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**This document contains information on Native American burials. Images considered to be culturally insensitive, including images and drawings of burials, Ancestors, funerary objects, and other NAGPRA material have been redacted.**

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**UNIVERSITY OF  
GEORGIA**

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Arts and Sciences

*Department of Anthropology*

*Laboratory of Archaeology*

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
LABORATORY OF ARCHAEOLOGY SERIES  
REPORT NO. 1



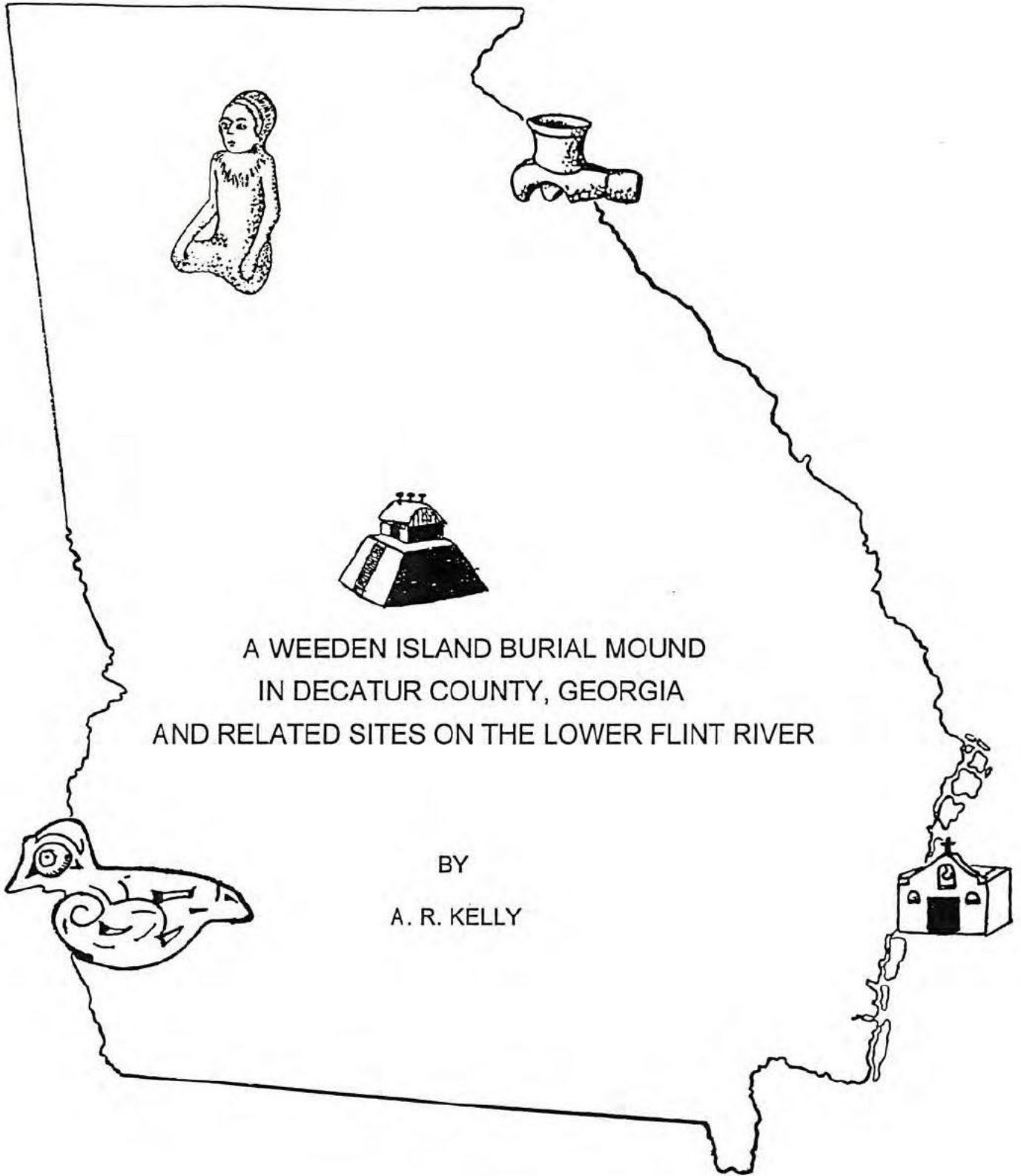
A WEEDEN ISLAND BURIAL MOUND  
IN DECATUR COUNTY, GEORGIA  
AND RELATED SITES ON THE LOWER FLINT RIVER

BY

A. R. KELLY



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By  
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University of Georgia  
Laboratory of Archaeology Series: Report No. I

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## PREFACE

This Report No. I, issued from the Laboratory of Archeology, University of Georgia, initiates a new program of publication of the results of archaeological survey in Georgia. It fills a special need in making more immediately available notes, materials, and analyses of individual sites and units which do not require a more extensive and expensive medium as is necessary with longer papers or monographs. Some of this site data is currently needed by other investigators in river basin archaeology and the Laboratory reports can get these out sooner than would be possible under other arrangements.

Final river basin reports and other reports on major sites will normally appear as part of the University of Georgia Anthropology Series, published by the University of Georgia Press.

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## INTRODUCTION

Survey of the Jim Woodruff River Basin in Decatur and Seminole Counties, Georgia, began in the fall of 1947 when the author assumed his duties with the University of Georgia. Having no teaching assignments during this first year, I was able to devote full time to the initial phases of archeological reconnaissance in the area to be inundated along the lower Flint and lower Chattahoochee. Unfortunately, the beginning work was severely handicapped by unseasonably heavy rains, with a record-making down-fall of fifteen inches in twenty-four hours in the Bainbridge area.

Under these circumstances, my attention was directed to a survey of existing collections in the hands of collectors and in consultations with lumbermen, hunters, and fishermen who had extensive personal knowledge of the area. In this connection, my attention was drawn to the Twin Lakes Site, or Lake Douglas Mound, which had been excavated some years previously by local residents. As this site was out of the river basin, I was able to begin operations under circumstances which made investigation of other potential sites impossible. The collections from the previous unqualified excavations were not available, but from descriptions given by informants it seemed likely that a burial mound of the presumptive Weeden Island Period was represented. Inspection of the mound site revealed a rather extensive pothole operation in the approximate center of the structure, with the peripheral portions largely undisturbed. Also, there were suggestions that burials

encountered were scattered and few so that no concentrations of pottery had been encountered corresponding to the "burial cache" frequently found on the east margin of Weeden Island burial mounds. There was a good chance that valuable archeological data and materials could still be obtained from the remnant portions.

The author was able to salvage the remaining portion of the Lake Douglas Mound inasmuch as the University of Georgia was using its own funds in this work, with none available from the River Basin Salvage Program. In any event archeological salvage is salvage whether the destruction comes from inundation or from the relic-hunting activities of relic hunters.

The survey of the lower Flint and Chattahoochee continued for two more years and uncovered a number of site situations which were recommended to the National Park Service and the Smithsonian Institution as priority sites. A salvage program was undertaken in the next season by the Smithsonian Institution.

Most of these sites were small and largely in the nature of campsites. In the attached report attention is given to the reporting of the burial mound site at Bainbridge (9DR21) and those other sites on the lower Flint, the analysis of which indicated them to belong to a perceived Weeden Island context related to the burial mound site. Earlier Archaic and Woodland occupations were sparse and widely scattered and are not reported here. The proto-historic and historic occupations, with particular reference to the repeated efforts to locate important landmarks in the "fork" of the two rivers, have been written up and will be reported elsewhere.



The lower Flint, from the junction of the Flint and the Chattahoochee to the area near Bainbridge, provides the locus of sites reported. As indicated, the report on the lower Chattahoochee will await current renewed survey activities along the lower to middle Chattahoochee region.

Inasmuch as the first season of survey on the lower to middle Chattahoochee is already indicating the occurrence of Weeden Island sites in considerable profusion, the data on the lower Flint become increasingly important and are being made available in a mimeographed publication from the Laboratory of Archeology at the University of Georgia.

Numerous individuals assisted in giving information which was helpful in the preliminary survey. Two Bainbridge citizens gave particular valuable assistance in not only providing site data but also in acting as guides to specific site locations. These were Frank Jones and Roland Bower. The U. S. Corps of Engineers staff at Chattahoochee, Florida, was most helpful and the Corps of Engineers supplied a survey car and maps. In all instances, owners of property which had not at that time been purchased by the government were most cooperative.

A WEEDEN ISLAND BURIAL MOUND IN DECATUR COUNTY, GEORGIA  
Lake Douglas Mound - 9DR21

In August, 1948, the author undertook a preliminary archeological reconnaissance of the Jim Woodruff reservoir. The critical area extended from Bainbridge to the confluence of the Flint and Chattahoochee rivers, and carried up the Chattahoochee some fifteen miles. Heavy rains during the spring and summer had filled the Flint basin almost to the calculated reservoir pool when the dam would be constructed. Most of the immediate area on the rivers was under water so other survey was made on sites whose salvage was necessary for reasons other than inundation.

The Twin Lakes, or Lake Douglas, was a privately owned artificial lake, belonging to Mr. H. C. Allen of Bainbridge, Georgia, located off the Bainbridge-Camilla road, in the outskirts of Bainbridge. This easily available sand mound had attracted the attention of several Bainbridge residents some twenty years before our arrival on the scene, with the result that most of the central portions of the mound had been excavated to mound base or below. The collections from this operation, consisting of several pottery vessels and a few human bones, had been exhibited in years past in a local tavern. None of these materials survived for examination in 1948, and we were not able to interview any of the participants in the original digging.

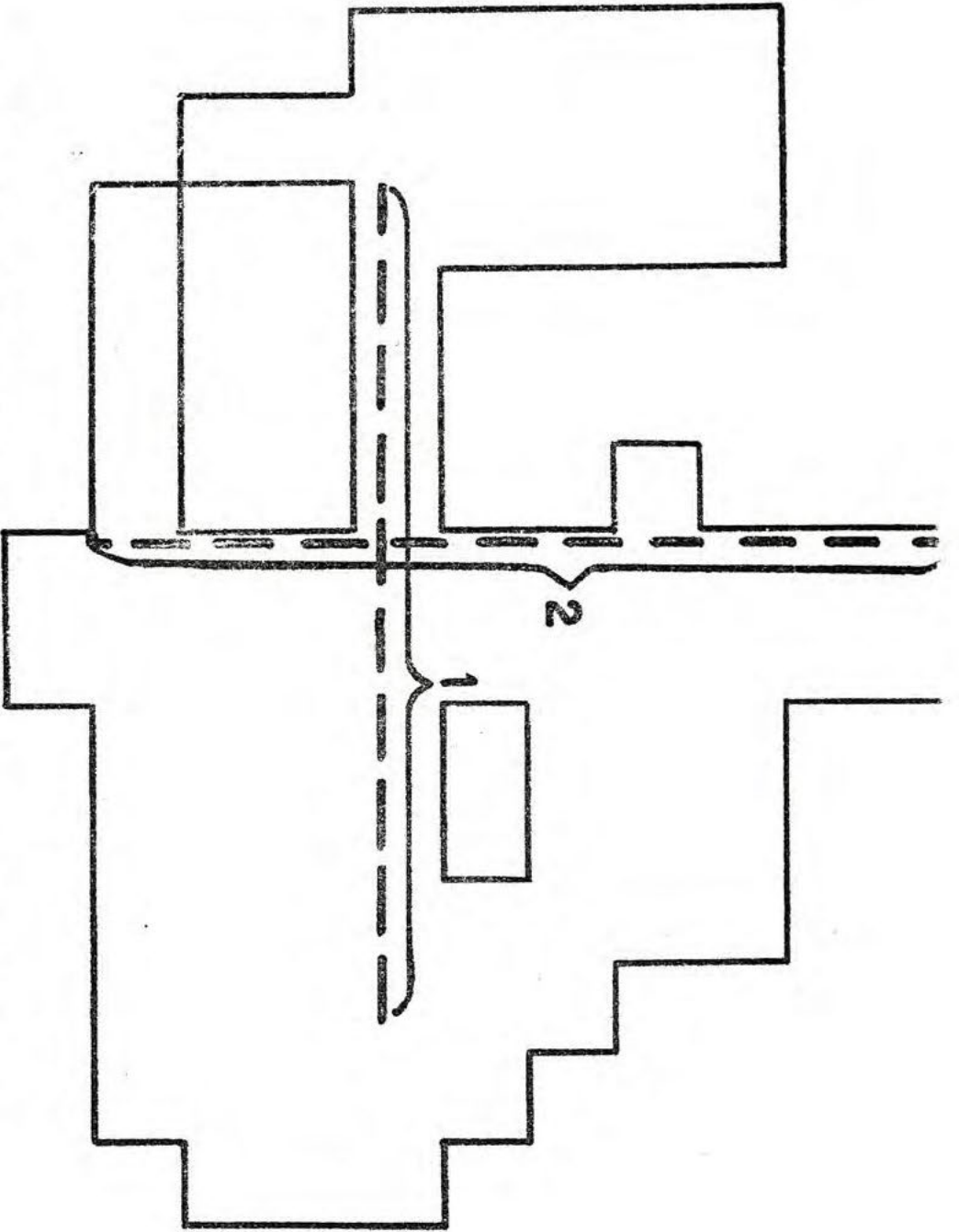
The crater of the sand mound still stood, with an appreciable mound swell still showing along the east periphery, and a larger

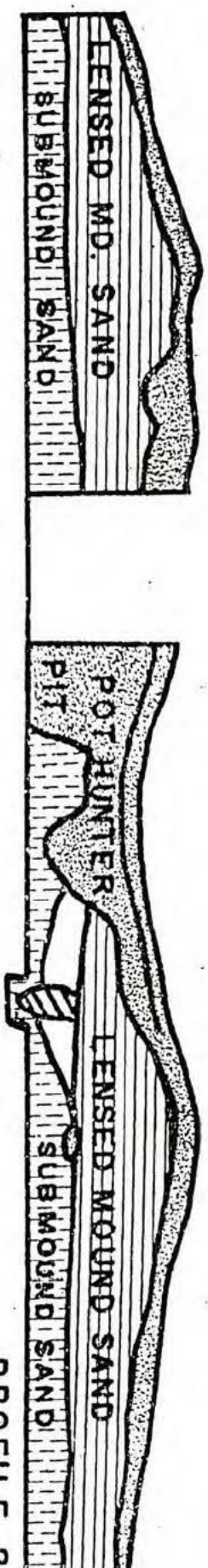
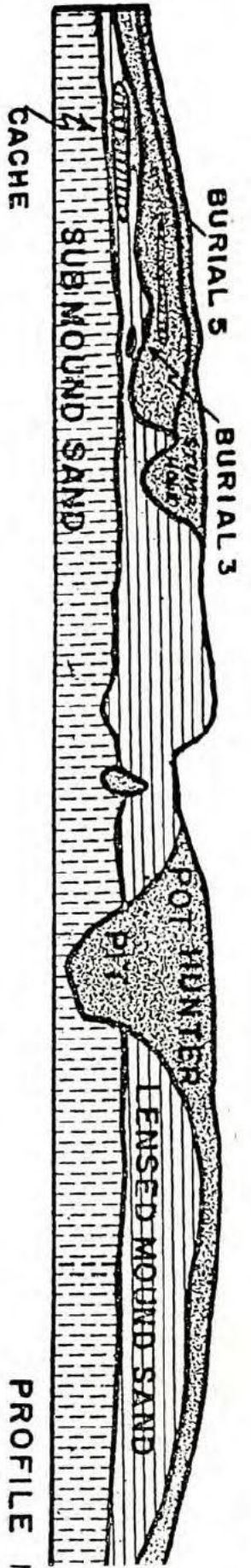
expanse showing on the west and north sides. The pure sandy ground surface yielded scattered collections of potsherds for a distance of 50 yards around the mound. The area was then enclosed in a large pasture, overgrown with scrub oaks and pines, but had once been cultivated.

Two profiles, a south profile of the center trench and a north profile axis trench, indicate the extent of the pothunters' operations which had preceded our salvage on the balance of the mound. In the east periphery of the mound our axis trench uncovered a small pottery cache confined within five-foot squares and a group of burials, made on mound base, which seemed to be concentrated around the pottery cache. How closely the pothunters' dig had come to the cache is evident from the profile drawings of our excavations. The area of the cache contained numerous tree roots and these may have served to lead the original digging away from the main concentration of burials and the cache itself.

The material salvaged from the portions of the mound which still showed good archeological context came from the mound fill, mound base, and the pottery cache. The 22 burials uncovered were in very poor condition of preservation. Only three carried burial furniture, in each case consisting of small disc-shaped shell beads. Other artifacts cataloged came from scattered points of the remaining shell of the mound and are exhibited in Plate No. 1. Twenty of the pottery vessels from the cache were cataloged in the field as "restorable", but this proved to be an over-optimistic appraisal when the collections were

AREA EXCAVATED SHOWING  
LOCATION OF PROFILES





PROFILE 2

assembled in the laboratory.

So little information is at hand from burial mounds along the Flint-Chattahoochee confluence that these salvaged materials and notations from the Lake Douglas mound are presented for whatever value they may have for investigators in the Florida-Georgia area. Clarence B. Moore had excavated most of the burial mounds in this region at the turn of the century. He had made test excavations into several "domiciliary mounds", which on revisiting in our survey turned out to be plowed down or rudimentary in the half century that had elapsed since Moore's day. The sites recommended for salvage in the River Basin Survey of the Smithsonian Institution consisted of shell middens and village occupations, the two most important being at Fairchild's Landing and Montgomery Fields.

The excavation account will summarize the notes on the 22 burials uncovered at Lake Douglas and the pottery cache. Two profile cross-sections, a draught of the pottery cache and surrounding burials, are presented in connection with this description.

The pottery from Lake Douglas shows some aberrant features, not duplicated elsewhere in the basin survey, particularly the severely conoidal aspect of some of the vessels recovered from the pottery cache. The question of the chronological position of this burial mound is raised, and preliminary presentation of these data might elicit some helpful comments.

### Notes on the Burials and Pottery Cache

Burial No. 1: Located at mound base, square 7L1 to 7L2, this was a shallow burial pit eight inches below mound base, and poorly defined here. The burial consisted of a portion of a skull cap, mastoid bone, and two badly disintegrated femora. Long bones were found in position two feet from the skull fragment. It was a flexed burial (?) and could be a bundle reburial. No burial furniture was found.

Burial No. 2: This burial was located at approximately the mound base (see Burial Sketch); and consisted of skull, femora, tibiae, and arm bones. The facial portion of the skull was absent as the skull lay face down in the sand. Long bones were so deteriorated they could not be removed. The burial was cataloged as a bundle reburial.

Burial No. 3: This burial showed up in profile and consisted of only a badly deteriorated pile of long bones. There was no discernible skull. Considerable root disturbance at this point may have disrupted burial further. A few shell beads (disc-shaped) were found nearby.

The relation of Burials No. 2 and No. 3 to the "pottery cache" is described in the notes as follows:

"...important feature in connection with Burial No. 2 and No. 3 is a pottery cache entirely covering burial area, beginning approximately with these two burials and covering the contiguous mound base area, thinning out at the end of the present trench excavation at the east, seven to eight feet in the east-west axis extension, and showing in the north-south profiles of the trench. All the vessels exposed were broken except for one small bowl found on top of the cache nearest Burial No. 2 skull. This was a small zoned punctate of Weeden Island type...a 'killed' pot. An undetermined number of broken vessels litter the seven to eight feet east of Burial No. 2 and 3. Several of these in first troweling seem to be probably 'restorable'. Majority are check-stamped and plain. No 'Swift Creek' vessels as yet, although Swift Creek sherds have been found scattered through moundfill as the east-west axis trench progresses."

Burial No. 4: Due to previous disturbances, no decisive burial data is available in regard to this burial. The following is a description of the burial from the notes:

"... In cleaning out the floor of the east-west axis trench and dressing profile, indications of Burial No. 4 found in the fill to a large pothunters' trench showing in fill between sta. 8R1-8R3. Nothing but scattered decayed long bones, so disturbed nothing can be inferred as to burial or associations. Near the bones, in fill, cataloged a slate gorget, about three inches long, perforated at broad end for suspension (Plate No. 1); also two small cut sections of Busycon shell. The intrusive recent pit had started near the highest and central portion of the mound, wound in a NNE direction across the axis trench, just barely missing Burials No. 2 and 3 and the pottery cache. The relic hunters had evidently become discouraged as their trench carried down toward the east periphery of the mound."

Burial No. 5: This burial was found almost underneath Station 7R5, partially covered over by a pottery cache. Extensive tree root disturbance may have disintegrated burial further. Skull parts and a lower jaw with 14 teeth and some bone



trails were found. It could be either a lone skull burial or a badly decayed secondary burial. The burial was along the mound base. No burial furniture was found.

The following are comments from notes on the relation of the burials and cache:

"... The 16 restorable vessels appear to have been broken in situ, suggesting some sort of pot-bursting ceremonial in connection with the burials, of which Nos. 2, 3, and 5 thus far are definitely connected. At least three of the vessels have conoidal bases, very pointed and distinctly 'Woodlandish', and are 'killed'. Actually, the pottery cache was rather narrowly confined within two major five-foot squares with thin peripheries beyond that area. It was evident that placement was on the east periphery of the mound. The present mound contours are deceptive as profiles through the area indicate that there had been considerable root disturbance. Statements from Bainbridge residents, including Negroes who played on the mound as children, indicate that this mound was once high enough to make rolling down its slopes an exciting game."

Burials Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10: These burials were found close together and were described as a group. They were uncovered in a 5 - 10 foot block just beyond the pottery cache.

Burial No. 6 was a small skull (child's) and was broken by root disturbance. A barely recognizable femur and tibiae and one humerus were found. This was definitely a secondary burial.

Burial No. 7 consisted of a thin, deteriorated section of parietal and sphenoid bones, plus femora, one recognizable tibia, and one humerus. Bundle burial is again suggested.

Burial No. 8 was without long bones, exhibiting only a decayed skull under which were troweled out about a dozen disc-shaped shell beads.

Burial No. 9 was a child's, containing basal skull and parts of two femora.

Burial No. 10 was located at mound base, opposite Burial No. 9, and consisted of middle shaft portions of three long bones and a portion of the calvarium.

The pottery cache uncovered in the east end of the axis trench did not extend south into the 10-foot block in which these burials occurred. Except for the shell beads, there was no burial furniture.

Burial No. 11: This was rather definitely a secondary burial of an adult. Distinguishable remains were of a skull, femora, tibiae, one humerus, and one radius. The burial was found at mound base, with skull on right side, and maxillary portion missing. There was noted marked frontal deformation, and some slight lambdoidal flattening. No burial furniture was found.

The final clearing of the "pottery cache" area is described as follows:

"... Today removed the critical five foot square immediately north of the axis trench. In this area, actually in west half of the square, no less than five 'restorable' vessels and one polished greenstone celt were found (Plate No. 1). Total area covered by the cache definitely localized in two five-foot squares in the east mound periphery. The celt is a fine serpentine or greenstone, oval in cross-section, the blade ground down clean, neatly polished throughout. The pottery from this extended portion of the cache continues to show predominance of check stamped with two large plain bowls. The plain ware is burnished, smoothed, with a pleasant effect from clouding or mottling from firing."

Burial No. 12: This burial was unusual in that it turned out to be a markedly flexed burial, the first instance in which the long bones and other skeletal parts were sufficiently preserved and in original anatomical order to indicate without ambiguity. Burial was made on the back with femora, tibiae, and portions of pelvis in place to make the tightly flexed condition obvious. It is possible that the poor condition of some of the burials may have led to the premature conclusion of secondary interment. This still seems unlikely as most burials were closer together than was the case with Burial No. 12. The skull to No. 12 is larger, more rugged, with large mastoids and strong supraorbitals, and was diagnosed as an adult male. No furniture was found.

Burial No. 13: This burial consisted only of a badly decayed femur and small mound of bone ash relic of a skull (?). In later troweling, a portion of a lower jaw was found. Constricted burial area implies that this was a bundle reburial. One

pear-shaped, perforated shell came from the skull ash.

Burial No. 14: This burial was troweled out at mound base in association with a considerable quantity of charred pine. Further troweling led to the conclusion that this association of charred pine was accidental, probably due to clearing of the mound base before construction of the mound (other indications of same in charred stumps). The burial consisted of a skull, jaw, femora, tibiae, and other unidentified bone trails. A secondary burial was indicated.

Burial No. 15: This burial came out a few feet from Burial No. 11 at a depth of 14 inches from present mound surface. It consisted of a badly disintegrated skull, jaw, tibiae, femora, and one scapula. Evidently, this was a secondary burial. Long bones were found in one pile almost touching the skull. Femoral epiphyses were only recently closed, and third molars were not yet erupted. It is indicated that this was a young female. Disc shell beads were found in the soil beneath the jaw (jaw position indicated by preserved crowns of teeth).

Burials Nos. 16, 17, and 18: These three burials came out as small heaps of disintegrated bone, uncovered in a 5 x 20 foot block, 10 feet west of the pottery cache. These interments were aberrant in that they occurred 18 to 20 inches above our estimate of the mound base (humic stains, organic matter only faintly indicated in much of assumed mound area).

Burial No. 16 consisted of skull fragments; bone trails of long bones not identifiable. A half dozen badly decayed shell beads were noted. The burial is suggestive of a young female, with light bones and recently erupted third molar.

Burial #17 contained barely enough decayed bone to be catalogable as a burial -- two niblets of skull bone and two fragments of long bone.

Burial No. 18 consisted of pieces of skull and long bones.

Burials Nos. 19, 20, 21, and 22: These burials were brought out in the west central portion of the mound and contained extremely fragmentary remains--just enough to indicate burials.

Burial No. 19 consisted of skull fragments, part of a lower jaw, middle parts of two femora, one tibia, and one humerus which were identifiable, in a small bone heap. Bundle reburial?

Burial No. 20 exhibited parts of two femurs, part of a lower jaw, and bone trail.

Burial No. 21 was a handful of skull and long bone fragments; mastoid and petrous process, niblets of parietal, and portions of femur and tibia were recognizable.

Burial No. 22 showed mastoid, parietal, and parts of long bones which appeared almost calcined but without local evidences

of burning.

No furniture was found in any of these four burials.

#### Stone and Shell Artifacts

In two five-foot squares adjoining the pottery cache we found scattered at intervals along mound base nine pieces of conch shell. Two of these had definitely been cut. The sections showed no particular form and none exhibited designs. The presence of this material in immediate contiguity to the pottery cache may have some significance.

Stone artifacts were rare. Evidences of flint working occurred only sporadically in the form of flint scrap and a few core fragments. A sparse showing of such scrap had been noted in the surface sand around the mound so that these niblets might have been accidentally included in bringing in basketloaded materials during mound construction.

One projectile from moundfill (Plate No. 1) looks more like typical south Georgia archaic projectile types and may be intrusive with the mound construction. Most natural spring sites, such as Twin Lakes must have been before the building of an artificial lake, usually yield some scattered evidences of flint working.

The polished stone celt was found in situ in exposing the pottery cache (see Burial Sketch). This would appear to be complementary to the cache.

The perforated gorget (Plate No. 1) of olive slate was recovered from moundfill and had been overlooked when the pothunters made their excavations years ago. It was found in redistributed bones of what we cataloged as Burial No. 4 and may have been associated.

A small hematite plummet, 5.4 centimeters long, came from moundfill, approximately on mound base, close by the pottery cache. This is nicely smoothed, neatly perforated for suspension, and was made from heavy iron ore, possibly meteoric? This is also illustrated in Plate No. 1.

On the southern periphery of the mound in entering trench at mound base was found a quartzite grindstone with a small rubbing stone on top, evidently a tool set or assemblage deposited at this point. The mortar is a stream boulder about one foot long and four inches thick, flat and abraded but without concavity on one side. The mano or rubbing stone shows even wear on the under side but with more completely abraded ends as if used in pounding. The two pieces do not resemble the usual mortar-pestle or mano combinations picked up on archeological sites in southwest Georgia. No burials were in conjunction with this find, which came out on the opposite side of the mound from the pottery cache.

Disc-shaped shell beads, possibly cut from core sections of a conch, were found with or near three burials on the periphery of the pottery cache. These were the only items definitely associated with any of the 22 burials found in working the mound remnant.

The few artifacts listed above do seem to be associated with the period of mound construction and not accidentally included, with the possible exception of the broad-stemmed projectile point and one other stemmed projectile (broken). The 22 burials were relatively poor in furnishing and, except for scattered potsherds, little came from moundfill.

#### The Pottery of Lake Douglas Mound

The pottery collections from the mound, including the cache, were not as extensive as might have been expected. The cache was small, confined to two five-foot squares, and the material from moundfill was fairly sparse. There was no submound occupation, the original surface having been cleared as indicated by burned stumps of trees, without any evidences of occupation in situ. Most of the sherds came from moundfill outside the cache and are presumed to be accidentally included incident to the construction of the mound, either being brought in with the basketloaded earth from a village area or perhaps broken on the spot by the moundbuilders. The total sherd count, including material from the cache, amounts to close to 600. Possibly, if the material from the mound disturbed by the relic hunters had been available, there may have been a more substantial series, although this is doubtful if one considers the relative paucity of material in the undisturbed portions of the mound.

Basically, then, we have a pottery collection accumulated or deposited incident to the construction of the mound. Although



no village area was found anywhere near the mound in our survey, the possibility remains that the moundfill sherds might have come from an older deposit at the time of mound construction. It may be that the village to which this burial mound belongs is really nearby but is buried beneath the artificial lake. The logical first step in analysis is to compare the material in the pottery cache with that in the moundfill.

First, we consider the sherds from the cache area, adding notes on the restored vessels from the cache. Two hundred eighty-five sherds were identified with six general ceramic categories as follows: Plain, Complicated Stamped, Check Stamped, Incised, Functate, Red Painted. No doubt many of these sherds are really part of other vessels either restored or partially restored from the cache. The specific pottery type is indicated for the restored vessels, but the generic classifications only are given for the sherds.

Plain ware constituted nearly half of the total sherd count, 49.1%. These vessels were generally smoothed, sometimes burnished on the exterior. Temper was fine sand, occasionally suggesting a temperless condition. Paste was evenly compacted and fairly evenly fired, with clouding from firing giving a rather pleasant effect in the generally light colored surfaces. Rims were small folded affairs, sometimes set off from the body of the vessel by small accenting incised or trailed lines.

Vessel shapes indicated are bowls, some rather large, and globular jars. All the ceramic characters noted fall within the familiar descriptions of Weeden Island Plain. One large plain bowl with small folded rims, and two large "kill holes" punched out at the base, was restored (Plate No. 2).

The third most numerous category comprises Complicated Stamped sherds. These amount to 15.7% of the total. There is a marked contrast in the range of size of designs and the relative excellence of execution of the stamps in the Complicated Stamped series. A majority, 11.2%, represented a large, heavy, sprawling Complicated Stamp, with broad lands, usually weakly impressed, bearing some general resemblance to the type already described in the literature for southwest Georgia as Kolomoki Complicated Stamped. On the other hand, 4.5% were a small, neatly executed composite Complicated Stamp which seems to correspond rather closely to the type described by J. R. Caldwell at Fairchild's Landing, designated Fairchild's Complicated Stamped. Both of these varieties occur together in the same pottery cache. There were no restored or restorable vessels. The implication is clear that both the large, sprawling Complicated Stamp and the small neat variety occur together and were deposited in the ceremonial breaking of mortuary ware that took place when the cache was laid down. (Plate No. 3)

Check Stamped sherds comprise the second largest category, 16.8% of the total of 285. The size of the checks vary

considerably, from extremely small to fairly large, although the small predominates. A tendency to smooth over the vessel before firing results in some obscuring of the check-stamping to the extent that close scrutiny is sometimes required to make sure that one is dealing with a check-stamped sherd. Paste, temper, and general morphology correspond to that of other types, including the plain pottery. Three restored, or partially restored, vessels exhibit the markedly conoidal base with a weakly impressed and partially obliterated check stamp covering the whole body to the slightly flared rim and its narrow fold (Plate No. 4). One restored check-stamped vessel is a medium-sized, globular pot, with a small folded rim, clearly impressed but over-stamped on parts of the surface. This vessel rim carries four small ears on a flat rim. The rim is narrowly set off from the check-stamped shoulder by an accenting incised line (Plate No. 5). Most of the check-stamped pottery is identifiable with the type described by Gordon R. Willey as Wakulla Stamped, although a recent review of the check-stamped collections from the Flint-Chattahoochee drainage has led to the designation of Weeden Island Check Stamped. The writer found, in the course of initial survey reconnaissance in this region, site indications of a "pure" check-stamped horizon, i.e., minus Weeden Island types or Complicated Stamped. Hales' Landing and Montgomery Field were the largest, although smaller sites were found in the lower Flint. Other sites on the Flint, Bower Plantation and Four Mile Creek, for example,

exhibited apparently the same Check Stamped in association with a late Swift Creek variant and other Weeden Island congeries. The diagnostic value of Check-Stamped in the general archaeological sub-area has been in dispute. The matter will be discussed further in the final section on Chronology.

Painted ware constitutes an important minority in the cache series. There were 25 painted sherds, mostly exhibiting exterior paint, but with a few showing both interior and exterior covering. Bowl shapes are indicated by sizeable rims. There is a notable thickening and flattening of rims, with a few indications of projecting triangular ears. Painted ware makes up 8.7% of the sherd count. There were no restorable vessels in the cache of this type.

Two other minority categories in the cache are punctated and incised, 4.5% and 4.2% of the total respectively. One small, incised bowl (Plate No. 7) was the only whole vessel found in the cache. This shows incised lines in a repeated bird(?) motif, highly conventionalized, with small dot punctates within incised zones. The rim of this bowl is missing (Plate No. 6). It was identified as Weeden Island Incised. Most of the large sherds show a zoned incised which probably belongs to the same type. A restored vessel (Plate No. 7) shows a stab and drag stick punctate in parallel lines curving from rim to base. This has a slight shoulder constriction with mild castellation of the rim. It was identified as Carabelle Punctated.

In the fill to the mound, outside the cache area, 320 study sherds were cataloged. Small, eroded, and indeterminate specimens were discarded. The sample here was taken from survey squares definitely separated from the cache concentration.

Again, the Plain ware is by far the largest element, 145 or 46.7% of the total. The characteristics were the same as the Plain ware found in the cache.

The second largest category in moundfill was the Complicated Stamped. Twenty-nine percent of the total belongs to this class. The proportions of the large, sprawly, poorly impressed stamped variety to the small neatly executed stamp is about the same as that observed in the pottery cache on east mound periphery, that is 20.9% of the large variety and 8.7% of the small stamp. Rims are all small folded or rounded. The shoulder portion of the vessel is occasionally plain with the stamp extending over the body. Zoning is definitely a feature of the Complicated Stamped ware.

Check Stamped becomes the third largest class with 10.6% of the total. Small folded rims, with occasional incised lines at the base of the rim to mark off the check-stamped body area, are found here as in the check-stamped sherds from the cache.

Incised sherds at 2.9% of the total, punctated at 5.4%, and Red Painted at 5.1%, make up the minority groups.

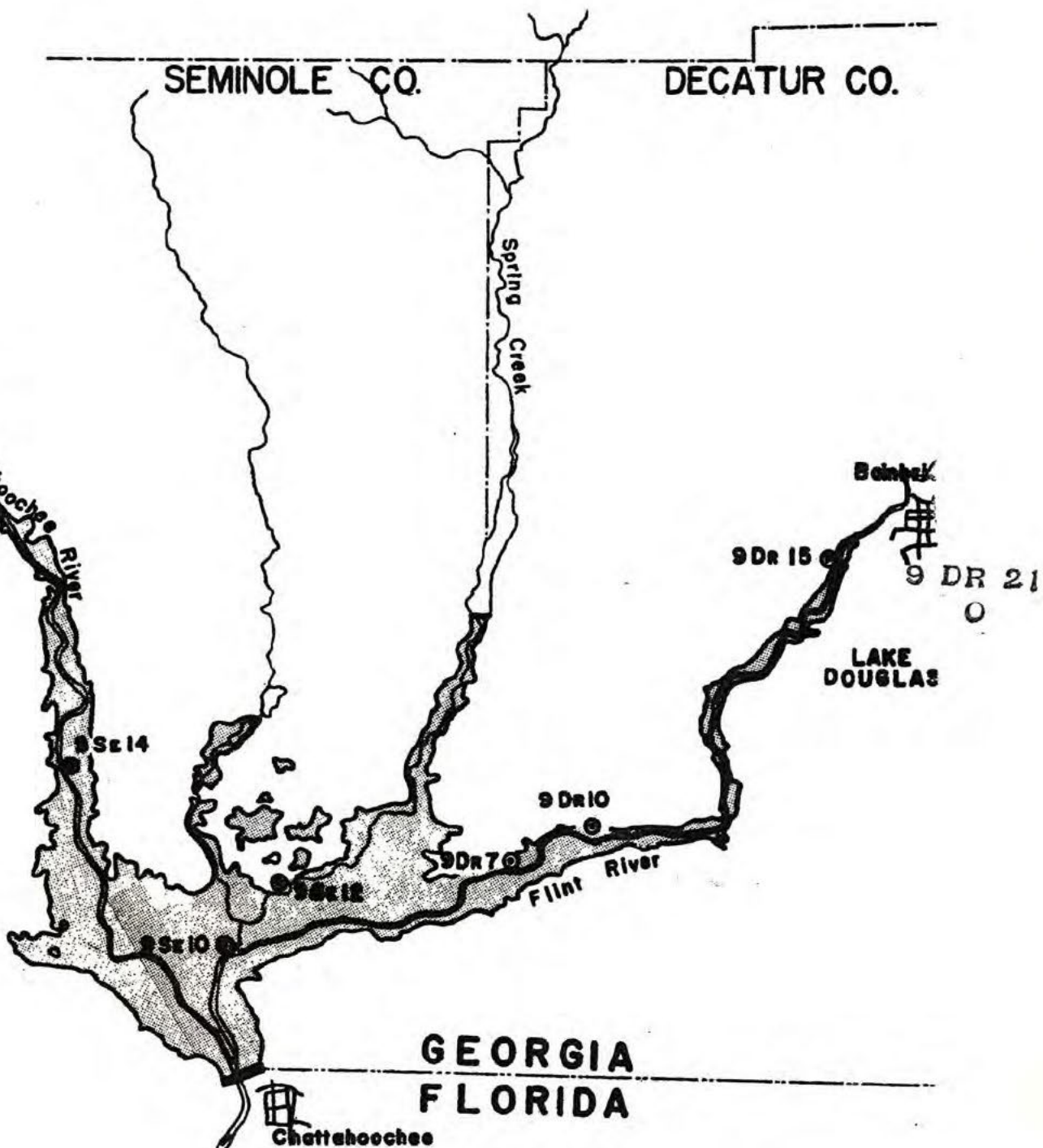
Comparison of the collections from the pottery cache and moundfill leads to the following conclusions:

1. The same types of pottery are found in both moundfill and in the pottery cache.
2. Nearly twice as much Complicated Stamped ware is found in moundfill as in the cache. There is, however, no change in the relative proportions of the large, poorly executed stamp as the small, neat Complicated Stamp. This may mean simply that Complicated Stamped was not favored as a mortuary ware.
3. There is slightly more Check Stamped pottery in the cache than in the moundfill.
4. Plain ware constitutes nearly half of the total series in both moundfill and cache.
5. There is a slight suggestion, probably not significant in the light of the smallness of the sample, that there is more Red Painted pottery in the cache.
6. The whole pottery series, moundfill and cache, comprises a relatively homogeneous assemblage, apparently laid down at one time interval in the Weeden Island period.
7. Noticeably absent are the excised and effigy forms found elsewhere in southwest Georgia in Weeden Island burial mounds (Moore on the Flint, Sears at Kolomoki Mounds, Blakely County, Georgia).

ALA.  
FLA.

SEMINOLE CO.

DECATUR CO.



GEORGIA  
FLORIDA

Chattahoochee

Apalachicola  
River

**WOODRUFF  
RESERVOIR**



(Site Locations Approximate)

## Weeden Island Development in the Lower Flint Drainage

In the years which have elapsed since the initial survey of sites along the lower Flint River by field parties of the University of Georgia, incident to the river basin program of salvage archaeology in that sector, new survey has been undertaken in the general region of southwest Georgia and fresh accessions of data have filled chronological gaps. Some obscure and confusing aspects of Weeden Island cultural development in southwest and west Georgia give promise of being clarified by these new findings.

On the basis of preliminary survey of the immediate Flint and Chattahoochee confluences at the Jim Woodruff dam, the University of Georgia recommended a minimum number of sites to the Smithsonian Institution for more intensive salvage operations. Except for the Douglas Mound, reported in this account, the University undertook no extensive excavations on any site in the reservoir, this phase of the work being carried out by the Smithsonian Institution in the arrangements made at that time. Surface collections and some testpitting and minor trenching were made on individual sites, where size and multiple occupations were indicated or special problems suggested by the ceramic series from the sites, in order more adequately to gauge the scientific significance of the sites. The University had no river basin appropriations from federal sources for the Jim Woodruff Basin and the Smithsonian had limited funds to apply to recommended salvage on "A" sites.



In 1950, as a result of the preliminary investigations and recommendations made, two main sites were indicated as most significant, Fairchild's Landing on the lower Chattahoochee, and Montgomery Field on the lower Flint west of Bainbridge. Joseph R. Caldwell, for the Smithsonian Institution, carried out extensive operations at Fairchild's Landing and extended his work to the nearby site of Hare's Landing, where C. B. Moore had excavated a large burial mound at the turn of the century. Carl Miller worked at the Montgomery Field site and recovered considerable material. The Smithsonian survey has not been published at this writing and reporting on these sites here is on the basis of surface collections and some initial trenching and testpitting carried out by students of the summer field school in archaeology conducted by the University of Georgia in 1949 and 1950.

The author's intention was to do a straight repertorial stint on the burial mound site at Lake Douglas, insofar as pertinent and significant information could be gleaned from the remnant of this structure. The fact that this site is a Weeden Island burial mound, however, needs to be expanded to include other sites on the lower Flint, i.e., between Bainbridge, Georgia, and the "Point" or confluence with the Chattahoochee River to form the Appalachicola, site of the Jim Woodruff Dam.

At this time sites on the lower Chattahoochee are not reviewed as the whole lower to middle Chattahoochee basin is currently undergoing intensive survey and archeological salvage by field

parties of the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Georgia, incident to the Columbia and Walter F. George Dam and reservoir construction. Some 300 sites have been located in the new reservoir pools and around 100 of these are perceived to have considerable site significance and will receive whatever salvage attention is possible with available funds and within the time at our disposal.

Another archeological event of prime importance, subsequent to the original Jim Woodruff basin survey, was the exploration of the Kolomoki Mounds near Blakely, Georgia, by William H. Sears for the Georgia State Parks. Sears published seasonal reports and a final report, describing in detail his findings and giving conclusions or interpretations which varied widely from theoretical reconstructions current at the time of his work.

The divergent views of Weeden Island chronology and sequential development, as seen in northwest Florida (Willey) and at Kolomoki (Sears) cover the whole continuum from early to late and post-Weeden Island times. When Sears was analyzing his Kolomoki materials, that large and imposing site appeared to be the northern terminus of the Weeden Island extension up the Chattahoochee River. We know from current Chattahoochee surveys that Weeden Island occurs abundantly, in several stages of development, all the way up to the Fort Benning Military Reservation and Columbus, Georgia. We now know precisely where Weeden Island penetration stopped, at the rocky shoals area at Columbus Falls in the heart of

the Columbus industrial area. Beyond this point intensive survey of a ten-mile strip in the reservoir of the Oliver Dam disclosed over fifty archeological sites, many explored by the University of Georgia field parties in 1958, yielding only one Weeden Island sherd. Just why Weeden Island sites, so abundant downstream from Columbus, should come to a "screaming halt" at this point is a question of great ecological interest.

Again, A. R. Kelly and David W. Chase, working under a federal Antiquities Act Permit covering the Fort Benning area, during the last four years have been carrying out emergency archeology incident to salvage of materials from sites disclosed by military operations and constructional work within the Military Reservation. These seem to provide a perceived continuum from late Swift Creek through incipient Weeden Island contacts to fully developed Weeden Island to later variants. However, the long span of the Chattahoochee and the emerging picture of Weeden Island penetration and relations with other components afforded by this more complete site profile, is another story not yet ready to be treated adequately. Current operations and salvage archaeology contemplated within the forthcoming season of 1960 promise a much fuller site documentation on Weeden Island history than seemed possible a short time ago.

In the three seasons of site reconnaissance in the Jim Woodruff basin carried out by A. R. Kelly, 1948, 1949, and 1950, the area between Bainbridge, Georgia and the Flint-Chattahoochee

confluence had not yet been cleared of vegetative cover and was a wild and largely inaccessible woodland with heavy underbrush whose terrain was familiar only to local hunters and fishermen. The old steamboat landings, logging trails, turpentine stills, and a few old plantations were the chief landmarks. The ground was hardly visible for inspection of site evidences except where occasional small cultivated plots, old landing roads and trails, wild hog rootings, "gopher hills", ferry sites, disclosed or upheaved the soil enough to reveal shell, comminuted charcoal, or a few potsherds. Clarence B. Moore's archeological venture a half century before along the lower Flint had been carried out in a more casual and less arduous fashion; he proceeded leisurely upstream in the "Gopher", contacting plantation owners at strategic intervals where mounds or burial grounds were reported, arranged for local labor and excavated sites calculated to be most remunerative from his point of view. In every case where our survey returned to Moore's sites, in search of village remains associated with his burial or "domiciliary" mounds, the results were largely unrewarding. Local guides who had been around when Moore made his original survey got "lost" in trying to pick up old familiar fields and landmarks. Two sites which yielded materials and data of importance were Chason's Blue Springs and the Bower Plantation beyond Four Mile Creek west of Bainbridge. Most of the sites cataloged in the three seasons of the Jim Woodruff site, however, were small and thinly occupied, which Moore would hardly have noticed.

Only those sites which are related to the Lake Douglas burial mound as part of a Weeden Island series, and which were large enough or yielded sufficient survey material to make comparisons significant, are reported at this time.

#### Hale's Landing (9Dr15)

On one of the traditional steamboat landing sites a few miles west of Bainbridge the survey encountered scattered shell midden on the eroded surface, which on trenching (5 x 20 foot) disclosed shell pockets and lenses to a depth of 18 to 24 inches. The study series of potsherds from this accumulation yielded a total of 1129, of which 62.2% was a small check stamp identified with Wakulla Check Stamped (Willey); 23.6% was a plain smooth or burnished grit tempered ware whose rim profiles indicated large bowl shapes, identified with Weeden Island Plain; and a third category of Roughened or Coarse Plain grit tempered ware making up 12.3% of the total. The great majority of the Hale's Landing series, 97%, thus was comprised in these three types. A small minority, 1.8%, gave 11 punctated sherds, six Swift Creek Complicated Stamped (of which three were badly smeared and partially obliterated), two vaguely incised, and two sherds with plain exteriors and red painted interiors. This small group seemed to be a residual classification ascribable to Weeden Island punctate and incised congeries. The strong showing of Wakulla Check Stamped, essential or identical in all decorative features and general morphology with the type described by Willey for the northwest

Florida Coast, along with the grit or sand tempered Plain smoothed or burnished ware (Weeden Island Plain) were the most pronounced occurrences in the shell midden. The weak showing of ceramic types, punctated and incised, belonging to Weeden Island as hitherto described, was the converse of the above. The punctates were not easily identifiable with specific Weeden Island types, as the distribution of punctates was irregular and diffuse on the sherds, no particular style of arrangement except in two cases where some incised lines occurred assimilating these to Weeden Island Incised.

About fifty feet from the area of the shell midden accumulation and the 5 x 20 foot test trench which yielded the above described sample was a surface exposure of thin shell midden truncated at the river margin. This gave a somewhat different picture, from the sparse surface collection, from that indicated from the test trench. Out of 35 sherds no less than five were Swift Creek Complicated Stamp, nine were Wakulla Check Stamped, with the remainder being Plain or Roughened. This showing suggested a horizontal or differential deposit of shell in which the Swift Creek component might have been higher than that exhibited in the deeper and richer deposit of shell midden a short distance away.

Some interesting characteristics of the small check stamped ware (Wakulla) are noted. The rim profiles showed a tendency for small jars having small folded rims, either flattened horizontally

and exteriorly with relatively constricted orifice or rolled folds with small scored or indented lines at the rim margins. Some very short and straight rims, or slightly everted, were correlated with interior beveling. A number of small check stamped jars of these types occurred with the pottery cache in the Lake Douglas burial mound. The checks were usually very small, either squared or oblong (diamond) with contrasting extremes of neat, clean but shallow stamps and others so lightly stamped, frequently smoothed over, so that reflected light was necessary to observe the checks.

The "Roughened" category implies a deliberate texturing, although many sherds were simply eroded or finished coarse or simply did not receive the careful grooming which produced a definitely smoothed or burnished ware in the majority of cases. It is not always easy in handling individual sherds or even large portions of vessels to determine whether the observed effect is due to sloppy handling of the moist pot before firing or whether deliberate texturing, i.e., smearing and smoothing over a previously stamped or otherwise textured surface is carried out. In subsequent study of whole vessels from the Chattahoochee belonging to the Weeden Island series, and even the earlier Swift Creek materials, as at Fairchild's Landing in Seminole County, vessels showed upper body portions with good stamping intact and an obliteration through smearing of basal portions. Also, at several sites in the lower Flint, as much as 30% of the

Wakulla Check series would show faint or smoothed areas on otherwise well defined check stamped vessels. Where whole vessels are encountered, rare except in burial mound furniture or caches where the pots are restorable, the Wakulla Check stamps tend to be an all-over treatment.

It must be emphasized that the implied deliberate texturing in the "Roughened" category does not detract from the large group of definitely plain, smoothed or burnished vessels, usually large, wide brimmed bowls, present in the series. Again, such bowls figured prominently in the pottery cache on the east periphery of the burial mound at Lake Douglas. A single, deep or well-defined scored or incised line parallels the rim, demarcating a pressed down fold or a slightly thickened rim section. In all essential characteristics, and in the particular context here, we seem clearly to be dealing with the type described in the previous literature as Weeden Island Plain. Several of these large bowls in the pottery cache at Lake Douglas Mound had large "kill holes" in the base before they were broken in the deposit.

#### Montgomery Field (9Dr10)

Shell midden exposed in a former cultivated field on a bluff overlooking the Flint River covered a concentrated area of less than one acre. Differential growth in weeds on the site disclosed two central areas of hardpacked shell considered to indicate prehistoric house sites of large dimensions. Surface.



collections were made and several small testpits. 9Dr10 was given "A" classification and recommended to the Smithsonian Institution for salvage operations, which were carried out subsequently by Carl Miller.

The preliminary survey collection from Montgomery Field yielded a total of 441 study sherds. The depth of shell deposit varied but averaged around 12 - 14 inches. Testpits indicated a homogeneous assemblage, with no discernible change in the sherd population. These results are subject to the much more thorough and extensive excavation of the site by the Smithsonian, not yet reported, in which a large collection of material in good context was secured.

Preliminary survey of 9Dr10, so far as the ceramic indices go, indicate even greater homogeneity than was found at Hale's Landing, 9Dr15. Out of 441 study sherds at Montgomery Field, the three usual types emerged-- Wakulla Check Stamped, 73.6%; a plain smoothed or burnished ware, 15.3%; and a "Roughened" classification of 11.3%. There were no Complicated Stamps applicable to Swift Creek nor any punctated, incised, or painted categories which might be ascribed to Weeden Island site markers. Pot shapes and general morphology, rim treatment, fine sand temper varying to coarser varieties, all relate the two dominant component sherds as Wakulla Check and Weeden Island Plain. The plain ware was composed almost completely of bowl shapes.

Some of the "Roughened" category strongly suggests a smearing or smoothing over of a former stamped vessel. In some instances one can almost see a vestige of a smeared stamp, either check or possibly, more rarely, one of the complicated motifs. It has already been observed that the "Roughened" group seems to comprise a distinct class of deliberately textured or finished ware, although some of the coarsening or roughened exteriors undoubtedly is a residual effect of erosion in a cultivated field where the collections are largely surface finds and others come from an area of intensive "lived on" aspect, the presumptive residential levels of what is indicated to be a former building site.

The complete absence of punctated, incised, or other characteristic pottery types in the Weeden Island roster, except for the check stamped and the fine smoothed or burnished plain, might imply a further logical development of the trend away from these types described by Gordon Willey and others as site markers for Weeden Island in the northwest Florida Coast.

Montgomery Field, 9Dr10, then would be practically assimilated culturally and temporally with the Hale's Landing Site, 9Dr15, and would be another site on the Flint River, proceeding downstream from Bainbridge to the junction, which marks the terminal permutations in Weeden Island culture in the Flint drainage. As Willey had remarked for Florida, Swift Creek declines and disappears, as do most of the other familiar ceramic .....

types of Weeden Island, except for the check stamped and plain bowl categories.

The check stamped vessels still appear to belong to small, globular jars, with neat rounded or exteriorly pressed down or secondarily molded rims, in which the fold is merged with the contours of the vessel. The plain ware consists largely of bowl types.

Both at Hale's Landing and at Montgomery Field we have dominant domestic ware of the same types which figured prominently in the pottery cache at Lake Douglas burial mound. No immediate village site was correlated with the burial cache at Lake Douglas. The sites downstream on the Flint, where only village or campsite materials are found, present ordinary domestic wares assimilated to the pottery found in the ceremonial cache in the burial mound.

#### Bower Plantation (9Dr2)

One of the first sites to be visited in the Jim Woodruff survey was the old Bower Plantation Site (9Dr2), which had been one of C. B. Moore's excavation sites at the turn of the century. Roland Bower, a son of the former owner who had given permission to Moore to dig, was my guide to the site and the scene of the mound excavation on a bluff overlooking the large cultivated field which yielded most of the surface collection. Moore had excavated all but a small portion of the mound, a remnant still standing around a large oak stump. This mound, from eye-witness accounts,

had been a small sand burial mound, some 25 feet in diameter, which had yielded deteriorated human burials and some pottery. It could not be determined if he had encountered a "cache" with broken mortuary ware as found at the Lake Douglas Mound.

Much of the surface collection had to be eliminated as too eroded and "beat up" to identify. Of the balance, 378 study sherds, 52.9% was small check stamped very similar to Wakulla Check encountered elsewhere on the lower Flint. It was difficult in the laboratory to distinguish between "Plain Smooth" and the "Roughened" categories, as all of the pottery had been repeatedly churned up in the cultivation of the old plantation field. However, examination of the cores and paste cross-sections indicated a larger percentage of coarse grit temper than had been found in the pottery from the Lake Douglas Mound (9Dr21), a minor site difference. The rims were much the same except that a larger proportion had long, flattened "ribbon-like" pleats or exhibited a tendency to be thickened in the upper rim with a broad flat lip. This is a feature of the later Fort Walton pottery. In the end the analysis yielded 16% for the approximate smooth plain with granular paste, although the assemblage did not show the degree of smoothing or polish found on other lower Flint sites. The "Roughened" classification was much as that described for other lower Flint sites. Of these, seven appeared to be smoothed over, or smeared over, stamped sherds.

Of the 15 sherds in the study collection which might be allocated to a Weeden Island decorative complex, seven were eroded

or smeared Complicated Stamps, probably of Swift Creek derivation but part of a residual Weeden Island complex. Of the others, six showed crude parallel incised lines around the rim. There was one zoned red painted sherd, and two with large diffuse punctates.

The surface collection from 9Dr2, Bower Plantation, thus exhibits much the same picture as Hale's Plantation Site, with a small minority of punctates, incised, and painted sherds reminiscent of Weeden Island I and II site markers as described in the literature from northwest Florida. Over 95% of the total series falls into the small check stamped (Wakulla), the plain bowls, and the "Roughened" ware. The tendency to larger folds, "pleating" in broad ribbons, with thickening in the upper rim portions, has been noted.

A larger proportion of the check stamped ware showed a tendency to increase in size and the rims here were also thickened in the upper portions with broader flat lip sections. Grooving or indenting lines to demarcate the thickened rims occurred frequently. All of these features seem to mark a stylistic trend in the lower Flint in terms of rim treatment and general pottery morphology, leading consistently toward normative Fort Walton characteristics.

Still, Bower Plantation does not represent a Fort Walton facies, and one has only a subjective impression of a trend in that direction. Actually, one perceives a further modification or change along the same lines shown in Hale's Landing,

Montgomery Field, and other lower Flint sites, with a dropping out of late Swift Creek Complicated and the usual site marker types of Weeden Island punctates and incised forms. A check stamped ware, identified with Wakulla Check, but undergoing minor morphological and decorative changes, continues strongly and dominates all of these sites.

#### Whaley's Mill Site (9Se10)

About three quarters of a mile beyond the confluence of Spring Creek with the lower Flint river on a high bluff is the site of a saw mill which operated some twenty years before the archeological survey. Spring Creek is a large tributary fed by numerous deep springs in limestone sinks, a characteristic feature of southwest Georgia and the neighboring area. It runs north more than fifty miles from the Flint with the large springs interspersed at intervals of every few miles. The sandy hammocks around the spring sites are generally covered with a heavy forest growth and are frequently inaccessible by virtue of the intervening swales of low marshy ground. Access dirt roads and some cleared patches utilized by local hunters and fishermen, and logging trails, have cleared these significant locations to some extent. Each spring site area exhibits diffuse or scattered evidences of prehistoric occupation, usually in the form of widely separated, localized thin middens containing shell. The implications point to small hunting and fishing groups utilizing the water supply and the game and shellfish concentrations

provided by the local ecology. No large village or permanent settlements are found; the sites appear uniformly to have been campsites.

The survey was led to the site of Whaley's Mill by the finding some years ago by a local resident sportsman of a rusted flintlock gun, projecting from the bank. Reconnaissance resulted in no surface findings of significance for any historic-Indian contacts or evidences on the site but did uncover some evidence of multiple site occupation belonging to the more remote prehistoric periods. It is still possible that more extensive testpitting or trenching on the site might disclose such evidence as the recent saw mill operations have churned up a fair proportion of the strategic terrain and have masked the ground with industrial debris including sawdust and reject burned timber. 9Se10 is just across the line into Seminole County and within four miles of the junction of the Flint and Chattahoochee, thus within the critical or historical logistical area in which the Seminole Indian farmers and refugees were congested in the 17th and 18th centuries. One of the objectives of survey was to pinpoint an important early 18th century "fort" shown on early maps to be in the "Forks". The highpoint on the bluff at Whaley's Mill put this site within the suspected territory. The search for the "Apalachicola Fort" was abortive, except that data was secured on early Seminole farmsteads which Lewis H. Larson and A. R. Kelly have recently reworked with a view to publication as

a separate paper. Our concern in this report is with the Weeden Island site contexts and Whaley's Mill will be examined from that point of view.

The surface collections and brief trench and pit investigations were sparse but afford a clear indication that Whaley's Mill site falls into line with the results previously noted from other sites along the lower Flint River. Of 100 study sherds gathered from a remnant of a shell midden that had been largely cut away at the river margin by highwater 51% was small check stamped (Wakulla), 24.3% was smooth grit plain with a tendency toward bowl forms, and 21.4% were of the "Roughened" category. Five percent could be related to a general Weeden Island assemblage: three were Swift Creek Complicated Stamped, one Carabelle Incised, and one large diffuse punctate. On the side of an erosional scar nearby was recovered several pieces of plain fibre tempered pottery and two tetrapodal supports, referable to an early Woodland horizon.

Although the sample is small, it is apparent that about the same proportions of the three main pottery types are found at Whaley's Mill as at other sites along the lower Flint. A check stamped ware assimilated to Wakulla continues to dominate the ceramic index, by over 50%.



### Sealy's Plantation (9Se12)

Sealy's Plantation, 9Se12, was one of the sportsmen's paradises centered on one of the more famous of the deep spring sites on Spring Creek. A series of deep springs, united by a common "run", led to the juncture with the Flint River about two miles away. Hammocky rises, set off by mucky swales, rimmed these pools of clear water in which fish could be seen at depths of 40 feet as if in a goldfish bowl. A hunting lodge and a wide yard gave access to the nearest of the springs. Eroded patches of shell showed at irregular intervals around the paths to and around the more accessible portions of the springs. Most of the surface collection came from these exposures, plus some testpitting in a vegetable garden near the lodge and in the yard within a few feet to the entrance of the lodge. Even when allowance is made for the attrition of the terrain by daily and extensive use by fishermen and hunters, the fact emerges clearly enough that the midden accumulations tended to be in small patches over a wide area around the deep springs. The middens yielded evidence of thin deposits of *Unio* and other freshwater species, along with the bones of small mammals and deer, and turtle, with charcoal and other indications of local cooking fires.

One is impressed with the view that history has repeated itself at this site. Hunters and fishermen congregate here today for the deer and the wild turkey and for the rockfish in the deep pools. In late Weeden Island times they came

intermittently to camp, to hunt and fish a wide variety of the local fauna, with the freshwater shellfish as an added attraction.

A small study collection of 158 sherds came from a half dozen different locations around the springs and in the "yard" to the lodge. This is a small sample but again it analyzes into a homogeneous assemblage which correlates closely with the results of investigations at other sites along the lower Flint and at the "spring sites" along Spring Creek. One is struck by the heavier percentage of the small check stamped class (Wakulla), making up 126 sherds or 79.8% of the total. Of these 20 are good rimsherds affording neat cross-sectional study of the general pottery morphology. The same rim types occur in the same proportion as at other sites, generally small folded rims, either rounded with a definite exterior beveling; or flattened or "pleated" with the exterior fold pressed down confluent with the body of the vessel. A tendency to small jars with more or less constricted orifices is noted. The checks vary from minute or small to intermediate and are shaped in squares or lozenges. They are not deeply impressed or stamped and many show faintly only in reflected light. Considerable smoothing or smearing in parts of the body is evident, as much as 30% of the class.

Again, the two strongest minority wares are the smoothed plain or burnished ware, which occurs mostly in bowl forms, and

a third category of "Roughened" in which former stamped pots (either checks or perhaps Complicated stamps) have been deliberately smeared and smoothed down to give a roughened finish. In small sherds this may be only a reflection of sloppy handling of the wet paste before firing, but elsewhere we have indicated that there appears evidence of some deliberate texturing of surfaces.

Some indication of this deliberate textured effect is shown in the fact that there are six Swift Creek Complicated sherds in the study collection, so smeared over and obscured that the stamping is barely recognizable. Only one crudely incised sherd with several parallel lines of thin incision was noted.

#### White Springs (9Dr7)

In the edge of Decatur County the site of White Springs, 9Dr7, provides another instance of ecological adaptation by the Weeden Island group. Evidences of occupation at this large and impressive spring were found in the shape of several distinct shell deposits, two in small cooking pits and a third in a larger, scooped out depression, 8 feet wide and about 15 feet long when allowance is made for the slopping over of shell on the shoulders of the depression. The maximum depth of shell in the larger deposit was three feet pencilling out to 6 - 8 inches on the shoulder margins.

The intervening spaces between the shell deposits or pits were bare of midden or sherds. Each deposit can be interpreted as an individual campsite occurrence of food gathering and cooking, with the larger accumulation representing a somewhat more protracted utilization of the clambake facility, yet still falling far short of any implications of more than casual settlement. Shell lenses, with individual pockets burned blue, along with charcoal, burned areas, and other animal remains made up the midden fill.

Intruded into the sloping shoulder section of the larger pit or saucer-like depression, at a depth of two feet from the surface, was the burial of an old woman, apparently inserted into a pocket cut out by the occupants during active food preparation. The narrow grave had been dug through a lense of shell and other shell lenses mantled the interment. There was no burial furniture. The body had simply been crammed into the narrow opening.

The shell deposits occur on relatively high ground, overlooking the spring site, which is heavily overgrown with secondary timber and underbrush, which had not been subject to recent cultivation. The pottery collections from the discrete shell patches and small pits were not large but the material had not been eroded, broken, or chewed up as was usually the case in the open, cultivated fields. Several near restorable vessels and other large rim sections permit good descriptions of the pottery morphology.

The White Springs site is important in exhibiting special features implying small bands camping for short periods of time at strategic points, with the numerous deep, natural spring sites offering many ecological advantages. A shifting, mobile population, broken up into small, essentially food gathering groups is suggested. No maize or other cultivated species was cataloged from any of the specific cooking pits, although the presence of the shell would make for preservation and other shell and animal remains are preserved in charred form. This negative evidence might have some significance in connection with the data from other sites which fit consistently with the interpretation given to the White Springs encampments.

It is entirely possible that the typical campsite situations along the lower Flint in Weeden Island times reflect a seasonal adaptation. These might be small bands which joined larger and more permanent settlements during the growing season. Ethnographic accounts from the Georgia coast indicate some such seasonal shifting from the shell midden sites to the interior locations along major drainages. The implication grows, however, that these people still relied in large measure upon simple food gathering in their total subsistence patterns.

Analysis of the White Springs ceramic collections shows a much stronger complement of the Weeden Island Punctate-Incised categories than was present on other Flint River sites.

Fortunately, the large sherd sections from body and rim sections of typical vessels permit more adequate study. The more striking examples are illustrated for the site. On the other hand, the characteristic Wakulla check stamped category is still very much in evidence. It may be that many of these sherds really belong to a few vessels broken and incorporated in the few small shell midden contexts. Although the sample is small, it is considered that the fuller representation of Weeden Island types at White Springs is a significant deviation from the norm of other campsites along the Flint.

Analysis of the pottery from the "burial pit", the larger saucer-like shell deposit, in basal portions appears to give some indications of a stratigraphic succession. The upper shell midden accumulation, including the portions which slopped out over and mantled the shoulders gives the usual strong dominance of the small neat check stamped, with frequent scored lines paralleling the rim base, the check stamping showing both and above the scored or indented line. In the upper 12 - 16 inches, including the midden on shoulders, 114 study sherds yield 52.6% check stamped (Wakulla), 33.3% plain smooth or burnished, 12.3% of the "Roughened", and less than 2% of an Incised ware (Weeden Island Incised). Swift Creek Complicated Stamped is absent and the other decorative complex of Weeden Island is negligible.

Contrasted with the above, in the basal portions, where the intruded burial was found inserted into the side of the dugout,

the small check stamped ware becomes a second choice in comparison with the plain smoothed ware and the strong showing of the usual Weeden Island decorative complex. Of 225 study sherds from the lower shell level, only 28.8% are ascribed to Wakulla Check, 55.5% is the smoothed or burnished plain, 7.7% Roughened, and 8% belonging to the decorated types of Weeden Island, identified as follows:

- 1 Swift Creek
- 7 Carabelle Punctate
- 3 Keith Incised
- 4 Carabelle Incised
- 2 Tucker Ridge Pinched
- 1 Interior Red Paint

It does not seem possible that the time required to fill this small saucer with shell incident to successive "clambakes" would require any protracted period. The site might have been occupied for a season, however, or may have been revisited and used seasonally for a few years, and during this small interval some cultural change is observable.

#### Comparison of the Lower Flint River with Northwest Florida

Gordon R. Willey utilized the ubiquitous Wakulla Check stamped ware as a time marker and diagnostic to separate Weeden Island I from Weeden Island II. There were other minor changes in the early to late picture of developing Weeden Island as set forth by him. For one thing, the "late Swift Creek Complicated Stamp" disappears in the terminal portions of Weeden Island

occupations in northwest Florida. The other type classes for Weeden Island tend to run through the Weeden Island series with some strength.

In the sites reviewed along the lower Flint river, from Bainbridge, Georgia in Decatur County to the junction with the Chattahoochee in Seminole County, including sites on the Spring Creek tributary which is the approximate dividing county line, the site profiles dovetail fairly homogeneously to suggest a middle to late Weeden Island settlement or occupation. All sites tend to be dominated by the Wakulla Check Stamp, with the plain-smooth ware attributed to Weeden Island Plain constituting the strongest companion ware. The interesting feature of the lower Flint assemblages is the declining, almost negligible showing of the Weeden Island Incised and Punctated series. The strongest occurrence, 8%, was in the basal deposits at White Springs, 9Dr7. It was noted that there was a definite tendency for the Swift Creek sherds to come out in the mound fill at Lake Douglas burial mound, rather than in the cache. Most of the restorable or nearly-restorable vessels from the cache there were either Wakulla Check Stamped narrow mouthed jars or large, broad-brimmed smooth to burnished plain bowls (Weeden Island Plain).

The lower Flint thus appears to be a fringing area to the northwest Florida area in Weeden Island times, in the middle to late period, with the Weeden Island punctate-incised types dropping out in the terminal sites more sharply than in Florida.



In fact, in terms of the northwest Florida chronology, one can conclude that Weeden Island I as defined hardly occurs in the lower Flint and that this tributary of Apalachicola drainage was occupied relatively late in Weeden Island times.

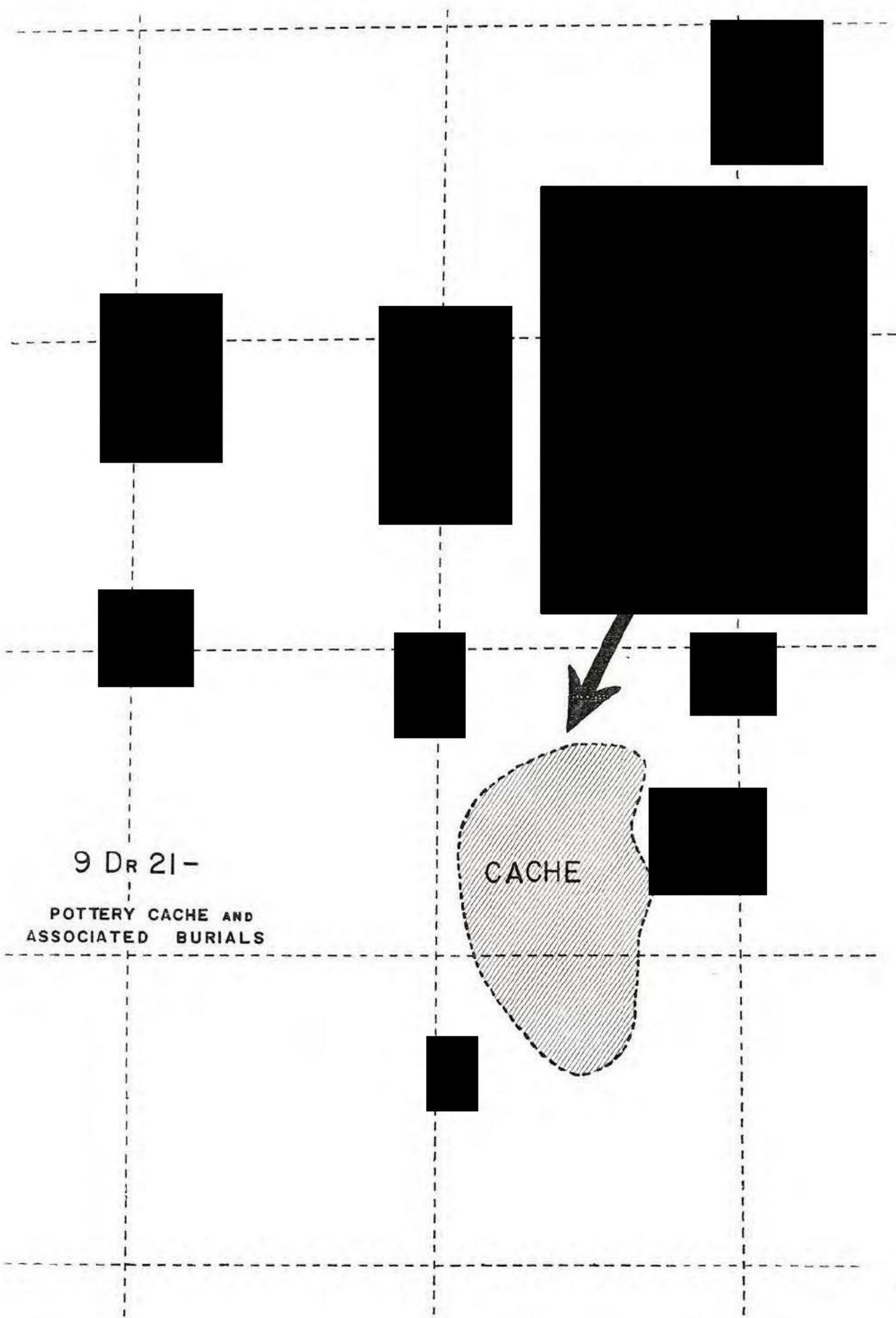
Most of the sites are small with thin, discrete shell deposits at intervals, implying seasonal use or campsites by small hunting, collecting bands. The burial mounds at Lake Douglas and at Bower Plantation may indicate somewhat more settled sites with longer occupancy. Certainly the village area at Bower Plantation covered most of a 50 acre field with the mound excavated by C. B. Moore set off some 200 yards to one side. The village which corresponds to the Lake Douglas burial mound was never located and may be completely inundated by the large artificial lake at that point.

The survey of the Jim Woodruff basin extended only a mile or so above the site of Bainbridge, Georgia. Practically nothing is known of the archeology of the Flint River beyond that point, toward Albany.

There are known sharp contrasts between this picture of Weeden Island development and what is exhibited from sites encountered on the Chattahoochee, all the way from the "junction" to the Columbus falls area. Fairchild's Landing, 9Se14, was one of the "A" sites recommended for salvage in the Chattahoochee Basin and was extensively investigated by Joseph R. Caldwell for the Smithsonian Institution. Caldwell also encountered several

large shell middens some five miles below Fairchild's, including the burial mound at Hare's Landing, which provided a continuum of Weeden Island history when taken in conjunction with Fairchild's neatly stratified middens. The basal deposits at Fairchild's were a relatively "pure" Swift Creek shell midden, with overlying shell lenses giving more and more evidence of successive Weeden Island penetration. The same tendency observed in the lower Flint was then asserted, with a dropping out of Swift Creek complicated stamps and a tapering off of the Weeden Island in a new period which he called the Wakulla Period. His results correlated closely with those of Willey and Woodbury in their northwest Florida survey and in Willey's summation thereof.

Until the Smithsonian report on the lower Chattahoochee is published or made available, and pending the results of present extensive surveys on the lower to middle portions of the Chattahoochee by the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Georgia, it seems best to hold Flint-Chattahoochee comparisons for the near future when the pertinent data will be so much more abundant.



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POTTERY CACHE AND  
ASSOCIATED BURIALS

CACHE

PLATE 1



6"

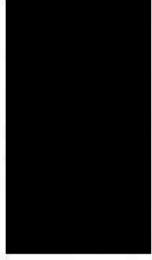


PLATE 2





PLATE 4  
3"

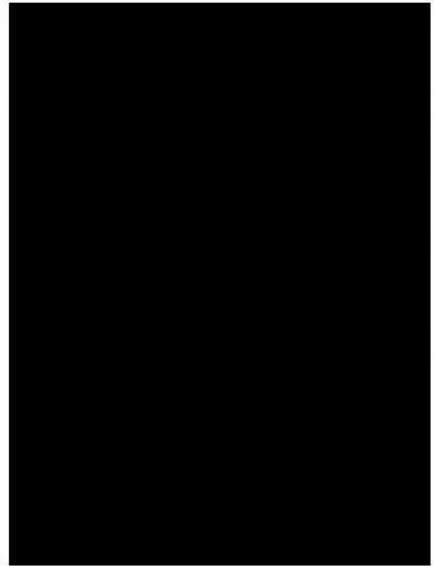


PLATE 5

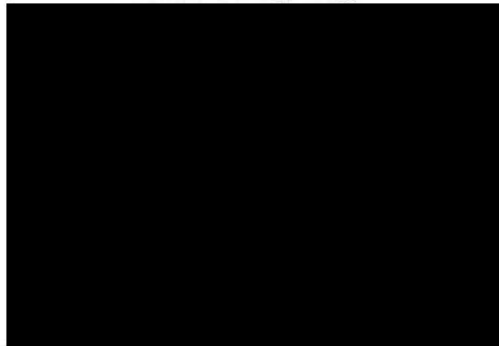


PLATE 6

6"

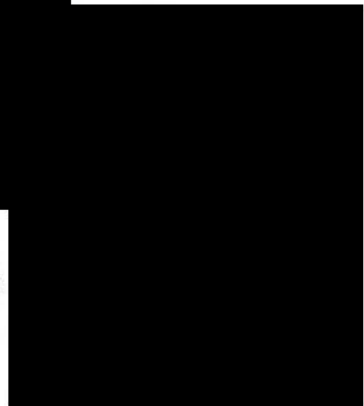
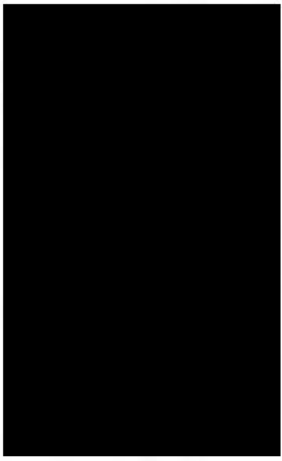
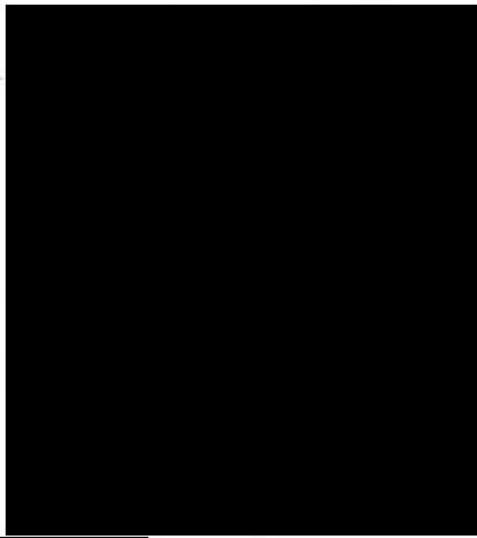


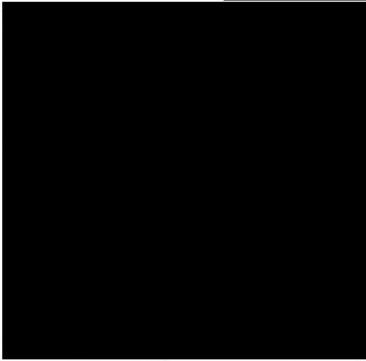
PLATE 7



A



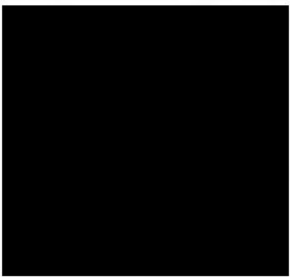
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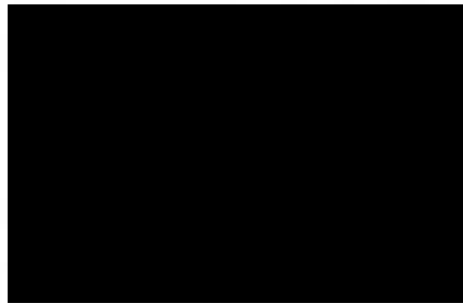
D



E



F



G



H



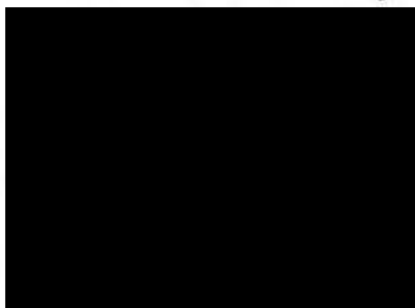
I



J



K



L

