BiltRite identified the shoe Earhart was wearing in the photo as a “blucher oxford.”

An “oxford” is any lace-up shoe.

The term “blucher” refers to a shoe style in which a portion of the “upper” (the part of the shoe above the sole) laps over the “vamp” (the part covering the instep and toe).

Further Discoveries

During the Niku III expedition in 1997, another more intensive search was made of the entire site using close visual inspection, and White’s Electronics pulse induction metal detectors. An electromagnetic survey of the site was also made using a Geonics EM-38 ground conductivity meter. Two artifacts were found.

Artifact 2-4-A-2 was a small rusted washer, but we are not completely sure we did not ourselves deposit it during previous searches.

Artifact 2-4-A-3 was a partially burned paper label recovered from a concentration of ash and charcoal found within 5 cm of the surface where the charcoal pieces had been found in 1991.

Analysis of the label later revealed the presence of a bar code thus dating the label and the fire that burned it to not earlier than the 1970s.

Illustrations from Webster’s Second International Unabridged Dictionary.

Blucher Shoe.

Shoe, 1. A Section, and B Front View of a Modern Shoe. 1 Top; 2 Vamp; 3 Cap; 4 Tongue; 5 Pull Strap; 6 Backstay; 7 Counter; 8 Heel; 9 Shank; 10 Insole; 11 Slipsole; 12 Outsole; 13 Toe Box.

Can label. Note fragment of bar code.

Coming in March...

… Part Two of Shoe Fetish, where we’ll tackle the complex problem of comparing what was found to what we can determine about the shoes that Amelia wore.