Analysis of Artifacts
Item # 151

Pieces of China from Money Pit area

WHO FOUND	David Tobias Dan Blankenship
WHEN FOUND	1967 or 1969
WHERE FOUND	From borehole(s) in Money Pit area
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	
REFERENCES	D'Arcy O'Connor's, "The Big Dig", pg. 165 Triton's 1988 "Summary of Operations...." pg. 2:01, 2:02 & Appendix B Letter from Becker Drills Limited to Triton Alliance dated Nov. 12, 1969 Dan Blankenship's "Items of Interest - 1965 to 1970 - broken down as to fact, circumstantial and theory"
LOCATION TODAY	
ODDITY FACTOR	
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	
COMMENTS	Triton's drilling logs from 1967 & 1969 contain no reference to retrieving "bits of China."

becker

BECKER DRILLS LIMITED
194 TORYORK DRIVE
WESTON 486, ONTARIO, CANADA

TELEPHONE:
(416) 749-5241

12th November, 1969.

Mr. David Tobias,
30, Forden Avenue,
Westmont, Quebec.

Dear Mr. Tobias:

You requested further information on the results of our drilling at Oak Island, and as discussed during our conversation Becker normally only keep records on hole numbers, depths, time, etc but not on the sample recovered. This is because our clients usually take the samples from our cyclone recovery system and examine the material themselves as the results are confidential and this was the procedure followed at Oak Island.

We have provided you with our drill reports which you have, however, while we keep any information on results that we know of confidential this does not mean we are unaware of some of the details.

To my knowledge there were four holes that had particularily significant results. In these holes from Don Thompson, Driller and Horst Hasche, Supervisor, I recall that bedrock was encountered at around 155 feet and was drilled further by triconing and/or blasting to 190 some feet where a cavity was encountered. Then our double walled drive pipe was pounded down to the 190 feet depth and on down through the cavaties as far as 200 feet or more.

In four holes at least, a cavity was encountered and wood and in one hole a piece of china was brought up to the surface recovery unit. Also wood was brought up by our triconing drilling operation.

I hope this is the information you require.

Yours truly,

J. F. Short.

adds, "If I hadn't found it, seen it with my own eyes, I would have walked away from the whole thing then and there."

But find it they did. Between January and August 1967 the Becker Drilling contractors sunk some sixty five-inch-diameter holes in and around the Money Pit area. And it was that program that confirmed beyond doubt that all the previous searchers had been on the right track, but none of them had gone anywhere deep enough.

The boreholes determined that bedrock in that area begins about 160 feet down, though in places it varies 10 feet either way. The bedrock is mostly anhydrite, with some limestone and gypsum in the upper layer. By this time the surface of the Money Pit area was about 12 feet lower than its original elevation, as a result of the removal of much of the overburden by Dunfield in 1965. Thus, Becker's discoveries were recorded at depths a dozen feet closer to the surface than they would have been when the workings were originally built or when earlier searchers drilled into the same area.

Core samples from several of the holes around the Money Pit brought up pieces of china, oak buds, cement, wood, charcoal, and metal, anywhere from between 160 and 212 feet down. Some of the holes hit tunnels or chambers that appeared to have been cut through the bedrock. In these instances the drill went through 30 to 40 feet of rock, then hit several inches of wood, a thin layer of blue clay, a few more inches of wood, and then dropped into voids six to eight feet deep before again striking the bedrock floor. Samples of the wood were sent to Geochron Laboratories Inc. of Cambridge, Mass., for carbon-14 analysis.

The report dated the wood at A.D. 1575, plus or minus eighty-five years. Geochron also noted that the wood was definitely not part of a natural glacial deposit since that would have resulted in an age of 10,000 years or more. (Carbon dating involves measuring the amount of radioactive carbon-14 contained in organic matter such as wood. The isotope is absorbed by living organisms from atmospheric carbon dioxide at a fairly constant rate. After death, the isotope steadily decays and analysis can determine approximately how many years have elapsed since death. In the case of wood, this indi-

Items of interest - 1965 to 1970 - broken down as to fact circumstanial and theory.

Fact:

1. The relocation of the original Money Pit thru drilling done by "Becker."

ITEM "BRASS FRAGMENT FROM M.P. AREA" (ITEM # 150)

2. The finding of a piece of brass in the Money Pit area about 175' deep by "Becker" that analysis shows was made by primitive rolling methods.

ITEM "WOOD BORING BROUGHT UP FROM M.P. (ITEM # 152)

3. The finding of wood below bedrock and a cavity below the wood in at least 3 instances - Two by Becker and one by Bowmaster fall of 69 and designated Hole # 11A. This wood carbondated out as 375 years ± 85 years. (Currently cased to 198' and oped below to 212')

ITEM: "MAPLE KEYS FROM CLAY-FILLED DEPRESSION IN M.P." (ITEM # 153)

4. The finding of oak buds inbedded in tight clay approx. 202' deep, a geological impossibility.

ITEM: "CLAY WITH POST-GLACIAL POLLEN" (NEW ITEM)

5. Polin dating of clay in Hole #3 and #201 showing post glacial origin.

ITEM: "PIECES OF CHINA FROM M.P." (ITEM # 151)

6. The bringing up of pieces of china, spruce needles, wood and twigs from various holes by Becker and Bowmaster.

ITEM: "HEART-SHAPED STONE" (ITEM # 70)

ITEM: LEATHER SIEVE (NEW ITEM)

7. The finding of shoe leather and a heart shaped stone in Smith's Cove about 3' deep.

ITEM: "SHAFT AT SOUTH SHORE BEACH" (ITEM # 13)

8. A hidden shaft on the south shore found Oct. 65, about 15' below the surface in which a nail, a piece of iron and numerous pieces of twigs were found proving it original.

9. The existance of many flood tunnels terminating at the beach between low and high tide.

10. Location of several chambers approximately 185' S. E. of Money Pit. A careful analysis of the drilling done by Becker, Bowmaster and Blankenship in this area confirms this location.

ITEM: "BURNT PLACES IN DEPRESSIONS INCLUDING BONE ASH" (NEW ITEM)

11. The finding of dark burnt places in saucer shaped depressions over suspected chambers, the analysis of which shows bone as being the white residue left there. These dark red places was caused by extensive heat and are still discernable today because only grass will grow there.

12. Carbon dating of wood found in the Money Pit area of some 375 years.

ITEM: LONG-INCLINED RAMP BENEATH SMITH'S COVE (ITEM # 7)

13. The finding of the remains of an "A" frame complete with notches for a 9" square hand-hewn timber. The log forming the "head-frame" is about 20" in diameter and over 15' long, through which a 2" hole was drilled and an oak peg inserted to secure the 9" timber. This log is still in place and sawn boards were laying on this log. This wood carbondated out to 850 and 1000 years respectedly.

ITEM: U-SHAPED STRUCTURE IN SMITH'S COVE (ITEM # 8)

ITEM: "ROSE BUSH ROOT BENEATH SMITHS COVE (NEW ITEM)

14. The uncovering of a large horse-shoe shaped cement and stone foundation about 15' in diameter and 25' long approx. 2' below the earth on the edge of the beach. A satisfactory explanation of use by searchers is doubtful. A rose bush root was found near the bottom of this foundation which may be original. At any rate it was wrapped in tin-foil and is available for possible carbon dating.

15. The exposing of numerous shafts mostly by bulldozer by Noland.

ITEMS: "METAL FRAGMENTS FROM BOREHOLE 10X" (ITEM #64) "BROKEN CHAIN LINKS FROM BOREHOLE 10X" (ITEM #137)

16. The bringing up of numerous pieces of metal by drilling last fall. This metal was ground off by the obvious actions of a rotary drill and apparantly has a cement like substance on one side, proving it is an outside protective covering. An analysis of this metal shows it has a history of some cold work in its fabrication. This metal came from below 165' and must be original. The basic characteristics of this metal when first found was explained to severallearned men and they all agree that this is the exact way that metal starved from oxygen and in water for many years would react. For example, when first brought to the surface it was bright and new, without any evidence of rust and so soft you could bend it easily. After exposure to the air for 10 to 15 minutes rust would start to appear, and the following morning it was so hard you couldn't bend it.

17. Results of pumping test prove that holes 10 and 201 are more openly connected to the money pit area than other closer holes put down for the future shaft. Comparing water levels in 10, 202 and 203 prove that they didn't hit the same area where the metal came up.

181

Based upon a careful study and analysis of the foregoing, in my opinion the most signafacant of all the facts is the finding of the metal in hole #10. Consequently I reccomend that we put down our shaft in this location.

2. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

1795 - Discovery of money pit with wood platforms every 10 ft.

1805 - Excavation reaches 95 ft.* when the money pit suddenly fills with water which cannot be lowered by pumping.

1849 - Drilling through the bottom of the flooded money pit strikes 22 in. of "metal in pieces" at 98 ft.* then penetrates another 22 in. of metal. Drill brings up three small links of gold chain. Evidence suggests a 6 ft. treasure chamber containing two oak casks on top of one another with a third off to one side.

1850 - Water in the money pit identified as sea water coming through a tunnel from Smith's Cove 520 ft. away. Excavation at the cove reveals a system of collector drains constructed into the seabed and covered with filtering layers of eel grass and coconut fibre. Searchers' coffer dam destroyed by storms before exploration completed.

1861 - Attempts at reaching the treasure chamber from below lead to collapse of the bottom of the money pit into previously unsuspected chamber 20 ft. further down.

1878 - Farmer's oxen fall into 15 ft. pit believed to have been an air shaft for construction of the flood tunnel.

1895 - Excavation by W.R. Chappell confirms existence of flood tunnel from Smith's Cove. Attempts to blast it prove ineffective. Dye dumped in money pit emerges from the seabed at Smith's Cove.

1896 - Equilateral triangle of stones found hidden by grass on south shore. Lines of stones through the apex points due north to the money pit.

1897 - Drilling in the money pit strikes iron at 126 ft.*, then cement, wood and 32 in. of soft metal. Drill brings up oak chips, coconut husks and a small piece of parchment bearing the letters "ui", "vi" or "wi", written in India ink with a quill pen.

1898 - M.R. Chappell discovers a new flood tunnel leading to the money pit from the south shore 300 ft. away.

1909 - Franklin D. Roosevelt participates in unsuccessful exploration attempt.

* Depth below original surface elevation. Due to successive excavation attempts, the ground level at the money pit is now approximately 20 ft. lower than in 1795.

1932 - M.R. Chappell excavates the money pit to 145 ft.* finding an anchor fluke, pick axe and tool marks in the sides of the shaft at levels below those reached by previous searchers.

1933-35 Numerous attempts are defeated by repeated flooding.

1942 - E.H. Hamilton concludes five years of searching with dye tests at the money pit which reaffirm its connection with Smith's Cove. Hamilton dug deeper than anyone before him and lowered the Heddon shaft to 157 ft.*

1965 - Robert Restall, his son and a helper are killed working in a pit near the south shore.

1966 - Robert Dunfield builds causeway to Oak Island to transport 100-ton strip mining machine in an attempt which fails but leaves the island linked to the mainland for the first time.

1967 - Blankenship and Tobias begin exploratory drilling using a new type of equipment which reveals possible tunnels 35 ft. below bedrock. This drill also brings up brass, wood chips, charcoal, china and oak buds from 180 ft.* far below levels reached by previous searchers.

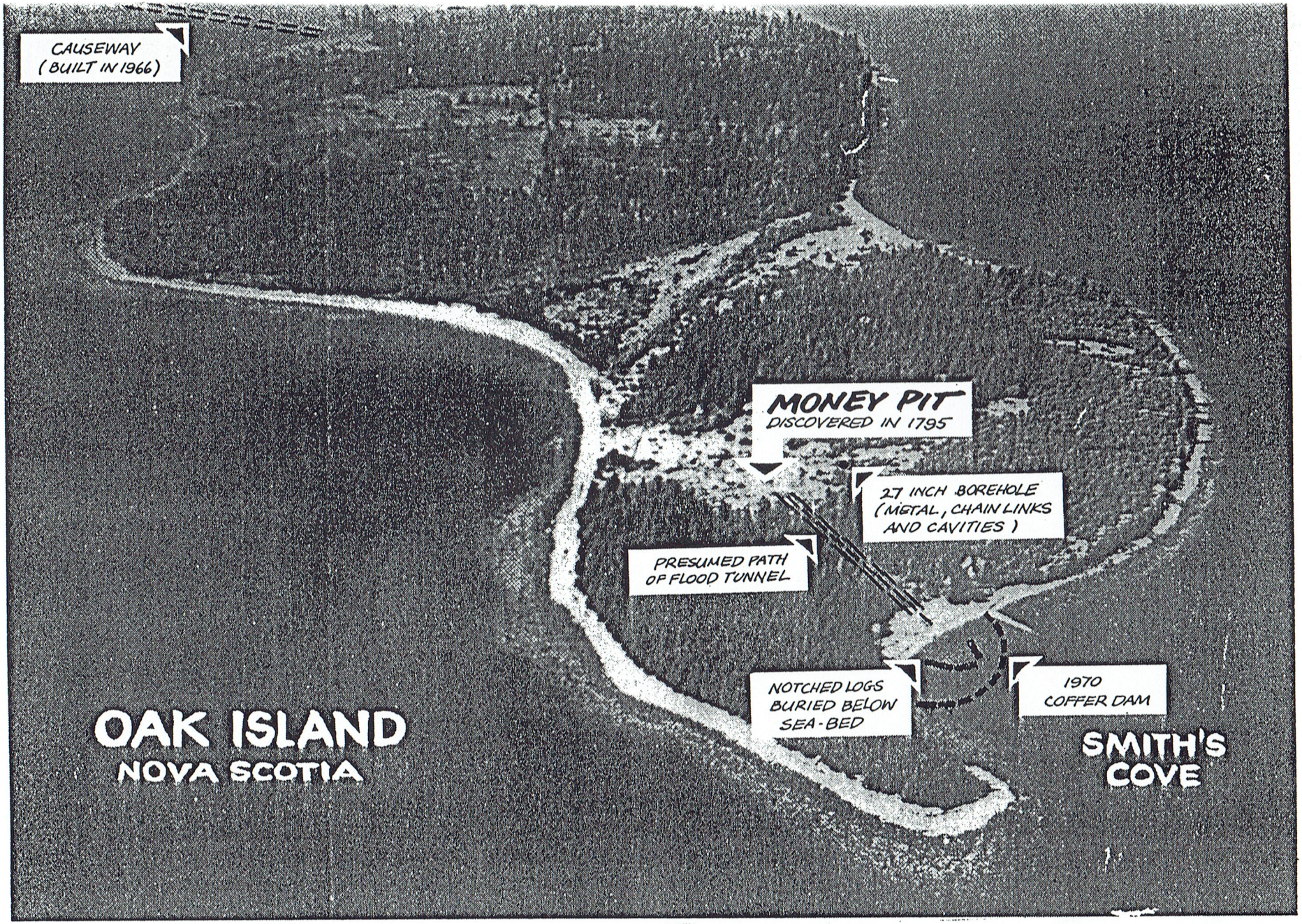
1969 - Tobias and Blankenship form Triton Alliance Ltd./Ltee with a group of other investors from Canada and the U.S. to pursue the most expensive and sophisticated exploration ever undertaken on Oak Island.

1970 - Triton commissions extensive engineering and soil studies which delineate the water problem exactly and indicate the best way to proceed using established methods. Drilling for peizometer tests, consulting engineers bring up quantities of low-carbon steel from below 200 ft.* in virgin soil at Borehole 10X. Also, exploration at Smith's Cove uncovers log structures buried 4 ft. under the seabed, believed to be part of the original constructors' coffer dam. Quantities of coconut fibre are also found here along with some fragments of old tools and an antique wooden box.

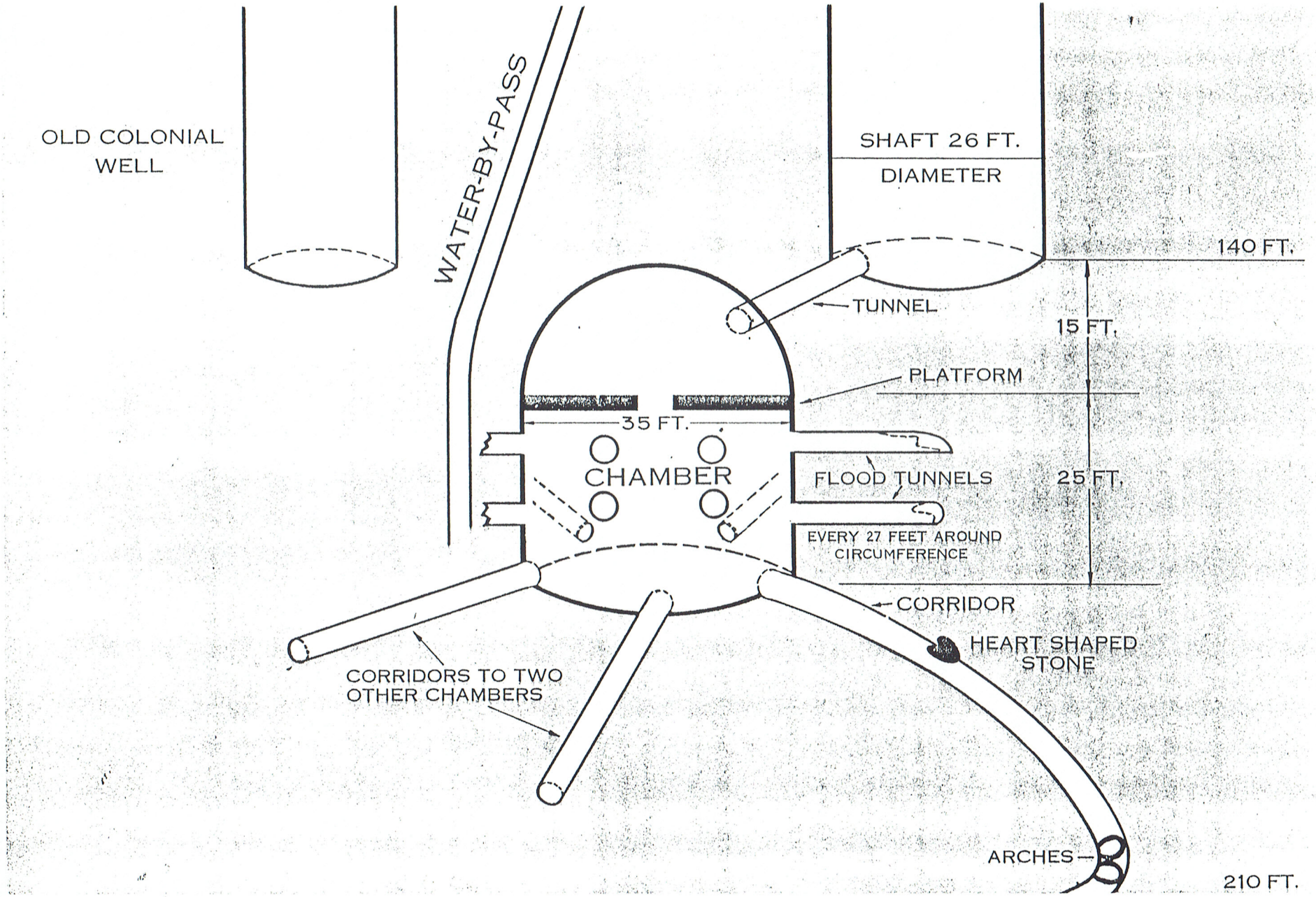
1971-86 Triton puts down a 27-in. diameter cased hole at Borehole 10X which reaches cavities below bedrock. TV pictures from the largest cavity show anomalies which appear man-made. Attempts at diving into this hole are frustrated by chalky deposits which render the water opaque the moment it is disturbed.

1987 - Triton's consulting engineers complete plans for a steel-lined shaft at the money pit 80 ft. in diameter and extending down to below bedrock. This shaft will be strong enough to overcome the disturbed soil conditions and wide enough to encompass all of the old shafts. Flooding will be controlled by high-volume pumps. Excavated material will be used to rebuild the coffer dam at Smith's Cove enabling exploration work there to be completed.

* Using 1987 surface elevation as a reference.



The deepest shaft ever excavated on Oak Island was the Hamilton shaft which reached 157 ft. in 1942. Only 68 narrow-gauge drill holes, representing a total surface area of some 6 sq. ft., have ever penetrated below this level. However, this exploratory probing in virgin ground, much of it done by Triton Alliance in 1967, has produced convincing evidence that the original workings on the island go much deeper than previously imagined.



SKETCH OF PIRATE COMMUNAL BANK REPORTED BY A. LOCHARD AT CAVANAUGH HILL, HAITI IN 1947.

One of many theories about Oak Island is that it might be some form of communal bank. Several historians have pointed out that the technique of pooling manpower and resources to build an impregnable repository - often protected by water - was used in Europe by cities under seige to guard their valuables. According to Lochard, this Haitian bank had a main chamber 150 ft. underground protected by flood tunnels. Other similarities between Lochard's reports and Oak Island include the presence of a heart-shaped stone in one of tunnels leading away from the main chamber and the extensi e of clay as a water seal.