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EXCAVATIONS AT KOLOMOKI
Season I - 1948

WILLIAM H. SEARS



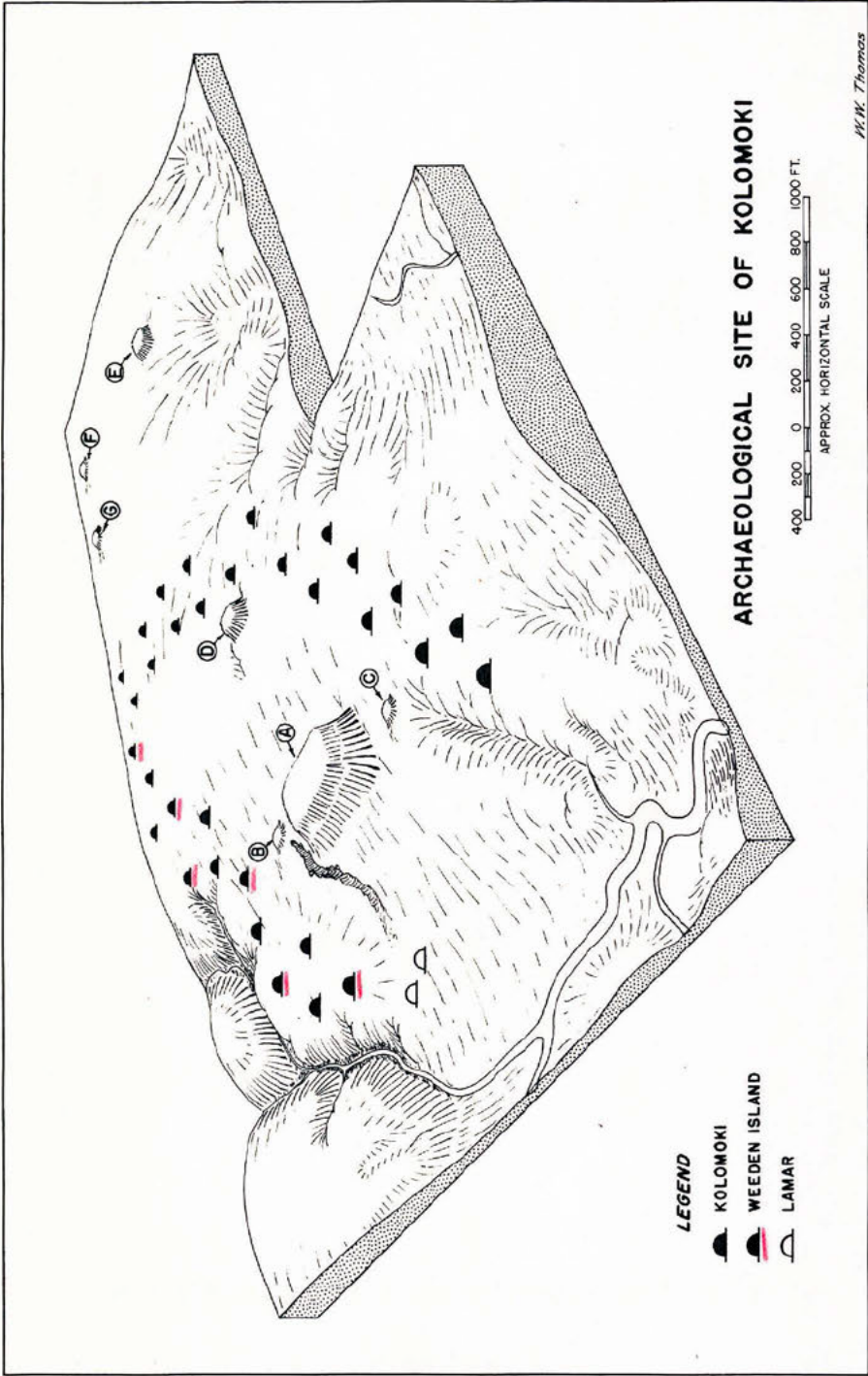
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Block Diagram of Site

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PREFACE

This report is concerned with the first intensive excavations carried on at the site of Kolomoki, and with the materials and information resulting from these excavations.

Kolomoki has been known as a major site for a considerable period. C. C. Jones described the site in 1873 as "Mercier Plantation Mounds."¹ It had also been described the previous year by William McKinley in the *Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institute*.

Most recently, Charles H. Fairbanks presented a brief review of known information regarding the site, describing its situation and major features, and summarizing the ceramic complex from a considerable surface collection.²

The site was acquired as a state park in 1935, through the efforts of a group of Georgia citizens, particularly the late Dr. C. C. Harold of Macon. Since the original purchase, other sections have been added, all of them however outside the archaeological area. The total park now contains 1,277 acres, about one third of which contains the archaeological site of Kolomoki.

Except for some work initiated but never completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps shortly after the park was acquired, the summer of 1948 saw the first developmental work in the park as well as the first archaeological work of any intensity.

As a matter of fact, the purpose of the archaeological work this first season was not primarily research, but was connected with park development. The excavations were designed to locate a clear route for a road from a point about one hundred yards southwest of the corner of mound A to a dam being constructed across Little Kolomoki Creek just below the Lamar Village Area (See Frontispiece). Such a road did exist, but needed relocation because it had been routed, without regard to archaeological features, across the back of mound G.

In any case, this confined intensive excavation to the area between Mound A and the ditch which runs east from it on one side, and the little stream to the south on the other side. Other information came from further surface collection, made over the entire occupied

P R E F A C E

area, and the remnants of a midden cut by the road between mounds E and F. There was also one test pit excavated on the long low ridge northwest of Mound A.

Funds sufficient for the necessary excavation were provided by the Georgia Department of State Parks. The work itself was originally inspired by, and was under the overall direction of, Dr. A. R. Kelly.

1. Jones, C. C., *Antiquities of the Southern Indians, Particularly of the Georgia Tribes*. New York, 1873.
2. Fairbanks, Charles C., "The Kolomoki Mound Group, Early County, Georgia," *American Antiquity*, Vol. XI, No. 4, pp. 258-260.

THE SITE OF KOLOMOKI

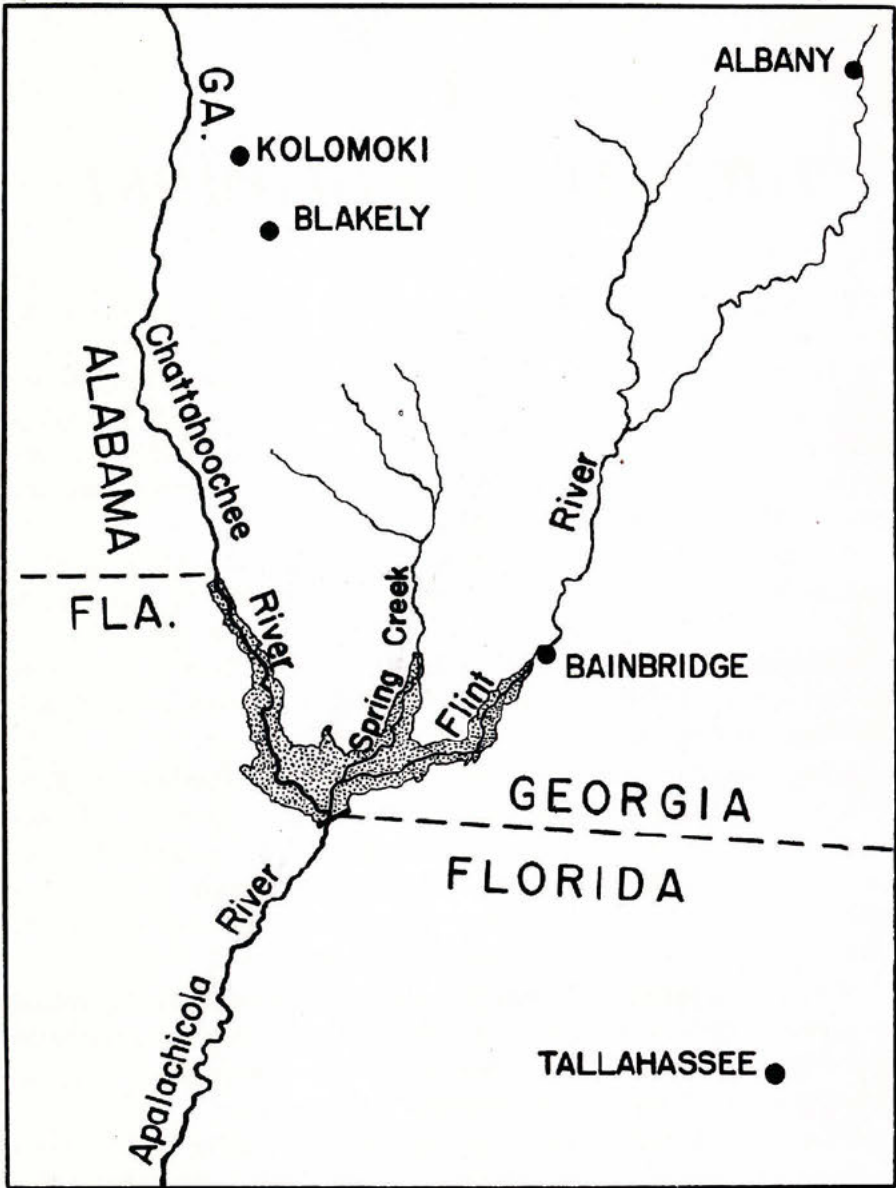


Fig. 1. Location of Kolomoki

I

THE SITE OF KOLOMOKI

The site of Kolomoki is located some 15 miles east of the Chattahoochee River in Early County, Georgia, on Little Kolomoki Creek. The block diagram used as frontispiece for this report illustrates the layout and main features of that part of Kolomoki Mounds State Park which comprises the archaeological site of Kolomoki. The remainder, and larger part of the park, east of that segment illustrated, contains few, if any, archaeological features.

As can be seen, the site occupies a somewhat elevated tongue of land, isolated in part from the general countryside by streams on three sides. These are Little Kolomoki Creek to the east, a smaller unnamed stream which flows into Little Kolomoki Creek to the south, and another small stream to the north. In all cases there is a considerable slope, precipitous in places, to the stream beds.

All three of the streams are fed by numbers of live springs, both at their sources and in their beds. Most of these, particularly those at the sources of the streams, are surrounded by considerable accumulations of pottery. Since these springs flow freely in the driest spells, always with cold clear water, they are probably one of the more important reasons for the intensive occupations of the site.

Most of the village area and the associated mounds on the upland have been cultivated for over a century, and have only a scattering of second growth pines and hardwoods. The bottomlands are typical semi-tropical cyprus-magnolia swamps.

There is a possibility that an aboriginal wall of some sort enclosed that part of the site not protected by streams and their steep walled valleys. McKinney, in 1873, plotted such a wall, stating that it was at the time some thirty feet wide and only 1 to 2 feet high. As plotted, it ran along the ridge in the northwest part of the site, and between mounds D and E. Mounds F and G were believed to be the remains of a double bastioned gateway.

No excavation has ever been conducted to check on this wall, and its actual existence is somewhat dubious. Its route today indicates

EXCAVATIONS AT KOLOMOKI

nothing except natural ridges in some spots. In others, there is no trace at all.

The mounds, particularly A, D, and E, are of course the most striking features of the site. With the one minor exception noted below, and some pitting by various individuals over the years, none of them have been excavated.

Mound A, 325 by 200 feet at the base, and some sixty feet high, seems almost certainly to be a temple mound, and one of the largest extant. There are no traces of ramps or terraces in evidence today, and I doubt if any of real size ever existed. The only constructional material certainly present is the native red clay, some of which was probably derived from the adjacent ditch on the south side, and the rest from the heads of nearby gullies.

Mounds D and E were probably equilateral truncated pyramids, although they may have been truncated cones. Due to heavy growth on both, and some erosion of D, it is difficult to tell. All soil in evidence is the native red clay. A unique feature however is the presence of large sandstone slabs in their tops. E in particular seems to have had its top outlined by these slabs.

Mounds B and C are low and dome shaped. One five foot wide trench was put into C, the mound concerned in the road relocation. This trench did little more than show that it was actually artificial. The profile demonstrated that the fill was basket loaded through most of the mass, and that it possessed other peculiarities not now understood. Beneath the mound, dug into the basic red clay, were a number of large postholes, seeming to form a line paralleling the mound edge, and a large U-shaped trench running from a point near mound center toward the outer limits of the mound.

Since only one five foot wide trench could be excavated, the nature of the structure or structures involved must remain undetermined at the moment. Pottery in the fill was very scarce, but seems to be entirely of the Weeden Island complex. Some stamped sherds occur, but they appear to be of the type of Late Swift Creek which is associated with Weeden Island I in this area.

All that can be said is that the mound was built during or shortly after the Weeden Island occupation of the site. After is more than possible, since Weeden Island material is common in the immediately adjacent plow zone, and the mound appears to have been constructed of loads of dirt gathered from the surface, probably the adjacent surface.

SITE OF KOLOMOKI

Finally, there are mounds F and G. G, which contains the cemetery of the Mercier family, part of whose plantation the site formerly was, may be a gate bastion in the wall mentioned. F, one of the common dome-shaped humps frequent here and elsewhere, is supposed to have been another bastion in the hypothetical wall.

It is hoped that by the time this report appears, excavation of mound E will be under way, and that some badly needed information on the Kolomoki mound complex will be available.

It is probable that some sort of plaza or clear area existed in front of mound A, between it and mound D. The soil here is harder than elsewhere and very infertile. Surface material is almost completely non-existent. Certainly there would not be anything novel in the location of a plaza here.

II

VILLAGE AREAS

To my own surprise, and that of some others who have seen and studied Kolomoki surface collections, excavation has defined four distinct occupations of the site or parts of it. All of these occurred on the tongue of land containing the mound complex, and all within a few hundred yards of one or more of the mounds.

These occupations are, in probable chronological order, Weeden Island I or Late Swift Creek, Kolomoki, and Lamar. The *or* between Weeden Island I and Late Swift Creek will be explained later.

This situation creates, at first glance, more confusion than ever. Kolomoki constituted quite a problem when it was considered that Late Swift Creek was the major occupation, plus perhaps a separate occupation by a Weeden Island group. Quite a problem since no association of Swift Creek with mounds of any sort, let alone temple mounds, was known from elsewhere. Now there is a separate Weeden Island occupation and a Lamar occupation.

Lamar, Temple Mound II in the Ford and Willey Classification¹ certainly is a mound building complex, and it is possible that Weeden Island is too.² And I hope to show that the Kolomoki complex falls in the Temple Mound I time period.

I believe however that we can dismiss the possibility of the Lamar group having had anything to do with the construction of any of the larger mounds. As indicated on the frontispiece and pointed out in chapter VIII, the Lamar materials and features represent only a small group, occupying a limited area for a short period. There simply were not enough people, nor enough time, for them to have built the big mound, nor, probably, mounds D or E. I believe that the Lamar component is simply the representation of a one season camp-site of a small band.

It is rapidly becoming a truism in Georgia that there is a Lamar occupation over, or near, any other site of any size or importance. This, by the way, accounts for a number of misinterpretations as to the constitution of certain ceramic complexes elsewhere. However, this is not the place for the discussion of that problem.

VILLAGE AREAS

The Kolomoki occupation, that is, the occupation of the site by the group manufacturing and using the ceramic complex with Kolomoki Complicated Stamp as its major type, is the most intensive and extensive of the various occupations. As the location and number of the symbols on the frontispiece point out, the Kolomoki occupation covers the largest area, and the area most directly associated with the three large mounds. Too (see chapter V), the Kolomoki material is found in rich and rather extensive midden deposits. Lamar, as noted, is limited to a few pits in one area. The Late Swift Creek material occurs only in association with one burial and an associated refuse pit.

Weeden Island occupational evidences cover a larger surface area than either the Late Swift Creek or Lamar materials. However, the artifacts occur in scattered, usually small, refuse pits and as a thin scattering of material through the plow zone. This latter presumably remains from thin deposits in the long since eroded-off topsoil as well as from the tops of pits from which it has been removed by the plow.

Nevertheless, judging by the number of these small pits, and the areal distribution of surface materials, the Weeden Island occupation was an important one. At Kolomoki it is overshadowed by the large thick middens of the Kolomoki complex. Very probably, as Fairbanks pointed out,³ one or more of the low mounds scattered through the area are Weeden Island burial mounds. McKinley reported burials in some one mound, but did not specify which one. Too, mounds D and E may bear some relationship to this complex.

1. Ford, James A. and Willey, Gordon R., "An Interpretation of the Prehistory of Eastern United States," *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 43, pp. 325-363.
2. Willey, Gordon R., "The Weeden Island Culture, A Preliminary Definition," *American Antiquity*, Vol. X, No. 3, p. 234.
3. Fairbanks, *op. cit.*

III

EXCAVATIONS

As stated, only a small proportion of the total bulk of village area and mound or other construction was excavated in the 1948 season. A large part of the information as to areal distribution of village material has been inferred from surface collections and road cuts. However, enough excavation has been carried out to give a reasonably accurate check on the other evidence.

All excavations were first staked out as trenches five feet in width. Most of these were originally twenty feet in length. Each five by twenty unit, including expansions if any were made, was numbered serially as an excavation unit. By staggering these, a fair estimate of the artifact and other cultural content of an area averaging fifty feet in width and something over a quarter mile in length was worked out.

The first few trenches indicated that the plow zone in this area was consistently six to eight inches in depth. This having been ascertained, the first step in all trenches was to take out this zone. Any features which might exist showed up only when all of the disturbed soil had been removed.

The plow zone, in terms of soil type, color, and consistency, was extremely uniform. This is not surprising in view of the underlying red clay from which it was in large part derived. What was surprising at first was the uniformity of the ceramic content. It became evident that over a century of cultivation and the removal of the humus by erosion had thoroughly mixed all material. Normally it can be accepted that the latest material will be more concentrated in the plow zone. This was not the case at this site, at least as regards any time difference between the Weeden Island I and Kolomoki occupations. This was demonstrated in the area around unit 21, a large midden deposit. In one section, the plow zone produced the usual mixture of Weeden Island and Kolomoki types. The midden deposit under this section however was pure Kolomoki. Twenty feet away, the same situation prevailed in the plow zone, but a small pit, containing only Weeden Island sherds, went down

EXCAVATIONS

into basic soil from the base of the plow zone.

As noted then, complete removal of the disturbed soil constituting the plow zone was essential. After this had been done, and the floor planed, in most cases nothing was evident except sterile red clay, undisturbed basic soil. In some cases, the outlines, or part of the outlines, of midden deposits or refuse pits appeared. When this occurred, the plow zone was removed from additional five by ten foot sections until the outlines of the feature could be ascertained, and then the feature was removed as a unit. Small refuse pits were troweled out from the top as a rule. The midden deposits were excavated by sections, five by ten feet, and by six inch arbitrary levels.

With one exception, all of the excavation was limited to the area south of mound A, and the gully east of it, for reasons already given. The exception was one five by ten foot pit, designated as unit 1, North West area, which is discussed below.

The most important features encountered in the thoroughly tested area were two sizable refuse deposits or middens, units 21 and 28, two large refuse pits, pits 1 and 2 of unit 4, and a number of smaller pits. There was also one burial with a good deal of material in the grave fill.

As noted, due to thorough mixture, material from the plow zone has not been considered. In this section of the site about the only information which could be derived from plow zone materials would be an estimation of the relative importance of the two major complexes in the area.

Finally, really outside the thoroughly tested area, were a number of refuse pits containing sherds of a Lamar complex. These were revealed by grading operations involved in the construction of a parking field. However, since the operators of the machines were very co-operative, little of the material actually in the fill of the pits was lost. Usually, the pits could be located while an inch or so of humus was still in place.

As a matter of fact, I am almost ready to recommend a pan pulled by a caterpillar tractor as an excavating tool. Riding on the back of the pan, and watching a well planed floor unroll below me, I located more of the scattered refuse pits in two days than I could have in a week with the small crew being used. Too, there was no slack dirt to be carried away.

IV

THE KOLOMOKI COMPLEX

Three large midden deposits were excavated, in whole or in part, which yielded large samples of a complicated stamped pottery type described below as Kolomoki Complicated Stamp. This type, and the associated minority type, Kolomoki Plain, form the ceramic complex of the most important occupation of the park. As illustrated on the site map (frontispiece) distribution of sherds on the surface demonstrates that the largest portion of the village deposits at this site, and all those which seem to fit into the mound and plaza layout as part of a total complex, are of the Kolomoki type. This important association has been pointed out already, and will be discussed again further on.

Unit 28

Unit 28 was the largest of the midden deposits encountered, and gave the largest ceramic sample, although it was not completely excavated. The cross section diagram, fig. 2, will give some idea of its size and depth.

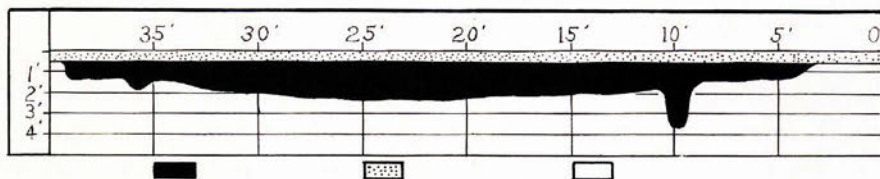


Fig. 2. Cross Section of Excavation, Unit 28

This initial trench seems to have sliced through, approximately, the center of the deposit. As can be seen, the midden occupied a basin shaped hollow. This fact, and a few good sized postholes encountered in the floor as well as the one which shows up in the cross section above, make it at least possible that the midden in fact represents fill in a semi-subterranean house structure. This cannot be determined

without complete excavation however.

The midden deposit was composed of a black soil, soft while damp, with a high organic content. Its hardening propensities however, forcing us to resoak it with water before troweling, indicated that a considerable proportion of the native clay was included.

It contained, in that portion excavated, 6,567 sherds, several bushels of fragmentary bird, animal, fish, and tortoise bones, many flint, quartzite, and crystal quartz flakes and chips, and quite a few flakes or small sheets of mica. The material was removed by arbitrary levels in hopes that there would be some evidence of ceramic change from top to bottom. This was not the case however. The data presented below is then in terms of the total excavated segment of the deposit.

Of the 6,567 sherds, 3,275 or fifty per cent were body or rim sherds bearing complicated stamped decoration. I have called this type:

KOLOMOKI COMPLICATED STAMP

Paste:

Method of Manufacture: Coiled

Tempering: Fine sand, medium amount. All sherds at Kolomoki micaceous, but this almost certainly comes from the local clay.

Texture: As most sand tempered pottery, compact, thoroughly amalgamated paste, little amination.

Hardness: Average 3.5

Color: Considerable variation, light buff to dark gray. Most in the medium brown range. Cores occasionally slightly darker than the surfaces.

Surface Finish: Smooth, almost polished where not decorated, both interior and exterior. Appears to have been smoothed before application of a stamp, then plain zone around necks with rim forms I, IV, and IVb, and basal areas, re-smoothed after stamp had been applied.

Decoration: Complicated stamp, fairly well cut, applied without a great deal of overlapping. See Fig. 4 and Plate I for illustration of stamp elements, and below for further discussion and documentation of the stamp complex.

Distribution: Varies with the rim type (see below).

EXCAVATIONS AT KOLOMOKI

In all cases, the lower one third of the vessel appears to be plain. (See Plate I, No. 2 and No. 3)

Vessel Form: On basis of occurrence of recognizable segments in sherds. No whole vessels of this type found.

Rim: Considerable range. See Fig. 4 for illustration.

Precisely molded, narrow strip on exterior, extruded rather than folded, commonest characteristic. (Plate I, No.'s 1-7)

Lip: Usually slightly flattened, occasionally beveled on the inside, especially with form I.

Body: All vessels small, most fall between eight and twelve inches in width, same range for height. Generally taller than wide. Commonest forms appear to have been small globular bodied jars with short vertical rims, small beakers, jars with gently flaring rims, and possibly a few bowls, with frequencies in the order given.

Bases: Flat, either square or disc. There may have been a few round based jars in this type, and, possibly a few bowls. No pointed bases occurred at all.

Thickness: 4 to 6 mm. Bases may be slightly thicker than walls. Of the 3,055 stamped body sherds, 636 or 29 per cent were either large enough, or otherwise distinctive enough, to allow recognition

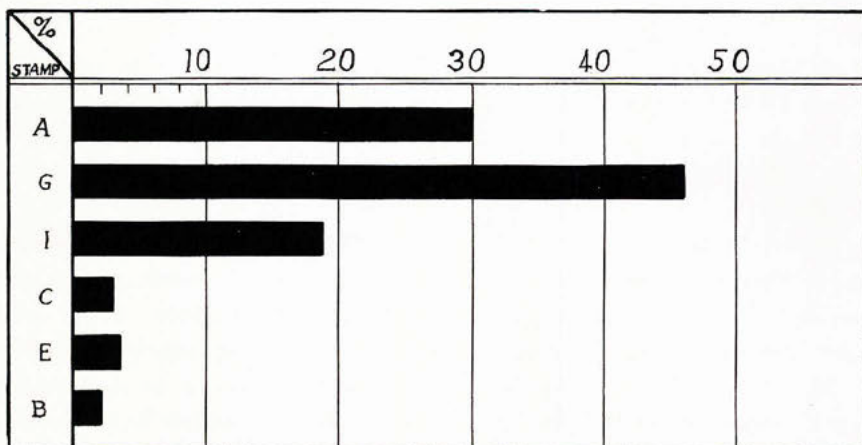


Fig. 3. Major Design Element Frequencies, Unit 28

THE KOLOMOKI COMPLEX

of the major element in the stamp design. These major elements are illustrated in a somewhat idealized fashion in Fig. 4. Percentage occurrence of design elements, with 636 as unity, follows. (Fig. 3)

Other forms illustrated occur on only one or two sherds each and are thus not important. As far as could be determined, the snowshoe in over half of the cases is actually a fill in the loop of a multiple line figure eight. (Plate I, No. 10 and Fig. 4, Δ .) Some single forms (Plate I, 1 and Fig. 4, A) do occur however. Stamp element G, the scroll, has a considerable range of variation, most forms being illustrated in Fig. 4 or Plate I. The precise types of Fig. 4 and numbers 2 and 7 of Plate I are the commonest. The bullseye, element I, in a good many cases is almost certainly part of another stamp as C, H, or K. It seemed best to record them as I have done however, rather than to indulge myself in futile speculations as to whether it was or was not the major element in and of itself. I estimate that something over half of the bullseyes are themselves the major elements. Finally, all of the B sherds are from a single vessel as indicated by certain minor paste peculiarities. B is illustrated, with its folded rim, No. 1, plate VI. Probably, since it is a chain design, it actually is a vessel of the local Late Swift Creek type. (See chap. VI)

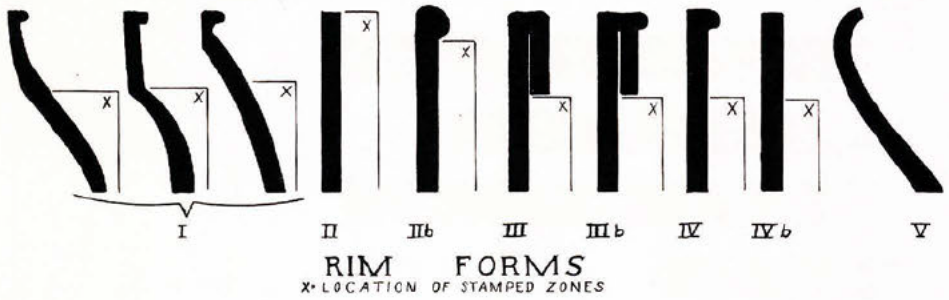
It will be recognized that in some cases I have included in my stamp types something closer to the whole stamp than in others. This applies particularly to the relatively rare small, compact stamps as C and E, which usually showed up in their entirety more frequently, if recognized at all. This is admittedly mixing the evidence, but any other system of recording which I was able to devise became too complicated to be useful. Too, the major elements themselves in stamps using figure eights, snowshoes, or scrolls are, in terms of area, by far the largest part of the designs. Note especially No.'s 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of Plate I.

All rim forms occurring are illustrated in Fig. 4, and the most important will also be found in Plate I. Only those rims indicating clearly that they came from stamped vessels, 240 in number, are here considered. Charts were made to check association of rim types with stamp elements, but there appeared to be no significant association.

Rim forms IV and IVb, in view of the occurrence of the smooth zone around the neck, may be variants of form I which were applied to straight sided beakers, as No. 3 on Plate I, or to jars in which the curve at the neck was too gradual to show in small sherds. Forms II

EXCAVATIONS AT KOLOMOKI

RIM FORMS AND STAMP ELEMENTS



STAMP ELEMENTS

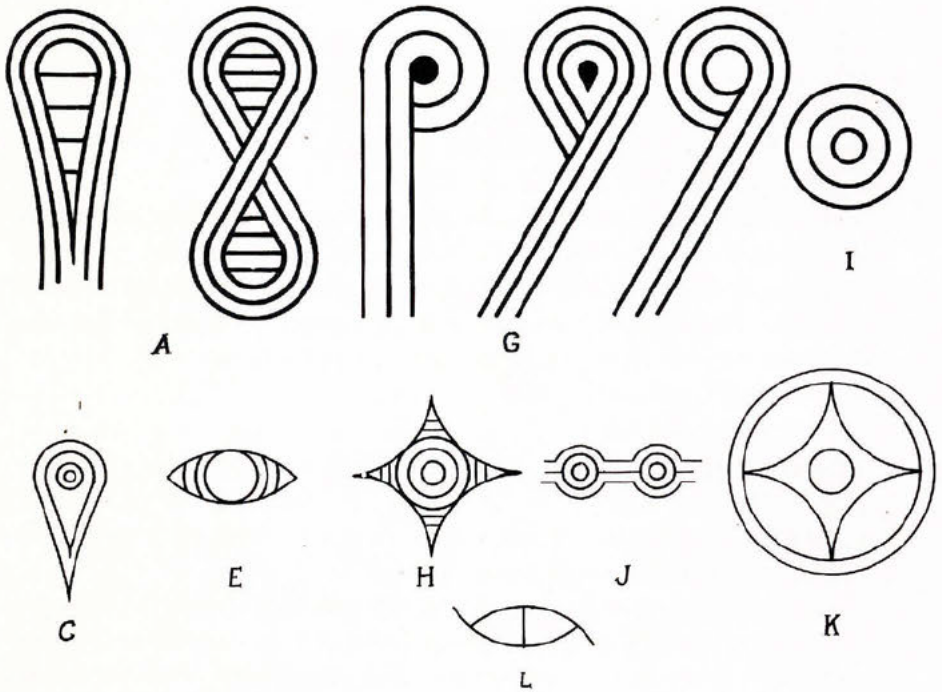


Fig. 4. Rim Profiles and Major Design Elements

based vessels, particularly if the round bases were not thickened. I doubt this however. There are a few sherds showing the requisite convexity, but they almost certainly came from Kolomoki Plain bowls, since it is certain that at least some of these bowls did not have thickened bases. There are also a few sherds which begin to thicken toward one edge, as if toward a thickened base. However, they might just as easily have come from the lower bodies of flat bottomed vessels, since the vessels do not begin to square off until near the junction with the base, and since they do thicken toward the point of junction.

In any case, there is no doubt that a very high proportion of the vessel bases at Kolomoki were flat, either disc or square. As will be pointed out again, vessel shapes of this type on the whole are closer to those of the lower Valley, the Marksville-Coles Creek series, than they are to either the Woodland shapes of Swift Creek as defined at the type site or to the bowl and eccentric shapes of the Weeden Island series.

Discussions of the chronological order of the various manifestations at Kolomoki and of their probable or possible relationships will be found in Chapters IX and X. It seems best however to discuss Kolomoki Complicated Stamp here, and to indicate why I have given it type status rather than simply including it as Late Swift Creek Complicated Stamp.

First, there is little doubt that Kolomoki Complicated Stamp is closely related to, and may be a lineal descendant of, Swift Creek Complicated Stamp as described for the Swift Creek site.¹ However, Kolomoki sherds on the whole could not be confused with the early and middle Swift Creek sherds described and illustrated. Individual sherds however could be duplicated almost exactly in the late Swift Creek material. Kelly notes that "grotesque 'teardrop' or 'snowshoe' motifs, barred or rayed horizontally,"² occur in the latest deposits. In these same latest deposits there also occur a very few sherds of the rim type I have designated as form I. The major trend at Swift Creek however seems to have been toward heavy folded rims of the type herein illustrated as form III.³ The overall impression is that a very few of the common Kolomoki rim forms and stamp elements enter in the very closing stages of the occupation at the Swift Creek mound and village site. This was at a time when the major portion of the ceramic complex still resembled the middle Swift Creek which has

THE KOLOMOKI COMPLEX

been described in the concentration on smaller and more elaborate stamp units, and on folded rims. Of the sherds illustrated in the Macon report,⁴ none could be confused with Kolomoki Complicated Stamp sherds. Of those in the Newsletter type description the bullseyes pictured in the left sherd in the second row from the top, and what appears to be part of another bullseye, the right sherd in the fourth row from the top, could easily be confused if they are heavy enough. Too, the teardrop illustrated as the left hand sherd in the second row from the bottom bears a resemblance to the terminal portions of scrolls of the Kolomoki type.⁵

Features of Kolomoki Complicated Stamp differentiating it from Swift Creek Complicated Stamp of the late variety, as this latter is known, are:

- 1—A probable different trend in rim development. That is, to the zoned rims of forms I, IV, and IVb rather than to the folded rims of form III.
- 2—Further simplification of stamp designs and specialization in scrolls and in figure eights with horizontal bars through their terminal loops, forming "snowshoes."
- 3—The development of a new type of vessel base. Tetrapod supports do appear at the end of the middle period at Macon, and degenerate in the latest material to simple teats or bumps.⁶ Conceivably the flat squared vessel bases might have originated from these. They offer no help as to the origin of the disc bases however, and the disc and squared bases run together as a complex elsewhere.
- 4—Zoning has become important at Kolomoki. About half of the vessels have a smooth zone around the neck, and the lower portions of all of them are smooth. This latter feature does not seem to have appeared at Macon at all.⁷

I doubt then that Kolomoki Complicated Stamp, as a type, with all features represented, appeared at the Swift Creek Site. That is, that all the elements in the overlapping series appeared, or that the ones which did appear were relatively important in the complex. Too, there is the unfortunate fact that we will never be sure, since the latest material at the Swift Creek site had to be separated out on stylistic grounds from thoroughly mixed deposits.⁸

Since Kolomoki features appear at Macon in small numbers only

EXCAVATIONS AT KOLOMOKI

at the very end of the sequence there, whereas we have the full complex at Kolomoki, and since there is another stamped complex in the south Georgia region which must be differentiated from Kolomoki Complicated Stamp, although it too has late Swift Creek features (See Chap. VI), establishment of Kolomoki Complicated Stamp as a separate type seems desirable.

Too, there is the fact that Swift Creek Complicated Stamp, as described, covers most of the State, and, at Macon at least, covers the time range of middle Woodland and perhaps partially, early Woodland. Kolomoki Complicated Stamp appears to be a Mississippian time period type. This being the case, it is going to be necessary to set up regional and temporal varieties of the complicated stamped ceramics if we are ever to establish any sort of chronology in this area. Whether they should be termed Swift Creek variants or given separate names is a matter for some discussion of course. I believe they should be named separately as I have done herein.

An unfortunate fact is that to distinguish Kolomoki Complicated Stamp from other late complicated stamps with curvilinear motifs, a fair sized sample will be necessary. This is to be regretted, but I see no way out of the difficulty. I believe that they are going to have to be separated to achieve the ends of chronology in this area.

KOLOMOKI PLAIN

There is only one other type which appears to be a part of the Kolomoki ceramic complex. This may be called *Kolomoki Plain*. A full description is not necessary. This point will be gone into more fully later, but it is obviously related to Weeden Island Plain. Paste and surface finish are as Kolomoki Complicated Stamp. The only forms certainly present are compressed globular bowls with form IIb rims and a lesser number of shallow open bowls with form II rims. (Plate II, No.'s 1, 2 and 3) 2,727 plain sherds were recovered from the excavated portion of the midden in unit 28. Undoubtedly a considerable proportion of these came from the undecorated lower portions of Kolomoki Complicated Stamped vessels, including sherds from the flat bases. In terms of whole pots, a fair estimate of the frequency of Kolomoki Plain would be fifteen to twenty per cent.

Finally, there are a few foreign sherds, or at least atypical sherds, from this midden. Most of them are Weeden Island types, as listed below.

THE KOLOMOKI COMPLEX

Weeden Island Red	9
Weeden Island Incised	5
Carabelle Punctate	11
Weeden Island modeled varieties—3. Includes one bird's head facing in from the rim of a bowl and two triangular lugs.	

There are a few others which may be of some significance.. These include one rocker stamped sherd (edentate stamp) and 2 sherds decorated with zoned dentate stamping. One of the latter also has a triangular excised area, and a circular one. (Plate VI, No. 5.) All three pertain to the general Hopewellian horizon, and are probably Florida specimens brought in by the Early Weeden Island group.

Another sherd of the same time period points to relationships with the north, this being a limestone tempered sherd bearing faint impressions of some sort of complicated stamp. Pickwick Complicated Stamp⁹ is the most logical suspect.

A number of sherds with the designs excised are interesting, but are not of described types. The one illustrated, (Plate VI, No. 8,) appears to be a late Weeden Island type.

Others include several fabric marked sherds, several with unusual incising which probably are Weeden Island incised, and a few stamped sherds which are more or less unusual. Most of them, including the excised specimens, refer to Weeden Island periods.

The matter will be gone into more fully later, (Sec. X), but the presence of these sherds does not necessarily indicate that the cultures which made them were contemporaneous with Kolomoki. Rather, the majority of the sherds were probably there when the Kolomoki people arrived on the site.

A short distance from unit 28 was another midden of about the same circumference and general type. It was however much shallower. The maximum depth from ground surface in a few spots in the center was 18 inches, but the average was only 12. Once more, the top six inches, the plow zone, was not considered. No post holes could be found, so this deposit appears to be non-structural. There are some indications that it represented a portion of an originally larger deposit which was silted over, due to its occupancy of a shallow depression, in the course of erosion higher up the slope and plowing.

A total of 1,142 sherds came from below the plow zone. The main

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ceramic type again was Kolomoki Complicated Stamp, but there were some differences in the complex. Of the 366 stamped sherds, only 59 bore recognizable units. Stamp G accounted for 46 per cent of these, and I for 26 per cent. A was represented by only one sherd. One element C and a few each of unclassified stamps made up the remainder of the assemblage.

Forty-five sherds were recognizably from the rims of stamped vessels. All of the types illustrated occurred, in proportions as indicated below.

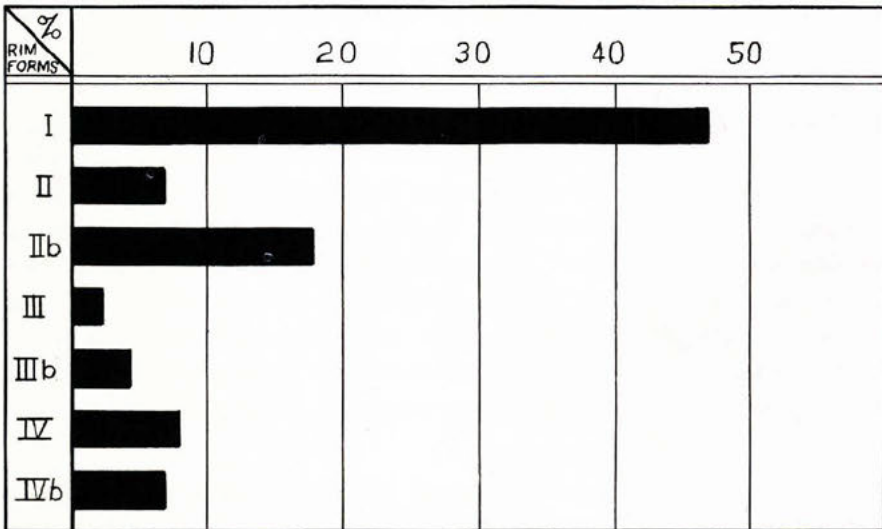


Fig. 6. Stamped Rim Proportions in Unit 21

In view of the small size of the sample, the correspondence to the unit 28 assemblage is good. One rim sherd, not included in Fig. 6, was a rim of form V with a notched edge, bearing one of the very clear, but very large stamps. It is a good middle Swift Creek sherd in terms of the Macon series.

Fifty-nine rim sherds bore no trace of stamp. Percentages were:

- Form I 14 per cent
- Form II 24 per cent
- Form IIb 39 per cent
- Form III 1 sherd

THE KOLOMOKI COMPLEX

Form V19 per cent

There were also two rims of the Weeden Island complex and one thickened rim with an incised line bisecting it parallel to the lip.

Twenty-five basal sherds came from flat bottomed vessels. Five of these were definitely from square based vessels, and two from disc bases. Three other sherds came from round based pots. This complex too is very close to that of unit 28.

It will have been noted that a rim form appeared in this assemblage, in the plain rims, which was absent from unit 28. This is form V, which makes up 19 per cent of the total. The appearance of this type probably has some chronological significance, but it escapes me. Possibly it is a holdover of an older form, uninfluenced by the Weeden Island characteristic of rim thickening as have been most of the rims. However, the lack of stamp A indicates that this midden may be later than 28, A having been dropped from the assemblage.

Twenty-one sherds of types not part of the Kolomoki complex came from this midden. These included 11 sherds of the type Carabelle Punctate, probably all fragments of one larger sherd; five sherds of Weeden Island Red; nine Weeden Island Incised sherds, and five incised specimens probably also pertaining to one or another of the Weeden Island incised types. This relatively high proportion of Weeden Island materials is in accordance with the unit 28 data. Its significance will be discussed in section X, under chronology.

UNIT 1, NORTH WEST AREA:

This portion of the site had produced in the past a great number of the large, stemmed, frequently oblique shouldered projectile points characteristic of early occupations in this area, including early Swift Creek. The surface collections of pottery however, most of which had been made in this part of the site because it was very rich and constantly in cultivation until recently, had indicated a Late Swift Creek-Early Weeden Island Assemblage. It seemed necessary to put at least one test pit into this area to check the possibilities that:

- 1-A Macon type Late Swift Creek was present.
- 2-There might in fact be a Late Swift Creek-Early Weeden Island Mixture.
- 3-There might be an early Woodland or pre-pottery occupation present.

One five by ten foot test pit was excavated in an area rich in

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surface material to try to get some evidence bearing on these possibilities. What was found however was another midden of the Kolomoki type. There are minor differences between the assemblage here and that from unit 28, but none of any importance. The allocation of the large points cannot be made now. As the next section will illustrate, they are not part of the Kolomoki complex, nor are they a part of the Weeden Island complex.

The surface collections too probably represented the Kolomoki assemblage with the usual Weeden Island admixture. As has been pointed out, the long continued cultivation and erosion of the site has produced a nearly homogeneous mixture in the topsoil. The lesser percentage of Weeden Island sherds here simply represents the facts of village distribution outlined on the frontispiece.

A total of 1,478 sherds were recovered from a deposit ranging from 24 to 30 inches in thickness. It is almost certain that this deposit is another midden of the same type as the two already described, and that our test pit, since the deposit rested on a level clay surface, was somewhere near the center.

Six hundred and three sherds, 41 per cent of the total, were stamped, 120 or twenty per cent of them, with recognizable units.

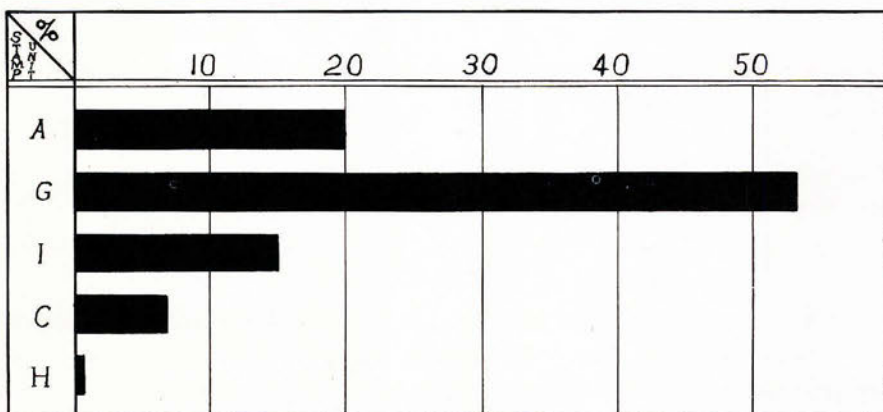


Fig. 7. Relative Frequency Stamp Elements, N. W. Area, Unit I

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There were also a few sherds bearing unique stamps, one of which is illustrated. (Plate VI, 2)

This assemblage then is even closer to that of unit 28 than was the assemblage of unit 21, particularly in the similar proportions of stamp element A, snowshoe.

Thirty-eight sherds came from the rims of stamped vessels. Frequencies of occurrence graphed below in Fig. 8 indicate once more the homogeneity of the unit 28-unit 21-N. W. area unit 1 assemblage.

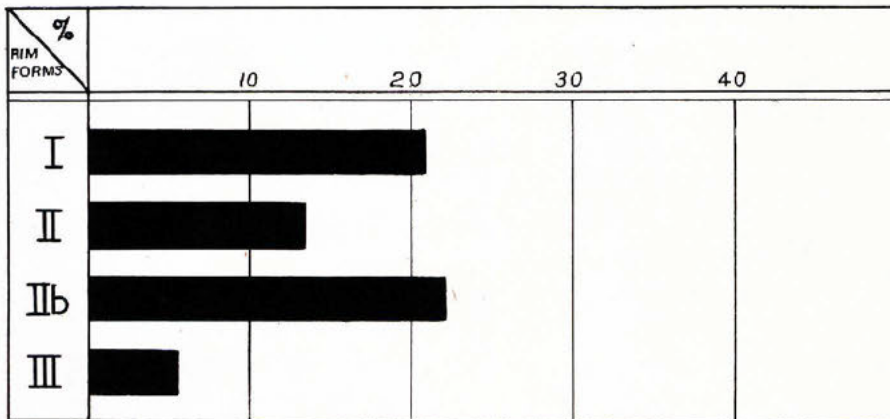


Fig. 8. Relative Rim Form Frequencies, N. W. Area, Unit I

The proportionate occurrence of rims from plain vessels, which follows, is also similar to that of the other two Kolomoki units in the predominance of form IIb.

- Form I 6 per cent
- Form II 6 per cent
- Form IIb 87 per cent
- Form III 1 sherd

Sherds from the basal portion of vessels numbered 22. Nineteen of these came from flat bottomed vessels. Of these, two were from squared bases and one from a disc base. Three sherds came from round based vessels.

Trade or unique sherds included one rim sherd from a Weeden

Island bowl and another sherd, also of Weeden Island provenance, with a modeled bird head facing inwards. There were also five limestone tempered sherds, two of them from the rim of a small vessel. The type of these is uncertain, but they are almost certainly, as the stamped sherd from unit 28, referable to the north Georgia-Alabama-Tennessee Area.

As pointed out previously, this comparative scarcity of Weeden Island sherds reflects the difference in the centers of the village areas. The higher percentage of Weeden Island sherds in units 21 and 28 indicates, as shown on the frontispiece, that there is a heavy overlap of the two village areas in that section, or rather, a co-incidence of occupied areas. The N. W. area of the site however is on or outside of the very fringes of the Weeden Island village.

NON-CERAMIC ARTIFACTS OF THE KOLOMOKI COMPLEX

The number of artifacts other than sherds found is insufficient to allow for any definitive statements as to the constitution of this portion of the complex. No bone implements were discovered at all, in spite of the fact that a great deal of bone was discovered in the middens and was carefully preserved.

Projectile points, only nine of which were found, are all small, one and a half to one and three quarters inches in length. One white quartz specimen is longer, but is so slender and relatively thick that it probably is a drill. The three specimens illustrated, (Plate VII), are typical in all respects. It will be noted that they differ but little from the Weeden Island points illustrated in the same plate.

Flint forms other than projectile points are rather amorphous. Possibly they could be classified as flake knives, end and side scrapers, and so on. This does not however seem worthwhile. Tools of flint other than projectile points appear to have been, basically, flakes, whose edges and shapes were determined by factors incidental to removal from the core. Modification of the original flake included only slight edge retouch, which may in fact have been produced by use rather than by intention.

A few fragments of ground stone celts were found, and such celts were probably part of the complex. There is also in the collection one fragment of a winged bannerstone or atlatl weight from unit 21. Since only one was found however, it may be an accidental inclusion.

Many flakes or sheets of mica, some as large as four inches in

THE KOLOMOKI COMPLEX

diameter, came from Kolomoki middens. A few had cut edges, but no definite shapes could be made out.

1. Kelly, A. R., "Archaeological Explorations at Macon, Ga," *Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 119*, 1938; also Jennings, J. D. and Fairbanks, C., "Type Description Swift Creek Complicated Stamp," *Newsletter, Southeastern Archaeological Conference*, Vol. 1, No. 2, March, 1939, p. 1.
2. Kelly, A. R., *ibid*, p. 28.
3. Kelly, A. R., MS, Swift Creek Mound and Village Site.
4. Kelly, A. R., *Bulletin 119, op. cit.*
5. Jennings, J. D. and Fairbanks, C., *ibid*.
6. Kelly, A. R. MS., *op. cit.*
7. Kelly, A. R., *ibid*.
8. Kelly, A. R., *ibid* and *Bulletin 119, op. cit.*
9. Fairbanks, C., "The Kolomoki Mound Group, Early County, Ga.," *American Antiquity*, Vol. X, No. 4, pp. 258-260.

V

LATE SWIFT CREEK COMPONENT

UNIT 29 - BURIAL No. 2

A few feet east of the edge of the unit 28 midden two related features were encountered. These were:

1-A circular pit, some three feet in diameter and three feet in depth, containing the skeletal remains of a young girl.

2-A small refuse pit, connected with the grave by a few inches of the original undisturbed midden.

The pottery in the fill of the grave, and that of the smaller pit to the north was related. It represents a ceramic complex somewhat different from any other thus far encountered in the park. Six hundred and twenty-six sherds were recovered. Of these, 129 were decorated with complicated stamps. This ware is not however Kolomoki Complicated Stamp. A description follows.

Paste: Very sandy. Interior of the vessels has been smoothed, but exteriors were not well smoothed before application of the stamp. This results in a very sandy exterior texture, with many grains of sand protruding through the surface.

Decoration: Complicated stamp, which usually seems to cover the entire vessels except folded rims. The lack of rim Form I, usually associated with zoned vessels of Kolomoki Complicated Stamp is important in this respect.

The commonest characteristic of the stamp is the connection of elements together into a chain. Elements so connected, in pairs or more usually threes, are ovals, circles, and sometimes squares. In comparison with Kolomoki Complicated Stamp, fill elements, i. e., designs which round off or square off the stamp, are more elaborate, major elements possess more lines per unit, and the average width and depth of lands and grooves has been reduced to about half.

LATE SWIFT CREEK COMPONENT

Vessel Shape: 23 rim sherds retained some trace of stamp. Form II rims numbered four, IIb seven, and III nine. A few others, only one specimen each, are somewhat peculiar, as that illustrated on Plate VII. They seem however to be variations on Late Swift Creek folding and modelling themes. Eight basal sherds were distinguished, four from flat bases and four from round bases.

This ware, two sherds of which are illustrated on Plate IV, No.'s 1 and 3, appears to be the complicated stamped ware most commonly associated with Weeden Island I in this area. It may be noted that the rims are in the Late Swift Creek tradition in the predominance of heavy folded rims and that they have not yet been sufficiently influenced by Weeden Island forms to produce zoning.

This ware is being called Late Swift Creek for reasons of convenience. A more complete discussion of its placement and affiliations will be found in Chap. IX. It suffices here to point out that it is also related to Late Swift Creek, but is considerably different from Kolomoki Complicated Stamp.

The assemblage of plain rim forms also differs from that found associated with Kolomoki Complicated Stamp. Forty-nine were found. Again, none of these were form I. Form II rims numbered twenty-three and form IIb thirteen. A new element is introduced by ten rim sherds of a type related to form IIb. It is a rounded fold, wider and thicker than the narrow molded extrusions of the IIb rims of the Kolomoki series. They are very similar to rims illustrated for the mid-late period of Swift Creek at the type site,¹ but there is a resemblance to Weeden Island rims.

Three of the wedge shaped rims most frequently associated at this site with Weeden Island Red were also found. They bore no trace of red paint however.

Few sherds atypical for this complex were included in the grave fill. Included in these few were:

Weeden Island Red	2
Carabelle Punctate	2
Mound City Net Marked	1

Unclassified were two grit tempered fabric marked sherds of the type frequently referred to in the Mid-West as cord wrapped dowel marked, four roughened sherds of the type already described for unit 28, and a few small sherds bearing incision of some sort, probably

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referable to Weeden Island.

One sherd appears Hopewellian in character, but no specific allocation can be made. This is the incised specimen with cross hatched rim illustrated as No. 4, Plate VI. It is tempered with fine sand, color is grayish brown on the interior and exterior, and in the core.

The burial itself, beneath all this was completely unremarkable and poorly preserved. It consisted of a child, probably female, of 8-10 years, flexed on the back. That is, the knees were drawn up and the arms were extended by the sides.

The other pit mentioned, a few feet away, contained less material, but duplicated on a smaller scale the assemblage described from the grave fill. Fifty stamped sherds were of the same sort, and eight rims from stamped vessels were of forms II and IIb. Trade sherds were of Weeden Island types only.

1. Kelly, A. R., MS, Swift Creek Mound and Village Site.

VI

WEEDEN ISLAND COMPONENT

The approximate area of the Weeden Island occupation of the site, insofar as it falls within the boundaries of the park, is outlined on the frontispiece. A considerable proportion of the area, however, seems to have been just outside the park boundaries, and the map, to the south, east of the head of the small stream. It is unfortunate that we did not have a base map of this area, but there was none available, nor was there time for a survey.

As I have already stated, Weeden Island materials occur in scattered refuse pits and in a thin scattering of materials in the present plow zone. A dozen pits were encountered in the course of excavation. Most of these, however, were small, containing only fifteen or twenty sherds, of which only three or four would be decorated types.

Two pits however, pits 1 and 2 of unit 4, located near the edge of the bank of the south stream directly opposite mound A, were of some size. Both were "washtub" shaped, flat bottomed with slightly sloping sides. They had been excavated into the basic red clay for a depth of three feet and were four to six feet in diameter. The fill was soft black soil, high in organic content, containing besides sherds numerous fragments of animal bone, flint chips, and a few flint implements.

The first of these, pit 1, contained a total of 2,329 sherds of various types. Of these, 524 are attributable to various vessels of the Weeden Island decorated types,¹ with frequencies as follows:

Weeden Island Red (Bowls, generally with thickened lip, red painted interior, and lip exterior)	268—Plate IV no. 9 & 10
Tucker Ridge Pinched	22—Plate IV no. 7
Mound Field Net Impressed	25—Plate IV no. 8
Carabelle Punctate	43—Plate IV no. 6
Weeden Island Incised (This includes 22 sherds from at least two vessels, made from fine orange paste, upper body decorated with fine cross hatching.	

EXCAVATIONS AT KOLOMOKI

Rim thickened and rounded. Shape is compressed globular bowl. Similar association of features from other pits and plow zone)	___129—Plate IV no 4&5
Keith Incised	_____6—Plate IV no. 3
Carabelle Incised	_____14—Plate IV no. 2
Indian Pass Incised	_____7—Plate IV no. 1

Twenty-six small sherds distinguished only by one or more incised lines are probably referable to some one of the Weeden Island incised types.

Weeden Island Plain is the commonest type here as in Florida.² One thousand five hundred and eight plain sand tempered body sherds make up the largest proportion of the sample. Many of these are, of course, parts of decorated vessels. However, the actual proportion of plain to decorated ware is undoubtedly very high. One hundred and ninety-six rim sherds from plain vessels are definitely of the type Weeden Island Plain.³ Vessel forms indicated are those described by Willey and Woodbury.⁴ There seems to be less rim modification on Weeden Island Plain vessels at Kolomoki, but the difference is not an important one. However all rims of the Weeden Island Red type were modified by rather elaborately molded additions, frequently wedge shaped in cross section.

Weeden Island Plain is usually, at this site, not a particularly well smoothed type. Exterior surfaces retain a "sandy" feel. Kolomoki Plain, its counterpart in many respects, seems usually to be well smoothed, almost polished. The distinction is not a clear-cut one, but it does exist.

This seems the place to state that there are no indications, in either plain or decorated sherds, of the existence of any vessel shapes other than bowls, either open or compressed spheroidal, and round bottomed jars. There are no sherds which appear to have come from flat based vessels of any type. This point will be important in considering the antecedents of Kolomoki Complicated Stamp.

Finally, there were 101 stamped sherds from this pit. Forty-four of these were complicated stamps with curvilinear motifs. As a complex, they are very close to the sherds from the grave fill of burial No. 2, unit 29. The same characteristics of units forming chains as the basic stamp motifs, shallow impression, narrow lands and grooves, and overall stamping rather than zoning, apply. Two of these sherds are

WEEDEN ISLAND COMPONENT

illustrated on the plate with the stamped sherds from the burials. (Plate IV, No's. 2 and 6)

There are several sherds which do not fit this description completely, especially several sherds, from one vessel, which have smoothed surfaces, and numbers, widths, and depths of lands and grooves like Kolomoki Complicated Stamp. The designs however, three circles in a chain, give them away.

A few sherds are of a complicated stamp probably not truly assignable to Swift Creek. The design is a superelongated figure eight, stamped on a uniformly rough vessel exterior. Vessel exterior is black, interior gray, core orange. On even fair sized sherds, the figure eight is so elongated that the stamp gives the appearance of the parallel impressions of a simple stamp. (Plate IV, 5)

Fifty-seven sherds are of the type Napier Complicated Stamp,⁵ which is unexpected. (Plate IV, No. 4) This is a type with North Georgia affinities⁶ which does not normally appear as part of the Weeden Island complex. Most of the sherds bear designs duplicating those in the illustrations for the type description, except that there are no circles. It is worth noting that at Macon, Napier Complicated Stamp appears in the last stages of Swift Creek.⁷

The other of the large Weeden Island pits, only a few feet away, contained fewer sherds. The assemblage however about duplicates that of the pit already described, the main difference being the lack of some of the scarcer types. Types represented are as follows:

Weeden Island Red	59
Mound City Net Marked	2
Carbelle Punctate	29
Weeden Island Incised (includes 2 sherds of the fine orange cross hatched ware)	25
Tucker Ridge Pinched	4
Napier Stamped	16
Swift Creek Complicated (local curvilinear com- plicated) Stamp	16
Miscellaneous incised sherds	3
Weeden Island Plain, rim sherds	47
Plain sand tempered body sherds	472

There are also 25 sherds, from one vessel, with the large figure eight stamped on a rough black paste. (Plate IV, No. 5)

EXCAVATIONS AT KOLOMOKI

Little need be said here about the assemblage from these two refuse pits except that it is a good representation of the Weeden Island I period. That it is Weeden Island I is indicated by the lack of Wakulla Check Stamp. As a matter of fact, this type seems to be completely lacking at the Kolomoki site, being one of the few types of the area which has never shown up in surface collections.

Although this is the furthest north recorded occurrence of Weeden Island, it differs but little from that of the Florida north west coast. Willey⁸ notes only that the ware may be slightly sandier and that there is a good deal less of the complicated stamp with it than in Florida assemblages. This fact is somewhat unexpected, since Central Georgia is supposed to be the home of, and center of, the complicated stamp tradition. We may only suppose that local conditions, at present unknown, may have modified the situation at Kolomoki.

1. Willey, Gordon R. and Woodbury, R. B., "A Chronological Outline for the North-west Florida Coast," *American Antiquity*, Vol. VII, No. 3, pp. 232-235.
2. Willey, Gordon R., "The Weeden Island Culture, A Preliminary Definition," *American Antiquity*, Vol. X, No. 3, pp. 225-235.
Willey, Gordon R., Personal Communication, dated Aug. 2, 1949.
3. Willey, G. R. and Woodbury, R. B., *ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Newsletter, Southeastern Archaeological Conference*, Vol. II, No. 2, p. 8.
6. *Ibid.*
7. Kelly, A. R., MS., Swift Creek Mound and Village Site.
8. Willey, Gordon R. and Woodbury, R. B., *op. cit.*, p. 243.

VII

LAMAR COMPONENT

The last occupation of the site in point of time was undoubtedly the Lamar Campsite already mentioned. A thin midden deposit was present, preserved since this section had never been cultivated. However, it was removed by grading operations in most places. In two sections where it was checked on by excavation, each excavation opening up several hundred square feet down to basic soil, there were only a few sherds, flint chips, and bone scraps scattered through some six inches of humus. There was no indication of intensive occupation, nor that there had ever been any thicker or richer deposits.

Some dozen refuse pits were located, eight of them being of fair size. All were shallow, basin shaped excavations. The data below covers only the material taken from these pits.

One burial was uncovered, mostly by bulldozer. Except that it was an adolescent, and probably flexed, little can be said.

No differences between the assemblages in different pits could be detected. Types occurring, and the number of sherds in each type, are:

Lamar Complicated Stamp	352
Lamar rim sherds, either from the above type or that following	38
Mercier Check Stamp (New type-description below)	50
(Includes 4 sherds with Lamar type rims, from at least 2 vessels.)	
Incised sherds (Lamar Bold Incised ?)	29
Undecorated body sherds, mostly Lamar judging by finish and temper	223
Plain rim sherds, Lamar (?) as above	7
Kolomoki complex sherds. Includes some characteristic rims and bases as well as stamped sherds	8
Weeden Island sherds	2
Others, including the sherd with loop handle illustrated on plate V, and one sherd, with Lamar paste,	

decorated with small, closely spaced, rectangular punctates³

The type description of Mercier Check Stamp follows. With the possible exception of Smith's Leon Check Stamp,¹ it appears to be the only recorded type of the late horizon bearing a check stamp as decorative motif. That it is a Lamar pottery type is attested by the Mercier Pinched Rim Check Stamp:

MERCIER CHECK STAMP
(Plate V, No. 2)

Paste:

Temper: Crushed quartz, angular particles of some size.

Large amount used, over half of bulk.

Texture: Lumpy, irregular fracture, some lamination.

Hardness: c. 4

Color: Range from buff to dark gray-brown. Most in darker end of range.

Surface Finish: Exterior stamped. Interior smooth, shows narrow concentric rings left by smoothing tool.

Decoration:

Rim: Notching of lower rim border where folded, or similar notching of extruded band. The usual Lamar treatment.

Body: Check stamp. Large squares, 6-10 mm in size, with very narrow lands. Apparently the stamping covers the entire vessel exterior.

Vessel Form: Jars only. Relatively abrupt shoulders, medium length necks, sharply flaring rims. Lips rounded. Bases unknown.

The Lamar Complicated Stamp sherds, on the whole, fit the type description³ reasonably well. The exceptions are in the form of two relatively frequent stamps, illustrated as No.'s I and 5 on Plate V. These are so small, compact, and clearly defined that they look more like Swift Creek than Lamar types.

There are few sherds of Lamar Bold Incised⁴ of any size, the exceptions being illustrated. The large sherds in particular seem to indicate that the incising is finer and more elaborate here than at the type site. There is also a characteristic rim form, a folded type, which does not appear at the Lamar Plantation. All of the rim sherds from incised vessels, coming from the Lamar component at this site, have

L A M A R C O M P O N E N T

this rim form, except for two from the surface.

The stamped sherds discussed above, the rim forms of the incised specimens, and the appearance of the check stamp, may indicate that this is an earlier variety of Lamar than any heretofore described. It may, on the other hand, be only a regional variant. In any case, there is not enough comparative material in print to enable a decision at this time.

1. Smith, Hale G., "Two Historical Archaeological Periods in Florida," *American Antiquity*, Vol. XIII, No. 4, p. 318.
2. Kelly, A. R., "A Preliminary Report on Archaeological Explorations at Macon, Georgia," *Bulletin 119*, Bureau of American Ethnology, Washington, D. C., 1938.
3. Jennings, Jesse D. and Fairbanks, C. H., "Type Description of Lamar Complicated Stamp," *Newsletter, Southeastern Archaeological Conference*, Vol. I, No. 2.
4. Jennings, J. D. and Fairbanks, C. H., Type Description Lamar Bold Incised, *ibid.*

VIII

ASSEMBLAGES AT KOLOMOKI

It appears, as is so often the case, that the work which has been done at the site of Kolomoki has raised at least as many questions as it has answered. Most important of these are:

- 1-The relationships of the Kolomoki complex.
- 2-The chronological order of the assemblages found, particularly the order of the Weeden Island, Late Swift Creek (local curvilinear complicated stamp other than Kolomoki) and Kolomoki assemblages.

As noted previously, the Lamar manifestation does not present a major problem. As an assemblage it differs only slightly from the Macon Lamar, the only such described. However, it is not too different, certainly in the same aspect if taxonomic terms were to be used. A mid-16th century dateline seems reasonably well established and accepted for Lamar as a whole and may be accepted for this manifestation at Kolomoki.

It has already been noted that the lack of Walkulla Check Stamp places the Weeden Island manifestation in the Weeden Island I period. The minor variations from a northwest Florida assemblage have also been pointed out. Probably the scarcity of complicated stamped sherds, and their type, is of particular importance. This will be discussed further on in this section, and in the next section.

The complicated stamped ware from unit 29 presents a difficult problem. It appears at present that the character of the stamp, the lack of zoning, and the rim forms, predominately folded, make placement well toward the end of the Swift Creek site series probable.¹

As I pointed out, it is this sort of complicated stamp which occurs with Weeden Island I, in association with Napier Complicated Stamp at Kolomoki. Survey work conducted by A. R. Kelly in the Bainbridge area of the Flint-Chattahoochee-Apalachicola drainage supports this temporal association. It seems, in this area, to be replaced with Wakulla Check Stamp when the latter comes in.

The lack of zoning however gives rise to a whole series of

problems. Willey has pointed out that in Florida the complicated stamped ware rapidly takes on zoning as a characteristic from Weeden Island.² This offers a logical source for the derivation of the zoning in Kolomoki Complicated Stamp. The Rim forms, particularly form I, may be attributed to the same source. However, the stamped ware of unit 29, that from the Weeden Island pits, and that Kelly has from the Bainbridge area have not acquired either the zoning or the rim forms.

There is no good evidence to indicate that the makers of Kolomoki Complicated Stamp were in contact with Weeden Island peoples while at Kolomoki. Therefore, if the influence be accepted, a previous period of contact, an interrupted contact one may add, is indicated.

One might say that Kolomoki Complicated Stamp is derived from this Weeden Island I time period stamped ware. The difficulty with this is that certain elements, including form I rims, of Kolomoki Complicated Stamp appear at Macon in the last stages of that site.

The problem of the origins of, and the observed differences between, these complicated stamped wares cannot, I believe, be solved at present. These data and others however indicate clearly that "Late Swift Creek" is going to turn out to be too unwieldy an entity. Late Swift Creek at the Macon site may be accepted as a unit. However, there are now at least two, counting Florida variants, even more, types of complicated stamped ware which share one or more of the characteristics definitive of Late Swift Creek as defined originally. Eventually, these must be sorted out.

One point which may have something to do with the two recognized varieties in this area is that Swift Creek ceramics were present in Pre-Weeden Island times, i.e., the Santa-Rosa Swift Creek of Florida. They undoubtedly overlap, in large part, the Macon Swift Creek.³ This being so, a different trend in development between groups so widely separated would be expected. This, and a possible further interaction between them, could account for the observed differences and similarities.

The area involved is a logical one for such interaction to have taken place if we assume that we are on the edge of the Santa-Rosa-Swift Creek and Weeden Island areas on the one hand, and on the other hand on the edge of an area to which influences from Macon, or even Macon people may have penetrated when development was interrupted there by Macon Plateau occupation.

The problems are undoubtedly complex, but are important. As I have noted, nothing is to be gained by simply lumping together all complicated stamps with curvilinear motifs and sand tempering as "Swift Creek." A breakdown must be achieved, or chronology in the area will be impossible. A start on this breakdown has already been made in the definition of Deptford Complicated Stamp (See Brewton Hill)⁴ which differs from Swift Creek Complicated Stamp only in the emphasis on particular design elements, elements similar to those at Kolomoki. Although they have not yet been published, except for illustrations, there are other such types in Florida.⁵

As noted, Weeden Island, in point of view of known contacts and geographical contiguity, is the logical source for the derivation of certain elements of Kolomoki Complicated Stamp. This is particularly true of zoned decoration and most of the rim forms, particularly forms I, IV, and IVb. IIb is probably also so derived, unless it is a regression from a folded rim.

I am not so sure, however, that Weeden Island is the source of the flat bases, particularly the squared forms. There is no doubt that they do occur in Weeden Island. However, as I have pointed out, none could be found in the sherds from the Kolomoki Weeden Island component, although there was a large sample of the plain ware. Judging by illustrations, especially in Moore,⁶ this base form in Weeden Island decorated vessels is frequently a by-product of more elaborate modelling techniques, such as squaring the whole pot. Too, there is little doubt that the compressed spheroidal bowl, which came over into Kolomoki Plain with little change, was the commonest Weeden Island vessel form.

These flat bases, disc and square, are the type forms for the lower valley Marksville-Troyville-Coles Creek series, with which series Weeden Island is undoubtedly affiliated.⁷ Since these base forms occur as a complex in this area as they do at Kolomoki, a connection is implied. The globular bodied, short necked pots and beakers are also parts of the lower valley complex. All in all, Kolomoki vessel forms, as a total complex, including globular bodied pots with short necks and small squared bases, and beakers with outslanting sides, have more affinities with the lower valley complex than they do with either the bowls of Weeden Island or the Woodland vessel forms of Swift Creek at the type site.

However, the route for any contact between the two groups is very

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difficult to work out. I believe some sort of contact existed, but I cannot designate a logical route.

1. Jennings, Jesse D. and Fairbanks, Charles, *op. cit.*
Kelly, A. R., "A Preliminary Report on Archaeological Explorations at Macon, Georgia," Smithsonian Institute, Bureau of American Ethnology, *Bulletin 119*.
Kelly, A. R., Personal Communication.
2. Willey, G. R. and Woodbury, R., "A Chronological Outline for the Northwest Florida Coast," *American Antiquity*, Vol. VII, No. 3, pp. 241 and 248.
3. Kelly, A. R., MS, Swift Creek Mound and Village Site.
4. Caldwell, J. R. and Waring, A. J., "Type Description Brewton Hill Complicated Stamp," *Newsletter, Southeastern Archaeological Conference*, Vol. I, No. 5.
5. Willey, G. R. and Woodbury, R., *ibid.* See also Smith, Hale, *op. cit.*
6. Moore, C. B. "Certain Aboriginal Mounds of the Northwest Coast of Florida," Part I, *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences*, Vol. 12. Philadelphia, 1902.
7. Willey, G. R., *op. cit.*, pp. 242-246.

IX

SEQUENCE and CHRONOLOGY

I would place the manifestations at Kolomoki in the following sequence, reading from the bottom up:

Lamar
Kolomoki
Swift Creek - Weeden Island I

"Swift Creek" refers to the stamped ware from unit 29 and the material associated with the Weeden Island ceramics in the Weeden Island refuse pits. Probably this ware should be given a separate name too, but I do not feel that the sample at this site is large enough to adequately define and describe it.

The evidence for this sequence is as follows. In the Lamar refuse pits, certainly the latest manifestation, both Weeden Island and Kolomoki Stamped sherds were found. Since there is no possibility that all three groups were contemporaneous, we may be reasonably sure here that the Kolomoki and Weeden Island sherds were part of the debris in or on the ground when the Lamar group arrived.

In the Kolomoki refuse middens, particularly units 21 and 28, Weeden Island sherds occurred. The reverse however was not true. The Swift Creek and Weeden Island pits each contain sherds of the other complex. Too, although I did not separate them out in sorting, there are a few sherds in each of the Kolomoki middens which pertain to the so called Swift Creek complex, on the basis of chain designs and finer stamping. Most of the Form III rims also probably came from vessels of this type rather than from vessels made by people of the Kolomoki groups. The rim illustrated, with a circle and square chain design stamp, Plate VII, is probably one such.

The evidence then seems to indicate that the bulk of foreign material in any given refuse pit or midden deposit entered the deposit because it had been on or in the ground when the deposit was formed, not through trade. Thus Weeden Island and the so called Late Swift Creek occupations preceded Kolomoki, and sherds from these complexes are included in the Kolomoki middens.

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Since the "Late Swift Creek" and Weeden Island components interchange sherds, no order is indicated here. I doubt if they occupied the site at exactly the same time, but approximate contemporaneity is indicated here and elsewhere.

If, however, the temporal relationship of Kolomoki and Weeden Island at this site as I have stated, another problem is raised, one which can probably not be answered at this time. That is, if Kolomoki falls after Weeden Island I, it should fall in the Weeden Island II time period. This being the case, where is Wakulla Check Stamp?¹

This type is widespread in the Bainbridge area and on down the Apalachicola. It is however the one pottery type of the area which is not represented even in the surface collections from Kolomoki, although earlier and later types are. There are two possible answers:

- 1-That the Kolomoki Complex, in point of time, still falls in the Weeden Island I time period. That is, that the Weeden Island at Kolomoki was early in the Weeden Island development, and that there was still time for the Kolomoki complex before the introduction of Wakulla Check Stamp.
- 2-That for some reason, probably a cultural one which we will never understand fully, Wakulla Check Stamp represents a group which did not enter into any sort of relationship with the Kolomoki peoples.

I favor the latter hypothesis. Both Willey² and Goggin³ have stated that Swift Creek Complicated Stamp dies out in Florida when Wakulla Check Stamp enters. There is now some evidence that Wakulla Check Stamp, or a very similar type, exists as the sole ceramic type of a culture in the Bainbridge area.⁴ The situation there seems to be the same; i.e., when the check stamp enters, complicated stamping goes out. There is then the possibility that the type represents a new group in the area, which interrupted the contact between the users of the various Swift Creek derived stamps and the Weeden Island group. This fits the evidence at Kolomoki that the complicated stamped ware, Kolomoki Complicated Stamp, shows considerable Weeden Island influence, but that there is no evidence of contact at this site.

The stamp designs of Kolomoki are closer to Deptford Complicated Stamp and the later Savannah Complicated Stamp than to anything else. It may be that Deptford Complicated Stamp plays some part in the development at Kolomoki. I suspect however that the reverse, if anything, is true of Savannah Complicated Stamp. Recent excavations

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conducted by this department in the Etowah Valley indicate that Savannah Complicated Stamp is really very late. In fact, as Caldwell and McCann originally stated, "much later than even Late Swift Creek."⁵ The evidence at our site substantiates Wauchope's statements, that Savannah Complicated Stamp falls very close to the development of Lamar, entering after the development of the filfot cross as an important motif in Etowah ceramics.⁶ This places it then also after Early Macon and Hiwassee Island, since we have trade material from these sites in earlier levels at our site.

If Kolomoki is later than Late Swift Creek at Macon, then the time difference may be stated as I have done, i.e., "later", in contrast to the "much later" of Savannah Complicated Stamp.

In any case, the Kolomoki complex falls well up in Temple Mound times, and thus the association of a well defined complicated stamp and temple mounds is a little less bizarre than it had seemed.

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Goggin, John M., "A Preliminary Definition of Archaeological Areas and Periods in Florida," *American Antiquity*, Vol. XIII, No. 2.
2. Willey, Gordon R. and Woodbury, R., *op. cit.*
3. Goggin, *op. cit.*
4. Kelly, A. R., Personal Communication.
5. Caldwell, J. and McCann, C., *The Irene Mound Site, Chatham County, Georgia*, Athens, 1941.
6. Wauchope, R., "The Ceramic Sequence in the Etowah Drainage, North Georgia," *American Antiquity*, Vol. XIII, No. 3.

X

SUMMARY

This first season's work at the site of Kolomoki has demonstrated that the site, rather than being the manifestation of a mixed Late Swift Creek-Early Weeden Island people, was actually occupied at different times by groups possessing four distinct ceramic complexes. In probable order from oldest to most recent these were either Weeden Island I or a Late Swift Creek variant, the Kolomoki Complex, and Lamar. There is, thus far, no evidence to indicate whether the Weeden Island I or Late Swift Creek variant had priority.

The Kolomoki complex is one defined largely by the major ceramic type, Kolomoki Complicated Stamp, a complicated stamped ceramic type of Late Swift Creek and other affiliations. An associated pottery type is Kolomoki Plain, a plain ware, largely consisting of bowls with modified rims.

Of these occupations, the Kolomoki and Weeden Island were the most intensive and extensive. The Kolomoki occupation was, however, the major one of these two, and most probably is to be associated with the complex formed by the three largest mounds, and possibly with some of the other mounds.

The Kolomoki complex has its closest relationships with the Late Swift Creek of the Macon area, and with Weeden Island of the Northwest Gulf Coast of Florida. Nevertheless, it is a complex distinct from either.

In point of time, this major occupation falls in Temple Mound I or early Temple Mound II in the Ford and Willey chronology.

One of the most important features of the ceramic complex is the association of complicated stamping with square and disc based vessels, and the use of a well defined complicated stamp in this time period. The only equally well made and applied stamp of this time appears to be the quite different Etowah Complicated Stamp.

It is hoped that further work at the site will enable more complete working out of the relationships of the material, and will indicate the type of mounds associated. At present we are at least sure that there is a very large temple mound in the park, which was most prob-

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ably built by this group. Two smaller, but still good sized mounds, may be either temple mounds, burial mounds, or a combination, and may have been built by either the Kolomoki or Weeden Island people, although the former are suspected.

Or, to put it somewhat differently, we now have a fair idea as to what we have at Kolomoki. We still know far too little about why we have it.

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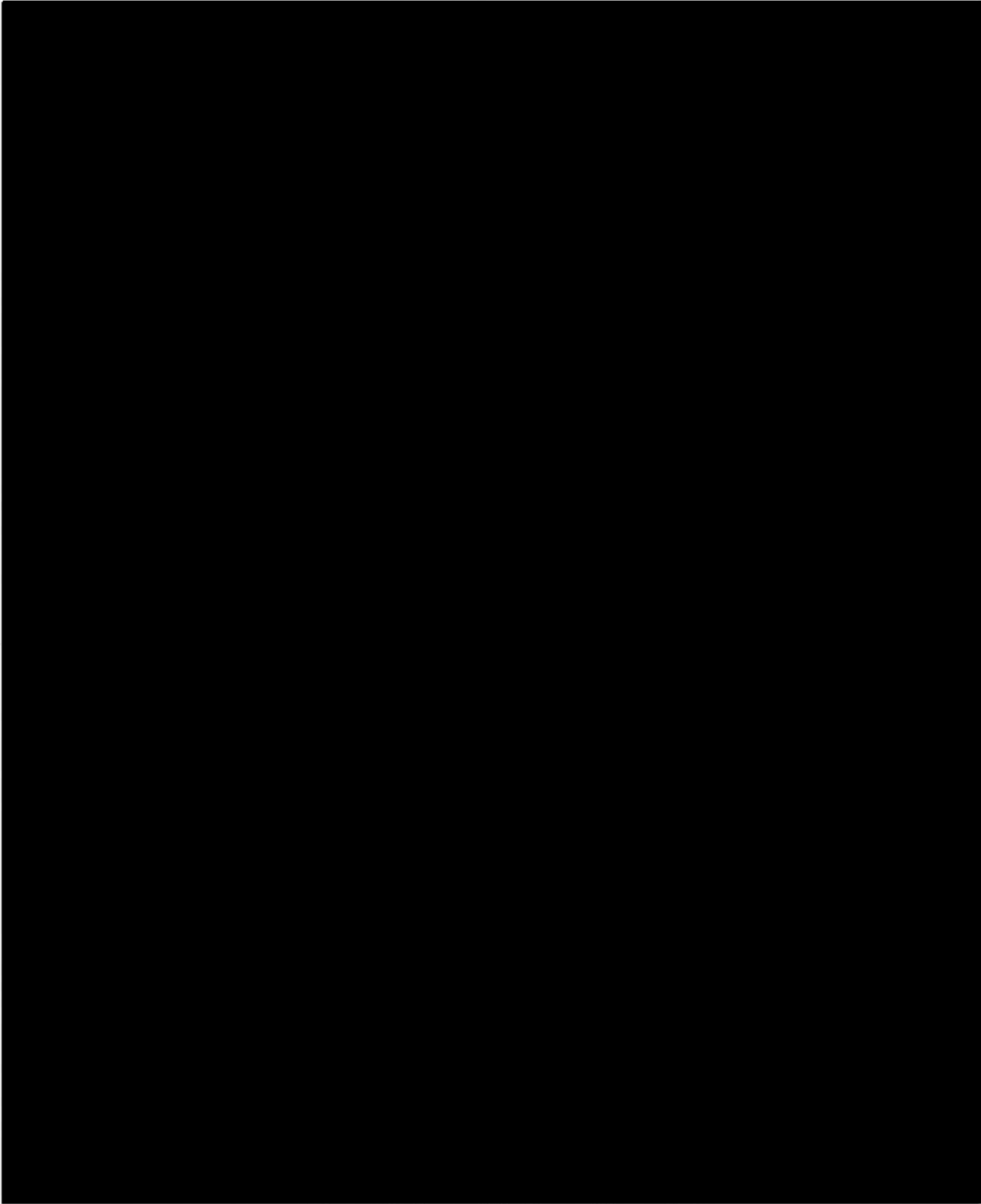


PLATE I. Kolomoki Complicated Stamp.

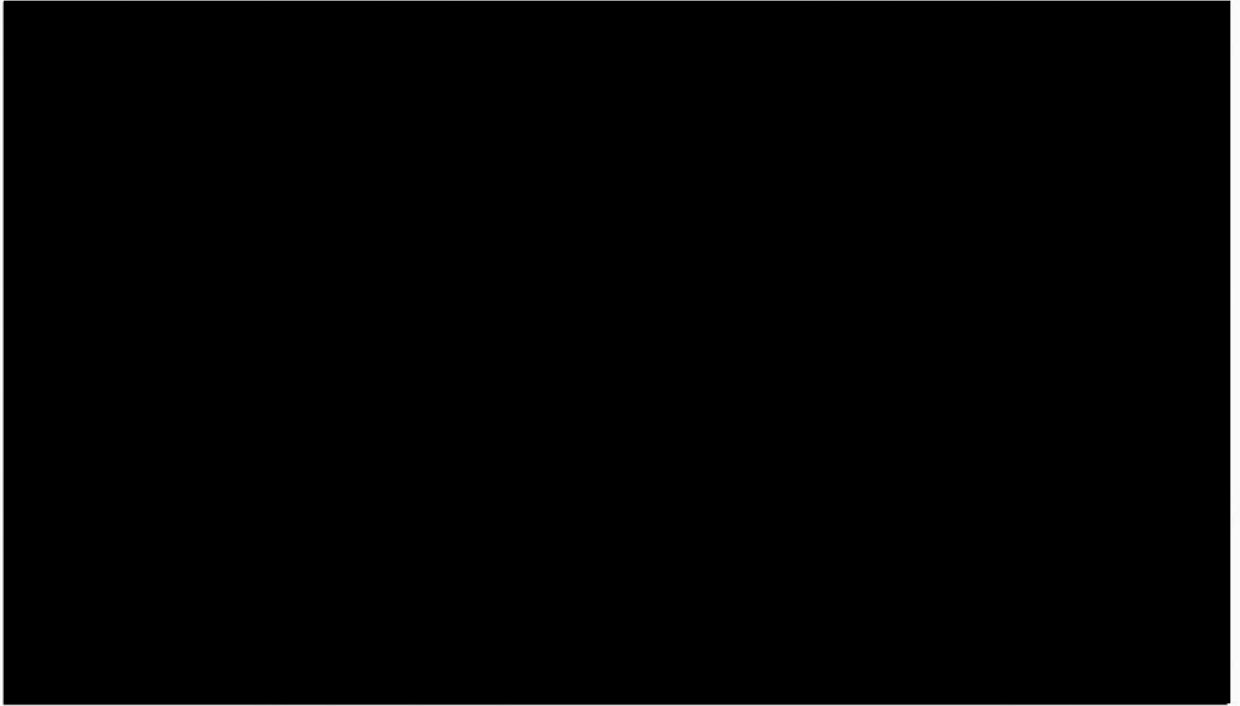


PLATE II. Kolomdki Plain and Vessel Bases.

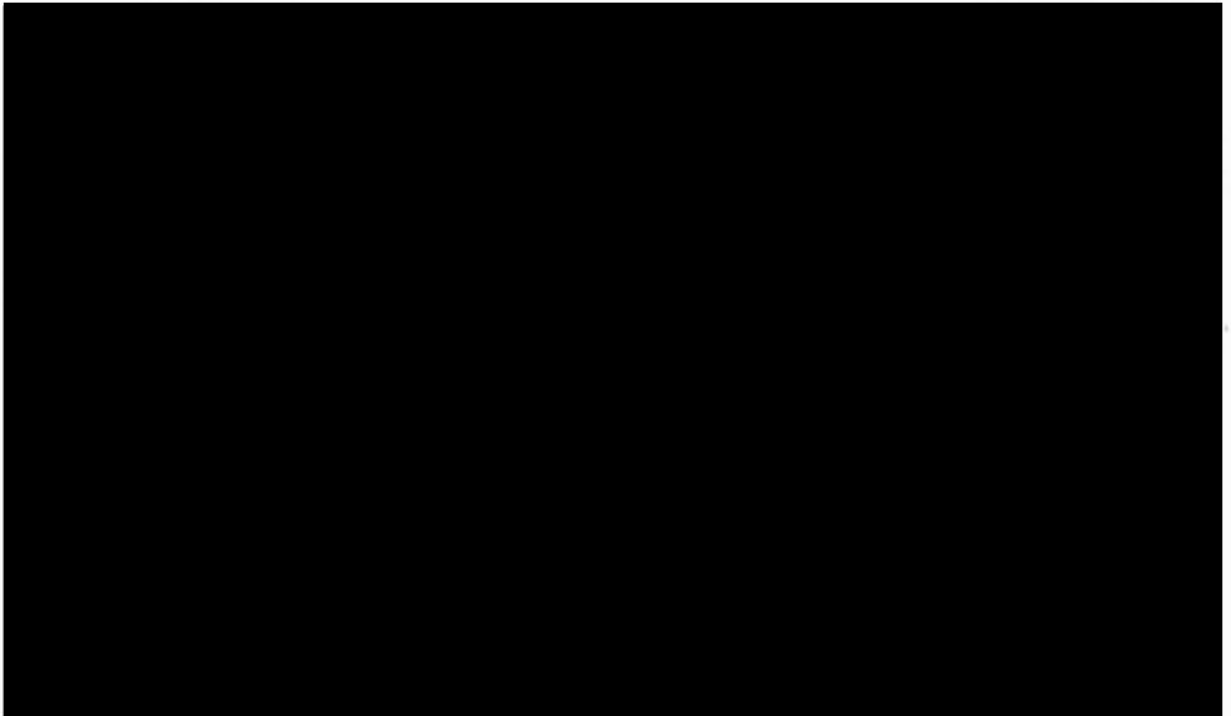


PLATE III. Weeden Island Pottery Types.

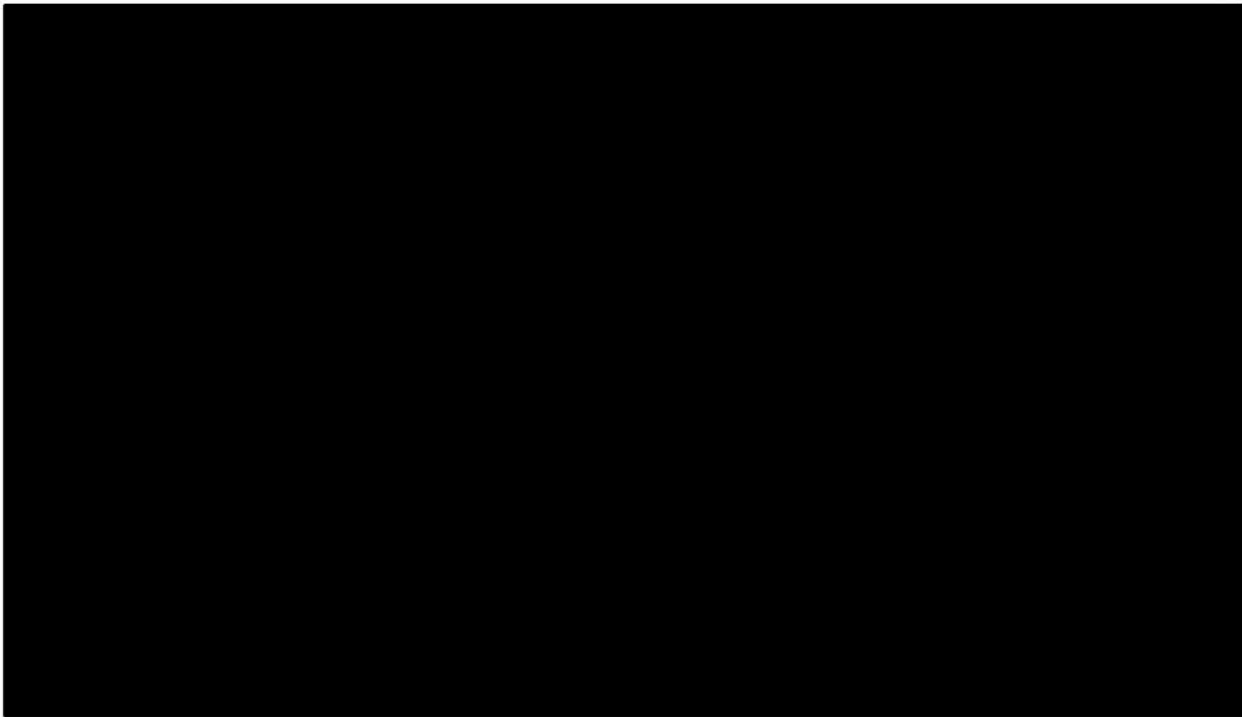


PLATE IV. Napier Complicated Stamp and Late Swift Creek.

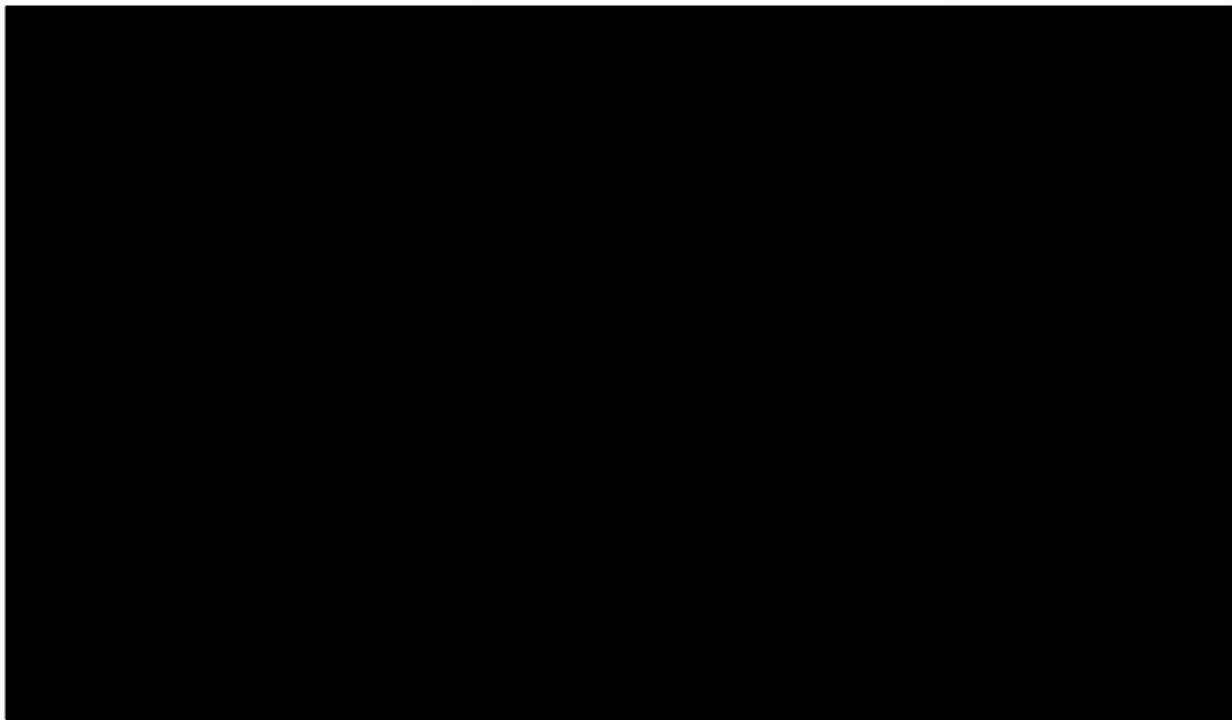


PLATE V. Lamar Pottery Types

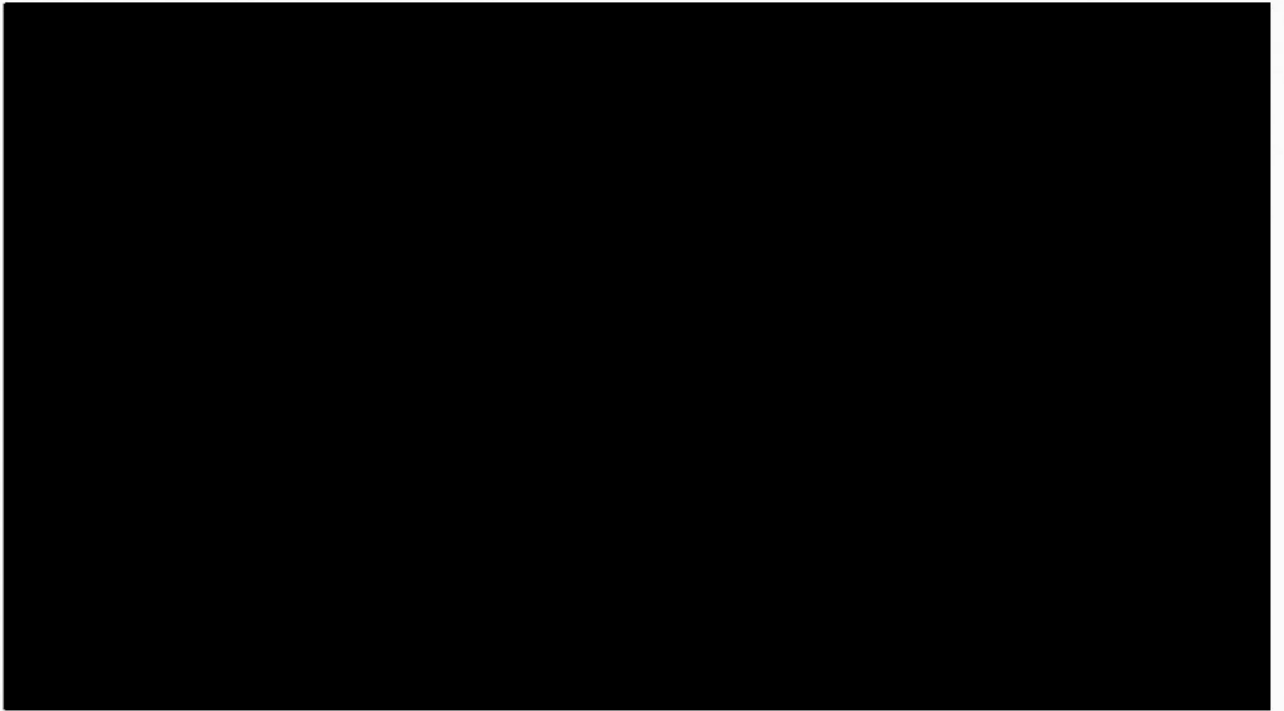


PLATE VI. Projectile Points and Unusual Pottery.



PLATE VII. Mound A, Kolomoki.

