

WPA Archaeological Excavations at the Macon North Plateau

By
Arthur R. Kelly

Edited By
**Gretchen Eggiman, Randy Heath, Richard Moss,
Chris Webster, and Dylan Woodliff**

With an Introduction By
Mark Williams

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Introduction

Mark Williams

From August 2009 until June 2010, five archaeology Master's degree students at the University of Georgia's Department of Anthropology and I labored to make this long lost document available for the first time to Georgia's archaeological community. The story of its loss and rediscovery is interesting and worth telling.

During the summer of 1974 I was a young archaeology student in the Department of Anthropology at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. I had started my Master's degree program the previous March after spending almost four years in the U.S. Air Force during the Viet Nam war. As a Graduate Assistant I was employed part time by the Southeast Archeological Center of the National Park Service, whose offices and labs were located in the same building with the Anthropology Department at that time.

My assigned task that summer for the National Park Service was to attempt to write a report on the 1930s archeological excavations at the so-called North Plateau section of the Macon Plateau site in Macon, Georgia, using notes and artifacts curated in the lab. I had known that site since I first visited it as a child in 1960 and was quite excited by the opportunity. As part of the background preparation for this project I visited the excavator, Arthur Kelly, in his home on Fowler Mill Road in Bogart, Georgia, in late August. My father, Woody Williams, and I spent over two hours with him on August 31 and taped the conversations. I have separately published these conversations 20 years ago (Williams 1990).

In the first minute of my conversation with Kelly I told him I was writing up the North Plateau excavations and he immediately asked if I had read his 50,000 word manuscript on the subject. I was stunned since, not only had I never heard of nor seen this document, it likely made moot my own efforts. As it turned out, his report was not relocated in Tallahassee, or anywhere else, during 1974. I finished my report (Williams and Henderson 1974) and forgot about Kelly's purported 50,000 word North Plateau report.

In early 2009 I was working in the University of Georgia Laboratory of Archaeology in Athens, and chanced to look for the hundredth time through the list of over 1000 unpublished manuscripts we have curated there. My eye paused on Number 331. It was labeled as "Mound D, Ocmulgee (Excavations)" and credited to Arthur Kelly as the author. Here was suddenly the "lost" Kelly manuscript. I honestly do not know how I missed the connection between this information and my 1974 confusion, other than my 1974 report was a long finished project and somewhat out of my thoughts.

In examining Kelly's manuscript, it was immediately apparent that it was nowhere near ready for publication. It was poorly typed copy, 97 pages in length, single spaced, with many handwritten comments sprinkled throughout. I do not believe that Kelly typed this himself and his original hand-written text is still presumably lost. Arthur Kelly died in 1979 in Athens, and many of his letters and papers were curated in the Laboratory soon thereafter. Manuscript 331 was added to the collection of the Laboratory by about 1981.

In August of 2009 I welcomed a new cohort of five students into the Master's degree program in Cultural Resource Management in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Georgia. As part of their intense program I decided that they would prepare the Kelly manuscript for publication. Their work on the Kelly manuscript, guided by me, is presented here. These hard-working students included Gretchen Eggiman, Randy Heath, Chris Webster, Richard Moss, and Dylan Woodliff. Much of the management of the project was handled by Chris. Dylan made a vital trip to view photographs and pen and ink drawing at the Southeast Archeological Center in Tallahassee. The editing of the manuscript was handled equally by all the crew. Gretchen played a vital additional role near the completion of the project.

The original typed manuscript was scanned and then turned into editable text using Optical Character Read technology. The resulting copy was filled with many errors, but we believe this was faster than just retyping the entire manuscript. Kelly had indicated with cryptic numbers which photographs and illustrations from the field notes he had intended to use in his report. Many of these photographs and illustrations he suggested could not be relocated. Kelly's references to the missing graphics are replaced in the text with a red star thusly *.

Incidentally, all Kelly said in my 1974 interview with him about when the report was written was "some years ago". Richard Moss noted that at one place in the document (Page 144) Kelly says the work on the North Plateau was conducted "some 20 years" after a 1935 event described by him. We take this as evidence that the document was drafted about 1955 or before by him. The collections and notes he studied would have been curated at the Southeast Archeological Center, located at Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon at that time rather than their current location in Tallahassee.

Kelly's text was filled with a great many run-on sentences, and some of his word usages were questionable. The students spent hundreds of hours making the text more readable without changing his meaning. I intended this as an exercise for them in learning the art of text editing, and I believe it was a useful one. For those who would prefer to see the original, unaltered text, it is certainly still available at the Laboratory of Archaeology.

Kelly's document has no real Introduction, Acknowledgements, or Background sections. More importantly, it has no Summary or Conclusion sections. It just ends. It is clear that he never finished this report. Why, we do not know, but it appears that after 1955 the draft was simply placed in a file drawer and stayed there until he died in 1979. Knowing him reasonably well in the 1960s and 1970s, I never heard him say anything to the effect that this was something he wished he could find time to complete. In fact, his memory from 1974 of the project as related to me was that he considered it a finished product.

We have not attempted to add these missing sections, and clearly this "Report" is not a finished product. We do believe, however, that it is a useful contribution to the study of the archaeology of the Macon Plateau site.

We thank Richard Vernon and Audrey Trauner at the Southeast Archaeological Center in Tallahassee, Florida, for their help in locating the photographs and drawings included herein.

Dylan Woodliff scanned the photos and drawings in Tallahassee and I cleaned them in Photoshop.

This has been a fun little project for the Master's students and me, and we hope Georgia archaeologists find it of some value. At the very least, it ties up another loose end about the WPA excavations at Ocmulgee National Monument.

References Cited

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1990 Ramblings with Kelly. *Lamar Institute Publication 7*. Lamar Institute, Savannah, Georgia.

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1974 *Archaeology of the Macon North Plateau, 1974*. Southeast Archeological Center, National Park Service, Tallahassee.

Excavations at Mound D

Excavations at Mound D began under Civil Works Administration (CWA) auspices immediately after Christmas, 1933. The first field notes date to December 29th, at which time the mound was surveyed and staked out by Linton Solomon, Senior.

The mound as it appeared just before initial excavations is briefly described in the field notes.

...Mound D appears to be a low mound about six feet high, lying on the bluff east of Macon on an escarpment which is a continuation of the same shelf upon which the large pyramidal Mound A and its satellite structure, Mound B, are located. There may be more than one mound on the Dunlap property just north of the present Central of Georgia Railroad cut. (Subsequent excavation history recorded work on the Dunlap Mound, a low domiciliary structure on which the home of the overseer had been built in antebellum days. Also, the McDougal Mound, north toward Fort Hawkins, was excavated).

Mound D was the largest of the apparent mound structures and was staked out in five foot squares enclosed within mound base lines, one hundred fifty by two hundred twenty feet.

The Central of Georgia Railroad excavation of 1841 exposed the soil formations to a depth of at least 20 feet. The profile indicated that the underlying soil beneath the mound and surrounding cotton field was a homogenous sandy material of a reddish color due to the presence of a deep band of red sandy loam. This red earth is a widespread geological formation in central Georgia and shows itself uniformly compacted in the railroad cut some 50 yards from the bench mark established in staking out Mound D.

Numerous flints, pieces of pottery, and other objects of European manufacture, were found on the surface of the mound and the neighboring field. The mound itself was under cultivation for a number of years and has been considerably plowed down. This is an understatement since cultivation here had been continuous from the time of Creek cession of Ocmulgee Old Fields in 1836 and long before that time by historic Creek Indians, as witnessed by William Bartram and described in his visit to the scene in the closing years of the American Revolution.

In beginning excavations of the western edge of Mound D the top plowed ground was very sandy and loose and found to mantle the characteristic red loam of the general plateau formation (Plate 1). The finding of ashy lenses in the superficial soil in the eastern baseline during initial explorations led to the plan of clearing off all humus and plowed ground within the mound survey area. No vertical sections were contemplated over and above those in the initial western baseline trench until the horizontal examination of the mound surface had been completed.

The miscellaneous surface collections from the stripping operations recovered a number of historic potsherds, trade beads, trade pipe stems, and one fragment of a fine bowl of European manufacture. Scattered post molds, ash and charcoal, and suggestions of intrusive pits in the freshly peeled top of the mound were the first indications from excavation of an historical Indian settlement on the site (Plate 2). There had been intimations of this fact in the collection of surface materials from the cotton field on the site before explorations began at Mound D.



Plate 1: Clearing of Mound Surface from West Baseline



Plate 2: Clearing of East Mound Surface

The most important discovery in this early exploration of Mound D was the uncovering of a structure on the highest part of the mound (Plate 3). The notes of January 4, 1934 record this finding as follows.

...Stripping of surface soil from top of Mound D has disclosed a platform of baked clay. A brilliant, multi-colored appearance suggests the building of many fires on the surface. Heavy accumulations of ash and charcoal in places agree with this idea. A sufficient portion of the clay platform has been uncovered to indicate that it will be of considerable size, possibly covering the top and highest portion of the mound. The exposed margin seems to form an arc, suggesting that the form of the platform may turn out to be oval or circular. Numerous potsherds impacted in this clay area have been catalogued. In skinning the topsoil, we have made miscellaneous plowed ground collections from the area associated with the platform. Approximately 40 posthole impressions have been found and stobbed, the greater portion of which have occurred on the south slope of the mound.



Plate 3: Initial Clearing of Clay Platform on top of Mound D

By January 6, 1934, the troweling on top of Mound D had uncovered enough of the clay platform to permit the following observation on the shape of the structure. "...The burned

platform of clay at the approximate center in higher portion of Mound D has been uncovered at the surface, and it now appears that the original shape may have been square or rectangular, with the contours somewhat broken by plowing...Post hole stobs are sprangled generously over the peeled portion of the mound, and while no specific arrangement is apparent at present, it is noticeable that the staked areas are grouped close together, rather than irregularly distributed.”

After the mound had been peeled, initial excavations of Trenches 31 to 25 were made along the eastern baseline from the south approach to the mound. This early work in mound excavation resulted in several new important discoveries. First, there were indications of a buried sod level on the slope of the mound, considered to be the locus of occupation by an historic Indian settlement, subsequently covered over by sandy alluvium derived as mound slope wash in the last 125 years. Additionally, in excavating the subhumic layers of ash beds, indications of charcoal and burned timbers were observed. These were originally thought to be the remains of structures constructed on the slopes of Mound D and were possibly partially decayed in place. Finally, initial indications of burials at Mound D were found in a very poor condition of preservation and scattered in a random provenience. This cast doubt on whether they were actual burials in place.

The notes of January 16 and January 18 best summarize these developments as they appeared at that time.

...Top surface cleared, excavations began with opening of Trench 30 along eastern baseline of Mound D. The squares have been dug so as to preserve pilasters of earth beneath the survey stakes and to afford a permanent record of stratigraphic changes from the surface down.

The usefulness of these pilasters in rechecking the old CWA survey of Mound D, in subsequent extension of Mound D survey to the eastern slope in post-CWA archaeology a year later, will be indicated when that stage of operations is described.

...It should be remembered that on an average six inches of the top mound soil has been removed. On the eastern and western sides of the mound, in a number of squares, are clear indications of an old sod line or an occupation level. In east-west lines between Stations 150-151, we have an old occupation floor showing 18 inches below the base of Station 151... The occupation is indicated by some signs of decayed vegetation, also by considerable charcoal and ash. The material lying above the occupation floor is probably for the most part derived soil, pulled down from the summit of Mound D and distributed by the plow in recent years. Reading between Stations 180-181, we find the occupation at a depth of 15 inches. The next five partitions of this trench show water-laid sand overlying the occupation floor. Inasmuch as these water-laid deposits are below the plow line, it seems probable that they are wash materials from the slopes of the mound, as the terrain slopes sharply to the east to a creek which drains the eastern slope of the elevation on which Mound D is placed. The ash and charcoal accumulation in the blackened area

does not show so sharply in these water-laid materials. Some squares do not show definitely water-laid materials in place above the charcoal layer which we have identified as the occupation on the (original) slopes of Mound D.

In a few instances, we have indications of timbers (?), reduced to ash and lying in place, showing in the walls and partially troweled horizontally. This is exactly the situation which confronted us in Trench 1 along the western baseline some days ago where similar accumulations of ash and decayed ash impressions were found in place, suggesting a house site that had been partially burned and partially reduced to ashes from oxidation or decay. It is already apparent that house timbers and bones alike will be in a very sorry state of preservation, so that the greatest care must be exercised in troweling to uncover timbers and wooden sections of structures uncovered horizontally, following out the lines thus established.



Plate 4: Ash and Charcoal in Trench Profile

Subsequent excavations concluded that these structures must have been cabins or frame structures without single post insertions of wall structures. These structures could have belonged to the Fort Hawkins period of occupation in the first quarter of the nineteenth century or to the earlier historic Creek occupation of the area. Slash and burn clearing for new ground cultivation would give the same effect (Plate 4).

The first indications of burials at Mound D are recorded in the following excerpts from the diary of January 16, 1934.

...Burial 1, Trench 30, at a depth of 31 inches below Station 31, and at a depth of 13 inches from the former occupation level. Over this floor about seven inches of water-laid deposits (soil washed down mound slopes in recent times?) are in place. Only one small bone, the much decayed fragment of a tibia, remains. In Trench 30, square Stations 619-690-720-720, occurs a flexed burial, Burial 2, with a large marine shell in position about one inch west of the skull. The bones are poorly preserved, and it is doubtful if the burial can be removed without considerable breakage...The burial is extended roughly southwest with the head pointing southwest, the flexed thighbones and tibia lying just beneath Station 721. No burial furniture found other than the large marine shell.



Plate 5: Burial 2

Additional remarks from the notes of January 18th are given on the subject of the early burial finds at Mound D.

...Scattered portions of human bones have been uncovered at various levels in the upper portions of the trench. These bones may be portions of skeletons which were plowed out in some other part of the field and deposited in the place found. Burial 1 appears on further examination not probably to have been a burial at all; at least the evidences of burial are insufficient to justify a catalogue designation. The same situation occurs in Square 121-120-150-151, where two small fragments of human bone occur several feet beneath the surface without any indications of a pit or grave. Similarly, in Square 210-211-240-241, another small fragment of human bone has been neatly troweled out at a depth of several feet from the surface. Burial 2 (see Plate 5) is the only true burial so far described in Trench 30. This has been completely troweled, and shows as a rather poorly preserved, flexed burial of an adult individual, probably female. A large marine shell (*Busycon*?) has been placed near the head as burial furniture. The burial is oriented with the head to the southeast, lies upon the left side. It is dug to a rather superficial depth, beneath the occupation level of the village on Mound D slope, about 9 inches depth, 19 inches below the top mound surface before clearing so that plowing would not be likely to disturb.

By January 21, 1934 discoveries in the eastern baseline of Trench 30 made it apparent that the survey lines of Mound D needed to be extended further east. This was done and the new eastern baseline became Trench 33. The buried occupation level on the original Mound B Slope 2, occurring at an average depth of six to twelve inches, had now been catalogued or recognized as the first occupation level at Mound D (from the point of view of horizontal clearing of the mound with initial stripping of plowed ground and humus level).

Remarks in the diary of January 21st are on the current finds in this occupation level.

...For the present, the deeper-lying layers are being ignored, while the horizon along the first level is being explored. Considerable confusion attaches to the exploration of this level because of the mixture of modern European materials with sherds, flints, and other items of aboriginal nature. The European material consists of such items as sun-dried brick, wrought iron objects, cut nails, and crockery of about 80 years ago. It is equally certain that many of the postholes and other disturbances on this level belong to historic occupants. Nevertheless, it is equally certain that this occupation of recent occupants must correspond fairly closely to the village site level of Indian occupancy. All collections from this

level, regardless of their nature, whether comparatively recent historic stuff or of Indian provenance, are sacked together.

The Indian materials coming from the top occupation level on the slopes of Mound D were largely of Old Ocmulgee Fields source the notes on the pottery made in January, 1934 indicate. This was two years before the discovery of the Trading Post site on the Middle Macon Plateau led to the clear definition of this late 17th and early 18th century settlement on the area.

... In the 6-12 inches of earth which belong to the first section of the cut, through the eastern slope of Mound D, several potsherds have been found which show the same scroll and meander patterns found on the village site of the Lamar Group, and also at the village south of Mound C, in the Macon Group. (James A. Ford was excavating the Lamar Mound and Village site with a separate CWA crew at the time when Mound D excavations were started). Today, the trowel men uncovered one of the carved sections of conch shell found with historic Indian burials in the south approaching trenches to Mound C.

In clearing the top humus, Trench 13, the first *Find* on Mound D, an almost intact pottery vessel was made (Plate 6). The pot was found with the neck or rim facing downward, the basal portion having been broken off by plowing. Some of the basal sherds were not recovered. This came at a depth of 10 inches. The vessel was found in position over an underlying bed of sterile clay.

Another feature of interest in the initial explorations on the surface of Mound D corresponds to the baked clay basins (Plate 7). The first of these was described in my field notes of February 7th.



Plate 6: Mound D Find #3

...One ...feature of special interest has been uncovered in the section just northwest of the central platform structure on top of Mound D, referring to a red baked clay basin with a wide everted rim, very much the same size and general appearance of an old-fashioned wash basin, found in place on the occupation level of the village...There are no very definite indications of any building structure around this fire basin. It appears that the clay basin was molded into shape in place and later hardened by building fires inside the basin. Mr. Ford has been finding similar basins, somewhat smaller in diameter, in the house floors of structures uncovered in the Lamar village site, three miles south of our site at Mound D.



Plate 7: Mound D Trench 38, Baked Clay Basin

A sketch * of the baked clay basin by F. C. Etheridge shows its location in the Mound D survey under the pilaster of Station 937. The position of the clay basin played an important role as a landmark in efforts to relate Mound D to an extensive system of prehistoric dugouts uncovered on the East Plateau slopes of Mound D in post-CWA explorations.

Another baked clay basin of somewhat different type, located on the top of Mound D, is described in the field diary of February 14, 1934.

...In the square between Stations 533-534-564-563, on the top of the mound about 19 feet southeast of the baked clay platform and central house structure occurs a small square baked clay platform with a diameter of 22 inches. The clay is baked red by firing, with a circular, yellow burned patch in the center, diameter 12 inches. This is the type of structure called an alter by many archaeologists. The platform is fairly level, without any indications of basin-form and is quite distinctive in shape compared to the washbowl, basin-like feature just described.*

There were no indications of house walls or of a baked clay floor in connection with the flat baked clay hearth. The flat baked clay hearth was the second to be found on top of Mound D.

On the same day, February 14th, a baked clay cache pit feature containing the badly deteriorated bones of a burial was uncovered. The field notes describe the artist's * sketch of the feature.

...About 25 feet northeast of the building on top of Mound D, just north of Station 833, occurs a baked clay cache pit with a burial inside. The sides of the cache pit extend to a depth of 18 inches, but the top portion of the baked clay wall was broken off by plowing, so that the original height was probably greater. The cache pit has dimensions of 41 by 25 inches. The contents are not entirely troweled out as yet, but five fragments of human bone occur in place in the mid-section of the fill. Some small pieces of charcoal and some ash are in the pit fill, but there are no indications of cremation. The bones are not calcined to any great extent and appear to have been thrown in or placed in the cache pit as a secondary internment. A second cache pit has just appeared and is now being troweled on the south side of the central house site (on top of Mound D)...which is the chief architectural point of reference at Mound D.

The second cache pit is described in the notes of February 21, 1934.

...The second cache pit to be troweled out on top of Mound D is better preserved and less broken by plowing than was the first. The pit is 57 inches through the longest diameter and 42 inches

through the shortest. The walls have an average thickness of about four inches. The shape of the pit is roughly broad oval, with one end more sharply pointed. About half of the top covering is together, having fallen down onto the surface of the pit fill. There were no indications of burial in this pit; the only contents uncovered so far being a few potsherds. No evidences of a building or structure were found in association with the cache pit in the immediate area. (The finding of these large baked clay lined cache pits on top of Mound D, near the central structure being explored contemporaneously, in later Mound D chronological reconstruction led to the cataloguing of that building as the Granary).



Plate 8: Mound D Trench 27, Small Burned Clay Lined Pit, Pit 22

Other baked clay cache pits of the type just described and sketched by F. C. Etheridge for Mound D were found during the exploration of Mound D in close association with the main structure uncovered in the first months of CWA exploration (See Plate 8).

The second example of a complete pottery vessel was recovered from the upper levels of Mound D. According to the field notes of February 8th, the vessel was inverted and broken as a result of plowing. The vessel is 10 inches in diameter at the rim, 13 inches in diameter at the base, and 9 inches deep (probably deeper when reconstructed). Like the other example of a complete vessel found in similar circumstances, it is a plain vessel of Macon Plateau type. Careful troweling of the area where the vessel was found revealed no pit or the indications of a burial. No explanation is forthcoming for this strange custom of placing large inverted vessels of



Plate 9: Mound D, Inverted Vessel

this type in the ground or on a baked clay surface on which the central structure was constructed on Mound D (Plate 9).

A greenish grey polished stone celt was uncovered over a portion of the baked floor area of the central structure on Mound D at a depth of 21 inches at Station 590. A good archeological context is indicated since celts of this type were found in the Lamar village excavations and at Mound C in the Macon Group (Plate 10).

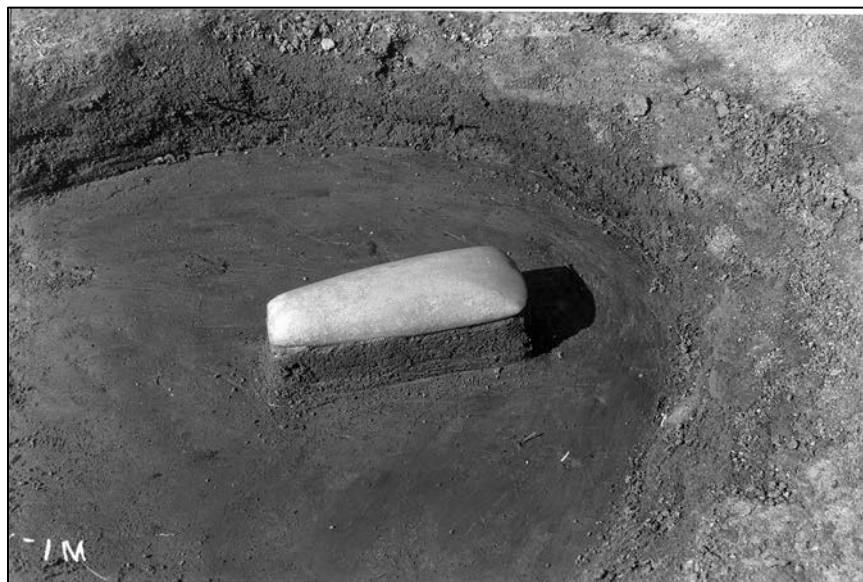


Plate 10: Mound D, Find #11 Grey Polished Stone Celt

Explorations in February at the site of the central structure on Mound D were held up in part by the severe winter of 1934 and by the difficulty of interpreting and following the features encountered on the house site. Heavy ash beds were thought to be the residue of wooden structures which once clustered around the lower eastern, southern, and western slopes of the mound. Later these were determined to be material largely brought in from midden or sandy soils from the plateau. No adequate explanation was ever found for the ashy colored sandy pockets and heaps in the mound. Dean Leon Smith of Wesleyan College analyzed some soil samples and found they had high phosphate content, and that the peculiar texture and appearance was partly the result of decayed, oxidized organic matter. A gritty ashy soil very similar to this is sometimes used by poor people in the Macon region as a cheap detergent, or washing compound.

Intrusive or subsequent to the accumulation of the ashy soils on the slopes of Mound D were several small trenches. Two of them trended southeast and northeast. These were visible in the initial excavation of the western baseline trench. The suggestion was made that these might be some of the trenches of the Confederate defenses of Macon, the upper portions partially plowed away.

Many, if not most, of the post moulds uncovered in troweling the structure on Mound D were under thick, gummy bluish clay. Indications of the burning of the clay platform of the central floor section of the house did not result in the typical briquettes around the assumed wall areas. The first clay platform uncovered by troweling on Mound D had a maximum diameter of 34 feet. The clay was intact in the central portions but considerably disturbed at the margins (Plate 4). A post mould sequence beneath the upper bluish clay indicated a rectangular building, with indications of more than one structure built on the same area. Plates 11 and 12 illustrate the progress of the excavation, during March of 1934, of the structure on Mound D. This structure became known as the Granary in the Master Plan of Ocmulgee National Monument.



Plate 11: Mound D Excavation Progress



Plate 12: Mound D Excavation Progress

At the end of March, a change in project from CWA to FERA took place. The work at Lamar Mounds was closed and James A. Ford came to the Mound D plateau to assist in the final stages of excavation of the ceremonial earth lodge and the excavations on Mound D. North and south trench exploration through the east periphery began in March beginning with Trench 33 and proceeding to Trench 27. This was a period of drastic readjustment with many of the trained foreman, catalogue and trowel men, and draftsmen no longer available.

Five foot cuts were made north and south at the mound base. Post moulds were uncovered and recorded at the base of these cuts in trenches 30-29-28. No particular continuity or pattern was observed in these post moulds at that time, however, they indicated a pre-mound occupation. Pottery and stone artifacts from the same levels were catalogued. Nine months later the exploration of the sinks or prehistoric dugouts was extended around the eastern and northeastern plateau beyond Mound D. At this time it became necessary to extend the eastern baseline survey of Mound D into the eastern and western control trench explorations of the area between Mound D and the creek to the east. At that time the bases of Trenches 33-32-31-30-29-28-28 were made deeper. A sub-mound, Cultivated Field house site demarcated by a definite rectangular arrangement of single post wall patterns, was uncovered. This was accomplished by going only a little more than a foot deeper than was excavated in the late CWA and early FERA project explorations in this part of the Mound D survey. It was in the re-excavation of the above area that the original soils preserved under station pilasters proved of inestimable assistance in relating the engineering data of the two periods of excavation.

Early in April, 1934, with a new crew and only a cadet corps of formerly trained trowel men on hand, Trench 28 north and south through Mound D had been cut to mound base, and Trench 27 was started. It was at this time that our attention was drawn to the peculiar undulations of the mound base in the profile section. Evidently, we had been cutting through the

east extension of the Cultivated Field without realizing it. The engineer's profile recording for Trench 32, north and south cut through the mound, shows the red clay plate to Mound D making contact with mound base in north and south ends of the cut. The mound base is rendered relatively flat, without the regular wavy effect that had become apparent by the time Trench 28 was reached. (See Profile drawing for Trench 32, north and south through Mound D). It is probable that some unevenness in the mound base was noted during the traverse of some 20 feet through the mound, from north and south Trench 32 to Trench 28. But if so, the possible implications had not yet stimulated our imagination to consider a procedure that might uncover this most unusual archaeological feature more adequately.

The first plan adopted in examining the mound profile more carefully in Trench 27 was to remove the mound in vertical slices at 1-foot intervals, extending the cuts through mound base. The profiles of the 1-foot intervals were numbered 26-1, 26-2, 26-3, and 26-4. This procedure was inadequate and a more radical step was taken at Trench 25. It was decided to try removing the mound body in five-foot cuts, but to leave the mound base and the wavy contours in place. The mound fill was largely a sandy loam, with occasional lenses of clay, a dull drab grey in color, much in contrast to the rich dark chocolate loamy soil at mound base. The appearance of the mound overburden and the sharp contrast with the dark soil at mound base is shown in a photograph of the profile north and south through Trench 26 (Plate 13).



Plate 13: Mound overburden and mound base

As the profile of Trench 25 shows (Plate 14), the wavy appearance of mound base had become even more pronounced in traversing the 5 feet from Trench 26.



Plate 14: Progress picture of Trench 25 Mound D

The romantic notion was now being entertained that these undulations in the dark soil at mound base might be the effect of vertical profiling through the hillocks of a prehistoric Cultivated Field, preserved under the mound. The notion possibly received some unconscious support when we happened upon a small midden heap of charred corncobs at the mound base on the floor of a submound, sub-Cultivated Field house. On April 6th, a small mass of burned corncobs was found under Station 767. A fire baked area or hearth was found in the south portion of Trench 25 (Plate 15).



Plate 15: Section of Trench 25 Clay Hearth

Also, in the southern end of Trench 25 at the mound base, burnt logs were found on an occupation level beneath the profiled undulations (Plate 16).



Plate 16: Section of Trench 25 Burnt Logs

A small cache pit lined with hard burned clay, six inches deep and 16 by 20 inches in diameter, was found 25 inches below the mound base. Another pit, 22 inches in diameter was found in Trench 25, also with burned clay. These were some of the numerous evidences of occupation found in the lighter subhumic soil beneath the dark chocolate loam of the potential hillocks of the Cultivated Field. Subsequently, we would be able to do nothing to follow out this occupation level, under the compulsion to preserve the vestiges of the Cultivated Field at the mound base.

James A. Ford transferred to the Mound D unit of the Macon explorations due to the new project reorganization, and his diary record of April 6, 1934 is pertinent.

...From Station 27 to Station 297, the profile shows mound base as being definitely and regularly wavy. These waves are approximately 43 inches from peak to peak with a depth of about five inches from the peak of the waves to the valley of the waves. The profile along here is going to be measured at one foot intervals, and for awhile profiles will be taken at one foot intervals, which is intended to show the shape of these undulations. The mound occupation at this level is moderately rich. Humus extends

down about 5 inches from the point of contact and leaching to about 15 inches. Small amounts of charcoal, some flint chips and occasional arrowheads are found in or below mound base. This section of profile is covered with clearly lensed material showing that the mound was placed on this irregular soil. Theory: the mound base described above may indicate ancient garden beds, cultivation rows or hills.

Ford's comment on the progress of excavations of the Granary on top of Mound D for April 6 is as follows.

On top of Mound D where the clay platform was discovered several weeks ago and where several ash-pit like depressions lined with clay occurred, this clay floor or roof was removed, being from three to four inches thick. Underneath was disclosed an occupation level showing a number of postholes, some of which lined up fairly well. In order to be certain that we have all the postholes, we have cut through this occupation level to a depth of 4 inches and now (April 6th) have almost finished this cutting. In a few days will map the holes revealed. Although quite a few lines of postholes seem to show up, they are rather a scramble and no definite building shapes have been found. Some of the lines of post holes are curved and some are straight.

Beginning with the Trench 25 profile, Mound D was removed down to its base. The tan lensed sandy loam of the mound fill was carefully troweled at the point of contact with the rows or hillocks of the Cultivated Field preserved beneath the mound. Some concern had been felt over this operation, as we were unsure that the friable soil would stand and preserve its contours under the stress and attrition of the operations to remove tons of overburden. Exploration in the Trench 24 line of stations, north and south through the mound, soon indicated that this procedure would be successful (Plate 17 and Plate 18).



Plate 17: Explorations of Trench 24 Mound D



Plate 18: Progress of Trench 24 Mound D

In order to minimize movements of men over previously excavated areas, a new excavation was made in the body of the mound to the west of Trench 25 between stations 110-107-167-170, called Trench 25 west. This solved part of the mechanical problems of moving so

much mound overburden. Wheelbarrows could operate on top of the mound without carrying it out over planks over the hillocks of the Cultivated Field (Plate 19).



Plate 19: Removing Overburden in Mound D Between Stakes 110-107 and 167-170

With the removal of the mound fill in the north and south of Trench 23, ten feet of the Cultivated Field began to appear. The hillocks or rows revealed through troweling were as visible as those observed in an old fallow field overgrown by field pine in the last ten or fifteen years, a familiar site to the hunter in middle Georgia. The swells and troughs were quite marked. The trend of the rows or hillocks was observed to be northwest with reference to the standing north and south profile. This gave greater apparent width to the waves in the trench profiles when first observed (Plate 20).



Plate 20: Corn Hillocks Below Mound D

Study of the mound profiles showed clearly that there was some immediate relation of the red clay plate of the mound summit to the degree of preservation of the submound Cultivated Field. Where the plate came down to make contact with the mound base, and featheredge began, there the evidences of the Cultivated Field became indistinct. The undulatory character of the mound base was evident up to and slightly beyond the point where the clay plate made contact with the mound base. Where the clay plating was strewn and compacted a few feet further into featheredge, some faint wavy character in the submound surface was detected.

The decision to remove the mound fill from over the hillocks of the Cultivated Field in the south half of the mound survey led to two new discoveries of house sites that had been covered over by the mound construction. In the South Annex explorations of Mound D the ramped floor section, baked clay floor, and rectangular pattern of post moulds representing the Halfway House was revealed in the artist's sketch *. This structure got its name from its location, intermediate between the ceremonial earth lodge structure and a structure called the Terrace House, a still more recent structure found under mound fill in the southwestern quadrant of the mound.

The excavation of the Halfway House site was slow and tedious as the close proximity of this structure to the site of the ceremonial earth lodge, explored completely in its final stages by James A. Ford, and to the south continuity of Mound D contact with mound base, a critical point in following out the south extension of the Cultivated Field preserved under the main mass of the mound body (Plate 21).



Plate 21: Progress in Exploring the Halfway House

The situation as it developed in the Mound D explorations by June 1, 1934, is well summarized in the illustration by James Jackson (Illustration 1) showing a general view of Mound D excavations at this time (Plate 22).

The ceremonial earth lodge exploration was completed and a temporary protecting cover of telephone tile walls and a tin roof was erected over it. Most of the surface of Mound D was still intact with the survey pilasters in place and the top humus peeled away, except for the north and south trenching made into the eastern slope and the large cut made into southern slope of the mound to bring out the extension of the submound Cultivated Field to the south. Excavation of the southern slope between the mound and the newly discovered ramped house site, Halfway House, was rapid (Plate 23).



Plate 22: General View of Mound D Excavations



Plate 23: View of Submound D Showing Corn Hillocks

The appearance of the Cultivated Field was indeed very much the same as that of an old fallow field, allowed to grow up in secondary or tertiary growth of field pine, a familiar sight in Georgia. The garden plots of the prehistoric plateau dwellers preserved under Mound D on initial inspection, freshly uncovered from their mound envelope, looked very much like ordinary modern rows of a Cultivated Field. The trowel men and laborers at Mound D would have accepted complacently the discovery of iron plowshares in the submound area. Close study of the rows revealed a slight nodal periodicity in lateral swells in the continuity of the cultivated tracts, which might reflect where prehistoric hillocks had been pulled together in their distal portions by hoe agriculture. If this was a thousand year old cornfield, then the tillers of the soil had tended the corn hillocks in a manner duplicating the techniques of modern farmers; they hoed the earth up into the line of the hillocks, merging the extremities of the hillocks, and keeping the intervening troughs free to hold the rainwater. The net result eventually was to produce rows which looked like the furrows of a plowed field.

Early in the excavations to bring out the submound Cultivated Field we came upon evidence of building activity that was contemporaneous with the cultivation of this plot of ground. In the southern end of north-south Trenches 25, 26, and 27 at mound base level a hard-packed floor section, fire-baked in places with some post moulds in conjunction, was troweled out and left in place while the mound was being removed over the Cultivated Field to the west and south. The rows of the Cultivated Field are pressed or blotted out at the precise edge of the floor or platform to this structure, showing that this residence was built immediately on the cultivated hillocks (Plate 24).



Plate 24: Profiles on South Slope of Mound D with Corn Hillocks

The rows of the Cultivated Field begin to die out within fifteen to twenty feet south of the evidence of a house site built onto the Cultivated Field (Plate 25). The heavily lensed mound fill in the cornering excavation in this portion of the south mound survey does not show the red clay plate in place. The clay sheathing to mound surface was plowed away on this part of the

southern slope of the mound, but enough of the basket-laid, lensed, sandy loam overburden remained in place to protect and preserve the integrity of the cultivated ground at the mound base (Plate 26).



Plate 25: Troweling Cultivated Field Under Mound D



Plate 26: Basket Laid Sandy Loam Mound Base

Excavation of the Halfway House site progressed to the point where some idea of its architecture and plan could be understood. A baked clay floor and two parallel lines of post mould continuities preserved something of the essential character of this structure. The baked clay flooring occurred in patches and was badly broken and disrupted on all sides. Seemingly an insufficient number of posts were indicated to provide adequate roofing and walls for a structure of this size. One section of detached baked clay platform immediately to the north-northwest of the main structure of Halfway House revealed no evidence of posts whatsoever. Just north or slightly north-northwest of Halfway House a peculiar arrangement of posts was found. One large post excavation or pit, surrounded by eight or nine smaller post moulds, was troweled out at this point. The interpretation of this feature structurally in relation to the architectural plan of Halfway House was not, and still is not, clear to the writer (Plates 27 and 28).

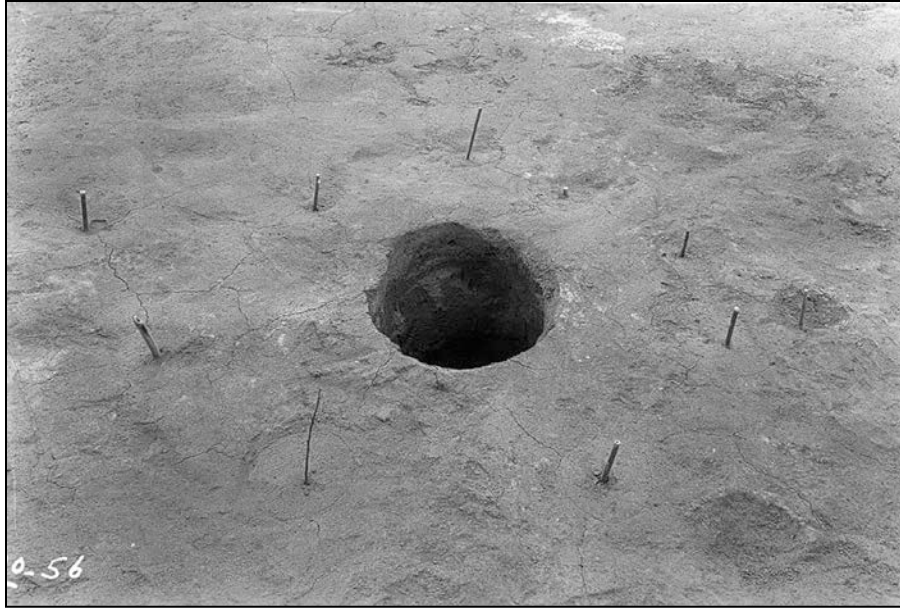


Plate 27: Large Post Hole Surrounded by Smaller Post Holes



Plate 28: Section of Baked Clay Fire-basin

The location of Halfway House in relation to the ceremonial earth lodge and Mound D is clear from a study of Plate 28 and Illustration 1. The stratigraphic connection in both instances is much more complex, and the attacking of this problem did not take place until late in 1935 excavations. Discussion will be resumed when the excavations through the clay mound over the ceremonial earth lodge are analyzed in their western extension onto the adjacent area of the western ramp to Halfway House. Whether Halfway House was truly a ramped structure, like Terrace House excavated in the southwestern portion of the Mound D survey, was another architectural feature which required further exploratory trenching through the area in later excavations. The relation of Halfway House to Mound D feather edge could not be ascertained. The house site lay beyond the elements of the mound structure proper, the red clay cap mantling summit, the lower slopes, and the clearly identified sheet wash extensions that developed on the slopes of the mound on top of the red clay plate in which a buried sod occurred containing pits and occupational debris of the Ocmulgee Fields historic Creek Indian horizon.

The floor of Halfway House lay just below the subhumus horizon in this part of the Mound D survey. Catalogued material from the area immediately over the floors, and in the disturbed soils between Halfway and the western baseline of Mound D, show a confused mingling of artifacts and pottery from many archaeological contexts, prehistoric to historic Ocmulgee Fields. The potsherds found immediately on the hard baked clay floor, partially mantled by debris of the abandoned and collapsed house, belong to the Macon Plateau culture such as Bibb Plain, fabric-impressed ware, and Macon Plateau rims with looped and knotted handles. A refuse or storage pit, catalogued as Pit 24, immediately south of Halfway House, produced a wealth of materials belonging to the Ocmulgee Old Fields horizon-- copper tubing, several types of trade beads, trade pipe stems, and Old Ocmulgee Fields pottery. Two discoidal stones, a fragment of steatite ware, and Archaic projectile points occur on the ramp to Halfway House or in soil levels close to floor deposits. James Ford's description of a small burial pit containing a large dog, excavated in the South Annex explorations between Mound D western baseline and the site of Halfway House (April 12, 1934).

...This burial lies 12 inches below the surface. There are indications of a small pit, but as to whether this pit comes from the surface cannot be determined. The soil has not been removed from above the burial. This is a skeleton of a rather large dog lying on the left side, head to the south, back legs flexed, front legs almost straight but extending back along axis of body...There are indications at Mound D that a house once stood on or near the site (modern tenant farmer?). There is a possibility that we have here run onto the burial of some historic family's favorite dog. The skeleton is in fair condition although not exceptionally well-preserved. However, the bones might have decayed to their present state in twenty five to thirty years.

This was the last note made by Ford as the new project reorganization only permitted retaining one archaeologist. Ford's next assignment was as archaeologist on a CCC project to explore a tabby ruin on the Georgia coast, presumed to be a Spanish Mission site. Dog burials, incidentally, are important in Macon Plateau archaeology, as later work did uncover dog burials in good archaeological context.

The western extension of the widening excavations made into the southern slope of Mound D resulted in the finding of another large house site that had been covered over by mound fill of Mound D. This structure became known as Terrace House because it was built on top of a small prepared mound base on or over the hillocks of the Cultivated Field.

A crucial point to determine in the early exploration of Terrace House was whether or not this house mound had been built before or after the Cultivated Field under Mound D. A considerable portion of a house floor with post moulds had been found constructed on the rows or hillocks of the Cultivated Field during the beginning peeling of mound fill from the vestiges of the field in the southern end of Trench 27 (Plate 24). Careful troweling shows the hillocks or rows continuing on under the eastern ramp of Terrace House. This rendition is fairly well indicated in a photograph taken from the southern baseline near Halfway House, which exhibits the cleared area south of Mound D, angling northwest toward the eastern ramp of Terrace House, with the unexcavated mound still standing in profile over a part of the unexcavated ramp. The rows of the Cultivated Field are seen to be jamb against the standing profile of Mound D and the ramp to Terrace House (*).

Another interesting feature of the exploration of Terrace House, and exhibiting how perfectly the details of an ancient landscape may be preserved under unusual conditions, such as the construction of a clay-plated mound over a prehistoric Cultivated Field and contemporary building seats, is what appears to be a prehistoric trail or path running diagonally northeast through the area of the Cultivated Field! This is not, as might be thought from casual study of a photograph, a path beaten by workmen clearing the overburden of Mound D from the included house mound and Cultivated Field. It was noticed early in the excavations and shows clearly in photographs of the time. Plate 32 is a general view taken from the south, and Plate 33 is a photo taken from photographic tower after a heavy rain, which brings out stark detail where the water is standing in the troughs between the corn rows.



Plate 29: General View of Mound D from the South



Plate 30: General View After Heavy Rains

The tower photo also has the merit of exhibiting the relations in survey at Mound D of Terrace House, the Cultivated Field, Halfway House, and the ceremonial earth lodge (covered with temporary shelter, tile walls and tin roof). Another view from the photographic tower, looking west, shows how the rows of the Cultivated Field fade away in the excavated area of the South Annex to Mound D, approach to Halfway House. The partially preserved section of a floor and post mould sequence to the house uncovered in Trenches 26 and 27 with the prehistoric path trending southwest through the Cultivated Field, which abuts this house remnant at this point, and with Terrace House ramp in the right background. Excavations are in progress on the West Plateau, near the railroad excavation, where preliminary test trenching disclosed stratified village remains of the main plateau occupation in prehistoric times *.

Excavations on top of Mound D during the late summer of 1934 and fall of 1934, had explored indications of several buildings on the summit and disclosed over 300 post molds inserted at different points through two clay plates, a red clay plate and a bluish clay plate (Plates 3, 11, 12). During the severe winter of 1934-1935 activities were temporarily halted. Reorganization under FERA and detachment of the smaller number of trained trowel men and foreman to key work on the Red Knoll (Council Chamber site), the Prehistoric Dugouts, and the Stratified Village on the West Plateau of Mound D, necessitated delays in completing some excavation units. We were unable to work out a pattern from the first post moulds found underneath the plow line. The clay floor or platform (Plate 3) was smooth and relatively unbroken by post insertions, almost suggesting that this structure may have been a dance platform or a plaza area on top of the mound, without a roof covering. The great majority of the 300 odd post moulds were uncovered from beneath the top red clay plate, in association with

bluish or dark tan clay. The situation here is best described in the diary record of March 15, 1935.

...House site complex on top of Mound D explored under CWA giving rise to the site of the Granary is being troweled out again in connection with Tamplin's new sketch of the floors and walls of houses which had been constructed on top of Mound D. The 6 or 7 baked clay or clay-lined cache pits, enclosed by lines of vertical post supports, indicating wall continuity, was catalogued as the Granary in early notes. Close to 350 postholes have been brought out on the top and top slopes of the mound, a very confusing situation because of the multiplicity of building evidences. We shall make one more intensive effort to get some order and plan out of this welter of detail. It must be remembered that there were two clay plates on top of Mound D red clay plate which covered the entire mound, top and sides, and a blue river clay lens which fitted sleeve-like around two sides (east and west) of the Granary, and extended south as an apron, with the red clay forming a hogback ridge *. Postholes came out 1) beneath the red clay plate and on top of the red clay; 2) on and through the blue clay; 3) beneath the blue clay, apparently inserted into the light sandy mound body before any clay plating was put on. It must be conceded that the confusion produced by this complex mingling of building features has made precise separation belonging to each level difficult if not impossible.

A study of Tamplin's recordation of post moulds and storage pits (Illustration 2) indicates one large rectangular building, oriented with the long axis northeast-southwest, with a half dozen or more baked clay-lined storage pits inset in the clay floor of the house, several located close by the house walls. Analysis of pit contents when troweled shows that there was comparatively little refuse in them with only rarely instances of fires in place as in connection with cooking. For this reason, they were considered at the time of first uncovering and troweling to be storage pits, and that still seems to be the most likely functional interpretation.

Particular interest attaches to the bluish clay, "...which fitted sleeve-like around two sides". Examination of Engineer Tamplin's draught of the Granary area shows that the bluish clay is represented in the apron to the southwest and along the west wall of the Granary. In these sections the blue clay was found on troweling to be piled up or agglomerated locally to a depth of 4 inches or more over the apparent floor level. It was as if the clay had melted down in place, massing more thickly along the southwestern and northwestern wall sections. Relatively few briquettes, and these not generally indicating firing or burning, and the condition of the floor to the Granary, indicated that this structure had been abandoned and allowed to disintegrate in place. The type of construction implicit in these arrangements is that of a clay-daubed house, probably thicker at the base of the walls, with the same bluish or dark tan clay used in the floor. No wall trenches are found in conjunction with the posthole continuities which are definitely related to perceived wall construction in the Granary. These features of Granary architecture are important and will be considered again in assembling evidences of different styles of house

construction found in different periods of Mound D history (submound, sub-Cultivated Field; post Cultivated Field but submound; post-mound).

In the first months of exploration on the summit of Mound D during the winter of 1934 a large core section of clay flooring or plating, 34 feet wide, was found just underneath the plow line (Plate 3). The idea was entertained that we had a round or broad oval house structure. The house pattern brought out in Tamplin's draught represents the Granary as a structure which had been kept intact, unbroken by modern plowing due to the protective shell of the top clay plate. On all sides of the core section or plate found overlying the floor and wall continuities of the Granary, plowing disrupted and tore away the protective sheath. Despite the most careful attention to each possible posthole from this level, with regard to its point of insertion, we were unable in some cases to know whether the posts belonged to the top structure (Plate 3) or to a structure built on the blue clay cap. It does not seem justified to remove these doubtful postholes from the total recordation. It is more reasonable, however, to see what evidences of structure remain when the posthole continuities associated with The Granary are removed.

About the same time that the resurvey and final calculations and drafting were being completed on the Granary, troweling operations were uncovering the floor sections and wall continuities of the ramped mound and house structure found in the southwestern portion of the Mound D survey, a submound but post-Cultivated Field unit of construction which showed some interesting divergent architectural traits. This structure, known as Terrace House, exhibited wall supports inserted in well-defined wall trenches, and porch-like or galleried extensions of the main structure on two sides. The description of it as it first appeared in troweling of the floor section is given in the notes of March 16, 1935.

...Most important development in the troweling out of the floor of this house, left unexplored during the winter months, are the many evidences of posthole insertions in the shallow, ditch-like depressions, nearly 2 feet wide, bounding the floor on all sides. The depressions have been troweled out for about three-fifths of the periphery. The postholes or post moulds are found continuous in the wall trench with a space of 3-8 inches between them. There are beginning signs that other postholes paralleling the walls indicate porch-like or corridor extensions on the northwest and southeast...Certainly post moulds show thickly in the shallow depression around the floor square. Two explanations suggest themselves at the moment: 1) it seems likely that the walls may have been poles, average diameter 3-4 inches, with a few large logs used, set in a narrow ditch in a palisade effect. A sort of stockade with the wall posts held in place with lashings and the ground firmly tamped down around the posts inserted in the ditch. The appearance of post moulds could be explained on the assumption that the tamped clay formed a mold of the posts when the walls were burned or decayed. 2) Regular vertical post supports forming a wall lashed together, forming a wall base on which clay was daubed. Massed clay and briquettes on the ramps and around the lines of the wall suggest a melting down and consolidation of clay from the walls along the foot of the wall posts.

By March 25th, the Terrace House unit was completely uncovered and James Jackson drew a sketch of the structure as it appeared on that date for the notes (Figure 1). Three small storage or cooking pits were exposed, located in the porches or galleries to the northwest and southeast. Some uncertainty as to the doors or entrances to the structure was noted.

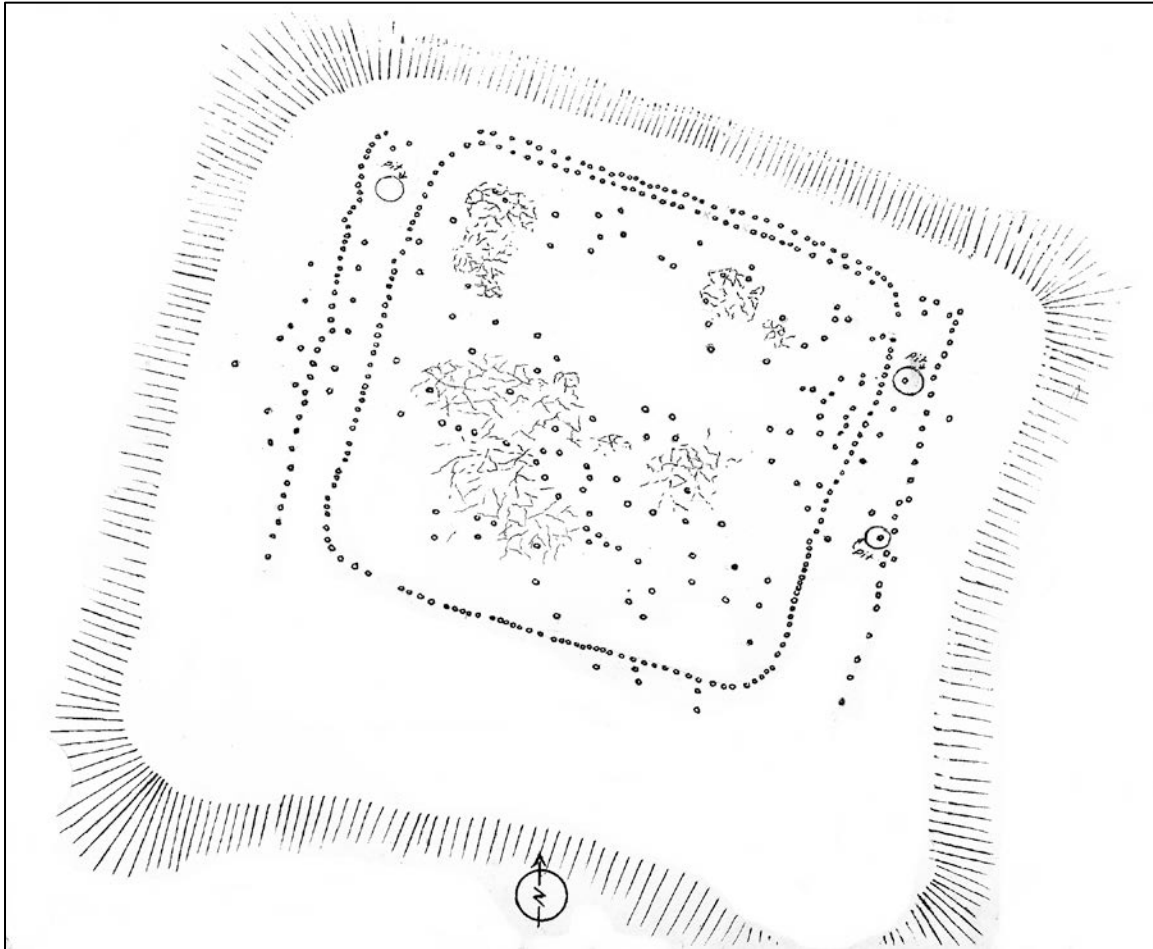


Figure 1: Terrace House

...Troweling of the floor of Terrace House is yielding a relatively good showing of the baked clay floor with posthole indications of the wall, continuity, the two porches or entrance passages on the southeast and northwest. Absence of postholes at one point in the south wall suggests an entrance from that direction. Ingress to the central room would be effected by a sill-like construction in the middle portions of the southeast and northwest walls. The floor is quite perceptibly more worn and eroded (as from use) in this area in the middle point of the northwest wall. Similar indications are not so marked in the interior wall or floor margin at the corresponding point of the southeast wall. Two small pits, diameters about 20 inches, show at corresponding positions at the north end of the two entrance passages. The southeast passage

shows a second ash-filled (?) pit about halfway down from the open end at the south. This is smaller than the pit at the north end and was at first considered to be a large posthole. The north wall shows a double line of upright posts -- a primitive form of insulation against the weather? An incipient doubling of the posts seems suggested for the southeast wall. The post supports in the baked clay floor of the large inner chamber are scattered rather haphazardly. Tentative suggestion is that these may be furniture uprights.

The resurvey of Halfway House and the uncovering of additional detail of floor construction, particularly the finding of two new types of built-in hearths or fire basins, are recorded in the diary of February, 13, 1935.

...Lester and an engineering detail are resurveying the site of Halfway House, domiciliary mound and house site with baked clay floor, parallel lines of postholes, briquette and sod roof debris. This house site had been troweled out and drawn up once before complete ground plans were made; these were held up when it became apparent that Mound D excavations would carry over an extensive area west of the council chamber and that the establishment of a new base mark would be necessary (South Annex Mound D survey). Also, it has been inadvisable to remove completely all soil covering the ramps to Halfway House mound, as the cornfield runs onto the northwest and southwest ramps. (This is important in defining the chronology of Halfway as pre-Cultivated Field in Mound D chronology). To the east is found the confusing, and highly important filling in of midden upon the ramps of the southeast and northeast ramps of Halfway House and the rising slopes to the mound which once covered the ceremonial earth lodge (Council Chamber).

Two clay-molded basins or hearths brought out at this time in the floor section of Halfway House are described.

...No. 1 was found completely broken up, with only the comers of the basin intact. No. 2 is better preserved. Both basins are approximately rectangular, one almost square. Both are inset in the floor, a shallow intaglio arrangement, depressed only about 2 inches from floor level.

These hearths on Halfway House floor have a generalized resemblance to the altar or hearth found on the top of Mound D, and are quite different from the baked clay hearths on Mound B, described as looking like old fashioned wash bowls.

One problem in exploring the site of Halfway House had to do with determining whether this was a true ramped domiciliary mound construction, as exemplified in Terrace House.

Exploratory trenching through the western ramp to Halfway indicated that the structure had been built upon a slight rise in the terrain, a ridge running from this point in survey north-northwest under Mound D. On the southwestern ramp, redistributed or filled clay was found to depth of about one foot. Eastward, toward the Council Chamber, the addition of clay to produce a ramp is apparent. It appears then, that Halfway was constructed on a platform, partially filled in and deliberately ramped, partially utilizing the natural rise in the terrain at this point.

In addition to the inset clay basins at Halfway House, note three baked clay fire pits, one very shallow and called a bowl. These are of the same general character as those described in and near the floors of the Granary on top of Mound D.

Despite the generous array of inset floor hearths, baked clay-line fire pits, and the extensive, albeit sadly broken and disrupted clay floor, a very inadequate number of postholes indicating vertical supports for a roof was found. The whole area was very thoroughly troweled but no additional post moulds to continue the well-defined parallel section of the main floor were found. Halfway was not protected by being covered by Mound D, as was Terrace House, and evidently suffered greatly from agricultural activities, the first dismantling occurring in prehistoric times, as the rows of the prehistoric field abut upon the lower ramps of the structure at one point. Finding of refuse pits and buried occupation of the Ocmulgee Fields horizon practically flush with the floor level indicate that additional destruction occurred at that time.

Halfway House was simply not sufficiently preserved to give all the structural details desirable for a valid comparison of Mound D house types with others on the Macon Plateau. It also does not compare to other southeastern prototypes or parallels such as the Small Post Town House constructions excavated at Jonathan Creek, Kentucky, under TVA archaeology by Professor William S. Webb. The ramped domiciliary house mound, Terrace House, offered more promise in this connection. After the Ocmulgee site became Ocmulgee National Monument and an ECW and CCC program of archaeological survey was initiated, additional excavations were made at Terrace House to clear up a number of technical problems not elucidated in the 1934-1935 investigations. In July of 1937, Gordon R. Willey carried out excavations designed to produce more information which might justify a theoretical reconstruction of Terrace House, at least in a museum model form.

Willey's introduction to his notes covering Terrace House re-exploration is as follows.

...Work was begun today on Mound D Terrace House, a post structure imposed upon an artificial clay plat-form built over, or at least above, the prehistoric cornfield. This house was formerly covered by Mound D proper, and was excavated during the work of 1934-35. At that time, the building evidences were only roughly determined by horizontal excavations, and generalized alignments of discolorations, thought to be posts were uncovered and plotted in the clay platform. No vertical checks or excavations were made. The purpose of re-exploration is two-fold. First, we are trying to determine the exact nature of the structure in every possible detail prior to a proposed restoration. It is very likely that these plans will be carried out only if the problem at hand is proven to be similar to those of the Tennessee Valley, a Small Post Town House. Otherwise, sufficient archaeological evidence will not be available. Secondly, the excavations of 1934-35 did not relate the house satisfactorily to its environment, i.e. the cornfield,

the underlying midden etc. On this account, a stratigraphic pottery study will be made in an effort to check any possible time relationships between the house floor materials, the clay fill material, and the deposition beneath the floor.

The matter of chronological position and architectural relations with other southeastern house types, i.e. Small Post Town House, will be discussed in a later section of this report. At the moment, we are concerned with a simple recordation of excavation history at Mound D. The artist's sketches provide a draught of the opening exploratory trenching into the house mound, the vertical profiling through the plane of the wall posts giving key data on the manner of post wall construction in the wall trench, and the final stage of excavation in vertical cross-sectioning of the site*.

Willey's work began with a re-troweling of all the post outlines in horizontal fashion. The features previously brought out in 1934-1935 were redefined and freshened. The post-mound sequence in the wall trench was revealed again and the porches or galleries on the northwestern and southeastern sides were certified. The cut made vertically and at right angles into the northeastern ramp showed.

...a staggered double row of post molds extending through 12 inches of red clay ramp and down into the underlying midden or pre-house occupation (cornfield)...The posts averaged 5-6 inches in diameter, and although no charcoal was taken from the wall posts proper, a fragment of long leaf pine (charred) was found in situ in a post hole in the southeast gallery.

The profiles of vertical cuts made at right angles through each of the four ramps to Terrace House domiciliary mound show very consistent constructional and soil features--the red clay plate, a thin water laid deposit under the clay plate, then a sub-mound midden zone averaging a foot in thickness overlying a transitional base of cut section (midden intergrading into red clay loam of generalized plateau formation)*.

Good samples of pottery were taken from the floor or clay plate section of the ramp, the 12 inch midden beneath the domiciliary mound, and was found to fade out in the transitional zone beneath the well defined midden. Arbitrary levels of three inches were made in cataloguing materials in the sub-mound midden, with the third level going six inches. At this depth a fairly pure midden was still evident. Below the transitional levels at which pottery began to play out, Willey notes the occurrence of flint chips and flint artifacts, much decomposed, "...No pottery has been found at this depth as yet on the Terrace House dig. However, suggestions of an early flint horizon are widespread over the plateau; and the material very often comes from such depths of fossil soils as this underlying loam..." Again, in summarizing this point from the four vertical cuts through Terrace House ramps and buried midden.

"...Pottery is virtually absent from the lower level of midden and the transitional layer, but flint chips, artifacts, pieces of quartz, are moderately abundant. Patination is usual to extreme decomposition in most cases." One of the purposes of this new work on Terrace House was to provide careful, controlled, stratigraphic excavations to permit an analysis of Terrace House ceramics in terms of Mound D and sub-mound levels. This material will be used in the Analysis and Chronology sections of the report which follows.

New cuts were made in progressive profiling to slice down post hole alignments and were worked back toward the house site. The arrangement of walls and galleries, and post size are important. Willey summarizes these results.

...All 5 foot cuts (on southwest, southeast, northwest) show a double row of posts. On the opposite northwest and southeast sides, this double row was more in the form of a gallery than a double wall. A distance of 4 foot 6 inches separated the two lines of posts on the southeast, and 3 foot 8 inches separated them on the northwest. In both of these cases the distance was great enough for a gallery or passage if such was the case of construction. On the northeast, the double row was almost flush. On the southwest the double row is 1 foot 3 inches. Beside the regular alignments, scattered posts are found to the outside and inside the floor area.

Two small floor pits, one 29 inches in diameter, was troweled out in the northern corner of the northwestern gallery; the other, 24 inches in diameter in the east corner of the southeastern side. Neither yielded anything except sand fill and occasional sherds--nothing to indicate their purpose. Willey considered the above mentioned sand pits as possible seats of large timbers serving as roof supports.

Although the matter will receive detailed attention in pottery analysis for Terrace House, it is of interest that in his notes of July 26, 1937, Willey records the finding of a whole pottery vessel (broken) in the cornfield midden, below Terrace House ramp, of a simple stamped specimen is described as follows. "...found, probably in situ, some other sherds in same area but mostly of this one vessel, fine- line, linear grooves, gravel tempered". Regarded posthumously, nearly twenty years later, the finding of a Simple Stamped pot in apparently a good Macon Plateau archaeological context, appears somewhat startling.

The question of possible superimposition of house floors had to be considered at Terrace House. Such superimposition was of very frequent occurrence in other archaeological areas, probably of the same general time horizon in the Southeast, particularly in many sites explored in TVA archaeology. Willey notes on the procedure and summary regarding this crucial point, "...Work to determine the possibility of there being two houses instead of one on the ramp was underway this morning. By afternoon a 10 by 10 foot block in the north corner, taken down by a slow skimming method, showed no other evidences of baked floor or occupied surface in the 12 inches of red clay plating".

All cuts made in this final investigation at Terrace House carried down into the transitional zone below sub-mound midden where pottery finds were negligible and patinated flint was found. It is significant that the old flint levels continue under Mound D at deep levels, corresponding to the situation found in special explorations made south of Mound D and in the West Plateau. It is important because these pre-pottery indications at deep levels under Mound D and Terrace House domiciliary mound provide a relatively sealed-in context. On the open plateau so many disturbances occurred during the long and successive occupation by different cultural groups that some ambiguity exists in the *in situ* source of materials. The stratigraphic situation under Terrace House gives some assurance in appraising the findings made in the 100 foot trench made near the railroad cut, south of Mound D, in which decomposed flint scrap and artifacts were found in a weathered soil zone below the pottery bearing strata.

With further reference to the sub-mound occupation at Mound D, we now take up exploration along the eastern baseline where the original survey plat was extended an additional 15 feet to allow for three more north and south trench explorations in vertical examination of Mound D. This was necessary as the original baselines had failed to contain the configuration of the mound as it existed before modern cultivation completely modified the contours and apparent orientation of the mound. In making these north and south trench explorations from the expanded eastern baseline, Trenches 31, 32, and 33, at mound base and underneath the dark loamy sub-mound soil, we found clear indications of a sub-mound house with single post insertions, no wall trench, and no discernible floor level. Two walls were troweled out in this part of the sub-mound area, indicating a rectangular structure oriented northwest-southeast. This orientation is common among house structures previously observed in Mound D. An artist's sketch of the situation observed in this stage of operations is given below (Figure 2).

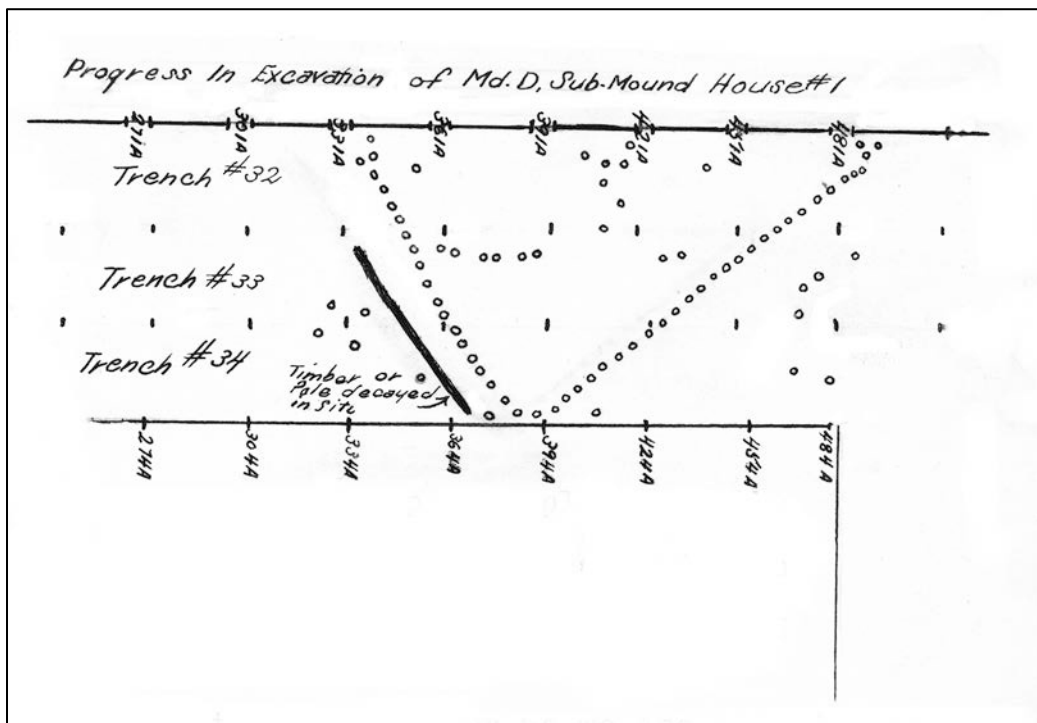


Figure 2: Mound D Submound House 1

No briquettes or baked clay were found in or around this new structure. The floor was probably without any special baked or hard-packed clay. Supernumerary post holes in the interior floor section were presumably for benches or roof support, although all the posts were very small, not more than 4 inches on average. A black line of decayed wood, paralleling the southeastern wall, was conjectured to be a decayed timber of the former sub-mound house. It was necessary to take the resurvey all the way back to Trench 26 to bring out the new sub-mound house indications. The notes of May 3, 1935, explain the failure to observe this structure in the first profiling of Mound D.

...Today's exploration shows west corner of house extending into survey area of Trench No. 26, possibly into No. 25. The original base of cut in No. 26 and No. 27 went down a few inches lower than in the excavations west from Trench No. 33 so that we are

bringing out the new post holes at least a foot below the real occupation level from which they were inserted. Numerous post holes were found in this survey in the first excavations, but the distinct plan of the rectangular house now being brought out was not perceived at that time.

Also, the rows of the sub-mound Cultivated Field were not so obvious at this point in the survey of Trenches 26 and 27 north and south through the mound. The precise relation of this sub-mound structure to the cornfield could not be ascertained. It will be recalled that it was in the south end of Trench 27 that we first detected the wavy sub-mound base area and began a procedure to remove mound fill with a view to exposing this feature, which later gave us the sub-mound Cultivated Field. At that point south in Trench 27, we also found and left blocked out a large part of the floor section consisting of baked or hard-packed clay with scattered post holes. These are indicative of a house structure built on or over, and apparently contemporaneous with the Cultivated Field, which is confluent with the margins of the house at that point (Plate 24, *)

More evidence of sub-mound occupation and house construction was found during explorations conducted in the northwestern quadrant of Mound D. In order to secure engineering data on original shape and orientation of Mound D to the north, the northern baseline trench was opened up in an east and west cut. Red clay plate was found to make contact with the mound base and red clay loam of geological formation in parts of this northern baseline operation. The mound base showed irregularly in the vertical profile cut. The charcoal impregnated dark brown mottled soil had a varying thickness in this survey sector. The greater part of the northern half of Mound D was never excavated and remains in place over the Cultivated Field as of this writing. Should the National Park Service ever devise a scheme for preserving and exhibiting this very perishable feature, it will serve as an integral part of the potential exhibit.

A line of 15 small post holes, 3-4 inches in diameter, were found on the mound base at this point where the red clay mound plate dips to the feather edge. The finding of a burial, Burial 6 at Mound D, in a shallow grave in red clay subsoil, in close position to the line of post holes, gave rise to speculation that the burial might be in either the house floor or just beyond the house wall. The notes indicate the sad condition of preservation, so characteristic of all Mound D burials.

...Extended burial, represents remains of adult individual; age and sex not determined from the badly disintegrated bones. Remains consist of two fragmented femora, small fragments of skull with crowns of teeth in alveolar position. Rest of skeleton decayed to bone trail or nothing. Grave extended down 2 1/2 feet from mound base level. Terrain irregular, sloping upward at this point. No burial furniture. Bones of no use for osteological studies.

This house site at the feather edge of Mound D in the northern survey of the mound had the same general appearance as the sub-mound house described in excavations from the eastern baseline. Its position, however, partially under the terminal clay plate and the extremely small and inconsequential posts made it impossible to trace out the remainder of the pattern. Enough was found to indicate another rectangular house, without a clearly defined floor level, no wall trench, and rather fragile construction. The plowed soil is in immediate contact with the clay plate at this point, and the occupation level at feather edge shows plow scars and erosion. The

information gleaned from this unsatisfactory excavation helped to confirm the existence of a simple, single post, rectangular house, with very small post uprights of sapling size, with scarcely any definable features except the actual wall sequence of small post holes. At least two such structures were found in the sub-mound excavations. The necessity of preserving the vestiges of the Cultivated Field severely restricted the type of operation on mound base that might have uncovered more evidences of sub-mound structure, or rather sub-mound, sub-Cultivated Field structures.

Further exploration in the northwestern quadrant of Mound D brought out several discrete patches of baked clay, briquettes, and midden, massed on either side of a rise in the natural terrain under Mound D in this area. A sketch taken from the field diary shows the distributions of this material. No specific house structures were worked out, and it was finally considered that this constructional debris had piled up on the sides of the irregular swell in terrain, pulled out from a structure located to the south in the unexcavated portion of the mound. The small post hole sequence is indicated near the eastern baseline. This might actually have been a prehistoric stockade rather than part of a house wall continuity. The rows or hillocks do not extend into this northwestern quadrant of the mound in conjunction with the baked clay, briquettes, and confused midden assemblage. Definite evidences of prehistoric clearing of new ground, possibly for extension of the Cultivated Field preserved under the mound, or incident to the construction of Mound D itself, were found in the removal of trees, burning stumps. This left very much the same picture as that afforded by a modern Georgia farmer making a new field. Inasmuch as the plan of excavations at Mound D called for the preservation of approximately half of the remaining unexcavated mound in place over the Cultivated Field as part of a future exhibit of this perishable feature, we did not carry the explorations in northwestern quadrant further south into Mound D (Plate 31).



Plate 31: Debris in Post Holes in Northwest Corner of Mound D

With the excavations in the northwestern quadrant of Mound D just described, and the re-exploration of north and south trenches along the eastern baseline to uncover a sub-mound rectangular house beneath the rows of the Cultivated Field, we are now prepared to take leave of Mound D excavations proper. Considered as unit excavations within the original plat survey of Mound D, or immediate extensions of the same, we have the explorations on Halfway House and Terrace House, and the two or three indications of house structures on the old surface before prehistoric cultivation started and before the construction of Mound D. The final stage of prehistoric building is represented by the structures found on blue and red clay plates on the summit of Mound D of which one, the Granary, was worked out with sufficient pattern continuity to be useful in any architectural comparisons.

The account of excavations on the Mound D section of the Macon Plateau now shifts to a small red loam knoll, located some 25 feet east of the site of Halfway House, but not originally part of the South Extension of the Mound D survey from the southern baseline. It is understood that these separate units of excavation were not undertaken successively or chronologically. Several were attacked simultaneously, and then as special complications arose in some of these units, the best trowel-men and technicians would be shifted, or units would be left standing for a while until we could come back to them. This means that in writing the account of total excavations it is necessary to reconstruct the picture of individual unit explorations by combining notes and recordation taken at wide intervals. In the case of Terrace House, the final vertical profiling and investigations were made under CCC and National Parks supervision, approximately two years after the CWA initial explorations on the site.

Excavations at the Red Knoll—Earth Lodge

Excavations at the site of the earth lodge or council chamber began a few weeks after the initial survey and exploration of Mound D. A very small elevation southeast of Mound D had been observed during the early stages of Mound D survey and was mildly suspect as a potential mound or structure. A description in the notes of February 14, 1934, made just before Mound D survey was extended in this direction is pertinent.

...About 30 yards south and east of Mound D, a small knoll raises above the slope which extends to the branch paralleling the east side of Mound D. The knoll has an approximate elevation of about 3 feet above the surrounding surface and has a hummocky appearance due to the presence of stumps, underbrush, and some rather abortive plowing. This small elevation has been drawn into the plat of Mound D, and the explorations on Mound D have been carried out to the knoll, which will hereafter be known as D-1 until further excavations indicate the significance of the structure. The soil in the fill surrounding the knoll is plowed ground of a tawny yellow color, but the knoll itself consists of brilliant red clay. A burned log section was found lying horizontally only a few inches beneath the plowed surface just to the west of the knoll, but appears to have no special significance in connection with house site developments (Maps 1 and 2).

Obviously, interest in the Red Knoll was rather tepid in the beginning excavations, and remained so for the next few days as definitive structural indications were slow in coming out. Developments thereafter led to the most important discovery at Mound D, except perhaps for the prehistoric Cultivated Field found under Mound D, or the remarkable prehistoric dugouts first found in the East Plateau slope below the Red Knoll (Council Chamber). The diary of February 21st summarizes.

...preliminary trenching in the bank of red clay disclosed nothing other than an artificial dump of Georgia red earth. Subsequent exploration immediately west of the dump, however, has uncovered the ground plan of a large circular house with a diameter of approximately 41 feet. The outline of the structure is clay delimited, a hard baked clay wall about a half inch in thickness. The circular wall has been cleared for practically its entire circumference and measurements of the arc indicate that is very nearly a perfect circle. The entrance to the house lies on the east and constitutes two pillars of clay with the inner wall surfaces hardened by fire...It is probable that the trowel men have struck the clay wall here at a level some distance from the floor. Details of wall construction have not yet been worked out, but the present suggestion is that a wall of solid clay was built with no other support perhaps than timbers inside walls and the inner surface was

subsequently hardened by fire. The house foundation lies on top of an artificial mound accumulation of red clay.

Early stages of exploration on this structure are represented in Plates 32, 33, 34.



Plate 32: Council House



Plate 33: Council House Doorway



Plate 34: Council House Progress

These show the removal of collapsed roof timbers and sod covering. By April, James A. Ford had come up from the Lamar Group excavations to assist on Mound D plateau. The final stages of uncovering the floor section of the earth lodge were carried out under his immediate supervision. After an interval of exploration on reputed Spanish sites on the Georgia coast, Ford was to return later when Ocmulgee had become a National Monument, to supervise the restoration of the Council Chamber as the first in-place exhibit on the Monument area.

A temporary shelter with walls built of telephone conduit tile and a tin roof was constructed over the ceremonial earth lodge while the excavations were still in progress (Plate 40). Relatively little midden was found on the floors. Some material came from the large central hearth or sacred fire area. Plow scars showed at many places where the upper limits of the baked clay walls were first disclosed in troweling. Evidently, the heavy underbrush and stumps had discouraged persistent plowing of this tough area. Otherwise, in the century of cultivation going back to antebellum days, the ceremonial chamber at Mound D would have long since been destroyed.

Either by mischance, or deliberately, the earth lodge was burned in prehistoric times. Subsequent explorations on Macon Plateau, Mound D Plateau, Middle Plateau, and on Mounds A and B Plateau, as well as at Brown's Mount, were to uncover other examples of the same basic type of structure, varying widely in size, orientation, and interior arrangements. The descriptions of these Ocmulgee earth lodges, comparisons and hypothetical relations, including an account of

earth lodge parallels in the general Southeast are to be found in a report by Charles H. Fairbanks (The Macon Earth Lodge). A. R. Kelly first summarized the earth lodge excavations in his preliminary account of Ocmulgee explorations in 1938 (Preliminary Explorations at Macon, Georgia 1938, Bulletin 119, Smith; etc.). Here we are concerned with a review of the Earthlodge excavations at Mound D, considered as part of the nexus of related structures on this part of the Macon Plateau, surveyed and explored in connection with the original Mound D work.

Whether by design or accident, the fact of burning served to preserve many architectural features of the earth lodge construction, particularly the roofing detail, and the vertical supports, that would otherwise have been lost (Plates 35 and 36). The log purlings, or rafters, that ran up to a smoke hole over the central fire, were charred but still remained fairly intact where they had fallen. The fires were smothered in the collapsed overburden of the heavy roof sod. The small oval depressions in front of the clay molded seats were found filled with ash and fired clay. A large pottery vessel of plain Macon Plateau ware was found on the earth lodge floor, where it was crushed by the falling roof.



Plate 35: Section of House Found at Annex to Mound



Plate 36: Interior View of Council Chamber, North Side, Facing Eagle

The ordeal by fire may have preserved many details of building arrangements that would have been lost, but it also resulted in the demolition of parts of key features, i.e. the rim section to the central hearth and the shoulder section of the eagle platform. When first troweled out, the shoulders of the eagle appeared to have regular furrows or indentations, suggestive of patterning in the molded clay to represent feathers. The baked or fired clay had fractured in this area, however, incident to the collapse of timbers from the roof. Some time elapsed between the archaeological cleaning and stabilization of the ruins by technicians of the National Park Service (Plate 37).

The final episode in the archaeological study of the ceremonial earth lodge at Mound D is recorded in the removal of the charred roof timbers for preservation and dendrochronological studies. This was done by students of the last summer field school session of the Laboratory of Anthropology (Santa Fe), held in Macon (1936) under the leadership of the author. Gordon R. Willey, a student from Arizona trained under Professor Andrew E. Douglas, was in charge of operations (Plate 38). The dendrochronology specimens from the earth lodge floor were later sent to the dendrochronological laboratory at the University of Chicago where they were studied by Florence Hawley. The results were not definitive as the Macon Plateau materials were too remote in prehistory to be reflected in the master chart for the eastern United States. Gordon Willey was able to extend his chart, based on long leaf pine and antebellum house timbers, back to the 17th century. Kincaid and other late Mississippian dendrochronological correlates were not applicable. The situation in regard to the Macon earth lodge charcoal still exists and the

dendrochronology specimens here are likely to remain a floating chronology until good sensitive dendrochronological material is found in adequate archaeological contexts going back to Early Mississippian. One may extrapolate that current conceptions of the incidence of Early Mississippian in 1954 tend to push this event further back in prehistory than was considered possible in 1938.



Plate 37: Council Chamber Interior



Plate 38: Students Removing Timbers from Council Chamber

Excavation of the Second Earth Lodge, Mound D Plateau

The discussion of excavations on this structure might be taken up as a part of the excavation units on the extended West Plateau survey at Mound D. Inasmuch as the many occupational features of the central and western portions of Mound D plateau cover so many discrete archaeological units and types of structure, it seems advantageous to discuss briefly the excavations pertaining to the second example of an earth lodge found on the north Macon Plateau.

The second earth lodge came out incident to the digging of a 30 inch test trench east and west across the western rim of the plateau. Unfortunately, this preliminary gambit during the beginning exploration in the particular West Plateau unit of excavation happened to cut right through the mid-section of the earth lodge. Several days elapsed before the true significance of the profile cut through the structure dawned on the archeologist in charge. We made test trench extensions from control trenches through the Stratified Village on West Plateau to uncover other areas of stratified midden. There were absolutely no surface features or rises in terrain to call attention to the site of the second earth lodge. The circumstances were not such as to predispose us toward a more circumspect approach, as happened in the exploration of the Red Knoll (first earth lodge at Mound D). Actually, study of the vertical profile section shows that there was an imperceptible rise in the terrain at this point near the western rim of the plateau *. The workmen were accustomed to cutting through hardpan areas and clay sections, unless these were perceived immediately to be clay basins or hearths, in the initial 30 inch profiles. These first cuts determined procedures subsequently in horizontal clearing. At any rate, the initial profile cut through the approximate center of the second earth lodge bisected the central hearth and sliced through one of the clay entrance pilasters (Plates 39, 40, 41).



Plate 39: Circular House on the West Plateau



Plate 40: Trench Profile on West Plateau, Facing East



Plate 41: Profile of Clay Platform of Out- Post on Circular House on West Plateau

Subsequently, the area was cleared horizontally and the floor section disclosed in its entirety, except for those portions that had suffered from demolition by modern plowing. The second earth lodge on Mound D plateau was much smaller and lacked many of the specialized features of the first to be uncovered near Mound D. There was no sign of the eagle platform or the elaborate seating arrangements. The entrance was to the east. A segment of pink clay to the west, in position over the floor, might be conjectured to be the vestige of a platform (see profile panel in text). Various post holes inserted from the top of the clay floor section might well have been supporting timbers for the roof. We are afforded a cross-section through the earth lodge central structure not permitted in the case of the first earth lodge as that was uncovered horizontally with a view to preservation and possible restoration. Jackson has provided two sketches to show the appearance of the second earth lodge on Mound D plateau after it had been uncovered by horizontal troweling and the hypothetical reconstruction of the interior of the structure based on the features uncovered in the excavations *.

The 100 Foot Trench South of Mound D

Ordinarily, the digging of a 100 foot general test trench anywhere on the mile square Macon Plateau area would not be the occasion for writing an exposition of excavations under the heading of a special caption. In January, 1935, early in the survey extensions from Mound D excavations proper, the above mentioned 100 foot trench was dug providing us with the first intimations of a distinct and peculiar occurrence of an older, pre-pottery horizon, characterized by worked flint and flint artifacts exhibiting heavy decomposition or alteration of cortex and a general trait assemblage different from that observed in materials catalogued from pottery-bearing proveniences. In short, this 100 foot trench marks the initial appearance and recognition of what was later to be designated the Macon Plateau Flint Industry.

Later, all over the Macon Plateau area, in northern, middle, and southern sections, as arbitrarily defined by the railroad excavations made through the high bluff escarpment on the eastern Ocmulgee terraces, thousands of related flint specimens were to be found under similar conditions. The flint artifacts were buried deep in a twilight zone of weathered soil where midden accumulations attributable to Macon Plateau and other pottery-bearing cultures intergraded into an orange layer of soil overlying the basic red loam of geological formation. It was the author's contention that the situation on Macon Plateau reflected a normal A and B soil profile with an intermediate zone of soil elutriation in which the bulk of the rotten flints were found. The particular difficulty came early in trying to explain how so many old flints came out in soil zones down to 40 inches or more beneath the surface.

The problem still remains in analyzing other situations in the mid-coastal area of Georgia, found in the last 15 years, which tend to show the same general type of profile development with highly decomposed Archaic or Paleo-Indian worked flint and tool assemblages *in situ* (A.R. Kelly comments on the Kitchifoonee site, near Albany, Georgia, reported in Early Man section, American Antiquity, A.D., Krieger, editor). Some historical interest is attached to the first recorded impressions of the phenomenological aspects of this problem at Macon Plateau, an episode of the early excavations made at or near Mound D and properly considered a part of that survey. In discussing the excavations on Terrace House, Gordon Willey's vertical profiling through the domiciliary mound ramps and sub-mound sections thereof in 1937, we have recorded Willey's observations on the fossil soil preserved under that section of Mound D survey and under the included house mound site (Terrace House). Also, in the same general area initially opened up in the 100 foot trench, extending into the West Plateau survey between Control Trenches 1 and 2, other localized concentrations of early flint were found. This was the locus of the first specimen catalogued as a field find which exhibited the characteristic features of a southeastern Folsom-like projectile.

The field diary of January 18, 1935 records the following observations.

...Two days have been taken in cutting an exploration trench 100 feet long, east and west, across the area between the tool house dump pile and the railroad cut. This excavation lies about 75 feet south of Mound D. A differential growth in vegetation, not only in quantity but also in color, had been noted during the spring and considered possibly significant as locating the site of an occupation level rich in midden deposits. The thick growth of weeds appeared to cover an area approximately 30 feet or more wide, converging toward Mound D to the north. Actual exploration does not signify

what may have been the explanation of this unusually rank growth of vegetation. No rich midden pockets or occupation floors have been found. Characteristic profile developments show top humus (not particularly thick) grading into the usual red sandy loam, without intercepting any areas in which sinks and different colored soils indicated an unnatural fill. One peculiarity may be significant, although no definite conclusions may be drawn at the present writing. The subsoil area does not change as abruptly as might be expected on the floor of the plateau from humus and sub-humus to red loam subsoil; instead, between the humus and rich red clay, there appears to be a zone which shows regular mottling and inclusion of some buried humus; the soil is brownish red in color, perceptibly different in appearance from the rich red clay loam which forms the top soil formation of the plateau.

A 30 inch profile cut along the north face of this 100 foot exploratory trench has uncovered a number of flint artifacts in the brownish red substratum described. A slender, laurel- leaf shaped projectile point, with fish-tail haft end, very thin and delicate in cross section; altogether an exceptionally fine piece of flint work. The fish- tail shape is accentuated by beveling along the crescentic margins, wrought by skillful secondary chipping (actually is hollow ground, with most of pressure flaking removed as indicated in the artist's sketch made at the time this specimen was catalogued). The find is characteristic of a number of projectile points picked up recently in several different locations along the Ocmulgee near Macon. The second point sketched in today's notes appears to be a related form. It was found on the bluffs overlooking the Tobesofkee Creek, about a half mile west or rather southwest of Johnson's Bluff (west Ocmulgee terrace). In this case, a groove extends from the fish- tail concavity at the end down through four- fifths of the length of the specimen. The thickness in cross- section is greater, the sides narrower and more gradually tapering than in the Mound D specimen (an understatement; the two specimens are more dissimilar than indicated in the notes). These projectiles have parallels in finds recently catalogued from the first occupation level (average 15 inches below plowed surface) at One Mile Track site on the west bank of the Ocmulgee. They are a specialized tool and may be useful in making typological series for the different chronological levels. They have some of the general characteristics of the renowned Folsom point, but the resemblance is considered to be superficial and without significance *.

By the time of the Preliminary report on the Macon Explorations, 1938, this restrained view had been modified.

...The projectile point from Mound D came at a depth of 12 inches in the brownish red loam zone described for the trench profile south of Mound D, depth from base of station was 22 inches. Numerous other flint chips and rejects, some cores, have come from considerable depths in this red clay and red brownish loam. They would seem to suggest flint working in situ at a time when the plateau was more than a foot lower than at present. Only two methods of raising floor level appear possible under the topographic conditions: either the horizon on which the chips and flint rejects were found has been built up by annual inclusion of vegetal matter, subsequently leached and oxidized, or sand has blown onto the plateau, become mingled with red loam over the level in which the flint was deposited. There is, of course, the more plausible theory that the flints were dropped at a higher horizon than that in which they have come out; they flight have migrated into the red clay loam and brownish red loam (otherwise referred to as the orange layer). This explanation would require the presence of an occupation level immediately on red loam subsoil, or in the brownish red loam which begins there, as a matter of fact, the bulk of the flints seem to come a few inches lower. No conclusions, even tentative ones, are drawn at this state of operations. One may say simply that the facts as given suggest the possibility of a flint working horizon in the disturbed soil zone between beginning subsoil and the deeper-lying red clay loam, or sandy loam as described by some soil scientists, which forms the top plateau geological deposit. No pottery seems to occur in situ with the flints. Further profiling, with careful cataloguing of materials, should resolve the question or, at least, substantiate present impressions as to the distribution of the flints in vertical stratigraphy.

The 100 foot trench produced evidence of the distribution of rotten, decomposed flint scrap and artifacts at low levels in the soil horizon. Within a couple of weeks this was abandoned for a system of east and west control trench explorations across the Mound D plateau, set in from the western baseline to the Mound D plateau. A projection north and south of the western baseline gave the arbitrary division of exploration sectors into an East Plateau and West Plateau referred to hereinafter in the Excavations report. See Plate 42 for progress in 100 foot trench excavations.

West Plateau Excavations



Plate 42: Exploratory Trench South of Tool House

Important finds were to come in further exploration in this central and West Plateau survey at Mound D. The initial survey layout consisted of Control Trenches 1 and 2 with offsets, described as follows in the notes of February 2, 1935.

...At the end of Saturday, Control Trench 1 was dug to subsoil (red loam) for a distance of 300 feet, beginning at a point about 75 feet southwest of Mound D and extending directly west all the way across the plateau down the west slope. This control trench parallels the railroad cut about 25 feet to north. Nine offset trenches were made, 10 feet apart, between Control Trenches 1 and 2.

In the central part of this survey, Offsets 6- 7- 8- 9, a rise in terrain was suspected to be an eroded mound but turned out subsequently to be a complex stratification of accumulated house debris, described in the notes as West Plateau, Stratified Village.

Before launching into an account of the excavations in the area of Controls 1 and 2, West Plateau (Mound D Survey), where the Stratified Village remains were uncovered, we must stick to the present thread of our discussion which relates to the further finding of old flint materials first remarked in the excavation of the 100 foot trench just south of Mound D. The most

advantageous situations in which to obtain *in situ* materials belonging to this hypothetical, pre-ceramic level were found in two archaeological proveniences.

One of these was the old plateau occupation levels sealed in beneath mounds of the Macon Group, where they form the basal segments of a buried or fossil soil, a term which I used early in Macon Plateau descriptions of this condition and which still seems to have some applicability. The second was in the wide expanse of the West Plateau survey of Mound D, as in the east portions of the area between Controls 1 and 2 near the projection of the western baseline of Mound D plat which separates the West Plateau from the East Plateau.

Here, fortunately, the evidence of Macon Plateau period village occupation was sparse or absent, and the modified orange-colored soils just beneath the humus and sub-humus was intact and undisturbed by occupational activities attributed to the pottery-bearing horizons. Fortuitously and happily, the most striking discoveries relating to Old Flint came out in this relatively uncomplicated area of the West Plateau, closer to Mound D and the original 100 foot trench which called our attention initially to the concentration of rotten flint in deep levels. In the simpler profile panels through West Plateau, one can contend with only three distinct soil elements, two disturbed zones, modified soil zone, and an orangey or brownish red loam (containing most of the Old Flint) intergrading into the unmodified, original red loam of geological formation. Contrast this with the condition shown in the profile sketch given in the text below, taken from a current excavation description made in the notes of March 4, 1935 *.

The rendering of this profile is remarked as follows.

...For purposes of cataloguing and stratigraphic interpretation it will be convenient to recognize at least five profile elements in the 30 inch offset trenches made between Controls 1 and 2 on the West Plateau at Mound D: 1) a top plowed ground to plow line; 2) an occupation level on top of, 3) a debris accumulation of red clay, disintegrated clay hardpan (former floors to residential structures perhaps), red mottled loam, presumed to be mantled structural remains fallen down over and mantling a buried occupation level, 4) which has mottled and discolored the red loam soil underneath, 5) to a depth of a foot or more. The darker red clay loam (6) natural and undisturbed, would be the basic profile element to determine bottom of cut in all trench exploration through the total area.

In the description of more explicit contexts in which the Old Flint was found, we quote from the notes of March 22, 1935, where approximately the same profile elements described above (1-45, 1-47, 1-49 offsets) are again delineated.

...Observations on the superficial residence or occupation deposits in this area seem to stand up on further examination but data are increasingly forthcoming to the effect that there may be more than 2 occupation levels to be made out in the profiles of 1-45, 1-47, 1-49. First impressions are often, usually perhaps, too simple. It looks now, after several weeks of study, as if we had the following profile elements: (1) top plowed ground to plow line; (2) baked

clay, hardpan, mottled clay and loam consolidated to depth of .6 to 1 foot, assumed to be debris of collapsed houses built over (3) a dark soil occupation layer. Beneath this dark soil occupation, the most consistent residence floor made out between Controls 1 and 2, we have what has at first called (4) a mottled, disturbed red loam of probable natural formation but which is now seen to be at least a filled or derived soil, accumulating in saucer-like pits fifteen feet or more in width where profiled in the test trenches. This would imply a third and deeper occupation beneath the black soil level (3) which may be conceived to refer to semi-subterranean types of houses. Beneath this filled soil, the profile panel is still mottled and disturbed, making no clear line of unconformity between the disturbed soil and the underlying, red loam of natural formation.

The underlined text, relating to profile element (4) and the slight nuances of change of this element into basal geological formation, concern the critical zone in which most of the Old Flints were catalogued on Macon Plateau. There is good evidence to support the comments of two southeastern archaeologists in subsequent writings that my first published descriptions of the Old Flint artifacts exhibited specimens which elsewhere have been found in association with early pottery horizons, and might even be a part of the tool complex of Macon Plateau pottery-bearing cultures (Joffre Coe, -----, and Jesse D. Jennings, -----). The author's rebuttal is to the effect that in the extensive and protracted excavations on Macon Plateau, other less ambiguous archaeological contexts were found in which this much earlier pre-ceramic picture is exhibited.

In contrast to the complicated profiles through the Stratified Village on West Plateau, note the simple cross-sections through the West Plateau east of Control 2, given in Jackson's diary sketch of May 11, 1935. Here we have top humus overlying red sandy loam intergrading into the darker red loam at the base of the cut. This is closer to the A and B type profile development on the general plateau into which the 100-foot trench was cut south of Mound D, in which Gordon Willey found Old Flint in sub-mound levels in his vertical profiles through Terrace House, and in which Old Flint was found including the first fluted projectile catalogued near the central plateau sector in the beginning offsets to Controls 1 and 2. Reference to the profile below, however, does show baked clay and pink clay heap a depth of 20-24 inches, and mottling of this profile element showing some incipient downward movement of disturbances in the upper occupation level, much broken by modern cultivation in this part of the survey (Figure 3).

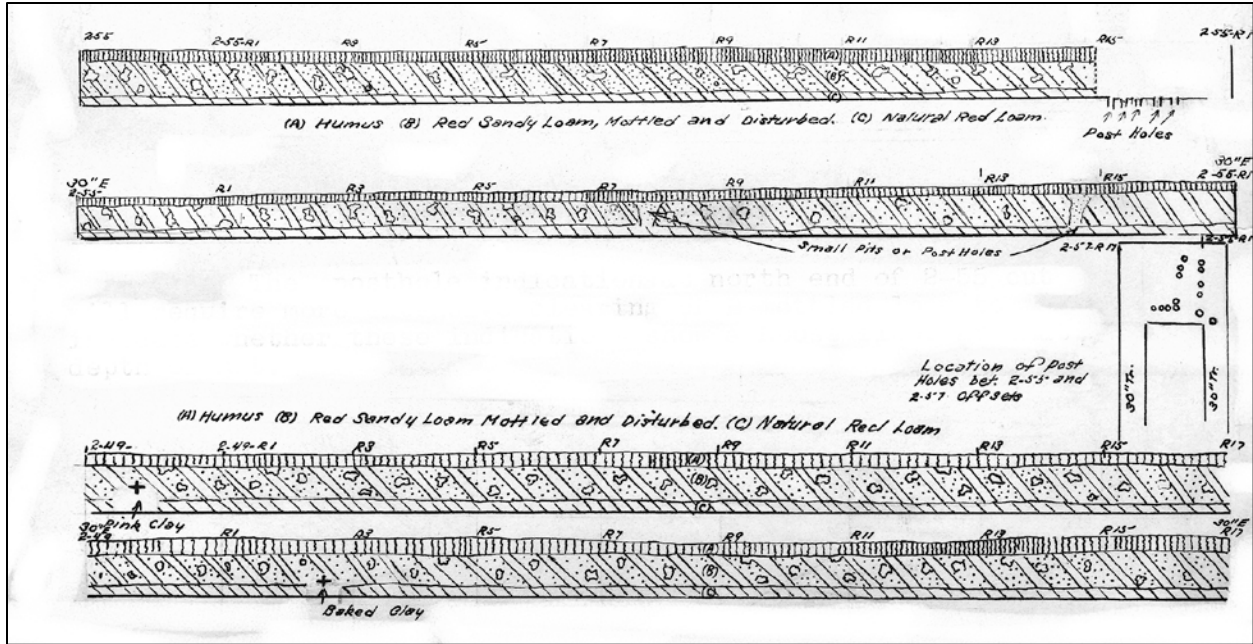


Figure 3: Profile Between Station 2- 49R1 to 2- 49R17

In the closing days of FERA, changing to WPA reorganization in September, 1935, early flint material was recovered from excavations undertaken in the West Plateau area between Controls 1, 2, and 3, especially in the first 20 survey stations of this survey. Although by now many finds had been made of a heavily decomposed flint assemblage in the deeper soil levels of Mound D plateau. It is ironic, however, that the first specimen catalogued, while exhibited in complete form the characteristics of a southeastern Folsom, was not observed by the author at the time in the field but was noted in running over laboratory collections with a Smithsonian visitor, Frank Setzler. Find 103, West Plateau, had been duly noted in the find book for July 2, 1935, and Jackson had drawn a picture of the profile for reference. The specimen and the profile are reproduced below (Figure 4).

The Find Books of Mound D plateau record an increasing number of snub-nosed scrapers, blade-like knives and side scrapers, and a numerous category of small, triangular, corner or side notched, beveled projectiles, which local collectors call spinner projectiles on the assumption that these specimens would spin while being shot through the air. My understanding is that experiments in crude ballistics have not supported this theory, and I am also doubtful that the characteristic spinners are true projectiles. They may very well be a hafted small knife or cutting tool, the beveled cutting edges having been reworked to renew the tool. There is no doubt that they occurred in the same levels and in association with snub-nosed end scrapers, fish-tail concave based, and partially fluted projectiles, which constitute the early flint industry on Macon Plateau.

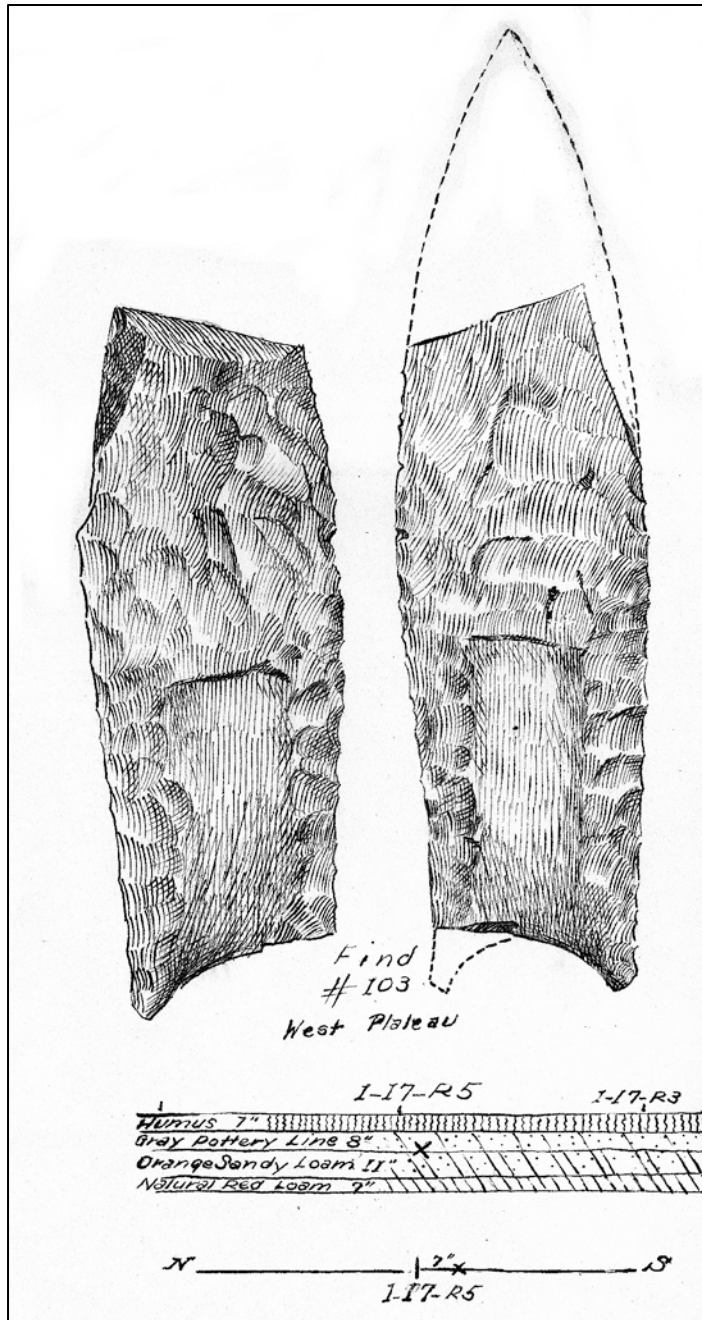


Figure 4: Find 103

Specimens drawn from these tool classes were shown in the panel to illustrate my preliminary report on explorations at Macon (Kelly 1938). My first observations on Old Flint uncovered in the 100 foot trench south of Mound D made only tentative speculations regarding an early flint industry, but evidently by September, 1935, I had become convinced by the quantity, form, and consistent stratigraphic context that excavations on Mound D Plateau had demonstrated the presence of an Archaic flint industry in the weathered soils. The notes of September 9, 1935, record the following observations.

...West Plateau Survey, 30 inch test trench in Control 3 between stations 3-19 to 3-55, troweling out Pit 114 between Station 3-21 to Station 3-23. Dimensions of Pit 114, diameter at top of pit under chocolate loam 62 inches and at base 39 inches, depth 24 inches. Some difficulty in ascertaining where pit was dug from in chocolate loam; also, Pit 114 may be in center of saucer-shaped depression filled with chocolate loam which is accumulated to considerable thickness throughout profile. Many sherds, bones, flint, broken stone, mica. No historic material. Find 1272, snub-nosed or turtle-back scraper troweled out of mottled red loam in south side of Pit 114. Sketch for notes shows location. Important to note that fill to pit is dark chocolate soil containing rich organic content whereas red soil in side of pit is probably original clay matrix mottled in contact with Pit 114. The snub-nosed scraper is typical of many found in similar soil context, belonging to early flint industry on Macon Plateau. The flint is in advanced stage of decomposition. It appears that Pit 114 accidentally cut through plateau mantle of red loam at this point. Shows how prehistoric cultivators on plateau recovered flint artifacts belonging to much earlier hunter peoples living on the site. This specimen came 30 inches below station in mottled red loam. (Plate 43)



Plate 43: West Plateau where Folsom and Old Flint Specimens Were Recovered

The situation described above was not exceptional, nor were the Old Flints found in a particularly concentrated area. Several hundred feet to the north in West Plateau Survey, for instance, between Control Trenches 9 and 10, on September 9, 1935, the following notations on current field accessions from that area on a single day are recorded.

1274, small plano convex turtle-back type of graver, very interesting typologically, found 29 inches below surface.

1275, beautiful example of turtle-back type of snub-nosed end scraper, white decomposed flint, found 24 inches below surface in tan sand.

1276, flint sliver, rostro-carinate shape, apparently intended to be a craving tool, point for incising partially broken away. This graver shows definite secondary working. Found 24 inches below surface.

1277, mealing stone of smooth, use-worn granite, found 38 inches below surface in tan sand. Very interesting, probably used in grinding seeds.

1280, rubbing stone, possible mano, found 34 inches below surface in tan sand.

1281, hammer rock or maul, pestle, found 28 inches in tan sand.

1282, another turtle-back scraper, possibly composite form with end scraper and drill features combined, usual plano-convex type of early flint tool on Macon Plateau, found 28 inches in tan sand.

For another sample run of the mill of field accessions, let us look at the field accession catalogue for September 10, 1935, on finds described from a 30 inch test trench between Controls 3 and 7, West Plateau Survey. Note that the catalogued level here is on the average about 1 foot higher in profile than that given for tan sand and modified red loam between Controls 9 and 10 above.

1297, broken portion of flint chisel or scraper, some patination, found 7 inches in humus.

1300, broken haft end of large flint knife, found 13 inches below surface, in red sandy loam.

1303, large briquelette, smooth and curved on one side, found 12 inches below surface.

1304, pink flint knife, much decomposed, found 11 inches below surface.

1305, tabular plano-convex end and side scraper, gray flint not markedly modified by decomposition of cortex, found 15 inches below surface in red loam.

1307, broken point to flint knife or projectile, depth 19 inches in red loam.

1309, small plano-convex, snub-nosed scraper, first stage of manufacture, does not show so much secondary work on end and sides as is usual in this type, found in humus layer.

1310, flint flake, probably a reject in attempting to make a small end scraper, shows definite secondary working. Depth 6 inches in humus.

1312, large cylindrical briquette, molded around rod like wooden object, smooth and rounded on top, decorated with reed punctate decorations; on sides get long vertical scratched lines (Theory that these might be molded on rod or lathe-like strips in house interiors. Came 9 inches in humus.

1315, another top-section of briquette, showing core mould of rod support or lathe, single strand cord marked decoration, found 13 inches below surface.

1316, projectile, pedunculate stem, channel flaking on flatter side, point missing, brown flint or jasper, found 14 inches below surface.

1317, section of broken, polished stone celt, diorite, found 10 inches below surface in red sandy loam.

These are typical catalog field accession specimen descriptions made on the occasion of discovery, and can be duplicated many times over in the ordinary daily routine of excavations over a wide area on the West Plateau of Mound D. One observes that there is evidently considerable mixture of materials in the upper fifteen inches of the survey area, particularly among the north fringes of Mound D plateau, where there was evidence that sandy loam had accumulated over the years as soil creep, aided mechanically by plowing over a hundred years before the archaeological survey was made. Frequent briquette specimens show building debris of the Macon Plateau pottery-horizons.

It must be observed that pottery tended to occur with the above stone artifacts in upper levels of Macon Plateau but was not generally accessioned unless unusual designs or sherds appeared. This relation of pottery-bearing zones to flint-bearing zones in the many profiles excavated in different parts of the plateau was substantiated by trial runs statistically in the laboratory at the time of excavation and later. It is understandable that in the open areas, subject to the churning of materials by protracted agricultural activities, that older material would be brought to the surface, mingled with more recent occupations, and particularly on low terrain, fill would lump down archaeological materials of different periods.

Despite these ambiguous factors in the distribution of materials, which might be expected to skew stratigraphic indications, many original contexts somehow escaped disturbance in either prehistoric or historic times. Elsewhere, we have stressed the importance of the fossil soils preserved under mound constructions. However, there are parts of the central area of the plateau found in the 100 foot trench south of Mound D and in the eastern portions of the first three control trenches made east and west through the West Plateau survey, where finds were made in good undisturbed context, well below the plow-line, and happily in areas where no prehistoric habitations or occupational debris obscured the picture.

Several large flint blade caches on Mound D plateau in this part of the West Plateau serve to illustrate this point. The first of these shows 13 large blanks or blades buried in a pile, an obvious cache. Depth was 11 inches below surface, just below the plow-line. The individual pieces show only incipient surface modifications. The second shows 9 pieces, very similar to the cache in shape and size, and disposition. These were also troweled out 15 inches below surface,

in reddish loam, in the area between Controls 1 and 2, which yielded so many specimens of early flint. The flint blades in this cache were somewhat more advanced in decomposition. *

In the same trench exploration, which brought out the flint cache, a small heap of rough, amorphous quartzite boulders were troweled out. Presumably, these represent parent material brought in from quarries for further working into tools. Along with marked concentrations of flint chips in spots, they imply considerable workshop activity *in situ*.

Other flint caches were found in addition to the two photographed and referred to in discussion here. Such large blades could be used as flint hoes or digging tools or rough cutting tools. They appear to have been roughly blocked into shape by rapid percussion or flint knapping and show much less secondary work along cutting edges than do most finished tools ascribed to the early flint industry on the Plateau. The theory has been offered that these may be simply convenient blanks, roughly spalled out quarry material, convenient to carry to campsites for workshop activity. If they are not themselves tools, and are only convenient hunks of the parent material transported to the spot, then presumably their caching was simply a method of preserving them until the flint store was needed.

There has also been some speculation as to whether burying raw flint blades in the earth might serve to cure them as a preliminary process before the manufacture of true tools or artifacts is attempted. Flint caches occur in different archaeological contexts in the eastern United States, including early pottery or Woodland horizons, so one cannot definitely ascribe them to the pre-ceramic or Archaic scheme of things on Macon Plateau, except perhaps on the basis of perceived alteration or decomposition. This feature alone, without the aid of typological criteria, is not too indicative. Moreover, the flint caches observed on Macon Plateau are usually not as heavily decomposed as are the smaller finished artifacts.

The description of the artifact classes of stone tools, considered to belong to the Early Macon Flint Industry, will be presented in a later section of this report. As soon as the presence of such an early pre-ceramic horizon was suspected, and the folsomoid facies of same was remarked, wide flung excavations were undertaken on Mound D plateau to secure materials in stratigraphic context. Also, even in cataloguing specimens from different depth, some differential in degree of decomposition or alteration of cortex, as well as typological distinctions, was perceived, or thought to be perceived.

Dean Leon Smith of Wesleyan College, trained in geology at the University of Chicago, undertook to make an empirical study of the problem by measuring in tenths of a millimeter the extent to which alteration or decomposition of cortex occurred in samples of flints taken from different site and stratigraphic contexts, both on Macon Plateau and at other sites studied in the Ocmulgee Basin survey near Macon. One fact emerged from the systematic measurements of cortical modification from Macon Plateau specimens--the degree of decomposition of flint increased with depth. This was true both on open plateau situations where truncation of the weathered profiles was not too extensive, and it was true in fossil soils (preserved under mound structures) where Old Flints could be found to a depth of 30-40 inches and could be taken out in arbitrary levels (Kelly 1950). It was found, however, that quartz and quartzite specimens were practically impervious to chemical change, and Dean Smith found evidence that certain metamorphosed flints not characteristic of the nodular marine flints found south of the Fall Line, seemed to modify at a much less rapid rate. So many variables in the problem of flint decomposition appeared that this first study eventually bogged down. The same difficulties attend more recent investigations and it is apparent that a more precise methodological approach is required. The author still thinks that the rotten flints betoken age conditions of some

magnitude but precise correlations of degrees of measured alteration in cortex with calculated age in simple algebraic fashion are not to be entertained seriously. There, stratigraphic depth, typological successions, and decomposition differentials can be combined and a somewhat better case can be made out.

The Stratified Village

We return now to the West Plateau excavations to take up the explorations in the area of the Stratified Village. In seeking for pre-ceramic or Archaic materials, we had excavated in situations deliberately selected for paucity of surficial indications of more recent aboriginal occupation. On the West Plateau survey from Mound D, between Controls 1 and 2, and Controls 2 and 3, offset trench exploration in 30 inch cuts were made at 10 foot intervals. Soon disclosed was a complex stratification of successive occupational activities narrowly telescoped within a foot or so below the top plowed zone, mushroomed by innumerable pits, burials, post insertions, until even vertical profiles proved difficult to interpret, and any assured horizontal clearing with a view to exposing post hole or wall continuities seemed impossible.

Undoubtedly, the Stratified Village on West Plateau was the most formidable task for field analysis experienced in the several years of intensive exploration on the mile square area of Macon Plateau. Even the confusing and controversial prehistoric dugouts or sinks which enclosed a goodly portion of the Macon Plateau, were methodologically easier to tackle. After a period of studying the features and structures indicated in the initial 30 inch offset profiles, we began horizontal clearing of clay floors and platforms of perceived structures. The method of combined vertical profiling at 10 foot intervals, with subsequent horizontal stripping, was conceived to be the best possible approach under the circumstances.

The sketch below gives the plat of West Plateau survey between Controls 1 and 2, the system of offset trenches between these controls, the location of the first two features to be found, two clay basins, the indicated area between Offsets 35 and 49 where a slight rise in the terrain suggested a possible basal mound remnant, and the points at which we first found profile indications of the road which we subsequently identified as a segment of the trail which led from northeast to southwest across Macon Plateau and eventually led us to the very entrance to the stockade surrounding the Macon Trading Post site on the Middle Plateau (Figure 5). The trading path or trail was the source of much archaeological grief and we were long in coming to a true realization of its nature. Even after it was identified and confirmed by the junction with the Trading Post Site, and we realized that this was probably the very path down which Colonel James Moore rode his 50 Carolinians in this rendezvous with the Creeks at Ocmulgee in 1703, a prelude to the attack on the Spanish missions and settlements in Florida, it seemed remarkable that so perishable a landmark would have survived 230 years of subsequent history, during most of which the land was cultivated intensively from antebellum plantation days to the present.

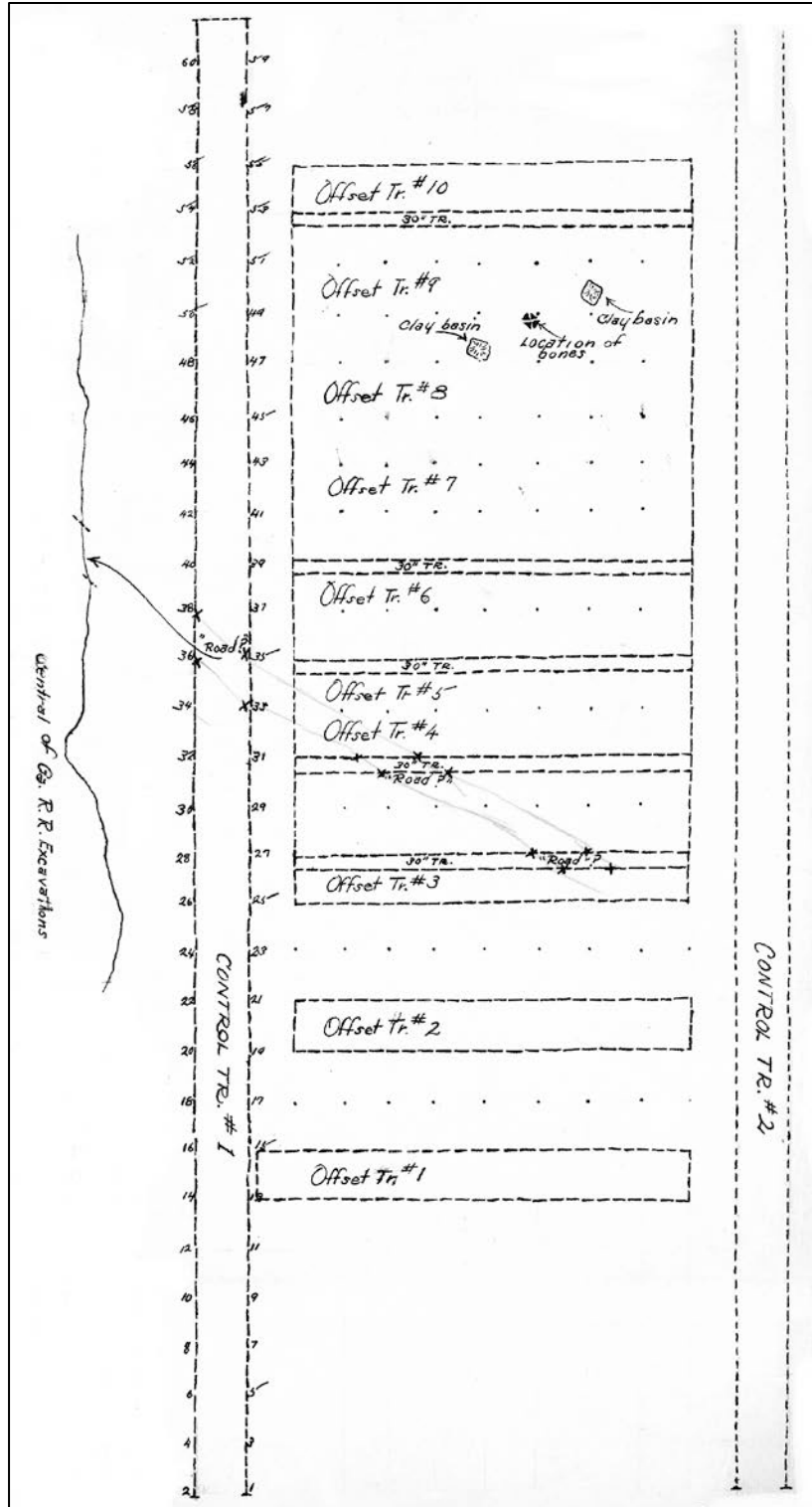


Figure 5: Location of Trenches and Offset Trenches

The first profile summaries, read from 1-35 through 1-37 to 1-39, quickly indicated that we had no relatively simple mound structure to deal with, and that the exploration of this unit would not be easy. These three profiles are reproduced below as they appeared in the notes of February 22, 1935. Profile 1-35 shows.

...a thin clay plate just beneath the plow line, mantling a much mottled red loam soil, with a distinct black midden, charcoal impregnated occupation at the top. Mottling, some charcoal, an occasional briquette extends down to a depth of nearly two feet. Two postholes ... were definitely inserted through the mottled soil, intrusive into the deeper red loam of natural formation. Baked clay in irregular mass occurs beneath the black soil occupation layer. The thin clay plate is hard-packed, rather than baked, tapers out near Station 1-35 R13.

Profile 1-37 shows.

...some clay soil, mixed and partially overlying some stratified sand, extending all the way to Station 1-37R15. The stratified sand runs toward the north and overlies the black soil midden. All of these soil materials appear to have been brought in. Sherds, bone, ash, charcoal, clay basins already described, postholes in situ, charcoal trails of timbers, broken and fired stone rubble, help to establish the level of occupation when examined horizontally.

Profile 1-39 shows.

...same mottled red loam under the occupation level, with Pit 3 showing south of Station 1-39R9. Two postholes midway 1-39R13 and 1-39R15 extend more than a foot into underlying red loam of geological formation. Line of unconformity between red loam and mottling from occupation level is fairly constant here.

Profile 1-43 is given in thumbnail sketches of both panels to the original 30 inch offset because it introduces the first intimations of possible semi-subterranean structures on the Mound D West Plateau. From the diary.

... 1-43 presents all the perplexing features already described for other offset explorations with certain added complications. Baked clay or hard-packed clay appears discontinuously beneath the plow line near Station 1-43R5, 1-43R9, and between 1-43R11 and 1-43R13. The mottled red loam is disturbed, charcoal impregnated to a deeper level in this profile than in 1-35, 1-37, or 1-39. In addition to the mottled area another deeper level of discolored, charcoal bearing soil appears running north from a point halfway between 1-43R11 and 1-43R17. The blackened soil thickens between 1-43R11 and 1-43R13 overlying a large refuse pit... The refuse pit is indicated only by a blacker soil content and the exact

dimensions cannot be made out. When first brought out by horizontal shaving along occupation level, the pit appeared to be about six feet in diameter. Troweled out to a depth of 15-18 inches the black midden of the pit appeared to be localized in a smaller pit area, situated almost directly under Station 1-43R15. No red loam shoulders help to give definition to the shape or size. The soil on occupation level and several inches beneath is a dark gray loam containing sherds, bone, and other refuse deposits... The remaining, unexplored core of the pit has been blocked out in a ledge in the bottom of cut as shown in the sketch. It is highly probable that the disturbed, refuse filled area may extend north into the survey of Control Trench 2. At present, the large pit, possible diameter of 10 feet or more depending on relation to profile on north, does not give the familiar stratigraphic fill elements and appearance of the semi-subterranean structures excavated on the east slope of Mound D, northeast, east, and southeast of the Council Chamber.

The key to the top occupation in the Stratified Village is provided in this large refuse pit exposed under Station 1-43R15. Archaeological hindsight clearly identifies this pit and its contents, Pit 5 in West Plateau, as a relic of the Old Ocmulgee Fields occupation, of which there were numerous indications around Mound D (Figure 6). It must be remembered that in February, 1935, only a few months after the initiation of the Ocmulgee explorations, we had no intimations of the Trading Post chronology and Fort Hawkins as the historical datum point (1806 —). It is also clear that this huge pit, dug from top occupation down through older substrata of the Macon Plateau levels, mingled materials from different contexts. Pit 5 yielded a rich haul of Old Ocmulgee Fields materials and a panel is provided in the notes to summarize *.

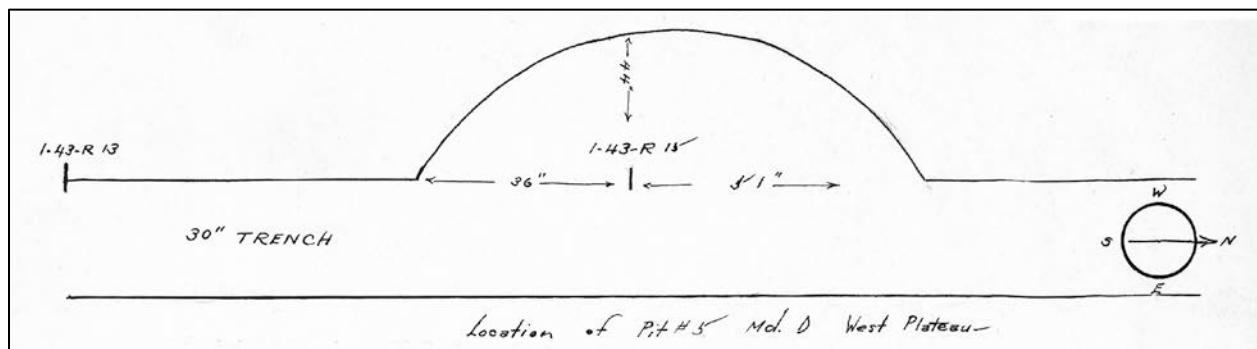


Figure 6: Location and Plan View of Pit 5

From the diary of February 25.

...When first found on troweling from the top plowed soil, this pit was very nearly round, approximate diameter of 6 feet, extending on both sides of the 30 inch profile trench. No historic objects

came from the first 30 inches of trowel exploration. Then in the base of the pit... were picked up a number of things showing the presence of Europeans. Small, perforated glass beads, about the size of a china berry, some smaller and colored blue like the minute specimens taken from Pits 24 and 25 (exploration south of Halfway House in superficial soil developed on slope of Mound D); glass coated beads with white glaze: thicker, less translucent pieces of glass; crockery: China ware. A bone core of a Buffalo horn, 30 inches down from base of station in pit. Pottery from the same locus shows three rim sherds; Find 40 rim sherd of plain ware, glossy appearance, raised and pinched molding on rim, Find 41 plain ware, large rim sherd bearing simple lug and showing punctate linear decoration on shoulder rim. The lug is a simplified and degenerate form of Mound D lug structure. Find 42 is another rim sherd, rim sharply flaring, plain ware, with the same crude form of the lug. A pipe, formed in a mold, clearly a trade pipe. One small pressed or compound pipe stem, also trade object, catalogued from same provenance... There can be little doubt but that other historic objects will be catalogued from this refuse pit. The situation is analogous to that described in the Ft. Hawkins' midden fill(?) to the prehistoric sinks east of the Council Chamber... Also note that in Pit 5, West Plateau, the historic objects come toward the base of the pit in a localized area in the approximate center of the pit.

We are now ready to reexamine two profile panels from Offsets 1-27 and 1-31, utilizing our archaeological hindsight, to interpret a confusing sink which appears to be overlain by the mottled top occupation soil and humus (Figure 7). Hindsight and subsequent historical exploration now identify this feature as a segment of the trail or Trading Path winding across this portion of the plateau toward the Trading Post site, later brought out on the Middle Plateau section. The profiles and description indicate that the mottled soil occupation has been largely redistributed and packed down over the sink, which represents this trading path functioning during the late 17th century to around 1717 when the Post was abandoned incident to the repercussions of the Yamassee War on the Georgia Coast.

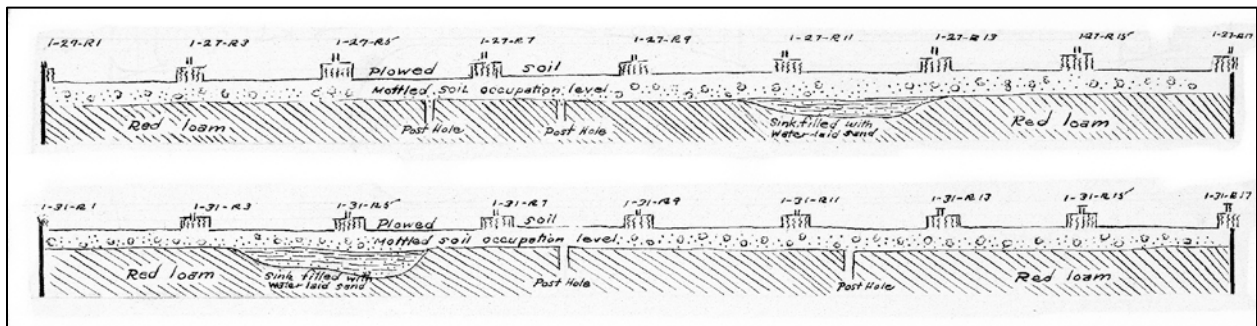


Figure 7: Profiles of Station 1- 27 and 1- 31

From the notes of February 23, 1935.

...Reference in notes of the week just passed has been made to the peculiar sink, filled with stratified water-laid sand, running NE-SW across the offset trenches between Controls 1 and 2. The two profiles for offsets 1-27 and 1-31 give the best impression of these sand-filled depressions. The diameter of the sinks is greater than indicated in the drawings due to the fact that the profiles were cut obliquely through the area in which the sinks were made. First, it is important to note that the mottled soil occupation, associated elsewhere on West Plateau with evidence of village occupation, overlies the sinks with their stratified or water-laid fill. In fact, the sand-filled areas were first discovered by the indications of a peculiar red clay band across the area explored between Control 1 and 2.

What has happened here, of course, is that modern cultivation has dislocated and redistributed midden and house rubble from the Stratified Village and packed it over the 17th century Trading Path. Some of the disruption of the older area may have taken place during the Old Ocmulgee Fields occupation, as indicated in the area of Pit 5.

Additional observations on Pit 5 West Plateau, in the notes of February 27, are of special interest.

... Several finds deserve special note. Colored glass beads, perforated round about the size of a china berry, and smaller, disc-shaped ones, blue in color, recall historic trade beads found in intrusive pits located in the buried sod profile on the south slope of Mound D. Similar beads were found in the mound underneath the Central City Park gate (discovered when excavations were made by contractors some years ago). Also coming from the bottom of Pit 5 are several sawed sections of conch shell core, duplicates of finds associated with burials (same burials found with colored glass beads) intrusive into the south slope of Mound C. Conch shells, and prepared cores, were found with burials on the east slope of Mound D. Another peculiarity of the refuse contents of Pit 5 relates to the finding of a number of metatarsal and metacarpal bones. Other portions of the human skeleton are lacking. This strange feature occurred also in the intrusive historic pits 24 and 25 south of Halfway House, revealed in the extension of Mound D survey south to bring out the cornfield and include more area when the mound (Mound D) was found to extend farther in that direction than had been considered possible in laying out the original survey baselines. It is evident that the bones were thrown into the refuse accumulation along with other items mentioned. Just why these particular portions of the anatomy were singled out for discard is not at all apparent. This particular feature is not duplicated

elsewhere in our explorations except in the case of the refuse pits uncovered to the south of Mound D. Sifting of earth fill from Pit 5 has resulted in the discovery of a number of additional beads. Two or three of these have been fused by firing. Charcoal, and some ash, now coming out in the base of the pit, may imply that this melting took place after the beads were dropped in the pit. Mussel shells are fairly frequent, the ordinary river species still found in the Ocmulgee. This is peculiar because mussels have not been found in scores of other refuse pits troweled out on Mound D plateau. Two or three periwinkles also have been observed. Animal bones recognized include deer and the leg bones of a large bird, turkey(?). The pottery coming from the pit... is soft tempered, usually plain with some crudely incised sherds. The rims and shapes are not typical Mound D styles. The texture of the ware is different — a glossy finish which is smoother than most Mound D pottery. Such material does occur in surface collections at Mound D. The first two months at Mound D under CWA were spent in surface exploration, just below plowed around. This may explain why we got the contrast of crude, simple incising at Mound D as over against the deeply incised, trailed, richly patterned sherds from Lamar village... So far not a single paddle-marked or stamped sherd has come from Pit 775.

The above probably constitutes the first clear recognition of the existence of an historic level at Macon, Old Ocmulgee Fields that is clearly differentiated from the type ceramics of Lamar Mounds. The historic village remains that were clustering on Mound D Plateau, and the historic Trading Post on Middle Plateau section, give archaeological support to the historical documentation of the effect that Colonel James Moore and his Carolinians augmented their fighting force by the addition of 1000 fighting men at Old Ocmulgee Fields in 1703.

Further work in 1-43 profile soon demonstrated that we had more than one or two occupations represented in the Stratified Village. Analysis of this profile section, soon after the final troweling of Pit 5, revealed the presence of an important buried occupation that showed up as a hard, compacted black midden layer from which numerous postholes and refuse pits descended. These features are described in the notes of March 4 in connection with the profile drawings below (Figures 8 and 9).

... Certain easier impressions are confirmed: 1) there are pits and other disturbed areas occupying different positions and levels with reference to the black soil layer described in the notes; 2) Pit 5--- now completely troweled out--- is intrusive into an older cultural provenance; 3) the mottled red sandy soil is an important defining element in the profile. Pit 5 was excavated from a point beginning with the plow line. Also, the side walls of the pit and the fill of disturbed soil in the pit, make unconformity with red mottled clay beneath the plow line, and continuing on down break the continuity of the black soil occupation beneath the mottled clay subsoil. Contrast with Pit 9, a few feet to the south in the same

profile. Pit 9 was inserted from the black soil occupation beneath the mottled red clay loam--- the red mottled clay is not broken overhead. The notion that there was more than one occupation is confirmed. Examination of other pits showing in profile strengthens the conclusion. Pit 6, 21 inches wide at top, 24 inches at bottom, 26 inches deep, is intrusive through mottled red clay loam and red sand beneath plow line and through the black soil occupation, extending on through mottled red loam beneath the black soil. Pits 7 and 7a... both pits are covered over by the mottled and much disturbed red clay and mangled sandy loam, but break through the black soil occupation. Pit 7a probably dug first, Pit 7 dug soon after, a projecting shoulder of Pit 7 laps over onto Pit 7a. Both 7 and 7a have been inserted from the black soil occupation level but subsequent to a period of occupation long enough for the soil to develop a black profile when cross-sectioned. The stake--- 2 to 3 inch diameter--- inserted below Station 1-43R3, seems to come through the black soil occupation, or rather was driven from that level. This cannot be decided, definitely, however, as it will be noticed that the black soil occupation comes to the surface at the south end of 1-43 cut; most of the red clay capping has evidently been plowed away in that section. There may be a more significant explanation for the shallow, saucer-like slope to the north shown in the profile. It would seem either that we have a large building with a concave floor level, or there was considerable building activity in a shallow (natural basin), construction of a number of houses, with the red mottled *loam* layer representing the disintegrated clay daubing and covering over a lathe-like construction of reeds or saplings. The profile panel implies that if this is the correct interpretation, it follows that the area of the collapsed structures was occupied successively with new pits sunk into the debris of the older remains. Note that the plow line runs along the level of the top occupation which must be considerably broken in most areas. The thickness of the intervening clay and sandy loam containing disintegrated lenses of baked or hardpan clay (sun-drying) varies from an inch at south end of cut to 16-18 inches near Station 1-43 R11.

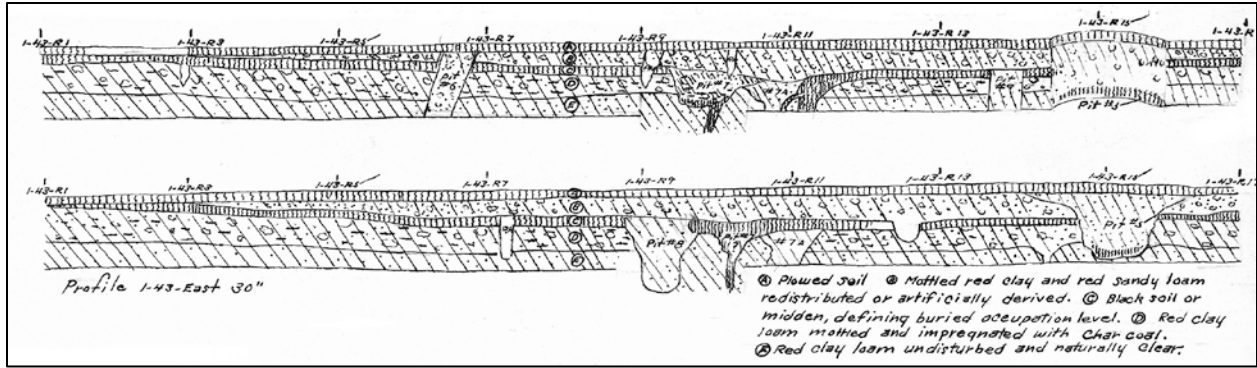


Figure 8: Trench Profile at Station 1- 43

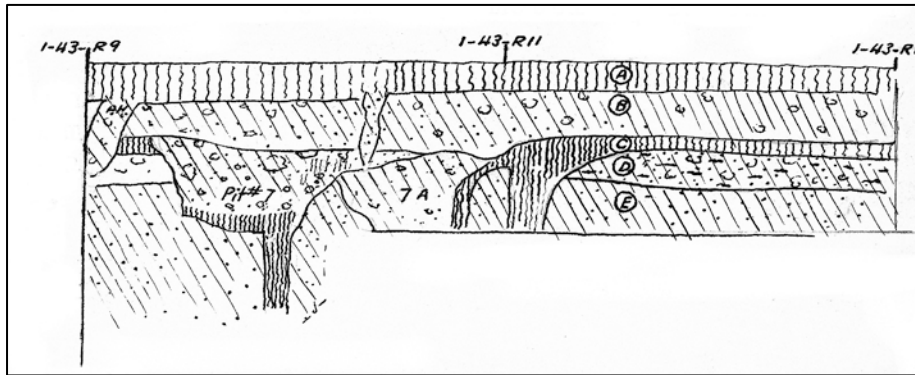


Figure 9: Trench Profile at Station 1- 43 Showing Pit 7

The buried black-soil occupation in the Stratified Village is important in the ceramic stratigraphy of the area, and we shall be concerned again on West Plateau with evidences of saucer-like depressions in situations suggesting semi-subterranean house structures. The 1-39 profile, contrasted with 1-43, yields strikingly similar results, although this profile is 20 feet away in the survey. The summary in the diary of March 4th is as follows in connection with the profiles below (Figures 10 and 11).

... Pit 3 in 1-39 profile is seen to break through 1 occupation level, black soil occupation--- and also through stratified yellow and orange sand water laid over the black soil occupation at this point. The origin of this colored sand deposited as a 2-4 inch thickness over the black soil occupation in uncertain. It occurs in only a few of the profiles (1-39 East) and seems to displace partially the derived clay hardpan (Level 2) in a portion of the profile. Where both the red clay house debris (?) from structures erected on black soil occupation and the stratified colored sand occur, the clay debris is on top... The black soil occupation and stratified sand and red clay cap are broken through by four postholes in the thirty foot of profile between Station 1-39R9 and 1-39R15. Some of these postholes inserted in black soil occupation are noted to be submerged in mid-section and rising slightly at end. This concavity or shallow sink formation of the residence floor (Level

4) may be related to the extensive distribution of mottled clay and sandy loam considered to be house debris, accumulated on top of the black soil occupation. A unit construction and a rather large one may be implied. The abundance of pits, postholes, scattered debris, midden pockets, piles of sherds and bones rather suggest multiple structures built at different times, and over the collapsed or burned seats of former houses.

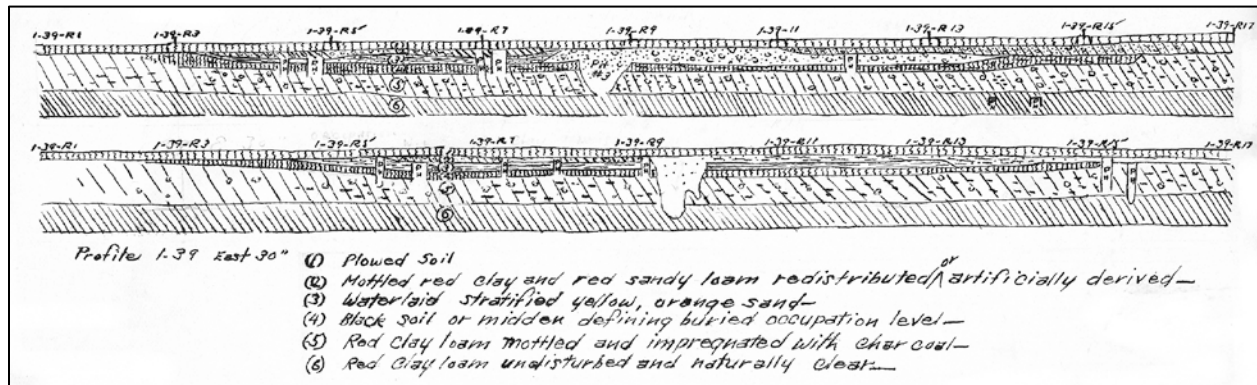


Figure 10: Trench Profile at Station 1- 39

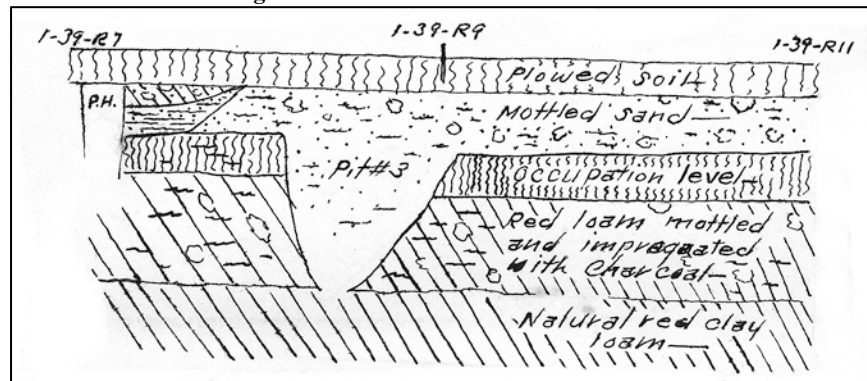


Figure 11: Trench Profile at Station 1- 39 Showing Pit 3

Burials in the Stratified Village on West Plateau were in the saddest state of preservation of any found on the whole plateau. The circumstances frequently posed a question as to whether they actually constituted true interments or not. With farther reference to the historic Old Ocmulgee Fields Refuse Pit 5, described at some length already, there occurred a strange assortment of human hand and foot bones, carpals and tarsals. The notes of March 6th add a slight sequel.

... One interesting find is a short, thick human femur, exposed in troweling out the west wall periphery to Pit 5. The remarkable shortness and thickness of this bone suggest pathology or dwarfism. Epiphyses fully developed; robustness of bone indicates adult growth. These are the only human remains found in the pit except for scattered finger and toe bones. It is certain that these haphazardly distributed bones do not represent deliberate burial. There is indication that they were dumped into the pit with the

refuse. The suggestion has been made that these may be evidences of human torture, possibly combined with cannibalism. Certainly the thigh bone is fractured and burned in the midsection in a manner which might fit such a theory.

In the 1-55 offset between Controls 1 and 2 we found what must be considered a real burial, associated with two whole pottery vessels. The situation clearly indicates that the Stratified Village deposits, except for the topmost level from which the Old Ocmulgee Fields Pit 5 was inserted, belonged definitely to the Macon Plateau pottery level. The description of these whole vessels (Find 65) is given in notes of March 6th.

...Find 65 brought out in mottled red loam, only 4-5 inches below plowline. Find 65 discovered in clearing humus layer from surface to expose stratigraphic level 2. The pots are typical Mound D ware, no decoration except for simple Mound D lugs. One of the pots has the shoulder bellying or embossed appearance which may be conventionalization of gourd. The vessels are relatively small, one 5 inches deep, 5 inches across mound; other 4 inches deep, 6 inches width in bowl. Both are typical of a type of smaller vessel characteristic of Mound D.

See Plate 45 for two whole vessels described.



Plate 44: Burial 1, Find 65, with Vessels

...Ten or eleven human teeth, hardly more than shells of enamel from crowns, came out about 6 inches east of the location of two pots. The juxtaposition hardly seems to be accidental. No other portions of the skeleton, indicated even by bone dust or acid discoloration, are present.

The notes of March 9th record one more feature of Burial 1, West Plateau.

...The two pots have been troweled out several days, held in place where found until further troweling could ascertain whether or not there was a burial and whether the pots were burial furniture. One interesting discovery has been added. A small heap of mica sheets was brought out in the area between the pots and the human teeth. This is the first time we have found sheets of mica used as burial furniture. We have found mica in thin sheets in village site context at Macon but until now none had been found with burials. The teeth with the mica and pots are catalogued as Burial 1 in the Stratified Village site.

Other instances were recorded in the field notes of what may be burial pits sunk into the house floors confluent with the blank soil occupation level in the Stratified Village. In the cutting of Offset Trench 1-47, two such pits, cataloged 14 and 15, were described. Both pits were inserted from a colored clay platform lying immediately in position over the dark soil occupation level. Notes of March 9th.

...Pit 14 may not be a refuse pit; it maybe a burial pit. It is possible that the colored clay platform, comprising 2-3 inches of clay, may be a special burial area in the village site. Burial indications brought out in the 30 inch trench consists of nothing more than several badly disintegrated teeth, only the shells of the enameled crowns remaining with brown bone mould showing traces of jaws and maxillary... Recalling the badly disintegrated teeth and jaw remains in Pits 14 and 15, one wonders if this consistent absence of other parts of the anatomy might not refer to the burial of only a portion of the skeleton, perhaps only the jaws and skull. It does seem that even with secondary burial in bundles, some of the long bones would be preserved as bone trails or dust.

These two burials, represented only by enameled crowns of human teeth, in Pits 14 and 15, were Burials 2 and 3 at West Plateau. A note sketch by Jackson shows the growing complexity revealed in 1-47 offset profile (Figure 12). Note the presence of clay basin 2, found under station pilaster as described in notes of March 11.

...The sketch shows the location of Basin 2, a clay molded basin of the type found in the floor of Halfway House. It is built on top of the redistributed red clay and mottled sandy loam, considered to be the lumped debris of house construction. This affords a thumbnail

impression of the crowded features of several occupations on the West Plateau village site. An analysis of the profile elements from top to base of cut in.

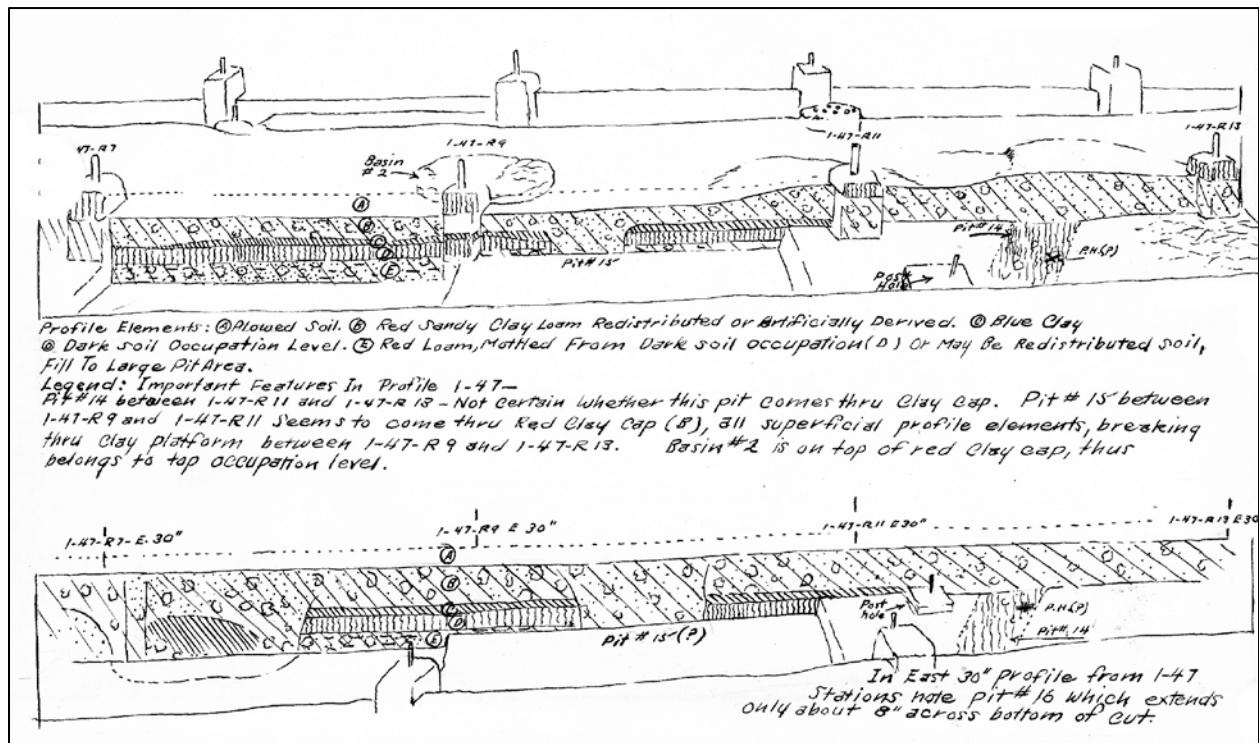


Figure 12: Trench Profile at Station 1-47

...1-47 shows A- plowed soil to plow line; B-red clay and loam redistributed, the assumed house debris level; C-blue clay belonging to the platform hitherto described; D- dark soil occupation, the principal residence floor in the Stratified Village; E- mottled, disturbed, possibly redistributed soil or fill to some sort of village materials extending down to some distance below the black soil occupation level.

Burial 4 on the West Plateau, in the 1-61 line of stations west of the main house debris concentrations of the Stratified Village, may show some divergences from observations made on Burials 2 and 3.

The notes of March 23rd summarize.

...The burial lies only 5 inches below plowed ground and has evidently been considerably disturbed by plowing. One femur, portions of pelvis, small fragment of jaw, portions of skull, a few teeth, represent the original skeleton. These anatomical parts much scattered with broken pieces of pottery belonging to two or three pots occurring helter skelter among the bones. It is likely that this was originally an extended or flexed burial made a few inches to a

foot below present sod level, with two or three pots left as burial furniture. There are alternative explanations. Burial 4 might be a secondary interment, a form of burial not unknown on the Macon Plateau. The fresh break in the bones, the closeness to the surface, the concentration of large pieces of pottery also newly broken lying about the bones, rather strengthen the suggestion of a surface interment with burial furniture. No historical material was found in the grave contents. The pottery shows types familiar in Mound D situations... Provenance is made uncertain by the absence of the 5 or 6 stratigraphic elements made out further south (in the Stratified Village area). Between 1-61 and 1-63 profiles are found only top plowed soil, then a mottled disturbed natural loam which was perhaps residual from more than one occupation but without stratigraphic accumulation of debris in layers as occurs in the main village concentration on West Plateau.

In troweling out refuse pit 17 in the Stratified Village, a rim and neck portion of a pottery water bottle of Mound C mortuary type, was catalogued at a depth of 17 inches in the pit *.

Pit 17 was discovered in clearing humus in the 1-77 line of stations between Controls 1 and 2 in West Plateau. Actually, the 1-77 offset lies west, well beyond the main concentration of the Stratified Village. The intervening thirty-inch test trenches 1-61, 1-63, 1-65, 1-67, 1-71, and 1-73, were filled shortly after excavation as they showed no village site occupations in the respective 10 foot survey strips they represent. Several Mound C mortuary vessels, showing fragments of the highly conventionalized effigy head (blank faced water bottles), were found in context in the Stratified Village. These received special note in daily diaries as they exhibited the continuity of relationships between the Stratified Village and Mound C burial mound. Refuse pit 18 was also found in 1-77. Pit 17, in addition to the Mound C mortuary vessel fragment, yielded the usual complement of sherds, flint, and will be treated in the ceramics section of this report.

After two months of excavation on the West Plateau, the survey indicated fairly well that the main concentration of stratified remains was situated between Offsets 1-33 and 1-57, nearly 100 feet east and west and about same distance north and south. A method of combined vertical profiling and horizontal removal of debris from indicated occupation levels or floors seemed the best procedure in working this area. It was necessary to extend the West Plateau survey to the north, and another Control Trench, Control 3, was inserted. In this area northwest of Control 2 another deeply stratified accumulation developed, with evidences of another large structure recorded in early notes as House A West Plateau. A sketch by Jackson shows the initial appearance of features uncovered here (Figure 13). A clay ramp ranging northwest for a distance of 30 feet was exposed to a depth of .6 to 1 foot. A dark midden containing surface sherds and artifacts mantled this ramp on the lower slopes. A large floor section of clay, or a clay platform, was also partially uncovered.

The first recognition of a distinctive class of stamped pottery, called simply Delta class in this stage of explorations on the Ocmulgee, is remarked in the notes of April 13, 1935 (Delta is now known as the familiar Napier Complicated Stamped series in southeastern ceramics) (Figures 14 and 15).

...Find 132 is another West Plateau example of stamped ware. This sherd, however, falls in a special class or genre denominated the Delta class of stamped ware in the laboratory studies just completed on 1500 sherds taken from the One Mile Track site (west bank of the Ocmulgee, Central City Park, Macon). The design is probably put on with a carved paddle, but the geometric patterns are distinctive, are finer, smaller, than Lamar technique. The Delta class sherds occur in a high percentage in the Napier village site near the M.D.S. railroad bridge south of One Mile Track... and occur sporadically on a number of sites explored in reconnaissance along the Ocmulgee. It is easily recognizable in a mélange of other stamped techniques and forms a definite morphological grouping within the taxonomic family of stamped sherds.

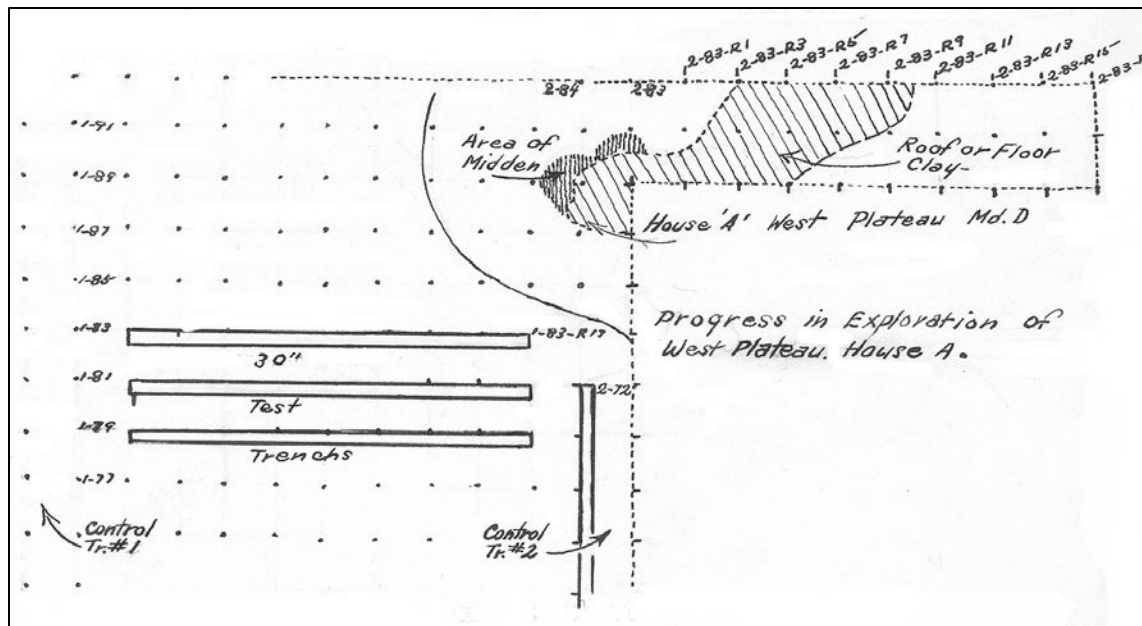


Figure 13: House A

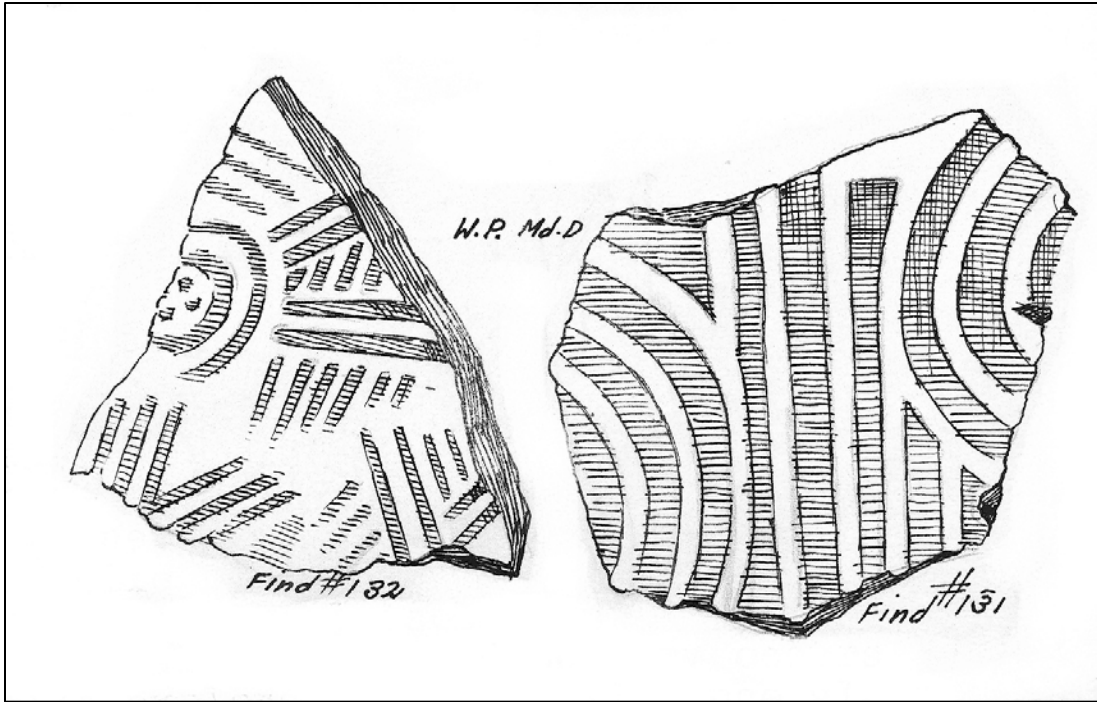


Figure 14: Finds 131 and 132, Napier Sherds from East Plateau

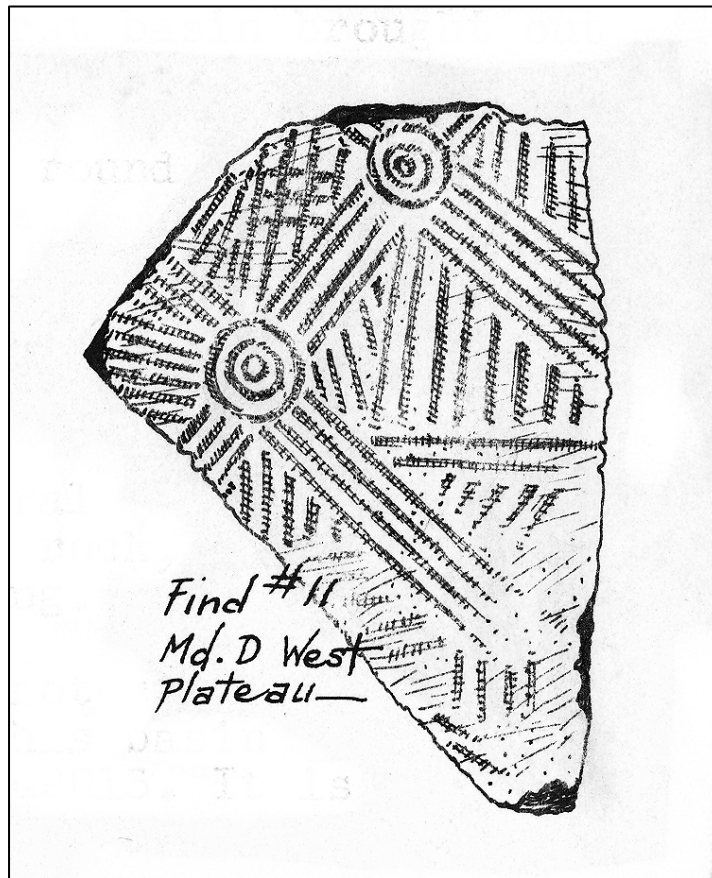


Figure 15: Find 11, Napier Sherd from East Plateau

The observations on daily cataloguing of materials, including specific cross-references in specialized types, for example Napier Complicated Stamped pottery and Mound C water bottles, helped to give continuity to the several units of excavation going on simultaneously in the Macon Plateau explorations. Some sense of this is expressed in the notes of March 25, 1935.

...Notation on finds outstanding in each day's collections is a good way to keep in touch with typological developments at a time when we are carrying on excavations both in the prehistoric dugouts and on a village site on the West Plateau which show successive occupations, some of which may be residence levels made on floors over semi-subterranean, saucer-like excavations akin to those brought out on the East Plateau. That there is a typological resemblance and continuity is already apparent between the west and east plateau at Mound D. The problem is to determine whether we have secular variation and continuity of development in material culture traits or whether we have more or less contemporaneous sites showing diversity of house types and changing techniques in the pottery making and flint working arts.

One important early-recognized pottery category typical of Macon Plateau ceramics was the net impressed or fabric marked group. Troweling of Pit 18 in Offset 1-77, companion pit to Pit 17 already mentioned in which part of a Mound C mortuary vessel was found, yielded large quantities of net impressed ware. Pit 18 "...is a refuse pit 57 inches wide, 21 inches deep, filled with black midden soil, considerable quantities of charred cane (specimen taken for ethnobotanical study). A few large potsherds, belonging for most part to one pot, show that the vessel was built up inside a closely woven netted bag or container. Important in showing that this type of ware was definitely built up inside the nets rather than that the designs were applied by textile imprints made on the vessels before firing..."

Returning to the complex stratified situation between Controls 1 and 2, Offset 1-43, a study of profiles throws further light on the building activities here in the area where we have discussed the troweling of the large refuse pit 5 (filled with Ocmulgee Old Fields materials). Inasmuch as the Stratified Village on West Plateau will be one large excavation unit from which we shall draw ceramic collections for stratigraphic analysis on Mound D plateau, it is necessary to define the occupation levels and specific archaeological contexts more precisely, if possible. A series of sketches by Jackson made for the notes of March 30, 1935, is provided in text to explicate the discussion of this complicated excavation unit. Description of these profile features in the notes of March 30 (Figure 16).

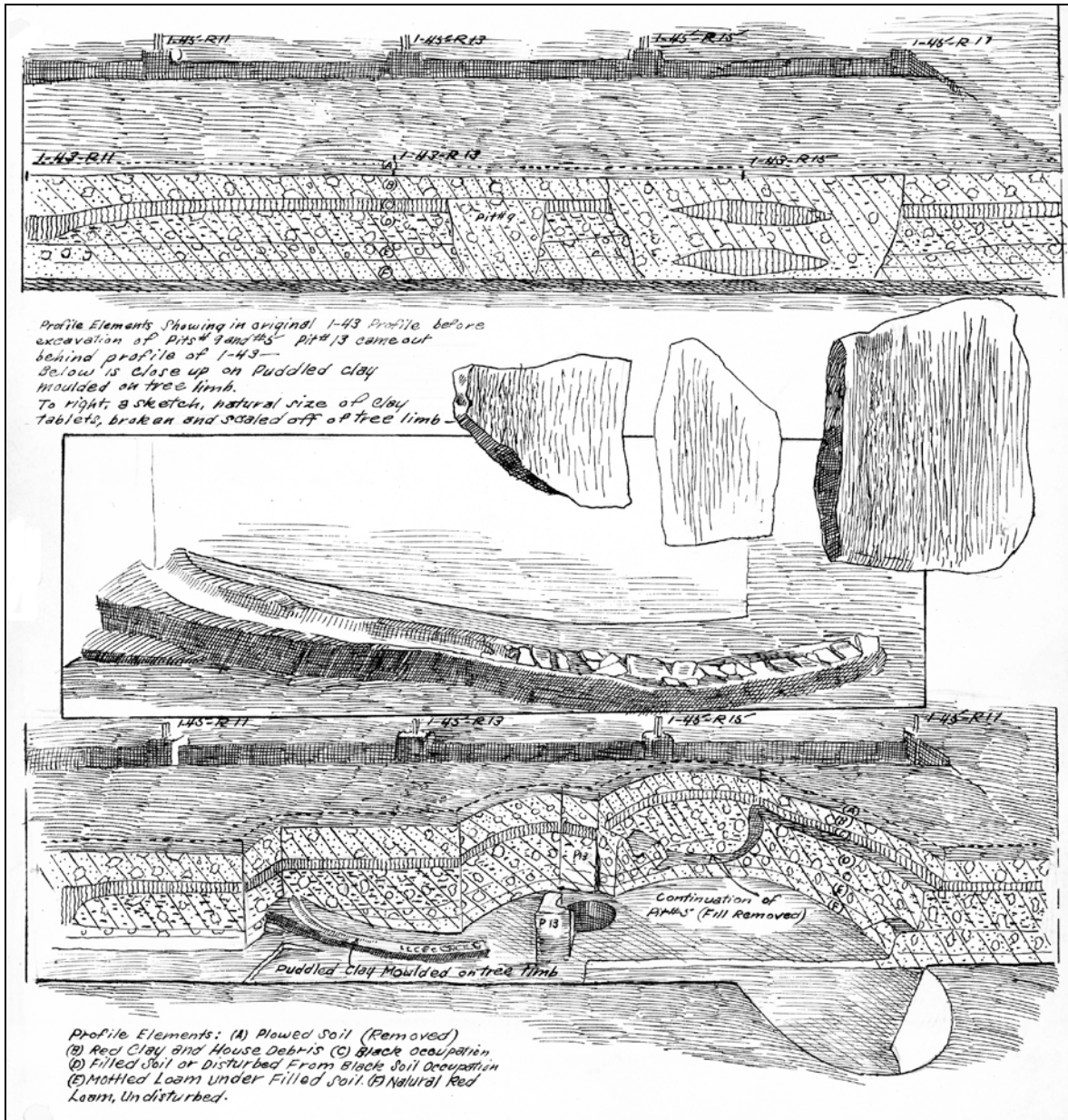


Figure 16: Profile 1-43

...When the fill was removed from Pit 5, the west wall periphery was seen to show two new pits. One of these, in the south wall of the hemispherical curve to the troweled portion of Pit 5 was considered to be possibly a north extension of Pit 9, or, there was a possibility that this new pit might be sunk like Pit 9 from the black soil occupation level 3 capped by hard packed clay and loamy soils thought to be house rubble and refuse (in which case the new pit was tentatively catalogued as Pit 13). Some considerable doubt still exists as to the extent of Pit 9, due to the fact that all the soil for a depth of 37 inches from base of clay cap (Stratigraphic Level 2) is now seen to be artificially derived or filled soil, with Pits 5, 9,

13 intrusive into the already mottled and disturbed soil... The case is typical of others already tentatively interpreted in 1-43, 1-45, and 1-47 profiles. It is obvious that we have more than two occupations represented, with successive pit excavations sunk from occupation Levels compressing at points of insertion into a very few inches, and with the original bases of departure broken, usually entirely destroyed by the changes brought about in the subsequent residential modifications in floor level. Previous interpretations of profile panels in this survey area between Controls 1 and 2 on West Plateau have shown the rubble clay hard pan and mottled, lensed loam considered to be house debris and clay floors treaded into hard platforms (Stratigraphic Level 2) were useful in distinguishing the chronological position of refuse pits, baked clay platforms, clay-lined basins, hearths, heaps of pottery and artifacts deposited in situ. Similarly, Stratigraphic Level 3, the dark soil occupation containing charcoal and residence accumulation, located just below Stratigraphic Level 2, was found to be a landmark in interpreting profiles. Now it appears that the soil beneath the dark soil occupation (Level 3) may be either 1) a natural red loamy soil mottled and discolored and charcoal impregnated from impressions and inclusions derived from black soil occupation above, or 2) we may have a totally derived soil, artificially laid down as fill, in the same sense that soils in the prehistoric dugouts on the East Plateau slope at Mound D are derived or artificially filled. Whether the second condition implies semi-subterranean houses on the West Plateau village site, abandoned and collapsed, later trodden under foot, covered over with the successive layers of subsequent occupations, punctured with small refuse pits sunk from different levels, remains to be seen.

The use of clay daubs on withes or rod-like interior furnishings is a suggested feature that will appear many times in discussing excavations on the East Plateau. In connection with the intimations of semi-subterranean structures on West Plateau, reference is made to the clay-daubed timber found deep in 1-43, described in notes of March 30th.

...In bottom of Pit 9, 1-43 profile, a most interesting find has been made in the form of a puddled clay smeared on or around a tree limb. The limb would seem to have been dressed or planed before the puddle clay was applied as broken sections, 1-3 inches wide, still show the grain of the wood impressed on the clay. Troweling at the base of Pit 9 has brought out a linear series of these broken pieces of puddled clay, not burned (perhaps sun-dried) but hard and smoothed in the act of application to the wood. This line extends in the exposed section 22 inches in a north and south line at the bottom of the pit, where the clay-smeared pole or slab fell into the pit. Another possibility would be that the pit (Pit 9) was

not really dug all the way down to the level of the clay tablets bearing wooden slab impressions but fell short: that Pit 9 was dug subsequently from the black soil occupation level 3 and that the clay-daubed wooden element was a structural feature of a semi-subterranean house which had existed on the site before the occupation or horizon developed, from which Pit 9 was sunk.

The notes of May 14th summarize the matter of refuse pit insertions from the black soil occupation level, and the possibility of semi-subterranean structures, in the profile panel of 1-49 between Controls 1 and 2.

...The greatest difficulty comes in tracing the lines of pit walls where pits are sunk from upper levels through other deeper levels of soils mottled, disturbed, apparently redistributed in the same way as the material filling the pits... There are no actual lines of unconformity showing the sides of Pit 24, indication of the insertion of the refuse pit through E element in the profile panel. Two facts prove that 24 must have been dug in this manner: 1) the corresponding break in the continuity of C and D levels; 2) the basal portion of 24 is distinct enough, the lines of the pit being clearly marked on base of cut extending out 8 inches from the profile. I am still not entirely decided as to whether Pits 14 and 24 came through B clay debris. B clay debris level is 12-24 inches thick near Station 1-49R11. Yet the soil from B on down into the pit shows a continuous unbroken aspect so far as mottling, color, soil texture is concerned. It seems difficult to believe such homogeneity would be apparent if B level of clay and loam had merely fallen down on top of occupation level C and D, filling and massing over the pit. In that case, there would have been slumping in the pit contents with secondary accommodations of the top debris over the incompletely filled pit. The facts indicate strongly that both pits, 14 and 24, were dug from the top occupation over B debris level. Here we have duplicated the complex stratigraphic succession of levels and refuse pits observed in the case of Pits 14 and 24, and Baked Clay Basin #2. (Figure 17)

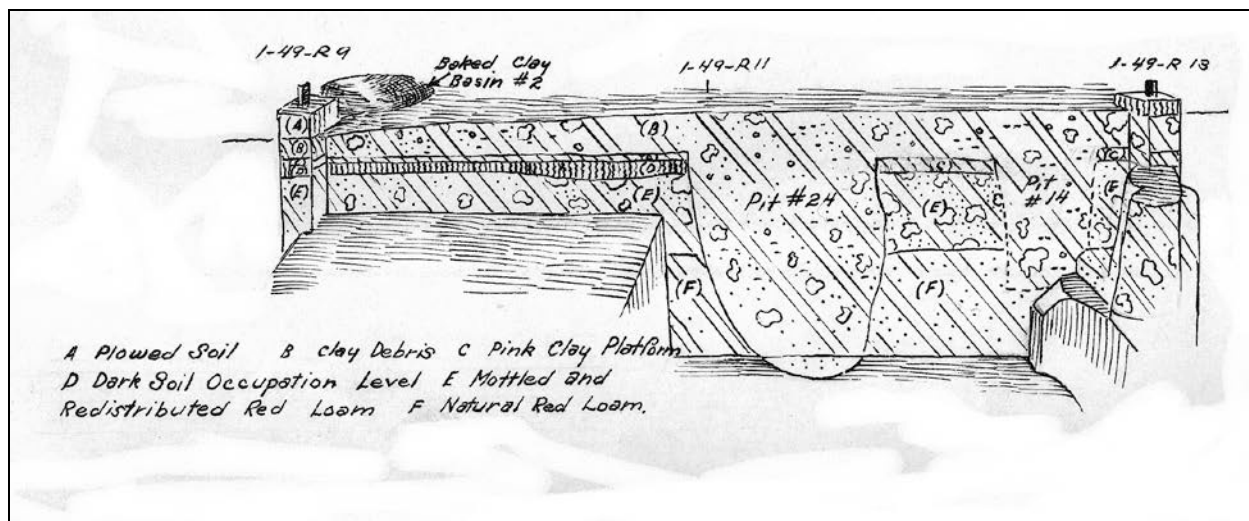


Figure 17: Profile 1-49R9 to 1-49R13

Beyond Control 2, the profile panels of the 2-85 line of stations exhibits much the same stratigraphic relations recorded for offsets between Controls 1 and 2. The following from the diary of May 6th is pertinent to note sketches and daily summary of these features, especially regarding Pits 20, 21, 23 (Figure 18).

...This trench was dug to secure further data on the accumulation of hard packed clay beneath plow line on West Plateau, as well as the occupation level underneath the clay, and the much mottled and disturbed, possibly redistributed soil beneath the occupation level. The question has been raised whether the clay is consolidated remains of walls and roof to houses built over a dark soil indicating occupation or residence floor ---or whether the clay is itself a floor. The data given by the profiles below still admit of alternative explanations. For three refuse pits, 20, 21, 23 are seen to be intrusive through the clay deposit. This might mean an occupation on top of the clay debris of presumed collapsed houses belonging to an earlier occupation. This hypothesis fits more closely the account previously given to explain profile features of complex superimposed occupation levels on the West Plateau (Controls 1 and 2). In the present profile, both sides shown, the black soil occupation under the clay is not so much in evidence --- not so much charcoal, dark organic refuse fill, as in the area between Control trenches 1 and 2. However, bone, pottery, stone rubble, hearths, baked clay, and other materials piled in situ under the clay, indicate a similar situation. Note small tapering lenses or sheets of water laid sand on top of the clay, showing in both profile faces. This was a feature of the stratified area, in Controls 1 and 2 between 1-37 and 1-39 offsets (see panels in text of previous discussion). No satisfactory explanation of this discontinuous distribution of waterborne sand over the clay has been forthcoming. (We would interpolate the observation that this water

laid sand occurs in the shallow, saucer-like, depressions, which elsewhere have tentatively been suggested to be cross-sectional views through semi-subterranean house structures. This might mean a filling in over the concave, meniscus-like floor levels, of sand washed in onto abandoned house seats). In places, the clay is in contact with the occupation level underneath ---elsewhere the clay substratum is not showing; instead we get multi-colored sand in thin laminae, water laid over a dark soil showing signs of occupation. The three refuse pits, 20, 21, 23, are obviously intrusive through the clay as well as the other profile elements indicated in the legends, C clay usually bluish or slate colored; D, multi-colored sand beneath clay often mottled and disturbed, yielding some artifacts and pottery; E and F, natural soil elements forming the base to the archaeological features described.

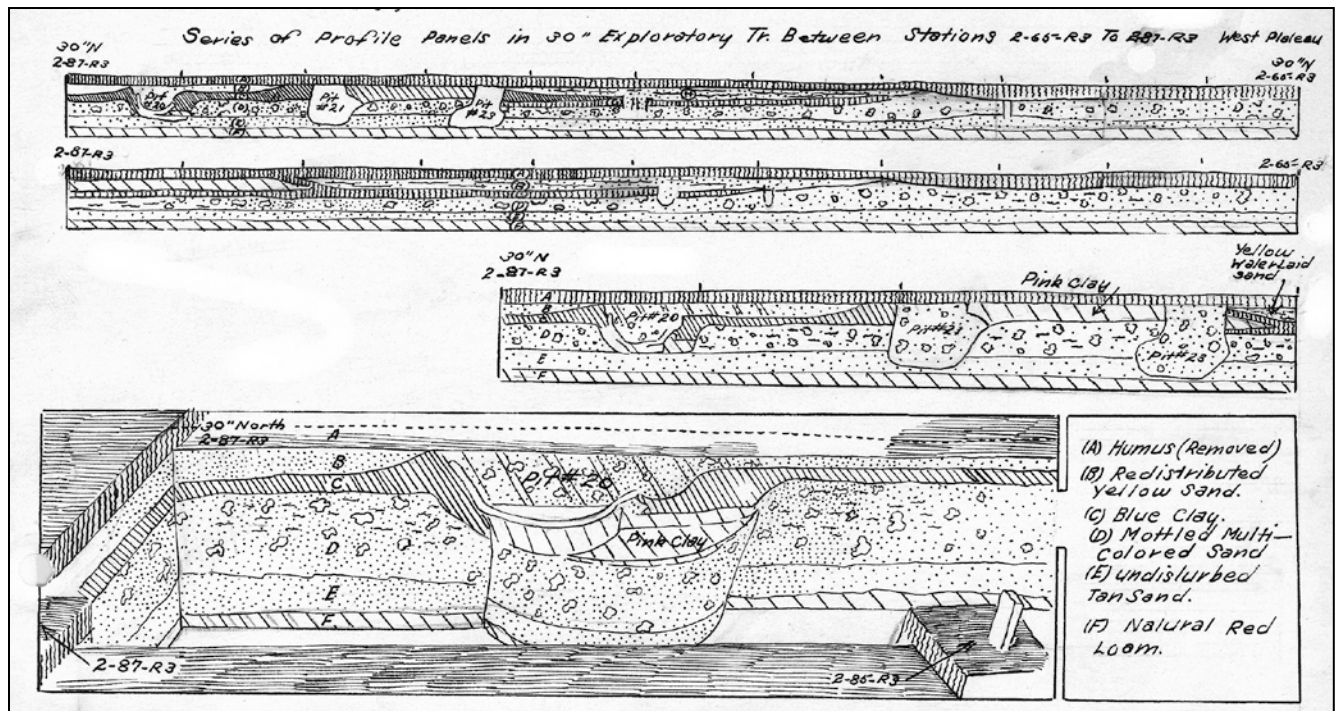


Figure 18: Profile Sketches

...Pit 23 seems to have the peculiarity of being smaller and more constricted at the top than at the base; there is a suggestion of the same peculiarity in Pit 21. Both pits 20 and 21 show a clay platform or collar surrounding the shoulder margins, flush with the edge of the pits. Two kinds of clay enter into this platform arrangement, bluish or slate-colored on either side of Pit 20 with pink clay under the pit. Pit 20 has a baked or fired clay basin set in the top of a more deeply excavated pit. The pit walls extend down distinctly to base of cut. This would suggest that the baked clay

basin was built into the filled depression of an older refuse pit, lined with blue clay around the margins of the basin. The mottled red loam fill in the clay basin is presumed to be debris from a house collected in the basin at some subsequent time. It is not evident from the profile whether this pit was set in the floor of the house or whether it is outside. Pit 21 has no baked clay sides or basin arrangement. The clay on the west shoulder of this pit is a bluish color; that on the east is pinkish, similar to the clay underneath the fire-basin in Pit 20. The same platform of pink clay runs continuously from the east wall of Pit 21 to the west wall constriction of Pit 23.

The interpretation of the mottled and disturbed sandy loam Level E remains a problem. The issue is whether to regard the mottling here as inclusions treaded down or migrating from above, or whether the soil is redistributed and derived incident to occupation *in situ*.

The Stratified Village Excavation Continued

The explorations on the site of the Stratified Village in the West Plateau sections carried on for a period of nearly two years, 1935-1937. Work was not continuous after the preliminary reconnaissance of the area of main concentration uncovered in the offset trenches between Controls 1 and 2 and between Controls 2 and 3. Frequent changes in personnel, with each new relief agency, and reshuffling of the few trained trowel men and foreman, plus the demands of other complicated units of excavation on Mound D north plateau, necessitated temporary halts in excavation. On returning to the unit, we found it necessary to redress the profiles and to continue from the prior point of survey and recordation. The profiles suffered and deteriorated to some extent and there was some loss of data, inevitable under the conditions of operating the projects.

It was fully realized early in 1935 that the Stratified Village should provide one of the best archaeological situations for comparative stratigraphic purposes on the Plateau. If procedures were slow and drawn out, that was in part due to the desire to be as careful as possible under the circumstances in recording the superimposed levels and features, and in cataloguing the pottery and artifacts from these precious contexts.

Every effort was made to work out reliable patterns of structures on the perceived building or occupation levels. Equal attention was given to the numerous pits, which, as we have seen, showed up early in the profile panels of the initial offset trenches. This preoccupation with the pits bore fruit, as we shall see, and was particularly significant because of the problems raised by these pits in their functional interpretation, i.e. whether they were cooking pits, storage pits, or burial pits, or possibly a combination of these.

In most excavation reports descriptions are kept as purely factual as possible, with theoretical extrapolations and reconstructions provided in a later section dealing with the evidence uncovered in the excavation units. Any actual judgment of the archaeologist made regarding specific features or structures as they are in the process of being uncovered involves some elements of extrapolation. It is not logically possible to separate theoretical or subjective elements entirely and to provide a purely descriptive and statistical account of daily excavation. The author will continue to draw heavily upon his descriptions as recorded at the time of excavation, recorded in daily field notes and draughts, in order to rely upon those impressions which existed when the phenomena described were actually before him. Hindsight may alter the original judgments somewhat in the light of later knowledge, but the initial impressions still have by and large a certain pejorative reality.

After the stage of offset exploration between control trenches in the West Plateau came the horizontal clearing of the 7 1/2 foot strips between the offsets. The main concentration of the stratified remains had been determined to lie within the area defined by Offsets 1-37 and 1-51. The Stratified Village lapped over into the north section, in Control 2, in the extension of 1-45 and 1-47 units. All in all, the total concentration was approximately 100 square feet. The superimposed building levels exhibited the deepest accumulations *in situ* around the middle portion of this 100 foot square of midden concentration, with the 1-45 offset representing the core section of the deposits. Toward the peripheries, the specific occupation levels, B hard packed red clay loam containing briquettes and other indications of considerable building activity, C thin pink clay over, D black soil occupation, and E underlying red sandy loam integrating into a relatively unmodified basal geological formation were telescoped and attenuated beyond recognition, with the building levels B, C, D definitely terminating. The

profile panels indicate, however, that the core section of the stratified remains still retained their integrity despite 100 years of cultivation in modern times and provided a ceramic and structural index of one of the more distinctive cultural stages of development. This will become apparent in the discussion in later chapters on structures and ceramics.

In the excavation account that follows detailing features uncovered in the 7 1/2 foot horizontal clearing between offsets, some pits will recur in the descriptions that were already partially described in the account of the original offset 30 inch trench explorations. The account will not be simply repetitious, however, as these pits were left untroweled in the profiles for some months and their complete outlines and character was as yet unknown until the horizontal shaving down of levels B, C, D was completed. These pits in the Stratified Village show some peculiar characteristics as to shape, fill contents, and catalogued specimens, which reviewed in totality support the general thesis that we may have uncovered burials made in round pit graves or inserted into a special type of storage pit. The burial complex in the Stratified Village shows some striking correlations with pits found in the submound area of Mound C. As we shall see, the Stratified Village shows some ceramic divergence from the picture afforded by the remaining area of the West Plateau. The interpretation of pit character will be crucial to some of the final conclusions. The excavation data here require a more detailed accounting.

We begin with the east periphery of Stratified Village in Offsets 1-35 and 1-37, with the following notations from the notes of November, 1936.

...We pick up with the horizontal slip removal, 7 1/2 foot cut, of D buried occupation and black soil level. Very thin and hardly apparent in 1-37R which marks the eastern extension of the Stratified Village...Today noted the appearance of quite a number of Delta stamped sherds (Napier Complicated Stamped... shows in ceramic analysis) found in removing D black soil. No post holes on D level.

Beneath D level black soil occupation, (see the sketch included in text for this profile panel) some evidence of a still lower occupation *in situ* were found.

...A very perplexing problem in regard to post hole indications, 18 in all, brought out 14 inches in E mottled red clay loam. It must be remembered that the 7 1/ foot survey between Offsets 1-37 and 1-39 was planed off meticulously to study new indications of mottling and disturbance and that these seeming post holes didnot come out until we got to a very definite 14inch level in E mottled red clay. In other cuts in working from D black soil occupation and underlying subsoil, we did find post holes coming from D and intrusive into E. This facts seems to militate against the theory that all of the posts might have come from D and were subsequently leached out in the upper portions, leaving only the tapering ends to be exposed in archaeological working... The house plan (18post holes) although not definitely worked out seems to run northeast-southwest.

Between 1-35 and 1-37 offsets, additional post mold indications were found in the corresponding E level section of that 7 1/2 foot slip.

...Suddenly, in shaving through at this relatively deep level in E mottled red clay loam, we have come upon no less than 12 fairly round, regular shaped disturbances in the soil, filled with a grayish mould. These are only 2 inches below base of cut left on Thursday and at that time there were no indications perceived in careful horizontal scraping of the area. This occurrence repeats observations in 1-37 offset. A very strange phenomenon, as all post hole indications observed in cutting through D black soil occupation were tagged as intrusive and derived from that level, clearly defined as soon as enough light soil or contrast could be had under the buried humic cone.

In no instance were we ever able to work out a complete post hole pattern at this deepest occupation zone in the Stratified Village. Some idea of the type of structure represented, however, can be made out. They were single post insertions, probably in rectangular or lozenge shaped houses, without any indications of footing ditches. The individual wall inserts or post supports consisted of saplings not more than 6 inches in diameter. Very similar structures were found under the prehistoric Cultivated Field and in the submound area of Mound D (Submound House, Mound D). Also, there is a general absence of molded or pressed clay, briquette material or clay grouted into wall interstices, such as are found in Bhard packed level in the upper levels of the Stratified Village, assumed to be the compacted rubble of successive building operations. Moreover, we call attention to the fact that this type of simple sapling post house is definitely below the saucer-shaped depressed type of construction which appears in the D occupation immediately above.

Pits and Burials on West Plateau

With the 1-39 offset, we begin to find numerous pits showing in the vertical profiles and exposed in horizontal removal of B, C, D levels between 1-39 and 1-41 offsets. A brief description, from the notes, is given of five of these pits in the 1-39 offset-- Pits 23, 47, 48, 59, and 60. The notes of November, 1936 record.

...Pit 23 is very nearly round and seems to increase in diameter as we trowel down in the fill. Pits 47 and 48 were both intrusive through D black soil occupation. Pit 47 has diameter of 36 inches at top and runs to base of cut. It shows only mottled disturbed loam containing sparse indications of midden. No sherds. Small amount of scattered quartz and flint chips were found. The pit was round and appeared to get considerably larger in the bottom than the top.

The only find made in these five pits was a stemmed projectile, showing no alteration or decomposition, found in fill to Pit 48. Pit 59 description in the notes indicates the general appearance and conditions of the discovery.

...We uncovered a small disturbed area, which at first was thought to be either a posthole or possibly a tap root disturbance. As troweling proceeded this elliptical area began to spread until within 6 inches it assumed the proportions of a possible grave disturbance. No known tap roots grow in this fashion. The development and expansion of the disturbed area, in horizontal troweling through the mottled red loam, was not the first instance of its kind on the West Plateau. The expanded section, which we came to consider a grave, was troweled out in the basal natural formation of clay loam, G level. The disturbed area was five feet long and two feet wide. Cataloged as Pit 59. Absolutely no material indicating a burial came out despite very careful work, no bone or even a trail of organic bone dust could be made out; possibly chemical studies may indicate something. That some sort of a pit had been dug, which in horizontal troweling appeared only as a small disturbed area at the top and which expanded rapidly as we went down, is apparent.

Pit 60 duplicates the situation described for Pit 59 in the 1-39 offset. The field diary description details the pit.

...At first it seemed we had a small discolored rather regular shaped disturbed area which might have been a large posthole a foot in diameter, but as this was troweled out to a depth of 16 inches expansion occurred until we had a much larger, pit-like disturbed area. This was tentatively catalogued as Pit 60. It duplicates the experience (Pit 59) except that this disturbed area is

not quite so large. Base of surface cut carried down to 50 inches into red clay loam of geological formation. No new data indicating burial or anything in regard to the purpose of this disturbed area, considered to be a possible burial excavation.

Pits 49 and 50 were noted in the 1-41 offset. Pit 49 was partially cut away in the original 30 inch test trench, but the remaining portions in profile showed it to be round and about 30 inches deep. No material was found from the pit fill. Pit 50 was somewhat more specialized (Figure 19).

...In planing off the surface around the margins of Pit 50 we exposed round discolorations, looking like small pit insertions, around pit 50 in a semi-circle. These three smaller depressions were about 18 inches deep and 12 inches in diameter. They had no material in them, not catalogued as separate pits, thought to be related structurally to the large pit 50. Fill to all pits contained the pinkish clay balls and lenses from Level C platform layer, through which they were intrusive. The anomalous finding of 12 new postholes underneath the last clearly defined occupation level, level D is recorded in the notes. Also, the finding that sherds of Napier complicated stamped pottery turn up in this deep level.

Some of the difficulties in horizontal shaving of the close packed, telescoped occupation levels is recorded in the notes dealing with the removal of stratified fill between 1-43 and 1-49 offsets.

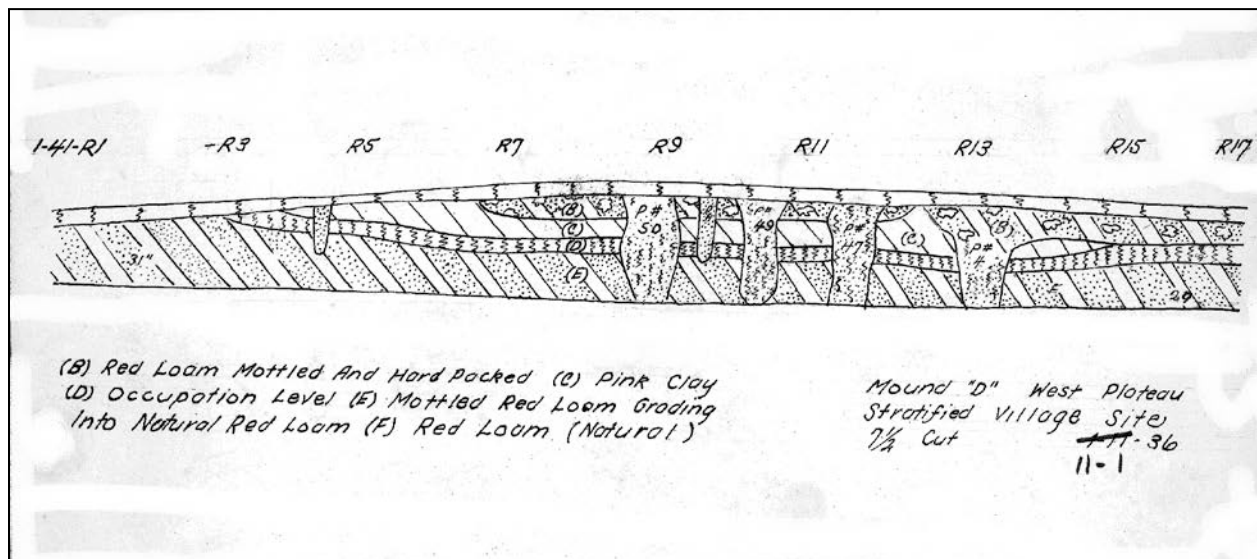


Figure 19: Panel 1-41

...Procedure in exploration today, now that B hard packed layer has been removed in the offsets between 1-43B and 1-49B, is to go back and check the exposed C level of pinkish clay for postholes and other evidence which might throw light on specific house

building activities. In the first attempts to detect floor plans from the continuity of postholes, brought out in the 7 1/2 foot slips between offsets, our efforts were stalemated by the confusion of pits dug through C either from that level or intrusive from the overlying B hard packed house debris level... The line of contact between 3 level and C pinkish clay is not easy to follow in horizontal stripping. It is necessary to trowel off portions of the pink clay, almost to contact with D level, before sufficient soil color and textural contrast is provided to show up post molds.

Four pits are worthy of note in the 1-43 profile. A sketch is provided in text for reference. Notes of December, 1936 (Figure 20).

...Today worked in pits 6 and 7, as well as pit 7a. Each shows a surprising lack of midden, the fill consisting of a mottled red loam with occasional lenses or balls of pinkish clay (probably comes from C level and was accidentally included incident to the digging of the pits through that level). Scattered flint, quartz, came from Pit 7a, no sherds. Pit 7 comes through levels C and D, C pinkish clay layer only about 2 inches thick. It yields no material. Some quartz and few plain sherds found. Pits 33 and 34 show large quantities of charred wood scattered through disturbed soil fill, burning of prehistoric tree stump at this level? Also could be large posts inserted through D and possibly burned incident to destruction of house on D occupation. The whole area between Station 1-43R9 and 1-43R13 (see enclosed sketch) shows slumping or sinking over pits. With reference to Pits 33 and 34 notes in profile panel how D black soil occupation thickens and drops, dipping a foot or more over pits 33 and 34 just north of Station 1-43R11. Pit 7 intrusive through B and C levels adds to the confusion here, as does Pit 7a. B hard packed clay assumed to be accumulated house debris trampled into place by successive occupations has filled up a pocket or sink made by slumping of 4 pits in D level.

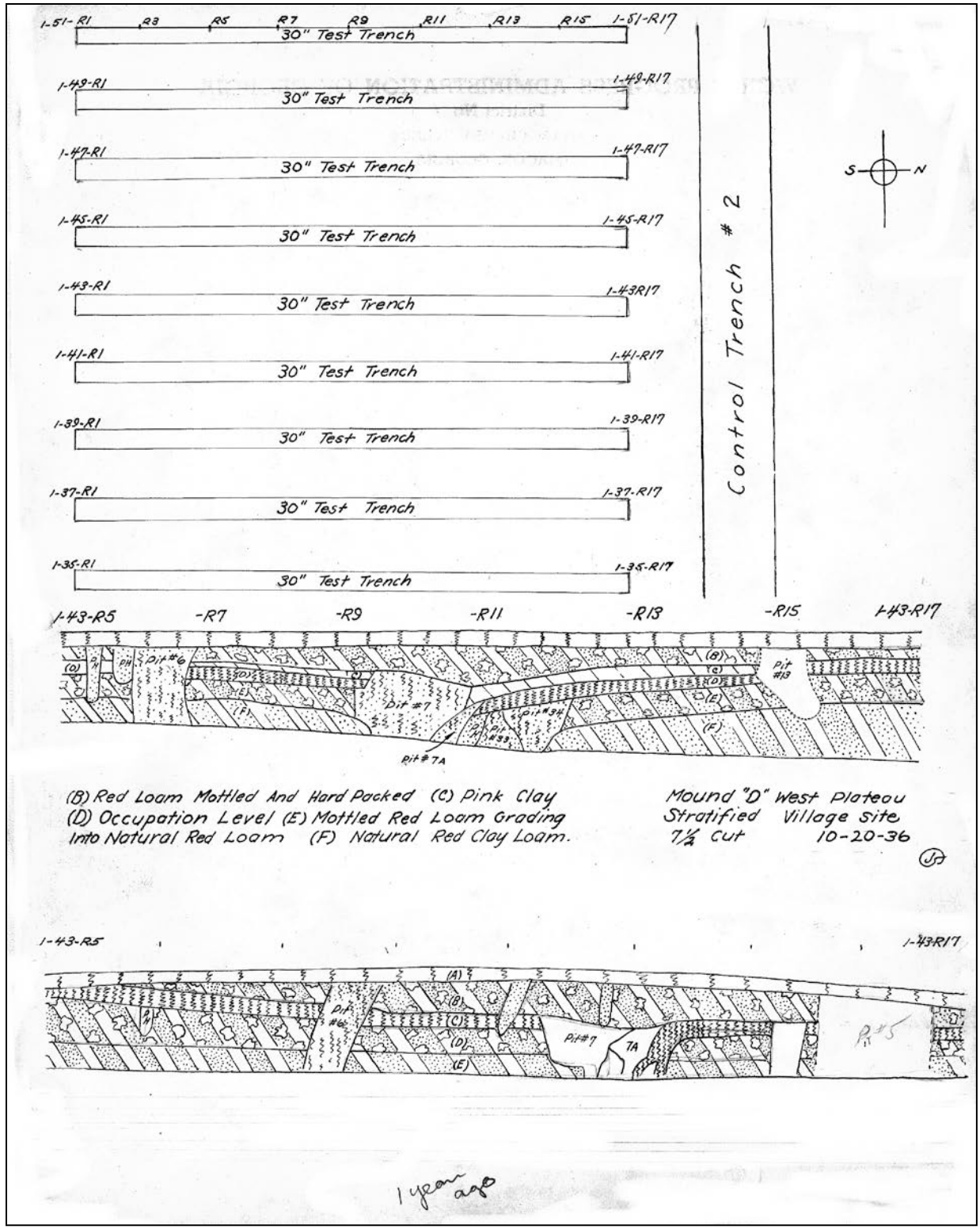


Figure 20: Panel Sketch

In the horizontal clearing between Offsets 1-45 and 1-47, and the 7 1/2 feet between 1-43 and 1-45, we find ourselves in the heart of the Stratified Village. A bewildering number of

pits are inserted into the superimposed levels in this area, along with numerous post-holes honeycombing several floors.

Beginning with the south end of the cut we take up Pit 51, under Station 1-45R3, which produced one of the most important finds made in pit fill in the Stratified Village. Pit 51 is intrusive from the surface through B, and D soil levels. It has relatively the same diameter throughout an average of 30 inches. It is rounded and regular but does not show the enlargement at base noted in other instances on West Plateau. The C pink clay layer does not extend so far south in the 1-45 cut as the point at which Pit 51 is inserted. In initial troweling of pit fill we found only the usual mottled disturbed loam with little midden except for a few sherds and flint chips. One find was catalogued, a water worn pebble about the size of a turtle's egg, thought possibly to have been used as a pottery smoother.

Pit 51 proved more rewarding to patient troweling, however, as the notes of December 11, 1936 record.

...We came upon a very interesting discovery today. This consists of two fragments of animal jaws, lower jaws, both plated with native copper (Figure 21). The copper plating here is very close to the configuration of the bone and altogether represents a neat job. The canine teeth are tusk-like and the teeth and jaws together look more like a bear than a dog (our comparative mammalian anatomy was far off here, as a similar pair of copper covered mandibles from Mound C were identified at the Smithsonian Institution as belonging to the puma!). Finding of copper covered animal jaws is reminiscent of the discovery of engraved copper plates and copper covered animal jaws with a burial in the submound region of Mound C, exploration on the south face, made during CWA phase. It is worthy of note that Mound C type burial urns and other traits have been found in working the Stratified Village on West Plateau. There were no evidences of burial in association with the copper covered animal bones in Pit 51. The fill to the pit had been systematically troweled over a period of several days without any indications of bones or even acid formations in the soil. The preservation of animal bones and the jaws can be ascribed to the preservative powers of the copper salts. I have no doubt that originally Pit 51 was a burial pit and that the evidences of human interment had long since disappeared, except for the copper covered animal jaws associated with the burial. Burial pits of similar shape and size were found at the base of Mound C and at Mound C usually the bones are better preserved due to the presence of clay platforms and plating on the slopes of the mound, and overlying basket-laid sand in the body of the mound. The copper covered jaws in Pit 51 were found 26 inches deep in the profile panel, in the base of the pit.

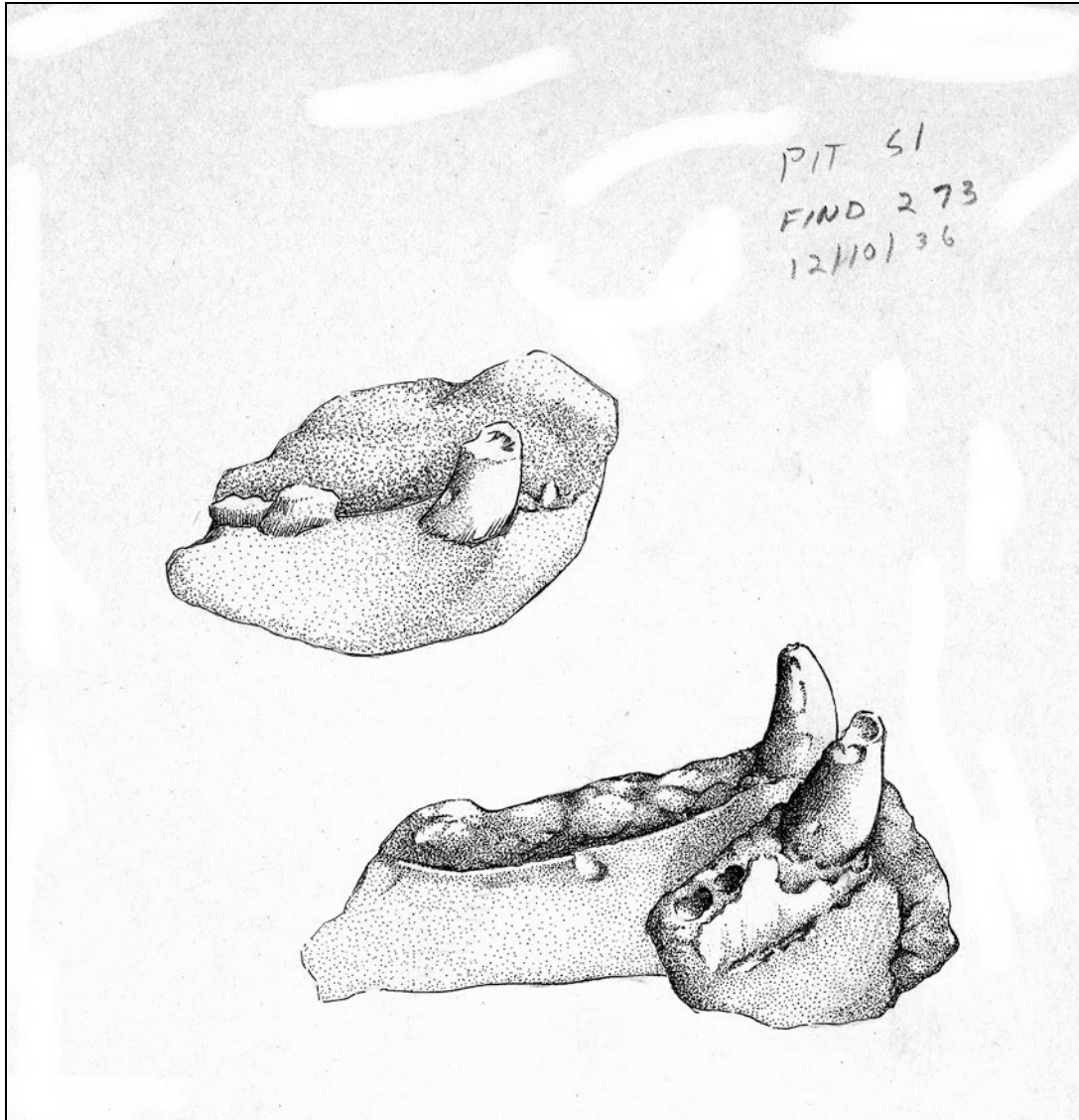


Figure 21: Copper Covered Jaws

The notes indicate some doubt as to the pit character of Pits 35 and 36 in the 1-45 offset.

...Pit 35 is definitely intrusive from D level, tapering shape suggesting possible ramification of tree root, although diameter, 39 inches is rather large. It begins just under black soil occupation, runs through E mottled red loam into F natural clay loam in base of cut. Fill of usual disturbed loamy soil yielded few sherds and flint chips. Two catalogued finds of stone tools, a quartzite projectile point with merging stem and shoulder type of haft, and a water worn boulder, used as pottery smoother? Quite a bit of charcoal from Pit 36, considered possible a charred stump in prehistoric times on D level. Pit 35 might be a large shallow midden pocket, except there was little midden in it.

With regard to the profile panel of 1-45, continuing, Pit 37 is described as follows.

...This shallow bowl-like disturbed area extends down from D black soil occupation, is covered over with a narrow strip of C pink clay. It is filled with red clay over pink and looks as if a rough former surface had been smoothed out incident to preparation of the pink clay house floor (Level C), in which case we hardly have a domestic pit as thought in original clearing of profile.

Pit 11, showing east of Pits 12 and 39 in the 7 1/2 foot clearing between 1-45 and 1-47 offsets, showed up as a disturbed area in the flat platform. Initial troweling showed few sherds, no quarts or flint. One small quarts projectile, merging stem and haft was found 13 inches in pit fill.

Pit 12 showed some divergent characteristics.

...Pit 12 is beginning to take on something of a trench-like continuity running west into 1-47 and extending over into the profile of 1-49. This pit is nearly 3 feet wide on average and about 2 feet deep. It looks something like a footing ditch. Mottled fill shows little or no midden. This peculiar feature was eventually troweled out for a total length of 20 feet. It showed no post moulds included in the mottled disturbed fill and in general size and depth was unlike the usual wall-trench to a prehistoric house. Nothing was ever found to indicate its possible function.

Pit 15, found in the 7 1/2 foot horizontal clearing west of 1-45 offset, again produces some evidence of possible burial.

...We found some indications of burial in the form of a few badly disintegrated human teeth with only crown portions remaining --- this was catalogued as Burial 2 in Pit 15 in earlier work of 1935. In troweling in 1936 no further indications of burial or burial furniture were found. Midden was scattered and sparse, two sherds, no flint, a few quartz fragments. Pit 15 had been cut intrusive through a clay basin, cutting away half of the basin. This was basin 4 and was brought out on D black soil occupation level. Stratigraphically, this means that Pit 15 was intrusive and belongs to the occupation on top of B hard packed clay loam house debris level.

Pit 38...

...This again is relatively shallow disturbed area but deeper and somewhat larger pit than pit 37 and has its sides definitely cut or inserted through the thin lens of pink clay and the black soil occupation. The fill shows irregular disturbed soil further disrupted by a post hole from the surface in the middle of the pit fill. In fill of pit only few pieces of quarts and clay briquettes. Pits 12 and 39 are conjoined pits, part of the trench-like continuity

which runs 20 feet through 3 offsets. Pit 39 fill yielded a roughly chipped quartz artifact.

The fairly frequent occurrence of quartz and quartz tools in West Plateau pits is noted. Whether these are chance inclusions of older Archaic material found scattered over the Macon Plateau terrain is hard to say. Some of the artifacts found in the pits approximate closely to forms described in the Old Quartz culture by Caldwell in his Allatoona Basin survey.

Pits 40 and 41 are described together, as these were found on troweling to be only one pit in reality. Pit 40 was really only a shallow saucer shaped clay cap to the fill of Pit 41. Pit 41 fill yielded a few sherds, scattered flint and quartz.

The profile panel to 1-47 and the 7 1/3 cut or horizontal clearing show some continuity with 1-45, as noted, particularly with relation to the trench-like continuity of Pits 12 and 39 *. Some new pits occur, pits 24, 42, 43. Pit 24 shows a special plating of yellowish clay 7 inches thick which seals the top of disturbed pit fill. The pit comes through both C and D levels. The clay plug to Pit 24 is in the top of B level which would indicate that Pit 24 was inserted from that level. Pit 24 was 31 inches wide, the depth extended from B top level to base of cut. The pit fill was the usual mottled loam with little midden, a few scattered sherds and flint chips. A few check stamped sherds and some Napier Complicated Stamped sherds were noted.

The diameter of Pit 42 was small, only 14 inches. It was intrusive through the B hard packed clay level, and went through levels C, D, and E. The fill yielded one sherd, quartz and flint chips, and a small fragment of bone not definitely identified as human. The absence of all kinds of bone and the general lack of midden of any kind has been remarked in most of these West Plateau pits. There is little to indicate function, except the recurring instances which suggest human burial in the pits.

Pit 43 in 1-47 when troweled showed mottled disturbed loam. The average width of the pit was 33 inches, with a tendency to widen at the bottom. A peculiar feature of this pit, regarded in profile, was the presence of a round cavity about 16 inches from the top which looked like it might have been a horizontal log mold. This mold or cavity, about 8 inches in diameter, runs from one side of the pit to the other, and appeared to have been inserted into the clay matrix of the sides of the pit. The total depth of pit was 40 inches.

We come now to Pit 16 in 147R offset, which provides us with somewhat more explicit information.

... Pit first catalogued when the 30 inch test trench was made in Offset 1-47. At that time, Burial 3 was taken from the pit. Found lots of pottery, flint and quarts. No historic material. Pit 16 is a large refuse pit containing much more midden than is customarily found in pits in the Stratified Village. Also contains animal bones and riverine mammals, which is unusual. A number of interesting finds were catalogued from Pit 16, a river worn boulder of quartzite showing abraded surface, a half portion of a polished greenstone celt, a rim and modeled mouth portion of an effigy funerary urn of Mound C type, stemmed knife with narrowly indented shoulder made from quartz, and another polished greenstone celt with neatly ground cutting edges...all of these at depth of 26 inches or more in pit fill.

Ceramic analysis of over 500 sherds from Pit 16 shows this pit to belong definitely to the Macon Plateau occupation. Most of the pits described from the West Plateau are seen to stem directly from the top occupation, as did Pit 5 inserted in Ocmulgee Fields time. Pit 51 with the copper covered puma jaws, assumed to be burial furniture, and came from B level. For that reason, it was encouraging to have Pit 16 with its heavy complement of included pottery and artifacts definitely assignable to this specific archaeological context. One peculiarity may be noted here, although more detailed discussions will be given in the chapter on Ceramics and Stratigraphy: Pit 16 shows no Napier Complicated Stamped sherds although Napier shows a heavier occurrence in the Stratified Village than elsewhere on the West Plateau. Also Napier tends to be distributed through all stratified levels in the area between Controls 1 and 2. This suggests that Pit 16 may belong to a post-Napier period of contact with the Macon Plateau people.

In connection with Pit 15, intrusive through a fired clay basin, our attention was redrawn to these features in the Stratified Village. Another such fired clay basin was troweled out in the 1-45 profile, 7 1/2 foot clearing to 1-47, in position on C level pink clay floor. This specimen was rectangular, shallow, built up of puddled clay, inset and molded into place on the occupation floor. Exact dimensions could not be calculated due to its fragmentary condition (Figure 22).

Also note is taken of a briquette or clay mould found on D level.

...top section of a molded briquette showing smoothed fired outer surface and raw unfired clay inside, shape cylindrical, top flattened and smoothed, molded around a slender rod-like support. This sort of clay object was found many times in the floor deposits of the presumptive pit houses or prehistoric dugouts on the East Plateau.

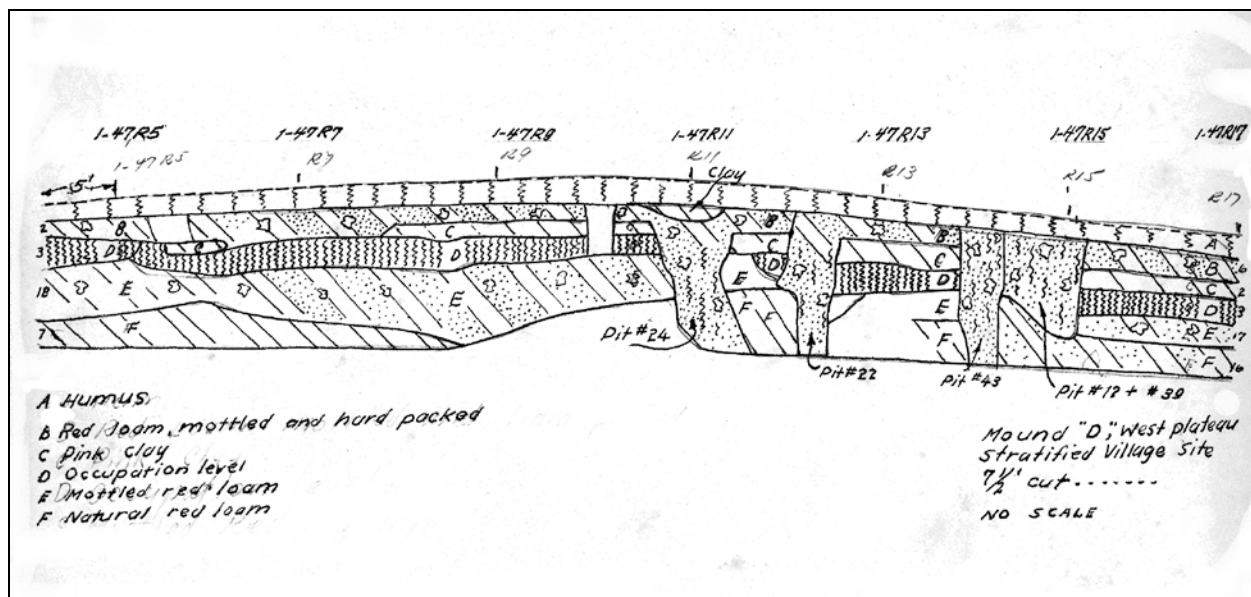


Figure 22: Pits in 1-47

In clearing the offset 7 1/2 feet between 1-47 and 1-49 the B hard packed house debris level was observed to be fading out. The notes of October 1936, record the following in regard to the character of this level.

...In this western fringe, B hard packed red clay loam is playing out...the hard packed debris is not so evident in this area but looks now more like a dark tan sandy soil running out from the original hard packed B level as a sheet of related soil. This concordance in the western fringe of the Stratified Village would seem to indicate that we have been correct in interpreting B level as a material of hard packed but redistributed clay rubble, debris trodden down into a compact layer as a result of later occupation, and that this house debris accumulations seems to cover and have an intimate relation to the underlying pink and purplish clay belonging to floor sections of several building levels. The great number and confusion of intrusive pits thru C would imply the erection of more than one house on the same occupation, the total building activity effacing and making extremely difficult the determination of structural features belonging to any one house.

With the removal of B hard packed level in horizontal stripping operations, some observations could be made on the character of the underlying occupation. The area was so honeycombed with intrusive pits and post insertions that no specific building patterns emerged, but the following conclusion may have some inters taken from the notes of January 1937, after removal of the B level.

...Note that a hard packed layer of red clay loam containing some briquettes has been removed for a distance of over 20 feet. A

number of features are remarked. The hard packed level seems to be definitely localized in the top levels and to be confined to the area east of 1-4-9 offset between Controls 1 and 2. The area under B appeared to have a basin or saucer shaped concavity, which had been suggested in the offset profile panels to cut through it. Also note the thin stratum of pink clay considered to be a special floor preparation which fits closely the saucer-shaped depression coated with the pink clay. Note that in the 1-49 profile pits, 44, 45, 46 are dug through both C and D levels. (Figures 23 and 24)

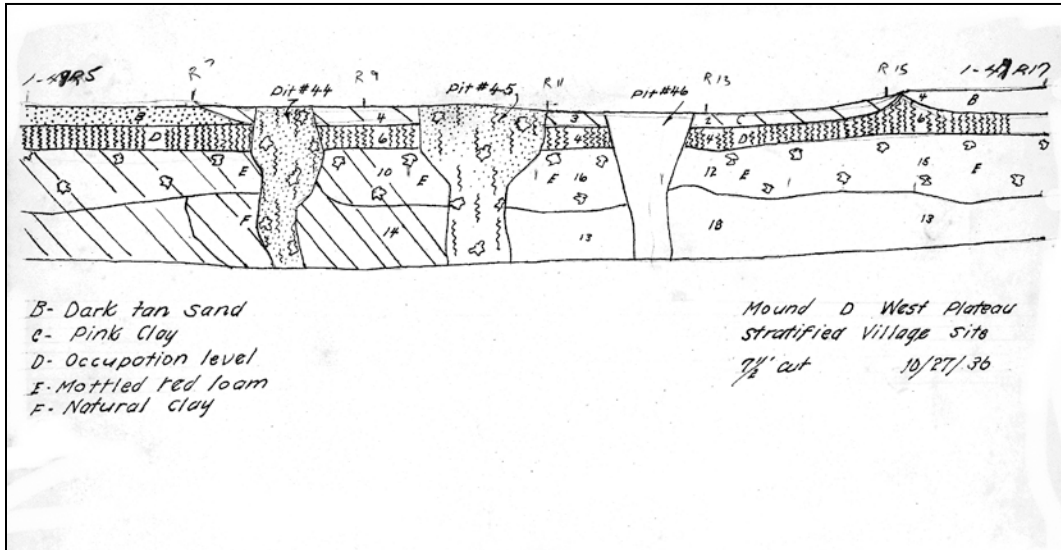


Figure 23: Profile of Pits 44, 45 and 46

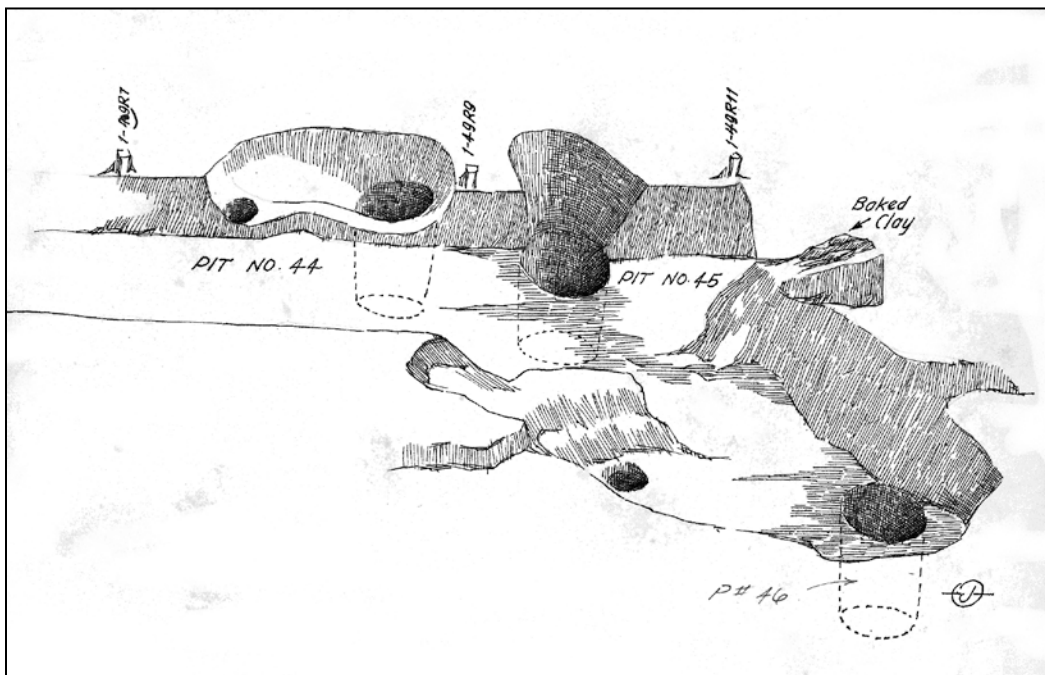


Figure 24: Pits 44, 45, and 46

Of these three, Pit 44 offered some slight evidence on the question of burials.

...Regarded from the horizontal plane, it is quite round and has the general shape in cross section of other pits described in this area. (Except that it is tapering, and not exhibiting the tendency to flare at the bottom described in a number of other instances). The Fill is mottled red loam and has the occasional balls of small lenses of mangamous pink clay from C level. There was very little midden. A few scattered sherds, some quartz and flint were found. Another small fragment of bone could not be positively identified as human. The pit began at bottom of B hard packed level, continued through C pink clay and D black soil occupation, into base of cut, with total depth of 6 feet.

...Pit 45 offers to same recurring negative pattern so far as definitive cultural features are concerned: This was also quite round and regular looking, somewhat like a modern well and had very much the same type of fill as 44, including the pink clay inclusions. Again the absence of midden or organic material is noted. Few stray sherds and one piece of flint and some quartz.

If the many pits described in the core section of the Stratified Village are burial pits, or storage pits later used for human interment, then the stratigraphy revealed by the profile panels and the horizontal stripping indicates that they were not round grave burials made into the floor of the saucer shaped depression of Levels C or D. Most are inserted through the top B residual layer which is considered to be an amalgam of materials from several late occupations.

The final horizontal clearance of the Stratified Village beyond the 1-51B offsets between Controls 1 and 2 represent the periphery of the stratified area. Pits continue to appear but as the notes indicate, these cannot be definitely related to the stratigraphic series uncovered in the main concentration of the village remains. This new profile shows a number of features not previously observed. Five pits are catalogued as 53, 54, 55, 56, and 57. The profile panel shows Pit 1, previously troweled in the 30 inch test trench to 1-51 offset *. Pit 1 was regarded as a large stump hole or tree root ramification. However, there was a heavier concentration of sherds in the fill than occurred in most clearly defined pits in the Stratified Village area. About 50 sherds were recorded which ceramic analysis showed to belong to the Macon Plateau occupation. It is entirely possible, of course, that a tree root might have grown in the pit fill in more recent times, thus obscuring the delineation and interpretation of the pit.

Pit 53 is intrusive from the surface and, although precise level determination is impossible, both B and C units of the Stratified Village have faded out and the D level is only barely definable. The pit fill contained a sparse midden with only two sherds and the usual flint and quartz scrap recorded.

Pit 54 showed the usual disturbed fill with little midden. We noted two sherds of Napier Complicated Stamped and some small pieces of charcoal.

Pit 56 showed the same relations except for a few briquettes. A vestige of C and D levels persisted from the Stratified Village in this end of the cut. It yielded only a fair showing of sherds.

Pit 57 was entirely negative after troweling. It is very short and discontinuous and quite possibly should not have been catalogued as a pit.

Of the above, Pit 56 was the most remarkable (Figure 25).

...It is quite round like the others in the Stratified Village and goes down to a total depth of 8 feet 4 inches. It extends well down into base of cut. Small balls of pink clay (from Level C) occurred all the way down. No logical purpose can be assigned to this very deep relatively narrow pit. Its regular shape and definite excavation straight down show deliberate intention but purpose is not clear from troweling out fill or study of profile features. Some river clay from the bottom, tan swamp clay, is not evidently derived from any structures found above.

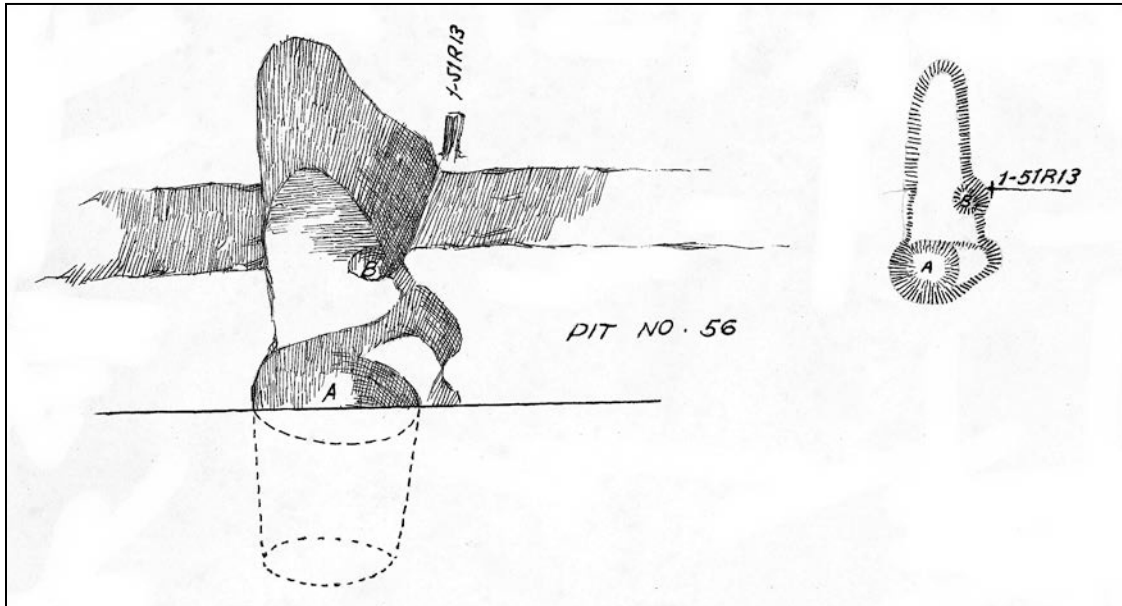


Figure 25: Pit 56

The above comments, made in the field diaries of January, 1937, have historical significance in connection with the problem of pre-pottery cultures as defined in the recent years of river basin survey in the northern and northeastern Georgia piedmont and middle coastal areas. Joseph R. Caldwell defined a pre-pottery horizon covering a wide front in the northern Georgia piedmont extending from above the fall line in South Carolina and the Augusta region, through connected areas in the upper Oconee and the Chattahoochee watershed, and incident to his surveys in the Clark Hill, Buford, and Allatoona reservoirs. He describes a widespread occurrence of characteristic tool forms, made from quartz or quartzite that covered the hill tops and terraces adjacent to the main river systems and their drainages in this broad geographical sweep of territory. Caldwell called this the Old Quartz.

Arthur R. Kelly tentatively described a similar facies of tool forms with various types of artifacts that were made from both metamorphosed and nodular marine flint. These tools frequently exhibited marked decomposition or alteration of cortex. This assemblage in Macon was referred to as the Macon Plateau Flint Industry. In the north and northeastern Georgia

piedmont, below the fall line, an increasing number of modified flint tools have been observed in numerous sites and are associated with the Old Quartz. Conversely, at Macon and other points along the fall line and extending south for some miles, a strong element of quartz tools are found in association with the usual old flint categories. There is a perceived interchange or exchange of specialized forms, i.e. the beveled side notched projectiles, or spinners, which suggests some cultural contemporaneity in the age area concept of these two Archaic traditions in Georgia.

Caldwell found Old Quartz stratigraphically in place under deposits attributable to a Stallings Island component at the Lane Springs site. It may be that some depositional tendencies giving intimations of stratigraphy are found on the Macon Plateau that would bear upon this problem. On the other hand, quartz remained a favored tool working material in some pottery-bearing horizons in middle and northern Georgia. The difficulty of isolating the stone artifacts of from a reasonably assured good Macon Plateau pottery horizon from those of an Archaic provenance will be remarked in later discussion.

Caldwell, J. R., Newsletter of Southeastern Archaeological Conference, 1954. Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Kelly, A. R., Newsletter of Southeastern Archaeological Conference, 1954, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Mid-Coastal Archaic in Georgia.

Even in the early days of exploration on the West Plateau, however, the distinctive and unusual characteristics of some flint tool types were recognized. The side and corner-notched, beveled, flint projectiles, spinners, were turning up quite frequently on the western rim of Macon Plateau in the deeper soil zones. Contrasting with these is a concave based, long triangular, tapering form, frequently occurring in quartzite. The spinner is diagnostic for the Macon Plateau Flint Industry. The concave, hollow-based type has been found in early pottery associations in northern Georgia (Figure 26). A variant of this form is found in Kellogg sites.

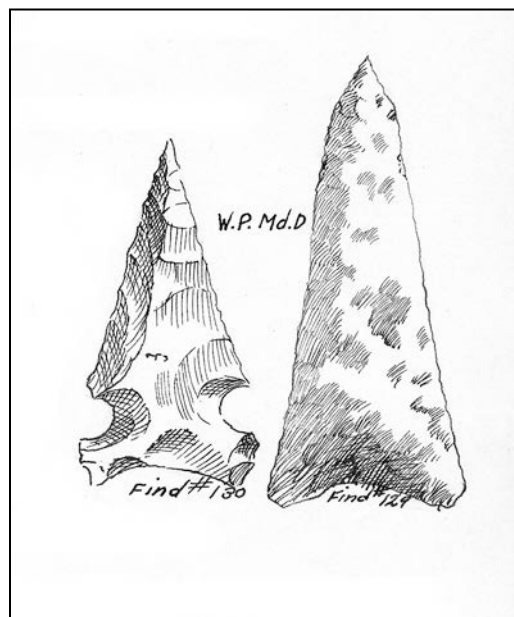


Figure 26: Spinner and Concave Based Projectile Points

We turn now to the discussion of other features on the West Plateau, outside the area of the Stratified Village, but which will tend to reinforce some of the impressions received from exploration there. We shall still be concerned with pits, of a round tub or well shape, and ephemeral indications of burials in pits. Some of these large pits on the West Plateau will be found to be associated with saucer-shaped depressions implying a semi-subterranean house type.

Between the I-53 offset and the I-55 offset in a seven foot horizontal clearing of the area, west of the fringe of the Stratified Village (which we saw petered out around the I-51 offset), we find the catalogued Pit 66. This large pit came out from beneath the plow zone in mottled loam. The diameters were North and South 62 inches, East and West 42 inches, with total depth of 32 inches. This indicated a slightly more ovalish shape than some of the pits hitherto described on the West Plateau. The fill to the pit yielded three boxes of sherds, a rather high count for pits in this area of the plateau, with Bibb Plain, grit or mixed grit, and shell tempered ware constituting the majority type. This is typical of all Macon Plateau pottery contexts except those like Pit 5 in the Stratified Village which are specifically allocated to the historic Ocmulgee Fields horizon.

Two large sherds of a very thick ware, with crude incised decorations, denominated Macon Thick in current southeastern pottery nomenclature, were found. One of these is in a round narrow cylinders form and is apparently doubled around a rod-like core section of wood (Figure 27). This is a recurring phenomenon that is widespread in many contexts on the Macon Plateau and is tentatively associated with the mould decoration of house interiors. In addition to the pottery and stone artifacts from 66, some bone was excavated but none was unequivocally human. Pit 66 looks like a large storage pit that was later filled with refuse from the nearby village occupation in Macon Plateau times.

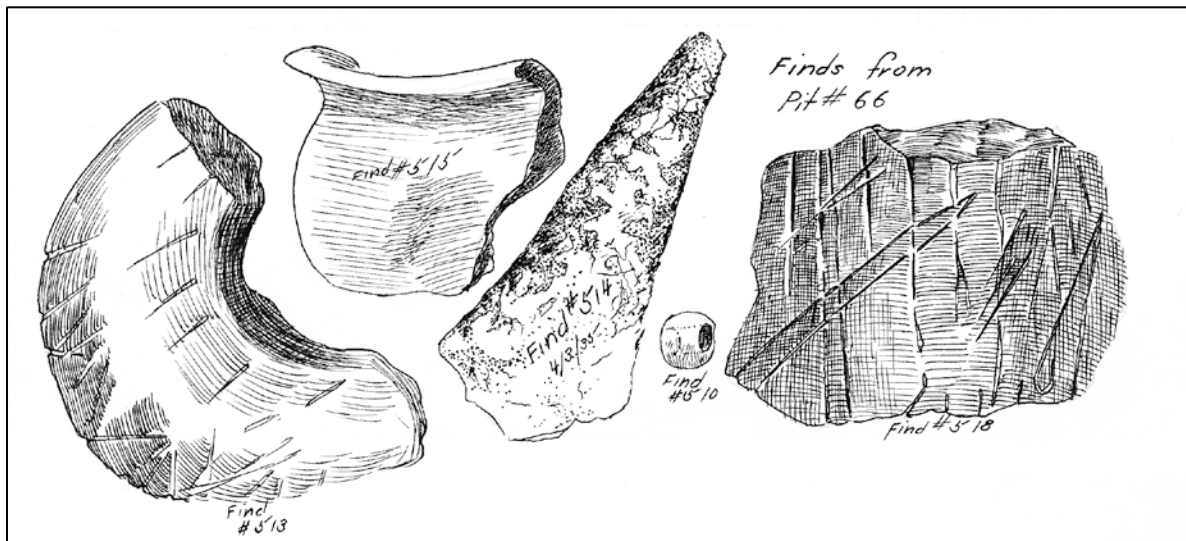


Figure 27: Pit 66 Finds

Pits 17 and 18 were brought out in the I-77 offset west of the Stratified Village. Pit 17 had a north and south diameter of 63 inches, an East and West diameter of 48 inches, and a depth below the plow line of 22 inches. The fill included over 100 good sherds of Macon Plateau vintage of which 92 were of the Bibb Plain type. One effigy mouthed vessel of Mound C type came from the pit. No burial indications were observed in this case, just a casual refuse accumulation from the village area to the east.

Pit 18, in the same 1-77 Offset, is described as follows.

...This is a refuse pit 57 inches wide north and south, 36 inches east and west, and 21 inches deep. Filled with black midden soil, considerable quantities of charred cane (specimen taken for ethnobotanical study). A few large potsherds, apparently belonging to one vessel, a huge pan shaped specimen built up inside a closely woven netted weave. Important technologically in showing that this type of ware was definitely built up inside the nets rather than that the designs were applied by textile imprints made prior to firing by decorative applications of the fabrics or basket weaves to the moist paste.

This is one of the Macon salt pans, one of the minority ware types occurring in some Macon Plateau pottery contexts. Of a total of 35 sherds from Pit 18, 15 are denominated Hawkins Fabric Impressed (very likely belonging to one broken vessel).

Pit 20a, a six foot wide pit that was troweled down to the base of the cut in the first excavation along Control 2, remained un-numbered until a possible root disturbed area was uncovered and yielded a fair return of pottery of the Macon Plateau type. This pit shows the large size and the general proportions of the storage pits in and out of the Villa area which sometimes caught large casual deposits of refuse from the occupation zone. No bone or signs of burial were noted in this refuse pit.

In the area between Controls 2 and 3, West Plateau, 2-63 offset, was Pit 25. The pit was uncovered just below the plow line, was 40 inches in diameter, very roundish, flat bottomed, and 38 inches deep. It yielded bone, charcoal, flint, pottery, and baked and burned. None of the bones were identified as human. The main interest is the shape: "...pot shaped, bottom like a tub...". The unusual wealth of pottery, some 160 study sherds, 107 of which are ascribed to the Bibb Plain type which dominates all Macon Plateau pottery contexts, was also of interest. As the section on ceramics will show, any significant deviations from context to context must develop within a narrow range of 15 to 20, or less, of the minority types. Pit 25 shows a relatively high percentage, around 10 percent, of a Simple Stamped category assimilated to Mossy Oak. The implications of this seeming widespread late continuance of a presumed early pottery type in Macon Plateau provenance will be discussed later.

In Control Trench 3, a discolored and mottled area worked out into what was tentatively catalogued as Pit 27. It was troweled to depth of 48 inches. Two badly disintegrated human teeth, without other clear evidences of burial, were found in the pit. The situation is somewhat reminiscent of pits described for the Stratified Village between Controls 1 and 2. The few sherds from the pit fill are all part of a Macon Plateau pottery series, but no definite burial furniture was found.

It is possible that the leaching and oxidation of humic and organic elements may have proceeded, in some instances, to the point where even pit and grave lines were no longer perceptible under archeological examination. In the case of Burial 20, found in Control Trench 6, West Plateau, at a depth of 13 inches into the red loam, 14 inches under the tan sand, for a total of 35 inches below the surface, there were no signs of disturbance in the overburden. However, the tan sand has a reddish cast and is mottled in profile over much of the trench

profile. This is difficult to explain unless leaching has destroyed all of the soil features completely. Burial 20 is described as consisting of

...remains of skull cap, badly crushed by lateral post-mortem soil pressure, two small portions of femora, and one small fragment of tibia. The position of badly disintegrated long bones with reference to skull indicates probably primary extended burial. Very small skull of adult, email individual represented. Reconstruction of skull doubtful, whole skeletal remains of doubtful use anthropometrically.

There was no burial furniture.

The speed at which chemical action through leaching and oxidization can produce decay and amorphous profiles is shown in the instances of Burials 29 and 20, which appear to have been the burials of slaves made in ante-bellum days. They were probably retainers of the Dunlap family who owned the land at that time. The sides of the grave went straight down in the friable sand, the outlines of a pine box showing in the bottom of the pit (Figure 28). A long, high keeled, human calvarium was all that remained of the burial. The only burial furniture were brass buttons and a piece of cloth. The cloth was preserved by chemicals from the brass. The leaching of iron salts was well developed in the top fill of the burial fill. The calvarium was troweled out at a depth of 69 inches. The situation is interesting in that it shows the amount of soil change over the past 75 years.

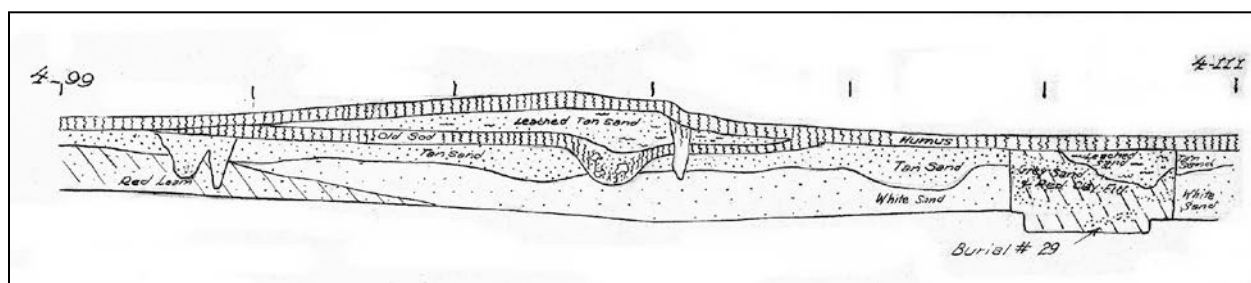


Figure 28: Modern Grave in Sandy Soil

Another burial which showed little indication of being a grave in the leached sand above is that of Burial 28 in Control 6 offset, West Plateau (Figure 29). This consisted of parts of a femur, tibia, part of a skull, and a few teeth. They had decomposed in the alveolar position. The absence of burial furniture in this poorly preserved extended skeleton means that it cannot be definitely allocated to any archaeological provenience. The fill over the grave contains predominantly Macon Plateau pottery, but this is true everywhere unless one is dealing with a perceived Ocmulgee Fields context (Pits 5 or 110 on the West Plateau).

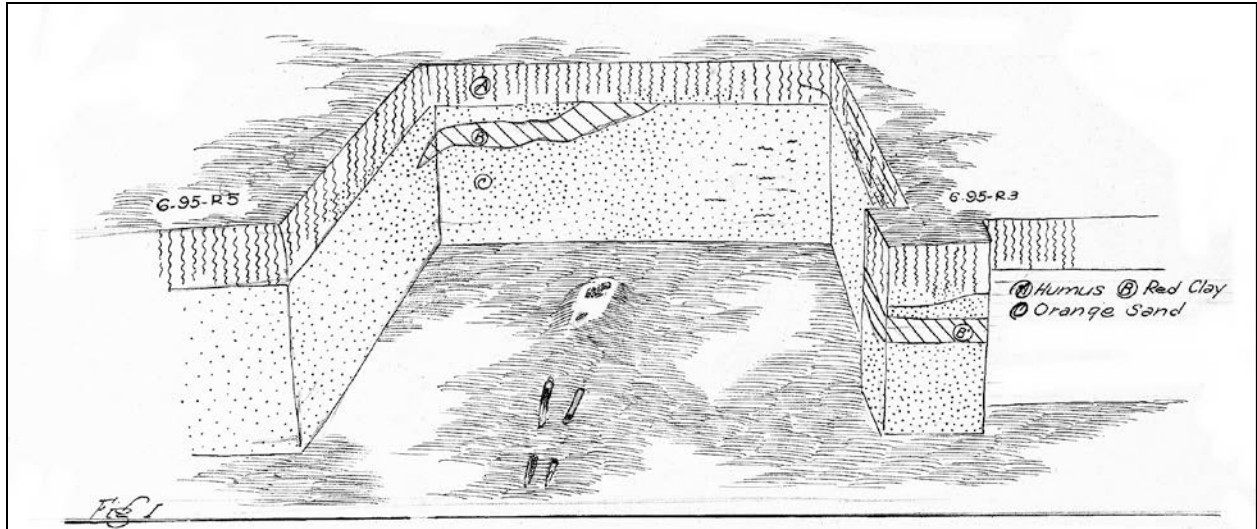


Figure 29: Burial 28

Burials 22 and 23 in Control 6, Offset 6-85, were catalogued solely on the basis of the enameled crowns of an almost completely disintegrated dental series. Aside from an unidentified long bone portion found in Burial 23, no other skeletal remains were excavated. Burial 23 had a poorly defined pit which contained 23 sherds, 21 of which were classified as Bibb Plain.

In the case of Burial 21, Control 6, Offset 6-75, the description reads.

...All bones exposed, consisting of two tibia portions, small portion of occipital, three or four tooth crowns....barely enough to show sufficient anatomical position indicating original primary burial of adult. No burial furniture. No indications of grave or pit through sand overburden. Leaching of soil probably destroyed profile features.

Burial 25 in Control 4 provides probably the only comment that may be possible on the physical type of Macon Plateau dwellers (Figure 30). This extended burial was reported in fair condition and the artist sketch probably represents it better than it actually is from the point of view of a physical anthropologist.

...Completely troweled out, ready for photo....extended burial of adult, probably a male, calvarium, long bones, in fair condition (after looking at a depressing array of mouldering bone fragments and remnant molars, this specimen probably looked good to us at the time!). Facial portion of skull missing. Heavy supraorbitals, low sloping platycephalic type of skull. Physical type different from other burials brought out on Macon Plateau (basis of this Judgment not clear in aftermath, as condition of skeletal remains generally permitted only a partial view of complete skulls or long bones). No burial furniture....sherds in burial mould accidentally included. Burial oriented east and west with head to the west. A

week spent in troweling out bodes to Burial 25 and in hardening with sandarac and amberoid.

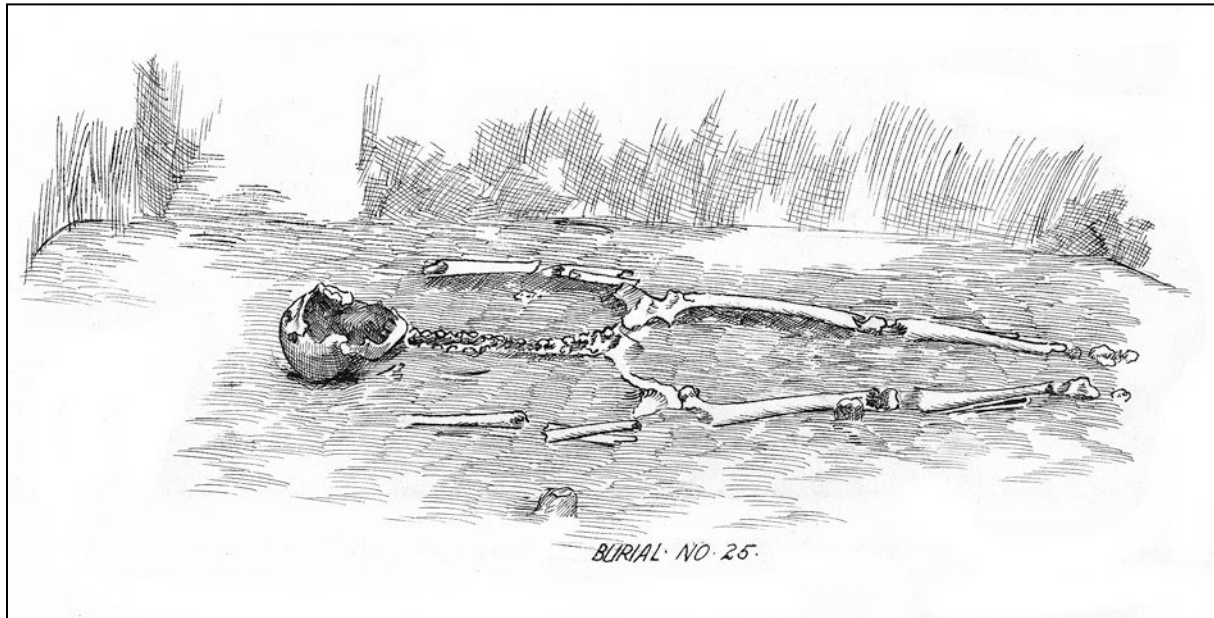


Figure 30: Burial 25

The burial evidence is scattered and much attenuated on the West Plateau. It must be remembered that a considerable territory was covered between the control trenches. Complete offset exploration by the successive removal of all soil elements between the offsets was carried out only in the area between Controls 1 and 2. We may say that there is a suggestion that burials in the Stratified Village, Controls 1 and 2, seem to have been made, at least in part, in either storage pits or special round pit graves. In the northern and northwestern sector of West Plateau, from Control 4 to Control 10, we seem to have, so far as the conditions of preservation permit, observations of extended burials in regular graves. This may be a significant indication. Unfortunately these burials for the most part have no burial furniture or associations permitting any chronological or stratigraphic interpretations.

The soil conditions are very different in the western and northwestern portions of the West Plateau, as a study of the profiles will show. We have very thin humus over deep-lying sandy deposits, redistributed as sheet wash extension and incident to cultivation in the last 100 years. A sandy loam, with calcium, iron, humic, and organic contents largely leached out, is generally described as a chocolate loam in the panel descriptions. It extends over most of the area north and west of Control 3. The only instances in which we have good archaeological contexts sealed in by clay floor plates, or hard-packed building debris, are in the Stratified Village, House A, in Control 2. They have yet to be described. The small Council Chamber found in Control 4 on the west rim of the Plateau also needs to be described.

Other important data on structures, pits, and burials did come from the wide sweep of West Plateau (see excavation maps for West Plateau). This was in connection with the exploration of two series of prehistoric excavations which cut across the northern end of Mound D and were finally lost in the chocolate sands near the western rim of the plateau. These are the Prehistoric Dugouts. They are probably in some way connected with a prehistoric fortification system or are at least the inner series of a corridor-like or continuous trench known as Pit House

7. There are floor pits and large storage pits and chambered partitions in these long, dugout continuities which will form the basis of the final portions of this excavation report. There are also intrusive pits, like 110, with a full complement of Ocmulgee Fields pottery and historic artifacts in the fill.

This highly complex and controversial series of excavation units will be left for the last treatment under Excavations. There are no less than 20 discrete excavation units which in three years of exploration, from 1935-1938, were called Pit Houses, and each of these will require separate treatment. Inasmuch as the explorations on the prehistoric dugouts or pit houses began in the East Plateau survey, originally set out from controls established below the Council Chamber and extended north (see excavation map for East Plateau), it will be easier to follow this protracted excavation history if we begin with the East Plateau and follow out to the northwest and west, finally sweeping across the north portion of West Plateau.

Before leaving the West Plateau, we must first give some attention to the excavation units which were suspected to be semi-subterranean or saucer-shaped house floors. The profile panels of the Stratified Village seemed to exhibit some evidence of such saucers, although we were not able to bring out a very convincing picture of such a structure on horizontal troweling between the offsets. The area was so honeycombed with pits and postholes from superimposed building levels, that it was impossible to reconstruct individual structures.

In the area to the west of Control 3 and beyond Control 4, the situation was somewhat more favorable to the exploration of single unit structures, as we were not confronted with a plethora of stratified building activities. The difficulty there was of a different order consisting of the nature of the soils. A thin, straggly humus on top, overlay an ubiquitous friable sandy loam soil of drab grey color frequently disturbed by occupational features and contained considerable charcoal, which intergraded into a basal red loam that was more sand than clay. The grey loam under the humus consisted largely of weathered soils from the typical A and B soil profile of the Macon Plateau, widely truncated and redistributed in both prehistoric times and incident to almost 100 years of cultivation ante-bellum times (in terms of military history, ante-bellum can have only one reference in Georgia).

To illustrate the difficulties of defining clearly the saucer type of construction, consider Pit 114, brought out in the original excavation of the 30 inch Control Trench 3 (Figure 31). The situation is concisely capsulated in the following field diary statement.

...Troweling out Pit 114 between stations 3-21 and 3-25.
Dimensions of Pit 114, diameter at top of pit under chocolate loam 62 inches, and at base 39 inches, depth of pit 24 inches (some difficulty in ascertaining where pit was dig from in chocolate loam) also, Pit 114 may be in center of saucer-shaped excavation filled with chocolate loam which is accumulated to considerable thickness throughout the profile of the 30 inch control trench 3. Many sherds, bones, flint, broken stone, mica. The bones belong mostly to mammalian riverine species. No historic material.

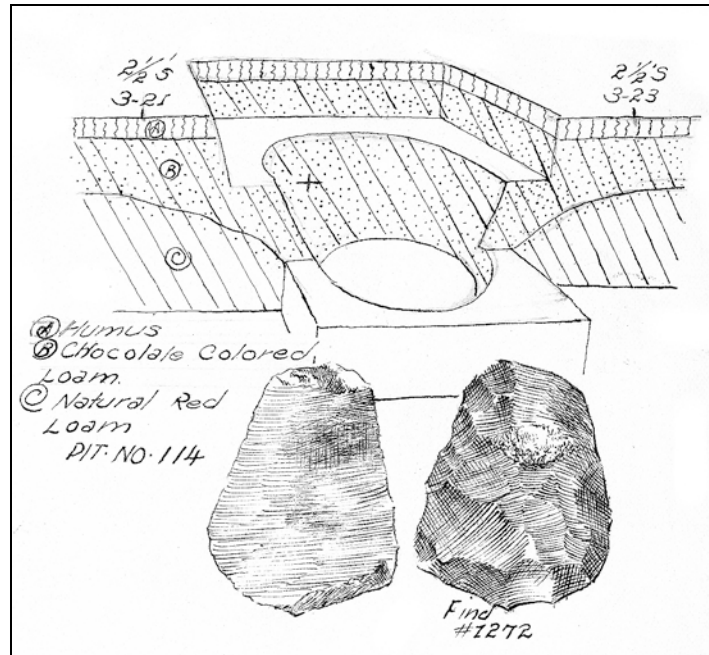


Figure 31: Pit 114 Control Trench 3

In sifting fill over the shoulders to this saucer-like pit, a clay pellet bead about the size of a coffee bean was found. The shoulders to the pit were widely defined and hard to follow in the shifting sands. Most of the midden material was confined to the accumulations in the central pit and there was no evidence of a hard-packed floor area. There were no satisfactory pattern of postholes or indications of vertical supports defined either.

The pottery collection from Pit 114 showed 100 of 128 study sherds to be Bibb Plain, with a roughened type of decoration and simple stamping providing the two largest minority groups. The evidence of Simple Stamped pottery in Macon Plateau pits was noted elsewhere on the West Plateau and was consistent in other situations to be discussed.

In the case of another saucer-shaped pit, or as elsewhere described shouldered pit, Pit 115 in Control Trench 4 of the West Plateau survey had more definitive results obtained in working out the floor area. A considerable number of postholes were defined, suggesting a more adequate provision for vertical supports. In the central area of the floor deposits there was an unusually heavy accumulation of midden, containing bones, pottery, and scattered flint. Two femurs were all that appeared from a human skeleton. These straddled a discrete midden heap and implied no deliberate interment in situ. It was noted the finding of a small triangular, non-stemmed projectile, the so-called bird point, many of which had been catalogued from humus and superficial levels of the Macon Plateau. Two small sections of baked clay, part of a former floor section, were found intact under the midden, which contained the bones. The appearance of this baked clay fragments under the heap of midden is drawn by Jackson and repeated from the diary of September 13, 1935.

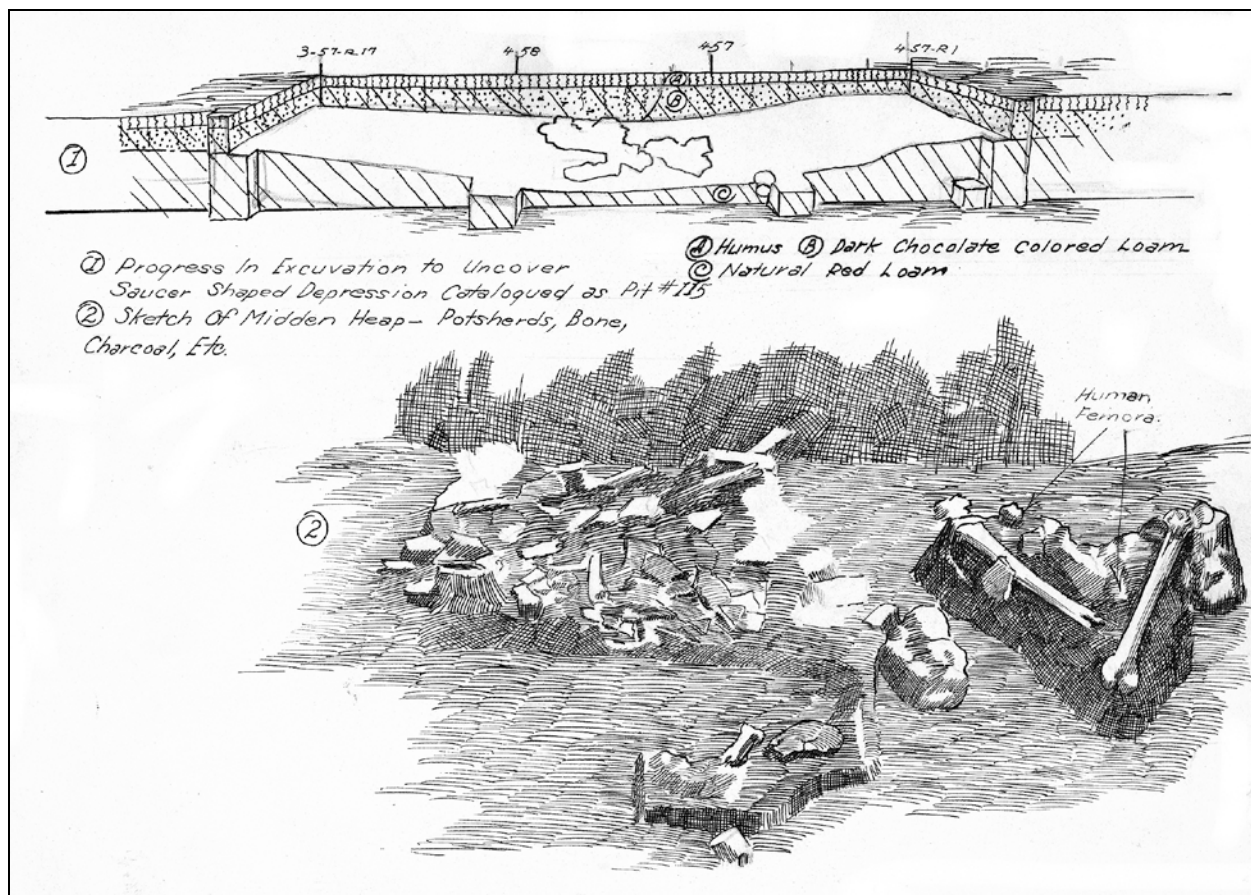


Figure 32: Saucer Shaped Depression Pit 115

The profile panel through Pit 115 is comparatively simple, in contrast to the situation described for the Stratified Village (Figure 32). The darker, midden-bearing soil toward the center of the saucer-shaped depression, shouldering up from the central pit, is Level B. This midden layer is only distinguishable from the widespread and confluent level of the chocolate loam by its darker midden coloring and the physical presence of a more concentrated pottery and bone accumulation. The exact periphery of the saucer cannot be made out exactly in troweling, but the longest diameter of the northeast-southwest axis (the orientation of this structure as in the base of most others on Mound D plateau) is approximately 16 feet, with a smaller diameter of 12 feet northwest-southeast. These dimensions compare very closely with those of a shouldered pit, Pit 49, which will be described in the series of structures brought out in the East Plateau. These structures were on the plateau slope east of the large Council Chamber of the Earth Lodge near Mound D. The notes described postholes inserted into the shoulders at an angle, which may have a bearing on the reconstruction of the roofing detail.

...Troweling out Pit 115...took out B and C levels...C is chocolate loam and B is midden fill to Pit 115. Got 4 shoeboxes of sherds, probably several belonging to one or more restorable vessels. One find catalogued from the B midden fill is a chunk of galena (lead ore), found 23 inches below surface, 14 inches in B midden. Out of C level, got smaller number of sherds-- some flint chips-- no

finds catalogued. On north shoulder of Pit 115 troweled out 2 postholes, found or showed up at depth of 36 inches from surface, in red clay loam under B fill. These were sliced vertically and found to measure 10 inches into clay loam floor, diameter at top 17 inches, at bottom 6 inches. Second posthole found on south shoulder, first showed at depth of 23 inches below surface, also under B midden and fill, extending obliquely 13 inches into red clay loam (35 to 40 degree angle of inclination). This was a tapering post driven into the shoulder at an angle, about 35 degree angle.

Other items found in the midden or floor section of this saucer-shaped Pit 115 were a small flat polished celt, a fragment of pipe stem (to be compared with others found in prehistoric dugouts on East Plateau), and a pottery disc which looks somewhat like the chunky game pieces, an artifact ordinarily suspect as occurring more frequently in Lamar horizons. The point will be taken up later in ceramics section, but the remark is pertinent here that such pottery discs were found on Macon Plateau in the older prehistoric horizon in a number of instances. The possibility of chance admixture from other archaeological contexts is not to be overlooked. In many circumstances, incident to the excavation of pits into the older Archaic levels by later pottery-cultures, weathered or modified flints attributed to the Archaic were accidentally uncovered and turned up in pit contents. From Pit 115 we find several specimens, long end and side scrapers, plano-convex type, exhibiting complete decomposition, a specialized form definitely found usually only in deep weathered soil zones in association with other types of the early flint industry.

Jackson's sketch of Pit 115 as it appeared after removal of all fill elements is given below. The heaviest midden accumulation showed up in the original 30 inch test offset trench made through the approximate center of the structure. This shows the two femur bones and the heavy pottery heaps (Plate 46)



Plate 45: Pit 115

Approximately 1,000 study sherds were analyzed in the laboratory and catalogued from Pit 115. Of the total 1,000, no less than 811 are identified as Bibb Plain of the Macon Plateau series. Bibb Plain may be either grit tempered or grit and shell tempered, sometimes with some indications of limestone (rare) and micaceous inclusions. Just now we are content to note that over 80 percent of all the pottery from Pit 115 is the Bibb Plain which makes up a similar complement of most Macon Plateau pottery series. There may be some cultural shifts in the tempering of Bibb Plain in different contexts that will be discussed later. Since we have just finished discussing the round, tub or well-like pits in the Stratified Village, these shouldered pits beyond Control Trench 4 on the West Plateau will be important because of indicated structural differentiation.

What is interesting in the sherd analysis from Pit 115 is that not a single sherd of Napier Complicated Stamped ware occurred on the floor or midden fill; this type occurred up to nearly 10 percent in the Stratified Village. The next highest percentage for the minority types in Pit 115 is Halstead Plain, which will be described in the Ceramics section, which runs to about 5 percent. Simple Stamping shows up only 3 percent and a late Swift Creek stamp just 1 percent. The minority distributions imply some sort of shift from the picture afforded by the occupation levels of the Stratified Village. The minority types are so swallowed up in the predominating Macon Plateau regular types, particularly Bibb Plain, that such minor occurrences can be weighted too heavily. But a complete absence of Napier in this part of the West Plateau may be significant. The problem will be discussed in terms of total North Plateau significance in the Ceramics and Stratigraphy sections.

The depth of the saucer-like depression, a long oval orientated northeast and southwest, varies with the deepest measurement below stations about 36 inches. It seems likely that the original crests of the shoulders may have been truncated or cut away in post-Macon Plateau times. On the other hand, shifting sands incident to the same history of truncation has filled in the depression and perhaps redistributed sands over a wide area on this part of the plateau. If a semi-subterranean house is indicated in this saucer-shaped structure, then the floor depth could hardly have exceeded three feet at most, and the floor must have sloped gently from the walls to the central mass of accumulating floor debris. Note that no well defined central hearth or fire pit is indicated, only a deeper and more concentrated mass of broken pottery, bones, and cultural debris.

Some rather small, well defined postholes, outside the immediate contours of the saucer, were of the average 6-8 inches in diameter. The line of very small posts or stake impressions to the west of the saucer-like depression should be noted. These bear no apparent relation to the central semi-subterranean structure. Also noted were several of the more divergent discolorations recorded as probable taproot disturbances. A sketch of the complete excavation unit is given in text below (Figure 33), as this structure, Pit 115, affords our best parallel on the West Plateau, with similar shouldered pits found on the East Plateau below the main Council Chamber and Mound D.

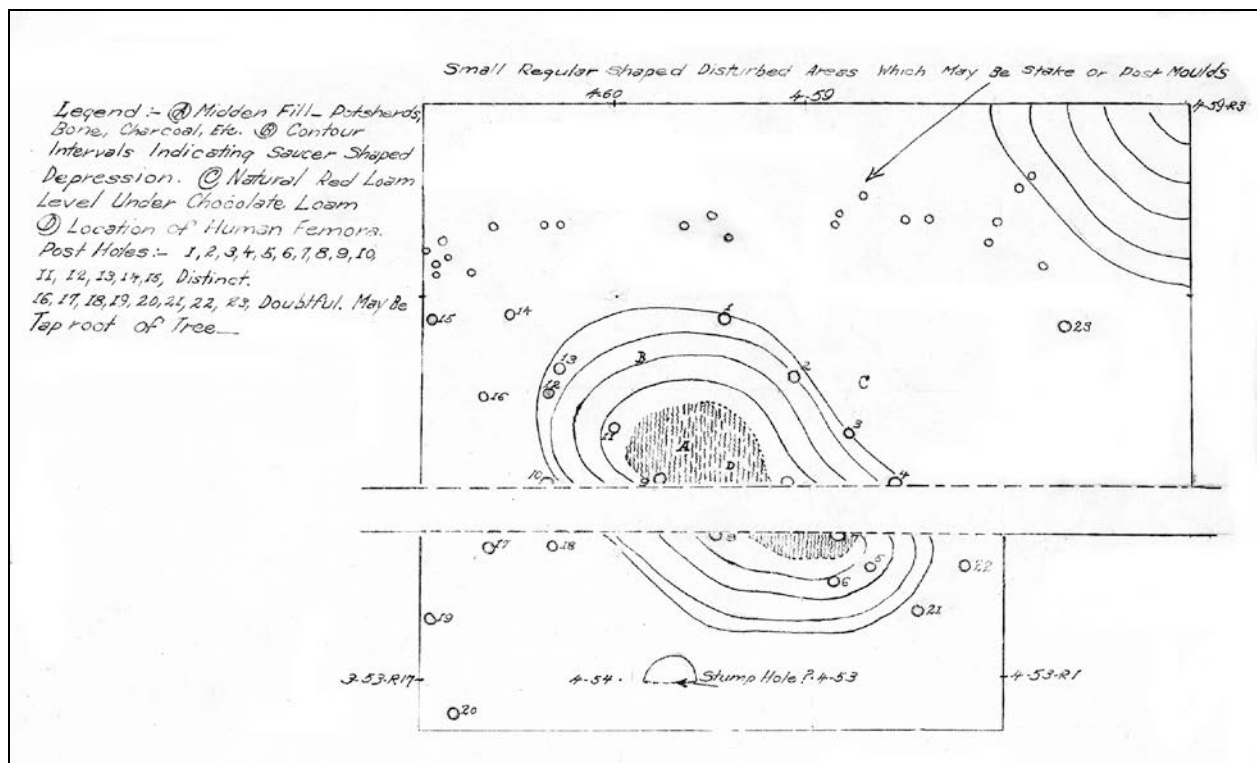


Figure 33: Floor Plan Pit 115

Pit 119 was for a time considered to be a possible saucer-shaped structure like Pit 115, but final clearing of the area uncovered in profile failed to indicate a shouldered floor area distinct from the enveloping chocolate loam. The absence of black midden and heavy pottery accumulation, as occurred in Pit 115, may fail to give distinction to the occupation zone here. The fill to Pit 115 produced a number of catalogued finds, and a sherd collection of 92 of which 73 are Bibb Plain. There was only one sherd of Napier Complicated Stamped. Halstead Plain and the Simple Stamped show up to around 5 percent of the minority wares.

Pit 121 was another disappointment in the early anticipations of possible saucer-like structures. This one appeared in offset trench between Controls 2 and 3 and in initial profile looked more like a saucer than did Pit 119. The midden was confined to the central or core of Pit 121 and horizontal clearing failed to define the shoulder sections or definite posthole indications of structure.

Pit 124 in Control Trench 3 of the West Plateau appeared just under the humus in the chocolate loamy sand with central pit concentration yielding midden plus pottery and bone. Explored in horizontal five foot strips, great difficulty was experienced in following the shoulders in the chocolate loam. A large number of Archaic type flint artifacts, end scrapers, spinners, and knives, much decomposed, were found in the weathered loam of the profile outside the main midden layer. A study of the profile panel will show that the shouldered character is not too evident, and most of Pit 124 came out in the original 30 inch test trench. Several finds were made from Pit 124 of large rim sherds with specializations of the nodal protuberances on loop handles. Also a polished greenstone celt, frequently found in North Macon Plateau pits, occurred at depth of nine inches in pit fill.

In the chocolate loam near Pit 124, another discolored area was troweled out and determined to be another refuse pit, catalogued as Pit 131. This also yielded sherds and some

bone. A small section of a pottery pipe bowl was found in the pit fill 30 inches below surface. It is noted that we shall see concern about the characteristics of this pottery pipe type found in Mound D Plateau sites. A number of dubious post holes were found in the chocolate loam but no discernible pattern could be recorded. One feature was noted, paralleling the small stake holes found in the plan of Pit 115. These consisted of 34 small stake insertions found scattered incident to troweling off the chocolate loam level to basal sandy red loam. No definite alignment could be made out. The suspicion remained that Pit 124 may have been a subterranean or saucer-shaped depression, like Pit 115, and the depth at which most of the catalogued material came suggests this. Truncation and leaching of the darker areas of midden caused confusion of lines so that any attempt to demarcate would have been subjective. The profile panel to Pit 124 shows nothing.

Sherd collections from Pit 124, total 107, were studied in the laboratory and show 90 to be Bibb Plain, with Simple Stamped the only important minority, up to 4 percent. There was no Swift Creek Complicated Stamped or Napier. This would seem to bolster the implications of shouldered Pit 115, in which not a single Napier sherd came from a study collection of 1000. The situation is in contrast to that remarked for the Stratified Village between Controls 1 and 2.

Before leaving the discussion of pits and burials on West Plateau, three very poorly preserved interments should be mentioned, as these do throw some light on the indications of a possible change in burial customs toward the northwest portion of the plateau, in contrast to the round pit interments noted in the Stratified Village area. Burial 17, found in excavating a 30 inch test trench offset from Control 7 in West Plateau, consisted of two fragments of skull bones and some disintegrated teeth, mostly crown portions, and faint bone dust of two long bones. Hardly enough survives to indicate the type of burial, although the distance of the disintegrated long bones from skull fragments would argue possibly a primary interment. No burial furniture was found or pottery associations to give cultural affiliations of this burial.

Burial 18 was found in chocolate loam beneath the humus in excavating the 30 inch test trench to Control 8, West Plateau. This consists of disintegrated fragments of two tibiae and two femora. No other parts of the skeleton were found. A possible post hole in the burial area and two catalogued finds, probably not associated with the burial, were noted. The two finds were an end scraper and a side-notched projectile point, both of a type ascribed the older Archaic flint industry of Macon Plateau. Hardly enough data is available here to hazard an opinion as to whether we have a primary burial or not.

Burial 19 in the chocolate loam of Control ? offset exploration (Figure 34) is also in poorly preserved condition, consisting of battered skull fragments, portions of femora and tibiae, and few foot bones in line indicating an extended primary burial. Again, no burial furniture or associations were present to assist in cultural placement.

Burial 21 in Offset Trench from Control 6 in West Plateau troweled out in chocolate loam just beneath the humus line, exhibits about half of the calvaria and three parts of long bones, 2 femurs and 1 tibia, with complete absence of any remainder of the skeleton. No burial furniture.

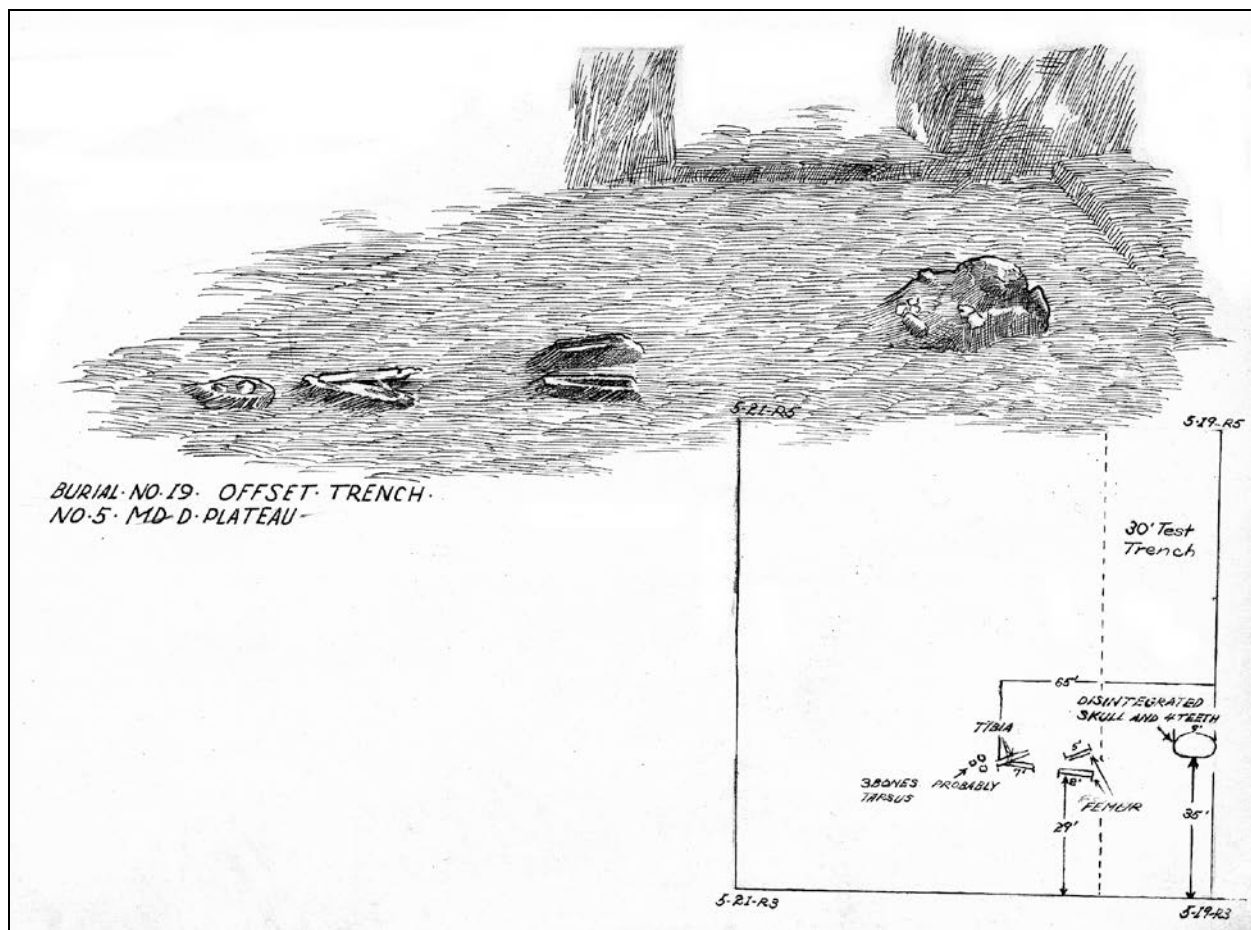


Figure 34: Burial 19

The evidences afforded by these scattered burials found in West Plateau exploration, Controls 4, 5, 6, and 7 are largely negative and indecisive due to the condition of the bones and the absence of burial furniture. There is a suggestion, however, of more primary extended interments in regular graves than were found in the Stratified Village where round pits seemed to have been used for interment.

One large refuse pit, Pit 111, uncovered in the excavation of the original 30 inch test trench to Control 5, deserves special comment because of its pottery indications. This was a large refuse pit nearly 5 feet in diameter but exact depth not given, and required several days to trowel out. There were no indications of a shoulder or possible saucer-shaped floor. Laboratory analysis of the pit fill of Pit 111 show that no Napier or Swift Creek Complicated Stamped occur in a study sample of 103 sherds. One Etowah Stamp (?) is recorded. This is noted in Pit 131, another refuse pit found in chocolate loam near Pit 124, also showing a number of Etowah Stamped sherds, total 79, studied in the laboratory. In all cases, up to 80 percent of sherd totals continues to show in the Bibb Plain category. The Simple Stamped group remains a strong minority in Pit 111. This strong showing of Simple Stamped, after Swift Creek and Napier have disappeared, would seem to indicate a much later survival of this type than earlier chronological studies in the Ocmulgee Basin surveys would have realized. The relation of Etowah Stamped to Woodstock and Napier Complicated requires special discussion in the Ceramics section, as all

these types have figured importantly in recent river basin surveys of north Georgia and their chronological position there seems to be definitely fixed.

House A, West Plateau

Having ranged the West Plateau to cover essential excavation data on pits and burials, we are now ready to concentrate upon the second unit of excavation which parallels in some respects the situation described in the Stratified Village between Controls 1 and 2 (Figure 35). This is the site of a large house, considered at first to be possibly the accumulated debris of successive building as in the Stratified Village, which came to be designated simply as House A, West Plateau. This excavation unit is important in the history of structures on the Macon Plateau because there were some ceramic variations from that found in other excavation units on the West Plateau, which might be significant in the final conclusions regarding Mound D Plateau chronology.

The initial description of beginning exploration of House A comes from the field diary of April 6, 1935.

...Explorations on West Plateau proceeding without any usual developments except in survey area west and immediately northwest of Control 2, near the west edge of the plateau, where a ramp or terrace plated with clay was uncovered, suggestive of a house site. The plow line is only 4 to 8 inches below surface at this point. Finds and collections taken from this superficial soil are probably best considered as mixed material, although some may have remained on the clay floor (or debris), belonging to the house site occupation... It may be that we have another debris accumulation, 1 1/2 to 2 feet high, which is not a true house mound but rather a simple compacting of massed debris from several occupations in situ.

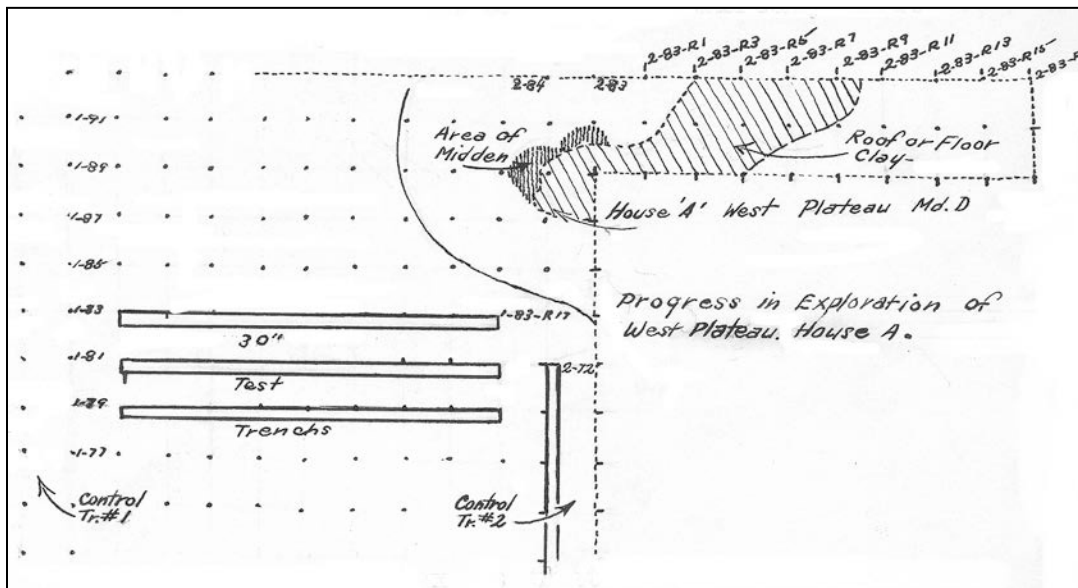


Figure 35: Exploration of House A, reference to Control Trenches 1 and 2

The notes of April 8th record the following observations.

...Ramps or terrace not taking definite square shape, oriented with reference to cardinal directions as in case of Halfway and Terrace House (Mound D). Part of the clay coming out on plow line is baked but most of it is puddled yellow river clay, broken and scarred by plowing. It may be that we are striking roof and wall debris first and that the floors will be brought out at a lower level... The plan of excavation is to remove first the plowed soil and humus, and top debris, to get down to true occupation level ---- the yellow puddled clay may be either disrupted floor section or consolidated, flattened roof and wall debris. Then the whole house area will be exposed to margins, black midden being removed on ramps to east and south as at present. It is already apparent that the critical area here extends over a larger area than was the case with Terrace and Halfway House sites.

On April 9th the notes continue.

...The plow has scarred and broken up the clay in many places, exposing the rich dark soil underneath. Offset trench explorations between Controls 1 and 2 south of House A are not yielding the complete stratigraphy and layers of house debris, potsherds, described further east between these two controls (The Stratified Village).

We move along to the observations of May 1, 1935, when the first clear indications of the stratigraphy at House A, were forthcoming.

...The raised portion of ground beginning about where Control 2 would be projected west, and extending north to the exploratory trench cut between Station 2-75R9 to 2-87R9, was at first considered to be the ramps to a red loam mound on which a house with baked clay floor, similar to Halfway and Terrace Houses, had been built. Now it appears that this raised portion of ground in the area indicated is probably a natural swell or an accumulation of house debris belonging to more than one structure, without any terraced mound or ramp formation having been made. In clearing away the hard packed clay and mottled clay loam just under plow line near Station 2-75E9 *numerous signs of occupation were found beneath the clay and stratified layer. These consist of midden, heaps of bone, pottery, broken and fired stoned rubble, charred wood. The conclusion drawn from these findings is that the clay mantle under plow line is clay loam used in wall and roof construction to houses, fallen down and subsequently redistributed by modern plow disturbance. The *in situ* representations of occupation tended to be undisturbed by the overburden of clay

loam debris... An analysis of the two profiles, north and south, to the east and west 30 inch test trench from Station 2-75R9 to 2-87R9 bears out the impressions received from horizontal clearing of disturbed superficial ground over the area. Pit 19 is seen to be intrusive through all profile layers: A, plowed soil, B, a many colored stratified sand wash covering C, a pink clay platform which runs no farther east in the profile than Pit 19. E is probably a natural sandy soil much disturbed, perhaps partially redistributed incident to activities and building operations carried on when D, black soil occupation layer was a residence floor. F and G at the base of cut are clearly natural soil elements of sand and red clay loam...Mottled soil containing potsherds, bone, charcoal has been troweled off the slopes of the ramp to the south, following the contours indicated. This soil and included material was probably plowed down from the upper reaches. The territory south between Controls 1 and 2 has been sterile, showing no accumulations of house debris and yielding no complications of fill element in vertical profiles...this is the area shown in sketch from 1-85 to 1-89 offset exploration trenches.

Horizontal clearing was used more regularly as a procedure in the case of House A exploration than with the complex situation in the Stratified Village, or in the exploration of the prehistoric dugouts or pit houses on East Plateau (which shall occupy us at some length in the final section of the Excavations account). A comment on this method and its necessity from the notes of May 4 is pertinent.

...The same method of vertical profiling at ten foot intervals will be used in the complicated section northwest of Control 2 as was used in making the first test studies of profiles between Control 1 and 2 on the West Plateau. Horizontal removal of top humus and plowed ground exposed the clay platforms and compacted clay debris assumed to come from successive house destruction. A method of peeling stratified levels between ten foot vertical profile panels, would hardly be applicable in the case of the pit houses (East Plateau). There...the fill elements have fairly clear lines of unconformity, can be marked out definitely by trowels in making the engineering survey and archaeological observations preliminary to fill removal and cataloguing of all material by level. No such definiteness of levels, consistently recurring in new exploratory trenches through the West Plateau stratified sites, is met with, and this discontinuity, as well as the relative compactness of the levels, requires a different method of study.

The situation beyond Control 2 revealed stratification of a pretty complex order, although not as great as that between Controls 1 and 2. The two sides, opposite profile panels of a 30 inch

test trench between 2-65R3 and 2-87R3 are given to show the contrast. A detail of the panel showing intrusive pits 20, 21, 23 is provided also below (Figure 36).

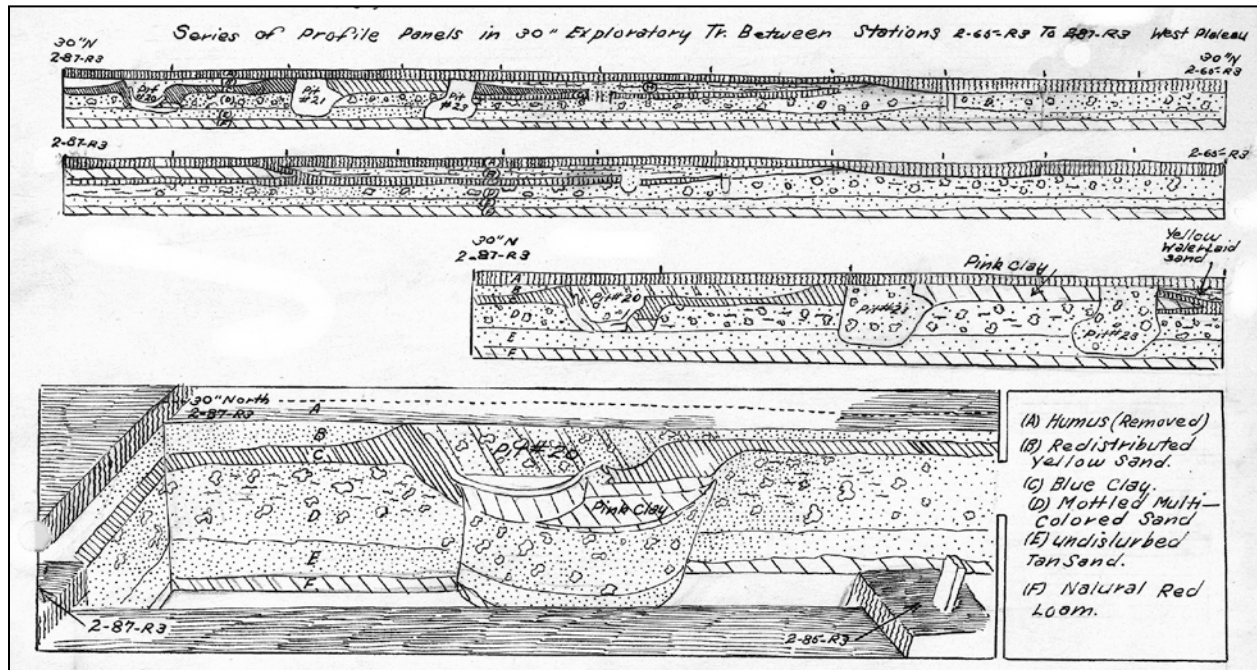


Figure 36: Series of Profile Panels

The description of panels in text follows.

...This trench was dug to secure further data on the accumulation of hard packed clay beneath plow line on West Plateau, as well as the occupation level underneath the clay, and the much mottled and disturbed, possibly redistributed soil beneath the occupation level. Reference has been made to signs in situ of occupation just beneath the clay plate. This has raised the question as to whether the clay is consolidated remains of walk and roof to houses built over a dark soil; indicate occupation or residence floor; or whether the clay is a floor. The data given by the panels show three refuse pits, 20, 21, 23 intrusive through the clay deposit. In the present profile, both sides shown, the black soil occupation under the clay is not so much in evidence not so much charcoal, dark organic refuse fill, as in the area between Control trenches 1 and 2 of West Plateau. However, bone, pottery, stone rubble, hearths, baked clay, and other materials piled in situ under the clay indicate a related condition. Note small tapering lenses of water laid sand on top of the clay platform, showing in both north and south profile faces. This was a feature of the stratified area in Control 1 and 2. In places the clay is in contact with the occupation level underneath elsewhere the clay stratum is not showing; instead we get multi-

colored sand in thin laminae, water laid over a dark soil showing signs of occupation.

Three pits, 20, 21, 23 are obviously intrusive through the clay as well as other profile elements: C clay, usually bluish or slate-colored; D, multi-colored sand beneath clay, often mottled and disturbed, yielding some artifacts and pottery; E and F, natural soil elements forming base of panel. Pit 23 seems to have the peculiarity of being smaller and more constricted at the top than at the base; there is a suggestion of the same in Pit 21. Both pit 20 and 21 show a clay platform or collar surrounding the shoulder margins, flush with the edge of the pits. Two kinds of clay enter into this platform arrangement, bluish or slate-colored on either side of Pit 20 (see detail study of this pit) with pink clay under the pit. Pit 20 has a baked or fired clay basin set in the top of a more deeply excavated pit. The pit walls extend down distinctly to base of cut. This would suggest that the baked clay basin was built into the filled depression of an older refuse pit, lined with blue clay around the margins of the basin. The mottled red loam fill in the clay basin is presumed to be house debris collected in the basin at some time subsequent to the construction of the pit. It is not evident from the 30 inch profile cut whether this pit was set in the floor of a house or was outside. Pit 21 has no baked clay sides or basin form.

The clay on the west shoulder of this pit is a bluish color; that on the east is pinkish, similar to the clay underneath the fire basin in Pit 20. The same platform of pink clay runs continuously from the east wall of Pit 21 to the west wall constriction of Pit 23.

The offset trench explorations from Control 2, to uncover further details of House A on the West Plateau were not productive of definitive results. Scattered baked clay hearths and postholes were brought out, some to depths of 15 inches or more, but without pattern or continuity. The mottled disturbed soil under humus was in most of the area not a clear compact house rubble as was the case determined for the Stratified Village between Control trenches 1 and 2 hitherto described. Profile analysis and observations in the daily diaries for this period reflect the idea of a redistribution of materials, as in the report of May 13th.

...Completed troweling and level study in 30 inch test trench Station 2-57 north, depth 15 inches to 21 inches below surface --- mottled, disturbed red loam at this depth containing some pottery, occasional baked clay and briquettes; possibly redistributed in prehistoric times or by modern plowing hard to determine.

Another theory entertained at the time of excavations in regard to the deep occurrence of occupational features in the area between Controls 2 and 3 was that windblown sand had mantled the area --this idea aid that of soil creep and sheet wash extension of sandy soils down slope or toward the western rim of the north plateau are symptomatic of conditions in this area of survey

north of the Stratified Village. Previously, in describing the chocolate loam fill to the putative subterranean structures on West Plateau, i.e. discussion of shouldered pit structure Number 115, I have indicated the nuances of soil changes and intergradations in this fine loamy and predominately friable sandy soil context. On June 11, nearly a month after the report given in May, the following is recorded in the notes.

...Completed second level, dark mottled loam, in 30 inch test trench east of Station 2-65 north, depth 15-19 inches in third level. Also completed second level of mottled loam east of stakes 2-61 north to total base of cut of 30-32 inches. A dark midden layer filled at Station 2-63R7, showed up at depth of 12 inches first. No definite pit lines; some indication of bone, crude pottery, charcoal - -- another indication of occupation under windblown sand on this part of West Plateau.

Preliminary pottery analysis of the materials taken from the area in which House A was first delimited suggested a rather high percentage of a late Swift Creek complicated stamped ware. Subsequent studies have indicated that Swift Creek runs about 5 percent in the sherds catalogued in clearing humus from between Controls 1 and 2, and between 2 and 3. Inasmuch as House A turned out to be a disrupted area of building materials, without structural lines that could be followed in place, we leave for the Ceramics section whatever remarks might be made on the tendency for Swift Creek ware to appear a bit stronger at that point. It is worthwhile noting, however, that in exploring the section between Controls 2 and 3, in an effort to bring out House A, that almost no Napier Complicated sherds came out. The concentration of Napier in the Stratified Village between Controls 1 and 2 is borne out.

Exploration of Prehistoric Dugouts

One of the most perplexing and controversial discoveries on the Macon Plateau was the widespread occurrence of a continuous series of prehistoric excavated areas, inset along the east slopes of the high bluffs on which the major mounds were located, curving north, north northwest, then west across the north peripheries of the village settlement pattern, to enclose a mile square area of ceremonial mounds, council chambers, house sites, within its confines. Survey never succeeded in following out the continuity of these structures along the West Plateau rim-slope, and Mound C appears to be a detached segment or unit of prehistoric construction, separated from Mounds A, B, D, E by the deep ravine which starts near the McDougal Mound to the north and deeps to a broad swale below the west rim of Mound D plateau.

The exploration of these features occupied many man hours of archaeological work crews for four years, from the fall of 1934 to 1938, and several volumes of field notes (diaries), engineering recordations, planimetric and profile studies, and photographic recordings must be digested in describing the excavations. Inasmuch as some of the discrete units of these strange dugouts, sinks, depression, pit houses as they were called at different times during the long excavation history, had a total depth of nine to ten feet, and the accumulated fill elements contained pottery and artifacts theoretically providing good stratigraphic sequence of subsequent occupations of the Macon Plateau, from the time of prehistoric excavation to the Fort Hawkins, even Civil War, intervals of more recent history, the meticulous profiling and cataloguing of all cultural materials by depth in 2.5 foot profile panels was begun in 1934 and continued for the succeeding years in which these structures were investigated.

In aftermath, contemplation of this vast accumulation of materials and data, is overpowering. It is obvious that the prehistoric dugouts require an extended study and analysis as one major problem and set of excavations in the history of Macon Plateau exploration. In this present segment of Macon Plateau analysis, we have defined our area of concern as the Mound D Macon Plateau, which means the northern portion of the total occupied bluff area on which Mound II occurs, fortuitously set off by the broad railway cut of the Central of Georgia railway excavation. Actually and logically, of course, the investigations of the dugout series on the Middle Plateau, and the significant excavations made on Mounds A and B plateau to the south to determine the stratigraphic relations of the sinks or dugouts to the period of mound building, are an indispensable history of the total explication of these remarkable features of Macon Plateau constructions.

The fact remains, however, that the dugouts are only one part of the total history of Mound D and related structures on the northern section of Macon Plateau. The conditions of original discovery, the history of the excavations, and the methodology employed, all relate these prehistoric dugouts to the early work begun in the winter of 1934 at Mound D. This is true because the first of the sinks or dugouts, as they were at first called in the field diaries, came out incident to a test trench set out in line with the entrance passage to the Ceremonial Earthlodge found near Mound D, an extension of survey east down slope, undertaken to check the possible occupation of the territory east of the Council Chamber by buildings which theoretically might have formed same grouping envisaged in terms of the layout of Creek or Muskogean patterns. Archaeological hindsight, knowledge based on subsequent experience and ratiocination, may make this initial plan of operations appear naive in the extreme. It can only be pointed out that the general background of Muskogean history bulked large in our minds when the first

excavations were undertaken at Old Ocmulgee Fields, and when James Ford was uncovering house sites and materials at the Lamar mound and village site, which then and later fitted presuppositions about local Creek history like a glove. Moreover, there has been a persisting tendency for some students of Georgia archaeology to consider the Macon Council Chamber as an analogue for the reconstruction of subsequent, more clearly perceived Muskogean history and settlement in terms of structural patterns or religious usages, i.e. the conception of the Council Chamber as an earlier prehistoric expression of ceremonialism later blossomed out in a full ritualistic and cult manifestation, which in its Macon Plateau form was conceived as proto-Muskogean.

The first of the dugouts was discovered in the fall of 1934, and the circumstances are given in the notes of September 10th of that year.

...Engineer Lester engaged in stringing chords across inner circumference of council chamber to determine as nearly as possible the geometric center. Intersections of at least six perpendiculars made from mid-points of as many chords seemed simplest method of determining approximate center of the circular structure. It is proposed to establish a line from the center of the council chamber southeast through the mid-point between the clay pilasters of the entrance, extending thru the passage or tunnel on down the east slope of the plateau on which Mound D is located. An exploratory trench was staked out in the afternoon extending 100 feet along the survey line made southeast from the council chamber entrance as above determined...The purpose of (this trench) is to check possible occurrences of house sites, ash beds, etc., which may lay to the southeast, facing the entrance to the council chamber, possibly laid out in some sort of plan characteristic of many plats of historic southeastern towns. It is not seriously considered that the ground plans of historic Creek towns might serve as hypothetical blue prints for constructions on the Macon Plateau already determined to be definitely prehistoric; yet the consistent orientation of all mounds and houses uncovered so far argues definite planning and arrangement of some kind...The east escarpment of Mound D plateau ascends gradually in a gentle slope, shelving at a distance of 100-150 yards from the site of the council chamber. A terraced contour follows the shelving dip in the east slope of the plateau in a broad sweeping curve which runs obliquely NNW from the railroad cut toward the plateau. Beyond this terrace (probably natural), the escarpment dips sharply down toward the creek or broach which runs at the foot of the east slope of Mound D plateau. The first 100 feet of slope east and southeast of the council chamber entrance drops on an average 7 feet in every 100; beyond the sharply shelving terrace in the next 200 feet to the creek the drop amounts to 25 feet or more. Drainage would not be too rapid over the area immediately in front of the earth-lodge, facing the entrance, to permit of village occupation.

Another circumstance that led to testing of this east slope had to do with the perceived differences in vegetative growth, described as follows.

...The area in front of the ceremonial lodge is gently sloping...The vegetation appears to be more luxuriant and greener in color in a broad patch beginning near the railroad cut south from the council chamber and extending northeast directly in front of the entrance to a point seventy five feet northeast. The rich soil underneath covers an area considered east and west of about forty feet. No indications of hummocky rises or undulations suggesting house mounds as at Lamar. Extension trench number 1 cuts directly through the middle of the rank growth and should afford a partial explanation of the phenomenon.

The author had little intimation of what he was letting himself in for, as indicated by the remarks of September 15th diary.

...The peculiar sink or depression in the approximate mid-section of Extension Trench number 1 requires further investigation. Peaty catch basins on a hill slope giving naturally rapid drainage do not seem reasonable unless artificially excavated. Depressions were not anticipated in the area to be explored southeast of council chamber...The extension trench now gives 250 feet down slope, the profile cut indicating satisfactorily the geological structure of the escarpment. Thus far— nothing unusual, except some rather doubtful pits and postholes near the council chamber entrance, and the sink or depression 125 feet down the trench just before the east point where shelving clay banks dip sharply down, beginning the sharp slope to the Creek.

And on September 17th.

...Widening of explored area in mid-section of Ext. Trench 1 Southeast of Council Chamber. ...Sink now appears to extend for distance of 30 feet or more. May be natural fill of erosional scar, helped by dike across lower slope. Sink runs west from ridge. Plow marks show 12-16 inches below present surface of ground; implies recent fill or terracing over slope in last 50/85 years. Occurrence of some potsherds and a little midden in sandy fill topping shown in profile may be accidental inclusion or result of wash downhill from Mound D plateau.

The first complete profile panel through this initial sink was described on September 20.

...Dark soil fill extends down over 2 feet at lowest level, shouldering up to red clay loam ledges or rises in underlying

terrain on either side. In mid point of sink, hard pan, gummy texture indicating high clay content, shows as capping over black midden containing much sand. Suggests lush slugh growth in sink; rather unusual to find such a situation on side of a hill. May have been a spring whose outlet was dammed. Potsherds, bones, some midden material in fill; particularly toward base where black midden and sand make contact with red sandy loam. The gummy, clayey lens at the top of the sink is not continuous in both profiles of 5 foot trench.

The view of the sinks as natural features, subsequently filled with detritus from the plateau occupation, dominated the earliest attempt at interpretation.

...Examination of subsoil above level of gummy black hardpan showing in profile of cut thru sink seems necessary to delimit area covered by the dark midden, hardpan and sandy fill between clay or red sandy loam shoulders. The plan is to break top sod and humus over area 10 feet by 50 feet both east and west around the site of the sink. May find posthole indications by horizontal examination. If nothing comes of this method, will then continue vertical profiling through five foot intervals, removing all fill down to shoulders and bottom of cut. As yet very little archeological material to indicate purpose of the sink; sherds, bone, what little midden has been found might have washed or have been thrown into the sink. Fill does not look deliberate, except that the hardpan of gummy clay near the top may mean something; or else, it might mean clay deposition in still, stagnant waters with considerable inclusion of organic deposits in the process. Old erosional scars beneath present humus and sub-humus might be expected but clogging of outlets on a steep natural drainage slope and development of lush vegetation growth in quiet, impounded waters seem strange unless something more than natural forces are taken into account.

The finding of baked clay and briquettes in the sinks was noted early in the game and elicited a note of bewilderment.

...Small pieces of baked clay, briquettes, found on south shoulder of sink. This baked clay find is only a few feet away from a larger slab of burned or baked clay found in bottom of cut in original trenching. Finding of baked clay in close connection with the sink makes the trowel-men feel that they are getting warm maybe they are; it does not seem likely that these evidences of house debris would be carried 125-130 feet down slope from the site of the council chamber without strewing other material along in the intervening distance.

Also, by October, progress in following the trend of the sink had indicated hair-pen turns in the course that hardly looked natural.

...Sink in south offset trench from Ext. Trench number 1, area 20 feet by 30 feet cleared horizontally of top humus and sub-humus. Shows that dark soil fill plays out does not extend toward council chamber on northwest. Other end, southeast, continues in a hairpin turn toward Trench 2 and Railroad cut. The dark mottled fill between confining red loam ridge or rim, regarded in normal verticalis does not look natural. The hairpin turn on a sharp drainage slope is unconvincing as a natural feature.

By October 10th, the man-made character of the sinks had supplanted the earlier attempts at natural explanation, and for the first time the possibility of subterranean houses or pit houses was entertained.

...Some briquettes taken from slopes of sink to west and south. Potsherds seem to be more numerous in the filled sand toward the south end of sink. It appears that the sink was filled with light tan colored sand, mostly washed in but perhaps also partially windblown. The dark soil may represent in part some sort of sod or humic development due to trapping of water. To date, light horizontal shoveling and troweling has carried exploration down to a depth of 3 feet from the surrounding red loam and clay shoulders. Angle of inclination of shoulders about 45 degrees.

Conclusion grows stronger hourly that the sink was deliberately dug out of the red sandy loam terrace southeast of the council chamber. Considerable animal bones still coming from sandy fill. Most of included sherds come from deeper sand fill toward middle of the sink. Briquettes, baked clay, occur more frequently near the sandy loam shoulders to the pit. Seem to increase as troweling extends down from shoulder rims.

From bottom sections of today's cut through pink and sandy loam fill obtained seven cigar boxes of pottery. Recorded or catalogued in field as 1) sandy soil wash under top humus, 2) dark soil occupation level at depth 15-24 inches from base of stations, 3) under dark soil comes another wash or fill deposit of light tan sand—lot of pottery from this level, 4) collections made on shoulders of pit, beneath sandy fill catalogued separately as slope material.

Tentatively, it is regarded now that this depression or sink represents a subterranean house site or pit to an earth lodge construction. Of all the various ideas entertained at one time or another as to the possible interpretation of these sinks or depressions in the east slope to Mound D plateau, the view that they might be pit houses received less attention. Which is strange, considering my interpretation of the council chamber as an unique

structure not found in the Southeast, more typical of western forms...Also my experience at Cahokia with pit houses (?) found beneath the second Powell Mound in 1931 (University of Illinois expedition) might have prepared me. I had even noted the combination of mound and subterranean earth lodge characters found in the council chamber, suggesting that while the construction was not subterranean (the round ceremonial chamber was mounded over) that nevertheless the fundamental architectural plan implied vestiges of a prototypic underground earth lodge form.

Although the dugouts would still be referred to as sinks or depressions in the field diaries, the hypothesis of subterranean or pit houses was to remain, at first as a working theory, but gradually to be regarded as the most lively explanation. The first sink to be uncovered in its entirety, the first discovered in the test trench from the Council Chamber entrance, was denominated Pit House number 1. Eventually no less than 20 of these structures were to be brought out in the exploration of two parallel series along the east, northeast, and north approaches to Macon Plateau.

On October 12, two developments gave some support to the new notion of subterranean domestic structures, (1) the finding of heavy floor deposits of pottery and other artifacts and (2) the first post-holes coming out definitely under fill. Loop handles with variegated nodal arrangements, and rim adornments were observed coming out in some quantity in the light tan sand under the dark lensed material (which by now was noted to contain some historic trade objects, trade pipes notably). On the clay shoulder of the pit excavation, imbedded in the red loam, two polished stone celts, apparently cached in place, were found. Closely related celts were found in good archeological context at both Macon Plateau and at the Lamar village.

A summary of developments in the excavation of the first sink to be uncovered, now described as Pit House 1 in the notes of October 13 follows.

...Stratigraphic levels described in notes so far continue to show true to form in new 5 foot interval profiles in trenching to the north...A piece of modern crockery was found in dark soil midden in mid-section of the newly excavated strip (stratigraphic level 2). This is the same position as that in which the broken stem of a trade pipe was picked up a few days ago. In lower sandy wash materials pottery of every type found in 10 months of exploration at Mound D is coming out. The top 50 Inches or more of fill in the pit is made up of soft, friable sandy deposits, no clay lensing except where clay loam rims or shoulders to pit have slid in to form a shelving slope(that is, depending on whether the original pit was saucer shaped or had straight, vertical walls). This means migration of a certain percentage of more recent material down into lower and older deposits. These facts will need to be taken into consideration when the collections taken from the different levels are evaluated typologically and chronologically. It is entirely possible, perhaps even probable, that the pit house

structures antedate the village occupations on the Mound D plateau and that the prehistoric sink served as a sort of catch pan or refuse accumulation for articles thrown in or washed in continuously from the plateau occupations. If such turns out to be the case, we have an ideal archeological context for stratigraphic studies...The present stage of exploration at Pit House number 1 shows a sink, with shelving red sandy loam shoulders dipping at an angle of about 45 degrees, diameter between 25-30 feet (east and west) - probably 40 feet or more in a NNW-SSE direction -cannot gauge as yet because more of pit needs to be uncovered to the north). Depth at present varies from an irregular bottom cut between 5 to 6 feet. The shape of the present excavation in the pit fill where troweling is following out pit outlines as closely as possible is a broad oval, narrower and blunter at the southeast end. It looks as if the long axis will be NNW-SSE. If so, the logical position for the entrance would be the southeast as an opening on the northwest would conduct surface drainage from the plateau slope directly into the pit.

Presence of thin midden streaks and mottled areas beneath red sandy loam shoulders of the pit indicates considerable sliding down of natural soil elements after site original structure caved in. Vertical troweling along the west wall of the present excavation into pit fill shows presence of an extensive sheet of bluish clay beneath a capping of thick red sandy loam soil creep. This bluish clay shows as a thick deposit, 1-2 feet in thickness, beginning with the southwest corner of the excavation trending west along what would be expected to be the west wall of a rectangular or broad oval house structure. It extends in a clinging band of uniform deposit, extending up under the shelving cap of red sandy loam already identified as geological soil broke away and slid in upon the caved-in debris of the pit dwelling. No immediate suggestion can be made as to the purpose of this bluish clay in the original construction.

In subsequent visits by archaeologists who inspected the excavations of the sinks or dugouts, such as Frank M. Setzler, William S. Webb, and others, the critical points of discussion or argument centered about the highly contoured or irregular walls, the uneven floor section, and the inadequate provision for vertical roof supports in the putative pit houses. These were serious criticisms, and the problems involved were recognized early in the dugout excavations, as appears from the description of the basal or floor deposits in Pit House number 1.

...A small trench hardly more than a foot wide was started this morning to check the deposits found in the floor of Pit House 1. The trench began in the slope of the east wall of the present excavation and proceeded obliquely down across the mid-section of the pit, trending toward the northwest. This small cut revealed two interesting facts: 1) that the red sandy loam shoulder was

really composed of mingled clay and sandy loam, mottled occasionally with inclusions of dark soil or midden, which had crept down onto the floor of the pit. This means that quite possibly the original walls were straight or vertical rather than shelving or sloped; that the apparent slope found in excavating the filled materials was due to the geological formations broken away and drifted into the sink after the cave-in of the pit-house roof. 2) Troweling in the bottom of cut, deepest floor level of present excavations beneath the stratified fill deposits so far, shows that another foot of sandy fill must be added to our calculations to get down to the true floor of the pit house. The bottom limit which might be identified as floor level shows as a white creamy colored sand, richly mottled with clay loam containing heavy iron salts and iron concretions; the net effect being a splotched clay loam, locally known as calico clay! This material hardens to a stony consistency after drying and after being pressed under foot. It would have made an ideal floor to a pit house. Some complications are due in interpreting the soil fill over this bottom-most calico clay of undoubted geological formation. For one thing, there appears to be a slight streaking or laminae of charcoal and black soil, *in situ* about midway of the foot of deposits immediately deposited over the calico. Above and below this thin dark line suggesting an occupation level, occur sandy deposits or fill, showing the water-laid striations in both horizons.

The next profiles, cut toward the north, indicate that the sink of the assumed collapsed pit house was still open in recent or historic times. This sink is referenced in the notes of October 15th.

...The latest profile shows two buried sods instead of one, separated from each other by about one foot of light sand deposit. The two soils thicken toward the middle of the cut, where the sink was originally deepest, and thin out to merge on the slopes of the original depression. Data obtained so far indicate that both sod developments arose in historic times, within the last 125 years.

Actually, historical trade material from the uppermost of these buried soils was later determined to represent accumulations from Halsted's factory, in operation after the establishment of Fort Hawkins in 1806, whereas the lower one belonged to the Old Ocmulgee Fields time, nearly one hundred years earlier.

In the excavation of the basal deposits in Pit House number 1, the strong concentration of briquettes, sherds, stone, and charcoal continued to be a factor indicating midden accumulation *in situ*. The sketch below*, taken from the notes of October 19th and the diary description of that date summarizes the profile features.

...The diagram indicates rather the theoretical levels rather than the ones actually perceived and followed in all instances in cataloguing collections. The first three levels are distinct enough, and sherds picked up in these horizons are difficult to spot. Also, sherds from the midden deposits in association with clay briquettes in the dark tan sand matrix of the house debris are not hard to locate. But as between Levels IV and V with a thin, discontinuous black charcoal and occupation line to demarcate, perfect cataloguing is not possible. Also, note the way in which large lumps of red clay loam have broken off, and slumped in on the debris of the presumably slumped house. Some midden may have collected on the surfaces of these intrusive clay banks after they had melted down after breaking away from the wall rim to the pit dwelling, and subsequent accumulation of slump clay would trap the midden and confuse lines where profile cuts are made to study stratigraphic accumulation of fill deposits. Had the pit dwellers fitted themselves out with baked clay floors, as did the people with domiciliary mounds or house hillocks west of the council chamber (Halfway and Terrace Houses), the difficulties of interpreting floor deposits would have been largely done away with, even with the complications of the theoretical intrusive elements derived from wall slumping and accidentally included midden.

On November 14th, the current excavations were visited by Frank M. Setzler of the National Museum, and considerable discussion was had on the subject of vertical supports in the presumptive pit houses and Setzler's theory of borrow pits

...Our inability to find insertion points of supporting timbers, especially in Pit House 1 where the work has gone on for a longer period of time, has raised a question as to how the sod roof and roof timbers would be supported in any hypothetical reconstruction from the present data. Setzler reminds me of a possible explanation which I had not considered thus far in a month of exploration; namely, that they might be the depressions or water holes left by the Macon Plateau mound builders seeking materials for the plating of Mound D, and possibly, for the thick red clay plate in Mound C postholes were not entirely absent at Pit House number 1 but, so far, have been found only on west side where two large supporting timbers are inset in the clay (natural) shoulders of what were the southwest and northwest corners of the presumed structure. In the southwest corner are two additional post impressions. One of these lies a few inches inside, toward the pit excavation, from the largest set in the natural clay loam shoulder. The other, smaller, with a diameter of about 6 inches, was inserted into the calico floor just below and roughly in line with the other two.

The possibility that the mass of the roof sod and the force of gravity might preclude the necessity for deep insertions of vertical supports was considered, and a change in the methods of

excavating the fill to the dugouts was made as a result of the discussions with Setzler.

...Another fact, possibly significant, lies in the greater height of the west side of the pit, the difference in elevation corresponding to the natural drop in the hill slope. The floor of the pit was originally uneven with stratified yellowish tawny sand till on the lowest area to the east, some of the deposits trending upward toward the southeast corner; a similar condition was found in the stratification of the deposits. These inequalities in the floor appear to have been a feature of the original structure; and, whatever their explanation, they render more difficult the location of supporting timbers holding up the roof plates, timbers which need not have been deeply inserted into the floor to hold in place as the weight of the roof and soil overburden would afford little wind resistance and would stabilize the structure by the natural force of gravity. It is doubtful whether small pockets of disturbed earth, especially in the calico floor already pocked by natural inclusions of clay in sand, would be noted by ordinary troweling operations.

This leads to a question of methodology. I have been rather dissatisfied with results for some days now as obtained by a method of profiling stratified fill, leaving the red loam shoulders to the excavation intact. I had not anticipated the breaking away of the original clay wall into large chunks which slid down onto the cave-in or sink, thus making crevices in the original soil outside the original bounds of the pit in which vegetation, humus, and some midden may have fallen. This condition makes any method of vertical profiling from the center floor outward to the projected walls extremely difficult, as the mottling would continue on beyond the original wall limits. Setzler suggests profile cuts through both the pit fill and the matrix of geological materials forming the shoulder and walls. This, in combination with horizontal profiling at different stratigraphic levels, determined from vertical profiles. The method has the advantage of not destroying the pit structure entirely and yet affording complete profiles through a cross-section of the pit. At Cahokia (Second Powell Mound, 1931), Gene Stirling and I employed complete vertical profile cuts at 2.5 feet and got very inadequate conceptions of exact dimensions, orientation from the reconstructed flat plans made from the engineering data of the vertical profiles.

The question of method, i.e. vertical profiling like microtome cross-sectional anatomy vs. horizontal stripping off perceived levels of archaeological context, was a sore one at the time. Inability to reconstruct horizontal and isometric pictures of prehistoric structures, recorded by a vast accumulation of engineering data in vertical planes, plagued more than one famous field expedition in the Middle West. The device worked out in the further excavations of the dugouts at Macon provided a compromise in techniques.

Judging from the notes, the idea of borrow pits stimulated considerable thought on the subject. On November 15th, this summary of facts and subjective observations adduced against the borrow pit theory.

...Against the idea of borrow pits to date are the facts that (1) the greater part of the sherd collections, artifacts, come from the deepest deposits lying close to the hypothetical floor; (2) briquettes occur in considerable quantities lying close to the shelving walls or shoulders of the pit—not so numerous toward the center; (3) greater abundance of briquettes along floor of west wall; (4) charred fragments of reed(bamboo) in bottom debris which check with reed imprints on some of the briquettes; (5) several of briquettes show baking or hardening on one side only, the other exhibiting raw wet clay and bearing consistently the reed imprints; (6) ash and charcoal localized along floor beneath southeast end wall where conceivably sloping wall timber would have been thrust upward and out from the debris and smothering sod in a collapse of a pit residence, thus more exposed to air and more completely oxidized; (7) surface indications of symmetrical shape not entirely removed by subsequent cutting of fill and estimation of walls which now appear to have been originally straight, at least in their lower portions; (8) orientation of five sinks exposed on east escarpment to date is consistently NNW-SSE; (9) Pit House number 1, first to be explored, does show possibly significant location of posts on west shoulder; (10) oval niche or alcove ringed with stake holes at NNW end of Pit House 1 — line of demarcation between dark soil fill and matrix of red clay very regular and clear (especially when moistened with peach spray). This last point, in itself, would seem to indicate pretty definitely cellar structure with an eye to building rather than simple removal of earth for mound construction.

In late November and early December, organization of work crews under ERA, and the loss of key excavation foremen caused a letup in the dugout explorations. By December 11th, these changes were still in process, but offset trench exploration east of the Council Chamber uncovered no less than five sinks. These were partially profiled in initial cuts. The notes of this date carry an interesting statement on the soil leaching and deposition of calcium and iron salts in the dugout fill.

...A detailed series of soil profile records, not only for the artificially disturbed areas the sinks or pits—but also through the geological formations adjacent would seem to be necessary to explain the conditions of age in the pits. The top fill to the pits, in some instances, makes up nearly four fifths of the total thickness of artificially derived soil. But in all cases so far studied the basal fills are marked by a number of distinctive characteristics: (1) they have more clay than occurs in the top fill; (2) the basal fill is

pockmarked with iron precipitations; (3) no vegetal or humic materials, no buried soils, charred wood, or other organic matter is preserved (in the bottom deposits); (4) sherds taken from these basal deposits are eroded, partially absorbed by chemical action, an incipient disintegration; (5) the sand has separated from the clay and started to migrate downward into the calico of geological formation, forming lenticular, small lozenge shaped bodies, which intensify the calico effects; (6) the basal deposits in the pit do not always present a clear line of unconformity within the underlying clay and calico of geological formation because of these parallel development above demarcation is made primarily on the basis of color rather than a clear-cut line of cleavage; (7) the basal fill is made up of soils which are noticeably stiffer and more resistant to troweling. I am not prepared to say how far leaching and oxidizing had proceeded in these lower strata before the animal bones and other organic materials were dumped on to the historic midden level. The leaching of calcium and other salts from the organic materials thrown into the sinks 125 or more years ago would probably carry down calcareous elements into the older levels, thus masking or obscuring the conditions of age which might otherwise be observed there. It is obvious that the opinion of an experienced soil geologist is needed.

Later, two distinguished geologists and geographers, Professor Carl O. Sauer of the University of California, and Professor Russell of Louisiana State University, were to visit Ocmulgee and inspect the profiles to the prehistoric dugouts. They called attention to the formation of laterites in the dugouts, and the approximation to conditions found in the peat bogs of Wisconsin. Conditions were optimum for the rapid accumulation of chemical salts deposited in the catch basins, which the dugouts provided on the drainage slope of Macon Plateau. Soil changes might be much accelerated and conditions of age, which in other contexts might take some time, would theoretically here be foreshortened. Other chemico-thermal factors and problems occupied our visitors, however, including the remarkable decomposition of flint on the Macon Plateau, and the preservation of the cornfield beneath Mound D.

By Christmas, offset trench explorations from Control 5 had disclosed parts of at least four more dugouts. Two of these, Shouldered Pit 45 and Shouldered Pit 49, are of particular interest in connection with the previous discussion of subterranean house structure on the West Plateau (discussion of Pit 115 in Excavations section). Of these two, Shouldered Pit 49 will be described in most detail in excavations report*.

In reference to Shouldered Pit 49, the notes of December 29th indicate.

...Shouldered Pit 49, like pit 45, is so designated because it is round or sail depression, a saucer-like concavity with a smaller pit off center toward one end of the ellipse, thus making a platform or shoulder bordering the contained pit on all sides. The broadest part of the shoulder might have served as a floor area for whatever activities were carried on in the smaller pit. Shouldered Pit 49 has

an east-west diameter of 16 feet, and a north-south dimension of 16 feet, 11 inches. That is, from shoulder margin to shoulder margin as nearly as can be reconstructed by troweling out the fill. Very nearly a perfect circle is represented. The subsoil area over the smaller pit was evidently the lowest point in the sink and bog deposits accumulated in recent fill (Figure 38).

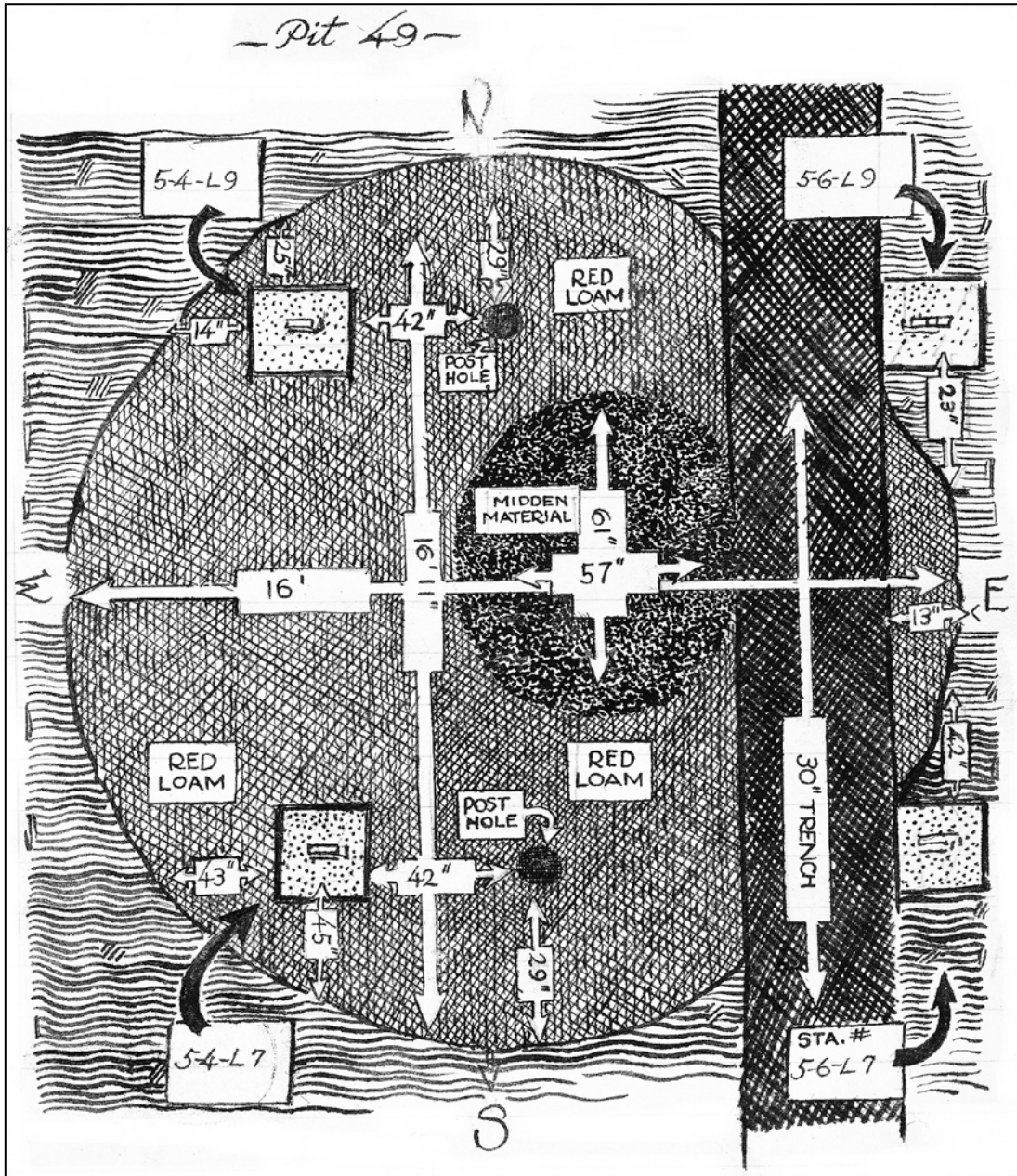


Figure 37: Pit 49

Because of the importance of the shouldered pits, considered as subterranean houses, and the comparison of these structures with the more deeply excavated pit structures, the

observations on excavations recorded in the diaries will be of especial interest. Continuing in the notes of December 29th.

...Shouldered pit 49 was dug directly from the red clay loam level which is covered over at this point in the terrain by a thickness of approximately one foot of red sand wash. This deposit appears to have been derived during the last 50 years or so as plowed soil from Mound D plateau; it may be in part pulled off and washed down from the red clay plate to Mound D broken by many years of recent cultivation. If so it will be interesting to discover if the light tan sand mantling red loam between Mound D and the beginning profile squares of the exploratory trenches east runs out to east of the mound.

Two cigar boxes of sherds were taken from the first 20 inches of fill in Shouldered Pit 49. The pottery resembles very closely and is probably identical with that found in Pits 41 and 42 dug into the red clay shoulder a few feet west of Shouldered Pit 49. Plain ware, no decorated sherds noted in casual examination of field collection before it was washed; reddish tinge probably derived from iron oxide in clay matrix overhead; medium thick; both grit and mixed grit-shell tempered the dominant ware found in the basal deposits in all pits. (Bibb Plain as defined in the Ceramics section).

Beginning exploration of the pit is yielding the same superficial features found in the initial troweling of Shouldered Pit 45. Two post holes showed up in the afternoon, one on the north shoulder, one on the south, equidistant from the rim of the saucer-like depression. The post on the south could not have been very deeply inserted if sunk as a vertical support over the pit; the north post continues deeper into the red clay shoulder. Present depth reading would give 1 foot or less to the insertion of the south post. It is conceivable however that before the red sandy loam capped or sealed the pit fill some of the shoulder might have been plowed or eroded away, taking off some of the clay matrix and included fill in the post mold. The two posthole impressions show in Jackson's sketch.

It is interesting to note presence of 2 or 3 briquettes, one bearing reed impressions, on floor of the pit. Toward quitting time, as bog humus area was troweled away in deepest part, a bluish clay or muck was revealed as fill to the smaller included pit. This would seem to confirm my impression that Shouldered pit 49 would be found similar to Shouldered Pit 45. The position of these two peculiar pits in line with the two large sinks would appear to have some special significance. It is to be hoped that in the exploration of the smaller pit filled with blue muck that some light may be thrown on the mystery of these specially constructed pits.

The term specially constructed is used advisedly because these pits are quite different from the larger excavations or sinks. At least, it is quite possible that Shouldered Pit 49 will confirm the existence of Shouldered Pit 45 as a category of structures present is a characteristic of the pit sequence at Mound D.

Additional details of comparison of these two peculiar structures are given in January 2, 1935 notes (Figure 39).

...Troweling in the basal fill of yellow loam, pocked with iron precipitates as described in recent notes, revealed one new feature — the floor in front (south and southwest of the included pit) was a few inches lower than the upper shelf or shoulder which slopes up to the red loam rim. There was some suggestion of this arrangement in Shouldered Pit 45 also but the upper platform was so eroded and altered by rain wash and filtration of water thru the pit fill that the outlines could not be made out as distinctly as in Shouldered Pit 49. Jackson's sketch of these new developments is reproduced from the notes.

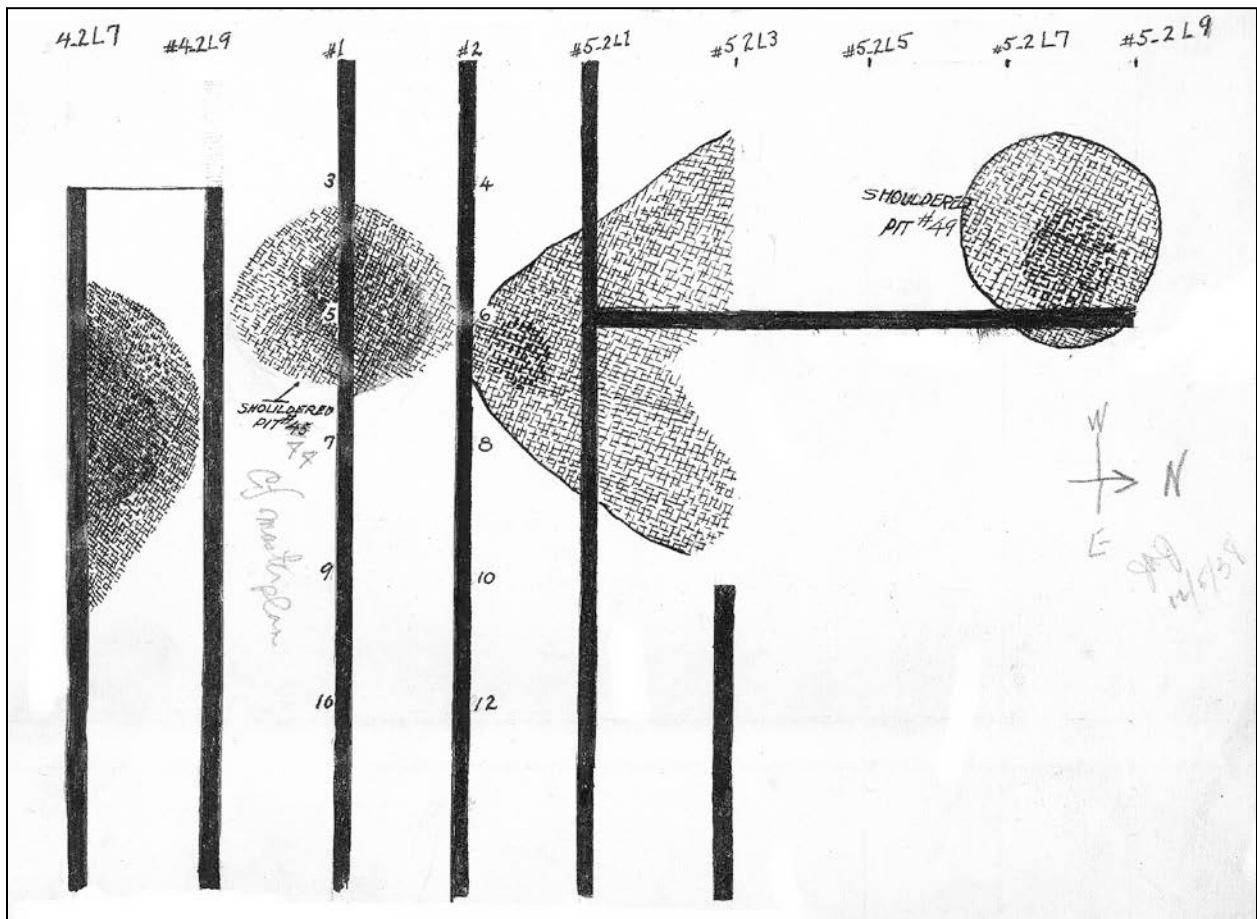


Figure 38: Control Trench 5. Shouldered Pits 45 and 49

...One other fact came out in today's troweling of the included smaller pit in Shouldered Pit 49; the inclusive pit was not filled with bluish much which turned ashy after drying as was the case with the fill to Shouldered Pit 45. The fill to Pit 49 was a pinkish or salmon colored sandy loam, containing iron concretions of the type found in the basal remnants of other sinks and pits.

Sherds were found in Shouldered Pit 49, but were not so numerous as in the inclusive pit 45. They were of the same type as those found on the shoulders and floor. No new data on the postholes, except they were found to continue deeper into the red loam shoulder than was at first supposed. The facts taken together imply that these were probably vertical supports for the roof to the oval, nearly round, structure built over Shouldered Pit 49.

The finding of two specialized pits in same related series of pit structures indicates that these were typical, designating a definite category of small, semi-subterranean houses with a characteristic in setting of the inclusive pits. Such an arrangement was found toward the end of CWA in exploring the original plateau level beneath the north toe of Mound A on A and B plateau of the Macon group. The inclusive pit there was larger, over 5 feet in diameter, but the shoulders so far as could be made out in a five foot trench, sloped up in a manner reminiscent of the arrangements described for Shouldered Pits 45 and 49 at Mound D. It may be significant, too, that the location of this Shouldered Pit under the north slope of Mound A, made into the original plateau floor before the large pyramidal mound was constructed, was on the east side of the plateau, toward the first terrace...The interesting possibility must be considered that such pit structures dot the terraced slopes along the whole eastern margin of the plateau, separated from Mound D sector and the A and B plateau by two railroad cuts.

The reference to a saucer-shaped structure underneath the northern featheredge of Mound A construction, at the other end of Macon Plateau, has very important implications for the chronology of the total area. We have already described saucer-shaped depressions on the West Plateau of Mound D, of which Pit 115 was the best representation brought out. Profile panels through the Stratified village of West Plateau, in which a relatively high occurrence of Napier Complicated Stamped pottery was noted, also suggested examples of the same sort of thing.

Shouldered Pit 45 was not as clearly defined as Shouldered Pit 49, and was at first considered to be connected, or identified with, an adjacent sink known in the survey of the East Plateau as Pit House 3. In fact, very soon it became apparent that no less than five structures were re-conjoined, or separated by narrow clay banks or partitions, forming a practically continuous linkage of the hypothetical subterranean structures. In the offset trench exploration of East Plateau survey, made from control trenches 4 and 5, three sinks were catalogued. The Pit House

northern shoulder, or platform margin, comes, at one point, within a foot of the southern upper platform edge of shouldered pit 45. Adjacent to Shouldered pit 45 is Pit House 4. About 10 feet further north is Shouldered Pit 49. These relations in the structures to be described now are illustrated in the field sketch below. Moreover, Pit House 3 and Pit House 9 were ultimately found to be narrowly separated. Thus, five units including Pit Houses 3 and 9, Shouldered Pit 45, Pit House 4, and Shouldered Pit 49 are conjectured to be related in the architectural and constructional history of the sinks or dugouts and are regarded as some sort of subterranean structures. These will be discussed consecutively, as they contrast with another linked series to the east of the plateau running toward the Railroad excavation. These are Pit houses 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8.

In connection with the two linked series conjectured above, two units were regarded as wedged in or inserted tightly between pre-existing constructions. Admittedly, there is a large element of extrapolation in this view, but the total contours and layout of the structures, as prepared from planimetric survey after excavations were completed, lend some verisimilitude to the view. Pit House 11 was seen as wedged in-line between Pit Houses 1 and 8; Pit House 13 between units 1 and 12. Shouldered Pit 45 was definitely roundish or broad-oval in shape and was approximately the same diameter of 16 feet. The shoulder area toward the outer rim was more eroded and ill-defined with reference to nearby pit structures later surveyed as Pit Houses 8 and 4. The depth to the base of the saucer-shaped depression was approximately two feet. The sink of Shouldered Pit 45 had evidently been open in Colonial times, as the red sandy loam soil contained numerous European objects of the late 18th century and early 19th century. The included pit, refuse pit, or hearth was in the NNW end and was characterized by a very peculiar fill of a mucky clayey soil, containing some decayed organic matter, which encrusted the potsherds found in the refuse pit. The pit, or hearth cooking pit, was 40 inches in diameter and 2 feet deep. Despite the saucer-shaped depression and included pit at one end, there were no post insertions or indications of vertical support, as was the case in Shouldered Pit 49. Pottery found in the included or refuse pit in 45 was over 90 percent Bibb Plain, although considerable scrubbing with hard bristle brushes was necessitated in the laboratory before any study could be made of the heavily encrusted material.

The general resemblance of Shouldered Pit 45 to Pit 49, with these two structures located so closely in a linked series, is adduced as evidence of the existence of a class of less deeply excavated subterranean structures. Pit Houses 8 and 9, while not saucer-shaped or shouldered, were not so deeply excavated into the geological red clay loam of the East Plateau. Also, there was evidence that the whole 50 foot square area explored in offset trenching from Controls 4 and 5 had been scattered by erosion in pre-Fort Hawkins times.

A sketch is provided below, taken from the original field notes, to show the relations of linked structures. The original diary description of this sketch, from the notes of February 23, 1935, is more explicit than any posthumous rendering some 20 years later.

...Final troweling and preparation of the excavations of pits 49 (shouldered), 4, 45 (shouldered), 3, and 9 has resulted in the conclusion that the last four of these pit structures were possibly conjoined in one linked pit series, separated by clay bank partitions of the type described in Pit Houses 2 and 8. Exploration of newer structures to the east (Pit Houses 2 and 8) as given clear indication of approach chambers and this evidence requires a review of the situation in 4, 45, 3, and 9. It now appears that Pit House 3 has a

passage extending northwest which is confluent with the southwest platform of shoulder to Pit 45. At present, it is desired to show the contours of the pits, their proximity, location of the clay bank partitions separating the made the smaller depressions, pits pockets in the floors, possible location of supporting timbers. Minor irregularities may be only the result of tree root ramifications in the disturbed fill to the pits may be faithfully recorded by the careful troweling and survey of the pit excavations. It would be difficult to distinguish after such a long interval of change coming after the hypothetical collapse of the pit structures, to tell natural from artificial and structural features, unless clearly marked post Holes or moulds could be made out.

“...The clay bank partitions vary in height and thickness,” and between Pit House 4 and shouldered pit 45 are very narrow (confined to the 2 1/2 foot test trench made to check this area). Shouldered pit 45 is confluent with Pit House 3. A study of the sketch will show why 45 was confused at early stages of the exploration with Pit House 3. It is still possible that Shouldered Pit 45 is really a part of Pit House 3. Shouldered Pit 49 is more definitely sundered from the linked series herein described.

Pit House 3, confluent with shouldered pit 45, had an average width of about 10 feet with a depth in its middle portions of slightly over 3 feet. A cross-sectional diagram, and description from the daily diary of February 4, 1935, thereof, is provided below. Of particular interest are the indications of three possible vertical supports at the base of the profile.

...Pit House 3 troweled down to floor deposits today between Station 4-4L7 and 4-10L7 south. Excellent sherd collection coming from floor or residence deposits. Shows chemical action in basal(fourth) level as all pottery here is heavily encrusted with iron precipitations. Note position of the three post-holes in 4-L7 line of stations. Horizontal shaving and close examination along the floor indicate that these are probably shallow excavations six to eight inches deep, dug pit-wise to function as sockets in which large timber supports may have rested, thus held in place by the hard, closely packed calico clay floor, a necessary socketing as hydrostatic pressure against the wall posts would be greatest at the base.

The matter of posthole indications is of acute concern in appraising the function of these prehistoric dugouts. A sketch and diary discussion of the postholes uncovered in Pit House 3 is given from the notes of January 3, 1935 (Figure 40).

...Pit House 3 found to be discontinuous in south extension as brought out by features of south profile...Top humus, light tan sand slightly pinkish in color, floor deposits over natural red loam, without iron impregnations and other soil changes noted for Control Trench 5 pit houses heretofore described. Note posthole in floor and east shoulder beyond Station 12. Pit 53 very shallow

depression (Just being troweled off horizontally), really a pocket of midden material on east shoulder of Pit House 3 not more than 3-4 inches deep (later regarded as modern intrusion or disturbance). No historical black or gray midden layer as in other pit house or sink fills. The postholes come in for particular attention, as all three seem to belong to the structural arrangements of the pit house. One is thrust to rough floor deposits but was not intrusive through tan sand fill. Another lies approximately 5 feet to the east in the same profile plane, inserted in red loam, but not intrusive through the tongue of tan sand fill. The floor deposits do not run up the east shoulder of the sink but the tan sand fill does. Finally, the third posthole is shown in the bottom of out, blocked out on a pilaster of red loam. This posthole impression was originally inserted at the surface of the red loam but was not detected until the shovel-men had cut away several inches of soil matrix. The important feature of all three postholes is the fact that they occupy significant positions in the zone of overlap between Pit House 3 and Pit House 9. The third posthole is on the east shoulder but near enough to be structurally significant, if some sort of vestibule entrance might have connected Pit House 3 and 9. The east shoulder is more shelving in this profile panel; floor midden continues up slope a little farther. Again the historic Hack midden is conspicuously absent. Some historic material in humus and most superficial area where plowing would distribute some recent materials. But the sherd collections from the shallow sink deposits, tan sand fill, would indicate by straight Mound D prehistoric collections that this sink was almost certainly not open at the time of European contact.

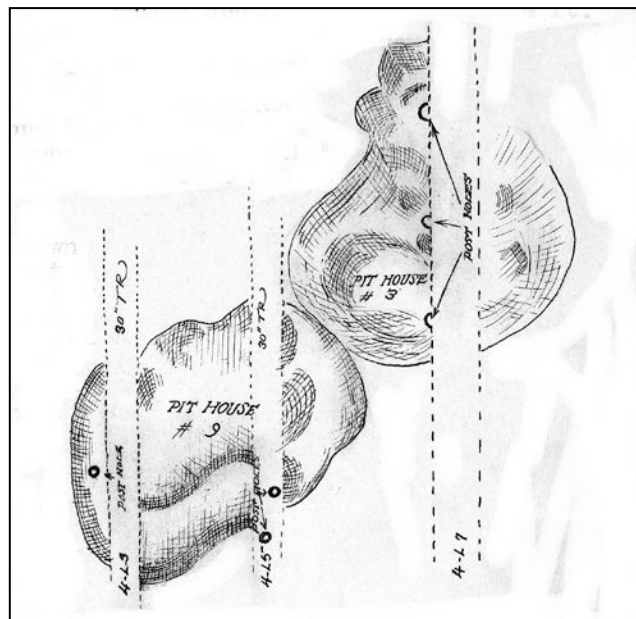


Figure 39: Pit Houses 3 and 9

An unusual type of pottery vessel is indicated by a large rim-herd of thin, strong pottery, decorated with an unusual incised design. The shape indicated for this vessel is also unusual; a slender, cylindrical shape, probably conchoidal, certainly aberrant in the Mound D ceramic series (Figure 41).

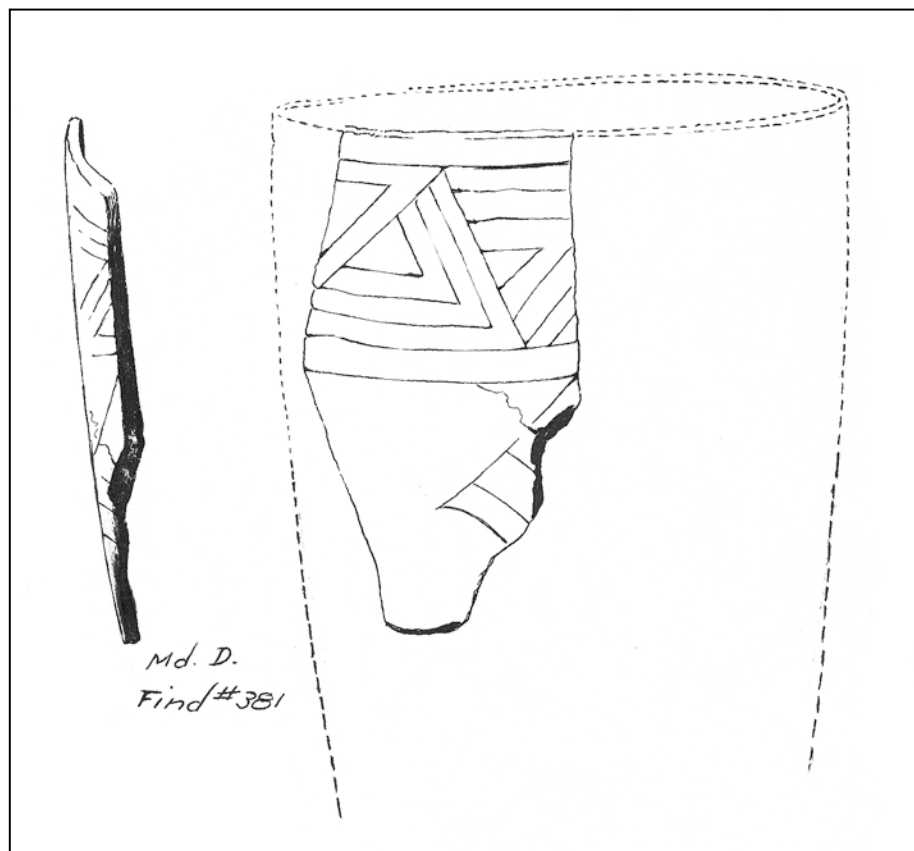


Figure 40: Find 381

At the time when Pit House 3 was being troweled out in the 4-L panel, the discovery *in situ* of a rare pottery piece was recorded with some detail, a fortunate circumstance in the light of recent speculations as to the relations of Macon Plateau to the Southern cult. A sketch from the diary of February 4, 1935, with the account of the pottery find on that day is given below.

...A human hand with outstretched palm is etched in crude lines. The most interesting feature of this design is the concentric arrangement of circles set in the middle palmar region...Both stratigraphically and typologically, the hand and concentric circle design on this sherd come from the deepest provenience hitherto noted for this style in Middle Georgia. The particular sherd came from the combined roof and floor deposits of Pit House 3. A large block of red clay loam is shown in profile to have fallen in over the floor from the west wall of the pit, probably soon after the collapse of the structure.

The sketch given here in text was copied from the diary account on the day the sherd was found. The exact position of the sherd in profile is at the top of the leached basal deposits containing iron precipitates from above. The reddish tan sand and the lighter tan sand-fill elements, in position over the lens of red loam over the basal elements, were windblown or detrital fill to the dugout after the hypothetical collapse of the sod-covered structure. The small lens of dark midden above the red loam fill is an anomalous element which pinches out beyond the present profile cut. The age of the upper sandy fill elements has been indicated in many other dugout profiles by the occurrence of one or more lensed middens containing Fort Hawkins (early 19th century) and Ocmulgee Fields historic trade objects.

Thus far in illustrating the features of the dugouts, sinks, and pit houses, I have utilized the drawings of the artist James Jackson made each day to correlate with the descriptions in the field diaries. Jackson's profile elements record the same depths and relative proportions of fill elements recorded by the engineers. However, for precise planimetric recordation of contours in the prehistoric dugouts, which I have been interpreting as pit houses, the recordings of Engineer Joseph Tamplin are also provided in the text.

At this stage of the excavation discussion, attention is called to the work of Tamplin, in his topographic survey of Pit Houses 9, 3, 4, and Shouldered Pit 49. Shouldered Pit 45 is a small depressed area with interior, or included pit, between Numbers 3 and 4. Tamplin records these contours at 6 inch intervals. The relative shallowness of the linked series of structures we are discussing becomes apparent from a study of the Tamplin planimetric recording. A comparison of Jackson's rendering with that of the topographic survey by the engineers shows a close correspondence, if one allows for the difference in treatment.

Jackson, the artist-draughtsman, worked in daily collaboration with the archeologist. His projections would tend to be colored by the views and extrapolations of the archeologist. The engineering personnel, instrument men, and laboratory draftsmen worked in comparative isolation recording planimetric and profile details with complete detachment. For them it would not have mattered whether they were recording prehistoric dugouts, quarry or borrow pits, moats, sinks and erosional scars, or pit houses. In all fairness to the reader, who reads both text and illustrations and other recorded data, the above statement should be made. Tamplin was an excellent, well-trained engineer, and a graduate of the Georgia School of Technology. James Jackson had a truly remarkable photographic eye. He could sit on the edge of a complicated excavation and reproduce relations by eye scale, which were remarkably congruent with the engineering recordation.

A third class of recorded data to be consulted by the reader of this text has to do with the actual photographs. These were made by the photographer, then considered to be probably the best in Middle Georgia. Photographs could not reproduce details for later consumption in a published account equal to those of either the engineer or the artist draughtsman. The nuances of soil color and texture and the minute and discontinuous lensing and layering of the fill elements exposed in successive profile studies, could not be recorded faithfully even with the intensive use of color filters and other photographer's tricks.

In all cases where profiles were to be recorded, whether sketched, recorded by transit readings, or photographed, the freshly cut cross-section had to be indicated in its discrete fill elements by the archeologist who marked the profile features with a trowel. The ultimate responsibility for scientific judgment in all instances lay with the archeologist. The technicians recorded what he saw. No matter how varied or excellent the recordation techniques, there is no escaping this final source of error in critical judgment. The archeologist cannot enter a *nole*

contendere or nolle prosequi. He had the assistance of several outstanding soil scientists and geologists who visited the site on numerous occasions, as well as archaeologist colleagues who were intrigued by the problem of explicating the prehistoric dugouts.

The interpretation given here may not be accepted by other archaeologists - there was sharp division of opinion on the ground while these dugouts were being profiled and were fresh for observation. It is hoped that sufficient data is provided to enable the critic of this text an opportunity to form his own judgment.

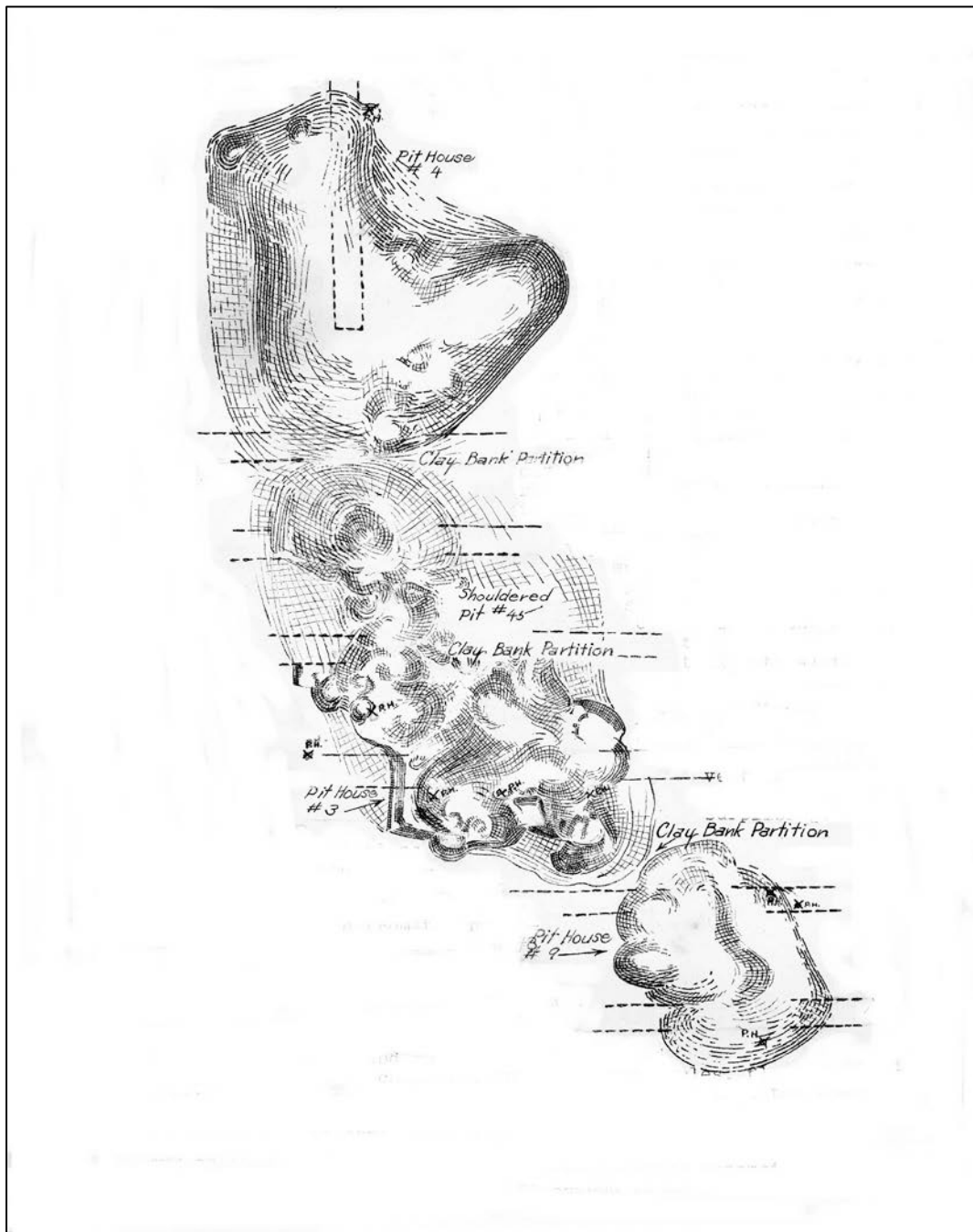


Figure 41: Pit Houses 3, 4, 9, 45, and 49 Plan View

The closely linked character of Pit Houses 3 and 9 still permits of some distinctness, as the clay platform or rim between, though narrow, is well marked between them, as Tamplin's drawing indicates. Pit Houses 3 and 9 had a total depth of not over 3 feet, only slightly deeper than the Shouldered pits 45 and 49. This double 8 duplex unit exhibited the peculiarity that the intrusion of historic materials, with a buried sod, was absent. The notes of January 26, 1935 carry this summary.

...The new pit house shows in diminishing short dimension, a seeming duplex or twin arrangement with Pit House 3. The close proximity of all these five structures (3, 9, 45, 4, 49) and the implied overlap of 3 and 9 raises the important question of how entrance may have been effected...They would all seem to have been short, oval, or roundish bee-hive houses.

This hypothetical suggestion of twin or duplex structures, with some sort of common interest will recur in the excavation accounts of pit Houses 5 and 6 and 2 and 8. All of those were larger, more comprehensive structures on which there are more abundant notes and illustrations.

There remains to be considered the last of the structures, Pit House 4, in the present connected series of five (3, 9, Shouldered Pit 45, 4, Shouldered Pit 49). A study of Tamplin's drawing will show a lengthening of fill elements in this sink, extending eastward, down slope on the East Plateau. Later, in discussion of the confused pattern situation of the duplex structures, Pit Houses 5 and 6, still further down slope toward the East, more evidence will appear that this whole lower section of the East Plateau slope had suffered more intensely from erosion than was the case with the first sinks to be uncovered farther up slope toward the rim of the plateau on which the Council Chamber was found.

The method of exploring by a system of 30 inch cuts, offset trenches from the Control Trenches, is indicated in the sketch provided in the notes of December 27 by James Jackson. The stage of operations as of that date, in which Shouldered Pits 45 and 49 had been troweled out, and Pit House 4 (exposed in 5-2L1 and 5-2L3 offsets), were in process of being profiled successively in 2.5 foot cuts is shown; also Pit House 3 shown to the South in 4-2L7 offset. In this beginning profile of Pit House 4, the dugout evidently did not impress as a potential pit house as indicated in the notes of November 30, 1934: "...Sink breaks off with round calico shoulder abutting north profile...Looks in present profile more like borrow pit; no postholes or signs of vertical supports. This observation in any one profile plane need not definitely rule out the possibility of residential construction..."

The difficulties of working out the margins or limits of Pit House 4 are indicated in the following from the notes of December 3rd, 1934.

...The large sink just north of Shouldered Pit 45 (Pit House 4) was profiled by vertical cuts, east and west 30 inch profiles, to a distance of 20 feet...A portion of the sink is seen to continue north...but the vertical thickness of the fill is diminishing, indicating the fading out of the sink, probably in the next ten foot interval north. The east and northeast confines of the sink have already been troweled out, disclosed in the upward swell of red

clay loam and calico (both natural or geological) which dead ends. Subsoil disclosed in the horizontal stripping toward the north from the 5-L3 line of stations beyond this sink indicates that the red clay loam comes to the surface...This is seventy feet north of the 5-3 stations. An erosional ditch has cut away the top red clay at this point exposing deeper-lying geological formations. That is why the red and white calico, usually 5-6 feet underneath the red clay in the plateau, comes to the surface at this point...For awhile it was considered possible that the erosional ditch might have cut through and washed away an artificial pit sunk into the plateau escarpment at this point.

Superficial soil and fill elements in Pit House 4 were found to duplicate closely those of Shouldered Pit 45.

...The fill is grayish to pinkish sand, pocked at the base with iron precipitates, as in the basal deposits of the large sinks. Continuing north, the 30 inch profile describes a chord through the east shoulder of the circular or oval ellipse of the disturbed for filled sink area, which begins with the 5-L7 stations. The broadest dimension of the fill in the round sink thus cross-sectioned is about 10 feet. If the sink should appear as nearly round as suggested from the clearance, the actual diameter will turn out to be somewhat larger...Superficial deposits closely resemble soil taken out in beginning troweling of fill in Shouldered pit 45. The lower portion is more yellowish and brownish with the usual lensing, and vermiculation from iron precipitates.