

DU Amache Project, 2014 Field School Summary

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This year's field season was very fruitful, as well as a great experience for all involved. The field school took place both at the site of Amache and at the Amache Preservation Society museum in Granada, Colorado. The crew consisted of 12 volunteers, eight undergraduate students, and five crew chiefs (four of which are current DU graduate students). Many of our crew had a family or personal tie to Amache including our High School intern and all of our volunteers, five of whom were former internees themselves. On a daily basis the crews were led by Associate Professor Bonnie Clark, who was assisted with the museum portion of the field school by Anne Amati and Dr. Christina Kreps. Other experts who contributed their expertise include ground penetrating radar specialist Dr. Larry Conyers, cultural anthropologist Dr. Ermitte Saint Jacques and archaeobotanist Steven Archer. Between June 16 and July 15, hundreds of archaeological objects were analyzed, dozens of new features documented, and several activity areas underwent test excavation. The museum was reorganized, leading both to better object management and new opportunities for display and interpretation. We also hosted two very successful open house days, one for people with a personal or family connection to camp, the other for the general public.



Figure 1: Crew and visitors process materials from Amache during the public open house day

In the Museum

Museum work conducted during the 2014 field season was centered on collections management. A main goal for the season was to accession all new objects, which crews successfully completed over the course of the month. With a focus on collections management, students were able to participate in every step of processing new collections, including documenting and condition reporting objects to creating archival boxes to house acquisitions. In total, we accessioned sixty new objects, archives, photographs, and library materials into the museum's collections. During the second week of processing collections, volunteer and former internee Gary Ono worked with students to photograph a majority of our new acquisitions. Through this workshop, students learned proper techniques for object photography, which is useful for both museum and archaeology work. Furthermore, we were able to use the photographs in the museum's database, and students were able to continue with object photography as part of their daily museum work.

Additionally, as part of collections management, museum crew chief Angela Rueda created a non-accessioned collection. Since its inception, the Amache Museum has been gifted a number of Japanese cultural items. These objects, however, do not relate directly to Amache, and therefore, are out of the scope of the museum's collections. Yet, in taking the objects into the museum, the institution assumed responsibility for them. Developing a non-accessioned collection allows the museum to document the objects under their care, without formally adding them to their collections. In creating this system, we removed cultural items from display and in total catalogued and housed ninety-eight objects and photographs. This collection is outlined in an excel spreadsheet that can be updated with new non-accessioned objects.

The completion of our collections processing goal was facilitated by the addition of shelving in the collections area. During the first week, crews installed three shelving units, which more than doubled the museum's storage space. The shelves are currently being used to house collections, museum supplies, and frequently used items. In creating this new space, we also left open shelves to allow for growth in the collections. A recent analysis of the museum by outside experts suggested some simple steps to better protect the collections. We were able to put into place many of their suggestions; we installed a number of safety features in the collections area, including a fire alarm, fire extinguisher, and water detector.

While processing collections, we also cleaned and condition reported sensitive objects that had been on display for an extended period of time, including a WWII uniform, Kimono, and several internee art pieces. In doing so, we were able to determine any potential weaknesses or areas of damage for these objects, and students learned about the preservation of museum collections. While crews worked on this aspect of collections management, Reuda also did an inventory of all items on display. Inventorying objects allowed her to double check the locations of objects, and see what objects had been taken off of exhibition.

A secondary focus of museum work for the season was exhibitions. Our goals regarding exhibitions were to update content to reflect the current field season, and to reorganize the museum layout to create

additional space. During the first week, we removed a sink and countertop from the south area of the museum. Taking out the sink enabled us to move a floor-length, three-piece mural that previously served as a room divider against the southwestern wall. By doing so, we created additional exhibition space. We were able to move a glass display case to create wider walkways in the northern area of the museum and we created a display of furniture from camp in front of the newly positioned mural.

Creating additional exhibition space also allowed us to rethink the flow and narrative of current exhibitions. To create a more linear narrative, we removed several objects from display, opening up space between exhibits; moved exhibitions for flow; and reinterpreted several objects. As part of these changes, we also developed a new introductory exhibit that discusses the short time period for relocation, and utilizes a number of the museum's new collections. In updating exhibits, students were able to write exhibition text, consider narrative, and execute exhibition design and installation.

Finally, a major goal for exhibitions was to update and rethink the *What's Your Story?* exhibit, which allows individuals with personal connections to Amache to connect with and share their experiences at camp. The goal in re-doing the project was greater visitor participation, in part by making the space more inviting. As their museum project, our high school intern worked with a volunteer to rethink the exhibit's design. With the input of other students and volunteers, they created a space to share memories of camp, added a desk so visitors could write and look at camp directories, added additional lighting, and quotes and photos to illicit a greater connection to camp. During our open house, we had a number of visitors use the space and share a memory.

Keeping the museum open throughout the field school, led to an increase in visitor attendance. A number of visitors noted that they often passed the museum, but this was the first time it was open, and they were excited to be able to visit. In total we hosted about sixty visitors who took advantage of museum access to view library materials, photo albums, and exhibitions. In focusing on a few major areas of work, we were able to successfully execute a number of tasks, and students were able to learn a specific museum work skillset. Ultimately, we accomplished our major goals for the field season and were able to successfully share our work with the public and community.

Archaeological Accomplishments

Work was concentrated in four blocks: 7H, 8F, 9F and 12H. Intensive pedestrian surface survey was completed in blocks 7H, 8F, and 9F, each of which were new areas for investigation. Excavation took place in blocks 7H and 12H.

Research this season focused again on daily life with a specific focus on community space, as well as research in areas of the site slated for future development. Our field work was shaped by thesis research of two MA students at DU. Zachary Starke's focus is on traditional practices in camp. Research by Jeremy Haas will focus on incorporating archaeology into high school social studies courses. Artifacts recovered from a collectors pile in 8F, where provenience data was lost, will be used as an education collection. This education collection will aid in the construction of archaeological based activities that

will be designed with the intention of promoting site stewardship. The field experience also contributes to archeology as an avenue for multidisciplinary education.

Block 7H

Block 7H was the only block in the 2014 field season where both survey and excavation were undertaken. Located directly north of the elementary school and south of Block 6H and the Amache town hall, this block was selected because of its overall integrity; presence of the Christian Church office; and the surface manifestation of rectangular brick and cinder block feature. It was hypothesized that this represented the foundation of an *ofuro*, or traditional Japanese bath. Residents of Block 7H originated primarily from rural communities in the Central California valley like Walnut Grove and Woodland and many were probably part of the farm industry there. Research in Block 7H was primarily led by April Kamp-Whittaker, a former MA student at DU whose thesis research focused on children at Amache. She is currently a Ph.D. student at Arizona State University.

Survey:

Survey of 7H revealed the high level of integrity in this block and produced 194 field artifacts and 25 features.

The material culture of 7H differed subtly from that of previously surveyed blocks. Although the number of surface artifacts was high, relatively few of these represented personal objects or luxury purchased goods. A majority of the ceramics were either plain white earthenware, or hotelware dishes from the messhall. Those personal object recovered were related to daily activities like cleaning or hygiene. A large number of tin cans were also recovered, many of them modified. The overall number of modified artifacts recovered in this block was unusually high with at least 28 recorded during field analysis. The extensive modification and reuse of materials along with the relative dearth of expensive purchased goods may reflect the general socio-economic status of the occupants of 7H prior to the war. The residents hailed from an area of often poorly paid rural agricultural workers and oral histories suggest some families had been migrant farm laborers. The latter's previous experiences with worker housing may have made them more experienced with modifying existing resources to serve alternative purposes. This might help explain some of the unique modified artifacts recovered from this block including FA 36, and 88, both rug beaters made from springs, wire, and strips of metal.



Figure 2: Example of home-made rug beater (FA 36) found in Block 7H

The exception to the previous observation on the lack of purchased luxury items was the presence of several unusual children's toys; a metal truck bed, a porcelain toy teapot spout, and a metal toy spatula. At least the truck and teapot were purchased prior to internment and brought to camp while the spatula may have been purchased there. A number of pieces of Akro Agate or similar design glass play teaset fragments were also recovered. These included one found in what may have been an informal play area (feature 21) located north of the Christian Church in the empty area between blocks. This artifact scatter contained; a small glass pitcher; an Akro Agate teaset piece, with another recovered nearby; a small handmade clay marble; and a fragment of pale pink milk glass. During survey a total of 15 marbles were recorded, with 5 of these being located near or in the garden feature to the East of the messhall, suggesting that children were using this shaded area to play.

Two other artifact types recovered during the survey also hint at activities occurring in the block. A high number of large clear lug handled jugs (12) were recorded along with one aqua glass sake jug fragment. Although the reuse of the former cannot be definitely confirmed, previous research has indicated that such jugs were potentially repurposed for the manufacture and consumption of moonshine sake. During survey of other blocks evidence of internee art has been recovered and 7H added to that small collection. Two small droplets of glass and a dollhouse size handmade glass pitcher (mentioned in the

preceding paragraph) were found in several locations in the block. The glass droplets look like refuse from bead or glass ornament making and may be evidence of these activities occurring in 7H, since this is the only location from which they have been recovered.

Of the 25 features recorded there were 12 entryway gardens, four areas of public landscaping, two other landscape modifications, two trash scatters, a road segment, an activity area, a coal dump, and the foundations of an *ofuro*.

Mapping of entryway gardens revealed a possible planned landscape across the block through the regular arrangement of trees. Although many trees were no longer standing, where possible, the original location was determined. Based on these estimates each garden had a row of trees located between 2 -2.30m from the front of the barrack. These trees were located to either side of a doorway and frequently at the ends of the barrack as well. Many of the barracks also have small crumbling pieces of brick in front of the entryways, evidence of brick landings. Although these elements hint at an organized landscape plan it appears that each family individually landscape the areas in front of their barrack. A range of landscaping materials were observed, including limestone, asbestos, brick, river cobble, and in a few locations concrete. During recording and survey it was noted that a large number of tin cans, especially modified ones, were located near these entryway gardens. Based on previous excavations and historic images it is likely that these cans were used in the gardens as planters and at least one confirmed planter was recovered, FA 124, a hanging plant basket made from wire and a large mesh basin.

Several of these gardens and the public gardens had coal arranged around the base of trees. The coal ranges in size from small crumbles to large chunks. The use of coal as a landscaping material has not been previously observed but in this block seems to have been intentionally deposited and may have served a decorative purpose similar to landscaping bark or gravel. Feature 23, a public garden area near the bathhouse demonstrates the use of this material clearly.

Several general landscape modifications were also identified. The northeastern end of the block has a more hilly terrain and is subject to erosion and drifting sand. To combat the gradual buildup of sand against the entryways to barracks internees appear to have constructed retaining walls. A historic photograph of the Christian Church entrance confirms the use of a retaining wall, the remains of which were identified during survey. The most impressive of these was feature 17, located in front of barrack 12, which served both as a retaining wall and as a garden feature.

Excavation:

Three units were opened in 7H during the 2014 field season. Two units (a 1.5 x 2m and a 1.5 x 1.5m) were positioned to bisect the potential *ofuro* in the hopes of identifying internal activity areas, structural composition, locating the ash clean-out, and thus confirming the function of the feature. The third (1 x 1m) unit was located southwest of the *ofuro* in an area of interest identified by a GPR grid placed to the north of the bathhouse. This GPR grid was located in the hopes of determining whether there were any garden features or a superstructure associated with the feature and ran 26 m north/south by 7 m

east/west, encompassing features 4, 5, & 6. While no superstructure or garden was visible a series of horizontal reflection were identified running north/south along the west side of the grid.

Unit 2007N/2000E:

Unit 2007N/2000E was placed to identify the source of the GPR reflection, which was hypothesized to be a pathway or other feature associate with the *ofuro*. 2007N/2000E was a relatively sterile unit composed predominantly of alluvial sandy silt deposits and relatively little cultural material. The unit was excavated to a depth of 57 cmbd where a layer of compacted earth was uncovered. This was determined to be the bottom of the cultural layer and the source of the GPR reflection. The compacted surface seems to have been a section of an informal pathway that ran north from the bathhouse and past the *ofuro* towards Block 6H and the town hall garden. We posit that this was part of a system of informal pathways that would have been visible during the camp's occupation and were created by repeated use of the same route, resulting in the highly compacted surface we observed.

Ofuro Excavation:

Two units 2010.5N/2002.5E and 2012N/2004E were opened. These units were positioned to encompass both types of the *ofuro* construction materials – primarily brick and cinderblock. They also included both the interior and exterior to identify feature fill and possible evidence of a superstructure. To function as support for a *ofuro*, this feature would have required a clean-out, or some other access to the area that would have been underneath the tub of the *ofuro*. Such an area is needed both to build the fire that would heat the water in the *ofuro* and to allow cleaning out the ash or coal clinker from spent fires.

After the top layer of soil was removed each unit was divided into two separate contexts for excavation, interior and exterior. This allowed for differences in artifacts content and soil to be identified and recorded both across the two units and between the interior and exterior of the foundation.

Unit 2012N/2004E

Located on the northeast corner of the foundation this unit was placed in the cinderblock half of the *ofuro* to catch what we suspected might be the cleanout, an area with no structure visible on the surface. After wall cleaning this area was revealed to have a significantly decayed cinderblock, indicating that the *ofuro* wall enclosed all of this area. Removal of top soil showed that there were significant differences between the fill of the two units. While the exterior of the foundation contained primarily windblown alluvial soils the interior contained significant amounts of coal clinker and ash. Artifact contents between the two areas also varied.

The interior of the foundation produced a greater quantity of melted glass, a charcoal lens about 25cm below surface, small metal fragments and nails, and a deposit of toiletry and cosmetic containers. This deposit was located in the southeast corner and was partially embedded in the sidewall of the unit, continuing on into the interior of the *ofuro*. This area was a tight deposit with 3 compacts, several small glass toiletry bottles, an eyedropper, thimble, and a plastic spool of unknown purpose (Figure 3). The

compact nature of this artifact group suggests that they may originally have been in a bag that has since decayed, this is supported by the recovery of a few small decaying scraps of fabric from this area. It is also possible the toiletries were wrapped in cloth in the traditional manner of a *furoshiki*. The mixture of clinker, charcoal, and burned and unburned artifacts suggests that, although some burning of coal or wood was occurring in the *ofuro*, it may not have been in this section.



Figure 3: Concentration of cosmetics discovered during *ofuro* excavation

The exterior section of 2012N/2004E contained less cultural material. Much of what was recovered was coal clinker, metal fragments and nails, some melted and un-melted glass. The exterior excavation reached the bottom of the cinder block wall where it revealed a builders' trench and possible post hole for a structural support. The wall was two cinder blocks high and probably rested on, or just below, the pre-occupational surface. The unit also covered some of the transition area between cinderblock and brick, along the west side of the unit. It was at this juncture that the *ofuro* cleanout was located. Where the cinderblock ended the transition to the brick and poured concrete was made. These materials were used to create an opening. This context was only identified during the final day of excavation during the clearing of the builders' trench and cut mark from a potential structural beam. An area of looser soil that extended below the bottom of the other contexts was discovered. Clearing of the area determined that there was a void in the concrete and brick that extended through the walls and into the unexcavated fill of the *ofuro*. The area was not full excavated due to concerns over the stability of the foundation and since it extended both into the unexcavated *ofuro* interior and into the unexcavated unit to the west. The presence of the clean out confirms that this feature did function to support an *ofuro*.

Unit 2010.5N/2002.5E

Located on the southwest corner of the *ofuro*, this unit was placed to see the construction of the cinder block half and to determine if a long section of dimensional lumber located on the surface might be part of a superstructure for the *ofuro*. Wall clearing in this area revealed a continuous line of bricks with an outer casing of poured concrete, apparently for stabilization and support of the brick walls which were only one course thick. Several of the bricks had the remains of a concrete cap, carefully shaped and rounded on the sides, still visible. Later wall clearing for the entire *ofuro* suggests that these caps were present on most if not all of the top layer of bricks, potentially to support the *ofuro* tub (Figure 4).



Figure 4: *Ofuro* foundation after test excavation. We hypothesize the tub was supported by the west (left half) of the foundation.

Removal of the overburden indicated that the fill between the interior and exterior contexts was significantly different. Removal of this layer also uncovered an area of writing in the poured concrete on the south edge of the *ofuro*. Despite clearing and spraying, the writing remains difficult to read, although it does appear to include a capital letter A. The dimensional lumber visible on the surface extended down through the top context and appears to be a vertical beam that collapsed after the site was abandoned. This along with the quantity of nails recovered from all contexts in the *ofuro* suggests that an external structure of some kind was present. The exterior unit extended 39 cm below surface and reached the bottom of the poured concrete wall and the pre-occupation surface.

The interior of the *ofuro* consisted of 5 courses of brick with a thin mortar. This section of the interior was taken down to the pre-occupation level, which was indicated by a transition to a more clay like substrate and the diminishing of cultural material. Sections of this area were heavily disturbed by rodent burrow. The interior had a slightly more clinker than the *ofuro* interior in the other unit but was less

ashy in consistency. It also contained fewer artifacts; although a few interesting examples were recovered. In one area, towards the southwest corner excavators noticed an unusually high frequency of bottle caps. A woman's hair curler was recovered along with a metal spoon fragment and a saucer. This quantity of food related artifacts is interesting and suggests either that internees were consuming beverages while in the *ofuro*, or that as occupation was ending the *ofuro* was used as an incinerator, explaining the burnt artifacts recovered.

Carlene Tanigoshi Tinker, a volunteer and former internee remembered using an *ofuro* while at Amache. She vividly recalls an evening with her mother and two maternal aunts in an open tub where she could see the stars. It is not certain whether her family used the 7H *ofuro* as there are likely others in camp. It is also not clear if the 7H *ofuro* was unroofed as was the one she remembered. Although no evidence of a large superstructure were recovered, the piece of dimensional lumber at the southwest corner, a square cut near the northeast corner, and the quantity of nails recovered suggest that some kind of screen or external structure may have existed. It is interesting to note that the *ofuro's* location on a slight rise looking north would have allowed it to have a good view of both the large community garden in Block 6H and the farmlands surrounding the camp.

Block 8F

Survey in Block 8F began during the second week of the field school, led by David Garrison. Currently finishing his thesis on entryway gardens at Amache, David served as crew chief for that week only. Analysis of the artifacts and features discovered in Block 8F began in earnest week 3 when Jeremy Haas took over the survey.

The collector's pile (Feature 1) mentioned earlier was mapped as a feature point and all the artifacts were collected and photographed with the exception of a 5 gallon gas can that was analyzed in the field due to its size. This pile had been created post-occupation by most likely an artifact collector who had left behind their least desirable finds. It was determined that this was a collector's pile due to its presence in the southeast corner of the block, under a tree, only a few meters west of the road. The variety of artifacts in this pile also led to its interpretation as a collector's pile that had lost all of its provenience data.

The vast majority of artifacts discovered in block 8F were analyzed in the field and related to food consumption or containment. Most were distributed near the barrack foundations or where foundations had previously existed. Personal objects were also discovered such as shell buttons, marbles, cosmetic jar and bottle fragments. Unique objects that were collected included porcelain fragments, a Colorado tax token, an intact Log Cabin Syrup can, and a whole hair tonic bottle. One unique object (FA#6) appears to be a home-made net. It consisted of a large gauge wire that provided the net frame, metal screen fragments that formally acted as the net, and a small gauge wire that connected the other two components to one another. Because of its large size, the artifacts was carefully recorded in the field but not collected.

Of the 28 features in block 8F, 15 are potential gardens. These are mostly located near barrack entryways, while some are median gardens or are located at the end of barracks facing west. These latter gardens may have been constructed in a communal space. Other unique features included a likely *usu*, a mortar used to make mochi, a dish traditionally served at New Years (Figure 5). The *usu* (F4), was located in the block bathhouse. Other features of note include a garden with a pond (F27) near barrack 1, and a walkway (F17 & F18) that ran north/south parallel with the road on the eastern side of the block. This walkway was recorded as two separate features because it becomes indistinct near the middle of the block. This damage might be from post-occupation deconstruction of the site or merely erosion. The F17/18 walkway connects to a similar walkway in block 9F. This is logical since block 9F appears to be a community center that would make use of a walkway. The residents of 8F appear to have extended it into their block.



Figure 5: *Usu* or mochi pounder recorded in Block 8F

Block 9F

Block 9F was home to the Co-op store (managed by the internee-organized Amache Consumer Enterprises), the internal security/police station, and an additional relocation information office building. 9F was chosen for survey because historic research and discussions with community members suggested that it was home to the sumo ring. This made this block of particular interest to Zachary Starke, an MA student at DU, who is researching traditional Japanese practices in camp. He directed the survey in this block, assisted for the first week by Jeremy Haas. This block is the second non-barracks block surveyed by the University of Denver and the only that did not contain barracks buildings. (The first such block was 8H, the location of the Amache Elementary School). Possibly because people were not living in this block, only seven features were identified and a smaller number of artifacts were found.

Two of the features in 9H were identified as extensive pathways. These pathways, or sidewalks as they may have been historically, consisted of raised earth, level platforms that extended for dozens of meters, covered by limestone and/or cobblestone fragments. In the case of the largest one running directly north-south, the pathway runs nearly the entire length of the block – survey from 8F suggests another pathway in that block may have joined with the 9F pathway, creating a multi-block walking corridor. Four other feature points are circular or square concrete foundation pads, all less than 20 inches wide. These features also had large metal rods in the middle, suggesting they operated as building supports.

The last feature was identified as the location of the sumo wrestling ring. The topography of the area suggests that a man-made leveling was performed on the sloping landscape. This cut into the hillside was significant and matches both oral history and historic photographic evidence of the ring's location. Although limited, there was some possible artifactual evidence of the ring; crews discovered heavy wire rope in the vicinity. This rope could have been used in the sumo superstructure, comprised of four large wooden posts connected at the top with a square of timber. Ground penetrating radar was performed over this location in an attempt to locate the remains of the packed-earth sumo platform, as seen in historic photos. So far the results were inconclusive, however.

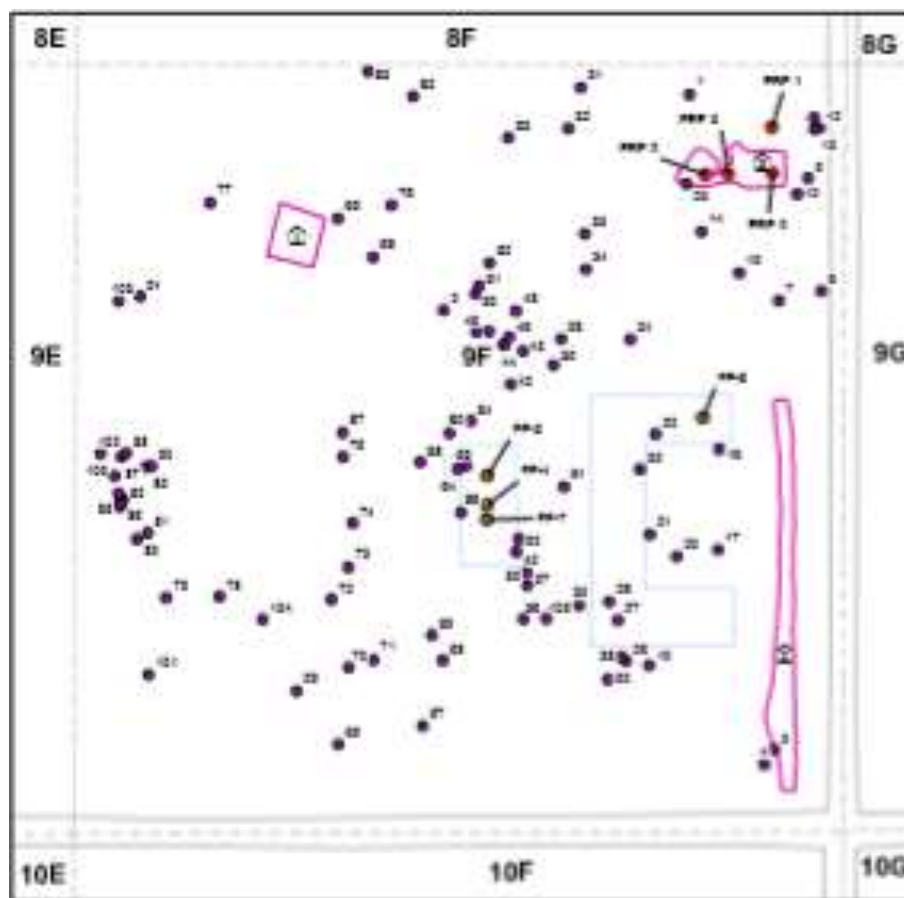


Figure 6: Draft map of finds in Block 9F. Field objects are numbered dots. Shapes are features. The walkway is located in the lower right portion of the block, while the terrace for the sumo ring is the squarish feature in the upper left.

Field artifacts in 9H consisted mostly of broken bottle fragments, metal cans, and some ceramic fragments. Of particular importance to note, there is a concentration of large clear glass jug bases (possibly from saké jugs) to the south-west of the sumo ring, near the western edge of the block in a relatively isolated area.

Block 12H

Ground Penetrating Radar, Grid 4

Block 12H is a key location for future site development. On its northwest corner sits the reconstructed guard tower. Soon it will also be home to a reconstructed barrack. During 2012, DU crews completed three ground-penetrating radar grids, as well as a test excavation, in anticipation of ground disturbance related to the barracks reconstruction. Just prior to the 2014 season, site managers received word that a grant for reconstructing a portion of the Block 12H bath house/latrine in has been successful. To help assure that no significant archaeological remains would be impacted by the bath house reconstruction, crews expanded on the 2012 ground penetrating radar survey into the area of adjacent to the south end of the bath house. This survey, which was performed in two grids (4 and 5), was meant to identify buried features not visible during our intensive survey of this block (which was performed in 2010).

The GPR results, especially in Grid 4, showed several subsurface areas of interest. One of the areas was a large, flat surface with at least one distinctive edge. It look similar to our results in 2010 which revealed a portion of a large vegetable garden. A 2m x 2m excavation unit, 1004.5N/1026.5E, was placed at the east end of where the GPR profiles suggested this surface ended, in an attempt to catch the edge of this feature. The second 2m x 2m unit, 1011N/1014E, was also chosen based on the GPR data. It was located along the southern edge of the west leg of the bath house. Two trees (one standing) once grew in this area. The GPR suggested an incised feature later filled with other deposits located between those trees.

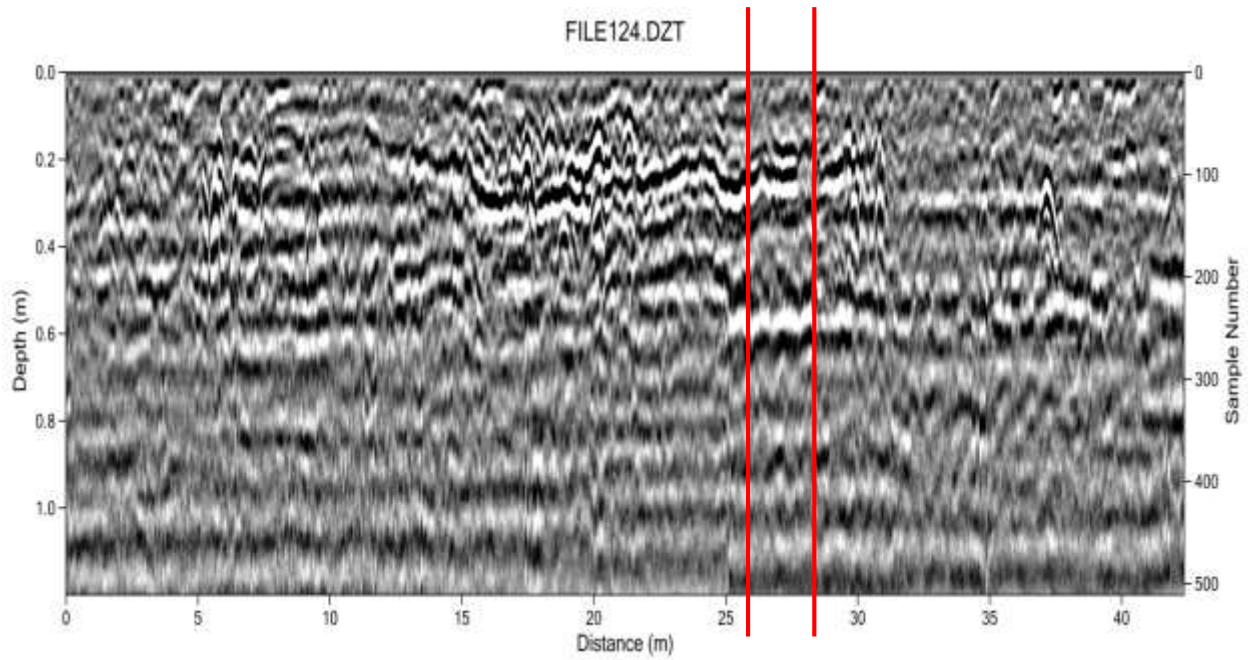


Figure 7: GPR profile showing the approximate location of excavation unit 1004.5N/1026.5E near the 12H bath house.

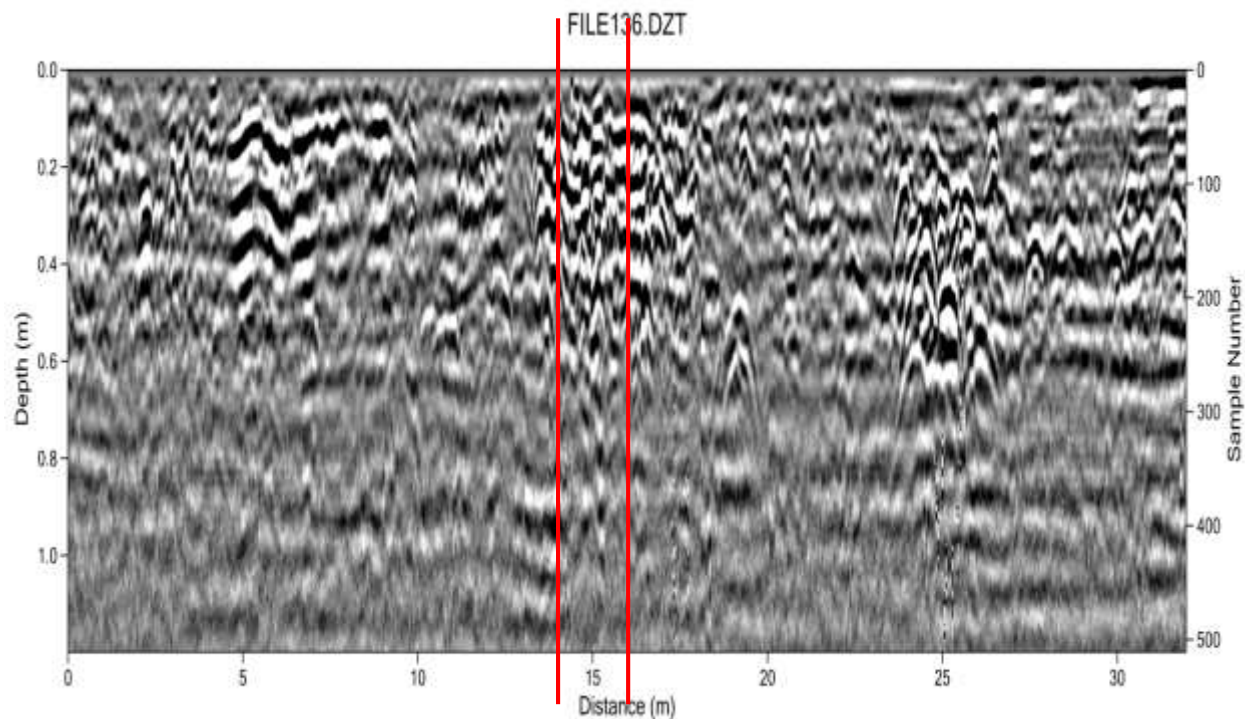


Figure 8: GPR profile showing the approximate location for unit 1011N, 1014E near the 12H bath house.

Unit 1011N/1014E

This 2 x 2 m unit, situated right along the southern portion of a bath house wall, proved to be quite intricate, suggesting several historical activity areas. Starting around 10cm below the ground surface, the excavation crew began noticing patterned sections of soil discoloration which suggested some sort of feature had been placed in those locations. All five were bisected and excavated. One was a square incision subsequently filled with coal. It might have been some sort of storage bin. One of the large rectilinear features was likely a root from a nearby tree. Two other square-shaped areas of discolored soil were possibly sites of posts for fences or plants and their fill was removed for flotation. These samples will help us determine if anything was planted historically in this area. A rectangular feature filled with non-local sand was revealed directly along the bath house foundation. We interpreted this as a builder's trench for the bath house. It was excavated and then backfilled with imported sand after the foundation was poured. Artifacts include several pounds of nails and tacks, glass, electrical conduits, tar paper, coal, and coal clinker – all things you would expect to have been tossed aside during the deconstruction of the bath house building when the internment camp closed in 1945. This concentration of nails is likely the source for the strong ground penetrating radar reflection above the incised area.

Unit 1004.5N/1026.5E

This 2 x 2 m unit proved to be somewhat light in artifacts and features. The GPR reflections suggested excavators might find the remains of a vegetable garden about 15cm below the ground surface. Only a few artifacts were recovered, including nails, clear glass, a plastic comb tooth, and a glass marble.

However, a layer of fairly densely-packed clay soil was unearthed in this area, suggesting a living surface that was both regularly swept clean and tamped down more than the soil that surrounded it. Slightly above the location of the clay surface, a 1 x 6 inch plank of cedar, was located. Close inspection of a historic photograph of this area shows a possible wooden structure (Figure 9), which we initially interpreted a possible garden wall. However the results of the excavation were counter to that expectation and looking back at that photograph we wondered if it were not a baseball backstop instead. At the end of the field season we were visited by Tooru Nakahira, a resident of this block. Without any suggestion from our crews, Mr. Nakahira pointed to the vicinity of this unit noting it was where they played baseball. Thus the combination of historical photographs, oral history, and the excavation data strongly indicates this excavation unit revealed the eastern edge of the 12H baseball field.



Figure 9: Photograph of Block 12H taken from water tower. Probable baseball backstop circled in red. Photograph courtesy of Helen Yagi Sekikawa.

Other excavations

Additional excavation in Block 12H took place in the form of one 2x2 meter unit. This unit had been identified as a garden during the 2010 field season through both surface survey and with the use of GPR.

The garden was an entryway garden for barrack 6F, which was occupied in both 1943 and 1945 by a couple from Los Angeles, Chosaburo and Ai Okumura. It is likely that the Okumuras designed and maintained this garden. Tied into the 2010 ground penetrating radar study and excavation grid from that year, this unit was designated 2888mN/3004.5mE.

The excavation of this unit began at the end of week 3 and was completed at the end of week 4. Due to this unit being clearly identified as a garden, excavation took place primarily using trowels. After the topsoil had been removed, an increased amount of hardscaping began to reveal itself. The arrangement of the river cobble and large concrete pieces suggested the space was intentionally designed to imitate some type of landscape. This arrangement bisected the whole unit diagonally from the southwest corner to the northeast corner with the heaviest concentration of gravel in the southern half. This arrangement also dictated where the various soil samples were taken from.

Artifacts from the upper contexts consisted of metal in the form of nails, staples, and tacks, most likely from the deconstruction period. Deeper contexts yielded artifacts such as eggshell, cedar pieces, and terra cotta ceramic sherds, all of which support the fact that this unit contained a garden. After several days of excavation, the lack of planter's holes and the presence of terra cotta sherds began to suggest that this garden may have been a *karesansui* or dryscape rock garden that was supplemented with potted plants. The larger concrete elements surrounded by gravel may suggest it was intended to evoke a sea or isandscape.



Figure 10: 12H-6F entryway garden with *karesansui* design, post-excavation. The gravel was concentrated between the alignment of concrete elements and the barrack foundation. The newly reconstructed guard tower is in background.

The most fruitful data collected from this unit may be the multiple pollen samples collected from under several medium sized stones. An additional sample was taken from under one of the larger concrete hardscaping elements that appears to have fallen over since the garden was abandoned. Unlike the other large concrete elements, it was not sitting on its flat edge, but it was in alignment with the other major elements. The hypothesis is supported by the fact that gravel and cedar fragments were found underneath. After the pollen sample was taken, this concrete piece was replaced in what was determined to have been its likely original position in the northeast quadrant of the unit. Excavation of the unit ceased after the hardpan subsoil had been exposed and the final soil samples had been collected. After profiling and proper closing of the unit had taken place, the unit was backfilled by hand in order to preserve the hardscaping in the garden. This was especially important since the placement of the stones may have been very intentional by the original creator of the garden.

Conclusion

The field season was a great success. Every surface survey and excavated unit yielded invaluable data. The analysis of hundreds of artifacts and a great many soil samples will add to the increasingly significant amount of data that University of Denver has recovered from Amache. This will contribute to the continued reconstruction of the site and expansion of the local museum that together will tell the story that too few Americans are familiar with.

The analysis of the data recovered from this field season in the coming years will yield a great deal of information. Results from Professor Clark's Historical Archaeology course and the various soil samples are eagerly awaited by both those associated with the University of Denver and the many stakeholders of Amache. This information and the products created by the Master's students Jeremy Haas and Zackary Starke will be freely shared with the community surrounding Amache and those interested in learning this important part of American history.