

The Lick Skillet Road Upland Survey
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I. Introduction

At the University of Georgia, Laboratory of Archaeology in Athens, Georgia resides a cardboard box with many tattered paper bags inside. All but one of the bags in this box are related to the Upland Wallace Reservoir [Lake Oconee] Survey and were collected by archaeologist Daniel Elliott in 1981. Elliott already recorded of the upland sites (U83) at the UGA Laboratory of Archaeology as 9GE1057, but a second visit there in 1981 yielded additional site information. The other sites are known only by their field numbers (U105 through U117) and no state site forms existed. Official site forms for Field sites (U105-U117) were prepared in 2014. The locations of these “new” sites are shown in Figure 1. The one exception in the cardboard box is a small collection of weathered pottery from 9PM80, which was collected by Daniel Elliott and Rita Elliott in 1990 during a CRM survey of adjacent US Forest Service lands. That collection calls into question the exact identity of the prehistoric culture associated with the construction and use of the rock eagle effigy.

This report focuses on the sites located in Greene County from Elliott’s systematic survey of a plowed field along Lick Skillet Road, north of Greensboro, Georgia. In 2013 Assistant Laboratory Director of the Laboratory of Archaeology, Amanda Thompson instigated a revival of the Lick Skillet Road survey project when she was organizing collections at the Georgia Archaeological Site File. Thompson contacted Elliott with a request for information about this mysterious collection. Elliott responded, the collections were analyzed by laboratory staff and are described in this brief report.

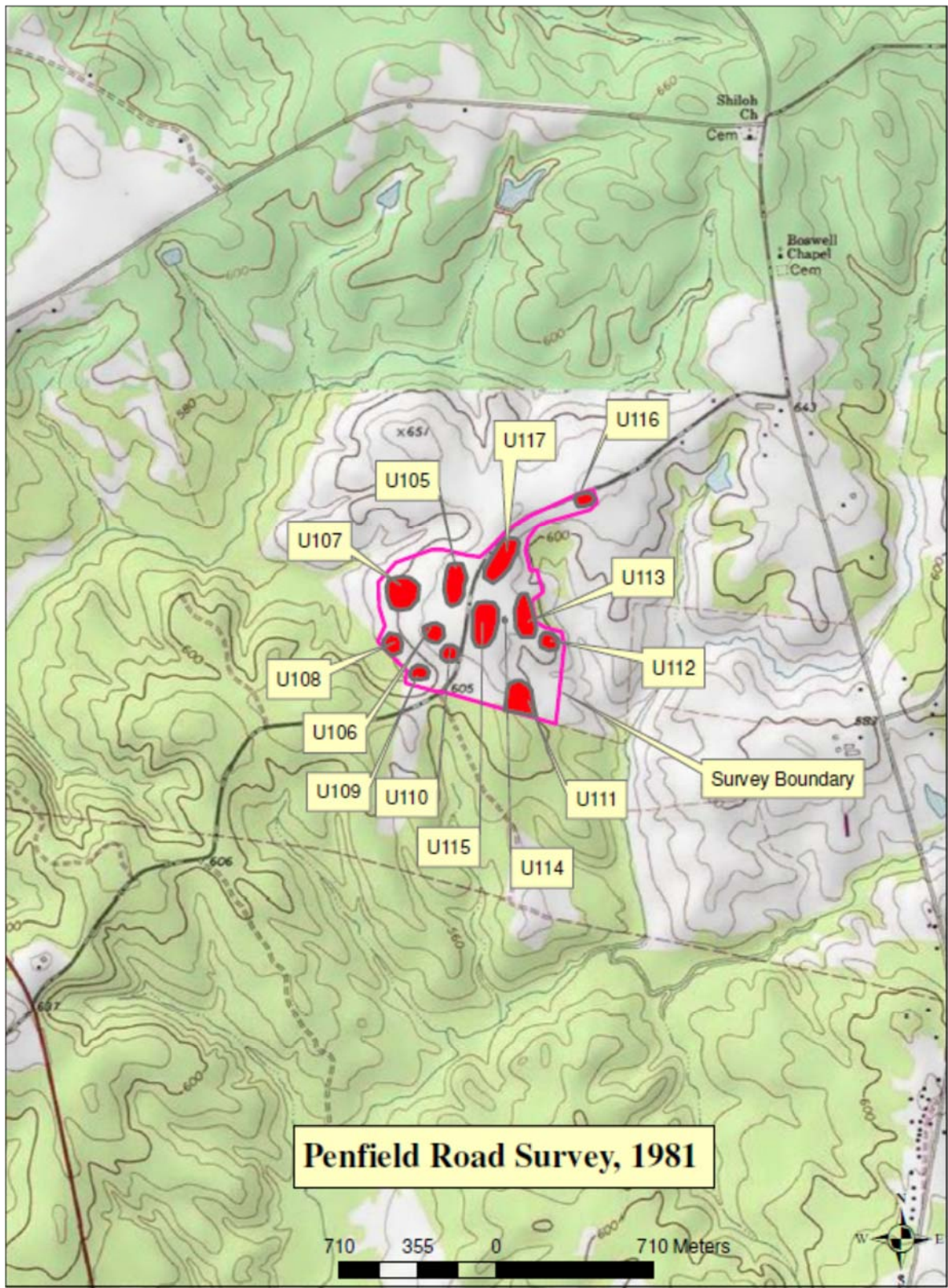


Figure 1. Lick Skillet Road Upland Survey Field Sites, 1981.

II. Background on the Lake Oconee Upland Survey

Archaeological surveys associated with the construction of Georgia Power Company's Lake Oconee (aka Wallace Reservoir) began in the mid-1970s. The earliest survey work was conducted by archaeologist Archie Smith who wrote no formal report detailing that effort. Smith recorded a number of archaeological sites in the region in the University of Georgia site files. Subsequent survey by Chung Ho Lee and Dean Wood identified many sites in the region and their study was documented (Lee and Wood 1973). More systematic survey was reported by University of Georgia researchers (DePratter et al. 1976; DePratter 1983; Fish and Hally 1983). The University of Georgia conducted excavations at a number of Late Mississippian period Lamar sites, including the Dyar Mound (9GE5) and Joe Bell (9MG28) sites (Smith 1994; Williams 1983). As the reservoir construction began, the ground surface was exposed by the large-scale clearing of approximately 14,000 acres of forested lands. Responding to this unique opportunity, archaeologist Paul Fish reallocated funds intended for the archaeological data recovery work in the reservoir basin to a systematic surface survey of these newly cleared areas. Two survey teams, one led by Greg Paulk (Team A) and the other (Team B) by Thomas Gresham, scoured the denuded landforms within the reservoir basin and recorded many archaeological sites. This survey project also had a subsurface component, directed by Jerald Ledbetter, who investigated many identified sites as well as discovering many buried (previously undetected) archaeological sites.

Paul Fish secured additional research funds from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government for an "Upland Survey" of property beyond that intended for Lake Oconee. The upland survey was directed by archaeologist Richard Jefferies, assisted by anthropology graduate student, Daniel Elliott. The upland survey examined exposed landforms along four (1-mile wide) transects extending out from the Oconee River a distance of five miles. Areas surveyed within these transects included mostly cultivated fields and timber clear-cuts. Ideally, the upland survey confined itself to study tracts larger than three acres, although several smaller parcels were included. Neither Fish, Jefferies nor Elliott wrote any formal report of the Upland Survey, although the work was briefly summarized in print by Fish and Hally (1983:13) and by Gresham in his discussion of the Wallace Reservoir surveys (Gresham, in Fish and Kowaleski 1990). Elliott (1978) wrote a brief manuscript summary of the initial upland survey work.

Construction of Lake Oconee was completed in 1979. Archaeological studies of the surrounding lands continued, however, and many important studies were completed and several were published. Elliott (1981) continued his explorations in the Greene County uplands on a large timber tract nicknamed Finch's.

The Finch's Survey data included sites located by Dennis Blanton, Daniel Elliott and others from 1979 to 1981. Elliott's *Early Georgia* article (1981) summarizes the findings but it should not be considered a complete survey report. The artifact collections from most of the sites located in the Finch's Survey mostly were analyzed and curated at the University of Georgia. Collections from a number of sites

collected in 1981 were improperly processed by Elliott, which resulted in some information and artifact loss.

In early 2014, Amanda Roberts Thompson brought to Elliott's attention a cardboard box with numerous artifact bags that were on a shelf at the Laboratory of Archaeology in Athens. This collection mostly were sites recorded along Lick Skillet Road in 1981. The box also included a few other stray collections, including a small surface collection from the Rock Eagle Mound (9PM80), which is detailed by Elliott in a separate report. All of these sites, as well as several field sites from the 1981 work along Lick Skillet Road, for which no artifact collection has survived, are described in this report (see Appendix A for detailed artifact inventory). The area along Lick Skillet Road that was surveyed in 1981 differs from most of the Finch's tract in that it was a plowed field at the time of the survey and the earlier survey areas were almost exclusively managed pine woodlands. The Finch's Survey site collections made prior to 1981 are curated at the University of Georgia, Laboratory of Archaeology are not discussed here.

III. The Lick Skillet Road Upland Survey Sites

Site 9GE1057 (Field Site U83)-

Site 9GE1057 was first located by Elliott as part of the Finch's survey (Elliott 1981). In 1981 Elliott made a second surface collection of an 8 m by 50 m area of this site. The collection was limited to a 20-minute collection time. The site measures approximately 50 m north-south by 30 m east west, which is slightly larger than when first recorded and a revised site form was submitted in 2014. Elliott submitted an updated site form for 9GE1057 in 2014. The artifacts indicate an Iron Horse or Dyar Phase site occupation.

The 1980 survey collection from 9GE1057 contained 100 Lamar sherds. These included: 5 Lamar Bold Incised body, 2 Lamar Bold Incised rims (possibly from the same pottery vessel), 1 unidentified curvilinear complicated stamped body, 4 unidentified complicated body, 10 weathered body, 1 weathered Lamar rim and 77 Lamar Plain body sherds.

The second surface collection from 1981 yielded:

- 1 Lamar Bold Incised body,
- 3 Lamar Medium Incised body,
- 1 Simple rim,
- 1 Cane Punctated and Folded rim,
- 1 Folded and Pinched rim,
- 32 Lamar Plain body,
- 27 unidentified complicated body sherds,
- 1 quartz tertiary flake, and
- 1 Coastal Plain chunk.

9GE3621 (Field Site U105)-

Elliott made a systematic collection of surface materials from this site in 1981. He completed a site form in 2014. This site contains a surface deposit of Lamar ceramics. The artifacts indicate site occupation in the Swift Creek, Etowah, and Lamar (Duvall, Dyar and Bell phases) periods. The collection includes:

- 1 Swift Creek Complicated Stamped body,
- 1 Lamar Fine Incised body,
- 20 Lamar Plain body,
- 7 Etowah Complicated Stamped body,
- 1 rosette decorated rim,
- 1 plain aboriginal pipe fragment,
- 2 quartz flakes, and
- 1 soapstone fragment.

The collection also includes glass and refined earthenware. The pottery scatter measures approximately 200 meters north-south by 100 meters east-west. The site was in cultivation in 1981 but has since reverted to pasture.

9GE3622 (Field Site U106)-

Elliott made a general surface collection from this site in 1981, which is curated at the UGA Laboratory of Archaeology. A site form was completed in 2014. This site contains a surface deposit of Lamar ceramics. The collection also includes historic artifacts. The artifact scatter measures approximately 80 meters east-west by 75 meters north-south. The site was in cultivation in 1981 but has since reverted to pasture. The collection includes:

- 3 Lamar Plain body,
- 1 Coastal Plain uniface, and
- 1 Morrow Mountain quartz Projectile Point/Knife (PPK).

9GE3623 (Field Site U107)-

Elliott made a general surface collection from this site in 1981, which is curated at the UGA Laboratory of Archaeology. He completed a site form in 2014. The artifact scatter measures approximately 125 meters in diameter. The site was in cultivation in 1981. This site contains a surface deposit of Lamar ceramics, which likely date to the Dyar phase. The collection also includes historic artifacts (see Appendix A). The collection includes:

- 6 Lamar Bold Incised body,
- 2 Lamar Medium Incised body,
- 10 Lamar Plain body,
- 40 unidentified complicated stamped body,
- 1 Lamar Fine Incised rim,
- 1 quartz nondiagnostic biface, and
- 1 quartz shatter.

9GE3624(Field Site U108)-

Elliott made a general surface collection from this site in 1981, which is curated at the UGA Laboratory of Archaeology. He completed a site form in 2014. This site contains a surface deposit of a Late Archaic Savannah River stemmed projectile point. It also included one historic ceramic. The artifact scatter measures approximately 80 meters north-south by 68 meters east-west. The site was in cultivation in 1981 but has since reverted to pasture. The collection includes:

- 1 unspecified Archaic period short stemmed quartz PPK,
- 8 quartz biface fragments, and
- 23 quartz flakes.

9GE3625 (Field Site U109)-

Elliott made a general surface collection from this site in 1981, which is curated at the UGA Laboratory of Archaeology. He completed a site form in 2014. This site contains a surface deposit of Lamar ceramics and a probable Early Lamar site occupation. The artifact scatter measures approximately 70 meters east-west by 55 meters north-south. The site was in cultivation in 1981 but has since reverted to pasture. The collection includes:

- 1 Lamar Bold Incised body,
- 5 quartz flakes, and
- 3 quartz shatter.

9GE3626 (Field Site U110)-

Elliott made a general surface collection from this site, which is curated at the UGA Laboratory of Archaeology. He completed a site form in 2014. This site contains a surface deposit of Lamar ceramics. The artifacts indicate Bell Phase site occupation. The artifact scatter measures approximately 65 meters in diameter. The site was in cultivation in 1981 but has since reverted to pasture. The collection includes:

- 1 Lamar Bold Incised body,
- 5 Lamar Fine Incised body,
- 46 Lamar Plain body,
- 13 Lamar Complicated Stamped body,
- 1 wide, folded and pinched rim, and
- 1 Lamar Fine Incised rim.

9GE3627 (Field Site U111)-

The artifact collections from Field Sites U111 through U117 are more problematic. These collections were discarded by Elliott's landlord from their temporary storage place at Elliott's rented residence in Greenwood, South Carolina in 1983, prior to complete laboratory analysis. Site collections consisted of Lamar incised ceramics, undecorated grit tempered sherds, and possibly other aboriginal ceramics and chipped stone artifacts. No official site forms are on file for Field Sites U111 through U117. Some component information was collected by Elliott from these sites, however, which he included in his site distribution maps for the Finch's Survey (Elliott 1984:16, 18-21). These data were used to complete the site forms in 2014.

Elliott made a general surface collection at this site in 1981, which was accidentally discarded in Greenwood County, South Carolina in 1983. He completed a site form in 2014. This site contains a surface deposit of Lamar ceramics that likely date to the Dyar phase. The scatter measures approximately at least 124 meters north-south by 124 meters east-west. The site was in cultivation in 1981 but has since reverted to pasture.

9GE3628 (Field Site U112)-

Elliott made a general surface collection at this site in 1981, which was accidentally discarded in 1983. A site form was completed in 2014. This site contains a surface deposit of Lamar ceramics that likely date to the Dyar phase. The scatter measures approximately 69 meters east-west by 65 meters north-south. The site was in cultivation in 1981 but has since reverted to pasture.

9GE3629 (Field Site U113)-

Elliott made a general surface collection at this site in 1981, which was accidentally discarded in 1983. A site form was completed in 2014. This site contains a surface deposit of Lamar ceramics that likely date to the Dyar and Bell phases. The scatter measures approximately 162 meters north-south by 78 meters east-west. The site was in cultivation in 1981 but has since reverted to pasture.

9GE3630 (Field Site U114)-

Elliott made a general surface collection at this site in 1981, which was accidentally discarded in 1983. A site form was completed in 2014. This site contains a surface deposit of unspecified aboriginal artifacts. The scatter measures approximately 14 meters in diameter. The site was in cultivation in 1981 but has since reverted to pasture.

9GE3631 (Field Site U115)-

Elliott made a general surface collection at this site in 1981, which was accidentally discarded in 1983. A site form was completed in 2014. This site contains a surface deposit of Lamar ceramics. The artifacts indicate site occupation in the Duvall, Dyar and Bell phases. The scatter measures approximately 174 meters north-south by 101 meters east-west. The site was in cultivation in 1981 but has since reverted to pasture.

9GE3632 (Field Site U116)-

Elliott made a general surface collection at this site in 1981, which was accidentally discarded in 1983. A site form was completed in 2014. This site contains a surface deposit of Lamar ceramics. The scatter measures approximately 74 meters east-west by 50 meters north-south. The site was in cultivation in 1981 but has since reverted to pasture.

9GE3633 (Field Site U117)-

Elliott made a general surface collection at this site in 1981, which was accidentally discarded in 1983. A site form was completed in 2014. This site contains a surface deposit of Early Archaic, Middle Archaic, and Early-Middle Mississippian chipped stone tools and Lamar ceramics. The Lamar ceramics probably date to the Dyar phase. The artifact scatter measures approximately 190 meters northeast-southwest by 78 meters northwest-southeast. A small portion of the site contained a concentration of Madison type small triangular projectile point preforms and discarded manufacturing rejects made from clear crystal quartz. This projectile point manufacturing workshop is very similar to another upland workshop reported by Elliott at the Dirty Sock site on a ridgetop above Sandy Creek in Clarke County, Georgia (Elliott 1982). That workshop also exploited clear and milky quartz to make small Madison triangular points and the discards included preforms, small projectile point fragments and debitage. The Cold Springs site (9GE10) also yielded quantities of small triangular points made from clear crystal quartz and

debitage that would suggest local manufacture. It should be noted, however, that the Lamar period sites in the Lake Oconee region typically do not contain small triangular projectile points. Etowah culture sites, as well as Vining phase sites do display this type of site. The Madison point workshop at this site is likely the product of a brief, specialized activity by a small Early-Middle Mississippian group (or individual). This lithic workshop is surrounded by a much larger ceramic scatter that is unrelated to it. The site was in cultivation in 1981 but has since reverted to pasture.

IV. Summary

This report details the findings of an upland archaeological survey in Greene County, Georgia that was conducted by Daniel Elliott in 1981. These 12 sites are collectively grouped as the Lick Skillet Road Upland survey, which was the continuation of 1979-1980 survey work in the area immediately to the southwest of the Lick Skillet Road sites, better known as the Finch's Survey (Elliott 1981). The Lick Skillet Road survey data indicates a continuation of the dense Lamar period upland settlements that were documented by the earlier Finch's Survey. The delay in reporting on the Lick Skillet Road survey is the fault of the first author (Elliott). The second author (Thompson) prodded and encouraged Elliott to complete the survey.

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Appendix A. Artifact Inventory

9GE1057		
Artifact Type	Ct.	Wt. (g)
Quartz Tertiary Flake	1	1.7
Coastal Plain Chunk	1	5.2
UID Complicated Stamped, body	27	190.8
Lamar Bold Incised, body	1	4
Lamar Medium Incised, body	3	16
Simple rim	1	4.9
Cane Punctated Folded rim	1	8.3
Folded, Pinched rim	2	11.8
Lamar Plain, body	32	191.2
Sherdlets	N/A	134.7

9GE3621		
Artifact Type	Ct.	Wt. (g)
Glass, Olive Green	1	4.1
Refined Earthenware, Plain	1	2.5
Quartz Flake	2	7.9
Soapstone (?) Frag.	1	4.5
Quartz, Unmodified Frag.	1	156.1
Pipe Frag.	1	2
Rosette rim	1	8.1
Swift Creek Complicated Stamped, body	1	6.7
Etowah Complicated Stamped, body	7	66.2
Lamar Plain, body	20	155.2
Sherdlets	N/A	52.4

9GE3622		
Artifact Type	Ct.	Wt. (g)
Shell Frag.	1	0.2
Button, Milk Glass	1	0.5
Glass, Amber	3	2.5
Glass, Aqua	1	1
Glass, Clear	3	23.1
Glass, Dark Olive Green	3	55.7
Glass, Opaque	3	9.9
Glass, Yellowish-Green	1	21.4
Annularware, Banded	3	5.2
Pearlware, Blue Edged	2	6.5
Pearlware, Blue Transfer Printed	2	3
Pearlware, Green Edged	5	11
Pearlware, Hand Painted Blue and White	3	8.9
Pearlware, Hand Painted Polychrome	1	0.3
Pearlware, Sponged	3	29.6
Porcelain Insulator	1	90.8
Porcelain, Black Transfer Printed	1	9.9
9GE3622 Cont.		

Porcelain, Plain	4	11.6
Refined Earthenware, Plain	35	90.3
Stoneware, Albany	1	
Stoneware, Alkaline Glazed	1	7.9
Stoneware, Base	2	60.1
Stoneware, Brown Salt Glazed	4	57.5
Stoneware, Gray Salt Glazed	4	60.8
UID Refined Earthenware Handle	2	16.5
UID Stoneware	1	27.9
Whiteware, Blue Transfer Printed Base	1	12.1
Whiteware, Handle	1	2.6
Shoe Frag.	1	4.2
Quartz PPK, Morrow Mountain (?)	1	7.9
Quartz Shatter	1	16.2
Coastal Plain Uniface	1	4.6
Slate Frag.	1	9.1
Nail Frag.	3	16.3
Lamar Plain (?), body	3	32.2

9GE3623		
Artifact Type	Ct.	Wt. (g)
Glass, Aqua	2	18
Stoneware, Salt Glazed	1	1.8
Stoneware, Alkaline Glazed	2	39.2
Stoneware, Alkaline Glazed base	1	48.4
Yellowware	1	11
Annularware, Banded	1	2.5
Refined Earthenware, Plain	9	39.4
Refined Earthenware, Plain rim	6	41.3
Refined Earthenware, Plain base	7	42.4
Quartz Shatter	1	1.4
Quartz Biface Frag.	1	13.3
Lamar Fine Incised, rim	6	41.3
Lamar Bold Incised, rim	6	36.3
Lamar Medium Incised, rim	2	20.7
Folded, Pinched rim	1	7.2
Lamar Plain, body	10	76.6
Sherdlets	N/A	72.7
UID Complicated Stamped, body	40	279.2

9GE3624		
Artifact Type	Ct.	Wt. (g)
Refined Earthenware, Plain Rim	1	0.6
Quartz Woodland Stemmed PPK	1	7.2
Quartz Biface Frag.	8	112.7
Quartz Flake	23	206.2

9GE3625		
Artifact Type	Ct	Wt. (g)
Quartz Shatter	3	22.6
Quartz Flakes	5	20.1
Lamar Bold Incised, body	1	9

9GE3626		
Artifact Type	Ct.	Wt. (g)
Shell Frag.	5	3.9
Pearlware, Plain Base	1	2.2
Pearlware, Blue Edged	1	3.9
Quartz Shatter	2	5.4
Lamar Complicated Stamped, body	13	86.6
Lamar Bold Incised, body	1	5.3
Lamar Fine Incised, body	5	35.3
Lamar Plain, body	46	286.4
Lamar Fine Incised rim	1	2.2
Wide Folded Pinched rim	1	10.4
Sherdlets	N/A	85.5