
This document has been checked for information on Native American burials. No images considered to be culturally insensitive, including images and drawings of burials, Ancestors, funerary objects, and other NAGPRA material were found.



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**

**Franklin College of
Arts and Sciences**

Department of Anthropology

Laboratory of Archaeology

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
LABORATORY OF ARCHAEOLOGY SERIES
REPORT NO. 3



CHAUGA MOUND AND VILLAGE SITE (38 OcI)
IN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

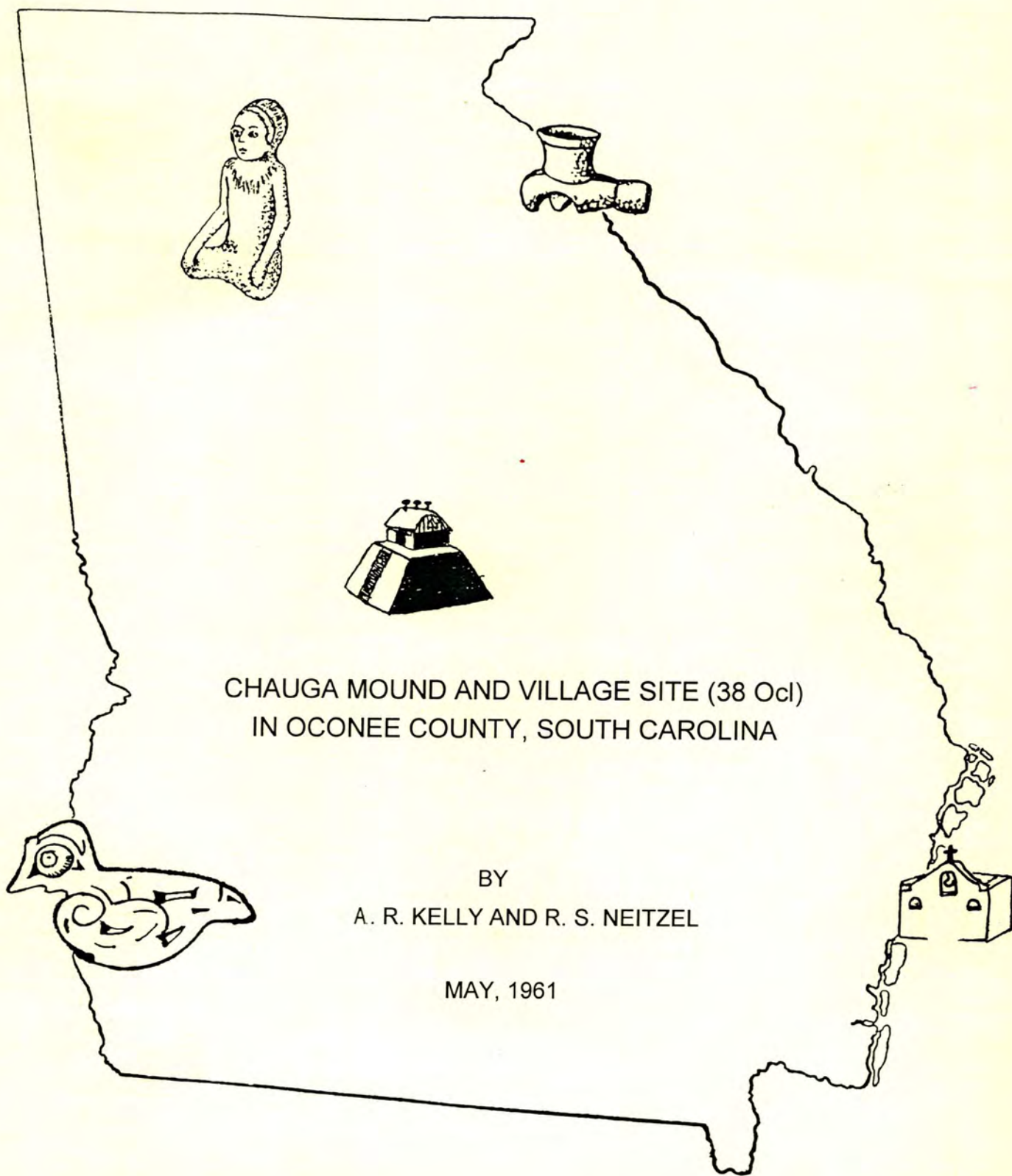
BY

A. R. KELY AND R. S. NEITZEL

MAY, 1961



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
LABORATORY OF ARCHAEOLOGY SERIES
REPORT NO. 3



CHAUGA MOUND AND VILLAGE SITE (38 Ocl)
IN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

BY
A. R. KELLY AND R. S. NEITZEL

MAY, 1961

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
LABORATORY OF ARCHAEOLOGY SERIES

REPORT NO. 3

CHAUGA MOUND AND VILLAGE SITE (38 Oc1)
IN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

By
A. R. Kelly and R. S. Neitzel

Laboratory of Archaeology
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia
May, 1961

PREFACE

Report No. 3, "Chauga Mound and Village Site (38 Oc1) in Oconee County, South Carolina," presents essential data on the excavation, laboratory analysis, and interpretation of results from an important segment of river basin archeology in Georgia. The work of salvage in archeology is made possible by a cooperative arrangement between the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institution, the U. S. Corps of Engineers, and the University of Georgia through its Laboratory of Archeology and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

A final report on salvage operations at Chauga mound and village, with data on other sites in the Hartwell Basin, was submitted to the National Park Service at the completion of the survey contract. The section dealing with the important Cherokee landmark site, Chauga in Oconee County, South Carolina, has undergone important emendation and extension in the portions dealing with interpretation and comparison with other parallel site developments in the Hartwell Basin, in order to make available to current research investigations important materials dealing with the problems of Cherokee ethno-history and archeology.

Editorial Committee
for the
Laboratory of Archeology Reports

A. R. Kelly, Editor
John E. Talmadge and John W. Bonner, Jr.
Associate Editors

INTRODUCTION

Preliminary archeological reconnaissance and survey work by Joseph R. Caldwell and Carl Miller for the Smithsonian Institution provided data for appraisal of sites in the Hartwell Basin and led to recommendations for salvage operations and recovery under the Inter-Agency program. These recommendations were briefed in discussion between representatives of the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and the University of Georgia with the approval of the Chauga mound and village site as part of the program to be carried out by the University of Georgia in the Hartwell Basin. Chauga bulked large in the colonial records among the Lower Cherokee Settlements, the ethnohistorical accounts seemed to pinpoint the presumptive site reasonably well, and the testing operations by Joseph R. Caldwell and Carl Miller indicated that a substantial portion of the original mound and village layout remained for more intensive investigation. Robert S. Neitzel soon found for the University of Georgia field party that the prior damage to core mound structure was considerably greater than had been anticipated but was able by careful excavation techniques to reconstruct the successive mound history and essential architectonics, as reported in the excavation section of the appended report. His draughts of the stages of mound history are a highly significant key to the implications of cultural continuity.

The analysis of artifacts and ceramic materials from good archeological contexts supports the conclusions arrived at tentatively from the study of the successive mound constructions. The final summary of all the evidence leads logically to a conclusion concerning Cherokee proto-history and prehistory somewhat opposed to theories hitherto regarded by many investigators which tended to bring the Cherokees into the region from a remote point of origin. Purely ethnological studies of Cherokee tribal culture have emphasized traits and complexes which derive from a more northern hearth. The archeological evidence at Chauga, and elsewhere in north and northeast Georgia, as it becomes available from historic landmark sites, are not congruent with the theories of Cherokee origins based on ethnological study alone. The evaluation of these discrepancies in interpretation needs to comprise the much larger southern Appalachian hinterland of Cherokee territory; the situation in the middle zone of Cherokee occupation is still unplumbed archeologically, i.e. in western North Carolina, and the Overhill Cherokee on the western fringes in Tennessee and Kentucky have not been brought into any expanded focus of the total problem.

For some time, during the past decade or so, several Southeastern investigators who have had some opportunity to survey specific Cherokee sites and materials have entertained the notion that the Cherokee might be an autochthonous tribal group who remained entrenched in their mountain homeland despite the impact of strong tribal migrations which swept the area from west to east and from north to south. The Cherokees were the largest and most numerous of southeastern tribes, they held and claimed the most extensive territory; the historical thesis that they constituted the real balance of power in the contest for the territory by England, Spain, and France might find strong support. Certainly, if one adds the Muskogean tribal groups, the thesis becomes more plausible. It may well be that the traditional and ineradicable antagonism of these two great tribal congeries, unable to join forces against European penetration, was the decisive factor permitting the English to maintain a foothold on the coast and to invest gradually the broad hinterland. One can only speculate as to what might have been the outcome had the Cherokees elected to join with the formidable Creek war leader, Emperor Brim, in the Appalachi rebellion aimed at driving the English from the coast. Instead the Cherokees listened to the representatives of the English from Charleston, murdered the emissaries of the Creeks in the town house at Tugalo and joined the European allies. This tribal intransigence persisted to the nineteenth century when the Cherokees were allies of the Americans and Andrew Jackson in eradicating the last desperate stand of the Creeks.

Despite the ten perceived stages of mound construction and the depth of midden in the village area, Chauga on excavation proved to have a constricted historical continuum compared with the companion sites, Tugalo and Estatoe, explored in the Hartwell Basin survey. The site was relatively smaller in physical extent, the midden accumulations not so extensive. This may correlate with the fact that we have not been able to find Chauga on any of the historical maps of the period. Estatoe, for example, a few miles away, appears on three maps and in the list of towns and villages which is given in the Travels of William Bartram. Chauga probably had a smaller village population, fewer available warriors, and was not considered as important as its sister settlements to the British. Estatoe probably existed only half the total duration of Chauga but provides abundant documentation and archeological complements of material for the more immediate proto-historic occupations, culminating in the historic Cherokee settlement. Of the three comparable sites, Tugalo bulks largest in its physical archeological aspects and enters more adequately into the ethno-historical record.

CHAUGA MOUND

PHYSIOGRAPHY

Chauga Mound site occupies a low eminence in the point between the confluent valleys of the Tugalo and Chauga rivers. The Tugalo is a principal headwater stream of the Savannah River. The site is located on the north bank of the Tugalo about 1200 feet upstream from the mouth of the Chauga river, a tributary which enters the drainage from the north. The Tugalo forms the boundary line between the States of Georgia and South Carolina.

The site of Chauga is typical of many of the aboriginal settlements in this Piedmont Plateau region. Although the streams are deeply entrenched it would appear that some natural levee deposition has occurred during the occasional floods. There is little or no evidence of stream meandering. The relief varies from an average of about 650 feet mean sea level to 800 feet on nearby hills. The minimum flooding to be expected from the Hartwell Dam, in which basin the site is located, will rise to 660 feet. The elevation on the highest point of the mound before excavation was 654 feet.

The mound and village site occupy a low rise parallel and about 100 feet away from the Tugalo channel. This elevation drops away in backslope fashion until it merges with a less prominent levee system thrown up by the smaller tributary stream, the Chauga, on the north. The subsoil is a uniform bright orange, sandy soil containing heavy micaceous elements. In the backslope areas, a finely divided, tough, viscous blue-grey clay occurs as a subsurface outcrop in ravines and in the Chauga river cut banks. This distinctive soil is encountered shallowly during plowing and has been utilized by quarry pits during the early 1900's as a source of clay in brick making. The first six stages of moundbuilding at the site also show use of this dark clay as a tough impermeable capping for the occupational levels of successive mound construction.

The general terrain falls well within the area of the western and southern Piedmont Plateau. The physical area is categorized by John R. Swanton in the following manner: "2a: Piedmont Upland, sub-maturely dissected peneplain on disordered resistant rocks; moderate relief."¹

¹ Swanton, John R. Indians of the Southeastern U. S., Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bull. 137, p. 2, Washington, 1946.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The historical record supplies rather meager information concerning the status of the Lower Cherokee town of Chauga. The sparse references, however, do permit a fairly precise pinpointing of the location of Chauga and establish its importance as an historic contact situation. Unfortunately, very little ethnographic detail is furnished. There is frequent mention of the other Lower Towns and their condition at more or less specific times relative to the varied conditions of punitive forays, treaty overtures, and always the ubiquitous and deadly smallpox hazard. The few tenuous references to Chauga help to fix its position and enliven historical interest in the final archeological component of the site.

Chauga is mentioned twice in connection with visits to the Lower Towns by South Carolina provincial troops during the Yamasee Indian War episode of 1715-1716. There is some uncertainty about the authorship of the diary journal which records the events, but some of the handwriting is similar to known specimens of Captain George Chicken, a well known South Carolinian of the times, a member of the above expedition. Although not particularly pertinent to the present problem, the mission was an attempt to align the Lower Town warriors with the settlers' forces to aid in controlling the Creeks to the west.

The account carried these remarks under the month of January, 1715: "Wednesday Ye 18---this day Majr. Harbot and I went to a Town that is called Chaghe³ (Chauga) to see Captain Pight that is quartered there with his men itt ia about 5 miles from Tugaloe" "(Chauga on west side of Chauga Creek about 5 miles below Toogaloo)"

In an account for February of the same year is this statement: "Monday Ye 6 this day majre Harbet and I seatt out with a part of the army for Savnonow Town We marcht from a Town called No:u:wee--- footnote--(Noyowee near end and northeast of Tugaloo)---"to a nother that is called Chagiey (Chauga) att about 6 milles distance where we lay all night."³

³ Year Book ---City of Charleston, S. C., 1894 -- Charleston, S. C. Appendix - A Letter from Caroline in 1715 and Journal of the Carolinians Into the Cherokee Mountains in the Yemassee Indian War, 1715-16 from the original manuscript prepared for publication by Langdon Cheves, Esq. p. 340.

³ Ibid., p. 349.

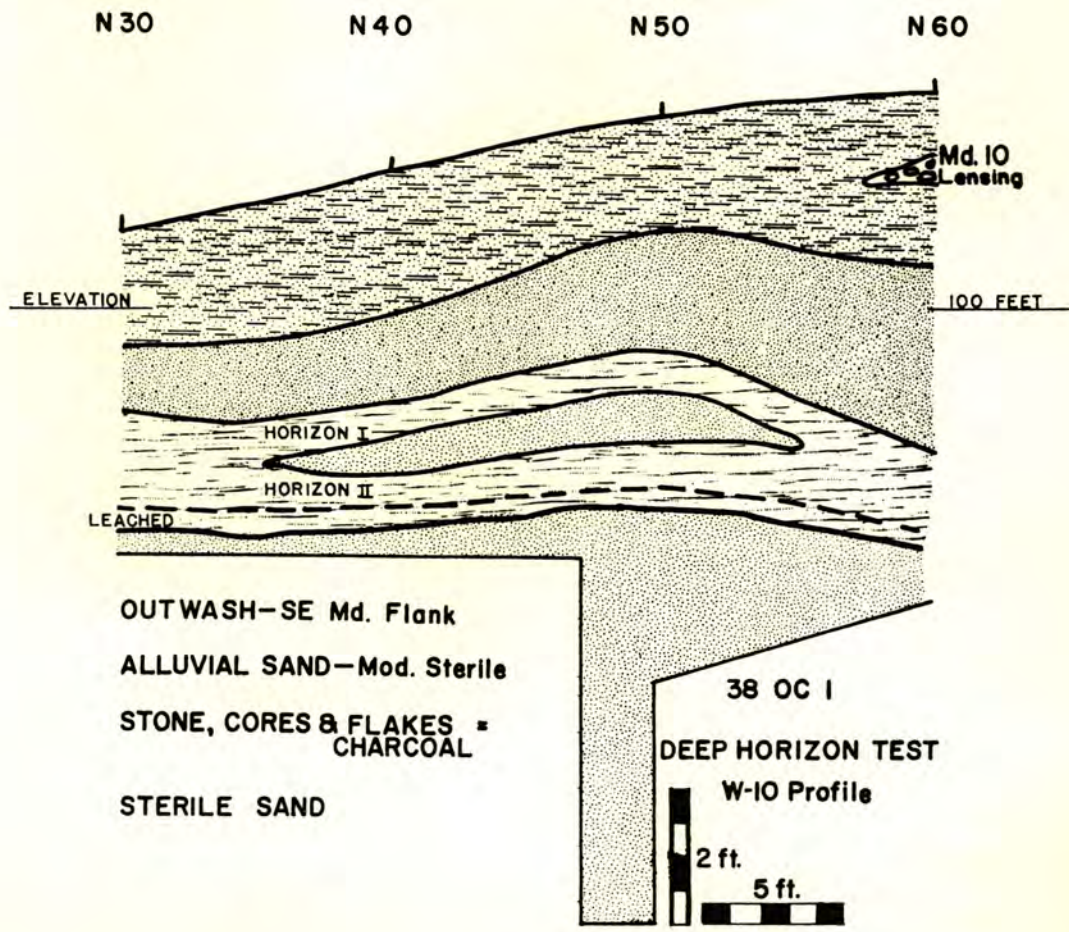
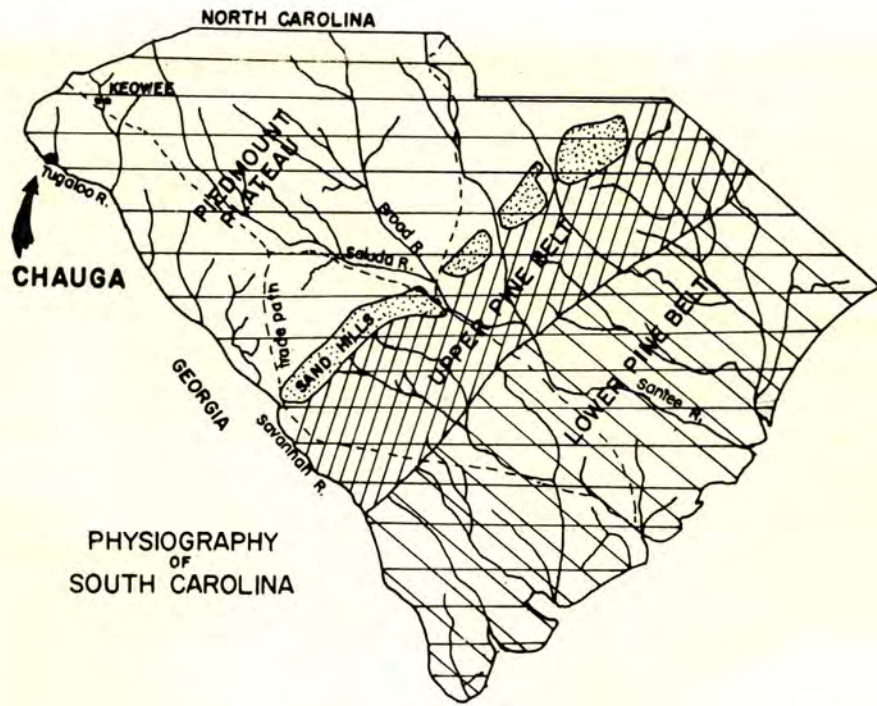


PLATE I.

The following day this entry was made: "Febwary Tusday Ye 7 --- this day we seatt out from Chagey wee crost a cricke---footnote (Chauga near Mason's Mill)---"by ye Town ye way was verry good all this day we touk oup att fower a clocke ye quntity of milles mart this day is 20 and touk up by a Can brinch"---footnote---"Head of Farrers Creek"³

The footnotes contained within parentheses have been interpolated by the Journal's editor, Cheeves.

The following day the party crossed the Seneca River and Deep Creek at Shallow Ford downstream from Chauga and proceeded on their way to the locality of the present town of Augusta, Georgia.

The description of the Indian town in relation to local topography leaves little to be desired to pinpoint the site. The various mileages in the journal are surprisingly accurate when applied to overland travel between the various points. The trading paths followed the river bottoms for the most part.

The John Herbert Map of 1725 shows the same position of the town and presumably verifies its existence for that year. This has been reproduced in "Hiwassee Island."⁴

The John Mitchell Map for the year 1755⁵ also indicates the position of Chauga and other nearby Lower Towns.

A brief mention is also made in a report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for this early period.⁶

Neither Bartram nor Adair made any specific reference to the existence of the town which may be some clue to its importance, or lack of it. Bartram (1796) did venture up the Seneca and

³ Ibid., p. 349.

⁴ Lewis, T. M. N. & Kneberg, Madeline, Hiwassee Island, An Archeological Account of Four Tennessee Indian Peoples, Univ. of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee, 1946, Map 3.

⁵ Ibid., Map 4.

⁶ Journal of Colonel John Herbert, Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the Province of South Carolina--Reprinted for the Historical Commission of South Carolina---1936.

Keowee River below Chauga and visited Seneca, Keowee and Fort Prince George, then crossed over the mountains into the Overhill territory. His graphic account listed 43 Cherokee towns, but Chauga was not included.

Mooney⁷ makes brief mention of the Lower Towns in connection with the smallpox epidemics of 1738 and 1739. He also comments to the effect that punitive expeditions by White settlers in 1761 and again in 1776 destroyed the Lower Towns effectively. The scope of these raids can be visualized when one instance is cited to the effect that 6,000 bushels of corn were destroyed at Sinica in 1776. It was customary to destroy all standing crops and orchards.

An indirect reference in Mooney, which he attributes to the close of the 18th century, says that the old Lower Towns on the Savannah River had been broken up for 20 years. Though the Lower Town populations are not mentioned specifically, Mooney also comments⁸ that there was smallpox in the depleted settlements in 1783. A series of treaties and land adjustments over this general period of time gradually eased the Cherokees and neighboring remnant groups out of northeast Georgia -- western South Carolina region. This culminated in the eventual removal of most of the tribes to west of the Mississippi.

Documentary sources thus provide rather firm evidence as to the existence of the town of Chauga for a period of forty years while white settlers were gradually preempting the general area. It is probably not too much to infer that it was extant for another six years or until the Lower Towns were attached and destroyed in 1761. Historical content fades from this period on and it is not possible to derive any clue of the town's existence as late as 1776 when the Lower Towns that managed to rebuild were destroyed. One additional account reported in Mooney from Hawkins' Manuscript Journal⁹ says that the expatriated Lower Cherokees had moved to the upper Coosa river, presumably in northwest Georgia.

⁷ Mooney, James ---19th Ann. Rep. of BAE, Washington 1900, p. 43, pp. 49-50, p. 53, p. 54, p. 61, p. 82.

⁸ Ibid., p. 61

⁹ Ibid., p. 54

Attention was next focused on Chauga and other archeological sites in the region, as an outgrowth of the proposed Hartwell dam which would flood large bottomland areas of the Savannah and Tugalo and their tributaries. River basin reconnaissance by the National Park Service and Smithsonian Institution located some seventy sites with various cultural affinities that would be covered by water backed up from the reservoir. Caldwell's exploration of the historically documented Tugalo site suggested the need of recovering more information from Chauga and other basin sites before they were covered.¹⁰ Caldwell tested Chauga in 1953 and Carl Miller worked there for a short time under the same program in 1958.¹¹ There is no published account of the latter test but information has been made available by personal communication.

The University of Georgia entered into a contract with the National Park Service to conduct salvage archeology under the river basin program at Chauga and other sites in the Hartwell Basin from August, 1958 to January 1, 1959. The present report covers this phase of investigation in the Chauga locality.

It will be seen from other sections of this report that the mound at Chauga had been excavated on several occasions by unqualified persons whose activities could only make more difficult the work of professional archeologists. The only mention of the site by a professional is by Joseph R. Caldwell in connection with a discussion of Cherokee pottery from the upper Chattahoochee Basin in Georgia.¹²

The present excavation of the Chauga mound revealed what are presumed to be his testpits but yielded no evidence to concur with his statement that the major portion of the mound had been built after English trade objects became numerous. Current exploration by the University of Georgia field party has found archeological evidence that the final mound additions were constructed in proto-historic

¹⁰ Caldwell, Joseph R. -- Progress Report on Excavation at Tugalo-- River Basin Surveys, Smithsonian Institution, 1956 -- Mimeographed.

¹¹ Caldwell, Joseph R. -- Appraisal of the Archeological Resources of Hartwell Reservoir, South Carolina and Georgia, August 1956. Prepared by the National Park Service -- Mimeographed. p. 7.

¹² Caldwell, Joseph R. -- Cherokee Pottery from Northern Georgia, Amer. Anth. Vol. XX, No. 1, p. 279, Jan. 1955, University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, Utah.

times, but this work has encountered no objects of trade or derived from European contact. The pits identified with the survey of Caldwell penetrated through a severely damaged surface situation, and very close to a large, deep looter's pit of WPA times. His test pierces the fill of Mound 2 and taps the cap of Mound 1, the primary structure. The confused surface condition, plow disturbance and some outwash deposition in this area may have yielded displaced historic objects, that the small area of Caldwell's test could not put in perspective with their physical association. The mound fill he penetrated is midden loading from the general site and yields quantities of Woodland and Etowah materials. Also, it is possible that activity in lowering the mound surface since the time of the 1953 reconnaissance may have cut away a surface deposition not now present.

Prior to the surveys of Caldwell and Miller, eleven very unprofessional gougings caused the real complications for the present exploration. The net result of all this unqualified excavational history lends a note of stratigraphical uncertainty in reconstructing the last six stages of mound construction. The earlier excavations had honeycombed and eviscerated the core section of the mound.

EXCAVATIONS -- METHOD

Conventional survey techniques were used to establish engineering control at the site. A grid of ten foot squares was laid down on the cardinal directions over an area 150 feet square. This completely encompassed the mound with allowance for marginal areas that conceivably could have cultural significance. These metrical designations in terms of North and West controlled the mound proper. The grid, of course, could be extended in any other direction if the occasion arose.

Elevations on each stake were recorded, using an assumed B.M. of 100(645.24MSL). This procedure indicated rather vaguely that the mound might be rectangular; the proportions and degree of truncation were certainly not evident on the ground.

The mound had been subjected to concerted efforts by cultivation to reduce its height. Mr. W. T. McClure, the landowner, volunteered the information that driving a tractor over the mound was extremely dangerous before plowing and erosion had modified the steepness of the slopes.

Cogent evidence that considerable disintegration of the mound had occurred during recent times, possibly within the late Indian

occupation, was afforded by the profile of a pit, Feature 1, in the West 50 profile of the south coordinate trench. The pit was definitely intruded through two late southerly outwash zones in the panel. Also, it appeared to have been dug with a blade implement. A badly deteriorated burial, with one identified long bone and skull, the whole suggestive of a flexed burial was brought out at pit base. The situation at first blush suggested a post-Indian inhumation. More attention given to this pit and burial later deduced that this interment was made at a considerable depth, four feet, which was in line with other burials in the mound area. The extreme deterioration of an obviously latter day aborigine must be accounted for in terms of subsoil chemistry and poor drainage conditions.

The survey indicated that the mound was a little over eight feet high. Projection of the strike of the slopes, revealed in profile, implied that the mound might have been at least twelve feet high originally. Local statements to the effect that it had once been fifteen and even twenty feet high would seem exaggerated.

The contours of the mound, regarded before excavation began, suggested that the mound, hypothetically rectangular, might have been oriented about forty-five degrees off the cardinal directions. Subsequent exploration proved this to be correct. The first six mound constructions were ultimately determined to be truncated pyramids. Whether the final mounds were built up as pyramidal structures, pancaked onto the original mounds, or whether terminal construction took the form of apron-like extensions to the preceding mound nucleus could never be demonstrated completely. The alternative interpretations are represented schematically.

Four coordinate trenches, ten feet wide, were begun at the base lines of the primary grid. These impinged on the corners of the original mounds. Complete profiles were drawn from both panels, east to west, and north to south, along the N70, N80, W50 and W60 lines. As excavation progressed profiles were constructed from north to south and from east to west for each ten foot profile in the core area of the mound. This was desirable and necessary in order to cope with the appalling destruction of original mound context in the core section. The main coordinate trenches were carried well into the characteristic bright orange, micaceous sand subsoil in the marginal areas of exploration and were terminated as they approached the core area of the mound. The oblong dimensions of 50 feet by 30 feet of this core are explained by the fact that the west coordinate trench coincided with an area almost completely destroyed by previous excavation. The trench thus penetrated farther than would normally have been practicable had the sub-structures been intact. Expanded investigation revealed that nearly

the entire center of the mound had been tampered with to depths of five feet. Details of superstructure on the various mound surfaces had been erased or disrupted for most of the entire south half of the mound. The combined efforts of plowing and unqualified digging were about equally responsible for the ultimate destruction.

The most damaging disturbance encountered in the west coordinate trench was a long, wide, and deep gulch that wandered aimlessly through the central portion of the mound. This was eventually found to be confluent with a major deep disturbance which had caused stratigraphic havoc when the present survey was approaching the core section from the south coordinate trench. The remains of a cow burial and some discarded fence posts merely compounded the grim prospects of obtaining adequate stratigraphic data from the central area. From local sources it was learned later that this huge burrow had been perpetrated during the late 1920's by a group reputedly connected with a north Georgia college. The disturbed area was approximately 75 feet long and 10 feet wide, if one straightens its rather sinuous course through the core mound. It was some consolation to find that a carved steatite effigy pipe was found about 0.3 feet below the irregular bottom of the trench.

The east coordinate trench revealed the extent of Carl Miller's tests, carried out in the spring of 1958. No engineering data were made available to assist in the present excavations but there was a verbal report of encountering a short postmold sequence indicative of a superstructure in the Chauga mound. This was identified in the present excavations as Feature #8, a superstructure on top of Mound #4.

Combined vertical and horizontal cuts were utilized in carrying out complete excavation, once the problems of mound superimposition became apparent in the coordinate trench profiles. The total number of substructures making up the mound was not determined until late in the excavation program. The first cross-sections suggested that there had been a minimum of five and a maximum of seven mound phases. Stripping operations were begun on the summit to uncover what remained of the uppermost occupation surfaces. As each successive mantle was stripped, the area of activity widened. Profile sections were extended accordingly.

Ultimately greater or less segments of ten major phases of mound construction were revealed. At least the first six phases were built in two stages each; a zone of loaded fill surmounted by a clay cap. The last four phases did not seem to follow this pattern. Erosion and truncation had removed all summit traces of these final mounds.

It is not necessary to recount in detail the numerous problems and vexations entailed in uncovering the sequence of mound phases.

Some matters of technique will be discussed if pertinent in summarizing excavation history. Arbitrary survey designations will be used as sparingly as possible and only to afford simpler and more understandable description.

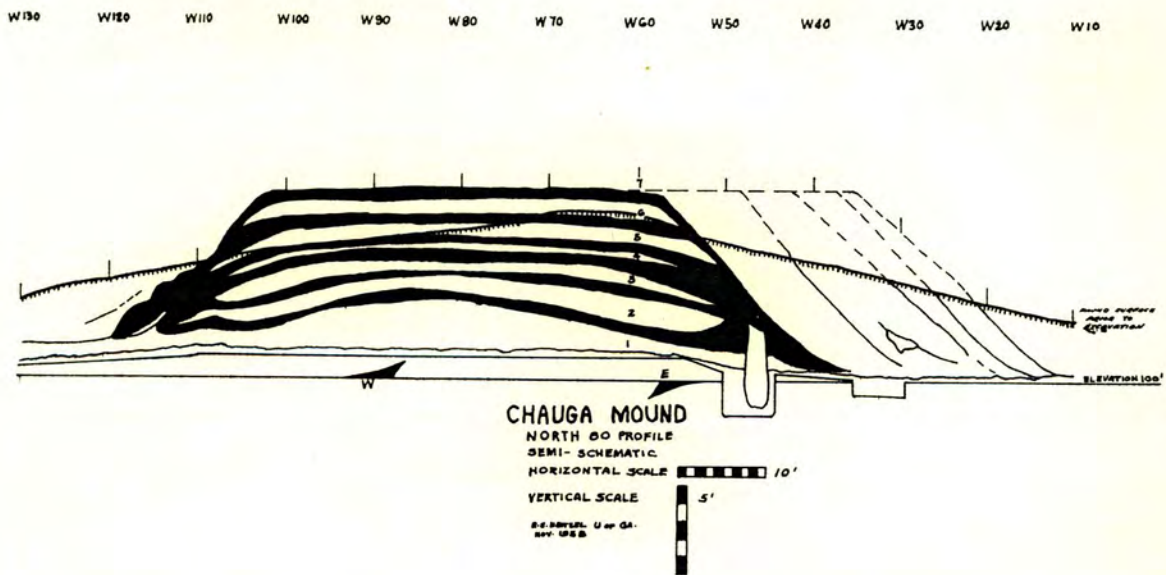
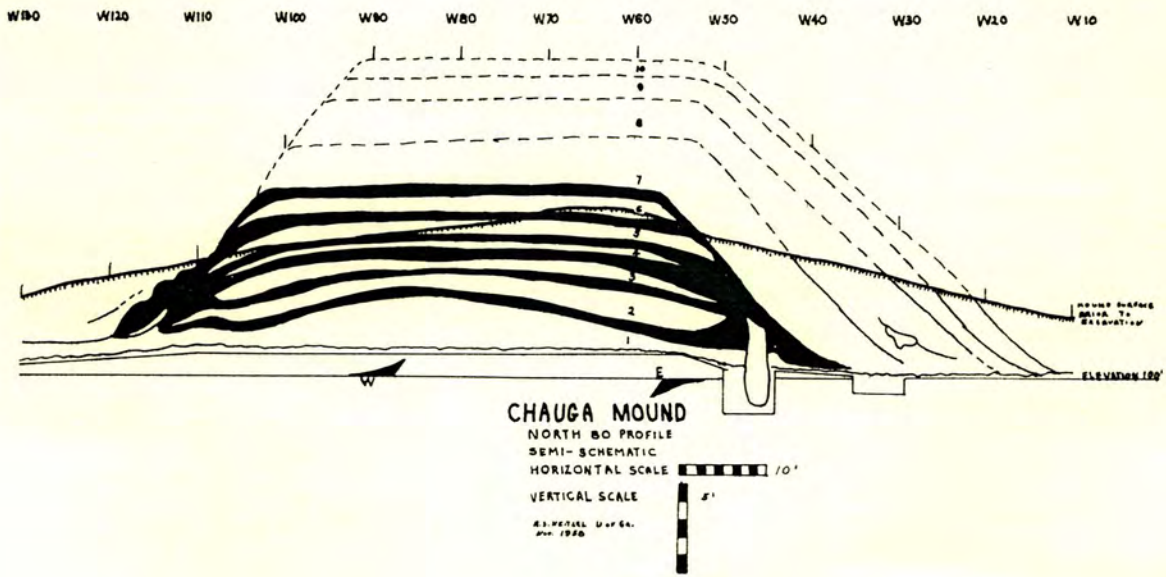
PRE-MOUND BASE

This surface was referred to during excavation as Feature #26. Postholes, burial pits, and other phenomena which could not be referred to specific mound levels were more or less lumped into this category. Strata collections were also labeled with this provenience, when they could not with certainty be ascribed to the superimposed level of Mound 1. Understandably, this zone was more or less indistinguishable, in the peripheral areas from the thick mound outwash deposits. The numerous burial pits cut into the bright tan, sandy subsoil often confused definition of this level as a developed soil horizon. Where it could be traced in vertical profile toward the periphery, as progress was made toward the core area it merged with the dark midden of Mound 1. Either a weathered soil horizon did not develop prior to mound construction or the surface was intentionally cleaned and leveled. In some cases where the clay caps extended beyond the area of mound fill there was sharply defined demarcation between transported material and the old surface.

As the artificial overburden was cut away countless postholes and subsurface intrusions appeared. With the exception of Features #20, #21, and #27, no alignment could be discerned. The above features showed an orderly arrangement for short distances where followed and seemed to indicate some sort of palisade or barricade associated with specific mound margins.

The many burial pits revealed in the old surface also seemed to follow a similar pattern, implying that burials were put down on the edges of individual phases of mound construction. Often they could be traced cutting through outwash layers or marginal mound fill. Of the fifty-three burials exposed in the mound environs only four or five occupied the central core area or preceded Mounds 1 and 2. Burial 17 appeared to have its origin a few inches up in the basal fill of Mound 1. Point of insertion was hard to define here between the midden fill of the mound and any presumed old surface.

Two irregular areas of burned clay 1.5' and 2.0' in diameter and an oblong hearth 3.0' by 1.5' were dispersed over this old surface. Each had one or more postholes penetrating them. The burned clay areas averaged 0.2' to 0.3' in thickness. There was also a shallow



(0.9') circular pit, 4' in diameter, which contained midden material, charcoal, and numerous fire cracked small stones. Density of post-holes and other evidence of occupation decreased progressively toward the outer margins of the mound area.

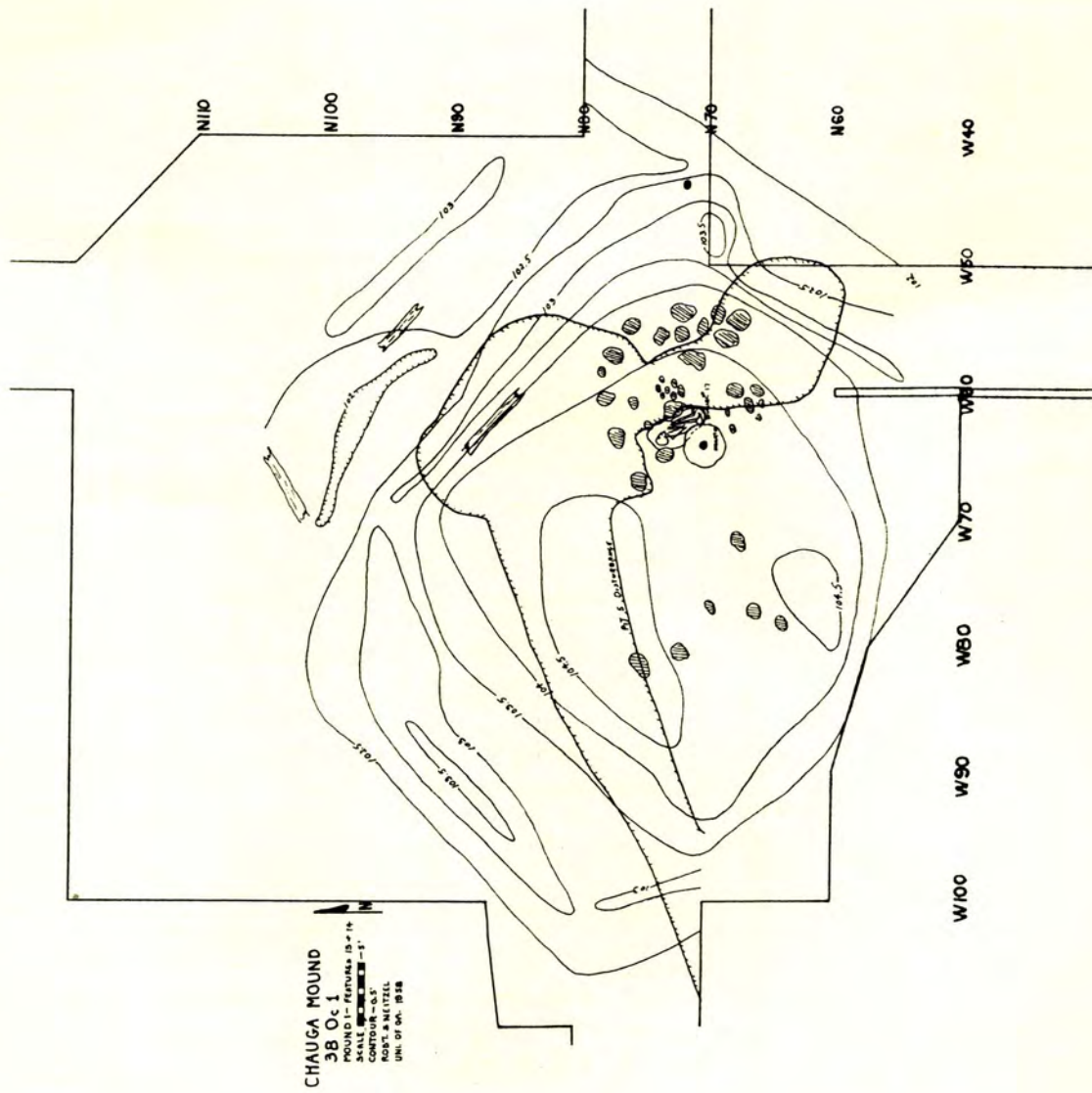
The pre-mound surface datum ranges from 102 in the central area to 101 at the margins. A slight rise in the present terrain reflects a similar contour on the old surface upon which the mound was built.

MOUND 1

This primary structure was a low truncated pyramid. The thickest portions consisted of about 2.2' of dark midden capped over with about 0.3' of tough, impervious blue-grey clay. The same material was used in all subsequent mound caps and piled in considerable thickness along the margins of each phase. This fill and capping sequence characterized the first six mound constructions but the blue clay does not appear in the building materials of the last four stages of moundbuilding.

The maximum datum elevation of the flat top was 104.5'. The clay cap appeared to have been applied when in a fairly wet condition as the surface, while irregular and undulatory, was well consolidated. The clay cap was continuous over the top and slopes of the mound. A shallow trough or swale of from two to five feet in width defined the basal perimeter of the mound. Additional clay had been piled along the outer edge to form a low ridge or rim around the trough. As additional mounds were superimposed upon this primary structure, the trough and exterior rim swelled, growing with each succeeding increment of moundbuilding. The purpose of this feature is conjectural. The clay caps often extended ten feet beyond the base of the pyramidal mound relief. The clay sheathing, hypothetically, relatively impervious to water, would serve as a bonding material to stabilize the basketloaded and lensed mound fill. The trough with its rim might have carried off storm water from the base of the mound. It is worthy of note that a similar ditch-like feature was found at the base of the final mound constructions at Mound B at Etowah, leading around the west featheredge toward the lower river terrace.

Very little cultural material was found in the capping to Mound 1 or in any of the subsequent clay caps. In horizontal clearing of the area, the cap peeled very cleanly from the underlying midden mound construction. Three log molds were imbedded in the base of the clay at the northeast side and the north corner. These lay parallel to the sides of the mound. Possibly other logs had accompanied these at some time but the remains were not evident. The pattern of log construction at this juncture was studied carefully, with an eye to



CHAUGA MOUND
 38 Oc 1
 FOUND 1- REFURB 12-14
 SCALE 1:1000
 COMPILED BY
 ROBERT A. MITCHELL
 UNIV. OF GA. 1958

PLATE 2

possible comparison with the remarkable system of log cribbing which encased the interior mounds at Tugalo, as found by J. R. Caldwell (mimeographed interim report to National Park Service on excavations at Tugalo). The logs at the base of Mound 1 at Chauga might have preserved the structural integrity of the mound at a critical point but no such extensive, overall log cribbing was found, comparable to the picture unfolded at Tugalo.

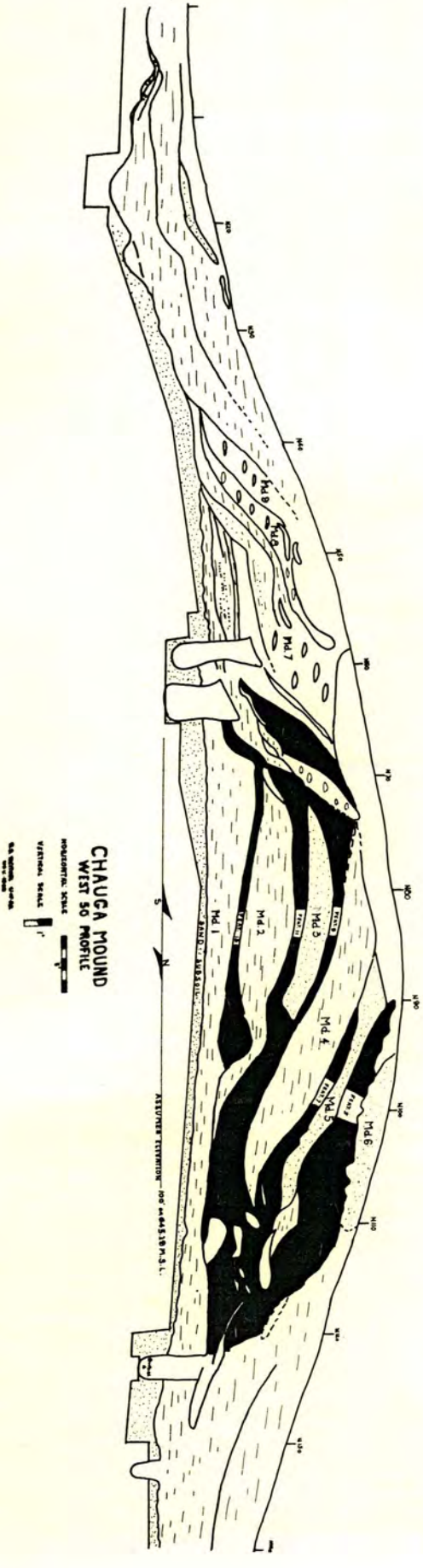
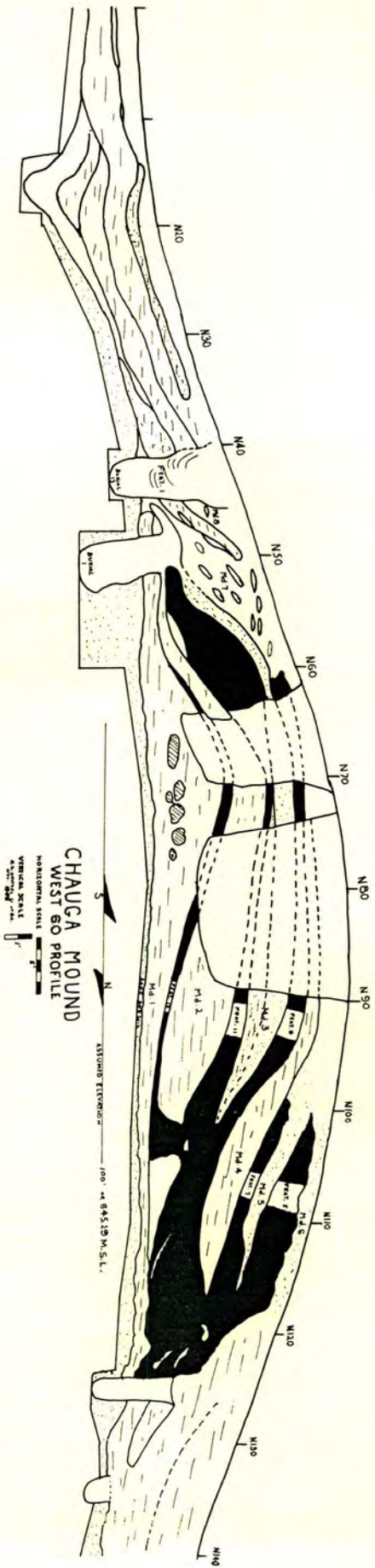
A number of large and some small water-worn boulders were contained in the basal fill of the mound. A small, concave platform of burned clay, roughly circular, 3.5' in diameter, 0.4' thick, was uncovered about 1.0' above the pre-mound surface. An ash filled posthole was in the center of this feature. Burial 17 lay in a pit partly under the fire hearth. The top of the pit could be traced to 0.8' below the upper surface of the hearth.

No postholes or other evidence of superstructure could be discovered in the surfaces of the clay cap or in the underlying midden fill. It is possible that posts could have been dug into the midden surface and not been clearly revealed because of lack of soil contrast. The conclusion after careful clearing of the surface to Mound 1 was that there was no evidence of a superstructure.

The midden fill was rich in cultural debris, particularly in the southern portions of the mound. There was a strong mixture of Woodland and Etowah materials. The fill elements contained a great deal of Woodland as the ceramic chart shows. The large bird effigy stone pipe came from the lower part of the fill. The majority of bone tools found in Chauga mound were either in the fill to Mound 1 or Mound 2. The situation here is reminiscent of that at Mound B, type Etowah site, where five seasons of field work uncovered a succession of house floors and occupational levels with the lowest or earliest represented in the large "trash pits" which were submound in provenience. These huge garbage pits were rich in bone tools at Etowah.

The character of the fill elements and the early cultural material included would suggest that borrowing from the general occupation area had gouged into Woodland campsites. An effort to trace these borrowings to specific mined areas, to run down the Woodland occupations, was unsuccessful.

It seems definite that Mound 1 at Chauga was an intentional construction, although the functional interpretation is not clear since there was no superstructure and burials are not clearly associated with this structure. A raised earthen platform was provided, possibly used as a ceremonial dais or dance platform. Residential accumulation of midden on a prepared floor is not indicated.



MOUND 2

After use of Mound 1 was discontinued construction began on Mound 2. Soil very similar to that found in Mound 1 was added to an average depth of 1.5' and capped with about 0.3' of the tough blue-grey clay. The center of building activity was shifted somewhat to the north extending the dimensions two to three feet along the northwest and northeast sides. The southwest and southeast sides were practically confluent with the precedent structure.

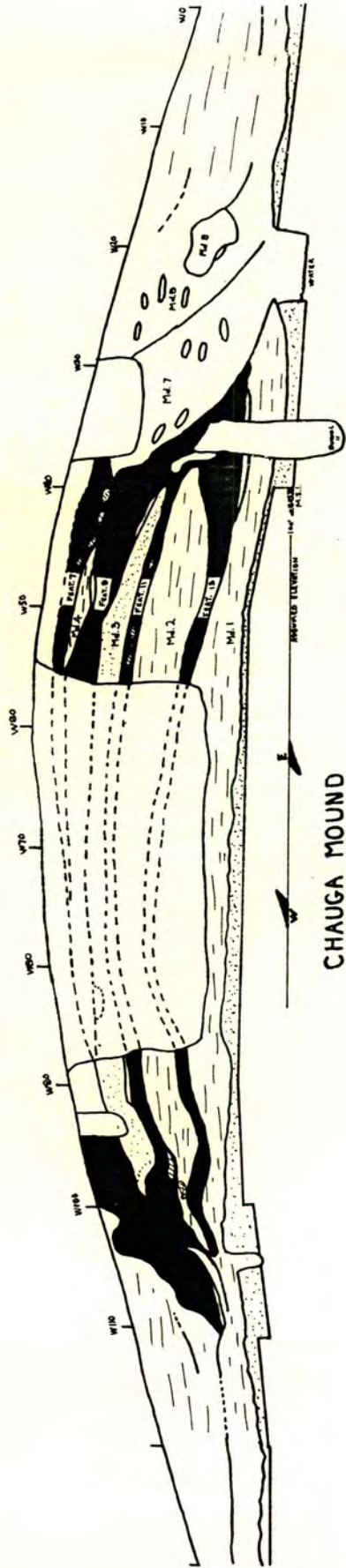
Many desired details were obscured regarding this structure because of the disruption caused by five of the previous excavations which intruded into the body of Chauga mound. Something of the original form was reconstructed by careful excavation of the surviving marginal remnants. Although the contours are irregular, it appears that the dimensions of Mound 2 were slightly less than those of Mound 1.

Mound 2 was nearly square and about forty feet across at the base and between twenty and twenty-five feet at the summit. Its maximum datum elevation is 106' or 1.5' above the top of Mound 1. The clay cap carries out the shallow trough defining the bottom edge, with a not so obvious hump bordering the rim.

Masses of water-worn boulders were imbedded in the base of the cap on the southwest, northwest and northeast flanks. This feature of imbedded stones in blue clay cap was repeated in successive mound constructions, and is evidently a significant item of mound construction. Several hypothetical explanations could be offered: for one that these massed stones in clay cap lenses helped to stabilize the clay against soil creep and erosion (at Etowah, Mound C, Lewis Larson found huge stone fills to erosional scars on the flanks of the mound, an example of prehistoric stabilization). Again, the interesting view was expressed at Chauga during excavation that these boulders, imbedded in the matrix of the blue clay cap, might have served as grade markers to help in defining contours and relative depth so that in covering them there would be a uniform blanketing of the mound with the clay bonding material.

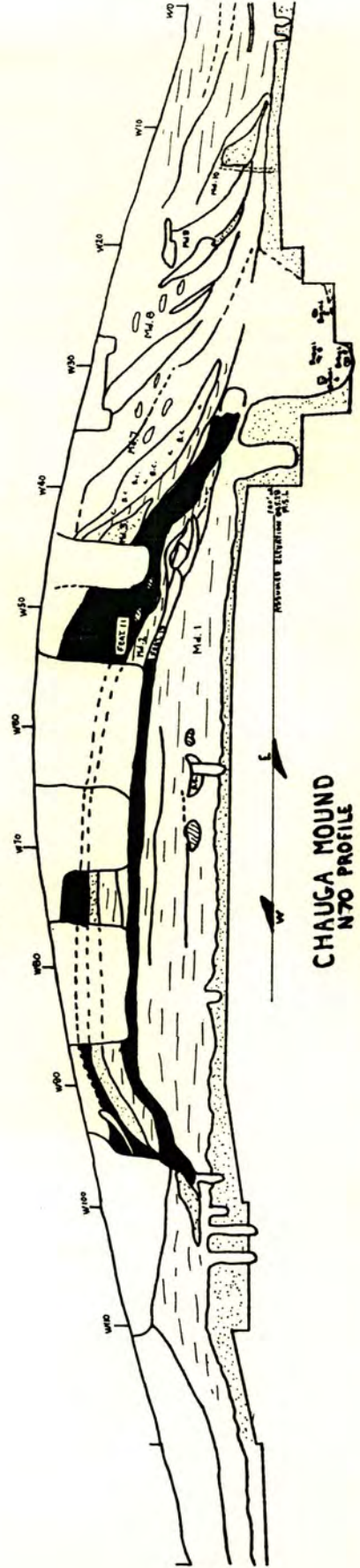
Four remnants of logs were found spotted along the edges of the northwest and northeast flanks of Mound 2. Most of the southeast one-third of the mound had been destroyed by previous unqualified excavations.

As in the case of Mound 1, the clay capping extended several feet beyond the edge of the mound slope.



**CHAUGA MOUND
N60 PROFILE**

1. GRAVEL
 2. SAND
 3. CLAY
 4. SILT
 5. LIME
 6. PLASTER
 7. BRICK
 8. CONCRETE
 9. METAL
 10. GLASS
 11. WOOD
 12. OTHER



**CHAUGA MOUND
N70 PROFILE**

1. GRAVEL
 2. SAND
 3. CLAY
 4. SILT
 5. LIME
 6. PLASTER
 7. BRICK
 8. CONCRETE
 9. METAL
 10. GLASS
 11. WOOD
 12. OTHER

MOUND 3

Form and details of nearly two-thirds of this stage had been destroyed by the combined forces of pitting, plowing, and erosion. The northwest and northeast flanks were fairly well preserved. An area of the summit about 30 feet by 8 gave some detail as to a former superstructure.

The mound had been a truncated pyramid with a basal diameter of about 52 feet and nearly 30 feet across the summit. It was oriented in the same direction as the previous two mounds and blanketed their superficies. The fill consisted of a bright tan sand, averaging 1.5' in thickness, which exhibited organic streaking in some places, suggesting that the fill had been placed at intervals of building. Some other explanation of this streaking than an organic theory might be responsible.

A clay cap covered the entire sand fill and extended down the flanks and beyond the margins of the mound fill. A well defined marginal trough and exterior rim marked the basal perimeter of the mound. The pattern of construction following earlier models very closely. Only the content of the fill differed: scant cultural material came from either the sand or the clay.

The cap, about 0.4' thick, exhibited the smooth or trampled undulations of surface seen in the previous capping. Numerous rotted log molds were troweled out at the edge of and parallel to the northwest and northeast sides. Two of these crossed at the north corner. Several log molds were brought out part way up the slope of the sides. The implications of a mesh of logs, cribbed, confining the slopes of Mound 3, offered a somewhat stronger parallel here to the situation uncovered by J. R. Caldwell at the Tugalo mound.

Numerous postholes, some suggesting a vague alignment, pierced the cap on the flanks and at the bottom edges. There is definite evidence of a superstructure here but little can be reconstructed from the architectural detail that could be recorded on top of Mound 3. This is most unfortunate as Caldwell obtained excellent architectural recordations of his summit structures at Tugalo mound, and in the light of other suggested parallels between Chauga and Tugalo opportunity to compare temples or important public buildings on these pyramids would be of critical importance.

The maximum datum elevation of the summit was 107 feet.

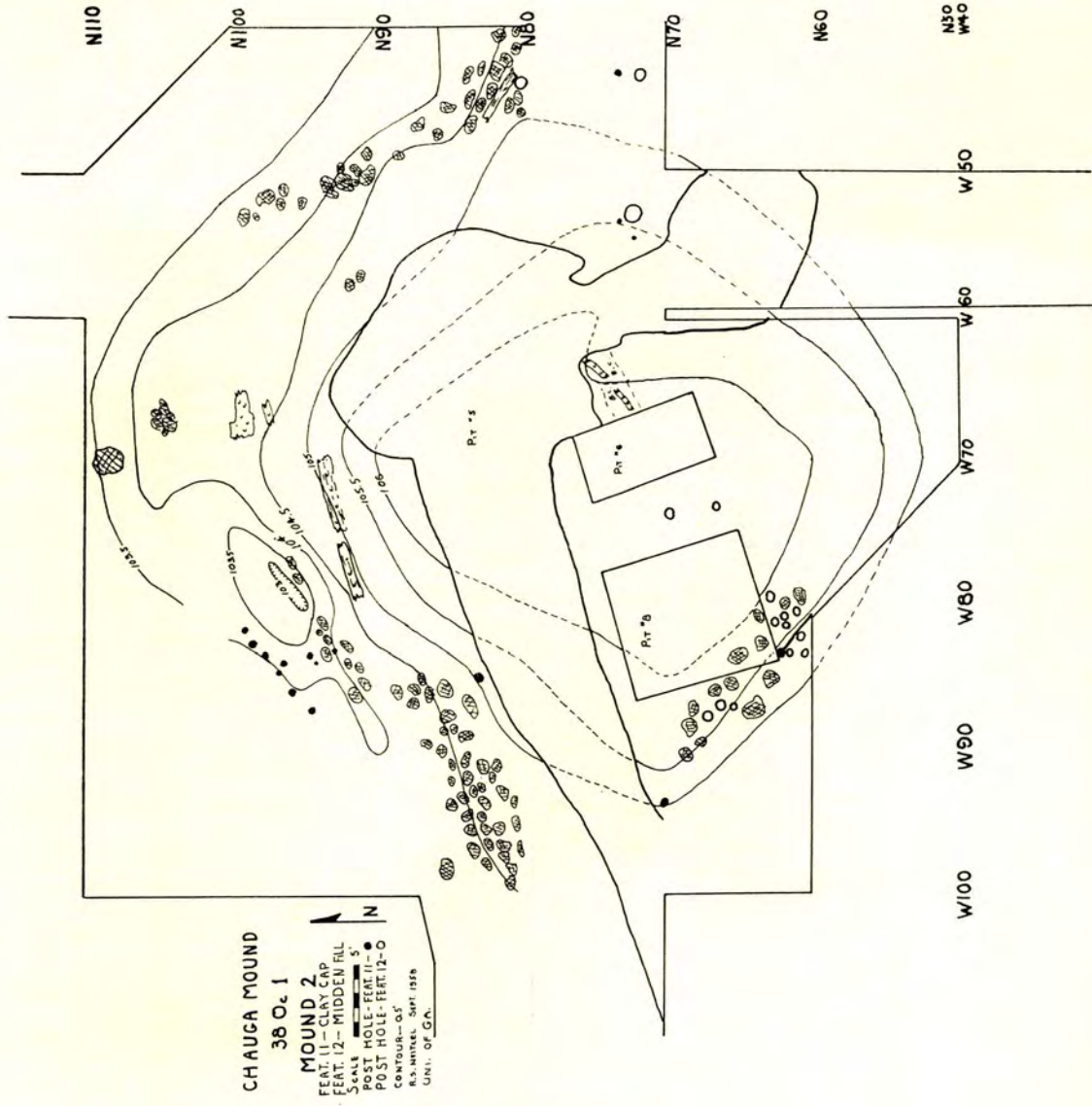


PLATE 3

The clay cap was carefully removed and the underlying sand mound surface contoured. Apparently considerable cultural activity had taken place on this surface. Numerous postholes were exposed, ranging in size from those made by cane stalks up to a few that were 0.5' to 0.7' in diameter. These were clustered along the northwest edge of the summit. One post was charred in situ and a portion lay on the sand surface near this butt. Fire coloring of the sand showed in several places. Molds of portions of eight poles about 0.1' in diameter lay parallel to each other and about two and a half feet apart. Their ends abutted on the northwest edge of the summit so that they were oriented northwest to southeast. They suggest the remains of some sort of roof or wall lattice, though there were no cross members. Among the scattered charcoal fragments near the charred post was a wall remnant of charred, closely parallel pieces of whole cane. No weaving was evident. A compact roof or wall construction detail was implied.

What was assumed to be a poorly defined wall trench, 1.5' wide and 25 feet long and from 0.4' to 1.0' deep, ran from the west corner of the summit to the north corner. There it made a distinct rounded angle turn to the southeast and was lost about five feet in the edge of the large looter's pit. It could be detected faintly in the vertical section of the pit.

A similar turn in the west corner under three of the pole molds is possible but the signs are not too clear. The fill consisted of some stained sand, but for the most part was the blue clay used in the clay capping. Numerous postmolds, as mentioned above, showed in this clay fill, the remainder were scattered inside and outside the trench. About eight or ten feet to the northeast of the west corner the trench ventured to the rim of the mound summit. It had been noticed in troweling while clearing the cap from the flank of the mound at this point, that there were two layers of clay separated by a thin streak of soiled sand extending part way down the side of the mound. The situation here was extrapolated as evidence of a patching job, possibly some prehistoric stabilization at a point where the sand slope and first layer of clay had been broken by erosion threatening the structure on top of Mound 3. The second lens of clay was added and the wall was stabilized by filling with tough blue clay around the supporting posts. A charred upright post stub was found in the trench and quantities of charred cane and thatch were strewn lengthwise through the bottom of the trench. Certainly the evidence of fire was pretty general in the preserved section of this superstructure. Burned clay rubble mixed with charcoal and ash were to be seen in the north 50, 60, 70, and 80 profiles, marking the lower slope of this mound, support the interpretation of firing and eventual sweeping or cleaning of the

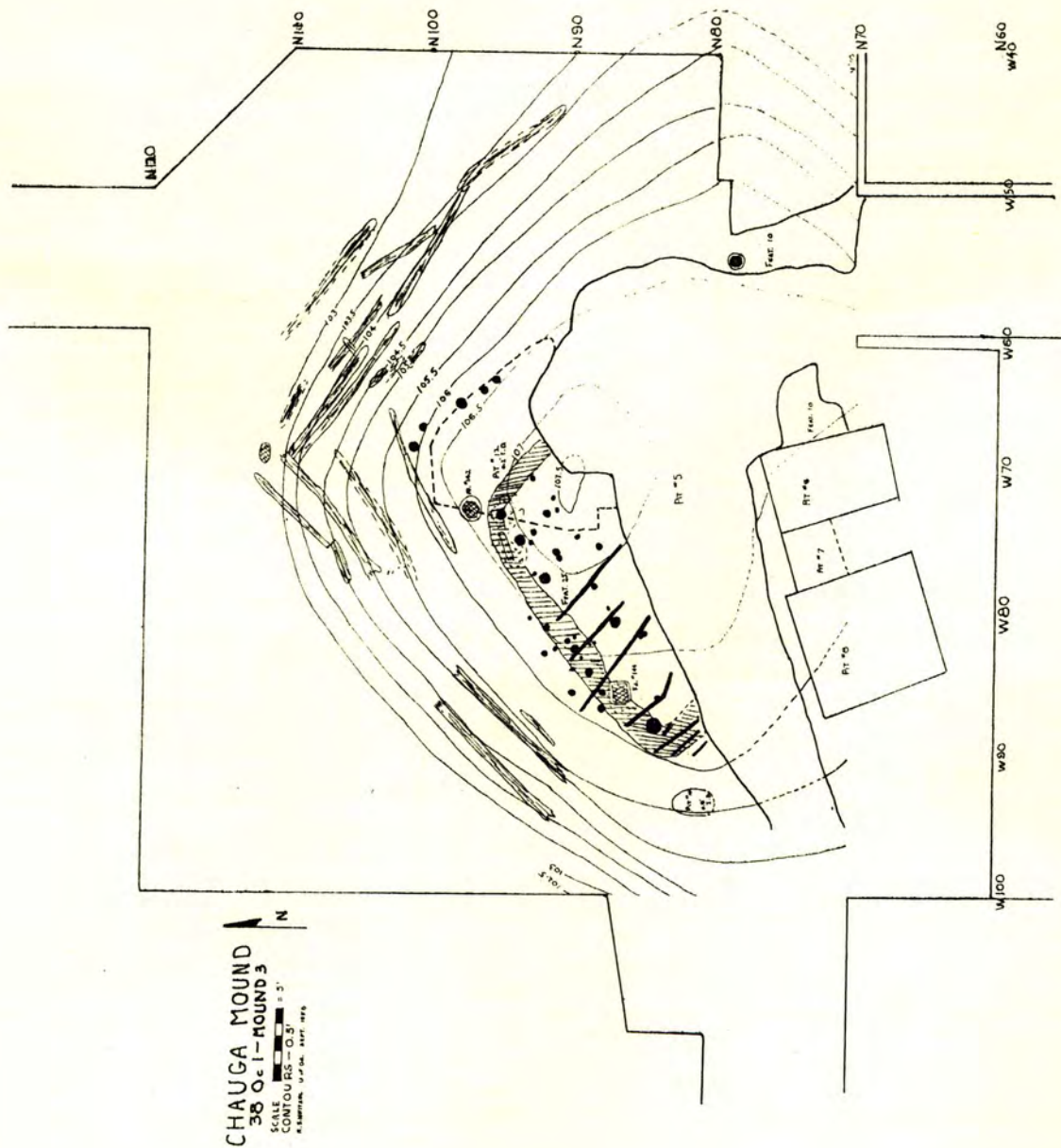


PLATE 4

fired area. Thin sheets of ash were found both above and below the clay cap on the northwest and northeast slopes of the mound.

A rather unique feature consists of three unusual large post molds, which may throw some light on the nature of the superstructure on top of Mound 3. These appeared at the surface of the sand fill as a clearly defined circular clay ring in the sand matrix. One was slightly northeast of the west corner of the mound, the second occurred a short distance to the southwest of the north corner, and the third at the east corner of the mound summit. Presumably, there had been a fourth at the south corner, but total destruction of the mound in this area permits only an inference. One of these rings was sliced down horizontally in thin sections, the other two were investigated by removing the sand fill inside the rings. The anomalous postmold at the north corner was a little over 1.0' deep. At the bottom there was a broken hexagonal flat stone imbedded in a blue clay matrix. This was broken with the pieces depressed toward the center which would have been the bearing portion for a heavy upright supporting timber. The diameter was 1.5'. The second ring at the west corner was almost identical in size and depth, but had a broken, centrally depressed square stone slab imbedded in the clay matrix. The hole at the east corner was 1.0' in diameter and extended downward over a foot until it intruded onto the surface of the clay cap of Mound 2. It contained no stone slab at the bottom. These equally spaced postholes and foundations strongly suggest three stalwart corner posts for a rather substantial structure. The feature of large key posts resting on stone slabs was encountered at the Estatoe site in 1959.

In summary of Mound 3, here on a definitely truncated pyramid, for the first time, we have substantial evidence of a definite superstructure: wall trench, horizontal massing and distribution of cane and thatch, strong corner post supports with basal rock foundations, evidence of a roof or wall lattice construction, and finally, charred areas with ash lenses, implying a burning of the structure with eventual cleaning off of the area preparatory to new mound construction.

MOUND 4

Mound 4 was the uppermost mound stage which was sufficiently preserved to yield fairly adequate details as to form and purpose. The now familiar combination of midden or sand fill capped with a clay plate was repeated here. The fill was made up of brownish grey midden soils with very indistinct lensing or loading. The proximity

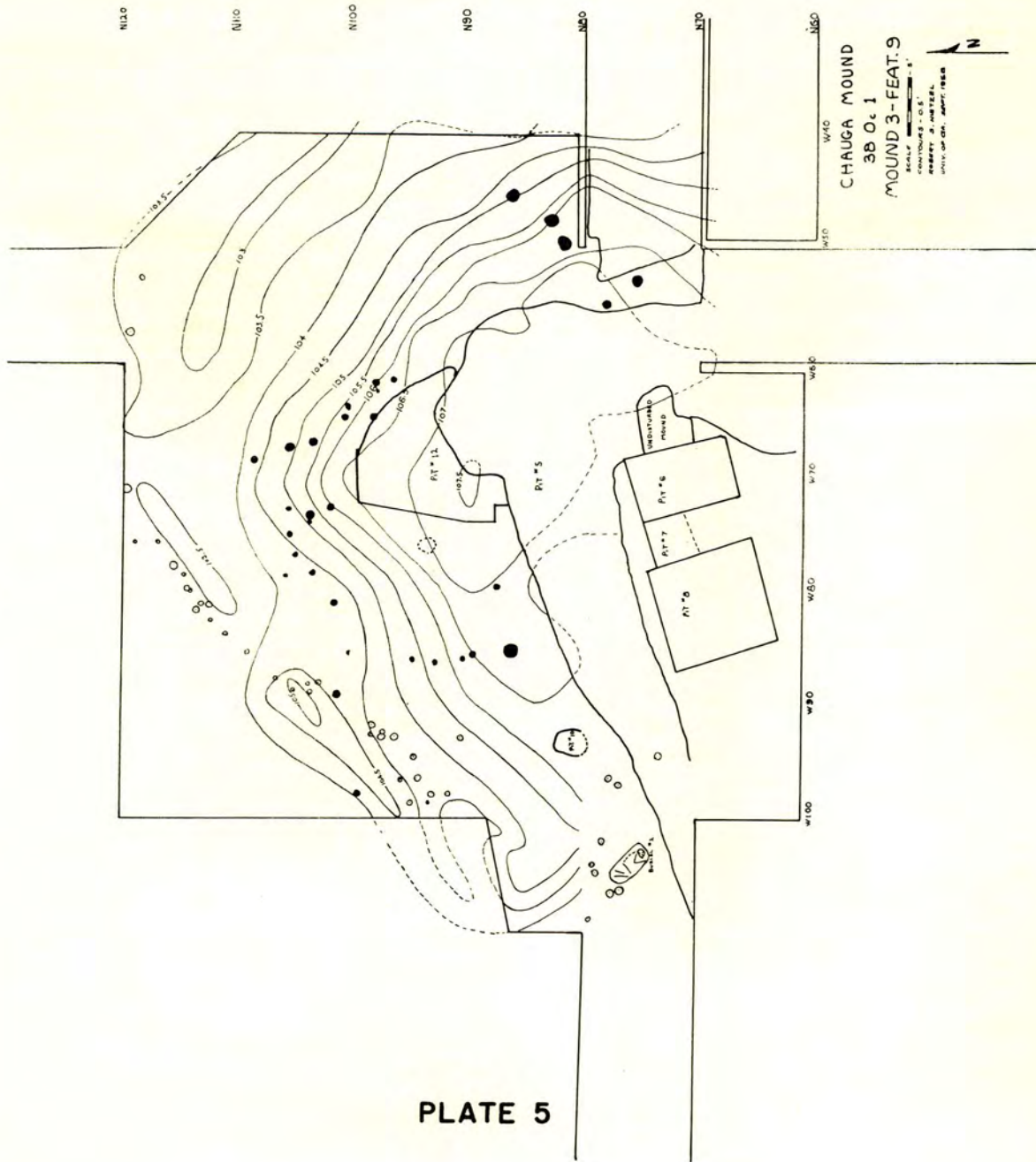


PLATE 5

to the ground surface led to attendant damage from plowing and extensive pitting had sheared away much of the clay cap. Hardly more than the north half of the mound stage remained.

Mound 4 was almost directly superimposed over Mound 3. It had basal dimensions of about 55' and an estimated 30' across the summit. The maximum datum elevation was 107.5'. Some 0.5' of plow disturbed soil was removed to expose the thin section that remained. Judging from undisturbed cross-sections under the capping on the flanks, the fill had once been fairly uniform and about 1.5' thick. The clay plate conformed to the appearance of previous members, being about 0.4' thick and with a contorted surface. The cap extended beyond the edge of the midden fill and was fused with the clay extensions of the other mound structures. The marginal trough and hump previously noted were present. The various clay caps spread-eagled beyond the edges of the interspersed mound fills tended to merge into a compact, homogeneous mass in which it was difficult or impossible to separate out the individual plates. Postholes, 0.4' to 0.7' in diameter and aligned along the summit edges of the northwest and northeast sides indicated some sort of superstructure at least 30' square.

No log molds were found but masses of medium sized to large water-worn boulders were strewn along the flanks. The distribution shows a tendency to be grouped just below the summit edge and along the margin of the base. Some of the boulders had apparently been artifacts: some were crude mortars, one or two suggest large axe or maul forms. Strategic placement of these boulders on mound flanks is a recurrent feature and very likely had something to do with the stabilization of the mound made at the time of original construction. These stone clusters at Chauga are reminiscent but not completely similar to the mantled stone over superimposed house floors at the Estatoe site. Three postholes appeared on the sloping sides near the north corner of the mound. Thin lenses of ash uncovered immediately under the clay cap near the bottom edges would appear to suggest sweeping or cleaning off of the original surfaces. Since the floor section of the superstructure, and most of the upper midden fill had been destroyed in previous excavations there is no way to check in situ evidences of fire. The midden fill remaining was fairly rich in cultural debris. While Mound 4 provided a good random sample of pottery and artifacts for stratigraphic analysis, the architectural details on superstructure were practically nil.

CHAUGA MOUND
38 O.E.I. MOUND 4
 CONTIGUOUS - O.E.I.
 F.F. HERRICK U.S.G.A. SEPT. 1979

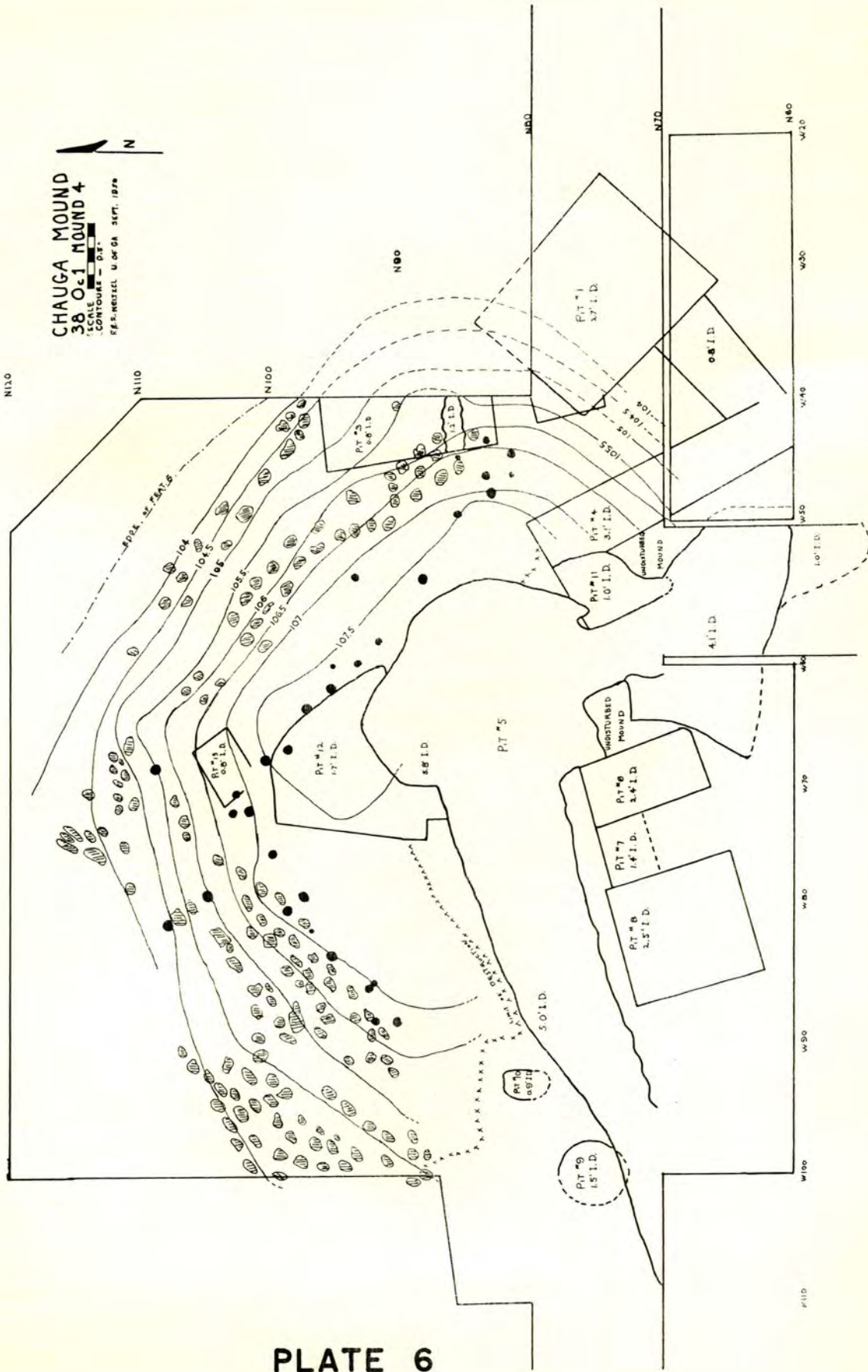


PLATE 6

MOUND 5

All subsequent mound constructional history is fragmented by prior excavations on the site. Fortunately, the existence of these mound stages, and some good archeological context for included materials, can be determined from the outlying mound slopes preserved in the northern and western edges of the 10-foot profile sections of the grid. Enough profile data remain to indicate that Mound 5 blankets Mound 4 uniformly, consisting of a layer (about 1.0') of clean sand, capped with the blue clay plate. Any remaining constructional observations are confined to the flank areas where the clay cap averages around 1.0' thick. Four squares in the northeast quadrant were stripped horizontally in order to make stratigraphic collections, but very little cultural material was recovered. The clay surface exhibited the usual trampled, undulatory surface. Toward the periphery the cap of Mound 5 merged with the matrix of fused clay caps derived from previous mound constructions and served to accentuate the steep marginal hump.

MOUND 6

If anything, Mound 6 is even more fragmentary than Mound 5. For the greater part only a clean sand zone testifies to its former presence. In a few places in the north quadrant, dislodged and broken clumps of clay show that a covering clay plate once existed. Two squares offered an opportunity for stratigraphic collections but relatively little material was found. Sparse material in good context necessitated the combining of Mounds 5 and 6 in the pottery analysis.

Mound 6 represents the terminal use of the blue clay as capping over basketloaded elements. Of course, the original summit portions were completely absent and the question might remain open as to whether the summits were actually capped. We can only assume that there were structures but there is no evidence of that, or of the capping, except as dislodged materials in slope debris. Mound 6 did have a clay cap on the slopes, and may be presumed to have had one on the summit. Subsequently there is no evidence of a clay cap even in these peripheral segments preserved from the original mound constructions.

A row of medium sized postholes, probably representing a palisade or retaining wall, was co-terminous with the humped, steep edge of

the northwest side of the final clay capped mound. This feature was traced for a distance of 32 feet along the featheredge of the mound. The suggestion of a retaining wall specially constructed to shore up and hold the terminal mound is recurrent at Chauga. This arrangement had a parallel in the recovery of a stockade-like arrangement at Tugalo. As indicated in the discussion of the mound burials, there is a further implication that some of the burials seem to have been grouped or located with reference to this terminal wall section, again a trait of mound architectonics found at Tugalo.

MOUND 7

Mounds 7, 8, 9, 10 exist only as flank remnants and are seen in profile on the south and east sides of the mound area. Cross-section cuts through the southeast quadrant were made in order to gather as much evidence as possible as to their former shape and extent.

Despite the wholesale obliteration of the summit and upper slope portions of these mounds, the conclusion seems fairly justified that with these terminal mounds there is evidence of a new technique of mound construction. Profiles to the north and west indicate that the main mound was not added to in those directions. Certainly there were substantial additions to the southeast flank of the mound. There is, as previously stated, no lateral evidence of clay capping.. These final "mounds" may have been localized, apron-like additions, sutured onto the main body of the mound. The schematic reconstruction of mound architectonics should be consulted.

Mound 7 consists of moderately homogeneous, lensed buff and grey silts. Similar soil is available on nearby eroded highlands. The plane of lensing is horizontal for the most part, but the strike of the slope, despite erosional interruptions, approaches forty-five degrees. If it were continuous over the top of the mound and the addition were comparable to that on the flanks there would have to be added 1.5' to 2.0' of earth to the mound's height. Outwash material does imply that some erosion took place prior to the addition of the next mantle.

MOUND 8

Mound 8 was theoretically reconstructed as an apron-like extension made on the same order as Mound 7. The fill was made up

for the most part of a light grey, tan silt containing midden streaks. The strike of the slope is not as abrupt as in Mound 7 and the plane of deposition of the lenses tends to conform to the mound slope. If the flank deposits are a clue, Mound 8 is calculated to have contributed a foot or more to the height of the mound. Attempts to strip the mound surfaces were not very successful because of lack of contrast between the two fills.

MOUND 9

The attenuated data imply that we have here a minor but distinct addition to the southeast side of the mound. Some doubt exists as to whether there was any real increment to the summit, but this is conjectural. The fill showed sharply contrasting yellowish soil, with some blue-black clay mixed with midden. The suggestion is that we have here a fairly small, possibly local addition to the mound, and if the summit were raised the increase in height would seem to have been slight.

Profiles of the margin were plotted horizontally and the edge was seen to bulge outward considerably from what was presumably a straight, flat mound side. What is preserved in profile suggests an apron or possibly a ramp added to the southeast side. A row of small, cane (?) posts or stakes coincided with the extreme southeast toe. One charred cane was preserved in profile. There is indication here that the barrier confined the fill of the mantle. A wedge shaped, laminated curb of sand outside the cane fence indicated erosional outwash from the mound slope.

MOUND 10

A final accretional element of mottled basketloaded soil exhibited in the profile sections of the terminal grid is the slender evidence for the existence of Mound 10. There was a slight bulge, about 1.0' thick, to conform with the shape of the underlying mound. No heavy mass of truncated material has accumulated beyond featheredge as outwash sheets. In this instance, the survey trenching failed to disclose any evidence of associated postmold patterns implying a stockade around mound periphery. Mound 10 was hardly larger than Mound 9. Again, it could have been no more than a small apron or ramp structure, an architectural appendage to the preceding structure.

VILLAGE AREA EXPLORATION

Activity in this area will be discussed under two categories since final mound exploration and village survey were going on simultaneously, and the village unit was undertaken to get a check against the mound materials and to search for a rotunda site. It was not considered that the final mound construction at Chauga offered sufficient floor space for a good town house installation.

Exploratory trenches were established in an area about 150 feet southeast of the mound proper in order to test a prominent rise in the ground which had yielded considerable surface collections. It was hoped that additional historic material could be obtained, inasmuch as the mound had produced trade only along the peripheries. Finally, there was hope that village exploration might yield evidence of domestic structures, summer and winter houses of the historic Cherokee.

While this exploration in the village was initiated, two men were retained at the mound to work out a few deep burials. Two of these interments yielded the first Southern Cult burial associations at Chauga. One pit containing Burial 23 was especially deep as it was necessary to carry a whole ten foot square down seven feet below the peripheral mound surface before the burial could be brought out. The profile was trimmed because it was difficult to understand why stone fragments and even pottery were discovered at such a depth and outside the immediate confines of the pit.

The profile revealed that there were two buried occupational horizons far below the present surface. One of these came in at about 3.5 feet below the outwash surface and the other at 4.5 feet. In further excavations here good profile indications were obtained to show the presence of two deep lying buried soil horizons. It was decided to move ten feet farther east away from the mound to make stratigraphic tests. Three additional squares were carried down so as to furnish a thirty foot profile from north to south. This section cut across a low rise lateral to but at some distance from the river bank, probably a natural levee thrown up during flooding.

The cross-section of this profile deserves comment. Two horizons were defined, analagous to those already identified in the first deep test. There were no surface intrusions, and large quantities of stone were associated with the general zone of each horizon. Many of the stones were cracked as though by fire, and many, especially the quartz specimens, appeared to be good workshop

material. Numerous flakes were also found and a few quartz tools. Charcoal flecks were in the soil horizons which did not occur in the sterile zones in between.

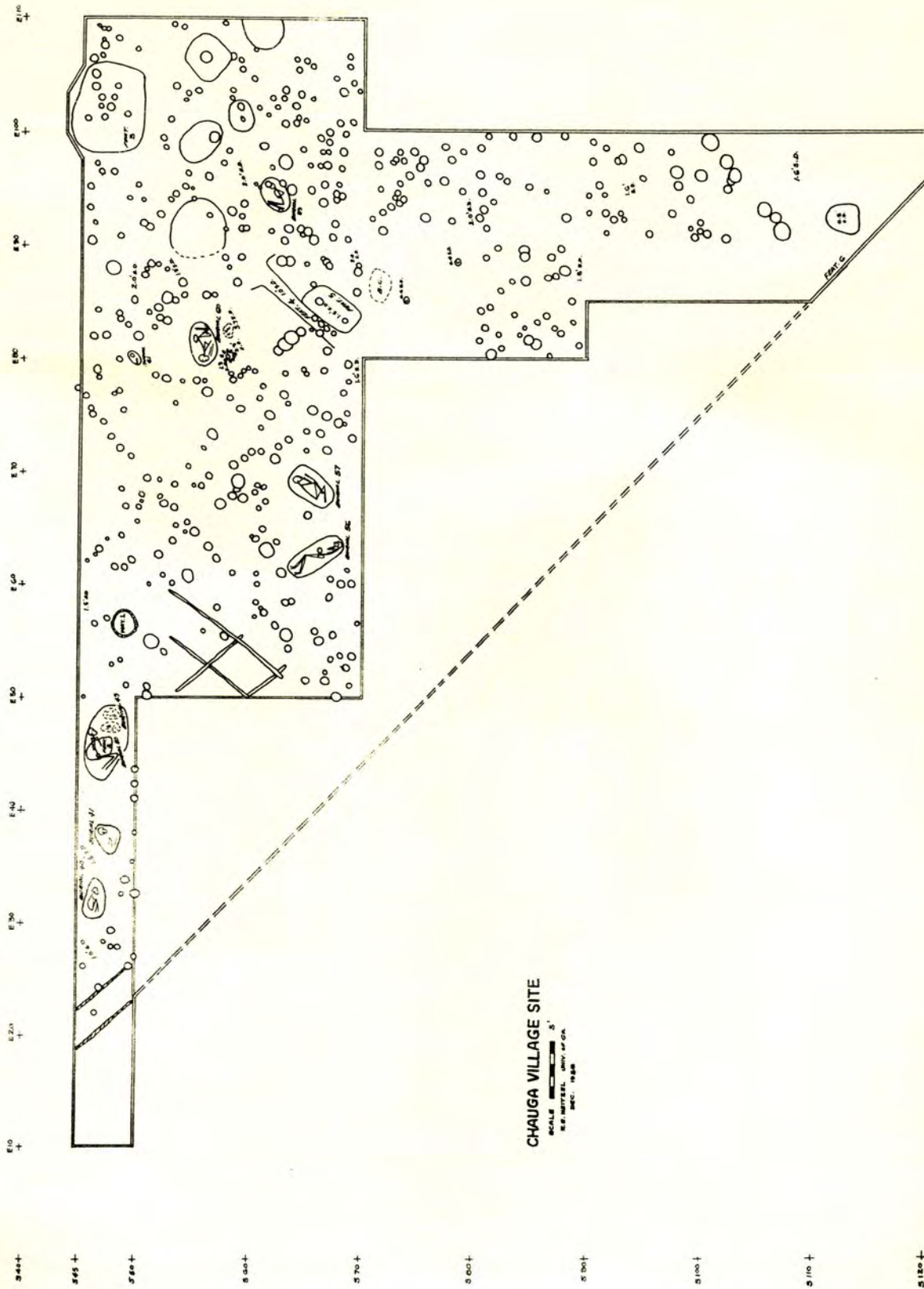
MOUND AND VILLAGE EXPLORATIONS

The 30-foot section carried to a depth of 12 feet at one point, and provided ample area to assess the nature of the deep horizons and to provide good soil contrasts. Relatively clean sand provided a sterile layer between the two buried occupation levels and persisted for some 20 feet from north to south. There was a tendency for the two zones to merge at the extremities and to bulge in the center, which led to the interpretation that the profile panel cut through a natural levee. It appeared to be a case of successive natural levee depositions. Including the present surface, three separate and distinct alluvial surfaces were available for habitation at different times.

The nature of the habitations on the two old levels was not ascertained at first due to the paucity of material. A similar deep test on the west edge of the mound revealed some charcoal zoning at five feet beneath the surface, but no stones, cores or flakes. Another deep test was put down 100 feet east of the mound in the village area with similar negative results, except that a pile of small water-worn stones was found grouped around a posthole four feet below the present surface. Nearby was a substantial deposit of charcoal.

To supplement this rather inconclusive array of information a series of eight tests were put down in the vicinity of Chauga Creek to the north and east of the site. These varied in depth from 3.0' to 7.0'. Charcoal was recovered at various depths, but no clear cut horizons could be established and no vestige of cultural material was found.

The situation in regard to the two buried occupations is illustrated in the adjoining text. The profile cross-sections between N30 and N60 on the north-south line cross sections a superposed natural levee situation on the east side of the mound. The upper deep horizon, Horizon I, in the diagram, is separated from the lower Horizon II by a moderately sterile, humped deposition of waterlaid sand. The sterile basic sand under Horizon II also shows this hump as does the more superficial, moderately sterile sand upon which the later cultural material of mound and village was laid down. It would seem to be a typical natural levee situation in scale



CHAUGA VILLAGE SITE
 SCALE 1" = 5'
 U.S. ARMY CORP. OF ENGRS.
 WASH. D.C. 1948

with the site of the nearby Tugalo river.

Both horizons contain large quantities of water-worn stone mostly .3 to .5 feet in diameter, many broken and chipped, a few flakes, quartz and quartzite chunks, some roughly chipped blades and projectile points. No evidence of fire occurred in situ.

The material from this profile section was homogeneous, consisting chiefly of workshop material. This included seven artifacts, along with five potsherds occurring at depths of four to seven feet in the buried occupation level. A large quantity of broken and spalled quartzite and quartz, with some granite pieces, would seem to justify the identification of a workshop.

The artifacts consist of projectiles (five in number) and two blade-like tools which are of the type assigned by Joseph R. Caldwell to his Old Quartz culture, described from numerous site collections made in a succession of river basin surveys in the north and northeast Georgia Piedmont region.

However, the inexplicable occurrence of five potsherds in this workshop horizon must be accounted for. They seem to be representative of pottery found in the fill to mound construction and there is no evidence of intrusion from the surface in the profiled sections of these deep cuts. One sherd, an obliterated stamp of the variety cataloged in the mound series as "Roughened", with paste characteristics like that of Etowah III pottery, was seen in situ by the archeologist-in-charge.

Ordinarily, this mass of workshop materials, and the quartz and quartzite artifacts themselves, would be definitely assigned to an archaic occupation in the Georgia Piedmont region. The few potsherds of a relatively late provenience, not even allocated to Woodland, might well have fallen into the test excavation from the surface without this being perceived by the excavators.

Other outlying excavation units to a corresponding depth failed to duplicate the quantity of material at these correlated levels, except for some charcoal and one pile of stone and a postmold.

The presence of charcoal is not necessarily dependent on human occupation. It could occur at random and in appreciable quantities at various depths through an area subject to gradual accretion. Even a small brush fire could furnish appreciable quantities to be floated over the surface of an overflow area. This random flecking is in distinct contrast to the occurrence in the fairly well defined horizons immediately east of the mound.

VILLAGE EXPLORATION

Exploration of the village site proper was essentially a shallow test. Subsoil definition of pits and postholes was attained at from 1.08 to 2.0' beneath the surface. The posts occurred at random and probably represented several prolonged occupations. One fairly well defined row 35 feet long gave some promise of structure but nothing could be developed in extending the survey area.

An interesting storage or fire pit was found at the base of the plow zone and about five feet north of the above pole pattern. It was a circular bowl, fashioned by placing small canes and at least one corn cob upright in the ground. Loose dirt was filled in and around these supports. Some charcoal and evidence of light firing were present on the interior. The pit was 2.2' in diameter and 0.6' deep. It contained a constricted neck pot nested within a flared rim bowl, along with two other partially restorable vessels. Sifting of the soil here yielded glass beads, a musket ball, and other historic material. The provenience was good to give whole pottery vessels belonging to the historic Cherokee village occupation. Numerous charred food items were also recovered in the debris; charred corn kernels, peach and plum seeds, and beans. The hearth was of unusual construction. (See plates)

One puzzling feature was uncovered in the opening square of the exploratory trench. Two streaks, 0.1' wide, of organic matter were seen in clean sand. When viewed in profile they were seen to have considerable depth. They extended from the base of the plow zone to a depth of 0.8' into subsoil. The bottom edge was squared. The two members were exactly three feet apart and lay diagonally across the floor of the trench running from northwest to southeast. They were not followed out then as it was more urgent to push the exploratory trench farther east to probe the village area. Eighty feet east of these curious finds another ten foot trench was carried south for 70 feet into what proved to be rich middens. In cleaning off the overburden to examine the subsoil three similar parallel streaks spaced three feet apart were seen. These extended down 0.9' into subsoil and had squared inferior edges. By projecting the course of their declination it was seen that they would join or coincide with the first two streaks 90 feet to the northwest.

Although it was realized that closure of the excavation was imminent, due process occurred more suddenly than anticipated and it was necessary to dismiss the crew at close of work at the end of

that day. It is to be regretted that it was impossible to spend more time, which may have been considerable, in tracing out the extent of these puzzling features in the extended village area. It is impossible to suggest an interpretation from present evidence, but they resemble nothing so much as one inch planks buried standing on edge. No further information is available as to their significance. One other curious manifestation which has not been interpreted was encountered in the village midden. What appeared to be a wall trench was traced at the base of the plow zone. It was conspicuous in the black midden by reason of the quantities of tan subsoil contained in its fill. A cross-section indicated that it widened abruptly toward its bottom. The entire square was cleaned up preparatory to tracing its extent. As the dividing line between midden and subsoil was approached the "trench" disappeared. Immediately adjacent to it an oblong pit 5' by 2.5' with clean cut sides, obviously dug with a shovel or slightly curved blade, was apparent. Two pieces of rotted wood lay in the top of the black fill. Anticipating a coffin burial the entire area was carefully trowelled down. The black fill disappeared within a depth of 0.4'. It would appear that a shallow pit had been dug from near the surface barely into subsoil. What was first presumed to have been a trench was apparently a pile of dirt stacked alongside the pit from which it had been removed. Nine burials were found in the village area. For the most part they resemble the deep interments under the mound. One was a thin assembly of charred and calcined bone. The cremated remains had been deposited in the extreme top of a deep, oval pit which contained a typical flexed burial. The pits ranged from 1.4' to 4.3' beneath the surface. Burial 60, an adult female, was accompanied by a turtle shell gorget, beads and a cache of miscellaneous objects placed under the skull. Burial 61 was a child accompanied by an engraved shell gorget and square cut discs and beads (See plates).

BURIALS

Sixty-two burials were exposed in the mound and village site excavations. The nine found in the village tract have been referred to briefly elsewhere. The present discussion is concerned with certain details of all burials in both areas as well as specific artifact association. The accompanying tabulation chart contains this and other detailed information pertinent to burials from both localities. The following summary has been abstracted from the chart detail.

Fifteen male and eleven female burials were positively identified. The remaining thirty-three individuals were indeterminate because of

bone deterioration or age factors. This group contained four children, seven infants, and one juvenile.

Age

It was possible to recognize some grouping by age. One female was senile, 18 were mature or up to 45 years, 20 were adult, ranging to about 30 years, and the others were either very young or unclassifiable.

Condition

The bone preservation left much to be desired. Fifty-one were partly flexed, 16 fully flexed, 6 bundled, 7 could not be determined, and one was cremated.

Orientation

The long axis of each interment was usually at forty-five degrees from the cardinal directions. Fifteen had the head placed to the northeast, 12 to the southeast, 7 to the northwest, 3 southwest and the remaining 25 due north, east, west, or indeterminable because of the disposition or condition of the burial.

The problem of reference of each burial to a specific mound period is occasionally subject to some indecision. Often it is possible to state only that a particular burial has been put down prior to the addition of Mound 7, for an example. This means that the burial could not have been placed later than Mound 7 construction, but it does not necessarily mean that the burial is in any way contemporary with Mound 7 or the short time interval during which it was being built. The burial could have been interred prior to any preceding mound construction and thus could have been associated, temporally, with any of the earlier construction phases.

The ensuing conclusions attempting to order the burial sequence is valid only in the sense that it designates the latest possible placement of each interment. Burials relegated to the premound category are subject to some indefiniteness too. Tight physical evidence for their stratigraphic provenience was simply unobtainable.

A summary of the burial chart reveals that two burials were specifically associated with Mound 1, and four with the edge or higher surface of Mound 2. Four had fairly substantial tie-ins with Mound 3 and four with Mound 5. Twelve burials were classed as prior to Mound 7; they could well have had as specific an association with Mounds 3, 4, 5, or 6. Four were identified with Mound 7; at least

one cut through its fill, and the others are earlier than Mound 8. Three placements appeared to have been associated with Mound 9 and one as late as Mound 10 construction. Concrete stratigraphy was not evident. Burial 13 has already been discussed in another section pertinent to its position in relation to late mound mantle deterioration.

Though not necessarily a unique feature, the variety of positions of the hands drew our attention. The cultural significance cannot be judged, but a summary may be important for further comparative studies.

Twenty of the burials could not be described in this particular either because they were bundle burials or too poorly preserved. Five had one forearm flexed across the abdomen or lower thorax and the other usually extended to the side or toward the legs. There were three with the hands or wrists crossed on the chest. The hands of six were variously placed with the arms extended to between the femora or toward the knees or pelvis. Four demonstrated the rather curious placement of one hand extended at the side and the opposite arm flexed back to the shoulder and the hand relaxed against the lower face or shoulder.

GRAVE GOODS

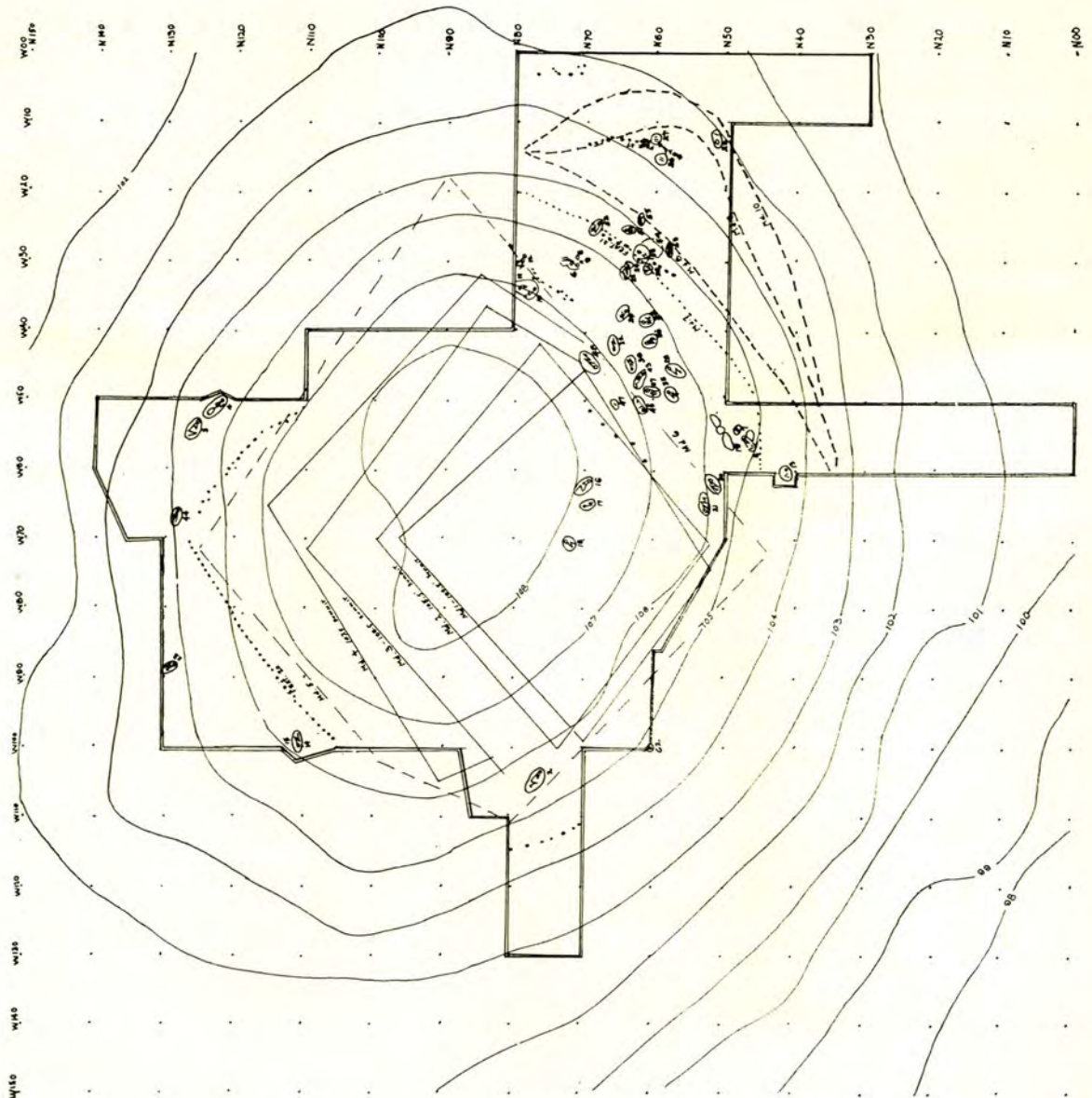
Twenty-three burials were accompanied by specifically placed artifacts. Miscellaneous potsherds and stone material were recovered from the pit fill of these and others.

Shell beads were the most popular grave accompaniment. Quantities of small and large disc, small tubular, barrel shaped, large and small spherical, olivella, marginella and large slightly modified columella forms were recovered. It was obvious that the larger types had been strung and usually suspended about the neck. Most of the smaller varieties appeared to have been sewn to a garment or wrapping.

There were a number of burials with and without shell beads and accompanied by other grave goods that are deserving of detailed description.

Burial 5

An adult male had been placed in a pit originating in the outwash surface of the margin of Mound 2. A charred section of a wooden pole lay between the left shoulder and the drawn up left knee. It could



CHAUGA MOUND
 38 Oc 1
 BASAL PERIPHERIES OF
 MOUND STRUCTURES +
 BURIAL DISTRIBUTION
 CONT'G. INT. 1
 SCALE 1" = 50'
 REPRODUCED FROM INT. 1

PLATE 7

have been an ember accidentally included with the burial or may have been a wooden tool or implement handle.

Burial 10

This was a mature female in fully flexed position. A fuzzy black material, possibly a skin remnant, extended over and under the bones of the upper body. Sections of the bones were stained black from contact with the substance. Numerous olivella beads were scattered under and about the torso and skull, limited to the area of the organic stain. No alignment or arrangement of the beads could be seen. Small tubular shell beads apparently sewed in orderly rows were found over and under the wrists which were thrust between the femora. A similar organic staining was noted on the bones of the shoulder area of Burial 11.

Burial 18

The bones of a child were contained in a pit traced in subsoil in the pre-mound surface. Evidence of some sort of shroud which enveloped the body and stained the bones was obvious. Several small, crumbly sandstone concretions were scattered through the soil near the top of the head. Their association with the burial is not certain, neither is their identity.

Burial 20

This was a mature male deposited in an oval pit discerned beneath the base of the mound. The body lay on its back with the legs flexed to the right, the right arm extended with the hand between the femora and the left arm flexed back so that the hand rested on the shoulder. There were traces of black stain on some of the bones. Small disc beads appeared to form a band around the left humerus. A neatly grooved piece of quartz, resembling a labret, lay to the right of the right elbow. A prism shaped piece of soft polished stone lay over the lower right thorax and an irregular piece of graphite was found under the skull.

Burial 27

This consisted of the teeth caps of an infant. The pit was dug into subsoil prior to the addition of the mantles of Mounds 9 and 10. Parts of two knobbed shell pins lay with the teeth and a fragment of a two-holed shell gorget lay to one side.

Burial 30

This was a deep interment. No pit outline was discernible, but the soil was mixed for 1.7' below Burial 27. It had been dug prior to the addition of Mounds 9 and 10. The bone was almost entirely disintegrated, but suggested an adult or mature individual, partly flexed on the left side. There was a string of spherical shell beads and a sliver of a scalloped edge shell gorget about the neck. Under the skull occiput and the beads was a scattered pile of tiny pebbles, suggesting the contents of a pouch or cache.

Burial 32

This consisted of the teeth caps and mandible of a child placed 0.5' below the base of Mound 9. There was a large, thick sheet of mica, a broken projectile point and miscellaneous stone chips in the vicinity of the teeth. Specific association is not certain.

Burial 35

Here a mature male had been placed on the back with legs flexed loosely to the left and hands crossed on the chest. Pit outlines could not be traced, but the origin in the southeast slope of Mound 7 showed clearly in profile. Apparently the burial was intrusive to an earlier placement since two extra long bone fragments were found near the head and the knees. A knobbed shell pin, obviously piercing the ear lobe, lay on the right side of the skull. The pin pointed downward and to the rear. A string of spherical shell beads encircled the neck and an engraved shell gorget lay under the chin. A cache, consisting of three triangular projectile points, two pebbles and a polished stone bar lay between the knees and elbows.

Burial 42

An adult male had been laid on its back with knees erect. The right arm was flexed with the hand resting on the shoulder. The left forearm lay across the chest towards the right shoulder. Subsoil disturbance obscured any pit outline and apparently another individual had been disturbed since bone fragments were scattered throughout the fill of the pit. A flat oval, tapered poll celt and four small polished steatite discoids lay over the right abdomen. There was a string of large spherical shell beads and cut pieces of conch shell about the neck, under the chin and over the right shoulder. A knobbed shell pin lay near the right ear.

Burial 48

The remains of a mature male dignitary accompanied by significant grave offerings had been placed in a pit which was clearly traceable from near the top of a thin midden outwash on the surface of Mound 3. It pierced the cap of Mound 2 and the attenuated edge of Mound 1, penetrating into subsoil. The body had been placed on its back, the legs partly flexed to the right, both arms extended. The right hand lay over the pelvis and the left extended under the wing of the left ilium. The face was turned slightly to the left and downward. A conch shell dipper was placed on the left forearm. A copper plate (see Plates) extended from the right shoulder, over the right thorax and extended over the edge of the dipper near the pelvis. A thin piece of mica lay midway on the copper plate. There was a thick organic substance above and below and in contact with the copper. There was no evidence of weaving, but after the plate was partly cleaned short segments of cord were seen to be threaded through small holes in the portions of the plate. The inference is that it had been sewed to some sort of material. A human figure was faintly evident on the superior surface. Details of the figure have been worked out more favorably after cleaning and preservation.

Burial 52

The outline of the pit of this interment could not be traced in subsoil, the implications are that the burial had been placed prior to Mound 7 loading. It contained a mature male, partly flexed on the right side with both hands to the face (see Plates). A broken fragment of thin copper was placed less than a foot in front of the hands, and a large conch shell dipper lay on its side partly over and behind the occiput. Partial cleaning revealed an intricate design of adjacent lozenges outlined by indentions overlaid repousse bars occurring in groups of three. The inference is that the sheet was formerly much larger and expressed a complete artistic or ceremonial motif.

Burial 58

Again general subsoil disturbance obscured any clear pit outlines. The interment is prior to Mound 7. This mature female was interred partly on the back and left side with the feet flexed tightly to the pelvis. The arms were semi-extended with the hands thrust between the femora. Four conch shell spoons were nested over the neck vertebrae and under the skin. A fifth lay under the right shoulder (see Plates). There was a disordered mass of marginella shell beads extending over the wrists and under the right forearm and rib

cage to the shoulder area. Some lay over the turned up posterior surface of the right ilium.

Burial 60

This interment was exposed in a deep pit in the village area 150 feet southeast of the mound. It was an adult female partly flexed on the right side. The head was tilted backward and the hands were near the face. A cut, perforated ventral plate of tortoise shell lay near the right elbow and a few marginella shell beads lay in strips along the under side of the skull, implying a headdress. In removing the skull in a matrix for preservation, a cache of objects was revealed under the right malar. A thin striated membrane resembling a dried leaf adhered to the bone. Under this was a triangular contorted slab of mineral stone, a curved or spoon-shaped cut conch shell, a piece of mica schist, an abraded soft red stone and a cancellous bone fragment. The latter may be from a fish or turtle.

Burial 61

This consisted of the badly disintegrated remains of a child placed in a subsoil pit in the village area. The body was placed on its back with the legs partly flexed to the right. A shell gorget, square cut perforated shell plates, and two shell beads reposed on its chest.

Although specific pit outlines could not always be traced as discussed elsewhere, all of the burials at the site were placed in prepared graves. The impressive depths of these pits is a conspicuous feature. The shallowest were slightly more than one foot in depth while the most extreme were nearly five feet deep. The majority were well over two feet deep with the norm being three to four feet. An analagous burial situation was noted at the Etowah site.*

In addition to the emphasis placed on the stratigraphical connotations of the burials at the site, something should be said concerning horizontal grouping. Interments were found in each of the coordinate trenches during the initial phases of excavation. Some of these were too far removed from the mound core to be associated with mound construction.

* Larson, Lewis H., Jr. --- Personal communication.

Burials 3, 4, 14, 15, 33, and 44 were so placed that it is possible to construe a fairly definite association with an exterior mound palisade, Feature 20, along the northwest and north edges of the general clay cap sequence of mound building. All except No. 44 are outside of the wall or palisade. Three postholes appearing in the bottom of the pit of the latter burial suggest that they were placed prior to the interment.

Seven burials show more or less specific exterior and interior association with the short segment of palisade, Feature 21, traced at the perimeter of Mound 7. Burials 52 and 58 were obviously placed before the palisade posts were erected, since they lay directly under the wall line.

Feature 27 was a fifteen foot, curved segment of a cane wall or fence specifically associated with the perimeter of Mound 9. Burial 26 was placed just inside the barrier and Burials 27 and 30 were just to the outside, suggesting a more or less specific association with the building of Mound 9 and its attendant retaining fence.

The general core area of the mound and the underlying pre-mound surface are conspicuously devoid of burials. As mentioned elsewhere only four were found in this tract.

Approximately forty of the mound burials are concentrated in a plot about thirty feet square on the southeast side of the mound. In general these tend to be contemporaneous with or later than the perimeters of Mounds 2, 3 and 4. The placements extend outward as far as the perimeter of Mound 8. It should also be noted that the most important interments, or those containing Southern Cult paraphernalia and other grave goods, are included in this rather narrow distribution.

Mention has been made in several instances, such as Burials 10, 18 and 20, of the presence of organic staining and residual material suggesting a cloth or skin wrapping. These burials are usually fairly tightly flexed. This feature was particularly noteworthy at the site of the Tugalo mound and village. Dr. A. R. Kelly and students from the University of Georgia examined burials outside the palisade of the terminal temple mound structure uncovered by J. R. Caldwell.

The instances there of tightly flexed burials, organic staining of the bones and often a compressed organic streak or film encompassing the bones certainly has a parallel at Chauga.

38 'Ocl
BURIAL TABULATION
CHAUGA SITE

Burial No.	Sex	Age	Position	Physical Provenience	Grave Goods
1	M	Mature	Partly Flexed	Edge & Surface of Md. 3	None
2	M	Mature	Partly Flexed	Premound Surface	None
3	F?	Adult	Partly Flexed	Surface Mound 5? Premound Surface	None
4	F	Mature	Extended	Surface Mound 5?	None
5	M	Adult	Partly Flexed	Edge and Surface of Mound 2	Charred Stick
6	M	Mature	Partly Flexed	Edge and Surface of Mound 2	Olivella Beads at Wrists
7	?	Child	Bundle	Premound	Cut Disc Beads-Barrel Beads
8	M?	Mature ?	Partly Flexed	Edge and Surface of Mound 2	Cut Disc Beads
9	?	?	Bundle	Edge and Surface of Mound 2	None
10	F	Mature	Fully Flexed	Edge and Surface of Mound 3	Tubular Beads Burial Wrappings
11	F	Mature	Fully Flexed	Edge and Surface of Mound 3	None
12	M?	Adult	Fully Flexed	Premound	None
13	?	Adult	Fully Flexed	Surface of Mound Outwash	None
14	M?	Adult	Partly Flexed	Midway in Mound Outwash-Subsequent to Mds.4,5,6	None
15	M	Adult	Fully Flexed	Top of Outwash From Mds.4,5,6	None
16	F	Adult	Fully Flexed	Premound	Pitfill-Misc.
17	M	Mature	Fully Flexed	Base of Md. 1	None
18	?	Child	Partly Flexed	Premound	Burial Wrapping-Sand Stone Concretions
19	M	Mature	Bundle	Surface of Md.1	Pitfill-Misc.
20	M	Mature	Fully Flexed	Premound	Beads, Labret, Graphite, Stones, Misc.
21	F?	Adult	Partly Flexed	Premound	Pitfill-Misc.
22	F?	Adult	Fully Flexed	Premound	None
23		Infant		Premound	None
24	M	Adult	Bundle	Premound	Projectile Point, Misc. Fill
25	?	Mature	Partly Flexed	Premound (Post Mound 7)	Pitfill-Misc.
26		Infant		Premound 9	Pitfill-Misc.
27		Infant		Premound 9 & 10	None
28	M	Mature	Partly Flexed	Premound 8	None
29	?	?	Partly Flexed	Premound 7	None
30	?	Mature ?	Partly Flexed	Premound 9 & 10	Beads and Gorget Pebble Cache
31	?	Adult ?	Partly Flexed	Premound 10	Fill of Pit

CERAMICS

In the section on excavations note was taken of some thirteen previous excavations on the Chauga mound site. These had gutted large core sections and had almost completely erased any evidences of buildings or structures. Hence, it is understandable that the pottery analysis contains no samples from structures built on top of the successive mounds or at least from perceived floors of such structures.

The initial trenches made in this survey through the mound provided profiles indicative of the constructional history of the mound. Due to the confusion of broken continuity of decisive features incident to previous digging on the site, this profile study continued for some weeks before the whole picture of mound building history could be reconstructed. During this interval daily accession of pottery and artifacts had to be by arbitrary levels. This necessary procedure cut cross-grain to all synchronic contexts eventually worked out and has little utility for stratigraphic analysis. All materials from the arbitrary levels have been excluded from the present study.

As original portions of the mound were outlined by removing the disturbed backfill to looter's pits, the constructional elements as they were identified were then denominated "phases". There were six building phases, or constructional intervals, but each of these were dual, consisting of a fill and a clay cap. In addition, four final phases of mound construction were identified in the slopes of the mound. These lacked the clay capping, consisted only of the lensed or basketloaded fill, with a heavy outwash deposit developed on the lower slopes derived from the final periods of mound building.

Mound architectonics finally resolved into the recognition of ten discrete stages of mound construction. The first six stages consisted of mound fill and clay capping, the last four of narrowed segments of fill on the sections or original mound slopes still preserved in the periphery. Either the summits of these mounds had been cut away by erosion and recent agricultural operations, or, as suggested alternatively in the text on excavations, the final mounds may not have augmented the height of the mound greatly but may have consisted of apron-like, localized additions to the mound to provide more building area on the summits. In any event, the "phases" of building or constructional history, and the material cataloged during this interval of excavation, are easily incorporated into the context of the ultimate reconstruction of ten distinct mounds.

The pottery used in this analysis came from these segments of the ten mound constructions, either from the fill elements or from the blue clay capping.

The successive periods of mound construction, regarded as contexts for the ceramic collections, consist of (1) a premound level, (2) an early mound level, Mounds Nos. 1 and 2, an intermediate level comprising Mounds 3, 4, 5, and 6, and a late mound sequence combining Mounds 7, 8, 9 and 10. Due to the small segments belonging to Mounds 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, preserved in good context, it was necessary to combine Mounds 5 and 6 in one pair; Mounds 7 and 8 in another; with Mounds 9 and 10 providing the final unit. Premound, Mounds 1, 2, 3 and 4 yielded larger collections. There was thus some inevitable inequality in the relative samples from the stratigraphic units of the mound. Study of the pottery charts show that the smaller units gave much the same results as the larger ones, which would indicate no statistical imbalance in the sampling.

Materials from the village area are treated separately. The midden varies considerably in thickness of deposits. Test trenching showed a spotty distribution in the stratigraphy, apparent even from watching run-of-the-mine materials in daily excavation. The mound provided more good sealed-in contexts for the buried occupations.

With a few exceptions of new variant types, hereinafter described, the pottery recognized in the analysis of Chauga materials is classifiable under the familiar categories of ceramics established in Georgia and the immediate Southeast during the last quarter of a century. This is true of both the Woodland and the succeeding Mississippian pottery types.

The persistence of certain decorative traditions from Woodland to historic Cherokee times at Chauga, i.e. check stamped, simple stamped, with a Woodland, a Mississippian, and a proto-historic or historic representative of each, led to difficulty in assaying these where the context allowed for considerable mixing of types. For example, pottery in the mound fill would comprise Woodland ceramics mixed with Etowah or Savannah types of check stamped. Cartersville check stamped pottery, defined by Joseph R. Caldwell in various river basin studies in north or northeast Georgia, while probably a subregional manifestation of the Woodland check stamped denominated as "Deptford" on the Georgia Coast and in Florida, when studied from sherds, many eroded (and few specimens came provided with tetrapods) might frequently be confused with the varying sizes and degrees of precision in stamping found in Savannah check stamped. All of the pottery from Chauga is either sand or grit tempered. Shell tempering is practically nil.

Plain pottery constituted a major part of the sherd count in all stratigraphic units of the mound. No effort was made to distinguish a Woodland, Mississippian, or historic type of undecorated pottery. A generalized residual plain pottery type, denominated "Coarse Plain" was established and utilized throughout the analysis.

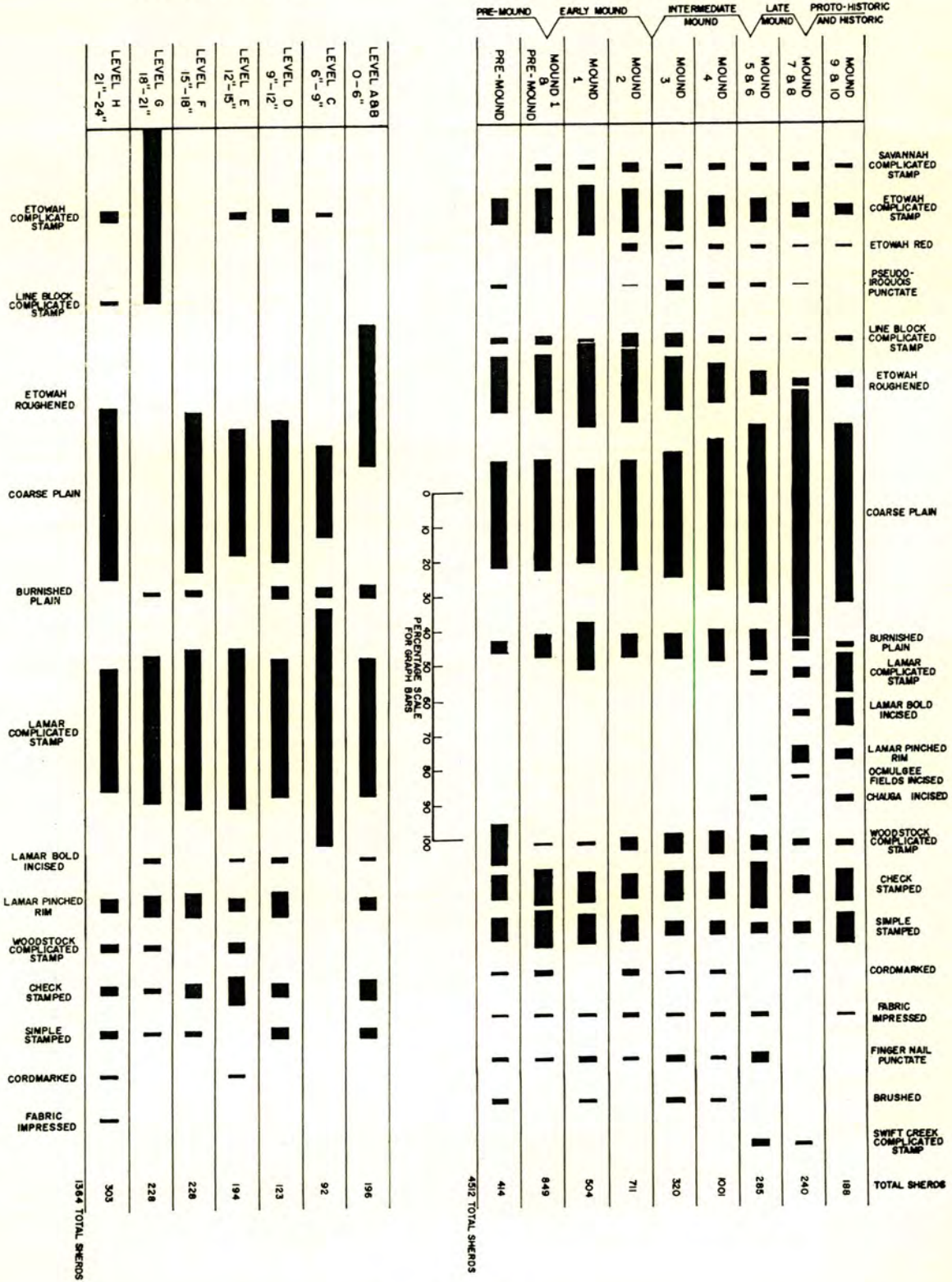
Polished or burnished ware was set up as a type but no effort was made to distinguish a Savannah Burnished from an Etowah Polished, since all were grit or sand tempered, and the Savannah series of ceramics as defined in twenty years of survey in north and northeast Georgia has been demonstrated to be closely associated in its occurrence with the Etowah series.

Throughout the analysis of pottery from the Chauga mound, the authors encountered a predominant ware characterized by an apparent deliberate texturing or "roughening" of the surface, produced by rubbing or smearing over areas previously stamped or malleated. Whenever the original stamp could be identified in the amorphous and ambiguous rubbing or smearing, the specimen went into that group. Where the stamp was obliterated, the specimen went into the "Etowah Rough" classification. This procedure undoubtedly led to the classification of many sherds which ordinarily would have been called "indeterminate" by some investigators. The new type thus set up, Etowah Rough, was so called because a similar problem had arisen at the Etowah type site where in Etowah IV and Wilbanks periods the same phenomenon had been observed. On the floor of Structure #3 at Etowah, three whole vessels were found which exhibited a Wilbanks Complicated Stamp on the rim section, with the whole body of the pot textured by an overall smearing or rubbing which had resulted in a definite roughened surface. Other examples were found at Etowah where the whole surface of the vessel had been "roughened" in this manner. Study of the pottery chart shows a definite clustering of sherds of Etowah Rough in the early to intermediate mound stages, weakening in the final mound stages. The mound picture implies that Etowah Rough might have had a relatively brief popularity. There is some sort of indication that this sort of texturing had an equally short run at the type Etowah site, with its strongest showing in the Wilbanks period.

An aberrant type at Chauga exhibits a carinated rim, strongly incurved, bearing heavy punctuate decorations in massed linear arrangement, with the body of the vessel under the protruding shoulder showing a roughened or complicated stamped treatment. Vertical ridges, single or in pairs, at intervals on the rim, give an occasional castellated effect. Small to intermediate sized jars seem indicated, although no whole vessels of this ware have been found. This new pottery type has been designated tentatively "pseudo-Iroquois" at

CHAUGA VILLAGE

CHAUGA MOUND



Chauga inasmuch as it bears an attenuated resemblance to pre-historic Iroquoian pottery in the northeastern United States (see plates). The pottery comes out strongest in the early mound stage at Chauga, as indicated by the distribution chart. Actually, the occurrence is stronger than shown because a dozen or more sherds were taken out for illustration or photographing and never got back into the seriation. Numerous examples occur in the outwash deposits, derived from elements of the intermediate mounds. These were not entered in the seriations. Subsequent discussion of these "pseudo-Iroquoian" sherds with Joffre Coe, John Witthoft, and J. R. Caldwell indicates the type has a wide distribution in the immediate Southeast and constitutes a significant and special problem of research.

Finger Nail Punctate is the designation given to a small minority ware which persists through all the mound constructional periods at Chauga, starting in the Premound, strongest in Mounds 5 and 6, but with some showing in Mounds 1 and 3. Description as a finger nail punctation is convincing in some instances, but others related to these may have been differently impressed. To some extent this is a residual but distinctive group.

Chauga Incised, a vagrant minority class, defined by cambered rims, a distinctive incised decoration with chevrons and herringbone designs reminiscent of Manchak and Mazique in the Lower Mississippi, tended to occur in the late mound and in outwash elements of the mound. This type may be related or part of the general "pseudo-Iroquoian" previously noted.

One of the more significant and familiar pottery types in Chauga Mound is Etowah Complicated Stamp. This occurs at all levels from pre mound to Mound 10, but with a definite bulge in the early mound stage, diminishing noticeably in Mounds 9 and 10. Instead of the ladder-based diamond so common at the type Etowah site, we have the ladder based oval at Chauga. This oval motif, with rayed or barred interior, is one of the characteristics of Woodstock Complicated Stamp, which also occurs strongly in the early mound stage and in the pre mound. Woodstock has been regarded by several investigators in the Southeast as a possible point of origin for early Etowah stamping. Woodstock sites, along with Etowah I and II sites without subsequent development of Etowah in the subregion, was a feature of the areal picture in the Buford Basin (J. R. Caldwell, personal communication) and it is interesting that in this fringing area of the Lower Cherokee Settlements in the Hartwell Basin, that Woodstock should occur as a firm element in the late Woodland manifestation exhibited at Chauga. Linear stamped pottery assimilated to "Woodstock Complicated" has

been found widely scattered on sites in north and northeast Georgia.

A traveling companion of Etowah Complicated Stamp in north and northeast Georgia is the Line Block complicated stamp. In a broad piedmont frontage, defined in recent river basin surveys, a decorative scheme exhibiting alternate opposed zones of linear stamping (Line Block) is definitely part of an early Etowah complex. Here at Chauga, Line Block is a minority ware, persisting from Premound to the terminal mounds, with a very slight bulge in Mounds 2, 3 and 4. With its starkly opposite blocked arrangement of horizontal and vertical barred decoration, Line Block constitutes a distinctive decorative scheme. Occurring along with a late Woodstock variant, it provides good representation of terminal Woodland. This ware in north and northeast Georgia resembles a variety of linear stamped ware from Early to Middle Woodland in southeast Georgia and the Florida coast (Crooked River Complicated Stamped).

Etowah Rough, described in the previous text, may be regarded as a vigorous component in the Etowah complex. Study of the pottery chart demonstrates clearly a strong occurrence of this type in the Premound and early mound stages, definitely declining toward the terminal mound constructions. There is a suggestion that some sort of roughened ware may also be part of the late Woodland contingent, found in the Premound occupation at Chauga. However, we have noted that the strong bulge in the graphical representation for Mounds 1 and 2 indicates a local temporal interval in which this stylization became more popular. A. R. Kelly has noted a similar phenomenon in working with pottery seriations in a stratigraphic section at Mound B of the type Etowah site. A deliberate texturing of pottery surfaces was also noted by Kelly in late Swift Creek and Weeden Island situations in the lower Flint and Chattahoochee.¹³

Etowah Red, a red painted ware, occurs in attenuated degree along with other Etowah elements in Mounds 2, 3, 4 with a modicum expression in the terminal mounds.

Savannah Complicated Stamped is a minority ware which persists throughout the mound seriations, defined by the characteristic motifs noted by Caldwell and McCann in the original Irene Mound excavations at Savannah, Georgia, and subsequently described by

¹³ A. R. Kelly, "A Weeden Island Burial Mound in Decatur County, Georgia, and Related Sites on the Lower Flint River," University of Georgia, Laboratory of Archeology Series, Report No. 1

Wauchope, Caldwell and others in more recent surveys of north and northeast Georgia. In the pioneer work at Irene Mound, the so-called Savannah Complicated Stamp comprised other complicated stamps definitely assignable to Etowah Complicated Stamp, and clearly the whole complicated stamp assemblage there is seen posthumously to derive from the hinterland area of the piedmont. Archeological hindsight might more properly designate this type as Piedmont Complicated Stamp rather than to tag it with a coastal geographical designation.

Coarse Plain is a residual group of undecorated pottery and is the largest numerical classification at Chauga in all mound periods. Toward the end of mound history, Mounds 7, 8, 9 and 10, this plain pottery expands as the stamping tradition declines, especially in the case of Etowah Complicated Stamp. The coarseness varies, of course, from a semi-smoothed surface to a coarse, granular exterior. The prevailing sand and grit tempered fabric would accentuate the coarse quality.

Polished and burnished pottery is distinguished as a variety of plain pottery. This class is numerically subordinated to the coarse variety. It occurs, however, through the mound seriation, with a perceptible bulging in the pottery chart, from Mound 1 to Mounds 5 and 6, definitely declining in the terminal mounds. Whether assimilated to the type known as Savannah Burnished or Etowah Plain, the impression grows that this ware is part of a pottery complex generally found with a composite Etowah-Savannah assemblage. The burnishing or polishing is quite evident, and contrasts sharply with the predominant coarse textured pottery. Numerous rounded, water-worn pebbles, glossy from rubbing, occur in the midden and in the pits, and may be pottery smoothers.

The pottery types just discussed together seem to form a complex, forming a stratigraphic cluster or configuration in the mound seriation, as seen at Chauga, and duplicating an association indicated at other key sites in north and northeast Georgia, including the type site at Etowah. It appears that the early mound picture at Chauga is to be allocated to a late Etowah horizon, with strong showing of the curvilinear stamping tradition generally known as Savannah. Belonging to this complex of pottery types are the Etowah Complicated Stamp, the Savannah Complicated Stamp, Etowah Red, Etowah Rough, Line Block, and the Polished or Burnished ware. These travel along together fairly consistently, exhibiting common peaks and troughs in their occurrence in the mound continuum.

Probably another Savannah contingent belonging to the above is Savannah Check Stamped. Certainly, in the Premound and early mound

lenses some of the check stamped pottery is assimilated to the type defined by J. R. Caldwell and Carl Miller as Cartersville Check Stamped. This type lacks the deep bold check stamps characteristic of Deptford, and the size is smaller also. A tendency to smoothing and some over stamping, plus erosional wear in many instances, sometimes makes definition difficult. Tetrapods are associated and frequent on many north and northeastern Georgia sites surveyed by Wauchope and Caldwell. Savannah Check Stamped does occur clearly in the early mounds and throughout the intermediate phases, and the diamond shaped, somewhat larger checks, generally more clearly defined, are diagnostic.

As previously mentioned, the check stamp is the most ubiquitous of all the decorative schemes. It comes out strongly in the terminal mounds, and in the village area in association with historic buildings, as an important contingent in the Historic Cherokee pottery complex. In the Allatoona Basin, J. R. Caldwell called this late Cherokee stamp Boyd Check Stamped. There is good indication that a similar late check is almost diagnostic on Cherokee sites in the Hartwell Basin. The University of Georgia exploration of the historic village unit at Tugalo in 1953 recovered fair amounts of this late check stamped pottery in strong association with historical trade goods.

We come now to a series of associated pottery types which occur together in the Chauga mound continuum, and which together constitute another complex which might simply be characterized as Lamar-like or Lamaroid. Included in this group are Lamar Complicated Stamped, Lamar Bold Incised, Lamar Pinched Rims. A few straggly, weakly incised specimens are indistinguishable from Ocmulgee Old Fields Incised. All of the above come out strongly in the terminal mounds, 8, 9, 10, and are the dominant domestic ware in the village area. Next to the Coarse Plain these Lamar components, along with the check stamped which is a local historical development found on all historic Cherokee settlements, largely replace the Etowah-Savannah complement found in the intermediate and early mound prevariances. The Coarse Plain, a residual category found throughout the mound levels, might here be undecorated pottery found in the proto-historic and historic horizon.

The Lamar Complicated Stamp takes on a subareal or subregional aspect wherever found in the Southeast. A half dozen or more discrete variants have been recognized by investigators, although none of these have been tied down to site components or defined subareas in published reports. The original McKern classification sought to do away with the diffuse and ambiguous term "culture" but recent taxonomic and terminological thought have reinstated the

usage and Philip Phillips has specifically mentioned the concept Lamar as one which might be referred to as a "culture". Although it is the most widespread of Southeastern archeological manifestations, with many perceived variants, Lamar still conveys an overall consistency and distinctness in terms of general pottery morphology and decoration.

Perhaps the best picture of Lamar Complicated Stamp can be had from a study of whole vessels, three of which came from good historical context, a large hearth or cooking area in a matrix of deep midden, containing abundant historical material. One of these vessels (see plate) is a medium sized pot with relatively straight sides, a ledge-like overhanging notched rim, with a rounded base set off at an angle from the sides. The complicated stamping, considerably over stamped, comprises several styles of decoration. Linear elements predominate but there are several concentric circles with blobs or bulls-eyes. Nested rectangles, chevrons, and line block units can be discerned. The point is that if the vessel were broken into potsherds, some 150-200, individually these would be cataloged as line block, simple stamped, Savannah complicated stamp. The pottery is very poor, with a coarse, granular paste, rather friable and predisposed to cracking.

Another specimen (see plate), a large cazuela bowl, exhibits a smooth plain everted broad rim, a constricted mid-section setting off the short globular body portion with its overall stamped decoration. The stamping consists of massed, over stamped concentric scrolls. Again, the fabric is made from a compact, granular, rather friable paste which is subject to considerable cracking, a feature of much of this late Lamaroid pottery at Chauga.

A third vessel from the same village context illustrates the sad state of the pottery making art in Chauga. This was a frail vessel, indeed. Seemingly, the original potter had given it up as a bad job when it began to sag soon after it was made and confined it to the fire. There its completely deteriorated condition was preserved for posterity. The laboratory technicians had a difficult assignment in trying to restore it and to get it to stand long enough to photograph. Its affinity to some of the works of Salvatore Dali has been noted (see plate).

A fair sized, short bodied storage vessel with medium constricted orifice is indicated. The rim is round and rope-like, surmounting the completely stamped body. The stamping consists of a single repetitive motif of circumscribed scrolls. Individual sherds of this vessel would undoubtedly be classed as Savannah Complicated Stamp, in keeping with current Southeastern designations. Actually the

type Savannah Complicated Stamp is a misnomer at numerous north and northeast Georgia component sites which are probably more central to the original formation of this series.

Lamar Broad Lined Incised is usually complementary to the Complicated Stamped in most Lamar sites. At Chauga, the incised category is relatively scarce, showing up perceptibly in the last mound periphery. In the outwash deposits on the north slope of the mound more abundant collections of the Lamar Broad Line Incised were found but these did not enter into the stratigraphic column. Some of the Broad Lined Incised is very florid and rococo in design treatment with some rather startling stylistic variations. This "wild incising" as it was dubbed by one of the viewers is interesting because the same bizarre style of ornamentation occurs on many of the composite Lamar Broad Lined Incised and Complicated Stamped vessels recovered from the thick midden accumulations on the down-slopes of the Tugalo mound. (see plates)

Lamar rim morphology is characteristic and frequently diagnostic. Lamar pinched and notched rims occur abundantly at Chauga, both in the final mound stages and in the village. The occurrence of these, along with a strong representation of the Lamaroid pottery complex, including check stamped pottery, in increasing amounts in Mounds 8, 9, 10 is evidence that the Cherokee made constructional additions to the Chauga mound after the 7th mound stage and that the Cherokee were responsible for all cultural activities from this point onward to the historic occupation. Mound construction and ceramic continuity are clearly defined. Inasmuch as the last mound summits were completely truncated and we have only the corresponding mound slopes to identify these stages, there is uncertainty as to whether the Cherokees simply built out apron-like extensions to provide a broader building area on top, or whether they actually built additional pyramidal structures. The Cherokees are reported to have told late 18th century questioners that they did not build the mounds. The mounds had been made by preceding inhabitants whose identity was unknown to the Cherokee. At Chauga, as at Tugalo, the archeological evidence implies cultural continuity, and architectural indications in successive and unbroken mound building, to the contrary. The Etowah-Savannah contingent or component so apparent in the early through intermediate stages of mound construction and occupation simply peters out and is replaced increasingly in the 8, 9, 10 mounds by the diagnostic materials which tie in with the dominant historic pottery and other site markers in the village.

And even if some sort of hiatus in mound building were discernible, which is not evident, the proto-historic and historic pottery continues to be embellished by the same design and style traditions which

in some instances go back to the late or middle Woodland. At Tugalo and at Chauga, there are perfectly good Simple Stamped vessels with typical Lamar rims. Line Block continues to the historic village. Regard the Salvatore Dali pot and its strong Savannah Complicated Stamped exterior. The late check stamped pottery is another example.

In fact, it is striking that complicated stamping had almost declined at the end of the 7th mound building interval and suddenly exhibits a recrudescence beginning with the 8th mound, continuing into the village occupation. This revival of complicated stamping is interesting, not only at Chauga, but something of the same trend is observable at other key sites. At Tugalo there was a much larger village area, much richer in midden deposits. On the slopes of the Tugalo mound, downslope beyond the mound featheredges, J. R. Caldwell and later A. R. Kelly and his students found massed Classic Lamar deposits to a depth of five feet. No historic material came with these deposits, which were extensively explored, with sufficient careful screening, to have intercepted any historical material had it been present. In the historic contingent of the village with its rich trade goods the Lamaroid variant continues. This Tugalo village was a contemporary of the village at Chauga. At Tugalo, also, the final mound constructions had been truncated by modern cultivation. The uppermost summit, which was the probable site of the council house in which the Cherokees received and murdered the emissaries of the Creek Indians sent by Emperor Brim (1717), must have been cut away by agricultural operations during the time when this rich bottomland was cultivated in ante-bellum plantation days.

At Tugalo, J. R. Caldwell found the main mound constructional periods to belong to an Etowah complex with the same Savannah-like excrescences found at Chauga, surmounted and surrounded by a proto-historic and historic cultural deposit which must be allocated on good ethno-historical grounds with the Cherokee. There, too, the Etowah-Savannah complex was declining, with what Caldwell remarked might be called an "epigonal Etowah", before the replacement took place. Pending the publication of the Tugalo report, and further work on the Tugalo site and further analysis of the vast collections from Tugalo, particularly the historic and proto-historic village excavated by the University of Georgia in 1954, little more can be stated in this connection.

After five seasons at Etowah, University of Georgia field parties have recovered imposing collections of material from super-imposed house floors and the final depositional levels which sealed

these in, deposition due not to alluviation from the nearby Etowah river but from sheet wash erosional increments derived largely from the final period of mound construction at Mound B, and from subsequent attrition of the mound by ball playing Indians who had removed from the sacred area of the mounds to the east periphery of the Etowah site. The deepest cultural deposits are sub-mound, saucer-like excavations filled with great quantities of Etowah III midden. The final period of active building and ceremonial use of the "plaza area" was in Wilbanks times. There is in situ evidence of an epi-Wilbanks interval gradually changing into what might be called an "early Lamar", which in turn becomes "Classic Lamar", and finally historic Cherokee. The parallel to Tugalo and Chauga is remarkable.

In addition to the Etowah-Savannah complex attached to the main period of mound history at Chauga, and the Lamaroid complex which sets in toward the end of the mound stages and continues in the historic village, a third complex of pottery types needs to be considered. The Woodland pottery present at Chauga belongs, of course, to the premound occupations of the site. These were evidently scattered in patches along the lowlying terrace adjacent to the Tugalo river. In constructing Mounds 1 and 2 the Indians incidentally brought in sizeable collections of Woodland materials, and continued to do so in the later basketloading. For this reason Woodland pottery in all categories tends to be fairly evenly distributed throughout the mound. Woodstock Complicated is heaviest in the Premound but some Woodstock is present in Mounds 2, 3, 4 for some reason not immediately apparent. The sudden blossoming of check stamped and simple stamped in the terminal mounds is to be associated with the historic Lamaroid variant which contains these elements.

Swift Creek Complicated Stamp shows up startlingly in Mound 5 and 6, and a few sherds came from mound fill in Mounds 7 and 8. Swift Creek is but faintly represented in the Woodland pottery at Chauga. The same provenience which yielded the Swift Creek in these late mound levels also yielded a strong showing of other Woodland types.

Kellogg Fabric Impressed (Dunlap) occurs sparingly but persistently throughout the mound sequence. With continuous mound construction through ten stages, the assumption is that the same areas must have been excavated for soil and continued to yield about the same amounts of included cultural material.

A cordmarked pottery also shows persistently in all mound levels from Premound to the 10th mound. The same is true of the Finger Nail

Impressed which seems to be "early", possibly derivative from the late Woodland source. Also, a Brushed or Scored pottery yielded a few sherds in pre mound and in mounds 3 and 4.

Miniature or toy pots occurred. Two are recorded from Feature #26, Mound 1.

THE VILLAGE POTTERY

A stratigraphic block in the village area was taken down in seven arbitrary levels. The results in general are congruent with the distributions described for the mound but there are a few inexplicable discrepancies.

Lamar Complicated Stamp has a heavy distribution through all levels down to Level H, 21-24 inches. The strongest showing is in the arbitrary zone, 9-12 inches. Enough has been said about the appearance of this pottery and its general relations with other sites. It is strange that such a strong deposit should occur down to base of cut, two feet in this instance, resting on subsoil.

Coarse Plain is equally strong but shows a tendency to fade in the plow zone for some unexplainable reason.

Etowah Rough on the other hand turns up with startling abundance in the top level but is not recorded in deeper strat cuts. This is a real anomaly, not at all in agreement with the persistence of this pottery type in the mound sequence.

Etowah Complicated Stamp shows up in impressive strength in Level G, 18-21 inches, with only a sparse sample from Level H over sterile base and a sprinkling in the upper zones to Level C, 6-9 inches. The occupation for the Etowah period would seem to be definitely concentrated along a plane nearly two feet beneath the present plowed surface. What is puzzling is the equally strong showing of Lamar Complicated on the same horizon. The depths are sufficient here to insure protection from modern cultivation but the likelihood of some marked churning up of the midden during the time of Indian habitation is increased.

Of the Woodland types, Woodstock shows in the deeper levels as expected. Check stamped and Simple Stamped persist in all levels, with a strong representation at the top as both of these occur in the Lamar complex in historic times.

The few sherds of Fabric Impressed do come out in the basal level.

One is impressed anew with the vagaries of village stratigraphy. A large number of test excavations would be needed to check on horizontal differentials in the stratigraphic pottery accumulations. The tests were actually made at Chauga and a great mass of materials are available but have not been analyzed for the present report, as the mound sequence provides a much more reliable context.

STONE ARTIFACTS

Stone tools were not abundant at the site but there was an interesting variety of forms.

Reference to the accompanying table will show the stratigraphic provenience of the various specimens. With the exception of the six blades or points and crude scraper found in the Old Quartz occupation in the deep horizon and the specific association of flaked and polished stone artifacts discussed in connection with individual burials no significant generalizations can be drawn concerning the occurrence of stone material in either the mound or village.

Roughly defined types are present, but their distribution is random. Outwash and plow zones are about as productive as all other physical proveniences combined.

There were nine triangular, concave base points varying from 30 to 42 mm. in length. They are common to the region and those recovered at Chauga were equally distributed from the premound base throughout the subsequent building stages.

Ten triangular forms with a tendency toward a convex base and ranging from 20 to 42 mm. in length were likewise found throughout all levels. Two of these occurred in the Old Quartz horizon.

Two types of stemmed points occurred scattered through the deposits. The large fairly straight stemmed variety range was 44 to 58 mm. long and the smaller tapered stemmed sort were 27 to 38 mm. in length. Two side-notched, serrated specimens were recovered; one from Mound 3 fill and the other in a deep pit disturbance projecting down to the Old Quartz horizon.

TABULATION CHART OF STONE ARTIFACTS FROM CHAUGA MOUND

	Premound	Md. 1	Md. 2	Md. 3	Md. 4	Md. 5	Md. 6	Md. 7	Md. 8	Md. 9	Md. 10
Oval Scrapers	4	2									
Drills											
Large Triangular Points-Concave Base	2	1	1	1	1			1			
Small Triangular Points	2	2	1					1			
Large Stemmed Projectile Points			1		3			1			
Broken Forms			1			1					1
Small Stemmed	2				2						
Serrated											
Polished Stone	2	2	7	2	1			1			
Pestles	1		1								
Abraders	4		3		1						
Hoes	1										
Mortars					2						
Pitted Anvils	1		1			1					
Hand Hoes	1			1	2						
Hammerstones			1		1						
Stone Discoidals	1	2	3	6		2		7		3	
TOTALS:	21	9	20	10	13	4		11		3	1

90 stone tools were found in outwash, plow zone or uncertain stratigraphical provenience.

7 forms were associated with Horizon 1. 5 were with burials.

Five broken pieces and a thin delicately chipped blade somewhat resembling the fish tailed variety were also found.

Roughly chipped, often broken, thick oval scraper forms were found associated with earlier mound periods. Some of the pieces found in the Old Quartz layer were possibly tools too, but their authenticity is not certain. One thin curved, decomposed scraper-like piece was cataloged from the Old Quartz horizon. Four of the large stemmed points and one small stemmed point were also in this deep level.

One quartz crystal which may have been a drill and one neatly chipped expanded base flint drill were noted. The former was in the plow zone and the latter in the deep disturbance which extended into Horizon I.

Cut and polished stone tools and ornaments were varied. One fragment and one complete celt were found. The latter was associated with a burial. Another was found in the village. The occasional occurrence of flattened lozenge shaped stone bars suggest some sort of gorget. One had two perforations. Several pieces were pendants, perforated at one end for suspension and having either a pointed or square end. One small smooth stone had the shape of half a cylinder having been split lengthwise. An end notched sinker-like bar and a small flat square of steatite complete the category of such objects. A small female human figure cut from steatite is illustrated (see plate). Several pipes were also made of steatite. These will be described in that discussion. Most of the polished stone items were made from forms of steatite, slate or even harder materials. Steatite was the most popular medium.

Stone discoidals of granite and steatite were numerous. Ninety-three specimens from the analysis units were cataloged. The most unique specimens consisted of a segment of a large bi-concave disc, two whole pieces pitted on both surfaces and a stone ring. Four cleanly cut flat surfaced steatite discs, small in size, accompanied Burial 42 as a specific offering. Four came from the fill of burial pits. The remainder were usually roughly shaped with slightly convex surfaces fashioned from granite, some steatite and occasionally pebbles. These had a random distribution throughout all mound and village levels. Forty-four were recovered from outwash mound material suggesting a middle to late predominance.

One roughly chipped and notched hoe or adze was found in the pre-mound accumulation. There were also four large rough hewn axe-like forms ranging from 17 cm. to 23 cm. long. These had rather pointed poles and broad dull edges. They would seem to be too heavy for

hafting. One was flaked from mica schist and resembled a hand chopper. The others were made from suitable stream boulders. One was in the pre-mound level, the others were mixed with the boulder facings of Mounds 3 and 4.

Two large stone mortars exhibiting moderate use were also imbedded in the clay capping of Mound 4, barely distinguishable from the other boulders strewn there.

Thirteen thin, smooth abraders or whetstones, usually of granite were recognized. One was grooved and the others indicated even wear on the faces and sometimes the edges. These were grouped physically in early and late mound provenience.

Two large and two small pitted granite anvils were scattered from pre-mound to outwash provenience. There were a few medium size hammerstones and numerous smaller, round smooth pebbles found throughout the various mound stages.

From time to time occasional elongate cylindrical to square columnar stones showed evidence of excavation. Not all of these were saved, because they are doubtful artifacts. Some did show terminal wear suggesting use as a pestle.

A rectangular granite tablet or palett 93x72x11 mm. showed lengthwise striations and a smear of red pigment near one corner.

Quantities of mica in 3B (Misc.) thin and thick sheets were found indiscriminately throughout the excavations. Some were included in mound fill. Two were more or less specific burial associations and some were found in the village and mound outwash. None of the pieces showed evidence of special workmanship.

A bi-lobed or grooved quartz crystal associated with Burial 20 and a perforated polished pendant of rose quartz from the mound outwash completes the roster of stone material.

SHELL ORNAMENTS AND ARTIFACTS

With the exception of an occasional shell bead included in mound fill or outwash the impressive array of shell ornaments and beads found at Chauga were in direct association with burials. Mention of this association has been made in the section on burials. It remains to describe the general categories of this material.

Two large conch shell dippers were found with Burials 48 and 52, also accompanied by significant grave goods indicating the importance of the individuals.

Fragments of four shell gorgets were found with both infant and adult interments. Two of these had scalloped edges and one was intricately engraved with what might be taken to represent a serpent. It bears many elements similar to one figured by Moorehead from Etowah which he called a spotted serpent design.

Four knobbed shell pins were associated with three burials. One had two placed at each side of the skull pointing down. This was a badly disintegrated skeleton of a child and the exact orientation is uncertain. The other two pins were with adult individuals and the indications were clear that the pins had pierced the ear (lobe) from front to rear and pointed downward. One of the latter was also accompanied by a small square piece of cut conch shell. Both the shell ear pins and the gorgets with rattlesnake design resemble similar finds in a collection from the historic Overhill Cherokee settlement of Sittico (Citico) on the Little Tennessee River.

Sittico (Citico) is well documented as an 18 century site of the Overhill Cherokee, visited by Timberlake in 1792, located near the confluence of Citico Creek and the Little Tennessee River. T.M.N. Lewis in his Editor's Notes comments on local collections from the site, indicating that both historic Cherokee and Dallas Culture burials were found close to the surface. Dallas is regarded as prehistoric Creek, underlying the later Overhill Cherokee occupation. Rattlesnake shell gorgets are attributed to Dallas burials; four shell earplugs were found with a brass ring in a Cherokee burial. At Chauga, similar artifacts and burial associations come with the protohistoric or prehistoric burials. Dallas Incised pottery at Sittico is indistinguishable from late scrawly, poorly incised ware at Estatoe. The luted or applique rimstrips, with a notched or ledged overhang, have parallels at Sittico attributed to Cherokee. Other sherds from a Cherokee "trash pit" show close correspondence to historic Cherokee levels at Chauga. Overhill Cherokee sites in Tennessee need to be studied in detailed comparison with materials recently uncovered in successive mound sequence deposits among the Lower Cherokee Settlements of Georgia and South Carolina.¹⁴

¹⁴Tennessee Archeologist: Volume XVI, No. 2, pp. 93 et. seq., Autumn, 1960.

Another interesting, and unusual shell artifact assemblage consisted of the five elongate ladles or spoons associated with a female burial. Four of these were nested over the throat and the fifth lay under the shoulder.

Several hundred shell beads of various types were found with these and other burials. Often beads of one kind or another were the only grave accompaniments. The beads can be grouped roughly into distinct types. There were a few examples of large coarse cut columella spines with the whorls only partly obliterated. Similar to these were large spherical beads cut from the same material. Often these were oval cylinders, slightly longer than wide.

Another variety were tubular. Occasionally they were barrel shaped and occurred mingled together. The small disc variety were not as numerous as other forms but were present in many of the assemblies. Occasionally some of these were a centimeter in diameter. They usually occurred in strings. In one case they were square cut and strong.

The olivella and marginella varieties were the most numerous. These usually occurred in greater or less massed effects, occasionally suggesting some alignment as though sewn to a fabric.

BONE TOOLS

Worked bone was extremely scarce. All specimens were associated with pre-mound through Mound 4 levels. One bird tibia awl and a cut socketed antler tip occurred in the pre-mound surface. Two calcaneus awls were in Mound 1 fill. An ulna awl, a perforated, split bird bone and a beaver incisor came from the Mound 2 fill. The distal fragment of a cannon bone with three partial perforations suggests the representation of the eyes and nose of a face. A longitudinal foramen is in the mouth position.

MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS

Although they certainly were not artifacts, two bones, phalanges of either a cow or bison were found in outwash material from the mound in association with late and historic materials.

Two pottery decorations resembling trident points were found in Mound 3 fill. These may be serpent effigy forms; one has

distinct bulging eyes.

A small clay cylinder was found in Mound 1 fill and a curved clay fillet was contained in outwash material from the west side of the mound.

COPPER

A small serrated leaf of feather-shaped copper ornament was found in the fill of Mound 1. It is 50 mm. long and 14 mm. at its greatest width, tapering toward the ends. At least two grooves almost 1 mm. wide extend the length of the piece and a small tab is turned back at the squarer end (see plate).

Another thin, badly broken fragment of a copper sheet was placed near the hands of Burial 35. A large conch shell dipper also accompanied the interment. The pit originated on the sloping surface of Mound 7. The burial offerings certainly suggest affinity to the Southern Cult. The copper plate was partially cleaned to reveal an interesting design: four groups of parallel repousse grooves, surmounted by lozenge shaped punctate decorations.

The most spectacular copper artifact was placed with Burial 48. The burial was an important male presumptively associated with the Cult activities. The specimen was a large decorated sheet of copper at least 40 cm. long by 12 cm. wide. The ends were rounded and the sides straight. It lay over the right thoracic region of the body and the lower and extended portion impinged on a conch shell dipper. The bottom edge of the plate had broken off where it was in contact with the shell. Small sheets of copper had been cold hammered together and perforated for binding with a tough cord, some of which had been preserved by copper salts. Although the plate could not be adequately cleaned at the time this report was written, careful examination revealed the outlines of an ornately costumed, erect human figure. On subsequent cleaning and final emendation of manuscript, one important additional observation could be made: it is apparent that the face carries an eagle mask. The style in which the whole figure is rendered is much more discursive and conventionalized than that which characterizes the priests of Etowah or other cult centers in the Southeast. This means that details of ceremonial dress are not indicated. However, the final impression of a masked human figure is very strong. There is evidence that the elaborate, towering headdress includes a circular ear ornament with possible plumes radiating from it. The figure holds a spherical object in the palm of the left hand at the

level of the chin. The face is exhibited in three-quarters view. Upper body and arms are clearly shown, the right arm extended downward to the rear. There is a double belt about the waist from which a zoomorphic head protrudes. This could be a puma head thrust into the belt, or the belt and head could indicate a coiled, plumed serpent. Two sharp ears and barred fangs, a slit eye and a narrow, tapering head could fit with either interpretation. There is a disconnected forked object in front of the figure, but its identity and attachment are obscure. The upper legs are clearly portrayed and show the muscle curvature of the thighs and legs. The left leg is partly bent and thrust forward. The design is rendered in repousse copper. The grooves which outline the figure and its parts are shallow grooves which appear to have been pressed or lightly tapped into the surface with a rather blunt instrument.

PIPES

Pipe fragments were numerous. More stems were found than bowls. The predominate form seemed to be the trumpet type with possibly a few modified elbow specimens present. Ornamentation ranged from a few simple incised annular rings around the stem to fanciful modelling of the bowls. Effigies, usually human, were also found. Most of the paste had been smoothed well and in some cases a high polish resembling a glaze was achieved. Fifty-two such fragments were found distributed through all the mound levels. Nineteen were found in mound outwash zones.

Stone pipes were not abundant. Six fragments and one complete specimen were found. The latter was a large square stemmed, square bowled bird effigy contained in the fill of Mound 1. The others were portions of round and square stemmed types, all scattered through mound outwash. One of the latter had a projection beyond the bowl. All were carved from steatite.

POTTERY DISCS

These are related in form and probably in function to the stone discs previously discussed. Most were carelessly made from available sherds with some few being neatly fashioned. Of the 38 specimens cataloged from the mound area analysis unit, 22 were in outwash zones, the remainder distributed through the pre mound and earlier mound phases. Three were in Mound 8 fill.

Two of these objects are especially notable. One is a pottery stamp. It bears a deeply carved late Woodstock or early Etowah Stamp motif on one surface. It is approximately 56 mm. in diameter. The other disc appears to have been cut from a sherd from the shoulder area of a vessel giving it a bent or twisted appearance.

ARTIFACTS -- VILLAGE

There was a small collection of projectile points recovered from the arbitrary levels of the village area. The seriation charts indicate temporal chronology in terms of pottery types there, but no significant cultural or typological grouping of artifacts could be distinguished.

There was one large and seven small triangular points in the collection and fragments of three stemmed types. A fourth stemmed point was intact. Two small, chipped oval scraper, five dubious chipped and cracked fragments and three broken, square based straight-sided knife blades made up the entire collection of flaked tools.

Fifteen stone disks or chunky stones were recorded in the analysis unit. All were made from granite except a segment of a large bi-concave specimen of steatite.

Polished stone implements were represented by one complete celt and fragments of two others. A small celt-shaped chisel should be included in the category of polished stone tools.

A roughly pecked flat stream stone having a blunt axe shape might conceivably be considered a related type tool. One smoothed elongate piece of steatite, an iron concretion and three hammer stones complete the lithic assembly from the village. Pipes are discussed under a separate heading.

Bone tools were scarce. A portion of a cut, perforated bone pendant or gorget and two cut and charred sections of long bones were all that were found.

A cut, perforated section of columella and a small oval shell bead were the only items in the shell category from the level collections of the village, except those shell artifacts enumerated under burials. These consisted of a string of large and small columella beads strung around the neck of Burial 57 and a shell

gorget and peculiar square sheets of shell and a few beads associated with Burial 61, a child.

POTTERY DISCS

Twenty pottery discs were collected from the village deposits. Although no cultural significance can be ascribed to their occurrence, there may be some typological significance attached to the fact that four were made from sherds bearing the late Lamar Complicated stamping and two had the late Check Stamped motif. Pottery discs from the mound collection had representatives of most of the early stamped designs, but none were made from the late type sherds. The implication is that the Cherokee made discs from contemporaneous vessel fragments as well as utilizing any earlier sherds that were handy. Earlier populations followed the same procedure, but the designs carried on the discs were limited temporally to the contemporaneous and earlier pottery styles available from extant sherds.

PIPES

This category was represented by nineteen fragments of clay pipes and four carved from steatite. One of the clay pipes was a vessel bowl with the pipe bowl attached to the rim. The stem and part of the pipe bowl was broken off. Most of the shapes were trumpets; one decorated bowl fragment was of the elbow type.

Two bowl fragments and two round and one square stem were made from steatite. The larger bowl had been broken from the stem at its base and subsequently ground down to leave a large smooth hole in the bottom.

MISCELLANEOUS POTTERY

A small modeled clay bird effigy perched on the rim sherd of a bowl and facing to the interior and a pottery "mushroom" comprised all the items in this class. The latter specimen is broken, but resembles a pottery trowel with a concave base.

EUROPEAN TRADE MATERIALS

Articles of this nature were not as abundant as would be expected from an early documented site which apparently had enjoyed a respectably long period of occupation. No incontrovertible Cherokee burials were found and all trade goods came either from outwash sheets of the last mound construction or from the nearby village area. The items in the collection are familiar to most investigators so the present discussion will be confined to two descriptive lists from the two proveniences. Culturally they are certainly representative of the total historic occupation at the site.

The following items were found in the mound outwash. There was no hint of any specimen being included in any intact phase of mound fill.

- 1 Lead seal
- 27 Fragments of white clay pipes
- 4 Square cut nails
- 2 Iron axes
- 1 Iron hoe
- 2 Pieces of green glass bottles
- 3 Unidentified fragments of iron
- 1 Iron buckle (possibly from fairly recent harness)
- 2 Clevis fragments (these could well be very recent)
- 2 Glass beads
- 3 Lead bullets (one mashed)
- 1 Gun flint of native stone
- 2 Small pieces of tailored metal (possibly part of a gun mechanism)
- 1 Glazed porcelain sherd

The village area yielded a similar array:

- 1 Iron axe
- 3 White clay pipe fragments
- 1 Piece of green glass bottle
- 1 Bar or iron (possibly an andiron)
- 1 Small piece of iron which seems to be a chain link
- 1 Square cut nail
- 1 Piece of iron wire
- 14 Glass beads
- 1 Carved porcelain bead
- 2 Lead ~~B~~ullets

- 1 Hard (lead alloy?) bullet, mashed
- 1 Brass homemade gun sight
- 1 Brass trigger guard
- 3 Gun flints (probably English flint)
- 1 Triangular, perforated piece of brass
- 3 Pewter buttons
- 1 Clasp knife
- 1 Knife handle
- 3 Knife blades

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of materials from the Chauga mound and village site reveals that there were three major periods of occupation on the site; an archaic level represented by a quartz workshop and scattered campsite indications, reminiscent of a late phase of the Old Quartz Culture described by Joseph R. Caldwell in the north and northeast Georgia river basin surveys with identified site components in South Carolina; horizontally distributed small campsites with fair midden accumulation of middle to late Woodland components, with a faint showing of Dunlap (Kellogg) Fabric Marked, Cartersville (check stamped and simple stamped), an attenuated Swift Creek, a fair representation of Woodstock Complicated Stamped; with the major site occupation controlling the entire history of mound construction and major village occupation providing a continuum from late Etowah-Savannah through Lamar to historic Cherokee.

Chauga mound is demonstrated to have had ten stages of mound construction, six of which constitute a fill element and a special blue clay capping with the last four devoid of the clay cap. The first six mounds were pyramidal structures bearing superstructures on Mounds 3 and 4; scattered postmolds on the summit of Mound 2 were not architecturally definitive. Complete truncation of the summit and apical portions of the final mounds, and erosion of the upper mound slopes, renders categorical statements about these structures impractical. There is some evidence that the last mounds might have been apron-like appendages, possibly in the case of Mounds 9 and 10 simple ramps, to the pre-existing mound.

Ceramically, three major complexes occur on the Chauga site. The Woodland series represented by Dunlap Fabric (light), Cartersville check stamped and simple stamped, Swift Creek, Woodstock is fairly evenly distributed throughout the mound and in the mound outwash elements, as well as in the village.

Woodland inclusions in the mound were incidental to borrowing of fill elements from nearby terrain. Woodland deposits in the village vary with different tests indicating a spotty horizontal distribution.

Chauga mound history is divisible into an early, an intermediate, and a late period of occupation and building. The pre-mound, Mounds 1 and 2 make up the early mound; Mounds 3, 4, 5 and 6 constitute the intermediate phase; Mounds 7, 8, 9 and 10, the late mound. Actually, the significant cultural shift as revealed by ceramic analysis occurs in the gradual diminishing of the Etowah-Savannah ceramic indices, particularly in the case of Etowah Complicated Stamp after the 5th and 6th period of mound construction, and the decline of the complicated stamping tradition, including Savannah Complicated Stamped.

The Etowah-Savannah complex comprises Etowah Complicated Stamped, a type denominated Etowah Rough, Etowah Red, Savannah Complicated Stamped, Savannah Check Stamped, Line Block Complicated. In the last three mounds, 8, 9, and 10, this association of pottery types is gradually replaced by Lamar Complicated Stamped, Lamar Bold Incised, Lamar Pinched Rims, and a late check and simple stamped pottery bearing Lamar rims and general pottery morphology.

The conclusion is drawn that a proto-historic resurgence of complicated stamping takes place in Lamaroid times, and that this occupation is dominant in the last three stages of mound construction. It is also apparent that this Lamaroid assemblage continues uninterrupted into the historic Cherokee village site occupation at Chauga.

The 63 burials and their associations permit some interesting observations. The provenience was diffuse throughout the mound and in the village. Burial furniture was generally not rich or culturally diagnostic except in the case of the items denoting affiliation with the Southern Cult, of which five might be called "cult burials". Two copper plates, shell gorget, shell spoons and two conch dippers, cut square shell discs, along with a fair representation of shell beads, are noteworthy.

A tendency for burials to be concentrated in the mound in a thirty foot square area on the southeast side is remarked, with further indications that burials were grouped to some extent with reference to log palisades confining and retaining the late mound peripheries, i.e. Mounds 5, 6, 7 and 9. This complex of the peripheral log palisade, related burials, log cribbing on the flanks of the mound, is found at both Chauga and the companion site of Tugalo five miles away. Another burial trait which parallels at the two sites is the custom of tightly flexed burials, constricted in a shroud of textile or basket weave.

A major objective of the Chauga explorations was to seek archeological evidence as to the proto-historic and prehistoric background of the Cherokee. Ethnohistory going back to the DeSoto datum puts the Cherokee in the immediate Southeast in the early 16th century. Occupation continued until the destruction of Lower Settlement towns as an episode of the American Revolution. Proto-historic and historic Lamaroid elements at Chauga were found in the village area to a depth of nearly two feet, overlying and frequently commingled with materials of the Etowah-Savannah series. Historic trade objects were not as abundant as at Tugalo, where beads and chinaware spanned the interval from the 16th to the 19th century, with the strongest showing in the early 18th century.

In recent correspondence, J. R. Caldwell calls attention to the fact that he did find an historic midden lense out on the edge of the dump on the moundslope at Tugalo. The great bulk of the material representative of historic Cherokee occupation at Tugalo does come from the village area beyond the mound. The main ceramic shift in the lower to upper portions of the "Middle Zone" of midden on lower mound slopes at Tugalo is in Incised ware, which runs from thirty-five percent in the lower part of the upper zone to forty percent in the upper part, with only twelve percent in the lensing containing historic materials. Caldwell summarizes: "...In sum, I have very detailed evidence for a ceramic transition from Etowah III through Cherokee Lamar... there is no break here which could fit the intrusion of a new people. We can say there was no sudden migration from afar. If the Cherokee do replace an older population they do it so slowly and gradually that it does not register on the sherds."

The Chauga excavations indicate cultural continuity in both consecutive mound building activity and relative ceramic history. Historic Cherokee pottery continues to use decorative motifs, even with a strong recrudescence, derived from an early Mississippian and a Woodland context. A late check stamped ware has a vigorous representation on Lower Settlement sites, as does the Line Block Complicated Stamp, the Savannah Complicated Stamp, and the Simple Stamp, all replete with characteristic Lamar rim treatment. The pottery has degenerated morphologically and the styles exhibit a crude flamboyance in execution, in contrast to the firm texture, stronger fabric, and more assured decorative treatment of the Etowah-Savannah complex.

If the sudden interpolation of Lamaroid pottery in proto-historic times in the 8, 9, 10 mounds, continuing in the historic village, may be taken as the Cherokee preemption of the site, it

is apparent that the Cherokees did add to the mound construction and continue the use of the temple mound. All cultural indices, including the pottery, imply that their antecedents were in the immediate Southeast; they could not have been too far removed from the general area and its cultural continuum else a hiatus or break in the continuity and in the verisimilitude of diagnostic culture elements would be present, demonstrable in the ten phases of mound construction and the subsequent village occupation.

CHAUGA IN RELATION TO OTHER CHEROKEE SITES IN NORTHEAST GEORGIA

Very similar situations to Chauga mound and village were uncovered at Tugalo, and have been uncovered in recent excavations at the Estatoe site completed in 1960. At Tugalo, the core mound section and quadrant cuts through lensed midden on mound slopes to the feathered edges revealed superimposed temple or councilhouse sites (three in number) with subsequent accretions of midden on mound slopes and in the village area. J. R. Caldwell carried out excavations here for the Hartwell Basin salvage program under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Park Service, with the University of Georgia assisting with laboratory and other facilities. Previously, a University of Georgia field party in 1954 carried out extensive trenching in the village area uncovering house sites and burials attributed to the more proto-historic and historic levels. The combined explorations yield data on a perceived continuum from the earliest "temple mound" construction to the late 18th century historic occupation by Lower Cherokees. Caldwell was able to get good architectural detail from superimposed structures and to glean some diagnostic material from house floors and midden context, in contrast to the frustrating dismemberment of the core mound section dealt with by R. S. Neitzel at Chauga. Caldwell's data show a sequence from an earlier "epigonal Etowah-Savannah-like" context with gradual shifts toward a Classic Lamaroid manifestation eventuating in historic Cherokee with a modified Lamar Village assemblage exhibiting the same ceramic and artifactual features described for the the proto-historic and historic Chauga. This was anticipated as the two sites are only a few miles apart and overlapped during most of their history.

The 1959-1960 excavations at the presumptive site of Estatoe, to be presented in a summary report in SOUTHERN INDIAN at Chapel Hill (1961) show about six perceived constructional intervals, fortunately again with good architectural details except for the final historic occupation and building activity which had been truncated away by modern cultivation, the same situation which obtained at Tugalo

(Turnbull Plantation). Estatoe shows the Etowah-Savannah characteristics in decline on the first three building levels, already in context with early Lamaroid elements, with the subsequent buildings and midden layers showing Lamar becoming more dominating, with eventual Lamar in the historic levels, associated with trade goods, closely assimilated to the condition found by the University of Georgia field party in the historic and proto-historic village at Tugalo. Throughout the first four buildings the same postmolds for post inserts of the supporting walls were utilized through the successive building periods, with additional inserts and indicated replacement of rotten timbers. The floor sections were patched at intervals of use and each discrete building had a completely new floor and central hearth construction. Four very large central posts around the central hearth were renewed and set in the same large hole, with these central posts protruding through the strange mound of large waterworn boulders mantling the whole pancaked mound of superimposed buildings at the fifth level. Continuity of building, ceramic, and other diagnostic features are strikingly evidenced at Estatoe. Here, too, the proto-historic and historic context, comprising contained historic trade goods, occurs on the lower mound slopes and periphery, a cultural talus debris accumulating in place as it was stripped from the mound summit by modern agricultural operations. It appears definite that Estatoe in its continuum does not show as long a span as do Tugalo and Chauga and probably picks up about where Chauga accumulates mounds 7, 8, 9 and 10. In contrast to the lensed mound fill, blue clay cap and occupational zones at Chauga up to and including the sixth mound, Estatoe shows simple stabilization of the old council house walls, with an additional floor and hearth.

The unique feature of the ^{Estatoe}~~Chauga~~ superimposed house mound is the occurrence of the remarkable stone mantle over the first four levels of occupation, subsequently covered with basketloaded and lensed material with the presumptive historic council house on this summit (cut away by modern plowing which had impinged on the stones, but leaving a thin stratum of the fill in place). This stone mound emplacement at ^{Estatoe}~~Chauga~~ has no parallels at any other presumptive Cherokee mound site in the Lower Settlements or elsewhere in northeast or north Georgia, or so far as we have been able to discern, in the immediate southeast. Similar waterworn stones were found at Chauga scattered but not completely mantling the mound slopes beneath the blue clay cap, but not covering or mantling the area of the building activity. At Chauga the stones were sufficiently impressive to cause speculation as to their use, i.e. "grave markers" or guides of some kind during construction, to prevent erosion on mound slopes, to hold the slippery blue clay caps in place? Caldwell found a heavy escarpment of stones at the lower mound slope to an early council house

mound phase at Tugalo, but again this accumulation was locally confined and was not uncovered in the other quadrant of the mound.

At three landmark sites, then, attributed to a generalized historic continuum within the pattern of the Lower Cherokee Settlements, Chauga, Estatoe, Tugalo, we find Chauga and Tugalo more closely paralleling during most of their history from a perceived late-Etowah-Savannah focus with gradual change and replacement leading to a full-blown Lamar terminal in an 18th century historical occupation which good ethnohistorical data attach to the Cherokee tribe. All three sites document the conclusion that the only point in the continuum at which some cultural shift takes place or begins to take place is at the end of an earlier series which reflects some Etowah and Savannah materials---after the sixth mound at Chauga; Caldwell's "burnt midden" beneath five or six feet of Lamaroid materials on the slopes of Tugalo mound. At Estatoe the first building intervals on the original sandy ridge reflect some Etowah-Savannah contact but already heavily interlarded with definite Lamaroid pottery bearing characteristic Lamar rim specializations.

Only attenuated influence from the major cult center of Etowah in north Georgia reaches the Cherokee settlements in northeast Georgia. Only two "cult burials" are described in Chauga context and definite cult objects are very scarce. One copper plate with the Chauga priest and his accoutrements exhibit marked contrast and divergence from the conventional garb of the priestly figures at Etowah. The rattlesnake designs on shell gorgets are late. Only one burial at Tugalo, the witch doctor or shaman burial found in the northeast quadrant by a field party of the University of Georgia, with its columella shell core pendant and conch shell necklace and "medicine bag", might be called a "cult burial". All other burials, tightly flexed and bound tightly in a shroud of skin or textile, in shallow pit burials outside the wall palisade at mound periphery, were without any ceremonial accompaniment of burial furniture. This pattern of burials around surrounding log palisades at mound periphery seems indicated at both Chauga and Tugalo. At Estatoe the excavations have been confined mainly to uncovering the superimposed building structures and immediate mound flanks. Thus far, in one quadrant, no evidences of a confining stockade which might be associated with burials has been uncovered. No burials have been found at Estatoe to date. At Etowah, Larson found numerous burials of sacrosanct individuals, priests et al, in special tombs or interments arranged around the mound in connection with confining palisades.

At the final stage of manuscript preparation on the Chauga mound and village site in April, 1961, more complete results of analysis of

materials from the successive building levels at Estatoe are available. The judgment already expressed that Estatoe starts or begins its building and occupational sequence at about the point of the seventh mound construction at Chauga still stands. This conclusion is significant in regard to several important cultural features present at Chauga but absent at Estatoe.

At Chauga, we have called attention to a small minority ware denominated "Pseudo-Iroquoian" with morphological features of the rim and upper body of the vessel reminiscent of Iroquoian pottery in the northeastern United States. The decorative scheme, so far as incised and punctated or modeled treatment is concerned -- apart from any complicated stamping which is sui generis to the Southeast -- also shows similarity. This material at Chauga comes out in the earlier mound building periods, largely cataloged from outwash deposits at mound peripheries. Caldwell found somewhat similar vessels in early Mississippian contexts in the Allatoona survey. The point is that such "Pseudo-Iroquoian" sherds or vessels were not encountered or recognized at Estatoe, presumably because the site occupation there is too late--subsequent to the occupations in the early mound stages at Chauga.

Moreover, it is noteworthy that Estatoe exhibits a much more attenuated showing of so-called "Southern Cult" objects than does either Chauga or Tugalo. Perhaps this fact is due in part to failure to carry out more extensive excavations beyond mound peripheries at Estatoe. Most "cult" materials tend to be associated with burials and no burials were found at Estatoe. Shell, copper, and other artifacts associated with the "Cult" at both Chauga and Tugalo came out with burials which seemed to be concentrated in relation to stockades following mound peripheries. Thus far these have not appeared at Estatoe. Otherwise, we might hazard the conclusion that the "Cult" occurs only in attenuated form at Tugalo and Chauga and is even more deteriorated in the time span represented at Estatoe.

At Chauga, Lamaroid pottery discloses a certain flamboyance or exuberance in decoration and execution, followed by a deterioration. At Estatoe the deterioration in both stamping and incising is very evident. Also, some new tricks in pottery rim morphology and decorative treatment of the rims are noted. At Tugalo, the comparisons cannot be made adequately until the final village occupation is intensively studied and analyzed. The materials cataloged from successive mound provenience show more of the earlier exuberance and flamboyance in stylistic rendering; the village or terminal elements cataloged in large quantity in the 1954 village excavations

need to be examined more carefully.

In fact, we can now regard a whole series of site situations from northeast through north Georgia, uncovered in successive river basin surveys, from Clarke Hill through Hartwell through Buford to Allatoona, a wide front of some 250 miles or more, in which good contextual archeological collections are available from unbroken site occupations, calculated to provide a detailed continuum of ceramic development and changes from a perceived late Etowah-Savannah (Wilbanks) stage to an historic and modified Lamaroid complex that can be attributed on good ethnohistorical data to the Cherokees.

CARBON 14 DATES AT CHAUGA

Carbon 14 dates from the Chauga site have been made on the basis of charcoal samples which have been analyzed at the University of Michigan.¹⁵ Three dates as follows have been made available:

- | | | |
|--------|--|-----------------------------|
| M-934: | Chauga Mound, pre mound base:
Sample CS3, from N60-70, Fd. 178,
Feature 26. Sample is from
pre mound base and may be older
than M-933 and M-935 which are
from within the mound. | 1070 _± 150 years |
| M-933: | Chauga Mound, Feature 15:
Sample CS2, from N50-60, W60-70,
Fd. 191, Feature 15, hearth
overlying Burial 17, intrusive
into Feature 14--fill of Mound 1.
This means that the sample in terms
of mound architectonics as subsequently
analyzed belongs to about Mound 3 stage
of construction. | 1120 _± 150 years |
| M-935: | Chauga Mound, Feature 9:
Sample CS5, from N90-100, W70-80,
Fd. 143, Feature 9, found adjacent
to Fd. 144 (rock slab) on Mound 3. | 770 _± 150 years |

¹⁵ Michigan Memorial-Phoenix Project Radiocarbon Laboratory, under Direction of Professor H. R. Crane.

There is a wide discrepancy of the carbon dates as related to mound history as reconstructed. M-934 from pre-mound provenience is within fifty years of M-933, ascribed to Mound 3 stage. And M-935, also from Mound 3, is 300 years or better less than the other two samples. The interesting point of comparison, however, comes in trying to apply this data chronologically to the situation of proto-historic succession at Estatoe. The persistence of the same building phases, with stabilization of existing structures and addition of new floors and hearths, from Level 1 through the stage of construction of the rock mantle on Levels 4a and 4b, argues for a telescoped and foreshortened total time span for Estatoe. Since Estatoe has an approximate terminal date of around 1761, the whole succession of building levels and discrete occupations defined by separate floors and hearths can hardly be given more than a generation of time to each---around 150 years seems a generous extension for the protohistoric and historic span. This takes the original building activity at Estatoe back to around 1600, not too far from the founding of Charleston, South Carolina.

The analysis of the pottery from the initial floor levels at Estatoe shows very little change in the first three occupations. Some Etowah-Savannah influence still lingers as a minority occurrence, although the bulk of the facies is demonstrably Lamaroid in context. This corresponds roughly to the situation described for Chauga up to Mound 6. The earlier phase of Etowah-Savannah influenced or dominated materials then deteriorates and a gradual translation into a perceived Lamaroid phase takes place at Chauga. We have seen that something of this transfer is demonstrable at all three of the Cherokee Lower Settlement sites that have been explored in the Hartwell Basin. However, both at Chauga and at Estatoe, and in the mound proper at Tugalo as distinguished from the village occupations, no trade materials occur in the mound contexts. These all appear to be protohistoric in the sense that there is no evidence of trade relations with Charleston and the coast during these intervals.

The possibly significant point has been raised that the apparent strong persistence of Etowah sherds in good developed Lamaroid context in the initial house floor levels at Estatoe may be due to the accidental inclusion of these materials incident to bringing in soil to patch the floors. No matter how carefully troweling operations to scrape down the floor sections may be carried out, there would be great difficulty if not impossibility in determining whether the included materials were deposited incident to use or whether some were brought in. Certainly there are horizontal differentials in ceramic distributions as indicated

even from surface collections in the Estatoe village area that Etowah concentrations are more marked in some parts. If soil for patching operations were brought in from these areas, subsequently mixed and impacted under the traffic over the house floors, a thoroughly ambiguous archeological context would be created. It may therefore be an unwarranted extrapolation to speak as we have of the persistence of Etowah pottery traditions well up into proto-historic Lamaroid occupations. However, final ceramic analysis on pottery from the successive levels at Estatoe indicates some definite Etowah stamped sherds, however much modified and deteriorated, on rims which are incontrovertibly Lamaroid in rim treatment. Etowah, along with Savannah-Wilbanks, Simple stamping, line-block rectilinear combinations, continues on into the established Lamaroid contexts. This seems to negate the view that Etowah-like elements might have been inadvertently introduced by midden soils brought in as fill. Despite the fact that Estatoe covers only the terminal portion of the continuum found at Tugalo and Chauga, within its segment of the total span Estatoe tends to confirm the conclusion of cultural continuity in the Lower Cherokee Settlement sites based on consecutive mound building and chronological pottery development.

If one reconstructs a total period of around 150 years for Estatoe, by any calculation or weighting of the Carbon 14 dates from Chauga (Level 3) a span of around 400-500 years seems indicated for the duration of the first five or six occupations or mound building intervals at Chauga. These mound elements at Chauga are separated by definite mound fill, lensed accretions with blue clay caps incident to new building phases. This is in striking contrast to successive use of post inserts and walls at Estatoe.

Sample M-935, utilizing the negative sigma, would come closer perhaps to a chronological scheme tying the Estatoe date in with those of Chauga. Of course, since the earlier Chauga mound construction is of a different kind from that at Estatoe, the events of new construction may be separated by more time. Also the cultural transformation from what Caldwell calls "epigonal Etowah" to a perceived Lamaroid phase may be a longer secular development than contemplated here.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Caldwell, Joseph R.
 1953 Appraisal of the Archeological Resources of Hartwell Reservoir, South Carolina and Georgia. National Park Service. Mimeographed.
- 1955 Cherokee Pottery from Northern Georgia. American Anthropologist, Vol. XX, No. s. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 1956 Appraisal of the Archeological Resources of Hartwell Reservoir, South Carolina and Georgia. Prepared by National Park Service. Mimeographed.
- 1956 Progress Report on Excavation at Tugalo. River Basin Surveys, Smithsonian Institution. Mimeographed.
- Kelly, A. R.
 1960 A Weeden Island Burial Mound in Decatur County, Georgia and Related Sites on the Lower Flint River. Laboratory of Archeology Series, Report No. 1, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.
- Lewis, T. M. N. and Madeline Kneberg
 1946 Hiwassee Island, An Archeological Account of Four Tennessee Indian Peoples. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee.
- Lewis, T. M. N. (and Associate Editors)
 1960 Editors' Notes. Tennessee Archeologist, Vol. XVI, No. 2.
- Mooney, James
 1900 19th Annual Report of Bureau of American Ethnology, p. 43, et. seq. Washington, D. C.
- Swanton, John R.
 1946 Indians of the Southeastern United States. Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 137. Smithsonian Institution. Washington, D. C.
- Van Doren, Mark, ed.
 List of the Towns and Villages in the Cherokee Nation Inhabited at this Date. Travels of William Bartram. Dover Publication. New York.
- Journal of Colonel John Herbert, Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the Province of South Carolina. Reprinted for the Historical Commission of South Carolina. 1936.
- Year Book, City of Charleston, S. C., 1894 -- Charleston, S. C.
 Appendix: A Letter from Caroline in 1715 and Journal of the Carolinians into the Cherokee Mountains in the Yemasee Indian War, 1715-16, from the original manuscript prepared for publication by Langdon Cheves, Esq.

ILLUSTRATIONS

- I. A. Strata column in N.E. quadrant of mound.
F4 - Md. 6, F5&6 - Md. 5, F7&8 - Md. 4, F9 - Md. 3,
F11 - Md. 2, F12 - Md. 2, F26 - Premound
- B. Old Quartz Levels - North 50 Profile
- D. F27 - Cane Fence at Edge of Md. 9
- II. A. Stone Post Foundation - Md. 3
- B. Stone Post Foundation - F25; Wall Trench - Md. 3
- C. Clay Cap with Imbedded Boulders - Md. 4
- D. Village - Pottery Kiln with Pots in situ - F1
(See V: A,B,C)
- III. A. Burial 10 - Olivella Beads
- B. Burial 60 - Tortoise Plasteron Gorget
- C. Burial 16 - Note Pathology of L&R Tibias
- D. Burial 4 - Only Extended Interment
- IV. A. Burial 48 - Shell Dipper and Copper Plate (See X:F and VIII:A)
- B. Burial 24 - Premound Interment
- C. Burial 42 - Premound, Celt & Beads
- D. Burial 58 - Shell Spoons and Beads (See X:D,J)
- V. A. Warped Vessel, Historic Cherokee - Village (Diameter 16")
(See II:D)
- B. Vessel, Historic Cherokee - Village (Diameter 14")
(See II:D)
- C. Vessel, Historic Cherokee - Village (Diameter 11")
(See II:D)
- D. Pottery Stamp (Diameter 2½")
- VI. Upper: UC-Historic Cherokee Complicated Stamped; UL&R-Incised Rim
Interior; L-Incised Rim Exterior, Complicated Stamped,
Check Stamped, Plain Rim.
- Lower: Varieties of "Pseudo-Iroquoian" Rims

- VII. Upper: UC-Chord Marked Pot (Diameter 7"); UL&R&LC-Simple Stamped Tetrapods; LL-Check Stamped (Woodland); LR-Kellog Fabric Impressed.
- Lower: UC-Line Block Stamped Rim; UL&R-Etowah Complicated Stamped; LL-Burnished Plain; LR-Etowah Roughened
- VIII. A. Copper Plate from Burial ~~38~~⁴⁸, 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ " long (See IV:^A~~B~~)
- B. Stone Effigy-Anthropomorphic Bird, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " tall
- C. Effigy Pipe-Crow or Raven, 5" long
- IX. A. Projectile Points-Primarily Quartz
- B. Stone Discoidals - UC 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " dia., rest on page to scale
- C. Stone Pendent
- D. Gorget Fragment
- E. Stone Pendent
- F. Celt
- G. Incomplete Atlatl Weight
- H. Stone Ring Fragment with Two Holes
- X. A. Bone Awls
- B. Bone Pendent
- C. Anthropomorphic Bone Carving, 3" long
- D. Shell Spoons, longest 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", rest to scale
- E. Shell Ear Pins, L - 2-3/4" long, E-J to scale
- F. Conch Shell Dipper (See IV:A)
- G. Shell Gorget
- H. Flat, Square Shell Beads
- I. Conch Column Beads
- J. Rounded Shell Beads