Archaeological Survey

Sanders Construction, 1115 E Main Avenue

Puyallup, Pierce County, WA

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Introduction

An archaeological survey was conducted on the Taco Time restaurant property under development by Sanders Construction on January 9, 2025, by Cultural Reconnaissance at the general contractor's request. The property is located at 1115 E Main Street, Puyallup, Pierce County, Washington, 98372 (Figure 1). The archaeological assessment was necessitated by a request from comments made by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians to the developer's preliminary site plan application. The project area for the archaeological survey included the entire parcel (Figure 2).

Project Area Description, Date of Survey, and Personnel

The property is located at T20R04E, Section 44, of the Willamette Meridian. A 1970's-built restaurant is located on the west side of the parcel, with the remainder being mostly paved parking lot (Figures 2 and 3). Besides the restaurant, the property is extensively filled, leveled, covered with asphalt, and landscaped. The northern boundary of the study area to the Puyallup River contains second-growth deciduous trees of alder and larch with a thick understory of blackberries (Figure 3). The Taco Time development is identified in the Pierce County Assessor Treasurer Information Portal with parcel numbers 0420271171 and 7845100032. The parcel sizes are 2.48 and 0.815 acres respectively. The aggregate of the two parcels is a development that is 3.3 acres in size. The project site is located less than a mile from a perennial source of fresh water, namely the Puyallup River. The parcel is mapped by NRCS as Puyallup fine sandy loam and the subsurface deposits fit the description.

The archaeological survey was conducted on January 9, 2025. The weather was mostly clear and dry, 40(f)/5(c). The project team consisted of Scott Williams, Principal Investigator, who was responsible for directing the survey and is the senior author of this report; Russell Holter, Historian, was responsible for assisting the principal investigator, handling client relations, photography, administration, and secondary

source research; Patrick Williams, served as the field technician. Mike Shong, Archaeologist for the Puyallup Tribe, came and monitored the activities of the investigating team.

Regulatory Compliance

The City of Puyallup requested that the developer conduct archaeological monitoring during construction, since the parcel was in an area considered high probability for cultural deposits on the DAHP predictive model. Cultural Reconnaissance staff discussed the project scope with the Puyallup Tribal Archaeologist and the Pierce County Archaeologist. During conversation, Cultural Reconnaissance suggested a subsurface testing program of backhoe trenches in a grid over the property. Backhoe testing could be used to determine the potential for subsurface cultural resources and to evaluate whether archaeological monitoring was warranted or if an Inadvertent Discovery Plan could be put in place for construction. Both archaeologists agreed to the survey methodology, and Sanders Construction provided a map of the property with the areas of excavation marked out and stripped the covering of asphalt from those areas (Figures 4 and 5). Test trenches were planned to give maximum coverage of the parcel, focusing on areas where utilities and foundations were to be placed and avoiding areas of existing utilities.

Area of Potential Impact

The Area of Potential Impact (API) for this undertaking is all of lot 7845100032 where the Taco Time restaurant and parking lot are located, and a narrow strip of the southern edge of lot 0420271171 where some of the vegetation was previously cleared and which will be filled with clean backfill (Figures 2 and 4). Ground disturbing via backhoe excavation also accommodates the need for various underground utilities and spread footings for the new building foundations.

Survey Method

Some pedestrian surface testing was conducted. However, the property was fully developed in the 1970s and paved with asphalt. The survey strategy focused on subsurface investigation through backhoe trenches. The trenches were strategically dug to provide broad coverage of those portions of the parcel

where excavation for construction was planned (Figure 4). The asphalt paving was removed in the areas planned for construction. Trenches were dug to a depth of one meter with a backhoe, then the excavation was paused while the survey team entered and investigated the trench to examine the wall profiles. The trench was then excavated to two meters, and the trench walls were examined from above, but the trench was not entered due to safety considerations. All trench excavations were monitored by the Principal Investigator. Samples of excavated material from each trench was sieved through ¼" wire mesh screen and examined for artifacts. Back dirt piles were also examined for artifacts. As the subsurface deposit was Puyallup fine sandy loam with no native rock, artifacts were relatively easy to spot when present and the distinction between the construction fill and native soil was evident in the excavated horizons. Dimensions and descriptions of the excavated units are given in the Results Section below and in Table 2. All test units were backfilled at the completion of fieldwork.

Secondary sources were also identified and researched. These sources include historical narratives, aerial photographs, and cultural resources reports authored by others. Federal, State and local historical databases such as WISAARD and ORCA were accessed. This report contains a summary of the findings of these secondary sources.

Archaeological and Historical Context

Human occupation of the Puget Sound region followed the retreat of the glaciers at the end of the last Ice Age. The pre-Contact material culture of the area is generally described as an early adaptation of inland technologies such as Fluted Point and Stemmed Point traditions and a subsequent transition and development to later shoreline-adapted technologies focused upon marine, littoral, riverine, and inland resources (Ames and Maschner, 1999).

The project area is situated within the traditional territory of Lushootseed-speaking people living in the Puyallup River valley and Salish Sea region for tens of thousands of years, effectively since time immemorial (Ruby and Brown, 1992). As with other tribes of Puget Sound, maritime resources including shellfish and salmon largely supported traditional lifeways of the people of this portion of the Lower Salish Sea. Upland resources such as bear, deer, elk, and a wide range of plant resources also added significantly to the welfare of local populations. Winter villages were usually located along the shoreline while activities associated with upland environments may have included smaller, seasonal habitations in areas containing habitat favorable to the harvesting of game and the gathering of berries and roots.

First contact with indigenous populations is widely reported to have occurred with the arrival of the Spaniards off the Washington coast in 1775. At their advent came the introduction of previously unknown infectious diseases for which the native inhabitants had no immunity, and population losses were high. While the Spaniards did not roam far from the coast, their diseases spread rapidly inland amongst unsuspecting villagers. With no natural immunity, Native populations suffered high casualty rates.

The George Vancouver Expedition arrived in 1792. Captain Vancouver dispatched a small flotilla of row boats to survey and record the lower reaches of the area. The person heading this survey was Lieutenant Peter Puget. Lt. Puget charted and named various places along the shores of the sound in Pierce, Thurston, Mason, and Kitsap Counties. Lt. Puget also attempted to trade with various people groups he encountered during his survey (Morgan 1979:9).

Some forty years later, French-Canadian fur trappers began living amongst the indigenous peoples of this area as early as 1833. Native peoples and the trappers brought bulk furs gathered from remote locations to established posts, like Fort Nisqually, which were owned and operated by the Canadian-based Hudson Bay Company (Morgan 1979:30). The first attempt at permanent Euro-American settlement came with the advent of the Hudson Bay Company. Hudson Bay Company established trading posts at strategic locations such as Fort Nisqually on Puget Sound, and Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River. The first surveyed

roads connected these trading posts. The Hudson Bay Company was the first commercial enterprise in the territory.

The international boundary between the United States and Canada was finalized in 1846, but the Canadians were hesitant to leave behind the investments and improvements they had made in the previous decades. The U.S. government established Fort Steilacoom in 1849 on property leased from the Canadians. This fort became the catalyst for the first permanent American settlement on Puget Sound.

The California Gold Rush of 1849 was a lucrative incentive for Americans to migrate to the West Coast. However, few of the rushers found enough gold to return home. The United States sought to incentivize the rushers to stay on the West Coast and settle the former British-held territory by passing the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850. After years of pleading with Congress, Washington Territory gained its independence from Oregon. President Franklin Pierce dispatched a West Point classmate, Isaac I. Stevens as the first territorial governor. Stevens was also appointed by Pierce as the federal Indian Agent (Richards, 1999:93). To memorialize the president that had appointed him, Governor Steven's named the county immediately north of Thurston, Pierce County.

Governor Stevens compelled the Puyallup Tribe, along with many other south Puget Sound tribes, to sign away their ancestral rights to the lands they occupied. In exchange for a reservation on the river that bears their name, the Puyallup Tribe signed away usual and accustomed lands (including the subject property) with the ratification of the Medicine Creek treaty in December of 1854. However, disenfranchisement with the terms of the treaty agreement led to an outbreak of hostility the following year which culminated into open warfare between Native Americans and the settlers. Puyallup pioneer, Captain John Carson, erected a blockhouse on the banks of the Puyallup River on the Carson farmstead. This site was briefly known as Fort Carson during this period of strife (Larsen, 2016:15). An 1864 land survey, conducted by Henry J. Stevenson, describes the subject property broadly with the terms "hops and vegetables." The city of Puyallup is named after the Tribe of Indians that resided there in territorial times. Ethnographers claim the name Puyallup means "shadow from the shade of the forest." However, Henry Sicade claimed the name Puyallup was a reference to the generous spirit of the tribal members (Reese, 1989:93). The land remained relatively unchanged over the decades (BLM).

The fertile soil of the Puyallup River Valley was a strong attraction for American settlers. The rich deposit of mineralized soil was ideal for growing root vegetables. In 1865, a Steilacoom-based Brewmaster ordered a stock of hop roots to see if hops would grow in the northwest. Ezra Meeker, a land surveyor, acquired a handful of root stock and mingled them with other produce growing on his Puyallup farm. The results exceeded all expectations. Meeker quickly learned to cultivate the crop to generate greater yields. By 1884, over a hundred farmers (including Puyallup Tribal members) had put hops into production in Puyallup with the Meeker family having control of 500 acres (Chisley, 2008). Meeker is often considered Washington's first self-made millionaire. The Meeker Mansion is located west of the study area.

The Northern Pacific Railroad arrived at Commencement Bay in December of 1873 and immediately filed for bankruptcy (Holter, 2024). To open new markets and to buoy sinking corporate profitability, the railroad conducted a survey to determine if sufficient quantities of coal existed at Carbonado to extend its track from Tacoma. There certainly was, and road construction resumed in 1875 (Smalley, 1883:214). The first train to Puyallup arrived in 1878 (Shong, 2003). This line runs east and west through Puyallup on a right of way located immediately south of East Main Street.

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, an area of Puyallup southwest of the study area, was hastily fortified as a receiving area for Japanese Americans who would be interred throughout the duration of World War II. Referred to as the Puyallup Assembly Area, Japanese Americans were incarcerated--without cause--at this temporary holding facility. From the Puyallup Assembly Area, Japanese families were relocated to permanent centers such as Tule Lake, California (Magden, 1998:145).

An aerial photograph taken in 1940 shows the parcels as being mostly agricultural with a row of modest single-family farmhouses fronting East Main Street with secondary outbuildings behind. Agriculture was alive and well in 1955 and 1969, and the aerial photographs indicate that it was flourishing and expanding in this region of Puyallup. Development rapidly encroached eastward from downtown with the construction of State Route 512. Completed in 1970, the freeway access linking Interstate 5 at Lakewood with State Route 167 a mile to the north of the study area— completely changed the complexion of the landscape. The strip mall immediately east of the study area was constructed in 1976. With the passage of time, other farms systematically fell to development. Replacing the farms were restaurants, real estate offices, and auto mechanic services.

GLO and BLM Features

GLO features noted in WISAARD include four territorial trails. Early surveyors noted the road known as Meridian (leading northward from Puyallup to Milton) as Military Road. It is also important to note that the location of the Milwaukee Bridge over the Puyallup River which was once the site of a commonly used river ford during the pioneer-era (DAHP). A trail leading away from the Puyallup River ford runs eastward toward Sumner and bisects the study area. The first Territorial survey in this area was conducted by Henry Stevenson in 1864. Stevenson's map shows the former Fort Carson as the Carson farmstead. This Fort was located approximately one mile to the west of the client's property. The other notable feature indicated is a farmstead operated by the Woolery family which was located approximately one mile to the north of the subject property. The first person to file a donation land claim on the client's property was J. B. Leach (also spelled Leech) in 1865. However, the Leach claim was revoked prior to 1885, and the land became the possession of Frank R. Spinning. The study area is within the Spinning sub-

plat. A nearby elementary school is named for this Puyallup pioneer. For further historical context, please refer to the Puyallup Historic Survey Report authored by Lawrence and Boyle (2007).

Partial Chain of Property Ownership

Members of the Puyallup Tribe called the study area their home. The federal government took ownership of the land in December after the Medicine Creek treaty of 1854 was signed. Members of the Puyallup Tribe were relocated to a reservation in the Puyallup River Valley approximately one mile to the west.

As stated earlier, J. B. Leach was the first to file a patent claim on the subject property in 1865. Nothing more on Leach could be found except that his land claim had been canceled by 1885. Frank Spinning took possession of the land. Spinning was an agriculturalist and co-owner of the Puyallup Hardware Store (Larsen, 2016:231). A 1936 Metsker map shows the subject property under the ownership of L. Fanson. No further information regarding Fanson was located, but the Fanson family were prominent in the neighboring community of Sumner.

According to immediate family members, the land was owned and operated as a raspberry farm by Ed Wanser. Wanser produced berries at this location until the mid-1970s (Barker, personal communication, 2025). No further information regarding Wanser is available through secondary sources.

The current property owners are Matt and Gayle Tonkin of Renton. They purchased the property from Vern and Marilyn Strader in 2003. A Taco Time restaurant is situated within the study area on the west side of the property. According to the Pierce County Assessor, the building was constructed in 1997 and is slated for demolition. The date of construction on the Assessor site is dubious since a restaurant has occupied this study area since the early-1980s. It is likely that the restaurant became a Taco Time franchise at this location in 1997.

Historic Properties

According to the WISAARD database, maintained by DAHP, there are nine (9) historic-era structures recorded within a mile of the subject area. One of these properties has been evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places and determined to be not eligible. The restaurant in the study area was constructed in 1979. No historic property inventories were created for this project.

There are three listed structures and districts within one mile of the study area:

- Meeker Mansion
- Peace Lutheran Church
- Puyallup Assembly Area

None of these will be directly, or indirectly, impacted by the addition of the new restaurant on East Main Street.

Maritime Heritage

The project area is not located within the Maritime Heritage Study area, and no Maritime Heritage Sites were located within a mile of the property.

Previous Archaeological Discoveries

There are no archaeological sites located within one mile of the property.

Burials and Cemeteries

There are no burials or cemeteries indicated on the cultural layers within one mile of the subject

property.

Archeological Predictive Model

The Archaeological Predictive Model indicates the subject property has a 'very high' potential for archaeological discovery. In these areas, a cultural survey is highly recommended.

Cultural Resource Assessments

Eleven Cultural Resource assessments have taken place within a mile of the subject property. The area has been extensively studied due to the presence of the railroad to the south, and State Route 512 to the west (See Table 1).

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the Washington State Department of Transportation SR-167: Tacoma to No previously Mitigation for Adv			2017-02-01	4.8 acres	0	Ū	Plan for future work
Yamamoto, Christopher, and Stephen Puvallup New Freeway, Pierce unrecorded cultural Additional Survey. Effects to site is		the Washington State Department of Transportation SR-167: Tacoma to					Mitigation for Adverse
		Puyallup New Freeway, Pierce					
1691715 Emerson, et al. County, WA 2015-12-01 ~240 acres material found is recommended necessary	1691715 Emerson, et al.	County, WA	2015-12-01	~240 acres			necessary
			2019-05-08	12.5 acres	negative for cultural	investigation	Inadvertent Discovery Plan for future work
No further Cultural Resource Assessment 2401 investigation Inadvertent Disco		Cultural Resource Assessment 2401					Inadvertent Discovery
1693087 Elliott, Patrick and James Mayer Inter Avenue SE, Puyallup 2019-08-21 1.85 acres demolition debris warranted Plan for future wo	1693087 Elliott, Patrick and James Mayer	Inter Avenue SE, Puyallup	2019-08-21	1.85 acres		warranted	Plan for future work
		Cornerstone Estates Development	2022-04-01	6.94 acres	cultural material	investigation	Inadvertent Discovery Plan for future work
Results of Cultural Resource No pre-contact Properties Schneider, Chanda & Robert Mitchell, et Monitoring for the Puyallup Cultural No pre-contact Properties		Results of Cultural Resource	2022-04-01	0.07 00100		No Historic	
1697192 al. Heritage Center 2022-10-24 1.68 acres materials found Affected None		0 1	2022-10-24	1.68 acres			None

Traditional Cultural Properties

There are no recorded Traditional Cultural Properties within a mile of the APE.

Tribal Groups

According to the WISAARD, the site is located near lands historically occupied by the Puyallup Tribe. The study area is approximately one mile east of the eastern reservation boundary.

Results

Sanders Construction stripped the asphalt areas of the parking lot where trenches were planned and had the trench locations marked when the Cultural Reconnaissance team arrived. As each trench was excavated, the Principal Investigator monitored the excavation and directed the backhoe operator. Each trench was excavated in shallow lifts, and a continuous sample of the deposit from one end of the trench was set aside for screening. As the trench was excavated, that sample was screened by the field technician with the assistance of Mike Shong, Puyallup Tribe Archaeologist, who also assisted with examining backdirt piles, trench wall profiles, and other tasks.

Nine trenches were excavated (Figure 4). The goal of the subsurface testing was to establish the potential for presence or absence of cultural deposits in the API, with the nine trenches placed to avoid utilities while providing broad coverage of the parcel. Each trench measured a and was approximately 2.5 m in length and 0.7 m in width. Trench #1 was excavated to a depth of eight feet as an underground grease collector is planned at that location; the other trenches were excavated to a depth of six feet. Most of the excavation for construction will be between two to four feet in depth, but the trenches were excavated to six feet to better assess the potential of the property for subsurface cultural resources, given the location in the historic flood plain of the Puyallup River. Metric data, profile descriptions, and cultural finds are presented for each trench on Table 2, and each is briefly described below. No cultural material was present in any of the trenches, except for brick and coal fragments in the construction fill.

The parcel is mapped as Puyallup fine sandy loam on the Web Soil Survey, and the subsurface deposits below the construction fill conformed to this below the maximum depth of excavation. Puyallup fine sandy loam is a relatively homogeneous deposit lacking native gravel or cobbles, and layer distinctions

are diffuse, meaning, the deposit exhibited an increase in gleying and reduction mottles with depth, without clear layer boundaries below the fill. Figures 6-14 are representative photos of the excavation trenches.

No features or cultural artifacts were noted in any of the trenches, apart from brick and coal fragments in the fill and a few pieces of asphalt pipe or pipe coating, also in the fill. At the north edge of the parcel, where the vegetation buffer is located, broken glass and modern trash were scattered on the surface, and at the Norwest corner of the property, on the edge of the clearing, a small surface scatter of historic residential/domestic artifacts was located (Figure 16). The scatter consisted of several ceramic sherds, broken bottle glass, a glass dish fragment, a white glass jar base, a metal lid, a copper cover plate, and a small patent medicine bottle embossed "TRUEDSON & CO DISPENSING DRUGGISTS PUYALLUP WA (Figure 17). All artifacts were left in situ, and that portion of the property will be filled but not excavated. An internet search indicates that Truedson &Co began business in February 1892, and in 1907 became known as the Truedson Drug Company. Under that name it remained in business until the 1920s, when it was bought by another Puyallup business, Valley Drug Store.

Conclusion and Recommendations

No prehistoric archaeological deposits were discovered on the property, and previous land-altering activities including clearing, farming and development make it unlikely that any intact pre-Contact features are present. Given the location of the parcel and the presence of small residences along Main Street prior to development it is possible that historical period subsurface trash or outhouse pits could be present on the property, but other than the surface scatter noted in the northwest corner of the parcel no evidence for pits was seen. It is recommended that no further cultural resources work is needed for this property, but Sanders Construction was notified of the limited potential for undiscovered cultural resources and what to look out for if any are seen, and they have a copy of the City of Puyallup Inadvertent Discovery Plan.

Attestation

Scott S. Williams, RPA, and Russell H. Holter, MAH, are Cultural Resource Specialists meeting all applicable state and federal professional standards, including the qualifications of the Secretary of the Interior for their respective professions. This report meets the Pierce County report guidelines. To the best of our knowledge the report is accurate at the time of its authorship.

Abbreviations

AI	Area of Impact
API	Area of Potential Impact
DAHP	Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
ECY	Washington State Department of Ecology
GLO	Government Land Office
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
ORCA	Online Records and Collections Access
WISAARD	Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data

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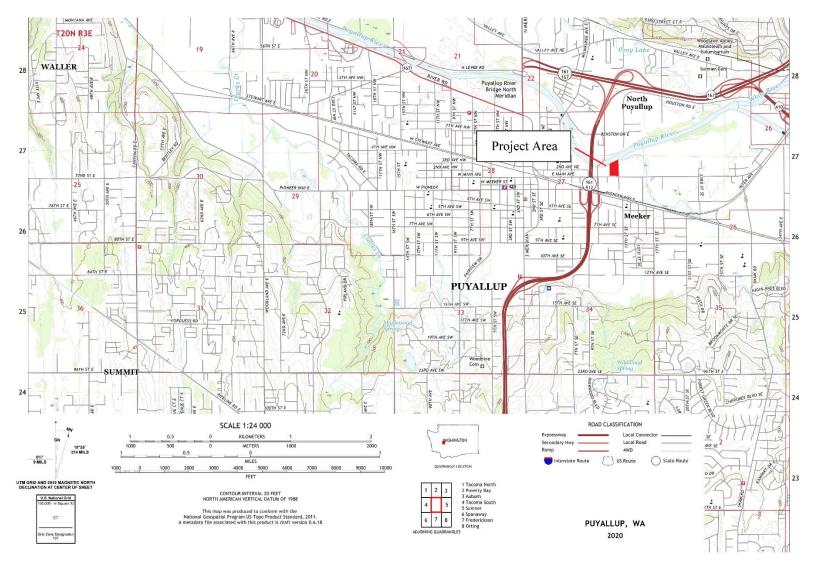


Figure 1. Project location on USGS Puyallup Quad, with project area marked by red trapezoid.



Figure 2. Google aerial view of property location with inset in upper right showing existing restaurant and parking lot.



Figure 3. Overview to West of subject property, with existing restaurant in background, parking lot in foreground. Note trees on right (North edge of property), E Main Avenue is to the left (South) behind the hedge.

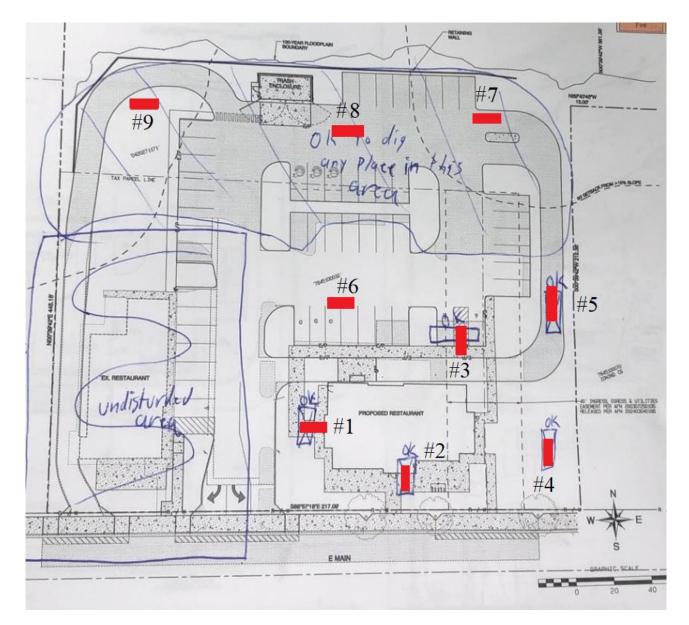


Figure 4. Plan of property showing trench locations, Trenches #1-#9.



Figure 5. View to North down center of property showing area of removed asphalt. Note stormwater manhole in center of picture.



Figure 6. Trench 1 overview to Northwest. Note gravel aggregate fill upper layer, metal water pipe at west end.



Figure 7. Trench 2 overview, to West.



Figure 8. Trench 3 overview, to West.



Figure 9. Trench 4 East wall Profile. Scale in decameters.



Figure 10. Trench 5 East wall profile. Scale in decameters.



Figure 11. Trench 6 North wall profile. Scale in decameters.



Figure 12. Trench 7 North wall profile. Scale is in decameters.



Figure 13. Trench 8 North wall profile. Scale is in decameters.



Figure 14. Trench 9 South wall profile. Scale is in decameters.

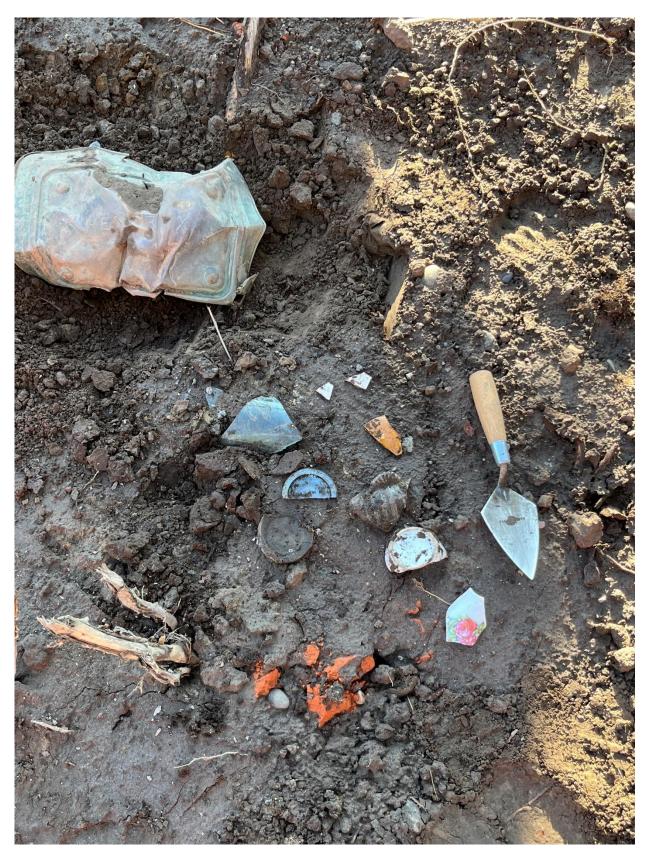


Figure 15. Debris scatter of early to mid-20th century residential/domestic artifacts.

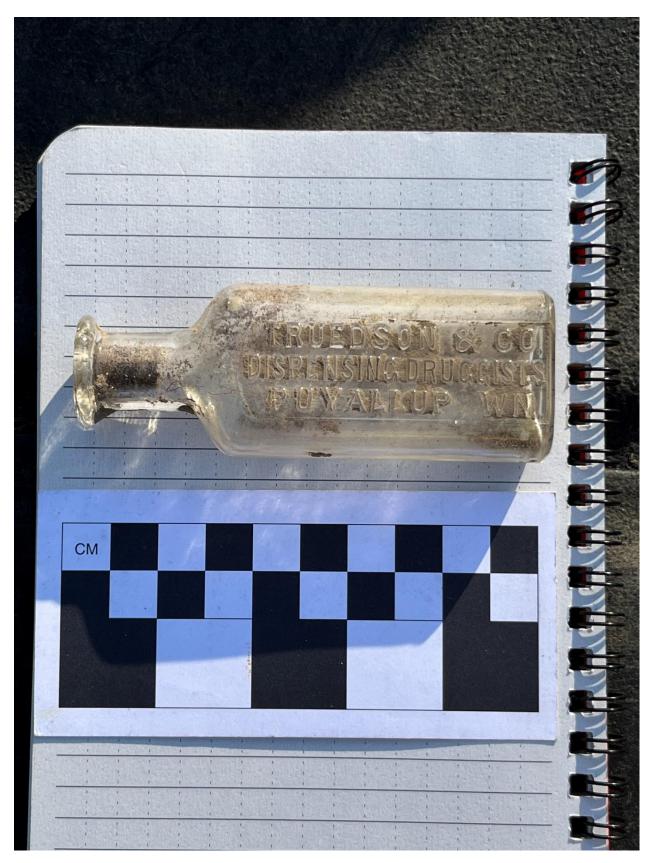


Figure 16. 19th century patent medicine bottle embossed TRUEDSON &CO DISPENSING DRUGGISTS PUYALLUP WA. Scale in centimeters.

Trench #	Dimensions (meters)	Soil Description
1	2.0 x 0.7 x 2.5 deep	Layer I: 0-30 cmbs, crushed gravel aggregate construction fill.
-		Layer II: 30 to BOE, Puyallup fine loamy sand with fine roots
		and redox mottles, with increasing mottles to depth and hard,
		iron-rich concretions at 7-8 feet. No cultural material.
2	2.0 x 0.7 x 2.0 deep	Layer I: 0-40 cmbs, crushed gravel aggregate construction fill.
	r i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	Layer II: 40-60 cmbs, Puyallup fine loamy sand, landscape
		fabric buried at 60 cmbs. May be remnant farming layer.
		Layer II: 60 to BOE, Puyallup fine loamy sand with fine roots
		and redox mottles, with increasing mottles to depth and hard,
		iron-rich concretions at 5.5-6 feet. This layer had charcoal and
		more roots- possible buried soil horizon.
3	2.0 x 0.7 x 2.0 deep	Layer I: 0-50 cmbs, crushed gravel aggregate construction fill.
		Layer II: 50 to BOE, Puyallup fine loamy sand with fine roots
		and redox mottles, with increasing mottles to depth. Iron-rich
		layer not present.
4	2.0 x 0.7 x 2.0 deep	Layer I: 0-70 cmbs, Puyallup fine loamy sand, with cobbles
		and brick fragments.
		Layer II: 70 to BOE, Puyallup fine loamy sand with fine roots
		and redox mottles, with increasing mottles to depth. No iron-
		rich layer present.
5	2.0 x 0.7 x 2.0 deep	Layer I: 0-35 cmbs, Puyallup fine loamy sand, with some
		cobbles and more gravel than Trench 4.
		Layer II: 35 to BOE, Puyallup fine loamy sand with fine roots
		and redox mottles, with increasing mottles to depth. No iron-
	20.07.201	rich layer present.
6	2.0 x 0.7 x 2.0 deep	Layer I: 0-45 cmbs, crushed gravel aggregate construction fill.
		One piece of thin clear mantle glass and a piece of coal were
		present.
		Layer II: 30 to BOE, Puyallup fine loamy sand with fine roots and redox mottles, with increasing mottles to depth and hard,
		iron-rich concretions at 5-6 feet.
7	2.0 x 0.7 x 2.0 deep	Layer I: 0-BOE cmbs, Puyallup fine loamy sand, with fine
/	2.0 x 0.7 x 2.0 deep	roots and redox mottles, with increasing mottles to depth. No
		iron-rich layer present.
8	2.0 x 0.7 x 2.0 deep	Layer I : 0-BOE cmbs, Puyallup fine loamy sand, with fine
	2.0 A 0.7 A 2.0 doop	roots and redox mottles, with increasing mottles to depth. No
		iron-rich layer present.
9	2.0 x 0.7 x 2.0 deep	Layer I : 0-BOE cmbs, Puyallup fine loamy sand, with fine
	····r	roots and redox mottles, with increasing mottles to depth. No
		iron-rich layer present.