

November 27, 1963

Dr. Allen G. Schick,
3716 Philadelphia Pike,
Holly Oak, Delaware.

Dear Dr. Schick:

Our day at the Caleb Pusey House was an enjoyable one. We wish to thank you and Mrs. Schick for your kind hospitality and Mrs. Schick, especially, for the good coffee.

I have enclosed a few plots that Miss Weyer has made. The main anomalies seem to be as follows:

Grid #1 (NW of House, in back)

High resistance areas (possible walls) in NE and SE corners, (both marked with stakes). The one in the NE corner shows up as a pronounced peak in the graphs (marked in red) of column B, but does not seem to extend down to 2 meters in depth. At the most southern of the 3 stakes in column B (blue), however, there may be a wall extending down to 3 meters.

Low resistance area (possible hole or whatever) in NW corner.

Grid #1a (Back of House)

High resistance area at eastern limit near stake N7W7.

Grid #2 (Front of House)

High resistance area in NE corner, near SE corner of house, a possible wall.

East Grid.

Same high resistance areas in the line closest to the house.

In short, the Geohm survey seems to have indicated the possible presence of several buried walls, and one filled pit in the yard around the house. It will be interesting

Dr. Allen G. Schick

Page 2

to see what your excavations reveal.

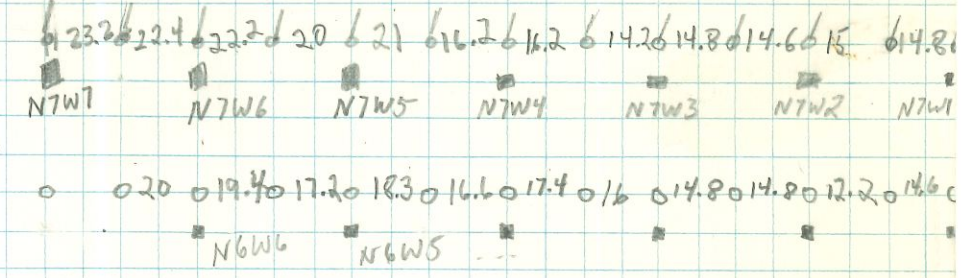
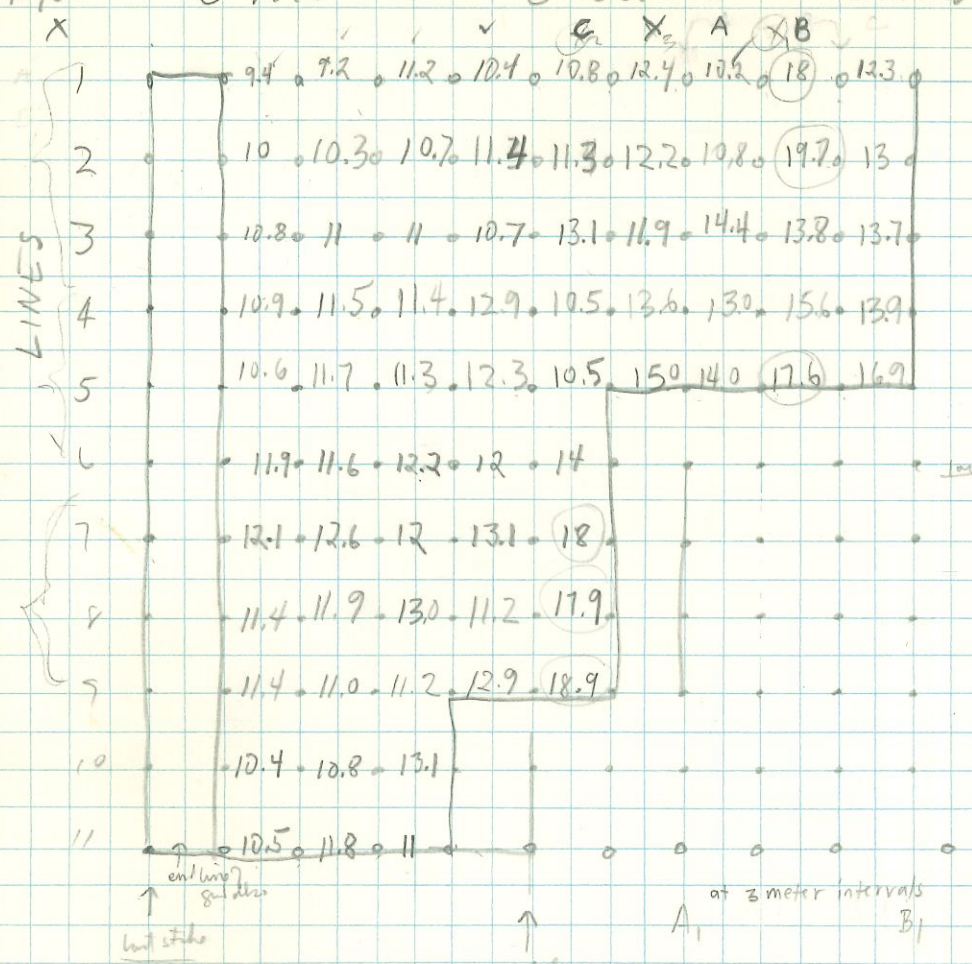
If I have confused matters with these brief comments or if our plots are not clear, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth K. Ralph

EKR:LF

11/16/63 GRID #1 - Geolium - Caleb Pusey House, in N corner of yard walls



AT 2 METER INTERVALS

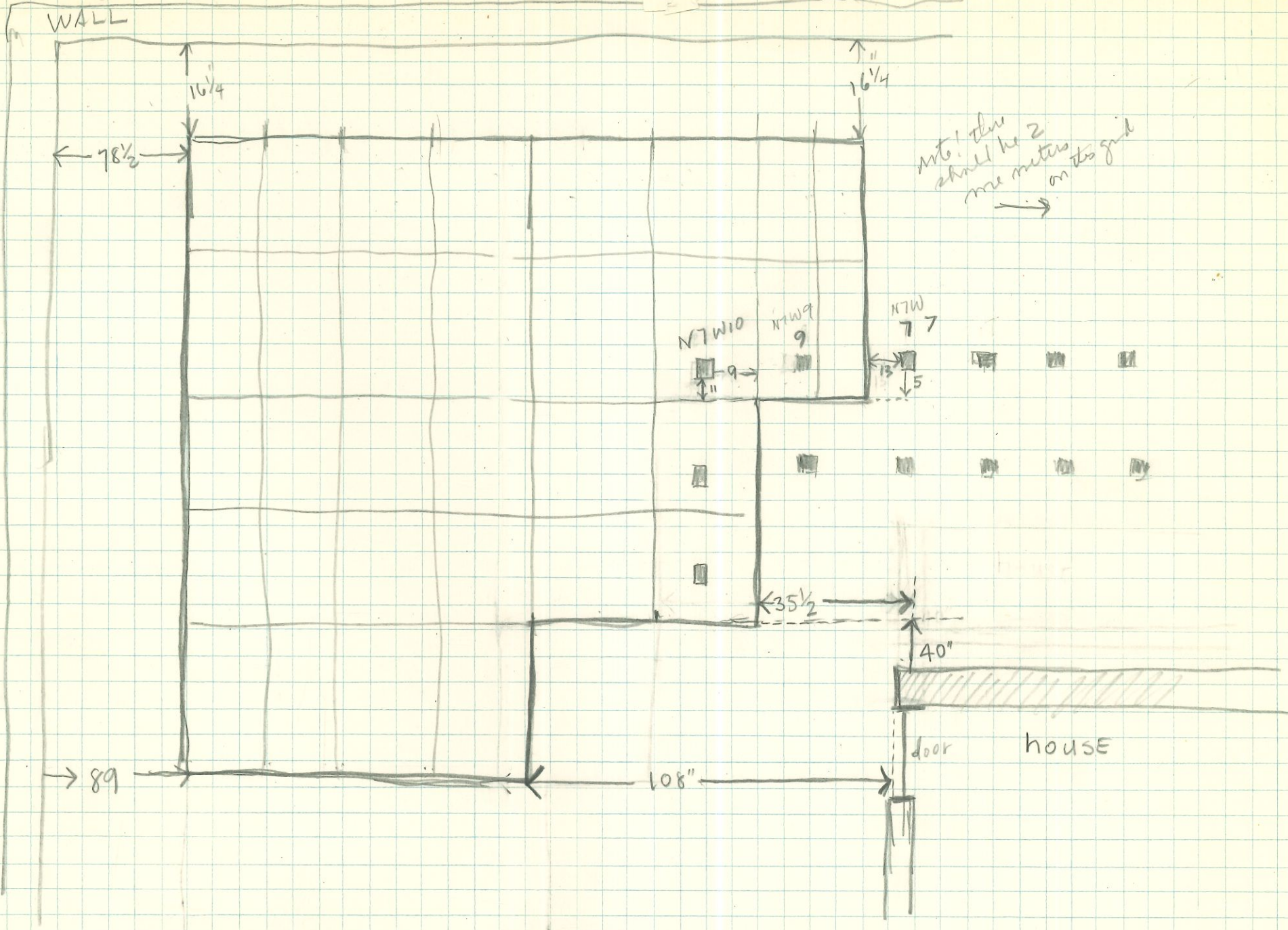
A	B
5.8	
5.6	
6.0	
6.8	
7.0	4.8

at 3 meter intervals
 A₁ B₁
 4.4
 4.8

entirely
 gutters
 gutters

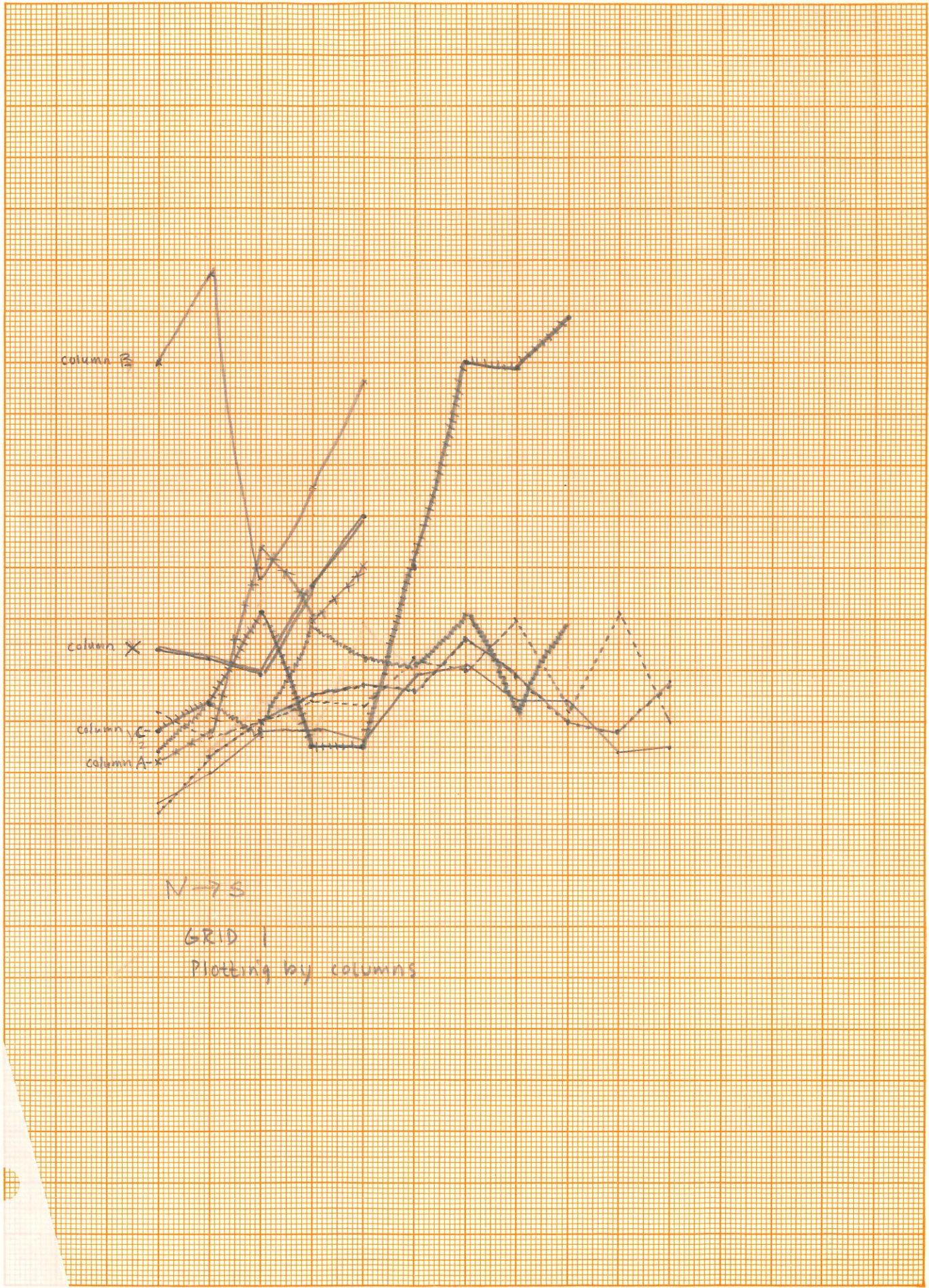
↑
 gutters

↑
 gutters



LINES 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

20
24
19 23
22
18 21
20
17 19
18
16 17
16
15 15
14
14 13
13 11
13 11
10
12 9
8
7
2



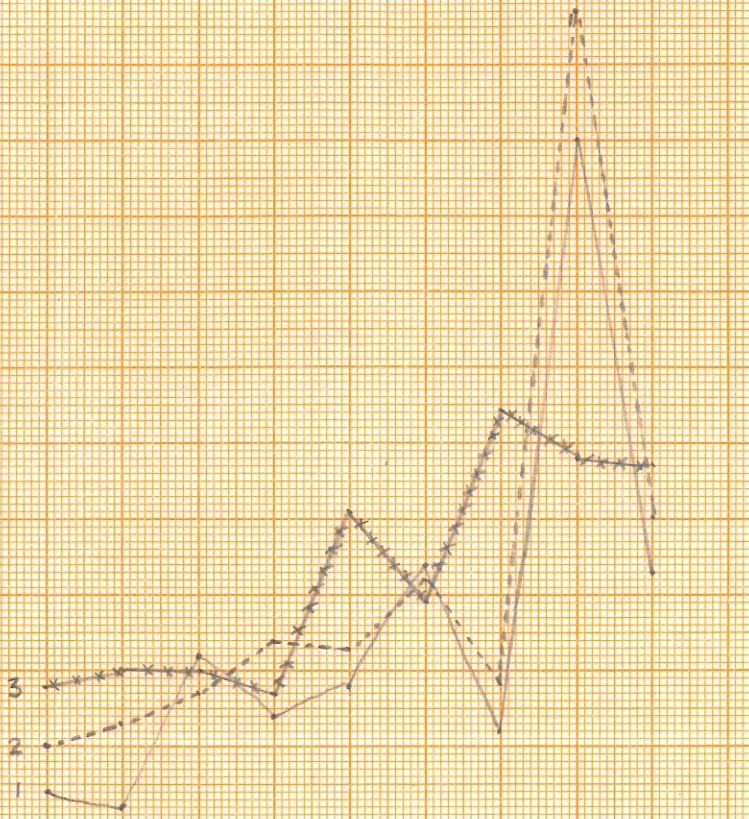
Lines 1,2,3

read W → E

1 = —
2 = ---
3 = xxx

CALEB PUSEY
OHMS - GRID #1 BACK NW
resistivity readings

24
23
22
21
20
19
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5



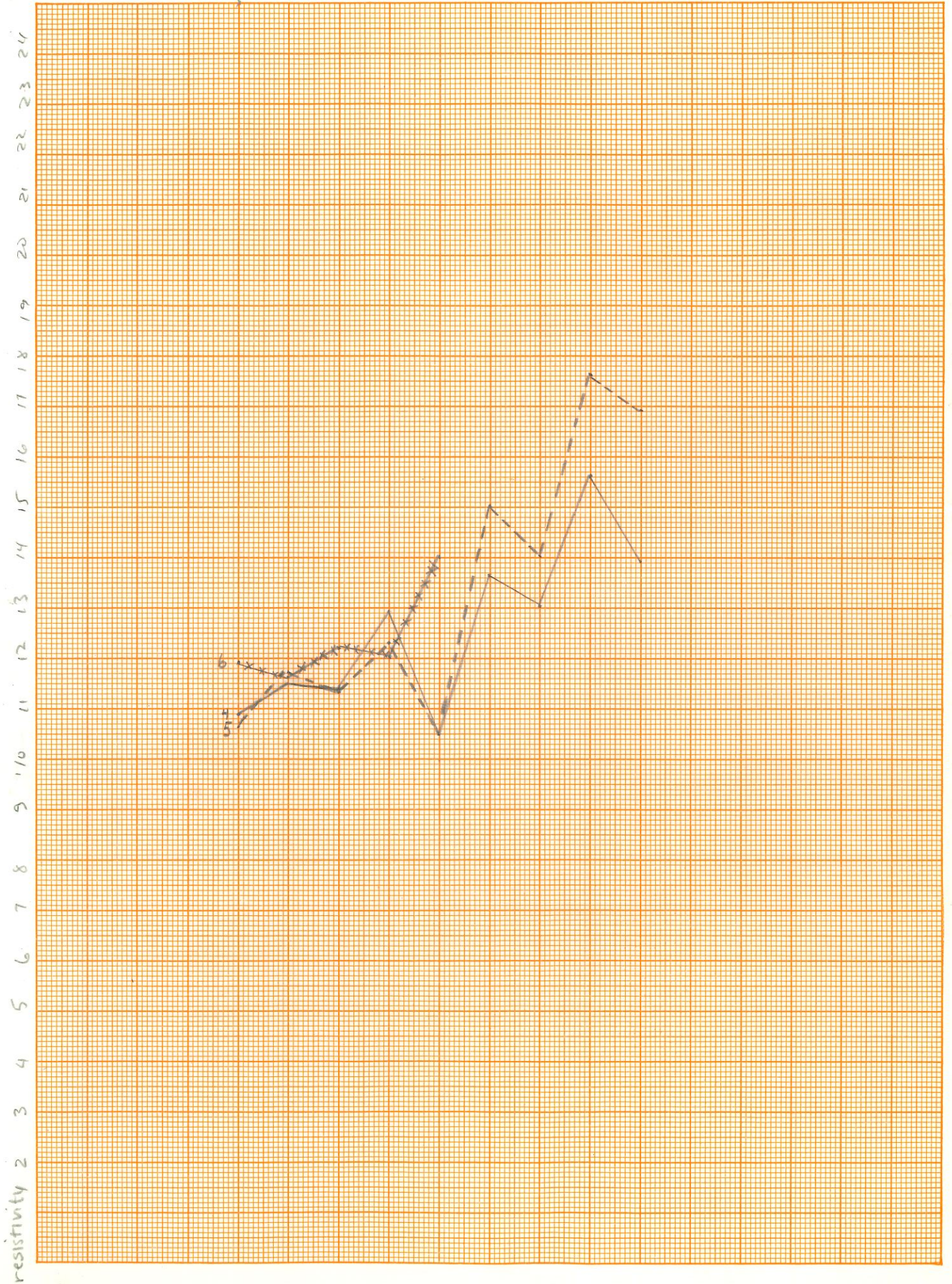
OHMS - GRID #1 BACK NW
resistivity readings

resistivity

LINES 4,5,6 read W → E

4 = —
5 = - - -
6 = * * * *

CALEB PUSEY
ohms - GRID #1 BACK NW
resistivity readings

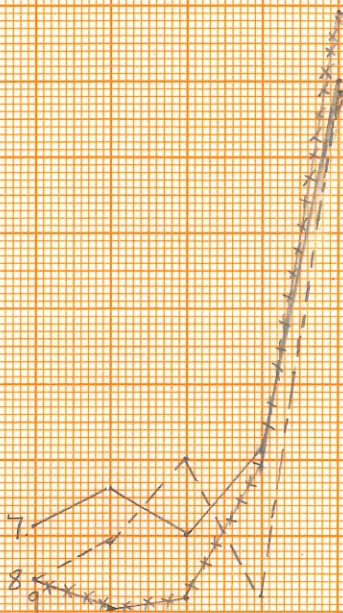


LINES 7, 8, 9 read W → E

7 = —
8 = ---
9 = xxx

CALEB PUSEY
ohms - GRID #1 BACK NW
resistivity readings

resistivity 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

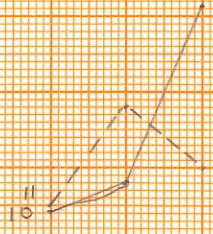


LINES 10, 11

10 = —
11 = ---

CALEB PUSEY
OHMS - GRID #1. BACK NW
resistivity readings

resistivity 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24



CALEB PUSEY HOUSE
BACKGRID #12



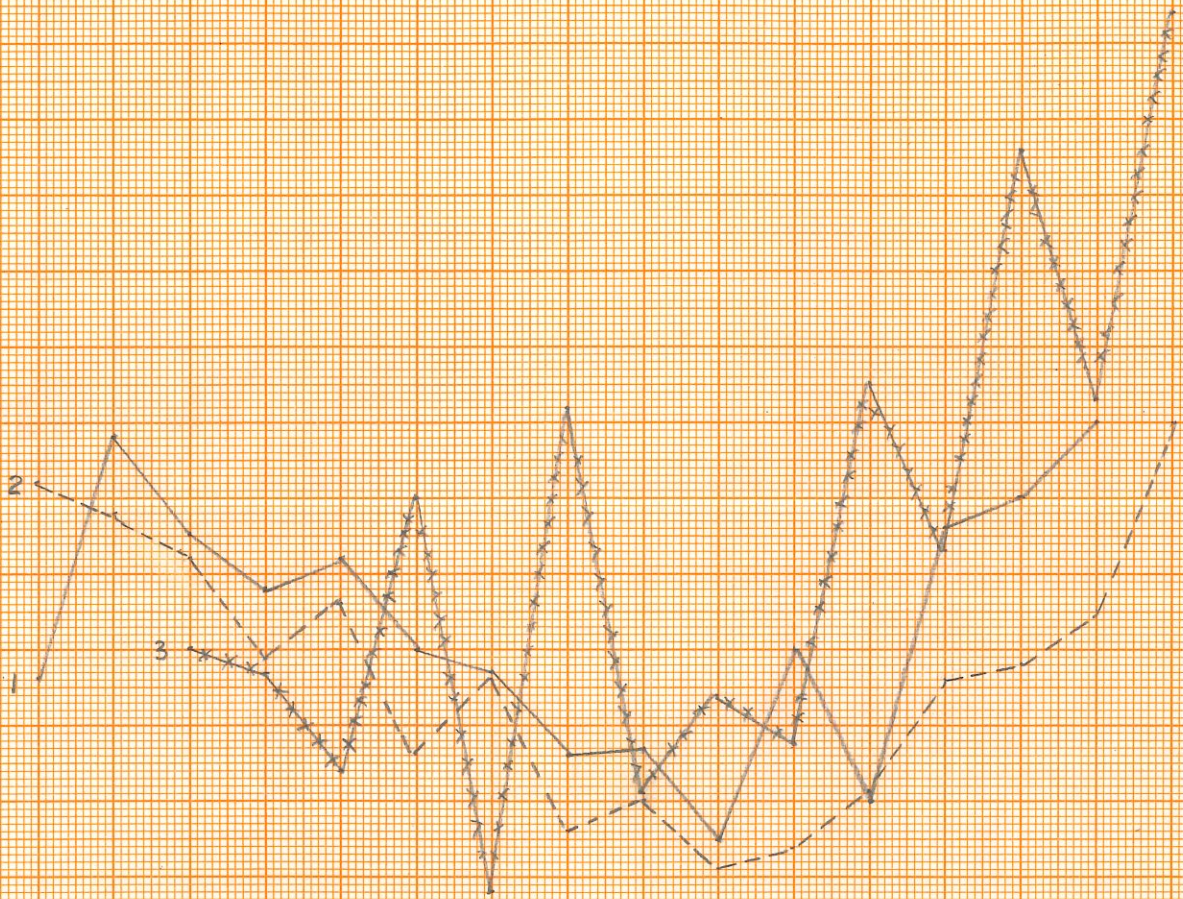
LINES: 1, 2, 3

1 = —
2 = ---
3 = ***

CALEB PUSEY
EAST GRID

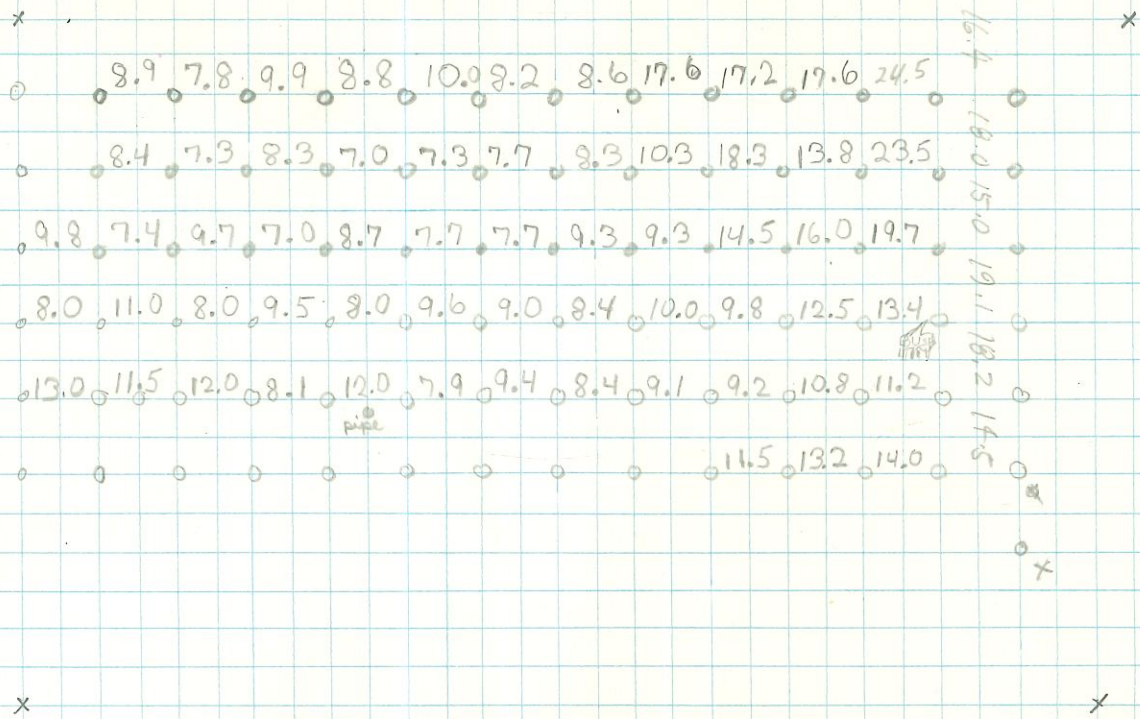
0 1'10 4'10 7'40 10'40 13'10 16'10 19'10 22'10 25'10 28'10 31'10 33'10 37'10 40'10 43'10 46'10

24
23
22
21
20
19
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1



left to right
← intervals are 3ft. except →
1st one which is 22"

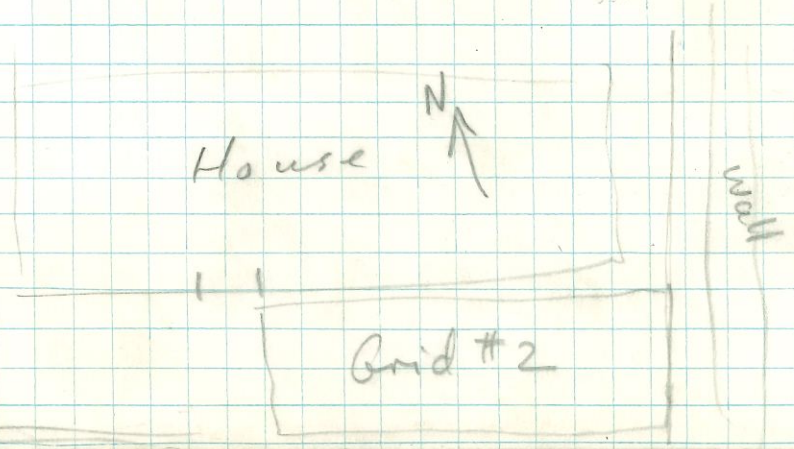
GRID #2 11/16/63 Caleb Pusey House, in front of house



line #3

line #3

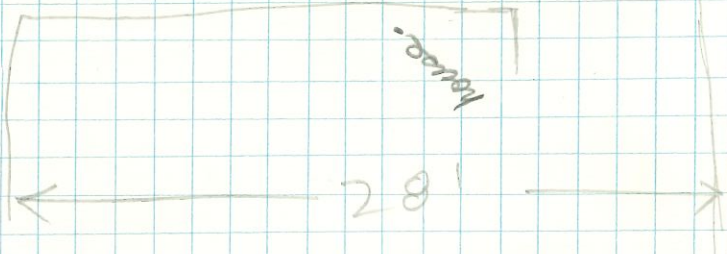
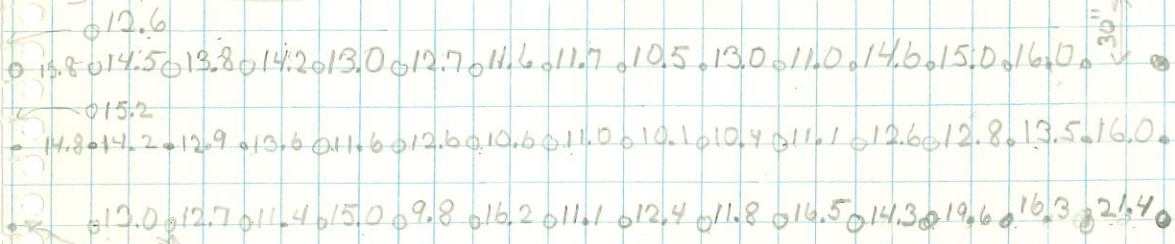
rod spacing = 3'



N ←

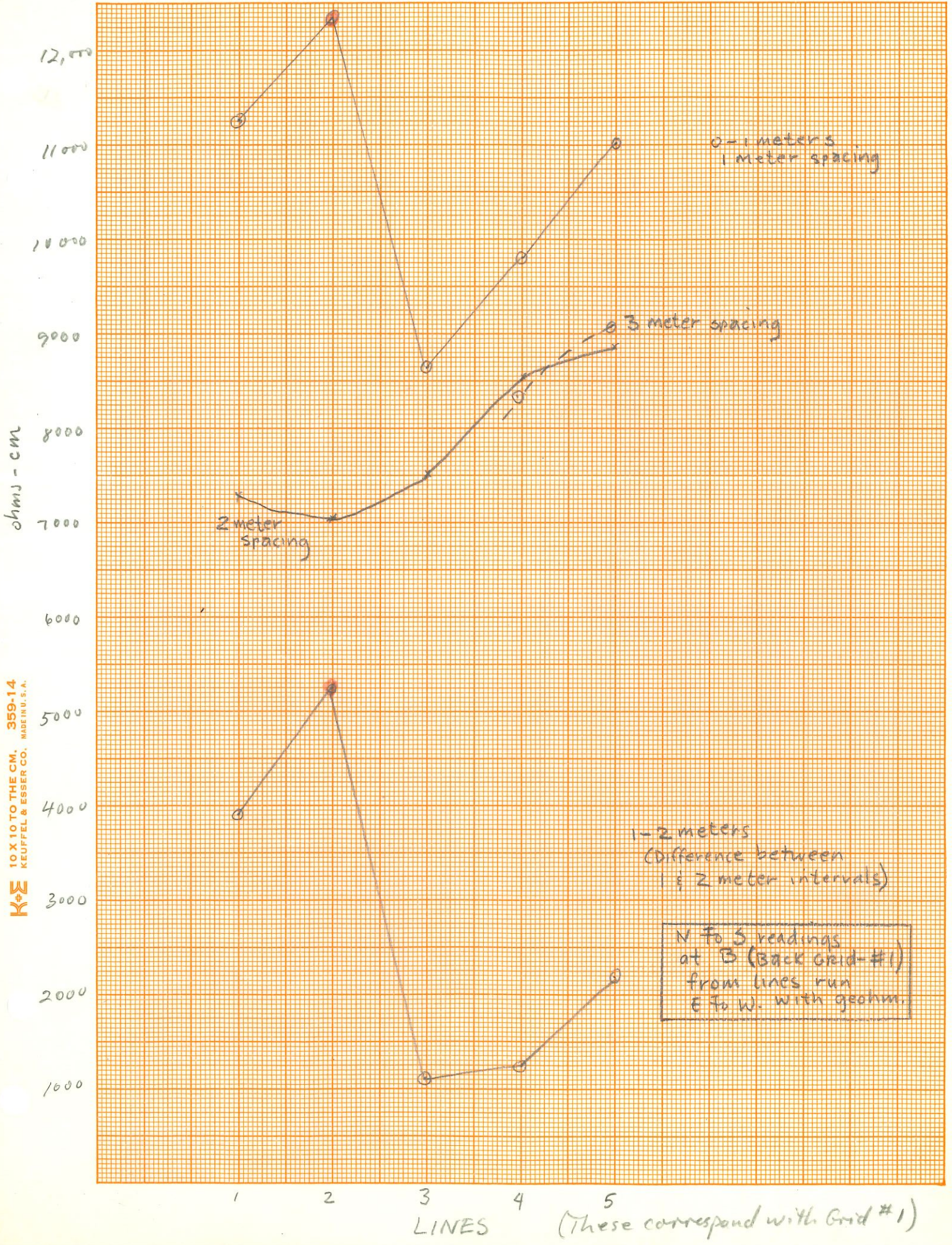
2 1/2" to face

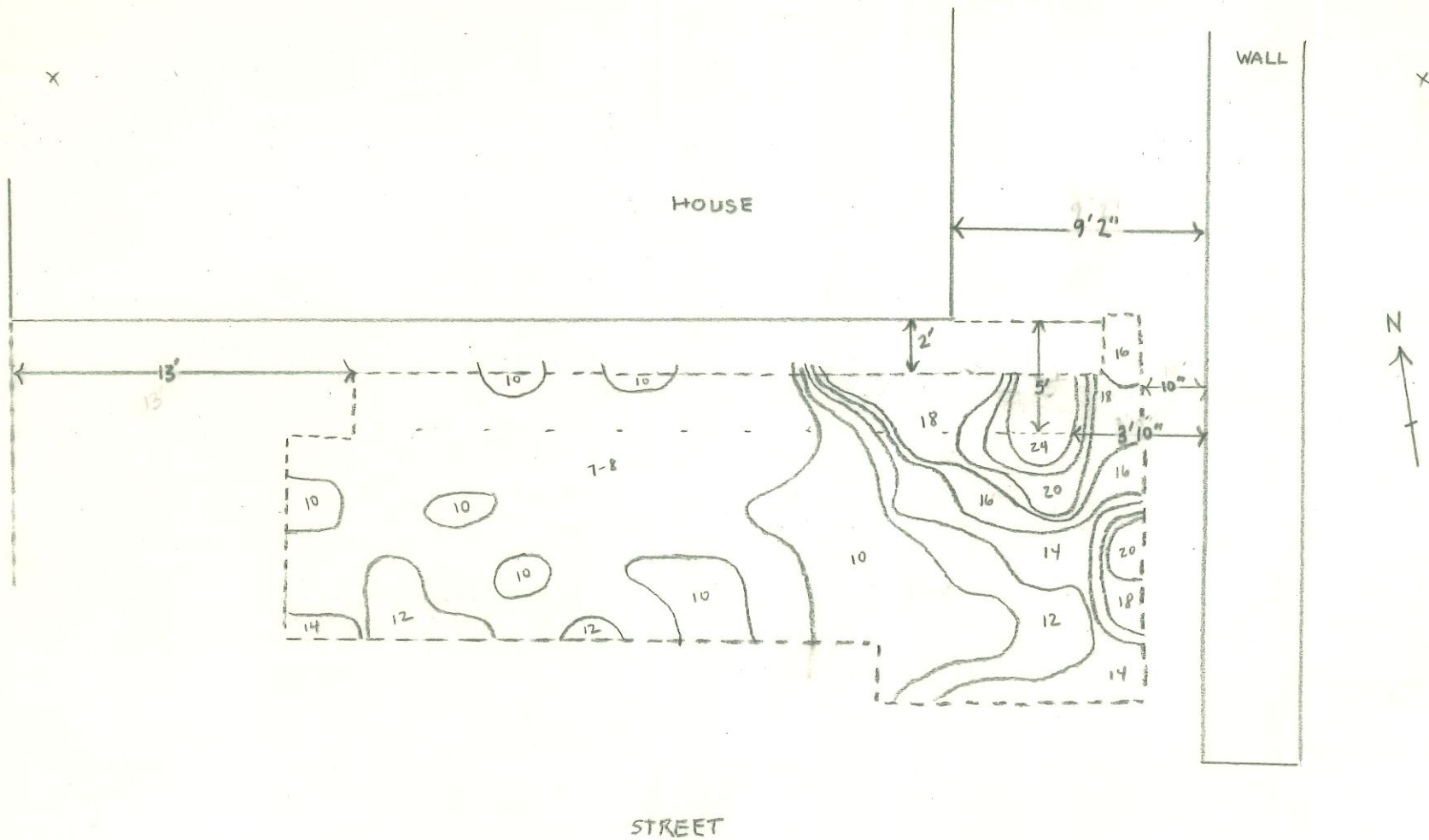
Wall



Rod spacing = 3'





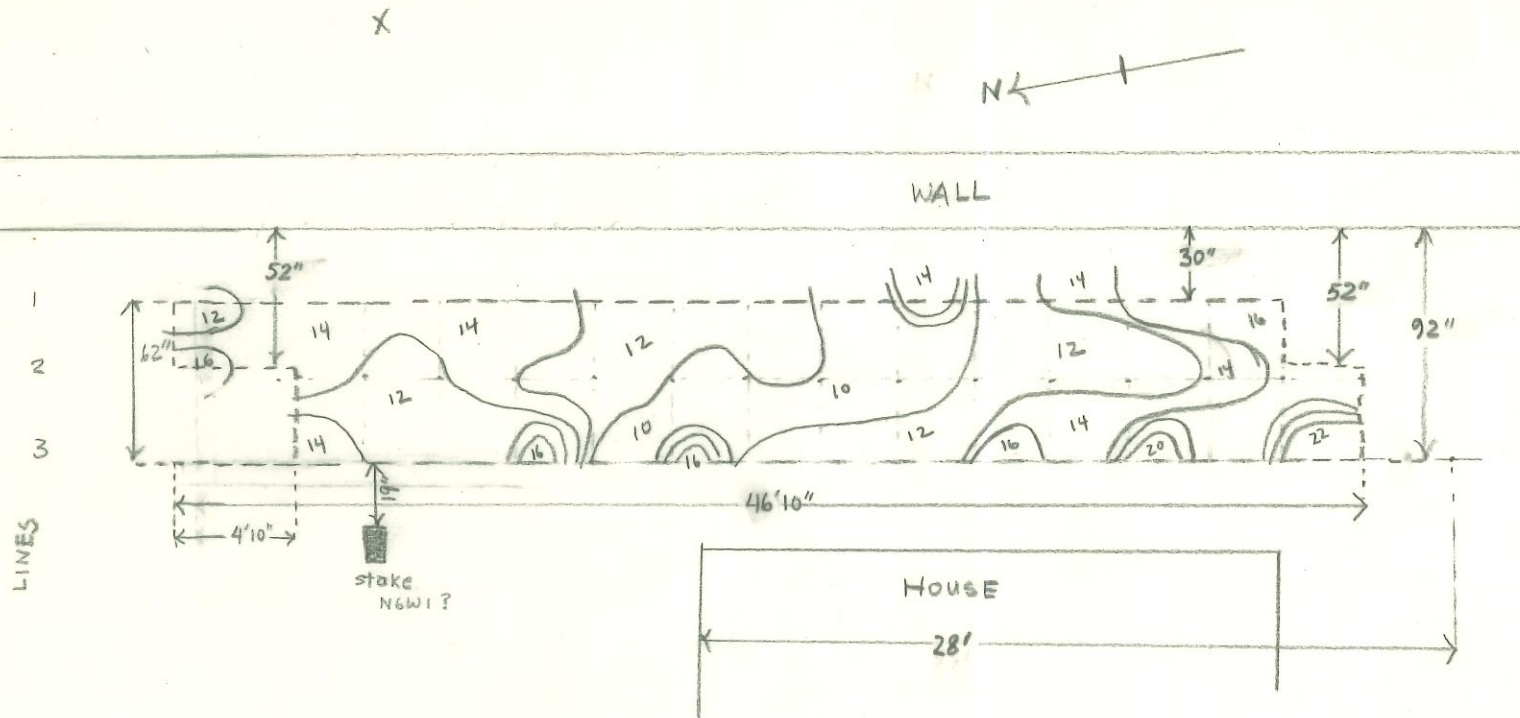


CALEB PUSEY HOUSE
 FRONT GRID (GRID #2)
 SOUTH EAST

unit measure within (contoured area)
 above section = 3ft.

— = 3ft.

contours represent 2 ohm intervals
 Geohm survey

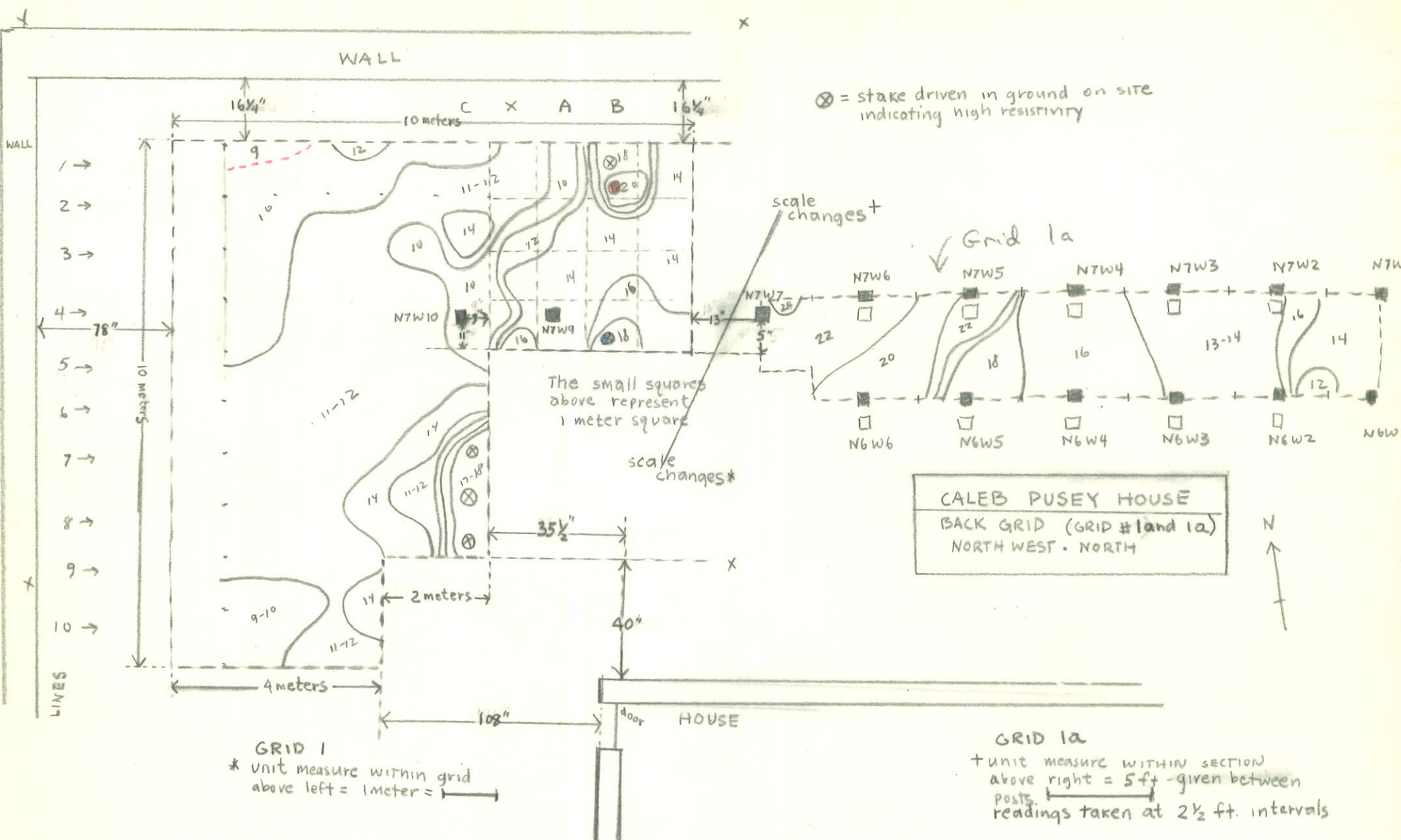


CALEB PUSEY HOUSE

East grid

unit measure within section (contoured area)
above = 3 ft. |

contours represent 2 ohm intervals
Geom survey



⊗ = stake driven in ground on site indicating high resistivity

scale changes +

Grid 1a

The small squares above represent 1 meter square

scale changes *

CALEB PUSEY HOUSE
BACK GRID (GRID #1 and 1a)
NORTH WEST - NORTH



GRID 1
* unit measure within grid above left = 1 meter =

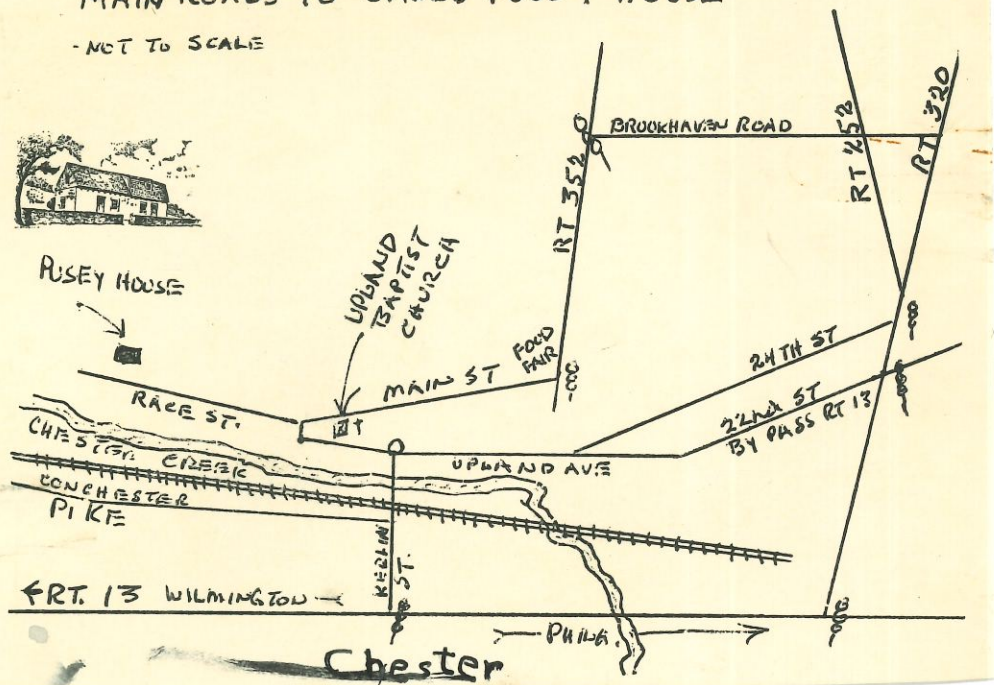
GRID 1a
+ unit measure within SECTION above right = 5 ft - given between posts
readings taken at 2 1/2 ft. intervals

Contours represent 2 ohm intervals
Geohm survey

--- represents 1 ohm interval

MAIN ROADS TO CAREB PUSEY HOUSE

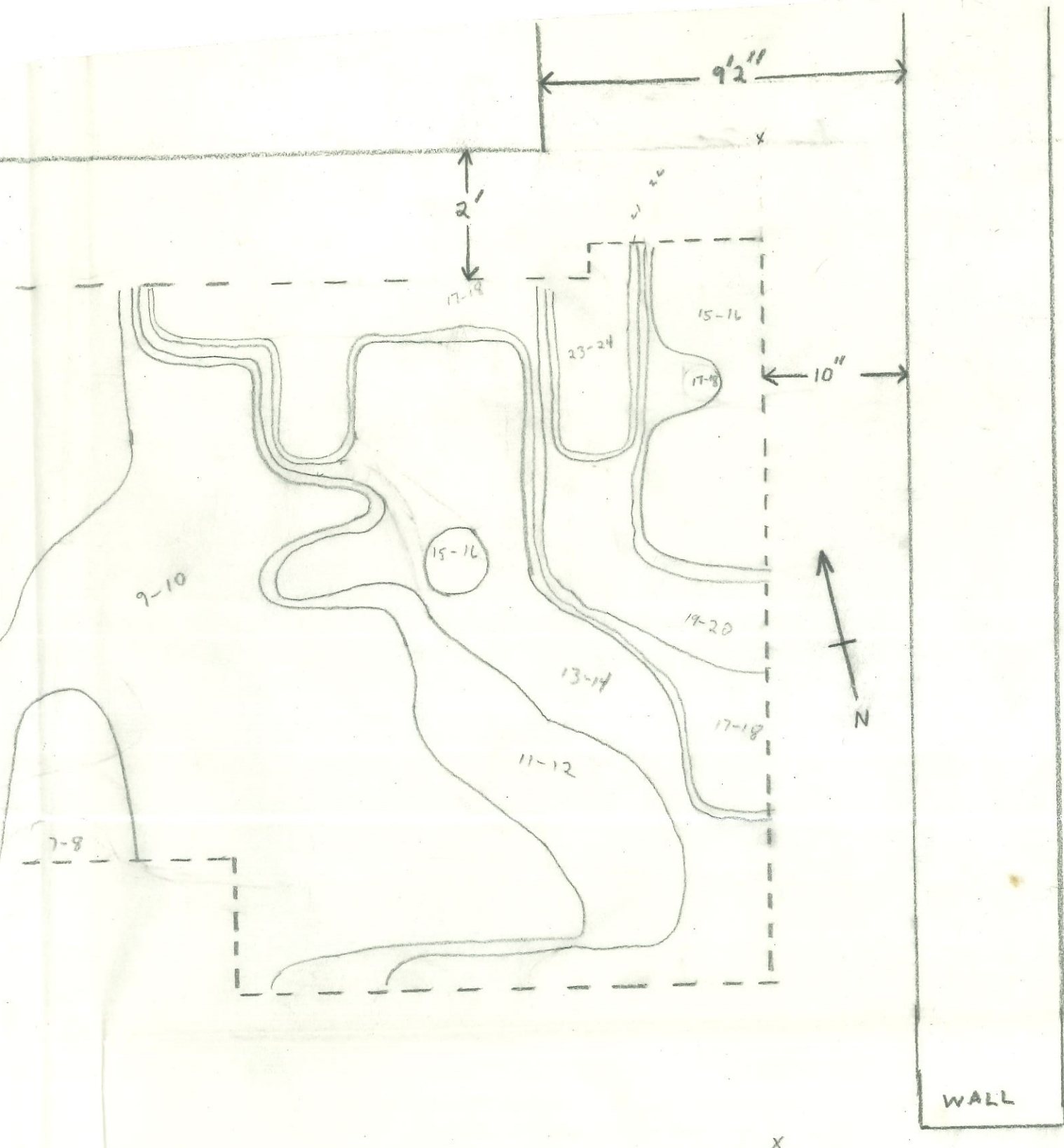
- NOT TO SCALE



Dr. Allen Schick
Delaware
Sycamore 8-6374

Jim Ackerman
Frank Poltriano

Frank Poltriano
8-6374



STREET

WALL

FRONT CRID (#2)

HOUSE

13'

9-10

9-10

9-10

7-8

9-10

13-14

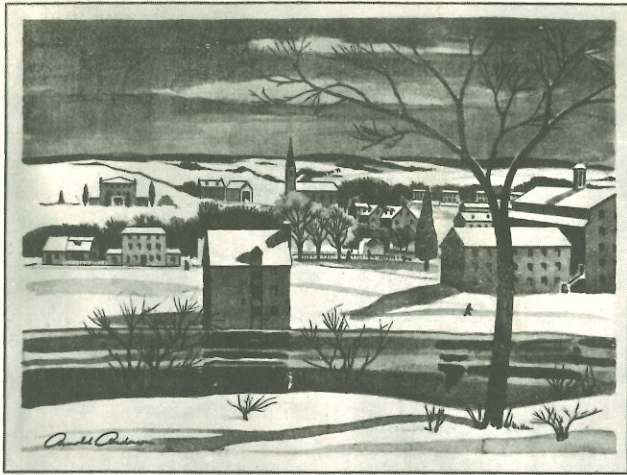
11-12

7-8

11-12

7-8

x



Sketch made from far side of Chester Creek in 1858, used by Delaware County National Bank on \$20 note. John Price Crozer bought the Pusey House (far left), the grist mill on the creek and sixty adjoining acres in 1845. His new house is directly in back of Caleb's Home. Note Baptist Church. Redrawn in 1962 for bank's Christmas card.

Dear Bob
On the way back from
the woods and may
be what you are looking
for

The Friends of the Caleb Pusey House, Inc.
 P. O. Box 256 · Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

ANNUAL LETTER
 October 1963

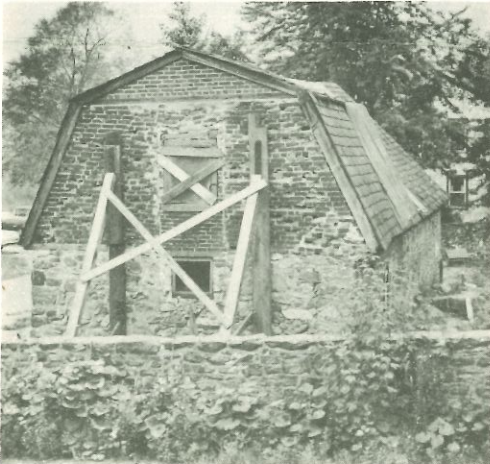
CALEB PUSEY HOUSE

To our Contributors and Well Wishers:

The urgency for our Progress Reports seems to be over. From now on we will look forward to a letter each fall, combined with the invitation to the Annual Meeting, usually held in the Upland Baptist Church. Its minister, David MacQueen, serves on our Board and is ever helpful to us. This year our meeting will be at three o'clock on Saturday, November 16. Dr. Norman B. Wilkinson of the Hagley Museum will talk on "The Making of a Museum".

You will have a chance before or after the meeting, to see the house, where the first actual strengthening of the walls began on September 26, 1963. To most of you this has seemed like a long slow process. It has only been because of the faithful work performed each Sunday by the Archaeological Society of Delaware, under the direction of Dr. Allen G. Schiek, that we have discovered architectural clues which will make our finished product right.

In July of this year we changed our architect. We now have John M. Dickey of the firm of Price and Dickey, in Media only five miles away. He is treasurer of the Society of Architectural Historians and he has had a long time interest in our house. After his first inspection he decided that some of the walls were in such precarious condition that they must be shored up. Here is the gambrel or east end, as taken by the Philadelphia Inquirer for an article which appeared in that paper on August 26, (Note the stone school house to the right, which we hope to acquire and remodel for our caretaker.)

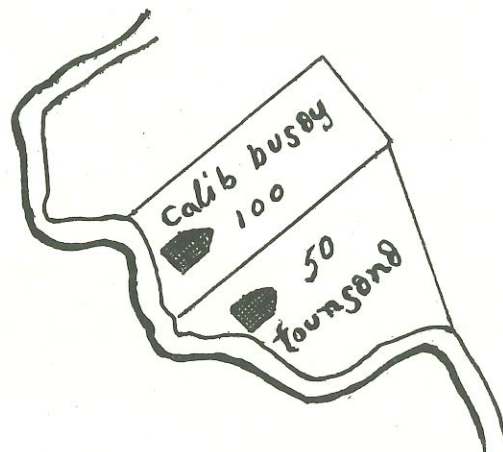


John Dickey felt that he was no expert on 17th century houses. Indeed very few American architects have had an opportunity to work on one. He wanted the suggestions and guidance of Dr. Chandler Forman of Easton, Md. and Charles E. Peterson of Philadelphia. These men were suggested to us by Williamsburg as knowing most about houses of the 17th and early 18th centuries. From the National Park Service John Dickey has drawn in Penelope Hartshorne, invaluable in the restoration of Independence Hall, and John D. Milner a young architect who have already made many valuable deductions. Charles Peterson cautioned us to acquire the many deeds to this place and study them for clues. (In this way we have discovered that Caleb had a walnut field, so walnut wood, as well as oak, will no doubt be used in replacing paneling and woodwork long since destroyed by fires.) Penelope Hartshorne was thrilled with our center wall, of half timber construction, and no doubt an original outside wall of the house.

One of our finds of the year has been the Charles Ashcomb Survey Map showing "some part of the county of Chester in Pennsylvania" in 1683. The original is in the Manuscript Department of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. This shows that both Caleb Pusey and Richard Townsend had houses standing then.

The archaeologists are now working outside the house. They found an amazing amount of 18th and early 19th century glass, pottery, iron, etc. in what we believe was a privy! This was the traditional place to drop whatever was broken or no longer of use. Visiting archaeologists have told us that we should fine the stone foundations of ten or twelve small buildings around this house, and that it will be of great value if we can reconstruct the smokehouse, springhouse, barn, etc., which were once part of Caleb's plantation. His home is always mentioned in the deeds as the "message", and sometimes the outbuildings are noted too.

We are now within \$4500 of completing our original goal of \$35,000 plus our expenses of postage, printing, etc. (This assumes that the Delaware County Commissioners make a grant of \$5000 toward the restoration, now that they are permitted by law to do so.) We have now received \$31,000 from 1100 contributors, including a number of foundations, clubs, and schools. We expect soon \$500 from the estate of a woman who lived in Connecticut. The State of Pennsylvania has now granted a total of \$14,000 of the matching fund. Another \$21,000 more from this source should be paid later.



We must also think of a way to display the thousands of artifacts found, household goods, articles of personal adornment, coins, bones, childrens' toys, etc. These will teach us how our early settlers lived. It would not be appropriate to have these in the house because it should be furnished to show how Caleb's family lived. As we pondered our need for an extra building, we noticed plaster falling off the outside of a dilapidated house. Underneath, good squared logs were exposed. Talking to the owner, we believe she will give this 18th century log house to us to use for a museum. Working back on the deeds we were astonished to find that this house once belonged to William Pennock and Lydia Jackson Pennock, and that Lydia was Caleb Pusey's great-great granddaughter! If we can raise this money, probably \$8000-\$10,000, we would like to move this house six miles to its new site and restore it for our use.

Early next year we are expecting the County Commissioners to join with the Planning Commission, the Park and Recreation Board and Urban Renewal, to acquire some nearby substandard housing so that this neighborhood will have a better appearance. The Delaware County Historical Society will let us use the meadow in front of the house for the best advantage. We would like to open the old mill race again, and some time we hope to construct another mill on the same site where Caleb and Samuel Carpenter built theirs in 1691. We now go to the Orphans Court to have the house, now under the care of two trustees, turned over to our organization.

We think you will enjoy the picture of Marguerite Sipe, eight years old. A little girl from Upland, we took her in to our exhibit at the Philadelphia National Bank and dressed her in a Quaker costume. Our photographer, Philip Mayer, saw the chance of a good shot, and lifted her into this 1690 wainscot chair, part of a display showing how the house should be furnished. This picture appeared in the Philadelphia Bulletin and has become a great favorite.

We do thank you for all you have done for this house in the past. We hope you will want to continue so that we can clear our \$4500 obligation speedily. We would appreciate knowing your interest in acquiring the log house, and the wider project of restoration and reconstruction. Shall we make something of a Sturbridge Village in the immediate area of the Pusey House? It sounds irresistible!

Sincerely yours,

Mary S. Patterson

Sarah P. Brock

Co-chairmen



REPORT OF THE ARCHITECT, JOHN M. DICKEY

Recent discoveries in the fabric of the building itself are beginning to fill in the bare outlines of the picture. Diagonal cuts at the top of rafters in both the east and west parts show us the size of the earlier central chimney and the direction of the flues in it. Parts of an arched, plastered recess, probably part of an oven, have been uncovered in the west surface of the central wall, and there are several traces of other openings in this wall which have been long since bricked up. They will be carefully opened in the next few weeks and we hope they will tell us the whole story of the relationship between the two parts of this house.

A complete plastered jamb of the hidden window east of the east door is now discovered, and traces of the original lintel and jambs of the west window show that the original window was lower and wider than the existing one, which indicated, perhaps, that the original roof and probably the floor in the western half were significantly lower than at present. Most dramatic of the recent discoveries was a small, hidden mortise recess in a joist in the east half. The theory has been proposed that cuts in the second floor boards might indicate symmetrical headers on either side of the original central fireplace, although the whole area had been rebuilt to frame a stairway after the central chimney was removed. If the original framing had been symmetrical, there should be indication of a mortise at an equal distance on the other side of the fireplace. We lifted one of the old floor boards near where it should have been, and there it was, a neatly chiselled recess where the other header had rested, now completely filled with the dust of two hundred years!

We are still a long way from knowing the complete story of the house, but every few days we make an exciting new discovery which proves or disproves one of the theories, and leads us slowly but inevitably back along the tangled way to the original structure.



Old Bottles



17th Century Pewter Plate and
1699 coin found in the well.



Earthen Ware

Photographs by Philip Mayer

REPORT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGIST, DR. ALLEN G. SCHIEK

The archaeological work at the Caleb Pusey House has produced not only artifacts of great number and variety, but also numerous architectural features that have enhanced the restoration.

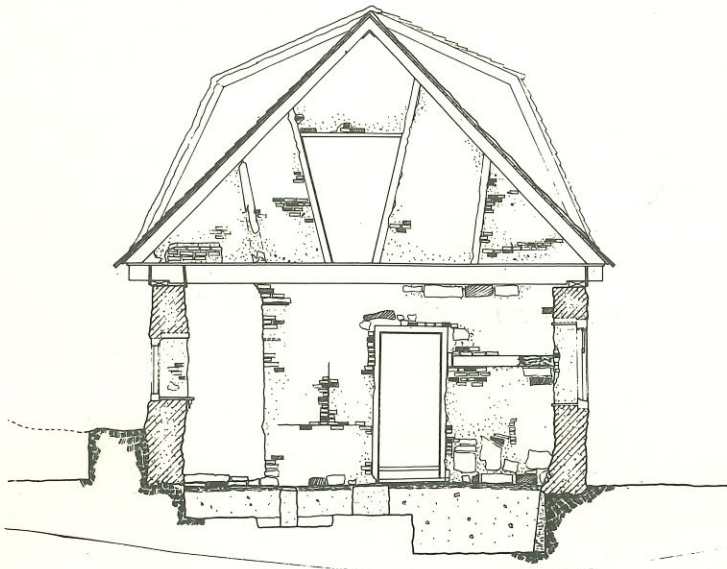
In the East Room is a long filled cellar, 8 1/2 feet deep, with an unusual circular stone stairway. In the West Room about half of the original sleepers for supporting the floor were found in place. Here too in the southwest corner of the room is a finely constructed well, 14 feet deep, and filled in as the cellar had been. In the northwest corner of the same room a very unusual doorway was discovered, more than half of it being below the ground level.

It is impossible to do more than mention a few of the outstanding artifacts. The Virginia Colony coin of 1773 is probably the most unusual, along with the Connecticut and Nova Caesaria coins. The well yielded a long lost 17th century pewter plate of London origin.

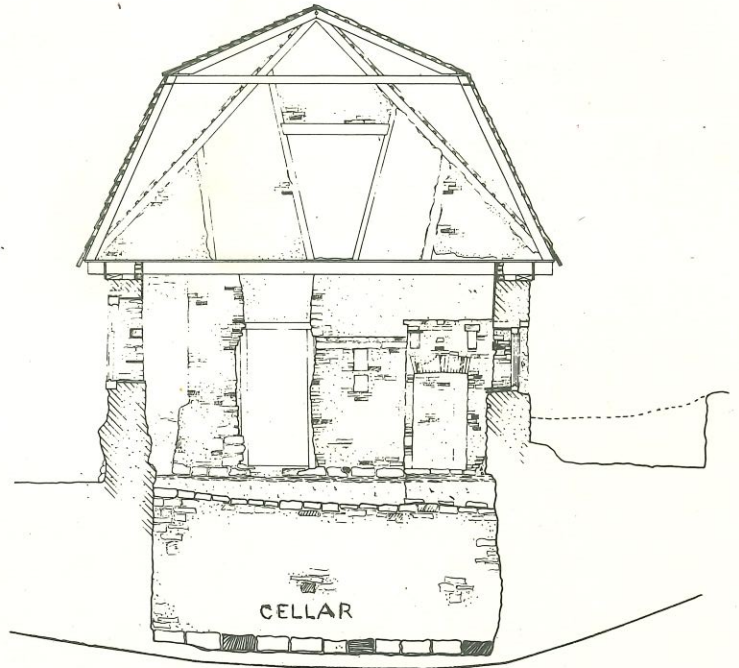
There has been a large divergence in the dating of the ceramic and glass artifacts, as might be expected in a house that has been occupied for approximately 280 years. The study of the artifacts has barely started, so it is expected that much more information on the early occupants of the Pusey House will be developed.



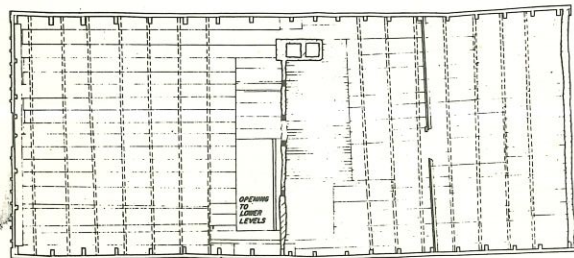
MEASURED DRAWINGS FOR HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
TO BE DEPOSITED IN LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



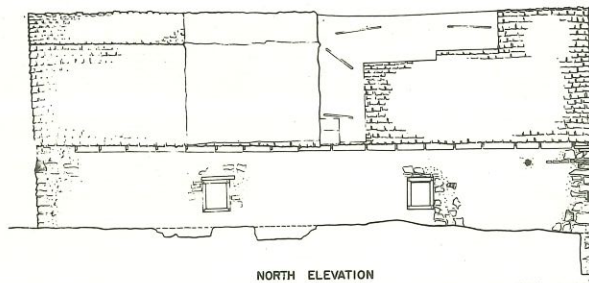
CROSS SECTION THROUGH WEST END LOOKING EAST



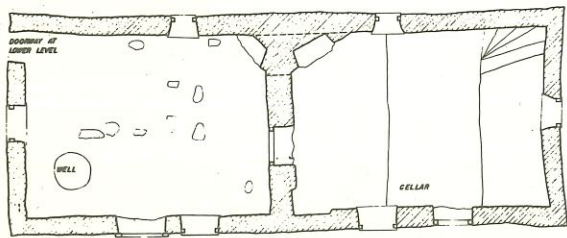
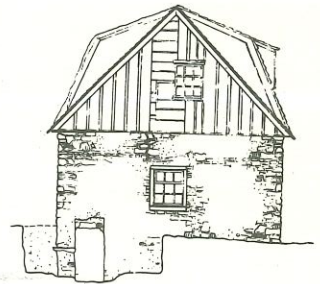
CROSS SECTION THROUGH EAST END LOOKING WEST



PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR

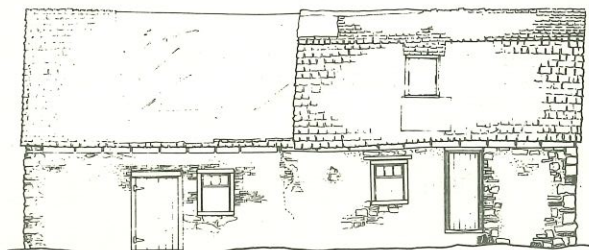


NORTH ELEVATION

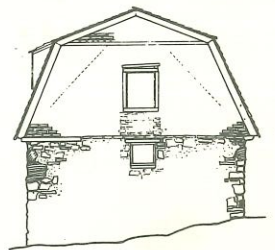


PLAN AT GROUND LEVEL

PLAN TAKEN AT ASSUMED FIRST FLOOR LEVEL - WOODEN FIRST FLOOR STRUCTURE REMOVED PRIOR TO MEASURING



SOUTH ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION

PLANS

ELEVATIONS