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Archaeological Survey and Excavations in the
Coosa River Valley, Alabama





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edited by Vernon James Knight, Jr.

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by Vernon James Knight, Jr.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

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Introduction: Archaeological Research in the Middle Coosa Valley, Alabama

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My chief purpose in drawing together the four essays contained in this volume is to make available some primary reference material on the archaeology of the Coosa River Valley in Alabama. These contributions are not syntheses. They are, rather, presentations and interpretations of field data collected at intervals during the last several decades. Nor is the coverage comprehensive, so we can hardly make any claims about special status for this volume as a summary of the archaeology of this region. However, I believe that there is justification for bringing out such a volume at this time. In this introductory essay I want to use this opportunity to outline some advances in archaeological knowledge that have been made through limited survey and excavations over the last few years.

It has now been over a quarter of a century since a major archaeological field project has been mounted in the central Coosa Valley. Beginning in 1957, and continuing through 1965, the University of Alabama conducted extensive salvage excavations in three basins to be inundated by Alabama Power Company reservoirs. This work was directed by David L. DeJarnette, who in 1948 had also directed the excavations at the Childersburg site, a putative location of De Soto's Coosa and an important historic Upper Creek site in Talladega County (DeJarnette and Hansen 1960). The river basin salvage projects were funded in a cooperative program with the Alabama Power Company. The first of these reservoirs was the Weiss Basin, in Cherokee County, completed in 1960. The results of the Weiss Basin archaeological project were published by

DeJarnette, Kurjack, and Keel in 1973 in two issues of the *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* (DeJarnette et al. 1973). Subsequent to the Weiss Basin work the emphasis shifted to the Logan Martin and Neeley Henry (formerly called Lock 3) reservoirs to the south. For the Neeley Henry reservoir, in St. Clair, Etowah, and Calhoun Counties, the results of the 1962 season at the Woods Island site were published by Ross Morrell in a monograph in Florida State University's *Notes in Anthropology* series (Morrell 1965). The 1964 excavation season in the Neeley Henry Basin was the subject of a master's thesis by J. Bennett Graham (Graham 1966), and the results are available in that form. A number of sites in the Logan Martin Basin, Talladega and St. Clair Counties, were excavated between 1961 and 1963 by Ross Morrell. His *Final Report of Investigations* for the Logan Martin basin project has now been edited for publication and is presented as the first paper in this volume. This in effect is the final installment in a series documenting the archaeology of these three river basins as known in the early 1960s from the annual projects sponsored by the Alabama Power Company.

Two sites excavated during this salvage program present special problems for current interpretation. One is the early historic Woods Island site, which we now believe was occupied by Coosa/Abihka and Koasati Indians during approximately A.D. 1670-1715. This important site, now destroyed, was located on an island at the Neeley Henry dam axis in St. Clair County. It was excavated in three separate episodes—1962, 1964, and 1965—each

under the direction of a different field supervisor. The problem is that no effort was made to coordinate the three seasons of work, so that no comprehensive statement about the site was ever produced. As noted, the first season's work was published as a monograph by Ross Morrell. The second season's work was reported by Bennett Graham in his master's thesis. The third season, under direction of Joseph Benthall, was very rushed because of active construction of the Neeley Henry Dam during the excavations. This final season's work, the most extensive of the three, has not yet been reported. In all, some 48 burials and 7 houses were excavated at Woods Island.

Because of this situation Marvin Smith has recently brought together some basic data on all three field seasons, including a burial inventory and the preparation of a master map showing the location of all mapped cultural features (Smith 1989b). Deriving the composite site map was made difficult because three different grid systems were used during the work, each unrelated to the others. Smith's work is an important beginning towards understanding the site structure and internal chronology at Woods Island, and yet, as he notes, most of the remains still await a complete analysis. Such an analysis, still badly needed, is the largest missing piece in the reporting of the Alabama Power Company river basin research on the Coosa River.

A second site, Ogletree Island in Talladega County, was excavated during 1961 and 1962 by Ross Morrell as part of the Logan Martin Basin project. Now inundated, the site was on an island at the mouth of Choccolocco Creek. This early historic aboriginal site is noteworthy in part because it yielded evidence of Spanish contact during the early sixteenth century, the period of the De Soto expedition. The presence here of a Nuevo Cadiz Twisted glass bead was briefly reported by Morrell in an article published in the *Florida Anthropologist* (Morrell 1964). This artifact along with other metal items was found in association with aboriginal house floors and a pottery assemblage that we would now consider assignable to the Kymulga phase, a local manifestation showing a composite of Lamar and Late Dallas pottery types.

The Ogletree Island site received only a sketchy account, without a site map, in Morrell's *Final Report* included in this volume. Because of this situation and the importance of the site, not only for its rare evidence of early Spanish contact but also for its value as the only excavated example of a Kymulga phase farmstead, Richard Walling has re-analysed the site materials and has produced an updated, comprehensive site report. This re-analysis was done as part of Walling's master's degree studies at Memphis State University. I have included Walling's paper as the second contribution in the present volume.

Morrell's *Final Report of Investigations* for the Logan Martin Basin was written in 1965. It has remained on file, in handwritten first draft form, at Moundville since that

time. The question must arise: why resurrect this obviously dated manuscript for publication more than 25 years after the fact? One answer to this question has been already stated. The appearance of this report complements those already available for the Neeley Henry and Weiss Basins, completing a basic corpus of materials documenting the University of Alabama's nine-year program of archaeological research in the Alabama Power Company's Coosa Valley reservoirs.

More specific reasons may be stated. For one, Morrell's report contains detailed descriptions of two excavated sites bearing a local expression of Alexander culture (ca. 700-200 B.C.), constituting the best evidence yet available for that cultural manifestation in this region. Here we find dense clusters of bell-shaped storage pits, and an artifact assemblage containing such items as Alexander decorated pottery, greenstone "spades," Copena-like triangular projectile points, small stemmed and side notched Coosa points, and distinctive grooved net sinkers. Traces of this Alexander complex were found also in the Neeley Henry Basin to the north (Graham 1966), but in the Weiss Basin the same period is occupied by the Cedar Bluff phase (Walthall 1980:141-143), which is characterized by limestone tempered fabric marked pottery. To the south of the Logan Martin Basin, Walling and Schrader (1983) have defined the Dry Branch phase of Alexander culture, a phase which has many similarities to the contemporaneous complex reported here. There are also some differences in both the artifacts and in site characteristics, and these should be investigated further. There is much yet to be learned about Alexander culture on the Coosa, and these sites offer a beginning basis for discussion.

Likewise, Morrell's Logan Martin report contains important results from the excavation of four sites belonging to the transitional Woodland-Mississippian period. These are compact riverine settlements with evidence of circular houses and with numerous large storage pits. The material culture and settlement characteristics bear a striking resemblance to those of the West Jefferson phase (Jenkins 1978) of the upper Cahaba and Black Warrior river valleys to the west. Because Morrell did not know of the existence of the West Jefferson phase at the time of his writing, he used the Tennessee Valley type name McKelvey Plain for the clay-tempered ware that dominated his Coosa Valley collections. In modern perspective this same pottery could easily be classified as West Jefferson Plain.

Although this material is much like West Jefferson in its clay tempered pottery, its Mississippian vessel forms with loop handles, its small proportion of shell tempered pottery, its long stemmed pipes, and other minor traits, there are nevertheless some differences which prevent its outright inclusion in the West Jefferson construct. The most important of these differences is a consistent co-occurrence of limestone tempered plain and red rimmed pottery along with the dominant clay tempered ware in the Coosa Valley sites. This undoubtedly reflects proximity to the Coker Ford phase in the Weiss Basin, which is character-

Tentative Middle Coosa River Valley Cultural Chronology

AGE	CULTURAL STAGE	PERIOD	CULTURAL COMPLEX OR HORIZON MARKER
1700	Historic	Recent	American
		Colonial	Childersburg Phase
		Early Historic	Woods Island Phase
1500	Mississippian	Late Mississippian	Kymulga Phase
		Middle Mississippian	(?)
		Early Mississippian	Wilbanks/Savannah (?)
1300	Woodland	Late Woodland	Etowah II-III
		Middle Woodland	West Jefferson-Like
		Early Middle Woodland	Lightwood Complex (Dead River/ Baytown)
1100	Archaic	Late Archaic	Coarse Plain Pottery(?)
		Middle Archaic	Bradley/ Flint River Spike
		Early Archaic	Cleveland Complex
900	Paleo-Indian	Gulf Formation	Greeneville
		Late Paleo-Indian	Dry Branch
		Early Paleo-Indian	Flint Creek
700		Late Archaic	Gypsy/ Late Savannah River/ Ledbetter
		Middle Archaic	Savannah River
		Early Archaic	Sykes/White Springs
500		Late Archaic	Morrow Mountain-Like (?)
		Middle Archaic	(?)
		Early Archaic	Kirk Stemmed/Crawford Creek
300		Late Archaic	Kirk
		Middle Archaic	Big Sandy/Autauga
		Early Archaic	Dalton/Hardaway
100		Late Archaic	(?)
		Middle Archaic	
		Early Archaic	
0 A.D.			
-100 B.C.			
-100			
-200			
-300			
-400			
-500			
-600			
-700			
-800			
-900			
-10,000			

Figure 1. Tentative Middle Coosa River Valley cultural chronology. From "East Alabama Archaeological Survey, 1985 Season," by Vernon James Knight, Jr., 1985.

ized by plain limestone tempered pottery as the dominant type (Walthall 1980:147-148).

Unfortunately lacking is any useful information on aboriginal subsistence practices for this West Jefferson-like culture complex on the Coosa. To what degree these people were horticulturalists like their neighbors to the west remains unknown, and this question will require future excavations on other sites to answer.

In making these comparisons and alluding to the importance of some of the sites reported by Morrell, I should note that I have tried to avoid the temptation to update his manuscript. Although this could have been done without much trouble in many cases, for example by substituting the type name West Jefferson Plain for McKelvey Plain, I felt it was more important to honor the integrity of the piece as it was written, as a product of its time. Likewise I have avoided adding modern references to his text. Instead of intruding into the manuscript, most comments which I have judged useful to the reader in consulting the work are placed in a series of endnotes, with appropriate citations.

The manuscript was, however, merely a first draft, and in preparing it for publication I have taken at least one major liberty with the text beyond the normal copy editing. In several cases I have supplemented Morrell's site discussions with material from two other sources; first, his field notes, on file at Mound State Monument, and second, the series of seasonal progress reports on the work prepared for the Alabama Power Company. This was needed for the sake of completeness of reporting, especially where the original manuscript omitted important information on site locations, the placement of excavation units, and on soil characteristics and profiles.

Helping to fill out the picture of aboriginal occupation in the Gadsden area of the Coosa Valley is a report on the Milner Village site, included as the third contribution in this volume. The Milner Village site was excavated during 1947 by David L. DeJarnette and Steve B. Wimberly. This was hurried, salvage work to rescue burials being exposed by a sand and gravel mining operation. Our paper documenting this work, a collaboration of Marvin T. Smith, Julie B. Smith, Kenneth R. Turner and the editor, was prepared based on original notes and artifact collections. The site is revealed as an early historic village dating to the middle seventeenth century, related to the progressive downstream migration of the remnants of the earlier Coosa chiefdom of the sixteenth century. Many of the burials were richly accompanied by both European trade goods and objects of aboriginal manufacture.

Since the University of Alabama-Alabama Power Company cooperative archaeological salvage program ended in 1965, there have been a number of archaeological projects undertaken in the central Coosa Valley which have led to a clearer understanding of the cultural chronology and some aspects of aboriginal settlement and subsistence in this region. Here is a short outline of this work.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, in preparing for a new navigation project on the Coosa River, funded a series of archaeological surveys which have added breadth to our knowledge of site distributions of all cultural periods in the Coosa Valley. These projects were reported by Waselkov in his two volume set entitled *Coosa River Archaeology* (1980), and by Mistovich and Zeanah in a four volume work entitled *An Intensive Phase II Cultural Resources Survey of Selected Areas on the Coosa River Navigation Project* (Mistovich 1981a, 1981b; Mistovich and Zeanah 1983a, 1983b). These surveys included efforts to construct statistically derived predictive models of site location.

Beginning in 1983, the University of Alabama conducted archaeological reconnaissances in the Coosa and Tallapoosa valleys, funded by grants from the Alabama Historical Commission. Although 282 sites of all archaeological periods were reported in these reconnaissances, a primary focus was on protohistoric and historic aboriginal sites, with a view towards establishing the outlines of fine-scale chronology and settlement characteristics for these periods. The results were reported in two volumes: *An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Coosa and Tallapoosa River Valleys, East Alabama, 1983* (Knight et al. 1984), and *East Alabama Archaeological Survey, 1985 Season* (Knight 1985).

As an offshoot of the Alabama Historical Commission projects, three seasons of excavation were devoted to the Hightower Village site, a large protohistoric settlement in southern Talladega County. The University of Alabama and Jacksonville State University collaborated with the Isabel Comer Museum and Arts Center of Sylacauga in this enterprise. Although a comprehensive report on the Hightower Village research is still lacking, a preliminary statement of findings has been prepared by Walling and Wilson (1985). Another offshoot of this project has been the work by Walling and Schrader (1983), already mentioned, in defining the Dry Branch phase of Alexander culture in the valley.

Two other excavation projects need mentioning. The first is Roger Nance's research at the Rogers-CETA site (Nance 1988, 1990), a Late Mississippian/Protohistoric period village in southern Talladega County. A much smaller scale project was carried out at the Late Woodland period Lightwood shell middens, also in southern Talladega County, in research sponsored by the Kimberly-Clark Corporation (Knight 1986).

Marvin Smith has also devoted his attention to the Early Historic Period in the Coosa Valley, with particular concern to developing a model for the dissolution and downstream migration of the people of Coosa, who in the early sixteenth century formed the nucleus of a powerful paramount chiefdom in the Ridge and Valley physiographic province. Building on previous research in the upper Coosa Valley (Smith 1977, 1987, 1989a), Smith has progressively refined and extended the research to the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century sites in the middle Coosa Valley (Smith 1989b). In this he has primarily made use of

materials from surveys and excavations by the University of Alabama and the Alabama Museum of Natural History. Included as the final contribution to this volume is Smith's latest summary of seventeenth-century aboriginal settlement in the region.

One net result of the last decade of research is the development of a preliminary cultural chronology, reproduced here in Figure 1 from the 1985 season report of the East Alabama Archaeological Survey (Knight 1985). The reader is referred to that report for a summary discussion of each cultural period as they are currently recognized. In examining the chart one should bear in mind that the data used in compiling it come largely from the Talladega-Coosa-Chilton county area of the Coosa Valley; it is less applicable to cultural manifestations farther north in the Valley.

I am pleased to acknowledge the clerical and editorial assistance of Ms. Carol Connell and Ms. Cynthia Avery in the preparation of these manuscripts for publication.

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Archaeological Research in the Logan Martin Basin: Final Report of Investigations

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Prepared through the Alabama Power Company—University
of Alabama cooperative archaeological salvage program

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THE DYE CREEK SITE (Sc ^v 31)	22	
THE CLEAR CREEK SITE (Ta ^v 90 and Ta ^v 90x1)	24	
THE KELLY SITE (Ta ^v 37)	26	
THE OGLETREE ISLAND SITE (Ta ^v 107)	27	The University of Alabama and the Alabama Power Company have been involved in a cooperative archaeological salvage program since 1956. In that year the Alabama Power Company, aware of its responsibility to science, took steps to preserve archaeological data before the waters of the Coosa River rose to cover the area behind Weiss Dam. The Company furnished maps of the Weiss Basin to the director of the Alabama Museum of Natural History. Under his supervision, financed by the Museum, a preliminary survey of the area was completed in 1957.
THE ENFINGER SITE (Ta ^v 57, Ta ^v 57x1, and Ta ^v 57x2)	28	With the financial assistance of the Alabama Power Company, excavation was then begun in the Weiss Basin, and was completed in 1960. Since then, this work has continued as University of Alabama archaeologists have moved
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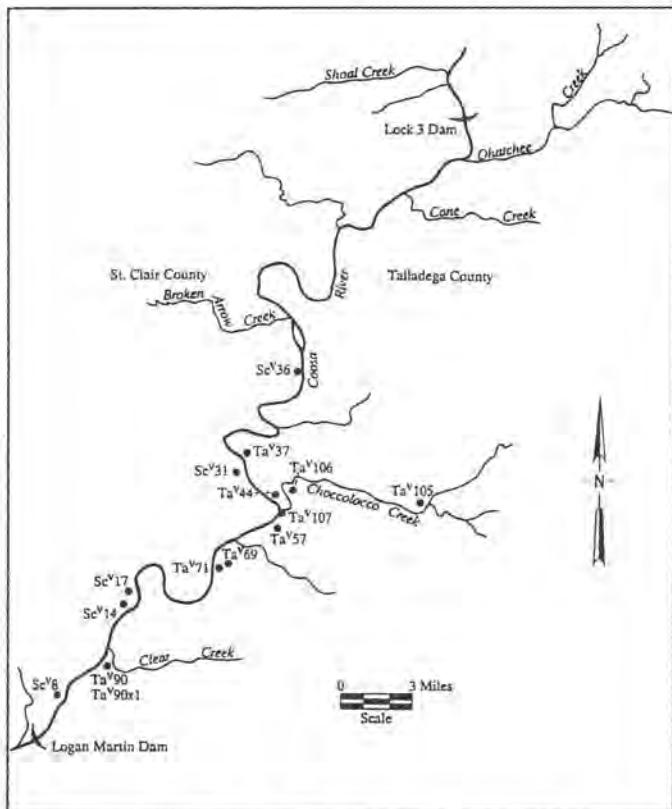


Figure 1. Logan Martin Basin project area map.

on in advance of construction at the Company's other proposed dams on the Coosa River, the Logan Martin Dam and the Lock #3² Dam.

An initial archaeological surface survey of the proposed Logan Martin Reservoir area, begun in the summer of 1958 and completed in 1960, revealed the existence of 143 sites of aboriginal occupation, 104 in Talladega County and 39 in St. Clair County. This survey work was carried out by Dr. Walter B. Jones and members of his staff from the Alabama Museum of Natural History. In June of 1961, after excavations were underway, three additional sites were located in Talladega County and two others in St. Clair County, bringing the total to 148 known sites for the area to be inundated.

This report describes excavations carried out during three seasons of excavation in the Logan Martin Basin, conducted between June 1, 1961 and September 1, 1963. In all, the results a. reported of excavations and laboratory research concerning 14 sites in Talladega and St. Clair Counties, Alabama. Because of field time restrictions, and also according to the research value of the sites as revealed during excavation, the sites were investigated to varying degrees. Relatively extensive test trenching and excavation of subsurface features was carried out at the Ellis site (Ta'44), the Ogletree Island site (Ta'107), the Dye Creek site (Sc'31), the Clear Creek site (Ta'90 and Ta'90x1), the Jackson site (Sc'29), and the Riverside site

(Sc'36). Smaller-scale testing was carried out at the eight remaining excavated sites. Figure 1 is a project area map showing the location of all these sites.

Rather than to report the research in the order the sites were excavated, they are instead grouped according to similarities in their main site components, in order to make the presentation more useful to the reader. The report begins by describing two sites which were occupied primarily during the Early Woodland period, giving evidence of a local expression of Alexander culture. These sites are:

1. The Phil Jackson site (Sc'17)³
2. The Riverside site (Sc'36)

Next are presented the results from four sites whose primary occupation was during the Transitional Late Woodland—Early Mississippian period. At three of these sites rather extensive excavations were carried out, with less attention allotted to the fourth. They are:

3. The Ellis site (Ta'44)
4. The Dye Creek site (Sc'31)
5. The Clear Creek site (Ta'90 and Ta'90x1)
6. The Kelly site (Ta'37)

Following these in order are two sites belonging primarily to the Protohistoric period, one of which yielded important evidence of contact with sixteenth-century European explorers. These are:

7. The Ogletree Island site (Ta'107)
8. The Enfinger site (Ta'57, Ta'57x1, Ta'57x2)

Next to be discussed are five sites having mostly Archaic period habitations. The majority of these were highly eroded, with all cultural material in the plow zone. They are:

9. The Floyd site (Ta'69)
10. The Rushing Spring site (Ta'105)
11. The Eureka Bridge site (Ta'106)
12. The Grissom site (Sc'8)
13. The Brass site (Sc'14)

Finally, there is the discussion of one site whose period of occupation was the Plantation era of the nineteenth century. This site is:

14. The Martin site (Ta'71)

The report concludes with a brief summary of findings and a statement of their archaeological importance.

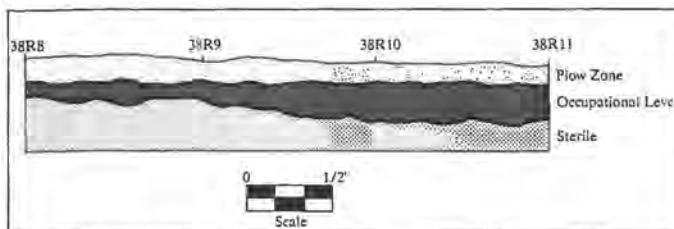


Figure 2. Jackson Site, Sc'17. Soil profile showing occupational zone.

The Phil Jackson Site Sc'17

The Phil Jackson site, Sc'17⁴, is located 1.5 miles south of Stemley Bridge on the Coosa River in St. Clair County. The bulk of the surface material was collected from an area approximately 200 feet long and 100 feet wide⁵. The 200 foot axis is on a ridge parallel to the river and 75 feet from the present west bank. Just opposite the site on the east bank of the river is a bluff approximately 100 feet high with relatively steep terrain running both upstream and downstream from the highest point. The west bank, in contrast, is low and occupies the inside of a meander in the river. This is a low, flat, somewhat eroded plain. The site position then, is on a point bar levee in a bend in the river opposite a high cut bank. The site is also approximately 200 yards upstream from a shoal.

The initial excavations were begun in an area of surface sherd and shell concentration. They were expanded where cultural features were encountered.

In addition, since the site had been so extensively eroded, it was hoped that a deep exploratory trench dug

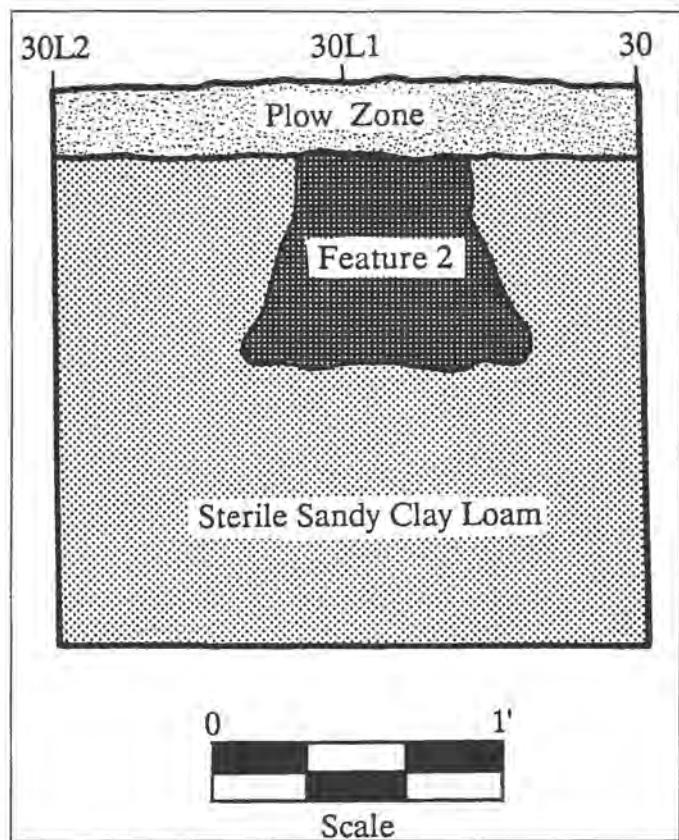


Figure 4. Jackson Site, Sc'17. Feature 2, profile.

perpendicular to the river and nearer to it, would reveal stratification. As can be seen from the profile in Figure 2, the degree of erosion was surprisingly smaller nearer to the river. Cultural material was present in small amounts throughout the dark sand layer below the plow zone, but was completely absent in the underlying yellow clay, save for one large blade knife with fine pressure chipping along the cutting edge. This artifact was recovered at a depth of 2.6 feet below surface, at the base of the dark sand stratum in square 38R11 (see Figure 2).

Features

Thirty subsurface features were excavated at the Phil Jackson site. The plan of excavation (Figure 3) shows the position of these features. Among these, one (Feature 14) was a sherd cluster, nine were bell-shaped storage pits and 19 were small refuse-filled pits⁶. The storage pits were of two distinct forms. Single, isolated bell-shaped pits occurred most frequently (Figures 4 and 5), but a second variation consisted of two bell-shaped pits joined at the margins. The latter type appeared as a figure-eight-shaped surface stain prior to excavation (see, e.g., Features 9/10 in Figure 3). The fill within all these features was a mixture of organic midden, shell, bone, fire-cracked rock, reddish ash, and assorted cultural material. In most cases the cultural remains were associated with bone-shell-ash matrix alternating with layers of a highly organic sandy soil.

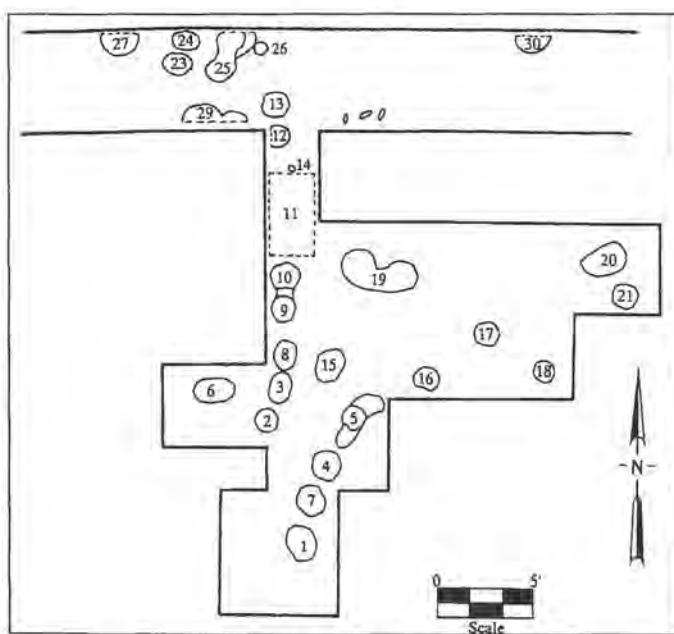


Figure 3. Jackson Site, Sc'17. Plan of excavation.

Table 1. Pottery from Features, Phil Jackson Site.

Type	Feature No.																							
	1	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	19	20	23	24	25	27	28	29	30		
O'Neal Plain	11	2	1	7	4	17	18	3	5	3	1	6	13	29	19	17	1	16	2	19	6	26		
Alexander Incised	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	3		
Alexander Pinched	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Columbus Punctated	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—		
TOTAL	11	2	1	7	4	19	18	3	5	6	1	6	16	32	22	19	1	17	2	19	7	29		

The alternating layers of the pit fill were not in level superimposed layers, as would probably be the case if the debris had been deliberately discarded at intervals. These layers, instead, tended to be at steeply inclined angles. These were usually considerably less thick than the sandy fill zones.

No burials nor evidence of scattered human bone were encountered at the Jackson site.

Pottery

A site total of 292 ceramic sherds were recovered from the Phil Jackson site. From the ceramic listing by features (Table 1) and site summary (Table 2), it can be seen that the majority of cultural remains at Site Sc'17 represent a single Early Woodland Alexander component. The isolated occurrence of a single McKelvey Plain sherd of uncertain provenience can be disregarded as probably having come from one of the numerous McKelvey-bearing sites in the area. The fact that only Alexander Series sherds occur within the excavated features seems conclusive of the restricted cultural placement and age.

Although there appear to have been totally plain vessels, the majority of the O'Neal Plain ware probably represents body sherds of the three decorated types: Alexander Incised, Alexander Pinched and Columbus Punctated.

Table 2. Summary of Pottery Type Frequencies from the Phil Jackson Site (including miscellaneous proveniences other than features).

Type	Number of Sherds	Percentage by Type	Total by Temper	Percentage by Temper
SAND/GRIT TEMPERED				
O'Neal Plain	260	90.28	288	99.65
Alexander Incised	12	4.17		
Alexander Pinched	2	0.69		
Columbus Punctated	14	4.86		
CLAY/GRIT TEMPERED				
McKelvey Plain	1	100.00	1	0.35
TOTAL	289	100.00		100.00

At the Phil Jackson site pinching occurs as a design element accompanied only by the characteristic incised lip. Incising and punctations often occur separately, but also are used together in some of the design forms.

Non-Ceramic Artifacts

The flintwork inventory at the Phil Jackson site varied considerably in the surface collection. The predominant projectile point types were a small side notched lanceolate form (Figure 6, b-i) and numerous small stemmed Coosa points⁷. Five specimens of a Copena or Candy Creek-like point, one Beaver Lake, and one Lecroy Bifurcated projectile point⁸ complete the inventory. The projectile points recovered from the pit features all fall within the small stemmed Coosa type range. A large blade knife with fine pressure flaking, excavated from the deep exploratory trench, has already been mentioned.

Numerous fragments of chipped and polished greenstone celts were included within the pit fills. One steatite and one hematite net sinker, and a considerable number of nutting stones were recovered from the storage pits (Figure 7). Sherds from steatite vessels were found in Features 5 and 19.

**Figure 5. Jackson Site, Sc'17. Feature 1.**

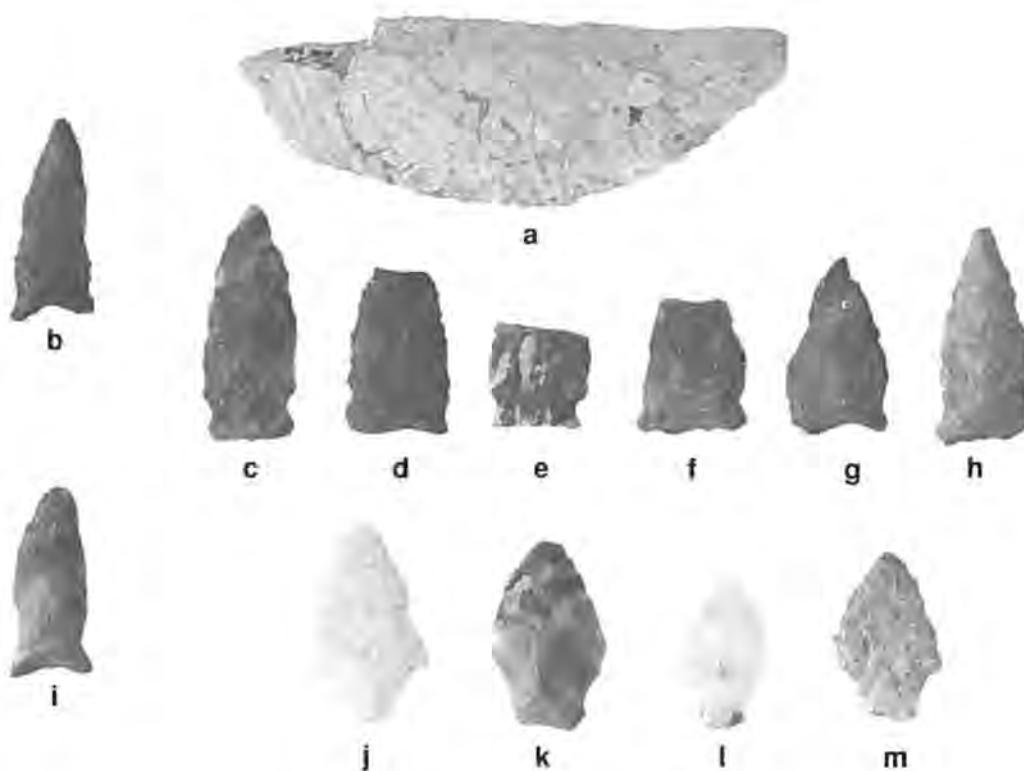


Figure 6. Jackson Site, Sc'17. Flint-work. a, blade knife from base of dark sand stratum; b, LeCroy point (see endnote 8, ed.); c-h, shallow side notched lanceolate points; i, Beaver Lake point (see endnote 8, ed.); j-m, Coosa stemmed points.

Conclusions

The Phil Jackson site represents a small, compact short-term settlement. The ceramics indicate an Early Woodland Alexander occupation. The position of the site in relation to the river and shoals, plus the absence of burials and evidence of houses, suggests that the nature of the occupation is that of a seasonal campsite. Originally the pits were used for storage of nuts, seeds, and berries, but they were later abandoned and filled with debris. The distribution and sloped position of the refuse lenses deposited in the deeper pits indicates long periods of abandonment when the natural fill was deposited by surface drainage and seasonal flooding of the river. The presence of Archaic and Transitional Archaic projectile points and blade knives from the lower levels suggests a light Archaic occupation which had been heavily eroded prior to the Early Woodland occupation.

The Riverside Site Sc'36

The Riverside site is located one-quarter of a mile south of the present Lock 4 Dam⁹. It is situated along a low ridge paralleling the river at approximately 500 yards distance from the river bank. The Riverside site, like the majority of the sites of aboriginal occupation within the Basin, is situated adjacent to a shoal area in the Coosa River. Very little cultural material was visible on the surface, with the exception of a single concentration of shell. The majority

of the site had been subjected to extensive sheet erosion, leaving no topsoil in the eroded area. Approximately in the center of the site was a high weed thicket that appeared to have escaped the extensive sheet erosion.

An exploratory trench (Figure 8) was dug across the top of the ridge from the eroded section into the weeded

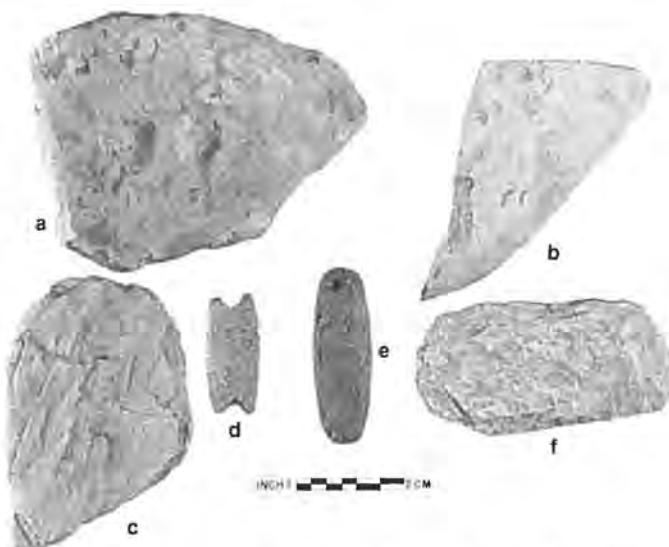


Figure 7. Jackson Site, Sc'17. Ground stone. a, nutting stone; b, broken gorget; c, f, rough greenstone axes; d, steatite net sinker; e, hematite net sinker.



Figure 8. Riverside Site, Sc'36. Stepped trench.

section in the hope of discovering intact stratigraphy. This 5-foot wide and 65-foot long trench revealed the best stratigraphic integrity found anywhere within the Basin. As seen in the profile shown in Figure 9, a 0.55-foot thick plow zone in square 52 overlay a sterile red clay subsoil. In square 63, however, the sterile red clay was encountered at a depth of 3.15 feet below the base of the plow zone. Within the area between plow zone and the sterile red clay in this area, as shown in Figure 10, were three contrasting strata. Immediately underlying the plow zone (Zone A) was a zone of dark gray sand (Zone B) that extended in square 63 to a maximum thickness of 0.55 feet. Below the gray sand was a dark humic stratum (Zone C), 0.45 feet thick, resembling an occupational zone. The last of the three zones (Zone D) consisted of a fine sand and clay mixture 2.18 feet thick. The red clay subsoil was designated Zone E.



Figure 9. Riverside Site, Sc'36. Profile showing plow zone overlying red clay subsoil.

Features

A single oval refuse pit was located at the aforementioned surface accumulation of shell. The noticeable disturbances seen in the 65-foot profile all are natural and contained no cultural material.

Pottery

Three ceramic types, McKelvey Plain, O'Neal Plain, and Alexander Incised, were encountered at the Riverside site. Four sherds classified as McKelvey Plain were recovered from the plow zone (Zone A). Zone B was barren of ceramics, while Zone C yielded 12 specimens of O'Neal Plain. Zone D, the thickest of the stratified layers, yielded 19 O'Neal Plain and 6 Alexander Incised sherds. The top of Zone E, the sterile subsoil, yielded three additional O'Neal Plain specimens.¹⁰

Again, the small ceramic sample closely conformed to Tennessee Valley type definitions, including angled incising on the lips of O'Neal Plain and Alexander Incised sherds. Examples of McKelvey and Alexander sherds, including an O'Neal Plain podal support, are shown in Figure 11.

Non-Ceramic Artifacts

Nonceramic artifacts recovered at the Riverside site during the excavation were of chipped flint, steatite, and ground greenstone. A variety of flint artifacts were present, with one projectile point type predominating.

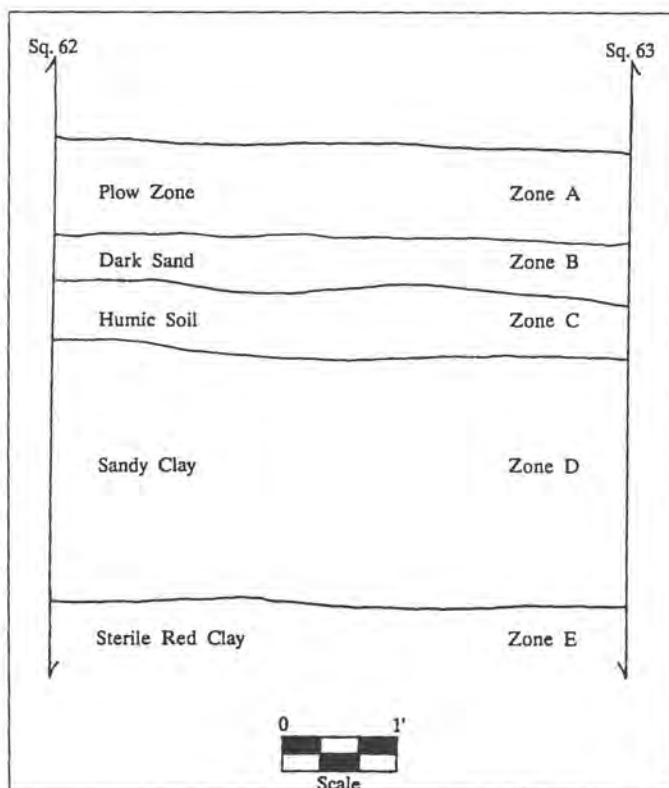


Figure 10. Riverside Site, Sc'36. Profile at square 63.

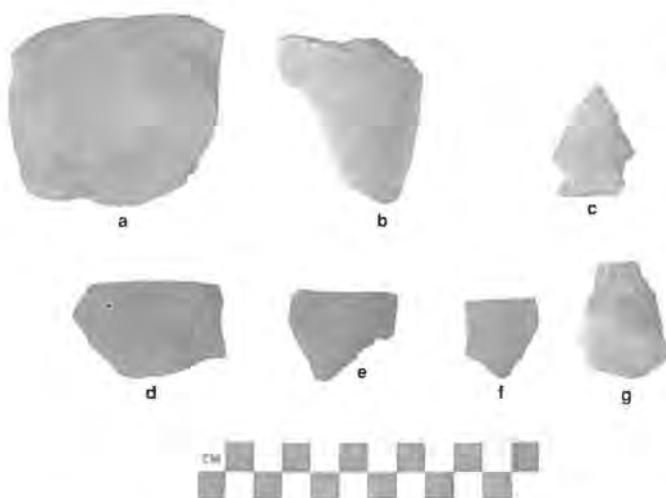


Figure 11. Riverside Site, Sc'36. Pottery and Early Archaic flintwork. a, O'Neal Plain; b, O'Neal Plain podal support; c, Alexander Pinched; d, O'Neal Plain with beveled incised rim; e, McKelvey Plain; f, serrated, corner notched, basally ground point; g, uniface end scraper.

This type, of which there are nine specimens, is a slightly eared Copena point (Figure 12). Also encountered were several shallow side notched and concave-based lanceolate points. At the top of Zone E, a serrated corner notched and basally ground point was found. A single uniface scraper was removed from the base of Zone D. These Early Archaic forms are shown in Figure 11.

Conclusions

The Riverside site is the only site tested in the Logan Martin Basin that demonstrates any clear cultural stratigraphy. In earlier times the topography was dominated by two small knolls, with human occupation extending from one to the other. Erosion of the knolls filled in the area between them, as shown in the profile, leaving the presently visible ridge. The majority of the occupational remains from the knoll areas have been removed by extensive erosion. The remains in between the knolls were less eroded and were covered over by deposits eroded from the higher areas.

The top of the sterile red clay (Zone E) represents a heavily eroded surface bearing evidence of Early Archaic

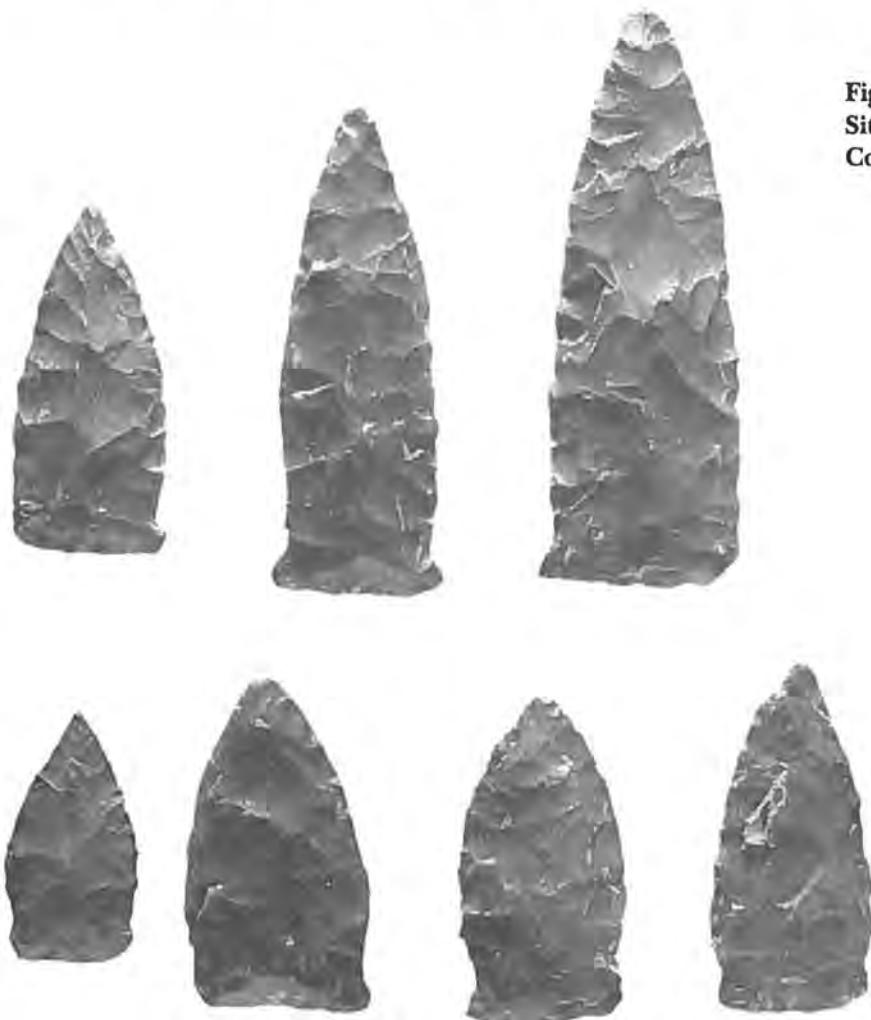


Figure 12. Riverside Site, Sc'36. Eared Copena points.

occupation. The diagnostic artifacts from this surface include a basally ground projectile point and a uniface scraper. The overlying sand/clay (Zone D) and buried humus (Zone C) contained deposits of the major Early Woodland occupation.

The Ellis Site Ta'44

The Ellis site is approximately one mile north of the confluence of Choctawhatchee Creek with the Coosa River in Talladega County, Alabama. Most of the site lies above the flood level of the Coosa River, but it has been subjected to extensive sheet erosion during the past 50 years of continuous cultivation. Along the northern perimeter of the site is a large limestone sinkhole some 80 feet in diameter and 15 feet deep. The sink is presently dry but it shows evidence of having once been spring-fed. The inside slope of the sink appears to have been an aboriginal quarry site for the dark grey flint that occurs in a thin stratum within the limestone matrix.

When initial excavation began at the Ellis site in June 1961, cultural features appeared on the cultivated surface as dark humic soil stains intermixed with shell and sherd concentrations. For this reason it was not necessary to employ the usual exploratory trench or test pit type of excavation. The feature areas could be staked off directly, saving much effort and many man hours.

Pit Features

Of the wide variety of disturbed areas excavated at the Ellis site, only 19 can be attributed to aboriginal origin. These 19 features were quite apparent when the overburden of plow zone was removed. The plow zone varied in depth from 0.4 feet to 0.8 feet, with an average depth of 0.6 feet. Underlying the plow zone was a reddish-yellow sterile clay that contrasted markedly with the dark disturbed areas.¹¹

The excavated aboriginal features are described below, with a summary of the included ceramics.

FEATURE 1. A small irregular oval refuse pit 0.85 feet deep, with a maximum width of 4.4 feet. The pit fill consisted of a dark humic soil intermixed with shell (mussel and freshwater snail), small mammal bone, fish bone, and one polishing pebble. Three sherds classified as McKelvey Plain were recovered from this feature.

FEATURE 2. A shallow, irregular oval refuse-filled pit 0.58 feet deep with a maximum width of 4.7 feet. A dark humic soil intermixed with shell, animal bone, and fire-cracked rock was the predominant fill material. Two sherds were recovered; one classified as McKelvey Plain and the other as Mulberry Creek Plain.

FEATURE 3. This feature appeared to be the base of a storage pit truncated by extensive erosion. Its depth at the time of excavation was 1.08 feet, with a maximum diameter of 5.18 feet. The humic fill was interspersed with pottery, flint debitage, shell, fragmented lanceolate points, and burned and unburned animal bone. Table 3 lists the pottery by type classification.

Table 3. Pottery from Feature 3, Ellis Site.

Type	Count
McKelvey Plain	83
Mulberry Creek Plain	60
O'Neal Plain	11
TOTAL	154

FEATURE 4. Feature 4 was a large refuse-filled erosion ditch running from east to west and formerly draining into the limestone sink. The fill consisted primarily of a humic sandy loam, with pottery, shell, bone (rodent, fish, deer, small mammal and turkey), fire-cracked rock, and miscellaneous chipped and ground stone. Figure 13 shows the feature after excavation, and Table 4 lists the recovered pottery.



Figure 13. Ellis Site, Ta'44. Feature 4, refuse-filled ditch.

Table 4. Pottery from Feature 4, Ellis Site.

Type	Count
McKelvey Plain	897
Clay-Grit Tempered Brushed	1
Mulberry Creek Plain	254
Prospect Red Filmed	2
Shell Tempered Plain	56
O'Neal Plain	21
Alexander Pinched	1
Columbus Punctated	1
Sauty Cord Impressed	3
TOTAL	1,236

FEATURE 5. This feature was a circular, slightly bell-shaped storage pit. The pit fill was made up primarily of a very dark humus intermixed with a small amount of pottery, shell, animal bone, and daub. Table 5 gives the pottery by type.

Table 5. Pottery from Feature 5, Ellis Site.

Type	Count
McKelvey Plain	27
Mulberry Creek Plain	56
O'Neal Plain	3
TOTAL	86

FEATURE 6. An extensively eroded kidney-shaped refuse-filled pit 0.7 feet deep. Cultural material in the fill consisted of pottery, a bone awl, a whetstone, and sandstone



Figure 14. Ellis Site, Ta'44. Features 6 and 7. Feature 7, unexcavated, is in the foreground and Feature 6 in the background.

pipe fragments. Figure 14, background, shows the feature after excavation of the fill material. Table 6 summarizes the pottery from this feature.

Table 6. Pottery from Feature 6, Ellis Site.

Type	Count
McKelvey Plain	426
Mulberry Creek Plain	15
Shell Tempered Plain	1
Laws Red Filmed	1
TOTAL	443

FEATURE 7. This feature, like Feature 6, appears to have been subjected to extensive erosion. Its maximum width was 8.0 feet, with a maximum depth of 1.2 feet. Fire-cracked rock and miscellaneous worked flint in addition to pottery, were recovered from the fill. Figure 14, foreground, shows Feature 7 before excavation, and Table 7 presents the recovered pottery.

Table 7. Pottery from Feature 7, Ellis Site.

Type	Count
McKelvey Plain	424
Mulberry Creek Plain	12
Shell Tempered Plain	5
O'Neal Plain	1
TOTAL	442

FEATURE 8. An irregular oval refuse-filled pit 1.2 feet deep, encountered 8.6 feet southeast of Feature 7. Cultural material in the fill consisted of pottery, one shell hoe, one bone awl, shell, animal bone, and a sand tempered pipe. Figure 15 shows Feature 8 after fill removal. The pottery from Feature 8 is given in Table 8.

Table 8. Pottery from Feature 8, Ellis Site.

Type	Count
McKelvey Plain	381
Mulberry Creek Plain	5
Shell Tempered Plain	1
Laws Red Filmed	1
TOTAL	388

FEATURE 9. This feature was identical to Feature 4, a refuse-filled gully, exhibiting a profusion of cultural material. The ditch contained pottery pipe fragments, end and side scrapers, triangular and small stemmed projectile points, animal bone, and shell. Figure 16 shows a segment of the Feature 9 erosion ditch. Table 9 gives the recovered pottery by type.



Figure 15. Ellis Site, Ta'44. Feature 8.

Table 9. Pottery from Feature 9, Ellis Site.

Type	Count
McKelvey Plain	1,787
Mulberry Creek Plain	20
Shell Tempered Plain	11
Fine Sand Tempered Plain	31
TOTAL	1,849

FEATURE 10. A small irregular oval refuse pit 0.7 feet deep with an average diameter of 2.9 feet. A comparatively small number of artifacts were removed from this feature. The most common items recovered from the fill were fire-cracked rock and deer bone. Table 10 lists the pottery.

Table 10. Pottery from Feature 10, Ellis Site.

Type	Count
McKelvey Plain	18
Mulberry Creek Plain	2
Shell Tempered Plain	3
TOTAL	23

FEATURE 11. A bell-shaped storage pit (Figure 17), extensively truncated by erosion, with only the basal 1.6 feet

remaining. The pit appeared to have been filled during several episodes, since it contained stratified layers of cultural material intermixed with ash and dark sandy humus. Sherds recovered from Feature 11 included 44 classified as McKelvey Plain and 18 as Mulberry Creek Plain, for a total of 62.

FEATURE 12. This feature was an elongated oval refuse-filled pit, 1.5 feet deep. The most noteworthy items within the fill, aside from ceramics, were numerous daub fragments and a burned mud dauber nest, the significance of which will be discussed presently. The pottery listing is given in Table 11.

Table 11. Pottery from Feature 12, Ellis Site.

Type	Count
McKelvey Plain	213
Clay-Grit Tempered	
Red Filmed	6
Mulberry Creek Plain	1
Sand Tempered Zoned Incised	
(Unidentified)	1
TOTAL	221

FEATURE 13. A refuse-filled erosion ditch 12 feet long and 0.9 feet deep. This feature, like Features 4 and 9, was not completely excavated. When an adequate sample of the included cultural material had been obtained, the excavation was terminated. Table 12 presents the recovered pottery. It is evident that all three of these midden-filled ditch-like features continued for some distance beyond the tested areas.



Figure 16. Ellis Site, Ta'44. Refuse-filled ditch, excavated segment.



Figure 17. Ellis Site, Ta'44. Feature 11.

Table 12. Pottery from Feature 13, Ellis Site.

Type	Count
McKelvey Plain	157
Mulberry Creek Plain	4
Fine Sand Tempered Plain	1
TOTAL	162

FEATURE 14. A small refuse-filled pit, roughly triangular in outline and 0.3 feet deep. Forty-two sherds of McKelvey Plain were recovered from the fill.

FEATURE 15. This feature was intrusive into Feature 16 which lay to the east. It was 1.8 feet deep, having a maximum diameter of 5.9 feet. A polished bone pin was removed from the homogeneous humic sand fill. A total of 171 sherds were recovered; 159 McKelvey Plain and 12



Figure 18. Ellis Site, Ta'44. Features 15 and 16. Feature 15 is in the background and Feature 16 is in the foreground.

Mulberry Creek Plain. The excavated Feature 15 is shown in Figure 18, background.

FEATURE 16. An irregular oval-shaped refuse-filled pit intruded by Feature 15, and visible in the foreground of Figure 18. One sherd classified as McKelvey Plain and 57 sherds of Mulberry Creek Plain were recovered.

FEATURE 17. This feature, rather than being a definitely constructed pit, appears instead to have been a shallow depression that accumulated debris. Burial 3 was intrusive into its southern edge. Recovered from Feature 17 were 17 sherds classed as McKelvey Plain and 22 sherds classed as Mulberry Creek Plain.

FEATURE 18. An oval, bell-shaped storage pit 4.88 feet deep and 4.0 feet in orifice diameter. There was a very distinct cleavage plane between the pit fill and the original pit walls. The diameter of the pit at base was 4.88 feet. The pit bottom was hard packed clay which had a lustrous appearance. Approximately in the center of the pit bottom was a



Figure 19. Ellis Site, Ta'44. Feature 18, a bell-shaped storage pit.

fire-hardened area 1.8 feet in diameter, and with it a small concentration of shelled corn. Figure 19 shows this storage pit, while Table 13 presents the pottery recovered from the fill.

Table 13. Pottery from Feature 18, Ellis Site.

Type	Count
McKelvey Plain	107
Mulberry Creek Plain	9
Shell Tempered Plain	6
Fine Sand Tempered Plain	2
TOTAL	124

FEATURE 19. A small oval pit 1.0 feet deep and 2.5 feet in diameter. Very little cultural material was included in the fill. Of eight potsherds recovered, seven were classed as McKelvey Plain and one as Mulberry Creek Plain.

Burials

Three burials were encountered at the Ellis site. Of these, two were within the post mold pattern to be described in the next section. The third was adjacent to the pattern on the northeast side.

BURIAL 1. This burial lay in a shallow oval pit 5.60 feet in maximum diameter and 1.15 feet deep. The right half of the pelvis and the proximal end of the right femur were missing. This disturbance is evidently the result of plowing, which also appears to have removed a substantial



Figure 20. Ellis Site, Ta'44. Burial 1. Note nutting stone near skull.

portion of the overlying pit fill. The individual interred was fully flexed, positioned on the left side with the skull oriented to the east. There was only one accompanying artifact, a small circular nutting stone behind the skull. The remains appeared to be that of a young adult male.

Within the Burial 1 pit fill were one splinter awl, one end scraper, one triangular projectile point, and a quantity of unmodified shell and animal bone. Figure 20 shows Burial 1 after excavation. Table 14 lists the recovered pottery from the pit fill.

Table 14. Pottery from Burial 1 Pit Fill, Ellis Site.

Type	Count
McKelvey Plain	67
Mulberry Creek Plain	3
Fine Sand Tempered Plain	3
TOTAL	73



Figure 21. Ellis Site, Ta'44. Burial 2.

BURIAL 2. This was an adult male interred fully flexed in a refuse-filled pit. The pit measured 4.5 feet in maximum diameter and was 1.28 feet in depth. This burial was so disturbed that it appeared at first encounter to be a bundle reburial. However, after excavation it was evident that the remains had been plowed through and that this plowing had destroyed the skull, pelvis and rib cage. The only cultural material found with Burial 2 was that which was intermixed with pit fill. This consisted of eight sherds classed as McKelvey Plain. Burial 2 is shown in Figure 21 after excavation of pit fill.

BURIAL 3. This burial was very poorly preserved. It was the remains of an adult female placed on the right side in a shallow pit. The skull was oriented to the east. The entire left side of the burial had been plowed through and the bones from this area were missing. The burial appeared to have been a fully flexed interment, with the knees pulled



Figure 22. Ellis Site, Ta'44. Burial 3.



Figure 23. Ellis Site, Ta'44. Area of circular post hole patterns.

well up against the chest area. A most interesting feature was that the right side of the skull exhibited a small drilled hole. This was possibly the result of trephining, an instance of primitive surgery. The drill hole showed no evidence of healing and may have been made either just prior to death, or postmortem. Two sherds classified as McKelvey Plain were recovered from the Burial 3 pit fill. Figure 22 shows the excavated Burial 3.

Houses

Structural remains were, on the whole, sparse for the site. Over much of the site evidence of houses was limited to daub fragments and mud dauber nests recovered from the numerous refuse-filled pits, ditches, and depressions. The only discernible structural remains were in the area of Burials 2 and 3. These scattered remains suggest post mold patterns for two circular houses, with Feature 17 being the central refuse area for one of the structures. These houses are, however, somewhat irregular and are to that degree conjectural. Structural remains for the Ellis site are shown in Figure 23.

Pottery

Analysis of the Ellis site collections resulted in the identification of 15 pottery types. With few exceptions, these types held rather closely to the definition of types previously defined for the Tennessee Valley. Because it is evident that the pottery falls into two distinct groups reflecting separate occupations of the site, the two groups are tabulated separately. Table 15 summarizes the frequencies by type and ware grouping of the Transitional Woodland-Mississippian site component, whereas Table 16 summarizes that of the Early Woodland component.

The most abundant category at the Ellis site was the clay-grit tempered McKelvey Plain type (87.62 percent), having straight, vertical, or often flaring rims (Figure 24).

Table 15. Summary of Pottery Type Frequencies from the Ellis Site, Transitional Woodland-Mississippian Component.

Type	Number of Sherds	Percentage by Type	Total by Temper	Percentage by Temper
CLAY-GRIT TEMPERED SERIES				
McKelvey Plain	4,871	87.62	4,878	87.75
Clay-Grit Tempered Red Filmed	6	0.11		
Clay-Grit Tempered Brushed	1	0.02		
LIMESTONE TEMPERED SERIES			554	9.97
Mulberry Creek Plain	552	9.93		
Prospect Red Filmed	2	0.04		
SHELL TEMPERED SERIES				
Shell Tempered Plain	83	1.49	83	1.49
SAND TEMPERED SERIES			44	0.79
Fine Sand Tempered Plain	37	0.67		
Sauty Cord Impressed	3	0.05		
Sauty Check Stamped	1	0.02		
Laws Red Filmed	2	0.04		
Sand Tempered Zoned Incised (Unclassified)	1	0.02		
TOTAL	5,559	100.00		100.00



Figure 24. Ellis Site, Ta'44. McKelvey Plain pottery.

The lip treatment was usually rounded, although examples of flattened and extruded lips were also noted. The exterior surface of this pottery, though considered plain, often exhibits striated scraping or tooling marks. Two other clay-grit tempered pottery types were identified from the Ellis site. Because they are represented by only one sherd each, it is possible that they constitute trade ware. One is an example of a clay-grit tempered brushed ware, while the other is clay-grit tempered and red filmed.

The second most abundant pottery type at the Ellis site was Mulberry Creek Plain (9.93 percent). This limestone tempered type varies little in most characteristics from the accompanying clay-grit tempered plain ware (Figure 25).

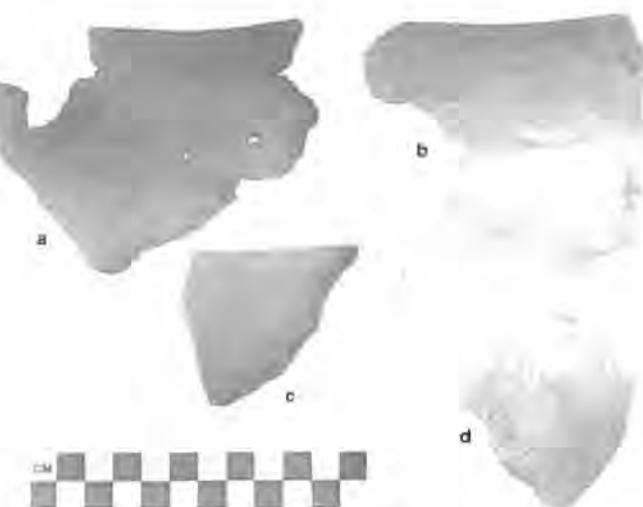


Figure 25. Ellis Site, Ta'44. Pottery types. a, b, McKelvey Plain; c, Mulberry Creek Plain; d, shell tempered red filmed, fragment of hooded bottle.

c). One specimen classified as Prospect Red Filmed was also noted in the limestone tempered ware group.

The remainder of the pottery from the site consisted of Shell Tempered Plain¹² (1.49 percent), and the following sand or grit tempered types: (a) Fine Sand Tempered Plain, (b) O'Neal Plain, (c) Alexander Incised, (d) Alexander Pinched, (e) Columbus Punctated, (f) Sauty Cord Impressed, (g) Sauty Check Stamped, (h) Laws Red Filmed, and (i) an unidentified incised sherd. Among the latter minority types, Sauty Cord Impressed, Sauty Check Stamped, and Laws Red Filmed are to be considered contemporaneous with the primary occupation. O'Neal Plain, Alexander Incised, Alexander Pinched, and Columbus Punctated obviously represent an earlier Woodland site component, although these sherds were indiscriminately mixed in with the later contexts.

The single specimens classified as Alexander Incised and Sauty Check Stamped were recovered from general digging and are therefore not listed among the feature tabulations.

Table 16. Summary of Pottery Type Frequencies from the Ellis Site, Early Woodland Component.

Type	Number of Sherds	Percentage by Type	Total by Temper	Percentage by Temper
SAND/GRIT TEMPERED TYPES				
O'Neal Plain	36	92.31	39	100.00
Alexander Incised	1	2.56		
Alexander Pinched	1	2.56		
Columbus Punctated	1	2.56		
TOTAL	39	100.00		100.00

Stone Tools

Artifacts of ground and chipped stone from the Ellis site are consistent with the dominant pottery assemblage. The most abundant type of ground stone artifact was the polished greenstone celt (Figure 26, k). The predominant type of projectile point encountered was the very small Hamilton point (Figure 26, h).

Bone and Shell Tools

A variety of bone and antler implements were recovered from various contexts. Deer ulna awls were the most common artifact class. Also found were splinter awls, antler chipping tools, and one polished bone pin. Large perforated mussel shells are interpreted as small hoes (Figure 27, g-i).

Pipes

The only ceramic artifacts aside from vessel fragments were a variety of tobacco pipe fragments containing sand temper. These consisted primarily of stem sections (Figure 26, a-d), but several more complete examples show that an elbow type and a platform type were present. All of these examples were included within refuse-filled contexts.

Conclusions

The majority of the Ellis site has been subjected to such extensive sheet erosion that a significant proportion of the subsurface cultural contexts has been truncated or removed. The surviving refuse-filled contexts, with the exception of the house area, which is in a low place, represent only the bases of the original pits and midden areas. This erosion explains the complete absence of post molds in the higher areas. The recovery of daub fragments and mud dauber nests in many of the refuse pits indicates that the pits were either within or adjacent to a structure.

The position of the Ellis site adjacent to one side of a limestone sink would indicate that the sink provided a source of water, an abundant supply of workable flint, and a supply of limestone for use as ceramic tempering.

The predominance of clay-grit tempered plain pottery leads this researcher to the conclusion that the Ellis site falls chronologically within Late Woodland times, with the possibility of overlapping into the Early Mississippian, as suggested by a minority of shell tempered ware in the same contexts. The limestone tempered ware is characteristic of Woodland culture in the Tennessee Valley and suggests frequent contacts in that direction.

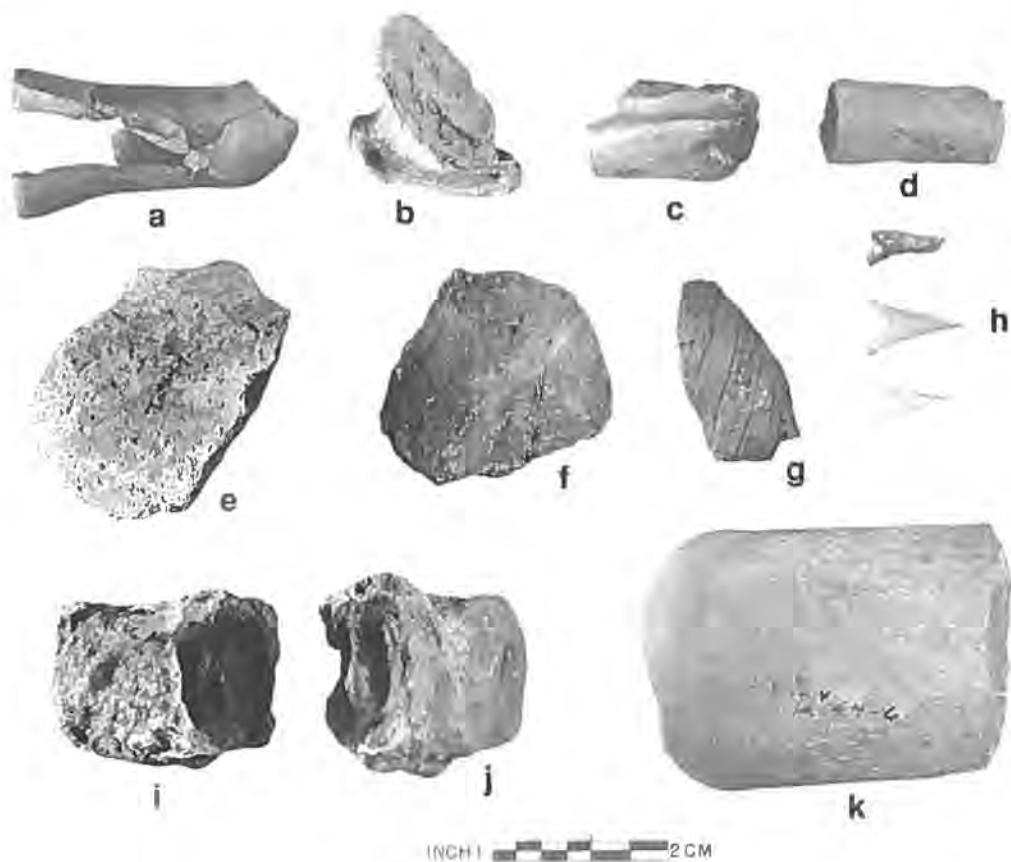
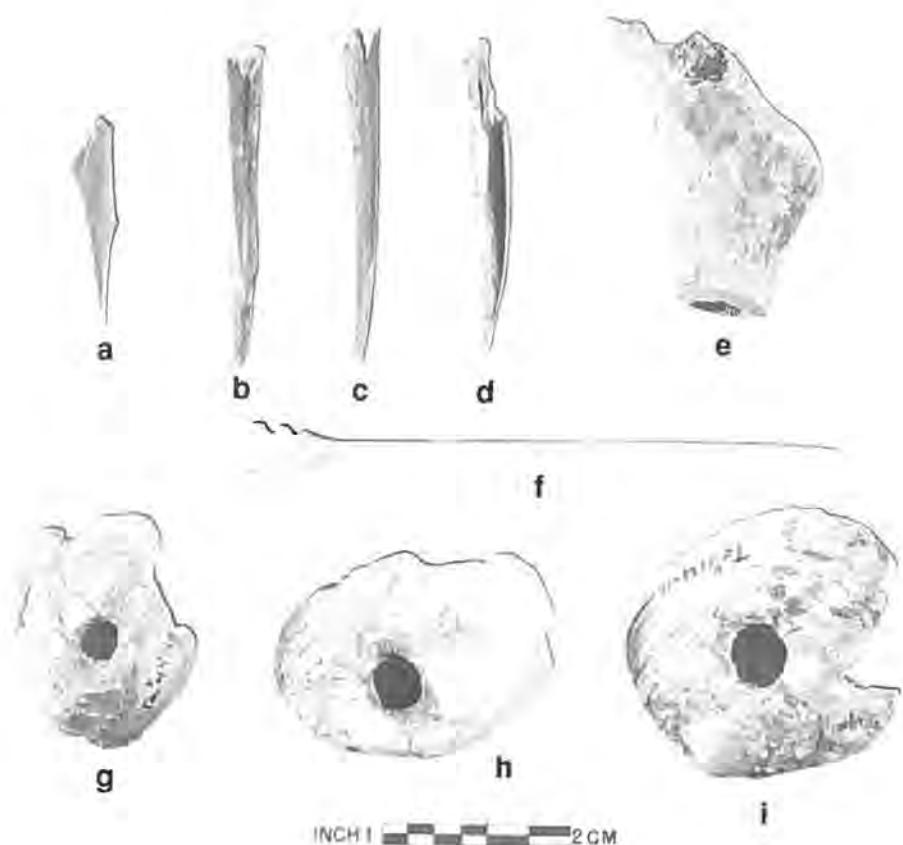


Figure 26. Ellis Site, Ta'44. Miscellaneous artifacts. a-d, fine sand tempered pipe fragments; e, shell tempered red filmed; f, clay-grit tempered brushed; g, clay-grit tempered zone punctated; h, Hamilton points; i, j, mud dauber nests; k, greenstone celt.

Figure 27. Ellis Site, Ta'44, Bone, stone, and antler artifacts. a-d, bone awls; e, antler handle; f, bone pin; g-i, perforated mussel shell "hoes."



The Dye Creek Site Sc'31

The Dye Creek site is located 1,000 yards downriver from the mouth of Dye Creek in St. Clair County. It is positioned on a slight slope on the floodplain approximately 200 yards from the west bank of the Coosa River. There is a striking cultural similarity between the Dye Creek site and the Ellis site, previously described, on the east bank of the Coosa River downstream about two miles. In view of the ceramic similarity, it appears especially notable that the sites are in such close proximity to each other.

Field research conducted at the Dye Creek site took the form of a single exploratory trench set up parallel to the river and extending 75 feet. The amount of erosion evident at the Dye Creek site was generally comparable to that at the Ellis site (Ta'44). The Dye Creek site, however, appears not to have been subjected to sheet erosion for as prolonged a period as Ellis. The plow zone appeared as a humic sandy clay loam resting on undisturbed reddish-yellow clay subsoil.

Cultural Features

Four cultural features were excavated at the Dye Creek site. Feature 1 was a refuse-filled erosion ditch trending toward the river, similar to those previously encountered

at the Ellis site. Figure 28 is a cross section of this feature. Feature 2 was an irregular oval refuse-filled pit 0.6 feet deep, identical to the irregular pits at Ellis. Feature 3 and Feature 4 were both relatively deep bell-shaped storage pits, 6.25 feet deep and 4.05 feet deep respectively. In Feature 3, the lower three feet of fill exhibited clearly stratified layers of shell, bone, and sherds alternating with dark, highly organic sandy silt.

Pottery

The predominant pottery type at the Dye Creek site was the clay-grit tempered type McKelvey Plain (83.13 percent,

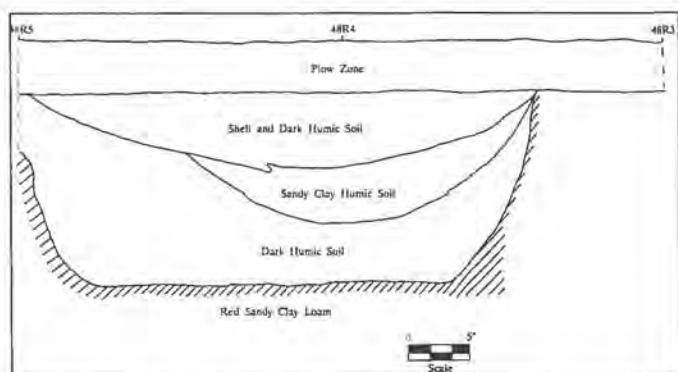


Figure 28. Dye Creek Site, Sc'31. Feature 1, profile.

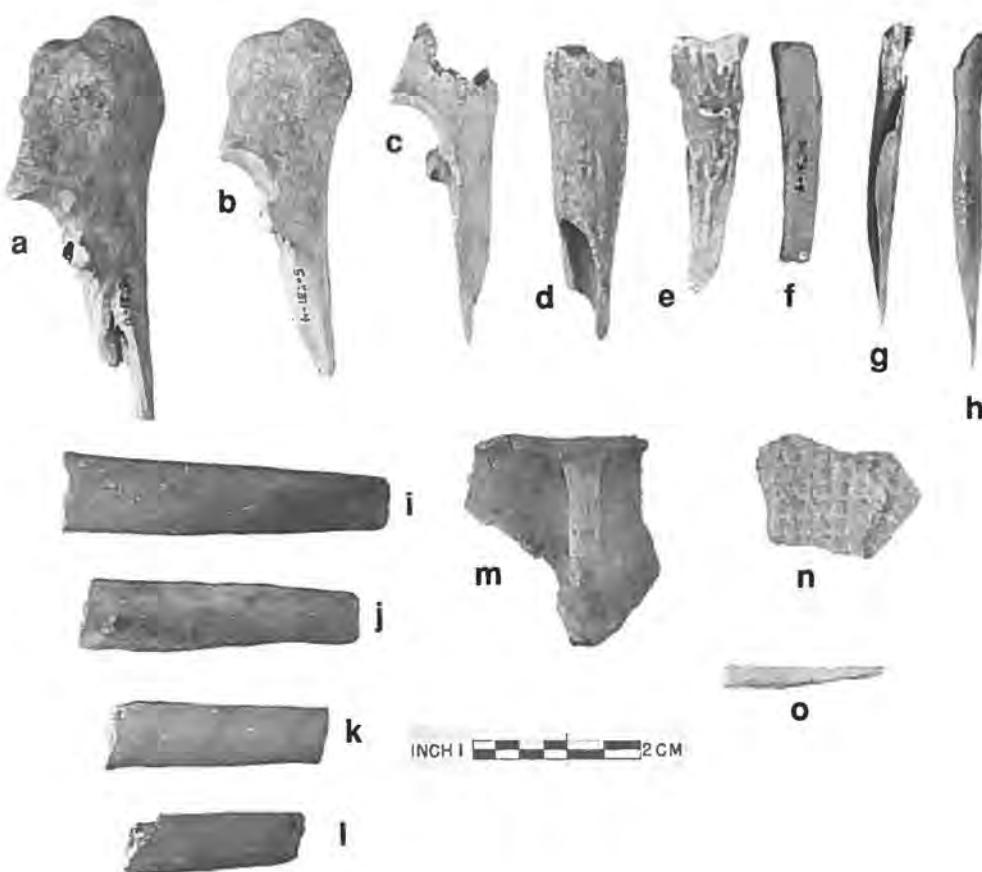


Figure 29. Dye Creek Site, Sc'31. Miscellaneous artifacts. a-d, f-h, bone awls; e, antler tine flaker; i-l, fine sand tempered pipe stems; m, shell tempered plain; n, Sauty Check Stamped; o, drill bit.

Table 17. Pottery from Features, Dye Creek Site.

Type	Feature 1	Feature 2	Feature 3	Feature 4	TOTAL
CLAY-GRIT TEMPERED					
McKelvey Plain	—	8	387	167	562
Wheeler Check Stamped	1	—	—	—	1
LIMESTONE TEMPERED					
Mulberry Creek Plain	—	—	14	—	14
SHELL TEMPERED					
Shell Tempered Plain	132	1	58	31	222
McKee Island Incised	1	—	—	—	1
SAND TEMPERED					
O'Neal Plain	1	—	6	—	7
Sauty Check Stamped	—	—	4	—	4
TOTAL	135	9	469	198	811

ignoring the somewhat anomalous pottery counts from Feature 1). Shell tempered plain was the second most frequent (13.31 percent from Features 2, 3, and 4). Here Mulberry Creek Plain could almost be considered a minority type. O'Neal Plain, Sauty Check Stamped, McKee Island Incised, and Wheeler Check Stamped were represented by even lower frequencies. All of the above-mentioned pottery types held closely to their original type descriptions (Heimlich 1952). A tabulation by features is presented in Table 17.

Non-Ceramic Artifacts

The non-ceramic artifact inventory at the Dye Creek site is in most respects comparable to that of the Ellis site (Ta^v44). Although the artifact sample from Sc^v31 is markedly smaller, the resemblance is nonetheless pronounced. Polished greenstone celts, polishing pebbles, triangular projectile points, an array of bone implements, and fine sand tempered tobacco pipe fragments, all characteristic of the Ellis site, are also present at the Dye Creek site (Figure 29).

Conclusions

Except for the contents of Feature 1, a refuse-filled erosion ditch which appears to belong to a later occupation, the Dye Creek site closely resembles the nearby Ellis site. However, differences do appear when the sherd frequencies of each site are compared. The fact that McKelvey Plain appears at both sites within the 80 percent range clearly indicates a cultural preference for this type during both occupations. However, the relatively stronger showing of shell tempered sherds from the Dye Creek site would suggest a stronger Mississippian association. Since the Ellis site is considered to be transitional Late Woodland—Early Mississippian, the Dye Creek site would indicate a slightly later occupation of the same culture, reflecting the growing popularity of shell as a tempering material. Because the most prevalent pottery types in the Middle Coosa Valley and Logan Martin Basin seem to hold closely to types originally defined for the Tennessee Valley, it may be safe to assume that the introduction of shell tempering was also from the north.

The Clear Creek Site Ta^v90 and Ta^v90x1

The Clear Creek site lies on a broad plain on the east bank of the Coosa River just south of the mouth of Clear Creek. The site as evidenced by surface artifacts runs parallel to the creek for a length of 200 feet and has a maximum width of 75 feet. Most of the site had been disturbed by bulldozer during the clearing of timber and brush from within the basin. Figure 30 is a general view of the site area.

The originally recorded Site Ta^v90 was subdivided into



Figure 30. Clear Creek Site, Ta^v90 and Ta^v90x1. View of site area.

Ta^v90 and Ta^v90x1, since one portion appeared to have been subjected to considerably less erosion than the remainder.

Site Ta^v90 had been deeply cut into by bulldozers, leaving roots and limbs protruding from the surface. It was estimated that approximately 1.5 feet of the overlying soil had been removed, since shell- and bone-filled pits were visible and their fill often scattered. The portion labeled Ta^v90x1 had been less disturbed and appeared to have been less eroded. This, however, proved to be an illusion. The apparent difference was due to sedimentation over much of Ta^v90x1 which covered an old eroded occupation level.

There were no major differences between the subdivided sites—no stratification or separation by cultural components. For this reason Ta^v90 and Ta^v90x1 will be treated as a single unit in the following descriptions.

A general view of the excavations is given in Figure 31.



Figure 31. Clear Creek Site, Ta^v90. View of excavations.

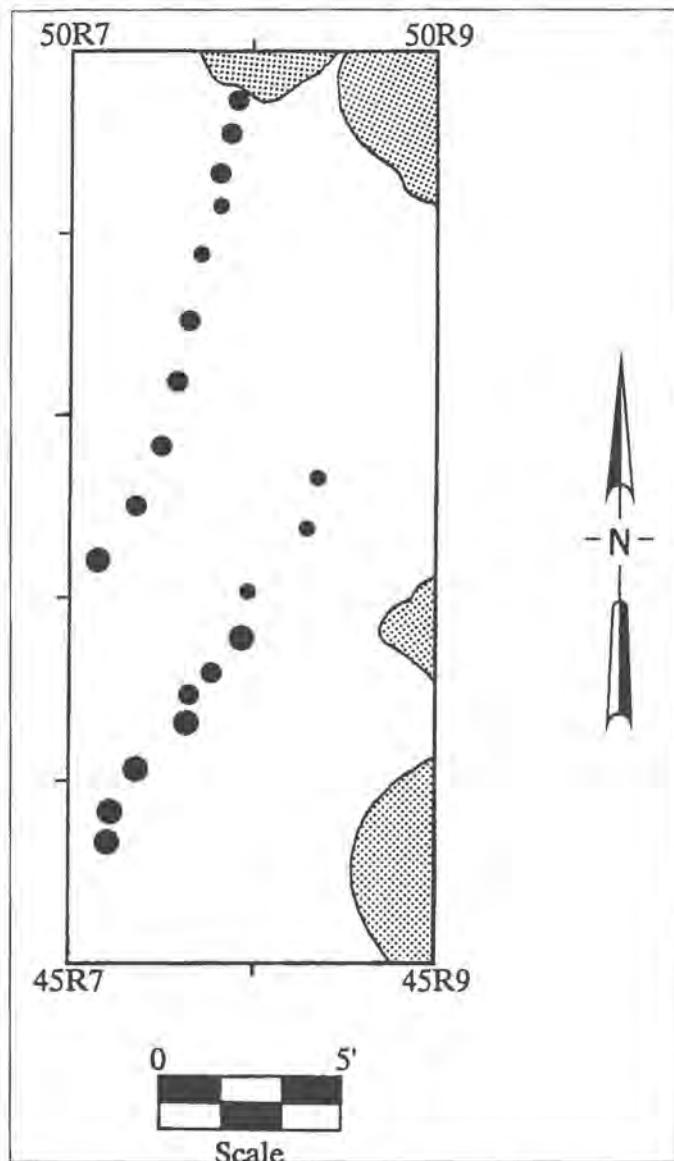


Figure 32. Clear Creek Site, Ta'90x1. Plan of excavation showing post mold alignments and adjacent midden areas.

Features

Five features were encountered at the site. Four were small oval refuse-filled pits and the fifth was an elongated refuse-filled erosion ditch. An alignment of 20 shallow post molds was also encountered at Ta'90x1 (Figure 32). This alignment was at first believed to represent a portion of a palisade. This seems, however, not to be the case, since the spacing of the posts is considerably greater than is normal for such palisades. Because of the large quantities of refuse in this general area, it is much more probable that this incomplete pattern is that of a house or a section of two houses.

Pottery

The ceramics from the Clear Creek site (Figures 33, 34)

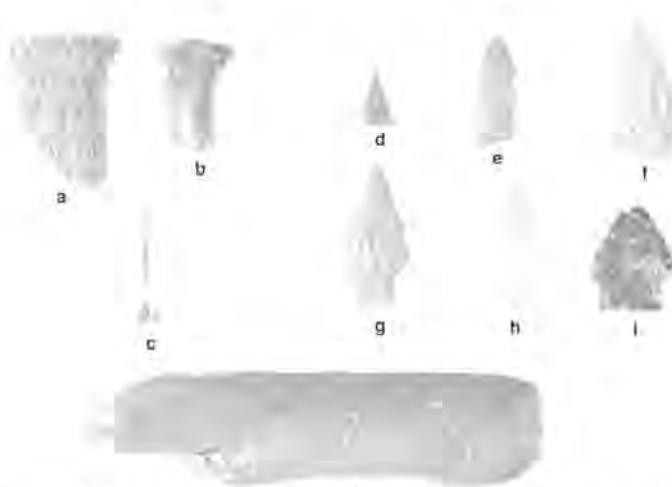


Figure 33. Clear Creek Site, Ta'90. Miscellaneous artifacts. a, b, clay-grit tempered pottery handles; c, catfish pectoral spine; d-i, projectile points and bifaces; j, natural phallic-shaped stone.

closely resemble those from the Ellis site (Ta'44) and the Dye Creek site (Sc'31). This resemblance can be seen in both the types present and their relative frequencies. The predominance of McKelvey Plain and the sparse occurrence of shell tempered plain suggest a transitional Late Woodland—Early Mississippian manifestation. The only ceramic types that appear to be somewhat anomalous at the Clear Creek site are a single sherd of Long Branch Fabric Marked and one of Sauty Check Stamped, both earlier Woodland period markers. The type Long Branch Fabric Marked appears only very sparingly within the Logan Martin Basin. A tabulation by type from Sites Ta'90 and Ta'90x1 with their respective frequencies is given in Table 18.

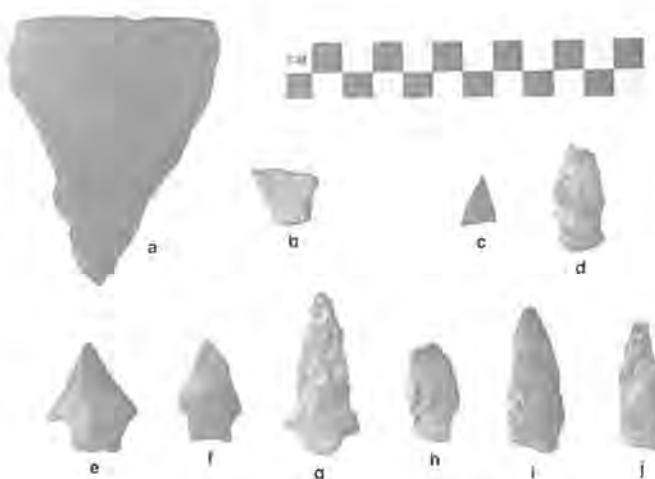


Figure 34. Clear Creek Site, Ta'90x1. Miscellaneous artifacts. a, McKelvey Plain; b, Kirby Incised; c, Madison point; d-j, stemmed and lanceolate points.

Table 18. Summary of Pottery Type Frequencies from the Clear Creek Site.

Type	Number of Sherds, Ta'90	Number of Sherds, Ta'90x1	Percentage by Type	Total by Temper	Percentage by Temper
CLAY-GRIT TEMPERED					
McKelvey Plain	823	251	87.46	1,076	87.62
Kirby Incised	1	1	0.16		
LIMESTONE TEMPERED					
Mulberry Creek Plain	82	—	6.68	83	6.76
Long Branch Fabric Marked	1	—	0.08		
SHELL TEMPERED					
Shell Tempered Plain	6	—	0.49	6	0.49
SAND TEMPERED					
O'Neal Plain	35	27	5.05	63	5.13
Sauty Check Stamped	1	—	0.08		
TOTAL	949	279	100.00	1,228	100.00

Non-Ceramic Artifacts

The projectile point inventory from the Clear Creek site (Figures 33, 34) consisted of two points classified as Hamilton, one as Madison, 12 lanceolate points, and eight small stemmed Coosa-like points. The lanceolate and stemmed points probably belong to the earlier Woodland occupation of the site. An assortment of side and end scrapers, fragmented greenstone celts, steatite bowl sherds, tobacco pipe stem fragments, polishing pebbles, a large biconcave discoidal (Figure 35), and an elongated natural water-worn pebble resembling a phallus complete the non-ceramic inventory.

Conclusions

The main cultural manifestation at the Clear Creek site is a small, badly disturbed transitional Late Woodland—Early Mississippian occupation. The placement of the site at the juncture of the spring-fed Clear Creek and the Coosa River just below a shoal area is environmentally ideal both for subsistence activities and for transportation. The Clear Creek site is believed to be roughly contemporaneous with both the Ellis site (Ta'44) and the Dye Creek site (Sc'31). These three sites are noteworthy not only in view of their cultural similarities, but also because their settlement situations are almost identical.

The Kelly Site Ta'37

The Kelly site (Ta'37) is located one half mile upstream from Lock 5 on the east bank of the Coosa River in Talladega County, Alabama. It is a moderately large village site which runs along the crest of a flood plain ridge.

Initial excavations consisted of an exploratory five-foot wide trench running 150 feet perpendicular to the Coosa River. Throughout the first level (0"–6") aboriginal material was present, but beginning at 6" to 12" below surface a sterile red clay was encountered.

The trench was expanded to follow the outline of a large stain that appeared to be a pit outline. This was designated Feature 1. The fill was silty and humic, intermixed with charcoal, flint, and potsherds. Also present were numerous fire-cracked rocks. Cultural material continued to a depth of 1.8' below surface, below which there was only charred wood and bark. The base of the feature was reached at a depth of 12.3' below surface. Feature 1 was finally determined to be a very large tree fall.



Figure 35. Fragment of biconcave discoidal.

The test excavations yielded three sherds of McKelvey Plain and two stemmed projectile points. The absence of burials or features and the appearance of the topography indicated that extensive sheet erosion had occurred and removed most or all original cultural deposit, leaving only remnants within the plow zone. The site was so eroded that farming had ceased to be profitable. Little conclusive can be said concerning the Kelly site, except that it is possibly related to the predominantly McKelvey Ellis site (Ta^v44) located two miles downriver.

The Ogletree Island Site Ta^v107¹³

Ogletree Island appears as an elongated triangle of land at the mouth of Choccolocco Creek in the Coosa River. The initial survey of the basin failed to locate Site Ta^v107 because of a very thick growth of weeds throughout the cleared portion of the island. By the fall of 1961 it was possible to surface collect the majority of the island and to locate one site of aboriginal occupation (Ta^v107). The island itself shows evidence of once being a portion of the east bank of the river, with Choccolocco Creek flowing through what is now the middle of the island. This supposition is supported by the presence of a silt-filled channel extending across the island. Considering this to have been the situation, the Ogletree Island site during its occupancy would have been located slightly south of the mouth of Choccolocco Creek at its junction with the Coosa River.

The initial test excavation was begun in 1961 in an area of a surface daub concentration, with exploratory trenches radiating outward from this. This initial excavation revealed the remains of a burned house floor and post pattern at a depth of 0.6 feet below surface. A crew returned to the site during the summer of 1962, and further excavations revealed a second aboriginal structure.¹⁴

Features

The recognition of definite cultural features was made quite difficult because of the dark sandy silt soil. The plow zone was gray to brown sand, with underlying alluvium extending to a yellow clay subsoil base. It was possible to locate pit outlines and post molds only when there was considerable charcoal included in their fill.

The exploratory trenches extending from the original test square revealed only scattered root and stump molds. The initial excavation exposed a central fire basin, an incomplete post mold pattern, and the adjacent refuse area of an aboriginal structure.

The structure¹⁵ appears to have been a rectangular building about 20 feet by 15 feet in diameter, with a central prepared clay fire basin 0.6 feet in depth. From the northeastern edge of the fire basin an area of undisturbed packed clay floor extended approximately 6 feet beyond.

The remainder of the house floor had been disturbed and mostly destroyed by plowing. An irregular oval refuse-filled pit rests inside the structure and suggests a possible borrow area for clay during house construction or repair. No additional cultural features or structures were encountered in spite of a concerted effort by means of the exploratory trenches.

Pottery

The predominant ceramic tempering material used at the Ogletree Island site was crushed shell (55.86 percent). The remainder of the sample exhibited medium to coarse sand temper, with the exception of one limestone tempered Mulberry Creek Plain sherd and one clay-grit tempered McKelvey Plain sherd. In nearly all cases the shell tempered sherds were leached out. In general, the paste for the shell tempered types is identical to that described by Heimlich (1952) for domestic ware in the Tennessee Valley. Moundville Incised was the most common decorated type (1.03 percent) with a small quantity (0.35 percent) of Moundville Red Filmed sherds also occurring.¹⁶ The Sand Tempered Plain sherds (31.64 percent) exhibited Lamar paste, and were accompanied by a single sherd of Lamar Bold Incised. Chattahoochee Brushed, McKelvey Plain, and Mulberry Creek Plain all occurred as minority types.

Other Aboriginal Artifacts

A small sample of other aboriginally manufactured material was recovered from the house debris area. The only diagnostic non-ceramic items noted were three Hamilton points and two stemmed lanceolate projectile points. Two shell tempered black barrel beads were also found in the refuse area. These beads on first examination appeared to be glass. It was noted, however, that the weight was too light for glass and that the polished surface was somewhat porous. A small fracture in one bead revealed the interior and the laminated leached shell structure.

European Artifacts

The artifact inventory of European items is quite small, as would be expected on an early historic level. A small number of iron items were located in the house area, all of which were unidentifiable except for one small square wrought nail. The only other European item, and possibly the most important artifact from the entire site, was one glass trade bead. This bead was recovered from the floor of the house and was found between a rim sherd and the packed clay floor. Regarding this bead Dr. John Goggin, at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference held in Macon, Georgia in 1961, identified the specimen as a Nueva Cadiz Twisted type, of Spanish origin. Dr. Goggin assigns a date of 1540-1570 for this type.¹⁷

Conclusions

The artifact sample recovered from the Ogletree Island site is admittedly small if the site were to be interpreted as a substantial aboriginal community. The sample, however, if viewed as the product of a single excavated house, does not appear excessively small. Since the excavated area is situated on the highest point of the island, it is possible that all other remains of a once larger settlement were destroyed by river flooding. The writer observed that the highest point of the winter flooding of the Coosa River in 1962 completely covered Ogletree Island. It appears entirely conceivable, then, that the cultural remains excavated at the Ogletree Island site represent the only remaining aboriginal dwelling, left isolated and surrounded by sterile river silt, that survived repeated river flooding and creek flooding.

The interesting association of Alabama shell tempered material with Georgia Lamar pottery seems to be of particular significance in the light of the associated datable trade bead. Dr. Goggin feels, as do I, that the bead from the Ogletree Island site is undoubtedly an item left by the De Soto Expedition in 1540. The Nueva Cadiz Twisted type has been found in post-conquest Inca burials and is known to have been traded in Mexico during 1560–1570. The only source by which this bead could have been brought to the Coosa River area would have been the De Soto expedition when it passed nearby in the year 1540. The possibility that this item was an heirloom and was lost by the owner many years after its original acquisition has not been ruled out. It seems, however, that if this were the case, the ceramic frequencies would tend to reflect the later historic Ocmulgee Fields—McKee Island type rather than an admixture of Decline Mississippian and Lamar.

The Ogletree Island site is thus interpreted as a De Soto contact site of the 1540 period, though it does not conform to any of the major town sites described by the De Soto narratives along his hypothesized route through this area.¹⁸ It is conceivable that Site Ta^v107 was a small fishing community located at a shoal area on the river adjacent to the mouth of Choccolocco Creek. A community of this small size might not have been considered important by the De Soto chroniclers and thus would not be mentioned.

The Enfinger Site Ta^v57, Ta^v57x1, and Ta^v57x2

The Enfinger site is located on the east bank of the Coosa River 100 yards south of the mouth of Poorhouse Branch in Talladega County. The site extends for approximately one-eighth of a mile and is approximately 200 feet in width. The long axis is parallel to the river and is cut by numerous erosion ditches. The original Site Ta^v57 as recorded during the surface survey was subdivided into units Ta^v57, Ta^v57x1, and Ta^v57x2. This subdivision was done in an effort to isolate three separate test excavations dug some 150 yards apart. It was obvious from the surface

that extensive erosion had occurred on the site and this was further substantiated upon completion of the three test pits.

Unit Ta^v57

The test excavation at Ta^v57 consisted of an L-shaped exploratory trench 5 feet wide, the two arms being 35 and 30 feet long respectively. At the time of excavation it was in a hay field. The unit contained cultural material only within the plow zone. This material included chipped greenstone, one shell tempered plain sherd, and three lanceolate projectile points.

Unit Ta^v57x1

The Ta^v57x1 excavations were conducted in a wooded area, which consequently had been subjected to sheet erosion to a lesser degree than the adjacent cultivated fields. Two perpendicular test trenches 5 feet wide were excavated, forming a cross. The trench perpendicular to the river was 55 feet long. The one parallel to the river was 65 feet long, crossing an eroded ditch running to the river. These trenches were carried to a depth of 1.5 feet. At 1.5 feet below the surface, sterile red clay was encountered. Within the tested area no features or other aboriginal evidences were noted. There was, however, a considerable amount of cultural material recovered from such a small test area.

Pottery from Unit Ta^v57x1

The ceramic collection (Table 19) was dominated by a coarse grit tempered plainware (62 percent)¹⁹ and shell

Table 19. Relative Pottery Type Frequencies from Unit Ta^v57x1, the Enfinger Site*.

Type	Percentage by Type	Percentage by Temper
SHELL TEMPERED		31.96
Shell Tempered Plain	25.77	
McKee Island Incised	3.09	
McKee Island Brushed	2.06	
Shell & Grit Tempered Plain	1.03	
GRIT OR SAND TEMPERED		64.95
Coarse Grit Tempered (Lamar) Plain	63.92	
Fine Sand Tempered Plain	1.03	
CLAY-GRIT TEMPERED		2.06
McKelvey Plain	2.06	
LIMESTONE TEMPERED		1.03
Mulberry Creek Plain	1.03	
TOTAL	100.00	100.00

* Sherd counts are not available.



Figure 36. Enfinger Site, Ta'57x1. Miscellaneous stemmed and lanceolate points.

tempered plainware (27.5 percent). The predominant decorated types were McKee Island Incised and McKee Island Brushed. Occurring as minority types were sand tempered plain, combination fine shell and coarse grit tempered plain, McKelvey Plain, and Mulberry Creek Plain.²⁰

Non-Ceramic Artifacts from Ta'57x1

The most remarkable non-ceramic artifacts from this locality were 41 concave-based lanceolate points. This form appears to be the predominant type for the entire site (as evidenced also in the survey surface collections). All of these were manufactured from gray sugar quartz. Also encountered were two triangular Hamilton points and various stemmed projectile points (Figure 36).

Unit Ta'57x2

Test excavations at Ta'57X2 consisted of a single trench five feet wide and 35 feet long, running parallel to the Coosa River. This trench yielded little cultural material save a single lanceolate projectile point. Sterile red clay lay 0.7 feet below the surface.

Conclusions

Site Ta'57 has been all but totally disturbed by repeated erosion. The cultural material recovered from within the Ta'57x1 excavations represents the redeposition of an eroded cultural matrix. It appears that all aboriginal features have been completely destroyed. The cultural material represents a Late Mississippian occupation.²¹ Ceramically, there seems to have been a blending of the Northern Alabama McKee Island series with the Georgia Lamar—Ocmulgee Fields tradition. Conceivably this could have been a historic site although no European

material was recovered. The sparse occurrence of potentially Woodland—Early Mississippian types possibly represents a light earlier occupation.

The Floyd Site Ta'69

The Floyd site is situated one-quarter mile south of Stemley Bridge on the Coosa River in Talladega County. The area of surface artifact occurrence is about 100 yards long by 25 yards wide. At the time of the survey the site had been subjected to extensive erosion. It had been completely inundated during the winter flooding of the Coosa River in 1961. A test excavation at the south end of the site and along a floodplain ridge, consisting of a 5 by 25 foot trench, was excavated in 6-inch levels. The trench was extended laterally when humic areas were encountered. Sterile red clay was met at the 4.0' level. Six stains in the excavation were found to be root molds. The testing yielded no ceramics and only a small amount of flint material. The only diagnostic artifacts were a small stemmed projectile point and a sugar quartz lanceolate point base. However, an extensive surface survey of the site yielded approximately 250 projectile points, numerous side scrapers and other flint tools.

The occupation levels of the Floyd site appear to have been eroded so thoroughly that the bulk of the cultural remains have been disturbed.

The Rushing Spring Site Ta'105

The Rushing Spring site is located in a large meander of Choctawhatchee Creek, Talladega County, just above the Rushing Springs picnic area. Due to the cultivation of soybeans on this property during the 1961 field season, excavation was initially limited to areas adjacent to the fields. A 75-foot exploratory trench was dug from the creek bluff to the edge of the field paralleling the creek. The trench, excavated in 6-inch levels, showed a sandy humic soil to a depth of 1.0 feet. Below this, to a depth of 2.0 feet, a sandy clay loam soil was encountered. A single definite post hole was found in this excavation. A perpendicular 30-foot trench was subsequently excavated along the edge of the field paralleling the creek. These trenches revealed that the site had been extensively eroded by high water crosscutting the meander and flooding across the occupation area. A few diagnostic artifacts were found in the trench excavations including a single sherd of a steatite vessel and various stemmed projectile points.

Upon obtaining permission to dig within the cultivated field, further test trenches were excavated at a distance from the first ones, to the southeast. Excavations were begun adjacent to a surface concentration of flint and pottery. A 35-foot trench was oriented east-west, perpen-

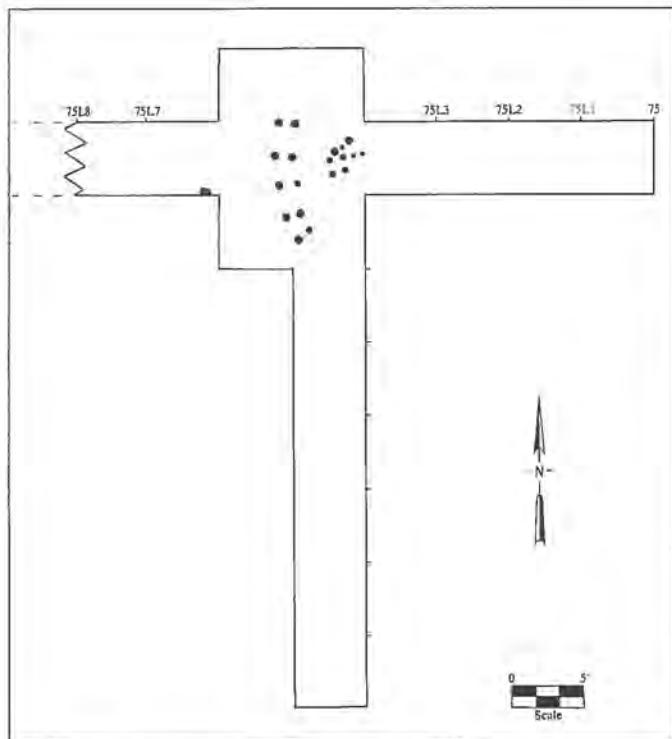


Figure 37. Rushing Spring Site, Ta'105. Plan of excavation showing post molds.

dicular to a 9-foot trench running north-south. At the intersection of these two trenches, additional squares were opened, and here a number of post holes were found (Figure 37).

Much of the collected material leads to the conclusion that this site was the historic Creek town of Tchikilako. However, the site was so completely eroded in the trenched portion that little can be concluded with certainty concerning its cultural significance.

The Eureka Bridge Site Ta'106

Site Ta'106, an Archaic site, is located 500 yards southwest of Eureka Bridge (Covered Bridge) on the east bank of Choccolocco Creek in Talladega County, Alabama. The bulk of the site had been removed by a gravel operation, leaving only one undisturbed area approximately 100 feet by 25 feet in extent. In the preserved section a 75-foot exploratory trench was excavated paralleling the creek. A second trench was then begun, approximately 110° from the orientation of the first trench. The characteristic soil profile consisted of a clean, creek-deposited sand overlying hard, silty sand-clay loam. One large pit-like feature, two smaller pits, and five post holes were discovered. The larger pit-like feature was perhaps originally a stump hole, though this was not possible to determine with certainty.

The feature contained 17 steatite sherds, two basal halves of Pickwick Expanded Barbed projectile points, and a single uniface scraper of quartzite. These projectile points show considerable patination and fall chronologically within the Middle to Late Archaic. The other pits and post holes contained only projectile point fragments and numerous flint chips. The site was barren of ceramics. Representative artifacts from the site are shown in Figure 38.

The Eureka Bridge site proper had been considerably eroded and redeposited. Clean washed sand and gravel formed small lenses within the profile but these could not be reliably correlated with cultural stratigraphy.

The Grissom Site Sc'8

The Grissom site is located along a ridge paralleling the Coosa River and adjacent to Grissom Springs. As is true of most of the sites in this area, extensive erosion had occurred. A 10 by 10 foot test excavation revealed a plow zone overlying sterile red clay. Only two diagnostic artifacts were found. These were small stemmed projectile points, indicating a Woodland occupation.

The Brass Site Sc'14

The Brass site, like the Grissom site, was eroded to such a degree that all cultural material was restricted to the plow zone. One 10 by 10 foot square was excavated. At Site Sc'14 the diagnostic cultural material consisted of three

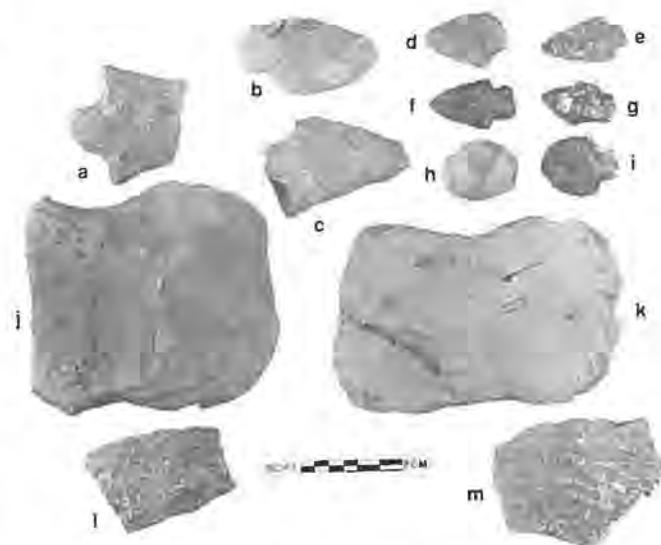


Figure 38. Eureka Bridge Site, Ta'106. Artifacts. a, c, Pickwick Expanded Barb points; b, d-g, i, stemmed points; h, uniface scraper; j, k, greenstone spades; l, m, steatite vessel fragments.

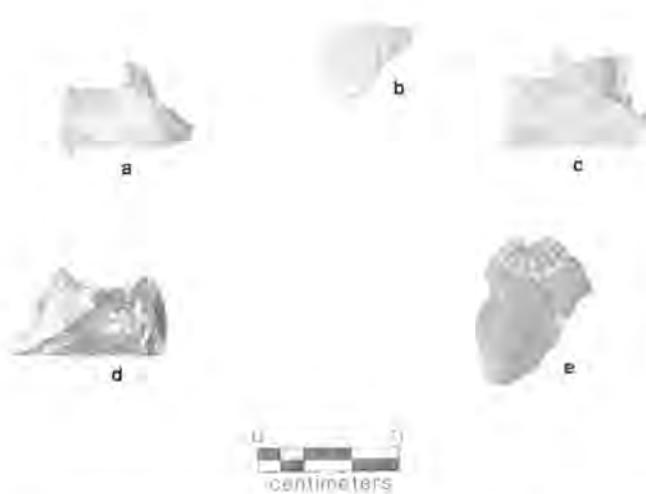


Figure 39. Martin Site, Ta'71. Euro-American items. a-d, clay pipe fragments; e, embossed brass object.

stemmed projectile points and a single bifacially chipped scraper. The entire occupation area, as evidenced by surface material, was eroded down to sterile red clay subsoil.

The Martin Site Ta'71²²

The Martin site lies approximately 300 yards downriver from the Floyd site (Ta'69), situated on an extension of the same ridge as the latter. The site was small, some 100 feet long and 150 feet wide. A combination of flooding of the Coosa River and extensive farming have removed all traces of topsoil. The land is in such a barren state that farming is said to have been discontinued eight years ago as of this writing.

A 5 foot by 50 foot exploratory trench was excavated. Sterile red clay was encountered at 0.5 feet below surface.

The cultural material collected from Ta'71 consisted exclusively of European or Euro-American items. Surface material and plow zone material included such items as three glazed pipes, ginger beer bottle fragments, iron-stone sherds, one white faceted bead, plus aboriginal sherds and projectile points. At first it appeared that this was a "trading post" site, but upon further study the assumed situation is merely that of an early plantation house with its household debris scattered for some distance during its occupancy and later by plow action. The series of items illustrated in Figure 39 are thought to be of some comparative significance, particularly the glazed tobacco pipes which occur in other historic contexts in the Eastern United States.

Summary and Conclusions

The largest and most numerous aboriginal sites within the Logan Martin Basin were occupied during the Transi-

tional Late Woodland—Early Mississippian cultural stage. The best evidence supporting this conclusion was found at the Ellis site (Ta'44), the Dye Creek site (Sc'31), and the Clear Creek site (Ta'90 and Ta'90x1). The occurrence of an abundance of shell indicates that there remained at this time an important dependence upon shellfish for food. It would have seemed reasonable that an abundant amount of shell would have also been present at the Jackson site (Sc'29) and the Riverside site (Sc'36), with their Early Woodland Alexander manifestations. They, however, contained very little shellfish remains and their inhabitants appeared to make more extensive use of bell-shaped storage pits.

The Ogletree Island site appears to be of considerable importance and is possibly the only site north of Florida that has been systematically excavated and found to contain European goods datable to the De Soto expedition.²³ Of considerable importance is the co-occurrence of Lamar and Decline Mississippian²⁴ ceramic types in direct association, suggesting that such an assemblage extended to at least 1540 A.D. A very similar cultural assemblage was found at the Enfinger site (Ta'57x1) in the Basin.²⁵

In all, as can be seen from the individual site reports, the Logan Martin Basin has been subjected for many years to extensive river flooding and sheet erosion. This fact alone could account for the relative scarcity of prehistoric sites and the noticeable lack of subsurface aboriginal features. The topography is steep, with many shoal areas in the river. In most of the Basin the bulk of topsoil has been removed, in many cases down to sterile clay. A second possible reason for the dearth of sites is the small number of tributaries to the Coosa River in this area. Above and below the Logan-Martin Basin are numerous sites of considerable size. These areas are both less eroded, and have many more small watercourses.

In closing, it can be said that the field research conducted in the Logan Martin Basin offers a somewhat clearer view of the sequence of cultures in the Middle Coosa area, an area that was previously unexamined archaeologically. The evidence from this region will take its place in its proper broader context among the cultural traditions spanning the Southeastern United States. That these archaeological remains and data have been saved from inundation, and can now be considered in conjunction with present and future research, is due to the support of the Alabama Power Company.

Editor's Notes

1. Formerly called Lock 3 Dam, now Neeley Henry Dam.
2. Logan Martin
3. In the field records and progress report describing this work, the Jackson site carries the designation Sc'29 rather than Sc'17.
4. See note 3.
5. Morrell's field notes contain the additional comment,

"Surface cultural material is present within an area of 150' by 2,000'."

6. The nature of Feature 11 at the Phil Jackson site, represented as a rectangular dotted outline in Figure 3, is not apparent from existing documentation.

7. See Cambron and Hulse (1975:29-30).

8. The projectile points in Figure 6, b and i, classified by Morrell as LeCroy and Beaver Lake respectively, rather resemble the other shallow side notched points in the collection, in the editor's opinion. For the definition of the LeCroy and Beaver Lake types see Cambron and Hulse (1975:10, 77).

9. The current site number 1Sc36 is assigned to a site in the Neely Henry Reservoir, originally designated Sc'36. Assuming that Morrell's stated location is correct, the Riverside site does not correspond to any existing site number in the current system.

10. An additional type, Alexander Pinched, was present and is illustrated in Figure 11.

11. There is no extant map of these features.

12. One shell tempered sherd from Feature 7, shown in Figure 25, g, is plainly red filmed and appears to be part of the orifice of a hooded bottle.

13. The official site number of the Ogletree Island site has since been changed to 1Ta238. Site number 1Ta107 has been reassigned to another site.

14. The excavation records and curated site materials have been re-studied by Richard Walling and the results of Walling's study are reported elsewhere in this volume. The editor has not attempted to correct or update Morrell's conclusions as originally presented in the present work, with the exception of these few notes.

15. This is Walling's Structure 1 (this volume). Morrell does not discuss the results of the 1962 season in this report.

16. See Richard Walling's reclassification of this pottery (this volume), which minimizes the Moundville attribution in favor of local Kymulga phase types.

17. A previously published account of this discovery appeared in *The Florida Anthropologist* (Morrell 1964). The date range of Nueva Cadiz beads is now believed to extend earlier, to the late fifteenth century.

18. Here Morrell undoubtedly refers to the De Soto route endorsed by the United States De Soto Commission (Swanton 1939).

19. Representative sherds pulled for the study collection were available to the editor for re-examination. The grit tempered sherds are consistent with local Middle Woodland Cleveland phase pottery. One sherd has a medium-sized podal sup-

port, and another appears to have a partially obliterated simple stamped surface. No sherds of local grit tempered Lamar paste are in the study collection.

20. Neither Morrell's draft report nor the accompanying documentation on file contains sherd counts for this site. The data in Table 19 are drawn from a relative percentage bar graph included in the draft report.

21. Both the pulled study ceramics and projectile point types rather suggest to the editor that the main component at the Enfinger site is Middle Woodland. The shell tempered ceramics, instead of being Late Mississippian, would seem to be either seventeenth- or eighteenth-century historic aboriginal, conforming to the Woods Island-Childersburg phase continuum in this region. There is also a substantial Late Archaic component here.

22. In the field records and other documentation the Martin site carries the designation Ta'70. The current designation for the site is 1Ta70.

23. This was evidently true at the time of the writing, 1965.

24. By "Decline Mississippian" Morrell follows DeJarnette's usage in reference to the early historic shell tempered pottery of this region, which the editor believes is most closely comparable to late Dallas in the east Tennessee area. See DeJarnette and Hansen (1960:19-20).

25. In the editor's opinion the grit tempered pottery at this site is Middle Woodland rather than Lamar. See Note 19.

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Lamar in the Middle Coosa River Drainage: The Ogletree Island Site (1Ta238), A Kymulga Phase Farmstead

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In recent years a number of researchers investigating the De Soto expedition have utilized archaeological data in conjunction with the chronicles of the early Spanish explorers. The combined use of these data sets has permitted investigators to propose several new routes for the *entrada* (Brain 1985a; 1985b; Curren 1987; DePratter et al. 1985; Hudson et al. 1984; Lankford 1977; Little and Curren 1990). Another result of this research has been the recognition of pertinent ceramic assemblages, and attempts to tie these complexes to the "provinces" named in the Spanish chronicles (Hudson 1987; Hudson et al. 1985; 1989a; Knight 1988; Lankford 1977; Little and Curren 1990; Smith 1987).

One such ceramic complex occurs on sites in the Middle Coosa River Valley. The Kymulga complex was originally recognized by Lewis Larson during a 1948 survey in Talladega County, Alabama carried out in conjunction with excavations at the Childersburg site (1Ta1), Swanton's location for sixteenth-century Coosa (DeJarnette and Hansen 1960; Swanton 1985). Larson noted a ceramic complex at Site Ta'32¹ that differed significantly from that observed at the Colonial period Childersburg site and from surface collections at other nearby sites. Larson named the ceramic types of this complex Kymulga Plain, Kymulga Incised, Kymulga Black Filmed Incised, Kymulga Complicated Stamped, Coosa Incised, and Coosa Brushed (Knight 1980; Knight et al.

1984; Larson n.d.). Although these type descriptions were never published, the concept of a Kymulga ceramic complex was revived during the East Alabama Archaeological Survey carried out by the Office of Archaeological Research, University of Alabama (Knight 1985a; Knight et al. 1984).

As described by Knight (1985a), Kymulga pottery is characterized by grit/sand, shell, clay/grog, and any combination of these tempers. In addition to plain ware, surface treatments include Lamar-like complicated stamping, brushing, and relatively bold incising occurring on the various pastes, sometimes exhibiting burnishing. Modeled effigy adoros and well-made pipes also occur. Knight has noted that complicated stamping occurs early and fades out, while brushing becomes an important part of the assemblage after about 1600 A.D. European items recovered in association with this assemblage include various glass beads, brass ornaments, iron knives and wedges, horseshoes, iron bracelets, and a sickle blade (Knight 1985a).

Recent examination of the pertinent archaeological data and early Spanish records has led some researchers (Knight et al. 1984; Hudson et al. 1985; 1989a; Smith 1989) to suggest that Talisi province of the Soto/Luna era can be equated with the Kymulga phase and thus the province lay between Choccolocco Creek on the north and Hatchet Creek on the south. This is essentially the

area comprising modern Talladega County, Alabama. Curren and colleagues in their alternative route reconstructions have designated this area as the location of Toasi (Curren 1987) or Apica (Little and Curren 1990). Following Knight (1985a; Knight et al. 1984), those sites on which the distinctive Kymulga ceramic complex occurs are here tentatively considered remnants of the sixteenth century province of Talisi.

To date, Kymulga ceramics have been identified at eight sites for which a location is known: 1Ta25 (an unnamed site within a site cluster also containing 1Ta24, 26, and 145)², 1Ta115 (Sylacauga Water Works), 1Ta150 (Hightower Village), 1Ta153 (Collins Farm), 1Ta171 (Rodgers-CETA/Talladega Creek), 1Ta213 (Hudson Branch), 1Ta238 (Ogletree Island), and 1Ta285 (an unnamed farmstead). The distribution of these sites defines the spatial extent of the Kymulga phase as presently understood. The location for Ta'32, Larson's type site, cannot be established and the site is thus of limited utility in understanding this manifestation. A possibility exists that this site has been relocated during subsequent work in the area as one of those listed above. Otherwise it may have been destroyed and thus removed from the record, or it will constitute a ninth Kymulga phase site upon relocation at some future date. For the time being, site Ta'32 is excluded from the discussions that follow.

All of the identified Kymulga phase sites are located in the drainages of Talladega and Tallaseehatchee Creeks with the exception of Site 1Ta25 and Ogletree Island. Site 1Ta25 is located on the Coosa River proper, a short distance from the main cluster. Ogletree is located some 16 km northwest of Rodgers-CETA, the nearest recognized kindred site, and approximately 37 km from the Sylacauga Water Works site, the most distant of the group. This latter distance is somewhat greater than the maximum between the larger sites of the Childersburg (i.e., Kymulga) cluster as noted by Hally et al. (1990), but at 16 km from Rodgers-CETA, Ogletree Island does fall within the maximum straight line distance between larger sites of this and other nearby, contemporary site clusters.³

The distance from Ogletree Island to Davis Farm, the nearest known non-Kymulga site with a potentially contemporaneous component, is close to the maximum between site clusters as described by Hally et al. (1990). Evidence exists for the continued occupation of several of the Kymulga phase sites into at least the first half of the seventeenth century. However, Ogletree is not among these. If one assumes at least partial contemporaneity of occupation for all of the Kymulga phase sites, an assumption that remains to be demonstrated, then spatial extent defined by site distribution falls very near maximums suggested for a simple chiefdom by various pundits (Hally 1987; Hudson et al. 1989b).

The Ogletree Island site is the northernmost Kymulga phase site presently recognized. Indeed, it is the location of this site which defines the northern boundary of the

Kymulga phase. To date, Kymulga phase components at four sites, Sylacauga Water Works (1Ta115) (Hatcher 1979; Knight et al. 1984), Rodgers-CETA, or Talladega Creek (1Ta171) (Dimmick 1989; Knight et al. 1984; Nance 1990), Hightower Village (1Ta150) (Knight et al. 1984; Walling and Wilson 1985; Wilson n.d.), and Ogletree Island (1Ta238) (Knight et al. 1984; Morrell 1963; 1964; Walling 1988a; 1988b), have been at least partially excavated.

The Ogletree Island site was first recorded and excavated by the University of Alabama under contractual agreement with the Alabama Power Company. The project was supervised by L. Ross Morrell under the direction of David L. DeJarnette. Originally the site was designated Ta'107, but during a recent revamping of the Alabama site files it was renumbered 1Ta238. Thus, any reference to this site predating 1986 will bear the former designation (Walling 1988a; 1988b).

Site Setting and Environment

The Ogletree Island Site is located in the Middle Coosa River Valley at the confluence of Choctocco Creek and the Coosa River in Talladega County, northeastern Alabama (Figure 1). This area falls within the Valley and Ridge physiographic province (Little 1981). The Alabama portion of this province coincides with the Coosa Valley and is situated immediately south of the Cumberland Plateau. Both the geology and biotic communities vary dramatically within this general area. Prior to recent environmental modifications, various species of pine dominated the rocky ridges, while hardwoods flourished in areas of deeper soils of the uplands and bottoms (Little 1981). Soils at the site consist of Wickham fine sandy loam, a well drained fertile soil (Cotton et al. 1974).

At the time of excavation, the site was on an island in the Coosa River. However, Morrell (n.d.a) notes that "the island lying in the Coosa River appears to be a late addition due to flood cutting of the Coosa." Based on Morrell's sketch map of the site location and notes, it appears that at the time of occupation, the site was on a low terrace on the south bank of Choctocco Creek, just east of the confluence of that creek and the Coosa River. The site is now inundated by the waters of Logan Martin Lake.

Ogletree Island Site Excavations

Excavations at the site were carried out during the fall of 1961 and summer of 1962. Information on field techniques employed at the site is sketchy. Based on the documents prepared by Morrell (1964, n.d.a, n.d.b, n.d.c, this volume) and analysis of the recovered material by this author, some statements regarding the excavations can be made. No contour map of the site exists, and site limits are unknown. Field techniques were generally consistent during both seasons, employing five and ten foot squares

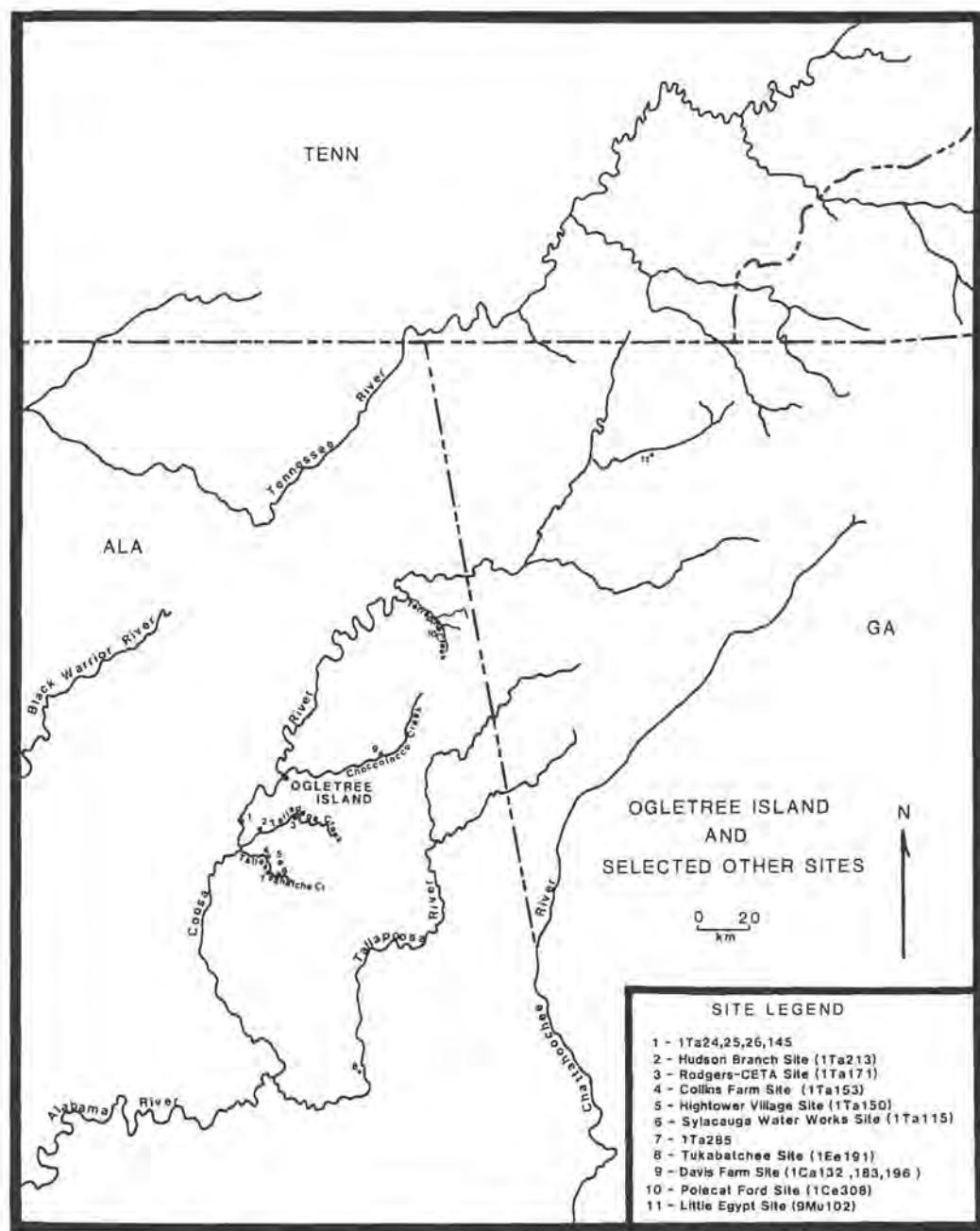


Figure 1. Ogletree Island and selected other sites. (Site locations from Knight 1988.)

excavated in arbitrary levels. The plow zone was removed as a single 0.6 foot level, and sub-plow zone deposits were excavated in six-inch and 0.4 foot levels. It is not known if the excavated earth was screened, but a number of small artifacts were recovered. No soil samples are present in the collection. Features were numbered sequentially, starting with 1, each season.

Soils at the site are described in the field records as homogeneous dark gray silt loam underlain by yellow clay subsoil. The homogeneity of the alluvial soils made it difficult to locate features within this zone and in many instances it was necessary to rely on the presence of concentrations of cultural material in order to define features

and post holes. Observed features were isolated and excavated separately. Excavation units were generally taken one level into culturally sterile subsoil. Comments on the individual field seasons follow.

1961 SEASON Preliminary excavations were carried out at Ogletree from September 19–23, 1961. At this time surface conditions were such that most of the island could be effectively surveyed, and only one site was observed. The crew size for these investigations is unknown. Initial reconnaissance revealed a concentration of lithics, ceramics, and daub. Test excavations were initiated within this concentration, and five-foot wide trenches radiated out from the center (Morrell n.d.c.). A block divided into fourteen five-foot squares encompassed the artifact concentration. The initial test units exposed an area of preserved house floor, a central fire basin and incomplete post hole pattern of an aboriginal structure, and an adjacent refuse area. This area is designated Structure 1 (Figure 2). It should be noted that during the investigations only this structure, located during the first season, was given a

formal designation (i.e., House 1 or Feature 1). For ease of discussion herein, the three structures present at the site have been numbered in the order they were encountered during the field phases (Structure 1, 2, 3). Two exploratory trenches extending from the area of Structure 1, made up of 17 and 15 five-foot squares respectively, revealed only scattered root and stump molds (Morrell, this volume).

Structure 1 was the remains of a 20-by-20 foot (37 m^2) wattle and daub dwelling which had burned. A prepared hearth, Feature 2, 0.6 feet in depth was located at the center of Structure 1 and an area of undisturbed, packed clay floor extended approximately six feet from the north-

ern edge of the hearth. The remainder of the floor area as well as some of the post pattern had been destroyed by plowing. An irregular oval refuse filled pit, Feature 3, measuring 3 feet in diameter and 0.8 feet in depth, was located in the northeast corner of Structure 1.

A total of 46 five-foot squares ($1,150 \text{ ft}^2$, 107 m^2) were excavated during the 1961 investigations. Structure 1 and its associations were the only cultural features encountered during the 1961 excavations (Morrell, this volume). At the close of that field season, the site was vandalized. Balks were destroyed, and grid stakes were removed and/or broken (Morrell n.d.a).

1962 SEASON The second excavation phase at the site was carried out from June 21 to July 13, 1962. The crew consisted of L. Ross Morrell, Tandy K. Bozeman, Norman W. Martin, Carey B. Oakley, James C. Sensenig, and Steven F. Sensenig. As a result of the vandalism suffered at the close of the 1961 season, the grid for the second season was established independently from that of the first season. The previous season's trenches were extended and enlarged (Morrell n.d.b). Work was begun in units 50L0, 50L1, 50L2, and 50L3, situated

about ten feet southwest of Structure 1. These four adjoining five-foot squares were excavated in a southwesterly direction from the Structure 1 area, disclosing three post holes (Figure 3). Excavations were terminated at 1.4 feet below the surface. No cultural material was recovered below the 1-foot level.

Next, efforts were again focused on the Structure 1 area proper. Twenty-one five-foot units were established in this area, including at least some of the area investigated during the 1961 season. The packed and burned floor of Structure 1 was removed and excavations were continued

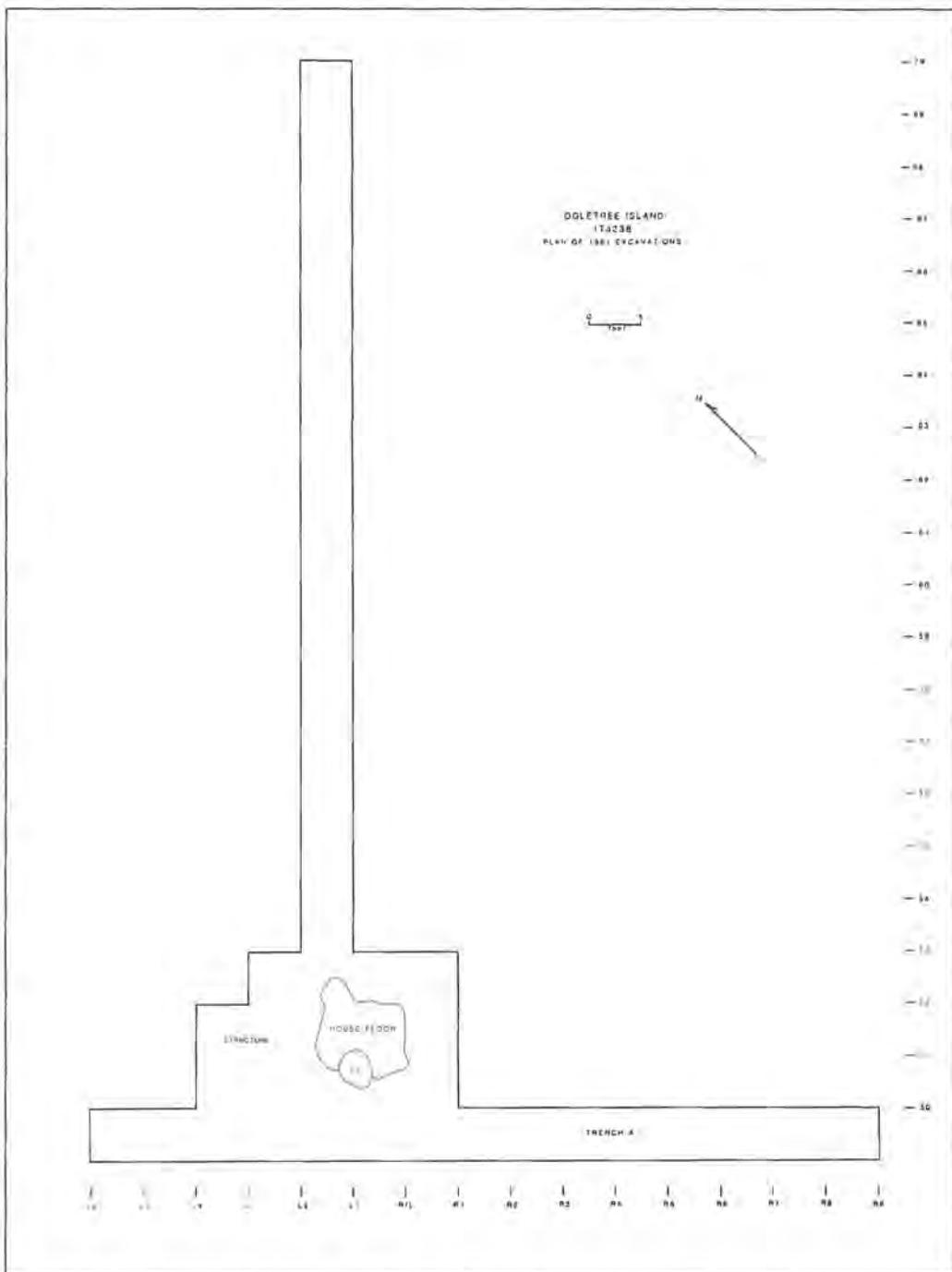


Figure 2. Plan of excavations, 1961 Season.

in an effort to locate additional post holes associated with the structure. These excavations revealed a second hearth, Feature 3, immediately beneath the one found the previous season. Three additional features—Feature 1, a large irregular refuse filled pit; Feature 2, a small concentration of charcoal, lithics, and sherds; and Feature 4, a concentration of burned clay—were recorded. Numerous post holes, ceramics, lithics, daub, and mussel shell were also observed in this area. This group of features and post holes is designated Structure 2. The dimensions of this burned, wattle and daub structure are unknown. No cul-

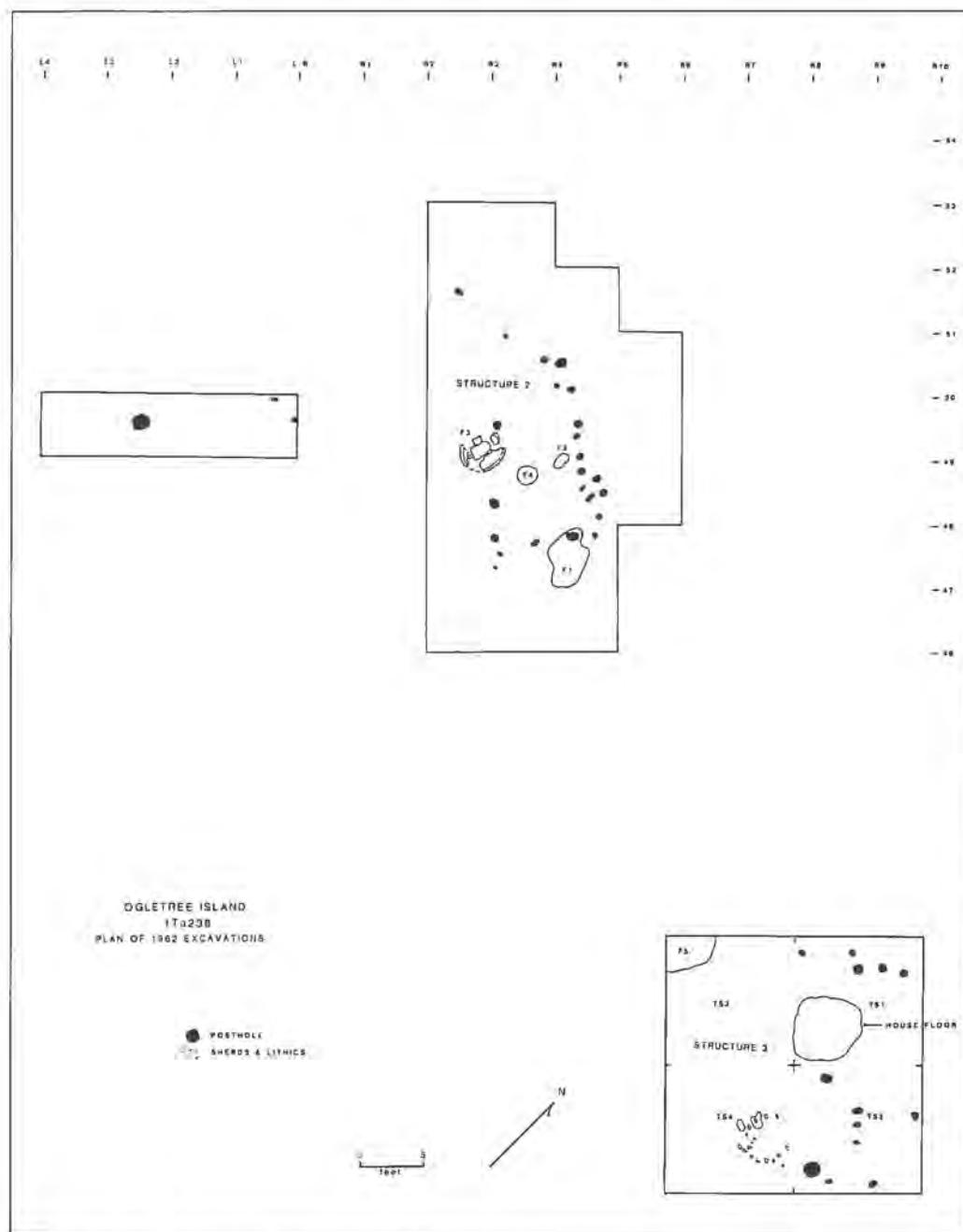


Figure 3. Plan of excavations, 1962 Season.

tural material was encountered deeper than 1.0 foot below the surface outside of feature contexts.

After completion of work in Structures 1 and 2, efforts were focused on an area approximately 25 feet to the east. Four ten-foot units were excavated, and these are designated Test Squares (TS) 1-4 (Figure 3). At the 1.0 to 1.5 foot level in TS 1 numerous sherds were recovered, and at 1.3 feet below the surface a darker siltier loam was noted. This zone, interpreted as the occupation zone, was not observed in any of the previously excavated units except within Structure 1 (Morrell n.d.b.).

Kymulga phase from a diachronic perspective, discrimination will be required at the level of minor changes in frequencies of temper constituents and surface finishes that occur within the complex.

The late ceramics were sorted into 12 temper groups. These include shell (both fine and coarse groups), grit, grog, various combinations of these, fine sand, and non-tempered. The few Woodland stage sherds recovered are not included here. All sherds present in the collection were carried through a full analysis; sherds were not size-graded.

An area of preserved house floor three feet in diameter was located in the southeast corner of TS 1. Several post holes were recorded in TS 1 and 2, and a concentration of lithics and sherds was found in the southeast corner of TS 2. Two barrel-shaped ceramic beads were recovered within this concentration. Feature 5 was located in the northeast corner of TS 3. This area, in TS 1-4, is designated Structure 3. The dimensions of the burned structure are unknown, but Morrell (n.d.c) notes that "the general outline . . . was not as well defined as the first [Structure 1], but was the same type of rectangular, wattle and daub structure."

In summary, during the 1962 season 25 five-foot units and four ten-foot units (total=1,025 ft², or 95 m²) were excavated, with an undetermined portion of this overlapping part of the 1961 excavation area. Two partial structures and associated features were investigated.

The Ogletree Collection

CERAMICS While Larson defined a preliminary series of types for the Kymulga ceramic complex, the nature of the material warrants a series of rather finer distinctions. If we are to view the

The sorting criteria employed here generally follow those developed by Knight (1985a; Knight et al. 1984). Material was sorted as follows:

COARSE SHELL—Good Mississippi Plain paste. Very sparse grit occasionally present.

FINE SHELL—Typical Bell Plain paste. Very sparse grit occasionally present.

GRIT—Essentially Lamar Plain paste. Crushed rock and/or coarse sand moderate to abundant. Generally compact paste with abundant grit resulting in the characteristic salt and pepper appearance dominates.

GROG—Crushed sherds and/or fired clay sparse to abundant, usually moderate to abundant. Paste is occasionally slightly sandy. Occasionally very sparse grit.

COARSE SHELL/GRIT—Usually moderate to abundant crushed shell with sparse to moderate grit. Occasionally sparse shell. Occasionally abundant grit.

FINE SHELL/GRIT—Usually moderate to abundant finely crushed shell with sparse to abundant grit. Occasionally sparse shell. Abundant grit occurs more often in combination with fine shell than with coarse shell.

COARSE SHELL/GROG—Generally abundant crushed shell with sparse to moderate grog. Occasionally abundant grog. Occasionally very sparse grit.

FINE SHELL/GROG—Same as coarse shell/grog except with fine shell.

GRIT/GROG—Sparse to abundant grit and grog. Grog usually dominates.

COARSE SHELL/GRIT/GROG—Occurring in various relative amounts.

FINE SHELL/GRIT/GROG—Same as immediately above but with fine shell.

NON-TEMPERED—Typical Ocmulgee Fields paste.

No attempt was made to quantify the relative amounts of the various tempers beyond the admittedly somewhat subjective criteria presented above. If meaningful and useful varieties are to be defined, it may ultimately be necessary to quantify, in a real sense, the components making up the temper categories.

The Kymulga phase ceramic sample includes 1,208 sherds (Tables 1, 2). The following discussion summarizes the data and deals with the material in gross temper categories. Plain-surfaced sherds comprise 90 percent of the total sample. Of these 1,086 plain sherds, 59 percent are shell tempered (including combination tempers), 33

percent are grit tempered, and 6 percent are grog or grit/grog tempered. Less than 1 percent each are sand tempered pipe fragments, non-tempered, bone and bone/grit tempered. It is not certain that the bone tempered material is associated with the Kymulga component at this site. Combining all sherds with any grog tempering, the frequency for this group increases to 10 percent, at the expense of shell tempered.

Several surface treatments are found in the sample. These include incising in a variety of expressions, punctuation, complicated stamping (both curvilinear and rectilinear), brushing, and red slipping/painting. No cob-marked, cordmarked, simple stamped, or check stamped sherds are present in the sample. Of the 122 non-plain sherds, 61 percent are incised, 18 percent are complicated stamped, and 13 percent are brushed. Three percent of the non-plain sherds are painted, while 5 percent are punctated or punctuated and incised. Based on results of a chi-square test for selected attributes, decoration tends to occur in greater than expected numbers on grit tempered, fine shell tempered, fine shell/grit tempered, and grog tempered pastes, particularly the latter three.

As in other Lamar assemblages from the area, incised sherds from Ogletree Island exhibit a variety of decorative modes that crosscut temper categories (Table 3). Of the 74 incised sherds, 47 percent contain shell, 43 percent are grit tempered, and 5 percent are grog tempered. The frequency for grog increases to 22 percent if all incised sherds containing grog are included, again at the expense of shell tempered.

Table 1. Abbreviations Used in Ceramic Tables.

Temper	Style
CS	— Coarse Shell
GT	— Grit
FS	— Fine Shell
GG	— Grog
G/G	— Grit and Grog
NON	— Non-tempered
B	— Bone
FS Pipe	— Fine Sand
NS	— No Shell
	Line Width
	B — Broad Line Incised
	M — Medium Line Incised
	N — Narrow Line Incised
	U — Line Width Not Determined
Surface Finish	
PL	— Plain
I, INC	— Incised
P, PNCT	— Punctated
BR	— Brushed
COMPSTMP,	
CMSTMP, or	
CMSTP	— Complicated Stamped
PNTD	— Painted/Slipped

Table 2. Ceramic Totals by Temper and Surface Treatment.

PL	INC					PNCT			CMSTM			BR	PNTD	Total	
	C	R	C&R	ST	UND	C&P	R&P	P	C	R	UND				
CS/GT	189	5			3	1		1			1			200	
CS	339	6	1	2			2		1		2			353	
GT	355	15	1	1	12	3	1		4	9	6	8		415	
FS	36	3												39	
GG	27	2							1					30	
FS/GT	42	2			1				1			1		47	
G/G	32				2						5			39	
CS/GG	9	4			1	1								15	
FS/GG	26	3		2	1						3			35	
CS/G/G	4													4	
FS/G/G	19						1							20	
NON	4	3												7	
BONE	1													1	
B/GT	1													1	
FS pipe	2													2	
Total	1,086	43	2	3	19	7	2	3	1	6	10	6	16	4	1,208

Fifty-eight percent of the incised sherds are curvilinear incised, 28 percent are rectilinear, 4 percent combine these two modes, and the mode is indeterminate for 10 percent. Bold incising (line width 2.5 mm and greater) accounts for 30 percent, medium (1.5–2.49 mm) for 53 percent, narrow (less than 1.5 mm) for 12 percent, and indeterminate for 5 percent of these sherds. In retrospect, it might have been more useful to discriminate broad from narrow only. This would allow more meaningful comparisons with other Lamar complexes.

Design motif was confidently identifiable on only 13 incised sherds. Motifs include the guilloche, spiral, festoon (possibly), closed loop, meander (possibly), and line-filled triangles. One sherd with narrow line arches resembling Moundville Incised, variety Carrollton was recovered, but this vessel appears to be a (deep ?) bowl rather than a jar (Figure 4).

The 22 complicated stamped sherds account for only 2 percent of the total collection (Figure 5). Eighty-six percent occur on grit tempered paste, while 9 percent are shell tempered and 5 percent are grog tempered.

Sixteen sherds, or 1 percent of the total collection, are brushed (Figure 5). Of

these, 50 percent are grit, 19 percent are shell, and 31 percent are grog tempered.

Four red painted/slipped and smooth surfaced sherds make up less than 1 percent of the collection. Shell is present in the paste of all painted/slipped sherds, and three also contain grog. Three incised sherds, possibly representing fragments of one or more frog effigy bowls, may also be painted or slipped.

The six punctated sherds (Figure 5), less than 1 percent of the collection, fall into five temper categories. Five of these sherds are shell tempered; the other is grit tempered. In addition to punctated, two of the

sherds are curvilinear incised and three are rectilinear incised. Punctations occur as borders and also fill voids within the design motif. The one sherd that exhibits punctuation only may well be from a vessel that was also incised.

Little information regarding vessel shape can be determined from the collection. Sherd size is generally small, but it appears that simple bowls and flaring-rim jars are most prevalent within the collection, with the former the less secure assignment in most cases. Also present are flaring-rim bowls and carinated bowls. Rounded lips predominate, with examples of flattened and beveled types occurring in small numbers.

Incising occurs on the upper exterior of simple and

Table 3. Incised Ceramics by Temper.

	C				R&ST				C&R				UND				Total
	B	M	N	U	B	M	N	U	B	M	N	U	B	M	N	U	
CS/GT	1	4											1	2			8
CS	1	4	1		1	2											9
GT	10	2	3		4	7	1	1				1			1	2	32
FS	2	1															3
GG	2																2
FS/GT	2				1												3
G/G					1				1								2
CS/GG	1	3			1										1		6
FS/GG	3					1			2								6
CS/G/G																	0
FS/G/G																	0
NON	3																3
Total	13	25	5	0	8	9	2	2	0	3	0	0	1	2	2	2	74



Figure 4. Incised sherds.

carinated bowls and on the interior rim of flaring-rim bowls.

Punctuation appears to be limited to bowls. Of the four complicated stamped rim sherds, one is from a simple bowl. The remainder also appear to be from bowls but this is less certain. The single identifiable brushed vessel is a carinated bowl with a single row of punctations at the shoulder with brushing occurring below.

Beaded or horizontal pinched strips ($N=11$), handles/attachments ($N=9$), and vertical appliqués (Alabama River Appliqué) ($N=3$) appear to be restricted to plain, flaring-rim jars (Figure 6). Pinched strips occur most often with grit temper ($N=9$), with one coarse shell/grit and one fine shell/grog tempered sherd. Multiple-handled jars were not observed, possibly as a result of sherd size. The three complete handles are of the small triangular non-utilitarian type. Of the three handle attachments that are sufficient to determine handle type, there is one small strap, one small loop, and one small triangular or loop. The remaining three attachment sherds are indeterminate as to handle type. The Alabama River Appliqué sherds, representing two vessels, have coarse shell temper and coarse shell/grit temper, respectively.

Ten ceramic discs, or fragments thereof, are present in the collection (Figure 7). Three are coarse shell, two each

are grit, coarse shell/grit, fine shell/grog, and the last is fine shell/grit tempered. All appear to be made on sherds. One is incised, one has a pinched strip, the remainder are plain.

Fragments of two pipes are present. One is represented by two small fragments, and the other is almost complete (Figure 7). Neither appears to be an effigy pipe; the more complete example certainly is not. Both have fine sand tempered paste.

Two clay beads (Figure 7), recovered from the Structure 3 area, mimic the shape of European glass beads. Similar beads have been recovered in other early contact contexts, apparently having been strung with chevron beads (Marvin Smith, personal communication 1988).

LITHICS The small lithic assemblage includes little material definitely associated with the Kymulga phase occupation. It may be noted that one pentagonal and six small triangular points are in the collection (Figure 8). A large block of



Figure 5. Punctated, brushed, and complicated stamped sherds.



Figure 6. Plain sherds and their attributes.

limonite was recovered from Structure 3. Much of the remaining material is probably attributable to various, apparently limited, Archaic and Woodland components represented in the collections and will not be further elaborated on here.

EUROPEAN ITEMS The artifacts of European manufacture in the collection are limited to a Nueva Cadiz Twisted bead, class III, series C, type 2, variety a (Smith and Good 1982), a single rosette head wrought nail, and a piece of strap iron (Figure 9). The temporal placement the bead is rather securely limited to the first half of the sixteenth century (Deagan 1987; Mitchem 1989; Smith 1987; Smith and Good 1982). Smith limits the occurrence of Nueva Cadiz beads in the interior Southeast to his Assemblage A (A.D. 1525–1565), which for this region “would include only de Soto’s goods” (Smith 1987:45). Nueva Cadiz beads have been recovered from several southeastern sites, and their distribution tends to reflect the general route of the De Soto expedition (cf. Hudson et al. 1989a; Smith 1987; Smith and Good 1982). Wrought nails similar to the Ogletree example were recovered from the Martin Site



Figure 7. Ceramic disks, pipes, and beads.

(8Le853B), the location of De Soto’s first winter encampment (Ewen 1988, 1989).

All European goods were recovered in the area of Structure 1. The Nueva Cadiz bead was sandwiched between the preserved structure floor and an incised shell tempered sherd (Morrell, this volume), providing rather secure provenience for this item. The nail and strap iron were recovered from Test Trench A, one of the exploratory trenches, and the exact provenience for these items is not known. However, Morrell (this volume) notes that “a small number of iron items were located in the house (Structure 1) area, all of which were unidentifiable except for one small wrought nail.” In addition to establishing the general provenience of the nail and probably the strap iron, this statement hints that additional iron artifacts may



Figure 8. Lithics.



Figure 9. European artifacts.

have been recovered but are no longer extant within the collection. All of the European material was recovered during the 1961 season.

Intrasite Comparisons

Sherd counts attributable to each structure area were tabulated. Three hundred and sixty-eight sherds are assignable to Structure 1, 69 to Structure 2, and 494 to Structure 3. The count for Structure 2 is so small that it is excluded from further consideration as a discrete subset and is included only in the site totals. It must be reiterated that the total collection is small, and after subdividing by context, the counts become extremely small. The following discussion should be viewed from the perspective that some trends *might* be suggested by the data. Any such trends and conclusions should be tested against larger samples.

The samples from Structures 1 and 3 vary in some interesting, though inconclusive, ways (Tables 4-11). About 69 percent of the Structure 1 sample is shell tempered compared to 56 percent for Structure 3, and 59 percent for the site total. Grit temper comprises 24 percent of the Structure 1 sample, 39 percent for

Structure 3, and 33 percent of the total site sample. From this we might tentatively conclude that Structure 1 is more recent than Structure 3, given the trend to an almost fully shell and grit tempered assemblage in the subsequent Woods Island and Childersburg phases (Knight 1985a). However, this inference is contradicted by other aspects of the samples.

Thirty-five percent of the non-plain sherds from Structure 1 are stamped (22 percent) or brushed (13 percent). For Structure 3, only 16 percent of the non-plain sherds are stamped (10 percent) or brushed (6 percent). The ratio of stamped to brushed is slightly higher within the Structure 1 sample than for Structure 3, just the opposite of what would be expected if Structure 1 were later than Structure 3. This, of course, assumes parallels in frequency changes between surface finish and decoration—a circumstance that is yet to be resolved.

The incised sherds show some rather marked differences in frequencies within and between samples. For the Structure 1 sample, 68 percent of the non-plain sherds are incised, as are 81 percent of the Structure 3 sample, while the total site non-plain sample is 65 percent incised. Of particular note are differences in design attributes between the structure samples. Curvilinear incising is predominant in both, 64 percent and 65 percent of the incised sherds respectively, but here the similarity ends. The remainder of the Structure 1 sample is made up of rectilinear and curvilinear/rectilinear, 20 percent and 4 percent respectively, neither of which is present in Structure 3. Straight line incising, not present in the Structure 1 sample, accounts for 27 percent of the Structure 3 sample. The remainder of each sample is comprised of

Table 4. Structure 1, Ceramics by Temper and Surface Treatment.

	PL	INCISED			R&P	CMSTMP			BR	Total
		C	R	C&R		C	R	UND		
CS/GT	71	1			2					74
CS	108	3	2				1			114
GT	69	4	3		1		3	1	3	89
FS	19	1								20
GG	9	2								11
FS/GT	16	1						1		18
G/G	11					1				12
CS/GG	3	2								5
FS/GG	11			1						12
CS/G/G	1									1
FS/G/G	6									6
NON	1	2								3
BONE	1									1
B/GT	1									1
FS pipe	1									1
Total	328	16	5	1	3	1	4	2	3	368

Table 5. Structure 3, Ceramics by Temper and Surface Treatment.

PL	INCISED			PNCT		CMSTMP		BR	PNTD	Total
	C	ST	UND	R&P	P	R	UND			
CS/GT	90	5	1		1		1			98
CS	114	3	1							118
GT	173	9	4	1		3	2	2		194
FS	13									13
GG	6									6
FS/GT	16	1	1	1				1		20
G/G	8		1							9
CS/GG	5	1	1							7
FS/GG	10	3	1					3		17
CS/G/G	2			1						3
FS/G/G	6									6
NON	3									3
Total	446	22	9	3	1	1	3	2	3	494

undifferentiated incised sherds. All of the painted/slipped sherds are from Structure 3. As noted above, the artifacts of European manufacture were restricted to Structure 1. These differences may not provide an answer as to the temporal ordering of Structures 1 and 3, but they do suggest a lack of contemporaneity, functional or social difference.

External Comparisons

In some particulars, it is difficult to reconcile the sorting criteria employed here for Kymulga ceramics with those used for nearby, contemporary complexes. It is not clear in some instances how sherds with combinations of tempering materials were distinguished, while in other cases, decorative techniques crosscut temper types (cf. Hally 1978; Little and Curren 1981). However, this is not necessarily an insurmountable problem. Viewing the Ogletree collection from the perspective of gross temper groups, some useful comparisons can be made. It is noted that tight chronological assignment for most of the known sites of the period in question and a precise understanding of the development of the local ceramic assemblages discussed below are lacking, or are in the early stages of development.

To the north, ceramics of

the Barnett phase (Hally 1970, 1978) are characterized by the predominance of grit temper over shell temper with relative frequencies of 74 percent and 26 percent respectively (Hally 1990). Located on Terrapin Creek, the Polecat Ford Site (1Ce308) (Little and Curren 1981) is the (apparently) Barnett phase site closest to Ogletree for which a report exists. At Polecat Ford, the relative frequencies are 56 percent grit plain and 44 percent shell plain, while the collection as a whole is 58 percent grit and 42 percent shell

tempered. Polecat Ford may date slightly later than Barnett components at Little Egypt and associated sites, as well as Kymulga phase Ogletree Island (Smith 1987; Waselkov 1989). If this is the case, it could explain the variation in relative frequencies of tempers occurring within the collections. Another factor involved could, of course, be sample size.

Located approximately 40 km up Choccolocco Creek, the Davis Farm Complex (1Ca182, 1Ca183, and 1Ca196, a.k.a. the Oxford Mound) is the nearest identified Late Mississippian component to Ogletree Island. Ninety-two percent of the ceramics from Davis Farm are plain-surfaced (Holstein and Little 1987). The ceramic assemblage is characterized as 81 percent grit, 17 percent shell, and 1

Table 6. Structure 1, Non-Plain Ceramics.

	INCISED									PNCT	BR	CMSTMP			Total			
	C			R		C&R		UND				R&P	C	R	U			
	B	M	N	B	M	M	B	M	N									
CS/GT		1						1	1						3			
CS	2	1		1	1						1		1	1	6			
GT	1	1	2			3				1		5	3	1	20			
FS	1														1			
GG	2														2			
FS/GT	1												1		2			
G/G												1			1			
CS/GG	2														2			
FS/GG							1								1			
NON	2														2			
Total	1	12	3	1	4	1		1	1	1	1	5	4	2	40			

Table 7. Structure 3, Non-Plain Ceramics.

	INCISED						PNCT		BR	PNTD	CMSTMP		Total
	C			ST			UND				R	U	
	B	M	N	B	M	N	B	M	U				
CS/GT	2	3					1		1				8
CS	1	2			1								4
GT	7	1	1	2	2			1		2	3	2	21
FS/GT	1			1			1			1			4
G/G				1									1
CS/GG	1		1										2
FS/GG	3			1						3			7
CS/G/G							1						1
Total	10	11	1	5	3	1	1	1	1	3	4	3	48

percent grog tempered, with 80 percent of the plain surfaced sherds being grit, 19 percent shell and 1 percent grog tempered (Holstein and Little 1987:56). As noted by the authors, all but one of the shell tempered sherds were recovered from a single pit, Feature 6 (Holstein and Little 1987:38,49,56). Excluding the Feature 6 material from frequency calculations, the assemblage is 98 percent grit, 2 percent grog, and less than 1 percent shell tempered. The ceramics recovered from Feature 6, on the other hand, are 52 percent shell and 48 percent grit tempered with frequencies of 59 percent shell and 41 percent grit temper for the plain surfaced material. The frequencies for Feature 6 more closely resemble those of Kymulga phase (although lacking grog tempering) and Early Lamar Little

Egypt phase components than those of Barnett phase assemblages, while the site assemblage exhibits higher frequencies of grit tempering than other reported Barnett assemblages. As noted by Holstein and Little (1987:49), given the incongruities in the ceramic distribution, a cautious approach to the interpretation of this site is in order. While several interpretations are possible, the more obvious are: Barnett, Little Egypt-like and/or Kymulga

components are present at the site; there are early and late components of one or more late phases represented; an as yet unrecognized complex is present at this and other sites in the general area.

Two additional late sites, the Morgan Mountain site (1Ca42) and Site 1Ca168, are recorded farther up Choccolocco Creek. No formal report exists for either of these sites.

To the east, in the Upper Tallapoosa River valley, the Avery complex is dominated by Lamar Plain, accompanied by low relative frequencies of incised and complicated stamped sherds. Shell tempered material constitutes a minor percentage of the assemblage (Knight 1980, 1985a, 1990; Knight et al. 1984).

To the south, in the Lower Tallapoosa River Valley, Shine II and Atasi phase assemblages are again characterized by higher frequencies of grit than shell temper. Grog tempering is present in Shine II assemblages. Frequencies of grit tempering increase through time at the expense of shell (Knight 1985b).

In each case, the assemblages are dominated by plain surfaced sherds (85 to 90 percent plus). As noted above, the ceramics in the Ogletree Island collection are characterized by 59 percent shell, 33 percent grit, and 6 percent grog tempered (with grog accounting for 10 percent of the collection if shell/grog tempered sherds are included). This contrasts with the Barnett, Avery, Shine II, and Atasi assemblages. In terms of gross temper frequencies the Ogletree collection more closely resembles the Little Egypt phase complex than the Barnett phase complex at the Little Egypt site (9Mu102), with its assemblage having 65 percent shell tempered and 35 percent grit tempered sherds (Hally 1978, 1990).

Several trends are evident in these Lamar complexes. One is the decrease in complicated stamped and the subsequent increase in brushed sherds, seen in Barnett, Shine II-Atasi, and Kymulga assemblages. At Ogletree, the frequencies for these two surface treatments are low and about equal (1.8 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively).

Table 8. Relative Frequency of Surface Treatment.

Treatment	all site	Structure 1	Structure 3
Plain	90%	89%	90%
Incised	6%	7%	7%
Punctated	<1%	<1%	<1%
Comp Stamp	2%	2%	1%
Brushed	1%	1%	<1%
Painted	<1%	0%	1%

Table 9. Relative Frequency of Surface Treatment Excluding Plain.

Treatment	all site	Structure 1	Structure 3
Incised	61%	63%	71%
Punctated	5%	3%	4%
Comp Stamp	18%	22%	10%
Brushed	13%	13%	6%
Painted	3%	0%	8%

Table 10. Relative Frequency of Gross Temper Categories by Surface Treatment.

Temper	all site				Structure 1				Structure 3			
	PL	I	CMSTP	BR	PL	I	CMSTP	BR	PL	I	CMSTP	BR
Shell	55%	3%	<1%	<1%	65%	4%	<1%	0%	52%	4%	0%	<1%
Grit	29%	3%	2%	<1%	19%	2%	2%	1%	35%	3%	1%	<1%
Grog(ns)	5%	<1%	<1%	0%	5%	<1%	0%	0%	3%	<1%	0%	0%
Grog(all)	10%	1%	<1%	<1%	8%	1%	0%	0%	8%	6%	0%	0%

Table 11. Relative Frequency of Gross Temper Categories by Surface Treatment, Excluding Plain.

Temper	all site				Structure 1				Structure 3			
	INC	CMSTP	BR		INC	CMSTP	BR		INC	CMSTP	BR	
Shell	35%	2%	3%		33%	5%	0%		40%	0%	2%	
Grit	26%	16%	7%		20%	18%	13%		29%	10%	4%	
Grog(ns)	3%	<1%	4%		5%	0%	0%		2%	0%	0%	
Grog(all)	13%	<1%	5%		13%	0%	0%		15%	0%	0%	

This is not unexpected given the apparent chronological position of the site. Another trend is that incising becomes narrower through time and designs are, on the whole, less well executed. Within the Ogletree collection, 30 percent of the incised sherds are broad line, 12 percent are narrow, 53 percent are medium, and the remainder are indeterminate.

Suggested Type-Variety Nomenclature

The same problems and drawbacks associated with the application of type/variety nomenclature to the Kymulga complex are paralleled in other East Alabama and West Georgia complexes. Many of these have been outlined by other researchers (Hally 1978; Knight 1985a, 1985b; Knight and Mistovich 1986; Knight et al. 1984). To summarize, the basic problem is achieving sorting criteria that are sensitive enough to allow insight into the dynamics at play, while at the same time being simple enough to use. It seems, for the time being at least, that a slightly conservative approach (i.e., splitter rather than lumper) is the more prudent choice.

Initially it was hoped that a series of types and/or varieties could be developed for the Ogletree material, but the complexity of the assemblage could be masked by the combining of too many temper categories into a limited number of varieties. On the other hand, the development of 12 types and/or varieties to cover the plain surfaced material does not seem warranted at this time. This does not take into account the non-plain material, with which the permutations become astronomical.

Types and/or varieties exist that will accommodate

some of the variability in the Kymulga complex. In addition, the use of residual temper categories for plain sherds seems an acceptable approach. However, no nomenclature or definitions presently exist for the late grog tempered material. Here I will play somewhat fast and free with Larson's original Kymulga types, preserving the original type names, but proposing their use for the grog tempered material within the complex. In each case, *variety Kymulga* is reserved for that material that is tempered with grog only; *variety unspecified* is used for grog/grit tempered. For now, shell/grog and shell/grit/grog are treated as re-

siduals. If at a later date this distinction turns out to have no utility, the material can be combined as appropriate with *variety Kymulga*. The following are proposed types and varieties that occur within the Ogletree sample, and that should be tested for utility and modified as larger samples become available. For additional information on paste, refer to the sorting criteria already presented.

GROG TEMPERED TYPES *Kymulga Plain, var. Kymulga* — Grog tempered plain. The simple bowl is the only known vessel form at this time.

Kymulga Incised, var. Kymulga — Medium line incising in a variety of motifs. Occurring on grog tempered bowls in the Ogletree sample.

Kymulga Complicated Stamped, var. unspecified — Complicated stamping in the fashion generally associated with Lamar-related complexes. Occurs on grit/grog tempered bowls and possibly jars in the Ogletree sample. (No complicated stamped sherds tempered with grog only were observed in the Ogletree collection.)

GRIT TEMPERED TYPES *Lamar Incised, var. Ocmulgee* — Narrow line grit tempered incised. (See also Knight 1985b; Knight and Mistovich 1986).

Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. unspecified — Complicated stamping typical of other Lamar-related complexes. Occurs on grit tempered bowls in the Ogletree collection.

Chattahoochee Roughened, var. Chattahoochee — Typical grit tempered brushed. Known to occur on bowls and possibly jars within the Kymulga complex, little can be said for the Ogletree sample. (See also Knight 1985b; Knight and Mistovich 1986)

SHELL TEMPERED TYPES Walnut Roughened, var. *McKee Island*—Coarse shell tempered brushed. (See also Knight 1985b; Knight and Mistovich 1986).

Summary and Conclusions

Two seasons of excavations at the Ogletree Island site revealed the partial remains of three aboriginal structures and associated features. Each of these structures was of single set post, wattle and daub construction and had apparently burned. Structure 1 was erected over the remains of Structure 2. The relative positioning of the associated hearths suggests that Structure 1 replaced Structure 2 immediately after the latter burned. The soil stratum interpreted as the "occupation zone" was observed only in the areas of Structures 1 and 3. This suggests contemporaneity between these two structures, but a comparison of the ceramics from these two structures does not support such a conclusion. It follows that if the three structures are not contemporaneous, then they do not reflect the multi-structure architectural plan known for later Creek households (cf. Knight 1985b; Swanton 1946).

The ceramics from Ogletree Island conform to the generalization outlined by Knight (1985a) for the Kymulga ceramic complex. Plain surfaced sherds predominate. Shell is the principal temper and is accompanied by and often mixed with grit and/or grog. Non-plain sherds are generally incised (usually medium to broad line curvilinear), complicated stamped, brushed, or painted/slipped. Surface treatments cross-cut temper type and, to some degree, vessel form.

Based on the available information, the Ogletree Island site appears to represent a small farmstead or, as suggested by Morrell (this volume), a fishing community. The site was probably occupied only briefly—perhaps 20 or 30 years given the one rebuilding episode. Recovered cultural material indicates that the occupation of concern here occurred during the mid-sixteenth century A.D., with a possible terminal date no earlier than 1540. Given the possibility that the site was on the De Soto route (as proposed by Hudson et al. 1985) and the manner in which the Spanish dealt with the indigenous population, both purposely and pathogenically, the terminal date may well be precisely 1540.

More easily argued and of more relevance, the presence of a Nueva Cadiz bead on the floor of a burned structure suggests that the bead was lost prior to the death of its owner. Smith (1987) has proposed that this type of artifact would often be used as a burial accompaniment and therefore removed from circulation at the death of its owner. This of course begs the question regarding the presence of European goods, generally considered restricted, high status items for the time period in question (Smith 1987), at a small production/extraction site. In any case, a terminal date of A.D. 1540 or shortly thereafter is indicated.

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Editor's Notes

1. This number has since been reassigned to another site.
2. This site was completely destroyed by a gravel operation some years ago.
3. See Hally et al. (1990) for a thorough discussion of the definition and meaning of the Early Historic site clusters mentioned here.

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The Milner Village: A Mid-Seventeenth Century Site Near Gadsden, Alabama

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The Milner Village site, 1Et1, was first reported in the Spring of 1947 by Mr. L. O. Milner, general manager and later owner of the Huff Sand and Coal Company of Gadsden Alabama, when steam shovels encountered human remains accompanied by artifacts.¹ Subsequently, David L. DeJarnette and Steve Wimberly visited the site on two occasions, excavating five burials and two refuse-filled pits. Much of the collection has remained stored at Mound State Monument, although a portion of the collection was returned to Mr. Milner. Through an unusual coincidence, Mr. Milner's collection, now in the possession of his daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Morrison, was brought to the attention of the authors as this report neared completion. This material appears in this report as

the Morrison collection. Field notes, burial forms, and analysis notes written by Wimberly, and a collection of correspondence by various parties left an unusually complete record of the work at the site. Black and white field photographs have not been located, but a few slides of one burial are filed at Mound State Monument. This paper relies heavily on the field documentation by Wimberly and DeJarnette, with a more thorough analysis of the materials by the present authors.

As early as March, 1947, burials were being disturbed. Mr. Milner subsequently contacted the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Alabama, and local newspapers carried stories on the finds. Walter B. Jones, State Geologist, was quite interested in the site because the

Gadsden area was thought to be the location of De Soto's crossing of the Coosa River. A March 17 letter on file from Jones to a Mr. Martin Meadows of the Gadsden Times stated that he was asking David DeJarnette to arrange a trip to Gadsden as soon as possible. Unfortunately, it was not until the end of May that a field expedition could be mounted.

Upon arrival at the site, DeJarnette and Wimberly excavated three burials and two midden pits during the period May 29–30, 1947. They later returned and excavated two additional burials in August 17 and 18, 1947. Artifacts collected by Mr. Milner were also acquired for study, although much of this material was later returned and is owned by Mr. Milner's heirs. This material is labelled Morrison collection in our report. There is also material labelled Milner collection housed at Mound State Monument, and we assume that this material was found during quarrying activities by Mr. Milner and subsequently donated to the University. It is designated Milner collection in our report. Thus there are three collections: the excavated sample, the Milner collection at Mound State Monument, and the Morrison collection of the artifacts returned to Mr. Milner.

Wimberly's previously unpublished description of the site is as follows:

Site Et1 is located on the east bank of the Coosa River about four miles southeast of Gadsden, Alabama and across the Coosa River about one-half mile downstream from the point where Wills Creek flows into the Coosa River.

The soil is extremely sandy, which is the reason the Huff [Sand and Coal] Company selected this location for recovery of foundry sand. A topsoil, about 8 inches deep and considerably more loamy than the underlying sandy soil, overlies the sand producing stratum, and is removed by bulldozer before sand recovery operations are carried out by steam shovel. The sandy clay which is recovered for foundry sand was evidently deposited in [the] levee structure by overflowing waters of the Coosa River. The burials so far recovered have been found along the crest of the levee or on the levee slope toward the river.

Midden material is confined mainly to scattered finds in the plowed zone of pottery sherds, flint chips and spalls, and broken animal bone. A few scattered post holes (20 or 25) have been observed. They average about 15 inches in depth (including 4 or 5 inches of plowed zone) and vary from 5 to 7 inches in diameter. None were found to contribute to any definite pattern.

Upon removal of the topsoil by the bulldozer, several dark areas are visible in the sandy subsoil. Five of these have shown to be graves while two were midden pits. Other such dark areas were excavated but disclosed nothing. They may have been shallow basin-like storage pits or they might represent graves from which the entire skeletons have decayed. These dark areas, unless productive, were not charted, although some of them — as did the post holes — contained a rare sherd or broken animal bone. This material has been recorded as "Debris from general excavation."

Burials and Cultural Features

BURIAL 1 Burial 1 contained a partly flexed skeleton on its back with the head to the east. It was placed at a depth of 23 inches from the surface in an elongated pit. The skeleton was poorly preserved, and the field drawing shows only the location of the skull and of femur fragments. The skeletal remains available for examination consist of three complete tooth crowns, fragments of five tooth crowns, and a few fragments of cranial bones, providing no clear evidence concerning the sex of this individual. Three molar crowns, of which two are fragmentary, display occlusal attrition scores (Scott 1979) consistent with an age of 20 to 40 years in the large Mississippian series from Alabama described by Powell (1988). However, given that Turner (1985) found markedly slower occlusal attrition in a Creek Confederacy series from the 1730s, the application of Mississippian standards to the Milner skeletal remains could easily underestimate age at death. We conclude that this individual was around 40 years old at death, being not less than 20 years old and not more than 60 years old. No pathological lesions or noteworthy anomalies of bone or tooth are preserved, but the very poor preservation disallows any conclusions regarding the health of this individual. The only grave accompaniments were a few glass beads found to the left of the skull.

BURIAL 2 Burial 2 contained a partly flexed skeleton placed on its back with head to the east. This burial was located just west of Burial 1 and was similarly oriented. Skeletal fragments were encountered at a depth of 22 inches below the surface. Bone preservation was poor. The records indicate traces of the skull and long bones, but no skeletal remains were saved.

Grave accompaniments included two siltstone elbow pipes near the skull with another stone pipe, of a material resembling limestone, and an iron axe located at the edge of the pit about half way down the body.

BURIAL 3 Burial 3 was contained in an oval pit located west of Burials 1 and 2. Found at the southern end of the pit at a depth of 30 inches below surface were the only surviving skeletal remains, consisting of teeth alone. These teeth could not be located for analysis. The teeth were near a shell tempered, incised pottery vessel. Also, three glass beads were found scattered in the pit.

BURIAL 4 Burial 4 (Figure 1) was an oval pit containing a partly flexed skeleton lying on its back on the left side. The remains were encountered at a depth of two feet below surface.

Bone preservation was poor. A good field drawing was made showing the position of the skeleton, but little bone could be saved. Even so, Burial 4 provides the best skeletal preservation in the Milner series. The skeletal materials consist of nineteen permanent tooth crowns, four of them

fragmentary, and fragments of the following: the mandible, at least two cervical vertebrae, a clavicle midshaft, both humeri, the first three right ribs, and another two right ribs. A number of cancellous and cortical human bone fragments, of otherwise unspecifiable origin, are also present. Based on the rugosity of muscle attachments alone, this individual is identified tentatively as a male. Dental attrition provides the only criterion for estimating the age at death of this individual since histological facilities are not available for this examination. Using the same sources cited and considerations described for the skeleton of Burial 1, the age at death of the individual in Burial 4 is at least 30 years and very likely over 40 years, but not more than 70 years. Copper stains occur on all the teeth of the left side, the right maxillary canine, the right mandibular third molar, and almost every large fragment of bone. Shreds of soft tissue, perhaps muscle, preserved by copper salts are associated with the cervical vertebrae, clavicular fragment, some of the rib fragments, and both humeri.

Although the first and third molars are unremarkable, the second molars present anomalous crowns with accessory cusps and crenulated surfaces. Atypical locations of interproximal and occlusal attritional facets occur in this dentition, indicating the presence of dental crowding and possibly a minor malocclusion. The single preserved mandibular canine crown presents hypoplastic labial pitting which reveals dentin in some of the pits. The only incisor preserved, the left maxillary second incisor, presents shal-

low linear labial hypoplastic lines which do not reveal dentin. The remaining anterior teeth, the maxillary canines, exhibit some labial hypoplastic pitting of undiscernible depth regarding exposure of dentin due to intense copper staining which penetrates their crowns. The anomalous second molars, the dental crowding, and the malocclusion each could derive feasibly from poor health during maturation, but these phenomena are more likely congenital or genetic in origin. On the other hand, the enamel hypoplasia distributed among several anterior teeth is strong evidence of an unhealthy childhood (Ortner and Puschar 1981).

Small carious lesions occur on two of the nineteen tooth crowns. The right mandibular first molar presents a buccal carious lesion and the right mandibular second molar presents an occlusal carious lesion. Minor calculus deposits occur on both maxillary first molars and on the right maxillary canine. Calculus and caries formation would be promoted by the dental crowding, malocclusion, and crenulated enamel observed in this individual.

The left humerus, which is represented only by its distal half, exhibits a thin pumice-like periostitic lesion about 1 cm wide by 2 cm long, extending from the proximo-lateral periphery of the olecranon fossa into the fossa. The floor of the radial fossa presents an atypical porosity. An erosive lesion unaccompanied by bony deposition undercuts the subchondral bone of the capitulum along its lateral boundary. The trochlear portion is missing post-mortem. The overall appearance is typical of a spondyloarthropathic joint, not including septic (pyogenic) arthritis, but a differential diagnosis is impractical given the very poor preservation of the skeleton. It is clear, however, that this individual did not enjoy excellent health during the early and late years of his life.

Burial 4 was richly accompanied with grave goods. Behind the skull was a mass of hundreds of glass beads. A small brass cone was located near each ear. A brass collar was placed around the neck, and two additional brass cones were in this area. On each humerus was a large sheet brass arm band. A number of objects were found near the left arm. Here was a cache of flintworker's tools including a hammerstone, an abrading stone, 22 chert chunks, and five finished projectile points of the Guntersville type. There was also a lump of galena, a small quantity of red ochre, a small pebble possibly used to grind pigments, and two iron pins or awls set in cane or wood handles. An iron knife was located along the left humerus, and four cast brass bells were located at each knee. Adhering to the brass bells were fragments of textiles preserved by copper salts. These textiles appear to be aboriginal in origin (Robert Maslowski, personal communication), but have a fine, highly uniform weave.

BURIAL 5 Burial 5 was an oval pit approximately 18–24 inches deep, oriented east-west. It contained a skeleton partly flexed on the left side, with the head to the east.

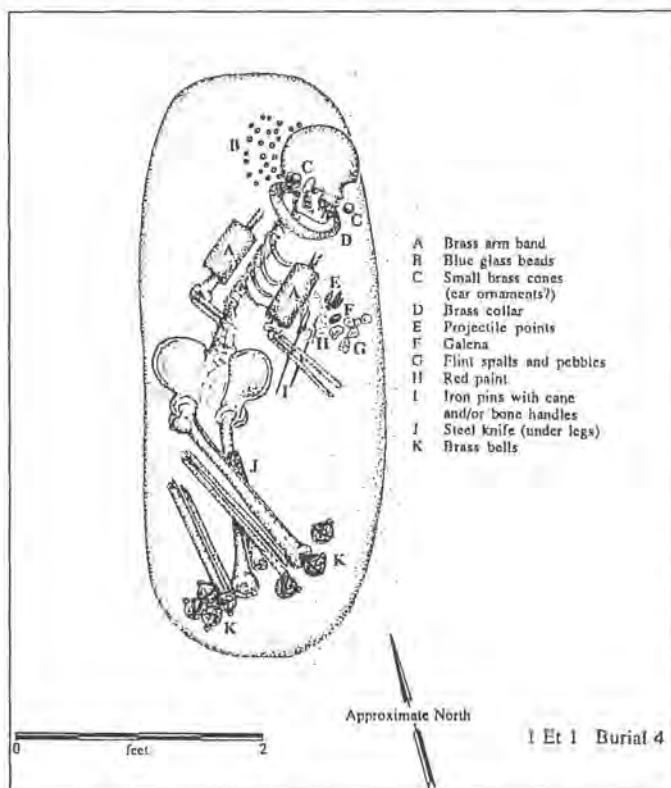


Figure 1. Burial 4.

These remains were disturbed by the bulldozer, and little bone was saved. The only remains preserved are two fragments of cortical bone, one small fragment of the distal diaphysis of a left ulna, and a permanent maxillary left canine. Occlusal attrition of this canine is equivalent to that seen in the individual of Burial 4 but slightly more advanced than that seen in the individual of Burial 1. However, since considerable variation in occlusal attrition rates exists within human populations, it is only justifiable to conclude that the individual represented by Burial 5 died between the ages of 20 and 70 years. The root surface of this tooth presents evidence of gingival recession about 4 mm beyond the cemento-enamel junction. Gingivitis is a fundamental cause of gingival recession, and it can arise through local infection or dietary deficiency, either of which may be responsible for the lesion seen here. Gingival recession tends to be age-dependent, and its occurrence here reinforces the impression that this individual died at an age equal to or greater than the age at death of the individual of Burial 4. Secondary cementum deposits are present, being thickest at the root apex, and carry implications of inflammation and age almost identical to those for gingival recession. A small cervical carious lesion is present on the mesial surface. Well-defined hypoplastic pits occur on the labial surface, but etiological inferences are unjustified with only one tooth available for examination.

In the area of the feet, least disturbed by the bulldozer, was recovered a cache of nine projectile points and three chert flakes.

ADDITIONAL BURIALS DISTURBED BY HEAVY EQUIPMENT (BURIALS A, B, C) The documentation for site E1 contains two burial forms for burials disturbed by the steam shovel prior to DeJarnette and Wimberly's arrival. These were labeled Burials A and B by DeJarnette and Wimberly.

Burial A was accompanied by a large steatite effigy pipe of the so-called "Copena" type (Figure 2). It is a green steatite owl effigy 30.5 cm long. This pipe is a Woodland period artifact, and such a component at the Milner Village site is confirmed by a Woodland sand tempered check stamped sherd in the present collection. This pipe was one of the artifacts returned to Mr. Milner, but we were able to

examine it thanks to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Morrison.

Burial B was accompanied by a small phallic effigy pipe, also currently in the Morrison collection. There is, however, a string of glass trade beads and a small triangular projectile point in the Mound State Monument collection identified as coming from the burial with the phallic pipe. Another lot bears the label "European material from burials uncovered by steam shovel - most from burial of penis pipe." This lot contains a group of turquoise blue seed beads and a fragment of sheet brass.

Wimberly's notes list yet another burial uncovered by a steam shovel. Skeletal material and artifacts believed to be from this burial will be herein labeled Burial C. The notes say that this richly endowed burial contained arm bands, an ear spool cymbal (actually probably a small disc ornament of brass), glass beads, bells, red ochre, textiles, a copper collar, and a discoidal stone. Material fitting this description is present in the collections at Mound State Monument, but duplicate material exists in the Morrison collection. Thus at this time, with the exception of a few unique items, it is not possible to determine which material accompanied the "steam shovel burial." The discoidal stone is present in the Morrison collection. It is bevelled, biconcave, and is made of greenish-grey mottled stone. The large diameter is 69 mm, the small diameter is 62 mm, and it is 28 mm thick. The presence of the discoidal in the Morrison collection suggests that all of the contents of this burial may have been returned to Mr. Milner. Certainly there are armbands, neckbands, a brass disc, brass bells, glass beads, red ochre, and fabric in the Morrison collection which may be from this burial.

There is an unlabeled box in the collection that contains large chunks of soil with beadwork adhering. Because this soil also contains a copper collar and the matrix includes cranial fragments compatible with the skeletal remains known to be from Burial C, we originally believed that this material probably also belongs with Burial C. The subsequent discovery of the Morrison collection casts some doubt upon this interpretation, but we have retained our Burial C label for this material. An iron celt made from the flattened eye of an axe was located in a bag marked "artifacts uncovered by steam shovel," but may be from a different burial since it is not listed in Wimberly's notes on this particular burial.

The human skeletal remains from these disturbed burials represent two individuals, comprising an adult and a subadult. The adult, labeled "steam shovel burial (Burial A), is represented solely by one tooth crown without root or dentin. This tooth, a right first mandibular molar, presents occlusal attrition which has progressed as far as that seen in the first molars of the individual represented by Burial 1, but not that seen in the first molars of the individual represented by Burial 4. Interproximal facets are well-defined for the adjacent second premolar and



Figure 2. Steatite owl effigy pipe.

second molar, indicating that those teeth had erupted. Considering these observations, the age at death of this individual is estimated to have been between 15 years and 60 years. A small carious lesion appears to be present in the central occlusal fissures, but the absence of underlying dentin does not permit dismissal of the possibility that the lesion represents a developmental failure. No copper staining is evident on this tooth crown, although copper staining is extensive and deep on the subadult disturbed burial.

The subadult (probably Burial C) is labeled as "uncovered by steam shovel, unattributed to burial" and consists of 22 tooth crowns (18 permanent) some of them containing traces of dentin, plus eight very small fragments of intensely copper-stained cancellous and thin cortical bone. At least one of these fragments is from the cranial flat bones of an infant or very young child. Copper staining covers almost all the tooth crowns of the right side and several of those from the left side, including some which had not erupted at the time of death. The copper stain of the right deciduous teeth is intense. The stage of dental development is consistent with an age at death between six years and eight years. No anomalies or pathologies are visible. While this burial may not be the same one referred to in Wimberly's notes, it was clearly buried with a brass collar and glass beads.

Table 1 summarizes information on the burials. Note that the richly accompanied burials 4 and C had similar goods, but one was an adult, while the other was a child. Richly accompanied child burials are common during the early historic period having been reported from the Seven Springs site, (DeJarnette et al. 1973:Burials 1, 11). Such elaborate child burials need not imply a ranked society; many egalitarian societies lavish great care in the burial of children (Fiedel 1989).

OTHER ARTIFACTS PROBABLY FROM BURIALS There are a few additional artifacts from the Milner collection at Mound

State Monument. These include a large brass bell, said to have been pumped up from the gravel pit, several other cast brass bells, an iron axe, a set of iron wire bracelets, a quantity of red ochre, miscellaneous copper and fabric fragments, and two small end scrapers. Most of this material probably came from additional burials. The Morrison collection contains many artifacts probably from Burial C, but also contains at least two brass neck collars, two iron axes with oval eyes, and several brass arm bands which may be from additional burials. It is clear that grave goods from many burials are present in the various collections from the site; certainly more than the eight burials represented in the notes.

FEATURE 1 Feature 1 is described as a large midden-filled pit, elongated oval in shape, with horizontal dimensions of 10 by 3.5 feet. It was 30 inches deep. The notes say that the pit contained sherds, animal bone, and mussel shell. Several lots of material found in the collection belong to this feature. These include some charcoal, a bifacially worked chert cobble, and a large stemmed Archaic projectile point. A small quantity of animal bone from this feature is in the collection but has not been analyzed. Twenty-three ceramic sherds from Feature 1 will be discussed in greater detail in the analysis section.

FEATURE 2 Feature 2 was another large, midden-filled pit. It was oval in shape, with dimensions of 8 by 4 feet horizontally and 24 inches deep. Artifacts recovered from this feature consist of one quartz flake and six ceramic sherds. Of much interest are the faunal remains recovered from Feature 2, which includes an unusual association of deer, cougar, and bison. We are grateful to Susan Scott of the University of Southern Mississippi for the identification of the bison. According to Scott, a distal fragment of right humerus is morphologically clearly *B. bison*, and is clearly outside the normal size range for domestic cattle. There is in addition a bison femur fragment from this feature, and a fragment of a second, smaller right bison humerus from

Table 1. Summary of Burials and Accompaniments.

Bur- ial	Age	Sex	Proj. Pts	Pot	Pig- ment	Pipe	Disc- oidal	Glass Beads	Collar	Arm Band	Bells	Other Brass	Axe	Awl	Knife
1	20-60	Indet						X							
2	Adult	Indet				X								X	
3	Indet	Indet		X				X							
4	30-70	Male	X		X			X	X	X	X	X			
5	20-70	Indet	X												
A	15-60	Indet				X								X	X
B	Indet	Indet	X			X		X				X			
C	6-8	Indet		X			X	X	X	X	X	X			

Notes: Burials A-C were disturbed by heavy equipment and may have contained additional goods.
Pigment = red ochre; Burial 4 also has galena.

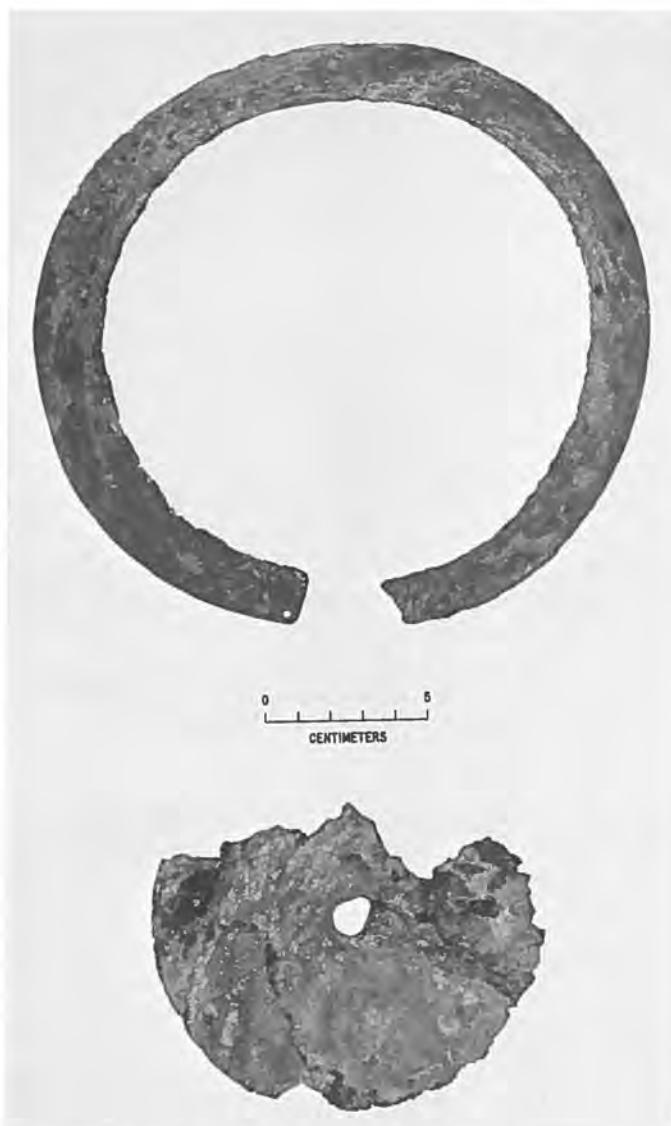


Figure 3. Brass Neck Collar and Disc Gorget.

a surface collection. There are, therefore, at least two individuals present in the site collection, probably one male and the other female based on relative size. The bison will be addressed more fully in the discussion section.

Analysis of Artifacts

EUROPEAN MATERIAL

BRASS NECK COLLARS. At least two brass neck collars are included in the collection (Figure 3) at Mound State Monument. One is from an unmarked box which may be from Burial C, and one is from the excavated Burial 4. Wimberly's notes suggest that there may have been up to three additional brass collars in the collection returned to Milner, and three are currently present in the Morrison collection. The best preserved of the latter was measured by Wimberly and found to have been 19 cm in outer



Figure 4. Brass arm bands.

diameter and 14.4 cm in interior diameter. One unusually wide fragment in the Morrison collection measures 66 mm wide.

Brass neck collars of this type are believed to date to the period 1660–1690 (Smith 1987:39). Their presence in Burial 4 associated with a tumbled chevron bead may suggest that they were in use somewhat earlier, perhaps as early as 1640 or 1650. Brass collars of this type have been recovered at the nearby Cooper Farm site, 1Et26, (Lindsey 1964: fig. 9) and at the slightly later Woods Island site (Morrell 1965).

BRASS DISC. One fragmentary brass disc gorget is present in the Morrison collection (Figure 3). Small hole brass discs of this type are common on sites postdating 1630 (Waskelov 1989:123; Smith 1987).



Figure 5. Brass bell types.

BRASS ARM BANDS. Sheet brass arm bands were found with Burial 4 and Burial C, and several are present in the Morrison collection (Figure 4). Similar arm bands have also been found at the nearby Cooper Farm (Lindsey 1964: fig. 6). The best preserved specimen measured 114 mm long.

BRASS BELLS. Brass bells were apparently common burial accompaniments at the Milner site. Burial 4 contained eight examples, while Burial C contained five, the Milner collection at Mound State Monument contains three, and the Morrison collection contains four (perhaps those from Burial C). Although none of the bells have been carefully cleaned (indeed several were not even washed because of textiles adhering), at least 14, including all from Burial 4, appear to be of the same type. All bells from the Milner site were cast brass bells, with a "key type" attachment. Ian Brown (1979) has described key type bells from the Trudeau site in Louisiana, but these bells differ in several respects. Both the cast decoration and the number of holes in the bells differ

from the eighteenth century specimens described by Brown. The bells found at Milner (Figure 5) have only two holes in the upper hemisphere, and two holes connected by a slot in the lower hemisphere, while bells illustrated by Brown have additional holes.

The most common bell variety at Milner (V. 1) was decorated with loops on the upper hemisphere and scales on the lower hemisphere (Figure 5, left). Variety 2 was decorated by loops on the top and bottom, and every other loop was filled with chevrons (Figure 5, center). A third variety, including the four bells in the Morrison collection, had both hemispheres decorated with plain loops (Figure 5, right). One bell had reversed decoration from the most common type; that is, it had scales on the upper hemisphere and loops on the lower with some of the loops having arches or chevrons in them (Variety 4). Most of the bells ranged in size from 32 to 35 mm in diameter, but the large Variety 2 bell from the Milner collection was 50 mm in diameter.

Table 2. Glass Beads from the Milner Site.

Description	Kidd #	Bu 1	Bu 3	Bu 4*	Bu B	Bu C	Bu C? Dirt
Necklace Beads							
Turquoise Blue	IIa40	2	3	529	42	7	P
Transl. Navy Blue	IIa55			27			P
Opaque Black	IIa6			2			
Transl. Purple	IIa-			1			
Transp. Green	IIa26			3			
Transl. Emerald							
Green	IIa28			6			
Transl. Med. Blue	IIa44			4			
Navy with Facets	—			1			
Colorless	IIa9			5			
Amber	IIa-				frags		
Turq. Blue w/3							
White Stripes	IIb56					1	
Colorless w/							
White Stripes	IIb18			1			
Seven Oaks Gilded	—			1			
Tumbled Chevron	IVk4			1			
Transp. Sky Blue	IIa34			2			
Seed Beads							
Turquoise Blue	IIa41			147	18+	3	P
Transp. Med. Blue	IIa44						P
Opaque Sky Blue	IIa37						P
Transp. Green	IIa27						P
Transp. Lt. Amber	IIa—						P
Colorless/White	IIb—					1	P
Colorless w/							
White Stripes	IIb18						P

Notes: * Only complete specimens counted.

P = Present, not quantified

Transp. = Transparent

Transl. = Translucent

Bells of Variety 1 have been reported from the Cooper Farm Site (Smith 1987: Figure 3.10C), while an apparent Variety 2 bell, also from the Cooper Farm site, was illustrated by Lindsey (1964: fig. 4). These bells are believed to have been traded by the Spaniards, and are no doubt the "cascabeles grandes de bronce" referred to by Bishop Calderón in 1675 (Wenhold 1936:13; Smith 1987:44).

GLASS BEADS. Both necklace and embroidery beads were common in the burials at the Milner site. Beads are listed in Table 2.

Only intact specimens of glass beads from Burial 4 were quantified, with the exception of the amber colored necklace beads which had no intact specimen. In actuality, many more beads were recovered from Burial 4. The beads listed as Burial C? Dirt were recovered from blocks of earth containing intact beadwork. Over the years, many beads had worked loose from the soil, and had accumulated in the bottom of the storage box. These beads were examined for additional types, but were not quantified since the sample was not complete. The decision was made to leave the partial beadwork fragments intact. Virtually all of the beads were turquoise blue, and it is unlikely that any

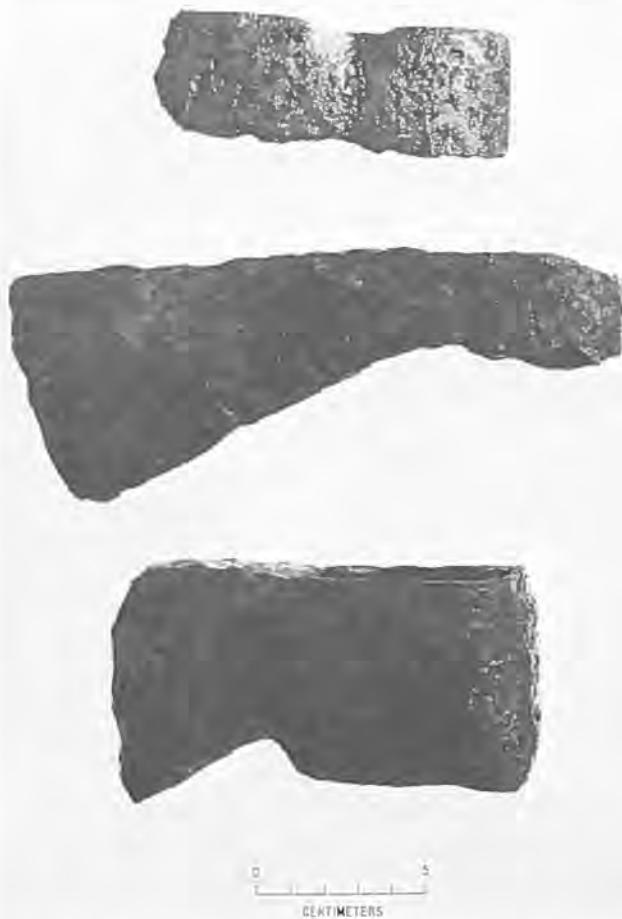


Figure 6. Iron axes and a blade made from a flattened axe eye.

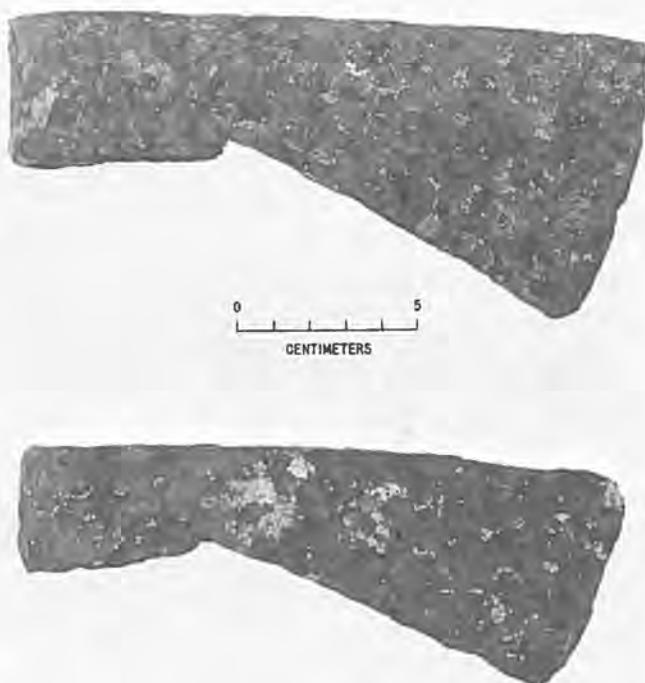


Figure 7. Iron Axes in the Morrison collection.

pattern exists in the beadwork. The Morrison collection contains a small string of turquoise blue seed beads.

Diagnostic beads, that is, unusual decorated specimens, were rare at the Milner site. One of the characteristics of the 1630–1670 period is the overall lack of polychrome beads (Smith 1987:33). The most diagnostic bead in the collection is the blue chevron bead from Burial 4. Beads of this type have been dated to ca. 1575–1650.

IRON AXES. Five iron axes or celts were found in the Milner site collections (Figure 6). One eyed axe recovered from Burial 2 is noteworthy because of its extreme wear. The blade has been resharpened down until it is extremely short. This indicates that iron axes were being utilized as everyday tools by the time the Milner site was occupied. Another eyed axe from Mr. Milner's collection is noteworthy for its delicate shape. This axe is very long (180mm) but very thin and is unlike the axe from Burial 2. Two additional eyed axes with oval eyes are in the Morrison collection (Figure 7). Finally, an iron celt or chisel blade from a steam shovel-disturbed burial was manufactured from the flattened eye of an eyed axe (Figure 6, upper). The modification of eyed axes into native celt forms was a common practice, and has been reported from Site Ms32 in the Guntersville Basin of Alabama by Fleming and Walthall (1978:31–32).

IRON KNIFE. One poorly preserved iron knife was recovered from Burial 4 (Figure 8). The present drawing of the knife was produced by referring to the actual specimen and a crude sketch with dimensions provided by the excavators.

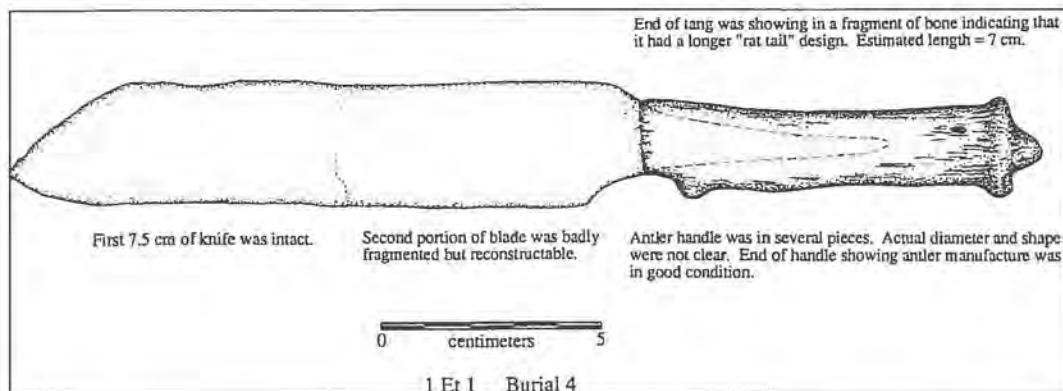


Figure 8. Iron knife.

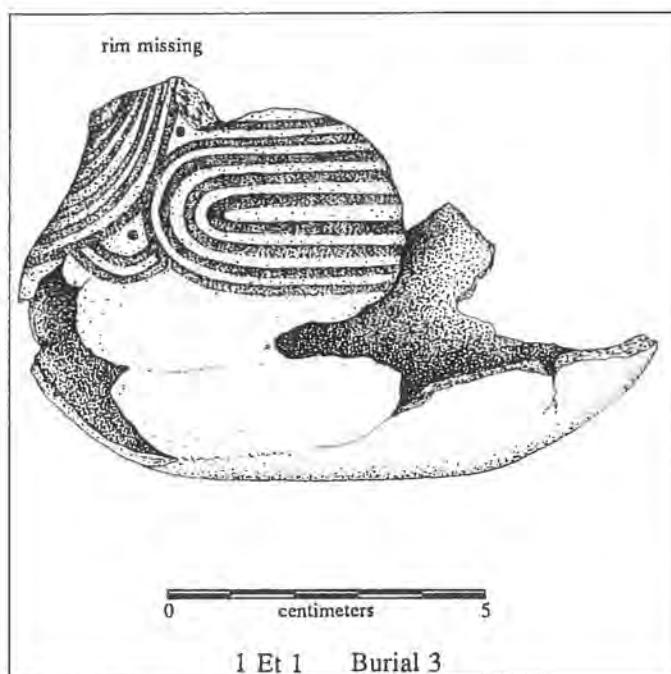


Figure 9. Incised jar from Burial 3.

The point is clearly sloped down and would be classified as a slant or sheepfoot point (Peterson 1958:3). The stag handle was secured with a long, rattail tang extension of the blade. Knives with similar blades and tangs are said to be the most common form on middle and late seventeenth century Oneida Iroquois sites (Hagerty 1963:101); however, these specimens differ from the Milner example in having a "collar" between the blade and tang.

IRON BRACELETS. Badly corroded Iron wire bracelets, apparently from a disturbed burial, were present in Mr. Milner's collection from the site. Similar bracelets have been reported from the nearby Cooper Farm site (Lindsey 1964:26).

ABORIGINAL MATERIAL

CERAMICS. Fragments of at least two vessels and 199 other sherds were present in the collections from the Milner site. The partial shell tempered incised vessel recovered from Burial 3 is illustrated in Figure 9. The rim portion of this vessel is missing, but the vessel is clearly a small jar. A

portion of another small jar was included in the segments of dirt removed from a disturbed burial (possibly Burial C). This vessel fragment was not restored and was not studied. One hundred ninety-nine additional sherds were recovered from the site (Table 3; Figure 10).

It is not known if this collection is representative. It is possible that the surface and Milner collections are biased toward decorated sherds, but unfortunately, this is the only collection available from the site. The shell tempered types are common on the Coosa River, while the shell and grog tempered types are probably derived from the Kymulga tradition downstream in the Talladega County area (Knight et al. 1983).

LITHICS. Lithic remains from the Milner Site include pipes, a discoidal stone, projectile points, raw materials for tool production, hafted end scrapers, and red ocher.

Pipes from the Milner Site (Figure 11) include two examples made from siltstone and one example made from limestone, all from Burial 2. The siltstone examples are of the elbow type, while the limestone example is a simple bowl with incised decoration and a conical drilled hole for the stem. One steatite Copena style effigy pipe, already mentioned, is present in the Morrison collection (Figure 2). The historic period phallic effigy pipe is also present in the Morrison collection.

A discoidal stone is present in the Morrison collection. It has been described in the section on Burial C.



Figure 10. Representative sherds.



Figure 11. Stone Pipes.

Caches of projectile points were recovered from Burials 4 and 5 (Figure 12). Many are lanceolate-shaped points of the Guntersville type, while others are more triangular in shape and can be classified as Madison points (Cambron and Hulse 1975). Eugene Futato (Personal communication) has identified the chert types as local Knox chert, although a few specimens may be Fort Payne chert. Table 4 lists the metric attributes of these burial points.

Caches of projectile points were also common finds at the nearby Cooper Farm site (Humbard and Humbard 1965). It is clear that the bow and arrow were in common use by the Milner inhabitants. No firearms parts have been recovered from Milner or the nearby Cooper Farm site.

A cache of stone and tools for projectile point manufacture was found in Burial 4. This cache consisted of a small quartzite cobble hammerstone, a small sandstone abrader, a chert pebble (possible grinding stone), and 22 Knox chert chunks. Similar caches of raw materials and tools are common in burials from the Early Historic Period, having been reported from the mid-sixteenth century King Site on the Coosa River in Georgia (Garrow 1973) and the nearby Cooper Farm site (Humbard and Humbard 1965).

Finally, two small unifacial end scrapers were in the Milner collection. Identical end scrapers are commonly found on Early Historic Period sites, and were present at the nearby Cooper Farm site (Humbard and Humbard 1965:137).



Figure 12. Projectile points.

TEXTILES. Numerous fragments of textile were preserved adhering to bells or other sheet brass ornaments. Penelope Drooker has examined a slide of some of the textile fragments and she reports that they appear to be of aboriginal construction. One fragment consisted of plain oblique interlacing, one is oblique interlacing interrupted by a row of short four to six element braids forming a row of holes, and there is a fragment of a more complex braid such as used in the end of a sash or tumpline. Most, if not all of the yarns are two-ply, S twisted; the common Mississippian form.

Discussion

Smith (1987) has suggested a gradual migration of the remnants of the Coosa chiefdom down the river of that name following Spanish contact in the sixteenth century. In his scenario, most of the sixteenth century towns of Coosa were in northern Georgia, while the early seventeenth century towns were located in the Weiss Reservoir area, the middle seventeenth century towns were located in the Gadsden, Alabama area, and the later seventeenth century towns were further downstream at sites such as Woods Island. Thus according to this scenario, the Milner Site would be one of the Coosa towns from the middle seventeenth century. The types of European artifacts present confirm the dating.

Ceramics from the Milner site can be compared with those from the early seventeenth century Bradford Ferry Site, 1Ce78, and the Seven Springs site, 1Ce101, in the Weiss Reservoir (DeJarnette et al. 1973: 24–25, 56); the contemporaneous Atasi Phase component of the Tukabatchee site on the Tallapoosa River (Knight 1985: 200); and the slightly later Woods Island site located further south on the Coosa (Morrell 1965:35). Definite Woodland and earlier Mississippian types have been omitted and some of the types from Tukabatchee with less than one percent have been rounded to a full percent. Unfortunately, there are no ceramic data published for the nearby Cooper Farm site, which is believed to be contemporaneous. The comparison is presented in Table 5.

From this comparison, it is apparent that the frequency of incised ceramics is relatively high at Milner (although the observed frequency might be due to a surface collection bias for decorated sherds). There is virtually no brushing in the two Weiss Reservoir sites, but brushing is important in the Milner assemblage. There is some plain and complicated stamped material at Seven Springs and Bradford Ferry that may reflect Lamar types, but a reanalysis would be needed to demonstrate that they are not Woodland types. There are definitely no Lamar types present at Milner. The Milner assemblage is virtually identical to that from the contemporary Atasi Phase collection from Tukabatchee on the Tallapoosa, except that the former is shell tempered while the latter is grit tempered. The later Woods Island site contains more plain ware, less

Table 3. Ceramics from the Milner Site.

Type	Bu2	Bu4	Bu5	F1	F2	Debris	Surface	Milner	Total	%
Shell Plain	4	9	3	11	3	36	38		104	52.3
McKee Island										
Brushed	5	2		6	2	13	23		51	25.6
Shell Incised				2		2	11	3	18	9.0
Shell Burnished										
Incised						2	6		8	4.0
Shell Punctate							1		1	0.5
McKee Island										
Cord Marked							1		1	0.5
Shell Burnished										
Plain	1	1		1		3			6	3.0
Grog T. Plain							2		2	1.0
Shell & Grog										
Plain				1		2			3	1.5
Shell & Grog										
Brushed				2	1		1		4	2.0
Shell & Grog										
Burnished Inc.			1						1	0.5
Total									199	100.0

incised and brushed ware, but shows an increase in cord marked ware from Milner. These trends should be tested with a larger sample of sherds from the Milner time period.

The type site for the mid-seventeenth century on the Coosa drainage is the Cooper Farm site, located only a short distance downstream from the Milner site and across the river in Whorton's Bend (Lindsay 1964; Humbard and Humbard 1965; Battles 1969; Smith 1977, 1987). Virtually every type of grave accompaniment at the Milner site has a close counterpart at Cooper Farm, and it is clear that the two sites were essentially contemporaneous. The estimated occupation duration for the Cooper Farm, with its larger sample of artifacts, is 1630–1670, and these dates are felt to be applicable to the Milner site. During this period, European materials were probably being obtained through aboriginal trade networks with the

Apalachee missions of Florida. There are no recorded visits by Europeans into this area during the estimated occupation spans of these sites.

The presence of bison was an unexpected bonus. While there are a number of historic references to bison in the Southeast, archaeological remains have been very difficult to locate. The geographer Erhard Rostlund produced a study of the distribution of bison in the Southeast based on historical accounts and archaeological remains (1960). He includes several accounts of bison in southern Alabama: Marcos Delgado observed many buffaloes near the Choctawatchie River in Dale County (southeast of the Milner Village area) in

1686. In 1716, Diego Peña reported buffalo in Barbour County, and in 1739 one of General Oglethorpe's rangers reported buffalo were hunted by Indians from Coweta in Russell County, Alabama. Finally, Taskigi Indians who lived near the junction of the Coosa and Tallapoosa were said to hunt buffalo, but the date of this vague report was not indicated.

Table 4. Burial Projectile Points.

	Length	Basal Width	Color	Type
Burial 4				
#1	33.0	10.5	black	Guntersville
#2	34.5	9.0	white	Guntersville
#3	33.0	9.0	black	Guntersville
#4	25.0	10.0	white	Guntersville
#5	27.0	11.0	white	Guntersville
Burial 5				
#1	38.5	12.5	tan	Guntersville
#2	33.0	12.0	black	Guntersville
#3	31.5	13.0	black	Guntersville
#4	30.0	12.0	gray	Guntersville
#5	28.0	11.0	black	Madison
#6	23.0	12.5	black	Madison
#7	22.0	11.0	gray	Madison
#8	22.5	13.0	gray	Madison
#9	25.0	14.0	grayish black	Madison

Table 5. Ceramic Comparison by Percentage.

Type	Bradford Ferry	Seven Springs	Milner Village	Tukabat-chee	Woods Island
Shell Temp. Plain	87.2	90.7	55.3	2.0	77.1
Other Plain	5.7	0.3	2.5	56.0	—
McKee Island Incised	7.0	6.7	13.0	1.0	7.1
Other Incised	—	—	0.5	9.0	—
Shell Temp. Punctate	—	—	0.5	—	—
McKee Island Cord Marked	—	0.1	0.5	—	3.5
Fabric Marked	—	0.2	—	—	—
McKee Island Brushed	—	0.1	25.6	1.0	12.3
Other Brushed	—	—	2.0	22.0	—
Sand/Grit Temp. Comp. St.	—	2.0	—	—	—
Sample Size	525	1,616	199	5,503	1,616

With all of these historic accounts of bison in Alabama, it is surprising that only one other confirmed archaeological find has been made in the state. Robert Neuman (1983) has assembled archaeological data on bison in the Southeast. Only 12 of 55 possible bison finds are from east of the Mississippi, and most of these are not considered probable. C. B. Moore reported a strip of buffalo horn from Mound C at Moundville, but Moundville is known for exotic grave goods, and the presence of bison here certainly would not necessarily indicate that bison were present in the area. There are also possible bison remains from sites in the Guntersville Basin in northeastern Alabama, but none of these identifications are definite. The nearest other occurrences of note are another C.B. Moore find from the Hampton Place, an early seventeenth century site near Chattanooga, Tennessee, and a vertebra from Waddell's Mill Pond in Jackson County, Florida — a Mississippian and early historic period site (Neuman 1983).

In his analysis, Rostlund notes that bison are not mentioned in the core Southeast by De Soto, Luna, or Juan Pardo, and suggests that they were a recent arrival. He suggests that depopulation of native Americans by disease introduced by Europeans allowed bison to migrate into the Southeast in the seventeenth century (1960:407), using abandoned fields which had grown up in grass as grazing land. The Milner village data in no way contradict his hypothesis, and it seems to be very likely a valid explanation. Finds like those at Milner will help us to eventually unravel this interesting problem.

The Milner site affords us a glimpse of Alabama's Indians just prior to contact by English traders. It also offers us a small sample of ceramics of this period, since no sherd counts were ever published for the nearby Cooper Farm site. Additional research is necessary to fully document the seventeenth century occupation of the Coosa valley.

Acknowledgments

The authors wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Carl Morrison for allowing us to study the Milner family collection. We had been studying the Milner Village collection stored at Mound State Monument, and by a quirk of fate, the Morrisons chose that particular time to seek information about the artifacts collected by Mrs. Morrison's father, Mr. L. O. Milner. At a considerable effort, the Morrisons brought their collection to Moundville for study, enabling us to produce a more complete record of this important site. Their interest and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated.

We would also like to thank Susan Scott of the University of Southern Mississippi for the identification of the bison and other animal remains. We were fortunate to have a leading bison expert available. Robert Maslowski and Penelope Drooker examined a slide of the aboriginal textiles, and gave us much useful information. Eugene Futato identified the chert types used for projectile points and the raw material cache in Burial 4. All drawings are the work of Julie Smith.

Editor's Notes

1. For the location of this site refer to Figure 1 in Smith's paper, "Seventeenth Century Aboriginal Settlement on the Coosa River," this volume.

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Seventeenth Century Aboriginal Settlement on the Coosa River

Marvin T. Smith

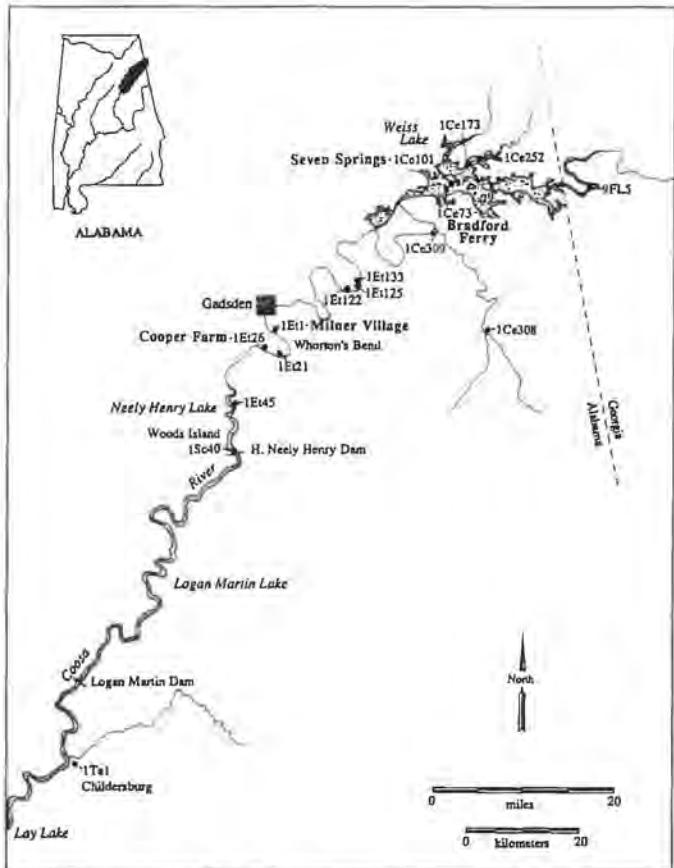
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For the end of the sixteenth century, no Indian sites are known for northwestern Georgia (Smith 1987). Apparently some of these people died as a result of Spanish contact, and the survivors moved away, and there is evidence that they largely moved downstream into Alabama. Hally, Smith, and Langford (1990) have characterized earlier sixteenth-century aboriginal settlement in the Valley and Ridge Province of Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee. They identify clusters of sites which they believe make up small chiefdoms which were united in the paramount chiefdom of Coosa. These clusters range between five and thirteen sites, virtually all of which are large village-size occupations greater than one hectare (most are 2–4 ha); only one farmstead is known at this time.¹ These clusters range in size from 10.8 to 23.5 km across, and they are separated from their nearest neighboring cluster by distances of between 16km and 50km. Most of these clusters have at least one site with a mound, which probably served as an administrative center. How do the seventeenth century sites in Alabama compare with this pattern?

It should be noted that there are virtually no data available for the late sixteenth century. Site 1Ce308 (Figure 1) (Little and Curren 1981) appears to have been occupied at some time post-dating De Soto (1540) and probably also Luna (1560) (Smith 1987). This site was also clearly occupied long before Soto during the Savannah (ca. 1200–1350 A.D.) and early Lamar (ca. 1350–1450) periods (Smith 1989:6–7). The poorly known Terrapin Creek site, 1Ce309 (Figure 1), has produced European artifacts of the terminal sixteenth to early seventeenth



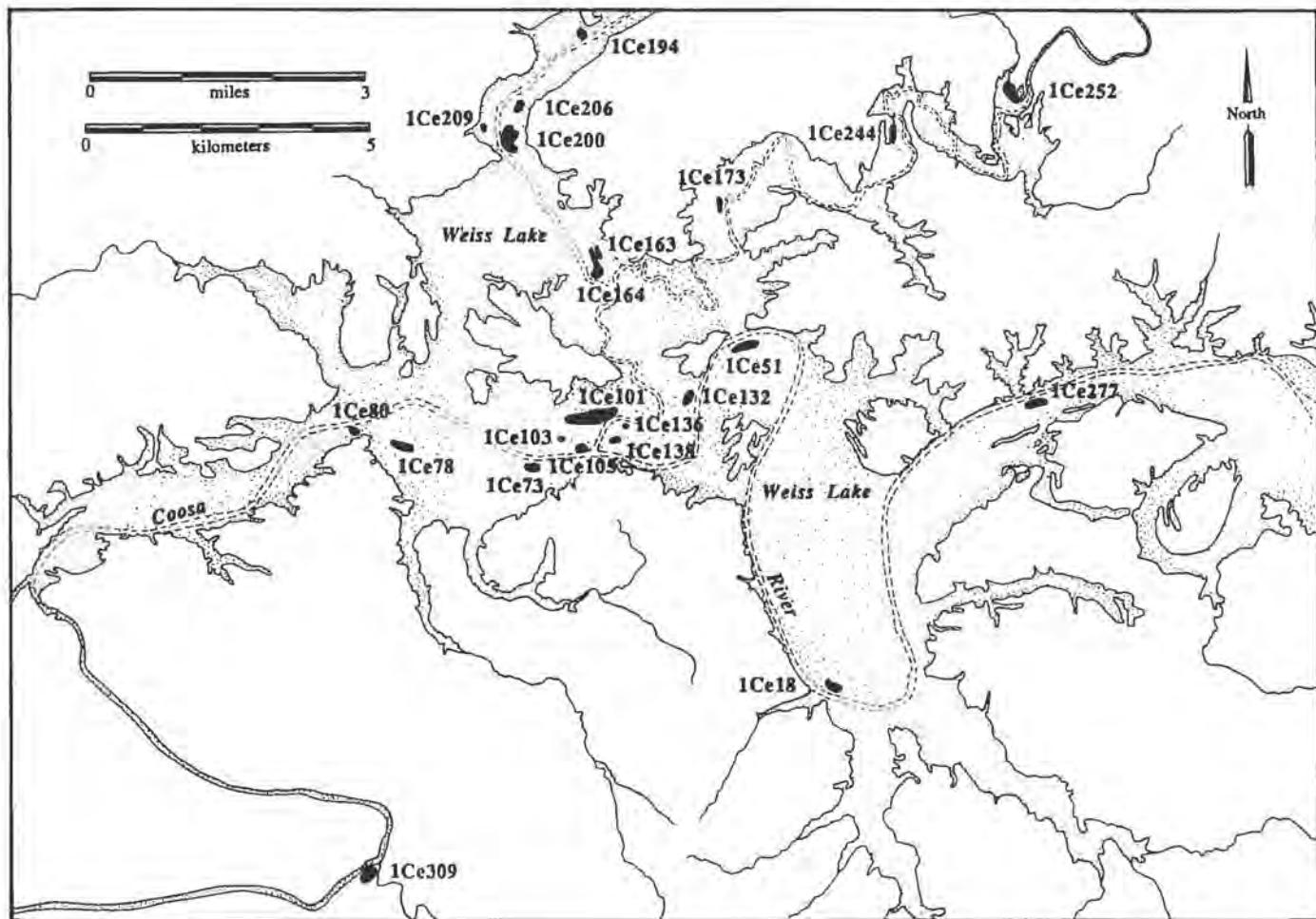


Figure 2. Weiss Reservoir sites.

Weiss Basin Sites

But by the beginning of the seventeenth century, there was a cluster of sites on the Coosa River in the present Weiss Reservoir area (DeJarnette et al. 1973) (Figure 1, 2). These sites can be dated, based on the excavations at the Bradford Ferry site (1Ce73) and Seven Springs site (1Ce101), to the first third of the seventeenth century. There are 21 sites in this cluster that have produced shell tempered ceramics, and they are assumed to be contemporary. Although DeJarnette et al. (1973:189) state that there are no known prehistoric Early or Climax Mississippian sites in the Weiss Reservoir, it cannot be assumed that all sites producing shell tempered ceramics are part of the early seventeenth century cluster of sites. Walthall (1980:147-8) recognizes a Late Woodland Coker Ford phase marked by limestone tempered plain and brushed ceramics, with rare shell tempered plain wares, limestone tempered cord marked and red filmed types. This assemblage appears to be what would now be termed Emergent Mississippian. Given the reality of such an occupation in the reservoir, it would be hard to determine from small surface collections which contain some shell tempered pottery which component was present on mixed sites.

While there are 21 sites that have produced shell tempered ceramics, many of these sites produced only a few sherds in the survey collections on otherwise Woodland or Archaic period sites. Three sites (Bradford Ferry, Seven Springs, Gilmore Springs) were excavated, and produced features and burials which date to the early seventeenth century. Judging from the number of features and burials and the large number of shell tempered sherds on the surface, Bradford Ferry and Seven Springs were villages. It is not known if any of the remaining 19 sites were of village size. Table 1 presents data on site size and number of shell tempered sherds recovered in surface collections or excavations.

These data are hard to interpret since little is known about the survey conditions. For example, was surface visibility poor or excellent? Most of the sites with shell tempered pottery have no other artifacts listed. Some are clearly of very small size, and are definitely not villages. For the purposes of this analysis, it will be assumed that any site producing less than 12 shell tempered sherds is not a potential village. Sites less than 0.5 ha in area are also not considered to be villages.

Given this approach, there are five potential villages,

Table 1. Weiss Site Cluster Data.

Site	Size (m ²)	No. Shell Tempered Sherds	
		Surface	Excavated
Bradford Ferry+	6,360	381	595
Seven Springs+	275,730	472	1,978
Gilmore Springs+	22,204	not reported	115
1Ce78	18,180	1	
1Ce105	450	1	
1Ce103	450	18	
1Ce136	450	1	
1Ce138	1,830	15	
1Ce132	2,730	12	
1Ce51	9,090	2	
1Ce277	5,460	2*	
1Ce164+	6,825	9	
1Ce163	3,003	3	
1Ce206	5,445	1	
1Ce252+	58,685	17	
1Ce209	900	4	
1Ce18	14,726		5*
1Ce80	6,969		1*
1Ce194	14,641		1*
1Ce200	55,055		17*
1Ce244	73,326		1*

Site size taken from State Site Files. Sherd Counts from DeJarnette et al. 1973.

* Minor component of multicomponent site.

+ Definite seventeenth century occupation signalled by the presence of McKee Island Incised sherds and/or trade goods.

and 16 possible hamlets or special purpose sites in the Weiss cluster. The appearance of hamlet level occupation is a radical departure from the settlement pattern of the sixteenth-century Barnett phase.

The largest site is the Seven Springs site, 1Ce101, at 275,730 square meters. This is a multicomponent site and the size of the seventeenth-century component is not known, but is probably smaller than the total site size. All major excavation units produced shell tempered pottery, and these units indicate a minimum site size of 525 feet by 400 feet, or 19,509 square meters (1.95 ha), a site size which compares favorably with sixteenth-century Barnett phase site sizes recorded in Georgia (Hally et al. 1990).

The Bradford Ferry site, 1Ce73, also appears to be a small village. Excavations revealed numerous burials and features (DeJarnette et al. 1973) from the early seventeenth century. The size is listed as 0.636 ha, which would be a very small village if the recorded size is accurate. I have accounted for 47 burials, suggesting a sizeable village (Smith 1977).

The Gilmore Spring site, 1Ce173, was also investigated (DeJarnette et al. 1973), but the excavations yielded only 115 shell tempered sherds. One feature and one burial can be dated to the early seventeenth century on the basis of shell tempered ceramics, and glass beads were found on

the surface. Gilmore Spring was primarily a Woodland site, but the presence of a seventeenth-century feature and burial indicates at least a farmstead occupation during the historic period. This site is listed as a potential village, but the evidence suggests that it was a smaller occupation.

Site 1Ce200, the Coker Ford site, produced 17 shell tempered sherds in a major excavation of a Woodland period mound and village site. This site is clearly not a seventeenth-century village, but a Coker Ford phase site as defined by Walthall.

One unexcavated site, 1Ce252, produced shell tempered ceramics and is 5.86 ha in area. No other diagnostic cultural material is reported for this site, and it is assumed to be a seventeenth-century village since it produced a McKee Island Incised sherd. Portions of this site are apparently intact, and it should be revisited.

Thus, of the five potential village sites of the early seventeenth century, only three sites, Seven Springs, Bradford Ferry, and 1Ce252 cannot be eliminated as probable villages by closer scrutiny.² The remaining 18 sites appear to be small hamlets or special purpose sites or Coker Ford phase settlements, although the possibility that some of the poorly known survey sites are villages cannot be disproved. But, it is noteworthy that none of these sites are greater than 1 ha in extent. Sites 1Ce18, 1Ce80, 1Ce194, and 1Ce244 have shell tempered pottery in apparent association with Woodland types, and are probably Coker Ford phase settlements. The other sites produced only shell tempered ceramics. Thus there are only 13 possible seventeenth-century hamlets in the Weiss Reservoir. Of these, only 1Ce164 and 1Ce173 produced McKee Island Incised pottery and can definitely be attributed to the seventeenth century.

The diameter of this presumed early seventeenth century polity, or cluster of sites, is 10.5 km between village-size sites, or a maximum of 13 km between any sites producing shell tempered ceramics. The largest site, Seven Springs, is also the central site. Many of the other sites producing shell tempered ceramics are also located in this area, near the confluence of the Chattooga River with the Coosa.

There are some 16 sites in Georgia that can be dated to the middle of the sixteenth century, and there are 10 others that may date to this period (Hally et al. 1990: Table 2). It is apparent that these sites ceased to be occupied by the end, or even the third quarter, of the sixteenth century (Smith 1987). It is believed that these people moved downstream into Alabama to the Weiss Reservoir area, but where is the appropriate number of sites? Was depopulation so dramatic as to go from 16–26 villages to only three? The effects of European-introduced disease appears dramatic, and the disease explanation must be seriously considered unless many additional early seventeenth century sites can be located. Not only had the number of sites decreased, but a change in settlement to a more dispersed pattern can also be shown.

Table 2. Coats Bend Sites (courtesy Harry Holstein).

Site	No. Sherds	McKee Island	No. Sherds	Shell Tempered	Size Plain	Other Components?
1Et122	7		88		0.9 ha	Yes
1Et125			4		0.6 ha	Yes
1Et133	6		33		1.3 ha	Yes

Coats Bend Sites

The Alabama State site files were examined for additional historic aboriginal sites on the Coosa River north of Woods Island. Several survey reports were also consulted (Waselkov 1980; Mistovich 1981a, 1981b; Mistovich and Zeanah 1983a, 1983b). One group of three sites, 1Et122, 1Et125, and 1Et133, were located in Coats Bend of the Coosa River north of Gadsden, a location 23 km southwest of the Weiss Reservoir sites (Figure 1). These sites were located by Harry Holstein and Keith Little during an intensive survey of Coats Bend, and an inquiry to Holstein provided much additional data (Holstein personal communication). These three sites were characterized by shell tempered plain and incised ceramics. Table 2 summarizes information on these sites.

The Coats Bend sites are thus characterized by plain and incised shell tempered pottery, and therefore probably date to the early seventeenth century since they compare closely with the ceramic assemblage from the Weiss Reservoir sites and lack the brushed ceramics of the later sites (See Table 1 and discussion). There is some grit tempered ware present at 1Et133 and 1Et122 but it is not clear if these are Lamar-related or Woodland types. If they are late grit tempered types, then the sites may date to the late sixteenth century instead of the early seventeenth century. Perhaps some of the "lost" population of the early seventeenth century resided in these sites, or perhaps these sites represent intermediate settlements between the Weiss Reservoir area sites and the Gadsden (Whorton's Bend) sites if a strict downstream movement model is invoked. Note that any of these sites appear to be potential villages according to size. However, all are multi-component so the recorded size may not correspond with the early historic component. The scarcity of sherds at Site 1Et125 suggests that it is not a village. This cluster of sites measures 2 km in diameter, and more work should be done with the Coats Bend sites to more fully understand their place in the settlement scheme.

Whorton's Bend Sites

By ca. 1630, the Weiss Reservoir area sites were abandoned and the people are believed to have moved downstream some 36km to the Whorton's Bend area near present Gadsden, Alabama, or 15km if they moved from

the Coats Bend sites. They remained in this location until ca. 1670 (Smith 1987). Six sites are known from Whorton's Bend, and a seventh site, 1Et45, is located further downstream (Figure 3). Table 3 lists reported sizes for these sites.

The Milner Village site, 1Et1, was excavated by David DeJarnette and Steve Wimberly in 1948, and collections are stored at Mound State Monument. A paper concerning this work has been prepared (Smith et al., this volume). Abundant European artifacts placed in burials allows dating of this site to the period 1630–1670. The size recorded for this site is 2.77 ha., indicating that it was a sizeable village.

Site 1Et7 was identified as an historic aboriginal site by Waselkov (1980,II:52). Collections stored at Mound State Monument consist of four plain and one incised shell tempered sherd. This site is assumed to be contemporary with other, better dated sites on Whorton's bend, but this cannot be proven with the available data.

Site 1Et19 was also identified as an historic aboriginal site by Waselkov (1980,II:55). Collections at Mound State Monument consist of eight small, plain shell tempered sherds. Again, this site is assumed to be contemporary with other sites in the bend.

Site 1Et21, the Whorton's Bend Site, was listed as a protohistoric site by Waselkov (1980,II:55). Collections at Mound State Monument from the surface and several test units excavated during the Lock 3 Dam Reservoir (now Neely Henry Reservoir) salvage project contain 70 shell tempered sherds including plain, incised, and brushed surface treatments. This site is clearly a middle seventeenth century site. Greer (1966) reports a "Tukabatchee Plate" from a site on Whorton's Bend, and his locational information appears to conform to Site 1Et21 as the provenience for the plate. Mrs. Juanita Battles, an amateur archaeologist from the Gadsden area, has shown the author the location of this find as best she knew it on a county highway map, and the location given was immediately adjacent to Site 1Et21 as recorded in the State Site files at Moundville. Thus it can safely be assumed that Greer's plate came from Site 1Et21. This site is a very large village of 16 ha according to the site files.

Site 1Et23 is a small site listed by Waselkov (1980,II:55) as a Mississippian/Protohistoric site. Collections at

Table 3. Site Size Data for Gadsden Cluster.

Site	Size (m ²)
Milner Village, 1Et1	27,755
1Et7	4,560
1Et19	3,630
Tukabatchee Plate, 1Et21	160,696
1Et23	4,095
Cooper Farm, 1Et26	6,825
1Et45	16,562

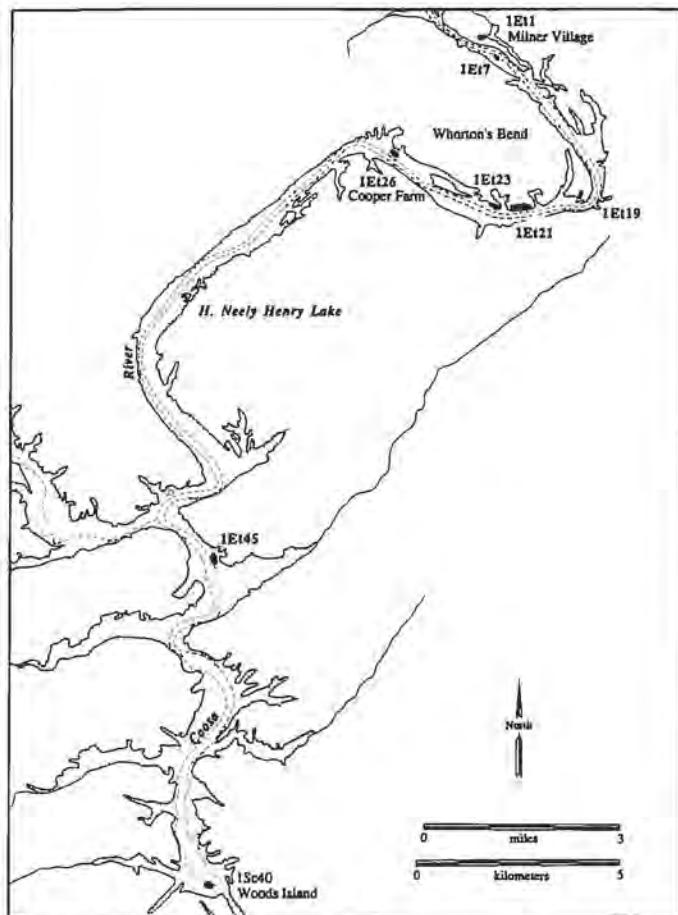


Figure 3. Whorton's Bend sites.

Mound State Monument contain only one shell tempered plain sherd, suggesting possible contemporaneity with the seventeenth century sites on the bend.

Site 1Et26, the Cooper Farm site, is listed by Waselkov (1980, II: 56) as an historic Creek site. During a flood in 1936, one or more burials were washed out of the site, and Mr. Frank Cooney purchased the material from the land owner. His collection, including material from other sites, is now on display at the Gadsden Public Library. The Cooper Farm site was tested by the University of Alabama as part of the Lock 3 Dam salvage project, but the results discouraged further work. A small surface collection of 13 plain shell tempered sherds, 3 incised shell tempered sherds, and 6 brushed shell tempered sherds was located at Moundville. An additional small collection of sherds was made available by Mrs. Juanita Battles bringing the total number of sherds located for analysis to 51. During and after the construction of the reservoir, members of the Alabama Archaeological Society excavated numerous burials from the site (Battles 1969, 1972; Lindsey 1964; Humbard and Humbard 1965; Greer 1966). I have studied much of this material firsthand and have dated it to the period ca. 1630–1670 (Smith 1987). Cooper Farm is clearly a small village (0.7ha) of the middle seventeenth century.

Site 1Et45 is located some 11 linear km downstream from the Cooper Farm Site. Waselkov (1980, II:61) lists this site as Mississippian/Protohistoric/Historic and notes that burials were destroyed by gravel operations. Collections at Mound State Monument contained no ceramics. The period of occupation of this site is not secure. Assuming that historic burials were encountered, they would most likely date to the middle or late seventeenth century, since 1Et45 is between clusters of sites of those periods.

The diameter of the Gadsden site cluster is 8.2km without site 1Et45, or 14.2 km with it. The cluster contains only four sites (including 1Et45) greater than half a hectare in size. The number of village size sites seems to remain constant at three, but there are fewer small sites known for this area. The size of the Tukabatchee Plate site, 1Et21, is many times larger than the sites in the Weiss Reservoir except for Site 1Ce101, suggesting that either the site is not as large as recorded, or that many people coalesced at this location during the mid-seventeenth century. There does not seem to be dramatic evidence of depopulation in contrast to that seen earlier.

Woods Island Site

The next group of sites, or rather probably one site, was located on Woods Island (Morrell 1965; Graham 1966; Anonymous 1965) some 8 linear km from Site 1Et45, and some 18.5 linear km downstream from Cooper Farm. The only other potential site of this time period is Site 1Sc46, a small 3,000 square meter site located slightly downstream from Woods Island. Mistovich (1981b:12–13) lists Site 1Sc46 as Mississippian and Historic Creek, based on two eroded shell and grog tempered sherds. Both surface collections and two test units only yielded the two late sherds, although Woodland material was also recovered. This site might represent a farmstead.

Thus we are left with only the Woods Island site as a known late seventeenth century occupation in this area of the Coosa River. The next nearest site (1Ta200) that could be of this period is located further south in Talladega County some 30 linear km downstream. This area is all within the Logan Martin Reservoir, and some effort was expended to survey this reservoir although the specific survey methodology is not documented (see Morrell, this volume). It is therefore assumed that this gap in late sites is real. The area upstream of Woods Island is part of Lock 3 Reservoir (Neely Henry Reservoir) and was also surveyed. Thus Woods Island appears to stand alone as the only late seventeenth century site in the region.

The Woods Island site is a large site measuring some 1,400 by 800 feet (10.4 ha). It is clearly a large village, and it is possible that all the people from the Gadsden cluster of sites congregated here in the late seventeenth century for protection. I have argued that there is some ceramic evidence that Tennessee River Koasati groups also moved

into the area at this time (Smith 1989:9). Historical evidence from the expedition of Marcos Delgado in 1686 shows that some Indians including Tennessee-area Koasati were moving south into the Coosa River drainage because of pressure from armed Indian groups and slave raiders (Boyd 1937; Smith 1987, 1989), and it seems likely that Woods Island was chosen as a defensive position. It is here that English traders first reached the Coosa River people, probably the people later known as Coosas and Abihkas, since English trade goods are first found at this site. For example, the sword excavated by Morrell from Woods Island (Burial 3) is identical to one illustrated by Wilkinson (1967: Plate 69) which is identified as English, late seventeenth century. Gun parts and English gunspalls also appear at Woods Island for the first time in the Coosa River sequence, again suggesting contact with the British traders.

The Indians of the Coosa River apparently stayed at Woods Island until sometime in the early eighteenth century, perhaps moving after the Yamasee War of 1715. Their next move takes them well into the eighteenth century and out of the present study area, but briefly they next settled near the present town of Childersburg, Alabama. In this area are historically documented Coosa and Abihka towns (Knight et al. 1984), and the early eighteenth century is the first time since Tristan de Luna (1560) that we have historically documented locations for these people.

Summary and Conclusions

Based on archaeological evidence the Indians of the province of Coosa first contacted by Hernando de Soto in 1540 gradually moved southward into Alabama. A detailed analysis of ceramics from this series of sites located on the Coosa River (Smith 1989:4–20) has been performed to show evidence of either ethnic continuity or disruption. While there is some evidence of continuity seen in the gradual changes of ceramic attributes through time, there is no individual attribute which signals "emblematic style," to use Weissner's (1983:257) term, which can be attributed to the Coosa ethnic group. Nonetheless, there is apparent continuity of ceramics along the Coosa River; no other currently known archaeological assemblage suggests that the Coosa people moved elsewhere.

Elsewhere I have attempted to pull together three years of excavation at the important Woods Island site (Smith 1989:21–33). This synthesis had never been attempted before, and could only be accomplished by interviewing people who actually took part in the research. Several characteristics of the Woods Island site are now better understood, but a final report on Woods Island should be completed in the future.

One of my goals has been to better understand the changing settlement pattern of the Coosa River people. Sixteenth-century settlements in northern Georgia con-

sist of 16–26 large village-size units in three groups on the Coosawattee, Etowah, and headwaters of the Coosa River (Hally et al. 1990). Late sixteenth-century occupations are poorly known, but probably were present at the Terrapin Creek site, 1Ce309, and at Site 1Ce308 (Little and Curren 1981; Smith 1987). Lack of knowledge about these sites is the largest gap in our understanding of the Coosa River sequence.

By the beginning of the seventeenth century, settlement centered on the Weiss Reservoir area of the Coosa River in Cherokee County, Alabama. Here some three village sites and 13 possible hamlets or special purpose sites can be identified as probably belonging to a cluster. Most are small farmsteads, but most of the population was clustered near the junction of the Chattooga River and the Coosa. Two or three large villages are known from this time. Three additional sites are known from Coats Bend that appear to date to this period, but further field research will be needed to properly evaluate these sites.

By about 1630, the people of the Coosa River moved south again to the Whorton's Bend area near Gadsden. Here they settled in six or seven sites, only four of which were of village size.

Around 1670, they again moved downstream to the Woods Island site. Apparently most of the people congregated in one large site on the island for protection. Here they had first contacts with British traders. By the early eighteenth century, they again moved south to the Childersburg area, where they apparently joined an indigenous population, the descendants of the Kymulga phase. Here they reentered the historic record as the Coosas and Abihkas.

Much research remains to be done. A complete site report for Woods Island should be prepared, the sites on Coats Bend should be investigated to determine their place in the settlement movement model, and additional survey should be conducted in the entire river valley. The relationship between the settlements on the Coosa River and those on Choccolocco Creek should be determined. Work in progress by Holstein and Little (n.d.) should shed light on the sites in this area. To date, the Choccolocco Creek sites (except for Ogeltree Island) appear to be prehistoric, perhaps early sixteenth century. These people also may have moved into the Coosa Valley following Spanish contact.

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tury, instead of narrowly focusing their efforts on the sixteenth century, is greatly appreciated. Mrs. Alice Cox of the Alabama Museum of Natural History provided support in many ways. At Mound State Monument, Carey Oakley and Eugene Futato provided access to collections. Their generosity in helping an outsider learn the information and collections management system at Moundville is greatly appreciated. They added immeasurably to the success of the project. Alabama hospitality is indeed excellent.

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Dr. David J. Hally of the University of Georgia provided access to collections from the King Site, and shared his set of data on Georgia incised pottery motifs and surface treatment. I hope that I have not abused his data too much. He and Vernon Knight read an early draft of this report, and provided much editorial assistance. The figures are the work of Julie B. Smith, who also acted as project photographer and laboratory assistant. The contributions of each of these people is gratefully acknowledged.

Editor's Notes

1. This count does not include the Ogletree Island site, which Richard Walling in the present volume concludes is another farmstead-size settlement.

2. As this volume goes to press we have learned that one additional locality, the Terrapin Creek site (1Ce309), is recently confirmed by test excavations as culturally in alignment with the Weiss cluster as discussed herein (H. Holstein, personal communication). This location of this site is shown on Figure 1. This would seem to bring the total to four potential Weiss cluster village sites, and somewhat enlarges the cluster size reported by Smith herein.

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