# ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING AT THE KENIMER SITE, 9WH68

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## Introduction

The Kenimer site (9Wh68) is located in the community of Sautee in White County, Georgia, just a mile east of the famous Nacoochee site (9Wh3) in the Chattahoochee River valley. The site is owned by Elizabeth Tucker, who runs a Bed and Breakfast facility just northwest of the site. In the summer of 1997, the University of Georgia conducted brief testing of the site as part of the Archaeology Field School of the Department of Anthropology, under the direction of the author. This brief report describes the site and presents the results of this simple testing project on this unusual and important site.

The project took place from July 14 to July 16, 1997. In fact, the actual time on the site totaled just two days. The crew consisted of me as Field Director, John Chamblee as Field Assistant, and the following 15 UGA students: Adrienne Bruce, Kristin Chiari, Hugh Dorsey, Sharon Egan, Elsa Heckman, Meredith Jackson, Steve Lotti, Jeff Rhodes, Ricah Marquez, Maron Nasser, Ryan Ross, Steve Sears, Adam Vaiden, Emily Williams, and Alan Young. I thank John and the students for their hard work.

We all stayed in the old gymnasium at the Sautee School thanks to the kind help of Jimmy Johnston, Executive Director of the Sautee-Nacoochee Community Association. I thank Elizabeth Tucker for permitting us to conduct our brief project on her property and for sharing her knowledge of the site with me. I also thank Dr. Tom Lumsden, local historian, for sharing his memories of the site and providing me with much background on the local area.

I thank David Hally of the University of Georgia Department of Anthropology and Jim Langford of the Coosawattee Foundation for sharing with me their notes on their visit to the site in 1986. Additionally, I thank Allen Stovall, my colleague at the University of Georgia (Landscape Architecture), a native of the Nacoochee Valley, for opening many doors and making this little project possible.

Finally, I thank Julie Markin, Archaeology Doctoral Student in the Department of Anthropology, for her cheerful and competent help in completing this project.

This version of the report was lightly edited in December 2010 by the author.

## Background

Although an impressive site, Kenimer was not recognized as such by the archaeological community in Georgia until quite recently. The Nacoochee mound (9Wh3), with its famous gazebo surmounting it, is located only 2.4 kilometers to the west of Kenimer. Nacoochee was extensively excavated in 1915 by The Museum of the American Indian in New York (Heye, Hodge, and Pepper 1918). No mention of the Kenimer site is made in their report, however. In 1939 the late Robert Wauchope conducted extensive excavations at several sites in the vicinity of the Kenimer site. Specifically, he conducted major excavations in the Eastwood Site, 9Wh2, located about 500 meters south of Kenimer in the flood plain of the Chattahoochee River.

Dr. Tom Lumsden reports that he was a water boy for Wauchope's project in 1939 and knew of the mounds at Kenimer. Lumsden reports that he attempted to get Wauchope to walk up the hill to see Kenimer, but Wauchope declined, and thus the site was not reported in Wauchope's famous archaeological survey report of northern Georgia (Wauchope 1966).

On January 4, 1986, the site was visited by archaeologists David Hally and Jim Langford. They made a sketch map of the two mounds and collected three sherds from a tree fall on the summit of the larger mound (UGA Catalog Number 33015).

Hally filled out a site form for the site in May of 1989, thus officially recording the site for the first time (as site 9Wh68). Hally and Langford identified the sherds as perhaps Late Woodland (Napier) in date. They noticed an old open excavation trench in the smaller mound (Mound B). This trench was still present during our visit to the site, and Tom Lumsden reports that he dug the trench in 1940 or 1941 after Wauchope had left Georgia. Lumsden claims very little was seen or found. We plotted its location but did not refill the trench.

## Site Setting

The Kenimer site is located at UTM Coordinates 3840900 North and 254400 East (Zone 17). This places the site on a high hill just to the north of and overlooking the Nacoochee Valley. The hill, likely an erosional remnant, dominates the Chattahoochee River valley to the west and the Sautee River valley to the northeast. The junction of these two large streams is about 1.5 kilometers to the southeast of the site. Modern Highway 17 runs east-west about 300 meters north of the large mound (Mound A).

The elevation of Mound A is approximately 1450 feet above sea level and about 150 feet above the level of the flood plain of the rivers to the immediate south. The topography to the east of the hill near the mounds drops very rapidly—a fall would be quite dangerous. To the west the hill drops more gradually, while a long ridge leads away from the mounds to the south, eventually dropping to the flood plain.

The subsoil at the site is a thick red clay. The vegetation of the site is a mixed, mature pine and hardwood forest. Many Mountain Laurel and Rhododendron bushes are located on and around the site. It is a beautiful and impressive place. A small road leading from Highway 17 on the northern side of the site skirts the northern edge of Mound A, winds around its western side, passing between Mounds A and B, and then turns southward to the ridge toward the flood plain. Another old road fragment runs from the northern access road to the northeastern side of Mound A. This appears to have been created as a raised area or causeway, but I believe it to be historic in age.

## Site Nature

I first visited the Kenimer site in April of 1997 and, in spite of conversations with Hally and Langford, was unprepared for what I saw. There was one clear, small mound (hereafter called Mound B), but there was also a huge, flat-topped rectangular mound-like feature (hereafter called Mound A). This mound was larger than I had imagined and looked quite well-formed. This huge feature seemed to be in the size class of Mound A at Ocmulgee (9Bi1) or other huge mounds in the Southeast. Surely a mound this large could not be real and have gone unnoticed until recent years by archaeologists! I knew that a few sherds had been found here before, but this was not too surprising. Further, I have seen many natural hills that have eroded to a shape that is similar to that of man-made mounds.

The strange thing about Mound A at Kenimer, however, was its location atop a high and steep, but rather small, hilltop. This type of location is unprecedented for such mounds, and it is not surprising that Wauchope did not believe it could have been real. Essentially, there is no flat ground around Mound A upon which houses or a village could easily have been placed.

Mound B lies immediately adjacent to Mound A on its west-southwestern side. It also appeared to be somewhat rectangular in shape. Thus, the real question of our simple testing project quickly became “Is Mound A a natural or a man-made feature?”

## Mapping the Site

It was immediately clear that the first step to better understand this enigmatic site was to make a good map - for our own use as well as for others to judge for themselves. The mapping of the site was augmented by the newly acquired Total Station and digital data recorder of the UGA Department of Anthropology. This laser transit made mapping much easier, but this was one of the first times we had used the instrument, and, unfortunately, without adequate training. John Chamblee and I recorded what seemed like appropriate data from appropriate transit points. As it turned out, our errors created problems that, fortunately, the staff of C&G Software Systems in Atlanta were able to iron out, giving us usable data.

The mapping began from a point on the summit of Mound B. Eight radiating lines were shot from its summit, with elevation readings made at about 1 meter intervals on each line. A few other lines off Mound B were shot from the summit, and then a new transit point was established by shooting-in a point on the southern summit edge of Mound A. A number of points were shot on the Mound A summit from this second instrument point, and eventually a third instrument point was established in the center of the summit of Mound A (Figure 4). From this location all of the post hole and shovel tests we conducted on its summit were easily recorded with the Total Station. The results of the mapping are presented in Figure 5.

As can be seen from this map, Mound A is certainly not a perfect rectangle. Indeed, the eastern portion of the summit is very irregular in shape. This portion is larger and more rounded than the other three "corners." Further, it is higher than the rest of the summit. While the top is generally flat, a gradual rise of almost a meter was noted between the extreme western end and the eastern corner. The orientation of Mound A is best defined by the northwestern and southwestern sides. In this sense, the mound is oriented approximately 45 degrees to the cardinal directions. The height of

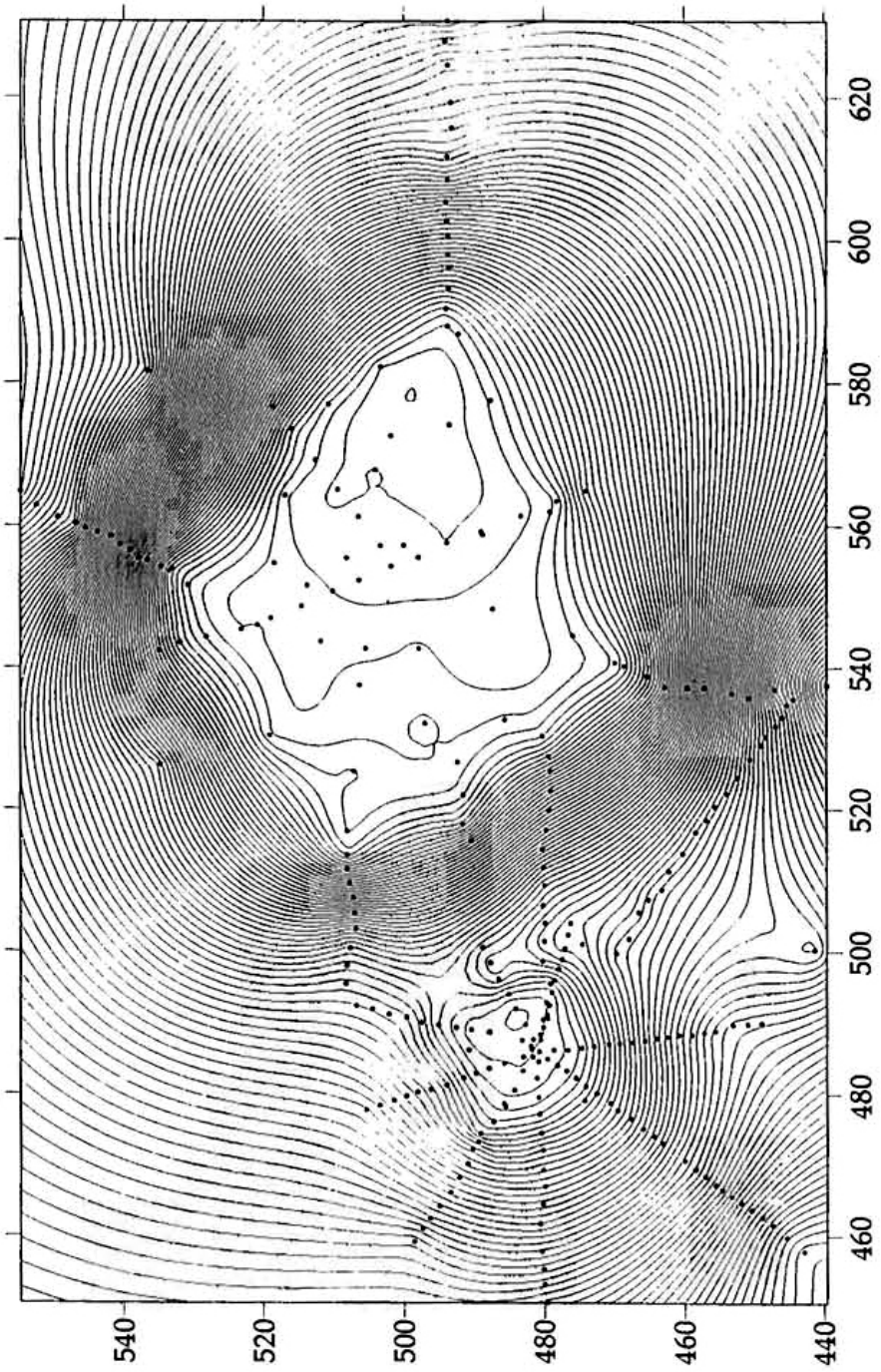


**Figure 4.** Location of Elevation Readings.

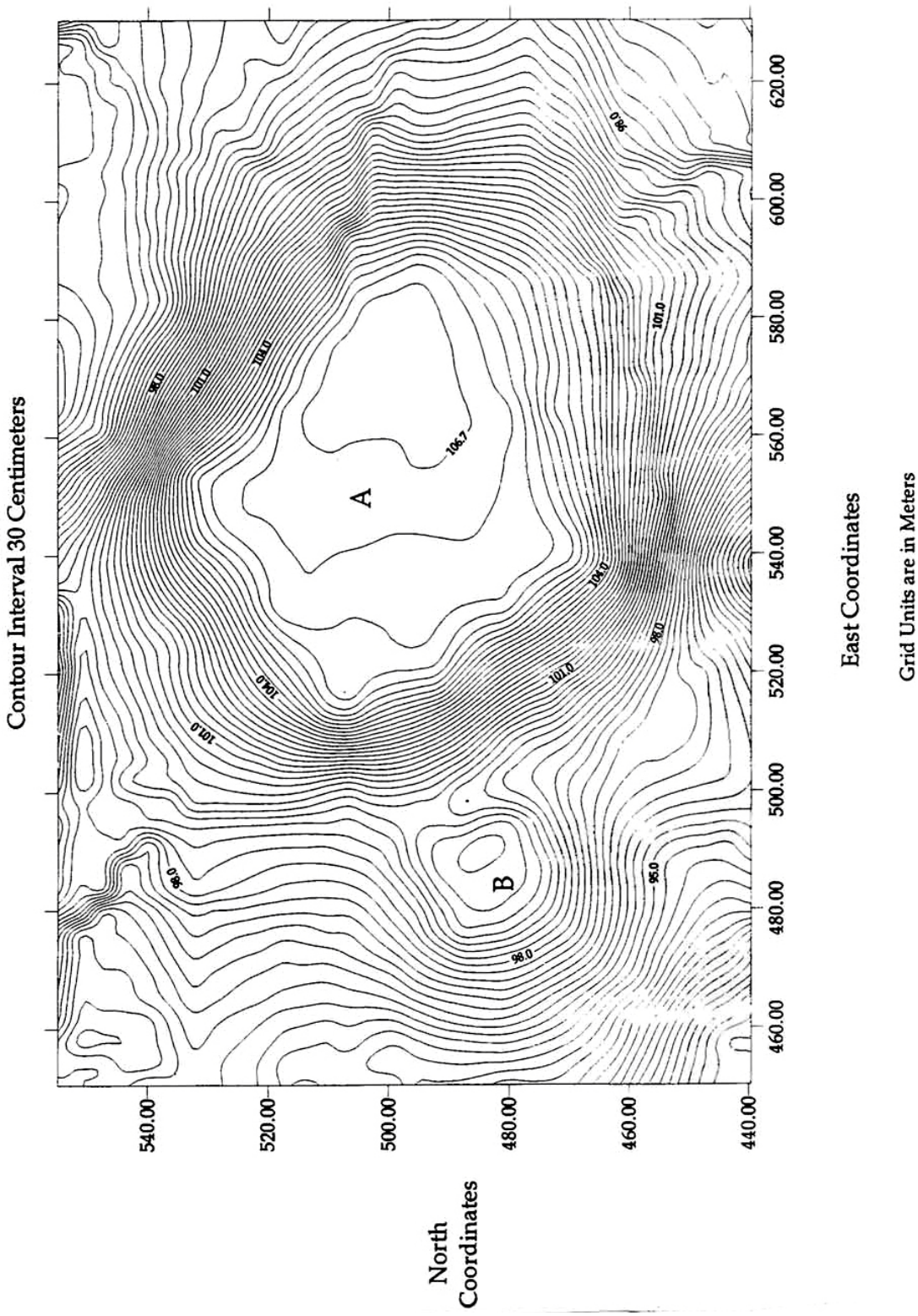


**Figure 5.** Site Map.
Contour Interval = 30 Centimeters

Mound A varies tremendously depending upon what one chooses to call the base, since it projects from a hilltop as mentioned earlier. On the high northeastern side, the mound is over 10 meters (35 feet) high, while adjacent to Mound B on the western side, it is only about 6 meters (20 feet) high. The summit is approximately 46 meters (150 feet) square, although the irregular eastern edge expands this measure somewhat in that direction. Clearly this is one oddly shaped mound.

Mound B is obviously much smaller and, in many ways, more typical of the sort of small mound that might be placed in such a hilltop location. It is somewhat rectangular and oriented at the same angle as Mound A. Indeed, the northwestern edges of the two mounds are in a virtual straight line B they seem to have been intentionally planned in this manner. Mound B is approximately 12 meters (40 feet) square on its summit. The elevation, again, is very difficult to estimate accurately because it is different on each side. In general, however, the mound is not much over about 1 meter (3 feet) high.

## Excavations on Mound A

No formal excavation squares or trenches were excavated in our brief testing at Kenimer. Instead, post hole tests and shovel tests were excavated in order to determine the location and distribution of artifacts throughout the site in the brief time available for the project. The majority of these tests were placed upon the surface of Mound A, while a few were placed in Mound B. A number were also placed on the three ridges that converge on Mound A - the South Ridge, the Northeastern Ridge, and the Northwestern Ridge.

The most important question we attempted to answer was "what is the nature of Mound A?" From an examination of the mound's location on a hilltop, its odd shape and uneven top, an initial hypothesis was easily formed — this mound was a natural hill that was shaped by extraordinary effort into a roughly rectangular shape. The presence of pottery over the summit means that Indians used (and created) the odd mound. As the highest part of the mound is on the eastern end, this may have originally been the location of the top of the steep hill. The Indians may have taken earth from the summit of the original peaked hill and moved it to the west to create the generalized rectangular shape of what became Mound A.

To test this hypothesis, a series of post hole and auger tests were placed on Mound A.

These post hole tests were 16 in number, and their locations on the mound summit are shown in Figure 7. All the fill was screened with ¼ inch mesh hardware cloth. The stratigraphic data for each of these post holes is listed in the appendix. The depths of these holes varied from as little as 40 centimeters to as much as 640 œntimeters. The seven deepest holes were excavated through the use of a bucket auger the same size as the post hole digger (about 20 centimeters).

In terms of clear answers to how Mound A was built, the post hole/auger tests yielded none. The stratigraphic situation is complex at best, and impossible at worst. There is a great deal of variation in terms of soil types and colors, with red clays and variations thereof being the most common. Perhaps this is what is to be expected if my hypothesis about the mound's construction is correct. Bedrock was not encountered in any hole. I should add that I do not believe the shape of the entire hill is natural, but I also do not believe that it is entirely artificial. Many more auger tests will be needed to make a final determination.

In addition to the post hole/auger tests, a series of 10 shovel tests were placed on the summit of Mound A. These were excavated only to ca. 30 centimeters and were undertaken simply to collect sherds by screening the surface layer of the mound. Their locations were placed complementary to the locations of the post hole tests in order to completely cover the mound summit. The locations are also shown on Figure 7.

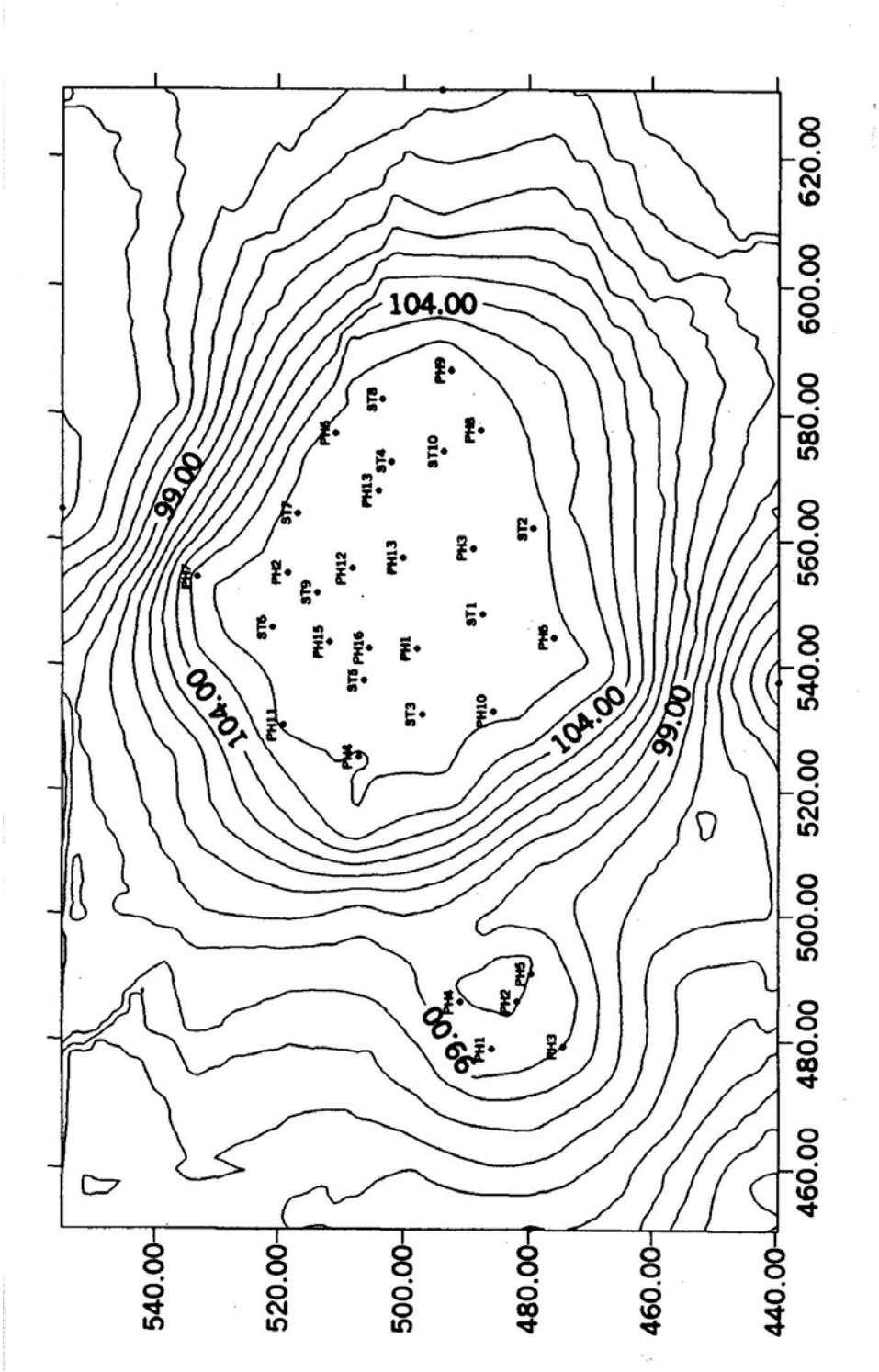


**Figure 7.** Location of Post Hole and Shovel Tests.

## Excavations on Mound B

Even fewer excavations were conducted on the tiny Mound B. A series of six screened post hole tests were placed on and around the mound. These were placed in an attempt to discover details of the structure of this more traditional looking mound and to hopefully recover relevant artifacts. There were very few artifacts found, and the details of the mound as revealed by these few tests was, like Mound A, confusing. The mound does appear to be artificially constructed, however, since a few of the post holes produced what appeared to be pre-mound humus at depths just under 1 meter. The details of these post holes are also presented in the Appendix.

The trench in Mound B, excavated around 1940 by Tom Lumsden, was on the northeastern part of the mound and was oriented in a northeast-southwest direction. It had been about a meter wide and about 6 meters long. It does not appear that the trench went entirely through to the base of the mound, but this conclusion is uncertain. The trench has eroded and stabilized itself throughout the last 60 years. We cleaned a small section (1.5 meters wide by 30 centimeters high) of the northwestern side of this trench to see if any profile development could be seen. Unfortunately, no variation was seen in this limited section.

I believe Mound B is mostly an artificial mound, but it, like Mound A, may have been built on a slight knoll. Certainly more intense excavations will be needed to be certain. Is it a burial mound, for example?

## Excavations off the Mounds

The excavations off the mounds were also screened shovel tests, as well as a few post hole / auger tests. These were grouped into five separate little projects that were excavated by different crews.

Crew 1 conducted a series of three shovel tests down the ridge located to the southwest of Mound A and the south of Mound B. These began about 20 meters southwest of Mound A and were placed at 20 meter intervals to the southwest. None of these yielded any sherds.

Crew 2 conducted a series of eight shovel tests on a rough line that ran generally between the two mounds. The distance between the tests ranged from 15 to 20 meters. This line began slightly northwest of Mound B, curved between the mounds, and terminated below the southern corner of mound A, generally running very close to the bases of the mounds. Five of the eight tests yielded sherds. The negative tests were the ones located at distances greater than about 5 meters from the base of the mounds.

Crew 3 placed a series of four shovel tests to the northwest of Mound A. These began about 10 meters from the base of Mound A and extended to the northwest at 20 meter intervals along the top of what we have called the Northwestern Ridge. All four of these shovel tests were negative and support the observation made above for the southern side of Mound A -- that no sherds are present at distances more than about 5 meters from the base of the feature.

Crew 4 placed a series of five shovel tests around the base of Mound A on its northeastern perimeter. These began at the base of the mound, below the northern corner, and went to the east. These tests averaged about 15 meters between each other. Two of the tests had sherds, and three were negative. The test immediately down from the northern corner was the richest of all the tests of the mounds, producing 6 sherds. The other positive test here, some 35 meters to the east, produced a single sherd.

Crew 5 placed three post hole / auger tests on the so-called road ramp, mentioned earlier, on the northeastern side of Mound A. No sherds were found in these, and the information was inconclusive about the origin of this odd feature.

In summary, 23 shovel tests were excavated off the mounds at Kenimer. Only seven of these had potsherds located in them. All of these were located within 5 meters of the base of Mound A, and none were located on the various ridges that converge to form the site locale. The implication for this is that there is nothing that can be called a village or even any habitation off of Mound A. Indeed, the distribution implies that the sherds around the base of Mound A may well have originated on Mound A and were washed or thrown down the sides of the mound to its base.

## Artifact Analysis

The Kenimer site project did not produce large numbers of artifacts. At least two reasons may explain this. The first is that the excavations we conducted were minimal and included no formal excavation squares. The second is related to the fact that the density of artifacts at the site is low by comparison with many sites and that no specific areas of garbage deposition were located. Taken together, I believe this site was occupied for only a very brief interval of time.

The only classes of artifacts recovered were ceramics and quartz flakes. The lithic material may date to any period in the last 12,000 years, and may or may not be related to the period of mound construction. The pottery, however, must be associated with that period of construction. Just as Hally and Langford noted in their brief sample, virtually all the pottery recovered by this project seems to date to the Late Woodland Napier period (ca. AD 900). I will present a few more comments about Napier after presenting the data itself.

The following tables present the data for the artifacts from Kenimer. Table 1 shows the ceramics by shovel tests and post hole tests for Mound A alone. As can be

**Table 1.** Ceramics from Mound A

| Provenience | Lot | Description | Plain | Napier Comp. Stamp | UID Comp. Stamp | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Shovel Test 1: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | Shovel Test 2: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 1 | 3 | Shovel Test 3: Mound A | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| 1 | 4 | Shovel Test 4: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 1 | 5 | Shovel Test 5: Mound A | 2 | 9 | 0 | 11 |
| 1 | 6 | Shovel Test 6: Mound A | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 7 | Shovel Test 7: Mound A | 4 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| 1 | 8 | Shovel Test 8: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 9 | Post Hole 1: Mound A | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 1 | 10 | Post Hole 2: Mound A | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 11 | Post Hole 3: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 12 | Post Hole 4: Mound A | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 1 | 13 | Post Hole 5: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 14 | Post Hole 6: Mound A | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| 1 | 15 | Post Hole 7: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 16 | Post Hole 8: Mound A | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 1 | 17 | Post Hole 9: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 18 | Post Hole 10: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 19 | Post Hole 11: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 20 | Post Hole 12: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 21 | Post Hole 13: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Totals | | | 16 | 14 | 14 | 44 |

seen, the total number of sherds is only 44. Of the clearly identifiable sherds, 14 were Napier Complicated Stamped. Further, the 14 sherds classified as Unidentified Complicated Stamped are likely also Napier, but were too small or too lightly stamped to permit confident identifications. The plain sherds were of similar paste and thickness to the Napier sherds and are undoubtedly associated with the same period. Note that 13 out of the 21 tests produced sherds. Although there are minor differences in the density with these tests over the summit of Mound A, the numbers are simply too small to permit any statements of differential distribution over the summit of the mound. In other words, there are ceramics over the entire summit of the mound. Further excavations on the summit may clarify this. I wish to emphasize, however, that the overall density is low across the surface of the mound.

Table 2 shows the ceramics from the Mound B shovel tests, as well as the ceramics from the shovel and post hole tests around the base of Mound A. As can be seen, the only sherds from Mound B were two plain sherds. The only sherds clearly identifiable to type were Napier Complicated Stamped sherds, just as on the summit of Mound A. Again, the plain sherds were of similar paste and thickness to the Napier sherds, as were the Unidentified Complicated Stamped sherds.

**Table 2**. Ceramics from Other Localities on the Site

| Provenience | Lot | Description | Plain | Napier Comp. Stamp | UID Comp. Stamp | Other | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 1 | Post Hole 1: Mound B | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 2 | Post Hole 2: Mound B | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2 | 3 | Post Hole 4: Mound B | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 4 | Post Hole 5: Mound B | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 1 | Shovel Test 1: NE Ridge | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 3 | 2 | Shovel Test 3: NE Ridge | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 | 3 | Shovel Test 5: NE Ridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 4 | Shovel Test 1: SW Ridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 5 | Post Hole 1: SW Ridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 6 | Shovel Test 2: Between Mounds | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| 3 | 7 | Shovel Test 4: Between Mounds | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 3 | 8 | Shovel Test 5: Between Mounds | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 | 9 | Shovel Test 6: Between Mounds | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 3 | 10 | Shovel Test 7: Between Mounds | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | General Surface Collection | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Totals | | | 13 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 21 |

Lithic artifacts from the site were equally rare. Table 3 presents the lithics from the summit of Mound A. The total number of specimens is only 16.

**Table 3.** Lithics from Mound A

| Provenience | Lot | Description | Quartz Flakes | Chert Flakes | Quartz Shatter | Chert Shatter | Quartz Core | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Shovel Test 1: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 2 | Shovel Test 2: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 1 | 3 | Shovel Test 3: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 4 | Shovel Test 4: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 1 | 5 | Shovel Test 5: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 6 | Shovel Test 6: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 7 | Shovel Test 7: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 8 | Shovel Test 8: Mound A | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 9 | Post Hole 1: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 10 | Post Hole 2: Mound A | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 11 | Post Hole 3: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 12 | Post Hole 4: Mound A | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 13 | Post Hole 5: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 14 | Post Hole 6: Mound A | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| 1 | 15 | Post Hole 7: Mound A | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 16 | Post Hole 8: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 17 | Post Hole 9: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 18 | Post Hole 10: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 19 | Post Hole 11: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 20 | Post Hole 12: Mound A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 21 | Post Hole 13: Mound A | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Totals | | | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 16 |

The lithics are about equally distributed between local quartz and Ridge and Valley chert from northwestern Georgia. While it is reasonable that these materials on the summit are associated with the Napier component, there is no proof in the way of recognizable and datable tool styles. The flakes are all small retouch flakes. The well-known difficulty in identifying quartz cores and shatter make these identifications a bit uncertain. These may actually represent naturally fractured local quartz.

The lithics from the rest of the site are presented in table 4. The data here is quite unremarkable except for the rarity of material. The material is representative of the same pattern, such as it is, from the summit of Mound A.

**Table 4**. Lithics from Other Locations on the Site

| Provenience | Lot | Description | Chert Flakes | Quartz Shatter | Chert Shatter | Quartz Core | Quartz Utilized Flake | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 1 | Post Hole 1: Mound B | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2 | 2 | Post Hole 2: Mound B | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 3 | Post Hole 4: Mound B | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | 4 | Post Hole 5: Mound B | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 1 | Shovel Test 1: NE Ridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 | 2 | Shovel Test 3: NE Ridge | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 3 | 3 | Shovel Test 5: NE Ridge | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 | 4 | Shovel Test 1: SW Ridge | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 3 | 5 | Post Hole 1: SW Ridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | 6 | Shovel Test 2: Between Mounds | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 3 | 7 | Shovel Test 4: Between Mounds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 8 | Shovel Test 5: Between Mounds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 9 | Shovel Test 6: Between Mounds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 10 | Shovel Test 7: Between Mounds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | 1 | General Surface Collection | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | | | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 13 |

The only other artifact of note was a small greenstone celt from Post Hole 11 on the summit of Mound A. This must date to the Napier period, and it is uncertain why it was located where it was.

## Summary and Observations

Having worked in many areas of Georgia and seen sites over the eastern United States for over 30 years, I am forced to conclude that the Kenimer site is a very unusual archaeological site. Strange might be a better word. This site clearly was established by people during the Late-Woodland Napier period. This information alone is valuable, because this site may represent the only known Napier mounds in existence. A few other mound sites have small amounts of Napier pottery, but in no cases that I know, is there a single-component mound site of this period.

The nature of the Kenimer site is also strange. Its location on the steep slopes away from the floodplain of the Chattahoochee River would make village life difficult at best. Indeed, the Kenimer site is not a village, since the shovel tests show that the occupation is almost completely confined to the mounds themselves. There is no surrounding occupation. There is no "village". Perhaps there is a true small village of this period in the floodplain of the river nearby, but its location has not been identified as of this writing. The Kenimer site, then, is perhaps best thought of as a special purpose site of some sort. It does not seem to be similar to what we normally think of as the center of a chiefdom located hypothetically in the Nacoochee Valley, at least based upon comparisons with Mississippian mounds and centers elsewhere in the Eastern United States.

The lack of any significant midden deposits at the site implies one of several possibilities. The first possibility, and the one I generally favor, is that the site was not occupied or used for an extended period of time. I would suggest that it is possible that the site was occupied for a very short period – perhaps not even the lifetime of a person, and perhaps no more than a decade or two. The second possibility is that the use of the site did not involve normal living activities as such, and that cooking activities were not a part of the normal use of the site. Countering this possibility, however, is the fact that the Napier pottery is relatively evenly, if thinly, distributed over the summit of Mound A, implying that cooking was conducted at one time or another over the entire area.

A third possibility might be that the vessels that are present were never intended as cooking vessels but were used instead to hold something not related to food preparation at all. What that activity might be is completely unknown at present.

Another strange thing about the site is the nature of Mound A itself. This structure was apparently made by sculpting a pointed hill into a truncated pseudo-pyramid shape, a very rare process in the South. The only other such structure known to me is the Emerald Mound near Natchez, Mississippi, where construction activity was carried out. That site apparently dates to a much later period than this one, however.

In any event, Mound A at the Kenimer site is the product of a large and organized human labor force during the Napier period. The final form is similar to that of Mississippian mound sites of this period, such as the Macon Plateau site some 100 miles to the south, but the mounds there are created in the "usual" manner of successive stages. Mound A at Kenimer was apparently created as a single event. It is perhaps not inappropriate to mention the possibility that the Kenimer Mound A was made to emulate such mound sites as Ocmulgee, by people that did not understand the construction history or social/religious context of such features. While this speculation may turn out to be completely false, this site, more than any I have worked on through the years, seems to demand speculation.

Of course, the only way to understand this intriguing site will ultimately be to conduct more formal and detailed archaeological excavations at the site. I hope the simple testing and mapping project reported here will stimulate someone to undertake this essential work in the near future. What a fascinating part of Georgia prehistory!

## References Cited

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# APPENDIX

## Post Hole Test Information

(Depths are in centimeters; an A marks a hole deepened with the auger)

| PH # | DEPTH | NOTES |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0-10 | Brown Loam - 2 Sherds |
| 1 | 20 | Orange Clay Loam |
| 1 | 30 | Bright Orange Moist Clay Loam |
| 1 | 50 | Bright Orange Moist Clay Loam with much Mica |
| 1 | 90 | Crumbly Red Moist Clay and Weathered Quartz |
| 1 | 100 | Tan Sandy Loam |
| 1 | 105 | Large Burnished Plain Sherd |
| 1 | 110 | Mixed Tan Sandy Loam and Chunky Red Clay |
| 1 | 125 | Chunky Red Clay |
| 1A | 200 | Lumpy Red Clay |
| 1A | 260-280 | Brown Sandy Loam |
| 1A | 320 | Reddish Brown Sandy Loam |
| 1A | 330 | Fine Tan Silt with Orange Clay |
| 1A | 360 | Greyish Tan Silt with much Rotten Granite |
| 1A | 400 | Light Brown Silt |
| 1A | 420 | Reddish Brown Clayey Silt |
| 1A | 450 | Reddish Brown Silt with some Crushed Granite |
| 1A | 480 | Greyish While Silt with Bits of Mica |
| 1A | 580 | Grey Silt with Some Crushed Granite |
| 1A | 600 | Fine Tan Silt |
| 1A | 640 | End of Hole |
| 2 | 10-20 | Yellow Sandy Loam |
| 2 | 35 | 1 Sherd |
| 2 | 40 | Orange Clay Loam with mica - 1 Sherd |
| 2 | 60 | Red Clay |
| 2 | 100 | Sandy Red Clay |
| 2 | 110 | Mixed Brown Sand and Red Clay |
| 2 | 125 | Mixed Brown Sand and Red Clay |
| 3 | 0-20 | Dark Humus |
| 3 | 30 | Red Clay |
| 3 | 40 | Reddish Tan Loam |
| 3 | 75 | Redder, less Silty Clay |
| 3 | 90 | Hard Lumpy Red Clay - Chert |
| 3 | 105 | Silty Red Clay |
| 3 | 115 | Hard Lumpy Red Clay |
| 4 | 5 | Fine Grey Humus |
| 4 | 30 | Fine Light Tan Loam |
| 4 | 40 | Mixed Orange & Grey Clay Loam with Charcoal |
| 4 | 45-50 | Fine Orange Clay Loam |
| 4 | 70 | Chunky Moist Orange Clay |
| 4 | 80 | Fine Moist Reddish-Orange Moist Clay |
| 4 | 90 | Red Clay |
| 4 | 110 | Chunky Red Clay |
| 4 | 120 | Reddish yellow Sandy Clay |
| 4 | 123 | Yellow Sandy Clay |
| 4A | 123-150 | Brownish Red Silty Clay |
| 4A | 240 | Reddish Brown Silty Clay |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4A | 260 | Red Clay |
| 4A | 310 | Light Red Sandy Clay |
| 4A | 340 | Light Brownish Red Sandy Clay |
| 4A | 360 | Rock Stopped Hole Here |
| 5 | Surface | 1 Sherd |
| 5 | 10 | Sandy Loam with Pebbles |
| 5 | 10-20 | Brown Sandy Loam |
| 5 | 20-30 | Sandy Red Clay |
| 5 | 30 | Mixed Sand and Red Clay |
| 5 | 40-65 | Mixed Sand and Red Clay with Pebbles |
| 5 | 65-70 | Lighter Sand with some Clay |
| 5 | 80 | A few sheds |
| 5 | 80-90 | Sandy Red Clay with Charcoal |
| 5A | 100 | Red Clay |
| 5A | 140 | Silty Red Clay |
| 5A | 170 | Red Clay with Rotten Granite - 1 Flake |
| 5A | 250 | Silty Sandy Red Clay |
| 5A | 280 | Light Tan Sandy Loam |
| 5A | 300 | Orange Tan Sandy Clay with Pebbles |
| 5A | 320-340 | Light Orange Tan Silt |
| 5A | 360 | Light Brown Sandy Loam |
| 5A | 390 | Greyish Sandy Loam |
| 5A | 400 | End of Hole |
| 6 | Top | Brown Loam |
| 6 | 30 | Sandy Red Clay |
| 6 | 45 | 2 sherds |
| 6 | 55 | Water Worn Rock in Dark Brown Midden Soil |
| 6 | 70 | "Mixed Tan, Brown, and Red Sandy Loam" |
| 6 | 80 | Red Clay |
| 6 | 100 | Lighter Tan Clay |
| 6 | 115 | Light Silty Clay |
| 6 | 135 | Light Reddish Tan Loam |
| 7 | 20 | Brown Sandy Loam |
| 7 | 30 | Clumpy Orange Red Clay Loam |
| 7 | 40 | Thick Red Clay |
| 7 | 50 | Thick Red Clay |
| 7 | 60 | Finer Red Clay |
| 7 | 70 | Yellowish Tan Sandy Loam |
| 7 | 90 | Mixed Tan Loam & Clumpy Red Clay |
| 7 | 115 | Mixed Tan Loam & Clumpy Red Clay - 1 chert Flake |
| 7 | 130 | Thick Red Clay |
| 7A | 140 | Thick Red Clay |
| 7A | 170 | Mixed Brown Red Clay |
| 7A | 180 | Light Tan Sandy Loam with Granite Chunks |
| 7A | 200-220 | Brown Sandy Clay |
| 7A | 230 | Red Brown Silty Clay - Rock Stops Hole Here |
| 8 | Top | Brown Sandy Loam |
| 8 | 25-30 | Reddish Brown Silty Clay |
| 8 | 35-40 | Lumpy Red Clay |
| 8 | 55 | Chunky Red Clay |
| 8 | 120 | Chunky Red Clay |
| 9 | 0-10 | Brown Humus |
| 9 | 10-20 | Some Red Clay Added |
| 9 | 115 | Yellowish Loam |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9A | 125 | Reddish Tan Lumpy Clay |
| 9A | 170-180 | Light Brown Sandy Loam |
| 9A | 210 | Mixed Red, Brown, and Silver Sandy Clay |
| 10 | Top | Brown Sandy Loam |
| 10 | 20-30 | Very Light Silty Tan Loam |
| 10 | 80 | Dark Brown Sandy Loam |
| 10 | 90 | Reddish Brown Loam |
| 10 | 120 | Reddish Brown Loam |
| 10 | 190 | Reddish Brown Loam |
| 11 | 5 | Sandy Yellow Humus |
| 11 | 15 | Sandy Orange Clay Loam |
| 11 | 35 | Rocky Red Clay Loam |
| 11 | 68 | Red Clay |
| 11 | 90 | Sandy Red Clay Loam |
| 11 | 110 | Greenstone Celt |
| 12 | Top | Brown Sandy Loam |
| 12 | 30 | Lumpy Silty Red Clay |
| 12 | 80 | Lumpy Red Clay |
| 12 | 120 | Lumpy Red Clay |
| 13 | 0-10 | Yellowish Brown Sandy Humus |
| 13 | 10-25 | Red Clay more Common |
| 13 | 40 | End of Hole |
| 13A | 100 | Red Sandy Clay with Rocks |
| 13A | 200 | Red Silty Clay |
| 13A | 270 | Orange Tan Silty Clay |
| 13A | 295 | Light Brown and Orange Sandy Clay |
| 13A | 300-310 | Very Light Tan Sandy Loam |
| 14 | 5 | Grey Tan Sandy Loam |
| 14 | 20 | Orange Sandy Loam |
| 14 | 30 | More Orange Clay Loam |
| 14 | 60 | Red Clay |
| 14 | 70 | Clumpy Red Clay |
| 14 | 100 | Brown Sandy Loam |
| 14 | 110 | Red Clay |
| 14A | 220 | Sandy Red Clay |
| 14A | 250 | Light Reddish Tan Silty Loam |
| 14A | 330 | Red Clay |
| 14A | 340-350 | Tan Sandy Loam |
| 15 | 5 | Black Humus |
| 15 | 10 | Brown Sandy Loam |
| 15 | 20 | Orange Tan Sandy Loam |
| 15 | 40 | Mixed Red Clay and Yellow Brown Sand |
| 15 | 45 | Dark Red Clay |
| 15 | 50 | Sandy Red Clay |
| 15 | 55 | Rock stops Hole at this Level |
| 16 | Top | Black Humus |
| 16 | 5 | Tan Sandy Loam |
| 16 | 20 | Orange Sandy Loam |
| 16 | 40 | Red Clay |

**Mound B Post Hole Tests**

| PH | Depth | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0-70 | Light Sandy Brown, turning to yellow then orange |
| 1 | 70-90 | Basket Loading? |
| 1 | 135 | Never turned bright red |
| 2 | 0-40 | Light sandy brown loam |
| 2 | 40-110 | Red Loam |
| 2 | 110 | Dark red clay, 1 sherd |
| 3 | 0-10 | Sandy brown loam |
| 3 | 10-65 | Red silt clay loam |
| 3 | 65-70 | mixed dark brown and red clay |
| 3 | 70 | Dark brown loam |
| 3 | 100 | Red clay |
| 3 | 140 | End of hole |
| 4 | 0-10 | Humus |
| 4 | 10-55 | Red clay loam |
| 4 | 55-70 | Dark brown loam |
| 4 | 70-80 | Mixed dark brown and red clay |
| 4 | 80 | Flake |
| 4 | 130 | Red clay |
| 4 | 135 | End |
| 5 | 0-10 | Humus |
| 5 | 10-60 | Red clay |
| 6 | 0-30 | Humus |
| 6 | 30 | Red sandy loam |
| 6 | 60 | Black midden |
| 6 | 115 | Red clay |