

Layer 1 (bottom layer) Stratigraphy Card



**Site Feature, Layer 1
Hearth**

Hearth

A hearth can be a fire pit in the open or a fireplace inside a dwelling — most often in the center. Sometimes it is marked by a ring of rocks, or even lined with flat rocks. Often it is simply a basin lined with a hard layer of reddened earth caused by repeated heating within the hearth.

This hearth had fragments of burned shell (the white smudges), a burned bone tool, and charcoal. When wood is burned, it becomes charcoal. Charcoal can be dated with a technique called radiocarbon dating, a complex chemical test. Researchers sent chunks of charcoal gathered from this hearth to a laboratory for radiocarbon dating. The radiocarbon test indicated that the wood in this hearth dated from 560 B.C. \pm 90 years (plus or minus 80 years.)