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**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**

**Franklin College of
Arts and Sciences**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE OGELTRE SITE, 9GE153

MARVIN T. SMITH, DAVID J. HALLY AND GARY SHAPIRO

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE OGELTREE
SITE, 9GE153

by

Marvin T. Smith
Universtiy of Georgia

David J. Hally
University of Georgia

Gary Shapiro
University of Florida

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PREFACE

This report represents the final report for site 9GE153, the excavation of which was provided for in Appendix 11 of the Archaeological Salvage Agreement between the University of Georgia and the Georgia Power Company.

The initial draft of the report was written by Marvin Smith. Hally revised the manuscript and wrote the concluding section. Gary Shapiro wrote the faunal analysis section.

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INTRODUCTION

The Ogeltree Site, 9Ge153, is located on the north bank of the Oconee River at Long Shoals in the southern portion of the Wallace Reservoir (Figure 1, Plate 1). The river at this point flows over a series of granite ledges and is divided into a number of narrow channels by large islands. The small segment of floodplain upon which the site lies is bounded by hills on the west, north and east (Figure 2). Shell midden, which covers most of the site, extends approximately 65m along the river bank and as much as 40m inland from the river (Figure 3, Plate 2). The site is bisected near its eastern margin by a small stream.

The Wallace Reservoir lies within the Piedmont physiographic province of north central Georgia. The Piedmont is a strongly dissected highland area which gently slopes toward the Coastal Plain. Lithologically, the Piedmont is made up of metamorphic rocks which are frequently crystalline and quite resistant. It is this resistant nature of the rocks that controls the drainage of the Piedmont and produces a topography that is generally hilly with steep slopes and narrow valleys. Soils are rich in mineral nutrients, although nitrogen and phosphorus levels are low. The narrow valleys and steep gradient of the stream beds generally restrict the development of alluvial floodplains throughout most of the province (Larson 1971:23).

The Piedmont province has been divided into several districts by Clark and Zisa (1976). The Washington Slope District, which includes the Wallace Reservoir, is characterized as follows:

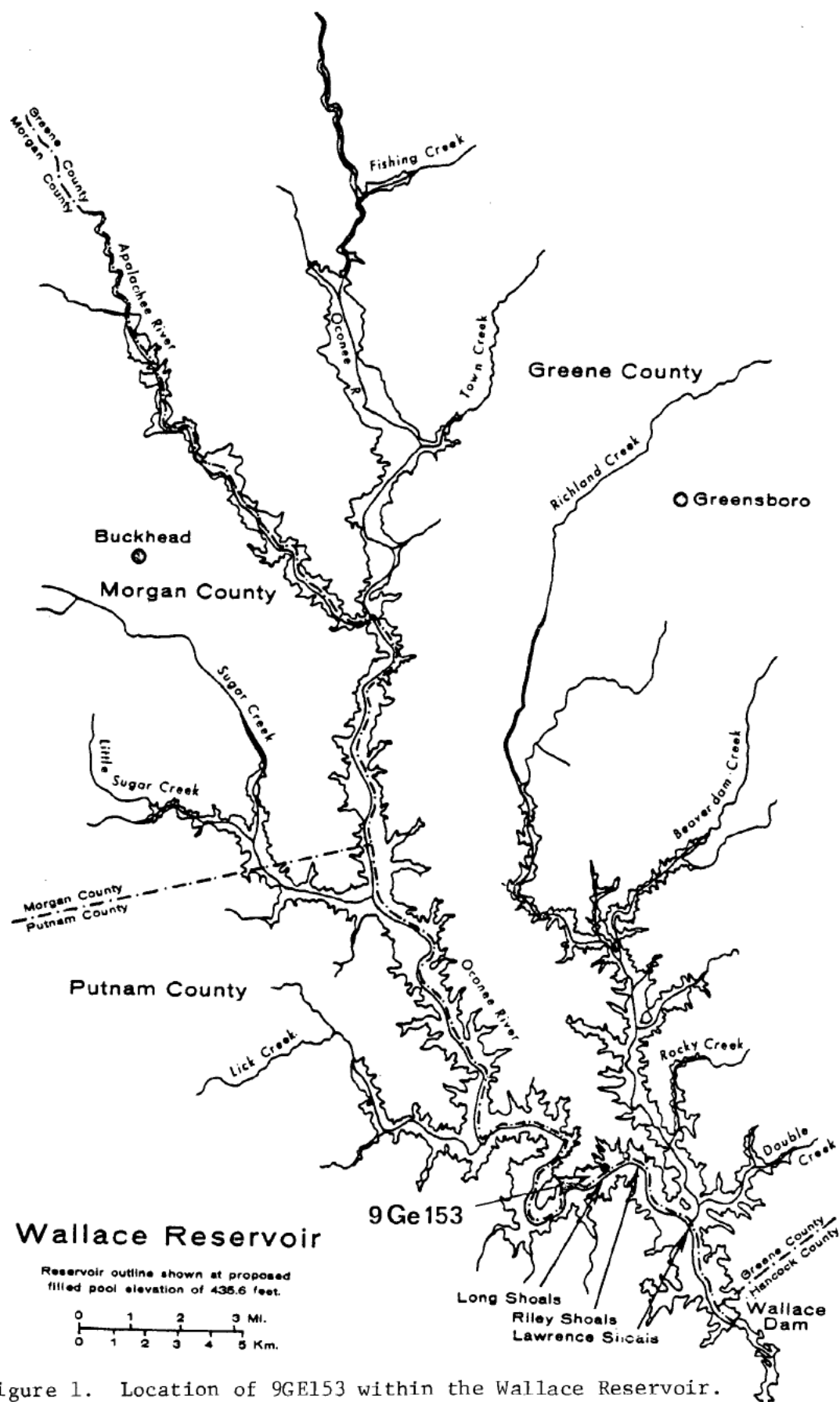


Figure 1. Location of 9GE153 within the Wallace Reservoir.

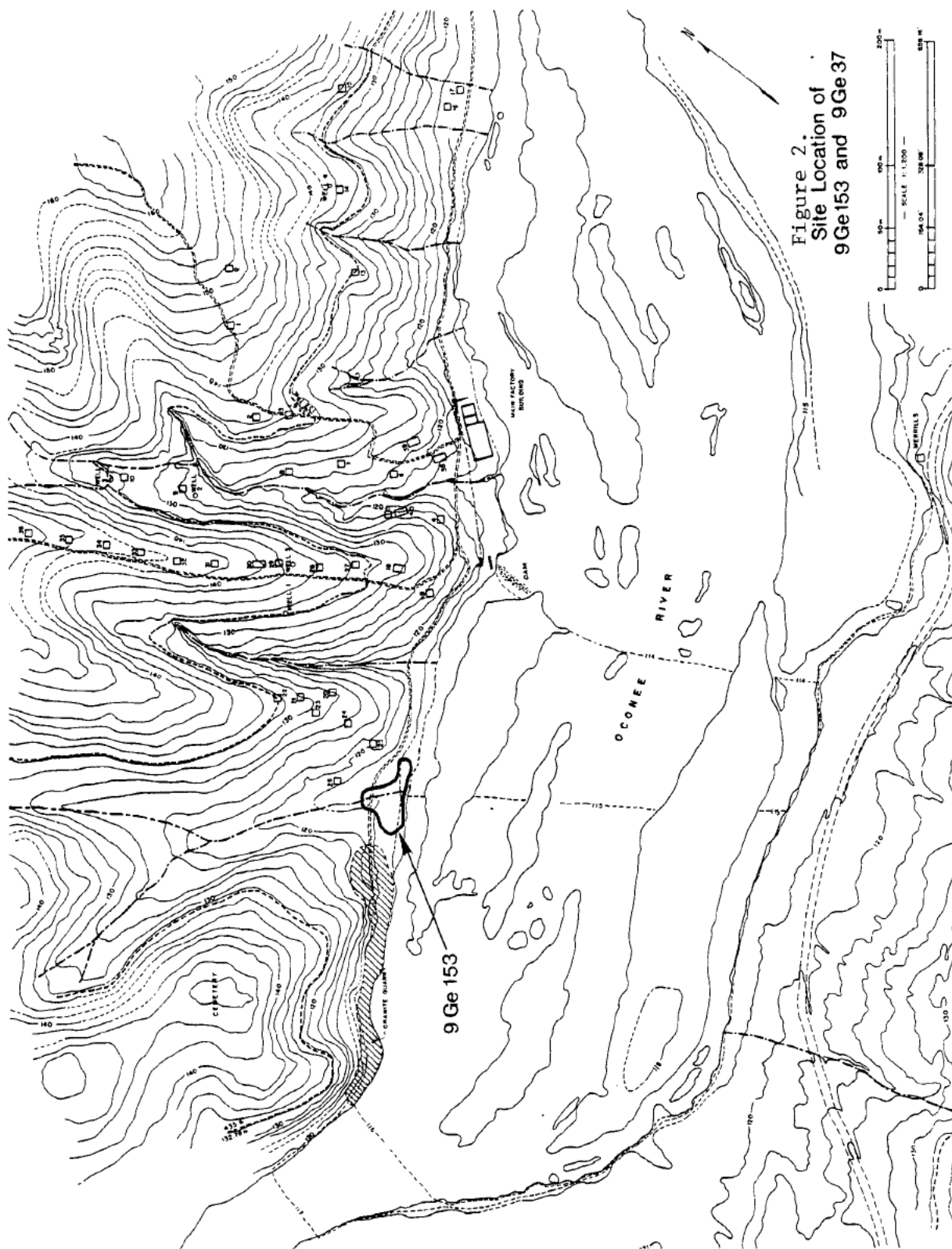


Figure 2.
Site Location of
9Ge153 and 9Ge37

Figure 2. Location of 9Ge153 at Long Shoals.

"The Washington Slope District is characterized by a gently undulating surface which descends gradually from about the 700 foot elevation at its northern margin to about the 500 foot elevation at its southern edge. Streams occupy broad, shallow valleys with long, gentle side slopes separated by broad, rounded divides. Relief throughout this district is 50-100 feet" (Clark and Zisa 1976).

Forest cover of the Piedmont consists largely of hickory, shortleaf and loblolly pine, and white and post oak species. The climate of the area "is characterized by warm to hot summers and by moderately cold, but highly variable winter weather. The precipitation pattern shows a maximum early in spring, a minimum in fall, and fairly even distribution for the rest of the year" (Soil Conservation Service 1965:2). Rainfall averages about 47.5 inches per year, and the frostfree growing season averages 255 days from late March to early November.

The Ogeltree Site is situated in an ecotone which would have provided a number of different natural resources within a very small area. The shoals provided a suitable habitat for a number of freshwater mollusc and fish species. The adjacent uplands would have provided an abundant source of nut bearing trees and game. The floodplain upon which the site is situated and the nearby islands would have provided suitable, if limited, soil for cultivation.

9Gel53 derives its name, Ogeltree, from the original Euro-American landowner. Archaeological discovery of the site was made in 1975 by a University of Georgia survey party headed by Chester DePratter (DePratter 1976). At that time, pottery sherds were discovered eroding from the bank of the small creek. The survey party ultimately excavated four posthole tests and a 2x2m test pit in the area in order to investigate site size and stratigraphy (Figure 3).

Excavation in the test pit was terminated at a depth of 90cm below ground surface. Five natural strata were recognized and described by DePratter (1976:234).

- Stratum 1 - Humus level containing Lamar artifacts and some mussel shell.
- Stratum 2 - Black midden soil with some shell.
- Stratum 3 - Compact shell midden containing Lamar ceramics and well preserved faunal remains.
- Stratum 4 - Black midden with some shell containing Cartersville ceramics.
- Stratum 5 - Brown sand containing various Middle and Early Archaic point types in apparent stratified contexts.

At the time the proposal for mitigation in the Wallace Reservoir was developed in the winter of 1976-1977, plans were made to conduct a major excavation at the Ogeltree site. Since many of the occupation periods known from the reservoir area were present at the site in an apparently stratified order, the site was considered to have the potential for documenting changing aboriginal adaptations to the shoals area of the Oconee River. Consequently the plans developed at that time called for investigation of all components represented at the site.

Unfortunately before excavation could begin, a reservoir clearing contractor accidentally cleared the site of vegetation using heavy equipment. The site appeared to be badly damaged. Large bulldozer ruts were visible everywhere, and shell midden, which had been covered by a humus layer, was exposed almost continuously across the site.

In order to evaluate the damage done to the site by the clearing contractor and to reassess the site's research potential, limited test excavations were conducted in December, 1977. At this time, a crew under the direction of Paul A. Webb excavated a trench, 10 meters long and one meter wide, across the central portion of the site (Figure 3).

These excavations, to be described in more detail below, revealed that the site had suffered less damage than had been thought. Much of the upper Lamar shell midden was disturbed, but undisturbed shell midden was present throughout the length of the trench and the underlying Woodland and Archaic deposits were intact. Webb's testing did not encounter the Cartersville shell midden stratum (Stratum 4) reported by DePratter. Rather, artifacts diagnostic of several Woodland and Archaic periods were found to be present in the brown sand (Stratum 5).

FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

1978 Research Design

Although Webb found intact Lamar shell midden throughout the entire 10m of his trench, it was believed at the time final excavation plans were formulated early in 1978, that the Lamar component had been badly disturbed (Wood 1978). For this reason, severe budget cuts were made, both in time allotted for excavation, and in funding. The research design, originally developed to explore all components of the site, was modified and emphasis was shifted to the examination of the undisturbed Archaic components.

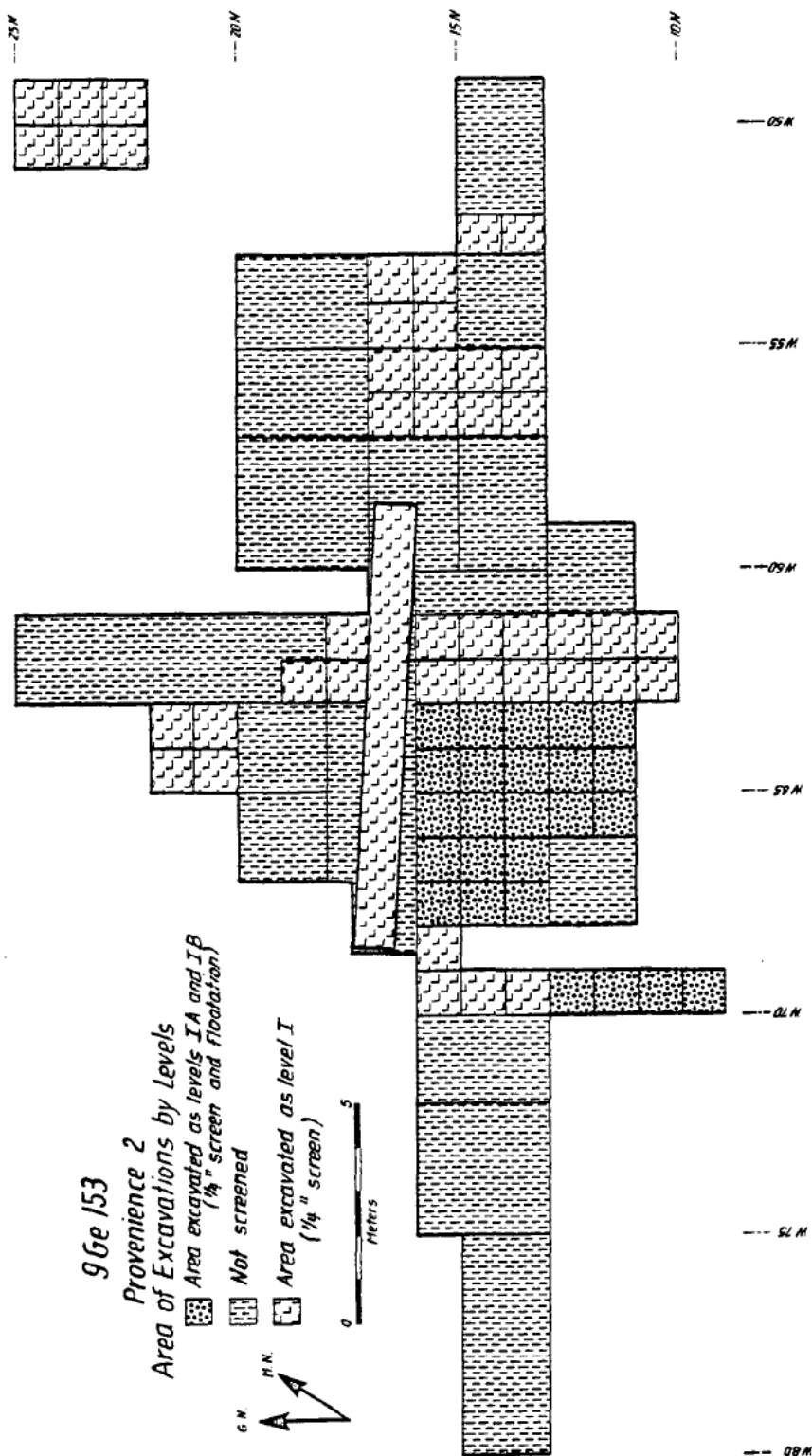
Shortly after excavation began in June, 1978, it became apparent that the Lamar component was not as badly disturbed as had been thought. The component was found to be unusually rich in artifacts, and faunal remains were especially well preserved. The research design was consequently changed again. Since the new budgetary constraints would not allow for investigation of all site components, the decision was made to concentrate efforts on the Lamar component.

The final research design called for the exposure of large areas of the Lamar occupation to answer the following questions: 1. Was the Lamar occupation seasonal or permanent? 2. Were cultivated plants utilized at the site during the Lamar period, and if so, were they a major component of the diet? 3. What was the overall subsistence base of the Lamar component? 4. Can discrete activity areas be identified at the site, and if so what were their functions?

Field Methods

The 10m long trench excavated by Webb in 1977 was placed parallel to the river and was excavated as ten individual 1x1m units to the base of brown sand. Disturbed humus and shell midden were removed as one unit, the intact shell midden was removed as a second unit, and the underlying brown sand was excavated in arbitrary 10cm levels. All soil was dry screened through one-quarter inch hardware cloth. Flotation samples were taken from each level, while pollen samples were taken from selected levels. Two features and several postholes were recorded and excavated within the trench. The artifacts recovered from this excavation are important since they represent a large proportion of the total Woodland and Archaic artifact collection made at the site.

Investigations in 1978 were directed by W. Dean Wood. Excavation was begun in a 5x5m unit located immediately south (grid south) of Webb's trench (Figure 4). Disturbed humus and shell midden were discarded, while the remaining intact shell midden was excavated in two natural levels: Level IA, the dark midden with sparse shell designated Stratum 2 by DePratter; and Level IB, the lower nearly solid shell stratum,



designated Stratum 3 by DePratter. Excavation was by one meter square unit. All soil was processed through 1/4 inch hardware cloth. Pollen samples and flotation samples of one liter size were taken from each level in each square. The latter were processed in the laboratory for the recovery of faunal and botanical remains.

Excavation within the 5x5m unit was directed primarily toward the recovery of samples of artifactual material in stratified context. Subsequent excavations outside this unit were directed primarily toward exposing large areas of the brown sand underlying the Lamar shell midden. The primary objective of these latter excavations was to record postholes and features attributable to the Lamar component. In most of the excavated area outside of the 5x5m unit, shell midden was simply shoveled into wheelbarrows and transported to the edge of the site for disposal. Excavation in these areas did not conform to 1x1m squares, and artifacts were recovered by hand only. Some areas outside the 5x5m unit were excavated in 1x1m squares. In these squares, the entire shell midden was excavated as a single level (designated Level 1) (Figure 4), soil was processed through 1/4 inch screen and one liter flotation samples were taken.

Features and postholes encountered throughout the site excavations were mapped by grid reference or by plane table and alidade. Most features, and a sample of postholes, were excavated. Pollen and flotation soil samples were taken from features.

Limited excavations were also conducted in the brown sand underlying shell midden. These excavations were conducted in 10cm arbitrary levels within 1x1m squares. Soil was screened through one-quarter inch hardware

cloth, and soil and pollen samples were taken from each level. Excavation Level II, the first 10cm level of brown sand, was excavated in twenty-eight 1x1m squares (Figure 5); Level III, the next 10cm level, was excavated in twelve 1x1m squares; Level IV, the third 10cm arbitrary level, was excavated in only two 1x1m squares.

In order to determine the size and configuration of the site, a series of posthole tests was excavated across the area of relatively level contour (Figure 3). These tests, together with the surface distribution of shell in the upland (northern) portion of the site, revealed that shell midden covered an area of approximately 1568m². Posthole tests and a short backhoe trench placed on the eastern side of the small creek encountered evidence of dense shell midden similar to that designated Level IB in the main portion of the site. Disturbance resulting from land clearing was especially severe here, however, and as a result no attempt was made to conduct further excavation in the area.

Site Stratigraphy

The stratigraphy of the site as understood following the 1978 field season, may be summarized as follows. All portions of the site are underlain by granite bedrock. The surface of bedrock is quite irregular so that in places it is overlain by as much as 60-80cm of soil and midden; while in other places it actually projects above ground surface. In the upland (northern) portion of the site, a sterile red clay stratum immediately overlies bedrock. Along the southern edge of the site, near the river, bedrock is generally overlain directly by sterile yellow sand alluvium. The stratigraphically earliest occupation stratum is the brown sand distinguished by DePratter in 1975. Depending

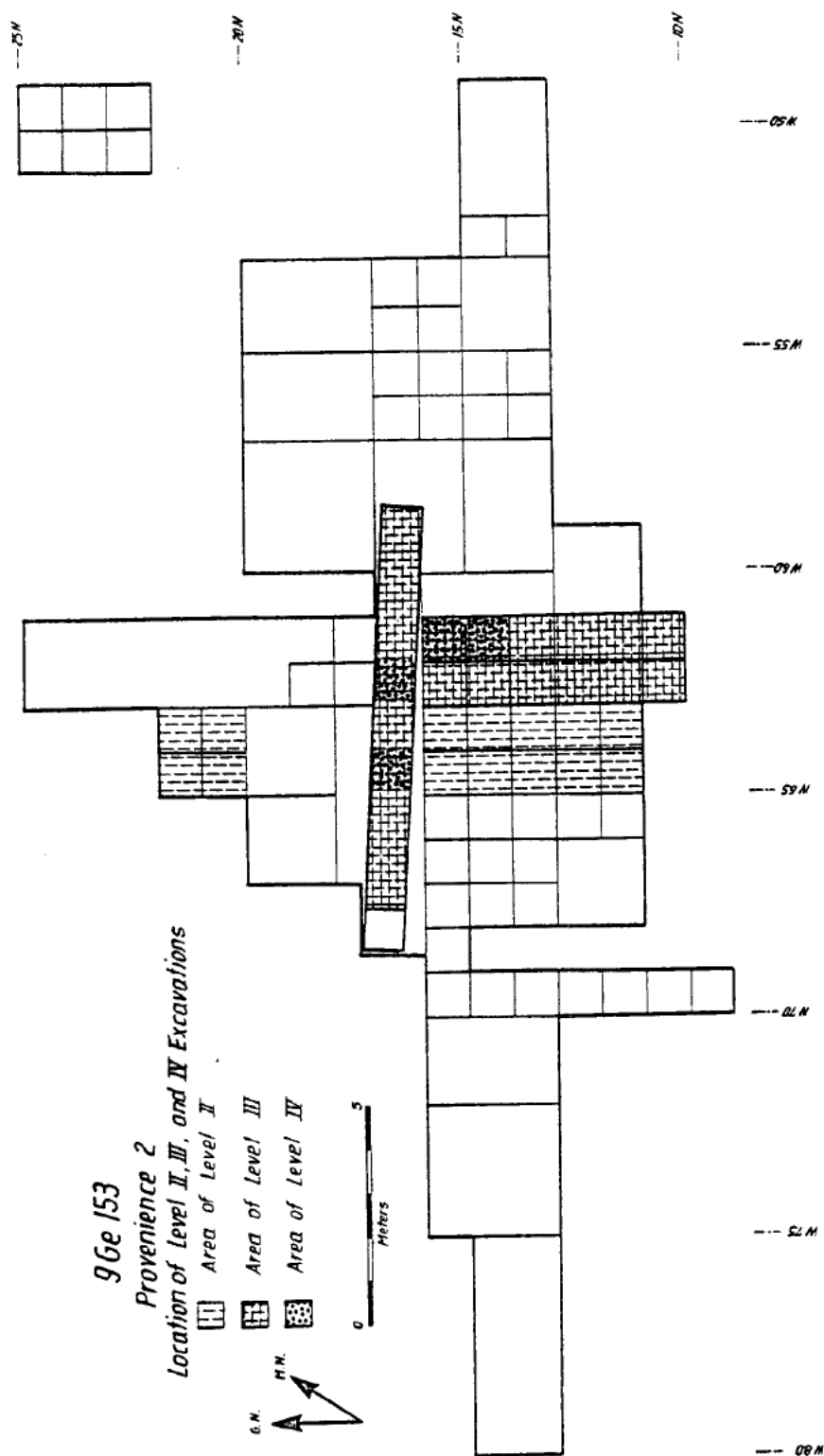


Figure 5. Units Excavated as Levels 2, 3, and 4.

upon the depth at which bedrock occurs, this stratum ranges in thickness between 0cm and 60cm. It contains Woodland and Archaic artifactual materials. The next stratum is the shell midden containing Lamar artifacts. It occurs throughout the site, and in some locations can be subdivided into a dense shell layer and a black midden with shell. The stratigraphically latest stratum is a humus zone that probably formed subsequent to the period of aboriginal occupation.

The existence of much of the site on a sloping land surface makes it difficult to compare materials excavated in arbitrary levels from different squares. Clearly in areas with only 10cm of brown sand, multiple Woodland and Archaic components are compressed into one 10cm level; while in deeper areas, there is better correspondence between components and arbitrary levels of excavation. It is somewhat misleading, under these circumstances, to analyze all Level II excavations as one unit, all Level III excavations as one unit, and all Level IV excavations as one unit. Given this situation, interpretation of activities by component cannot be made with any degree of reliability. The succession of components at the site, on the other hand, is fairly clear and will be discussed in the following sections of this report.

ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

Ceramics

Over 20,000 sherds were recovered in 1978 excavations at the Ogeltree Site. The great majority were derived from the shell midden strata and are Lamar types. Sherds representing earlier Mississippian,

Woodland and Archaic occupations were recovered in all strata, but were relatively more common in the brown sand stratum.

Shell Midden Pottery

A ceramic sample, consisting of all sherds recovered from the 5x5m unit, was analyzed from the shell midden. 7529 sherds were recovered from Level IA of this unit, while 2826 sherds were recovered from Level IB. This size sample would appear adequate to characterize the Lamar component and has the added benefit of being from a stratified context thereby making it suitable for analysis of stylistic change through time. All ceramics were recovered from 1/4 inch screens in the field, but only sherds larger than 1/2 inch have been analyzed. Thousands of additional sherds were recovered from the site, but were not analyzed since they were recovered from the shell midden in a single level or by hand. Sherds recovered by Webb in 1977 fall into this category.

The basic typological analysis was conducted by the laboratory staff of the Wallace Reservoir Project, primarily by Ms. Jan Coyne. The author further examined several hundred sherds for rim characteristics and other criteria felt to be of chronological significance.

Table 1 compares the ceramics from Level IA with those from Level IB. Although there is a clear tendency for the earlier types, such as check stamped, brushed, simple stamped, cordmarked, fabric marked, and Etowah Complicated Stamped to be located in Level IB as expected, the Lamar type frequencies are virtually identical in both Levels IA and IB. Studies of rim forms also show no significant difference between Levels IA and IB. The ceramic evidence, then, suggests that the Lamar occupation of the site may have taken place over a relatively short period of time.

TABLE I
Ceramics from Levels IA and IB, 9Ge153

	Level IA		Level IB	
	number	percentage	number	percentage
bold incised	195	2.6	47	1.66
medium incised	106	1.4	34	1.20
fine incised	69	0.9	26	0.92
all Lamar Incised	320	4.91	107	3.78
Morgan Incised	63	0.8	39	1.38
concentric circles	4	0.05	0	--
filfot cross	4	0.05	0	--
line block	1	0.01	0	--
rectilinear motifs	403	5.38	184	6.51
curvilinear motifs	217	2.88	84	2.97
all Lamar Complicated Stamped	629	8.34	268	9.48
Etowah Complicated Stamped	5	0.07	6	0.21
corncob marked	26	0.35	26	0.92
check stamped	0	--	16	0.57
simple stamped	20	0.27	30	1.06
brushed	2	0.03	5	0.18
cordmarked	0	--	1	0.04
fabric marked	0	--	1	0.04
punctated	3	0.04	1	0.04
plain	3917	52.00	1320	46.71
burnished plain	502	6.67	230	8.14
rough plain	1992	26.50	776	27.46
Total	7529		2826	

Levels IA and IB were distinguished in the field on the basis of observed differences in the ratio of shell to soil; Level IA consisting of dark midden soil with shell, Level IB being virtually pure shell. None of the 16 features excavated at the site were recorded in Level IA, although there is a possibility that Burials 1-3 originated above Level IB. Feature 5, the pit containing Burial 1, may have been detected in Level IA, but field personnel could not be certain of its existence until they were in Level IB. The pit containing Burial 3 was first detected at the surface of Level IB, suggesting that it had been truncated by plowing.

Given this evidence, it may be hypothesized that Level IA represents a relic plowzone which originated during the nineteenth century occupation of the nearby Curtwright Factory (Figure 2). The Ogeltree site area would have provided the most readily accessible tract of land for gardening by millworkers. The resulting plowzone would have mixed sterile post-Lamar soils with Lamar shell midden and would probably have magnified the apparent thickness of the Lamar Midden. The 12cm band of recent humus noted over the site before land clearing disturbance in 1977, probably accumulated after the nineteenth century occupation. Whatever the cause of the differential shell/soil ratio within the Lamar midden, it appears that little ceramic change took place during the Lamar occupation of the site.

The relative chronological position of the Ogeltree site can be determined by comparisons with the Lamar period ceramic sequence defined by excavations at the Dyar Site, 9Ge5 (M. Smith 1979). The Ogeltree Site ceramics correspond to those from what has been termed the Early Dyar Phase, best represented by Structure 2 at Ge5. Indeed, the Ogeltree

Site ceramics are virtually identical to those from Structure 2. The Early Dyar Phase is essentially the point of introduction or development of the type Lamar Incised, which replaces the type Morgan Incised, characteristic of the preceding Duvall phase.

Rim forms from Ogeltree site also appear to be transitional from Duvall phase to Dyar phase. The folded and punctated rim, the narrow folded rim, the thick vertically pinched rim and the applique strip rim are characteristic of Duvall phase, while small folded and toothed rims are characteristic of Early Dyar phase. All of these rim forms are found at the Ogeltree Site (Plate 4).

Radiocarbon determinations for the Early Dyar Phase in the Wallace Reservoir are not reliable. The introduction or development of Lamar Incised pottery, and thus the date of the Ogeltree Site, is estimated at roughly A.D. 1400-1450, based on radiocarbon dates from northwestern Georgia (Hally 1979) and northeastern Georgia (Williams 1979).

Lamar Incised pottery from the Ogeltree Site appears characteristic of the early development of this type. The number of line elements ranges from two to five in the sherds examined by the author. Most designs are quite crude and simple (Plate 5), and some are comparable to the type Irene Incised illustrated by Caldwell et al. (1941:48). While earlier work in the Wallace Reservoir has suggested that the width of incised lines tends to decrease throughout the Lamar Period (M. Smith 1979, 1981), the fine incised pottery (<1mm) at the Ogeltree site appears to be an early type, since only small numbers of line elements are present. Furthermore, using the latest descriptive criteria of line width, many of the sherds identified as fine incised sherds by laboratory

personnel would now be classified as medium incised (1mm-2mm). Later fine incised pottery of the seventeenth century Bell phase is characterized by large numbers of line elements (Mark Williams, personal communication), often in complex scrolls with line filled backgrounds.

Excavations at the Dyar site (Smith 1979, 1981) recovered large quantities of the type Morgan Incised. This type was recognized as the principal decorated type for the early Lamar Duvall phase, but its span of manufacture could not be clearly determined from excavations at GE5. Excavations at the Ogeltree site show that the manufacture and use of the type does overlap that of Lamar Incised.

Although not quantified during laboratory analysis, it is clear that bowls are the dominant vessel form at GE153. Table 2 lists the relative frequency with which different rim types occur in Level IA at GE153 and

TABLE 2

Relative Frequency of Lamar Rim Types in Level IA

9Ge153 and Structure 2 9Ge5.

	Level IA Ge153	Structure 2 Ge5
plain rims	83.3	58.6%
rolled rims	11.6%	13.4%
folded and pinched rims	4.8%	12.4%
folded and punctated rims	7.5%	15.6%
applique strip	2.1%	0.0%

in Structure 2 at GE5. Plain rims occur almost exclusively on bowls while folded, applique strip and rolled rims nearly always occur on jars. Based on this association, it can be concluded that bowls are approximately 50% more common at GE153 than at GE5.

Hally (1980b) has found archaeological evidence suggesting that large jars are storage vessels, and large bowls are cooking vessels in Lamar ceramic assemblages. It is thus suggested that storage was relatively unimportant at the Ogeltree site.

Brown Sand Stratum Ceramics

The brown sand stratum which underlies the Lamar shell midden, contains primarily Woodland and Archaic period artifacts. Ceramics from Level II, the first 10cm level of the brown sand, are listed in Table 3 and selected examples are illustrated in Plate 6. The sample consists of 216 sherds from thirty-two 1x1m units excavated by both Dean Wood and Paul Webb. Clearly several components are represented in Level II. Apparently some Lamar material is mixed in the level, since eight incised sherds and two punctate rims belong to this period. The Etowah Complicated Stamped sherd, the corncob marked sherds, and some of the complicated stamped sherds probably belong to a pre-Lamar Mississippian occupation. The remainder of the sherds resulted from occupation during the Archaic and Woodland Periods. Eight Stallings Island Plain sherds and one Stallings Island Punctate sherd give evidence of a light Terminal Archaic component. The next occupation apparently took place during the Long Shoals Phase (Wood 1981). During this Early Woodland Phase, Dunlap Fabric Marked, Cartersville Check Stamped, and plain pottery were in use. Several projectile points typical of this

TABLE 3
Ceramics from Levels 2 and 3, 9Ge153

	Level 2		Level 3	
	number	percentage	number	percentage
bold incised	3	1.4	0	--
medium incised	3	1.4	0	--
fine incised	1	0.5	0	--
all Lamar Incised	7	3.3	0	--
Morgan Incised	1	0.5	0	--
rectilinear motifs	14	6.5	2	4.3
curvilinear motifs	9	4.2	0	--
all Lamar Complicated Stamped	23	10.7	2	4.3
Etowah Complicated Stamped	1	0.5	1	2.2
corncob marked	2	0.9	0	--
Swift Creek Complicated Stamped	1	0.5	0	--
check stamped	20	9.3	3	6.5
simple stamped	18	8.3	2	4.3
cordmarked	2	0.9	4	8.7
fabric marked	15	6.9	2	4.3
plain	76	35.2	24	52.2
burnished plain	19	8.8	3	6.5
coarse plain	19	8.8	2	4.3
Stallings Island Punctated	1	0.5	0	--
Stallings Island plain	8	3.7	3	6.5
Total	216		46	

period were found in Level II and will be discussed below.

A final component, slightly later in time, is represented by simple stamped, plain, and Swift Creek Complicated Stamped sherds. This assemblage is characteristic of an unnamed phase known from site 9Pm260 and the upper levels of the Cane Island Site (Wood 1981). The existence of this unnamed phase at the Ogeltree Site is also reflected in the greater number of simple stamp sherds relative to other Woodland types in Level IB (Table 1) located above Level II.

Level III consists of the second 10cm arbitrary level of the Brown Sand stratum. An area of 20 square meters was excavated by Webb and Wood resulting in a sample of 46 sherds (Table 3). Only one Etowah Complicated Stamped sherd represents a late component. Otherwise, the contents are quite similar to those of Level II, and no doubt reflect the same Terminal Archaic and Woodland Components.

Level IV, the third 10cm arbitrary level, was excavated in an area of four square meters. Two plain grit tempered sherds were recovered from this level.

Lithic Artifacts

Lithic remains from the Ogeltree Site will be discussed under four categories: Chipped stone tools, Ground Stone tools, debitage, and fire cracked rock. Analysis of debitage is limited to the same 5x5m unit as the ceramic remains reported above. Chipped and Ground stone tools are described for all units analyzed during laboratory processing.

Chipped Stone Tools

Chipped stone tools will be discussed by excavation Level. Chipped stone tools from Level I, the Lamar shell midden, and the surface include projectile point types ranging in age from the Transitional Paleo-Indian period (2 Dalton points) to the small triangular projectile points characteristic of the Lamar Period (Table 4). There are several examples of varieties of the Early Archaic Kirk Corner Notched type (Cambron and Hulse 1975) (Plate 7). Two indented base triangular and pentagonal points are probably Camp Creek points and thus related to the Woodland component in Level II, as is the Bradley Spike type (Cambron and Hulse 1975) (Plate 7). Three small quartz triangular points, typical of the Lamar period, were recovered in Level I. A heavy, quartz, stemmed point and a small, indented base, bevelled point complete the diagnostic tools. Seven broken bifaces and sixteen flake tools were also located by Webb and Wood in the Shell midden.

Chipped Stone tools from Level II, the first 10cm level of the brown sand zone below the shell midden, primarily reflect a Woodland occupation (Table 4). Seven examples of large triangular points, six of which have indented bases and resemble the Tennessee Camp Creek Type (Lewis and Kneberg 1972), were located in this level (Plate 7). Other projectile points include three miscellaneous crude quartz stemmed points of unknown age (Plate 7), a small Morrow Mountain rounded base point of quartz, and a short variety Kirk Corner notched Early Archaic point of quartz. Twenty-six additional broken bifaces and sixteen flake tools were also recovered from this level.

TABLE 4

Stratigraphic Distribution of Bifacially Flaked Artifacts

	Surface	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Archaic points					
Dalton	1	1			
Kirk Corner Notched	3	4	1	3	2
Lost Lake		1			
Big Sandy Side Notched				1	
Morrow Mountain			1	2	
Woodland points					
Bradley Spike		1			
Camp Creek		3	7	2	
Mississippian points					
Mississippian triangular		3			
Non-diagnostic bifaces					
heavy stemmed biface		1			
beveled triangular biface		1			
crude stemmed biface			3		
large triangular biface				1	
long triangular biface				1	
drill				1	
miscellaneous bifaces		2		7	4

Level III produced a mixture of Woodland and Archaic projectile point types (Table 4). Two additional Camp Creek type point bases of sugary quartzite and a large triangular point without indented base probably reflect the Woodland component, while a stemmed chert drill (Plate 7) and two Morrow Mountain rounded base points (Plate 7) reflect the Middle Archaic component. A long, narrow triangular biface or knife, of northwestern Georgia chert, was recovered from this level (Plate 7). Finally, the Early Archaic Period is well represented by a Big Sandy side notched point, and two quartz and one coastal plain chert Kirk Corner Notched points. Twenty additional nondiagnostic bifaces and biface fragments were recovered, along with seventeen flake tools.

The small area (three square meters) excavated as Level IV produced two Kirk Corner Notched points and one Morrow Mountain rounded base point, four broken bifaces, and one possible flake tool.

The analysis of chipped stone tools reveals types ranging from the Transitional Paleo-Indian Period to the Protohistoric. Level I, the Lamar shell midden, shows an interesting mixture of tools. Only three small triangular points, typical of the Lamar Period, were recovered, apparently indicating a limited use of stone projectile points for arrows at the site. This lack of small triangular projectile points seems to characterize Lamar sites throughout the Wallace Reservoir, however, and may have little bearing on the interpretation of site function. What is interesting, is the apparently intentional collection and utilization of Early Archaic and Woodland projectile point forms by the Lamar inhabitants. It is not known if these tools were collected as curios or hunting fetishes, or were actually utilized by the Lamar inhabitants. Archaic projectile

point forms have also been found in Lamar contexts at the Dyar Site (Smith 1981) and the Pm260 site.

The majority of projectile point types from Level II, are Woodland Camp Creek types, usually made from a yellow quartzite. This point type, made from the same material, characterizes the Early Woodland Long Shoals Phase described by Dean Wood (1981). Two earlier Archaic points also occur in this Level, but it is probable that the majority of the deposit accumulated during the Early Woodland period.

Level III, contained a few additional Woodland points, but also included a probable Late or Middle Archaic drill, a Middle Archaic Morrow Mountain point, and Early Archaic Big Sandy and Kirk points. The majority of the soil that accumulated in Level III appears to date to the Archaic, with a strong Early Archaic Kirk component represented.

Finally, Level IV yielded only one Middle Archaic Morrow Mountain point and two Early Archaic Kirk points. In general, the projectile points from the three arbitrary levels in the Brown Sand conform to the expected sequence of point types.

Flake tools appear to occur with nearly equal frequency in all levels. Sixteen were found in Level I, 16 were found in Level II, and 17 were found in Level III. The small area excavated in Level IV only yielded one possible flake tool. Nonetheless, flake tools were probably not very important during the Lamar occupation, since nature Level I was much thicker than the arbitrary levels below. On a per volume of midden basis, flake tools were relatively uncommon in the Lamar levels.

Debitage

In order to try to understand the types of activities that took place at the Ogeltree Site, an extensive analysis ofdebitage was conducted for the Lamar and Woodland levels. Due to the small area sampled and dwindling of analysis funds, the Archaicdebitage from Levels III and IV were not carefully analyzed. Even with these limitations, however, several patterns of lithic activity emerge.

Debitage from Levels IA, IB, and II was divided into the categories: core, percussion flake, thinning/retouch flake, and debris. The debris category includes all broken flakes and those which could not be placed in the percussion or thinning/retouch categories. It is clear from Table 5 that Level IA and Level IB do not differ in terms ofdebitage categories, adding evidence to the interpretation generated from the ceramic data that these two levels represent a single occupation. The types ofdebitage present suggest that very few, if any tools were manufactured on the site, but that tool maintenance was a more important activity. The overall low number of flakes in the shell midden indicate that chipped stone tools were not an important item in the human activities occurring at the Ogeltree Site during the Lamar occupation. A general lack of chipped stone tools characterizes all Lamar sites in the Wallace Reservoir.

Debitage from the Woodland level (II) yields a somewhat different interpretation. Although there are still no cores present in the area analyzed, both percussion flakes and thinning/retouch flakes increase, suggesting a difference in lithic activities. The overall number of flakes also increases dramatically (see below). Apparently stone tool manufacture, as well as tool maintenance, was done by the Woodland inhabitants.

TABLE 5

Stratigraphic Distribution of Debitage by Debitage Category

	Level IA		Level IB		Level II	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Core	0	--	0	--	0	--
Percussion Flake	0	--	1	1.6	91	6.1
Thinning/Retouch Flake	3	10	6	9.8	265	17.7
Debris	27	90	54	88.5	1144	76.3
Total	30		61		1500	
<hr/>						
Quantity of Soil Analyzed	24m ²		24m ²		32m ²	

The density of debitage in each excavation level is shown in Table 6 in the form of a density index. This index is a measure of the average number of flakes /square meter in each level. Certainly flake per unit volume of midden would be a more appropriate measure of density, but Levels IA and IB varied considerably in thickness, while Levels II-IV are of equal volume, except when bedrock was reached. Level IA probably averaged nearly 20cm in thickness, while Level IB was about 7cm thick. Given the differences in volume of soil processed for 1m squares in each level, it is significant that flake density for the shell midden levels is less than 3, while it ranges from 46.88 to 83.66 for the Woodland and Archaic levels. It is clear that activities involving the manufacture, use and maintenance of chipped stone tools were far more common during the Woodland and Archaic periods than they were during the Lamar occupation.

Debitage from Levels I-IV was analyzed as to stone material. Evidence from other areas of the reservoir has suggested an increase in the utilization of chert during the Early Archaic, particularly in the variety from the Coastal Plain. The type of lithic material recovered from Levels I-IV is shown in Table 6. The locally available quartz and quartzite clearly predominate throughout the period of site occupancy, but the use of Coastal Plain chert and northwest Georgia chert increases dramatically in the Archaic. The relatively high frequency of light chert in Level IB can probably best be understood as a function of the small sample size and mixture from the Woodland occupation.

The use of rhyolite was low but fairly constant through time. Another interesting lithic material, called "Daltonite" by reservoir project personnel, is a metaquartzite of sedimentary origin with garnet, magnetite

TABLE 6

Stratigraphic Distribution of Debitage by Stone Type

	Level IA		Level IB		Level II		Level III		Level IV	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Quartz	27	90	47	77.1	1276	85.1	917	72.7	171	68.1
Light Chert	1	3.7	11	18.0	178	11.9	259	20.5	55	21.9
Dark Chert	1	3.7	0	--	21	1.4	47	3.7	11	4.4
Rhyolite	1	3.7	2	3.3	25	1.7	31	2.5	9	3.6
"Daltonite"	0	--	1	1.6	0	--	7	0.6	5	2.0
Total	30		61		1500		1261		251	
<hr/>										
Quantity of Soil Analyzed	24m ²		24m ²		32m ²		20m ²		3m ²	
<hr/>										
Flakes/m ²	1.25		2.54		46.88		63.05		83.66	

and/or ilmenite inclusions (Dr. R. E. Carver, personal communication). Daltonite is locally available in the reservoir. Tools made of Daltonite in the reservoir are usually Dalton or Early Archaic forms. At Gel53, one Dalton point and one biface tip of Daltonite were found. Although rare in the recovered debitage, Daltonite does appear more commonly in Levels III and IV (Table 6).

Ground Stone Tools

Ground stone tools were rare at site Gel53 (Table 7). Excavations in the Lamar shell midden yielded only fifteen tools, and one third of these were simple hammerstones. The most common ground stone tool is an edge use implement; a natural stone, frequently schist, which shows evidence of abrasion along one or more edges. The use of these tools is unknown, although one is thin enough to have functioned as a saw. One of the edge use implements has been flaked into a circular shape and then lightly ground around the edges (Plate 8). There is some evidence that one of the flat surfaces has been used for grinding. Two crude discs of unknown function were also recovered. Finally, one polished stone fragment appears to have been a bit fragment from a ground stone celt.

Ground stone from arbitrary Level II, the predominantly Woodland level, was scarce. Only two edge use implements and two other fragments of possible ground stone were recovered.

Level III, the mixed Woodland and Archaic level, produced one hammerstone, six edge use implements, one steatite bowl rim sherd, and a piece of unworked hematite. One additional piece of possible ground stone was noted.

TABLE 7

Stratigraphic Distribution of Ground Stone Artifacts

	Level I	Level II	Level III	Level IV
Edge Use Implement	6	2	6	
Pebble Hammerstone	4		1	1
Ground Disc	2			
Steatite Rim			1	
Unidentified Fragment	2			
Possible ground stone		2	1	
Unworked Hematite			1	1
Celt Fragment	1			

Finally, the limited excavations in Level IV produced only one possible hammerstone and a piece of unworked hematite. The assemblage of ground stone for the Lamar component seems strikingly sparse. There are few celts, and there are no large grinding tools such as are found at the Dyar Site (M. Smith 1981) and probably were used in the preparation of plant foods.

Cracked Rock

Large quantities of cracked rock were recovered from the excavations at the Ogeltree Site. Presumably, this rock, which is mainly vein quartz, was being used in some kind of food preparation. It is conceivable that a hot rock steam technique was being used for the preparation of river mussels, since cracked rock is generally not common on other Lamar sites in the reservoir.

The quantity of cracked rock in Level IA and Level IB squares ranged between 127g and 4049g. There is no apparent pattern in the distribution of this rock; adjacent units being quite variable in the amount of rock present. Generally, there is more cracked rock in Level II than in Level I shell midden. One meter squares in Level II yielded an average of 2826g of cracked rock, while those in Level I yielded an average of 778g. Presumably this difference reflects greater use of hot rock cooking during the Woodland period.

Bone Artifacts

Bone artifacts were identified by the staff of the University of Georgia Faunal Laboratory during processing of the faunal remains from the site. Considering the excellent bone preservation which characterized the site, bone tools were infrequent. Eight definite bone tools and 27

possible bone tools or modified bone pieces were recovered from the shell midden (Level I). Level II produced one bone tool, while Level III produced two bone tools.

Bone awls (3) and a bone fishhook (Plate 9) were the most distinctive tools recovered from Level I. A perforated turtle plastron may be a part of a turtle shell rattle. Several other bones showed definite modification, but their function is unknown. The category of possibly modified bone includes 15 bone fragments which exhibit some polish or abrasion and nine split deer metatarsals. It is not known whether the latter are the result of marrow extraction or tool manufacture (Barbara Ruff, UGA Faunal Laboratory, Personal Communication). The distribution of worked bone items that may have functioned as tools, is plotted in Figure 6.

The tool recovered from Level II was a split mammal bone awl (Plate 9 Row 1, No. 2), while those recovered from Level III were two additional examples of the split deer metatarsals described above.

Shell Artifacts

Only eight artifacts of shell were recovered during archaeological investigations of the Ogeltree Site. Seven of these artifacts were marine shell beads (Plate 9), while the remaining specimen was a drilled mussel shell (pendant?). All shell beads were recovered from the Lamar shell midden. Most of the beads were small, disc shaped beads, however, a large, barrel shaped bead (Plate 9, Row 2, No. 3) was recovered from the pit fill of Burial 3, where it was apparently an accidental inclusion rather than an intentional grave good. No scrap marine shell was found in the midden, suggesting that the shell beads had been imported as finished items.

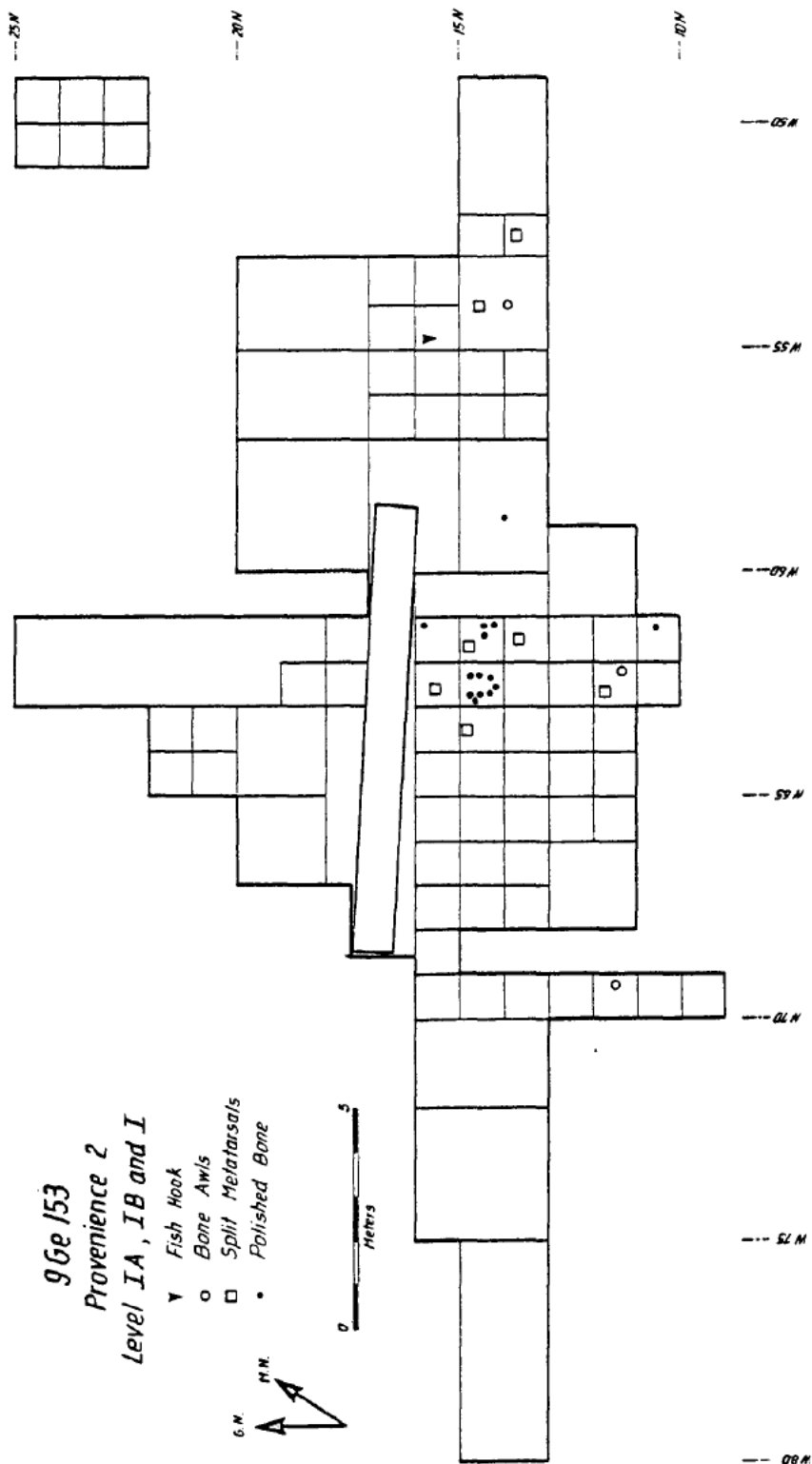


Figure 6. Distribution of Probable Bone Tools.

Faunal Remains

by

Gary Shapiro

Faunal material from 13 flotation samples and 61 1/4 inch screened samples was analyzed in the laboratory. The location of these samples is shown in Figure 7. Unfortunately flotation samples yielded an insufficient number of identifiable animal bones for reliable interpretation of subsistence activities (Table 8). The faunal sample obtained by 1/4 inch screening, however, is more than adequate for this purpose.

The following discussion of faunal material from Gel53, by necessity is based exclusively on the 1/4 inch screened sample (Table 9). Comparison of large flotation and 1/4 inch screened faunal samples recovered from the Dyar Site, 9Ge5, demonstrates the kinds of bias which result from total reliance on the 1/4 inch screen recovery technique.

...the number of identified bones and MNI for the fine-screened (flotation) sample is nearly double that for the 1/4 inch screened sample. Six categories of animals which are not represented in the 1/4 inch sample appear in the fine-screened sample. Five of these are represented by one identified fragment each and probably were unimportant as subsistence resource, if indeed they were food items at all. These are the toad (Bufo sp.), fence lizard (Sceleporus sp.), poisonous snake (Crotalidae), pine mouse (Pitymys pinetorium) and the field mouse (Peromyscus sp.). With the exception of the fence lizard, all of the above are known to inhabit burrows, and may be intrusive into the archaeological deposits. The chain pickerel (Esox niger) is identified only from the fine-screen sample (4 fragments) and thus is the only species added to the list of subsistence resources by fine-screening.

The most dramatic difference between the two samples is the increased number of fish bones identified from the fine-screened sample (approximately five-fold) and the increased MNI (more than two-fold) for fish. On the other hand, the occurrence of turtle and bird bone is hardly affected by the difference in screen size. This is also true of deer bone. Although the occurrence of bone from small mammals increases dramatically, the MNI for small mammals is not altered greatly.

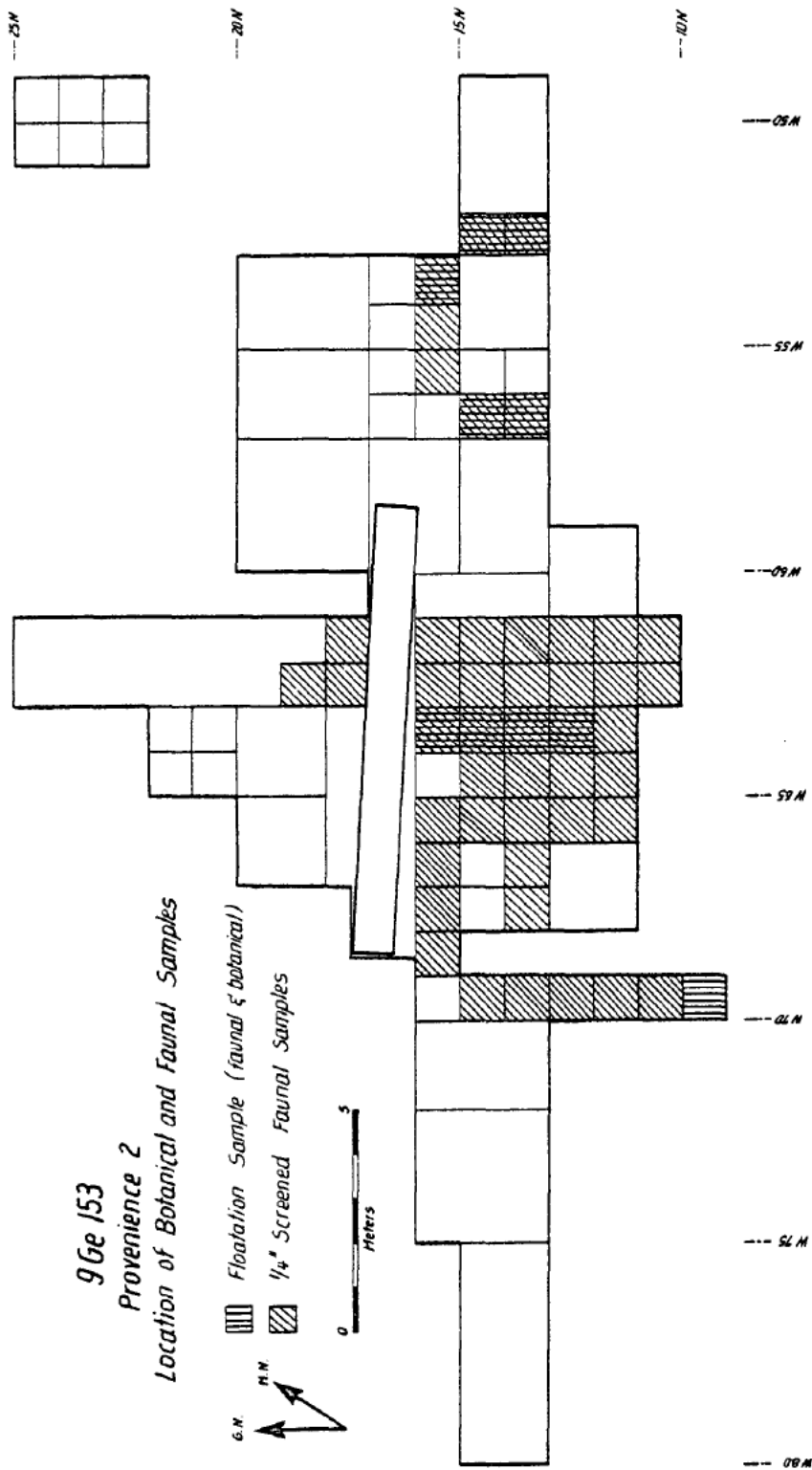


Figure 7. Units Providing Faunal and Botanical Material for Analysis.

Faunal Material Recovered in Flotation Samples

	Number of Elements	Percentage of Elements	MNI	Percentage of MNI
<u>Ictalurus</u> sp. (catfish)	12	25.0	2	18.2
<u>Catostomidae</u> (suckers)	5	10.4	1	9.1
<u>Micropterus salmoides</u> (largemouth bass)	1	2.1	1	9.1
TOTAL IDENTIFIED FISH	18	37.5	4	36.4
Kinosternidae (mud and musk turtles)	4	8.3		
<u>Sternothaerus</u> of <u>odoratus</u> (musk turtle)	2	4.2	1	9.1
<u>Terrapene carolina</u> (box turtle)	15	31.2	2	18.2
<u>Trionyx</u> sp. (soft-shelled turtle)	3	6.2	1	9.1
TOTAL IDENTIFIED TURTLES	24	50.0	4	36.4
Colubridae (non-poisonous snakes)	2	4.2	1	9.1
Crotalidae (poisonous snakes)	1	2.1	1	9.1
TOTAL IDENTIFIED SNAKES	3	6.2	2	18.2
<u>Odocoileus virginianus</u> (white-tailed deer)	3	6.2	1	9.1
TOTAL IDENTIFIED MAMMALS	3	6.2	1	9.1
TOTAL IDENTIFIED BONE	48		11	
unidentified fish	73			
unidentified turtle	179			

TABLE 8 (continued)

	Number of Elements	Percentage of Elements	MNI	Percentage of MNI
unidentified lizard	4			
unidentified snake	10			
unidentified mammal	18			
unidentified bone fragments	166			

TABLE 9

Faunal Material Recovered in One-Quarter Inch Screen

	Number of Elements	Percentage of Elements	MNI	Percentage of MNI
<u>Lepisosteus</u> sp. (garfish)	22	1.1	1	1.3
<u>Ictalurus</u> sp. (catfish)	30	1.5	7	9.0
<u>Catostomidae</u> (suckers)	11	.6	1	1.3
<u>Lepomis</u> sp. (sunfish, bluegill)	2	.1	1	1.3
<u>Micropterus salmoides</u> (largemouth bass)	9	.4	2	2.6
TOTAL IDENTIFIED FISH	74	3.8	12	15.4
Kinosternidae (mud and musk turtles)	36	1.8		
<u>Kinosternon</u> cf. <u>subrubrum</u>	32	1.6	6	7.7
Emydidae (aquatic turtles)	190	9.7	5	6.4
<u>Chrysemys</u> sp. (pond and river cooter)	117	6.0		
<u>Terrapene carolina</u> (box turtle)	1078	55.0	35	44.9
<u>Trionyx</u> sp. (soft-shelled turtle)	117	6.0	3	3.8
TOTAL IDENTIFIED TURTLE	1589	81.0	50	64.1
<u>Zenaidura macroura</u> (mourning dove)				
Colubridae (non-poisonous snakes)	14	.7		

TABLE 9 (continued)

	Number of Elements	Percentage of Elements	MNI	Percentage of MNI
Crotalidae (poisonous snakes)	12	.6	1	1.3
<u>Earancia abacura</u> (mud snake)	1	.05	1	1.3
TOTAL IDENTIFIED SNAKES	27	1.4	2	2.6
<u>Didelphis virginianus</u> (opossum)	1	.05	1	1.3
<u>Sylvilagus</u> sp. (rabbit)	2	.1	1	1.3
<u>Sciurus</u> sp. (squirrel)	7	.3	1	1.3
<u>Castor canadensis</u> (beaver)	7	.3	1	1.3
<u>Ondatra zibethica</u> (muskrat)	2	.1	1	1.3
<u>Procyon lotor</u> (raccoon)	1	.05	1	1.3
<u>Mephitis mephitis</u> (striped skunk)	1	.05	1	1.3
<u>Lynx rufus</u> (bobcat)	12	.6	1	1.3
<u>Odocoileus virginianus</u> (white-tailed deer)	238	12.1	6	7.7
TOTAL IDENTIFIED MAMMAL	271	13.8	14	17.9
TOTAL IDENTIFIED BONE	1961		78	
unidentified fish	67			
unidentified turtle	3101			
unidentified snake	14			
unidentified bird	8			
unidentified mammal	777			

TABLE 9 (continued)

	Number of Elements	Percentage of Elements	MNI	Percentage of MNI
unidentified small mammal	5			
unidentified large mammal	86			
total unidentified mammal	868			
unidentified bone fragments	430			

It appears then, that the major information gained by fine screening is the increased representation of fish in the vertebrate fauna... (Shapiro 1981a).

It is assumed that all animal bone recovered in Level 1 was deposited during the Lamar occupation. This assumption is based on the fact that no animal bone was present (preserved) in the underlying brown sand stratum and the probability that the shell midden accumulated entirely during the Lamar occupation. Faunal remains identified from Level 1 are summarized in Tables 8 and 9.

Of the 1,961 identified bone fragments recovered by 1/4 inch screening of all areas of the Lamar component, it is readily apparent that the sample is dominated by turtle bone (81.0%), of which the box turtle, Terrapene carolina is by far the most abundant (representing 55.0% of the total number of identified bone and 44.9% of the total MNI).

Among the mammals, opossum, beaver, muskrat, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, skunk, and bobcat are represented by a few fragments each and never by more than one individual. The white-tailed deer, represented by 238 fragments, comprises 12.1% of the total identified bone. Examination of deer skeletal elements from different parts of the animal reveals an interesting pattern. The forequarters of deer are represented by 39 identified elements, and the hindquarters by 53. An additional 35 bone fragments are portions of deer metapodials and phalanges for which fore or hindquarter designations can not be determined. By contrast, the axial skeleton is represented by only 10 fragments of vertebrae. Two fragments of rib are represented, and the skull and mandible are represented by only seven fragments, three of which are teeth. Since several elements of limbs indicate that our MNI of six deer is a reasonable

estimate, it is noteworthy that so few elements from portions of deer other than the extremities are represented (127 limb elements vs. 19 vertebrae, ribs, skull). It is possible that this pattern represents the butchering of game outside the main area of the site, with the forequarters and hindquarters being brought to the habitation area.

The Ogeltree Site was ideally located for exploitation of aquatic resources. It is not surprising, therefore, that several species of aquatic turtles, molluscs, and fish are represented in the collection. Taken together, fish contribute only 3.8% of the total identified bone (74 fragments) and 15.4% of the MNI (12 individuals). Catfishes contribute the greatest number of individuals in the 1/4 inch screen sample (7), followed by the bass (2 MNI). The garfish, suckers, and sunfishes are represented by one individual each.

Aquatic species of turtles are represented by the mud and musk turtles (Kinosternidae, including Kinosternon and Sternothaerus), the family Emydidae (including Chrysemys and excluding Terrapene), and the soft-shell turtle (Trionyx sp.). Taken together, these aquatic turtles contribute 26.1% of the total identified bone fragments (511 fragments) and 19.2% of the MNI (15 individuals).

Two species of mammals identified are generally associated with aquatic environments. The beaver, represented by seven fragments (1 MNI) and the muskrat, represented by two fragments (1 MNI) may also be considered aquatic resources.

While mollusc remains from 9Gel53 are not quantified, the Lamar midden at the site was characterized by an abundance of shell, of which the vast majority were species of the family Unionidae (including Elliptio and Lampsilis).

The aquatic resources listed above account for 41.9% of the total identified bone and 37.2% of the total MNI from the 1/4 inch screened sample. These figures appear to be a significant departure from the pattern of aquatic resource exploitation at site 9Gel75 (Table 10). Site 9Gel75, which is contemporaneous with 9Gel53, is located approximately 1.5 miles downstream from the Ogeltree Site and has been identified as a site at which subsistence activities were centered around the exploitation of aquatic resources (Shapiro 1981). In the 1/4 inch screened sample from that site, aquatic resources contributed 66.9% of the total identified bone and 76.3% of the total MNI, while identified deer bone contributed .6% of the total identified bone and 1/8% of the total MNI. This may be seen to contrast with site 9Gel53 where deer accounted for 12.1% of the total identified bone and 7.7% of the total MNI. The faunal data, therefore, suggests that 9Gel53 was something more than a specialized locus for the extraction of aquatic resources (generally thought to have been a warm-season activity in the Southeast).

Botanical Remains

Flotation samples from thirteen 1x1m squares were selected for Botanical analysis (Figure 7). These samples were dry screened through window screen mesh, sorted, and sent to Dr. Elizabeth Sheldon for identification of charred plant remains. Only two samples produced charred plant food remains. One sample from Level 1A contained 0.1g of hickory shell, while another sample from Level 1 contained 0.15g of hickory shell. Charred pine wood and oak or chestnut wood were also identified in various samples; pine being represented in eight samples

TABLE 10

Faunal Material Recovered in One-Quarter Inch Screen, GE175

	Number of Elements	Percentage of Elements	MNI	Percentage of MNI
<u>Lepisosteus</u> sp. (garfish)	4	.6		
<u>Ictalurus</u> sp. (catfish)	72	11.6	13	23.6
<u>Catostomidae</u> (suckers)	40	6.4	6	10.9
<u>Lepomis</u> sp. (sunfish, bluegill)	8	1.3	3	5.4
<u>Micropterus salmoides</u> (largemouth bass)	19	3.0	4	7.3
TOTAL IDENTIFIED FISH	143	23.0	26	47.3
<u>Rana</u> sp. (frog)	2	.3	1	1.8
TOTAL IDENTIFIED AMPHIBIAN	2	.3	1	1.8
<u>Chelydra serpentina</u> (snapping turtle)	7	1.1	1	1.8
Kinosternidae (mud and musk turtles)	141	22.7		
<u>Sternotherus</u> of <u>odoratus</u> (musk turtle)	84	13.5	9	16.4
Emydidae (aquatic turtles)	6	1.0		
<u>Chrysemys</u> sp. (pond and river cooter)	20	3.2	2	3.6
<u>Terrapene carolina</u> (box turtle)	145	23.3	7	12.7
<u>Trionyx</u> sp. (soft-shelled turtle)	4	.6		
TOTAL IDENTIFIED TURTLE	407	65.5	20	36.4

TABLE 10 (continued)

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	Number of Elements	Percentage of Elements	MNI	Percentage of MNI
Colubridae (non-poisonous snakes)	46	7.4	1	1.8
Crotalidae (poisonous snakes)	6	1.0	1	1.8
TOTAL IDENTIFIED SNAKES	64	10.3	2	3.6
<u>Didelphis virginianus</u> (opossum)	2	.3	1	1.8
<u>Sylvilagus floridana</u> (cottontail rabbit)	1	.2	1	1.8
<u>Castor canadensis</u> (beaver)	8	1.3	1	1.8
<u>Ondatra zibethica</u> (muskrat)	1	.2	1	1.8
<u>Canis</u> sp. (dog/wolf)	1	.2	1	1.8
<u>Odocoileus virginianus</u> (white-tailed deer)	4	.6	1	1.8
TOTAL IDENTIFIED MAMMAL	17	2.7	6	10.9
TOTAL IDENTIFIED BONE	621		55	
unidentified fish	157			
unidentified turtle	294			
unidentified snake	12			
unidentified mammal	25			
unidentified large mammal	2			
total unidentified mammal	27			
unidentified bone fragments	85			

and hardwood being represented in five samples.

No plant food remains were noted in flotation samples from features during laboratory processing, with the result that no samples were submitted to Dr. Sheldon for analysis. Subsequent inspection by the author of samples from Features 7 and 15, however, did yield small quantities of maize and hickory shell. Unfortunately it has not been possible to have these samples analyzed by Dr. Sheldon.

The available evidence indicates that plant foods were not heavily utilized by the inhabitants of the Ogeltree Site. This contrasts sharply with the situation at the Dyar Site, where plant remains, including cultigens, are very common (Smith 1981).

FEATURES

Sixteen features were identified during the excavation of Gel53. The location of these features is shown in Figure 8. Most features were not detected until the shell midden stratum had been removed, with the result that their point of origin within the shell midden is unknown.

Feature 1

Feature 1 was a shallow depression in the surface of the brown sand stratum beneath the shell midden. It measured 42cm by 58cm by 6cm and contained a dark brown loam fill. Woodland and Lamar period sherds were recovered from the fill. The feature probably represents a surface irregularity in the brown sand stratum which was filled with midden soil during the subsequent Lamar occupation.

Figure 8. Location of Features.

Feature 2

Feature 2 was a concentration of four large cracked quartzite rocks located on top of the brown sand stratum. The rocks occurred within an area measuring 50cm by 25cm. The feature could represent a set of hearth stones, but the absence of any associated soil stain argues against this interpretation. No artifacts were recovered in direct association with the feature. On stratigraphic grounds, the feature could be either Woodland or Lamar in age.

Feature 3

Feature 3 was a small, oval shaped pit measuring 28cm by 37cm by 6cm, first detected at the base of the shell midden stratum. The point of origin of the feature is unknown. Pit fill contained shell, charcoal, bone, sherds and one flake. Sherds have been identified as Lamar Complicated Stamped (1) and unidentified plain (2). The feature almost certainly dates to the Lamar occupation. It appears to be nothing more than an especially large posthole.

Feature 4

Feature 4 was a small, circular pit filled with gray ash and very dark brown soil and was first detected at the base of Level 1. It measured 42cm by 35cm by 8cm and had lightly fired walls. Field notes indicate that the ash fill was different from that found in other postholes and features. Pit fill contained shell, bone, one large flake and four sherds. One sherd is Lamar Incised, indicating a Lamar date for the feature. The feature resembles Feature 3 in size, but the fired walls argue against it being a posthole.

Feature 5

Feature 5 was the pit for Burial 2. It originated in Level IA or high in Level IB, and thus dates to the Lamar period. The pit measured 70cm by 45cm and contained black soil, shell, bone, pottery and pebbles.

Feature 6

Feature 6 was an oval area of concentrated cracked rock and ash, measuring 71cm by 45cm (Plate 10). It was first detected at the base of the shell midden stratum. Seven-and-one-half kilograms of cracked rock were recovered from the feature. A single check-stamped sherd found in direct association with the rocks indicates that they were deposited during the Woodland occupation. On stratigraphic grounds the feature could be either Woodland or Lamar. The rocks and ash are probably the remains of some form of heating or cooking activity.

Feature 7

Feature 7 was an oval shaped area of fired clay with an horizontal but irregular upper surface (Plate 11). The feature measured 144cm by 94cm. A flotation sample taken from one of two slight depressions in the irregular surface yielded small amounts of maize and hickory shell. The feature was located in Level IB and thus dates to the Lamar occupation. It is quite certainly the result of in situ burning and is best identified as a hearth.

Feature 8

Feature 8 was a large concentration of quartzite rocks forming a pavement--like area measuring at least 330cm by 190cm. Thickness of the

concentration was 10cm. Rocks were not cracked. The feature was located below the shell midden in the brown sand stratum. No pottery was recovered from the feature itself. Stratigraphic position indicates that it was constructed by the Woodland occupants of the site. Function is unknown.

Feature 9

Feature 9 was an oval shaped pit, measuring 110cm by 74cm by 16cm. It was first discovered at the surface of Brown sand beneath Burial 3. A concentration of cracked rock occurred in the southern third of the pit. Pit fill consisted of dark brown soil, shell, bone and pebbles. No pottery or flaked stone was recovered. Cultural affiliation of the feature can not be determined. The presence of cracked rock suggest that the feature was a cooking pit, although the absence of fired walls : argues against this interpretation.

Feature 10

Feature 10 was an oval shaped pit, measuring 44cm by 42cm by 18cm. It was intrusive into an ash layer (Feature 12) which may be related to the Feature 7 hearth. Pit fill consisted of dark midden, shell, charcoal, and ash. A postmold was observed within the pit suggesting that the feature was a posthole. Although only three undiagnostic sherds were recovered from the pit, it is clearly a Lamar period feature on the basis of stratigraphic position.

Feature 11

Feature 11 was a dark oval shaped pit located near feature 10. It was intrusive through the edge of Feature 7 and thus dates to the Lamar

period. The feature measured 44cm by 36cm by 7cm. Fill was a very dark midden with shell, charcoal and much ash, and was very hard and compact. One unidentified plain sherd was present in fill. The feature is probably a large posthole.

Feature 12

Feature 12 was a brown ash layer located near the bottom of Level IB. It measured 21cm by 30cm. The feature's proximity to the Feature 7 hearth suggests that it may represent ash removed from the hearth. Artifacts--two Lamar Plain sherds--and stratigraphic position indicate that the feature dates to the Lamar occupation.

Feature 13

Feature 13 was an oval stain of charcoal and shell first detected at the bottom of Level IB. It measured 190cm by 188cm and intruded into the brown sand as a black midden stain with shell. Although the artifacts from this feature have not been analyzed, it is clearly Lamar in origin, based on stratigraphic position. As was the case with Feature 1, it probably represents nothing more than a surface irregularity in the brown sand stratum.

Feature 14

Feature 14 was an oval midden stain surrounded by ash. The stain measured 37cm by 44cm. It was not excavated.

Feature 15

Feature 15 was an oval shaped area of fired clay with an irregular surface, measuring 150cm by 70cm. A depression in the center of the

feature contained dark midden fill with shell, charcoal and rock. Flotation of a portion of this fill yielded small amounts of maize and hickory shell. The feature is located in an area where the shell midden was stripped away rapidly by shovel. As a result, the stratigraphic context of the feature is not clear, and it can not be reliably dated.

Feature 16

Feature 16 was a round stain of black midden and ash, detected after the removal of the shell midden. It measured 64cm by 63cm. One simple stamped Woodland sherd was seen in the fill. This feature was not excavated.

Postholes

A total of 321 postholes were recorded at the surface of the brown sand stratum. They form no readily distinguishable pattern, although there is a distinct tendency for posthole frequency to decrease near the margins of the excavation. Fill characteristics of each posthole were recorded in the field.

Three human burials were excavated from Lamar contexts at Site 9Ge153. Bone preservation varied from fair to good. To date, the skeletal remains have not been studied by a physical anthropologist. The burial descriptions presented below are, therefore, somewhat attenuated and are based on field observations and preliminary laboratory work. All burial orientations are expressed in terms of magnetic North.

Burial 1

Burial 1 (Figure 9 and Plate 12) was a young adult, probably female. The burial was flexed on its left side, face down, in an oval pit measuring

153cm by 65cm. No grave goods accompanied the burial. The burial was discovered while removing Level IB. It was not possible to determine the point of origin of the burial pit in the shell midden, but the highest point recorded was within Level IB. Preservation was excellent.

Burial 2

Burial 2 (Figure 9 and Plate 13) was a flexed infant burial placed on its left side with head to the East, facing South. The burial was near burial 1 and was oriented at a right angle to it. Again the burial pit could not be traced from its origin point in the shell midden. Preservation of this burial was excellent.

Burial 3

Burial 3 (Figure 9) was a second infant burial (est. age 1-2 years) located near burials 1 and 2. The burial was placed tightly flexed on its left side in a small, nearly round pit, 42cm in diameter. The head was toward the East, facing South. Again, the point of origin of the pit could not be accurately determined. No grave goods accompanied the burial.

It is possible that these burials represent a family group clustered around the Feature 7 hearth. However, the elevation of the hearth (99.91m) is only slightly above that of the human skeletal remains in each burial pit. This suggests that the three burials originated from an occupation surface above the hearth.

CONCLUSIONS

Excavations conducted at Gel53 have yielded information bearing on all of the research questions posed at the beginning of field

investigations in 1978. Satisfactory answers, however, have not been found for all of these questions.

Cultural Affiliation

Flaked stone artifacts recovered through excavation indicate that the site was occupied during the Transitional Paleo-Indian period (7-8000 B.C.), the Early Archaic period (6-7000 B.C.) and the Middle Archaic period (4-5000 B.C.). Pottery recovered through excavation indicates that the site was also occupied during the Stallings Island phase of the Late Archaic period (1-2000 B.C.), the Long Shoals phase of the Early Woodland period (500 B.C.-A.D. 1), the Middle Woodland period (A.D. 1-500), the Etowah phase of the Early Mississippi period (A.D. 1100-1300) and the Late Mississippian (Lamar) period (A.D. 1400-1700).

The Lamar occupation of Gel53 seems to have been confined to the early portion of the Dyar phase. The absence of later Lamar ceramic markers and of any strong stratigraphic evidence of ceramic change indicate that site utilization probably did not extend over a period greater than 100 years.

Occupation Activities

A number of activities can be inferred from recovered artifacts and features. Because of its location at a major shoals on the Oconee River, Gel53 would have been well suited for the exploitation of aquatic resources such as fish, turtles and shell fish. That such resources were indeed gathered by the site's inhabitants is clearly attested to by the abundance of fish and turtle bone and shell in the shell midden stratum. Two land animals, white-tailed deer and box turtle were also exploited to a significant degree.

The absence of plant food remains is perplexing and can be interpreted in several ways. It may reflect very short term specialized utilization (non-residential) of the site; it may reflect seasonal site occupancy; or it may simply reflect the fact that plant foods were prepared, consumed and discarded elsewhere on the site. The absence of plant foods is paralleled by the absence of grinding implements with which to process them.

The occurrence of animal bone, shell and pottery fragments indicates that some foods were prepared and consumed at the site. Indeed, some form of cooking seems to have taken place within the excavated area since hearths and cracked rock were present in the shell midden. The fact that most deer bones are limb elements suggests that game was hunted far from the site and brought back in a partially butchered state, presumably for consumption.

The quantity of flaked stone debitage recovered from the shell midden stratum is extremely small and indicates that virtually no tool manufacturing took place at the site or that it occurred elsewhere on the site. In the absence of lithic debitage, it is unlikely that the four hammerstones recovered from the shell midden were utilized in stone knapping. Rather they were probably used in cracking animal bone for marrow extraction and possibly in processing shell fish. Similarly, it is probable that the six edge use implements were utilized in some stage of fish or shell fish processing.

It is not possible to identify the use of the awl fragments recovered at Gel53. Their presence in the shell midden, however, suggests that some fabricating activities other than food preparation did take place at the

site. The large number of split deer metatarsals and polished bone fragments is interesting in light of the fact that they have not been reported from other Lamar sites. Their occurrence at a site where fish, shellfish and turtle were being gathered and processed suggests that they somehow relate to the processing of some or all of these different types of animals. Their concentrated occurrence in one portion of the excavated site (Figure 6) adds strength to their identification as tools.

The Nature of Site Utilization

The available artifactual and contextual evidence can be used to support three different interpretations of human utilization of Gel53.

1. The excavated area was the locus of domestic activities of a household(s) occupying the site more or less (seasonally) permanently over a period of at least several years.
 2. The excavated area represents a refuse dump for one or more households that resided in another area of the site.
 3. The excavated area represents a specialized work area where aquatic resources were processed for consumption or storage.
- Occupation of the site was probably for brief periods of time, and human activities were focused primarily on gathering and processing those resources.

Evidence for each of these interpretations is reviewed in the following pages.

Household locus. The existence of numerous postholes recorded in the brown sand stratum indicates that structures of some sort were erected within the excavated area. Some postholes contained charcoal and could represent posts charred at the time a structure burned. These posts,

together with posts containing a distinctive ash fill, are distributed in such a way as to suggest a structure measuring 5m by 6m and oriented 70° east of north (Figure 9). The Feature 7 hearth is located near the center of this rectangular posthole pattern and is surrounded by several horizontal ash layers (of which Feature 12 is only one example) which could represent a floor surface. Three burials are also located near the hearth and are oriented parallel to the sides of the rectangle.

All of these features are characteristic of Lamar domestic structures (Hally 1975, 1980; Smith 1981). However, several pieces of evidence argue against the existence of a domestic structure in the excavated portion of Gel53.

To begin with, it is unlikely that such a structure would have been erected in an area where animal remains were being discarded. Secondly, the posthole alignments are not very convincing and the postholes themselves are generally much smaller than those normally comprising house walls (Hally 1980). Most range in diameter between 10 and 15cm; a few reach 20cm. Wall posts at the Little Egypt; King and Dyar habitation sites average 15-25cm in diameter.

The Feature 7 hearth is a large (144cm by 94cm) oval deposit of fired soil with an irregular surface. Domestic structure hearths at Dyar, Little Egypt and the King sites are usually well formed, circular or rectangular basins measuring 50-70cm across. Hearths similar to Features 7 and 15 have been encountered at the Little Egypt Site only in outdoor work areas (Hally 1980).

Burials 1-3 were found only a few centimeters below the elevation of Feature 7 and the ash lenses. Burials located in domestic structures

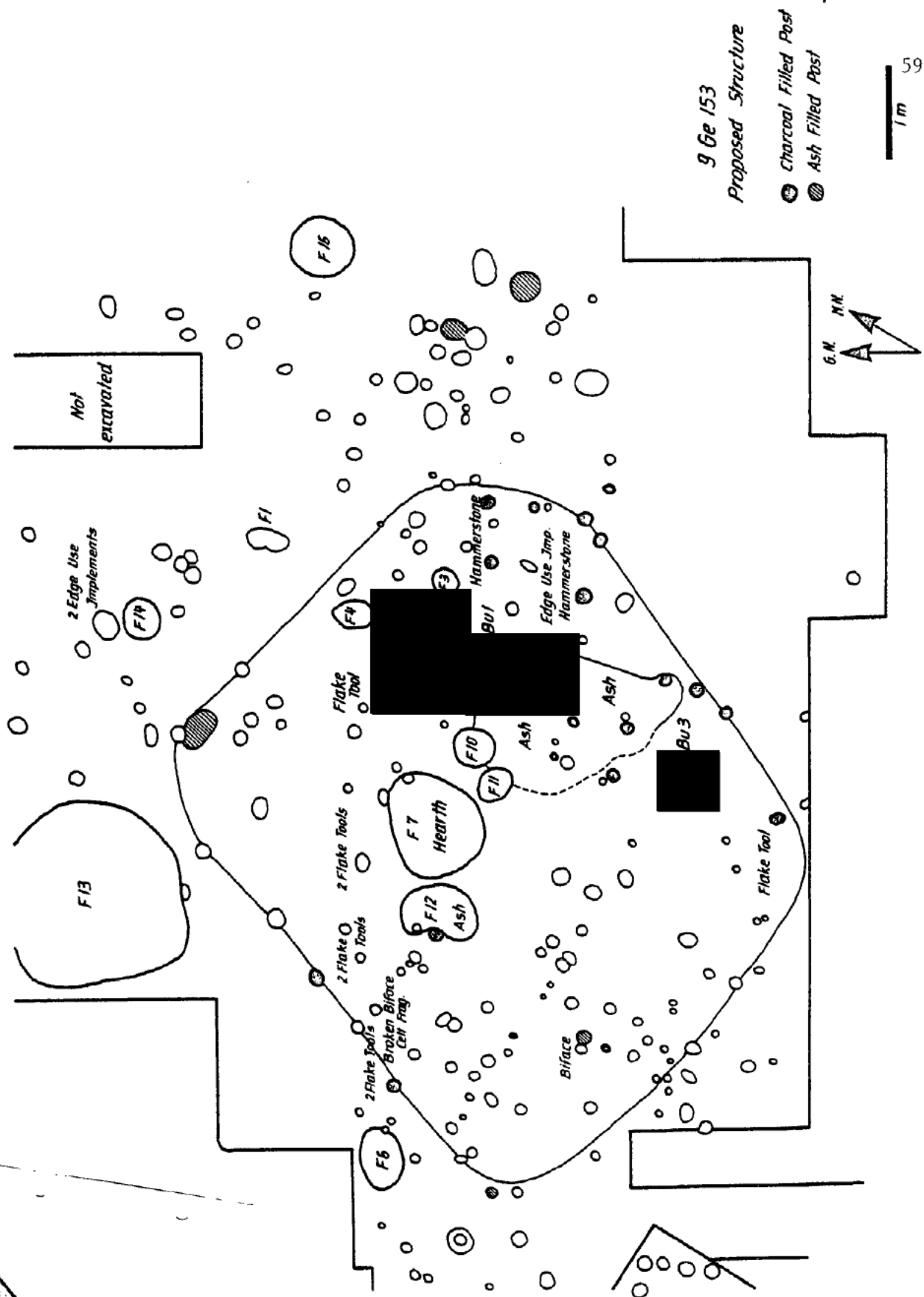


Figure 9. Configuration of Possible Domestic Structure.

at Little Egypt, Dyar and the King Site generally occur 30cm or more below the house floor from which they originated.

Despite the occurrence of ash lenses at approximately the same elevation as Feature 7, there is no real stratigraphic evidence for a house floor surface. The profile reproduced as Figure 10 is typical of all profiles recorded in the excavated area. For the most part, strata slope downward from north to south, and pockets of dense shell and ash occur throughout the shell midden without any apparent order. If there was a house floor associated with Feature 7, it should have been visible to the excavators.

Finally there is the limited variety of artifactual material recovered from the shell midden stratum. If a house had been erected in the area, there should be more artifacts and a greater variety of artifacts than is the case. To take one example, all Lamar phase domestic structures excavated at the Little Egypt Site have yielded quantities of a variety of charred plant food remains (Hally 1981).

It might be argued that structure floors have been destroyed by Euro-American gardening activities. This possibility does not alter the fact that artifact variety is low and that there are no good posthole alignments. It does, however, rule out Feature 7 and the ash lenses as being part of a structure.

Refuse Dump. Mollusc shell and animal bone comprise a significant part of the bulk of the shell midden stratum. It can be argued from this that the shell midden represents a dump where refuse generated by domestic activities elsewhere on the site was discarded. The problem with this interpretation is that postholes and hearths occur in the shell

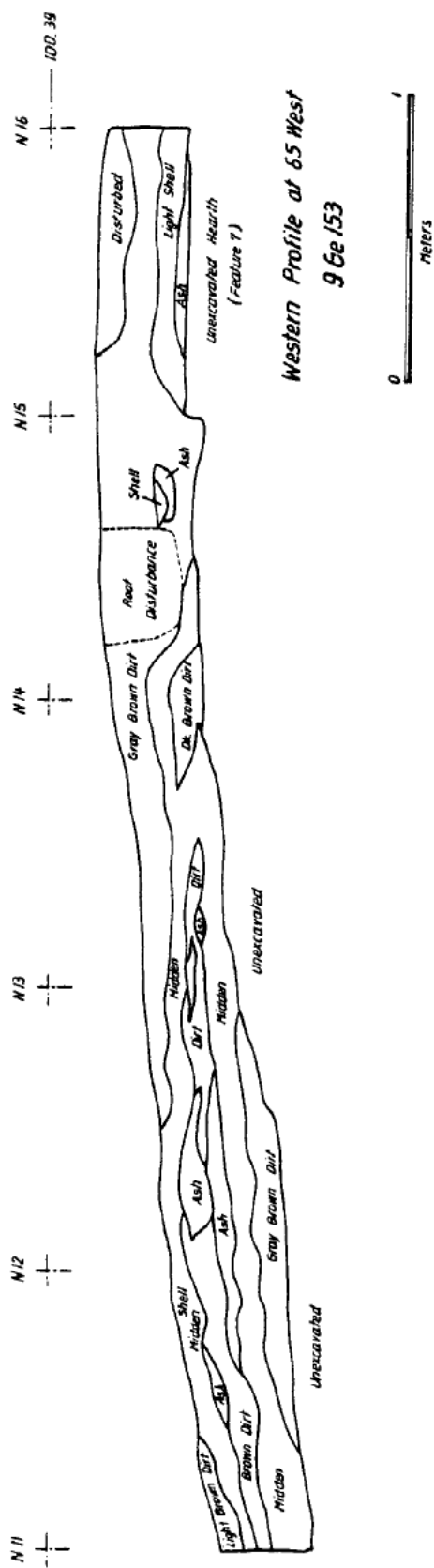


Figure 10. Profile at W65.

midden, indicating that human activity actually took place within the shell midden area. Furthermore, the lack of variety in artifactual material suggests that refuse representing only a very limited variety of activities was being discarded in the area and by implication that only a limited variety of activities were taking place at the site.

Specialized Work Area. The most probable explanation for the shell midden stratum and associated artifacts and features is that the area was used almost exclusively for the processing of aquatic resources. This interpretation is supported by several lines of evidence. The faunal remains indicate that fish, turtle and shellfish were indeed being processed in the area. The cracked rock features and hearths could reflect cooking activities related to the processing of these resources. The postholes, most of which are of rather small diameter, could represent racks and other light structures associated with aquatic resource processing.

The limited variety of artifacts and food remains in the midden are to be expected if only a small number of tasks were being performed in the area. Unlike the situation at known Lamar domestic sites (Hally 1980), bowls are the numerically dominant vessel shape represented in the Gel53 pottery collection. Large bowls are the standard vessel form for cooking food in large quantities at the Little Egypt Site (Hally 1981). Since vessel sizes have not been calculated for rim sherds in the Gel53 collection, it is not known whether large bowls are common. Nevertheless, the possibility remains that the quantity of bowl fragments recovered from the shell midden stratum reflects the use of bowls in cooking some aquatic species.

Three common artifact types in the Gel53 shell midden--edge ground implements, polished bone fragments and split deer metatarsals--are not well represented at other Lamar sites. They may very well represent specialized tools associated with the processing of aquatic resources.

At least two objections can be raised to the identification of the Gel53 shell midden as an aquatic resource processing location. It can be argued that human burials would not be placed in such a location. This argument may be valid for Euro-American culture, but there is no evidence that it is valid for Lamar culture. Lamar burials have been found in a variety of village locations at sites such as King and Little Egypt. If anything, internment in a work area may be said to conform to the Lamar pattern of burial as we presently know it.

The frequency with which postholes occur in the excavated area is also bothersome. What kinds of constructions can we expect to find in an aquatic resource processing area? Would they result in the quantity of postholes that are present? Unfortunately, we do not have answers to these questions.

Overall, the available evidence most strongly supports the interpretation that the excavated portion of Gel53 was a specialized aquatic resource processing area. This interpretation implies that people may have visited the site only for this purpose and for only very brief periods of time. This need not be the case. Only a small portion of the shell midden and the inhabitable area beyond (Figure 3) has been excavated. It is quite possible that the site was occupied for an entire season by one or more households and that domestic structures were erected farther back from the river on the lower slopes of the adjacent hills. If

domestic activities were restricted in distribution to the vicinity of the domestic structure, it is likely that little of the resulting domestic refuse would end up in the area devoted to aquatic resource processing.

Seasonality

The only good evidence for seasonality is provided by the faunal data. Exploitation of fresh water aquatic resources in the southeastern United States seems to have been conducted primarily during the summer months when they were most readily available and most needed to supplement the aboriginal diet (Hudson 1976:272; B. Smith 1975:123; Swanton 1946:341). Box turtle is likewise most easily gathered during the warm season of the year. Together, these two groups of resources account for the great majority (88% of the bone and 73% of the MNI) of the faunal remains analyzed and point to a summer site occupancy.

White-tailed deer are generally considered to be optimally exploited in the fall and winter (B. Smith 1975). Ethnohistorical sources indicate that this was indeed the time of year when they were most actively pursued in the Southeast (Hudson 1976; Swanton 1946). While deer is not nearly as important at Gel53 (12% of the bone and 8% of the MNI) as it is at Dyar (60% and 12%), the species is nevertheless well represented in analyzed samples. In terms of edible meat yield, the species is probably more important than any of the more common aquatic species. It is clear that the species was being actively hunted by the inhabitants of Gel53. Whether this was during the fall/winter period or at another time of the year can not be determined.

The scarcity of charred plant material in analyzed flotation samples means that this normally sensitive seasonal indicator is useless in the case of Gel53. Hickory nut is gathered in late fall, but southeastern Indians apparently stored and consumed it throughout the year. Maize was similarly utilized. The absence of summer ripening plants such as maypops, grape and honey locust could be used as evidence for early summer occupancy. However, the nearly total absence of all plant foods indicates that charred plant material was probably being discarded elsewhere on the site, if at all.

The strongest seasonal evidence supports a summer occupancy. Occupancy at other times of the year however can not be ruled out.

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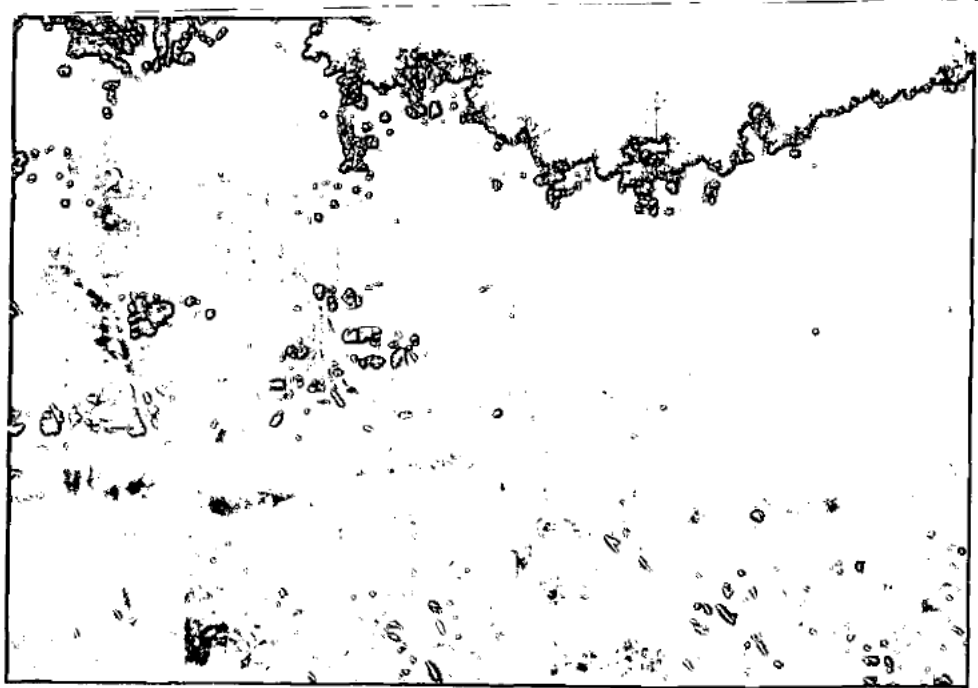


Plate 1. Ogeltree Site, view to west.

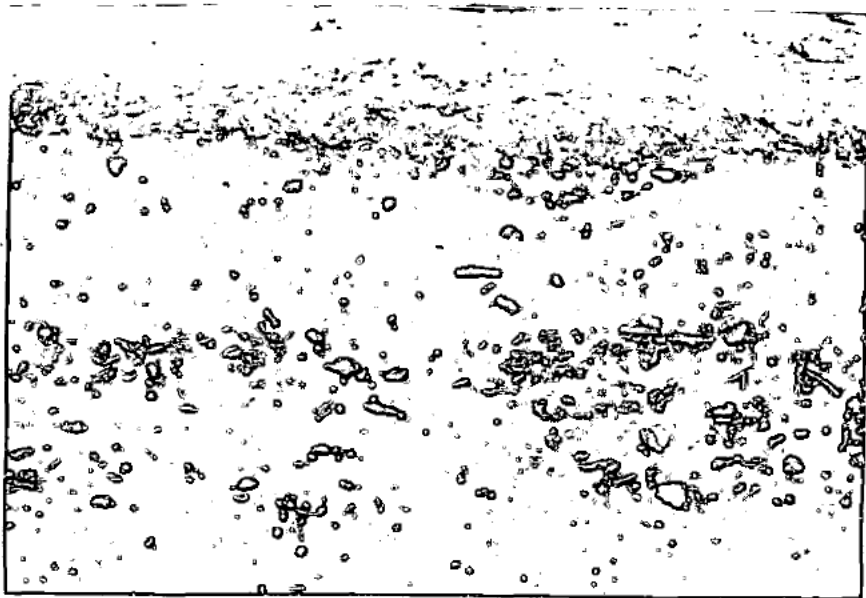


Plate 2. View of profile showing shell midden.



Plate 3. Photo of excavations, view to north.



Plate 4. Lamar Sherds, Etowah Sherds.

- Row 1. Lamar Bowl rims.
- Row 2. Lamar Rims, Early Dyar Phase.
- Row 3. No. 1-2 Applique strip rims, 3-5 Folded and punctated rims; 6 Folded and pinched rim.
- Row 4. No. 1-3 Complicated Stamped Sherds; 4 Monolithic axe pipe fragment.
- Row 5. No. 1-4 Etowah Complicated Stamped; 5-6 Corncob or Fingernail marked.



Plate 5. Incised Sherds.

Row 1. No. 1-3 Morgan Incised; 4-5 Unusual sherds.
Row 2,3. Lamar Incised Sherds.

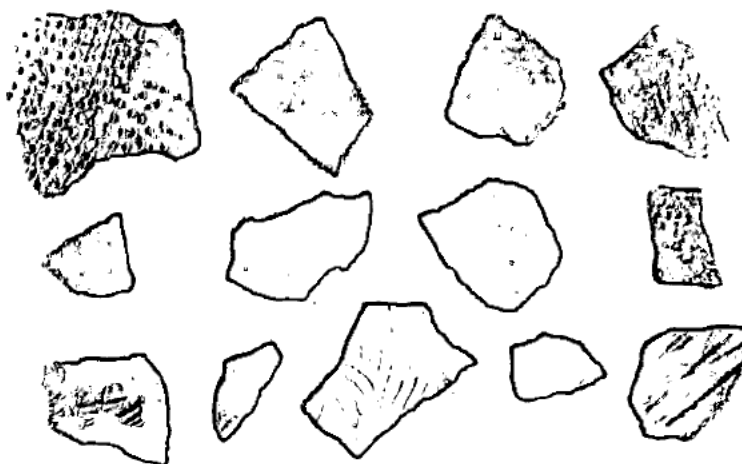


Plate 6. Woodland Sherds.

Row 1. No. 1 Stallings Punctate and Incised; 2-4
Dunlap Fabric Marked.
Row 2. Cartersville Check Stamped.
Row 3. No. 1-2 Cartersville Simple Stamped; 3-4
Swift Creek Complicated Stamped; 5 Cordmarked.

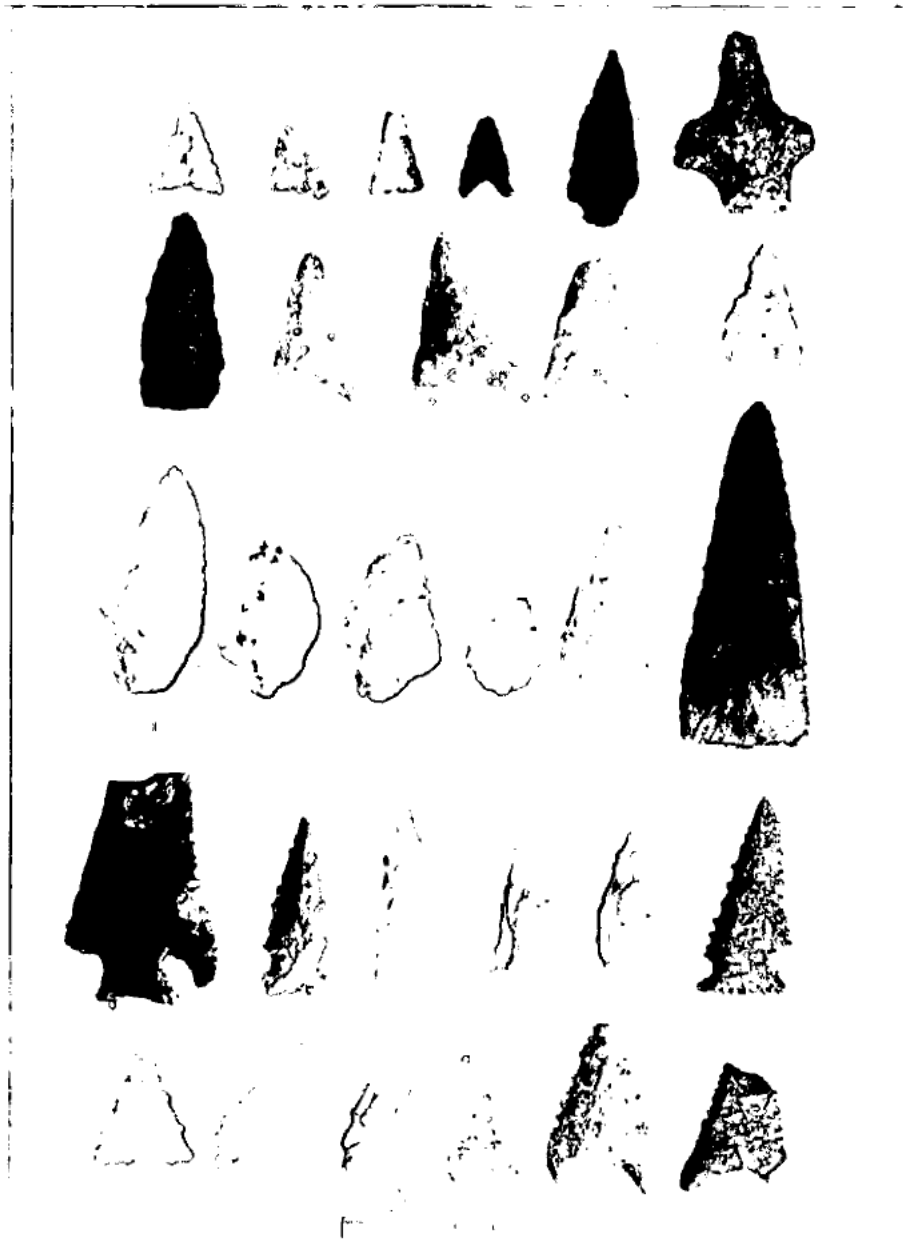


Plate 7. Chipped Stone.

- Row 1. No. 1-4 Small triangular points (Level 1);
5 Bradley Spike (L. 1); 6 Drill (L. 3).
- Row 2. Camp Creek Woodland points (Level 2,3).
- Row 3. No. 1 Stemmed Point (L. 2); 2-5 Morrow Mountain
(L. 3,4); 6 Large biface (L. 3).
- Row 4. No. 1 Lost Lake (?) (L. 1); 2 Big Sandy (L. 3);
3-5 Kirk (Surface, L. 1, Surface, L. 3).
- Row 5. No. 1-4 Short Kirk (L. 3,3,2,1); 5-6 Dalton
(L. 1, Surface).

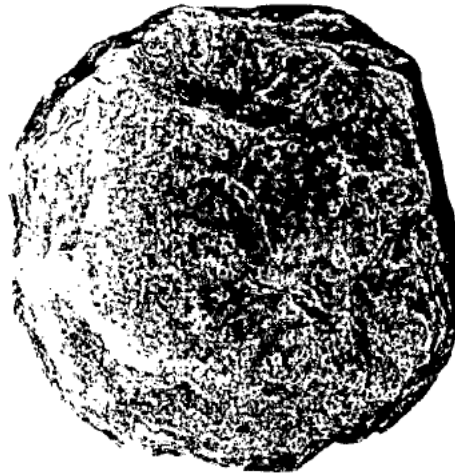


Plate 8. Circular edge use implement with ground surface.

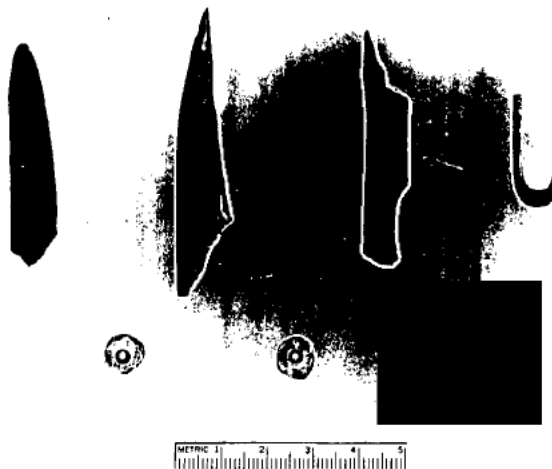


Plate 9. Bone and Shell artifacts.



Plate 10. Feature 6, Hearth.



Plate 11. Feature 7, Hearth.

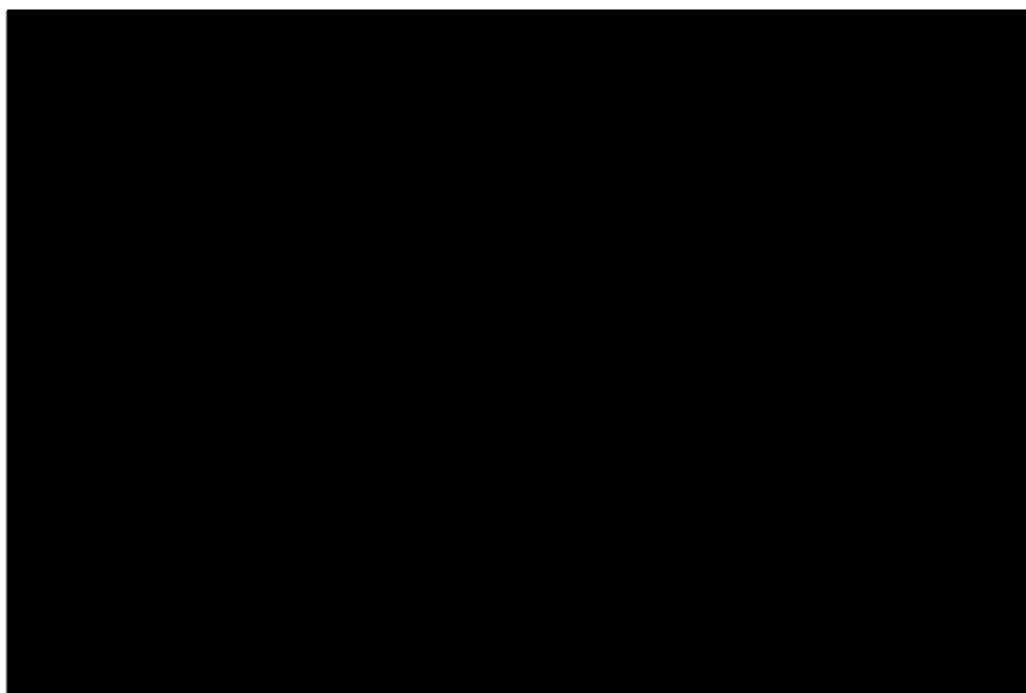


Plate 12. Burial 1.

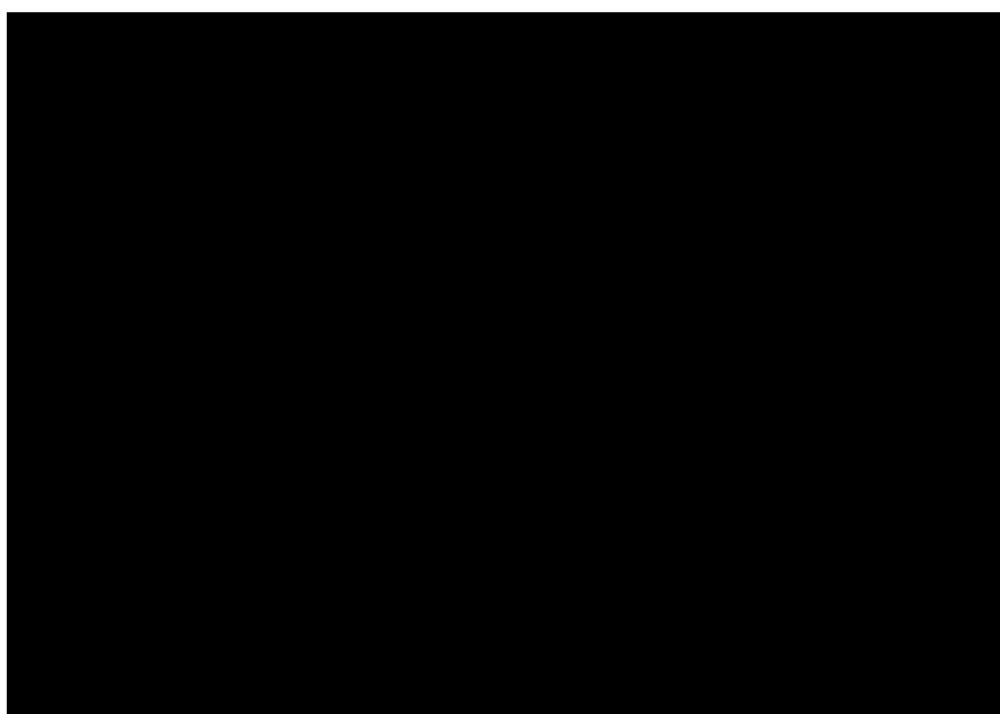


Plate 13. Burial 2.

