about the closure? It was not rising ocean water as the feature is above the current high tide line. It is likely a change in cultural beliefs. A radical change is seen in the differences between stone heap I and stone heap II. The problem at this point is it is impossible to obtain carbon dates from the site which would have allowed sequencing of the two stone mounds.



## Stone Heap II

*Location:* East of Stone Heap I

*Description*

Oval Mound – attached to a large glacial boulder with clefts; “mixed fired stone and shell deposit”, “Shell was abundant throughout this heap, a marked contrast to Stone Heap I.” (p.82); four large stone slabs graduating in size are shown on top of the east side of the mound (fig 5, & p.88) It was nine feet in diameter by over two feet high, figure 5 drawing notes the stone mound has a depth of 36” (three feet high), the text on page 82 states the mound was forty-two inches high at its maximum point (the mound was likely lower in some places and higher in other places which would account for the different heights / depths given)

Shell Heap – small “surficial” [surface]; attached to west side of mound and NW corner of glacial boulder (p.82) It was approximately three feet diameter, size is taken from scaled drawing fig. 5 (p.88)

Glacial Boulder – Approximately eight feet long by four and a half feet wide, size is taken from scaled drawing fig. 5 (p.88)

## Artifacts

1. "Quartz cores, flakes and chips were found as well as broken choppers and scrappers." (p.82)
2. "A thick, grit-tempered sherd, cord-marked on both sides in the Vinette I style, was found a few feet away from the heap's base on the southeastern side." (p.82)
3. "... broken whiskey bottles and spent gun shells found among the burnt stone and clam shells marking the top of the heap. There is every reason to believe the white men have continued to use the aboriginal invention of a stone platform for a clam bake." (p.82)
4. Pestle deposited in a pit (see *Pit* under *Features*) (p.82)
5. Clam shells and oyster shells, primary shells found in Stone Heap II. (p.82)
6. "A considerable number of stone tools of chopper types were included amongst the stones used to build hearth upon hearth within the heap." (p.82)

## Features

### Hearth

*Location:* Shown as a rectangular shaped hearth in the middle of the mound close to the boulder's face (Fig. 5)

*Size:* Approximately three feet wide by four feet long, size is taken from scaled drawing fig. 5 (p.88)

### Pit

*Location:* "between two of the fingers [in a split] of the boulder." (p.82)

*Artifact:* "small pestle, with red oxide still adhering to the abrading surface" (p.82)

## *Discussion*

Stone heap II was built up against a large split boulder. A large hearth was within the mound of burnt stones and shells. The burnt stones and shells left over from the cooking fires were used to build-up a mound around the hearth. The same as took place at stone heap I.

Not all the shell was mixed in with the burnt stones. At some point, a shell midden was established on the west side of the mound. It was attached to the mound and a corner of the glacial boulder.

A single pit was found inside the split of the boulder. Inside the pit was a pestle stained with red oxide. Another pestle plus a mortar were found at the site. No other information was available for these other two artifacts.

The glacial boulder appears to be the focal point of this mound. It is not the only difference between the two stone mounds. Stone heap I had eleven small hearths and seven pits plus post holes whereas stone heap II had one large hearth and one pit, and no post holes.

## Interpretation

The single pit associated with stone heap II had a pestle with red oxide adhering to it. The pit was inside a cleft [split] in the glacial boulder. Split stone cairns found at cairn sites indicate an association with the Underworld. The red oxide ground to a powder suggested by the pestle

suggests body painting. Body painting is associated with ceremonies. The large quantity of clam and oyster shells mixed in the mound suggests a feast was involved with the ceremony.

### **Time Periods**

Stone heap I lacked the shells found in stone heap II. Therefore the burnt stones from fires in stone heap II were not used to build up the burnt stone and charcoal layer in stone heap I. This suggests two different time periods.

### **Another Ceremonial Food Related Site**

An article in the *Bulletin of Massachusetts Archeological Society* on rockshelters included one from Connecticut. "The Aircraft Road rockshelter in Middleton, Connecticut contained a midden with a complete clay elbow pipe, a complete steatite pipe, fragments of a third clay pipe and a Genesee point." (Dudek & Chartier 2004, 22) Dudek & Chartier point out "objects of ceremonial significance such as the smoking pipes" made some of these rockshelters "special places". In the case of Aircraft Road rockshelter, a Late Woodland site, the midden containing, three pipes suggests a ceremony which included food. This idea holds with the Pilot's Point stone heap II.

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