

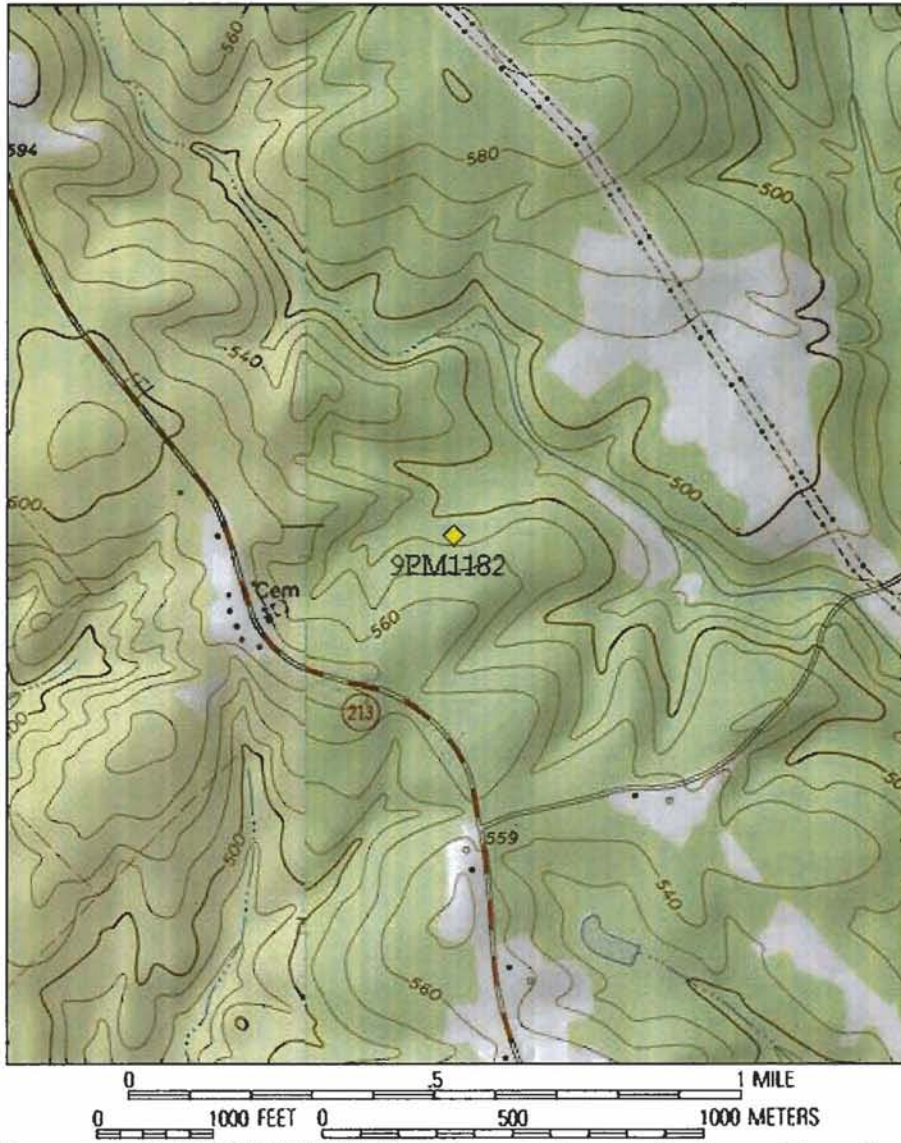
Test Excavations at the Leah and Zack Site, 9PM1182

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This brief report presents data on a small Lamar period farmstead, 9PM1182, located near the northwestern corner of Putnam County, Georgia. The work took place during the summer of 2002 under the direction of the author and as part of the summer 2002 University of Georgia Archaeology Field School. The site was located on June 27, 2002, as part of a survey of a new 20 acre Research Field on property owned by the Warnell School of Forestry of the University of Georgia. It was named after the authors children, who happened to be along on the day of the survey. We subsequently returned to the site to conduct simple testing operations on July 1-2 and July 8-9. The crew for the excavations consisted of the following students: Erin Andrews, Tara Coile, Ryan Duggar, Jacob Estes, James Fitzgerald, Jennifer Funk, Jason Grey, Kate Kruskamp, Nicole Polhill, Christopher Rayle, Emily Reynolds, Phinizy Spaulding, Jr., Bethany Smith, Daye Stewart, and Gail Tomczak. Zack Williams and Leah Williams also volunteered on the project. The field work was under the direction of the author and Field Assistant, Jared Wood.

On the day we discovered the site it had been plowed just a day or two earlier as part of its preparation for planting pine trees. As part of the preparation, a deep chisel plow was used on the heavily eroded red clay hillside. The site is located just up hill from the southern side of a small, unnamed, but deeply entrenched creek that forms part of the Big Indian Creek drainage. The exact location of the site is at 3700046 North and 267918 East (NAD 1927). See Figure 1 on the next page. Essentially what we located was a scatter of small pottery sherds, just like hundreds of similar sites known



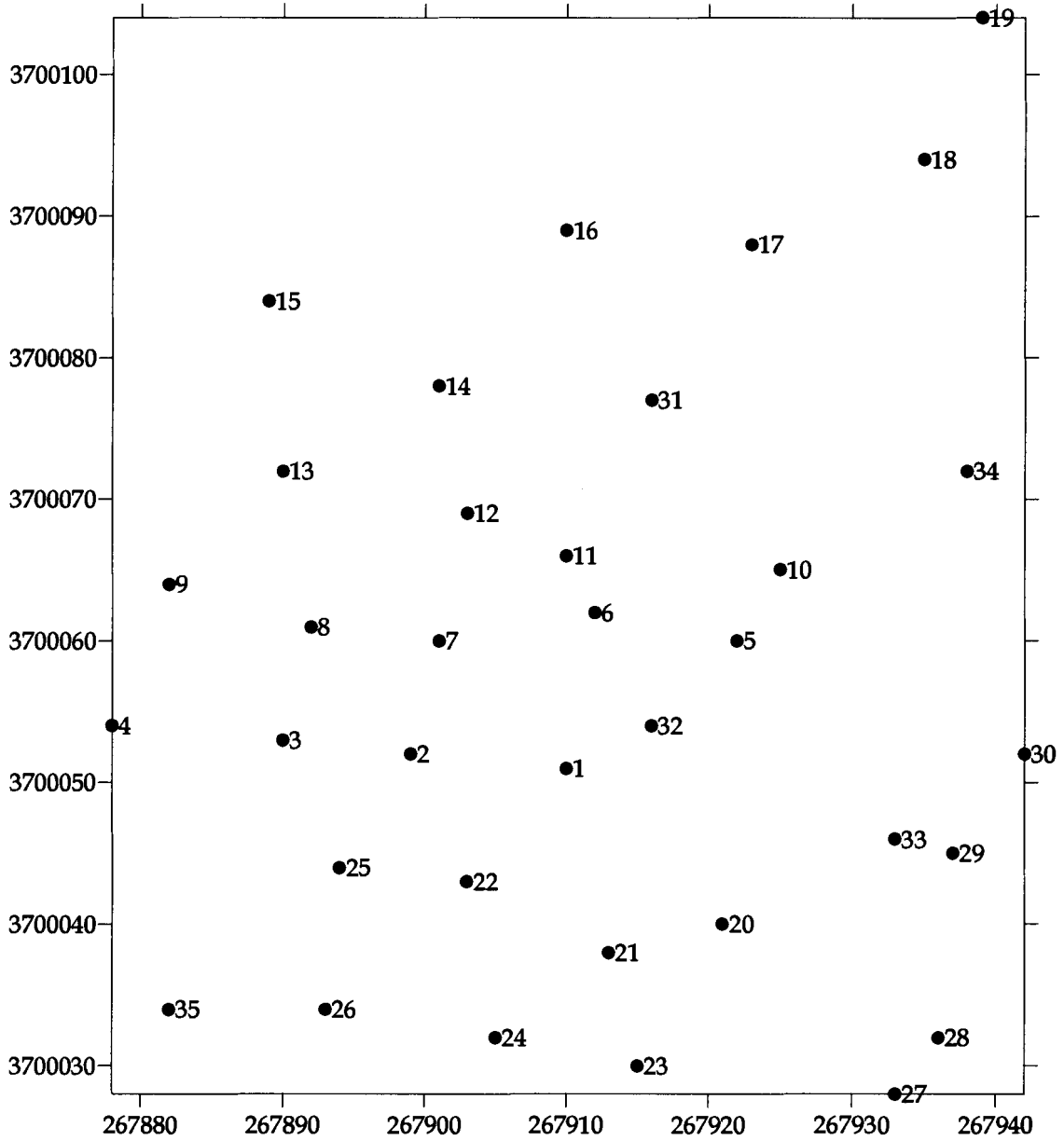
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Figure 1. Local Site Location.

to occupy the Little River drainage in central Georgia. What was a bit fortunate, however, was that one of the deep chisel plow lines went into a feature on the edge of the site and turned up some black midden soil and several larger sherds. The major goal of the project then became the excavation of this feature in order to recover better preserved artifacts as a good sample of the data at the farmstead. We also decided to make a simple contour map of the site and conduct limited shovel testing to define the distribution of the artifacts over the site. Further we decided to dig a single additional excavation unit to recover a larger sample of sherds from the site. We also made several surface collections to better define the artifact distribution and to increase the artifact count. But the major goal was to excavate Feature 1.

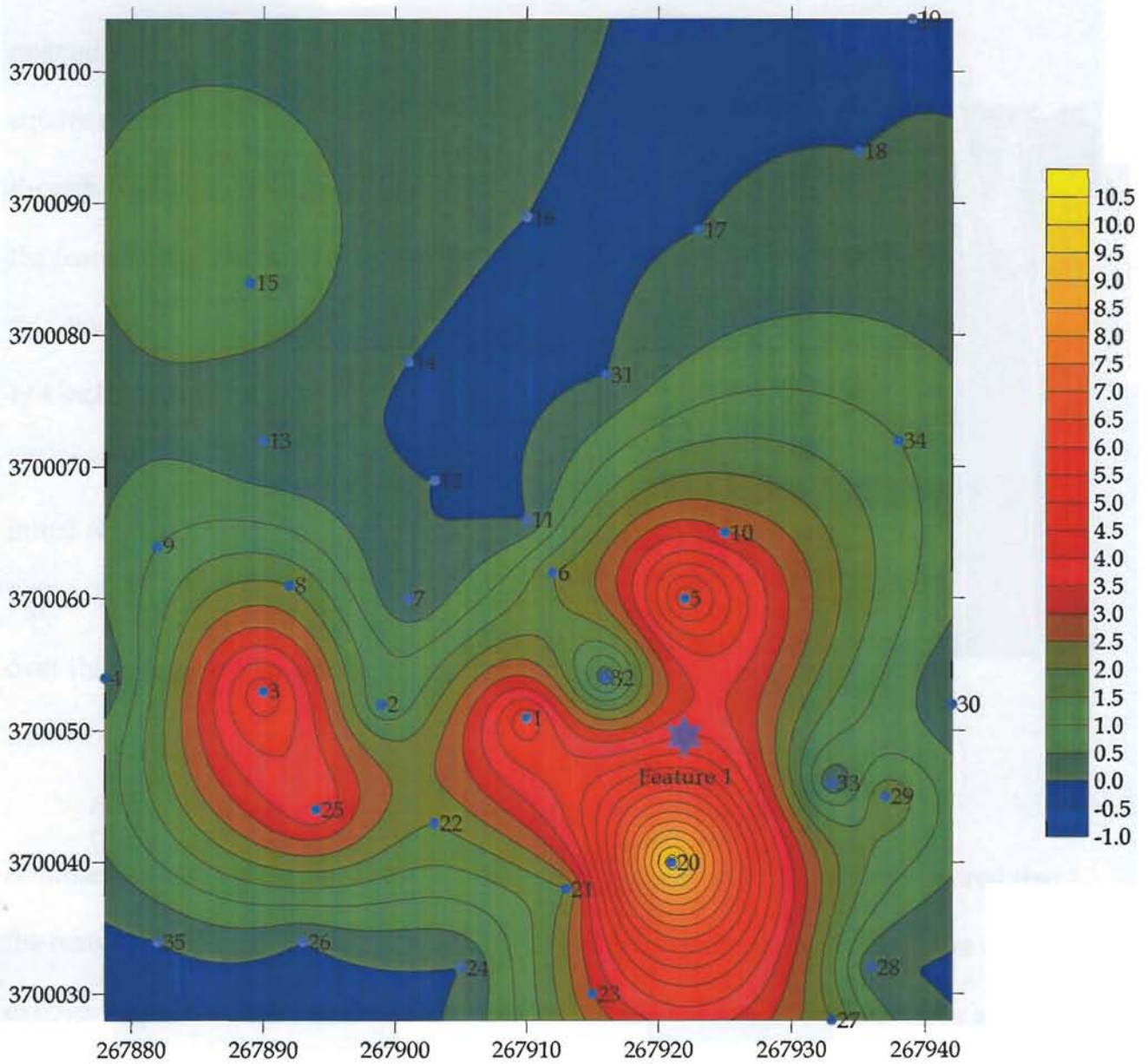
The first task was to make a contour map of the end of the ridge crest upon which the site was located. This was accomplished using a Sokkia Set 6F Total Station and a Psion data collector. The software used was C&G Field Plus. The total number of elevations recorded was 61, and the location of the total Station (3700034 North, 267911 East) was assigned an arbitrary elevation of 100 meters (it is actually closer to 155 meters above sea level). The data were then plotted using Surfer 8 from Golden Software. The map is presented here in Figure 2, along with the plotted location of the shovel tests, and the location of Feature 1. The range of elevation across the site was about three meters, which I consider to be a moderately sloped living area. There is no substantial portion of the site that is truly flat, although the slope is much steeper as one moves toward the creek just to the north of the mapped area.

The second small project consisted of conducting shovel tests at somewhat regular intervals across the corner of the field where surface collections indicated that the site was centered. These were numbered consecutively through 35. Each was mapped by using a Garmin GPS V GPS unit, using an external antenna to increase sensitivity. The plotted pattern of the shovel test locations on Figure 2 (and Figure 3) matched perfectly with the actual tests in the field. Shovel tests were 20 centimeters wide and were all taken to sterile red clay soil, which averaged 30 centimeters in depth. All the soil was screened through 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth to recover artifacts. The sherds from each hole were counted and the data are presented in the Appendix. Figure 3 shows the density of sherds from the 35 holes based upon the number of sherds in each hole. The maximum number of sherds in any hole (Number 20) was 10. The pattern of sherd density consists basically of two subareas, a larger one on the eastern side, and a smaller one on the western side of the site. As can be seen, Feature 1 is located near the center of the eastern area. It is tempting to interpret this pattern as the western cluster being the location of the house, and the eastern area being the location of the yard activities associated with the family that lived at this site. Only full excavation can verify this possibility, however.



Shovel Test Locations

Figure 2.



Zack and Leah Site
 Sherd Density
 Based Upon Post Hole Tests

Figure 3.

Excavation Unit 1 was made to excavate Feature 1 that had been noted on the surface as a black midden area with several larger sherds and shells. We initially opened a 3 by 3 meter square over what we thought was the center of the feature. The fill from this was screened through 1/4 inch hardware cloth to recover artifacts. The initial work is shown in Figure 4. The darker area over the feature is in the closer corner in this photo.



Figure 4. Initial Excavation over Feature 1.

After we completed the first square to sterile red clay at just under 10 centimeters, and were able to define the edge of the feature better, we discovered that the feature continued out of our square to the southwest. In order to complete the exposure of the feature, we therefore, excavated a second three by three meter square in this direction. It adjoined Square 1, but was offset one meter to the west. The excavation of this second unit is visible in Figure 5 on the next page, which is looking toward the southwest. The area of the feature is in the center of the overlap of the two squares. It was also about 10 centimeters deep to sterile soil.

The completely revealed feature is shown in Figure 6, looking toward the south. It is clear that the recent deep plowing left distinct plow scars, one of which went through the western side of the oval shaped feature.

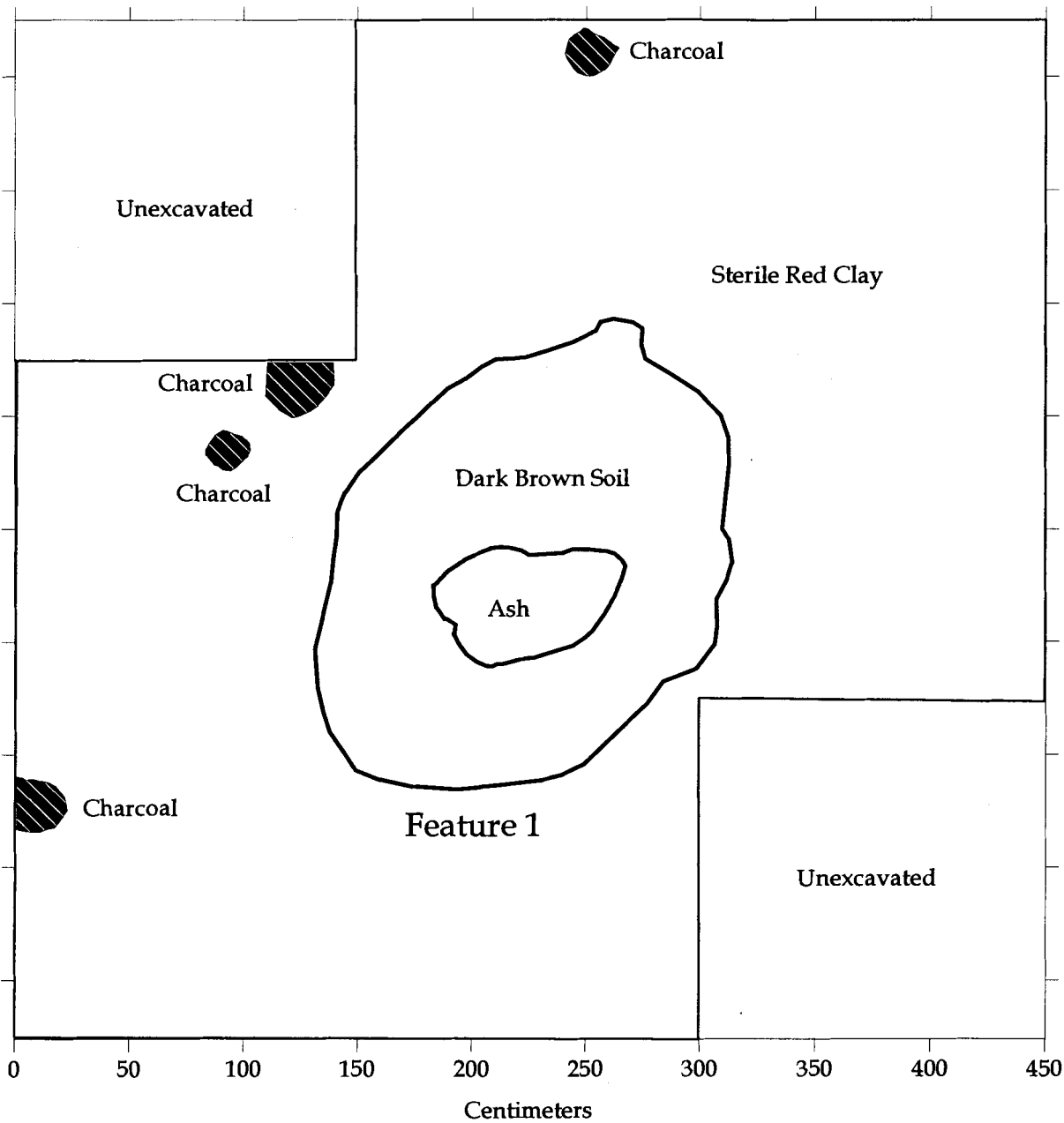
This is shown in the sketch on Figure 7 below. Additionally this drawing shows four areas of charcoal that were either tree roots or post molds from the occupation of the farmstead.



Figure 5. Additional Excavation over Feature 1.



Figure 6. Feature 1 Exposed at Bottom of Plow Zone.



9PM1182
 Leah and Zack Site
 Excavation Unit 1 & Feature 1



Figure 7

After the feature was defined, we sectioned it in the north-south direction, and carefully troweled out the western half of the feature. The unit after profiling is shown here in Figure 8, looking east. As can be seen, the feature was simply a shallow basin, that was deepest on the southern side. There were a few medium sized rocks found on the floor, along with the

butt end of a broken celt.

The profile is drawn in

Figure 9 on the next

page.

After the profile was drawn, the eastern half of the feature was then excavated. The fill of both halves were screened through 1/4



Figure 8. Feature 1 Profiled.

inch hardware cloth, while the soil from the western half was also screened with water through window screen. The completed feature is shown in Figure 10. The final size of the feature was 2.2 meters by about 1.6 meters, and the deepest part was just under 20 centimeters below the sterile level. The fill was mixed ash and dark-brown humic soil. While there was more ash near the center, it was present throughout the feature fill. Figure 11 is a drawing of the completed feature.

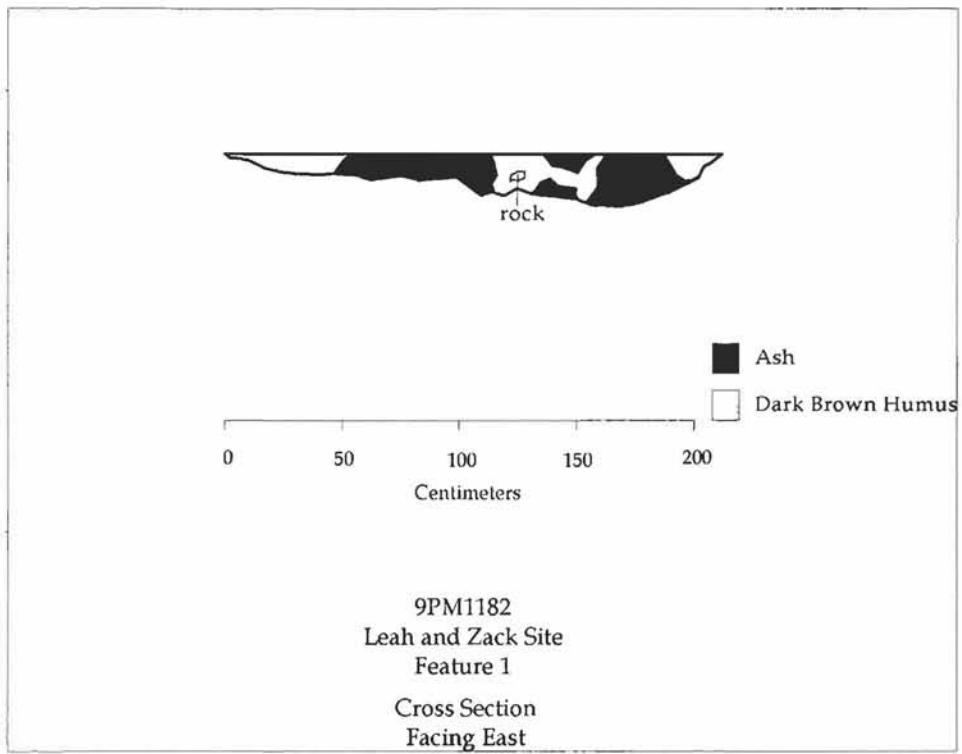
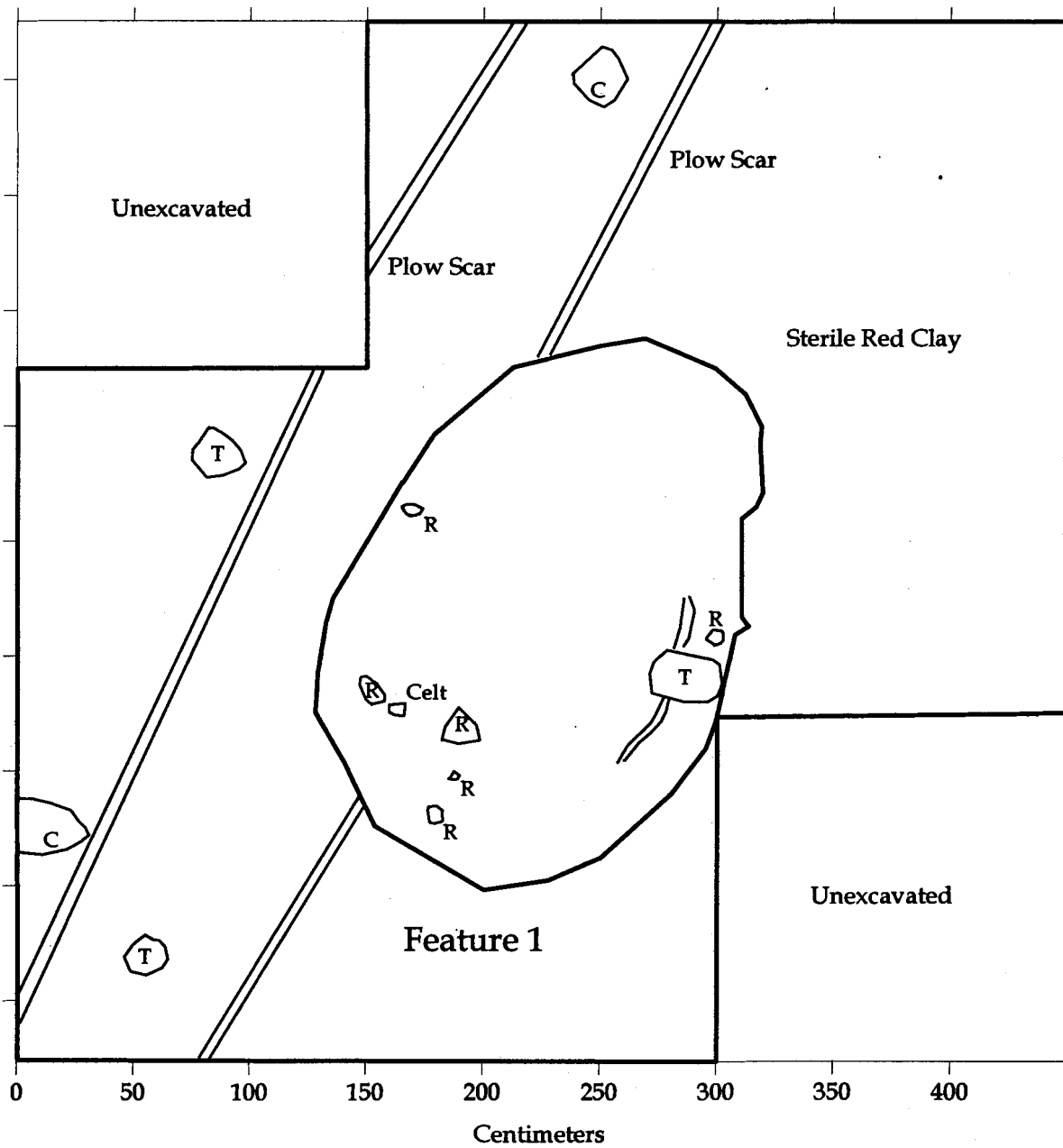


Figure 9. Feature 1 Profile.



Figure 10. Feature 1 After Completion.



9PM1182
 Leah and Zack Site
 Excavation Unit 1 & Feature 1

T=Tree; R=Rock; C=Charcoal



Figure 11.

This was a single three by three meter excavation unit placed about 10 meters south (uphill) from Feature 1 in the unplowed rough just at the edge of the field. It was hoped that this unit might produce larger sherds, and might yield some posts or additional features. It did not. The soil was quite shallow, only about 10 centimeters deep to sterile red clay. All the fill was screened through 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth. Both it and the Feature 1 area were backfilled after they had been completed.

The majority of artifacts recovered from the site were potsherds. The sherds other than those 52 found in the shovel tests (documented in the Appendix) are listed by Lot number in Table 1. The total number of sherds larger than 1/2 inch was 1596. These are divided by provenience references (2 = Surface; 3 = Excavation Unit 1 and Feature 1 area; and 4 = Excavation Unit 2). The surface collection totaled 715 sherds or 44.8 percent of the total from the site. Excavation Unit 1 totaled 670 sherds (42.0 percent). Of these, 268 were from the intact portion of Feature 1 below the plow zone level. Finally, Excavation Unit 2 produced 211 sherds.

Since there is no indication that there is but a single ceramic component at the Leah and Zack site, I shall consider all these sherds in discussing the overall sherds percentages for the site. As listed in Table 1, the plain sherds account for 1235 sherds or 77.4 percent of all sherds. Complicated Stamped sherds number 37 and account for only 2.3 percent. All incised sherds number 324 and account for a very healthy 20.3 percent of the sherds. Within this group of sherds, Bold Incised sherds (>2 mm line width) numbered 26 and accounted for 8.0 percent; Medium Incised sherds (> 1 and < 2

mm line width) numbered 224 and accounted for 69.1 percent; and finally Fine Incised sherds numbered 74 and accounted for 22.8 percent of the Incised collection. These numbers are typically indicative of Bell phase in the overall Oconee Valley (Williams 1983) and indicate that the Leah and Zack site is very late in the Little River Valley occupation. The vast majority of other sites examined in the Little River Valley have almost no fine incised pottery, and date to the earlier Dyar phase of the Lamar period. Indeed, prior to the work at the Leah and Zack site I believed there was almost no Bell phase occupation in that valley. While this is no longer literally true, it is still a very strong pattern. My present guess date for the Leah and Zack site then is in the last third to last quarter of the 16th century.

Prov.	Lot	Lamar Plain	Lamar Comp. Stamp	Bold Incised	Medium Incised	Fine Incised	Totals
2	1	325	6	9	34	5	379
2	2	23	2	0	3	2	30
2	3	51	2	1	9	0	63
2	4	18	1	0	3	1	23
2	5	168	6	8	21	0	203
2	6	14	2	0	1	0	17
3	1	209	7	1	57	15	289
3	2	76	1	1	23	12	113
3	3	141	4	3	18	17	183
3	4	48	2	0	9	16	75
3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	6	9	0	0	0	1	10
4	1	153	4	3	46	5	211
Totals		1235	37	26	224	74	1596

Table 1. Analysis of Sherds Greater than ½ Inch.

The rim sherds for the site are presented in Table 2. The 86 sherds included here

show no real surprises for a Bell phase site. Interesting, the Folded Pinched rims associated with excurvate rim jars less than half as common as the simple rims typically associated with bowls.

Provenience	Lot	Simple Plain	Simple Incised	Folded Pinched	Totals
2	1	2	2	10	14
2	2	1	1	0	2
2	3	0	1	0	1
2	4	1	0	0	1
2	5	4	4	3	11
2	6	0	0	0	0
3	1	8	12	3	23
3	2	0	5	2	7
3	3	5	4	2	11
3	4	4	2	4	10
3	5	0	0	0	0
3	6	0	0	0	0
4	1	3	2	1	6
Totals		28	33	25	86

Table 2. Analysis of Rim Sherds.

Lithics

There is a small amount of lithic debris from the Leah and Zack site. These are listed in Table 3. These artifacts are typically not associated with Lamar period site in the Oconee Valley, and I suspect that these represent an ephemeral Archaic period occupation at this site. The largest concentration was in Excavation Unit 2, and it may be that the site's lithic concentration is located southeast of the rest of the Lamar period site.

Table 4 breaks the lithic debris down by class of raw material. Included here are three flakes of Ridge and Valley chert from northwestern Georgia, and nine flakes of

Coastal Plain chert from southern Georgia. The vast majority is local quartz, amounting to 92.3 percent of the collection.

Prov.	Lot	R/V S	R/V T	CP S	CP T	CP T HT	CQ T	CQ Shatter	OQ T	OQ Shatter	OQ FT	Totals
2	1	0	0	2	1	0	5	3	24	9	1	45
2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
2	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	0	7
2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
3	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	10	11	0	24
3	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
4	1	0	1	1	3	1	0	1	38	30	0	75
Totals		2	1	4	4	1	8	6	78	51	1	156

Table 3. All Lots with Lithics.

Prov.	Lot	RV Total	CP Total	CQ Total	OQ Total	Totals
2	1	0	3	8	34	45
2	2	0	0	0	1	1
2	3	0	0	2	5	7
2	4	1	0	0	1	2
3	1	0	0	3	21	24
3	2	1	1	0	0	2
4	1	1	5	1	68	75
Totals		3	9	14	130	156

Table 4. Lithics Summary by Type of Lithic Material.

Summary

The Leah and Zack site is a rare Bell phase farmstead located in the Little River Valley of Putnam County, Georgia. It is typical in size of small Lamar farmsteads in the overall Oconee Valley, and had a typical feature, which was used to create daub for the wattle and daub house that was certainly at the site. The small amount of animal bone recovered from the water screening operation on the western half of Feature 1 has not yet been identified. The life expectancy of such a farmstead was probably in the order

of 10 years plus or minus. There is a fair chance that there was a beaver pond nearby when the Indians lived at this site, since many useful resources would have been available there (Williams and Jones 2001). Further excavation of the site might be warranted in the future, but for now it is later than the majority of farmsteads in the Little River Valley, and thus not a prime candidate in the short run. We need to excavate a Dyar phase site in the Little River Valley.

References Cited

Williams, Mark

1983 The Joe Bell Site. PhD. Dissertation, Department of Anthropology,
University of Georgia, Athens,

Williams, Mark, and Scott Jones

2001 Beavers, Lithics, and Shellfish. Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the
Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Chattanooga.

Artifact Catalog

Provenience	Lot	Description	Date
1	1	Shovel Test 1	07-01-2002
1	2	Shovel Test 2	07-01-2002
1	3	Shovel Test 3	07-01-2002
1	4	Shovel Test 4	07-01-2002
1	5	Shovel Test 5	07-01-2002
1	6	Shovel Test 6	07-01-2002
1	7	Shovel Test 7	07-01-2002
1	8	Shovel Test 8	07-01-2002
1	9	Shovel Test 9	07-01-2002
1	10	Shovel Test 10	07-01-2002
1	11	Shovel Test 11	07-01-2002
1	12	Shovel Test 12	07-01-2002
1	13	Shovel Test 13	07-01-2002
1	14	Shovel Test 14	07-01-2002
1	15	Shovel Test 15	07-01-2002
1	16	Shovel Test 16	07-01-2002
1	17	Shovel Test 17	07-01-2002
1	18	Shovel Test 18	07-01-2002
1	19	Shovel Test 19	07-01-2002
1	20	Shovel Test 20	07-01-2002
1	21	Shovel Test 21	07-01-2002
1	22	Shovel Test 22	07-01-2002
1	23	Shovel Test 23	07-01-2002
1	24	Shovel Test 24	07-01-2002
1	25	Shovel Test 25	07-01-2002
1	26	Shovel Test 26	07-01-2002
1	27	Shovel Test 27	07-01-2002
1	28	Shovel Test 28	07-01-2002
1	29	Shovel Test 29	07-01-2002
1	30	Shovel Test 30	07-01-2002
1	31	Shovel Test 31	07-01-2002
1	32	Shovel Test 32	07-01-2002
1	33	Shovel Test 33	07-01-2002
1	34	Shovel Test 34	07-01-2002
1	35	Shovel Test 35	07-01-2002
2	1	Surface	06-27-2002
2	2	Surface Near Feature	06-27-2002
2	3	Surface	07-01-2002
2	4	Surface	07-02-2002
2	5	Surface	07-08-2002
2	6	Surface	07-09-2002
3	1	Excavation Unit 1, Main, 0-6 Centimeters	07-01-2002
3	2	Excavation Unit 1, Southwestern Expansion, 0-6 Centimeters	07-01-2002
3	3	Excavation Unit 1, Feature 1, Western Half	07-02-2002

Provenience	Lot	Description	Date
3	4	Excavation Unit 1, Feature 1, Eastern Half	07-08-2002
3	5	Excavation Unit 1, Feature 1, Eastern Half, Cleaning	07-08-2002
3	6	Excavation Unit 1, Feature 1, Eastern Half, Cleaning	07-09-2002
3	7	Excavation Unit 1, Feature 1, Southwestern Side of Floor Feature	07-08-2002
4	1	Excavation Unit 2, 0-10 Centimeters	07-02-2002

Shovel Test Data

ST Number	East	North	Date	Sherds	OQ T	OQ Biface
1	267910	3700051	07-01-2002	5	0	1
2	267899	3700052	07-01-2002	1	0	0
3	267890	3700053	07-01-2002	5	0	0
4	267878	3700054	07-01-2002	0	0	0
5	267922	3700060	07-01-2002	6	0	0
6	267912	3700062	07-01-2002	2	0	0
7	267901	3700060	07-01-2002	0	0	0
8	267892	3700061	07-01-2002	2	0	0
9	267882	3700064	07-01-2002	1	0	0
10	267925	3700065	07-01-2002	3	0	0
11	267910	3700066	07-01-2002	0	0	0
12	267903	3700069	07-01-2002	0	0	0
13	267890	3700072	07-01-2002	0	0	0
14	267901	3700078	07-01-2002	0	0	0
15	267889	3700084	07-01-2002	1	0	0
16	267910	3700089	07-01-2002	0	0	0
17	267923	3700088	07-01-2002	0	0	0
18	267935	3700094	07-01-2002	0	0	0
19	267939	3700104	07-01-2002	0	0	0
20	267921	3700040	07-01-2002	10	0	0
21	267913	3700038	07-01-2002	2	0	0
22	267903	3700043	07-01-2002	2	0	0
23	267915	3700030	07-01-2002	3	0	0
24	267905	3700032	07-01-2002	0	0	0
25	267894	3700044	07-01-2002	4	2	0
26	267893	3700034	07-01-2002	0	0	0
27	267933	3700028	07-01-2002	2	0	0
28	267936	3700032	07-01-2002	0	0	0
29	267937	3700045	07-01-2002	2	0	0
30	267942	3700052	07-01-2002	0	0	0
31	267916	3700077	07-02-2002	0	0	0
32	267916	3700054	07-02-2002	0	0	0
33	267933	3700046	07-02-2002	0	0	0
34	267938	3700072	07-02-2002	1	0	0
35	267882	3700034	07-02-2002	0	0	0
Totals				52	2	1