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**UNIVERSITY OF  
GEORGIA**

**Franklin College of  
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*Department of Anthropology*

*Laboratory of Archaeology*

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
LABORATORY OF ARCHAEOLOGY SERIES  
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF  
THE LITTLE EGYPT SITE (9Mu102),  
MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA, 1969 SEASON**

DAVID J. HALLY

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY BEVERLY H. COOPER AND JANET A. ROTH



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
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Report No. 18

Archaeological Investigation of the Little Egypt Site (9Mul02),  
Murray County, Georgia, 1969 Season

By

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Athens  
1978

## PREFACE

The purpose of this report is to describe archaeological investigations undertaken at the Little Egypt site in 1969. These investigations were carried out by the Principal Investigator, Dr. David J. Hally, under contract (No. 14-10-7-911-15) with the National Park Service and are part of a larger program of salvage archaeology being conducted at Carters Dam by the Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia in cooperation with the National Park Service and the Corps of Engineers.

A number of people made contributions to the preparation of this report. Dr. Bruce Smith of the Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, assisted Janet Roth in the species identification of faunal remains recovered from the site. Dr. Paul Fish, also of the Department of Anthropology, gave advice on the classification and analysis of lithic material. Textural analysis of soil samples collected from the site was performed by Dr. Henry F. Perkins, Department of Agronomy, University of Georgia. Mr. Porter Morgan, graduate student in geology, identified rocks and minerals obtained in the 1969 excavations and advised Beverly Conner on their source locations. Beverly Connor cleaned and catalogued most of the artifactual material. All photographs were made by Richard Jefferies, a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology. Maps and profile drawings are



the product of several individuals: Chung Ho Lee, Leila Oertel and Greg Paulk of the Department of Anthropology; and Alice Theide, formerly with the Cartographic Services Lab at the University of Georgia. The manuscript was typed by Mrs. Louise L. Brice and edited by Ms. Adrienne Seccia. To all of these people, the authors wish to express their deep appreciation.

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## CHAPTER 1

### THE LITTLE EGYPT SITE IN ITS HISTORICAL AND NATURAL SETTING

#### The Natural Setting

The Little Egypt site (9 Mu 102) is located in the southeast corner of Murray County, .7 miles southeast of the post office at Carters, Georgia and 1.2 miles southwest of Carters Dam. Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates for the site are N38 31000 E712000.

Northwest Georgia falls into three major physiographic provinces: the Blue Ridge, Piedmont and Valley and Ridge. All three provinces come together near Chatsworth approximately 10 miles north of the Little Egypt site (Fig. 1). The site itself is situated in a small basin formed by the Great Smokey Fault which separates the Valley and Ridge Province on the west from the Piedmont Province on the east. This basin, measuring approximately 2 miles north/south and 1 mile east/west is surrounded on the north, east and south sides by hills of the Piedmont Province that attain elevations generally in excess of 1100 ft. above sea level (Fig. 2). To the west, the basin is defined by lower (800 ft. ) hills of the Valley and Ridge Province. The basin floor, in contrast to the surrounding hills is quite level and is composed of deep alluvial soils. Surface elevation in the basin ranges between 670 and 675 ft.



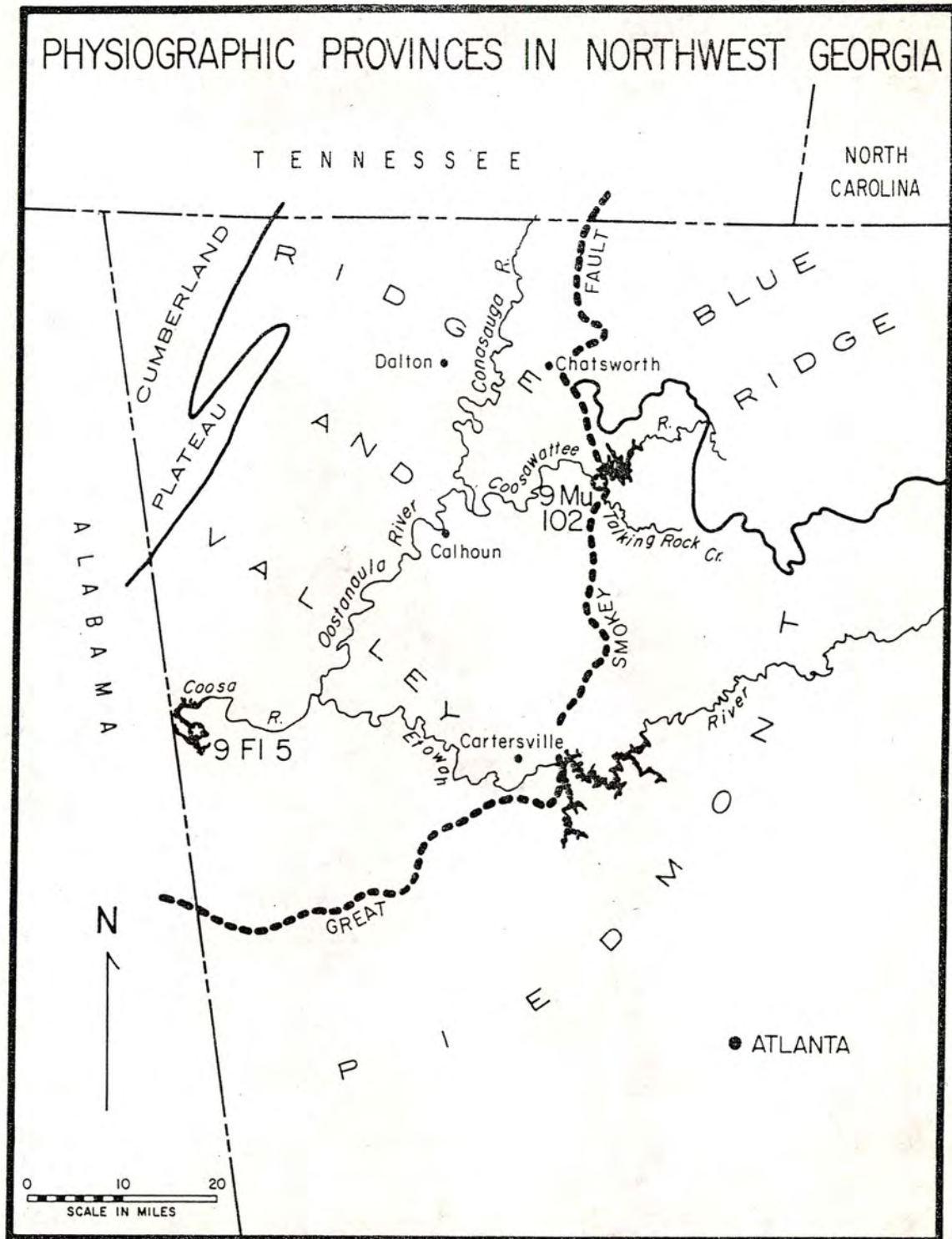


Figure 1. Map of northwest Georgia showing physiographic provinces and location of the Little Egypt and King sites.



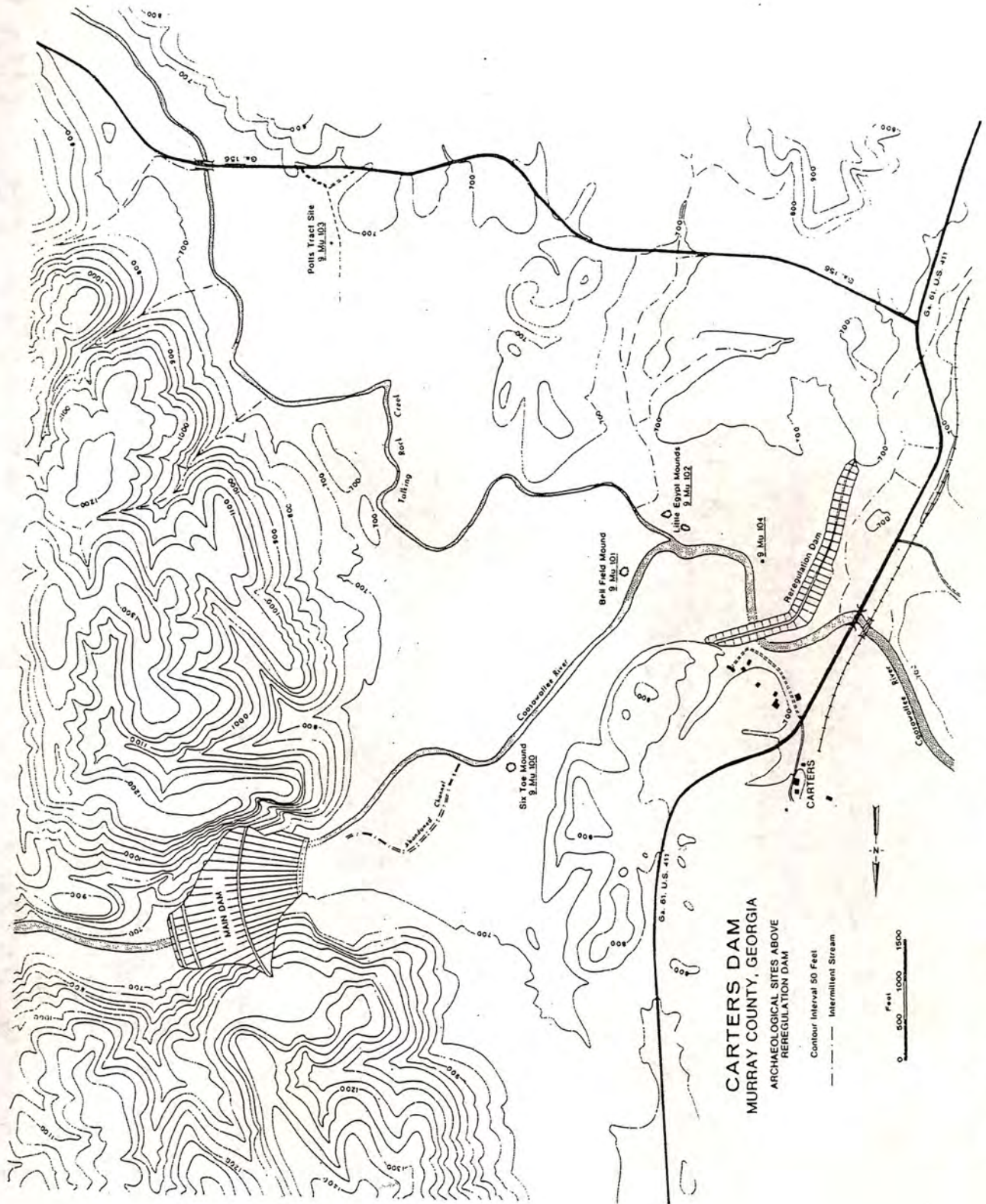


Figure 2. Map of the Carters Dam area showing location of archaeological sites above the rerregulation dam.



Two streams, Coosawattee River and Talking Rock Creek, enter the basin from the east and southeast respectively. Together these streams drain an approximately 500 square mile area within the Piedmont Province. Both streams drop rather precipitously from elevations in excess of 800 ft. above sea level before entering the basin. The Coosawattee is joined by Talking Rock Creek near the western side of the basin and flows westward out of the basin through a narrow gap in the surrounding hills.

Carters Dam, a large earth and rock fill dam being constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is located on the eastern side of the Carters basin where the Coosawattee River leaves the mountains (Fig. 2). When completed in 1976, the dam will impound water of the Coosawattee River to form Carters Lake. A second earth and rock fill dam, the reregulation dam, will periodically impound water flowing through the main dam and from Talking Rock Creek to form a shallow lake within the basin. Archaeological sites such as Little Egypt that are located on the floodplain within the basin will be inundated by this lake.

The Little Egypt site is situated on the south side of the Coosawattee River at the mouth of Talking Rock Creek. Seven sites are known to exist immediately adjacent to the Coosawattee: 9 MU 100, XU-F, XU-G, XU-K; Sixtoe Mound and Village (9 MU 100); Bell Field Mound (9 MU 101); Little Egypt (9 MU 102); and 9 MU 104. These sites range in age from Archaic through early Historic and indicate that the river has meandered very little across its floodplain in the last several thousand years. Talking Rock



Creek has apparently meandered more freely; its present course is rather irregular compared to that of the Coosawattee, and in recent aerial photographs old meander scars can be seen in the large field (Bell Field) that separates the two streams. Since the stream passes between the Bell Field and Little Egypt mounds, it is apparent that its lower course has changed little in the last several hundred years.

Corps of Engineers core drilling indicates that approximately 25 ft. of alluvium overlies bedrock in the basin. These alluvial soils belong to the Toccoa-Sequatchie-Whitfield soil association.<sup>1</sup> They are characterized as being well to moderately well drained and varying in texture from fine sandy loam to loam. Although they range in natural fertility between low and moderately high, they are considered among the best agricultural soils in the three county area.

Much of the floodplain within the basin is overlain with a thick sand/sandy loam stratum of recent origin. In the vicinity of the Little Egypt and Potts Tract sites, this stratum varies between 1 and 2 feet in thickness and is underlain by an old plowzone. The latter indicates that deposition of the sandy stratum has occurred since European settlement of the basin in the 1830's. Local tradition attributes the sandy stratum to

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<sup>1</sup>There is no published U. S. D. A. soil survey for Murray County. The following information on soils in the site area was obtained from the Soils Notebook for Murray, Whitfield and Catoosa Counties which is on file in the office of The Soil Conservation Service in Athens, Georgia.



a disastrous flood, the Whitestone Freshet, which occurred in 1937. This soil continues to accumulate, however, up to the present day and is being constantly reworked by the two streams during flood stage. Fields on the south side of Talking Rock Creek just below the Ga. Hwy 156 bridge are covered with ridges and swales formed by flood water from the creek. As will be described in later sections of this report, much of the present topography of the Little Egypt site is apparently the result of ongoing deposition and erosion.

Perhaps the single most important feature in the natural setting of the Little Egypt site is its location adjacent to the Great Smokey Fault (Fig. 1).<sup>2</sup> The uplands of the Piedmont and Blue Ridge Provinces east of the fault are composed of metamorphic rocks of Paleozoic and Precambrian age. In the vicinity of Carters Dam, these rocks are mainly metagraywacke and phyllite or mica schist (Hurst 1970:387). Hills along the escarpment rise steeply 6-800 ft. from the valley floor, and terrain in the upland region is rugged in contrast to that in the Valley and Ridge Province. In general, however, the mountainous topography east of the fault is rather subdued; summits are usually rounded with only lower slopes being steep.

Physiographically, the Blue Ridge Province ends several miles north of Carters Dam at the southern edge of the Cohutta Mountains. Geologists

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<sup>2</sup>Information on the geology and physiography of the Carters area has been derived from the following sources: Fenneman 1938; Rodgers 1970; Hurst 1970; Thornbury 1965; and Cressler 1974.

now classify the landscape south of this range as Piedmont. This distinction is readily apparent to the observer as summits in the vicinity of Carters Dam are considerably lower (1200-1300 ft.) and more rounded than they are farther north. Fifteen miles to the north, in the Cohutta Mountains, elevations reach 3000 ft. above sea level.

The Valley and Ridge Province consists of a broad belt of unmetamorphosed sedimentary rocks of Paleozoic age that extends from New York state to Alabama. These rocks are for the most part strongly folded and faulted. Through erosion they have been formed into a series of parallel ridges and valleys. Along the northwestern side of the Province in Georgia and Alabama, valleys trend north/south and are separated by ridges ranging in elevation up to 1000 ft. above sea level. Along its southeastern boundary, in this region, the Province is dominated by a single valley approximately 20 miles wide which is characterized by broad fertile lowlands and low ridges. Valley floor elevations in this latter area average 700 ft.; ridges average 8-900 ft. This area, known locally as the Coosa Valley, is part of a continuous series of valleys extending up to New York state that are known collectively as the Great Valley.

Streams in the Valley and Ridge Province of northwest Georgia tend to flow north/south in conformity with the topography. The Coosawattee River, flowing almost due west before joining the Conasauga River near Resaca, is an exception to this pattern.

Limestone, shale and siltstone of the Conasauga formation predominate



in the vicinity of Carters Dam (Cressler 1974: Fig. 5). Fort Payne chert, occurring in beds 100-200 ft. long and 1 in. to 2 ft. thick, follows a north/south line of outcrops extending from Dalton to Calhoun (Cressler 1974:29). At its closest point, this line is approximately 18 miles west of Carters Dam.

Forest cover differs slightly in the two Provinces. Kuchler (1964) identifies the potential natural vegetation of the Piedmont as oak-hickory-pine forest and that of the Valley and Ridge Province as oak-pine forest. Utilizing original land survey records, Plummer (1975) identifies the aboriginal forests of the Blue Ridge<sup>3</sup> and the Valley and Ridge Provinces as oak-chestnut-pine and oak-pine-hickory respectively. Differences between the two forest types according to Plummer include higher frequencies of chestnut (3-7 times greater), maples, chestnut oak, red oak, white oak and spanish oak in the Blue Ridge and the higher frequency of dogwood, post and black jack oaks in the Valley and Ridge Province.

Climate throughout the area is relatively uniform.<sup>4</sup> Precipitation amounts to between 50 and 65 in. per year. Most of this (42%) falls in the period December-March as rain produced by the interaction of moist warm southern air masses and cold northern air masses. Rainfall at this

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<sup>3</sup>On physiographic grounds, Plummer's Blue Ridge forest is probably a closer approximation to aboriginal conditions east of the escarpment at Carters than is his Piedmont forest.

<sup>4</sup>Information on climate is derived from the published soil surveys for Gordon County (Bramlett 1965) and Cherokee, Gilmer, and Pickens Counties (Glenn et al. 1973) and from the unpublished Soils Notebook for Murray, Whitfield and Catoosa Counties.

time covers large areas and may last for several hours at a time. Only slightly less rain falls in the summer, but it occurs normally in the form of localized, sometimes intense showers. Rainfall at Ramhurst, Georgia, located 7 miles north of Carters Dam immediately east of the fault escarpment, has averaged 54 in. over the past 23 years and was distributed as follows:

December-February	15.77 in.
March-May	13.80 in.
June-August	15.64 in.
September-November	9.34 in.

Average maximum and minimum temperatures for the counties lying on each side of the Great Smokey Fault are shown in Table 1. The average

Table 1

Average Maximum and Minimum Temperatures for Gordon (west), Cherokee, Pickens and Gilmer (east) Counties

	Gordon County	Cherokee, Pickens and Gilmer Counties
Annual Maximum	70.6°	72.7°
Annual Minimum	48.5°	46.6°
July Maximum	87.5°	89.7°
January Minimum	32.3°	30.3°

number of frost free days for both areas is reported to be 215. In northern Gilmer County, however, the length of this period reportedly drops to 180 days. At Ramhurst, the July average maximum temperature is 76.6°; the January average minimum, 43.4°; and the average number of frost free days is 192.



Larson (1971) has noted the tendency for large Mississippi period sites in the southeast to be located on the boundaries of two or more "natural areas" which are formed by the correspondance of physiographic provinces, forest regions and climatic areas. Such a site location, Larson argues, allowed inhabitants easy access to the resources of the different ecological zones. The Etowah site, which lies at the boundary between the Piedmont and Valley and Ridge Provinces near Cartersville, Georgia, is said to be typical of this kind of situation. The advantages of such a location for the Etowah inhabitants with respect to resource exploitation are described by Larson (1971:24-25) as follows:

The contrasts in the two environments, to which the Etowah site gave access, seem rather clear. The Ridge and Valley Province with its low gradient relative to the Piedmont received rich alluvial soils dumped onto the floodplain of the Etowah River with every flood. Agriculture benefited not only from the periodic soil removal, but also from the longer growing season. Cultivation, if carried on at all in much of the Piedmont, certainly never reached the productive levels possible in the Ridge and Valley Province. This latter province was also an important source of chert, a material that was not present in the Piedmont. The presence of shoals just below the Etowah water gap provided another resource possibility for any group desiring to settle at the Etowah site. The abundant supply of fish and mussels characteristic of rivers immediately below shoals certainly had subsistence value.

On the other hand, Piedmont resources with potential value to the Indians included minerals and rocks that were extensively used at Etowah which seems very likely to have been distributed throughout the southeast, also. These resources include graphite, galena, "greenstone" and ochre. The rocks of the Piedmont include those normally used in the manufacture of ground stone tools. This contrasted with the chipped stone tools that could have been produced from the Ridge and Valley rocks.

While agriculture was impractical in much of the Piedmont, the forest was undoubtedly an important source of plant food. If



Kuchler has correctly delineated the extent of the Appalachian Oak Forest, the strategic location of the Etowah site provided ready access to this potentially important area of resources. The identification of the white oak as a dominant species suggests that an important resource, sweet acorns, probably occurred in abundance. Such a forest would also have been the prime area for hunting deer and turkey in the fall.

The location of the Little Egypt site with respect to ecological zones is almost identical to the situation at Etowah. The Great Smokey Fault escarpment lies less than 1 mile east of the site. At this point, hills rise abruptly 600-800 ft. above the valley floor. A large expanse of fertile alluvial soils has accumulated within the basin and no doubt was periodically replenished during the period of site occupancy. The growing season in the valley probably exceeds that in the adjacent mountains by 2 weeks or more. Extensive shoals existed in the Coosawattee River in the present location of the main dam. The mountains to the east, with their relatively low agricultural potential, would not have supported a very large human population in aboriginal times. Some of this area no doubt served as hunting territory for the inhabitants of the Little Egypt site.

#### Site Description

As presently known, the Little Egypt site covers an area measuring approximately 600 ft. east/west and 500 ft. north/south (Fig. 3). The Coosawattee River bounds the site on the north, while Talking Rock Creek bounds it on the northeast. A small creek entering Talking Rock Creek approximately 400 ft. above its mouth lies on the southeast side of the known site. This creek originates in the hills that form the southern

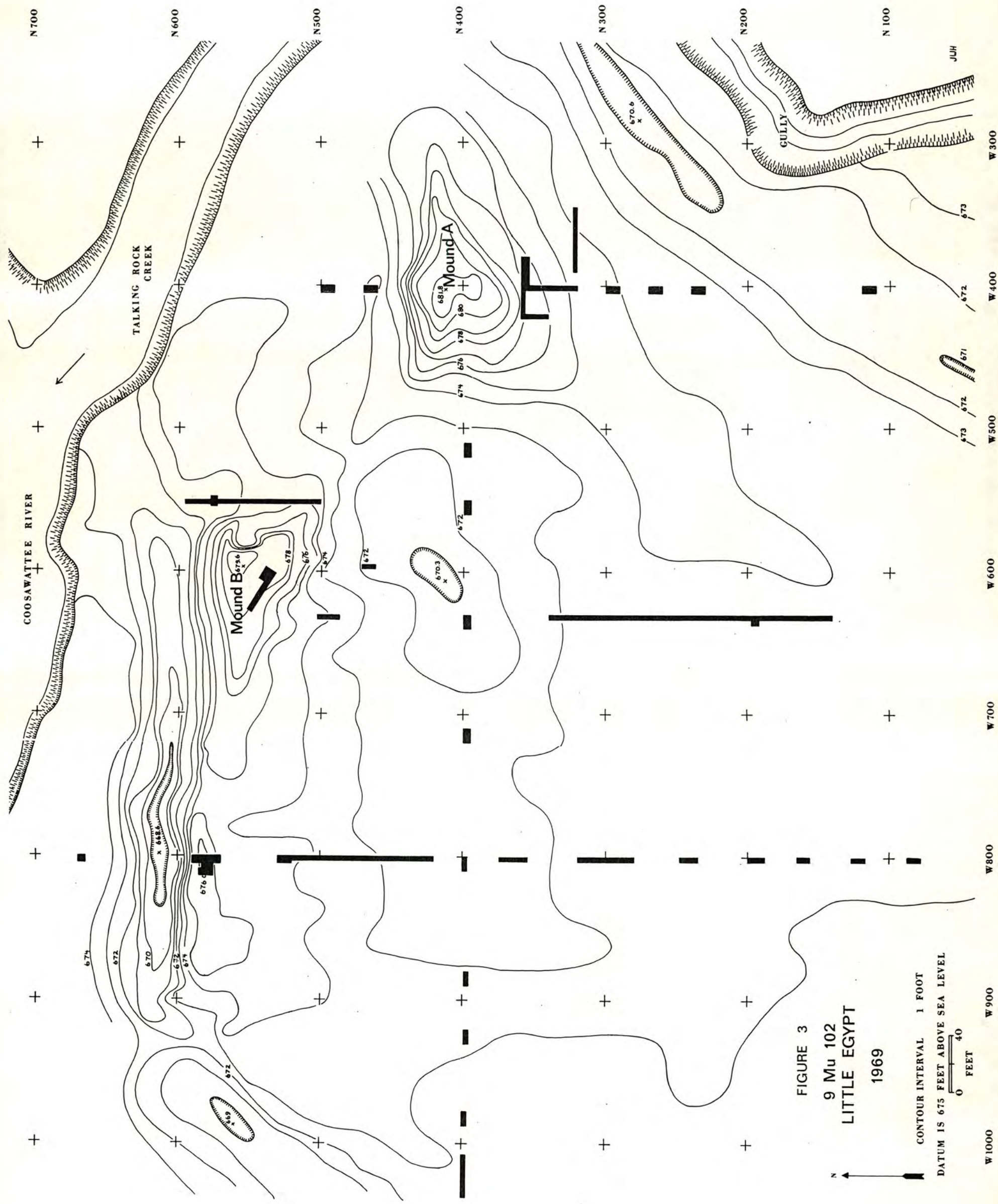


boundary of the basin. A vast expanse of level floodplain stretches beyond the site to the south and west. Distance from the site to hills on the south side of the basin is 600 ft. (Plate I,a), while to the west, hills lie approximately 1500 ft. away (Plate I,b).

Large portions of the site have been cultivated for a considerable period of time. In 1968, the last year crops were raised, all of the site was in cultivation except for the western border of the small creek, most of Mounds A and B, the floodplain north of both mounds and the N600 line, and a fence row running in a southwesterly direction from the southwest corner of Mound A to the hills on the south side of the basin. These areas had a tree and brush vegetation cover.

The major topographic features visible on the site today include two man-made earth mounds and several natural rises and depressions. Of the former, Mound A is the largest, measuring approximately 200 ft. east/west, 130 ft. north/south and rising 9 ft. above the surrounding floodplain (Plate II,a). The aboriginal configuration of the mound is not identifiable from its present contours. The gradual slope of mound surface on the south and east sides is the result of many years of cultivation and erosion; there being stratigraphic evidence that the summit elevation of the mound between N360 and N330 has been greatly reduced by these agencies. On the north side, mound slope is quite steep. Excavation data discussed in Chapter 2 indicates that this may be the result of flood water erosion. Several small pot hunters' pits dotted the summit of the







mound in 1969. Most appeared to have been dug within the preceding 5 years. An extensive but shallow depression on the western slope of the mound (Fig. 3) is probably the result of a much older and larger excavation.

Mound B measures approximately 130 ft. east/west, 80 ft. north/south and 6 ft. high (Plate II,b). Like Mound A, its original configuration seems to have been completely obliterated by erosion. The southern edge of the mound has been cultivated, a fact that explains in part at least the low gradient of mound slope in this area. The north and east edges of the mound have a rather steep slope. Excavations east of the mound indicate that flood water erosion may have eaten into the mound there. The north side of the mound has apparently been sculptured by the same erosion forces which created the east/west ditch lying immediately north of the mound. Trees 30-40 years old covered the western flank of the mound in 1969. Whether this part of the mound was ever cultivated is not known. The gentle gradient of mound slope here would seem to indicate that it has been.

Several recent pot hunters' pits were present on Mound B. One of the larger of these, on the eastern edge of the mound, is visible in the site contour map (Fig. 3). A large, but shallow depression in the south central summit area appears to be a much older excavation.

Mound B merges almost imperceptibly into a low (maximum elevation 676 ft.) east/west oriented ridge that extends westward to W900. This ridge rises gradually from the level floodplain lying to the south. On its

north side, the ridge slopes down steeply into a gully-like depression that lies parallel to it. Excavation during the 1969 field season indicates that aboriginal ground level in the ridge is several feet above what it is over most of the remainder of the site. This difference in elevation is due in part to greater soil build-up during and prior to aboriginal occupation and in part to less erosion subsequent to occupation.

The most prominent erosional feature on the site is the east/west oriented gully located just north of Mound B at N600. It begins at the junction of the two streams as a broad shallow depression and runs south westward to the northern edge of Mound B where it turns west and becomes deeper (6 ft.) and narrower. In this form, it extends westward to the vicinity of N600 W930. At this point it turns again and heads in a southwesterly direction for approximately 400 ft. before shallowing out. This feature is probably a floodwater channel excavated by overflow from the two streams. Stratigraphic evidence described in Chapter 2 indicates that the channel was cut subsequent to aboriginal site occupation.

Another depression, broader but shallower (3 ft. deep) than the previously described feature, begins on the southwest bank of Talking Rock Creek at W300, swings around the east side of Mound A, and passes in a southwesterly direction to the south of the mound. This depression shallows out approximately 500 ft. south of Mound A. It is also probably a floodwater channel.

A third depression, shallower and considerably broader than the



others, extends from just north of Mound A to a point approximately 500 ft. west of that mound. At its broadest point, the depression is approximately 150 ft. wide (extending from N350 to N500) and 2 ft. deep. This feature and its interpretation are discussed in Chapter 2. It is probably also a floodwater channel.

The Little Egypt site has been affected in several other less obvious ways by erosion and alluviation. To begin with, the entire site, with the exception of mound summits and the floodwater channels, has been covered with a 1-2 ft. thick mantle of recently deposited sand/sandy loam soil. As a result, the site today is almost totally devoid of surface artifacts. As noted elsewhere in this chapter and in Chapter 2, deposition of this soil seems to have occurred since European settlement in the 1830's and possibly only in the last 40 years. The evidence for this conclusion is the presence of an old plowzone underlying the sandy stratum and Warren K. Moorehead's (1932:151, 155) observation that in 1925 cultural material was scattered over a 30-40 acre area of the site.

The floodplain north of Mound A and east of Mound B has been subjected to erosion to the extent that nearly all cultural deposits there have been destroyed. This situation, described in greater detail in Chapter 2, seems to have come about only in the last 40 years, since Moorehead (ibid.) had great success excavating there in 1925.

The floodplain between the Coosawattee River and the east/west oriented depression at N600 was in woods in 1969. A single test excavation,

described in Chapter 2, indicates that all soils within 6 ft. of ground surface here are sterile sands and probably of recent origin.

As should be obvious to the reader at this point, present day site topography has little relationship to aboriginal site configuration and topography. Erosion, which is apparently post-European in age and probably largely the result of land clearing in the mountains to the east, has partially or totally destroyed occupation deposits in many areas of the site. The recently deposited sandy stratum, on the other hand, has masked this damage to a great extent and deeply buried all cultural deposits with the exceptions of the mounds. Obviously these conditions have hampered site investigation. Without subsurface testing, it is not possible to know the location and nature of occupation deposits. Excavation itself is hampered by the necessity to remove considerable overburden. It was only as fieldwork progressed during the 1969 season that these conditions became known. Obviously all subsequent research at the site had to take them into account.

#### Historical Background

Dr. Carole E. Hill has summarized the ethnohistorical information relating to the Carters area in an unpublished paper written in 1968. The following discussion of the historic period occupants of the area is drawn largely from this source.

The early historical documents have little to say concerning the



Carters area until the latter half of the 18th century, when a Cherokee community, Coosawattee Town, is established there. No early 18th century maps<sup>5</sup> show Indian communities in this location. In fact, without exception, the entire northwest corner of Georgia is depicted as an unoccupied zone lying between Cherokee towns to the north and northeast and Upper Creek or Coosa towns to the west and southwest. Swanton's own southeastern tribal map (1922: Plate 1), with one exception, shows no Upper Creek towns closer than the Alabama border. The exception is a very tenuous placement of a Eufala town on the Etowah River near Cartersville.

Historical tradition indicates that northwest Georgia and the Carters area specifically were originally claimed and inhabited by Muskogee speaking Upper Creeks. According to Mooney (1900:14) the Creeks made this claim themselves, but were being gradually displaced from north Georgia during the 18th century by Cherokee. The Cherokee name, Coosawattee (Kusawati-yi), applied to both the river and their town at Carters and meaning "Old Creek Place", would seem to corroborate this claim.

The earliest historical reference to the Carters area found by Dr. Hill is in Colonel George Chicken's journal that describes his journey to the Cherokee near Murphy, North Carolina, in 1715. Colonel Chicken was told by these people that Coosawattee Town had been a Cherokee

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<sup>5</sup>The Popple map of 1733, the Mitchell map of 1755 and a 1715 map published as Plate 3 in Swanton (1922).

settlement for only a few years and that prior to that it was a Coosa town. We next hear of Coosawattee in connection with the utopian dreams of Christian Priber who resided with the Cherokee in the third and fourth decades of the 18th century. Priber planned to establish a Cherokee capitol at Coosawattee, a location where "in ancient times a town had stood belonging to the Cherokee" (Crane 1919:58-59). Twenty years later in 1759, an Upper Creek headman known as the Mortar had settled at Coosawattee as part of a French instigated plan to gain influence among the Cherokee. Coosawattee was apparently an abandoned Cherokee town at that time.

Assuming that there was only one Coosawattee Town and that it was always located at Carters, the foregoing information indicates that the Carters area was occupied alternatively by Cherokee and Upper Creek several times during the first half of the 18th century. It is probable that permanent and intensive Cherokee settlement of northwest Georgia dates from at least as early as the third quarter of the 18th century. Military records indicate that several Cherokee towns were located there in the 1780's. From this time on, historical references to the Cherokee town of Coosawattee are abundant.

A United States military campaign against the Cherokee towns in northwest Georgia was settled in 1788 by a treaty signed at Coosawattee Town. The Federal road from Augusta to Nashville, extending through northwest Georgia, was in operation in 1813, and contemporary maps



show Coosawattee Town situated on both sides of the Coosawattee River at the road crossing. Portions of this road can be seen today running along the base of the mountains at the eastern edge of the basin.

In 1820, Coosawattee was one of eight districts into which the Cherokee nation was divided. An 1824 Cherokee census lists the economic resources of the district as including saw mills, gist mills, black smiths, cotton gins and cattle. Baptist and Methodist missions were founded at Coosawattee Town in the third decade of the century, and in 1835 the first white settlement was established in the area by two traders.

At removal, according to local traditions, Farish Carter purchased the bottom land within the basin from its Indian occupants. Decendants of Farish Carter still live in the area. The Little Egypt site belonged to one of these, Carter Mabin, until acquired by the Corps of Engineers in 1969.

Archaeological investigation in the Carters area began in 1832 prior to Cherokee removal. In that year, a Mr. Robert Gilbert of Bibb County, Georgia, obtained two silver crosses from a mound at Carters. These artifacts and their historical significance are discussed by A. R. Kelly in an addendum to his report on excavations in Sixtoe Field submitted to the National Park Service in 1964. According to information presented there, the crosses probably date to the 18th or early 19th century and may have been manufactured by an Indian silversmith.

The first major archaeological investigation in the Carters area was

conducted by Warren K. Moorehead in 1925 at the close of his Etowah excavations. The published description of this work (Moorehead 1932:150-155) is reproduced as Appendix A of the present report. Moorehead first looked at a mound that is probably to be identified as the Sixtoe Field Mound (9 Mu 100), but because it "did not appear very favorable" he turned his attention to Little Egypt. The description of the Little Egypt site that Moorehead published does not compare very well with the site as it presently exists.

Varying from 150 to 200 yards south from the river is a long ridge or embankment. This elevation has been built along the edge of a terrace, flanking the river. Between the embankment and the river itself lies the village site. At three points in the ridge are mounds, two of which are rather small and the larger one, viewed from the bottom lands, seems about 14 feet in height, whereas from the terrace it is not more than 7 or 8 feet in altitude. Our test pits indicated that a space about 400 by 150 feet, just opposite the larger mound and toward the river was the favorite place of residence. That is, while there is considerable debris scattered through 30 or 40 acres and probably cabins were located elsewhere, yet this small space was the central portion of the settlement.

There is a diversity of opinion among local people with reference to the ridge, old residents claiming that it was built by slaves, under the direction of the original Carter, as a levee to prevent damage from high water. We examined it carefully and came to the conclusion that since there are several gaps in the so-called levee that most of the activity here in evidence, was due to labor of Indians. Moreover, the land to the South, back from the river, is much higher and it would be natural for landowners to construct a levee near the stream and thus protect their bottom lands. The mounds themselves unquestionably are artificial. Undoubtedly there was some work done by Whites in levee construction. (Moorehead 1932:150)



The embankment referred to is probably to be equated with the line of high ground extending from east of Mound A (in the vicinity of N400 W300) westward along the N600 line to W800. Moorehead refers to gaps in this embankment. Such a gap exists today between Mounds A and B. According to Moorehead, the embankment was built along the edge of a terrace; land north of the embankment being lower in elevation than land to the south. Today ground surface on both sides of the mounds and the line of high ground is approximately of equal elevation. The east/west oriented depression at N600 certainly accentuates the height of ground surface immediately to the south. Mr. John Padget, a local resident who claims to have served as waterboy for Moorehead's crew, has told the author, however, that the gully did not exist in 1925. Moorehead also reports that cultural debris was scattered over an area of 30 to 40 acres and that the most intensive occupation occurred north of Mound A. Approximately 20 burials were excavated in the latter area. No cultural debris is visible on the site surface today. Rather, the whole site area is covered by over 1 ft. of sterile sandy soil. Excavation in 1969, furthermore, indicates that the area north of Mound A has been heavily disturbed by erosion; one to three feet of natural and cultural deposits having been removed.

The above described differences can be accounted for as follows:

1. The site had been subjected to extensive surface erosion as a result of stream overflow by the time Moorehead arrived in 1925. Occupation deposits had been exposed over most of the site resulting in good

surface artifact collecting conditions (see Appendix A, final paragraph).

2. Erosion, furthermore, had been most severe in the area between the mounds and the river. As a result, ground surface there was lower than farther south -- producing the impression of a terrace -- and burials were exposed or lay just below the surface -- a condition that might have prompted Moorehead to identify the area as "the central portion of the settlement."

3. Since 1925, the floodplain in the vicinity of the site has been aggrading. As a result, occupation deposits exposed in 1925 are now covered by 1-2 ft. of sterile sandy soil.

4. Erosion since 1925 has cut the several depressions described in the preceding section including the east/west oriented gully at N600.

Another discrepancy between Moorehead's site description and present day site configuration concerns the number of mounds present. Moorehead mentions three mounds being located on the embankment. Only two can be seen today. It is possible that the slight rise in ground surface at N580 W800 (Fig. 3) is Moorehead's third "mound". Excavations described in Chapter 2 yielded no evidence of a mound in this location.

On the basis of size, Mound A can be equated with the "large mound" in which Moorehead excavated a 30 x 40 ft. square pit. There is surface evidence for a large excavation on the west slope of the mound that may be the pit in question. John Padget, however, identified Mound B as the location of Moorehead's excavation. There is evidence of a large



excavation in this mound also, and limited testing in 1969 indicated that it could be Moorehead's pit. With the information presently available, it is not possible to identify with certainty which of the two mounds Moorehead excavated in.

University of Georgia investigations at Carters began in 1962 and continued almost without interruption until 1972. Most of this work was carried out under contract with the National Park Service. During this period, Dr. A. R. Kelly and his crews surveyed the floodpool areas above and below the main dam. Few sites were found in the narrow valley of the Coosawattee River above the main dam, and no major excavations were conducted there. In the basin below the main dam there exist three mound sites and an unknown number of buried occupation sites. Kelly (1965) excavated extensively in the Sixtoe Field (9 Mu 100, Xu-A—Xu-K) lying northeast of the Coosawattee River over a four year period (1962-1965). He spent (Kelly 1972) six field seasons during the period, 1965-1972, excavating the Bell Field Mound (9 Mu 101). The author (Hally 1970) spent the 1968 field season investigating a Woodstock and Lamar habitation site (9 Mu 103) located in the southwest corner of the basin, and has devoted four seasons (1969-72) to the investigation of the Little Egypt site.

Site 9 Mu 104 is a small Swift Creek site destroyed by construction activity related to straightening of the Coosawattee River channel in 1972.

Several surface collections were obtained from this site in 1972 by the field crews working at Bell Field Mound and Little Egypt.



## CHAPTER 2

### SITE INVESTIGATION

#### Nature of Investigation

Field investigations at Little Egypt were commenced on June 15, 1969 and terminated 10 weeks later on August 22. The entire excavation was directed by the author with the assistance of Mr. Donald Smith of the Laboratory of Archaeology, University of Georgia. A University of Georgia summer school course in archaeological field and laboratory methods was offered by the author in conjunction with site investigations, and the 10 enrolled students comprised the labor force for the project.

A vertical datum point was established at the northwest corner of Mound A with the assistance of a Corps of Engineers surveying crew. Elevation of this datum was 675.01 ft. above mean sea level. All site elevations were taken from this point.

A horizontal grid system, oriented to the cardinal directions, was established with the point of intersection of the grid axes lying several hundred feet southeast of Mound A. The entire site, as known in 1969, lies within the northwest quadrant of this grid. All excavation units have been identified by their northeast corner grid coordinates.

Field investigations during the 1969 season were almost entirely

exploratory in nature and were intended primarily to lay the basis for additional seasons of research at the site. The major research goals for this first season were:

1. Identification of components present on the site.
2. Identification of the component responsible for construction of Mounds A and B. This component, presumably constituting the major occupation of the site, would be the focus of investigations in future field seasons.
3. Investigation of the nature and spatial extent of site utilization during each recognized occupation.
4. Creation of a contour map of the site (Fig. 3).
5. Determination of the extent of damage suffered by Mounds A and B as a result of previous excavations.

In conformity with these goals, the 1969 season was limited almost entirely to test excavations. Over 500 ft. of 3 ft. wide trench and fourteen 5 x 10 ft. squares were excavated. The majority of these excavations comprised four traverses of the site: three north/south lines at W400, W630 and W800; and one east/west line at N400. Excavations were begun on the W400 line where several 5 x 10 ft. squares were excavated in order to investigate stratified deposits thought to exist on the north and south sides of the mound. These squares were excavated entirely by hand with a combination of natural and arbitrary levels.

The remaining traverses were composed primarily of 3 ft. wide trenches



excavated with a combination of power equipment and manual labor. Overburden, averaging 1.5 ft. in thickness, was removed with a backhoe while the underlying midden stratum was excavated by hand. Excavations along the N400 line were carried completely to sterile subsoil. In the W630 and W800 trenches, the midden stratum was completely removed to sterile subsoil except where evidence of structures was encountered. In the latter situations, excavation of the midden stratum was carried only far enough to verify the existence of a structure; the intention being to leave structures completely intact for investigation in future field seasons.

The main purpose of the site traverses was to investigate the spatial distribution of site components and of habitation areas. Three additional kinds of investigations were undertaken during the field season. The southern flank of Mound A was investigated by a series of three adjoining trenches (N360 W400, N360 W420 and N360 W380). The stratigraphy of Mound B and the nature of previous excavations in the mound were investigated by a small trench located at N536 W601. Finally, one segment of the W800 traverse was expanded to facilitate the removal of a complicated series of burials encountered in the original square (N580 W800).

In all units, excavation was carried out in a combination of natural and arbitrary levels. Culture bearing strata were excavated by troweling with artifacts encountered in the process being retrieved by hand. The soil content of some kinds of features -- hearths, pits, and corncob concentrations -- was processed by flotation. Ideally all culture bearing

deposits should have been processed through a 1/4 in. screen. Had this been done, however, the area extent of investigations would have had to be drastically curtailed. Given the research goals for the field season, it was considered necessary to sacrifice rigor of artifact retrieval in favor of extensive site testing.

According to the Corps of Engineers' schedule, work on the Carters Dam project was to be completed in late 1972. Accordingly the author could anticipate a maximum of three additional years for site investigation. Assuming that funding would be available, the author hoped to conduct a large scale research project at the Little Egypt site which would focus on the major site occupation. It seemed likely that Mounds A and B would be part of a larger settlement involving village area and perhaps an open plaza. If such a situation was found to exist at the site as a result of 1969 excavations, future field seasons would be devoted to the investigation of that settlement. Ultimate research goals would include:

1. Delineation of settlement boundaries.
2. Delineation of settlement plan, in particular the spatial configuration of habitation and ceremonial areas.
3. Partial investigation of Mounds A and B.
4. Intensive investigation of habitation areas with the aim of defining activity areas and variability in domestic structures.

#### Natural and Cultural Stratigraphy of Excavation Units

The natural and cultural stratigraphy of each square and trench



excavated in 1969 are described in this section. Four aboriginal occupations are recognizable in the pottery collections obtained in the 1969 excavations. These four occupations or components are affiliated with the Woodland period and the Woodstock, Little Egypt and Barnett phases. The latter two comprise the major site components and are of Lamar cultural affiliation.

All four components and their ceramic assemblages are described in Chapter 5. Pottery counts for each excavation unit are presented in this section, however, since they form the basis for the interpretation of cultural stratigraphy within excavation units. Lithic, bone and shell artifacts and faunal remains from each excavation unit are tabulated in Chapters 7-9.

Square N120 W400 (5 x 10 ft.)

This square is located in the broad, northeast/southwest oriented depression that flanks Mound A on its southeast side. Ground surface at the northeast corner of the square is 671.2 ft., approximately the elevation at which sterile, preoccupation soil occurs in most other locations on the site. The sterile, preoccupation deposit here is a yellow loam occurring at 668.8 ft. (Fig.4). It is overlain by three strata, the upper two of which contain lenses of water sorted sand. Cultural material was thinly scattered throughout all three strata. No man-made features were detected, and there was no evidence that any of the three strata were the result of occupation activity.

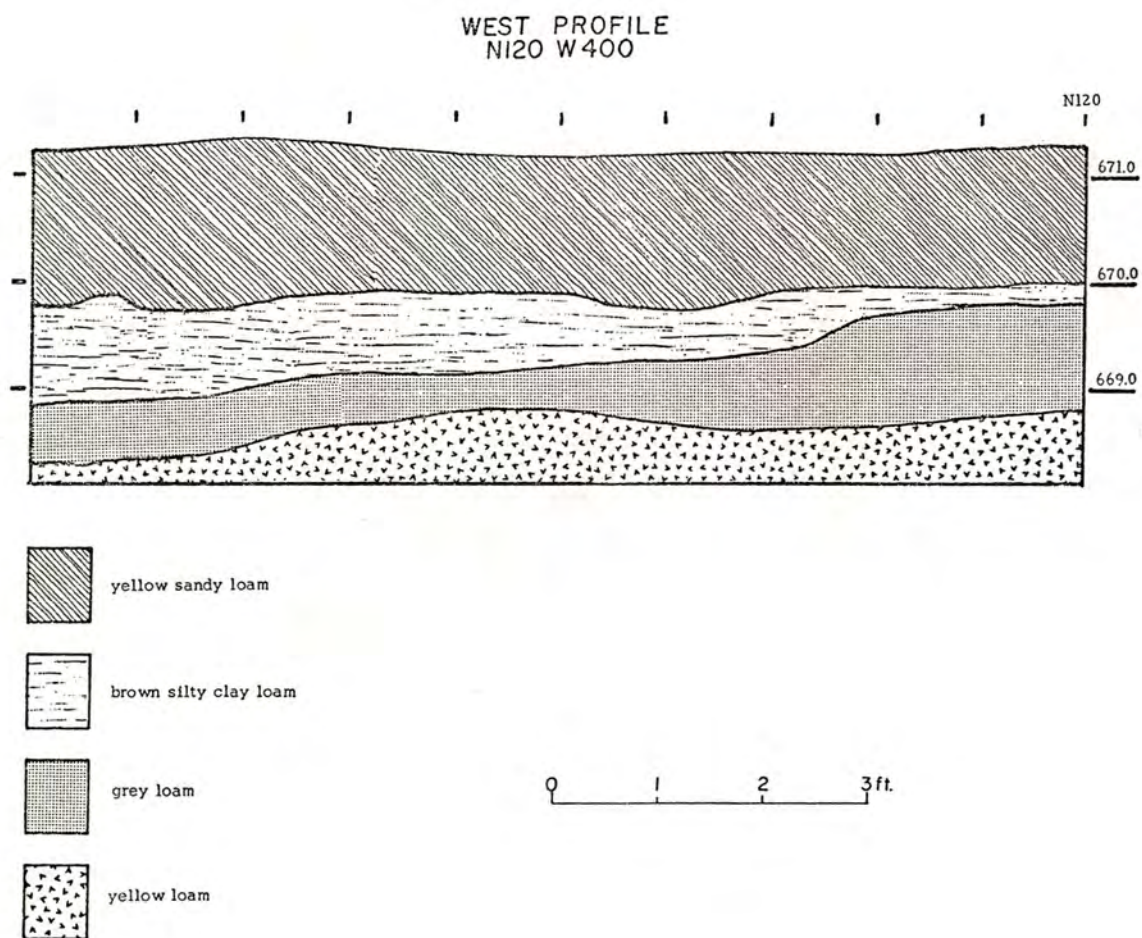


Figure 4



Excavation was in two arbitrary levels: Level 1, 671.0-669.0 ft.; Level 2, 669.0-668.5 ft. Recovered artifacts are listed in Table 2. Pottery of both major components is present, although Barnett phase sherds predominate.

It is probable that the depression in which this square is located is the result of floodwater scouring subsequent to site occupation (see discussion of Square N323 W390-345). Cultural deposits and features which might have existed in the area would have been destroyed by this activity. The three artifact-bearing strata, according to this interpretation, are the result of recent floodwater deposition.

Square N240 W400 (5 x 10 ft.)

Sterile, preoccupation soil, a brown silty clay loam stratum, occurs at approximately 671.0 and is overlain by two culture bearing loam strata (Fig. 5). The final deposit occurring in the square, a tan sandy loam, is devoid of artifacts and features and undoubtedly represents 19th and 20th century flood deposition. The underlying dark gray loam contained fairly abundant artifacts. No habitation features were present in the stratum, but some of the postholes and wall trenches seen in profiles and horizontal plans may have originated from it.

Within the light brown loam stratum, a large circular concentration of daub, charred wood and cane and mussel shell (Feature 9) occurred in the northern end of the square at 671.5. During excavation, this feature had the appearance of a pit approximately 3.5 ft. in diameter. Profiles of the

Table 2

## Ceramic Artifacts from Square N120 W400

	Level 1 (671.0-669.0 ft.)	Level 2 (669.0-668.5 ft.)
Lamar Incised	5	8
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee	2	3
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	29	27
pinched rim	1	1
lug	1	
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta	11	18
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters	4	1
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	5	5
plain rim		1
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger		4
Dallas Incised	1	
Dallas Plain	3	5
plain rim		1
Mulberry Creek Plain		1
unidentified cord-marked	1	
unidentified	2	



WEST PROFILE  
N240 W400

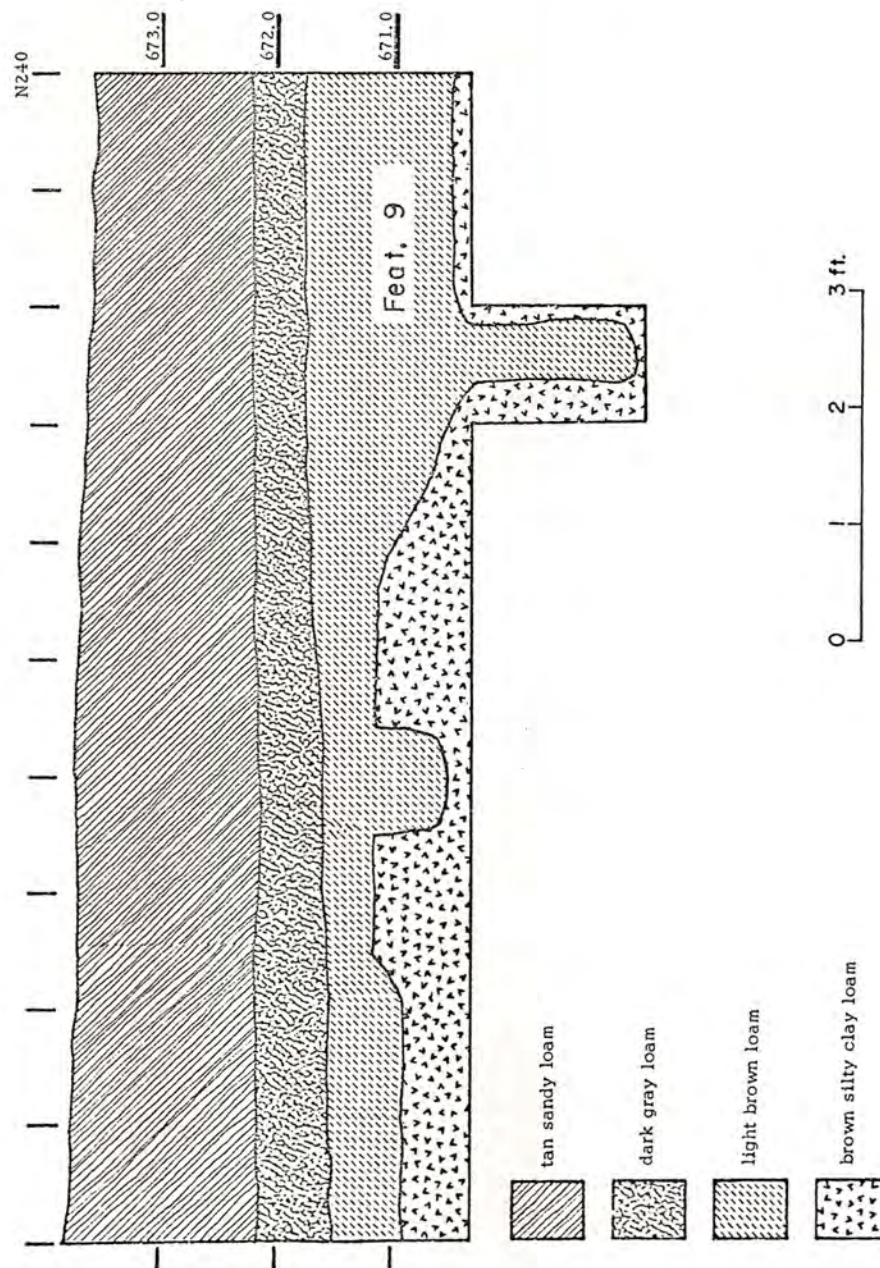


Figure 5

excavated square, however, show it to be a deposit within a larger depression which covers the northern third of the square and extends beyond the square an undetermined distance. A smaller and less distinct area of fired soil occurs at approximately the same elevation at the southern end of the square and is also situated in a shallow depression.

Several postholes and two parallel wall trenches penetrate subsoil from the overlying midden strata. The latter are approximately one foot wide and at least .6 ft. deep. They run from the south profile to approximately the center of the square where they terminate or are obscured by the Feature 9 depression. These trenches probably belong to a wall-trench building with two construction stages. Their historical relationship to the two burned areas and associated depressions is unknown.

The square was excavated in five arbitrary levels: Level 1, 673.4-672.0 ft.; Level 2, 672.0-671.8 ft.; Level 3, 671.8-671.5 ft.; Level 4, 671.5-671.0 ft.; Level 5, 671.0-670.4 ft. Contents of Feature 9 and the wall trenches were bagged separately. Pottery counts are presented in Table 3. They indicate that both early and late Lamar components were responsible for the accumulation of the dark gray loam stratum. The light brown loam, Feature 9, and the wall trenches, however, seem to date to the Little Egypt component. Ten Woodstock sherds were found in the square. Woodstock phase is known to have wall-trench structures (Caldwell 1953). The possibility that the wall trenches in this instance



## Ceramic Artifacts from Square N240 W400

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Feat. 9 & wall trenches
Lamar Incised	2	9				
Lamar Complicated Stamped						
var. Coosawattee	2	13				
Corncob Marked	1	23				
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	5	77	26			1
pinched rim	1	1				
notched rim		1				
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta	2	20	13		2	
Lamar Complicated Stamped,						
var. Carters		16	17	12	6	8
McKee Island Cordmarked		1	6	2	6	
McKee Island Brushed			1			
Rudder Comb Incised				1	2	
Dallas Negative Painted				1		
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	1	9	11	3	4	1
plain rim		1		1	1	
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger	1	14	47	8	4	5
Dallas Incised			1			
Dallas Plain	3	39	100	16	12	4
plain rim	1		1	3		
rim node					1	
handle		1				
lug				1	1	
frog effigy				1		
Salt pans					1	
Dallas Filleted		1	2			
Woodstock Complicated Stamped		3	5		2	
Mulberry Creek Plain						1
Cartersville Simple Stamped						2
unidentified cord-marked		2				
unidentified		4				

date to a Woodstock occupation cannot be discounted.

Square N270 W400 (5 x 10 ft.)

Approximately one foot of yellow sandy loam, deposited during the 19th and 20th centuries, overlies aboriginal cultural deposits (Fig. 6). Sterile subsoil, a brown clay loam, occurs at 671.8 ft. Within the one foot of cultural deposits, occur features representing three periods of human activity.

Two burial pits, Burials 1 and 2, and several postholes extending down from the base of the yellow sandy loam stratum, represent the latest period of activity (Figs. 6 and 7). These features apparently originated from an occupation level that has been destroyed by erosion or plowing. Burial 1, consisting of a tightly flexed male (age 18-31) and portions of a probable adult female, occurred in what appeared to be a single pit (Feature 3). The bottom of this pit, at 672.2 ft., is less than .5 ft. below the recent sandy loam stratum. It is probable that the partial skeleton was disturbed, in fact almost totally destroyed, by erosion or plowing. Whether the two burials actually occurred in a single pit or in separate overlapping pits cannot be determined. Burial 2, consisting of the disarticulated remains of a sub-adult (age 7-12), was placed in a large pit (Feature 4) that had apparently been excavated for purposes other than human internment. Fill, consisting of midden soil, charcoal, ash and daub, accumulated within the pit until it was half full before the burial was added.



WEST PROFILE  
N270 W400

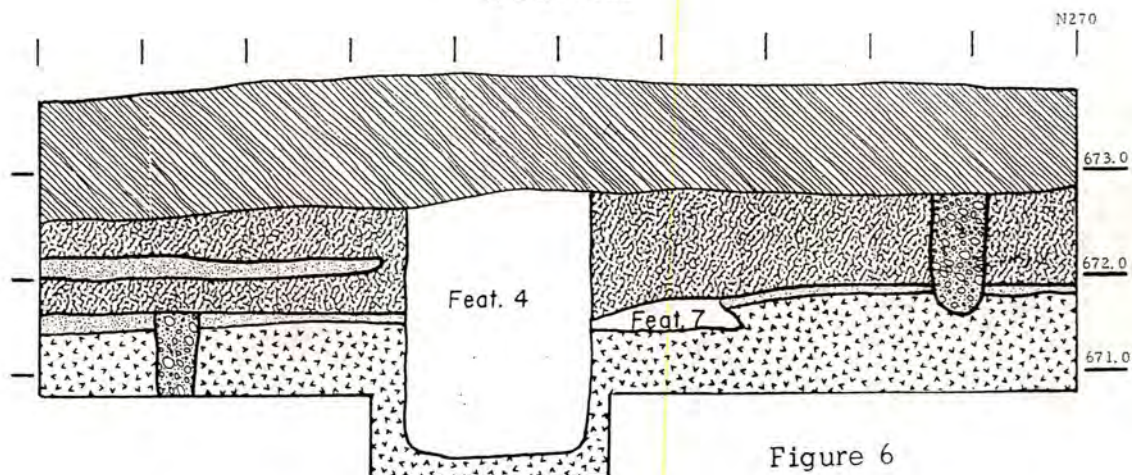
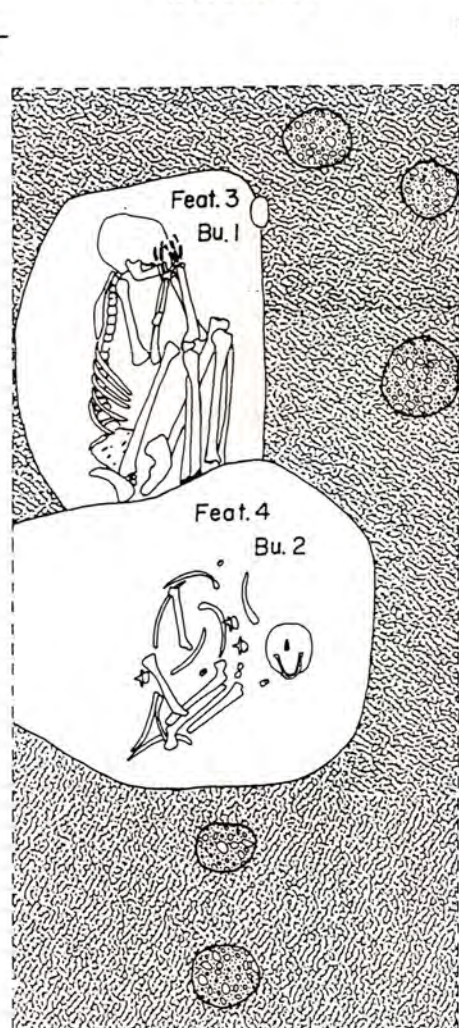
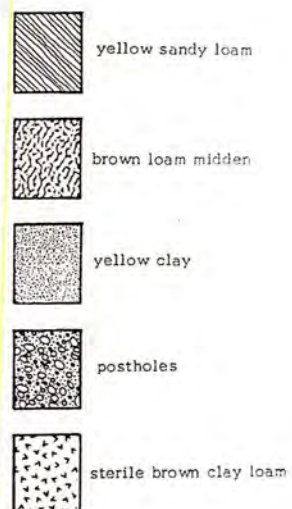


Figure 6

PLAN VIEW AT 672.4  
N270 W400



N270 W400



0 1 2 3 4 ft.

Figure 7



The second period of activity is represented by discontinuous lens of yellow clay at 672.3 ft. and postholes originating at that level. A circular deposit of charred wood, corn husks and cobs (Feat. 10) measuring .4 ft. in diameter occurred at 671.7 ft. in the northern part of the square. Such features usually occur .5-1.0 ft. below occupation surfaces with which they are associated. This feature, therefore, is probably associated with the occupation level at 672.3.

The earliest period of activity can be recognized immediately above sterile clay at a depth varying between 671.9 and 671.6 ft. It is represented by a thin layer of yellow clay occurring throughout the square, a hearth (Feat. 7) and several postholes (Fig. 6). The hearth, partially destroyed by Feat. 4, appears to have been a square basin of red fired clay measuring approximately two feet on a side and .7 ft. deep. It was partially filled with ash, calcined bone and small pieces of charcoal. The combination of features is suggestive of the prepared floor of a structure.

Square N270 W400 was excavated in seven levels: Level 1, 674.0-673.5 ft.; Level 2, 673.5-673.0 ft.; Level 3, 673.0-672.4 ft.; Level 4, 672.4-672.0 ft.; Level 5, 672.0-671.8 ft.; Level 6, 671.8-671.7 ft.; Level 7, 671.7-671.4 ft. The contents of Features 3, 4 and 7 were bagged separately. Ceramic counts for the square are presented in Table 4. Artifact collections from the two pits (Feats. 3 and 4) containing Burials 1 and 2 have both early and late Lamar pottery. Logically, these



Table 4

## Ceramic Artifacts from Square N270 W400

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Feat. 3	Feat. 4	Feat. 7
Lamar Incised	6		11	1	1			3	1	
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var.										
Coosawattee		1	8	4				1	2	
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	13	14	20	8	3			4		
plain rim		1								
pinched rim			1					1		
rim node			1		1					
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta	2	5	41	5	2			5	7	
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var.										
Carters	2	1	18	20	16			2	12	2
McKee Island Cord- marked			4	3		1	1	1	8	
Dallas Negative Painted				1						
Lamar Plain, var.										
Murray	2	6	11	8	13	2	5	4		1
plain rim	1	2	1	2						
pinched rim			3	1	1					
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger	2	4	24	18	1			3	1	
Dallas Incised		1	8	3	2			1	4	
Dallas Plain	11	22	167	108	52	4	9	35	121	1
plain rims		1	4		12	1			6	
rim node			1							
handle					1				1	
lug			1		3				2	
body node			1				1			
Dallas Filleted			2		2				1	
Woodstock Compli- cated Stamped				1						
Cartersville Check Stamped									1	
Cartersville Simple Stamped			1						1	
Cartersville Plain					1					
unidentified cordmarked				1	1		1			
unidentified						1			1	

pits and their included burials must date to the Barnett component. Level 3 includes material from the brown loam midden immediately above the occupation surface at 672.3. The pottery in this collection is about equally divided between the two Lamar components. Component affiliation for the occupation surface cannot be determined with certainty. Levels 4-6 are derived from the midden between the 672.3 floor and the 671.7 floor. These collections contain Little Egypt phase pottery almost exclusively. The lower occupation surface, therefore, probably dates to that component.

Square N300 W400 (5 x 10 ft.)

Sterile pre-occupation soil, a brown clay occurs at 672.5 ft. (Fig. 8). The stratigraphically latest deposit is a tan sandy loam which dates to the 19th and 20th centuries. Culture bearing strata vary in thickness between 1 and 1.4 ft. The upper surface of these deposits slopes downward from north to south and shows plow scars in the northern half of the square.

The latest intact cultural stratum, a brown sandy loam has been partially destroyed by plowing prior to the deposition of the recent sandy loam. Three circular concentrations of charred corncobs and cane (Feats. 1a, 1b, and 1c), measuring between .4 and .8 ft. in diameter, occurred in the northwest corner of the square at 673.4 ft. These along with several postholes visible in profiles and plan view at 673.5 ft. indicate that an occupation surface formerly existed above the present surface of the



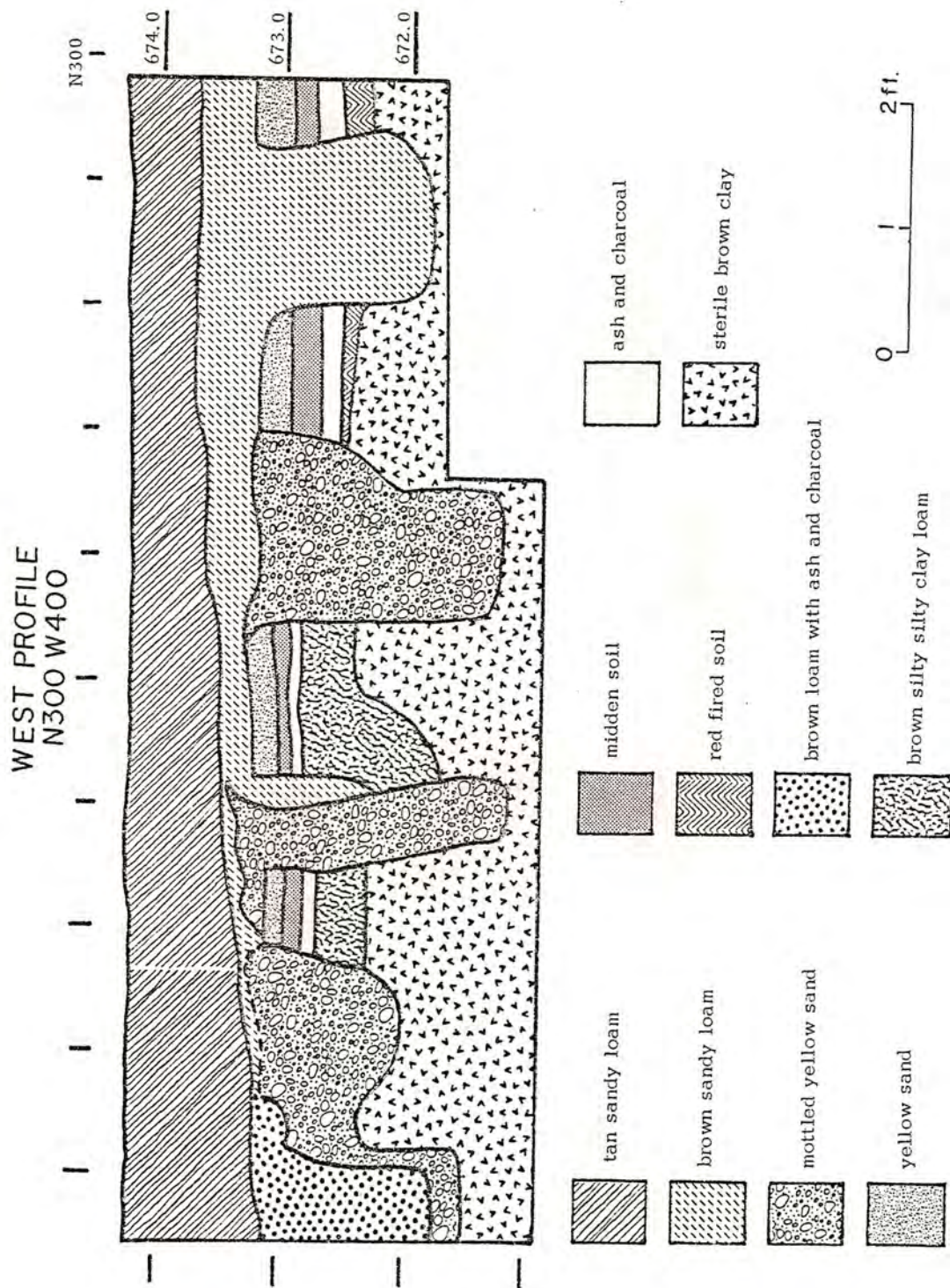


Figure 8

brown sandy loam midden.

Between 673.5 and 672.4 ft. a series of four strata occur that probably represent the remains of a structure. The uppermost of these is a yellow sand that occurs throughout the square. Immediately beneath it is a thin layer of midden soil. This is underlain in the northwest corner of the square by a layer of ash and charcoal (Feat. 5). Finally, throughout almost all of the square there occurs a layer of red fired soil which varies in depth between 673.0 and 672.5 ft. A detailed and reliable interpretation of these strata is not possible given the limited information available. The fired soil may represent a hearth area or the floor of a burned structure. The ash and charcoal layer, being restricted to the northwest corner of the square where the red fired soil is deepest, may represent accumulated debris from fires in a hearth at this location. The thin layer of midden soil may represent occupation debris that accumulated on a house floor. The yellow sand showed no evidence of having been lived upon and can therefore best be interpreted as either collapsed wall material or soil intentionally deposited to cover a burned and abandoned structure.

Beneath this series of strata, there is approximately .4 ft. of brown silty clay loam midden. While there were no occupation features visible within the stratum, some postholes present in sterile subsoil below appear to have originated from it and not the presumed structure above.

Square N300 W400 was excavated in 6 levels: Level 1, 674.0-673.5 ft.;



Level 2, 673.5-673.0 ft.; Level 3, 673.0-672.7 ft.; Level 4, 672.7-672.2ft; Level 5, 672.2-671.7 ft.; Level 6, 671.7-670.9 ft. Material from Feat. 5, the stratum with ash and charcoal, was bagged separately. Ceramic counts are presented in Table 5. As is obvious from this table, all pottery collections are mixed. Starting with Level 1, plowzone, and moving downward, however, the ratio of Barnett to Little Egypt phase pottery decreases. Levels 3 and 4, which include the presumed structure and the underlying brown silty clay loam midden, have Little Egypt pottery in the majority. It is possible, therefore, that these strata date to that period of site occupancy.

Trench N360 W400 (3 x 40 ft.)

This trench was excavated in order to investigate the southern flank of Mound A. It was assumed that one or more occupation surfaces sealed beneath mound fill would be encountered and that these would yield unmixed artifact collections. To some extent this expectation was fulfilled. It was also intended that the trench would yield some insight into the nature of mound construction. This expectation was also met to a limited degree.

The stratigraphic picture in the trench is rather complex. In order to simplify its description, several strata that can serve as land marks will be pointed out first. To begin with, the uppermost stratum is a light brown plowzone (Fig. 9). This soil is probably derived primarily from the mound

Table 5

## Ceramic Artifacts from Square N300 W400

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Feat. 5
Lamar Incised	21	14	8	5	2		
Lamar Comp. Stamped,							
var. Coosawattee	18	14					
unidentified fabric marked				1			
Lamar Plain, var Vann	150	34	24	32	4		1
plain rim	2	1					
pinched rim	6	2					
Lamar Coarse Plain,							
var. Cohutta	48	19	12	7			
Lamar Comp. Stamped,							
var. Carters	12	15	39	24	5	1	
McKee Island Cordmarked	2	11	18	32	7		
Rudder Comb Incised			1				1
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	20	46	28	30	6		1
plain rim		2		2			
pinched rim		4		2			
lug		1					
frog effigy		1					
Lamar Coarse Plain, var.							
Ranger	10	22	33	29	7		
Dallas Incised	13	17	3	5			1
Dallas Plain	201	274	351	295	40	2	12
plain rim	5	1	7	9	2		
rim node		2		3			
handle			2				
lug			3	4			
frog effigy					1		
salt pans				3		3	
Dallas Filleted	2	2	2	1	1		
Woodstock Comp. Stamped	3		4	2			
Cartersville Simple Stamped		1	1				
Cartersville Plain	1		4	4			
unidentified cord-marked			1	1			
unidentified		2					



# EAST PROFILE W630 TRENCH

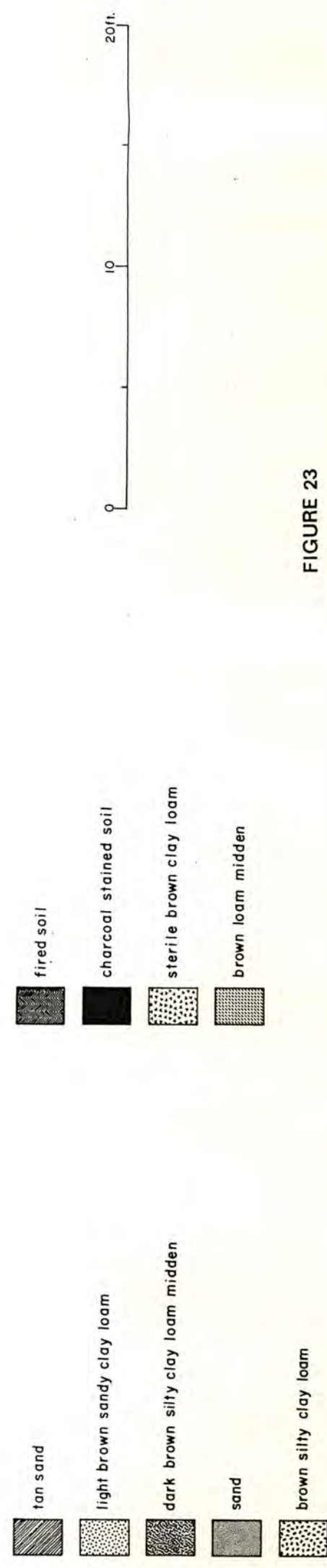
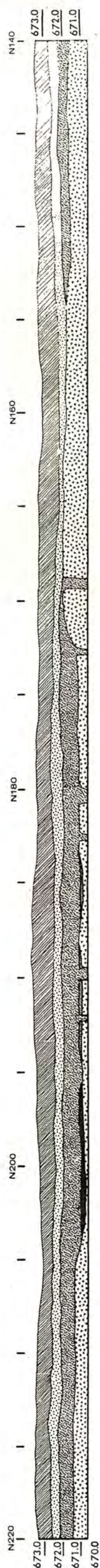
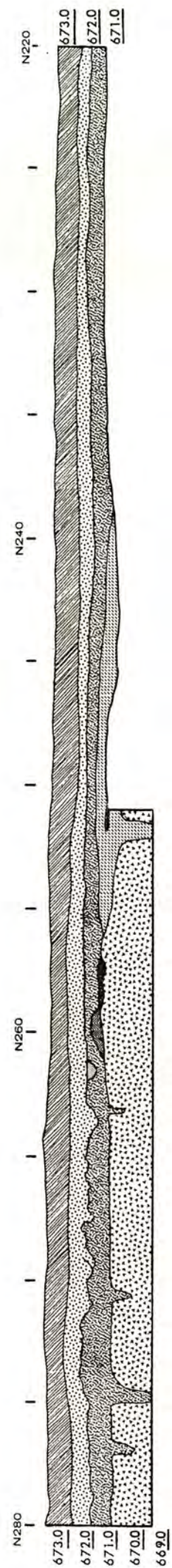
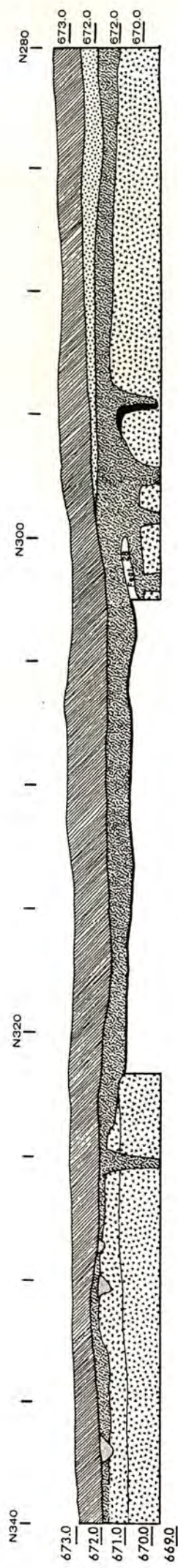


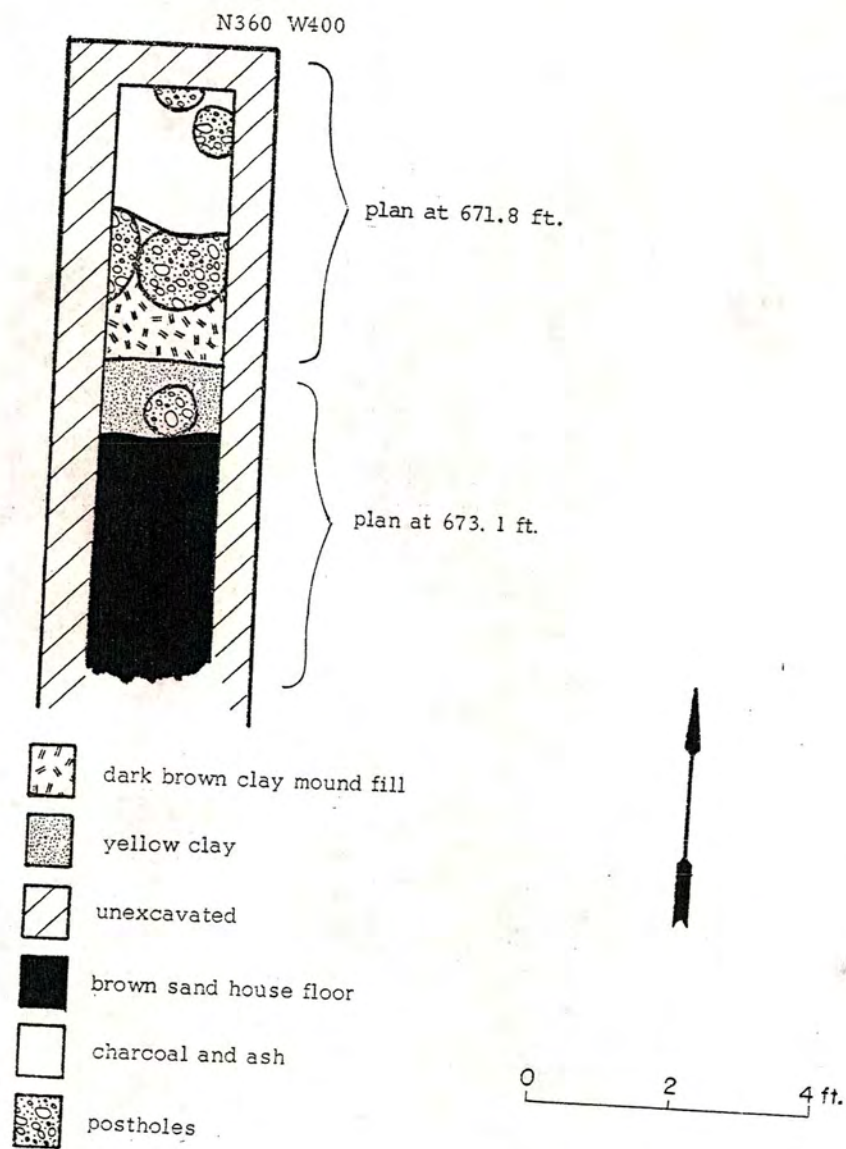
FIGURE 23



itself. Sterile pre-occupation soil is a brown clay which occurs as high as 672.2 ft. Throughout the central two-thirds of the trench a brown clay stratum representing mound fill underlies plowzone. Finally, a yellow clay layer, occurring at approximately 673.3 ft. and extending throughout the central two-thirds of the trench, probably represents fallen wattle-and-daub wall material.

It should be noted that the trench stops well south of the center of what is left of Mound A today. The trench should, therefore, contain features that are associated with the southern edge of the mound. Such seems to be the case. At the north end of the trench, between N360 and N358, several midden and ash strata which probably represent occupation surfaces occur between 671.5 and 673.3. These are terminated on the south by large postholes at N358 (Figs. 9 and 10). The lowest of these deposits occurs well below the elevation (672.5 ft.) of sterile pre-occupation soil farther south in the trench, and suggests slightly subterranean floors. These strata will be referred to as mound stage I. Immediately above them is a thick layer of dark brown basket-loaded clay. The upper surface of this stratum slopes downward gradually from north to south until at N357 it drops straight down. This material is identified as mound fill, and undoubtedly represents one stage (hereafter, referred to as mound stage II) in the construction of the central mound. One thin layer of tan loam near the top of mound fill contained a small number of artifacts and may represent an old mound surface, a temporary halt in mound construction or, more





N360 W400 Trench  
Plan View

Figure 10

likely, a basket load of mound fill obtained from village deposits elsewhere on the site. The several strata (mound stage I) below 673.3 ft. may represent either pre-mound occupation levels or early stages in mound construction.

Immediately south of the above described features are a number of strata that can be interpreted as one or more superimposed house floors. The last of these is represented by a thin layer of brown sand, containing abundant cultural material, that extends from N328 to N355 at an elevation of between 673.0 and 673.7 ft. This layer undoubtedly represents a prepared sand floor with accumulated occupation debris. A dip in this layer between N336 and N342 apparently reflects the presence of a depressed hearth located beyond the trench to the west. Overlying this floor is a stratum of yellow clay which may represent collapsed wattle-and-daub walls. A low east-west running ridge of this same clay occurred at the northern edge (N355) of the floor (Figs. 9 and 10), and may represent the base of a collapsed wattle-and-daub wall. The existence of a posthole, measuring .8 ft. in diameter, in the center of the ridge strengthens this interpretation.

Since the orientation of this structure cannot be determined with certainty, it is not known whether the exposed length of floor debris (some 27.5 ft.) approximates true structure size or is a diagonal measurement. Evidence from a shallow east-west trench located at N360 (described below, Fig. 11), however, suggests that the structure's orientation



CONTOUR MAP OF MOUND A

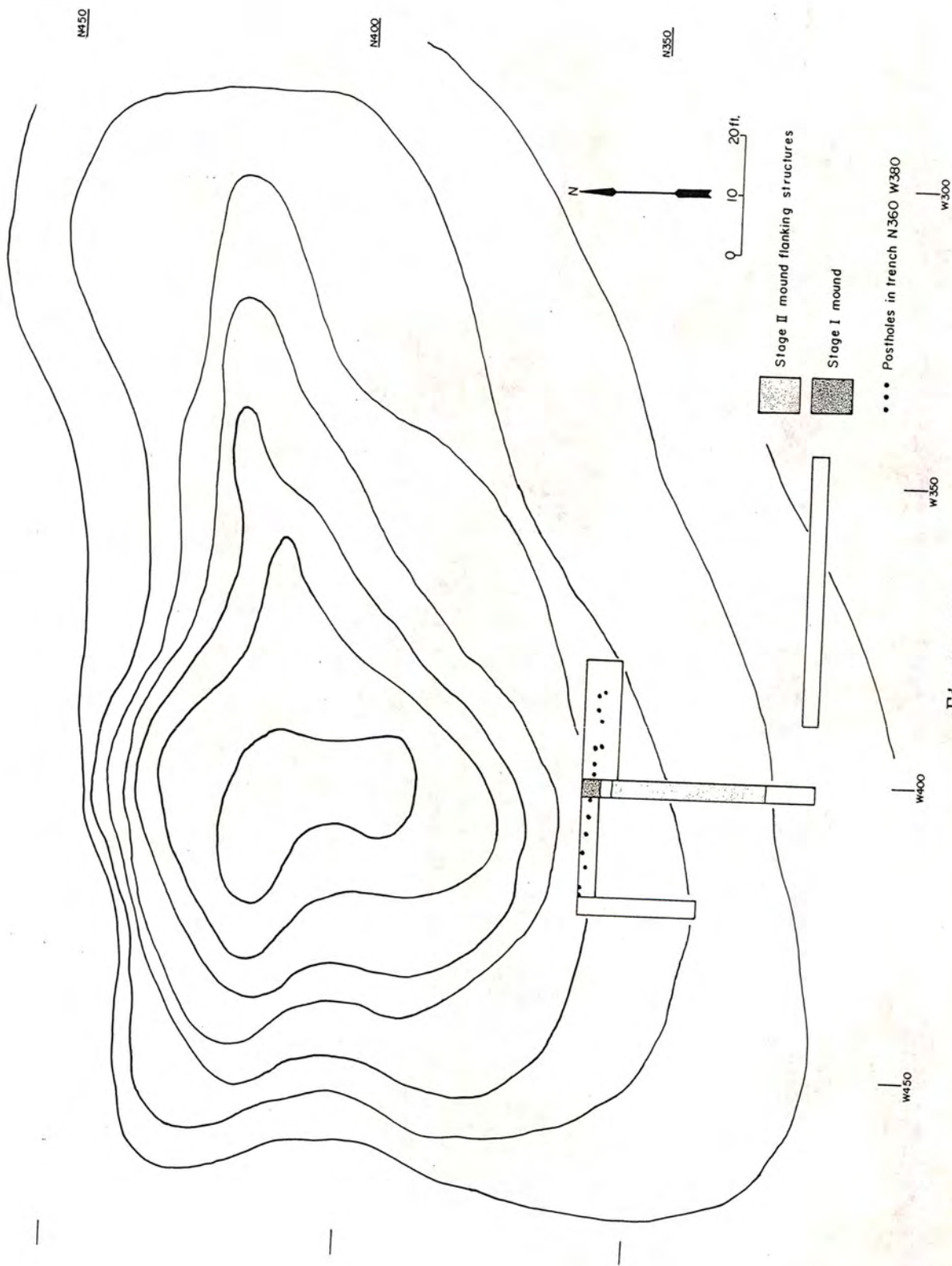


Figure 11

may approximate the cardinal directions.

Only in the southern part of the structure was the N400 trench excavated through and below the brown sand floor layer. Here were encountered a series of thin layers of floor debris, ash and fired soil which probably represent two earlier house floors. In the west profile the second floor is represented by a brown sand layer starting at N331, while the earlier floor is represented by a series of ash and fired soil lenses starting at N329. All three floors are depressed in the area north of N336 and apparently had a hearth at this location.

This series of structures is probably contemporary with the mound stage beginning at N357 (stage II). They were apparently built on a low terrace. There is a gap of less than two feet between the north wall of these structures and the south edge of the mound. A question that cannot be answered adequately here is the relationship of the south edge of the mound and the deep east-west oriented trench which partially underlies it at 673.0 (Fig. 9). A plan view of this trench drawn at 671.8, shows two postholes measuring at least one foot in diameter (Fig. 10). These lie in an east-west line within the aboriginal trench and could represent either a wall for sub-mound structures (mound stage I) or a retaining wall for mound stage II above. The trench and postholes lie partially under mound fill and would seem, therefore, to belong to the earlier structures. The two postholes, however, abut one another rather than being spaced 1-3 ft. apart as is usual in house walls. Being close spaced, they would



better serve as a retaining wall for mound stage II, and it is this interpretation that is favored here.

Another problem that cannot be adequately solved here is the nature of the horizontal ash, charcoal and fired earth strata that occur south of and below the mound-flanking structures. They may represent other structures.

Beneath what has been interpreted as a depressed hearth in the mound-flanking structure is a large pit. Its nearly vertical southern edge occurs at N335 and extends into sterile subsoil to at least 670.3 ft. The full size and exact shape of this feature is not known, nor is its function understood. The fact that it underlies the presumed hearths of the mound-flanking structures suggests a possible relationship with those structures.

Overlying the sloping surface of mound stage I and the northern half of the flanking structures is a brown clay layer that contains abundant artifactual and faunal materials. This stratum may represent accumulated debris swept from the mound summit or it may represent fill for a later mound stage. If the former interpretation is correct and mound stage II and flanking structures are contemporary, this stratum must represent a single cleaning of the mound summit, subsequent to the life of the flanking structure and possibly in preparation for renewed mound construction.

That further mound construction did occur is indicated by the thick layer of basket-loaded brown clay (hereafter referred to as mound stage III) that overlies the mound-flanking structures and the stratum of presumed

mound sweepings. What happened to the main mound north of N360 at this time is not known. Presumably mound height was increased. The available evidence indicates only that the mound was extended southward to at least N328. If there is any consistency between one mound construction stage and another, it is probable that mound fill in the N360 trench represents the construction of a terrace on the south edge of the main mound. Upon this terrace may have been erected a building similar to those flanking mound stage II.

In drawing the west profile for the N360 trench, a posthole was noted at N358.5 penetrating mound stage III from plowzone (Fig. 9). On the chance that additional postholes might exist beyond the trench, a shallow trench (N360 W380) was excavated to the east and to the west (Fig. 11). This trench, with an average depth of 676.1 ft. reached an overall length of 40 ft. Within it a double row of postholes was encountered. Because the present mound surface slopes down to the southeast, the line of postholes terminates at W380. Investigations to the west were terminated at W420 because of time limitations. The postholes encountered undoubtedly originated from a mound surface (stage III) that no longer exists. It is possible that they represent the north wall of structures built on the mound extension represented by fill in the N360 trench. Whatever their architectural association, however, their alignment ( $W5^{\circ}N$ ) suggests that the orientation of Mound A may have been approximately parallel to the cardinal directions. To a limited extent this reconstruction is supported by



information obtained in the N360 W420 trench (Figs. 11 and 12). In this trench, soil strata resemble those occurring in the N360 W400 trench south of N357. In other words, the steep face of the early mound stage may lie just north of N360 in this location.

Artifactual material obtained in the N360 W400 trench was segregated into six lots corresponding to selected natural strata. Material from the brown clay mound fill stratum (mound stage III) is tabulated as Lot 1 in Table 6. Both early and late Lamar components are approximately equally represented in the collection. Lot 2 contains cultural material from brown clay tentatively identified as mound sweepings. This collection is also approximately equally divided between the two components. This fact suggests that the stratum is mound fill obtained from village area deposits and not sweepings from a short-lived mound occupation surface.

Lot 3 was obtained from a brown midden which occurs south of and partially below the uppermost mound flanking structure. Only that portion of the midden south of N330 was excavated as Lot 3. The remainder, north of that point, was excavated in Lot 6. The artifact collection is mixed but predominately Little Egypt phase.

Lot 4 is derived from the thin layer of tan loam near the top of fill identified as mound stage II. This collection should date the construction of the second mound stage. Unfortunately, only 11 sherds are included in the collection, and they are not diagnostic of either Lamar occupation.

Lot 5 is derived from the series of occupation surfaces identified as

Table 6

## Ceramic Artifacts from Trench N360 W400

	Lot 1	Lot 2	Lot 3	Lot 4	Lot 5	Lot 6
Lamar Incised	1	20	5			
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee	3	49	1			
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	2	76	5			2
plain rim		3				
pinched rim		2	1			
rim node			2			
lug		1				
frog effigy		1				
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta	3	27				
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters	3	12	14		6	41
McKee Island Cordmarked		8	8		4	8
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	1	5	4		4	16
plain rim		2	1			2
pinched rim			2		1	2
node			2			
frog effigy		1				
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger			4			13
Dallas Incised	1	16	7	2	4	5
Dallas Plain	10	253	137	9	19	106
plain rim		17	11		2	2
outflaring rim		1				
rim node					1	
handles		2			1	
lug		7			1	
salt pan			5		1	
Dallas Filleted		7	5		1	2
Woodstock Complicated Stamped unidentified	3	1				1



mound stage I. The pottery in this collection appears to be entirely Little Egypt phase in date. It can be concluded, therefore, that this earliest stage of Mound A construction dates to that occupation.

North of N340, excavation was terminated immediately above the brown sand stratum that is identified as the latest of three superimposed mound flanking structures. South of N340, trench excavation was carried through this floor to subsoil. Lot 6 includes cultural material obtained in the latter excavations and all strata south of the mound flanking structure and stratigraphically below the brown midden (Lot 3). With two exceptions, all sherds in this collection can be assigned to the Little Egypt phase occupation. This means that the mound flanking structures were erected during this phase, and, by implication, mound stage II also.

It appears from the preceding that a large portion of Mound A dates to the Little Egypt phase. The existence of abundant Barnett Phase ceramics in Lots 1 and 2 identified with mound stage III, indicates that mound construction continues into the late Lamar component.

Square N360 W420 (3 x 20 ft.)

In order to determine the compass orientation of Mound A, a second trench was excavated along the W420 line between N340 and N360. Sterile, pre-occupation soil in this trench occurs at between 671.4 ft. and 672.1 ft. (Fig. 12). Immediately above is a horizontal stratum of brown loam midden that occurs throughout the trench length below 672.8 ft.



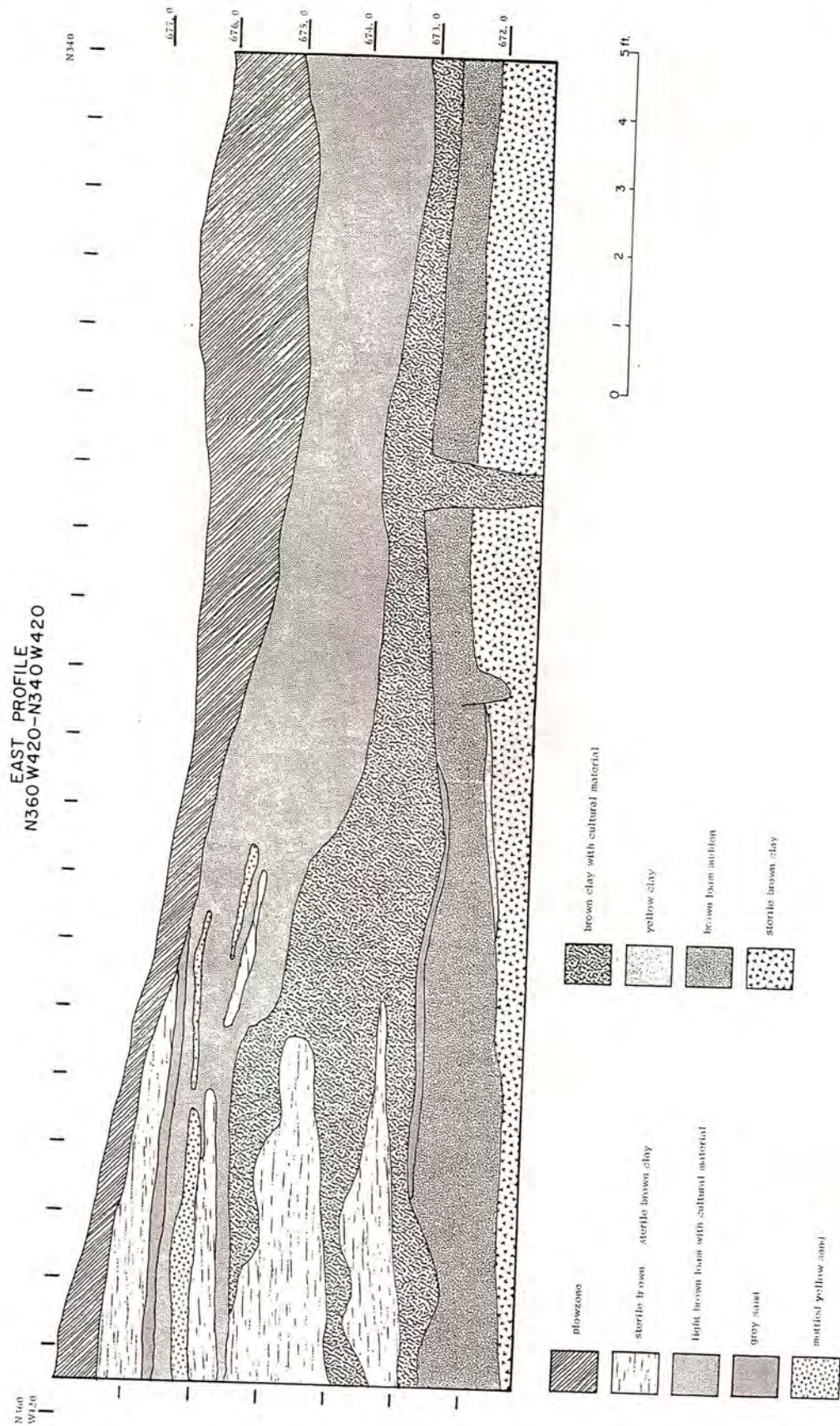


Figure 12



This stratum probably corresponds with the light brown midden found in the N360 W400 trench below the mound flanking structures. A few post-holes were observed intruding into it and from it into sterile soil below. There is nothing, however, to compare with the floors seen in the N360 W400 trench at 673.0 ft.

The remainder of the strata in the trench appear to be fill deposits that probably belong to mound stage III present in the N360 W400 trench. Supposed mound fill in the N360 W420 trench consists for the most part of clays and clay loams containing cultural material and numerous pockets of sterile brown clay and light colored sand.

There is no indication of the edge of mound stage II as seen 20 ft. to the east. Given the mound orientation suggested by the posthole alignment in the shallow east-west trench at N400, the edge of this mound stage may be a few feet north of the N360 W420 trench. It is suggested, then, that the N360 W420 trench lies entirely south of mound stage II and that most deposits in the trench represent fill for the latter (stage III) lateral expansion of Mound A. The absence of occupation surfaces at approximately 673.0 may be interpreted to mean that the trench lies just west of the mound flanking structures.

No attempt was made to segregate artifact collections by natural strata in this trench. Some artifacts were obtained from the extensive mound fill deposits above 672.8, but the great majority were recovered from the underlying brown loam midden. Artifact counts for the trench

are presented in Table 7. The collection is mixed, but overwhelmingly of the Little Egypt component. This no doubt reflects the cultural affiliation of the brown loam midden. The small number of Barnett phase sherds probably derive from fill deposits above 672.8 and reflect the age of that construction stage.

Table 7

## Ceramic Artifacts from Trench N360 W420

Lamar Incised	4
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee	2
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	27
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta	2
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters	34
McKee Island Cordmarked	14
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	30
plain rim	3
pinched rim	4
frog effigy	1
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger	30
Dallas Incised	8
Dallas Plain	359
plain rim	15
outflaring rim	1
rim node	1
handle	3
lug	5
salt pan	2
Dallas Filleted	7
Woodstock Complicated Stamped	1
Cartersville Check Stamped	1
Cartersville Plain	2
unidentified cord-marked	1



Trench N323 W345 (3 x 33 ft. )

This trench was excavated with a backhoe in order to investigate the long northeast-southwest oriented depression situated southeast of Mound A. Sterile pre-occupation clay occurs at 671.5 ft. in the west end of the trench (Fig. 13). In this location, only 10 ft. east of the N360 W400 trench, sterile subsoil is overlain by a light brown loam with some cultural material and by a dark brown midden with lenses of charcoal and fired soil. The surface of sterile brown clay is horizontal eastward until W360 at which point it begins to slope downward. At W351 it occurs below 668.0 ft. at an unknown depth. Postholes intruding into sterile brown clay indicate that occupation activities occurred as far east as W365, but the dark brown midden terminates at W370. The depression created by the drop in elevation of sterile brown clay is filled with a number of strata ranging in texture from sandy loam to clay; all contain cultural material in small amounts.

Several interpretations can be put forward to explain the stratigraphy in the N323 W345 trench:

1. The depression represents a borrow pit created during the construction of Mound A.
2. Erosion, either by the small stream presently located immediately to the southeast, or by the flooding of Coosawattee River and Talking Rock Creek cut a channel through the area prior to or during site occupation.

SOUTH PROFILE  
N323 W345

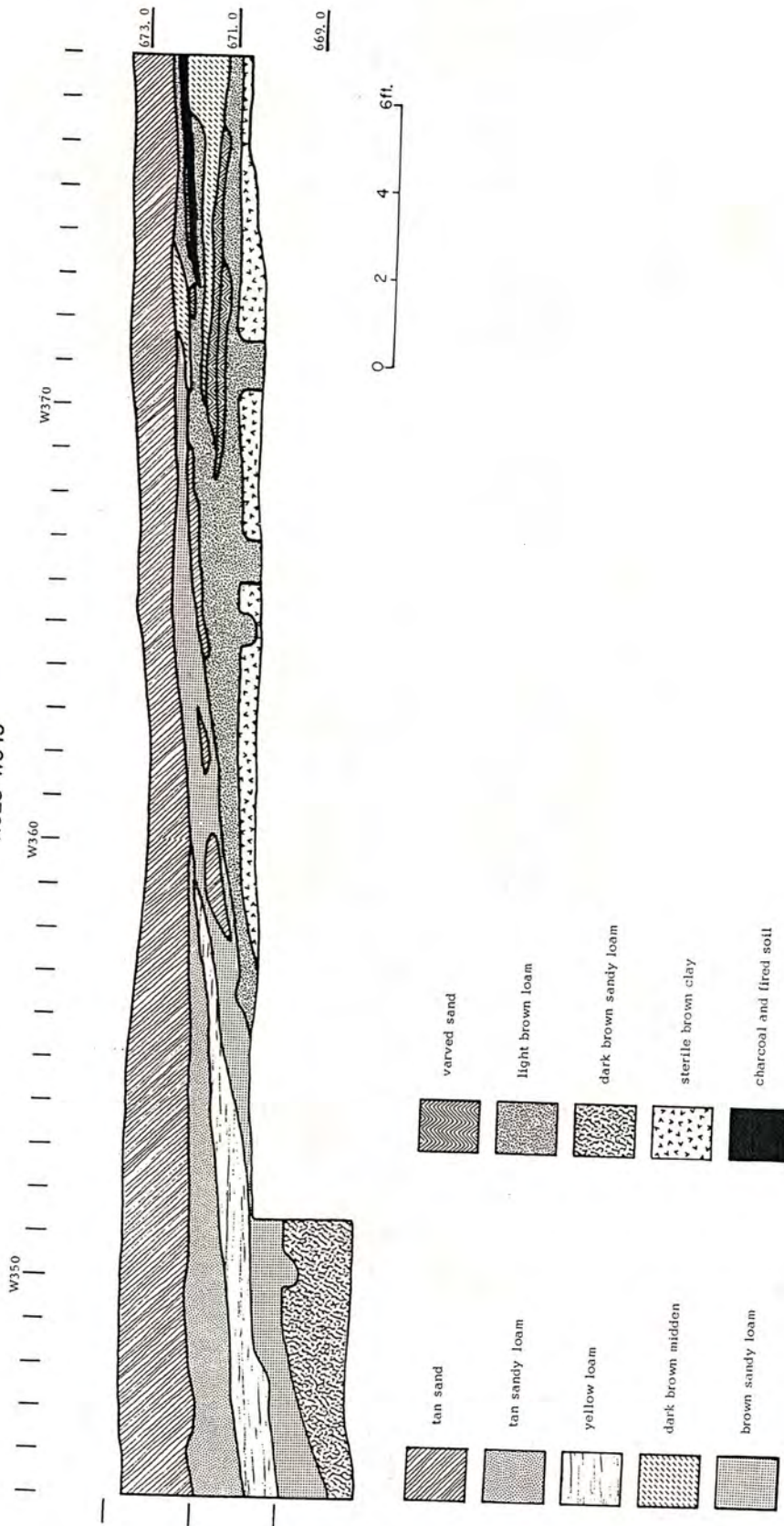


Figure 13



3. Similar erosion cut the channel subsequent to site occupation.

Of the three, the last seems most likely. Present topography shows a large, linear depression resembling a water channel more than a borrow pit. While stratigraphy can be interpreted to favor either of the remaining alternatives, it seems unlikely that a mound would have been erected right on the edge of an active stream channel or flood water channel.

Cultural material was not abundant in the trench and was not collected consistently. The few artifacts that were saved are tabulated in Table 8. Both major components are represented.

Table 8

Ceramic Artifacts from Trench N323 W345

Lamar Plain, var. Vann	8
plain rim	1
pinched rim	1
rim node	1
body node	2
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta	2
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	2
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger	6
Dallas Incised	5
Dallas Plain	26
Woodstock Complicated Stamped	2

Square N470 W400 (5 x 10 ft.)

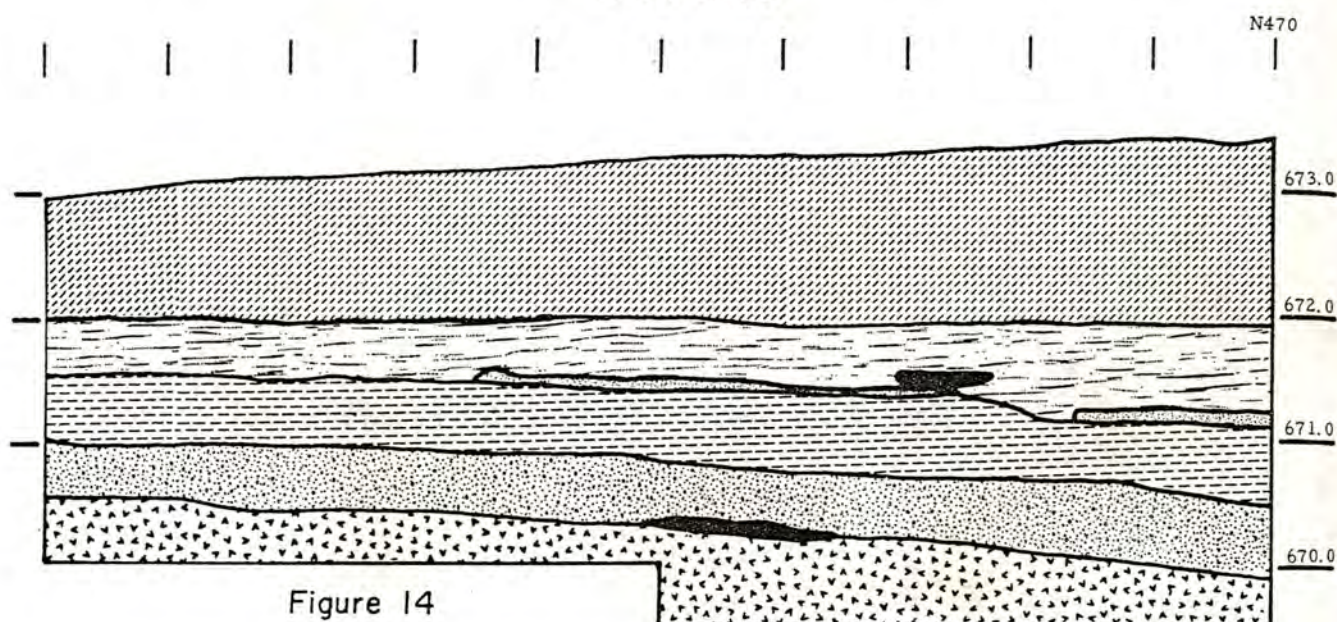
Moorehead (1932:151) reported that his most productive excavations were placed in the area of the site between Mounds A and B. In light of this observation, the N400 line of test trenches was extended north of Mound A. Square N470 W400 is located immediately below the steep northern edge of that mound.

Sterile soil, a yellow silty clay, occurs at 670.5 ft. (Fig. 14). The uppermost stratum, a tan clay loam, was devoid of cultural material. Between these two deposits, three distinct strata, all yielding cultural material in small amounts, could be distinguished. Pottery sherds recovered from these strata were heavily weathered. The only evidence of human activity other than artifacts consisted of a few small pockets of burned soil and charcoal at approximately 671.5 ft. These occur at the same elevation as a thin discontinuous layer of light colored sand and may represent a former occupation surface. This seems unlikely, however. The low frequency of artifacts and the heavily weathered nature of the pottery recovered from the square indicate that all strata above 670.5 ft. may have been reworked by water since the time of site occupation.

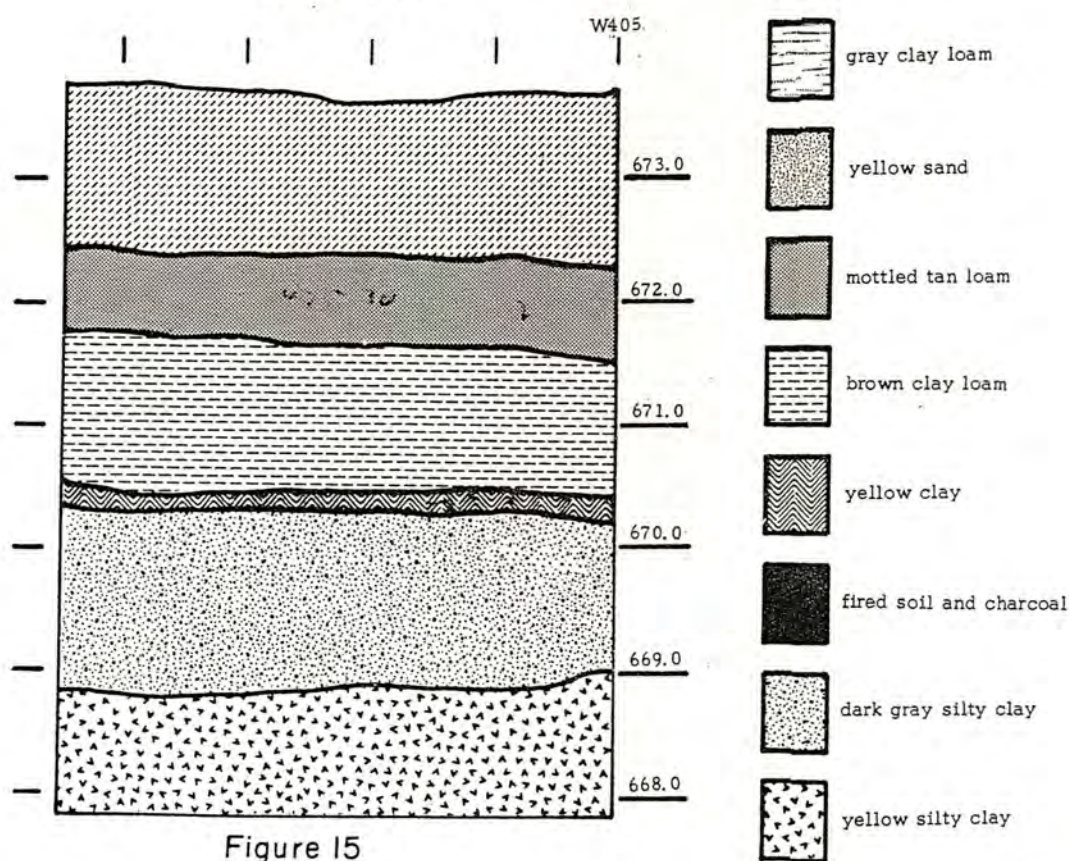
Square N470 W400 was excavated in five levels that conform generally to natural stratigraphy: Level 1, 673.5-671.5 ft.; Level 2, 671.5-671.0 ft.; Level 3, 671.0-670.5 ft.; Level 4, 670.5-670.0 ft.; Level 5, 670.0-669.5 ft. Pottery counts for all levels are presented in Table 9.



# WEST PROFILE N470 W400



# SOUTH PROFILE N500 W400



-  tan clay loam
-  gray clay loam
-  yellow sand
-  mottled tan loam
-  brown clay loam
-  yellow clay
-  fired soil and charcoal
-  dark gray silty clay
-  yellow silty clay

0 1 2 3 ft.

All collections are mixed, with Barnett phase sherds predominating.

Table 9

Ceramic Artifacts from Square N470 W400

	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Lamar Incised	1	7	8	1
Lamar Complicated Stamped				
var. Coosawattee	2	4	6	6
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	5	13	26	
pinched rim		2		
Lamar Coarse Plain,				
var. Cohutta		14	14	
Lamar Complicated Stamped,				
var. Carters			2	
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	2	7		
outflaring rim		1		
Lamar Coarse Plain,				
var. Ranger		1	4	
Dallas Plain	1	15	8	1
Dunlap Fabric Marked	1			

Square N500 W400 (5 x 5 ft.)

This square was excavated entirely as one level (Fig. 15). A total of three sherds (Table 10) were recovered, and all of these came from a dark gray silty clay stratum between 670.2 and 668.8 ft. There is no evidence of occupation activity in the square other than artifacts. If occupation did occur in the locality, it must have been destroyed by subsequent erosion and soil deposition.



Table 10

## Ceramic Artifacts from Square N500 W400

Lamar Incised	1
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee	1
Lamar Plain var. Vann	1

N400 tests west of Mound A

As is readily apparent on the site map (Fig. 3), ground surface between Mounds A and B and in a large area west of Mound A (extending from approximately N350 to N500 and from W500 to W900) is one to two feet lower than it is elsewhere on the site. In the course of investigations around Mound A, two 5 x 10 ft. squares were excavated immediately west of the mound (W510 and W554) along the N400 line. These squares yielded no stratigraphic evidence of occupation deposits or surfaces. Tan sand, of post-European age, is the uppermost stratum in Square N400 W510 (Fig. 16). It is underlain by a gray brown fine sandy loam which contained scattered flecks of charcoal and daub, but no artifacts. The uppermost stratum in Square N400 W550, is a silty clay loam and is underlain by a brown clay loam containing flecks of charcoal and daub and a few sherds (Fig. 17, Table 11). Small river pebbles measuring less than half an inch in diameter were abundant in the lower portion of this stratum.

In order to further investigate the depressed area west of Mound A,



NORTH PROFILE  
N400 W510

W510

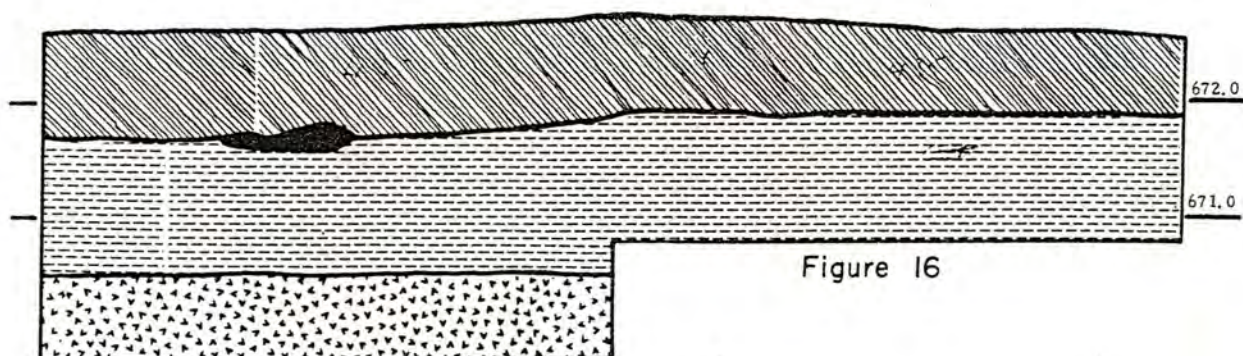


Figure 16

SOUTH PROFILE  
N400 W550

W550

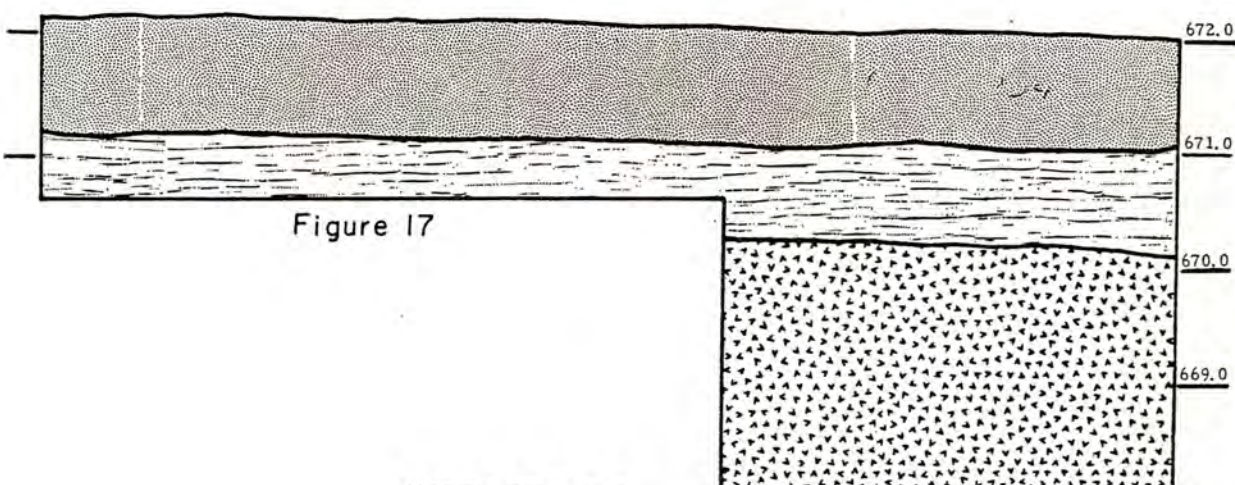


Figure 17

NORTH PROFILE  
N400 W880

W880

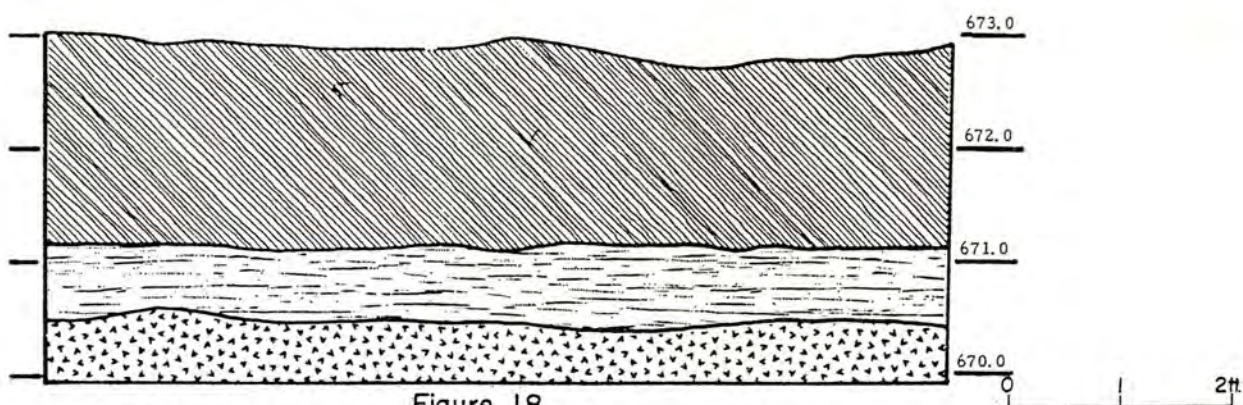


Figure 18



tan sand



tan silty clay loam



dark brown clay or clay loam



gray-brown fine sandy loam



brown clay loam



charcoal and fired soil



two 5 x 10 ft. squares were subsequently excavated at W630 and W710. Finally with the aid of a backhoe, three foot wide trenches were excavated further west along the N400 line at W800, W880, W920, W977 and W1008. These tests have almost identical stratigraphy and hence will be described together.

Sterile brown subsoil, ranging in texture from silty clay loam to clay, occurs between 670.0 and 670.6 ft. and is overlain everywhere by a clay loam or silty clay loam (Fig. 18). The latter stratum is virtually devoid of cultural material but contain abundant small river pebbles in its lower portion. Artifacts were found only in Squares W630 and W710 (Table 11); pebbles were absent in Square W1008. The upper surface of the stratum occurs between 670.6 and 672.0. Tan sandy soil overlies deposits in all trenches (except W630) to a depth of up to 2 ft.

Sterile pre-occupation clay in the N400 tests occurs some 1-2 ft. below its elevation elsewhere on the site. It is probable that this is the result of flood stage erosion at some time subsequent to site occupation. This erosion has completely removed occupation deposits and the upper portion of sterile clay. The brown loam with small river pebbles and the tan sand have since been deposited in the area. The absence of tan sand in the area of Square W630 is probably the result of continued flood stage erosion.

Table 11

## Ceramic Artifacts from N400 tests west of Mound A

	N400 W550 Square	N400 W630 Square	N400 W710 Square
Lamar Incised	1	1	6
Lamar Complicated			
Stamped, var. Coosawattee	1		6
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	3		16
pinched rim		1	1
Lamar Plain, var. Cohutta			11
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters			1
McKee Island Brushed			1
Lamar Plain, var. Murray			8
plain rim			1
Dallas Incised			1
Dallas Plain			13
unidentified	1	1	1

Square N472 W585 (3 x 10 ft.)

Stratigraphy in this square is almost identical to that encountered along the N400 line west of Mound A. Sterile brown clay occurs at 669.9 ft. and is overlain by a brown clay loam devoid of artifacts but containing abundant river pebbles in its lower portion.

West 550 Trench (3 x 100 ft.)

This trench was excavated by backhoe along the W550 line between N500 and N600. The inconsistency between Moorehead's report of rich



village remains in the area east of Mound B and our own findings in Squares N470 W400 and N500 W400 required some explanation. Stratigraphy of the several squares (N400 line) excavated in the low area west of Mound A indicated that much of the site had been affected by post-occupation flood stage erosion. If such erosion did occur and it took place after 1925, then perhaps Moorehead's village deposits east of Mound B had also been destroyed. It was felt that a trench placed just east of Mound B would add considerably to our understanding of this aspect of site history.

Very little cultural material was recovered in this trench, although two burials, 8 and 9 (Fig. 19), were encountered at N580. Only two sections of trench wall were profiled. In the N560 - N600 section, sterile brown clay occurred at 671.2 ft. and was overlain by a .6 ft. thick culture bearing stratum of mixed sand and clay (Fig. 20). Tan sand, similar to that found elsewhere on the site, occurred above. Burial 8, a possible female (age 40+), and Burial 9, a possible male (age 18-30), were placed in rectangular pits that extended from the base of mixed tan sand into sterile brown clay. Pit bottom in both cases occurred at 670.9 ft., and the highest point on both skeletons was 671.3 ft. Since the base of the presumed 19th and 20th century tan sand occurs at 671.8 here, it is clear that at least one foot of aboriginal period soil has been removed in this location, presumably by erosion.

In the profiled section between N520 and N510, sterile brown clay

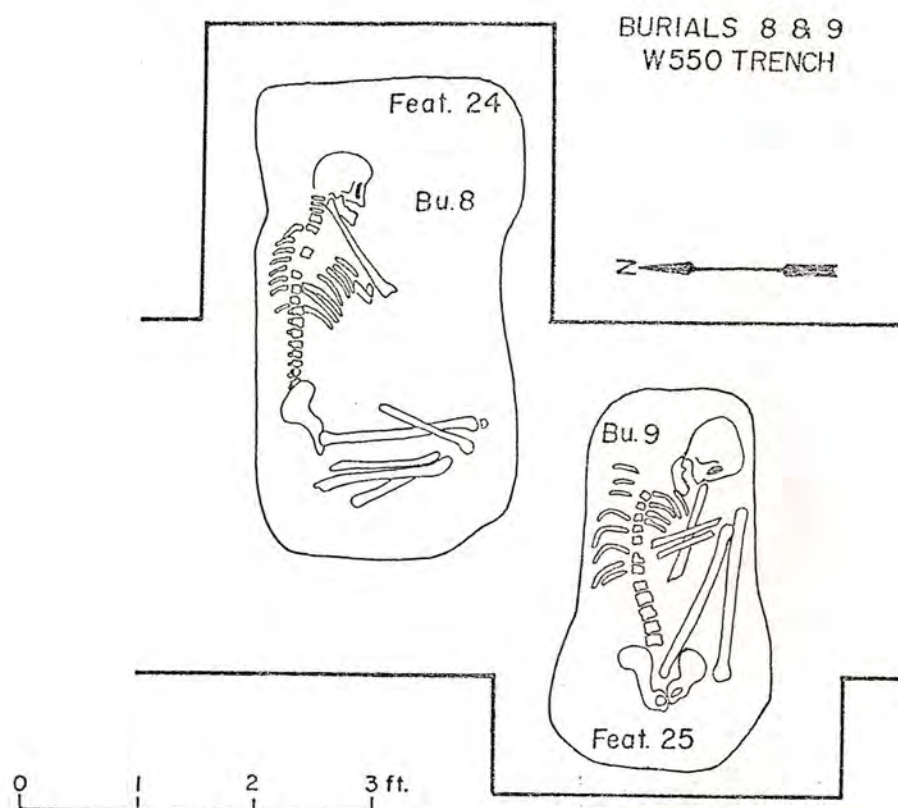


Figure 19

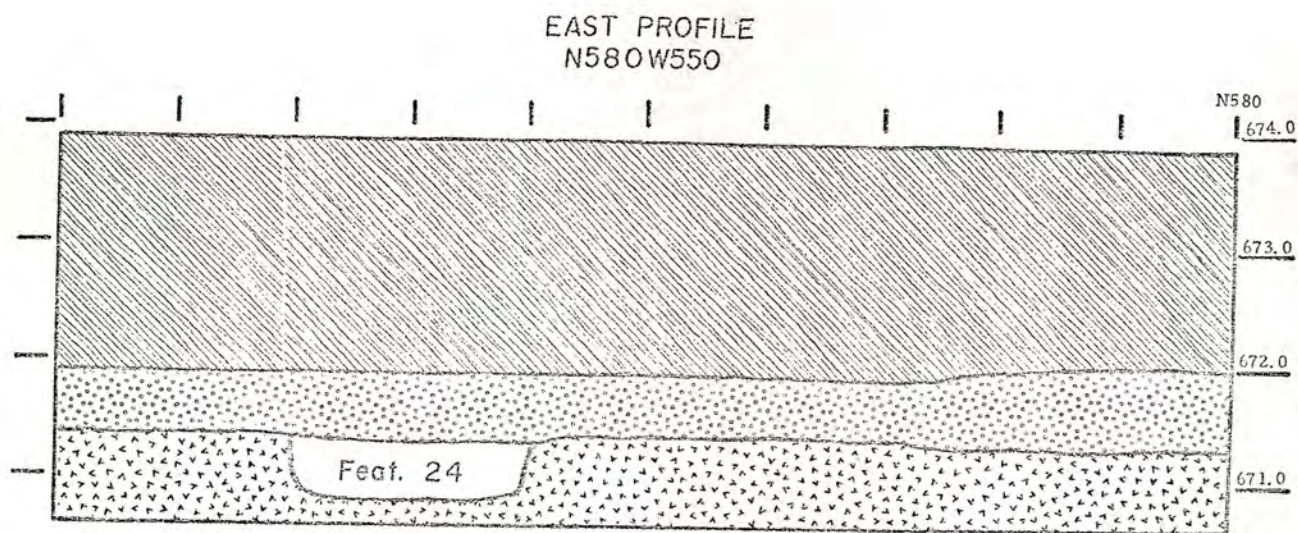


Figure 20



tan sand



mixed sand and clay



sterile brown clay



occurs at 670.2 ft. (Fig. 21). Three postholes and a shallow pit-like feature containing broken quartz cobbles intruded into this stratum. Between 670.2 and 671.7, a dark brown silty clay loam occurred which contained some artifacts and, in its lower portion, abundant river pebbles.

The presence of burials at N580 and postholes and a rock-filled pit at N520 indicate that occupation activities did occur east of Mound B. It is probable, however, that all or nearly all vestiges of occupation deposits here have been destroyed. The dark brown silty clay loam immediately above sterile clay at N520 is apparently a flood deposit. The mixed sand and clay stratum at N580 may represent an old plowzone. The elevation of sterile clay at N520 is one foot lower than at N580 but is the same as sterile soil along the N400 line west of Mound A. This situation is what would be expected if flood water from the Coosawattee River and Talking Rock Creek swept between Mounds A and B and eroded soil from the large area west of Mound A.

The conclusion to be drawn from the N550 trench relative to the area between Mounds A and B is that cultural deposits have been largely destroyed by erosion. Burials may have been frequently spared because of their intrusion into sterile clay subsoil. Either erosion had not yet destroyed the occupation stratum when Moorehead worked in the area or it was the existence of shallow and exposed burials that he was alluding

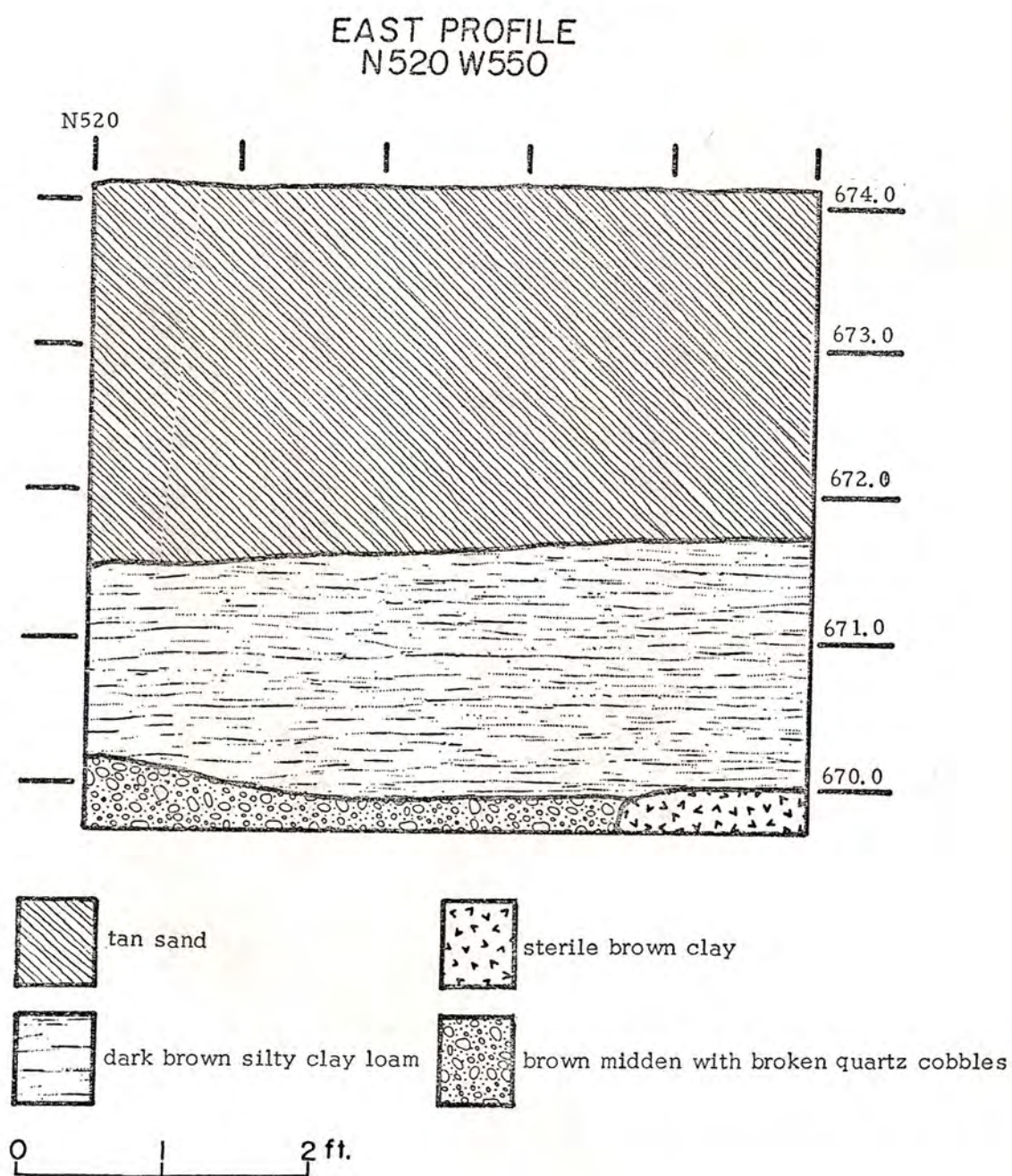


Figure 21



to in his reference to "rich village remains."<sup>1</sup>

No diagnostic artifacts were recovered during excavation of the W550 trench. Burials 8 and 9 were without grave goods, but pottery did occur in burial pit fill. These sherds are listed in Table 12.

Table 12

## Ceramic Artifacts from W550 Trench

	Pit Fill Burials 8 and 9
Lamar Incised	1
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	2
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters	8
McKee Island Cord-marked	1
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	3
pinched rim	1
Lamar Coarse plain, var. Ranger	3
Dallas Incised	2
Dallas Plain	12
handle	1
frog effigy	
unidentified cord-marked	1

Trench N503 W630 (3 x 15 ft.)

This 15 foot long trench was excavated by backhoe in order to investigate the northern edge of the depressed area west of Mound A (Fig. 22).

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<sup>1</sup>Dr. A. R. Kelly found a burial at approximately N600 W500 in a pit excavated for garbage disposal in 1972. No midden was evident in the area (personal communication).

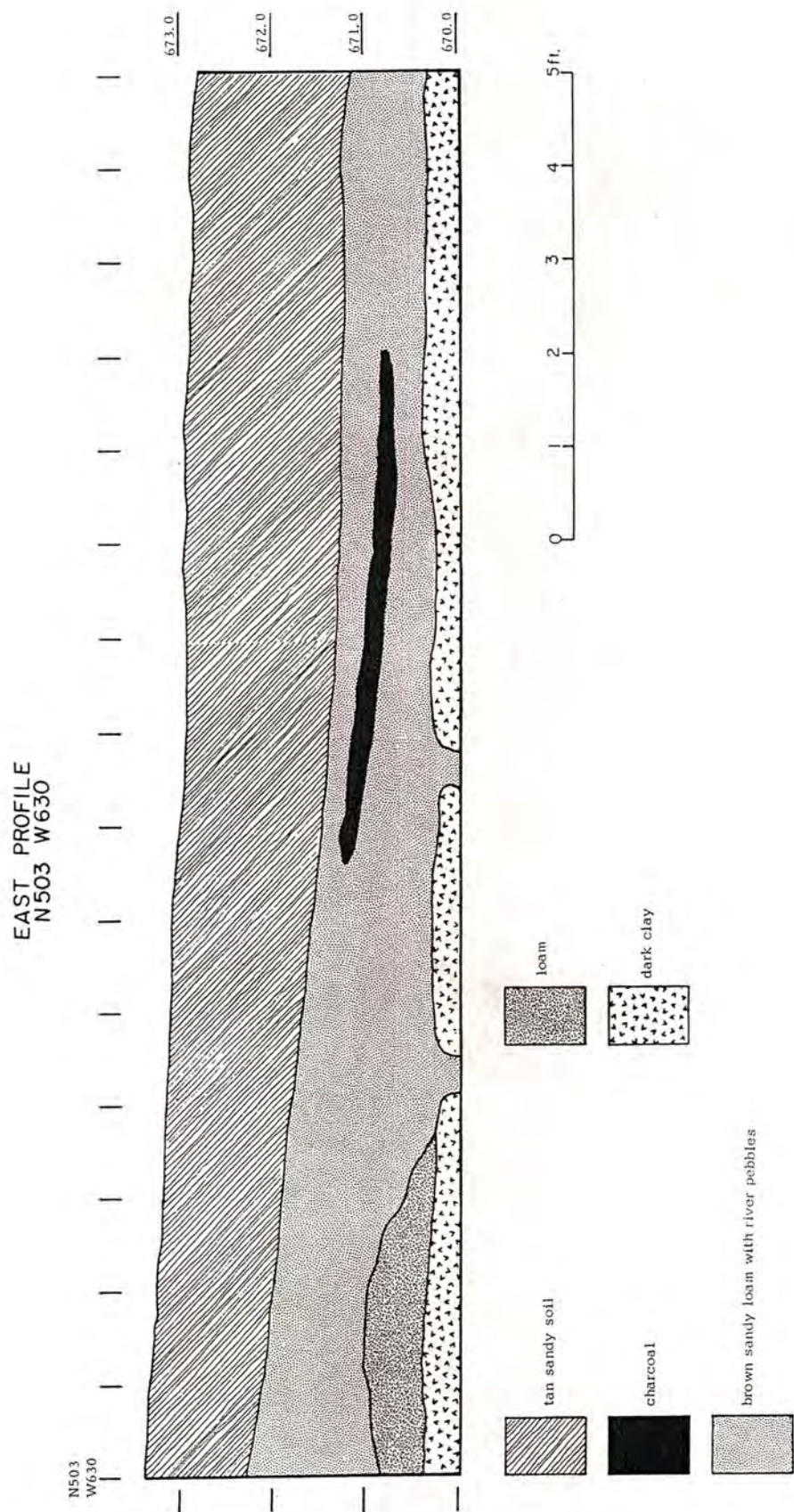


Figure 22



Sterile pre-occupation clay occurs at 670.4 ft. Several postholes penetrate this stratum from above. A layer of brown clay loam, devoid of cultural material immediately overlies this in the north end of the trench. A thick layer of brown silty clay loam overlies this stratum and sterile clay throughout the trench. Small river pebbles were abundant near the base of this stratum, while artifacts and charcoal flecks were thinly scattered throughout. The upper surface of the brown silty clay loam stratum slopes down gently from north to south as does a lens of fired earth, charcoal and charred corn kernels. The uppermost stratum is tan sand of recent age.

The presence of postholes indicates that occupation activities occurred in this area of the site. No strata encountered in the trench, however, can be identified as an in situ occupation deposit. The presence of pebbles in the silty clay loam stratum and the depth of sterile clay parallels the situation found at N520 W550 and in most of the N400 tests. It is probable, therefore, that erosion has destroyed cultural deposits in this location. The charcoal and daub lens is difficult to account for with this interpretation. There is nothing inherent in its configuration, however, that precludes it from being a secondary, post-occupation deposit.

Pottery from the brown silty clay loam stratum is listed in Table 13. The small collection is mixed and being from what is probably a secondary deposit, is of little interpretive value.

Table 13

## Ceramic Artifacts from Square N503 W630

Lamar Plain, var. Vann	2
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters	1
Dallas Plain	4
plain rim	1

N630 trench (3 x 200 ft.)

The W630 trench was excavated for the purpose of investigating the nature and extent of village deposits in the large, relatively elevated area southwest of Mound A. A backhoe with 3 ft. wide bucket was used to remove the recent sand overburden. The underlying culture bearing strata were hand excavated with trowel and shovel down to preoccupation clays. When evidence of structures was encountered during hand excavation, an attempt was made to leave them intact. This procedure worked well with structures located at N325-N300 and N255-N220. Once identified as structures, no attempt was made to excavate through the layer of fallen wall daub overlying them. In the case of the structure at N205-N170, however, no wall daub was present, and most of the trench was excavated through the occupation debris to subsoil before the structure was identified as such.

Sterile preoccupation soil throughout the length of the W630 trench is a brown clay and clay loam (Fig. 23). Its surface occurs between 671.1



ft. and 672.0 ft. Beneath structures it is slightly lower, suggesting the existence of depressed floors. The uppermost stratum throughout the trench is a tan sand similar to that found overlying most of the site. This stratum varies in thickness between .6 and 1.6 ft. Ground surface is relatively level, varying between 673.2 and 674.0.

Throughout most of the W630 trench, a thin stratum of light brown sandy clay loam occurs beneath the tan sand. While plow scars were not observed in the underlying silty clay loam midden, it is believed that this stratum represents a plowzone predating the deposition of tan sand. In the N280 trench segment, a number of small arcs of sand occur in this stratum and penetrate the underlying silty clay loam midden. These may well represent wagon ruts. Similar features, but with a more clayey fill, penetrate silty clay loam midden in the N340 trench segment.

Throughout the W630 trench, the culture bearing stratum is a dark brown silty clay loam. As recorded in profile drawings, this stratum varies in thickness between .4 and 1.0 ft. In actuality, the line separating the stratum from underlying brown clay loam subsoil is somewhat arbitrary as the two strata seemed to grade imperceptibly into one another. In general artifacts tended to be restricted in occurrence to the upper half of the zone identified as midden. The only exception to these two situations occurred at N340-N320 where the midden and clay loam strata were separated by a distinctive brown silty clay loam which was devoid of artifacts.

Evidence of three structures was found in the midden stratum. What

is known of these may be summarized as follows:

1. Structure between N324 and N297. A mass of fired wall daub occurring at 671.5 ft. lies between N303 and N322. Sterile preoccupation clay rises to 672.0 at N324 and N297 indicating that the floor of the structure was depressed at least 1 ft. below the contemporaneous ground surface. Immediately south of the fired wall layer is a heavy concentration of chert debris (Feat. 28). This occurs between 671.0 and 671.5, is partly overlain by wall daub, and presumably is lying immediately on a house floor. Except for exposing the surface of the fired wall daub stratum and removing that portion of Feat. 28 occurring south of N303, this structure was not investigated.

2. Structure between N255 and N220. A mass of fired wall material occurs between N252 and N230 with scattered patches as far south as N220. The north end of this structure is supposedly marked by the rise in sterile clay from below 670.6 to 671.4 at N255. No attempt was made to accurately locate the south edge of the structure.

3. Structure between N205 and N170. No fired wall material marked this structure. Sterile preoccupation clay drops slightly at N204 (671.5 to 670.9 ft.) and artifact content of the silty clay loam midden increased at this point. The presence of a structure was not suspected by the excavating crew, however, until several broken pottery vessels and fired soil areas were encountered in the area between N195 and N180. As a result, the 3 ft. wide trench was inadvertently excavated through what



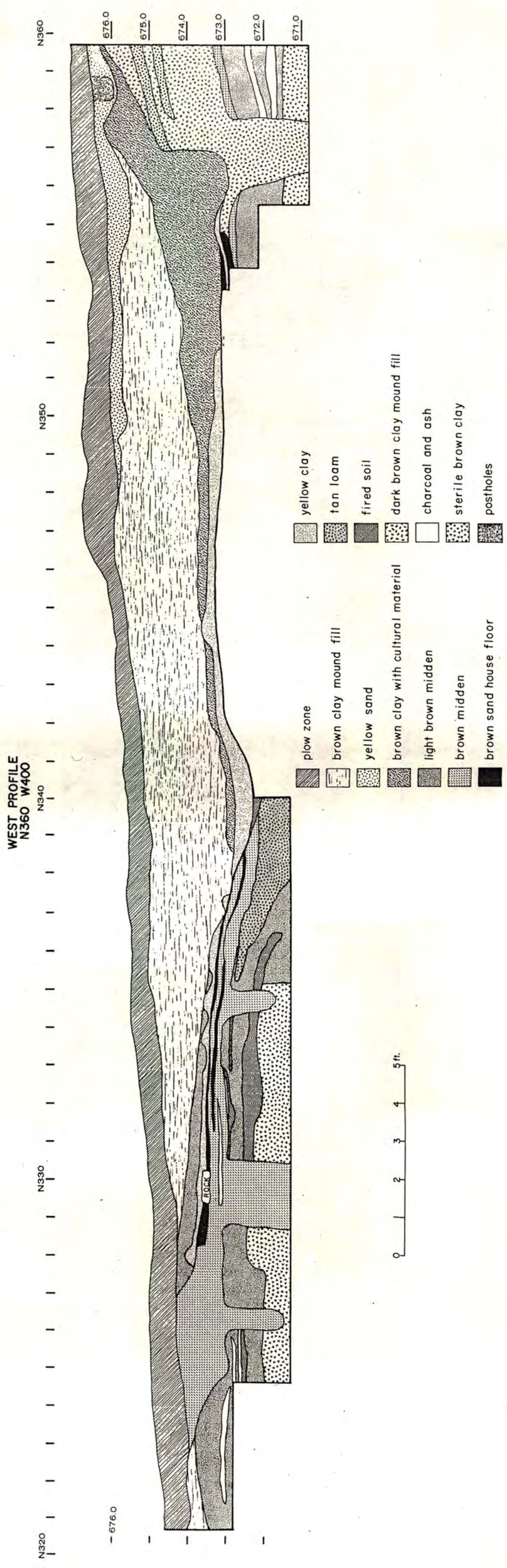


Figure 9



is probably the center of this structure. Interesting features encountered include: one probable hearth (Feat. 38) at N189-N184; 2 complete pottery vessels (Feat. 26) at N195; 3 stone slabs with grinding surfaces at N192; an area of fired soil at N194-N190; and a second one at N184-N181 upon which occurred 3 smashed vessels (Feat. 30). All features occur at between 671.4 and 671.0 ft. Sterile clay rises at N204 and N170 indicating the limits of the structure and the depth (.8 ft.) to which its floor was depressed below contemporaneous ground surface.

Artifacts recovered in excavation of the W630 trench are segregated by 20 ft. sections with two exceptions: 40 ft. sections between N280 and N240 and between N180 and N140. In the latter case, the size of the section was intentional and was a response to the low frequency of artifacts occurring south on N180. In the other case, however, artifacts obtained from two 20 ft. sections at N280 and N260 were accidentally combined in the field.

Artifact counts for the W630 trench are tabulated in Table 14. All collections are mixed, but Barnett phase pottery predominates throughout suggesting that this area of the site was intensively utilized only during the later component. Since little excavation was intentionally conducted in the structures, assigning them to components is difficult. Only in the case of structure 3 (N205-N170) can component affiliation be identified. The Lamar Incised bowl in Feat. 26 places that structure in the Barnett component. Given the predominance of Barnett phase pottery in and



Table 14

## Ceramic Artifacts from the W630 Trench

	N340	N320	N300	N280 -260	N240	N220	N200	N180 -160	Feat. 28
Lamar Incised	3	27	9	56	13	35	17	3	6
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee	6	23	2	46	6	28	33	1	4
unidentified fabric- marked				1					
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	6	41	13	170	7	71	180	7	15
plain rim	1			6		8	2	1	
pinched rim		6	1	14		9	5		2
notched rim		1							
lug				2		1			
frog effigy				1			4		
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta	10	67	15	125	14	67	55	3	25
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters	3	4	3	5	2	7	7	1	3
McKee Island Cord-marked		1					2		
McKee Island brushed		1				1			
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	4	1	3	7	1	23	7	3	
plain rim			3				2		
pinched rim		1				1			
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger	2	4		11	3	14			3
Dallas Incised		5	6	9	2	4	10	2	3
Dallas Plain	10	42	27	98	19	123	44	1	44
plain rim	1	4	3	5	2	8	4		
pinched rim strip		1							
outflaring rim							1		
handle						4		1	
lug	2			1		2			
frog effigy				1					
salt pan						1			
Woodstock Complicated Stamped			1			1			
Woodstock Check Stamped			1	1					
Swift Creek Complicated Stamped								1	
Mulberry Creek Plain			2				2	2	
Cartersville Plain			1					1	
unidentified cord-marked		1	1	2		2			
unidentified check-stamped		3		1					



around the other two structures, it is probable that they also date to this period.

Structures listed as 1 and 2 above are located 40 ft. apart, while structures listed as 2 and 3 are separated by 20 ft. With the exception of several postholes occurring just north of structure 2, no occupation features were noted in these intervening spaces.

Artifact distribution tends to parallel the distribution of features in the W630 trench. The greatest densities of definite Barnett phase pottery occur above and immediately north of structures (Fig. 24). The sole instance of occupation features occurring outside of structures was immediately north of structure 2. This suggests that either occupation activity tended to occur immediately outside of structures on their north rather than south sides or that garbage was intentionally deposited in that location.

Trench N88 W800 (3 x 10 ft.)

Three strata were recognizable in this trench. Sterile brown clay occurs at 671.35 ft. and is overlain by .5 ft. of light brown silty clay loam. Finally, there is approximately 1.5 ft. of tan sand similar to that found over most of the site.

No artifacts or other evidence of human activity were encountered in this trench. The light brown loam may equate geologically and chronologically with occupation strata overlying sterile clay elsewhere on the site.



# Distribution of Occupation Features and Barnett Phase Pottery in the W630 Trench

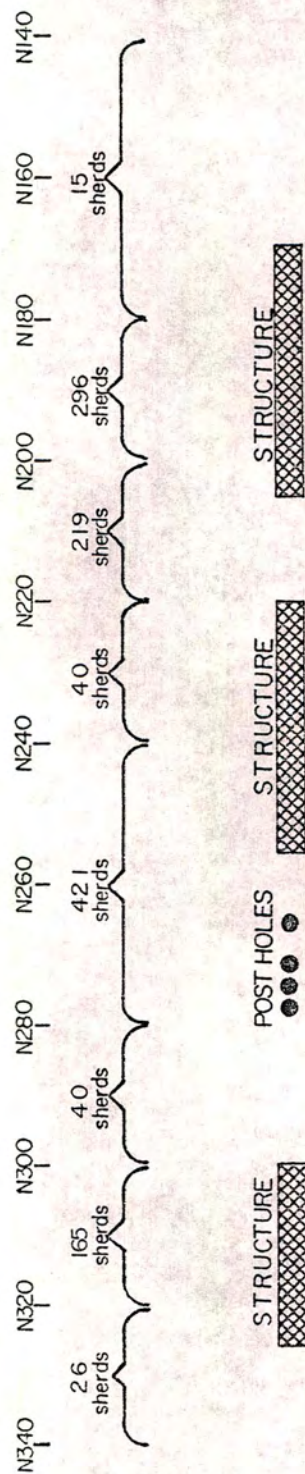


Figure 24



Trench N127 W800 (3 x 10 ft.)

Sterile preoccupation clay occurs at 671.4 ft. and is overlain by approximately .5 ft. of brown silty clay loam. The latter yielded scattered flecks of charcoal and fired earth, and a few small fragments of chert and pottery. There was no other evidence of human activity. Some 1.5 ft. of tan sand caps the deposits in the trench.

The brown silty clay loam stratum resembles culture bearing deposits elsewhere in the W630 and W800 trench south of N400 and probably equates with them geologically and chronologically. There does not appear, however, to have been any human activity in the vicinity of this trench.

A small number of artifacts were encountered in the brown silty clay loam, but because of their minute size, none were retained for analysis.

Trench N165 W800 (3 x 10 ft.)

Sterile preoccupation clay occurs at 671.6 ft. and is overlain by .7 ft. of dark brown silty clay loam containing sparse amounts of cultural material. The upper surface of the latter deposit bears plow scars; a thin layer of mottled tan sandy loam immediately above is probably an old plow-zone. The final deposit is tan sand.

Other than scattered fragments of pottery, charcoal and fired earth in the dark brown silty clay loam stratum, there is no evidence of human activity in the immediate vicinity of the trench. Because of their minute size, no artifacts were retained for analysis.



Trench N200 W800 (3 x 12 ft.)

Brown loam midden occurred at 671.8 in this trench. At this same elevation, Burial 11, an infant (age 1-6 yrs.) was encountered in the north end of the square at N198. All that remained of the burial was a single pottery vessel, some bone scraps and teeth caps. It is probable that the burial had been disturbed by plowing in the past.

Burial 11 was exposed by the backhoe during removal of the tan sandy soil overburden. Since the burial occurred at the top of the brown loam midden, it was decided to excavate only a small test pit into the stratum so as not to destroy other features that might be present. This test, measuring 1 x 2 ft., was placed at N171. It revealed .5 ft. of brown loam midden overlying a layer of charcoal and daub .2 ft. thick. This in turn overlay a burned sand layer .1 ft. thick which is probably the floor of a structure. This layer occurred at 671.2 ft. and immediately overlay sterile brown clay.

Other than the burial vessel, which is a Lamar Incised effigy bowl with effigy rim appendages (Plate III, h), no artifacts were recovered from the N200 W800 trench. Paste characteristics of the bowl somewhat resemble Little Egypt phase pottery, but the vessel probably dates to the later Barnett component. Even if this identification is correct, the architectural features encountered in the trench can not be dated as the burial seems on stratigraphic grounds to post-date them.

The location of the burial at the top of the midden stratum suggests



that a considerable amount of aboriginal midden has been removed from this part of the site.

Trench N248 W800 (3 x 13 ft.)

Sterile brown clay occurred at 670.0 ft. in this trench. It was overlain by 1 ft. of brown silty clay loam soil and finally by 1.5 ft. of tan sand. The brown silty clay loam stratum undoubtedly equates with the occupation stratum found elsewhere in the W630 and W800 trenches, but gave no indication of human activity at this location. Only one chert flake was recovered from the entire stratum, and no architectural features were in evidence.

Trench N320 W800 (3 x 40 ft.)

Sterile brown clay in this trench varies in depth between 671.8 and 671.4 ft. and is overlain by a dark brown silty clay loam midden (Fig. 25). There is some evidence for the existence of a structure or area of intensive human activity in the trench south of N310. South of this point, a number of postholes were detected in sterile clay, and the artifact content of the midden stratum increases. A large fragment of Lamar Stamped, var. Coosawattee and a layer of fired soil occur within the midden at N300. The fact that sterile clay rises from a general elevation of 671.4 ft. to 671.8 ft. at N300 suggests the existence of a depressed house floor.

Brown loam midden is overlain by .5 ft. of tan loam and then 1.5 ft. of tan sand. The former probably represents an old plowzone.



EAST PROFILE  
N320-N300 W800

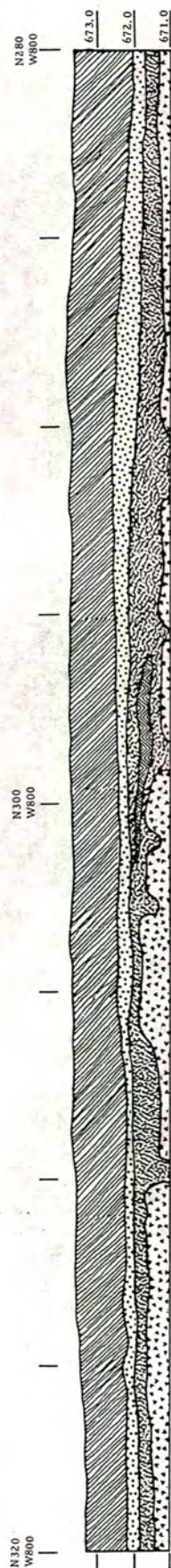
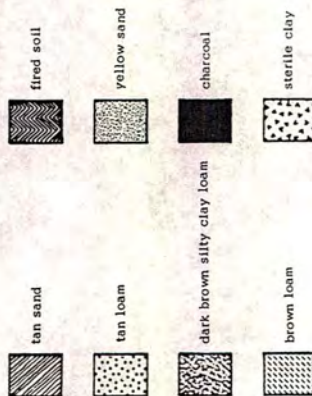


Figure 25

EAST PROFILE  
N375 W800



Figure 26



0 2 4 6 ft



Artifacts from the dark brown silty clay loam midden are listed in Table 15. The collection is predominately Barnett phase. It is probable that whatever activities are represented by the above described features, they date to the Barnett phase component.

Table 15

Ceramic Artifacts from Trenches N320 W800, N375 W800 and N500 W800

	N320 W800	N375 W800	N500 W800
Lamar Incised	21	5	10
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee	21	14	13
Corncob Marked	1		
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	81	24	24
plain rim	6	1	1
pinched rim	7	6	2
handle	1		
frog effigy	1		
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta	66	71	26
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters	8	1	17
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	2	6	16
plain rim	1	2	
pinched rim			2
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger		11	10
Dallas Incised	11	5	11
Dallas Plain	109	78	129
plain rim	8	4	8
pinched rim strip		1	
handle	1	1	1
lug	3		1
salt pan			1
Dallas Filleted	1	1	
Cartersville Check Stamped		1	
Cartersville Simple Stamped	1		
unidentified	1	1	



Trench N375 W800 (3 x 20 ft.)

Approximately 1.5 ft. of recent tan sand cap the deposits in this trench (Fig. 26). Sterile, preoccupation clay occurs at 670.4 ft. and is overlain by approximately .3 ft. of brown loam containing cultural material. Little cultural material occurs in the brown loam stratum north of N364. South of this point, artifact content increases markedly, and a number of architectural features occur. Nine postholes were detected in sterile clay here; several could be seen to originate in a series of fired soil and charcoal lenses occurring at 670.6 ft., and above. Altogether, the evidence indicates fairly intense human activity in the southern half of the trench and near total absence of such activity in the north. As has been the case elsewhere in the southern portion of the site, the brown loam midden shows little evidence of human activity beyond the immediate vicinity of architectural features.

Burial 10, an infant (age 1-6), was encountered at N356 at a depth of 669.5 ft. No artifacts accompanied the burial which seems to have been placed in a small circular pit .7 ft. in diameter.

Artifacts recovered from the trench are tabulated in Table 15. Pottery in the single collection is predominately of the Barnett phase. It is probable that this is the cultural affiliation of the various architectural features encountered in the southern end of the trench. Three small interlocking brass rings of European manufacture (Plate XV, e) were found in the upper portion of the brown loam stratum in association with the tan sand lens



at N357 (671.0 ft.). There is no reason to doubt that this artifact is intrusive into the aboriginal strata.

Trench N520 W800 (3 x 100 ft.)

Tan sand was removed by backhoe from a 100 ft. long trench between N420 and N520. Only 60 ft. of the trench was excavated to sterile pre-occupation clay: a 20 ft. section at N500 and a 40 ft. section at N460. According to these excavations, sterile brown clay rises slightly between N420 and N520 from 669.9 ft. to 670.5 ft.

A brown silty clay loam occurs above sterile clay in both trench segments, but is not uniform in nature. In the N500 trench segment, some thin lenses of gray clay and sand occur within it. These were interpreted as remnants of living surfaces at the time of excavation, but it is also possible that they are the result of natural deposition processes. Artifacts were fairly abundant in this trench and occurred with greater frequency in the lower half of the brown silty clay loam stratum. Small river pebbles were also present in the lower portion of the stratum.

In the 40 ft. section at N460, the brown silty clay loam stratum was virtually devoid of artifacts. Small river pebbles were present in the lower portion of the stratum here also.

Given the depth of sterile clay in the two trench segments and the presence of river pebbles near the base of the brown silty clay loam stratum, it is probable that erosion has effected stratigraphy here as elsewhere west



of Mound A. It is possible that occupation deposits have been destroyed here, and that the brown silt clay loam is the result of post-occupation deposition. Intact midden occurs at N530 W800, a scant 20 ft. north of the present excavation.

Artifacts from the N500 trench segment are listed in Table 15. The pottery collection is about evenly divided between the two Lamar components.

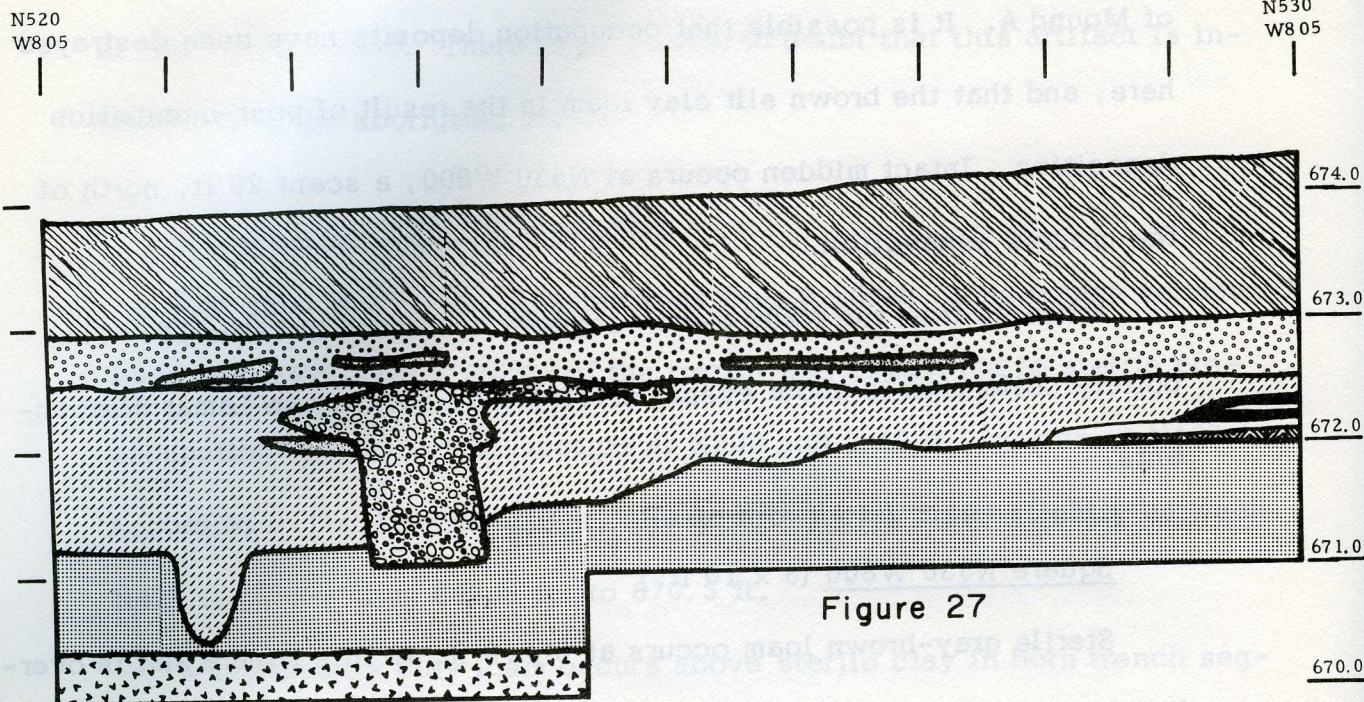
Square N530 W800 (5 x 10 ft.)

Sterile gray-brown loam occurs at 672.0 ft. in this square and is overlain by a brown fine sandy loam midden (Figs. 27 and 28). Throughout most of the square, this midden is .5 ft. thick. In the southwest and east-central portions of the square, shallow depressions occur in the gray-brown loam that are filled with the midden soil. Both depressions are roughly circular and reach a depth of 671.2 ft. Several large rocks occurred in one, and concentrated charcoal occurred in the other. No functional interpretation can be made for these features.

There is evidence for an occupation surface within the midden stratum at approximately 672.3 ft. Patches of sand and darker charcoal-rich soil occur at this elevation throughout the square, and a hearth occurs in the north end of the square (Fig. 28). The latter is represented by an extensive area of alternating fired soil and ash layers suggestive of two superimposed hearths. Several postholes were recorded in a floor plan at 672.3



# WEST PROFILE N530 W800



## NORTH PROFILE N530 W800

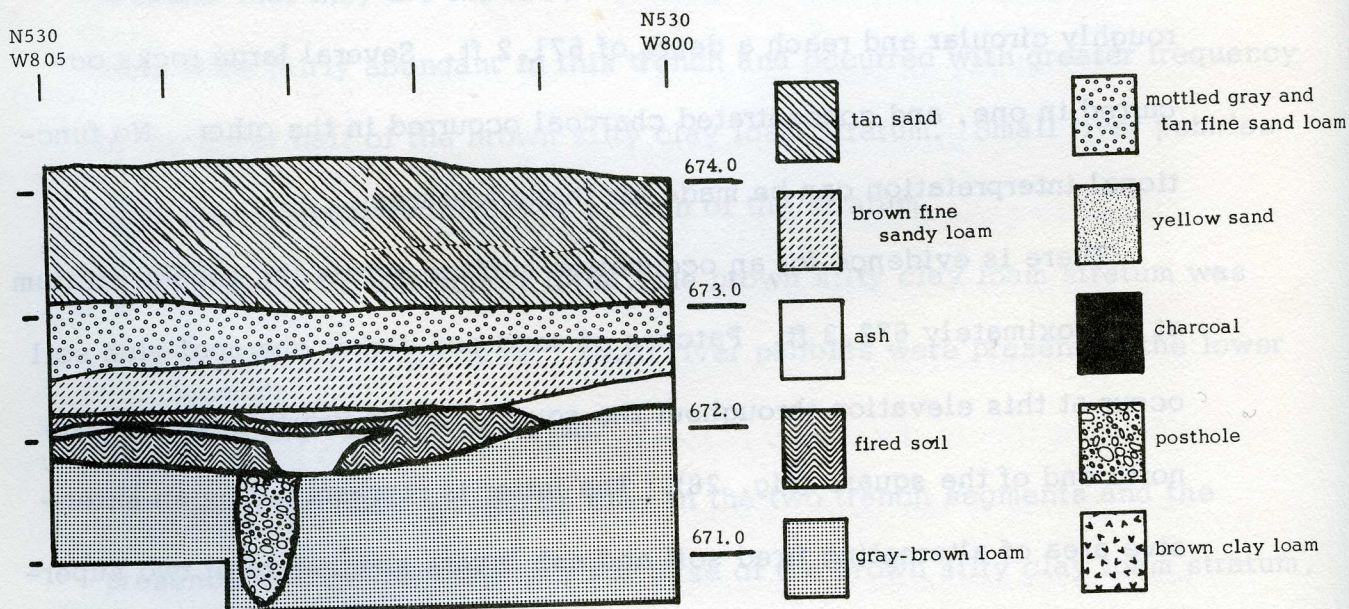


Figure 28



ft. that did not appear in a floor plan drawn at 672.5 ft.

At N528 W801, a circular concentration of charred wood and corncobs (Feat. 17) occurred at a depth of 671.3. It is .7 ft. in diameter and .2 ft. thick. Although no outline of a pit was detected, it is probable that the charred material was at the bottom of a narrow pit that originated from an occupation surface at a higher elevation, perhaps the one at 672.3 ft.

Brown fine sandy loam midden is overlain by a mottled gray and tan fine sandy loam at 672.6. This stratum probably represents an old plow-zone. That some of the midden stratum had been destroyed, possibly by plowing, is demonstrated by the occurrence of a posthole in the west profile that extends up to the mottled stratum. In addition, three other postholes were present in the floor plan at 672.5 ft. The final stratum in the square is recently deposited tan sand.

Square N530 W800 was excavated in six levels: Level 1, 674.3-672.8; Level 2, 672.8-672.3; Level 3, 672.3-671.8; Level 4, 671.8-671.3; Level 5, 671.3-670.9; Level 6, 670.9-670.0. Pottery from these levels is listed in Table 16. The upper three levels of the square contain both early and late Lamar ceramics with the latter predominating. Little Egypt phase pottery is proportionately more common in Level 3, however, while it occurs almost exclusively in Levels 4-6. It is not possible to assign the occupation surface at 672.3 ft. to either Lamar component with certainty. The lower half of the midden (below 672.3), however, seems to have accumulated during the Little Egypt phase.



Table 16

## Ceramic Artifacts from Square N530 W800

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Lamar Incised	6	16	10			
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee	3	18	4			2
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	18	72	36	11		
plain rim	1	4	4			
pinched rim		2	1			
rim node			1			
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta	17	28	18	3		
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters	6	7	15	16	4	
McKee Island Cord-marked		5	12	22	7	7
McKee Island Brushed				1		
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	15	12	8	7	15	6
plain rim	3	2	1	2		
pinched rim		1	1	2		
lug		1				
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger	7	16	27	15	3	
Dallas Incised	4	22	16	13	3	1
Dallas Plain	69	287	226	101	28	2
plain rim	3	15	12	5	1	2
rim node				1		
handle		2		1		
lug		2	4	1		
Dallas Filleted		2	4	2		
Woodstock Complicated Stamped		3	6	1	4	6
Woodstock Check Stamped		2				
Wright Check Stamped						1
Cartersville Check Stamped	1		1			1
Cartersville Simple Stamped					1	3
Cartersville Plain				1		3
unidentified cord-marked		1	2	1		



Woodstock phase pottery is fairly abundant, but is evenly distributed throughout the square. This situation would seem to indicate that there may be no intact Woodstock deposits or features in the square.

Squares N580 W800, N590 W800, N583 W805 and N585 W809

Tree falls and pot hunters pits inspected during the winter of 1968-69 revealed evidence of rich midden deposits in the low east/west oriented ridge at N600. As a result, it was decided to place a single 5 x 10 ft. square in this location at N580 W800. The positive results of this test prompted the expansion of excavations to eventually include some 190 square feet (Fig. 29). Stratigraphy is basically uniform throughout the area, and as a result the entire excavation will be described as a unit.

As is shown on the site map (Fig. 3) ground surface slopes upward slightly from the south and then drops off sharply into the east/west oriented erosion channel at N600. The uppermost stratum in the excavation unit is a light brown loam. It averages 1 ft. in thickness except in the northern part of the unit where it becomes considerably thicker as the surface of the underlying stratum drops away sharply (Figs. 30 and 31). This stratum contained a few artifacts, but apparently postdates not only aboriginal occupation, but cutting of the erosion channel as well. Sterile subsoil, a brown loam, occurs between 672.0 and 672.5 and is underlain by sterile clay at 671.0 ft.

Underlying the recent light brown loam is a brown fine sandy loam



SQUARES N580 W800, N583 W805,  
N585 W809 & N590 W800 - PLAN AT 674.0

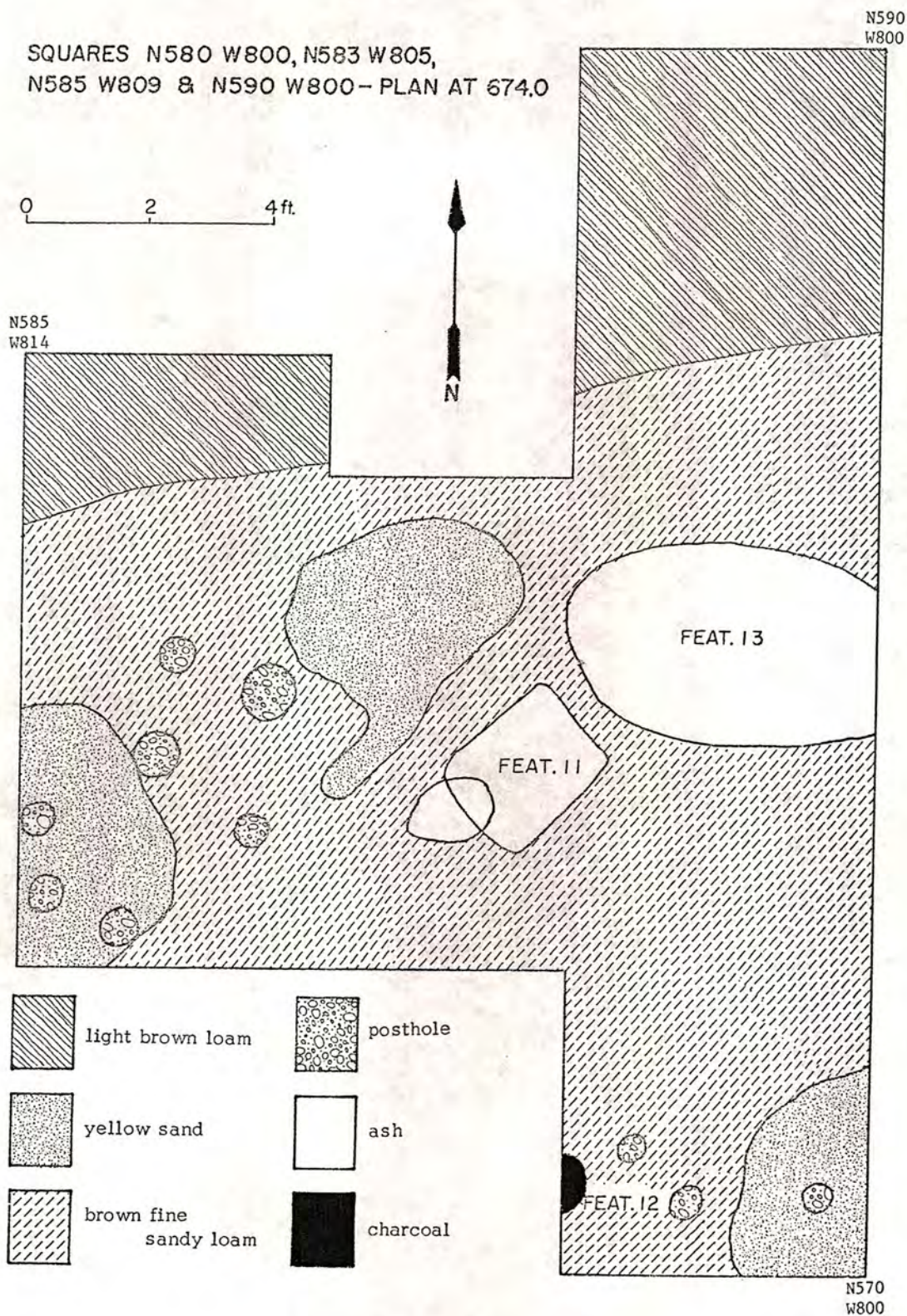


Figure 29



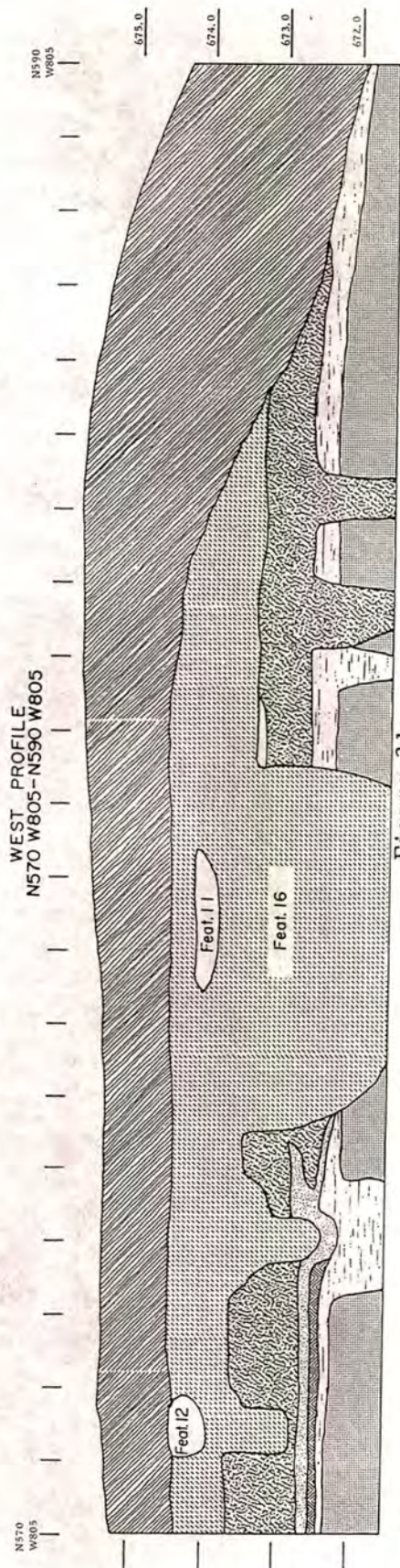
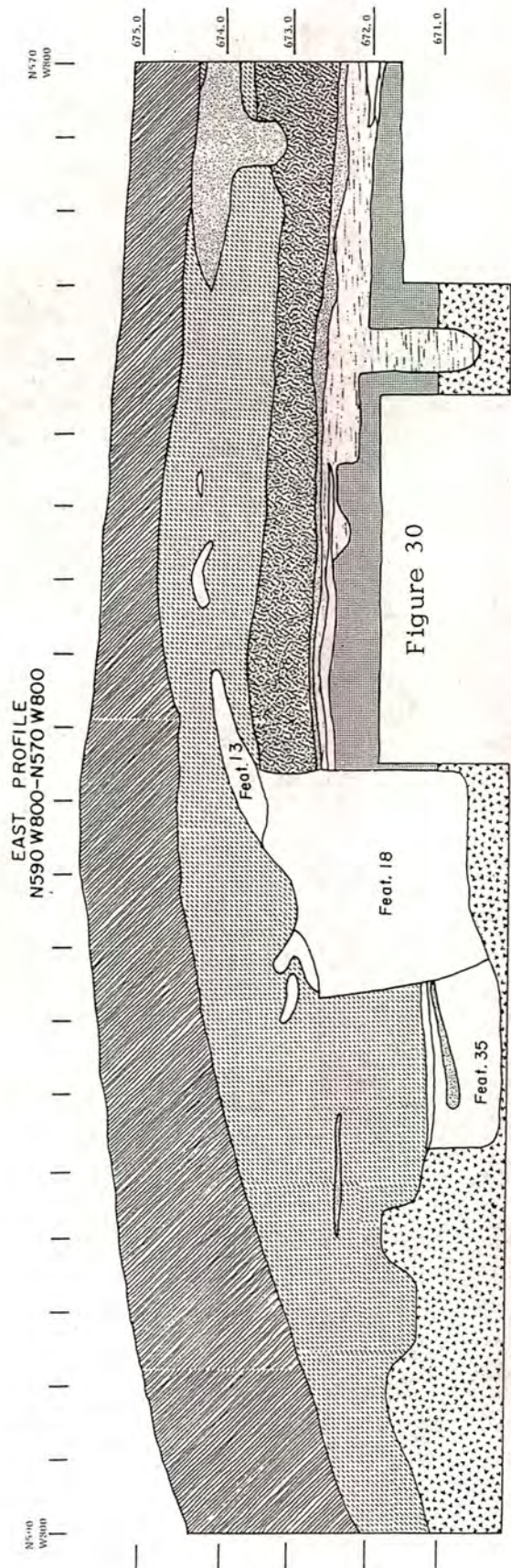
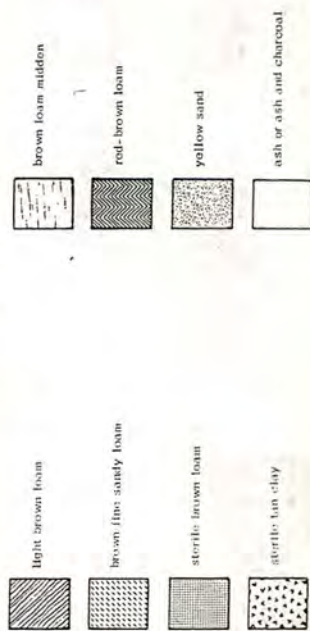


Figure 31



0 1 2 3 4 5 ft



which varies in thickness between .5 and 1.3 ft. Artifact content was relatively great and several cultural features were present. A clay hearth (Feat. 11) occurred at an elevation of 674.1 ft. at N586 W809 (Figs. 29 and 31). It was rectangular in shape, measured 2 x 2.4 ft., and had a squared basin .4 ft. deep. An ash deposit (Feat. 13), rich in charred organic material, flanked the hearth on the northeast (Figs. 29, 31 and 32). A small circular deposit of charred corncobs (Feat. 12) measuring .7 ft. in diameter and .5 ft. thick, occurred at N581 W805 (674.3 ft.) (Figs. 29 and 31). Patches of yellow sand occurred throughout the excavated area at an elevation of approximately 674.0 ft. These features plus a number of postholes that definitely originate from an elevation of approximately 674.0 strongly indicate the presence of an occupation surface-- probably the floor of a structure -- at this elevation.

Feature 16 is a large pit measuring roughly 6 ft. in diameter that contained three burials (Fig. 35). It is clearly visible in profiles up to an elevation of 673.55. Both north and west profiles (Figs. 31 and 32) in square N580 W800 show the pit originating from the base of the brown fine sandy loam stratum. The west profile also shows the hearth (Feat. 11) directly above it, while the north profile seems to show the pit cutting through the ash concentration (Feat. 13). Whether Feat. 16 predates or postdates the living surface at 674.0 is not known. It is probable that the two are roughly contemporaneous.

Feature 18, a second large pit, measuring approximately 5 ft. in



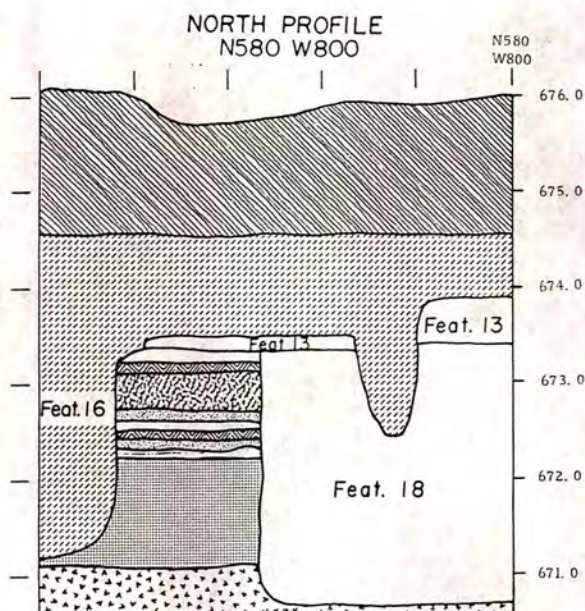


Figure 32

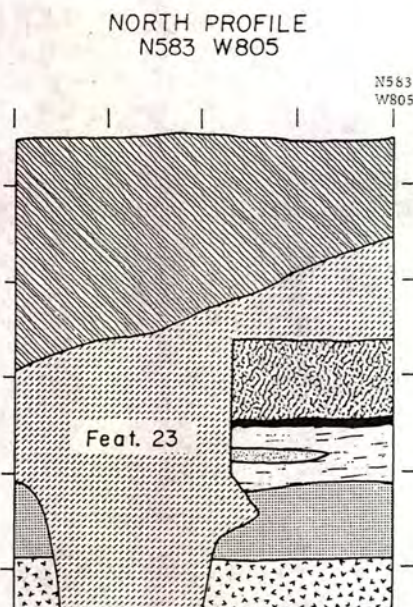


Figure 33

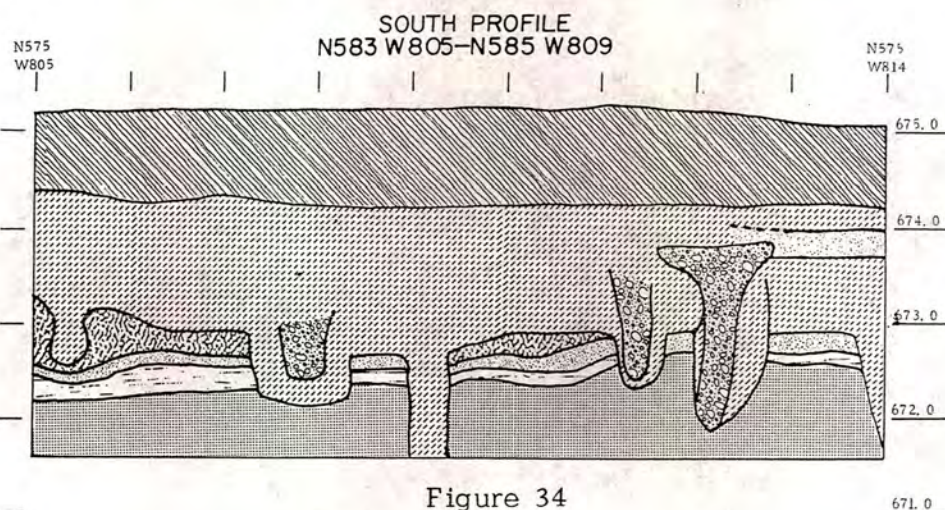
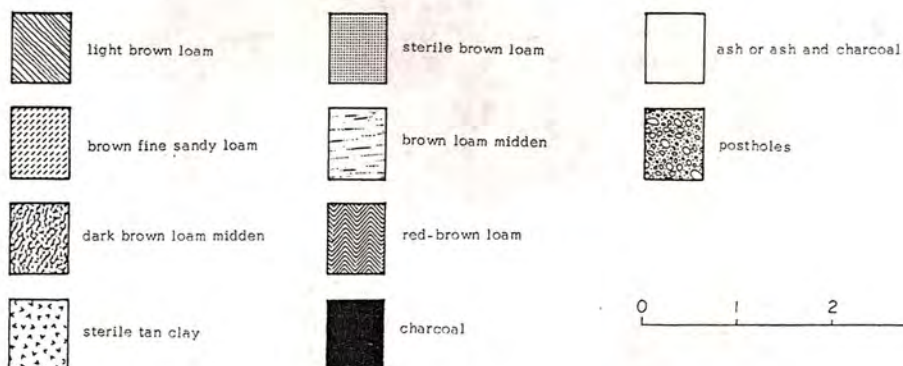


Figure 34





SQUARES N580 W800, N583 W805, N585 W809  
& N590 W800 — PLAN AT APPROX. 672.7  
(BURIALS OCCURRING AT LOWER ELEVATIONS)

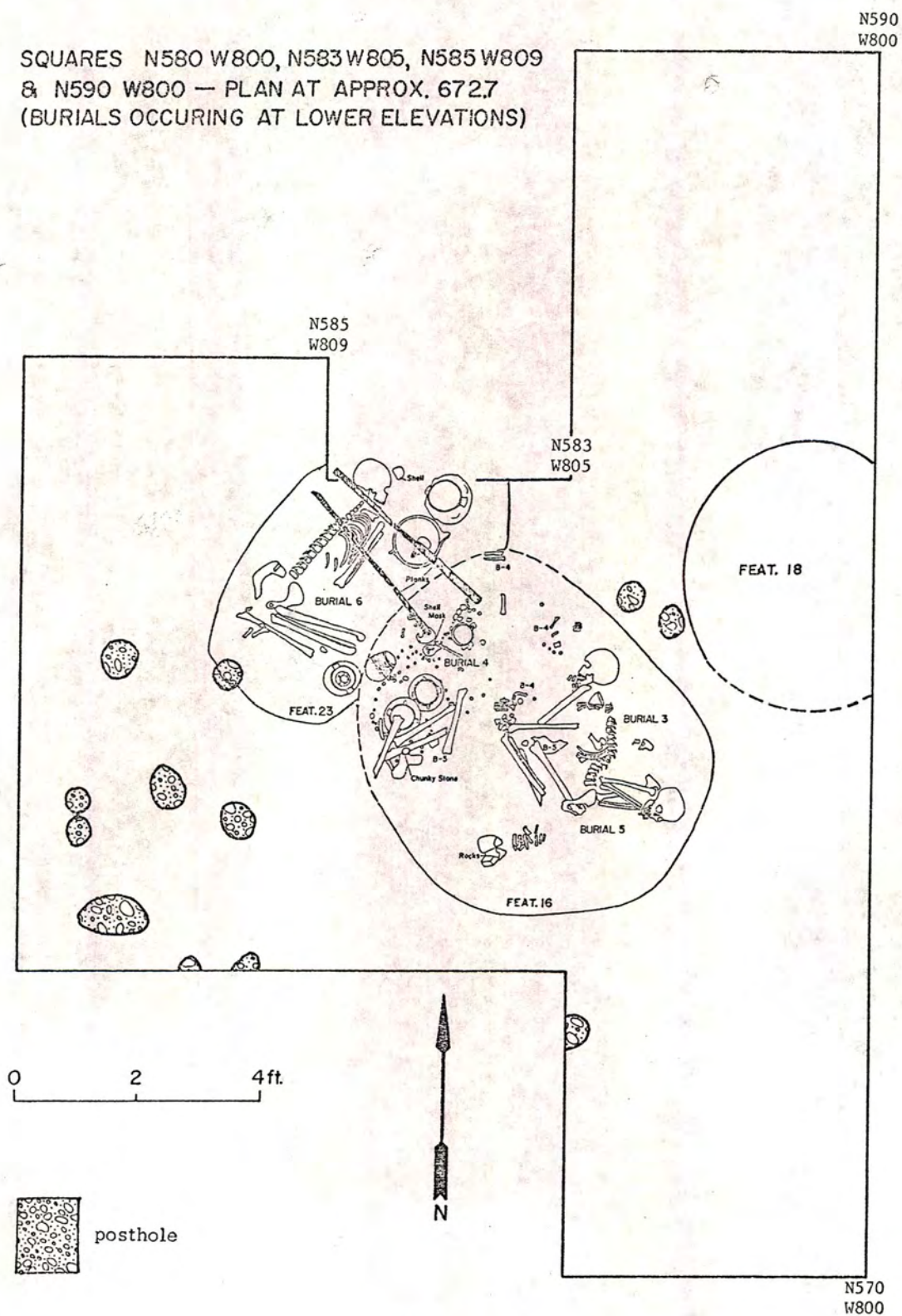


Figure 35



diameter also originated from the brown fine sandy loam stratum. It is entirely overlain by Feat. 13, but no doubt is essentially contemporaneous with the living surface at 674.0 ft. Finally, Feat. 23, a large straight sided pit containing Burial 6, also originated from the base of brown fine sandy loam at 673.5 (Fig. 33). It also is probably roughly contemporaneous with the occupation surface at 674.0 ft.

Feature 16 contained the remains of 3 burials (Fig. 36). Burial 3, a probable male (age 31-40) was an intact skeleton lying flexed on its right side. It overlay portions of the upper torso of Burial 5, a probable female (age 18-30). What is presumably the pelvis and legs of Burial 5 occur some 2 ft. southwest of their anatomically correct position. In this same area are the remains of Burial 4 (age 1) and an abundance of grave goods: three pottery vessels (Plate III, d, e, g), a conch shell mask, and columella beads (Plate XIX, a-j). It is probable that Burial 5 was interred along with the infant. Burial 3, interred at a later date, intruded into the earlier burials. The lower torso of the earlier Burial 5 and the infant were placed off to the side of the new burial pit. Distinct pit outlines for the two different burial episodes represented by Feat. 16 could not be detected during excavation. The burial or burials with which the grave goods belong cannot be determined on stratigraphic grounds. Analysis of Barnett and Dallas phase mortuary practices (Hatch 1974; Seckinger, personal communication), however, indicate that the kinds of items present in Feat. 16 usually accompany adult females and infants.



BURIALS 3-6  
FEATURES 16 & 23  
SQUARES N580 W800, N583 W805, N585 W809

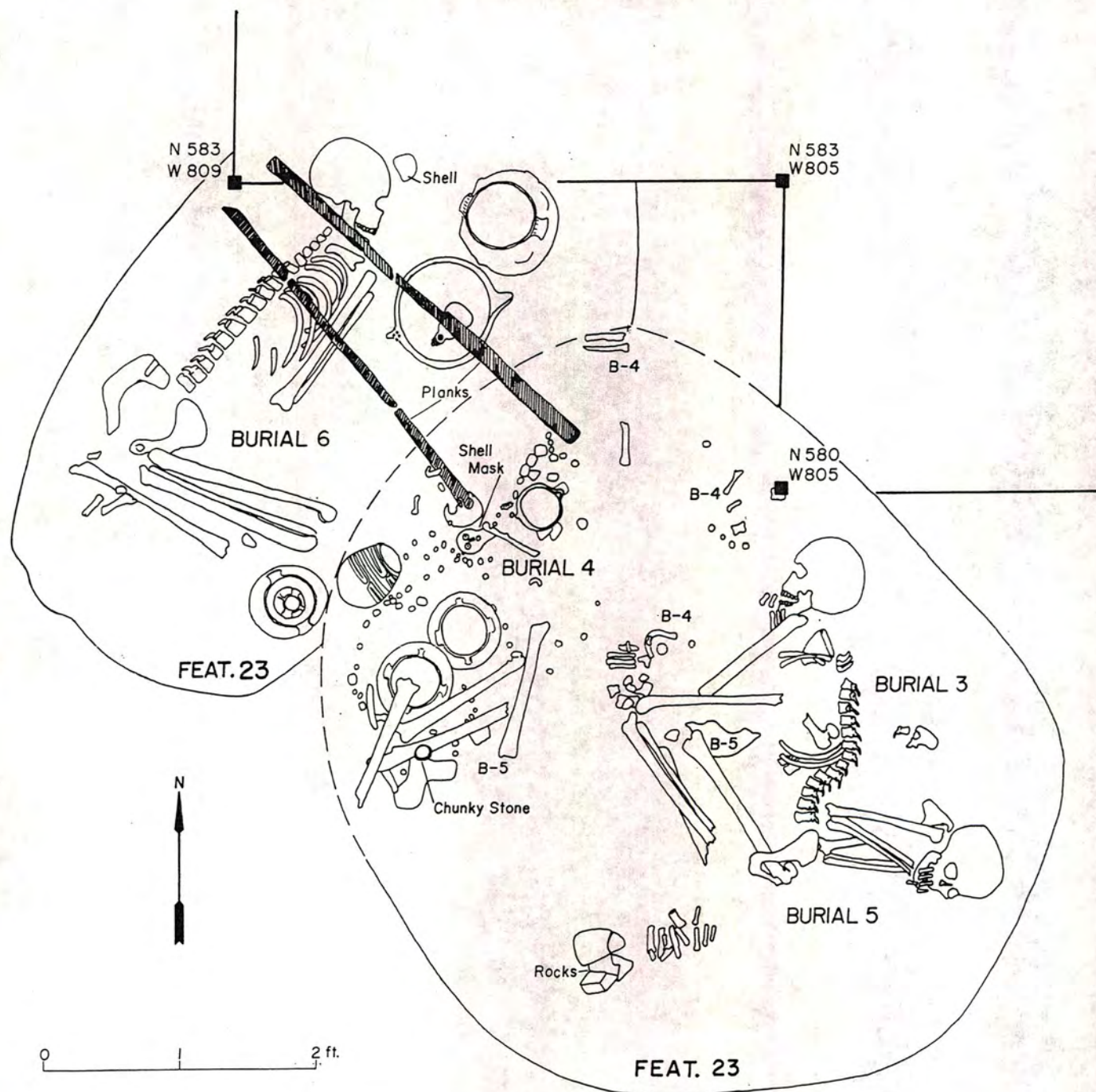


Figure 36



Burial 6 (Feat. 23) is a male (possible age 40+) lying in a flexed position on its left side. Six pottery vessels (Plate III, a-c, f, i, j) located at the head and knees accompanied the burial. Two wooden planks bridged the northeast end of the burial pit immediately above the grave goods and skeleton. Burial 6 seems to have preceded Burials 3, 4 and 5. The pit excavated for the latter slightly overlaps the Burial 6 pit, the bottom of which occurs at 670.2 ft. Some grave goods and portions of Burial 4 and 5 overlay the ends of the planks.

Feature 18 had carefully cut, vertical walls and a level, flat bottom. It has all the characteristics of a burial pit, but no evidence of an interment was found within it. Feat. 18 is intrusive into the southern edge of another pit (Feat. 35) which contains a burial (Burial 12) (Fig. 30). Feat. 35 cannot be traced upwards beyond 671.2. As a result it is not known whether the pit originates from the same 674.0 ft. occupation surface. Burial 12 was discovered on the last day of the field season and was not excavated. It lies directly on the floor of the Feat. 35 pit.

The third stratum encountered in excavation of the four squares is a dark brown loam containing scattered charcoal flecks and abundant artifacts. It occurs between 673.7 and 672.2 ft. It is found throughout the excavated area except in the northern portion of Square N590 W800 where it has been destroyed by erosion. Near the bottom of this stratum, between 672.2 and 672.8 ft., are a series of sand, loam and ash lenses which occur throughout almost the entire excavation unit and no doubt



represent an occupation surface. Beneath these, the loam midden becomes lighter in color. Several postholes originate from the loam midden and associated lenses (Fig. 31).

As is evident in Figs. 30 and 31, the upper surface of the several occupation strata slopes down rather steeply in the northern half of Square N590 W800. The most probable explanation for this situation, given the available stratigraphic and topographic information, is that these strata have been partially destroyed by erosion during the formation of the gully at N600. Subsequent deposition of the light brown loam has resulted in the partial filling of the gully.

The excavation unit under consideration was excavated as four separate squares: three 5 x 10 ft. squares at N580 W800, N590 W800, and N589 W805; and one 4 x 10 ft. square at N583 W805. Counts for the various excavation levels and features are presented in Table 17-20. In order to facilitate the discussion of cultural stratigraphy, excavation units will be referred to by field catalogue numbers rather than by level. These numbers and their stratigraphic position within the excavations are as follows:

Square N580 W800: Lot 376, 675.0-674.8; Lot 377, 674.8-674.3;

Lot 382, 674.3-673.7; Lot 383, 673.7-673.2; Lot 387, 673.2-672.7; Lot 389, 672.7-672.2.

Square N583 W805: Lot 405, 675.5-673.9; Lot 406, 673.9-673.2;

Lot 407, 673.2-672.7; Lot 412, 672.7-672.2.



Table 17

## Ceramic Artifacts from Square N580 W800

	Lot 376	Lot 377	Lot 382	Lot 383	Lot 387	Lot 389	Feat. 11	Feat. 13	Feat. 15	Feat. 16
Lamar Incised	5	10	13	3		1				
Lamar Complicated										
Stamped, var. Coosawattee	5	12	1	2		1				
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	7	33	43	17	8	2	2	1		
plain rim	1	1		1			1			
pinched rim	1	3					1			
handle				1						
body node				1						
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta	7	28	28	8	4	1	2			
Lamar Complicated										
Stamped, var. Carters	6	13	27	20	54	14		2	5	1
McKee Island Cord Marked	1	6	19	16	47	9		2	7	
Rudder Comb Incised					1					
Dallas Negative Painted								1		
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	10	13	11	28	42	8		1		
plain rim			4	4	6	2				
pinched rim	1	3	4	6	4	1				
lug			1	1						
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger	6	17	37	72	59	28			8	
Dallas Incised	5	14	17	11	4	1	1			
Dallas Plain	42	230	366	267	331	108	5	7		
plain rim	4	13	20	22	16	6	1		3	
outflaring rim		1			4					
rim node				1						
handle		1	1	1	2	1				
lug		5	2	3	1		1			
body node			1	1	1					
frog effigy	1			1		1				
salt pan		1								
Dallas filleted		5	5	5	7	1				
Woodstock Complicated										
Stamped		1	1		4	1				9
Woodstock Check Stamped				2						
Wright Check Stamped					2					
Cartersville Check Stamped			1	1						1
Cartersville Simple Stamped				1	1					1
Cartersville Plain			1							
unidentified cord-marked						1				
unidentified check stamped			1							
unidentified			1		2					



Table 18

## Ceramic Artifacts from Square N583 W805

	Lot 405	Lot 406	Lot 407	Lot 412
Lamar Incised	7	3	1	1
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee	9			
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	31	9	3	2
plain rim	2			
pinched rim	2			
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta	26	8	2	
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters	12	24	23	8
McKee Island Cord Marked	12	10	12	9
Dallas Negative Painted	1			
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	11	15	18	7
plain rim	1	1	4	1
pinched rim	6			3
lug			1	
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger	18	37	38	14
Dallas Incised	14	16	8	1
Dallas Plain	219	189	230	102
plain rim	15	6	14	10
pinched rim strip			1	
beveled rim	1			
outflaring rim			1	
handle			1	1
lug	3	2	2	3
body node	1			
frog effigy	1			1
salt pan		1		
Dallas filleted	2	3	3	1
Woodstock Complicated Stamped	1	4	2	2
Cartersville Check Stamped	1			
Cartersville Simple Stamped				1
Cartersville Plain	2			
unidentified cord-marked		1		
unidentified check-stamped	1			
unidentified				1



Table 19

## Ceramic Artifacts from Square N585 W809

	Lot 433	Lot 434	Lot 440	Lot 452	Feat. 23
Lamar Incised	3	6	9	1	1
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee	6	14	6		2
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	7	24	6	3	1
plain rim		1			
pinched rim		3			
rim node		2			
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta	6	65	13		4
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters	9	56	59	28	18
McKee Island Cord Marked	3	15	45	23	8
Rudder Comb Incised			1	1	
Dallas Negative Painted			2		
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	2	35	42	6	3
plain rim		4	2	1	1
pinched rim		9	3	3	2
outflaring rim		1			
handle		1			
lug			1		
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger	4	81	79	25	9
Dallas Incised		9	7		2
Dallas Plain	46	361	352	48	83
plain rim	2	31	17		2
pinched rim strip					1
beveled rim		3			
outflaring rim			1		
rim node		1			
handle	1	1	2		
lug	1	6	2		2
frog effigy	2	2	1		
Dallas filleted		9	9		1
Woodstock Complicated Stamped		5	7	8	2
Woodstock Check Stamped		5	2		
Woodstock Incised					1
Cartersville Simple Stamped				2	
Cartersville Plain	1	5	2		
unidentified cord-marked		1	1	1	
unidentified check stamped		1			

Table 20

## Ceramic Artifacts from Square N590 W800

	Lot 443	Lot 444	Lot 449	Lot 451	Feat. 18
Lamar Incised	1	1	1		
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee	1	1	1		
Lamar Plain, var. Vann pinched rim	1		1		3
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta	1				4
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters	14	21	7	7	19
McKee Island Cord Marked	1	6	4	6	1
Lamar Plain, var. Murray plain rim	7	6	5	6	8
pinched rim	1		1		1
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger	16	9	9	9	16
Dallas Incised	2	3			3
Dallas Plain	124	66	44	7	110
plain rim	8	7	1	1	4
beveled rim		1			1
rim node			1		
handle	4	3			
lug	2				1
frog effigy					1
Dallas filleted	4				1
Woodstock Complicated Stamped	3			8	5
Cartersville Simple Stamped	1				
Cartersville Plain	1				2



Square N585 W809: Lot 433, 675.5-673.9; Lot 434, 673.9-673.2;  
Lot 440, 673.2-672.7; Lot 452, 672.7-671.9.

Square N590 W800 (exclusive of light brown loam): Lot 443, 673.9-  
673.3; Lot 444, 673.3-672.7; Lot 449, 672.7-672.2; Lot 451,  
672.2-670.0.

The following discussion of cultural stratigraphy pertains to the entire excavated area. Only one excavation level (Lot 376 in Square N580 W800) was limited to the light brown loam stratum. Pottery of both Lamar components were equally represented in it. In Squares N583 W805 and N585 W809, the light brown loam and the upper portion of the underlying brown fine sandy loam down to just below the occupation surface at 674.0 were excavated together as Lots 405 and 433. Lot 405 is mixed, while Lot 433 contains predominantly Little Egypt phase pottery. If the light brown loam is of recent age and erosional in origin, mixed pottery collections can be expected from it.

Lot 382 in Square N580 W800 and Lot 443 in Square N590 W88 are the only excavation levels that fall entirely within the brown fine sandy loam stratum. The former yielded roughly equal amounts of early and late Lamar pottery, while the latter had predominantly Little Egypt phase pottery. Lots 406 and 434 from excavation levels that span both the brown fine sandy loam and the underlying dark brown loam are mixed, but predominantly early Lamar in pottery composition. The ash contents of Feature 11, the hearth at 674.2 ft., yielded exclusively Barnett phase pottery.



Feature 13, however, yielded predominantly Little Egypt phase pottery. One diagnostic Barnett phase vessel, a Lamar Plain, var. Cohutta bowl, accompanied Burials 3-5. Finally, Burial 6 was accompanied by 2 diagnostic Barnett phase vessels, both Lamar Bold Incised. These collections are best interpreted as indicating a Barnett phase cultural affiliation for the brown fine sandy loam stratum and the occupation surface at 674.0 ft.

The dark brown loam stratum is represented by Lots 383, 387, 407, 440, 444 and 449 in the four squares. In Lots 387 and 407, the pottery is almost entirely Little Egypt phase. In Lots 383, 440, 444 and 449 there is a predominance of this early pottery. It would appear then that the dark brown loam stratum dates to the Little Egypt phase occupation of the site.

The several thin strata that have been identified as an occupation surface at 672.2-672.8 ft. are represented by Lots 389, 407, 412, 451, 452, and 395. These lots contain almost exclusively early Lamar pottery. It appears then that this occupation surface is Little Egypt phase in age.



Square N670 W800 (5 x 5 ft. )

This square was excavated in order to investigate stratigraphy in the large area of floodplain lying between the Coosawattee River and the east/west oriented erosion channel at N600. The square was excavated from ground surface at 676.6 ft. to a depth of 670.4 ft. Homogeneous sand layers and banded sands were encountered throughout the entire depth of the square. No artifacts or other evidence of human occupation was encountered.

Stratigraphy in Square N670 W800 appears to be composed entirely of flood deposited sands. This one test square is hardly an adequate basis for generalization about the entire area north of the erosion channel at N600. Nevertheless, it does seem likely that only sterile, probably recent, alluvial deposits exist in this area.

Square N536 W601 (3.6 x 30 ft. )

This square was placed in a large, shallow depression identifiable as an old excavation. Investigation here had as its objectives: determination of the extent of damage done to the mound by the earlier excavation; and investigation of mound stratigraphy by cleaning the walls of the old pit. The field season drew to a close before these objectives were completely accomplished.

Investigations did indicate that the old pit measured at least 27 ft. across on a northwest/southwest axis and at least 6 ft. across on a



northeast/southwest axis. Portions of the old pit were found to penetrate at least 6 ft. into the mound. Stratigraphy visible in a portion of the old pit wall consisted of sterile clay and midden mound fill between 677.1 and 672.7 ft. A horizontal yellow clay lens .4 ft. thick, was encountered at several locations in pit walls at 675.2 ft. One posthole could be seen extending down from the lens, but no cultural debris was associated with it. It is probable that a mound summit surface is represented.

Mr. John Padget, a long time resident of the Carters area, identified Mound B as the location of Moorehead's large mound excavation. According to the published description (Moorehead 1932:150-154), Moorehead dug a pit measuring 40 ft. east/west, 30 ft. north/south, and at least 10 ft. deep. The size of the pit investigated in the N536 W601 square is not known, but it certainly could be this large. At least one other amateur is known to have excavated extensively at Little Egypt, and it may be one of his pits that is represented here.

### Summary and Interpretations of Excavations

#### Site Stratigraphy

With two exceptions, sterile subsoil throughout the area investigated in 1969 consists of clay or clay loam. In the excavations at N530 W800 and N580 W800, approximately 1.5 ft. of sterile loam underlies cultural deposits and is in turn underlain by sterile clay.

Over most of the known site area, sterile subsoil occurs at an elevation of between 671.0 and 672.5 ft. In a large area west and north of



Mound A and between Mounds A and B (outlined on map, Fig. 37) test excavations indicate that sterile subsoil occurs at a lower elevation -- 669.0-670.8 ft. The overlying soil stratum in this area is a clay loam or silty clay loam that is almost totally devoid of occupation features and artifacts. Small river pebbles generally occur near the bottom of this stratum. Surrounding this sterile area on the north, south and east are large expanses of occupation deposits. Present day ground surface is 1-4 ft. higher in these occupation zones than in the sterile area.

The low lying sterile area may be interpreted in two ways.

1. According to the interpretation favored by the author, it is the result of post-European erosion caused by flood water from the Coosawattee River and Talking Rock Creek sweeping between the two mounds and out over the field west of Mound A. Aboriginal occupation deposits and sterile subsoil which existed in the water's path were scoured away to a depth of approximately 670.0 ft. The steeply sloping north face of Mound A suggests that a portion of the mound may also have been destroyed by such erosion. The small pebbles present at the base of the clay loam-silty clay loam stratum are probably a by-product of water flow across the area. Dr. Robert Carver, Associate Professor of Geology, University of Georgia, concurs with the author in this interpretation (personal communication 6/20/76).

The fact that burial pits and postholes in the W550 trench and Square N503 W630 and a possible structure in trench N375 W800 have been



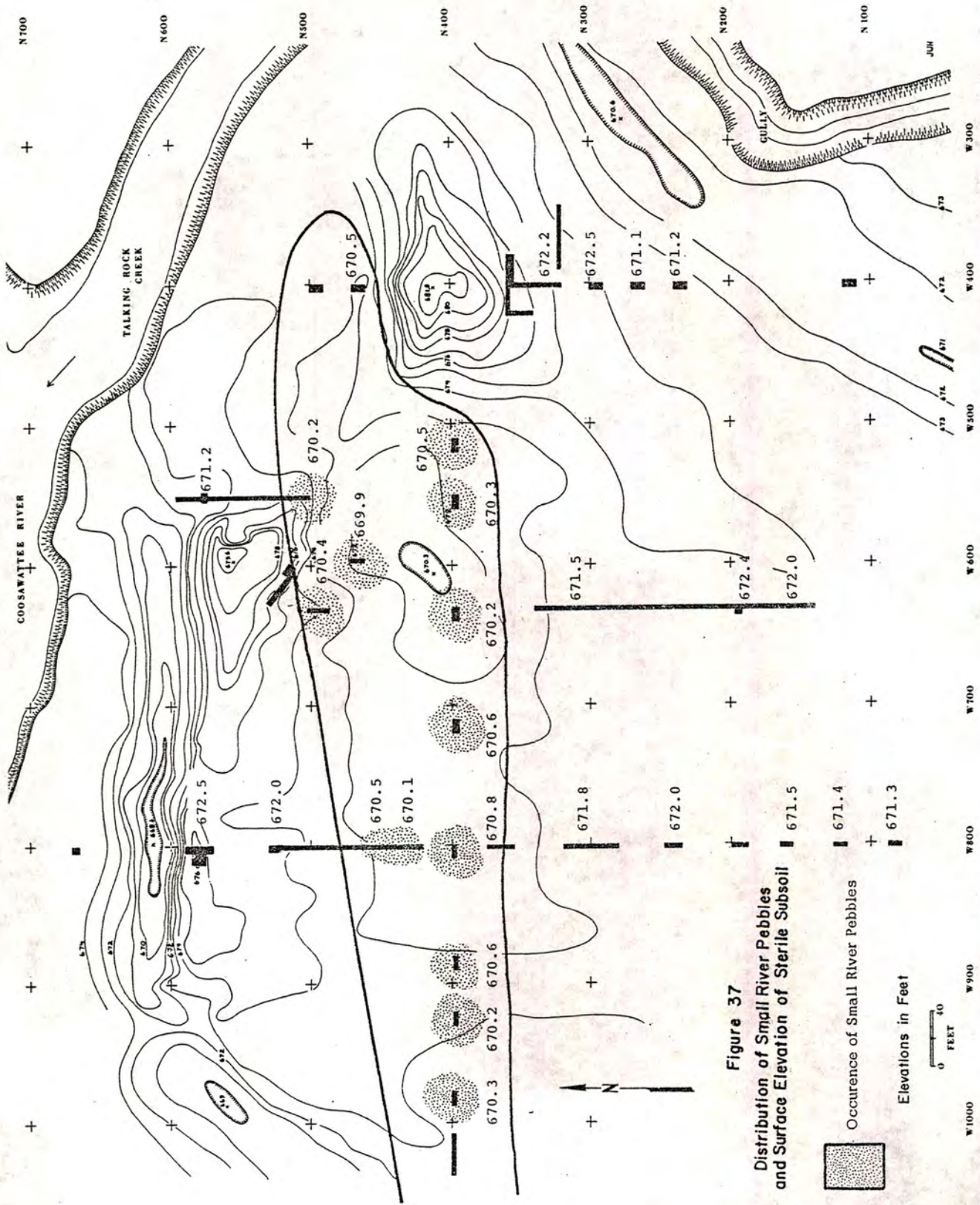


Figure 37  
Distribution of Small River Pebbles  
and Surface Elevation of Sterile Subsoil

Occurrence of Small River Pebbles  
Elevations in Feet

0 40  
FEET



truncated and in some cases overlain by a silty clay loam with small river pebbles indicates that the hypothesized erosion occurred subsequent to aboriginal site occupation. Subsequent alluvial deposition is represented by the clay loam-silty clay loam stratum containing river pebbles.

2. A second possible interpretation is that the low lying sterile area is a plaza located in the center of the site. There is abundant archaeological (Davis 1966:34) and ethnohistorical (Swanton 1911) evidence that large areas in the center of southeastern towns were reserved for public and ceremonial activities and were kept free of occupation debris and structures. There is also evidence (Phillips, Ford and Griffin 1952; Swanton 1928:188) that the plaza might be lower in elevation than the surrounding habitation zone. Attractive as this interpretation is, the geological interpretation alone can account for the conditions observed in the field: namely the removal of at least one foot of sterile subsoil over an area measuring at least 600 x 150 ft. ; the extension of these same conditions between Mounds A and B and apparently north of Mound B; and the presence of small pebbles just above undisturbed sterile soil.

Throughout almost all of the occupied site area, the strata in which occupation features and cultural debris occur is a clay loam or silty clay loam (Fig. 38). Light soils, attributable to the period of site occupation, occur in place of these in four excavations, Squares N240 W400, N300 W400, N530 W800 and N580 W800. Soil texture identification in the latter three tests was performed by Dr. Henry F. Perkins, Department of



**Figure 38**  
**Texture and Surface Elevation of**  
**Strata Overlying Sterile Preoccupation Soil**



Agronomy, University of Georgia, while identification of the loam midden stratum in Square N240 W400 was made in the field by the author. If we ignore this latter identification because it is unreliable, we are left with only three locations on the site where occupation period soils are relatively light in texture. Both are on the northern side of the site near the Coosawattee River and Talking Rock Creek. It is suggested that, because of its proximity to the bank of these streams, the northern edge of the site was receiving coarser alluvial sediments in aboriginal times during annual floods than was the remainder of the site. Occupation period deposits are also thicker and have a higher surface elevation in two of the areas (Square N300 W400 and Square N580 W800) (Fig. 38). This suggests a more rapid rate of alluviation which is also indicative of proximity to stream banks. It should be noted that the greater thickness of midden deposits in these two excavation areas may be due to less post-occupation erosion. The Square N300 W400 area was protected from flood water scour by Mound A, while similar protection may have been offered the Square N580 W800 area by the tree row existing along the N600 line.

As noted in Chapter 1, the location of Talking Rock Creek between Bell Field Mound and Little Egypt suggests that there has been little lateral movement of the two streams at the point of their junction since at least A. D. 1400. In other words, Little Egypt has throughout its existence probably been situated immediately adjacent to the two streams. Given this location, we can expect the northern part of the site in general to be



characterized by slightly higher elevations, slightly coarser soils, better drainage and more rapid alluviation. These conditions may have affected the distribution of occupation activities during the several components (see next section) and the preservation of organic material. Animal bone preservation is distinctly better in the N580 W800 area than it is south of N400 in the W630 and W800 trenches. Also a point to be considered in future site excavations is the fact that because of the soil texture differences, screening and flotation extraction should be easier and less destructive of fragile cultural material in northern locations.

The Little Egypt site has been modified and damaged in a number of ways subsequent to aboriginal occupation. These changes have been referred to and documented in several places throughout this report. It is appropriate that they be summarized here.

1. The depression southeast of Mound A was investigated in Square N120 W400 and Trench N323 W345. In the former, occupation deposits have been completely destroyed. At N323 W345, occupation deposits and the sterile clay that underlies them appear to have been destroyed in the end of the trench nearest the depression. It is concluded from this evidence that the depression was formed by flood water erosion subsequent to site occupation.

2. The floodplain north of Mound A and east of Mound B was investigated in three excavations: the W550 trench and Squares N 470 W400 and N500 W400. In the former, there is evidence that erosion has cut



aboriginal deposits down to the level where only the bottom of burial pits and postholes remain. No occupation deposits are present in the two W400 squares even though they lie within 50 ft. of Mound A. Moorehead reported rich village remains in this same area. It is probable that occupation deposits or the burials that underlay them were just being exposed by erosion when he worked at the site.

3. The gully at N600 was investigated in Square N590 W800. Occupation strata have been cut away in the northern half of that square indicating that gully formation occurred after site occupation. Moorehead makes no mention of the gully and one of his crewmen who visited the 1969 excavations did not remember the gully. This suggests that it was cut after 1925.

4. The broad shallow depression lying south of Mound B and west of Mound A was investigated in trenches along the N400, W630 and W800 lines and in Square N472 W585. The surface of sterile pre-occupation soils is 1-2 ft. lower in this area than elsewhere on the site. Small river pebbles, present immediately above sterile sub-soil, are probably associated with this erosion episode. The presence of postholes in Square N503 W630 and the shallow depth of the presumed house floor at N375 W800 are evidence that the erosion has occurred subsequent to site occupation.

5. Mounds A and B have probably been affected by erosion on their northern and, in the case of Mound B, eastern sides.



6. Aboriginal occupation deposits were apparently exposed over most of the site at the time of Moorehead's visit. Several statements in his brief account of investigations indicate that cultural material was present on the contemporary ground surface over a large area. This reconstruction is supported by the presence of an old plowzone immediately above occupation deposits in many of the 1969 excavations. In several instances (Squares N270 W400, N300 W400, N503 W630, N200 W800) there is stratigraphic evidence that occupation surfaces have been destroyed by plowing and/or erosion.

7. At some point during the 35 year period following Moorehead, widespread surface erosion must have been superseded by alluviation. Today nearly all cultural deposits and the relic plowzone are buried beneath 1-2 ft. of generally sterile, coarse-textured soil. This alluvium has probably accumulated gradually throughout most of the period. There is, however, a local tradition that a single flood in 1937 was responsible for most of the build-up.

The location of features identifiable as structures is plotted in Fig. 39. From this it is apparent that a large village area existed south and west of the two mounds. Whether the low sterile area centered on the N400 line was also village area can not be determined with available evidence. Stratigraphy in the N375 W800 trench suggests that it was, as the occupation stratum there seems to have been partially destroyed: it is only .4 ft. thick, and the probable structure at N365 extends right



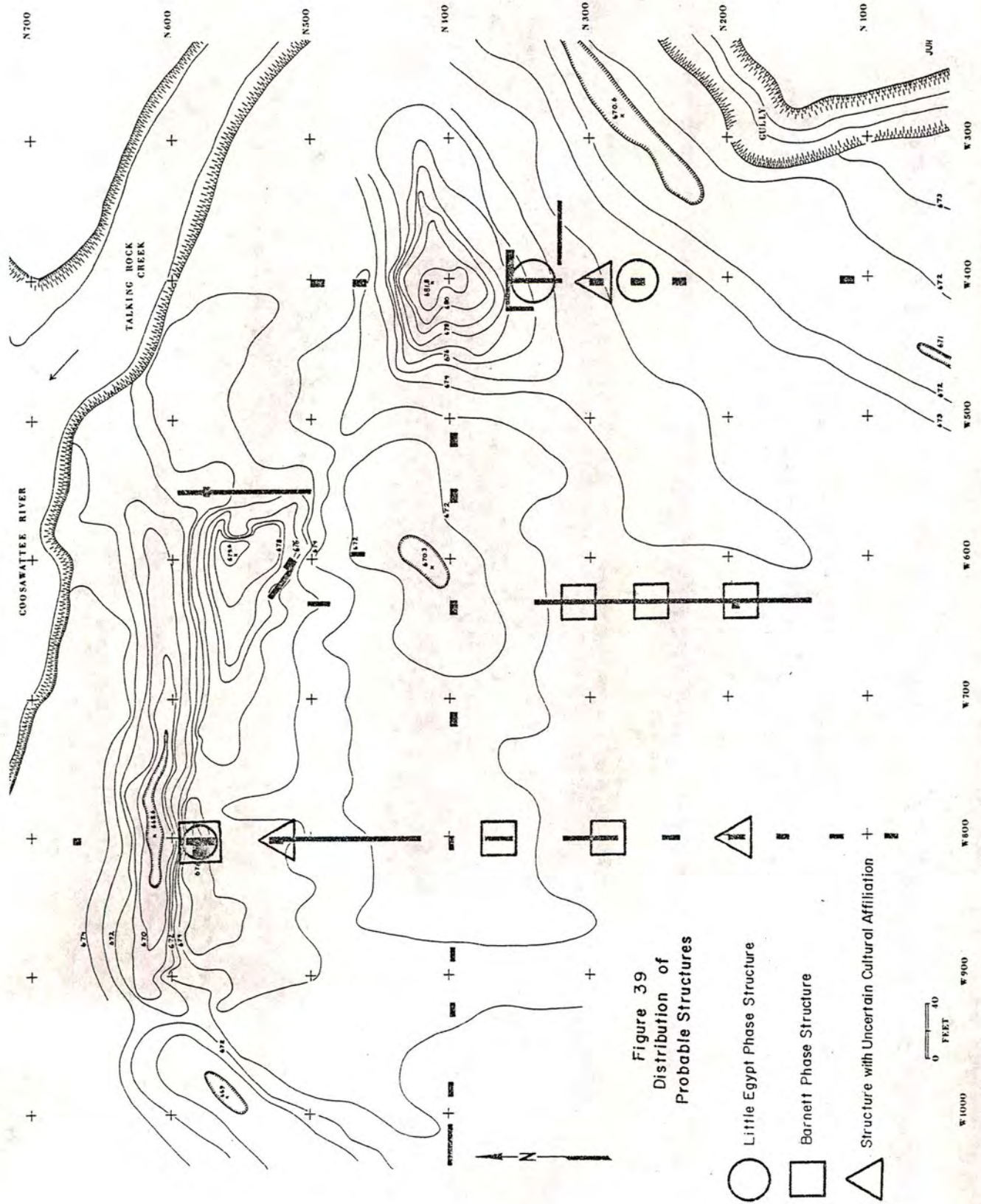


Figure 39  
Distribution of  
Probable Structures

- Little Egypt Phase Structure
- Barnett Phase Structure
- △ Structure with Uncertain Cultural Affiliation



up to the base of the recent sand stratum. Given this stratigraphic evidence and the known distribution of structures, it seems probable that at least some of the low sterile area was originally village zone.

It is probable that there was a plaza associated with the mounds at 9 Mu 102. Where it was located is not presently known. In all likelihood, it existed in the area south of Mound B and west of Mound A. Unfortunately given the extent of erosion in this area, it may not be possible to find stratigraphic evidence of the plaza, if it did indeed exist there.

The determination of site limits during the two Lamar occupations is obviously difficult given the presence of 1-2 ft. of recently deposited overburden. It is probable that the two streams have always bounded the site on its northern side. The test excavation at N670 W800, however, indicates that any cultural deposits that might have existed north of N600 have been destroyed. During the field season, it was assumed that the gully entering Talking Rock Creek at W200 formed the eastern boundary of the site and that the large swale at W1000 formed the western boundary. In retrospect, there seems to be no reason for making this assumption. Both features may be post-European in age and thus have no necessary relationship to site limits.

No artifact rich midden soil or architectural features were found south of N180 in the W630 and W800 trenches. It is tempting to conclude that the southern boundary of the site occurs here. Testing south of N180, however, is too limited to support such a conclusion.



Truncated postholes, pits and burial pits in the upper levels of several squares (N270 W400, N300 W400, N580 W550, N503 W630, N200 W800, N375 W800, N530 W800) indicate that prehistoric occupation deposits have been partially destroyed by erosion or plowing in most areas of the site. Plow damage is probable in those instances where there is a plowzone stratum lying between prehistoric occupation deposits and the recent sand overburden. In all instances, it is probably Barnett phase occupation surfaces and features that have been destroyed.

With the exception of the area around N400 W550 and N400 W630, the entire site area is covered with a mantle of tan sand or sandy loam that varies between 1 and 2 ft. in thickness. As discussed in Chapter 1, this stratum is attributed to recent -- late 19th and early 20th century -- flood deposition. Continued flood stage erosion has apparently prevented accumulation of this soil in the area tested at N400 W550 and N400 W630.

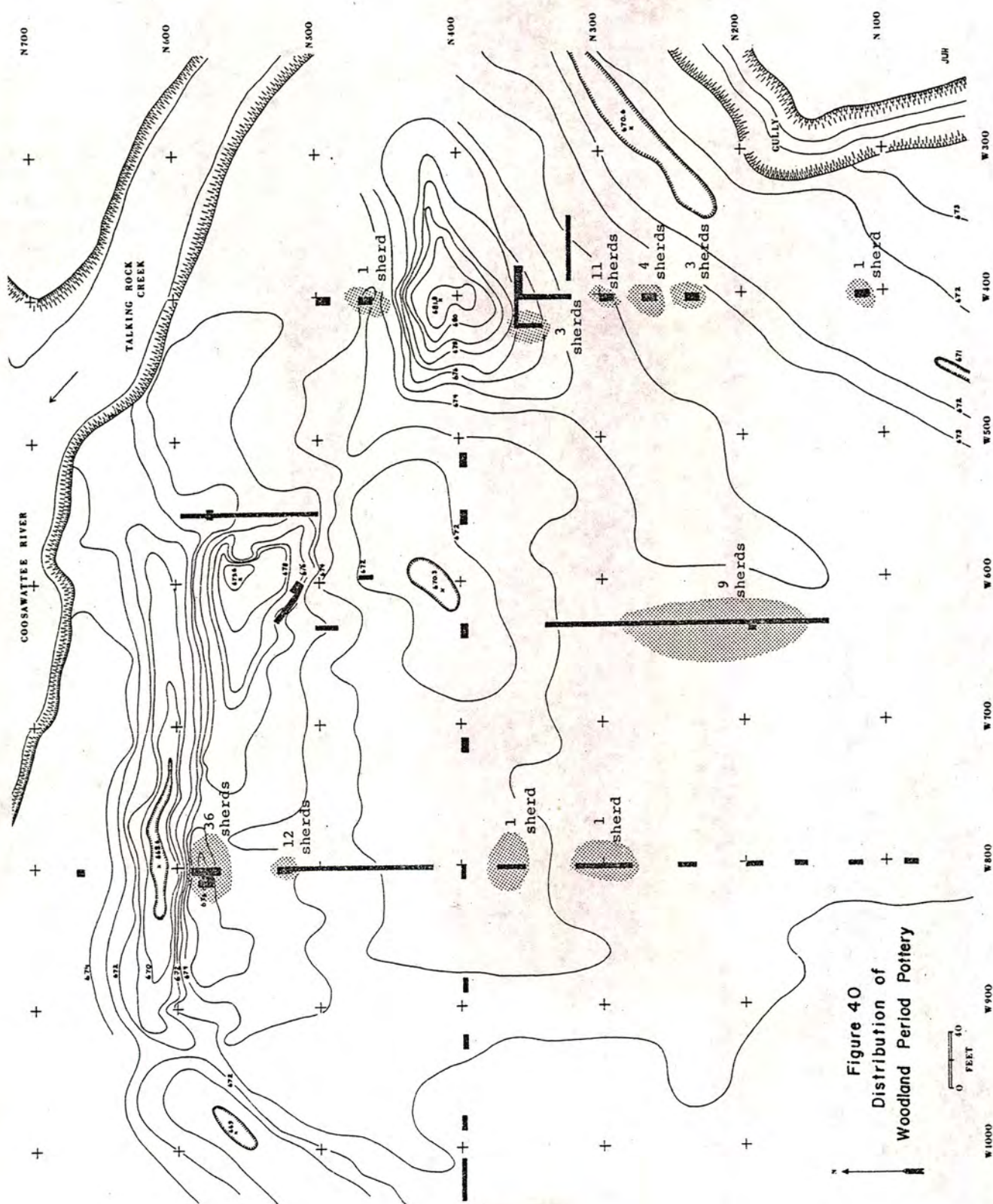
#### Nature of Site Utilization

Woodland component(s). As discussed in Chapter 6, 82 sherds identifiable as Early and Middle Woodland pottery types were recovered during excavations in 1969. This pottery is widely distributed over the site (Fig. 40), although it is most concentrated on the north and east sides.<sup>2</sup> No occupation features can be attributed to this time period. This fact,

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<sup>2</sup>Only one small segment of the 40 ft. trench at N360 W400 penetrated the Lamar mound construction levels. This fact may account for the absence of Woodland sherds in that trench.







in light of the relatively low frequency of artifacts, suggests that site utilization was intermittent and never very intensive. Alternatively, it may be suggested that heavy Woodland occupation occurred on the better drained, coarser textured levee soils that may have originally flanked the two streams in the northeast part of the site. Evidence of such occupation, if it ever existed, would now be largely destroyed by erosion and covered by Mounds A and B.

Woodstock Component. One hundred twenty-eight sherds recovered during excavations in 1969 are identifiable as Woodstock pottery types (Chapter 6). These sherds occur almost exclusively in the northern and eastern parts of the site (Fig.41) suggesting that the occupation is associated with better drained and coarser soils occurring near the Coosawattee River and Talking Rock Creek. Two wall trenches (Feat. 8) were encountered in the lower levels of Square N240 W400. This method of wall construction has been found in Woodstock phase contexts elsewhere (Hally 1976). Because of its rarity in the Little Egypt excavations, it does not seem to be associated with the Lamar components. It may be tentatively concluded that these trenches represent a Woodstock structure.

Little Egypt Component. Pottery belonging to the Little Egypt component is found in every excavation unit on the site with the exception of those along the N400 line. In order to evaluate the intensity of Little Egypt phase occupation throughout the site, a measure of artifact density



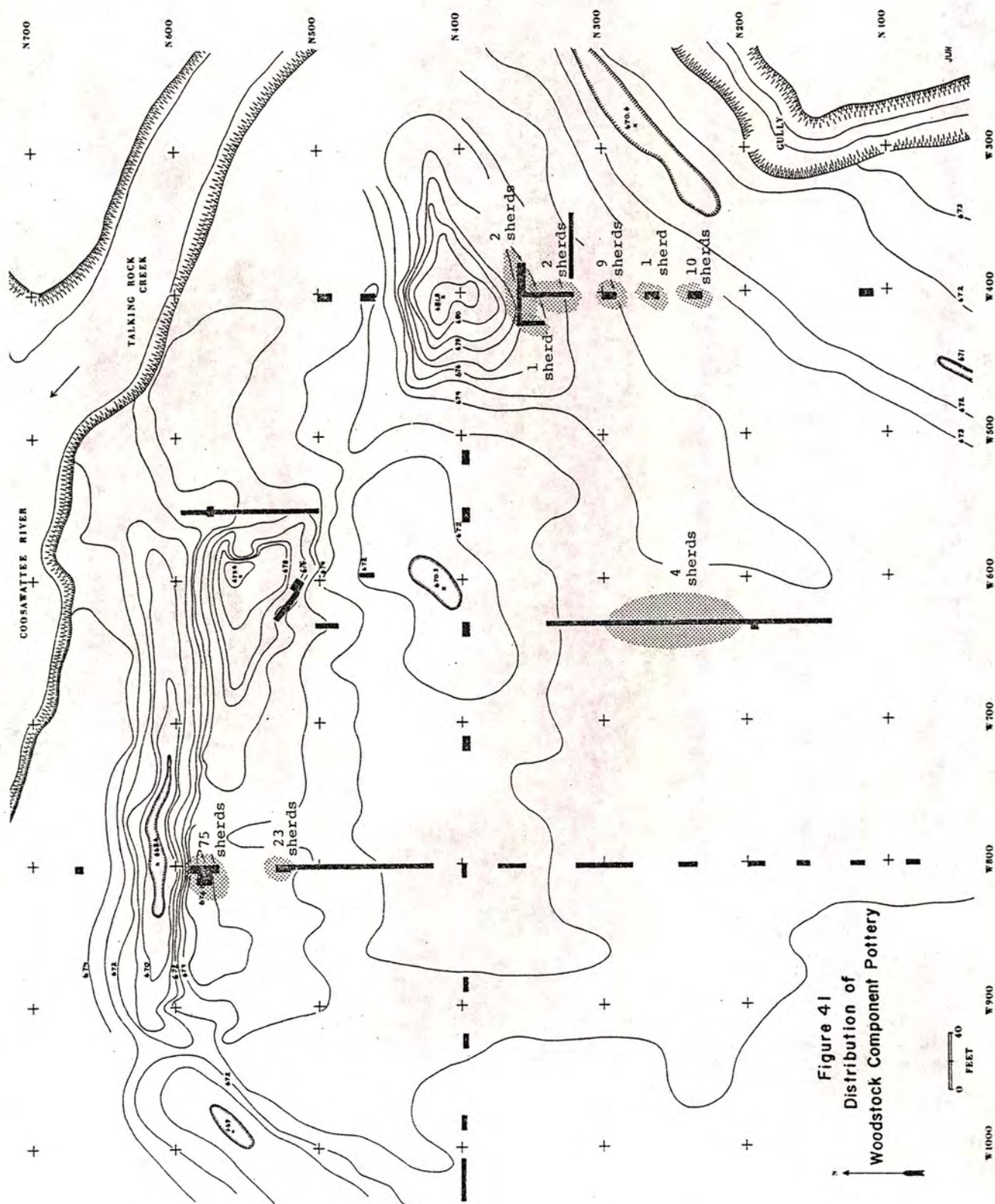


Figure 41  
Distribution of  
Woodstock Component Pottery



was calculated by dividing the total number of diagnostic<sup>3</sup> Little Egypt phase sherds recovered from a square or trench by the square footage of that excavation unit. The resulting figures, representing number of sherds per square foot, are plotted on the map in Fig. 42. It can be seen from these figures that Little Egypt phase pottery is heavily concentrated in the northern and eastern parts of the site. This situation is duplicated by the distribution of features identifiable as Little Egypt phase domestic structures (Fig. 39).

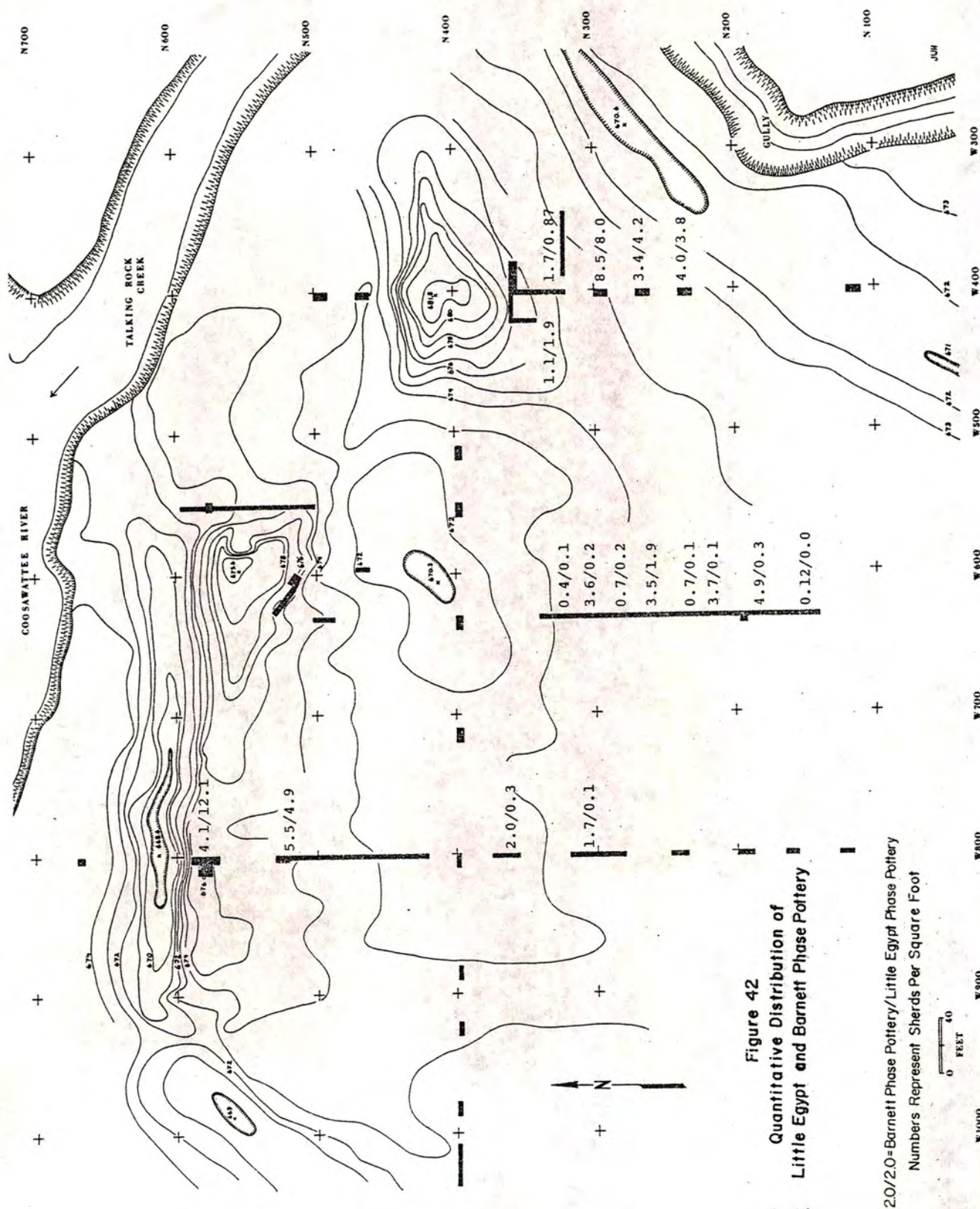
Excavations in the southern flank of Mound A indicate that early constructions stages of this mound date to the Little Egypt component. Whether all or part of Mound B was erected at this time is not known.

The presently available distributional data indicates that during the Little Egypt phase, the site consisted of at least one mound structure and a habitation zone paralleling and lying within 300 ft. of the Coosawattee River and Talking Rock Creek. What activities took place in the southern and southwestern parts of the site is not known. One structure in this area cannot be given a component affiliation with the available artifact collection. It is possible that it is a Little Egypt phase structure. It is also possible that structures or areas of great artifact concentration exist in the southern and southwestern parts of the site, but were missed by the small number of exploratory trenches. The available evidence, however,

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<sup>3</sup>Only those types considered diagnostic of the phase in Chapter 6, were used in these calculations.







suggests a relatively restricted distribution of Little Egypt phase activity similar to that found in the Woodland and Woodstock occupations.

Barnett Component. Pottery belonging to the Barnett component is also found throughout the site.<sup>4</sup> Its distribution, in terms of sherds per square foot, however, is quite uniform (Fig. 42). This situation is reflected in the distribution of features identified as Barnett phase domestic structures (Fig. 39). These occur in all areas of the site except south of Mound A. Even here there is evidence in Square N270 W400 of a structure having been destroyed by plowing and/or erosion. This structure was no doubt Barnett phase in age.

Stratigraphic evidence in the N360 W400 trench indicates that later stages of Mound A date to the Barnett phase. It is not known whether Mound B was also constructed at this time.

During the Barnett phase, 9 Mu 102 consisted of one, possibly two mounds and a large habitation area to the south and west. This area measured at least 500 ft. square and seems to have contained abundant structures.

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<sup>4</sup>Only those types considered diagnostic of the phase in Chapter 6, were used in these calculations.

## CHAPTER 3

### FEATURES

A number of stratigraphic and architectural features encountered in the 1969 season were given special treatment during excavation. Most were given a numerical designation. In a number of cases, the feature itself or its fill were processed by flotation. In all cases, associated artifacts were kept separate from other excavation lots. Most specially designated features have been referred to or briefly described in Chapter 2. Several features, however, require descriptive and interpretive elaboration beyond that provided in Chapter 2. Such information is provided in the present chapter.

#### Feature 1

Location. Square N300 W400.

Description. Three small circular concentrations of charred vegetal material were encountered in the northwest corner of the square at approximately 673.4 ft. They ranged between .4 and .8 ft. in diameter and were approximately .3 ft. thick. Although there was no stratigraphic evidence, it is probable that all were deposits in the bottom of narrow, deep pits.



Contents. The contents of only one feature were floated. Eighty-seven grams of organic material was recovered. Of this, the great majority consisted of maize cob fragments.<sup>1</sup> Wood fragments were also abundant. Occurring in only minor amounts were maize kernels, acorn shells and unidentified seeds. No other cultural material was present.

Cultural affiliation and interpretation. These features probably originated from an occupation zone that has been destroyed by plowing. Pottery counts from the square suggest that that zone dates to the Barnett occupation. These features are best interpreted as smudge pits for deer hide smoking (Binford 1967).

#### Feature 5

Location. Square N300 W400.

Description. This is a layer of ash and charcoal occurring at 672.8 ft. in the northwest corner of the square. The layer extended approximately 3 ft. into the square and was underlain by a .3 ft. thick layer of heavily fired soil.

Cultural contents. The entire contents of the layer was floated. Artifacts recovered are listed in Table 5. Recovered bone is listed in Table 43. Charred plant remains, amounting to 224.4 gm, included acorn meat

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<sup>1</sup>Plant identifications have been made by the author with the aid of the Department of Anthropology's limited comparative collection. Identifications, as far as they go, are reliable.

and shell, walnut and hickory shell, maize kernels and cob fragments, beans and wood fragments. Acorn meat was the most common element next to wood.

Cultural affiliation and interpretation. It is not possible to assign this feature to either Lamar component with certainty. The ash itself is probably from a hearth. The latter may be represented by the underlying fired soil layer.

#### Feature 7

Location. Square N270 W400.

Description. Feature 7 is a hearth associated with an occupation floor at 671.6 ft. Although partially destroyed by the Feature 4 burial pit, enough of the hearth was intact to indicate that it had been carefully formed. It was square in outline and had a flat bottom and steeply sloping sides. Dimensions must have been approximately 2.5 ft. square and 1.2 ft. deep. The sides of the hearth were oriented approximately 45° from the cardinal directions.

Cultural content. The hearth was partially filled with ash. This was floated and yielded several sherds (Table 4), 8.2 gm of minute calcined bone fragments and 6.5 gm of charred plant material. The latter consisted primarily of small wood fragments. A few small unidentifiable nut shell fragments were also present.



Cultural affiliation and interpretation. The hearth and associated floor probably date to the Little Egypt component.

#### Feature 10

Location. Square N270 W400.

Description. A single circular concentration of charred plant material was encountered in the northeast corner of the square at 671.7 ft. It was .25 ft. thick and .4 ft. in diameter. Although there was no stratigraphic evidence, it is probable that the charcoal was a deposit in the bottom of a narrow, deep pit.

Cultural content. Flotation yielded 18.1 gm of charred plant material. The great majority of this was wood. Several maize cob fragments were also present, as were a few maize kernels and small unidentified seeds.

Cultural affiliation and interpretation. The feature was not detected during excavation until the charred contents were encountered. It is not possible, therefore, to identify the occupation surface from which it originated with certainty. It could have originated from a surface destroyed by the plowzone or from the surface at 672.3 ft. In either case it probably dates to the Barnett phase and is best interpreted as a smudge pit for smoking deer hides.

#### Feature 12

Location. Square N580 W800.

Description. A single circular concentration of charred plant material was encountered in the southwest corner of the square at 674.3 ft. (Figs. 29 and 31). It was .5 ft. thick and .7 ft. in diameter. If the concentrated charcoal was in a pit, all but the bottom of that pit, containing the charcoal, has been destroyed by erosion.

Cultural content. Flotation yielded 162.1 gm of charred plant material. This was composed almost entirely of maize cob fragments. A few maize kernels and small unidentified seeds were also present. No wood was present.

Cultural affiliation and interpretation. The feature is probably all that remains of a smudge pit that originated from a now-destroyed occupation surface. Cultural affiliation is probably Barnett phase.

### Feature 13

Location. Square N580 W800 and N590 W800.

Description. Feature 13 is an ash layer measuring at least 5 ft. east/west, 3 ft. north/south and up to .7 ft. thick. It lies immediately northeast of a hearth, Feat. 11, at an elevation of approximately 674.0 ft. (Figs. 29, 30, 32).

Cultural content. The entire deposit was floated. Recovered artifacts and animal bone are listed in Tables 17 and 43 respectively. Charred plant material, amounting to 202 gm, consisted primarily of wood fragments,



although hickory nut shell was common. Two maize cobs and several kernels, 1 plum seed and several small unidentifiable seeds were also present.

Cultural affiliation and interpretation. The ash layer is undoubtedly associated with patches of yellow sand and the hearth that together probably represent a house floor at 674.0. The deposit may represent the accumulated sweepings from the hearth. Component affiliation is with Barnett phase.

#### Feature 14

Location. Square N530 W800.

Description. Feature 14 is a large depression in sterile gray-brown loam subsoil located in the east-central part of the square. Several large river rocks occurred within the pit which was filled with brown fine sandy loam midden. Despite these characteristics, pit outline could not be clearly defined. As recorded in field drawings, the pit was semi-circular in shape (3 ft. in radius) and extended into the east profile. It was rounded in cross section and had a maximum depth of .8 ft.

Cultural affiliation and interpretation. There is no obvious explanation for this feature. The ash lens at 672.3 ft. in the north end of the square appeared to extend out over the northern edge of the pit. If this field observation is correct, the pit is stratigraphically the earliest feature in

Square N530 W800. Given this possibility and the abundance of Woodstock pottery in the square, it is probable that the pit dates to that component. Quite possibly the feature's outline has been obscured by water percolation and the action of soil microfauna during the approximately 1000 years since its construction.

#### Feature 17

Location. Square N530 W800.

Description. A single circular concentration of charred plant material was encountered in the northeast corner of the square at 671.3 ft. It was .2 ft. thick and .7 ft. in diameter. Although there was no stratigraphic evidence, it is probable that the charcoal was a deposit in the bottom of a narrow, deep pit.

Cultural content. Flotation yielded 38.9 gm of charred plant material. Wood fragments predominated although maize cob fragments were also abundant. A few maize kernel and unidentified seeds were also present.

Cultural affiliation and interpretation. In the absence of stratigraphic evidence, it is not possible to identify the occupation surface from which this feature originated. It possibly came from the surface at 672.3 ft., but this would place it immediately adjacent to the hearth, an unlikely location given the interpretation of the feature as a smudge pit. No cultural affiliation can be determined for the feature with certainty.



### Feature 26

Location. Trench N200 W630.

Description. Two broken vessels, located at N195 W634 were designated Feature 26. One of these vessels is a Lamar Bold Incised bowl (Plate IV, b). The other is a Dallas Incised jar with strap handles. The latter was too fragmentary to reconstruct.

Cultural affiliation and interpretation. The 2 vessels lay at an elevation of 671.5 ft. on a house floor. These vessels and other ceramics obtained in association with the floor date to the Barnett component.

### Feature 28

Location. Trench N320 W630.

Description. Feature 28 is a layer of concentrated lithic material occurring at N303. In this location, it is immediately south of a large mass of daub identified as fallen wall material. The concentration lies between 671.2 and 671.7 ft. and is underlain by sterile soil at 671.2 ft. It extends entirely across the 3 ft. wide trench and from N300 to N303. Contents include primarily chert flakes, core fragments and small triangular bifaces and quartz cobbles. These contents are described in greater detail in Chapter 7.

Cultural affiliation and interpretation. It is probable that Feature 28

represents a chert flaking station inside the structure located between N324 and N297. A similar concentration was encountered in Structure 1 at the Potts Tract site (Hally 1970:25). Both structures are identified as Barnett phase on the basis of associated ceramics.

#### Feature 30

Location. Trench N200 W630.

Description. This feature consists of portions of 3 fragmentary vessels lying directly on a layer of fired soil at N183 W633. Elevation of the fired soil was 671.2 ft. The vessels include 1 Lamar Complicated Stamped jar (Plate IV, a), 1 Dallas Incised jar and 1 Dallas Plain jar.

Cultural affiliation and interpretation. These vessels and the associated fired soil layer are part of the same structure floor that is represented by a hearth (Feat. 38) at N186 W633, 3 stone slabs with grinding surfaces at N191 W632, a fired soil area at N192 W631 and two broken vessels (Feat. 26) at N195 W634. The structure dates to the Barnett component.

#### Feature 38

Location. Trench N200 W630.

Description. A circular area of heavily fired soil at N186 W633 was identified as a hearth in the field. It measures approximately 2.7 ft. in diameter and is slightly convex in cross section. Color ranged from white



at the center of the feature to red around the periphery.

Cultural affiliation and interpretation. Despite its unique shape, this feature is identified as a hearth; the primary reason being its regular shape and evidence of heavy firing. Three vessels (Feat. 30) lay immediately to the south, while 3 possible grinding slabs and 2 vessels lay to the north. The feature dates to the Barnett component.

## CHAPTER 4

### BURIALS

Ten human burials, containing skeletal remains of 11 different individuals were completely excavated and recorded in the 1969 season. An additional burial (Burial 12) containing skeletal remains of at least 1 individual was only partially investigated. Archaeological, cultural and osteological information on these burials is summarized in the present chapter.

An osteological study of the 11 individuals represented by recovered skeletal material was conducted by 2 graduate students in physical anthropology, Lucy Tally and Stuart Mellichamp, under the direction of Dr. Ronald Butler, formerly Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology. Data on age, sex, and osteological pathologies and anomalies presented in this chapter has been obtained from their written report (Mellichamp and Tally 1971). Age estimations are based on observation of cranial suture closure; tooth eruption; occlusal plane orientation; epiphyseal closure; and fusion of clavicle, sternum, and vertebral and sacral elements. Due to possible discrepancies between estimated dental/skeletal age and actual age, individuals are placed in the following broad categories:



Infant	-	6 years
7 years	-	12 years
13 years	-	17 years
18 years	-	30 years
31 years	-	40 years
		over 40 years

Sex determinations are based on pelvic morphology; robustness of long bones; width and roughness of linea aspera; width and curvature of sacral elements; femoral head diameter; size of digastic groove, mastoid process and brow ridges; and gonial angle. Pelvic elements are missing or fragmentary in most cases, and as a result, it has not always been possible to make reliable sex determinations. Presence of arthritis was noted by the amount of lipping on the thoracic vertebra and is classed in 3 broad categories: slight, moderate and medium.

#### Burial 1

Location. Square N270 W400 (Fig. 7).

Stratigraphic Context. Burial pit originated from an occupation surface that has been destroyed by plowing and erosion. Only bottom .5 ft. of pit remained intact. South end of burial pit has been disturbed by a later internment, Burial 2.

Component Affiliation. Probably Barnett phase.

Burial Position. Tightly flexed on left side with head to north.

Burial Orientation. North/south.

Sex. Male.

Age. 18-31 years.

Pathologies and Anomalies. Hypercementosis and moderate arthritic lipping.

Burial Artifacts. None.

### Burial 1

Location. Stratigraphic context and component affiliation same as above.

Burial Position. A small number of bones (2 temporal fragments and a first cervical vertebra) were recovered from pit fill.

Sex. Probable female.

Age. Adult.

Pathologies and Anomalies. None.

Burial Artifacts. None.

Remarks. These skeletal elements may belong to a second body that has been almost totally destroyed by erosion and plowing. Whether this individual accompanied the adult male described above or was placed in a pit intrusive into the adult male burial cannot be determined.

### Burial 2

Location. Square N270 W400 (Fig. 7).

Stratigraphic Context. Burial pit originated from an occupation surface that has been destroyed by plowing and erosion. The Burial 2 pit was excavated through the southern edge of the Burial 1 pit.

Component Affiliation. Probably Barnett phase.



Burial Position. Disarticulated.

Sex. Undetermined.

Age. 7-12 years.

Pathologies and Anomalies. None.

Burial Artifacts. None.

Remarks. Feature 4, the pit in which Burial 2 was found, may not have been intended originally as a burial pit. The pit had filled half way with midden soil, charcoal, ash and daub before the burial was added.

### Burial 3

Location. Squares N580 W800 and N583, W805 (Figs. 35 and 36).

Stratigraphic Context. Burial 3 occurred in what appeared to be a single large pit (Feat. 16) with 2 other internments, Burials 4 and 5. It overlay part of the torso of Burial 5. The latter burial was partially dismembered; the pelvis and legs being located in a disarticulated pile some 2 ft. west of their proper anatomical position. The right arm, the left femur, and portions of the feet of Burial 3 have been destroyed or moved by a large tree root growing in a north/south direction through the burial.

Component Affiliation. Probably Barnett phase.

Burial Position. Flexed on right side with head to north.

Sex. Probable male.

Age. 31-40 years.

Pathologies and Anomalies. Moderate arthritic lipping.

Burial Artifacts. Three fragments of cracked quartzite cobble occurred in foot area. Several artifacts occurred in the pit, but they are apparently associated with Burials 4 and 5.

Remarks. Burial 3 is interpreted as being intrusive into an earlier burial pit which included 2 bodies, a probable adult female and an infant. These bodies and their associated grave goods were disturbed and in some cases moved as a result.

#### Burial 4

Location. Square N583 W805 (Figs. 35 and 36).

Stratigraphic Context. Feature 16, the pit containing Burial 4 is partially intrusive into the Burial 6 pit (Feat. 23). Feat. 16 appears to have cut through an ash layer (Feat. 13) at 674.0 ft., but is overlain by a hearth (Feat. 11) which is presumably contemporary with the ash. Burial 3 appears to be a later burial intrusive into the pit containing Burial 4.

Component Affiliation. The presence of 1 Lamar Plain, var. Vann vessel in close proximity to Burial 4 skeletal remains, indicates that the burial dates to the Barnett phase.

Burial Position and Orientation. Skeletal elements are scattered over an approximately 6 ft.<sup>2</sup> area.

Sex. Indeterminate.

Age. 1 year or less.



Pathologies and Anomalies. None.

Burial Artifacts. The following artifacts were scattered in and around Burial 4 and the lower portions of Burial 5: 2 Dallas Incised jars; and 1 Lamar Plain, var. Vann bowl (Plate III, d,e,g); 1 ground quartz disc (Plate XVI, e); 1 conch shell mask (cover illustration); and 96 columella beads (Plate XIX, a-j).

Remarks. Feature 16 is probably roughly contemporaneous with the occupation surface at 674.0. Burials 4 and 5 probably represent a mother and child. The accompanying burial artifacts are typical of the kinds found with infants and adult females (Hatch 1974; Seckinger, personal communication).

#### Burial 5

Location. Stratigraphic context and component affiliation same as Burial 4.

Burial Position. Body was probably originally flexed as indicated by arm position, but lower torso and legs have been moved from proper anatomical position.

Burial Orientation. If head and arms are in original position, the body was oriented east/west with head to east.

Sex. Probable female.

Age. Probably 18-30 years.

Pathologies and Anomalies. Slight arthritic lipping.

Burial Artifacts. Same as Burial 4.

Remarks. Same as Burial 4.

#### Burial 6.

Location. Squares N583 W805 and N585 W809 (Figs. 35 and 36).

Stratigraphic Context. The burial pit, Feature 23, appears to have originated from the occupation surface at 674.0 (Fig. 33). It has been partially intruded into by Feature 16, the pit for Burials 3-5.

Component Affiliation. Barnett phase on the basis of the 2 Lamar Bold Incised vessels accompanying the burial.

Burial Position. Flexed on left side with head to northeast.

Burial Orientation. North northeast/south southwest.

Sex. Male.

Age. Possibly 40 +.

Pathologies and Anomalies. Medium arthritic lipping; antemortum injury to second and third metacarpals of left hand which caused these bones to fuse and heal misaligned.

Burial Artifacts. 2 Lamar Bold Incised vessels (Plate III, c, j); 2 Dallas Incised jars (Plate III, a, f); 1 Moundville Incised jar (Plate III, b); 1 Dallas Modeled bottle (Plate III, i).

Remarks. Two wooden planks were placed across the upper torso of the burial. The burial pit is probably contemporaneous with the occupation surface at 674.0 ft.



Burial 7

This number was assigned during excavation to the upper torso of the internment which eventually was designated Burial 5.

Burial 8

Location. W550 Trench at N578 (Figs. 19 and 20).

Stratigraphic Context. The burial pit (Feat. 24) extends into sterile brown clay. Only .9 ft. of burial pit remains intact. The pit is overlain by a mixed sand and clay stratum.

Component Affiliation. Probably either Little Egypt or Barnett phase.

Burial Position. Flexed on left side with head to east.

Burial Orientation. East/west.

Sex. Probable female.

Age. 40+ years.

Pathologies and Anomalies. Possible sarcoma on squamous portion of temporal bone.

Burial Artifacts. None.

Remarks. The occupation surface from which Burial 8 originated and at least 1 ft. of soil underlying that surface has been removed, presumably by erosion.

Burial 9

Location. W550 Trench at N575 (Figs. 19 and 20).

Stratigraphic Context and Component Affiliation. Same as Burial 8.

Burial Position. Tightly flexed on left side with head to east.

Burial Orientation. East/west.

Sex. Probable male.

Age. 18-30 years.

Pathologies and Anomalies. Slight arthritic lipping.

Burial Artifacts. None

Remarks. Same as Burial 8.

#### Burial 10

Location. N375 W800 Trench at N356.

Stratigraphic Context. The burial occurred in a small pit, measuring .7 ft. in diameter, which was intrusive into sterile clay to a depth of 669.5 ft. Postholes, charcoal lenses and fired soil lenses in the area indicate the presence of a structure above the burial.

Component Affiliation. Pottery recovered from the trench is predominantly Barnett phase, suggesting that this is the age of the burial.

Burial Position. Only a few fragments of the epiphyseal portions of long bones were recovered. It is not possible to determine burial position.

Sex. Indeterminate.

Age. 1-6 years.

Pathologies and Anomalies. None.

Burial Artifacts. None.



Remarks. The burial is probably associated with the architectural features and may have been placed in a pit excavated from the floor of a structure.

#### Burial 11

Location. Trench N200 W800 at N198.

Stratigraphic Context. The remains of this burial lay in brown loam midden just below plowzone at 671.8 ft. It lay approximately .4 ft. above a probable burned structure.

Component Affiliation. Little Egypt or Barnett phase.

Burial Position. Only teeth caps were recovered.

Sex. Indeterminate.

Age. 1-6 years.

Pathologies and Anomalies. None.

Burial Artifacts. 1 Lamar Bold Incised effigy bowl (Plate III, h).

Remarks. Skeletal remains had apparently all but completely decayed. Back hoe excavation of the trench may also have destroyed some of the body, although the accompanying pottery vessel was largely intact. The burial remains immediately underlay recent tan sand, and no burial pit outline could be detected. The existence of the burial above a presumed structure suggests that it was placed in an extremely shallow pit.

#### Burial 12

Location. Square N590 W800 (Fig. 30).

Stratigraphic Context. Only the western edge of this burial was encountered in Square N590 W800. The pit, Feature 35, extends from 670.3 ft. up to 671.2 ft. where it is terminated by brown fine sandy loam; the same soil that lies above and below architectural features at 674.0 ft. Lenses of ash and sand extend across the upper portion of the pit. The internment was discovered on the last day of the 1969 field season, and was consequently not investigated. What bone was uncovered in the profile of Square N590 W800 indicated an adult individual.

Remarks. The east profile of Square N590 W800 is portrayed in Figure 30 exactly as it was recorded and interpreted in the field. Unfortunately the fill of both Features 18 and 35 was not recorded. It is probable that both pits had a brown fine sandy loam fill. The south edge of Feature 35 was destroyed by Feature 18. The north edge of the pit was apparently destroyed above 671.2 ft. by recent erosion which formed the east/west oriented gully at N600. Given the elevation of pit bottom, it is probable that Feature 35 originated from the occupation surface at 674.0 ft.



## CHAPTER 5

### CERAMIC DESCRIPTIONS

Pottery types belonging to one or more Woodland components, a Woodstock component and two Lamar components are present in the ceramic collection obtained from 9 Mu 102 in 1969. Woodland and Woodstock sherds are relatively few in number and as a result little can be said to characterize the various types they represent. The two Lamar collections, however, are large and distinctive. The earlier component, identified with the Little Egypt phase defined in this report (Chapter 6), combines many Dallas and Lamar ceramic characteristics and is quite different from anything that has been described in the published archaeological literature. The later Lamar component is similar to Barnett phase as defined by Hally (1970). It also combines Dallas and Lamar ceramic features. Pottery types identifiable with both components are described in the following pages.

#### Lamar Plain, var. Murray

Sample Size. 721 plain body sherds and 166 plain and coarse plain rim sherds.

Description. In conformity with the distinction made in the Potts Tract report (Hally 1970:17), the type Lamar Plain, var. Murray, includes

only smooth or polished plain pottery. Pottery with similar paste and vessel shape characteristics, but with a rough exterior surface is identified as Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger. The latter is described separately below, but rim and vessel shape modes for both types are described here together.

Paste is compact and medium to fine in texture. It is usually mica-ceous. Temper is fine to medium grit. Plain sherds from three excavation units with a predominance of Little Egypt phase pottery (Square N583 W805, levels 2 and 3; Square N585 W809, level 3) were checked for shell inclusions. Four of the 75 sherds inspected contained small cavities which could represent leached shell. It is possible, but far from certain, that some Murray pottery was shell-tempered.

Vessel surfaces are smooth and often show polishing striations (Plate V, d, g, h). Temper is seldom visible or protruding. A sufficient number of large sherds are present in the collection to indicate that much if not most of the pottery under consideration is from entirely undecorated vessels.

Vessel shapes which can be identified from the available sherds include jars and bowls. Narrow mouth, sub-globular jars probably occur also if the single example of a strap handle is any indication. A deep conoidal jar with constricted neck is probably the common jar form, but there is not sufficient evidence in the sherd collection to demonstrate this with certainty. Neck constriction and shoulder development are



rather pronounced (Plate V, a, e).

Rim and vessel shape modes are similar for Lamar Plain, var. Murray, and Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger. The following descriptions of modes are based on analysis of the sherd collections of both types.

Plain Rims. Of the 57 sherds with plain rims, 11 are incurvate in profile, 17 are straight, and 31 are excurve. Assuming that all excurve and straight rims belong to jars and all incurvate rims belong to bowls, the ratio of jars to bowls in the collection is approximately 4:1. Plain rims have both square and round lips, with the latter outnumbering the former 3 to 1.

Folded Rims. There are 83 folded rims that cannot be said to derive from stamped vessels. Thirty-four of these are such small sherds that it is not possible to determine whether the vessels they occurred on are plain surfaced or stamped. Of the remaining 49 sherds, 28 are coarse plain and 21 are smooth. Width of the folded rim, measuring from lip to bottom of strip, averages 11.1 mm. Pinching tends to occur right at the lip, although in some few specimens (Plate V, c-f) pinching occurs 4-5 mm below the lip. The space between the lip and pinching in these cases is usually smoothed (Plate V, d-f), beveled or actually indented (Plate V, c) by running a finger or stylus parallel to the lip. In 9 cases (Plate V, g, h), pinching is confined to a narrow strip of clay added below the lip (4-10 mm). Pinching includes close spaced, asymmetrical pinch marks (Plate V, c); rounded or square nodes which are generally more

widely spaced (Plate V, d, e, f, ); and close spaced, extremely protruding vertical pinches (Plate V, a, b). There is one specimen with cane punctations. Rims strips applied below the lip are characterized by finer made, symmetrical pinches (Plate V, g, h).

**Outflaring Rims.** One broad, outflaring rim is present in the collection. It cannot be determined whether the rim is broadly scalloped, but in other respects it is similar to those described for Dallas Plain (Plate VII, b).

**Nodes.** Because of the node-like appearance of many folded rims, rim nodes are difficult to identify. A bowl rim with a single rounded node below the lip (Plate V, j) is the sole identified example.

**Lugs.** Seven lugs are present in the collection. Three of these are from jars (Plate V, i), and one is from a bowl. Three lugs are small, less than 40 mm long, while three are probably considerably larger. Four lugs project from the lip; 2 are placed slightly below it. Two specimens are scalloped. Generally the same kinds of lugs are characteristic of Dallas Plain.

**Strap Handles.** One jar rim bears the basal portion of a small strap handle.

**Frog Effigy.** Three sherds bear frog effigy body parts. All specimens are from convex surfaces, but in only one case can vessel shape be identified definitely as a bowl. One face and 2 legs are represented.

**Cultural Relationships.** This new variety of Lamar Plain has been established to accommodate plain, smooth-surfaced pottery that is



characteristic of the Little Egypt component. This pottery differs from the plain pottery of the later Barnett phase in several respects: paste more often contains mica flecks and in greater quantity; temper particles are smaller and do not protrude through vessel surfaces; jars tend to have more pronounced shoulders, greater neck constriction and straighter more vertical necks; and folded rims are narrower (average width, 11.1 mm vs. 16.8 mm) and have neater more pronounced pinching.

Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger

Sample Size. 1024 sherds.

Description. This pottery is similar to Lamar Plain var. Murray, in all respects except exterior surface finish. Exterior surfaces are cracked and bumpy and show no signs of having been polished or smoothed (Plate V, a, e, f, i). It is probable that in some cases at least, vessel surfaces have been very lightly impressed with a complicated stamp.

Cultural Relationships. This new variety of Lamar Coarse Plain has been established to accommodate plain, coarse-surfaced pottery that is characteristic of the Little Egypt component. It differs from the coarse plain pottery of the later Barnett phase in the same way that Lamar Plain, var. Murray, differs from its Barnett phase counterpart.

The ratio of Lamar Plain to Lamar Coarse Plain in the Little Egypt phase collection is approximately 7:10.

Lamar Plain, var. Vann

Sample Size. 1624 plain body sherds and 162 plain and coarse plain rim sherds.

Description. In conformity with the distinction made in the Potts Tract report (Hally 1970:17), the type Lamar Plain, var. Vann, includes only smooth or polished plain pottery. Pottery with similar paste and vessel shape characteristics but with a rough exterior surface is identified as Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta. The latter is described below, but rim and vessel shape modes for both types are described here together.

Paste is medium to coarse in texture and occasionally micaceous. Temper is coarse grit. A small proportion of Vann sherds have evidence of small amounts of shell in addition to grit. In all cases observed, the shell has been leached away leaving only telltale narrow holes. Body sherds in three excavation units (Trenches N220 W630, N260-280 W630, N320 W630) were inspected closely for presence of shell. Twenty-two out of 282 sherds had evidence of shell tempering.

Vessel surfaces are smooth and may show polishing striations (Plate VI, a, b). Temper is visible on the surface and frequently protrudes above it. Undoubtedly many sherds identified as Vann are from the lower portion of Lamar Bold Incised vessels. Nevertheless, enough sherds with diagnostic rim and vessel shape modes exist in the collection to indicate that truly plain vessels do exist.



Vessel shapes which can be identified from rim and body sherds include deep, conoidal jars with slightly constricted neck; narrow mouth, sub-globular jars; and simple rounded bowls. The former vessel shape is identified on the basis of a number of large rim sherds with plain or folded rims. The sub-globular jar is identified on the basis of two strap handles.

Rim and vessel shape modes are similar for Lamar Plain, var. Vann, and Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta. The following descriptions of modes are based on analysis of the sherd collections of both types.

Plain Rims. Of the 50 sherds with plain rims, 25 are incurvate in profile, 10 are straight, and 15 are excurvate. Assuming that all excurvate and straight rims belong to jars and all incurvate rims belong to bowls, the two vessel forms can be said to occur with about equal frequency. Plain rims have both square and round lips in approximately equal proportions.

Folded Rims. There are 88 folded rims in the collection which can not be said to derive from stamped vessels. In 79 cases, sherds are so small that it is not possible to determine whether they are from plain surfaced or stamped vessels. It is probable that in many cases, vessels were stamped. Of the remaining 9 sherds, 4 are plain and 5 are coarse plain.

These rims are similar to rims occurring on Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee. Average width of the Folded strip is 16.8 mm,



while the pinched zone occurs an average of 8.9 mm below the lip. Except for one specimen with cane punctations, all rims have fingernail pinching (Plate VI, b-d). Three specimens (Plate VI, c) resemble the "folded or applied rim strip with notching at the base of the strip" which is the dominate rim mode for Overhill Plain (King 1968:62) in the Little Tennessee River area of Tennessee. A similar rim occurs on coarse shell-tempered paste at Little Egypt (see Dallas Plain description).

Notched Incurvate Rims. Two incurvate rims, probably from rounded bowls, have square lips that are notched on the exterior edge. Similar rims were noted in the Potts Tract collection (Hally 1970:17).

Nodes. Eight sherds have one or more small nodes located just below the lip. These are 8-9 mm in diameter and protrude no more than 3 mm beyond rim surface. Several specimens have the appearance of folded rims, and it may be that these nodes occur in a continuous zone around the vessel rim rather than in the usual clusters of 2 or 3. Vessel shape in all specimens except one is the jar. The exception is a small rounded bowl (Plate III, e) recovered from Burial 4. It has a single node placed immediately below the lip and opposite a spout. This node is slightly larger (23 mm in diameter and 7 mm high) than those described above.

Body nodes. Small nodes similar to those described above occur on vessel bodies in 2 instances. In one specimen, two nodes occur on the shoulder of a jar. In the other, they occur below rim nodes. A third node of greater size (Plate VI, g) occurs on a bowl 25 mm below the lip.



This node could be a frog body part.

Strap handles. Two large strap handles are present in the collection (Plate VI, e). They are similar to Dallas Plain specimens.

Lugs. Five lugs are present in the collection. Vessel surfaces are plain in 3 cases and coarse plain in 2. Plain large and small lugs placed flush with or immediately below the lip are represented as is a single triangular lug with notched edge. Vessel shapes include both the bowl and jar. These lugs differ in no observable way from those identified with the type, Dallas Incised.

Frog effigy. Seven sherds bear modeling identifiable as frog body parts. Legs are represented in 4 instances, raised circles, in 3. A circle and leg occur together on a single vessel in one instance (Plate VI, a). All specimens appear to occur on bowls, and both plain and coarse plain vessel surfaces are represented. Similar specimens occur with coarse shell tempered paste (see discussion of Dallas Incised).

Cultural Relationships. This variety of Lamar Plain has been established to accommodate plain, smooth-surfaced pottery that is characteristic of the Barnett components at the Little Egypt and Potts Tract sites. Differences between this variety and Lamar Plain, var. Murray, are described under the latter heading.

Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta

Sample Size. 1105 sherds.

Description. This pottery is similar to Lamar Plain, var. Vann, in all respects except exterior surface finish. The latter is cracked, bumpy and dotted with protruding temper particles (Plate VI, c,d,f,g). This pottery is similar to that described in the Potts Tract report (Hally 1970:14-15). On the basis of analysis of the Little Egypt collection, however, that description must be modified slightly. It is evident that in some cases, coarse plain vessel surfaces have been impressed with a complicated stamped paddle. The stamping is so light, however, as to produce little modification of the coarse surface characteristics. A good example of this is to be seen on a narrow mouth, sub-globular jar with strap handles (Plate IV, a) from N195 W634. The majority of vessel surface is coarse plain, but a very faint curvilinear stamp can be seen on and below the shoulder area. This particular vessel has been classified as Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee.

Cultural Relationships. This new variety of Lamar Coarse Plain has been established to accommodate plain, rough surfaced pottery that is characteristic of the Barnett components at Little Egypt site and Potts Tract. It differs from the coarse plain pottery of the Little Egypt phase in the same manner that Lamar Plain, var. Vann, differs from the earlier Murray variety.

#### Dallas Plain

Sample Size. 8337 sherds.



Description. Dallas Plain is the most common pottery type in the Little Egypt collection. Paste is medium to fine textured and compact. Temper is predominately coarse shell, grading into fine shell. Vessel surfaces are smoothed and frequently polished.

Two vessel shapes are characteristic of Dallas Plain: the simple rounded bowl and the narrow mouth, sub-globular jar. Judging by the frequency of incurvate (47), straight (56) and excurvate (177) rims, jars are approximately 5 times as common as bowls. Bowls typically have rounded or square lips. Modes occurring on bowls include frog effigy body parts, and lugs at or just below the lip.

Available rim sherds of Dallas Plain and Dallas Incised mortuary vessels indicate that jars are almost exclusively of the narrow mouth type (Plate III, a, d, f, g; Plate VII, a). Measurement of straight and excurvate rims indicate that vessel openings are almost without exception 15 cm in diameter or larger. In only a few cases are lip diameters appreciably smaller (10 cm or less). These latter may belong to what Heimlich (1952:23) refers to as wide mouthed bottles. Jars are characterized by both round and square lips. Several other modes occur: strap handles, lugs at or below the lip, nodes on rim and shoulder, folded rims and beveled rims.

Strap handles. Portions of 33 different strap handles occur in the collection. These are similar to ones occurring in the Barnett component at Potts Tract and ones illustrated by Lewis and Kneberg (1946:



Plate 52) for the Dallas component at Hiwassee Island. Handles are attached horizontally at the lip and run to the junction of the shoulder and neck (Plate VII, f). They are attached by pressing onto the flat surface of vessel walls.

Eleven fragmentary effigy handles, similar to those occurring on Dallas Incised mortuary vessels, occur in the collection. It is probable that all derive from vessels of Dallas Incised.

Lugs. Broad flat lugs are a common feature (Plate VII, h, i; Plate VIII, c-e). For the most part they fall into 2 size ranges: those less than 40 mm long and 10 mm wide (Plate VIII, c, d) and those above 80 mm in length and 10 mm in width (Plate VII, h; Plate VIII, e). The edge of lugs may be plain (Plate VIII, d, e), notched (Plate VIII, c), or scalloped (Plate VII, h). Lugs occur on both bowls (Plate VIII, e) and jars (Plate VII, g, h; Plate VIII, c, d). Placement is either flush with the vessel lip or 5-10 mm below the lip.

A total of 85 whole and fragmentary lugs occur in the collection. Large lugs placed on the vessel lip are most common (41). Of these, the majority are scalloped (22), while 2 are notched and 1 is plain. Large lugs occur most frequently on jars (24); only 3 bowls being identifiable. Large lugs placed below the lip are represented by 16 examples. Most (5) of these are plain.

Small lugs are represented by 13 examples. Lip lugs (8) outnumber those placed below lips (5). Most (11) are plain. Lugs occur on jars



and bowls with equal frequency.

All combinations of lug form, placement and vessel shape occur in excavation lots that have predominately Little Egypt phase pottery. Few lugs are represented in Barnett phase excavation lots. Given the small number of lots with predominately Barnett phase pottery and an apparent decrease in the frequency of Dallas Plain in the later component, it is not possible to determine which lug combinations continue into the Barnett component and which disappear.

Lugs placed on or below lips of jars are illustrated for the Dallas component at Hiwassee Island (Lewis and Kneberg 1946: Plate 60, g, i, j). Only plain lugs are illustrated.

Rim nodes. Thirteen rim sherds with small round nodes are present in the collection. The nodes, measuring approximately 10 mm in diameter, occur at or just below the lips of jars (Plate VIII, a, b) and typically occur in groups of 2 or 3. Because of small sherd size, it is not possible to determine how many groups of nodes usually occur around the circumference of a vessel mouth.

Similar nodes, occurring on bowls only, are illustrated from Dallas contexts at Hiwassee Island (Lewis and Kneberg 1946: Plate 62, c) and in Norris Basin (Webb 1938: Fig. 70). The Little Egypt sherds come from 10 different stratigraphic lots of which 5 contain predominately early pottery and 1, predominately late pottery.

Body nodes. Six body sherds with 1 or more nodes are present in



the collection. In 5 cases, sherds are convex; one of these is from the shoulder of a jar. Apparently nodes are being placed in the shoulder area of jars.

Folded rims. Five sherds with folded rims occur in the Dallas Plain collection. Three of these (Plate VII, c) resemble the folded rims characteristic of Lamar Plain, var. Vann and Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee of the Barnett component. At least 2 of these latter occur on jars. A fourth rim resembles closely the dominate rim type of Overhill Plain at the historic Chota site (King 1968: Plates 50, 56). King (1968:62) describes this rim form as "a folded or applied rim strip with notching at the base of the strip." The sherd in question (Plate VII, e) is from a jar and occurred in a Barnett phase excavation unit.

The fifth sherd resembles most closely the folded rims characteristic of Lamar Plain and Lamar Complicated Stamped during the Little Egypt occupation.

Pinched rim strip. Five sherds are excurve jar rims with a pinched strip applied 10 mm below the lip (Plate VII, d). These sherds resemble a type of folded rim found on Lamar Plain, var. Murray, jars (Plate V, g, h). Two of the five specimens are from excavation lots containing a predominance of Little Egypt phase pottery; the other 3 specimens are from mixed lots.

Beveled rims. Six slightly excurve rims with flattened or beveled upper surfaces occur in the collection. In all cases, these rims are



from jars. Two of the four excavation lots represented have predominately Little Egypt phase pottery; the other 2 are mixed.

Outflaring rim. Bowls with broad outflaring rims are represented by 10 sherds (Plate VII, b). On all specimens that are large enough to detect it, the rim is peaked or broadly scalloped. Maximum width of rims approaches 30 mm. Kneberg (1952: Fig. 110, s) illustrates a bowl that is probably typical of the mode.

Frog effigy. Eleven sherds bear modeled appendages that can be identified as frog effigy body parts. There are 4 with legs, 3 with faces and 4 with raised circles. Six of the leg and face effigies are rim sherds from rounded bowls (Plate VIII, f). Webb (1938: Fig. 69) illustrates a bowl from Norris Basin which bears both leg and face appendages. Similar frog parts are illustrated by Lewis and Kneberg (1946: Plate 54) and classified as Dallas Modeled. These are better executed than the Little Egypt or Norris Basin specimens and probably occur on a fine shell-tempered paste.

Although it cannot be demonstrated that the 4 raised circles are frog effigy parts, it is probable that they are. One large Lamar Plain, var. Vann, bowl fragment (Plate VI, a) has both a leg and raised circle on it. Kneberg (1952: Fig. 110, t) illustrates a frog effigy jar which shows the raised circle at the tail end of the frog. She also illustrates (1952: Fig. 109, w) a cord-marked jar with raised circles around the shoulder but no other features suggestive of a frog.



All specimens under consideration here occur on coarse shell-tempered paste. As has been noted, similar appendages occur with paste characteristic of Barnett component Lamar types. Most sherds occur in Little Egypt component excavation lots, and it is probable that frog effigy vessels were being manufactured during that phase. The existence of similar appendages with late Lamar paste at Little Egypt and with fine shell-tempered paste at Potts Tract, indicate that the vessel form continues to be made into the Barnett phase.

Cultural Relationships. A variety of published type names -- Mississippi Plain, Plain Shell, Dallas Plain, Overhill Plain -- are available to use in designating this pottery. Although the term, Dallas Plain, seems never to have been used in print as a type name, it will be used in the present report. The reasons for this choice are two in number: the name was applied to similar pottery in the Potts Tract report; and the shell-tempered plain pottery from the Dallas component at Hiwassee Island (Lewis and Kneberg 1946:95) is the most similar pottery that is described in print.

Dallas Plain pottery occurs in nearly all excavation units. It is quite certainly present in both Lamar components, although much more abundant in the early one. The frequencies of Dallas Plain, the 2 Lamar Plain varieties and the 2 Lamar Coarse Plain varieties from selected early and late excavation lots are tabulated in Table 21. As can



be seen, the frequency of Dallas Plain varies directly with that of the early varieties and inversely with that of the late varieties. According to this table, the ratio of Dallas Plain to the early varieties is approximately 4 to 1. In the Barnett phase collection from Potts Tract, the ratio of Dallas Plain to Lamar Plain and Lamar Coarse Plain is 3 to 7. Thus it would appear that the relative frequency of Dallas Plain decreases greatly from Little Egypt phase to Barnett phase.

Table 21. Frequencies of major plainware types in selected excavation lots.

	Dallas Plain	Lamar Plain, var. Murray- Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger	Lamar Plain, var. Vann - Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta
Little Egypt phase lots	1104	290	58
Barnett phase lots	262	60	541

No attempt has been made throughout this report to assign specific sherds of Dallas Plain to either component. Rim and vessel shape modes were analyzed with this objective in mind, but little success was achieved due to the nature of the collection and its stratigraphic associations.

The distinction between coarse and fine shell-tempered pottery, so

characteristic of Mississippi phases elsewhere in the east, is present in the Little Egypt site collection as well. Dallas Plain is typically tempered with coarse shell and is characterized by large bowl and jars forms. Dallas Filleted, on the other hand, is characterized by fine shell-tempered paste and small bowl forms. The distinction is not, however, as clear-cut as we might like. Diagnostic Dallas Plain rim and vessel shape sherds frequently have relatively fine paste and temper, while the opposite is also true of Dallas Filleted. Furthermore, there is a definite gradation between the two extremes of past and temper. As a result, no attempt has been made to identify sherds as Dallas Filleted unless diagnostic rim and vessel shape modes are present on them. The frequency of Dallas Plain in the collection is therefore inflated by the inclusion of an unknown quantity of Dallas Filleted body sherds.

Dallas Plain at Little Egypt has its closest similarities to plain shell-tempered pottery of the Dallas component at Hiwassee Island. Similarities include: narrow mouth jars and wide mouth bottles; strap handles and rim lugs; beveled or rolled lips on jars; and nodes on jar shoulders. The more striking differences include the better execution of frog effigy body parts and the absence of lip nodes on jars at Hiwassee Island.

In the Norris Basin, Site 19 has yielded plain shell-tempered pottery that is similar to Dallas Plain at Little Egypt. The narrow mouth jar with



strap handles and lugs occurs there as well as crude frog effigy bowls.

Interesting comparisons can be made with Overhill Plain pottery from 18th century Cherokee sites in the Little Tennessee and Hiwassee River valleys. The characteristic jar form (King 1968: Fig. 11, a-e) has little neck constriction and relatively wide necks surmounted by folded rims. This shape is quite similar to what is believed to be the numerically dominate jar form in the Barnett component at Little Egypt. A second common Overhill Plain vessel form is a bowl with outflaring rim or slight neck constriction (King 1968: Fig. 11, h, i, l-p). Plain, rolled and folded rims occur on this vessel form. The vessel looks like an especially wide and shallow version of the jar described above and may be so related. This bowl form has not been identified in the collection from Little Egypt. It is present in an historic burial at Hiwassee Island site (Lewis and Kneberg 1946: Plate 56, b, c) and at Chauga with complicated stamping and grit tempering (Kelly and Neitzel 1961: Plate V, c). It is apparently a late development (18th century) in the north Georgia - Tennessee area. The associated folded rim is distinctive also and is represented by only 1 specimen at Little Egypt (Plate VII, e).

It is difficult to make comparisons with the Gunterville Basin pottery due to the nature of published descriptions. Two jar forms occur in Gunterlands IV and apparently in Gunterlands V: a "smaller, flaring rimmed, wide mouthed, flattened globular jar generally with paired strap or loop handles"; and a "larger, narrow mouthed flaring rimmed jar with

or without appendages" (Heimlich 1952:24). The wide mouthed jar, specifically mentioned for Gunterlands IV, is not represented at Little Egypt. The other form is. Jar rims in Gunterlands V are "commonly characterized by an incised, beaded or notched flang which encircles the entire rim at or below the lip" (Heimlich 1952:27). This rim form, illustrated in Heimlich's Plate 7, a, is very similar to the "folded or applied rim strip" form characteristic of Overhill Plain (King 1968 Plates 50, 56). A small number of folded (Plate VII, e) or applied strip (Plate V, g, h) rims at Little Egypt are similar in appearance. Apparently this rim form is a late development which primarily post-dates the Barnett component at Little Egypt.

#### Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters

Sample Size. 646 sherds.

Description. Paste is fine to medium in texture, compact and often micaceous. Temper consists of fine to medium grit. Interior vessel surfaces are smooth and often show polishing striations. Temper is not visible and seldom protrudes above the surface.

Vessel shapes appear to be limited to the simple rounded bowl and deep conoidal jar with constricted neck. Necks tend to be vertical and excurvate. Average neck height is 35 mm. Only plain (21) and folded (30) rims occur. The former occurs on both bowls (Plate IX, i) and jars (Plate IX, a); the latter probably occurs only on jars. Plain rims are



rounded, and usually polished. On jars, they are frequently rolled outward (Plate IX, a). The folded rim is the most common jar rim. The folded strip is relatively narrow, averaging 12.5 mm in width, and is, in all cases but 2, pinched in some fashion. Pinching occurs at or just below the lip. Subsequent to pinching, the upper surface of the lip is smoothed and polished, sometimes to the point of appearing beveled (Plate IX, g, h) or grooved (Plate IX, b, d, f). In 2 cases folded strips are punctated (Plate IX, e).

Complicated stamping covers the entire vessel exterior except the base. Stamping is usually light and carelessly applied. Over stamping is the rule. Motifs are difficult to recognize for these reasons, although, several have been tentatively identified: filfot cross (4), concentric circles (2), figure-eight (1), nested diamond (2), straight lines (5), and nested rectangles or frets (6). In the collection of 640 sherds, rectilinear motifs can be identified in 138 instances; curvilinear motifs, in 110 instances.

Cultural Relationships. This pottery is very similar to Lamar Plain, var. Murray. Differences include the presence of stamped decoration and the absence of vessel shape modes such as nodes, lugs, strap handles and frog effigy body parts.

This pottery differs from the Coosawattee variety of Lamar Complicated Stamped in several respects. Paste more often contains mica

flecks and in greater quantity. Paste is also finer textured and contains smaller temper particles. Jars tend to have more pronounced shoulders, greater neck constriction and more vertical necks. Folded rims are narrower (average width 12.5 mm vs. 16.5 mm) and have neater more pronounced pinching. Stamping is somewhat crisper, and motifs are smaller in size. The nested diamond motif has not been found in the later variety.

Caldwell (n. d. :56-7) has described pottery of a similar nature from the Stamp Creek site (9 Br 60) in Allatoona Reservoir. Similarities include vessel shape, rim modes and stamp motifs. As is the case at Little Egypt, the Stamp Creek pottery is not associated with Lamar Bold Incised. Caldwell (n. d. :51) concludes that this pottery belongs to an "early phase within the general Lamar period." This conclusion is supported by stratigraphic evidence from the Little Egypt site.

#### Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee

Sample Size. 441 sherds.

Description. Paste is medium to coarse in texture and occasionally micaceous. Temper is coarse grit. Interior vessel surfaces are smoothed but not polished and are frequently quite rough due to protruding temper particles and weathering. Vessel shape is predominately the deep, conoidal jar with slightly constricted neck; the only other recognizable shape being an open bowl. Jars have very weakly developed shoulders and little neck constriction. In some cases (Plate X, b), necks are



virtually absent, while in others (Plate X, a) the neck appears to be quite wide. Of the 22 rims represented in the Coosawattee collection, 17 are outflaring, folded and pinched rims from jars (Plate X, a-e, l); 4 are bowl rims with small pinches or notches on the outer lip edge; and one is rounded and plain. Folded rims are wide (average 16.5 mm) and are usually characterized by a plain, sometimes grooved, zone between lip and pinching (Plate X, a, b, c). Pinching is light and frequently smoothed over (Plate X, d). Cane punctations occur in two instances (Plate X, e).

Stamping is light and very crudely executed. Overstamping is common. Decorative designs are seldom recognizable and are overwhelmingly rectilinear (78 out of 86 sherds). Recognizable motifs include concentric circles (Plate X, f) bisected oval (Plate X, h), figure-eight (Plate X, i), straight lines (Plate X, g, k), and possibly the filfot cross (Plate X, l).

Perhaps the most interesting specimen of Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee, is a whole vessel recovered from a house floor at N195 W634. It is a narrow mouth, sub-globular jar with rounded plain rim and 2 strap handles (Plate IV, a). It is the only example of complicated stamping occurring in combination with the Mississippian jar form that the author is aware of from north Georgia. The single plain, rounded rim noted above is probably from a similar kind of vessel.

Cultural Relationships. This pottery is similar in nearly all respects to pottery identified as Lamar Complicated Stamped at Potts Tract. In recognition of this similarity, both collections have been assigned to a single variety, Coosawattee. This pottery is also similar in most respects to Lamar Plain, var. Vann. Its stratigraphic association at 9 Mu 102 and its similarity to the complicated stamped pottery at Potts Tract indicate that it is affiliated with the Barnett component at Little Egypt. Differences between this variety and the early Carters variety are described under the latter heading.

#### Lamar Bold Incised

Sample Size. 458 sherds and 4 vessels.

Description. With few exceptions, paste is of the coarse grit-tempered variety characteristic of Barnett phase ceramics. Twenty sherds contain small particles of shell in addition to grit, and in 9 instances tempering appears to be exclusively shell. The dominant vessel shape is a deep bowl with either carinated (37) or rounded (27) profile (Plate III, c; Plate XI, a, c; and Plate IV, b). The two bowl profiles grade into one another; the carinated bowl being recognized when a break is evident in the outer surface. Two whole bowls -- one carinated and the other rounded -- were recovered in 1969 excavations. Both have flat bottoms and are quite deep. The carinated vessel (Plate IV, b), measuring 19 cm deep and 42 cm in diameter, was recovered from a house



floor at N195 W634. The rounded bowl (Plate III, c) was associated with Burial 6, is smaller (14 cm deep, 28 cm in diameter) and is modeled to represent a conch shell cup.

A second vessel shape, represented by 6 sherds, is that of the rounded bowl with outflaring, decorated rim (Plate XI, e). Judging from vessels of an apparently similar nature that are present in collections from other sites, this vessel is flat bottomed and considerably smaller and shallower than the more common bowl shape. A jar shape is represented by one sherd and one whole vessel. The former (Plate XI, b) has an outflaring pinched rim similar to that usually found with Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee. The whole vessel (Plate III, j) is cylindrical in shape with maximum diameter occurring at its mid-point.

Decoration on the rounded and carinated bowl forms is confined to the upper vessel wall. Vessel bottoms are generally smoothed, although there are two specimens with coarse plain surfaces and one specimen with a stamped surface. The bottom of the decorative zone is usually marked by punctations, either cane (27), slash (14) or dot (6). Decorative designs are similar to published descriptions and consist of scrolls, concentric festoons and circles, guilloches and line-filled triangles.

Perhaps the most interesting Lamar Bold Incised specimen (Plate III, h) is the small effigy bowl recovered from Burial 11. The effigy, consisting of head, tail and four feet protruding from the vessel rim, is probably that of a turtle. Incising, which is placed on the side of the bowl below the

rim, accentuates these effigy body parts in a series of concentric loops. Paste and surface finish are suggestive of Lamar Plain, var. Murray. This vessel is the only specimen in the 1969 collection with these early (Little Egypt phase) characteristics. Unfortunately the stratigraphic context of the vessel is of no use in assigning it a component affiliation.

Cultural Relationships. This pottery conforms in most respects to published descriptions of Lamar Bold Incised (Jennings and Fairbanks 1939:4; Wauchope 1965:82-86). No differences can be detected between it and the Lamar Bold Incised pottery from Potts Tract.

Paste characteristics and stratigraphic distribution of the Lamar Bold Incised pottery at Little Egypt indicate that the type occurs exclusively in the Barnett component. The only possible exception to this is the single effigy bowl from Burial 11 described above.

#### Dallas Incised

Sample Size. 362 sherds and vessels.

Description. Except for 3 sherds, all pottery has shell-tempered paste similar to that of Dallas Plain. Of the exceptions, 2 have a grit-tempered paste similar to that characteristic of Little Egypt phase pottery, while the third has a grit-tempered paste of the Barnett phase variety.

Vessel shape is exclusively that of the narrow mouth sub-globular



jar. Rims are almost entirely plain (17) with round or square lips. In a few cases, the rim is either thickened slightly (2) or has a notched strip added at or just below the lip (3). Two kinds of handles, strap (11) and effigy (6), occur in the collection. Strap handles are both plain (3) and incised (8) (Plate XI, g). Effigy handles consistently portray a four legged animal with tail and cleft head (Plate III, d). Whole vessels (Plate III, d, f, g) from Burials 3, 5 and 6 indicate that strap and effigy handles may occur together on the same vessel.

One vessel from Burial 6 has the modeled features of a frog located on its shoulder (Plate III, a). Small nodes, perhaps of an effigy nature, are present on 6 sherds in the collection (Plate XI, h). A notched ridge may occasionally be placed on the vessel shoulder immediately below incised neck decoration (Plate XI, f - this sherd is illustrated up-side-down).

Decoration occurs in either the neck (95) or the shoulder area (153), never both. Incision is for the most part narrow-lined and varies considerably in quality of execution. Designs consist of line-filled triangles (22), nested chevrons (6), rectilinear guilloches (1) and alternating line and punctation-filled triangles (47). The latter occurs exclusively in the shoulder area (Plate III, d, f, g). In a few instances shoulder area decoration is bordered above by a line of punctations (Plate XI, i).

Cultural Relationships. Following the precedent set in the Potts Tract report (Hally 1970:13), all pottery, whether grit or shell-tempered, that is characterized by incised decoration, rectilinear designs and a jar vessel shape is classified as Dallas Incised.

Dallas Incised occurs with some frequency throughout the excavated portions of the site. There seems little doubt that it is a constituent of both components. The question of whether the type differs from one component to the other is difficult to answer, however, with the available stratigraphic data. Apparently there is little change. Effigy handles, for example, are found in both stratigraphic contexts and are morphologically similar.

Pottery from Potts Tract identified as Dallas Incised bears close similarities to the collection under consideration here. Grit-tempered paste is more common there, however, while effigy handles and the alternating line and punctation-filled triangle motif are absent. Judging from the few specimens illustrated by Lewis and Kneberg (1946: Plate 52, b; Plate 63, a), Dallas Incised at Hiwassee Island also resembles the Little Egypt pottery closely.

#### Rudder Comb Incised

Sample Size. 8 sherds.

Description. Eight sherds in the Little Egypt site collection conform to the description of Rudder Comb Incised, a pottery type which has been



defined for the Gunter'sville Basin (Heimlich 1952:14-15). Paste in 7 of the sherds is grit-tempered and similar to that of other types belonging to the Little Egypt component. The eighth specimen has a coarse shell-tempered paste similar to Dallas Plain. The single rim in the sample is slightly outflaring and has a smoothed, flattened lip. Exterior vessel surfaces are smooth and bear decoration consisting of groups of close-spaced parallel lines. Lines are straight on the rim sherd and curved on the remaining specimens (Plate XII, i). No design other than what may be intersecting arcs (imbrication) can be distinguished. Lines appear to have been produced either by brushing or by incision with a toothed implement.

Cultural Relationships. The type, Rudder Comb Incised, was defined on the basis of pottery occurring in burials at the Rudder site (Ja<sup>o</sup> 180A) (Webb and Wilder 1951:255-67). These burials are chronologically placed in the Gunter'sville IV period, which according to the authors equates with Mississippian manifestations at Etowah and Moundville. One vessel of the type illustrated in Plate 76, a, occurred in a burial with a vessel of Hardin Complicated Stamped. According to Heimlich (1952: 13), the latter is characterized by sand-tempered paste and 2 design motifs: concentric circles and barred diamonds. The Hardin Complicated Stamped vessel in question (Heimlich 1952: Plate 76, e) is a jar with well defined shoulders and vertical rim and bears a crudely stamped concentric circle

motif. The vessel has its closest similarity with stamped pottery of late Etowah or Wilbanks phases.

The 8 sherds at Little Egypt came from 7 different excavation units. Five of these units yielded large amounts of Little Egypt phase pottery and virtually no Barnett phase pottery. Given the paste characteristics of the pottery, its stratigraphic context at 9 Mu 102 and its cultural affiliation in the Guntersville Basin, a Little Egypt phase association is probable.

#### Moundville Incised

Sample Size. 1 vessel.

Description. Paste is tempered with coarse shell. Vessel shape is a narrow mouth sub-globular jar with strap handles (Plate III, b). Vessel height is 15.5 cm, and diameter is 23 cm. The shoulder of the vessel has been molded into 6 low lobes. A single line has been lightly incised in a continuous series of 6 arcs above the lobes.

Cultural Relationships. The vessel accompanied Burial 6 and is therefore associated with the Barnett component. Moundville Incised is characteristic of Gunterlands IV (Heimlich 1952:24) and other Mississippian phases in Alabama. The type has not, so far as the author is aware, been previously found in Lamar contexts.



McKee Island Cord Marked

Sample Size. 466 sherds.

Description. Paste texture is quite variable, ranging from coarse to fine. All sherds are shell-tempered. Shell particles vary considerably in size and density but are generally large and abundant. Evidence for vessel shape is not very good, but indicates that the globular jar with constricted neck and straight or slightly flaring rim (Plate XII, a) is the dominant, perhaps only, form present. Of the three rims identified, one is plain (Plate XII, a) and 2 have small nodes immediately below the lip. Lips are square.

Surface decoration is exclusively cord marking. The size of individual cord impressions varies considerably (Plate XII, b) as does heaviness of impression. Cord impressions are close spaced and for the most part parallel. Crossed cord impressions occur on sherds from the bottom of vessels. Cord marking appears to be vertically oriented and placed on the body of jars. Necks and rims are smooth surfaced (Plate XII, a, c).

Cultural Relationships. For all its numerical importance in late prehistoric collections from contiguous portions of Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia, shell-temperd cord-marked pottery has received precious little descriptive treatment in the published literature. Such pottery was the most common decorated type in the Dallas levels of the Unit 37 mound at Hiwassee Island, but Lewis and Kneberg failed to describe it.



A similar situation exists with respect to the Norris Basin sites. The only published type description for such pottery in the entire area is that for McKee Island Cord Marked in the Guntersville Basin (Heimlich 1952:27-8). This description is extremely brief and general. Nevertheless, workers in Tennessee (Faulkner and Graham 1966; Salo 1969; Gleason 1970) are using the type for apparently all shell-tempered cord marked pottery occurring in Dallas contexts.

The pottery from Little Egypt is only tentatively identified as McKee Island Cord Marked. The original type description is too brief and imprecise to be very useful, and the Little Egypt collection is too small and incomplete for reliable analysis. The Little Egypt pottery resembles McKee Island Cord Marked in temper, vessel shape, orientation of cord marking and placement of cord marking. It differs in the possible absence of handles, incised rim decoration, and the carinated bowl vessel shape.

Table 22 lists the frequency of sherds of several types -- McKee Island Cord Marked; Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee; Lamar Bold Incised; and Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters -- for excavation units that can be assigned to either the Little Egypt or Barnett components. Assuming that pottery collections from these units are representative of the 2 pottery assemblages at the site, it is clear that McKee Island Cord Marked is primarily, if not exclusively, associated with the Little Egypt component. These figures also indicate



that the type occurs with about two-thirds the frequency of Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters. It is, in short, the second most common decorated type in the Little Egypt component.

Table 22. Distribution of McKee Island Cord Marked pottery relative to Little Egypt and Barnett phase marker types.<sup>1</sup>

	Early Excavation Units	Late Excavation Units
McKee Island Cord Marked	219	3
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters	321	23
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee	13	130
Lamar Bold Incised	17	135

#### McKee Island Brushed

Sample Size. 4 sherds.

Description. Three of the sherds have a shell-tempered Dallas paste. The fourth has a fine textured grit-tempered paste of early Lamar variety. Brushing marks are relatively heavy and close-spaced. Brush strokes are straight and parallel to one another with no open space between them.

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<sup>1</sup> Sherd frequencies taken from Table 26.

Cultural Relationships. Two of the sherds, including the one with grit-tempered paste, occurred in excavation units (Square N530 W800, Level 4; Square N240 W400, Level 3) containing a preponderance of Little Egypt phase pottery. The other sherds occurred in units (Trenches N220 W60 and N320 W630) where Barnett phase ceramics predominate. Given its paste characteristics and stratigraphic context, the grit-tempered specimen probably belongs to the Little Egypt component. The remaining sherds cannot be assigned to either component with certainty.

#### Dallas Filleted

Sample Size. 104 sherds.

Description. Within their type, Dallas Decorated, Lewis and Kneberg (1946) distinguished 2 sub-types, Dallas Filleted and Dallas Modeled. In the present report, the latter has been divided between 4 different types: Dallas Filleted, when modeling is associated with a filleted strip placed on the rim of a bowl; Dallas Modeled, in the case of plain surface vessels with fine shell-tempered paste and modeling as the exclusive form of decoration; Dallas Plain in the case of frog effigy body parts placed on coarse shell-tempered bowls without the filleted strip; and Lamar Plain when frog effigy body parts are placed on grit-tempered bowls without filleted strips. The type, Dallas Filleted, remains unchanged with the exception of the addition of modeling and the subtraction of coarse shell-tempered jar rims with filleted strips. The



latter are classified as a mode of Dallas Plain.

Paste is usually fine textured and contains small flecks of shell temper. In 2 specimens, coarse grit-tempered paste occurs with fine shell inclusions. There are 2 other sherds with paste which resembles the grit-tempered paste characteristic of Little Egypt phase pottery types. Small flecks of shell are present in these also. Surfaces are always well smoothed and frequently evidence polishing.

Of the 80 sherds which give evidence of vessel shape, all are from rounded bowls. Maximum vessel diameter normally occurs at the lip, but in a few instances, rims curve inward to produce a narrower opening (Plate V, m). One example of a spouted bowl occurs in the collection.

The filleted strip is normally placed within 10 mm of the lip. Placement of the strip is lower in those vessels with incurving rims (Plate V, m). The strip is formed by cutting or sculpturing. The upper and lower edges are cut to shape as are the notches within the strip (Plate V, l-n). In only 2 instances are notches molded or pinched. Appendages include 2 human face effigies (Plate VIII, g), 2 tail effigies and 6 triangular lugs. The latter extend out horizontally from vessel lips and carry the filleted strip on their exterior edge (Plate V, k). The total vessel shape for these latter specimens is probably not unlike that of the Hiwassee Island Red on Buff bowl illustrated by Lewis and Kneberg (1946: Plate 58, b).

Cultural Relationships. Dallas Filleted is characteristic of the Dallas component at Hiwassee Island. The type occurs in Barnett phase contexts at Potts Tract, although in a somewhat crude form. At Little Egypt, sherds occur in excavation units identifiable with both Lamar components. This fact, together with the existence of specimens with fine and coarse grit-tempered paste, indicates that Dallas Filleted is an integral part of both Little Egypt and Barnett phases.

#### Dallas Modeled

Sample Size. 1 vessel.

Description. The sole example of Dallas Modeled in the 1969 collection is a small water bottle from Burial 6. Paste is fine textured and tempered with fine shell. Vessel surfaces are polished. Vessel dimensions are: height, 145; diameter 105 mm. The shoulder area of the vessel body has been molded into 4 sharply defined lobes. The body of the vessel is surmounted by a finely modeled human head with square, tiered hair arrangement. The bottle opening is at the back of the head.

Cultural Relationships. Dallas Modeled, as originally defined by Lewis and Kneberg (1946:105) is characteristic of the Dallas component at Hiwassee Island. The vessel in question occurs in Barnett phase contexts (Burial 6).



Dallas Negative Painted

Sample Size. 6 sherds.

Description. This pottery can be classified as Dallas Negative Painted on the basis of paste, vessel shape and decoration characteristics. Shell tempering ranging from fine to medium occurs in 5 specimens. One sherd has a fine grit-tempered paste that is intermediate in character to Little Egypt and Barnett phase pastes. Except for one sherd which may be from the base of a bottle, vessel shape cannot be determined. Decoration is achieved by the application of a brown or reddish brown pigment to a gray or buff colored vessel surface. In two specimens, it is quite likely that vessel surface has been given a buff colored slip. Curvilinear, possibly concentric circle, design elements can be recognized in 2 instances (Plate XII, h).

Cultural Relationships. The 6 sherds are distributed among 5 excavation units, of which 3 have yielded mixed collections and 2 have predominantly early pottery. Given the chronological position generally assigned to negative painted pottery in the southeast, it is probable that these sherds belong to the Little Egypt component.

Corncob Marked.

Sample Size. 25 sherds.

Description. All sherds are derived from two vessels which bear

corncob impressions on their exterior surfaces. Paste is of the coarse grit-tempered variety characteristic of Barnett phase ceramics. Both vessels are jars: one having a folded, grooved and notched rim immediately above the shoulder (Plate XII, 1); the other evidently having a wider vertical neck. Decoration consists of close spaced vertical lines which are formed by impressing a corncob on the vessel surface. Decoration is apparently confined to the shoulder area.

Cultural Relationships. Wauchope (1966: Fig. 223) illustrates pottery with similar surface markings which he identifies as Etowah Corncob-marked and Etowah fingernail(?) marked. A small amount of similar pottery was found throughout the mound at Chauga (Kelly and Neitzel 1961: 37). All sherds in the Little Egypt collection come from excavation lots which have predominately Barnett phase pottery. Given the paste characteristics described above, it is certain that the pottery belongs to the Barnett component.

#### Salt Pans

Sample Size. 20 sherds.

Description. Twenty sherds have been identified as salt pan ware on the basis of sherd thickness, vessel shape and decoration. Four specimens are fabric marked (Plate XII, f), 7 are cord-marked (Plate XII, g) and the remainder, plain surfaced. Ten rims are represented. In all



cases lips are expanded outward and have been flattened on either their upper or outer edge (Plate XII, f).

Cultural Relationships. Sherds were recovered from 10 different excavation units. In 6 instances, associated pottery is predominately Little Egypt phase, while in 2 cases, associated ceramics are predominately Barnett phase. It is probable that salt pans are part of the earlier ceramic complex. Whether they continue to be used during the Barnett component is uncertain. No salt pan fragments were, however, identified in the Potts Tract collection.

#### Unidentified Cord Marked

Sample Size. 27 sherds.

Description. Nineteen sherds from various locations (Table 23) on the site have grit-tempered paste that is normally associated with the Woodstock and Little Egypt components. These sherds are distinctive also in that cord marking is uniformly lightly impressed and individual cords are quite narrow (Plate XII, d, e). Few McKee Island Cord Marked sherds are as finely impressed or corded. Three sherds are concave and presumably from neck portions of vessels, a feature not found in McKee Island Cord Marked.

Eight sherds have a coarser grit-tempered paste resembling that characteristic of Barnett phase pottery types. The provenience of these sherds is also listed in Table 23.

Table 23. Provenience of unidentified cord marked pottery.

<u>Woodstock Paste Characteristics</u>	<u>Little Egypt Paste Characteristics</u>	<u>Barnett Paste Characteristics</u>
Sq. N530 W800, Level 2	Sq. N240 W400, Level 2	Sq. N120 W400, Level 1
Sq. N585 W809, Level 3	Sq. N270 W400, Levels 4 and 7	Sq. N240 W400, Level 2
	Sq. N300 W400, Levels 3 and 4	Sq. N270 W400, Level 5
	Sq. N350 W420	Tr. N220 W630
	Sq. N580 W550	Tr. N260-280 W630
	Tr. N220 W630	Tr. N320 W630
	Tr. N300 W630	Sq. N530 W800
	Tr. N320 W800	
	Tr. N375 W800	
	Sq. N530 W800, Level 4	
	Sq. N580 W800, Level 6	
	Sq. N583 W805, Level 2	
	Sq. N585 W809 Levels 2-4	

Cultural Relationships. The three sherds with Woodstock paste characteristics are all derived from the northern part of the site where the Woodstock component is most strongly represented. It is probable that these sherds belong to that component. Wauchope (1966:71) has defined an Etowah Cord Marked type, but it differs from the sherds



under consideration in that individual cord impressions are wide spaced.

The 16 sherds with Little Egypt phase paste characteristics are also distributed primarily in the northern part of the site. This is where the Little Egypt component is most strongly represented. These sherds probably belong to that component and may be merely grit-tempered versions of McKee Island Cord Marked, although as noted above, they do differ from that type in characteristics other than paste. Several of the 8 sherds with Barnett phase grit-tempered paste are derived from the southwestern portion of the site where only the Barnett component is well represented. It is probable that these sherds represent a continuation of cord marking into the Barnett phase.

#### Unidentified Fabric Marked

Sample Size. 2 sherds.

Description. Two sherds with fabric impressions on their exterior surfaces have grit-tempered paste which resembles that characteristic of the Barnett phase pottery types. Both sherds are comparatively thin and for this reason are not considered to be from salt pans.

Cultural Relationships. One is from an excavation unit with predominately Little Egypt pottery, the other is from a unit with predominately Barnett phase pottery. On the basis of paste characteristics, the 2 sherds are assigned to the Barnett component.

Unidentified Check Stamped

Sample Size. 8 sherds.

Description. Eight small sherds with grit-tempered paste were recovered from 6 different excavation units during the 1969 site excavations. Two of these have a coarse grit-tempered paste resembling that characteristic of Barnett phase pottery (Plate XII, j). The remaining sherds have a fine grit-tempered paste resembling that characteristic of Little Egypt phase pottery (Plate XII, k). Checks vary in size between 3 and 6 mm, and stamping is light.

Cultural Relationships. Stratigraphic provenience for these sherds is inconclusive with regard to component affiliation. The 2 sherds with late paste characteristics are from lots with predominantly late pottery. These sherds are probably affiliated with the Barnett component and could be identified as Boyd (Caldwell 1955) or Qualla Check Stamped (Egloff 1967:41). One of the sherds with early paste characteristics is from a lot with early pottery predominating. Two others are from lots with predominantly late pottery.



## CHAPTER 6

### COMPONENT DESCRIPTIONS

At least 4 ceramic components can be identified at the Little Egypt site as a result of excavations conducted there in 1969. There are one or more Woodland components, a Woodstock component and 2 Lamar components. None of these are represented by unmixed, stratified ceramic collections. The Woodland and Woodstock components have been distinguished primarily on typological grounds, while the later Lamar components have been distinguished on the basis of both stratigraphic and typological evidence.

#### Woodland Component(s)

Eighty-two sherds in the 1969 collection can be assigned to the Early and Middle Woodland periods. These sherds are listed by type in Table 24. A somewhat similar complex of types occurs at 9 Mu 104 located approximately 400 yards southwest of Little Egypt (Fig. 2). This site was destroyed by power equipment during construction of the re-regulation dam in 1972, and a surface artifact collection was all that could be salvaged from it. The 2 collections differ primarily in the greater frequency of complicated stamping, fabric marking and limestone tempering that occur at 9 Mu 104 (Table 24).

Table 24. Woodland pottery types represented at 9 Mu 102 and 9 Mu 104.

<u>Pottery Types</u>	<u>Frequency at 9 Mu 102</u>	<u>Frequency at 9 Mu 104</u>
Swift Creek Complicated Stamped	1	159
Pickwick Complicated Stamped		11
Candy Creek Cord-Marked		3
Dunlap Fabric Marked	1	27
Long Branch Fabric Marked		78
Cartersville Simple Stamped	18	46
Cartersville Check Stamped	9	15
Wright Check Stamped	3	
Cartersville Plain	42	158
Mulberry Creek Plain	8	78

The Woodland sherds were widely distributed over the site (Table 25), but, as described in Chapter 2, were concentrated in northern and eastern sections. Given the small quantity of sherds involved, it is likely that the collection represents a series of non-contemporaneous occupations spanning a period of several hundred years, rather than a single short term occupation or component.

#### Woodstock Component

One hundred twenty-eight sherds have been identified as belonging to a Woodstock component. This collection includes 1 incised, 111 complicated stamped, 13 check stamped and 3 cord-marked sherds. Design motifs identifiable on complicated stamped sherds include ladder-based diamonds (2), 2-bar diamonds (2), concentric diamonds (25) and



Table 25. Distribution of Woodland Pottery at 9 Mu 102.

<u>Excavation Unit</u>	<u>Sherd Frequency</u>
N120 W400	1
N240 W400	3
N270 W400	4
N300 W400	11
N470 W400	1
N350 W420	1
N360 W420	2
N160-180 W630	4
N200 W630	2
N300 W630	3
N320 W800	1
N375 W800	1
N530 W800	12
N580-590 W800-809	36

line block (8). Sears (1958:151-190) identifies the ladder-based diamond and 2-bar diamond motifs as markers for Etowah I and II phases respectively. Whether the presence of sherds with these motifs in the Little Egypt collection is evidence of a separate Etowah occupation can not be determined with presently available information.

Distribution of Woodstock sherds over the site is not uniform. Ninety-eight of the sherds are from Square N530 W800 and the squares at N580 W800, while 26 sherds are from the south side of Mound A. Only 4 sherds were recovered from the southwest portion of the site. As discussed in Chapter 2, the Woodstock occupants seem to have utilized only the higher, better drained ground adjacent to the river in what is now the northern and eastern portions of the site.

It was frequently difficult to sort Woodstock and Little Egypt phase complicated stamped sherds. Both Woodstock Complicated Stamped and Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters, have micaceous, fine textured paste; generally thin walls; and smooth exterior surfaces. Furthermore the stamping on the Carters variety of Lamar Complicated Stamped can be rather well executed and the line block motif seems to be present. When identifiable diamond motifs were lacking, sherds were identified as Woodstock Complicated Stamped if they had the following characteristics: finer textured paste, thinner walls and smaller, more crisply stamped designs. No attempt was made to distinguish Woodstock Plain pottery from Lamar Plain, var. Murray.

#### Little Egypt Component

Two Lamar components have been distinguished in the Little Egypt ceramic collection. One of these is chronologically late and can be equated on typological grounds with the Barnett phase defined at Potts Tract (Hally 1970:13-21). The other is earlier both on stratigraphic and radiometric evidence. In recognition of its chronological and typological distinctiveness from Barnett phase this component has been identified as a new phase, designated Little Egypt phase.

Several excavation lots contain pottery of one or the other Lamar component almost exclusively (Table 26). These lots have served for the most part as type collections for component (phase) definition.



Table 26. Sherd frequencies in excavation lots with predominantly Little Egypt or Barnett phase pottery.

<u>Pottery Types</u>	<u>Little Egypt Phase Lots<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Barnett Phase Lots<sup>2</sup></u>
Lamar Bold Incised	17	135
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee	13	130
unidentified fabric marked		1
Lamar Plain, var. Vann	42	521
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta	34	314
Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters	321	23
McKee Island Cord-Marked	219	3
McKee Island Brushed	1	1
Rudder Comb Incised	6	
Dallas Negative Pained	3	
Lamar Plain, var. Murray	243	42
Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger	341	29
Dallas Incised	51	28
Dallas Plain	1971	338
salt pans	1	1
Dallas Filleted	30	5
unidentified cord-marked	4	
unidentified check stamped		4

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<sup>1</sup>Includes the following excavation units: Square N240 W400-Levels 4 and 5; Trench N320-360 W400- Level 5; Square N530 W800- Levels 4-6; Square N580 W800- Levels 5 and 6; Square N583 W805- Levels 3 and 4; Square N585 W809- Levels 3-4 and Feat. 23; Square N590 W800- Levels 1-4, and Feat. 18.

<sup>2</sup>Includes the following excavation units: Trenches N200 W630, N220 W630, N260-280 W630 and N320 W630.

Because no large stratigraphically isolated lots dating to either component exist, it has not been possible to assign all pottery types or varieties to one phase or the other. As the artifacts obtained during the 1970-72 seasons are analyzed, it should be possible to make definite phase identifications for all types.

The following types and varieties comprise the Little Egypt component pottery assemblage:

- Dallas Filleted
- Dallas Negative Painted
- Dallas Plain
- Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters
- Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger
- Lamar Plain, var. Murray
- McKee Island Cord-Marked
- McKee Island Brushed
- Rudder Comb Incised
- Salt Pans
- Unidentified check stamped
- Unidentified cord-marked

The types Lamar Plain, var. Murray; Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Ranger; Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters and Rudder Comb Incised can be assigned exclusively to the Little Egypt component on the basis of paste characteristics and stratigraphy. A small number of grit-tempered cord-marked and check stamped sherds can also be assigned to the component on the basis of this kind of evidence. Because of their small number and the lack of comparable types in the literature, these latter



sherds have not been given type designations.

No obvious paste differences exist between the shell-tempered types occurring in the 2 components. As a result, the chronological placement of these pottery types must be based primarily on stratigraphic evidence. On stratigraphic grounds (Table 26), it can be concluded with considerable confidence that McKee Island Cord Marked is exclusively or almost exclusively a Little Egypt component type. There is also stratigraphic evidence for the assignment of Dallas Negative Painted and salt pans to that component. On the same evidence, Dallas Plain apparently occurs in both components, but is considerably more common in the early component. Finally, stratigraphy indicates that Dallas Incised, Dallas Filleted and McKee Island Brushed occur in both components with roughly equal frequency.

The Little Egypt phase ceramic assemblage is unusual in two respects: the absence of Lamar Bold Incised and the co-occurrence of shell tempering, grit-tempering, and Lamar and Mississippian pottery types. Because there are no large unmixed ceramic collections from the site it is not possible to say with absolute certainty that Lamar Bold Incised does not occur in the Little Egypt component. It is, however, usually absent in excavation units with predominantly early pottery, and its paste invariably resembles that of Barnett phase types. If an early unrecognized variety



does exist in the Little Egypt phase, its frequency of occurrence stands in marked contrast to the situation in Barnett phase where Lamar Bold Incised is the most common decorated types.

The author is aware of only 2 other sites where a Lamar component occurs without Lamar Bold Incised pottery. One of these is the Park Mound (9 Tp 41) located in West Point Reservoir on the Chattahoochee River. Although complete ceramic counts are not presented in the available site report (Huscher 1972), the early stages of the mound are reported to have an early Lamar component characterized by abundant complicated stamped pottery and no Lamar Bold Incised (Huscher 1972:57). Only 2 incised sherds are reported to have been found in the lower levels of the mound, and these do not appear to be Lamar Bold Incised. Unlike the Little Egypt component at 9 Mu 102, the early Lamar pottery assemblage at Park Mound contains no shell-tempered pottery or Mississippian pottery types. Mississippian ceramic features are limited to peaked vessels with lugs, a single bowl rim effigy and a "gravy boat shaped vessel with 2 peaks, a strap handle at each end and 2 rows of nodes around the body" (Huscher 1972:58). Similarities between the 2 assemblages include absence of Lamar Bold Incised; presence of check stamping in small quantities; filfot cross, figure -8 and concentric circle motifs on Lamar Complicated Stamped pottery; and close parallels in the form of folded rims occurring with plain and complicated stamped pottery.

Stamp Creek (9 Br 60) was investigated by Joseph R. Caldwell during



the course of a Smithsonian Institution survey of the Allatoona Reservoir in 1946-7 (n. d. :24-78). The site consists of occupation debris and features located on a small knoll situated at the junction of Boston Creek and Stamp Creek (9 Br 60A) and a low ridge extending up Stamp Creek (9 Br 60B). The ceramic assemblage from 9 Br 60A shows close similarities to the Little Egypt assemblage. No complete ceramic counts are given for the total site, but sherds recovered from features are tabulated. Lamar Bold Incised pottery is not present. The Lamar Complicated Stamped pottery is characterized by: paste containing "rather small particles of grit and quartz" (Caldwell n. d. :33); a jar vessel shape with well defined shoulders and constricted neck; folded rims which, on the basis of illustrated specimens, resemble the rims characteristic of Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters; and stamping motifs which include filfot cross, concentric circles, straight lines and line block. Coarse plain pottery occurs, but shell-tempered pottery is poorly represented: 2 sherds with strap handles were recovered from a single feature. Three excavated mortuary vessels are small jars with rims drawn up into 4 peaks with nodes placed below. A fourth mortuary vessel is grit-tempered and comb incised decorated. Except for the paucity of shell-tempered pottery, this assemblage is essentially identical to the Little Egypt component. A second minor difference is the peaked and noded rim which has not been noted in the Little Egypt collection, but is present at Park Mound.

From the foregoing comparisons it can be concluded that early Lamar



phases exist in north and west Georgia that are characterized by complicated stamping, distinctive forms of folded rims, plain and coarse plain pottery, small amounts of comb incised pottery, and the absence of Lamar Bold Incised. This pottery complex is almost certainly a direct development out of Wilbanks phase as defined by Sears (1958). Radiocarbon dates<sup>3</sup> indicate a temporal placement for these phases at approximately A. D. 1400-1500.

The Little Egypt phase ceramic assemblage differs most markedly from those at Park Mound and Stamp Creek in having a variety of shell-tempered pottery types. Similar pottery types are known from the Dallas component at Hiwassee Island (Lewis and Kneberg 1946) and Gunterlands IV phase in the Guntersville Basin, of Northern Alabama (Heimlich 1952; Webb and Wilder 1951). It is to a comparison of these that we now turn.

Overall, the Little Egypt component bears its closest similarity to the Dallas component at Hiwassee Island. With the possible exception of Rudder Comb Incised and McKee Island Brushed, all pottery types present in the Little Egypt assemblage are represented in that component. Lamar Bold Incised -- pottery with curvilinear incised designs that Lewis and Kneberg call Dallas Incised -- is the only Dallas type not present at 9 Mu 102. These similarities involve not only decorated types but

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<sup>3</sup>One charcoal sample from the lower levels of Park Mound has been dated at  $545 \pm 60$  radiocarbon years: A. D. 1405 (UGA 506). A charcoal sample obtained from a Little Egypt component structure at 9 Mu 102 in 1970 has been dated at  $535 \pm 80$  radiocarbon years: A. D. 1415 (UGA 403).



vessel shape modes as well. Differences between the 2 components are primarily quantitative. At Hiwassee Island, complicated stamping and grit-tempering are much less common, while cord-marked and fabric marked pottery are more common.

The observed similarities and differences probably reflect temporal as well as spatial factors. The absence of Lamar Bold Incised at 9 Mu 102 may reflect the component's slightly earlier date. The difference in quantity of complicated stamping, cord marking and temper types probably reflect the different spatial locations of each site. Little Egypt falls within an area which has long been characterized by complicated stamped pottery, while Hiwassee Island is located in an area which has long been characterized by Mississippian ceramics and cord marking. Two distinct ceramic traditions, Mississippian and South Appalachian, existed in Middle Tennessee and North Georgia during the period A. D. 1000-1800. These traditions overlap or grade into one another along their common boundary which runs across northwest Georgia. The relative strength of the two traditions in northwest Georgia varies through time. The Mississippian tradition is strongest in the Carters Dam locality during Little Egypt phase and subsequently decreases in strength. How the two traditions and their interrelationship are to be interpreted in terms of real people and social and political boundaries is a complex question that cannot be answered at the present time.

Most Little Egypt phase pottery types are found in Gunterlands IV.

phase in northeast Alabama, but frequencies differ considerably between the 2 assemblages. Complicated stamping, represented by Cox Complicated Stamped and Kirby Complicated Stamped, occurs with low frequency, while shell-tempered plain pottery and fabric marked salt pans (Langston Fabric Marked) are quite common in most site collections (Heimlich 1952: Table 1). McKee Island Incised, as defined by Heimlich (1952:28), includes both Lamar Bold Incised and Dallas Incised. The former apparently predominates. The occurrence of Rudder Comb Incised at Little Egypt relates the phase to the Alabama sites also. The stamped motifs described for Cox Complicated Stamped belong primarily at the Etowah and Wilbanks time level in Georgia. Kirby Complicated Stamped possesses folded rims and may be the local equivalent of Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Carters.

Unfortunately the typological descriptions and accompanying illustrations presented by Heimlich are inadequate for more detailed comparisons. With the exception of curvilinear incised pottery the 2 phases possess essentially the same ceramic types and are probably roughly contemporaneous. Gunterville Basin clearly lies within the area of the Mississippian ceramic tradition during Gunterlands IV phase.

#### Barnett Component

The following types and varieties comprise the Barnett phase ceramic assemblage at Little Egypt.



Dallas Filleted  
 Dallas Incised  
 Dallas Plain  
 Lamar Bold Incised  
 Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee  
 Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta  
 Lamar Plain, var. Vann  
 unidentified check stamped  
 unidentified cord-marked  
 unidentified corncob marked  
 unidentified fabric marked

Of these types and varieties, Lamar Bold Incised; Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee; Lamar Coarse Plain, var. Cohutta; Lamar Plain, var. Vann; unidentified corncob marked and unidentified fabric marked can be assigned exclusively to the Barnett component on the basis of paste characteristics. A small number of grit-tempered cord-marked and check stamped sherds can also be assigned to the component on the basis of paste. Stratigraphic evidence (Table 26) indicates that Dallas Incised, Dallas Filleted and Dallas Plain are shared by both Barnett and Little Egypt components. Finally, it is possible that salt pans, McKee Island Cord-Marked and McKee Island Brushed continue into Barnett from the earlier phase. The existence of McKee Island Cord Marked at Potts Tract strengthens this possibility for one of the types. If these types do occur in the Barnett component, they are numerically of only minor importance.

The Barnett component differs from its predecessor at 9 Mu 102 in the following ways: presence of Lamar Bold Incised as a numerically important type; absence or marked decrease in numerical importance of the

Mississippian types, Dallas Plain, McKee Island Cord Marked, McKee Island Brushed, Dallas Negative Painted and salt pans; and minor but easily detected changes in temper, paste, vessel shape and decorative characteristics of Lamar Complicated Stamped, Lamar Plain and Lamar Coarse Plain.

The existence of these 2 components and the differences that exist between them corroborates A. R. Kelly's observation (1965; 1970) that through time Dallas (shell-tempered) pottery types are gradually replaced by Lamar (grit-tempered) types in the Carters Dam area. The present author feels more strongly than he indicated in the Potts Tract report (1970:20) that this shift primarily reflects changes in ceramic style preferences on the part of a single people and not the progressive replacement of one population by another. With the exception of McKee Island Cord-Marked, all numerically important pottery types in the Little Egypt component carry over into Barnett phase. For the most part, changes occurring in these types -- Dallas Incised, Dallas Filleted, Dallas Plain, Lamar Coarse Plain, Lamar Plain and Lamar Complicated Stamped -- from one phase to the next are either quantitative or relatively minor changes in paste, vessel shape modes or decorative motifs. In no case are these changes so great that they cannot be attributed to an ongoing process of stylistic evolution inherent in the types themselves.

Kelly proposed that the progressive replacement of Dallas by Lamar pottery types represented a gradual replacement of Creeks by Cherokee



in the Carters Dam area. The only radically new pottery type in Barnett phase is Lamar Bold Incised, a type which is usually identified with Creek rather than Cherokee. There is no developmental antecedent for this type in Georgia; it may be an introduced type which is grafted onto the developing Lamar ceramic complex. In northwest Georgia this occurs sometime during the 15th century. It may occur earlier in other parts of the state -- possibly to the south and west. There seems, however, no reason to attribute the appearance of the type to the arrival of new people.

Barnett phase was defined by the author on the basis of ceramics recovered at the Potts Tract site in 1968. This site is located .5 miles to the northeast of Little Egypt. The pottery assemblages from both sites are essentially identical, hence the identification of both with a common phase. No specimens of corncob marked, fabric marked, check stamped or brushed pottery were encountered in the study collections at Potts Tract, but these types are so infrequent at Little Egypt that their absence can be attributed to sampling error. The relative frequency of shared pottery types from both components are listed in Table 27. From these figures it is apparent that the two pottery assemblages are quite similar in quantitative terms. The same close relationship is demonstrated qualitatively by a close correspondence in paste, vessel shape modes and decorative motifs.

Table 27. Relative Frequencies of Barnett Phase Pottery Types at 9 Mu 102 and 9 Mu 103.

<u>Pottery Types</u>	Frequency at <sup>4</sup>	Frequency at <sup>5</sup>
	<u>9 Mu 102</u>	<u>9 Mu 103</u>
Dallas Filleted	1%	1%
Dallas Incised	1%	2%
Dallas Plain	22%	23%
Lamar Bold Incised	9%	9%
Lamar Complicated Stamped	8%	11%
Lamar Coarse Plain	21%	26%
Lamar Plain	35%	28%

A single radiocarbon date for the Barnett component at Potts Tract is  $286 \pm 45$  radiocarbon years: A. D. 1664 (Hally 1970:Addendum). Two dates of  $425 \pm 55$  radiocarbon years: A. D. 1525 (UGA 208), and  $395 \pm 65$  radiocarbon years: A. D. 1555 (UGA 210) suggest that the Little Egypt site component may be slightly earlier than the type component.

Several other sites and phases in Georgia and adjacent states bear similarities to the Barnett phase. The King site (9 Fl 5) is a large palisaded village located on the Coosa River approximately 50 miles southwest of Carters Dam (Fig. 1) (Hally 1975). European artifacts encountered in burials date site occupation to the late 16th or early 17th century (Smith 1975). Detailed analysis of the ceramics from the site has yet to be undertaken, but preliminary analysis indicates that the ceramic assemblage

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<sup>4</sup>Percentages are derived from Table 26.

<sup>5</sup>Percentages are derived from Hally (1970: Table 4).



is almost identical to that at Little Egypt. The only obvious differences are a greater abundance of shell-tempered pottery and a greater mixture of Lamar and Mississippian attributes at the King site. The King site can be safely identified as a Barnett phase component. The difference in frequency of shell tempering is probably primarily a reflection of the site's greater proximity to Late Mississippian phases in Alabama.

Allatoona Reservoir lies approximately 30 miles south of Carters Dam. Work by Caldwell (n. d. ;1950) and Miller (ms) in the late 40's succeeded in isolating 4 variants or phases of Lamar culture: Early Lamar, Classic Lamar, Brewster and Galt. The first has been described earlier in this chapter. Its main distinctive characteristics are an absence of Lamar Bold Incised and a paste which is fine textured and contains fine grit temper. The Classic Lamar variant is described as having a pottery assemblage similar to that found in the upper levels of the Lamar site (9 Bi 7). Caldwell (n. d. :374) excavated no sites of the phase in the reservoir, but refers to 9 Ck 5 (Wilbanks) as having a component. According to Caldwell, Classic Lamar sites possess 3 pottery types: Lamar Bold Incised, Lamar Complicated Stamped, and Lamar Plain. These types occur at Wilbanks with the following frequencies (Sears 1958:177):

Lamar Bold Incised	83
Lamar Complicated Stamped	148
Lamar Coarse Plain	162
Lamar Plain	157

Specific characteristics of the pottery noted by Sears include: coarse

temper which protrudes through vessel surfaces; considerable overstriking and equal representation of curvilinear and rectilinear motifs on Lamar Complicated Stamped sherds; and folded rims with fluting at the base of the rim predominating over specimens with "pinched rim bands" (1958:177). These characteristics could apply equally well to Barnett phase.

The third Lamar variant recognized by Caldwell, Brewster, is represented at only 2 sites; 9 Br 60B and 9 Ck 23. Both sites together yielded less than 149 sherds. The counts for 9 Br 60B are as follows (Caldwell n. d. :51):

Lamar Bold Incised	8
Lamar Complicated Stamped	39
Lamar Plain	9

According to Caldwell, Brewster phase pottery is characterized by large and abundant temper particles and carelessly executed stamping and folded rims. Lamar Incised occurs with both broad and narrow incision, but is not exactly similar to either Lamar Bold Incised of the Classic phase or to Ocmulgee Fields Incised.

Apparently Caldwell distinguished Brewster from Lamar of the Classic variant primarily on the basis of the quality of execution of Lamar Bold Incised and Lamar Complicated Stamped. As with Classic Lamar, Brewster phase sounds generally similar to Barnett phase.

The fourth Lamar variant, Galt, is represented by 15 small sites located within the reservoir. Pottery is exclusively grit-tempered and includes the following types: Galt Check Stamped, Galt Complicated



Stamped, Galt Plain and Galt Roughened. The first 2 types are described as closely resembling Overhill Check Stamped and Overhill Complicated Stamped, while Galt Roughened has its closest similarities to Walnut Roughened and Chattahoochee Brushed. The following pottery types are represented in Caldwell's collections from Galt sites:

Galt Complicated Stamped	111
Galt Plain	54
Galt Check Stamped	25
Galt Roughened	4
Chattahoochee Brushed	1
unidentified incised	1

Folded rims occur commonly and are described as being broad with notching along the bottom and "rather similar to the rim treatment of 18th century Muskogean sites in Georgia" (n. d. :380). Nineteenth century crockery is frequently found on these sites and site distribution suggests the homestead pattern characteristic of 19th century Europeans. On these grounds, Caldwell identified Galt with early 19th century Cherokee.

A somewhat similar pottery complex has been described by Caldwell (1955) from a site in Buford Reservoir. Here a single "cooking pit" produced portions of at least 6 vessels including 5 check stamped and 1 complicated stamped. The former are referred to as Boyd Check Stamped, but apparently differ from Galt only in color of fired surfaces.

On typological grounds, the Barnett phase ceramic complex is most likely contemporary with Caldwell's Classic and Brewster phases and the Lamar component at 9 Ck 5. Galt, of course, differs with respect to the

absence of Lamar Bold Incised and the abundance of check stamping. Lamar Bold Incised may not be entirely absent as Caldwell lists one unidentified incised sherd from 9 Ck 46. Illustrations of folded rims are small and few in number (Caldwell n. d.) and are therefore difficult to use. These rims resemble the more carelessly executed specimens from Little Egypt and could therefore be interpreted as representing a later stage in the evolution of the form. Given the associated European ceramics and character of the folded rims, it is probable that this phase does postdate the Barnett component at Little Egypt. Because of its small size and poor quality, however, the available sherd collection does not provide sufficient evidence upon which to base conclusions about its political and ethnic affiliation. The present author is hesitant to identify the Galt phase with Cherokee.

The description of ceramics from the Lamar site (9 Bi 7) published by Penman (1973) is not adequate for detailed comparison with Barnett phase. On the basis of the information that is available, including illustrated sherds in Kelly's (1938) brief report, it appears that the grit-tempered types in the 2 assemblages are rather similar. The major differences are quantitative. Shell-tempered pottery is very poorly represented at 9 Bi 7. Its strongest showing occurring in the village area surface collection, is less than 4%. At Little Egypt, Dallas Plain alone accounts for nearly 20% of the Barnett phase assemblage. At 9 Bi 7, Lamar Plain varies in frequency between 33 and 61 percent. Lamar Complicated Stamped varies



between 34 and 57 percent. At Little Egypt, plain pottery of all types amounts to 80% of the collection and Lamar Complicated Stamped amounts to less than 10%. A certain proportion of the Lamar Complicated Stamped sherds at 9 Bi 7 are undoubtedly from the bottom of Lamar Bold Incised vessels, a fact that accounts in some part for the higher frequency of the type. Nevertheless, it is probable that wholly undecorated vessels are considerably more frequent at Little Egypt.

Egloff (1967) has defined the Qualla ceramic series for Cherokee sites in the Appalachia region.<sup>6</sup> The pottery assemblage from sites in the Overhill Region of Eastern Tennessee is so distinct from that occurring in the other 4 Cherokee regions -- Lower, Middle, Valley and Out Towns -- that it should not be included in the series. In the present report, therefore, Qualla will refer only to the pottery assemblages from sites in the Lower, Middle, Valley and Out Town Regions. Defined in this way, Qualla is best seen as a regional variant of Lamar: paste is grit-tempered; folded rims are common; vessel forms are predominately jars and carinated bowls; and the standard Lamar pottery types are all represented.

Pottery types comprising the series include: Qualla Complicated

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<sup>6</sup>Egloff's ceramic analysis utilized for the most part pottery collections that are not well dated or necessarily representative of a single component. Most sites analyzed have European trade goods present, but earlier Lamar components may also be present. Tugaloo, for example, has a strong prehistoric component as well as the 18th century occupation. As a result, detailed comparison of Qualla pottery with Barnett phase are of limited usefulness and reliability.



Stamped, Qualla Plain, Qualla Burnished, Qualla Check Stamped, Qualla Cord-Marked, Qualla Corncob Impressed, and an undesignated incised type. Shell-tempered pottery with several kinds of surface decoration is also included. All of these types have counterparts in Barnett phase. Stamp motifs associated with Qualla Complicated Stamped are shared with Lamar Complicated Stamped, var. Coosawattee. Folded rims occurring with plain and complicated stamped pottery (Egloff 1967: Fig. 2, Plates 5-7) are similar in form to those characteristic of Barnett phase.

The major differences between the two complexes involve the relative frequency of complicated stamping, plain and incised pottery, and shell-tempering. Complicated stamped pottery accounts for between 57 and 86% of the Qualla assemblages while plain pottery (Qualla Plain and Burnished) amounts to no more than 18%. The ratio of complicated stamped pottery to plain pottery is the reverse of that occurring in Barnett phase. Qualla Incised is generally less common than Lamar Bold Incised, and shell-tempered pottery is virtually absent.

Eighteenth century Overhill Cherokee pottery is best known from Chota (King 1970). The differences between the Barnett and Overhill pottery assemblages outweigh the similarities. Lamar Incised (curvilinear incised designs) is absent at Chota and complicated stamping is of only minor importance. Grit-tempering occurs in approximately 70% of the pottery at Little Egypt, while at Chota it accounts for less than 10%. Plain pottery, represented by Overhill Plain, is more common at Chota (88%) than at



Little Egypt (78%). A deep bowl form with outflaring rim is common at Chota and not represented at Little Egypt. Finally one of the 2 folded rim forms at Chota is different; pinching is confined to the very bottom of the folded strip, and the strip itself more closely resembles a filleted strip placed below the lip than a fold. A few specimens resembling this rim form are present in the Little Egypt collection (Plate VII, d, e), but they are a minority type. The character of folded rims at Chota is in conformity with a trend seen at Little Egypt; through time rim folds become wider and pinching becomes confined to the bottom of the strip.

In the few decorated sherds present in the Overhill assemblage, similarities with Barnett phase are rather strong. Complicated stamping, cord marking, check stamping, incising of the type characteristic of Dallas Incised, and corncob roughened or coarse plain (Overhill Roughened) all occur.

In summary, Overhill resembles Barnett phase in the variety of pottery types and modes present, but differs in the frequency with which they occur. Plain surface and shell-tempered pottery are considerably more common at Overhill sites.

Three sites in the Gunterville Basin produced historic trade artifacts and are placed in the Gunterlands V period by Webb and Wilder (1951). At the level of analysis possible using published pottery descriptions (Webb and Wilder 1951; Heimlich 1952), there appears to be little difference in the pottery complexes of Gunterlands IV and V. The major changes

appear to involve cord marking which increases in frequency and Moundville Incised which decreases in frequency.

Barnett phase differs considerably from both Gunterlands IV and V phases. The latter have shell-tempered pottery almost exclusively, cord-marked and fabric marked pottery in abundance, and little complicated stamped pottery. A folded rim occurring on plain shell-tempered jars (Heimlich 1952:27, Plate 7A) resembles the Overhill rim form described above. The major similarity with Barnett phase is the occurrence of McKee Island Incised which is typologically equivalent to Lamar Bold Incised and Dallas Incised.

Archaeological investigations within the floodpool of Weiss Reservoir on the Coosa River in Alabama failed to discover Mississippian period sites, but did encounter a number of aboriginal sites dating to the 18th and 19th centuries (DeJarnett et al. 1973). Pottery types represented in collections from these sites include: plain, incised, brushed, cord-marked, fabric marked, Overhill Complicated Stamped and Moundville Red Filmed. The total assemblage differs radically from Barnett phase: shell-tempering occurs exclusively; ninety-three percent of the pottery is plain; and incised (primarily shell-tempered Lamar Bold Incised) pottery is the only decorated type with a frequency greater than .5%. How much of this difference is due to the late historic date of this occupation and how much reflects geographical location cannot be determined. Given the fact that the King site is located only about 20 miles up stream from these sites,



the time factor would seem to be the most important.

The preceding comparisons of ceramic assemblages serves to place Barnett phase in a larger historical perspective. It is clear from these comparisons that the phase itself is represented at only 3 known sites -- Little Egypt, Potts Tract and King -- located in the northwesternmost counties of Georgia. The combination of pottery types and modes characteristic of the phase, however, is found over a large area of north Georgia and adjacent portions of Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina and North Carolina.

Perhaps the most interesting result of the preceding comparisons is the picture they provide of ceramic diversity in the area surveyed during the period A. D. 1500-1800. Undoubtedly some of this diversity reflects change through time. The author, however, feels that most is regional in nature. Sites located to the north and west in the area reviewed have a high frequency of shell-tempered and plain pottery. The frequency of these attributes decreases rapidly as one moves to the south and east. Complicated stamping has its greatest numerical strength to the northeast and decreases as one moves south and west. If the time factor could be controlled and large pottery collections were available from more sites, it is probable that these ceramic differences would approximate clines in their spatial distribution, perhaps with increased rates of change occurring in a few locations such as the Appalachian ranges in North Carolina and Tennessee and the divide between Gulf and Atlantic watersheds in north Georgia.



Overriding this regional variability is a high degree of ceramic uniformity. Despite variations in their frequency, curvilinear incised and complicated stamped pottery do occur throughout most of the area in question. More striking is the uniformity in folded rims. The author has seen enough of these from early and late contexts throughout the area to conclude that not only is the mode quite uniform at any particular point in time, but that it seems to undergo a similar evolution throughout the area.

The implication of these observations for the ethnic identification of pottery makers is also interesting. Within the known area of aboriginal Cherokee occupation, two markedly different ceramic complexes -- Qualla and Overhill -- occur. A similar situation seems to hold for Creeks or Muskogean speakers occupying north Georgia and northeast Alabama. Some are producing a mixture of Mississippian and Lamar pottery types (Barnett phase) while others (Brewster, Classic Lamar) are associated with exclusively Lamar types. The former are rather similar to Overhill Cherokee in pottery manufacture, while the latter are quite similar to Cherokee of the Lower, Middle, Valley and Out Town Regions. This situation suggests that ethnic and political distinctions are not very well manifested at the level of pottery manufacturing.

Barnett phase is identified with Creeks or Muskogean speakers in the preceding paragraph. This requires additional comment. As the above remarks indicate, it is not possible to identify Barnett phase with Cherokee



or Creeks, whether defined ethnically or linguistically, on ceramic evidence alone. The preponderance of ethnohistorical information indicates that Muskogean speakers occupied northwest Georgia in the early 18th century and that they were succeeded in the area by Cherokee speakers sometime after 1750 (Chapter 1). With the exception of the addition of Lamar Bold Incised, Barnett phase ceramics develop out of Little Egypt phase ceramics without a break. It is most likely, therefore, that Barnett phase is not the archaeological manifestation of an intrusive people.

## CHAPTER 7

### LITHIC MATERIALS AND ARTIFACTS

by

Beverly H. Connor and David J. Hally

#### Lithic Materials

A wide variety of rocks and minerals has been recovered in excavations at Little Egypt; yet stone in general is not very common in the collection (Tables 28 and 29). This situation can be accounted for in part by the geographical location of the site. To begin with, Little Egypt is situated in the middle of a large floodplain. This means that all stone larger than fine gravel occurring on the site must have been brought there by man. Also important is the site's location adjacent to the Great Smokey Fault which separates the Ridge and Valley and Piedmont Provinces. As a result of this, a wide variety of rocks and minerals was readily available to site inhabitants. This latter situation undoubtedly had an influence on the kinds of stone selected for tools and perhaps even the kinds of tools manufactured on the site.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>This question is the subject of an M. A. thesis (Pennington 1977) in which the non-chert lithic industries at the Little Egypt and King sites are compared. The latter site, being located in the middle of the Ridge and Valley province, had a much more limited array of rocks and minerals readily available to its inhabitants.



Table 28. Distribution of Non-Artifactual Rocks and Minerals.

	N240 W400				N270 W400				N300 W400			N360 W400			N350 W420	N360 W420	N323 W345	N180-160 W630	N200 W630	N220 W630	N280-260 W630	N300 W630	N320 W800	N375 W800	N500 W800
Limestone																									
Dolomite																									
Sandstone																									
Siltstone																									
Shale																									
Orthoquartzite																									
Chert pebbles																									
Schist																									
Gneiss																									
Quartzite																									
Metasiltstone																									
Phyllite																									
Slate																									
Metadolomite																									
Amphibolite																									
Granite																									
Quartz	1	1	10	1	1																				
Muscovite																									
Hematite																									
Geothite																									
Limonite																									













The chert common at 9 Mu 102 ranges in color from nearly black to light shades of gray and tan. Dark gray is the most common color. Some chert is oolitic. Although this chert cannot be assigned to specific stratigraphic units, it is probable that it comes from both the Fort Payne chert and the Knox Group. Fresh chert in the Fort Payne chert is black to dark gray and weathers to a lighter color. Beds are accessible in Whitfield and Gordon counties west of the Little Egypt site and are from 1 in. to 2 ft. in thickness. Chert of the Knox Group may be lighter in color and can occur in beds or in masses. It is found throughout Whitfield County and in central Murray and Gordon counties. A cherty dolomite also occurs in this group and is represented in small quantity at 9 Mu 102.

The non-chert materials found at Little Egypt consist of sedimentary rocks (shale, sandstone, limestone and dolomite), metamorphic rocks (mainly schists, phyllite and slate), and igneous rocks (fine grained granites, diabase, vein quartz and pigmatic iron minerals). The sedimentary units can be found west of the Great Smokey Fault in the immediate vicinity of the site. The metamorphic and igneous rocks are from the Piedmont and Blue Ridge Provinces east of the Fault, and are for the most part available in the immediate site area.

Large Blade (Plate XIII, p)

Sample size. 1 specimen.



Description. This chert specimen has an excurvate shape with a narrow straight base and flattened cross section. Both edges have fine marginal retouching. In addition, the lower 1 cm of each edge has been dulled by short narrow flakes that resemble backing in the European Paleolithic sense.

Dimensions. Length, 86.0 mm; width (midsection), 30.7 mm; width (basal), 23.8 mm; thickness, 5.1 mm.

Remarks. This specimen comes from Trench N260-280 W630 where Barnett phase ceramics predominate. It is likely, therefore, that it belongs to that component. A similar sized and shaped blade was obtained from a domestic structure at the King site. Lewis and Kneberg (1946: 114-5, Plate 67B) identify similar artifacts with the Dallas component at Hiwassee Island. Slightly larger blades of similar shape were found in burials at the King site in association with flint working kits. Moorehead (1932: Fig. 95) illustrates 1 specimen measuring at least 20 cm in length, that he obtained from burials of unknown provenience at Little Egypt.

#### Small Triangular Points (Plate XIII, a-k, n,o)

Sample size. 26 whole and fragmentary specimens.

Description. These are small triangular chert points with straight -- occasionally slightly incurvate or excurvate -- sides. Bases are either concave or straight. In cross section, they are typically flattened,

although a few are bi-convex.

Dimensions. Length, 31.5 (maximum) - 16.9 (minimum) mm; width, 14.6-10.5 mm; thickness, 4.8-3.9 mm.

Remarks. These points are similar to triangular points occurring at the Potts Tract site (Hally 1970:47-8). Two varieties, designated A and B, were distinguished in that site's collection of 144 points. The former were characterized by straight or slightly incurvate sides and fine workmanship. Variety B points were slightly larger and characterized by straight or slightly excurvate sides. Variety A was tentatively identified with the Woodstock component at Potts Tract, while Variety B was assigned to the Barnett component.

Eighteen of the specimens in the Little Egypt collection resemble Variety B. The remaining 8 (Plate XIII, c, f) somewhat resemble Variety A. None of the latter, however, occur in excavation lots containing Woodstock pottery in abundance. There is apparently a gradual change through time from Late Woodland (Hamilton phase) - Early Mississippian (Woodstock phase) points which are finely made and incurvate in shape to Late Mississippian (Barnett phase) points which are more crudely made, asymmetrical in shape and frequently excurvate. According to this scheme, points resembling Variety A at Little Egypt may date to the Little Egypt component as well as the Woodstock component. The other points may date to the Barnett component. There is no stratigraphic evidence to support this cultural assignment of point forms at the present time.



Elongate Teardrop-Shaped Biface (Plate XIII, w)

Sample Size. 1 specimen.

Description. This chert item is pentagonal in shape, relatively thick and plano-convex in cross section.

Dimensions. Length, 29.6 mm; width, 14.9 mm; thickness, 6.1 mm.

Remarks. This specimen resembles artifacts found at Potts Tract and described as "elongated, teardrop-shaped bifaces" (Hally 1970:48). Bases in the type collection were primarily convex, although some specimens approached a pentagonal shape. Cultural affiliation at Potts Tract was probably with Barnett phase. The single specimen from 9 Mu 102 occurred in the W630 trench in association with Barnett phase pottery.

Preforms (Plate XIII, l, m, t)

Sample Size. 15 whole and fragmentary specimens.

Description. These are typically large, thick chert points with irregular excurve sides and straight or convex bases. They are all bi-convex in cross section. Flake scars are deep, producing a sinuous edge to the artifact. Fine marginal retouching is absent.

Dimensions. Length, 44.2-32.3 mm; width, 16.9-11.1 mm; thickness, 13.8-6.7 mm.

Remarks. The thickness of these artifacts and their crude workmanship suggests that they are preforms for small triangular points.

Large Triangular Points (Plate XIII, q, r)

Sample size. 2 specimens.

Description. Both specimens are made of vein quartz. One is excurvate with a concave base; the other is incurvate with a concave base. Both are bi-convex in cross section.

Dimensions. Length, 40.9 mm; width, 29.9-18.2 mm; thickness, 9.1-8.9 mm.

Remarks. These specimens resemble the Yadkin point as defined by Coe (1964:45).

Unidentified Stemmed Points (Plate XIII, v, x, y, z)

Sample size. 4 specimens.

Description. Two specimens (Plate XIII, y, z) are made of vein quartz; the others (Plate XIII, v, x) are made of chert. Three specimens have straight stems and rounded shoulders (Plate XIII, v, x, y). Blade shape on 2 of these is excurvate. The third (Plate XIII, v) has an incurvate blade which is apparently the result of resharpening. The fourth point has weakly developed shoulders and a contracting stem (Plate XIII, z).

Dimensions. Length, 47.3-33.0 mm; width, 27.2-23.8 mm; thickness, 13.5-2.8 mm.

Remarks. All specimens are probably Archaic in age. The 2 vein quartz specimens resemble points obtained from an Archaic site (9 Mu 100, XU-K) excavated in 1964-65 (Beasley 1972).



### Bifacial Point Fragments

Sample size. 5 fragmentary specimens.

Description. These specimens have excurve blade shapes and are bi-convex in cross section. Only distal ends are represented.

Material is chert in all cases.

Dimensions. Width, 18.6-15.0 mm; thickness, 8.0-4.5 mm.

Remarks. It is possible that three specimens are fragments of small triangular points and date to the Lamar components. In general, however, all specimens suggest larger points, probably stemmed or notched forms of Woodland or Archaic age.

### Unidentified Bifaces (Plate XIII, s, t, u)

Sample size. 26 fragmentary specimens.

Description. These specimens are large and small pieces of bifacially worked material. Some may be basal portions of large points or knives with parallel sides and straight bases (Plate XIII, t, u). Others appear to be broken distal ends of points (Plate XIII, s). Some are tool mid-sections with serrated edges. Material includes chert, vein quartz and dolomite (Plate XIII, s).

Remarks. This is a catch-all category for bifacially flaked items that lack diagnostic characteristics.

### Chert Debitage

Chert debitage was common in excavation units throughout the site



(Table 29). Excavators were instructed to collect this material, but in the absence of systematic recovery techniques such as screening, the resulting collection cannot be considered representative of chert debris at the site. The collection as a whole is undoubtedly biased in favor of larger sized items, while the size and representativeness of collections from individual excavation units is probably affected by factors such as soil texture and the personality of the different excavators.

Despite these shortcomings, an analysis of chert debitage recovered during the 1969 season has been undertaken. Material from all excavation units was inspected and assigned to a number of morphological classes that are assumed to have technological and functional significance. The spatial distribution of material in these classes was then investigated to determine whether different knapping activities were localized within the site area and whether there were appreciable differences in the technology of the two Lamar components.

In the early stages of analysis, it was observed that specimens frequently had minute flake scars along one or more of their edges. In order to investigate this phenomenon more systematically, the debitage from 25 excavation units<sup>2</sup> was inspected under low magnification for

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<sup>2</sup>Only excavation levels that were stratigraphically associated with occupation surfaces or features were selected. These units are: Square N240 W400, Levels 1, 2, 4, and 5; Square N270 W400, Level 4 and Feat. 4; Square N300 W400, Levels 2 and 4 and Feat. 5; Trench N360 W400, Levels 2, 3, and 6; Trench N350 W420; Trench N350 W420; Trench N200 W630; Trench N260-280 W630; Trench N320 W800; Trench N375 W800; Square N530 W800, Levels 4 and 5; Square N580 W800, Levels 5 and 6; Square N583 W805, Levels 3 and 4; and Square N585 W809, Level 4.



evidence of edge modification. The results, as shown in Table 33, were quite unexpected. Between 55% and 75% of the specimens in all debitage classes had been modified on 1 or more edges.

Two forms of edge modification can be distinguished. Unifacial retouching appears as a continuous series of overlapping, minute flake scars (Plate XV, a, c, d). Edges modified in this fashion may be straight, concave or convex (Plate XIV, a, b, e-r; Fig. 43, a, b, e-r). Step flaking appears as step-like scars that are generally non-overlapping and irregularly spaced (Plate XV, b). Edges modified by step flaking may be straight, slightly concave or slightly convex.

Flakes (Plate XIV, a-p; Fig. 43, a-p)

Sample size. 428 specimens.

Description. Flakes are thin pieces of chert that show on their interior surface a bulb of percussion, small shatter marks on the bulb, a striking platform above the bulb and concentric fracture rings radiating out from a point of percussion on the bulb. The exterior surface has flake scars that converge at angles greater than 90° to each other. Flakes are the most common form of debitage, comprising 57% of the collection (Table 30). They occur with and without cortex on their exterior surface (Table 31). As is the case with all chert bifacial artifacts and debitage at Little Egypt, flakes are quite small in size (Table 32).

Remarks. Flakes are probably the by-product of core preparation and tool manufacture. Nearly 70% of all flakes inspected under

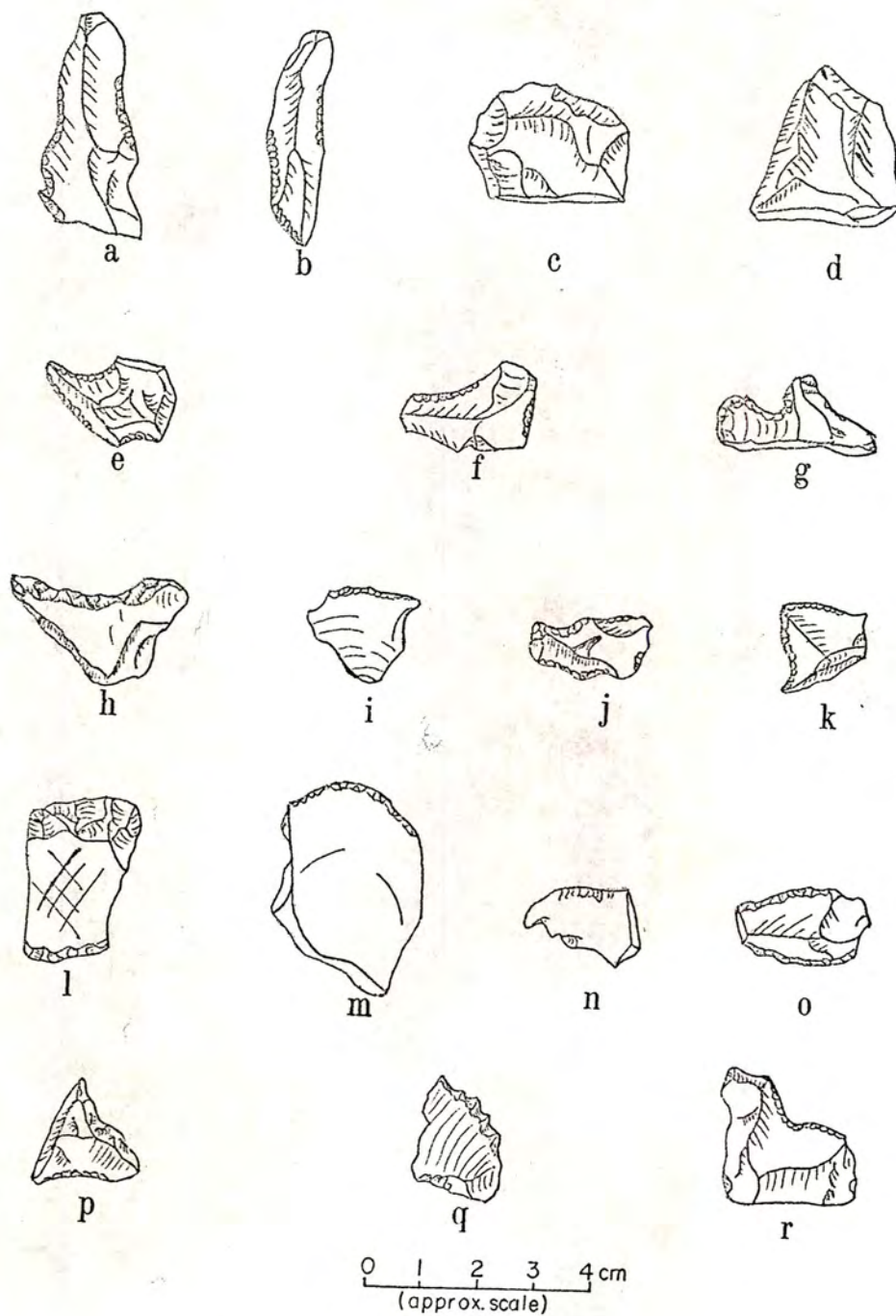


Figure 43. Lithic Debitage



Table 30. Frequency of Debitage by Class.

<u>Debitage Classes</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Flake	428	57.4
Angular Flake	67	9.0
Blade Flake	17	2.3
Core	12	2.0
Debris	222	29.8
Total	746	100

Table 31. Occurrence of Cortex by Debitage Class.

<u>Debitage Classes</u>	<u>With Cortex</u>		<u>Without Cortex</u>		<u>Total Number</u>
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
Flake	95	22.2	333	77.8	428
Angular Flake	16	23.9	51	76.1	67
Blade Flake	2	11.8	15	88.2	17
Core	0	0	12	100.0	12
Debris	77	34.7	145	65.3	222
Total	190	25.5	556	74.5	746

Table 32. Dimensions of Flakes, Angular Flakes and Debris From the General Site Collection and From Feature 28.

Modified Debitage- General Site Collection	Length mm	Flakes		Angular Flakes			Debris		
		Width mm	Thickness mm	L	W	T	L	W	T
Sample Number	22	22	22	11	11	11	24	24	24
Mean Size	20.3	13.5	3.5	27.7	16.1	7.5	22.4	15.3	5.6
Standard Deviation	5.4	3.5	1.2	11.7	6.8	1.8	5.7	4.9	2.3
Unmodified Debitage- General Site Collection									
Sample Number	13	13	13	12	12	12	9	9	9
Mean Size	16.1	9.7	2.7	18.5	10.0	6.3	18.4	12.6	6.8
Standard Deviation	3.5	3.3	1.0	7.9	1.7	2.2	4.2	3.4	3.0



Table 32. (Continued)

Modified Debitage- Feat. 28	Length mm	<u>Flakes</u> Width mm	Thickness mm	<u>Angular Flakes</u>			<u>Debris</u>		
				L	W	T	L	W	T
Sample Number	28	28	28	2	2	2	7	7	7
Mean Size	14.5	10.8	2.4				19.3	11.4	3.8
Standard Deviation	4.3	2.6	0.9				8.5	4.5	2.2
Unmodified Debitage- Feat. 28									
Sample Number	20	20	20	1	1	1	17	17	17
Mean Size	15.7	11.0	2.6				12.6	9.8	3.8
Standard Deviation	3.4	2.4	1.8				1.0	5.2	2.2

magnification have modified edges (Table 33), and of these 76% have unifacial retouching (Table 34). Modified flakes tend to be larger than those without edge modification (Table 32).

Angular Flakes (Plate XIV, r; Fig. 43, r)

Sample size. 67 specimens.

Description. Angular flakes have the same interior surface characteristics that flakes have. Flake scars on the exterior surface, however, converge at angles of  $90^{\circ}$  or less to each other. Angular flakes occur with and without cortex on their exterior surface. They tend to be slightly larger in size than flakes.

Remarks. Angular flakes are relatively uncommon, comprising only 9% of the total collection. They may be the by product of core preparation and tool manufacture. Angular flakes tend to be thicker relative to length and width than flakes and because of this would be stronger and have more durable edges than flakes. Nearly 74% of the angular flakes inspected under magnification have been modified. Of these an equal number have step flaking and unifacial retouching. Modified specimens are larger than unmodified specimens.

Blade Flakes (Plate XIV, a,b; Fig. 43, a,b)

Sample size. 17 specimens.

Description. The length of blade flakes is at least 2 times greater than width. Interior surfaces are similar to those of flakes, but flake



Table 33. Frequency of Edge Modification by Debitage Class.

<u>Debitage Classes</u>	<u>Modified</u>		<u>Unmodified</u>		<u>Total Number</u>
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
Flake	121	69.9	52	30.1	173
Angular Flake	25	73.5	9	26.5	34
Blade Flake	4	66.7	2	33.3	6
Core	3	75.0	1	25.0	4
Debris	53	55.8	42	44.2	95
Total	206	66.0	106	34.0	312

Table 34. Occurrence of Step Flaking and Unifacial Retouch by Debitage Class.

<u>Debitage Classes</u>	<u>Step Flaking</u>		<u>Unifacial Retouch</u>		<u>Both</u>		<u>Total Number</u>
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
Flake	11	9.1	89	73.5	21	17.4	121
Angular Flake	10	40.0	10	40.0	5	20.0	25
Blade Flake	0	0	2	50.0	2	50.0	4
Core	1	33.3	2	66.7	0	0	3
Debris	13	24.5	25	47.2	15	28.3	53
Total	35	17.0	128	62.1	43	20.9	206

scars on the exterior surface run lengthwise and do not converge. Blade flakes occur with and without cortex on their exterior surface. As is the case with all forms of debitage at Little Egypt, blade flakes are small in size.

Remarks. Blade flakes may be the by-product of core preparation and tool manufacture, but are more probably produced intentionally as tools. Next to cores, they are the most infrequent debitage class in the collection. The number of microscopically inspected pieces is too small for reliable statistical statements, but edge modification of both the step flake and unifacial retouch varieties is represented in the sample.

Cores (Plate XIV, c,d; Fig. 43, c,d)

Sample size. 12 specimens.

Description. Cores are chunks of chert that have flake scars on all surfaces. As with other forms of debitage cores are quite small in size.

Remarks. Cores are the least common class of debitage in the chert collection. They were presumably used for the production of tool preforms. Their small size suggests that they were utilized to their limits. The existence of unifacial retouching on two of the three microscopically inspected specimens indicates that cores may also have served functions other than preform production.

Debris (Plate XIV, q; Fig. 43, q)

Sample size. 221 specimens.



Description. Debris are randomly shaped broken pieces of chert that have none of the previously mentioned characteristics. They may be broken flakes or may represent the initial breaking of chert cobbles in the production of cores. Cortex occurs on debris specimens with greater frequency than in any other class (Table 31).

Remarks. The relative frequency of modified specimens is lower than in any other class. This fact together with the greater frequency of cortex suggests that debris plays a significantly different role than do flakes, angular flakes and blade flakes in the Little Egypt knapping industry.

#### Edge Modification of Chert Debitage

Several questions are raised by the existence and high frequency of modifieddebitage in the analyzed collection. Does the observed edge modification represent use of flakes as tools or is it a by-product of some unidentified technological process or the result of accidental abrasion? If edge modification is the result of use, how were the pieces used and for what purpose? Finally, why does so muchdebitage (66%) have modified edges?

Partial answers can be provided for some of these questions. Modification by means of accidental abrasion may account for the irregular arrangement of step flakes, but it seems to be an inadequate explanation for unifacial retouching. Flake scars of the latter kind are too regular in their arrangement and are continuous over too large an area to be accounted for

by such a chance factor.

Small flakes with modified edges have been identified by Frison (1968) as resharpening flakes bearing use retouch along their working edge. This explanation may account for some flakes in the Little Egypt collection that have retouching along their proximal edge. It does not account for the vast majority of flakes which bear retouch on one or more edges exclusive of the proximal edge (for example, Fig. 43, a, b, e, f, i-k, o).

There is little evidence bearing on the question of how modified debitage might have been used. Given the small size of modified pieces, hafting in composit tools would seem to be necessary. Step flaking is considerably less common (9.1%) than unifacial retouching (73.5%) in the flake class. It is nearly equal in frequency to unifacial retouching in the angular flake (40%/40%) and debris (47%/25%) classes. This situation suggests that flakes were used differently than angular flakes and debris.

One problem with identifying edge-modified debitage as tools is the high relative frequency (66%) of such items in the analyzed sample. Nowhere in the archaeological literature is such a high ratio of utilized to non-utilized debitage reported. To some extent this situation can be attributed to sample bias. It is probable that only larger pieces of debitage would be selected for use or intentional modification. Since the excavated sample is probably biased in favor of larger items, the ratio of modified to unmodified debitage in the sample would be inflated. In order to investigate this possibility, a sample of debitage recovered by flotation



from Feature 28 was selected for analysis.<sup>3</sup> Debitage classes in Feature 28 were found to occur with approximately the same frequency they have in the total site collection (Table 35). Only 33% of the sample, however, had edge modification (Table 36). As expected, material in Feature 28 is smaller sized than that from the analyzed site sample. It would appear, therefore, that the high frequency of modifieddebitage in the analyzed site sample is in part due to bias in the sample itself.

### Spatial Distributions

Comparison of the lithicdebitage from Little Egypt and Barnett phase contexts is not too meaningful due to the small samples of material available for analysis.<sup>4</sup> Despite their small size, early and late samples are remarkably similar in all respects (Tables 37-39). The largest difference -- in the flake class where 86.7% of the flakes in the Little Egypt component

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<sup>3</sup> Only part of Feat. 28 was excavated in 1969; the remainder being removed during the excavation of Structure 3 in 1972. With this exception, the lithic contents of Feat. 28 have not been included in the analysis and type identifications presented in this chapter.

<sup>4</sup> Only a small number of excavation units can be identified reliably with either component on ceramic evidence. Analyzed units identified as Little Egypt component are: Square N240 W400, Levels 4 and 5, Feats. 8 and 9; Square N270 W400, Levels 6 and 7; Square N300 W400, Level 6; Trench N360 W400, Level 6; Square N530 W800, Levels 5 and 6; Square N580 W800, Levels 5 and 6; Square N583 W805, Level 3; Square N590 W800, Levels 2, 3 and 4. Analyzed units identified as Barnett component are: Square N240 W400, Level 1; Trench N260-280 W630; Trench N320 W800; Trench N375 W800; Square N580 W800, Feat. 11.

Table 35. Frequency of Debitage by Class in Feature 28.

<u>Debitage Class</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Flake	68	59.6
Angular Flake	3	2.6
Blade Flake	2	1.7
Biface	0	0
Core	1	1.0
Debris	40	35.1
Total	114	100.0

Table 36. Frequency of Edge Modification by Debitage Class in Feature 28.

<u>Debitage Class</u>	<u>Modified</u>		<u>Unmodified</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
Flake	28	41.2	40	58.8	68
Angular Flake	2	66.7	1	33.3	3
Blade Flake	1	50.0	1	50.0	2
Core	0	0	1	100.0	1
Debris	7	17.5	33	82.5	40
Total	38	33.3	76	66.7	114



Table 37. Frequency of Debitage by Class and Component.

<u>Debitage Class</u>	<u>Late</u>		<u>Early</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
Flake	47	45.6	36	42.4	83
Angular Flake	9	8.7	10	11.8	19
Blade Flake	1	1.0	4	4.7	5
Biface	18	17.5	8	9.4	26
Core	0	0	3	3.5	3
Debris	28	27.2	24	28.2	52
Total	103	100	85	100	188

Table 38. Frequency of Edge Modification by Debitage Class and Component.

<u>Debitage Class</u>	<u>Early</u>					<u>Late</u>				
	<u>Modified</u>		<u>Unmodified</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Modified</u>		<u>Unmodified</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
Flake	26	86.7	4	13.3	30	32	68.1	15	31.9	47
Angular Flake	7	70.0	3	30.0	10	6	66.7	3	33.3	9
Blade Flake	2	66.7	1	33.3	3	0	0	1	100.0	1
Core	2	66.7	1	33.3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Debris	10	58.8	7	41.2	17	14	50.0	14	50.0	28
Total	47	74.6	16	25.4	63	52	61.2	33	38.8	85

Table 39. Occurrence of Step Flaking and Unifacial Retouch by Debitage Class and Component.

Debitage Class	Early						Late					
	Step Flaking			Unifacial Retouch			Step Flaking			Unifacial Retouch		
	No.	Percent	No.	No.	Percent	Total	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Flake	4	15.4	18	69.2	4	15.4	3	9.4	23	71.9	6	18.7
Angular Flake	4	57.1	2	28.6	1	14.3	3	50.0	2	33.3	1	16.7
Blade Flake	0	0	0	0	2	10.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Core	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	50.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debris	2	20.0	4	40.0	4	40.0	6	42.9	3	21.4	5	35.7
Total	11	23.4	25	53.2	11	23.4	12	23.1	28	53.8	12	23.1
						47						52

Table 40. Frequency of Debitage by Class in Mound and Non-Mound Contexts.

Debitage Class	Mound		Village		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Flake	21	50.0	38	45.8	59
Angular Flake	4	9.5	9	10.8	13
Blade Flake	0	0	4	4.8	4
Biface	4	9.5	6	7.2	10
Core	0	0	1	1.2	1
Debris	13	31.0	25	30.1	38
Total	42		83		125



are modified as opposed to 68.1% in the Barnett component -- is probably not significant given the size of the sample. The evidence as it now stands indicates that the two components are essentially identical with respect to chert debitage.

Excavation lots were selected for analysis from mound and non-mound contexts without regard to component affiliation.<sup>5</sup> Sample sizes are again not large enough to allow meaningful comparisons. The samples are, however, quite similar in all respects, the largest difference between them being the greater occurrence of cortex pieces in mound contexts (Tables 40-42).

The analysis described above is preliminary in nature. The data base is poor, and the morphological categories recognized and employed are in need of considerable refinement. Nevertheless, the analysis has been useful in raising questions about the Lamar chert industry which can be tackled with material systematically collected during the 1970-72 seasons.

#### Flaked Discs (Plate XVI, a-c)

Sample size. 3 specimens.

Description. These discs have been flaked around their entire

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<sup>5</sup> Analyzed lots derived from Mound A are: Trench N360 W400, Levels 2, 3 and 6; Trench N350 W420; and Trench N360 W420. Analyzed lots derived from non-mound areas are: Trench N200 W630, Trench N260-280 W630; Square N530 W800, Levels 4 and 5; Square N583 W805, Level 4; Square N585 W809, Level 4.

Table 41. Occurrence of Cortex by Debitage Class in Mound and Non-Mound Contexts.

Artifact Class	<u>Mound</u>					<u>Village</u>				
	<u>Cortex</u>		<u>No Cortex</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Cortex</u>		<u>No Cortex</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
Flake	4	19.0	17	81.0	21	7	18.4	31	81.6	38
Angular										
Flake	2	50.0	2	50.0	4	2	22.2	7	77.8	9
Blade										
Flake	0	0	0	0	0	1	25.0	3	75.0	4
Biface	0	0	4	100.0	4	0	0	6	100.0	6
Core	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0	1
Debris	7	53.8	6	46.2	13	8	32.0	17	68.0	25
Total	13	31.0	29	69.0	42	18	21.6	65	78.3	83

Table 42. Frequency of Edge Modification by Debitage Class in Mound and Non-Mound Contexts.

Debitage Class	<u>Mound</u>					<u>Village</u>				
	<u>Modified</u>		<u>Unmodified</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Modified</u>		<u>Unmodified</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
Flake	16	76.2	5	23.8	21	30	78.9	8	21.1	38
Angular										
Flake	3	75.0	1	25.0	4	7	77.8	2	22.2	9
Blade										
Flake	0	0	0	0	0	2	50.0	2	50.0	4
Core	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0	0	0	1
Debris	8	61.5	5	38.5	13	14	56.0	11	44.0	25
Total	27	71.1	11	28.9	38	54	70.1	23	29.9	77



periphery (Plate XVI, a-c), and in one specimen (Plate XVI, b), on both sides also. Materials include schist (Plate XVI, a), limestone (Plate XVI, b) and vein quartz (Plate XIV, c).

Dimensions. Specimen a, 12.9 mm thick, 68.2 mm in diameter; specimen b, 20.2 mm thick, 59.5 mm in diameter; specimen c, 25.8 mm thick, 58.1 mm in diameter.

Remarks. On the basis of the material from which it is made, specimen c in Plate XVI may be a hammerstone. The remaining artifacts are of unknown function.

#### Ground Discs (Plate XVI, d-k)

Sample size. 8 specimens.

Description. These artifacts vary considerably in size and cross section, but have in common their round shape and the presence of grinding on some portion of their surface. In all cases except possibly specimens j and k (Plate XVI), they have been shaped by pecking. Specimens d and e (Plate XVI) are vein quartz pebbles that are thick and rather irregular in cross section. Specimen d has been ground smooth around much of its circumference and has one slightly convex ground facet on each of its 2 sides. Specimen e has been ground smooth around its entire circumference. One side is convex and bears a relatively small flat grinding facet. The other side has been ground to a single flat surface.

Specimens g and h (Plate XVI) are of diabase and have been heavily

ground. Specimen h is rectangular in cross section, has pecking on its sides and is ground around its circumference. Specimen g has rounded corners, is ground on both sides and has pecking around its circumference.

Specimens f, i and k (Plate XVI) are relatively crude discs of schist. Only light grinding occurs on f, and it is limited to portions of the circumference. Specimen i and k have been ground on their periphery to the extent that facets are clearly visible. Finally, specimen j (Plate XVI) is a flat siltstone disc with rounded corners. Workmanship is good, but all surfaces are eroded.

Dimensions. Specimen d - 28.7 mm (thickness) 46.2 mm (diameter)  
Specimen e - 18.8 mm (thickness) 31.6 mm (diameter)  
Specimen f - 12.8 mm (thickness) 37.2 mm (diameter)  
Specimen g - 16.2 mm (thickness) 31.9 mm (diameter)  
Specimen h - 14.1 mm (thickness) 31.9 mm (diameter)  
Specimen i - 11.7 mm (thickness) 28.1 mm (diameter)  
Specimen j - 7.8 mm (thickness) 23.2 mm (diameter)  
Specimen k - 5.8 mm (thickness) 25.3 mm (diameter)

Remarks. The physical characteristics of these artifacts suggests that most are pottery polishing stones. Several grades of stone texture are represented as are various sized polishing surfaces. Most bear clearly defined facets which indicate use in polishing or grinding other materials. In specimens f-i and k, grinding occurs on either the circumference or the



sides, but not both. The pecked surfaces of these tools may have served to provide a better grip. In specimen k, the ground circumference is only 5.8 mm wide. It may be argued that such a narrow surface wouldn't have been used in pottery polishing.

Ground Slate (Plate XVII, a)

Sample. 1 specimen.

Description. This thin slab of slate has been modified by flaking along 2 edges (left and bottom in Plate XVII, a). An area measuring 80 x 70 mm and located in the lower central portion of the illustrated surface has been lightly ground and scratched. Scratch marks run generally left to right. A small number of scratches, running upper right/lower left, occur in the lower right corner of the same surface.

Dimensions. Length, 179 mm; width, 139 mm; thickness, 14 mm.

Remarks. This artifact may have been used as a grinding surface.

Ground and Scratched Phyllite (Plate XVII, b)

Sample size. 2 specimens.

Description. The illustrated specimen is lenticular in cross section and quite symmetrical in all dimensions. It has been lightly battered along all edges except the lower end which is broken. Evidence of wear in the latter location indicates that the tool continued to be used after breakage. The most striking characteristic of the illustrated specimen is the presence of fine even striations covering both sides and portions of all edges except

the broken end. These striations generally run lengthwise and are almost invariably straight. Occasionally striations run at slight angles to the others and some striations are slightly curved. In these instances, it is possible to detect multiple, parallel lines spaced between 1 and 5 mm apart. If similar parallel striations run lengthwise on the artifact, they cannot be detected in the complex array of lines.

The unillustrated specimen is a small fragment of what must also have been a tabular shaped tool. Striations on it tend to be straight and run in a single direction.

Dimensions. Length, 95.7 mm; width, 43.0 mm; thickness, 10.3 mm.

Remarks. The size of the illustrated specimen indicates that it was hand held during use. The existence of parallel striations suggest that the tool was abraded by a relatively hard object with a jagged edge. It is not possible to determine which object was held stationary and which was moved back and forth. The only functional interpretation that is suggested by the available evidence is that specimen b was used in grinding the edge of flaked chert points preparatory to their final marginal retouching.

#### Faceted Pebble (Plate XVII, c)

Sample size. 1 specimen.

Description. This specimen is metasiltstone and has been shaped largely by water erosion. The lower end (Plate XVII, c) has been battered slightly as have both edges near that end. Both areas of edge battering



occur approximately 25 mm from the lower end of the tool and extend along each edge for approximately 2.5 mm. All three areas of battering can be seen in Plate XVII, c. The upper edge of the pebble has been ground to a nearly flat surface (not detectable in the illustration). This area is 47 mm long and a maximum of 53 mm wide.

Dimensions. Length, 111.1 mm; width, 47.2 mm; thickness, 21.1 mm.

Remarks. This may be a multi-purpose tool used for both grinding or polishing and for hammering.

#### Drilled Phyllite (Plate XVIII, a)

Sample size. 1 specimen.

Description. This single piece of tabular phyllite shows no evidence of human workmanship other than the small hole drilled through its center.

Dimensions. Thickness, 40 mm.

Remarks. No functional interpretation is possible.

#### Cut and Drilled Shale (Plate XVIII, b-d)

Sample size. 5 specimens.

Description. All specimens are thin pieces of red shale. One or more small holes have been drilled through four specimens (Plate XVIII, c,d). Two specimens (Plate XVIII, b,c) have cut and ground edges. In specimen b, all edges except the upper and lower ones are cut and ground. In specimen c, the curved edge is cut and ground. Parallel lines have been incised on specimen b: 2 occur on the illustrated side; 3, on the reverse side.

Dimensions. Thickness ranges between 22 and 42 mm.

Remarks. These items are probably ornamental in nature.

Faceted Pigmatic Iron (Plate XVIII, e)

Sample size. 1 specimen.

Description. Several small grinding facets occur on the lower left corner of the specimen as illustrated.

Dimensions. Length, 25.6 mm; width, 21.9 mm; thickness, 14.6 mm.

Remarks. This specimen was probably being ground for pigment.

Pottery Bead (Plate XVIII, f)

Sample size. 1 specimen.

Description. The specimen is cylindrical in shape with a constriction at its mid-point. The perforation is irregularly shaped and approaches 3.5 mm in diameter. Paste is grit-tempered and similar to that characteristic of Little Egypt phase pottery. All surfaces have been polished.

Dimensions. Length, 26.6 mm; diameter, 20.6 mm.

Celts (Plate XVIII, g)

Sample size. 2 fragments.

Description. Two small pieces of ground stone are identified as celt fragments. The illustrated specimen is made of orthoquartzite and is the poll end of a celt. The second fragment is from the mid-section edge of a presumed celt. The material is metasiltstone.



Dimensions. The illustrated specimen is obviously a small celt.

Limestone "Hoe" (Plate XVIII, h)

Sample size. 1 specimen.

Description. One corner of this specimen has been lost through breakage. All remaining surfaces of the artifact, which is made on a tabular piece of limestone, have been ground. The lower end of the artifact has been ground to a celt-like edge while the sides are rounded. There is a slight suggestion that the upper end of the artifact was intended to be narrower than the lower end, although this is obscured by the broken corner.

Dimensions. Length, 147.6 mm; width, 68.2 mm; thickness, 23.0 mm.

Remarks. Breakage and weathering have obscured the original form of the artifact considerably. It is probable, though, that it was intended to function as a chopping tool. Given the nature of the material of which it is made, the artifact was probably a hoe.

Flaked Limestone (Plate XVIII, i, j)

Sample size. 2 specimens.

Description. Both specimens are made on thin slabs of limestone formed by natural cleavage planes. Specimen i (Plate XVIII) has been bifacially flaked around its entire periphery and bears a knife-like appearance. The tip has been lost. The distal half of the right edge has been dulled by grinding.

The original shape of Specimen j (Plate XVIII) is unknown. An undetermined portion of the tool has been broken away from the left side and narrow end. The wider, lower end of the tool is rounded in cross section and is apparently unmodified. The only evidence of human workmanship is unifacial flaking which occurs along most of the right edge.

Dimensions. Specimen i, 155.0 mm (length), 39.0 mm (width) 19.3 mm (thickness); Specimen j, 90.4 mm (length), 56.8 mm (width), 10.8 mm (thickness).

Remarks. In terms of workmanship, specimen i is a rather sophisticated tool. The existence of wear on one edge indicates that it has been used, presumably in the manner for which it was designed. Similar artifacts have been found at the King site. Little can be said concerning the significance of specimen j other than that it has been unifacially flaked along one edge, presumably intentionally.



## CHAPTER 8

### SHELL, BONE AND METAL ARTIFACTS

#### Columella Beads (Plate XIX, a-j)

Sample Size. 104 specimens.

Description. Most specimens are heavily weathered. Those that are not bear evidence of fine workmanship. They are barrel shaped with flat ends and round or oval cross sections. Specimens with oval cross sections usually retain some evidence of the original spiral-shaped conch columella.

Dimensions. Specimens range in size from small discs measuring 6 mm in diameter and 3.4 mm thick (Plate XIX, j) to large barrel shaped beads (Plate XIX, a-c) measuring up to 28.8 mm in diameter and 27.0 mm thick. Eighty-four of the specimens fall within the size range illustrated in Plate XIX, f-j.

Remarks. With 5 exceptions all specimens were associated with burials: 3 with Burial 2 and 96 with Burials 4 and 5. The latter were arranged as if on large strings around Burial 4 and the displaced lower portion of Burial 5 (Fig. 36). The five exceptions were all found in the N580 W800 area and may have been originally associated with burials.

Cut and Ground Antler (Plate XIX, k-n)

Sample Size. 4 specimens.

Description. The tip has been removed from the tine illustrated in Plate XIX, k. The distal end of the specimen was cut to a depth of approximately 1 mm around its entire circumference and then snapped. The proximal end is jagged and bears evidence of having been gnawed on by an animal. Numerous light striations run from the cut end to the midpoint of the specimen.

Specimen l is heavily weathered and has been gnawed on over its entire surface. Both ends have been broken off. The proximal end of the specimen has been hollowed out to a maximum diameter of 8.8 mm and a depth of approximately 20 mm. This is the only evidence of workmanship. Specimens m and n have a smooth polished surface. The distal ends of both have been broken off. The proximal end of specimen m bears a single small (1.4 mm diameter) cavity slightly off to the side of the tip. Specimen n has 2 small (approximately 1 mm diameter) shallow cavities on its tip. Both specimens have tooth marks scattered over their surface.

Provenience. Specimen k -- Square N580 W800, Level 5.

Specimen l -- Square N270 W400, Feat. 4.

Specimen m -- Trench N360-380 W420.

Specimen n -- Square N530 W800, Level 2.



Remarks. Specimen k is probably a tool blank. Specimen l could have been a projectile point. Specimens m and n may be pressure flakers.

Bone Awls (Plate XIX, o-r)

Sample Size. 4 specimens.

Description. Specimen o (Plate XIX) is made on a fragment of bone from the distal end of a deer tibia. Portions of the condyles are present on the butt of the tool. The butt end of the tool bears gnawing marks but no evidence of human workmanship. The tip half presents a different picture; its surface is highly polished and bears grinding facets as well as scratches. Heaviest grinding occurs on the edges of the tool. Edges have rounded corners and are covered with light scratches which run perpendicular to the tool axis. The tip is rounded. No scratches are present on the last 2-5 mm of the tip.

Specimens p-r are made on slivers of bird bone. Specimen p is from a large bird. It has heavy scratches running perpendicular to the tool axis on both edges from the tip back 40 mm. The interior and exterior surfaces of the bone bear no evidence of use or workmanship. The tip has been broken. Scratches extend up to the break but seem to become fainter as the tip is approached. Specimen q has very light scratches running parallel to the tool axis. A small zone of scratches running perpendicular to the tool axis occurs within 4 mm of the tip on one edge.

The specimen as a whole is the most highly polished of the 4 tools under discussion. The exterior bone surface of specimen r is covered with scratches running parallel to the tool axis. Low surface areas on edges show light scratches running perpendicular to the tool axis. The tip is polished and featureless. The butt ends of specimens p-r have been broken and show no evidence of workmanship.

Provenience. Specimen o -- Square N580 W800, Level 6.

Specimen p -- Square N580 W800, Level 5.

Specimen q -- Square N580 W800, Level 4.

Specimen r -- Square N580 W800, Feat. 16.

Remarks. Specimen o may have been used with a twisting motion. This would explain the heavy grinding and scratches on tool edges, but doesn't account for the absence of scratches on the tip. Alternatively, the grinding and scratches on the edge may be the result of tool preparation, with use wear being restricted to the tip. Similar observations apply to specimen p.

Specimens q and r are similar in showing fine tips and fine striations on their surfaces. These tools are so fragile and their tips are so fine, that it seems unlikely that they were used in a twisting fashion. What scratches are evident on their edges are probably the result of tool manufacturing.



### Shell Mask

Sample Size. 1 specimen.

Description. The specimen is made from the outer wall of a marine conch and portrays a face which is probably human. With the exception of the lower edge of the mask, the entire surface has been ground smooth. The nose and mouth, carved in relief, protrude 1-2 mm above this surface. Holes have been drilled through the shell to form eyes. These and the upper perimeter of the mask are bordered by an incised line 1 mm wide. The remaining surface decoration is carried out with a finer incised line.

Dimensions. Length, 15 mm; width, 11.2 mm; thickness, 5.6 - 8.3 mm.

Remarks. The specimen lay amidst bones of an infant (Burial 4) and strings of columella beads.

### Brass Rings

Sample Size. 1 specimen.

Description. The specimen consists of 3 small interlocking rings of brass (Plate XV, e). The outer 2 rings are flat pieces measuring 1.6 mm wide and .9 mm thick. Their ends meet or overlap but are not soldered. The inner ring is round in cross section and measures 9 mm in diameter. It has been soldered into a complete ring.

Dimensions. All rings are approximately 10 mm in diameter.

Remarks. This specimen was found in the N375 W800 trench in association with habitation features. It is obviously European in origin.

There is no stratigraphic evidence to indicate that it is intrusive into the aboriginal strata.

### Copper

Sample Size. 2 specimens.

Description. Several small flakes of sheet copper were obtained from the west profile of the N360 W400 Trench at N337.7. They were at a depth of 673.0 ft. and underlay the floors of the mound-flanking structure. One piece of sheet copper was found in a pot hunters hole on Mound A at the beginning of the 1969 season. The specimen had been folded over on itself several times to form a small bundle measuring 28.9 x 22.9 x 5.8 mm.

Remarks. Neither specimen has been analyzed to determine whether it is aboriginal or European in origin.



## CHAPTER 9

### ANALYSIS OF FAUNAL REMAINS<sup>1</sup>

by Janet A. Roth

Over 8600 animal bones were recovered in excavations at the Little Egypt site in 1969. Of these, 2361 were identified as to species. In addition, the minimum number of individuals (MNI) present was determined for each species and meat yield was calculated (Smith 1975) from this figure. Species identification and minimum individual counts are presented for each excavation unit in Table 43. This data, along with the relative frequency of each species and their total meat yield is tabulated for the collection as a whole in Table 44.

Analysis of the identified faunal material focused on three different research questions: (1) What was the relative importance of each species in the meat diet of the site occupants; (2) What apparent differences could be observed in the utilization of animal species in the mound and village areas of the site; and (3) What is the possibility that the two components, Little Egypt and Barnett, differed significantly in the utilized species?

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<sup>1</sup>Research paper #3. Laboratory of Faunal Analysis. Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia.

Table 43. Faunal Remains From Excavation Units: Species and Minimum Individual Counts.<sup>1</sup>

	N240 W400					N270 W400					N300 W400							
	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Feat. 8 & 9	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Feat. 3	Feat. 4	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Feat. 5
SHELL																		
CLASS PISCES																		
<u>Ictalurus punctatus</u>																		
<u>Channel catfish</u>																		
Unidentified fish																		
CLASS REPTILIA																		
<u>Terrapene carolina</u>																		
<u>Box turtle</u>																		
Unidentified turtle																		
CLASS AVES																		
<u>Meleagris gallopavo</u>																		
<u>Wild turkey</u>																		
Unidentified bird																		
CLASS MAMMALIA																		
<u>Didelphis marsupialis</u>																		
<u>Opossum</u>																		
<u>Sylvilagus floridanus</u>																		
<u>Eastern cottontail rabbit</u>																		
<u>Marmota monax</u>																		
<u>Woodchuck</u>																		
<u>Sciurus carolinensis</u>																		
<u>Gray squirrel</u>																		
<u>Sciurus niger</u>																		
<u>Fox squirrel</u>																		
<u>Castor canadensis</u>																		
<u>Beaver</u>																		
<u>Sigmodon hispidus</u>																		
<u>Common cotton rat</u>																		
<u>Canis species</u>																		
<u>Dog</u>																		
<u>Ursus americanus</u>																		
<u>Black bear</u>																		
<u>Procyon lotor</u>																		
<u>Raccoon</u>																		
<u>Odocoileus virginianus</u>																		
<u>White-tailed deer</u>																		
Unidentified small mammal																		
Unidentified medium mammal																		
Unidentified large mammal																		
UNIDENTIFIED ANY ANIMAL																		

<sup>1</sup> Minimum individual counts in parenthesis.





Table 43. (Continued)

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Feat. 14	Lot 376	Lot 377	Lot 382	Lot 383	Lot 387	Lot 389	Feat. 11	Feat. 13	Feat. 15	Feat. 16
SHELL																
CLASS PISCES																
<u>Aplodinotus grunniens</u>																
<u>Fresh-water drum</u>																
<u>Unidentified fish</u>		2		1					1(1)		1	8				
CLASS REPTILIA																
<u>Terrapene carolina</u>																
<u>Box turtle</u>																
<u>Unidentified turtle</u>		81	30	4	4	2	1	19	17	24	34	27			2	
CLASS AVES																
<u>Meleagris gallopavo</u>		4(1)	7(1)	2(1)		1(1)		3(1)	4(1)	7(1)	3(1)	3(2)			2(1)	
<u>Wild turkey</u>																
<u>Unidentified bird</u>		8	18	4	2			3	12	9	8	7				1
CLASS MAMMALIA																
<u>Didelphis marsupialis</u>		1(1)	1(1)		1(1)											
<u>Opossum</u>																
<u>Sylvilagus floridanus</u>		1(1)							2(1)							
<u>Eastern cottontail rabbit</u>																
<u>Scturus carolinensis</u>																
<u>Gray squirrel</u>										1(1)		1(1)				
<u>Scturus niger</u>			(1)						1(1)	1(1)					1(1)	
<u>Fox squirrel</u>																
<u>Sigmodon hispidus</u>																
<u>Common cotton rat</u>														1(1)		
<u>Canis familiaris</u>																
<u>Domestic dog</u>									1(1)							
<u>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</u>								2(1)								
<u>Gray fox</u>				1(1)												
<u>Ursus americanus</u>		1(1)	3(1)			1(1)			2(1)		1(1)					
<u>Black bear</u>																
<u>Procyon lotor</u>									2(1)	2(1)	1(1)					
<u>Raccoon</u>																
<u>Lynx rufus</u>									1(1)	1(1)						
<u>Bobcat</u>																
<u>Odocoileus virginianus</u>	3(1)	45(2)	64(3)	22(1)	3(1)	4(1)	3(1)	18(2)	128(5)	99(3)	39(3)	26(2)	2(1)	2(1)	9(2)	2(1)
<u>White-tailed deer</u>																
<u>Unidentified small mammal</u>	3	75	87	36	5	3	7	1	2	2		1				
<u>Unidentified medium mammal</u>	8	105	90	45	12	5	9	36	95	74	68	29			3	2
<u>Unidentified large mammal</u>								47	144	220	93	39	4	5	11	3
UNIDENTIFIED ANY ANIMAL			2	1	1		1	2	5							



Table 43. (Continued)

	N583 W805					N585 W809					N590 W800				
	Lot 405	Lot 406	Lot 407	Lot 412	Burial 405	Lot 433	Lot 434	Lot 440	Lot 452	Feat. 33	Lot 443	Lot 444	Lot 449	Lot 451	Feat. 18
SHELL	8	9		3	4	1	5	8	7	5	2	2	10	4	14
CLASS PISCES															
<u>Aplodinotus grunniens</u>		2(2)						1(1)							
<u>Fresh-water drum</u>															
<u>Ictalurus punctatus</u>								1(1)							
<u>Channel catfish</u>															
<u>Unidentified fish</u>	1				2		5	7	1	3			1	3	6
CLASS REPTILIA															
<u>Terrapene carolina</u>	5(1)	5(1)					11(1)	7(1)	2(2)					1(1)	1(1)
<u>Box turtle</u>															
<u>Unidentified turtle</u>	22	42	1	15	2	2	52	68	11	23	4	10	1	12	16
CLASS AVES															
<u>Meleagris gallopavo</u>	1(1)	10(2)			4(1)		4(1)	9(2)	5(2)	1(1)			8(1)		1(1)
<u>Wild turkey</u>															
<u>Unidentified bird</u>	7	12		6	2		23	36	5	11	1	2	9	2	9
CLASS MAMMALIA															
<u>Didelphis marsupialis</u>							1(1)	1(1)			1(1)	1(1)			
<u>Opossum</u>															
<u>Scalopus aquaticus</u>								1(1)							
<u>Eastern mole</u>															
<u>Sylvilagus floridanus</u>			1(1)						1(1)	1(1)					
<u>Eastern cottontail rabbit</u>															
<u>Sciurus carolinensis</u>						1(1)	4(1)	2(1)	1(1)		1(1)	1(1)			2(2)
<u>Gray squirrel</u>															
<u>Sciurus niger</u>		2(1)						1(1)		1(1)				1(1)	
<u>Fox squirrel</u>															
<u>Castor canadensis</u>								2(1)							
<u>Beaver</u>															
<u>Ondatra zibethicus</u>								1(1)		2(1)					
<u>Muskrat</u>															
<u>Canis familiaris</u>						1(1)									
<u>Domestic dog</u>															
<u>Canis species</u>															
<u>Dog</u>		1(1)					1(1)								
<u>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</u>															
<u>Gray fox</u>															
<u>Canis/Ursus</u>								1(1)							
<u>Dog or Bear</u>															
<u>Ursus americanus</u>		1(1)			1(1)			2(1)	2(1)				1(1)		1(1)
<u>Black bear</u>															
<u>Procyon lotor</u>							1(1)	4(1)		2(1)					
<u>Raccoon</u>															
<u>Odocoileus virginianus</u>	33(2)	83(4)	3(1)	24(2)	7(1)	9(1)	96(4)	141(4)	23(2)	26(2)	24(2)	21(1)	29(3)	7(1)	39(4)
<u>White-tailed deer</u>															
<u>Unidentified small mammal</u>	3				3		7	11	1	3			1		1
<u>Unidentified medium mammal</u>	16	99	9	20	8	7	89	24	34	12	5	19	18	6	35
<u>Unidentified large mammal</u>	169	99	9	29	8	17	220	351	21	60	29	42	21	5	53
UNIDENTIFIED ANY ANIMAL		11	6	6	1		4	4		1		2	3	7	2

Table 44. Animal remains from the 1969 excavations at Little Egypt.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number of Skeletal Elements</u>	<u>Percent of Total Species</u>	<u>Minimum Number of Individuals</u>	<u>Meat Yield (lbs.)</u>
SHELL	300			
CLASS PISCES				
<u>Ictalurus punctatus</u> Channel catfish	2	0.1	2	
<u>Aplodinotus grunniens</u> Fresh-water drum	2	0.1	2	
Unidentified fish	69			
CLASS REPTILIA				
<u>Terrapene carolina</u> Box turtle	75	3.2	20	6.0
Unidentified turtle	843			
CLASS AVES				
<u>Meleagris gallopavo</u> Wild turkey	157	6.6	45	360
Unidentified bird	370			
CLASS MAMMALIA				
<u>Didelphis marsupialis</u> Opossum	12	0.5	10	85
<u>Scalopus aquaticus</u> Eastern mole	1	0.04	1	0.2
<u>Sylvilagus floridanus</u> Eastern cottontail rabbit	11	0.5	10	20
<u>Marmota monax</u> Woodchuck	1	0.04	1	4
<u>Sciurus carolinensis</u> Gray squirrel	18	0.8	14	14
<u>Sciurus niger</u> Fox squirrel	11	0.5	9	9
<u>Castor canadensis</u> Beaver	7	0.3	5	100
<u>Sigmodon hispidus</u> Common cotton rat	2	0.1	2	0.5
<u>Ondatra zibethicus</u> Muskrat	4	0.2	3	6.0
<u>Canis familiaris</u> Domestic dog	2	0.1	2	16
<u>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</u> Gray fox	5	0.2	4	20
<u>Canis species</u> Dog	11	0.5	10	
<u>Canis/Ursus</u> Dog or Bear	1	0.04	1	
<u>Ursus americanus</u> Black bear	43	1.8	22	4620
<u>Procyon lotor</u> Raccoon	24	1.0	16	128
<u>Lutra canadensis</u> River otter	1	0.04	1	10
<u>Lynx rufus</u> Bobcat	3	0.1	3	45
<u>Odocoileus virginianus</u> White-tailed deer	1980	83.4	136	10,200
Unidentified small mammal	76			
Unidentified medium mammal	1438			
Unidentified large mammal	3165			
Unidentified-any animal	93			



Unfortunately, there are certain deficiencies in the faunal collection which limit its usefulness and reliability in investigating these questions. To begin with, cultural deposits were, with few exceptions, excavated with shovel and trowel and were not screened. Excavators were instructed to save all animal bone encountered, but it is probable that the resulting faunal collection is severely biased in favor of large mammal remains. Secondly, bone preservation differed greatly from one part of the site to another. For the most part, preservation was poor in the southwestern part of the site and good in the northwestern part. As a result, some bone collections are quite small and no doubt are biased in favor of large, dense bones. A final problem concerns the component affiliation of excavation units. In only a relatively few cases is it possible to assign a stratum or feature to one of the 2 Lamar components with any reliability. All excavation lots in fact contain a mixture to some degree of early and late pottery types and by implication, a mixture of early and late food remains. Due to the low faunal yield of some excavation units it was necessary to use units in the investigation of question three that evidenced a relatively high degree of component mixture.

Observation of Table 44 indicates that an abundance of shell existed at the Little Egypt site. Especially common were fresh-water mussels of undetermined species. The presence of this shell indicates that mussels provided an important food source which would have been easily exploited in the nearby Coosawattee River. Relatively few terrestrial snails

(approximately 20) were recovered in the excavations. This fact suggests that they are unrelated to the human occupation of the site.

The Pisces class reflects a paucity of fish remains (only 73 skeletal elements), a situation which may be the result of recovery techniques used in the field. Fish would be easily accessible in the nearby streams and could be expected to comprise a substantial portion of the diet. Analysis of faunal remains recovered in the 1970-72 seasons may point to a more significant role for fish in the aboriginal diet.

Class Reptilia is also poorly represented with only one identified species of turtle and a total lack of snake skeletal remains. As in the case of fish, the typically minute snake remains may have been present but would not have been recovered due to the excavation techniques employed.

In contrast to the absence of snake remains, unidentified turtle elements are quite abundant (N=843). Unidentified turtle is the third largest unidentified classification, indicating the important role of Amphibians in the diet. Additionally, box turtle (Terrapene carolina) makes up 3.2% of the identified species. This common, easily accessible land turtle was probably the species of turtle most often exploited.

Birds, especially wild turkey (Meleagris gallopavo), seem to have constituted a substantial portion of the diet (527 skeletal elements present). Wild turkey comprises 6.6% of the total number of skeletal elements from identified species and produces the third highest meat yield at the



site. Thus, wild turkey may be considered as a major food source for the inhabitants of Little Egypt. More exacting methods of bone recovery might reveal an even more significant role for birds in the aboriginal diet.

Mammals form the most well represented class in the Little Egypt collection. The 16 identified species reflect the variety and abundance of wildlife available for exploitation by the human occupants. Of these species the white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) is by far the most prevalent. The 1,980 deer skeletal elements comprise at least 136 individuals with a potential meat yield of 10,200 pounds. This abundance of deer is typical of Mississippian sites and indicates that deer supplied the human populations of Little Egypt with their main source of animal protein. Additionally, bones, antlers, and skins would supply raw materials for the production of tools and clothing.

Second only to the white-tailed deer in abundance is the black bear (Ursus americanus). The 43 skeletal elements represent a minimum of 22 individuals, with a potential meat yield of 4,620 pounds. Both cranial and post-cranial elements were present (Table 45) suggesting that the entire animal was utilized; many of the elements represent substantial meat cuts from both the hindquarters and the forelimbs. The bear would not only be valued as a major source of protein but also as a source of fat to enrich the diet and skins to provide warm clothing.

The smaller mammal species are well represented in the collection, however, more systematic recovery techniques might further enhance the

position of these species in the diet. The present list ranks raccoon (Procyon lotor), opossum (Didelphis marsupialis), and squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis and Sciurus niger) as the most common species, with beaver (Castor canadensis) and bobcat (Lynx rufus) also providing substantial meat yields.

In general the diet of human populations at Little Egypt seems to consist primarily of white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and black bear. Significant amounts of small mammals, turtle and mussel were also being consumed.

Table 45. Bear skeletal elements in the 1969 Little Egypt site collection.

<u>Skeletal Elements</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Humerus	1
Radius	2
Ulna	2
Carpals	3
Metacarpals	2
Femur	2
Tibia	1
Fibula	1
Metatarsals	1
Phalanges	8
Canines	1
Molar	7
Skull fragment	2



In order to investigate the possibility that species utilization differed in the 2 Lamar components and in mound and village areas of the site, bone collections from these different temporal and spatial contexts were compared. No excavation units containing animal bone were available from Barnett phase mound stages. Comparisons therefore involve only faunal collections from early mound/early non-mound and early non-mound/late non-mound contexts. The compiled data for deer meat cuts and species is presented in Table 46 and 47 respectively.

Table 46. Distribution of deer meat cuts.<sup>2</sup>

<u>Skeletal Elements</u>	<u>Early Mound</u>	<u>Early Non-Mound</u>	<u>Late Non-Mound</u>
Scapula	7	5	1
Humerus	18	14	7
Radius	14	19	7
Ulna	6	8	1
Carpals	0	2	0
Metacarpals	8	7	2
Forelimb total	53	55	19
Pelvis	7	24	2
Femur	8	13	1
Tibia-Fibula	12	20	5
Calcaneus	3	4	1
Astragalus	4	2	4
Tarsals	3	3	0
Metatarsals	5	15	2
Hindquarter total	42	81	15

<sup>2</sup>Compiled from the same excavation units used in Table 47.

Table 47. Faunal Remains: Mound, non-mound, Little Egypt phase and Barnett phase contexts

	Early Mound <sup>2</sup>				Early non-Mound <sup>3</sup>				Late non-Mound <sup>4</sup>			
	Number of Skeletal Elements	Percent of Identified Species	Minimum Number of Individuals	Meat Yield (lbs.)	Number of Skeletal Elements	Percent of Identified Species	Minimum Number of Individuals	Meat Yield (lbs.)	Number of Skeletal Elements	Percent of Identified Species	Minimum Number of Individuals	Meat Yield (lbs.)
SHELL	3				72				17			
CLASS PISCES					15				2			
CLASS REPTILIA												
Terrapene carolina	7	2.6	1	0.3	11	3.6	6	1.8				
Box turtle												
Unidentified turtle	33				146				85			
CLASS AVES												
Meleagris gallopavo	22	8.3	5	40.0	29	9.4	10	85	7	6.8	4	32
Wild turkey												
Unidentified bird	25				51				15			
CLASS MAMMALIA												
Didelphis marsupialis												
Opussum					3	1.0	3	25.5	1	0.9	1	1
Sylvilagus floridanus	1	0.4	1	2.0	3	1.0	3	6	1	0.9	1	2
Eastern cottontail rabbit												
Marmota monax					1	0.3	1	4				
Woodchuck												
Sciurus carolinensis					2	0.6	2	2				
Gray squirrel					2	0.6	2	2				
Sciurus niger												
Fox squirrel												
Castor canadensis												
Beaver												
Sigmodon hispidus												
Common cotton rat					1	0.3	1	0.25	2	1.9	1	20
Urocyon cinereoargenteus					1	0.3	1	5				
Gray fox												
Canis species	3	1.2	2		2	0.6	2		1	0.9	1	
Dog												
Ursus americanus	7	2.6	4	840.0	4	1.3	3	840	3	2.9	2	420
Black bear												
Procyon lotor	2	0.8	2	16.0	3	1.0	3	24				
Raccoon												
Odocoileus virginianus	221	84.0	11	825	245	79.8	26	1950	92	86.3	11	675
White-tailed deer												
Unidentified small mammal	10				5							
Unidentified medium mammal	52				217				93			
Unidentified large mammal	278				367				170			
Unidentified - any animal	6				22				1			

<sup>2</sup>Includes collections from the following excavation units: Trench N320-360 W400, Levels 5 and 6; Trench N350 W420; Trench N360 W420.

<sup>3</sup>Includes collections from the following excavation units: Square N240 W400, Levels 4 and 5; Square N270 W400, Levels 6 and 7; Square N530 W800, Level 5; Square N580 W800, Levels 5 and 6 and Feats. 11 and 13; Square N590 W800, Levels 2-4; Square N583 W805, Levels 3 and 4; Square N585 W809, Level 4.

<sup>4</sup>Includes collections from the following excavation units: Square N240 W400, Level 1; Trench N220 W630, N240 W603, N260-280 W630, N320 W630, N375 W800, N500 W800; Square N530 W800, Level 2; Square N580 W800, Feat. 11.



Comparison of the early mound sample with the early non-mound sample reveals few major differences in species representation. The non-mound sample contains 12 identified species, while the mound sample contains only 6 identified species. This difference can be attributed in large part to the smaller size of the mound sample -- approximately half that of the non-mound sample. The similarity of the 2 areas with respect to species utilization is demonstrated by the fact that the major species -- deer, turkey, turtle and bear -- occur in approximately the same proportions in each area. Only the distribution of deer forelimb and hindquarter parts suggests that differences do exist. This latter information suggests that the better deer meat cuts were being consumed away from the mound.

The comparison of faunal collections from Little Egypt and Barnett phase contexts produces results generally similar to those of the mound/non-mound comparison. The early component sample contains almost twice the number of identified species as the late component sample, but this can be attributed in large part to the considerably greater size of the early sample. Both species lists are similar in respect to the relative frequency of the major species with the exception of box turtle which is absent from the late sample. The greater abundance of deer forelimb parts in the Little Egypt sample may be due to sampling error.

In summary, the faunal material from Little Egypt is what might be expected for late Mississippian populations in the southeast. The

protein diet seems to have been a deer staple supplemented by turkey, bear, turtle, shellfish and numerous smaller mammals. The larger species were numerically predominant in the collection, but more systematic recovery techniques might have modified this situation by increasing the representation of the smaller animals in all classes. With the possible exception of deer forelimb and hindquarter parts, faunal samples from mound and non-mound proveniences and Little Egypt and Barnett component proveniences are similar.



## CHAPTER 10

### SUMMARY

The present report describes excavations conducted by the author at the Little Egypt site (9 Mu 102) in 1969 and presents the results of analysis of data recovered in those excavations. The Little Egypt site is situated in the broad floodplain of the Coosawattee River immediately west of the Great Smokey Fault which separates the Ridge and Valley and Piedmont physiographic provinces. The site, located at the junction of Talking Rock Creek and the Coosawattee River, consists of 2 earth mounds and extensive village deposits. Flood water from both streams has modified the site considerably in the past 150 years: several areas of village midden have been destroyed; a portion of the north side of Mound A has apparently been cut away; and a 1-2 ft. thick blanket of sterile alluvium has been deposited over almost the entire site area.

Investigations in 1969 were aimed primarily at identification of site components and determination of site configuration during each component. This information was sought for the purpose of designing a large-scale research project which would be conducted at the site in subsequent years. Excavations consisted of 5 x 10 ft. squares and 3 ft. wide trenches which were placed along several north/south and east/west lines across the site.

In order to speed up excavations and hence maximize area coverage of the site, power equipment was selectively used and midden soil was not screened. Unfortunately, the latter procedure has considerably reduced the research potential of recovered lithic and faunal remains. Field work objectives were accomplished to a satisfactory degree. The nature of site stratigraphy was revealed; components were identified on the basis of ceramic evidence and the nature of site utilization during each component was partially determined.

The Little Egypt ceramic complex is characterized by the absence of Lamar Bold Incised and the presence of abundant shell-tempered pottery and early forms of Lamar Complicated Stamped and Lamar Plain. A similar ceramic assemblage has been reported by Caldwell for 9 Br 60 in Allatoona Reservoir, but with the exception of the Park Mound (9 Tp 41) no other comparable assemblage is known to the author. The Little Egypt pottery complex provides a clear intermediate step in the development of Lamar ceramics from ceramics of the Wilbanks-Savannah phase. A single radio-carbon date from Little Egypt suggests a 15th century date for the component. Little Egypt midden deposits and house structures seem to be limited to the northern and eastern portions of the site. Early stages of Mound A were constructed during the occupation.

Barnett phase is clearly a development out of Little Egypt phase. The ceramic complex is marked by the addition of Lamar Bold Incised, a decreased quantity and variety of shell-tempered pottery, and later forms



of Lamar Complicated Stamped and Lamar Plain. Similar ceramic assemblages occur at Potts Tract (9 Mu 103) and King site (9 Fl 5), and close similarities can be found with other Lamar and Qualla assemblages in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. A 16th and 17th century age is indicated by radiocarbon dates from Little Egypt and European artifacts from the King site. Barnett midden deposits and house structures occur over the entire site. Late stages of Mound A were constructed during the occupation.

The Little Egypt and Barnett ceramic complexes are unusual in their combination of Lamar and Mississippian pottery types and modes. Numerous speculations have been made in print concerning the identification of Creek and Cherokee ceramics. Currently available information, including that reported here, strongly indicates that ceramic and socio-political correlations in the south Appalachian area during the late prehistoric-early historic period are complex and, more likely, non-existent at the level of generality archaeologists have been operating at. The data from Little Egypt indicates that stylistic evolution of ceramics in northwest Georgia has proceeded without interruption from at least A. D. 1200 to at least A. D. 1700. This implies only that there has been no major population displacements in the area during that period of time.

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## APPENDIX A

### CARTERS QUARTER SITE<sup>1</sup>

Completing our observations upon Mrs. Tumlin's plantation, we moved to a point 30 miles north. The previous year en route to visit Fort Mountain we stopped for a little rest at Mr. Messer's grocery store at Carters Quarter. The region "looked Indian" to the writer and he walked up the river a quarter of a mile to where two streams come together and form the Coosawattee. Miss Ashley informed us that the site was known in ancient times as Coosawattee Old Town and was a Cherokee village of more or less fame.

Upon arrival at Carters Quarter we inspected a site on the north side of the river, where there is located a rather large mound. This did not appear very favorable, so we recrossed the river, where we found a well defined settlement, and one occupied for a considerable length of time. Long ago Colonel Carter established a large estate in northern Georgia, and his grandson, Mr. Carter, and other heirs kindly permitted exploration.

Varying from 150 to 200 yards south from the river is a long ridge or embankment. This elevation has been built along the edge of a terrace, flanking the river. Between the embankment and the river itself lies the

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<sup>1</sup>Warren K. Moorehead, 1932, Etowah Papers.



village site. At three points in the ridge are mounds, two of which are rather small and the larger one, viewed from the bottom lands, seems about 14 feet in height, whereas from the terrace it is not more than 7 or 8 feet in altitude. Our test pits indicated that a space about 400 by 150 feet, just opposite the larger mound and toward the river was the favorite place of residence. That is, while there is considerable debris scattered through 30 or 40 acres and probably cabins were located elsewhere, yet this small space was the central portion of the settlement.

There is a diversity of opinion among local people with reference to the ridge, old residents claiming that it was built by slaves, under the direction of the original Carter, as a levee to prevent damage from high water. We examined it carefully and came to the conclusion that since there are several gaps in the so-called levee that most of the activity here in evidence was due to labor of Indians. Moreover, the land to the South, back from the river, is much higher and it would be natural for landowners to construct a levee near the stream and thus protect their bottom lands. The mounds themselves unquestionably are artificial. Undoubtedly there was some work done by Whites in levee construction.

We first examined the village site itself, finding skeletons, most of which were flexed and badly decayed.

With one burial we found over 2000 beads, some of which were cut as cubes. There was also a large knife of black flint, shown in figure 95. On the chest of the skeleton lay the largest shell gorget found during our

explorations, being about seven inches in diameter and beautifully carved. It is shown in figure 96. With one or two children's skeletons we discovered several toys of baked clay and some small ornaments of shell. The pottery discovered has been illustrated and described in Miss Ashley's paper. In the village site itself some 15 or 20 burials were encountered. Numbers of engraved shells portraying plumed serpents, pottery vessels, a few pipes and large quantities of beads, were found with various burials.

We spent about two weeks in examination of the large mound, excavating a large pit 40 feet east and west and about 30 feet north and south. Our ground plan of burials is shown in figure 94. Several of these were three or four feet from the surface, the others ranged from eight to ten feet in depth. Some skeletons may remain in the outer edges. We suggest a thorough exploration of the long embankment, remainder of the village site, and two smaller mounds which were not examined by our party.

For many years various historians and ethnologists have engaged in discussion with reference to the exact route followed by De Soto and his brutal companions. It is not surprising, in view of public interest concerning De Soto, that our discovery of fragments of swords, heavily oxidized, caused considerable comment in the press. These objects, the longest of which is 6 1/2 inches, are shown in figure 97. The lengths of the others are, one sword fragment, 3 3/4 inches, the other 4 1/2 inches. The slender, pointed objects are 4 3/4 and 5 3/4 inches respectively. These fragments of swords, and pike points, or whatever they are, were



found with skeleton H, fairly well preserved, and buried some six feet below the surface. The ground was disturbed and we considered H as an intrusive interment. We concluded that Indians had constructed a crude pen over H. Alongside the body we observed a heavy wooden post, somewhat decayed, which extended down into the earth a foot or more. There were several poles, three or four inches in diameter, and traces of smaller ones. No burials in pens were found by us at Etowah, neither were there others at Carters Quarter. Aside from the fragments of iron shown in figure 97, there was a large celt, highly polished, about ten inches in length, and a few beads. Our little collection of iron implements was sent to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, where each specimen was examined by an official familiar with arms and armor. In his opinion, as to whether they were Spanish swords, he was cautious, but stated that they were old, and not of American Colonial period. This is mentioned at some length because an account appeared in the public press to the effect that we had "found De Soto's sword." There were no hilts or maker's marks, and dates could not be distinguished.

In previous pages we have referred to hard burnt floors in both Mound C and in Etowah village. Mr. Carter's mound was not large, yet within it we discovered a burnt area deeper, or thicker, than was found elsewhere during our explorations in the South save, possibly, one of the mounds near Natchez. Upon our map, figure 94, are the words "Heavy Burnt Area." This began some 20 inches below the surface, extended

downward for at least three feet, and was rather more extensive than is indicated in our field sketch. In truth, the men had some difficulty in breaking through this mass in order to reach lower levels. Several of the skeletons were found below its outer edges, but none were beneath the heaviest burning. The purpose of this intensive burning remains unknown. It was in no sense a lodge floor or dance ground.

#### SURFACE FINDS, CARTERS QUARTER SITE

Carters Quarter offered splendid opportunity for field searching. The ground was clear, we walked over the area and then employed children of our workmen to pick up objects. We could observe their efforts while we excavated in the mound.

Specimens from Carters Quarter village are rather different from those secured at Etowah. There were found one whole and two broken pennate or winged stones, five flat, perforated ornaments, two unfinished bird stones, a number of small pendants, a tube, and an object of hematite, about an inch and a half in length and one inch high, ground smooth at the ends and sides, the base flat and top rounded. The small game stones so common at Etowah, are found in rather few numbers. We obtained ten polished hatchets, or celts, or as many as were secured at Etowah during three seasons. It may have been a small Etowan village. There is not a marked difference between the pottery found at the two places, as Miss Ashley has indicated. Objects with burials, both in village and mound, and upon the surface seem more Cherokee than Etowan.



