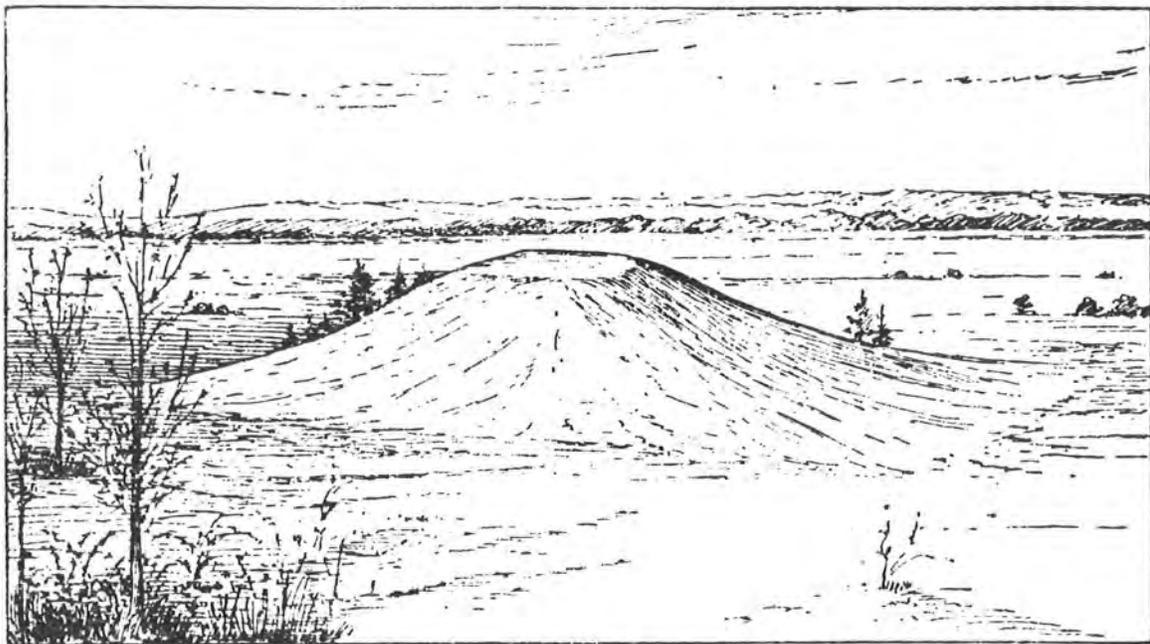


*Madison County*

PROPERTY OF  
TENN. DIV. OF ARCHAEOLOGY

**Archaeological Investigations  
at Pinson Mounds  
State Archaeological Area:  
1974, 1975, and 1978 Field Seasons**



PROPERTY OF  
TENN. DIV. OF ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT  
PINSON MOUNDS STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA:  
1974, 1975, AND 1978 FIELD SEASONS

Edited by Robert C. Mainfort, Jr.

With Contributions by

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John B. Broster  
Robert C. Mainfort, Jr.  
Ann Toplovich

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## EDITOR'S PREFACE

Just prior to leaving the service of the Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Archaeology, John B. Broster, assisted by Lee Schneider, prepared a report on two years of archaeological research at Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Area. Completion of the report was required under the terms of a grant-in-aid from the National Park Service and it is to the credit of Mr. Broster that the report was submitted prior to his departure. One hundred copies of the report were reproduced at Broster's expense. This report, although not really in polished form, was to have been published as Tennessee Division of Archaeology Research Series, No. 1. However, no funds were available for publication until recently.

After being designated as Principal Investigator for additional research at Pinson Mounds, the editor decided to undertake some necessary revisions of the Broster and Schneider report. This generally involved re-formatting and basic editing, although some additional interpretive material has been added as well. Two short inclusions in the original volume have been deleted. These are "Middle Woodland Settlement Systems along the South Fork of the Forked Deer River," by Broster and Guy Weaver, and "Paleo-Indian Habitation at the Pierce Site (40Cs24A), Chester County, Tennessee" by Broster. A report on 1978 salvage work at Mound 11 by Ann Toplovich has been added.

It is hoped that this volume will provide the reader with some useful preliminary information, although it will be apparent that much additional research will be necessary for an accurate interpretation of this significant site.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT  
PINSON MOUNDS STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA:  
1974 and 1975 FIELD SEASONS

By

John B. Broster  
Lou C. Adair  
Robert C. Mainfort, Jr.

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The courtesy and kind assistance of the people of Pinson, Tennessee, contributed greatly to the project. Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Cochran, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Travis Pierce, Mrs. E. Harrison, John Sau's, Houston Cochran, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Jones, Marvin Cupples, T. J. Murdock, and Joe Weir have been especially helpful.

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Donald P. Rapp, Sr. and Patti Coats, Archaeological Aides with the Tennessee Division of Archaeology, assisted in the excavations; Mr. Rapp and Karen M. Johnson drew the accompanying figures. Victor P. Hood and Ann Toplovich offered useful comments on the draft of this volume. The draft and final manuscript of this report were typed by Mary Lee Derryberry.

## INTRODUCTION

The Pinson Mounds site (40MD1) is located approximately 10 miles southeast of Jackson, Tennessee in Madison and Chester Counties (Figure 1). Extending along the north bank of the South Fork of the Forked Deer River for a distance of about 2 miles, the site consists of over 30 mounds and associated village areas. In 1916, W. E. Myer of the Smithsonian Institution surveyed and mapped the site (Myer 1922; see Figure 2). Among the most notable features recorded by Myer were a line of earthworks that surrounded a portion of the mound group and the second highest mound in North America (Mound 9 or Sauls' Mound). Limited survey and testing during the early 1960's established that most of the earthworks were constructed during the Middle Woodland period (Fischer and McNutt 1962; Morse and Polhemus n.d.). In 1947, the State of Tennessee acquired a portion of the site for the purpose of establishing a forest tree nursery. Pinson Mounds was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1965 and, the following year, the first of several additional tracts of land comprising the site was purchased by the State of Tennessee. Today, 1162 acres are owned by the State, of which 852 are designated as Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Area, while the remaining 310 acres serve as a State nursery.

Ecologically, the Pinson Mounds site is situated in a temperate, oak-hickory upland. Average temperatures range from 39.9°F in January to 79.3°F in July. There are an average of 200 frost-free days per year (Brown, Keathley, and Conner 1978:49). The soil of the region is classified as Lexington silt loam and is well-suited to agriculture (Brown, et al 1978:28).

Available mammals include white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus), eastern cottontail (Sylvilagus floridanus), beaver (Castor canadensis), and raccoon (Procyon lotor) (Corps of Engineers 1975:B-46-48). Although fish populations are dominated by forage fish, a number of important sport fish are common, including channel catfish (Ictalurus furcatus), largemouth buffalo fish (Ictiobus cyprinellus), largemouth bass (Micropterus salmoides), spotted bass (M. punctulatus), and several species of sunfish (Lepomis) (ibid:52). Many species of ducks (Anas), as well as the Canada goose (Branta canadensis), are common winter residents. Turkeys, however, are not common (Corps of Engineers 1975:B-46-48).

In summary, the Pinson Mounds site is located in a biotic zone rich in game and capable of supporting prehistoric agriculture.

## TWIN MOUNDS SECTOR

During the 1963 field season, Morse and Polhemus excavated eight test pits to the south and southeast of the Twin Mounds (Mound 6), but relatively few features were encountered (n.d.:15-18). An erosional terrace had divided this area into sections, referred to as the Upper and Lower sectors. Both sectors were tested, the Lower yielding not only a higher proportion of features than found in the Upper, but also a quantity of well-preserved faunal remains.

Recovered from the Upper sector was an irregular postmold arc, which Morse and Polhemus (n.d.:16) regard as a circular or oval house. Other excavated features included a large, puddled-clay oval hearth filled with fire-cracked sandstone, four refuse pits, and a small basin-shaped hearth. The artifact frequency from within these features, as well as that from the general occupation level, was low (Morse and Polhemus n.d.:16).

It had been planned to test both the Lower and Upper sectors during the 1974 field season, but time limitations necessitated concentration on the latter area, since this sector is closer to Mound 6. The major research objective in this area was to determine whether the concentration of features (and the frequency of artifacts) increased or decreased relative to distance from the mound. Also proposed was an attempt to relocate the 1963 excavation blocks and to relate those units to the metric grid system established for the site by the Division of Archaeology. Initially, three 2-meter squares were placed in the Twin Mounds sector. Description of these units follows below.

Test Pit 912/1234E produced a plow zone of reddish-brown clay that varied in depth from 15 to 25 cm. The southwest corner of the square was excavated to a depth of 45 cm. below surface in order to expose a soil profile below the plow zone. The deposits encountered were similar to the reddish-brown clay of the plow zone, but were marked by dark brown inclusions that may represent midden materials. This occupation level apparently has been eroded and replaced by slope wash from a higher elevation to the north.

Test Pit 920N/1254E, the unit closest to Mound 6, exhibited a low concentration of cultural materials. The plow zone (reddish-brown clay) ranged from 12 to 20 cm. in depth. As a matter of control, the plow zone deposits in this unit were screened in order to determine the amount of material loss. Several eroded sand tempered potsherds, some chert flakes, and the base of an expanded stemmed projectile point were recovered.

Below the plow zone, a thin layer of disturbed midden containing ash was uncovered. Distinct plow scars were visible in this deposit, suggesting that almost the entire occupation zone had become mixed with the plow zone. A single feature (Feature 6, a disturbed hearth) containing some cultural materials was uncovered. The midden was only 2 to 3 cm. in thickness and below this zone sterile reddish-orange clay subsoil was encountered.

The third test, Test Pit 910N/1254E, exhibited soil color distinctly different from the first two units. The plow zone, consisting of a gray-

brown deposit containing charcoal, pottery, and flakes, ranged from 18 to 23 cm. in depth. Below this level was a dark brown midden deposit of fine sandy clay (Level 2). This was probably a buried A soil horizon. The thickness of this deposit varied from 3 to 10 cm., being thickest in the south end of the square. This level yielded 5 Furrs Cordmarked sherds and 1 Baldwin Plain sherd; a postmold (PM#7) was recorded at the base of the level.

This unit was expanded in order to test the area for other postmolds or features, resulting in the exposure of an area measuring 6 meters (east to west) by 4 meters (north to south). Ten features were exposed: Features 8, 12, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 47.

Because of the number and complexity of features within the expanded testing unit, further extensions to the north, west, and south were undertaken to determine the extent and depth of this rich deposit (see Figure 5). The 3 meter by 2 meter unit to the north revealed Features 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19, and 20. A trench to the south measuring 1 meter (east to west) by 4 meters (north to south) was initiated from 908N/1256E; this extension produced Features 25, 26, and 27, as well as 3 isolated postmolds. An 8 meter (east to west) by 1 meter (north to south) trench was extended from 909N/1252E; this yielded Features 28 through 32.

Within each of the extended units, the dark brown midden (Level 2) was found to slope toward the south with a 6 cm. drop in elevation. The thickness of the deposit varied from 2 to 7 cm.

Level 3, a 1 to 3 cm. stratum, consisted of brown midden with tan to orange clay intrusions that originated from Level 4. This layer became thinner toward the north. Cultural materials from Level 3 (and Level 4) were similar to, though less numerous than, those recovered from Level 2.

The tan-orange clay of Level 4 began at a depth of 30 cm. and continued to a depth of 50 cm. Only the uppermost section of this level (1 to 3 cm. below Level 3) contained cultural materials. Excavations were discontinued at the base of this level.

## DESCRIPTION OF FEATURES

Feature 6

Location: 920N/1254E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval, basin-shaped pit containing ash.  
 Dimensions: Length, 56 cm.; width, 35 cm.; depth, 17 cm.  
 Artifacts present: "Few cultural materials" noted in original report; nature and number unknown.

Feature 7

Location: 912N/1254E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval basin filled with charcoal. See Figure 16.  
 Dimensions: Length, 74 cm.; width, 62 cm.; depth, 6 cm. Area surrounding feature baked to considerable hardness.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Furrs Cordmarked sherd, 3 sand tempered sherds (eroded), 2 chert waste flakes, 1 fire-cracked sandstone fragment.  
 Interpretation: Hearth; stratigraphic position suggests that this was one of the last features constructed in the area during the Middle Woodland occupation.

Feature 8

Location: 910N/1252E  
 Defining characteristics: Irregularly shaped basin lined with burned sand and filled with light clay ash.  
 Dimensions: Length, 110 cm.; width, 92 cm.; depth, 31 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 16 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 15 Baldwin Plain sherds, 1 Tishomingo Plain sherd, 1 utilized flake, 12 chert waste flakes (3 thermally altered), 2 pieces fire-cracked sandstone, 1 fragment of unworked native copper, "numerous pieces" of unidentified bone fragments approximately the size of human long bones.  
 Interpretation: Possible crematory basin.

Feature 9

Location: 912N/1254E, 914N/1254E (around Feature 7)  
 Defining characteristics: Scatter of ash and charcoal.  
 Dimensions: None defined.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Furrs Cordmarked sherd, 1 Baldwin Plain sherd, 15 sand tempered sherds (eroded), 2 Tishomingo Plain sherds, 5 chert waste flakes (2 thermally altered), 2 sandstone fragments, 2 pieces fire-cracked sandstone.  
 Interpretation: Probably represents material removed from Feature 7.

Feature 10

Location: 912N/1254E (east of Feature 7)  
 Defining characteristics: Scatter of ash and charcoal.  
 Dimensions: None defined.  
 Artifacts present: 2 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 1 Baldwin Plain sherd, 5 sand tempered sherds (eroded), 4 chert waste flakes (2 thermally altered), 1 piece fire-cracked sandstone.  
 Interpretation: Probably represents material removed from Feature 7.

Feature 11

Location: 912N/1254E (east of Feature 7)  
 Defining characteristics: Scatter of ash and charcoal.  
 Dimensions: None defined.  
 Artifacts present: None.  
 Interpretation: Probably represents material removed from Feature 7.

Feature 12

Location: 908N/1254E  
 Defining characteristics: Burned red-orange clay area, roughly circular in shape; enclosed by Feature 14. See Figure 13.  
 Dimensions: Length, 225 cm.; width, 175 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 1 reel-shaped copper gorget, 1 unidentified copper object, 4 Baldwin Plain sherds, 5 sand tempered sherds (eroded), 1 piece fire-cracked sandstone, burned human bone.  
 Interpretation: Features 12 and 14 represent one period of construction and relate to some type of crematory facility. Cremated skeleton was partially flexed.

Feature 13

Location: 912N/1254E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval, round-bottom pit filled with burned clay, ash and charcoal.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 45 cm.; depth, 23 cm. (not completely excavated).  
 Artifacts present: 10 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 10 Baldwin Plain sherds, 1 Tishomingo Plain sherd, 1 small pebble hammerstone.  
 Interpretation: Hearth.

Feature 14

Location: 908N/1254E  
 Defining characteristics: Circular post pattern with wall trench surrounding Feature 12. See Figure 13.  
 Dimensions: Not applicable.  
 Artifacts present: 32 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 16 Baldwin Plain sherds, 1 Saltillo Fabric Impressed sherd, 5 sand tempered sherds (eroded), 7 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherds, 3 Tishomingo Plain sherds, 3 pieces daub, 1 stemmed projectile point (Middle Woodland), 1 retouched chert flake, 8 chert waste flakes (4 thermally altered), 1 grinding stone fragment, 1 core fragment, 3 sandstone, 2 pieces red ochre.

Interpretation: Features 12 and 14 represent one period of construction and relate to some type of crematory facility.

Feature 15

Location: 912/1254E  
 Defining characteristics: Circular pit with round bottom. See Figure 16.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 24 cm.; depth, 9 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Furrs Cordmarked sherd, 4 sand tempered sherds (eroded), 2 pieces red ochre.

Interpretation: Similar to the vessel-holding basins described by Bacon and Merryman (1973:16). Probably associated with Feature 7.

Feature 16

Location: 912N/1254E  
 Defining characteristics: Circular pit with round bottom. See Figure 16.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 18 cm.; depth, 6 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None.  
 Interpretation: Similar to Feature 15.

Feature 17

Location: 908N/1252E, 908N/1254E, 910N/1252E, 910N/1254E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval pit with round bottom. See Figure 15.  
 Dimensions: Length, 82 cm.; width, 60 cm.; depth, 17 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 28 Furrs Cordmarked sherds (apparently 1 vessel), 1 Baldwin Plain sherd, 7 sand tempered sherds (eroded), 53 pieces daub, 1 waste flake (thermally altered), unidentified bone fragments.

Interpretation: Crematory pit.

Feature 18

Location: 910N/1256E  
 Defining characteristics: Circular basin, containing charcoal and ash; lined with 17 pieces of fire-cracked sandstone.  
 Dimensions: Length, 40 cm.; width, 35 cm.; depth, 19 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Furrs Cordmarked sherd, 1 Tishomingo Plain sherd, carbonized hickory nut shells.  
 Interpretation: Hearth.

Feature 19

Location: 914N/1254E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval pit.  
 Dimensions: Not completely excavated.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Furrs Cordmarked sherd, 1 Baldwin Plain sherd, calcine bone, charcoal.  
 Interpretation: Not completely excavated. Size and shape similar to Feature 8, a crematory basin.

Feature 20

Location: 914N/1254E  
 Defining characteristics: Mottled brown stain mixed with ash.  
 Dimensions: Not completely excavated.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Furrs Cordmarked sherd, 1 sand tempered sherd (eroded), calcine bone fragments, carbonized hickory nut shells.  
 Interpretation: Not completely excavated. Similar to Feature 8, a crematory basin.

Feature 21

Location: 908N/1252E  
 Defining characteristics: Line of 3 conical postmolds.  
 Dimensions: Not applicable.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Baldwin Plain sherd recovered from Postmold 3; Postmolds 1 and 2 contained charcoal.  
 Interpretation: Unknown.

Feature 22

Location: 908N/1256E  
 Defining characteristics: Pit containing charcoal flecks.  
 Dimensions: Not excavated. Maximum diameter is 40 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Possible hearth or earth oven.

Feature 23

Location: 910N/1256E  
 Defining characteristics: Large postmold with smaller support post (set at 45° angle to larger post) in setting basin.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 26 cm., 10 cm.; depth, 50 cm., 38 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 9 pieces of daub, charcoal (from large postmold).  
 Interpretation: Unknown.

Feature 24

Location: 908N/1256E, 910N/1256E  
 Defining characteristics: Shallow oval basin filled with charcoal.  
 Dimensions: Length, 65 cm.; width, 50 cm.; depth, 21 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 3 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherds, 1 sand tempered sherd (eroded), 1 retouched chert flake, 1 chert waste flake (thermally altered).  
 Interpretation: Feature was excavated into wall trench fill of Features 12 and 14.

Feature 25

Location: 906N/1256E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval basin containing charcoal.  
 Dimensions: Length, 50 cm.; width, 26 cm.; depth, 10 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 11 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 1 Tishomingo Plain sherd, 1 chert waste flake, unidentified bone fragments, charcoal.  
 Interpretation: Hearth or earth oven.

Feature 26

Location: 904N/1256E  
 Defining characteristics: Decayed tree stump with root system.  
 Dimensions: Not applicable.  
 Artifacts present: 5 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 2 Baldwin Plain sherds, 2 Tishomingo Plain sherds, 2 pieces daub, 2 chert waste flakes (thermally altered).  
 Interpretation: Not a cultural feature.

Feature 27

Location: 906N/1256E  
 Defining characteristics: Dark stain, irregular in shape.  
 Dimensions: Length, 194 cm.  
 Artifacts present: Daub fragments.  
 Interpretation: Probable tap root disturbance.

Feature 28

Location: 908N/1250E  
 Defining characteristics: Large postmold with small bracing post in setting basin.  
 Dimensions: Diameters of large post, 21 cm.; depth of large post, 42 cm.; diameter of basin, 38 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Baldwin Plain sherd, 1 Tishomingo Cord-marked sherd.  
 Interpretation: Larger post removed after utilization. Function unknown.

Feature 29

Location: 908N/1248E  
 Defining characteristics: Circular pit with round bottom; filled with charcoal and brown midden.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 45 cm.; depth, 17 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None.  
 Interpretation: Hearth.

Feature 30

Location: 908N/1248E  
 Defining characteristics: Circular pit with round bottom; filled with charcoal and brown midden.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 37 cm.; depth 20 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 3 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 2 Baldwin Plain sherds, 1 piece daub, 2 chert waste flakes.  
 Interpretation: Hearth.

Feature 31

Location: 908N/1246E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval pit filled with dark brown midden and charcoal.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 56 cm.; depth, 13 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 4 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 1 Tishomingo Cord-marked sherd, 6 pieces daub, 1 chert waste flake (thermally altered).  
 Interpretation: Hearth.

Feature 32

Location: 908N/1244E  
 Defining characteristics: Conical postmold in setting basin.  
 Dimensions: Diameter of postmold, 32 cm.; depth of postmold, 28 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherd, 1 sand tempered sherd (eroded), burned clay, charcoal.  
 Interpretation: Function unknown.

Feature 47

Location: 910N/1254E, 910N/1256E  
Defining characteristics: Oval pit containing brown midden and ash.  
Dimensions: Length, 52 cm.; width, 28 cm.; depth, 21 cm.  
Artifacts present: None.  
Interpretation: Storage pit.

## OZIER MOUND SECTOR

Anticipated construction of interpretive park facilities in the vicinity of Ozier Mound (Mound 5) necessitated archaeological testing of the proposed construction sites. The museum/visitors' center was to be located to the west of the state nursery irrigation pond; other facilities were proposed in areas to the north and south of the pond (Hansen, Schneeman and Associates, Inc. 1968).

Three 2 meter test pits were excavated at the proposed museum site; these were 1258N/1500E, 1268N/1500E, and 1286N/1500E. Each pit yielded a mixture of modern farm debris and small quantities of prehistoric ceramics and lithics. Feature 1, a modern surface fire locality, was recorded in 1258N/1500E. No prehistoric features were found in the test units.

One 2 meter square (1150N/1616E) was placed south of the irrigation pond. Sterile clay was reached at a depth of 12 cm. below ground surface; no prehistoric materials were recovered. Two test squares were excavated to the north of the pond (1350N/1582E; 1350N/1530E). Of these, the former proved to be sterile, while 1350N/1530E was expanded into a 5 by 4 meter block, exposing Feature 2 through 5 (see Figure 6). Extensive plowing had destroyed all but the bottom level of each feature.

## Description of Features

Feature 2

Location: 1352N/1528E, 1350N/1530E, 1352N/1530E,  
1350N/1532E, 1352N/1532E  
 Defining characteristics: Arc of 19 postmolds.  
 Dimensions: Not completely excavated.  
 Artifacts present: 4 Baldwin Plain sherds, 8 sand tempered sherds  
(eroded), 1 chert waste flake, 2 sandstone chips.  
 Interpretation: Oval structure; occupational level and floor of  
structure destroyed by plowing.

Feature 3

Location: 1350N/1528E, 1350N/1530E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval basin filled with mottled tan clay and  
charcoal.  
 Dimensions: Length, 29 cm.; width, 13 cm.; depth, 9 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Base of hearth; largely destroyed by plowing.

Feature 4

Location: 1352N/1530E (within Feature 2)  
 Defining characteristics: Presence of hard, burned clay.  
 Dimensions: Not completely excavated.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Area of prehistoric surface fire.

Feature 5

Location: 1350N/1530E  
 Defining characteristics: Straight walled pit with round bottom containing  
mixture of ash, midden, and reddish orange clay.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 55 cm.; depth, 23 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Earth oven.

## MOUND 12 SECTOR

A 15 meter (north to south) by 8 meter (east to west) test area northeast of Mound 12 was excavated. The plow zone, ranging in depth from 15 to 20 cm., was stripped by a bulldozer. A thin (2 to 4 cm.) occupation zone remained intact below the plow zone. Eleven features, including two probable houses, were uncovered (see Figure 7). Plow scars cut across all features, disturbing the yellow sand below the occupation midden. No cultural remains were encountered in the areas to the north and south of the excavated features; intensive plowing has completely destroyed the occupation zone and probably accounts for the low artifact yield.

An extension of this test block, 10 meters long and 2 meters wide, was established to the east. Feature 48, a large postmold, was exposed. Sterile clay was reached at 10 to 18 cm. below surface.

## Description of Features

Feature 34

Location: 780N/2258E, 782N/2258E, 784N/2258E, 786N/2254E  
 Defining characteristics: Presence of 32 posts (7 paired) in oval pattern; two posts burned in situ.  
 Dimensions: Length, 5.00 meters; width, 4.75 meters.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Shelter of temporary use; minor rebuilding or repairs indicated.

Feature 35

Location: 784B/2258E  
 Defining characteristics: Cylindrical, pointed-bottom postmold containing charcoal.  
 Dimensions: Length, 40 cm.; width, 30 cm.; depth, 10 cm.  
 Artifacts present: C-14 sample taken from center.  
 Interpretation: Associated with Feature 34. Radiocarbon date of A.D. 290 $\pm$ 70 (UGa-976) obtained from this feature.

Feature 36

Location: 786N/2258E  
 Defining characteristics: Shallow oval basin containing charcoal, ash and burned sand.  
 Dimensions: Length, 38 cm.; width, 23 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Hearth associated with Feature 34.

Feature 37

Location: 784N/2258E  
 Defining characteristics: Postmold filled with charcoal.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 22 cm.; depth, 17 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 2 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherds, 2 chert waste flakes (thermally altered), unidentified calcine bone, C-14 sample.  
 Interpretation: May be associated with a structural feature lying outside area excavated. Radiocarbon date of A.D. 775 $\pm$ 135 (UGa-978) obtained from this feature.

Feature 38

Location: 782N/2258E  
 Defining characteristics: Circular basin containing burned sand and small flecks of charcoal.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 57 cm.; depth, 14 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Hearth.

Feature 39

Location: 782N/2258E  
 Defining characteristics: Circular basin.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 37 cm.; depth, 10 cm.  
 Artifacts present: Charcoal sample.  
 Interpretation: Hearth; disturbed by construction of Feature 34. Radiocarbon date of A. D. 270<sub>+70</sub> obtained for this feature.

Feature 40

Location: 778N/2258E, 780N/2258E (within Feature 45)  
 Defining characteristics: Elongated, oval pit with straight sides and a flat bottom containing brown midden, charcoal, calcine bone, red and yellow ochre; two human bone stains (possible tibia and fibula) uncovered in center. See Figure 18.  
 Dimensions: Length, 65 cm.; width, 40 cm.; depth, 58 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 6 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 4 Baldwin Plain sherds, 3 Larto Red sherds, 24 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherds, 5 Tishomingo Plain sherds, 20 fragments burned daub, 19 chert waste flakes (4 thermally altered), 2 sandstone fragments.  
 Interpretation: Crematory basin.

Feature 41

Location: 778N/2258E, 780N/2258E (within Feature 45)  
 Defining characteristics: Circular basin containing charcoal and other materials.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 43 cm.; depth, 13 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Tishomingo Plain sherd, unidentified calcine bone, 5 hickory nut shells.  
 Interpretation: Hearth.

Feature 43

Location: 776N/2258E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval basin containing charcoal; burned clay around perimeter.  
 Dimensions: Length, 50 cm.; width, 40 cm.; depth, 8 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Baldwin Plain sherd, 1 chert flake, 1 piece fire-cracked sandstone.  
 Interpretation: Hearth; heavily disturbed by plowing.

Feature 44

Location: 774N/2258E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval basin; carbonized split cane around edge.  
 Dimensions: Length, 15 cm.; width, 14 cm.; depth, 8 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Hearth or burned-out storage pit.

Feature 45

Location: 776N/2258E, 778N/2258E, 780N/2258E  
 Defining characteristics: Presence of 19 posts (6 paired) in oval pattern; Features 40 and 41 contained within pattern. See Figure 7.  
 Dimensions: Length, 6.35 meters; width, 3.15 meters.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Temporary structure associated with mortuary sites.

Feature 48

Location: 780N/2266E  
 Defining characteristics: Circular, postmold with round bottom containing large quantities of charcoal and charred cane.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 33 cm.; depth, 25 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Furrs Cordmarked sherd, 3 Baldwin Plain sherds, 2 chert flakes (thermally altered), 1 sandstone flake, C-14 sample.  
 Interpretation: Function unknown. Radiocarbon date of A.D. 125 $\pm$ 65 (UGa-980) obtained for this feature.

## MOUND 11 SECTOR

A 20 meter square area to the south of Mound 11 was excavated to sterile subsoil (approximately 10 cm. below surface) by heavy road machinery. No subsurface features were encountered.

In the preliminary report (Broster 1975:40), this locality was suggested as a possible alternate site for the museum/visitors center. However, the revised development plan called for the relocation of the museum, not in this area, but actually on Mound 11 (see Boardman 1976:15). During preliminary clearing of this area (Mound 11) in 1978, an extensive field of features was exposed. Salvage excavations conducted at this locality have been described by Toplovich (this volume).

## MOUND 14 SECTOR

Attempts to locate the large test block that was excavated by Fischer and McNutt (1962) and re-excavated by Morse and Polhemus (n.d.) were unsuccessful. The cultural affiliation of the structure (s) uncovered awaits future resolution.

A 10 meter long test trench extending north from a stake at 650N/2119E was excavated to a depth of 25 cm. (45 cm. in the southeastern corner). The exposed stratigraphy consisted of alternating bands of brown clay and yellow sand, suggesting that the fill was recently deposited. Except for a few scattered flakes and potsherds in the plow zone, cultural remains were lacking.

Extending from the southwest corner stake of 540N/2080E, a second trench was excavated to a depth of 22 cm. (see Figure 8). A large, discolored area was uncovered that, upon further excavation, proved to be a group of 3 superimposed features (Features 33, 42, and 46). The occupation level within this test unit had been completely destroyed by plowing, leaving only the remains of subsurface features.

## Description of Features

Feature 33

Location: 544N/2082E, 540N/2082E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval pit containing large quantities of charcoal and ash; round, prepared, fired clay bottom. See Figure 8.  
 Dimensions: Length, 110 cm.; width, 55 cm.; depth, approx. 19 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 10 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 4 Baldwin Plain sherds, 1 Saltillo Fabric-Impressed sherd, 4 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherds, 1 Tishomingo Plain sherd, 1 complicated stamped sherd, 4 utilized flakes, 10 chert waste flakes, 1 hammerstone, 1 sandstone, 2 pieces red ochre.  
 Interpretation: Probably an earth oven; disturbed by Features 42 and 46.

Feature 42

Location: 544N/2082E, 546N/2082E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval pit with round, prepared sand bottom and sides.  
 Dimensions: Length, 124 cm.; width, 72 cm.; depth, 38 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 15 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 5 Baldwin Plain sherds, 2 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherds, 1 Tishomingo Plain sherd, 1 Larto Red sherd, 1 clay tempered sherd (eroded), 2 chert waste flakes (thermally altered), 1 unworked sandstone fragment.  
 Interpretation: Earth oven; intrudes into Features 33 and 46.

Feature 46

Location: 544N/2082E, 546N/2082E  
 Defining characteristics: Pit containing charcoal, ash and other materials.  
 Dimensions: Length, 125 cm.; width, 60 cm.; depth, approximately 45 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 36 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 16 Baldwin Plain sherds, 30 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherds, 13 Tishomingo Plain sherds, 1 Withers Fabric Marked sherd, 1 Larto Red sherd, 13 sand tempered sherds (eroded), 6 complicated stamped sherds, 6 clay tempered sherds (eroded), 3 pieces daub, 1 projectile point tip, 7 utilized flakes, 31 chert waste flakes (8 thermally altered), 2 sandstone chips, 1 piece worked sandstone, 1 piece fire-cracked sandstone, 1 piece red ochre, 1 worked quartz crystal, calcine bones (possible human) charcoal sample.  
 Interpretation: Earth oven; most cultural remains probably represent midden fill. Carbon-14 date of A.D. 60±380 (UGa-979) not useful for dating feature.

## MOUND 12

The primary objective of the 1975 field season was to test Mound 12, a large, elliptical earthwork within the Central Mound Group (Figure 4). Located approximately 150 meters southwest of Sauls' Mound (Mound 9), Mound 12 measures 24 meters from southwest to northeast, 17 meters east to west, and rises 1.5 meters above the surrounding ground surface.

Prior to acquisition by the State, the surrounding fields, as well as the mound itself, had been under intensive cultivation. Mr. John Sauls, former owner of the property, estimated that, during his lifetime, as much as 2 meters of soil had been removed from the mound surface. Several small depressions, probably "potholes", were noted on the top and along the eastern slope of the mound. However, subsequent excavations revealed that the internal structure and features of the mound remained undisturbed.

Surface collections and limited test excavations conducted 50 meters to the northeast of Mound 12 during the 1974 field season suggested Middle Woodland affiliation for the earthwork. This supposition was confirmed by the 1975 excavations.

In order to locate the prehistoric ground surface, a 40 meter test trench (running east to west) was excavated 6.5 meters to the north of the edge of Mound 12. A hearth and a pit were exposed, but cultivation had removed all but the bases of these. Subsoil, consisting of a reddish-orange clay, was encountered 25 cm. below the present ground surface.

A 20 meter (east to west) trench was excavated along the north edge of the mound, 4 meters south of the first trench. Subsequent blocks, measuring 20 meters by 4 meters (east to west) in total area, were cut into the mound. Profiles were mapped and photographed at every fourth meter to the south (see Figure 10). Excavations were discontinued at the 742N line.

During the excavation, 6 strata were uncovered and recorded. It became apparent that the mound had been constructed on a natural rise that had been inhabited prior to the Middle Woodland occupation. Fabric-impressed ceramics and clay objects were recovered from Stratum VI, the lowest occupation level. This occupation is comparable to Miller I (Jennings 1944:411-413) and the Tchula phase (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1951:431-436). Directly above this, in Stratum V, a mixture of sand and clay tempered cordmarked and plain wares, as well as large quantities of fabric-impressed ceramics, was encountered; this stratum also pre-dates construction of the mound (see Table 4).

The first construction phase of Mound 12 is represented by Stratum IV. In order to create a flat surface or platform, orange sandy clay was placed along the periphery of the natural rise; a gray puddled clay cap or floor, ranging in thickness from 4 to 6 cm., was then applied over Stratum IV.

The clay floor (Stratum IIIB) contained an elliptical crematory fire that was located slightly west of center and oriented southwest to northeast. A second gray puddled clay cap (Stratum IIIA) was placed over the first floor. Several features, including crematory basins, hearths, and postmolds, were associated with this phase of construction.

The entire platform structure was then covered with basket loads of clay, sand, and midden to an estimated height of 2.5 to 3 meters. The basket loads appear on the excavated floor as clusters of varied colors, since several different sources were utilized for obtaining fill.

The various strata are described below:

Stratum I: The soil composition of the plow zone was a light brown sandy humus that varied in depth from 10 to 15 cm. A few eroded sand tempered sherds and a small quantity of lithics were contained in this stratum.

Stratum II: This level comprised the actual mound fill, which in profile appeared as a deposit of differently colored soils in the shape of inverted "half moons". Each discoloration represents a basket load of fill, which provided the primary mantle covering the gray puddled clay platform of Stratum III. Sterile yellow, orange, and brown sandy clays were found interspersed with midden loads of gray ashy clay and dark burned sand. Near the center of the mound, these deposits attained a maximum depth of 72 cm. Cultural debris in this stratum originated from the midden fill; diagnostic artifacts derived from the Middle Woodland component at the site.

The predominant ceramic types present in this stratum were Furrs Cordmarked and Baldwin Plain, which suggests a Miller II occupation phase (Jennings 1944:411-413; Cotter and Corbett 1951:33; Bohannon 1972:40). Since the sherds are associated with areas from which fill was obtained, they do not provide a direct means for dating construction of the mound.

An intrusive cremation (Feature 53) and a line of 5 postmolds (oriented southeast to northwest) across the northern sector of the earthwork probably represent features that were utilized after the construction of Mound 12 had been completed. Feature 71, a large crematory pit located at the western periphery of the mound and which was intrusive into Stratum IIIA, was associated with a secondary mantle of blue-gray clay. It appears that later additions were made in this area, altering the original dimensions of the earthwork.

Stratum III: This deposit consisted of two puddled clay floors, designated IIIA and IIIB. The uppermost floor (IIIA) was a layer of gray puddled clay, ranging in thickness from 6 to 8 cm., that evidenced considerable burning along the northeastern margin. Features 54, 57, 58, 59, 60, and 67, as well as postmolds 12, 16, and 17 were associated with this floor.

Located directly below IIIA, Stratum IIIB was 6 cm. thick and of the same areal dimensions as the upper clay floor (24 by 17 meters). A thin deposit of dark sand separated the two floors in most areas. Stratum IIIB was of lighter color than IIIA and yielded the principal crematory feature of Mound 12 (Feature 55), as well as two small surface fires (Features 68 and 69).

Few cultural materials were recovered from either Stratum IIIA or IIIB, although small quantities of Furrs Cordmarked, Saltillo Fabric Impressed, Tishomingo Cordmarked, and Withers Fabric Marked sherds were found within the floor matrices.

Stratum IV: Providing the base on which the two platforms (Strata IIIA and IIIB) were supported, this deposit represents the initial stage of mound construction. It consisted of sterile sandy clay, reaching a maximum thickness of 20 cm. along the eastern periphery and phasing out toward the center.

A Kirk corner-notched projectile point and 2 Baldwin Plain sherds were the only cultural remains recovered from Stratum IV; the early Archaic point was an inclusion in the fill.

Stratum V: This natural, although disturbed, deposit was 8 cm. thick and was excavated in two arbitrary 4 cm. levels. The matrix of this stratum was a burned dark brown sandy midden, which contained numerous sherds and lithic debitage.

Within the upper level, the predominant ceramic types were Furrs Cord-marked, Baldwin Plain, and Saltillo Fabric Impressed. The deposit also yielded 8 freshwater pearls, 3 small pieces of sheet mica, several fragments of hickory nut shells, a persimmon seed, and a possible sunflower seed. Features 56, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 73, and 74 were associated with the upper (arbitrary) level of Stratum V, indicating a late Miller I or early Miller II occupation.

The lower arbitrary level produced a different ceramic assemblage. Clay and sand tempered cordmarked wares decreased markedly in frequency, while the number of Saltillo and Withers Fabric marked sherds increased. Level 2 appears to represent a Miller I (or Tchula occupation). However, Features 66 and 70, which were excavated from within the second level, probably represent a slightly earlier inhabitation.

Stratum VI: Directly below Stratum V, this layer consisted of light brown sand that contained cultural materials. This deposit, which contains an undisturbed Miller I occupation, measured 10 cm. in thickness and was excavated in two arbitrary 5 cm. levels.

Saltillo Fabric Impressed was the predominant ceramic type recovered from this stratum. A majority of the sherds exhibit rims with parallel interior incisions or notches and appear to represent large flared-rim jars. Elongated, fabric impressed clay objects were common in Stratum VI, as well as within the lower level of Stratum V. The high percentage of fabric impressed ceramics from this level (73% - see Table 4) suggests that this stratum represents a Miller I occupation.

Stratum VII: A sterile yellow sand underlying Stratum VI was not excavated, as features were absent from Stratum VI.

## Description of Features

Feature 49

Location: 746N/2216E  
 Defining characteristics: Dark brown stain of irregular shape containing charcoal flecks.  
 Dimensions: Length, 88 cm.; width, 62 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Tree root system.

Feature 50

Location: 764N/2220E, 764N/2222E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval basin-shaped pit; surrounding soil burned to reddish color.  
 Dimensions: Length, 75 cm.; width, 40 cm.; depth, 14 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 5 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 2 Baldwin Plain sherds, 2 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherds, 1 sand tempered sherd (eroded), 1 clay tempered sherd (eroded), 3 chert waste flakes.  
 Interpretation: Hearth.

Feature 51

Location: 764N/2212E  
 Defining characteristics: Circular pit with straight walls and round bottom.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 40 cm.; depth, 40 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Unknown.

Feature 52

Location: 758N/2206E, 758N/2208E (Stratum V)  
 Defining characteristics: Pit filled with light yellow sand and charcoal flecks; bottom and sides lined with puddled clay.  
 Dimensions: Length, 70 cm.; width, 50 cm.; depth, 8 cm.  
 Artifacts present: Cut mica disc fragment.  
 Interpretation: Crematory pit.

Feature 53

Location: 748N/2002E, 748N/2004E (intrudes into Stratum II)  
 Defining characteristics: Oval, basin-shaped pit containing tan clay, burned reddish sand, and charcoal.  
 Dimensions: Length, 70 cm.; width, 60 cm.; depth, 22 cm.  
 Artifacts present: Calcine bone fragments (including skull and tarsus fragments).  
 Interpretation: Crematory pit.

Feature 54

Location: 752N/2002E, 754N/2004E (Stratum IIIA)  
 Defining characteristics: Shallow circular pit containing ash; surrounded by dark red burned soil.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 45 cm.; depth, 8 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Hearth.

Feature 55

Location: 750N/2004E (near center of mound platform, Stratum IIIA and IIIB)  
 Defining characteristics: Burned area (through entire thickness of Stratum IIIB) containing large quantity of charcoal (some projecting above Stratum IIIA). See Figure 20.  
 Dimensions: Length, 2.6 meters; width, 1 meter.  
 Artifacts present: 4 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 1 Baldwin Plain sherd, 1 Saltillo Fabric Impressed sherd, 2 Tishomingo Plain sherds, 3 Withers Fabric Marked sherds, 5 pieces burned clay, 4 chert waste flakes, 5 pieces burned clay, 4 chert waste flakes, 5 pieces fire-cracked rock, calcine bone fragments (2 fragments—a rib section and the midsection of a lower arm bone; identified as human).  
 Interpretation: Crematory facility for one or two individuals; no grave offerings; probably the primary reason for the construction of the mound.

Feature 56

Location: 744N/2206E (Level 1, Stratum V)  
 Defining characteristics: Circular, basin-shaped pit lined with puddled clay.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 50 cm.  
 Artifacts present: Unidentified calcine bone.  
 Interpretation: Crematory pit.

Feature 57

Location: 752N/2008E, 754N/2008E (Stratum IIIA)  
 Defining characteristics: Circular basin-shaped pit containing burned dark brown sand. See Figure 21.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 110 cm.; depth, 9 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 2 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 1 sand tempered sherd (eroded), unidentified calcine bone.  
 Interpretation: Probably a crematory facility.

Feature 58

Location: 750N/2002E (Stratum III)  
 Defining characteristics: Oval basin lined with clay.  
 Dimensions: Length, 80 cm.; width, 60 cm.; depth, 8 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Probably a crematory pit.

Feature 59

Location: 752N/2006E (Stratum IIIA)  
 Defining characteristics: Oval pit with straight walls and round bottom; contained gray clay fill.  
 Dimensions: Length, 55 cm.; width, 40 cm.; depth, 22 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered  
 Interpretation: Crematory pit.

Feature 60

Location: 750N/2002E (Stratum IIIA)  
 Defining characteristics: Circular basin with round bottom; contained gray clay fill.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 24 cm.; depth, 8 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Proximity to Feature 58 suggests it may have functioned as a vessel-holding basin.

Feature 61

Location: 742N/2204E, 744N/2202E, 744N/2204E (Level 1, Stratum V)  
 Defining characteristics: Oval burned area containing large quantity of charcoal; gray clay cap (10 cm. thick) over burned area.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 180 cm.; depth, 3 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 16 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 7 Baldwin Plain sherds, 12 Saltillo Fabric Impressed sherds, 3 Marksville Stamped sherds, 1 Marksville Incised sherd, 1 Withers Fabric Marked sherd, 2 sand tempered sherds (eroded), 1 clay object, 7 utilized flakes, 2 retouched chert flakes, 2 chert waste flakes, 1 piece fire-cracked sandstone, 1 piece red ochre, 3 pieces sheet mica.  
 Interpretation: Surface hearth or cremation.

Feature 63

Location: 744N/2204E, 744N/2206E (Level 1, Stratum V)  
 Defining characteristics: Oval burned area similar to Feature 61.  
 Dimensions: Length, 82 cm.; width, 55 cm.; 6 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 2 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 2 Saltillo Fabric Impressed sherds, 1 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherd, 6 chert waste flakes, 2 pieces sheet mica.  
 Interpretation: Surface fire or cremation.

Feature 64

Location: 748N/2204E, 748N/2206E (Level 1, Stratum V)  
 Defining characteristics: Oval burned area similar to Features 61 and 63.  
 Dimensions: Length, 110 cm.; width, 100 cm.; depth, 5 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 5 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 4 Baldwin Plain sherds, 2 charred persimmon seeds.  
 Interpretation: Possibly a surface cremation.

Feature 65

Location: 744N/2206E (Level 2, Stratum V)  
 Defining characteristics: Circular burned area containing charcoal.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 60 cm.; depth, 3 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 4 Saltillo Fabric Impressed sherds, 24 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherds (all from a sub-conical flat-rim jar), 1 Withers Fabric marked sherd, unidentified calcine bone.  
 Interpretation: Surface fire or cremation.

Feature 66

Location: 744N/2212E, 744N/2214E (Level 2, Stratum V)  
 Defining characteristics: Elongated oval pit filled with burned, dark sand; stains of extended burial observed.  
 Dimensions: Length, 180 cm.; width, 75 cm.; depth 11 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 37 Withers Fabric Marked sherds (all part of a flared-rim jar), 5 Saltillo Fabric Impressed sherds, 4 sand tempered sherds (eroded).  
 Interpretation: Miller 1 phase burial; jar (probably a grave offering) located near skull. Slightly disturbed by Stratum IV.

Feature 67

Location: 742N/2204E (Stratum IIIA)  
 Defining characteristics: Oval burned area.  
 Dimensions: Length, 70 cm.; width, 40 cm.; depth, 6 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Surface fire or cremation.

Feature 68

Location: 750N/2204E, 750N/2206E (Stratum IIIB)  
 Defining characteristics: Irregularly shaped burned area.  
 Dimensions: Length, 82 cm.; width, 52 cm.; depth, 2 cm.  
 Artifacts present: Unidentified bone fragments.  
 Interpretation: Surface fire.

Feature 69

Location: 748/2206E, 748N/2208E (Stratum IIIB)  
 Defining characteristics: Oval burned area.  
 Dimensions: Length, 80 cm.; width, 30 cm.; depth, 3 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Surface fire.

Feature 70

Location: 750N/2214E (Level 1, Stratum V)  
 Defining characteristics: Circular pit with round bottom; contained burned dark sand.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 42 cm.; depth, 17 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 3 Baldwin Plain sherds, 3 Saltillo Fabric Impressed sherds, 1 Tishomingo Plain sherd.  
 Interpretation: Hearth; slightly disturbed by Stratum IV.

Feature 71

Location: 742N/2194E (Stratum IIIA)  
 Defining characteristics: Oval basin filled with gray puddled clay.  
 Dimensions: Not completely excavated; at least 2 meters long and 2 meters wide.  
 Artifacts present: 4 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 1 Baldwin Plain sherd, 2 fire-cracked sandstone fragments.  
 Interpretation: Traces of burned logs in bottom of feature suggests use as secondary cremation pit; second mantle of blue-gray clay applied to west sector of the primary mound to cover burial.

Feature 72

Location: 742N/2194E, 744N/2194E (Stratum II)  
 Defining characteristics: Pit lined with blue-gray puddled clay; contained brown sandy clay, charcoal flecks, and ash deposit (in bottom).  
 Dimensions: Not completely excavated; at least 70 cm. in diameter and 22 cm. deep.  
 Artifacts present: Unidentified calcine bone.  
 Interpretation: Redeposited cremation; similar to Feature 53; intrudes into Feature 71.

Feature 73

Location: 742N/2198E (Level 1, Stratum V).  
 Defining characteristics: Oval burned area containing charcoal.  
 Dimensions: Length, 70 cm.; width, 60 cm.; depth, 4 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 2 Baldwin Plain sherds.  
 Interpretation: Surface fire; function unknown.

Feature 74

Location: 742N/2198E  
Defining characteristics: Oval burned area containing large quantities of charcoal.  
Dimensions: Width, 70 cm.; depth, 3 cm. (not completely excavated).  
Artifacts present: Unidentified calcine bone.  
Interpretation: Hearth or cremation.

## COCHRAN SITE (40MD23)

The Cochran Site (40MD23) was recorded during the 1974 survey of the South Fork of the Forked Deer River watershed. Located on the interface of the plateau-bluff and oak-beech forest slope biotic subregions of this drainage area, the site is located approximately 200 meters west of Ozier Mound (Mound 5). Since the site is situated just beyond the prehistoric palisade wall of the Western Mound Group (Myer 1922), it was given a separate site number.

The dimensions of the site are approximately 100 meters (north to south) by 50 meters (east to west). A tributary stream of the South Fork of the Forked Deer River defines the eastern edge. Large quantities of cultural materials were present on the surface, particularly toward the apparent center of the site. Although most recovered materials were of Middle Woodland age, the early and late Archaic were also represented.

From the surface collections, it appeared that the site was the largest open Middle Woodland habitation site in the survey area (see Broster and Weaver 1975). In order to determine the relationship between the Cochran Site and the Middle Woodland component at Pinson Mounds, test excavations were undertaken during the summer of 1975. Data obtained during these excavations suggest that the Cochran Site was a semi-permanent settlement or base camp with strong ties to the ceremonial and burial functions at Pinson Mounds.

Four meter test blocks were excavated in the north, south, and central sectors of the site. All areas had suffered the effects of cultivation, but this was most acute along the eastern extremity of the site. Although the tests in the north and south produced scattered postmolds, no concentrations of features of cultural materials were encountered. Within both areas, the plow zone directly overlaid sterile orange clay subsoil; no cultural layers were present.

Tests within the central area were expanded when an arc of postmolds (Feature 2) was uncovered. Further excavation revealed a complete oval structure; two additional postmold patterns as well as 13 subsurface features were also recorded.

Of particular interest were the numerous and diverse exotic raw materials found within the structure. These materials, which included sheet mica, quartz crystals, exotic cherts, copper, and carved sandstone palettes, indicate that grave goods may have been manufactured at the Cochran Site for inclusion not only in burials at the site itself, but also, perhaps in the Pinson Mounds.

The presence of exotic materials implies that the site participated in an exchange network, with the possibility that local resources, perhaps high quality ceramic clays, were traded to other areas. The mica may have been derived from the Appalachians and the copper artifacts from the Copena tradition of northwestern Alabama. Quartz crystals could have been obtained from Arkansas or the Appalachian region, while the exotic cherts

had microlithic blades suggesting derivation from northern Hopewell manifestations.

The Cochran site may have been a center for craft specialties oriented toward the manufacture of socio-technic artifacts (Binford 1962) for inclusion in burial mounds of high ranking individuals and, if this hypothesis is correct, may have functioned as a regional exchange center within a broad Middle Woodland trade network (cf. Streuver 1968:308).

## Description of Features

Feature 1

Location: 1022N/1000E (west wall, Feature 2)  
 Defining characteristics: Oval pit with round bottom; contained dark brown clay.  
 Dimensions: Length, 40 cm.; width, 20 cm.; depth, 6 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 2 burned sandstone fragments.  
 Interpretation: Hearth, badly disturbed by plowing. Intact remnants of structure floor in this area suggests that this feature post-dates Feature 2.

Feature 2 (Structure 1)

Location: See Figure 11.  
 Defining characteristics: Oval postmold pattern.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 7.3 meters.  
 Artifacts present: 8 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherds, 2 quartz crystals, 3 pieces sheet mica, 1 Copena triangular point, 1 carved sandstone palette, 2 chert microlithic blades.  
 Interpretation: Structure comprised of 18 wall posts, 5 wall support posts, and 7 interior support posts. Four hearths (Features 1, 3, 5, and 12) located within.

Feature 3

Location: 1022N/1006E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval pit with straight walls and round bottom; contained gray-brown sandy clay mixed with charcoal flecks.  
 Dimensions: Length, 45 cm.; width, 26 cm.; depth, 17 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Hearth; intruded into by Postmold 21 and Feature 2.

Feature 4

Location: 1024N/1000E, 1026N/1000E  
 Defining characteristics: Elongated pit with round bottom; contained dark clay, charcoal, and carbonized cane.  
 Dimensions: Length, 105 cm.; width, 80 cm.; depth, 37 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 4 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 1 Baldwin Plain sherd, 4 Saltillo Fabric Impressed sherds, 4 sand tempered sherds (eroded), 1 clay tempered sherd (eroded), 1 projectile point mid-section, 2 microlithic blades, 1 utilized chert flake, 8 chert waste flakes, 1 piece native copper, 1 fragment polished greenstone, 3 pieces fire-cracked sandstone, unidentified calcine bone.  
 Interpretation: Probably a redeposited cremation.

Feature 5

Location: 1020N/1006E (within Feature 2)  
 Defining characteristics: Oval pit with round bottom; contained brown sandy clay mixed with ash and charcoal.  
 Dimensions: Length, 22 cm.; width, 19 cm.; depth, 19 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 1 microlithic blade, 1 piece unidentified calcine bone.  
 Interpretation: Hearth; may date to construction of Feature 2.

Feature 6

Location: 1016N/1000E  
 Defining characteristics: Circular pit containing brown clay mixed with flecks of charcoal.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 25 cm.; depth, 11 cm.  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Hearth.

Feature 7

Location: 1016N/1002E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval pit with round bottom; contained brown sandy clay.  
 Dimensions: Length, 50 cm.; width, 30 cm.; depth, 8 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Furrs Cordmarked sherd, 1 retouched flake, 2 chert waste flakes.  
 Interpretation: Setting basin; associated with large postmold (PM28).

Feature 8

Location: 1018N/1000E, 1018N/1002E (southwest of Feature 2)  
 Defining characteristics: Oval pit with straight walls and round bottom; filled with brown sandy clay. See Figure 28.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Baldwin Plain sherd, 44 Saltillo Fabric Impressed sherds (all from one flared rim jar), 2 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherds, 2 Tishomingo Plain sherds, 1 Withers Fabric Marked sherd, 31 sand tempered sherds (eroded), 1 clay tempered sherd (eroded) 3 chert microlithic blades, 3 retouched chert flakes, 21 chert waste flakes, 1 ironstone flake, 3 pieces sheet mica (see Figure 29), 1 firecracked sandstone fragment.  
 Interpretation: Possible storage pit.

Feature 9

Location: 1022N/992E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval pit containing charcoal, sand, and brown clay.  
 Dimensions: Length, 65 cm.; width, 40 cm.; depth, 10 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 1 Furrs Cordmarked sherd, 1 microlithic blade.  
 Interpretation: Hearth; disturbed by Postmolds 5 and 7 of Feature 16.

Feature 10

Location: 1022N/1004E  
 Defining characteristics: Large postmold containing dark brown clay.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 10 cm.; depth, 24 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 3 Baldwin Plain sherds, 1 Saltillo Fabric Impressed sherd, 1 piece firecracked sandstone.  
 Interpretation: Central support post for Feature 2 (Structure I).

Feature 11

Location: 1022N/992E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval, basin-shaped pit.  
 Dimensions: Width, 29 cm.; depth, 20 cm. (not completely excavated).  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Possible hearth.

Feature 12

Location: 1024N/1004E, 1026N/1004E (within Feature 2)  
 Defining characteristics: Oval, basin-shaped pit filled with dark brown clay.  
 Dimensions: Length, 43 cm.; width, 35 cm.; depth, 18 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 8 Furrs Cordmarked sherds (representing one-fourth of a flared rim sub-conical jar), 1 Saltillo Fabric Impressed sherd, 1 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherd, 2 clay tempered sherds (eroded), 1 utilized chert flake, 1 chert waste flake, 2 ironstone flakes, 2 pieces fire-cracked sandstone.  
 Interpretation: Possible hearth.

Feature 13

Location: 1016N/996E, 1016N/998E, 1018N/996E, 1018N/998E  
 Defining characteristics: Circular pit with straight walls and flat bottom, surrounded by burned area; contained brown clay and charcoal. See Figure 25.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 35 cm.; depth, 5 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 1 sand tempered sherd (eroded), 15 pieces daub, 1 ironstone fragment.  
 Interpretation: Hearth.

Feature 14

Location: 1026N/1008E, 1028N/1008E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval, basin-shaped pit containing brown clay, ash, and burned sand. See Figure 29.  
 Dimensions: Length, 140 cm.; width, 128 cm.; depth, 16 cm.  
 Artifacts present: 34 Furrs Cordmarked sherds (all from a straight rimmed jar), 4 Baldwin Plain sherds, 2 Saltillo Fabric Impressed sherds, 2 Tishomingo Cordmarked, 40 sand tempered sherds (eroded), 5 pieces daub, 3 utilized chert flakes, 18 chert waste flakes, 6 ironstone flakes, 1 rolled copper bead, 5 fire-cracked sandstone fragments, unidentified calcine bone, unidentified charred seeds.  
 Interpretation: Possibly a redeposited cremation.

Feature 15 (Structure II)

Location: See Figure 24  
 Defining characteristics: Arc of postmolds.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 5.5 meters (estimated).  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Part of oval structure consisting of 8 wall posts, 1 wall support, and 4 interior posts.

Feature 16 (Structure III)

Location: See Figure 11  
 Defining characteristics: Arc of postmolds.  
 Dimensions: Diameter, 7 meters (estimated).  
 Artifacts present: The following materials recovered from Postmolds 3 and 5: 3 Furrs Cordmarked sherd, 1 sand tempered sherd (eroded), 1 piece fire-cracked sandstone.  
 Interpretation: Oval structure; overlaps Feature 15. Relative age of structures unknown, although both date to the Middle Woodland component.

Feature 17

Location: 1024N/996E  
 Defining characteristics: Oval pit with round bottom; contained dark brown clay with charcoal flecks.  
 Dimensions: Width, 26 cm.; depth, 10 cm. (not completely excavated).  
 Artifacts present: None recovered.  
 Interpretation: Possible hearth.

## MISCELLANEOUS TESTING

In 1916, William E. Myer mapped 8 mounds within a 400 square meter area between the Inner and Eastern Mounds Groups (see Figure 2). Five of these localities were tested to determine if they were earthworks or merely natural rises. Cultivation had reduced the height and altered the shape of these alleged mounds to such an extent that it was necessary to conduct test excavations to confirm Myer's identification of these features as mounds.

A one or two meter square test was excavated in the center of each site. Surface collections were also made to augment materials recovered from the excavations.

Mound 17: This oval earthwork measured 40 feet in length and one meter above present ground surface. Within the center of the mound, a deep "pothole", 6 meters wide, had previously been excavated. After cleaning the profile of this excavation, it became apparent that the entire center, from the top to the underlying sterile yellow sand, had been removed. However, the profile did reveal evidence of basket loading which established this feature as part of the Middle Woodland mound group at Pinson.

The test excavation yielded a single Furrs Cordmarked sherd, while surface collections from the pothole produced 5 Marksville Incised sherds (all from a sub-conical jar), 1 Furrs Cordmarked sherd, 1 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherd, 7 sand tempered sherds (eroded), 1 clay tempered sherd (eroded), 1 stemmed chert knife, 1 chert core chopper, 1 hammerstone fragment, 2 retouched chert flakes, and 4 utilized chert flakes.

Mound 18: This small, circular rise is located 200 meters southeast of Sauls' Mound (Mound 9) and measures only 50 cm. above present ground surface. Formerly 2 meters in height, cultivation has reduced the feature to its present dimensions. A one meter square was placed within the mound (south of the center), revealing sterile orange clay. This locality may represent a mound that had been constructed on a natural rise, but which has been destroyed by modern agricultural techniques and equipment. An object similar to amber was the only artifact recovered from the test pit. Surface collection produced 4 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 2 projectile point fragments (distal ends), 2 chert waste flakes, and a hammerstone fragment.

Mound 24: This slight rise, situated 225 meters northeast of Mound 9, is 1 meter in height. Previously recorded as a small oval mound, cultivation apparently has caused little damage to this earthwork.

A 1.5 meter square excavated at the western edge of the mound revealed a series of mottled gray and tan clays, probably representing basket loads, which confirmed the feature as a prehistoric earthwork. No cultural materials were encountered in the test unit. Materials collected from the mound surface included 1 sand tempered sherd (eroded), 3 expanded stem, weak shouldered projectile points (Bakers Creek), 1 chert core chopper, 1 utilized chert flake, and 1 ironstone fragment.

Mound 25: Mapped as an circular mound, excavations at this locality indicated that it is a natural sand and clay rise that did not support a prehistoric mound. A few cultural materials were collected from the surface including 3 utilized chert flakes, 2 retouched chert flakes, 1 chert core, and 1 ironstone flake,

Mound 27: Test excavations demonstrated that this locality was a natural rise that had been occupied in prehistoric times. The area, which is 10 meters long and 1.2 meters high, contained dark brown sandy clay mixed with large quantities of charcoal flecks and fire-cracked sandstone. The 2 meter square test pit, excavated near the center of the rise, yielded the following: 6 Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 3 Baldwin Plain sherds, 2 sand tempered sherds (eroded), 1 oval chert core, and 5 pieces of fire-cracked sandstone. Cultural materials collected from the surface included 1 expanded stem weak-shouldered projectile point (Bakers Creek), 1 projectile point midsection, 1 triangular bifacial knife, 3 chert flake scrapers, 3 utilized flakes, 4 chert waste flakes, and 3 ironstone flakes.

## DESCRIPTION OF ARTIFACTS

## CERAMICS

N=2232

Since the sample of ceramics recovered during the 1974 and 1975 field season is small, a general discussion of the ceramic types represented is more appropriate than a detailed description by excavation units. Distributional data is presented in Tables 1 through 6 at the end of this report.

Two basic wares are predominant: sand tempered and clay tempered. Based on this, Morse and Polhemus (n.d.:58) suggest that two Marksville phase occupations are represented at Pinson Mounds. They correlate the appearance of sand tempered wares with early Marksville, while associating clay and grit tempered wares with a later Marksville occupation. Since the dividing line between sand and clay/grit tempered pottery is often rather arbitrary (Cotter and Corbett 1951:19), this interpretation must be regarded with caution.

The ceramic assemblage recovered during the two field seasons at Pinson and the Cochran site most closely resembles the Miller I and Miller II phase collections from the Bynum and Pharr Mounds site (Cotter and Corbett 1951; Bohannon 1972). The transition between these phases is nebulous, being based upon the percentage differences between fabric impressed and cordmarked ceramics.

The type descriptions that follow are based largely upon the Miller series.

## Sand Tempered Wares

Furrs Cordmarked (Cotter 1950:28)

N=637

Identified as Blue Lakes (sic) Cordmarked in the preliminary report on Pinson Mounds project (Broster 1975:10), this was the most common ceramic type recovered during the excavations. Temper and vessel types appear to conform more closely to the Miller series than to those used in the lower Mississippi Valley. Since Furrs Cordmarked exhibits a very close similarity to Blue Lake Cordmarked, the type names probably represent regional varieties of the same general type.

The temper is fine to extremely fine grain sand, while color ranges from gray to reddish brown. Vessel interiors are generally smoothed and the exterior is cord impressed. Spacing between the cord impressions varies from very close to far apart. Cording usually begins at the lip of the vessel and extends over the surface either at right angles or at diagonal angle to the rim. Exterior strips of clay were often added to the rim; these were subsequently cord impressed. Vessel forms range from deep, globular bowls to sub-conical, round bottom jars with excurvate or straight rims. Lips are generally rounded or flattened, with occasional notching or pinched decoration along the top of the rim.

Furrs Cordmarked is a companion type to Baldwin Plain and is associated with Middle Woodland occupations.

Baldwin Plain (Cotter 1950:26)

N=276

Previously identified as Thomas Plain (Broster 1975:11), this type is tempered with coarse to fine grained sand. Color ranges from light gray to dark reddish brown; mica flakes are frequent inclusions in the paste. Both interior and exterior surfaces are usually smoothed, although several sherds from Mound 12 were polished on the exterior.

Rims are generally incurvate, although straight rims were also noted. Three sherds of this type exhibit punctations below the rim on the exterior surface. Most of the recovered sherds appear to be derived from shallow, flat bottom bowls; several round bottom bowls are also represented.

A companion type to Furrs Cordmarked, Baldwin Plain also dates to the Middle Woodland period.

Saltillo Fabric Impressed (Cotter 1950:27)

N=419

Ceramics of this type exhibit tempering of coarse to fine grained sand; calcine bone and clay pellets are rare inclusions. Colors range from dull tan to deep red. The exterior surfaces have been malleated against a basket fragment. Often, particularly on sherds from Mound 12, the fabric impressions have been smoothed over, practically obliterating the impression. The bases of the vessels are smooth.

Most rims are flared, the remainder being straight; all rims exhibit a slightly constricted neck. Lips are generally rounded with perpendicular incisions along the interior and lip of the rim. Vessel walls are thick, varying from 4 to 7 mm. The most common vessel forms are deep jars with constricted necks and sub-conical, straight rimmed jars.

In the preliminary report on the Pinson Mounds project, Saltillo Fabric Impressed was referred to as Twin Lakes Fabric Impressed (Broster 1975:59). Within the lower levels of Mound 12, this ceramic type appears to be associated with an Early Woodland component. Koehler (1966:42) is probably correct in his assertion that Saltillo Fabric Impressed (and Twin Lakes Fabric Impressed) first appeared in late Early Woodland and continued through early Middle Woodland.

Net Impressed

N=4

This type is characterized by extremely coarse grained sand temper and widely spaced net or knotted cord impressions. These impressions begin at the lip and appear to cover the entire exterior surface. The color of the sherds is light orange; mica inclusions are present. These sherds are part of a single flared rim jar and were recovered from Stratum V of Mound 12.

This type is generally similar to Saltillo Fabric Impressed; an Early Woodland (Tchula phase) date is suggested.

#### Zoned Rocker Stamped

N=3

Representing a single vessel, these sherds were found in Stratum II of Mound 12. All exhibit fine sand temper with mica inclusions and are probably of local manufacture. Unfortunately, the sample size is too small to identify vessel form and design motif.

#### Complicated Stamped

Figure 32

N=6

All sherds were recovered from Feature 46 in the Mound 14 sector; five of these derive from a polished, sub-conical jar with a straight rim. The curvilinear design motif on these is suggestive of Swift Creek Complicated Stamped (Jennings and Fairbanks 1939), although it remains to be determined whether this vessel represents a local copy or a trade item from central Georgia.

One sherd from a globular jar is not similar to a defined ceramic type. The design consists of interlocking half-circles under isosceles triangles with a curvilinear motif surrounding the circles.

### Clay/Grit Tempered Wares

#### Tishomingo Cordmarked (Cotter 1950:29)

N=23

Temper consists of medium to large clay pellets with occasional fragments of bone or sandstone. Sherd color ranges from tan to black, with the majority being dark gray. The cord impressions are widely spaced and often smoothed. Rim forms vary from straight to slightly everted; lips are generally rounded. Large notching occasionally appears along the lip at 2 to 3 mm. intervals. The most common vessel forms are deep, straight-rimmed bowls and large sub-conical jars; the latter sometimes exhibit constricted necks. Bases have not been found, although on similar vessels from the Bynum and Pharr sites, the bases are rounded or flat.

This type was previously identified at Pinson as Mulberry Creek Cordmarked (Morse and Polhemus n.d.:20; Broster 1975:11-12) and appears to be contemporary with Furrs Cordmarked, although Koehler (1966:42) suggests a slightly later date for Tishomingo, as do Morse and Polhemus (n.d.:58) for Mulberry Creek Cordmarked.

Tishomingo Plain (Cotter 1950:29)

N=75

The plain companion of Tishomingo Cordmarked, this type is basically similar, although the predominant vessel form appears to be deep, globular bowls with straight to incurvate rims. Tishomingo Plain is also associated with the Middle Woodland occupation of Pinson Mounds.

Withers Fabric Marked (Phillips 1970:174-175)

N=121

A clay tempered counterpart to Saltillo Fabric Impressed, this type is almost exclusively associated with Mound 12 (N=112), primarily Strata V and VI. Decoration is similar to Saltillo Fabric Impressed, but the temper consists of coarse clay/grit. Exterior colors range from red to dark gray. Phillips (1970:174) remarks that the Withers and Saltillo Fabric Impressed reached their peak during the early Marksville phase. However, Koehler (1966:42) suggests that these types extend back to Early Woodland (Tchula phase). The latter interpretation is supported by the Pinson data.

Marksville Incised and Stamped (Phillips 1970:119-128)

N=9

All incised and stamped sherds are tempered with fine clay/grit. Colors vary from light tan to black and the surfaces of all sherds are highly polished.

Three Marksville Stamped sherds from Feature 61 (Stratum V, Mound 12) belong to a shallow bowl with an incurvate rim and rounded lip. The exterior of the vessel was stamped below the rim with concentric swirls and inverted triangles (between the swirls).

Other vessel forms represented are a shallow and a deep bowl. Rims on both vessels are incurvate with a flattened lip; incised decoration appears below the rim.

Larto Red (Phillips 1970:98-100)

N=9

All sherds of this type are thin (thickness: 3 to 5 mm) and are derived from shallow bowls with incurvate rims; all lips are flattened. Primarily associated with Mound 12, particularly Stratum V (N=5), Larto Red relates to the Middle Woodland occupation of Pinson Mounds.

### Ceramics: Discussion

Phase definitions for the Miller sequence have been more quantitative than qualitative and, as a result, rather nebulous. A paucity of excavated sites has not helped to resolve the situation.

Jennings (1944:411-413) originally defined Miller I based on the presence of fiber tempered pottery and sand tempered Saltillo Fabric Impressed. In discussing the temporal position of the Pharr Mounds, Bohannon (1972:39-44) accepts the evidence presented by Cotter and Corbett (1951:33) that Miller I is characterized by Saltillo Fabric Impressed and Baldwin Plain. The definition presented by Jenkins and Curren (1975:18-21) for the central Tombigbee River area follows Bohannon, but also notes the occurrence of Furrs Cordmarked as a minority type that increases over time.

Baldwin Plain and Furrs Cordmarked were used by Jennings as indicators of Miller II, a position at odds with the other investigators' placement of Baldwin Plain. Bohannon loosely defines Miller II as beginning when Furrs Cordmarked becomes more frequent than Baldwin Plain, while Jenkins and Curren view this phase as a period when sand tempered plain and cordmarked wares predominate over fabric impressed ceramics. All of the researchers noted above are in basic agreement that Miller III is marked by a high frequency of clay tempered (i.e., Tishomingo) ceramics.

The Pinson ceramics, particularly those recovered from the Mound 12 excavations (See Table 4), provide additional perspective on the Miller phase definitions. In the lowest level (Stratum VI), Saltillo Fabric Impressed is by far the dominant type present (73%). Furrs Cordmarked (9%), Baldwin Plain (6%), and Withers Fabric Marked (8%) are minority types, as is, surprisingly, Tishomingo Cordmarked (2%). It will be recalled that this was an undisturbed sealed component beneath the mound.

Although a mixed deposit, Stratum V also represents pre-mound occupation. The lowest level (Level 2) yielded a ceramic collection with a lower frequency of Saltillo Fabric Impressed (50%) than Stratum VI, while Furrs Cordmarked (15%), Baldwin Plain (9%), Tishomingo Cordmarked (6%), Tishomingo Plain (1%), and Withers Fabric Marked (12%) increase. In Level I of Stratum V, the percentage of Furrs Cordmarked (36%) increased markedly, while Saltillo Fabric Impressed (20%) is much less common. Other types showing increases are Baldwin Plain (16%), Tishomingo Cordmarked (13%), and Tishomingo Plain (5%), while Withers Fabric Impressed (2%) decreases.

Of particular note is the occurrence of Furrs Cordmarked, Baldwin Plain, and Tishomingo Cordmarked in an undisturbed stratum (Stratum VI) that must be regarded as representing a Miller I occupation. The presence of Tishomingo Cordmarked in the stratum is not seriously at odds with Koehler's (1966:42) scheme, but does raise some question about the adequacy of type definitions. It might also be mentioned that Tishomingo Cordmarked and Plain are minority types at Pinson and that they are frequently found in association with Furrs Cordmarked and Baldwin Plain (see, for example Feature 46, Mound 14 sector).

Despite the large quantity of Saltillo Fabric Impressed recovered from Mound 12, the Pinson ceramics, of which Furrs Cordmarked comprises nearly 30% of the total, appear to reflect a Miller II occupation. Saltillo Fabric Impressed is rare in the other localities tested. Tishomingo Plain and Cordmarked together represent less than 5% of the ceramic assemblage. The low frequency of these types, as well as their association with Furrs Cordmarked and Baldwin Plain, does not support Morse and Polhemus' (n.d.:58-60) arguments concerning the presence of two Middle Woodland occupations at the site based on the occurrence of both sand and clay tempered ware. A stronger case could be made for an early occupation characterized by Saltillo Fabric Impressed pottery and a later occupation in which plain and cordmarked ceramics were dominant. However, only additional excavations at the site can provide conclusive evidence.

## LITHICS

N=1054

The majority of lithic materials recovered during the excavations at Pinson Mounds consisted of chert debitage. Of 1054 lithic artifacts, chert waste flakes comprise nearly one-half (N=513) of the total. Distributional data is presented in Tables 7 through 11.

Although the predominant class of worked tools was projectile points, many of these pre-date the period of mound construction. The low frequency of lithic tools and debitage associated with the Middle Woodland occupation at Pinson Mounds suggests that the area did not sustain a permanent occupation over an extended period of time. At the Cochran site, however, the types and numbers of lithic tools, as well as the by-products of manufacture, was considerably higher.

A substantial number of ironstone chips and fragments, apparently derived from large hoes or choppers, were recovered during the excavations at the two sites. Pieces of fire-cracked sandstone were numerous and were associated almost exclusively with hearths.

Projectile points

N=16

Small shallow side notched

N=1

Dimensions: Length, 32 mm.; width, 17 mm.; thickness, 7 mm.

Material: Blue-gray chert

A single example of this crude, thick type of projectile point was found in the plowzone during excavations in the Twin Mounds sector. This specimen is similar to Type 69 of the Upper Duck River Valley, which is associated with Middle and Late Woodland occupations (Faulkner and McCollough 1973:104). There is also an affinity to Swan Lake a Middle Woodland type, defined by Cambron and Hulse (1969:108).

Medium-narrow Expanded Stemmed, slight barb

N=1

Dimensions: Length, 23 mm. (incomplete); width, 25 mm.; thickness, 8 mm.

Material: Fort Payne chert, thermally altered.

Recovered from the plowzone above Feature 6 in the Twin Mounds sector, this base had undergone intensive thermal alteration. Probably a terminal Archaic or Early Woodland type, this specimen correlates with Type 80 of the Normandy survey (Faulkner and McCollough 1973:109) and the Wade type from Alabama (Cambron and Hulse 1969:110).

Small Straight Stemmed, weak shoulder

N=3

Dimensions: Length, 37.5 mm. (average); width, 18 mm. (average); thickness, 5 mm.

Material: Light gray chert (N=1), reddish banded chert (N=1), cream chert-thermally altered (N=1).

Excavations in the Twin Mounds sector, Mound 12, and the Cochran site each yielded a single example of this point, which appears to be a local variant of Type 54 of the Normandy project (Faulkner and McCollough 1973:101). This is an unspecified Woodland type.

Medium Contracting Stemmed, narrow blade, weak shoulders

N=1

Dimensions: Length, 41 mm.; width, 19 mm.; thickness, 4 mm.

Material: Dark gray chert.

The only example of this type was recovered from the plowzone in the Mound 12 sector. This type is very similar to Gary points, which have been found in terminal Archaic through Middle Woodland contexts in Alabama.

Medium Lanceolate Blade, auriculate base

N=1

Dimensions: Length, 17 mm. (incomplete); width, 22 mm.; thickness, 3 mm.

Material: Light gray chert (thermally altered).

Level 3 of the Twin Mounds sector yielded this base, which resembles a slightly recurvate variant of an unfluted Clovis point (Cambron and Hulse 1969:22). The base and lateral edges are heavily ground and the base was thinned by flaking.

Medium Straight Stemmed, narrow blade

N=1

Dimensions: Length, 50 mm.; width, 23 mm.; thickness, 8 mm.

Material: Tan chert.

Associated with Feature 14, south of the Twin Mounds, this point corresponds to Tye 98 of the Normandy classification (Faulkner and McCollough 1973:119). The specimen was found in a Middle Woodland context.

Medium Expanded Stem, weak shouldered.

N=4

Dimensions: Length, 39 mm. (average); width, 23.5 mm. (average); Thickness 5 mm.

Materials: Light gray chert (N=3), dark gray chert (N=1).

Four examples of this point type were recovered during the excavation of Mound 12 in 1975. Cambron and Hulse (1969:8) refer to similar specimens as Bakers Creek points, while Type 65 of the Normandy classification (Faulkner and McCollough 1973:101-102) is another referent. This point type has been found in association with Copena and Copena Triangular (also called Stemmed Copena) on the surface of numerous sites. A Middle Woodland association is apparent.

Large Triangular, excurvate blade

Figures 26 and 33

N=1

Dimensions: Length, 82 mm.; width, 34 mm.; thickness, 4 mm.

Material: Blue-gray chert with tan inclusions.

Analogous to Type 53 of the Normandy survey (Faulkner and McCollough 1973:94-95) and to the Copena Triangular of the Tennessee River drainage in northwestern Alabama (Cambron and Hulse 1969:26), the single example was found in association with Structure I at the Cochran site. The exotic chert from which the point was manufactured may originate from the Tennessee River drainage.

Medium Triangular, recurvate edges

Figure 33

N=1

Dimensions: Length, 60 mm. (incomplete); width, 28 mm.; thickness, 6 mm.

Material: Dover chert (thermally altered).

A single specimen with a snapped base was recorded in Stratum V of Mound 12. This point corresponds to the Copena type of northern Alabama (Cambron and Hulse 1969:25). Walthall's (1972:146) hypothesized date of A. D. 150-500 for Copena occupation of the Tennessee River area is supported by the radiocarbon dates obtained for Pinson Mounds.

Large Corner Notched, straight base

N=1

Dimensions: Length, 55 mm.; width, 37 mm.; thickness, 5 mm.

Material: Blue-gray chert.

The single specimen was found in Stratum IV of Mound 12 and exhibits a slightly serrated excurvated blade and a straight, heavily ground base. Distinctly weathered on one side, the point had apparently lain on the ground surface for a considerable period of time. Similar examples include Type 122 (Kirk Cluster) of the Normandy survey (Faulkner and McCollough 1973:132-133) and the Kirk Corner-Notched type of Alabama (Cambron and Hulse 1969:70). The specimen dates to the Early Archaic period.

Narrow Thick Lanceolate Stemmed

N=1

Dimensions: Length, 46 mm.; width, 15 mm.; thickness, 10 mm.

Material: Gray Fort Payne chert.

A thick, crude example of this type was recovered from the plow zone of the Cochran site. The Bradley Spike type of Alabama (Cambron and Hulse 1969:15) and Types 59 and 60 of the Normandy classification (Faulkner and McCollough 1973:98-99) are close correlates.

### Blade and Core Tools

Micro lithic Blades

Figure 31

N=19

Dimensions: Length, (all specimens incomplete); width, 6 mm. (average); thickness, 2 mm. (average).

Material: Cream to gray chert (N=9), light gray chert (N=3), dark gray chert (N=2), reddish-pink chert (N=4); all thermally altered.

Eighteen fragments of small, thin, parallel-sided microblades were found at the Cochran site; no complete specimens were recovered. All examples were manufactured from exotic cherts, including Flint Ridge flint.

A single elongated blade, heavily retouched, was associated with Feature 5; this specimen was thermally altered.

#### Cores

N=6

Dimensions: Thickness, 43 mm. (average).

Materials: Light gray chert (N=4), tan chert (N=1), dark gray chert.

Manufactured from a dark gray, non-local chert, the blade core was found on the surface of the Cochran site. Shattered fragments of five additional cores were recovered.

#### Ground and Battered Stone

##### Hammerstones

N=1

Dimensions: Length, 62 mm.; width, 30 mm. (largest specimen).

Material: Reddish-tan quartzite.

Both specimens are made of quartzite and exhibit heavy battering marks.

#### Palettes

Figure 27

N=3

Dimensions: Length, 62 mm.; width, 32 mm.; thickness, 7 mm. (all measurements for complete specimen).

Material: Light greenish-gray limestone (N=2), brown sandstone (N=1).

These tabular limestone fragments exhibit heavy grinding on one surface, while the third example is an incised and decorated fine-grained sandstone palette. All were found in association north of Structure I at the Cochran site. Similar palettes have been reported for the Pharr Mounds in a late Miller I phase context (Bohannon 1972).

#### Pebble Manos

N=8

Dimensions: (all specimens incomplete)

Material: Sandstone.

Most (N=7) mano fragments were recovered from Strata V and VI of Mound 12; test excavations in the Twin Mounds sector produced a single specimen.

#### Exotic Artifacts and Materials

##### Copper

N=4

Dimensions: (see below)

A copper reel-shaped gorget with double holes drilled in its center was found in association with Feature 12, a partially flexed cremation. Only a stain of this object remained; a smaller copper stain was observed adjacent to the gorget. Reel-shaped gorgets are often encountered on Copena sites in northwestern Alabama.

Recovered from Feature 14, a probable crematory pit, at the Cochran site, the rolled copper bead measures 20 mm. in length and 6 mm. wide. Copper fragments were found in two other probable crematory pits: Feature 8 in the Twin Mounds sector and Feature 4 at the Cochran site.

Quartz Crystal  
Figure 30  
N=4

Three quartz crystals were excavated from the floor of Structure I (Feature 2) at the Cochran site. A worked crystal was recovered from Feature 46 in Mound 14 sector. These crystals probably derive from the Appalachians or Arkansas.

Mica  
N=15

All fragments of sheet mica were recovered from Mound 12 (N=9) and the Cochran site (N=6). A fragment of a cut mica disc was recovered from Feature 52, a redeposited cremation located on the periphery of Mound 12. The probable source for the mica is the Appalachian Mountains.

## CONCLUSIONS

The most significant accomplishment of the two-year testing program at Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Area has been the substantiation of the view expressed by earlier researchers that the majority of the mounds and occupation areas (mortuary encampments) date to the Middle Woodland period. Indeed, there is currently no artifactual evidence that any of the mounds at Pinson date to a later cultural period (i.e. Mississippian). Of note is the fact that ceramics collected from the surface of Ozier Mound, a "typical Mississippian temple mound" (Morse and Polhemus n.d.:7), are of Middle Woodland affiliation. Perhaps further excavations will indicate similarities between Pinson and the Mandeville site (Keller, Kelly, and McMichael 1962). Additionally, the excavated materials suggest that the Pinson region was an integral part of the trade network that has been termed the Hopewell Interaction Sphere (Caldwell 1964; Streuver 1964, 1965, 1968).

The Middle Woodland component at Pinson Mound has as its closest regional affiliate the Miller sequence of northeastern Mississippi. Three Miller phase sites - Bynum, the Pharr Mounds, and the type site - have been excavated and described in the literature (Cotter and Corbett 1951; Bohannon 1972; Jennings 1952) and Pinson exhibits several notable similarities in material culture with these, such as the ceramic assemblage and the construction of mounds to cover crematory facilities. Burial platforms, similar to that excavated in Mound 12, have been documented at Bynum and Pharr (Bohannon 1972:69), while the ceramic assemblages are almost identical. The Pinson ceramic assemblage indicates that the major occupation of the site occurred during the Miller II phase.

Although Pinson Mounds has produced a comparatively low frequency of exotic artifacts when compared to the range and numbers of those recovered from Bynum and Pharr, this dichotomy may be explained by the fact that, to date, only one mound at Pinson has been systematically excavated. The specimens of sheet mica, quartz crystals, exotic chert microliths, greenstone, and freshwater pearls recovered during the 1974 and 1975 excavations suggest that a greater range of high status items will be found when other mounds at the site are excavated.

Among the exotic artifacts recovered to date are a number of diagnostic Copena artifacts, including Copena projectile points. Additionally, a Copena polished celt, collected on the surface of the site many years ago, was reported by Fischer and McNutt (1962:6). This suggests that Middle Woodland peoples in northwestern Alabama were participating in a trade network that included the Pinson region. The northeastern Mississippi region may not have been part of the network; temporal differences might also account for the absence of certain exotic items. It should also be mentioned here that galena has not been encountered at Pinson Mounds or at the Cochran site. However, several pieces have been collected from Middle Woodland sites along the South Fork of the South Forked Deer River watershed. The presence of exotic (Flint Ridge) cherts that were utilized in the manufacture of microlithic blade tools at the Cochran site suggests interaction between the Middle Woodland inhabitants of the Pinson area and groups of the late Hopewellian phase of Ohio and possibly the Pike phase of the lower Illinois valley.

The earliest radiocarbon date for Pinson, A.D.  $60 \pm 380$  (UGa-979), was obtained from a charcoal sample recovered from Feature 46, a large earth oven excavated during the 1974 field season. Obviously the standard deviation is too great for this date to be significant. A more satisfactory date, A. D.  $125 \pm 65$  (UGa-980), was calculated for a sample removed from a large postmold (Feature 48). This feature contained Furrs Cordmarked and Baldwin Plain sherds, suggesting that the date pertains to a Miller II occupation. Koehler (1966:64) has reported a date of A. D.  $70 \pm 100$  (OX123) from a Middle Woodland village feature at the Womack site. Associated ceramics apparently included Baldwin Plain, Furrs Cordmarked, and Tishomingo Plain, although this is not clear (Koehler 1966:20).

Two dates for Pinson overlap those reported by Walthall (1972) on charcoal samples recovered from the central pits of two Copena mounds. The Pinson dates, A. D.  $290 \pm 70$  (UGa-976) and A. D.  $270 \pm 70$  (UGa-977) relate to Feature 34, an oval structure in the Mound 12 sector. Walthall's (1972:140-141) Copena dates are A. D.  $320 \pm 65$  (UGa-400) and A. D.  $375 \pm 75$  (UGa-399), leaving open the possibility of interaction between Pinson and northern Alabama. Samples from the Womack site (Koehler 1966:63-64) have produced two comparable dates. The earliest of these, A. D.  $250 \pm 80$  (OX160), was derived from material recovered within the mound platform. There is no indication of associated materials. A date of A. D.  $380 \pm 80$  (OX162) was obtained from a charcoal sample obtained from fill approximately one foot above the platform. Again, the exact provenience of the sample is unclear, but it apparently was recovered from Level 1 of the mound. Ceramics associated with this level, in order of frequency were Thomas Plain/Blue Lake Cordmarked/Twin Lakes Fabric Impressed (56%), Baldwin Plain/Furrs Cordmarked/Salttillo Fabric Impressed (30%), Tishomingo Plain and Cordmarked (12%).

The most recent radiocarbon date for Pinson Mounds was A. D.  $775 \pm 135$  (UGa-978) on charcoal recovered from Feature 37 in the Mound 12 sector. Unfortunately, only two sherds of Tishomingo Plain were associated with this large postmold. This date compares favorably with OX-122 from the Womack site which dates a burned log from Level 3 of the mound to A. D.  $670 \pm 80$  (Koehler 1966:63-64). Significantly, the level from which this date was derived exhibits the highest percentage (41%) of Tishomingo Plain and Cordmarked of the three construction levels recorded.

The range of radiocarbon dates for Pinson lends a measure of support to Morse and Polhemus' (n.d.:58-60) argument that two periods of Middle Woodland occupation are represented at the site. However, sand and clay/grit tempered ceramics occur in association at Pinson, both in features and stratigraphic units, indicating that this matter remains unresolved. The ceramic assemblage suggests late Miller I and Miller II age for much of the Middle Woodland occupation.

It seems apparent that some form of interaction - probably trade networks - occurred between the Middle Woodland people of the Pinson region and those of the Hopewell, Marksville, Copena, Swift Creek, and Miller areas. The Pinson sites should be regarded as a local adaptation to the pan Middle Woodland phenomenon that characterized most areas of the eastern United States during that period. As such, the Pinson burial complex can only be understood in terms of the subsistence-settlement system of the South Fork of the Forked Deer drainage area (Broster and Weaver 1975). The role and function of Pinson Mounds within the Middle Woodland trade networks is only a corollary, dependent upon information gleaned from further systematic study of the site and the surrounding region.

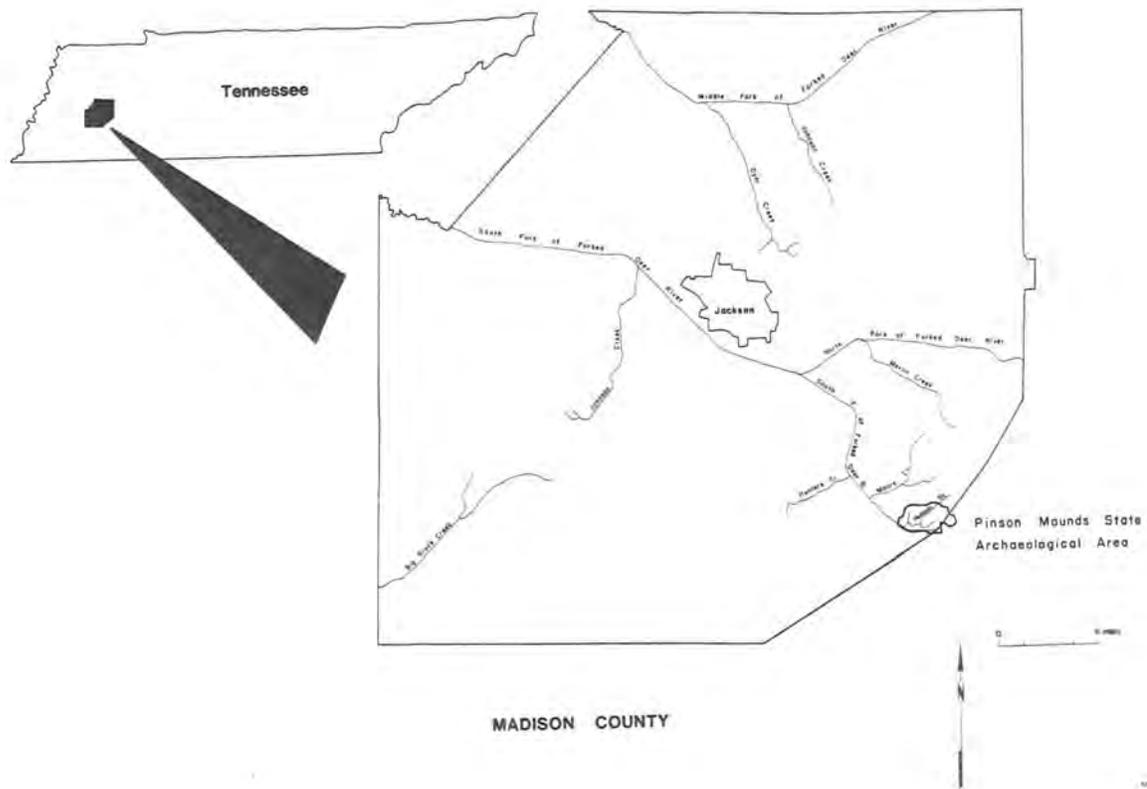


Figure 1: Location of Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Area

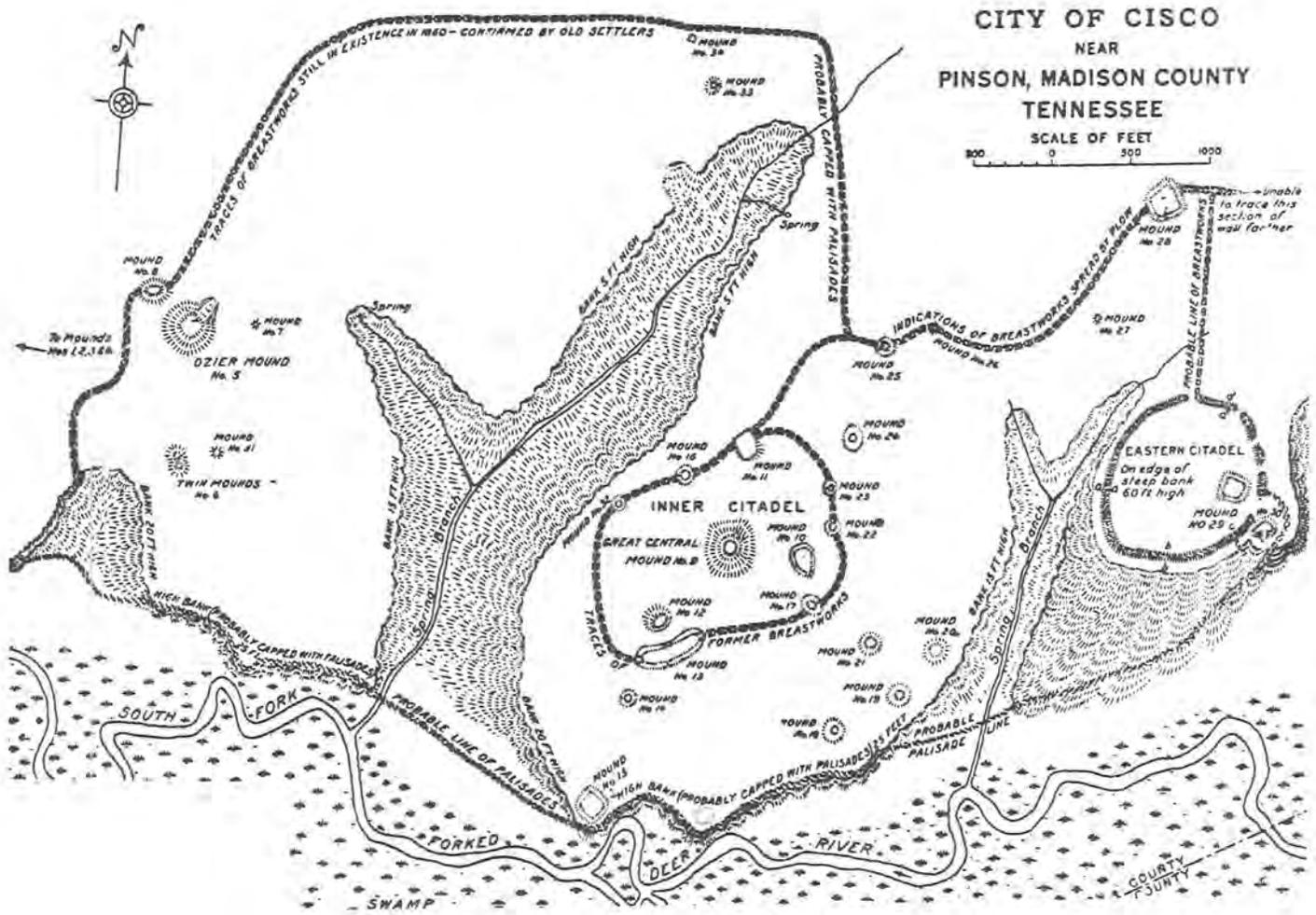


Figure 2: Myer's Map of Pinson Mounds (City of Cisco)

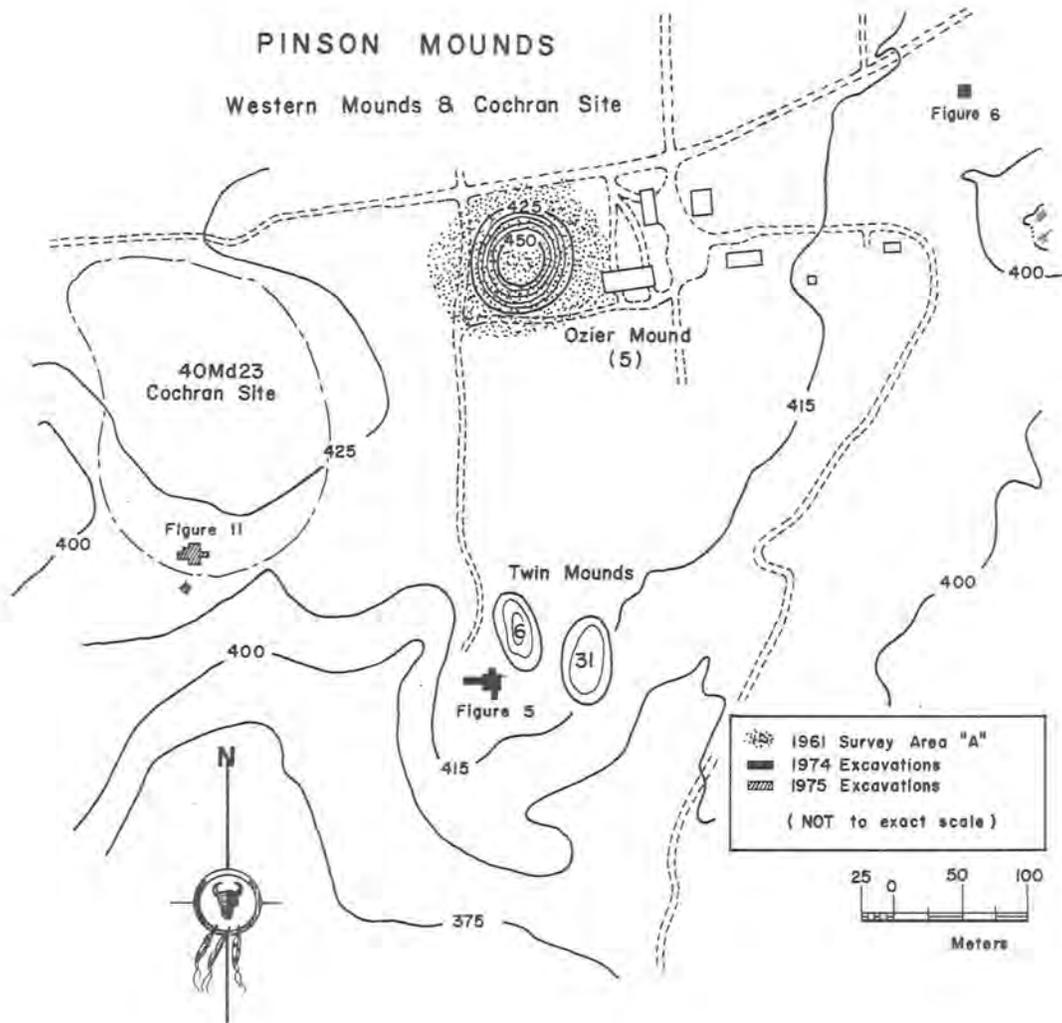


Figure 3: Western Mounds and Cochran Site

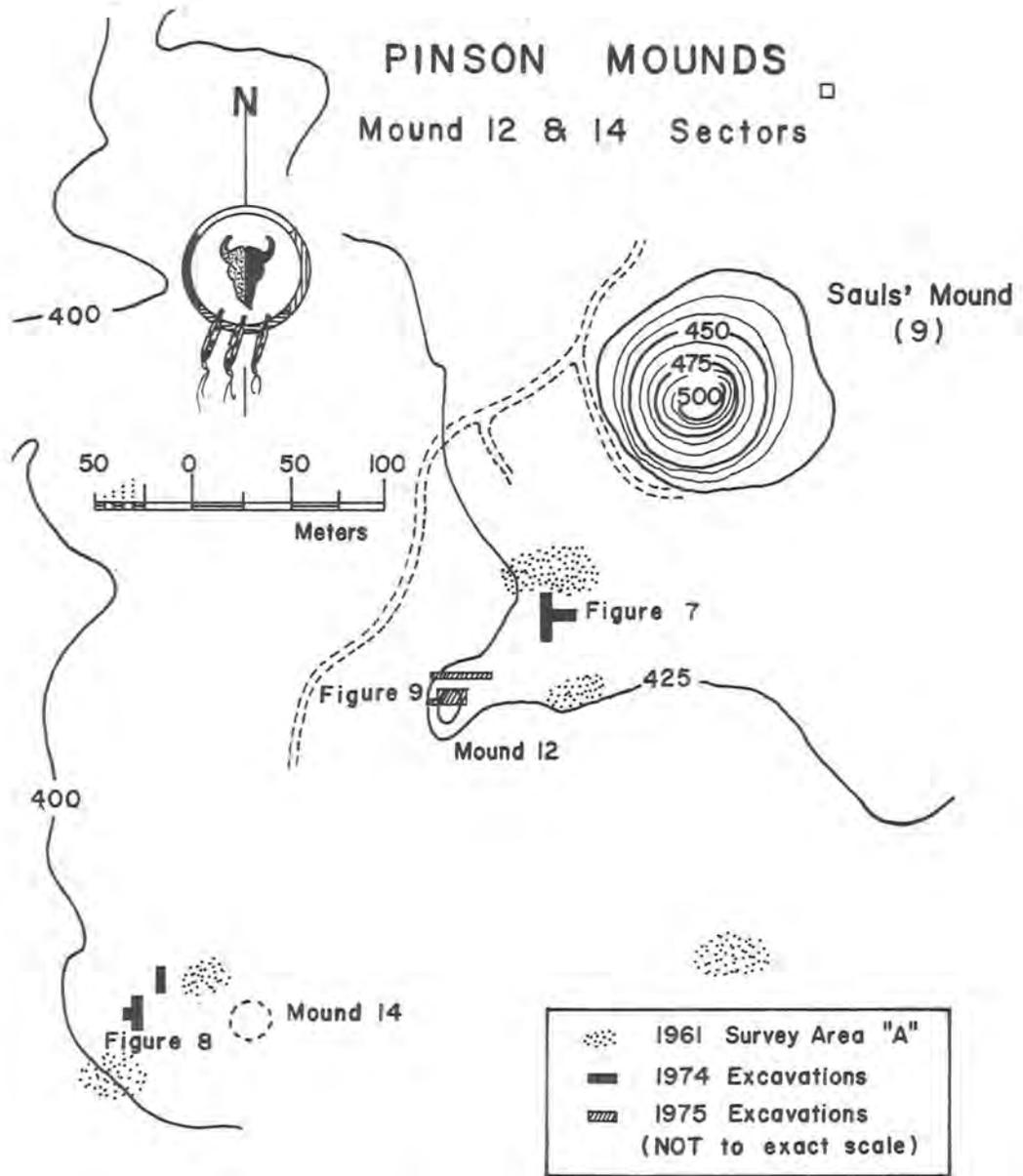


Figure 4: Mound 12 and 14 sectors

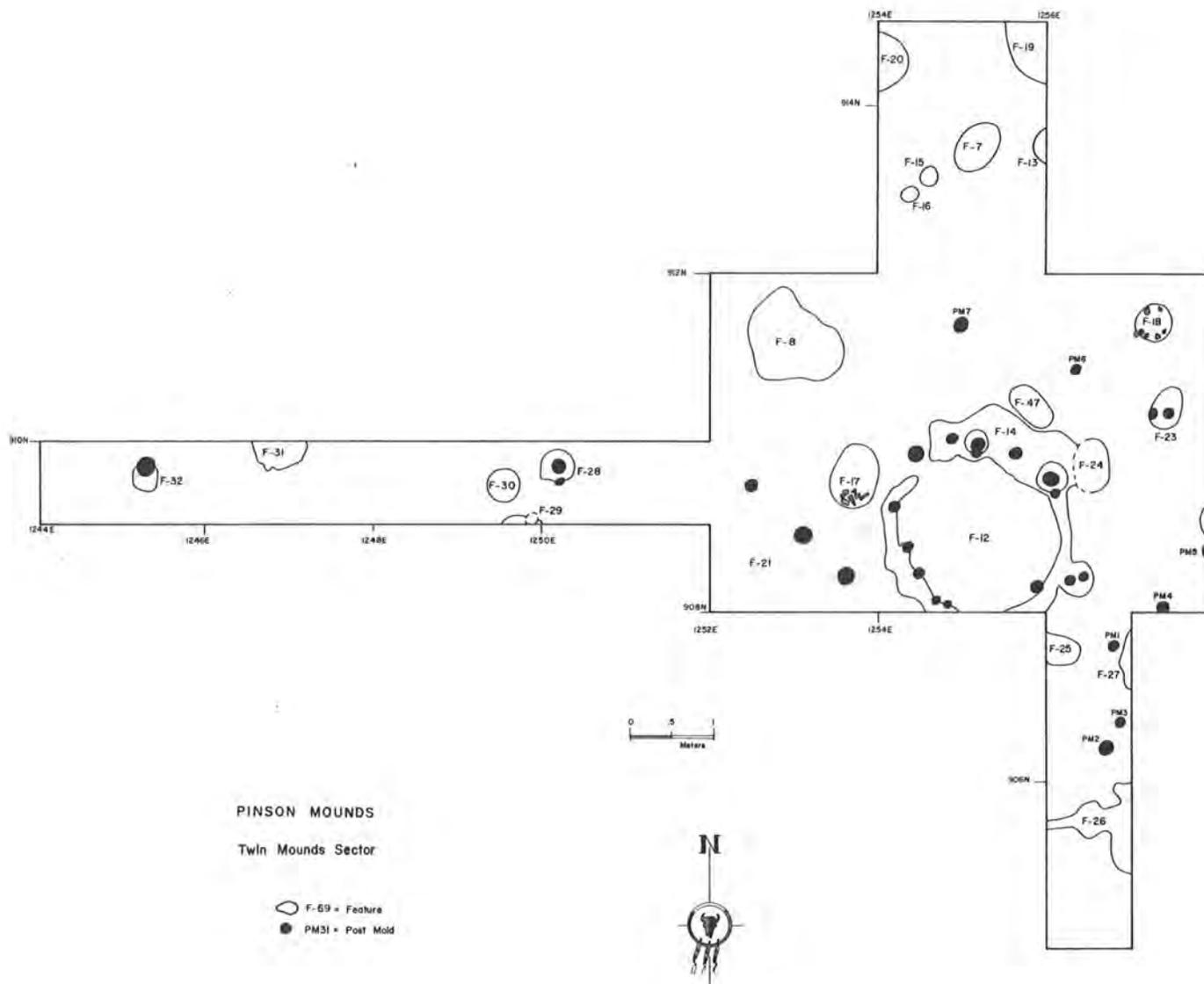


Figure 5: Twin Mounds sector

# PINSON MOUNDS

## Ozier Mound Sector

- F-3 = Feature
- PM69 = Post Mold

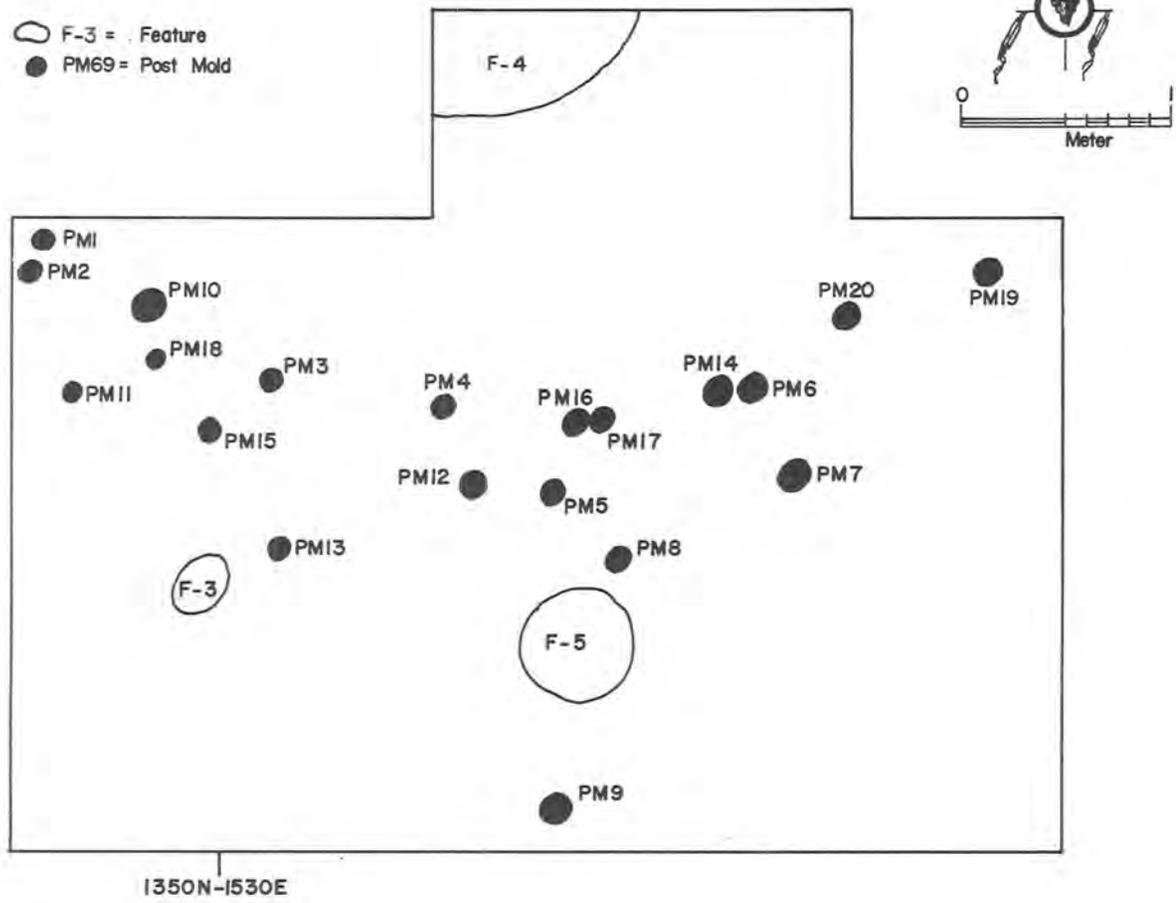


Figure 6: Ozier Mound sector

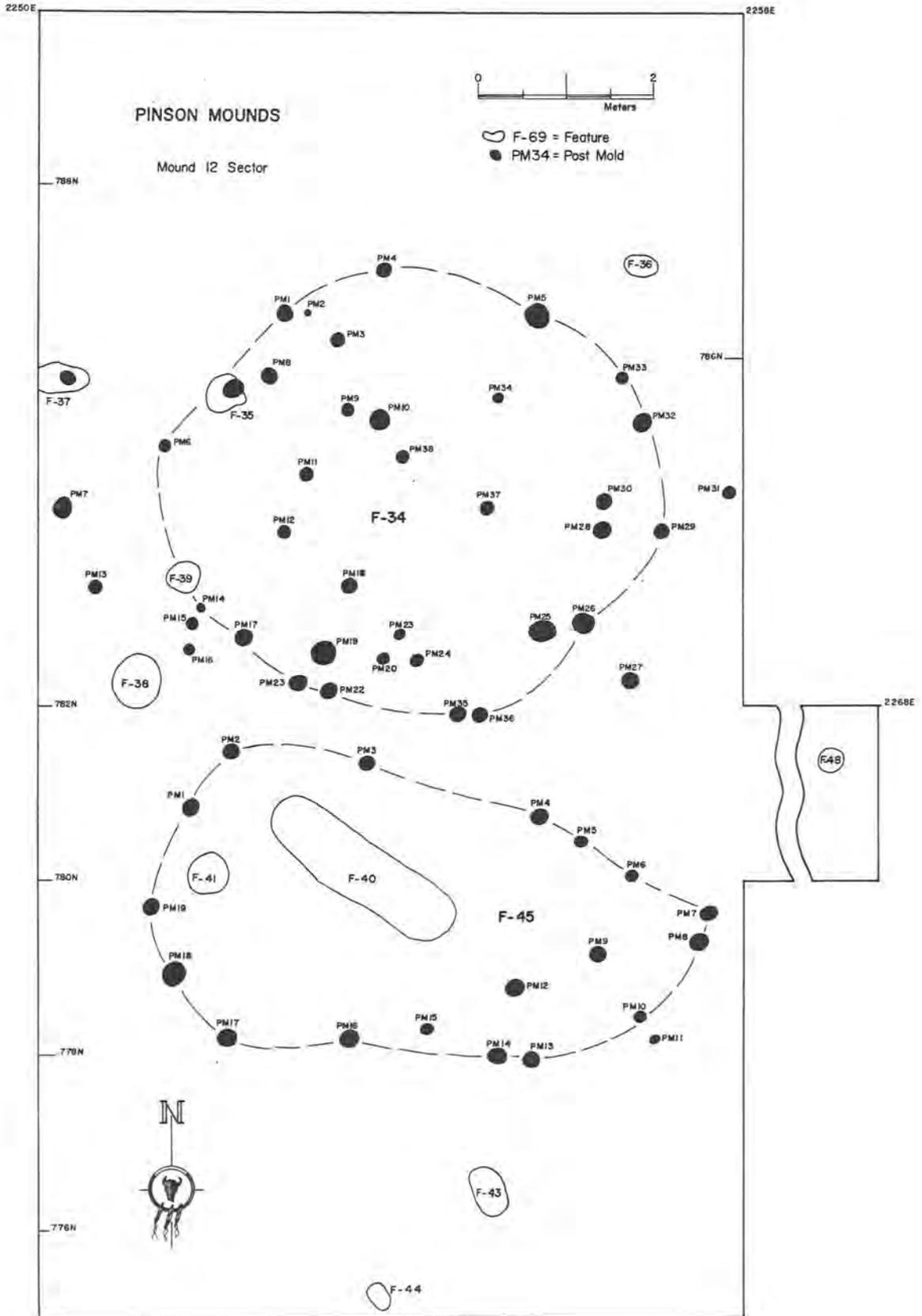


Figure 7: Mound 12 sector

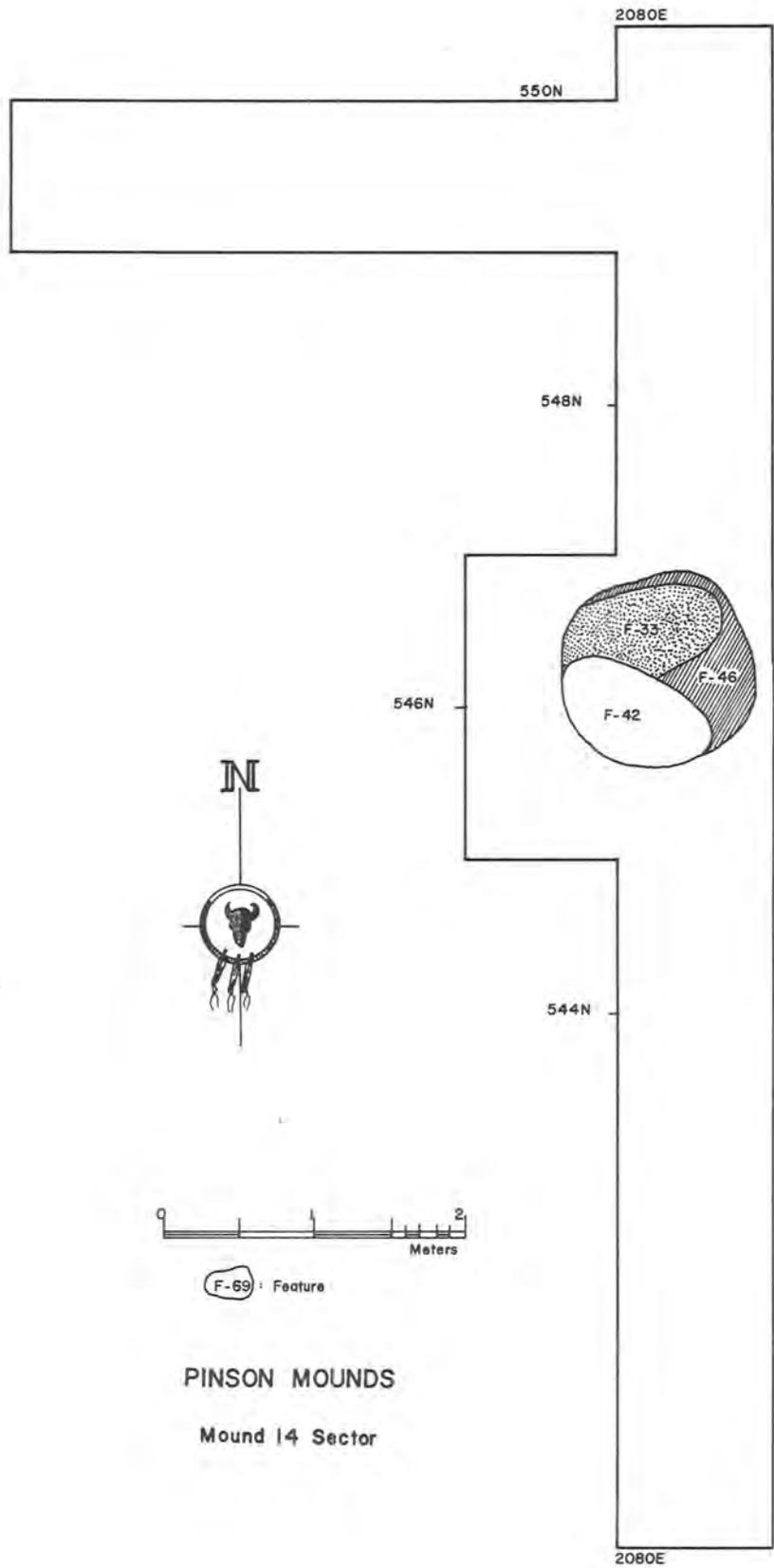


Figure 8: Mound 14 sector

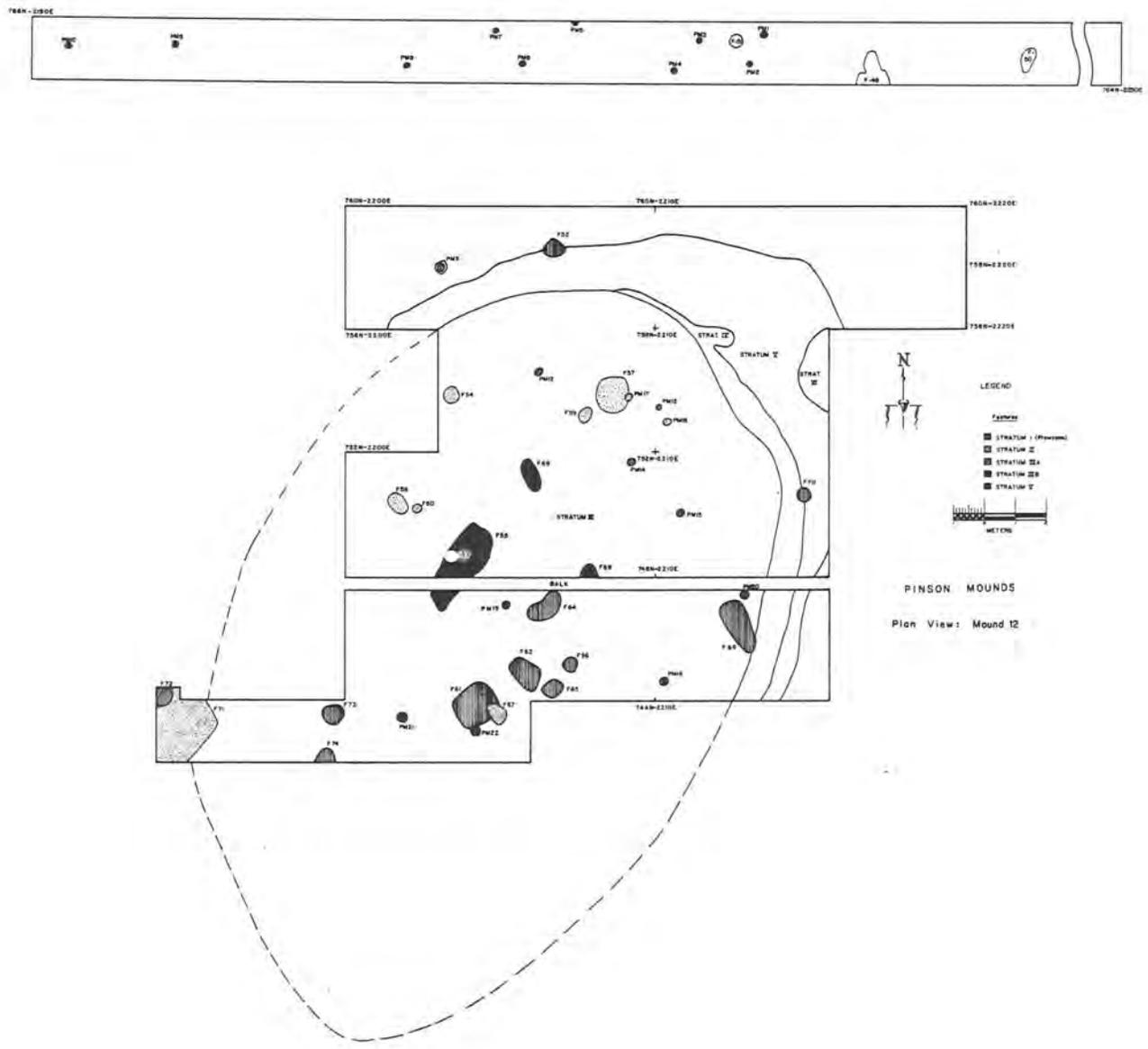


Figure 9: Plan view: Mound 12

PINSON MOUNDS  
Mound 12 - 742H Profile

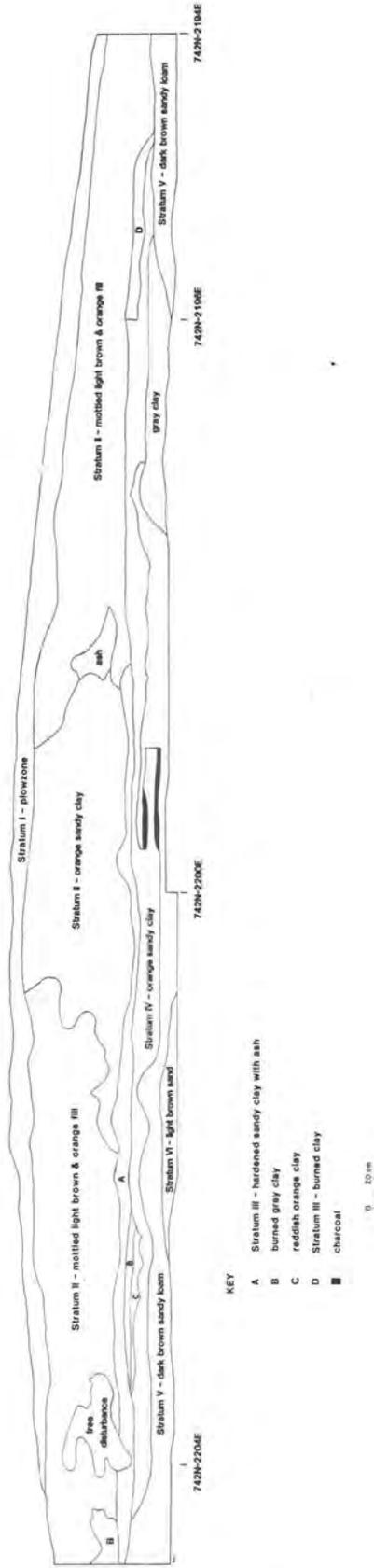


Figure 10: Mound 12 profile





Figure 12: General view of Twin Mounds sector  
(looking southeast)

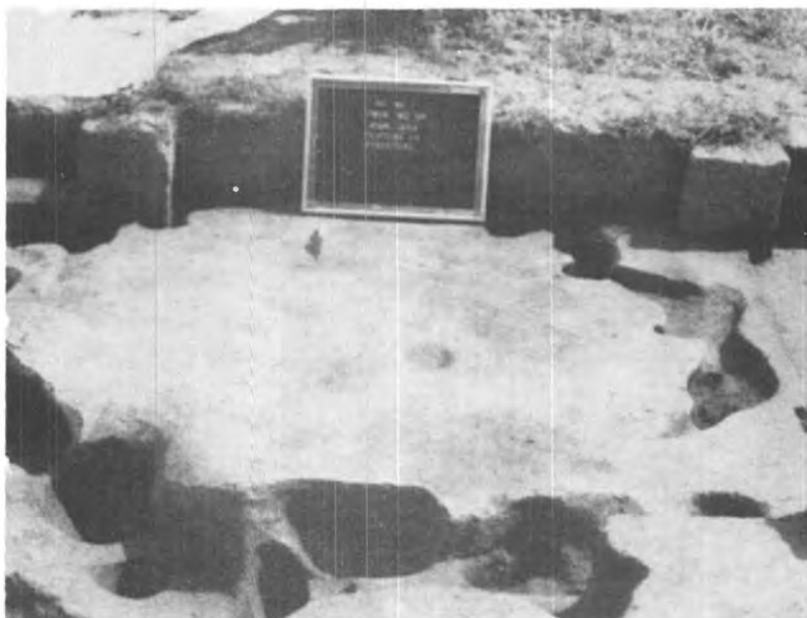


Figure 13: Twin Mounds sector  
Features 12 and 14

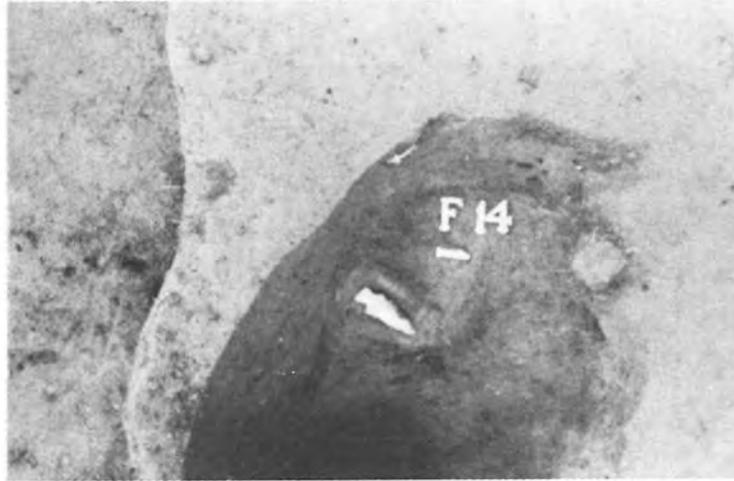


Figure 14: Twin Mounds sector  
Feature 14



Figure 15: Twin Mounds sector  
Feature 17

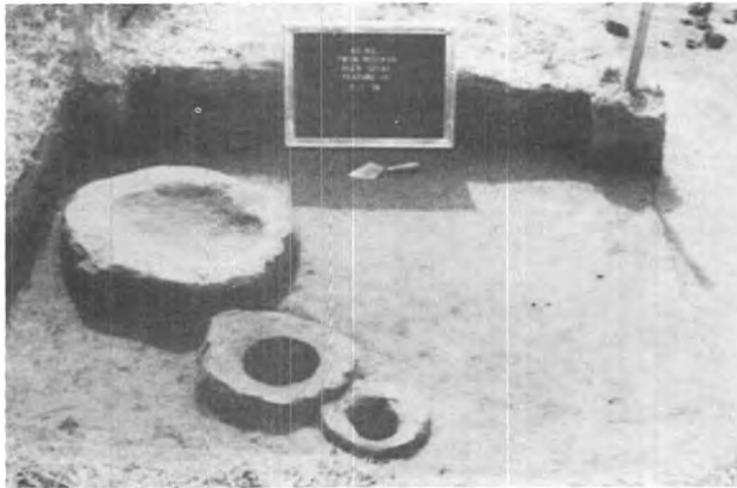


Figure 16: Twin Mounds sector  
Features 7, 15, and 16



Figure 17: General view of Mound 12 sector  
(looking southwest)

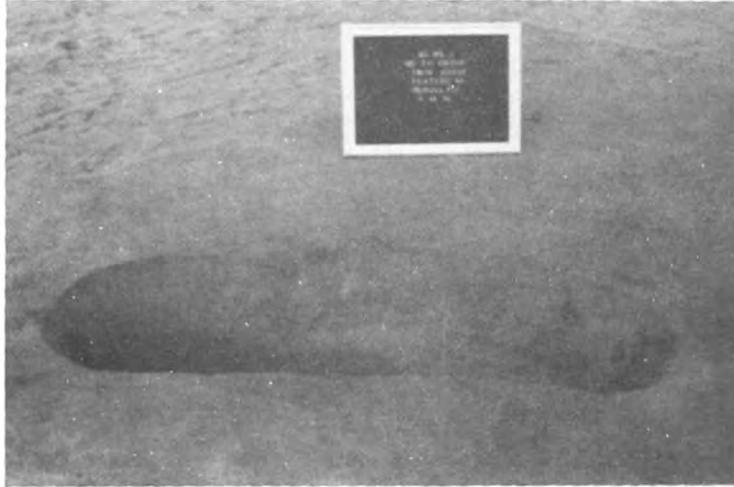


Figure 18: Mound 12 sector  
Feature 40



Figure 19: Mound 12  
748N Profile and Stratum IIIA

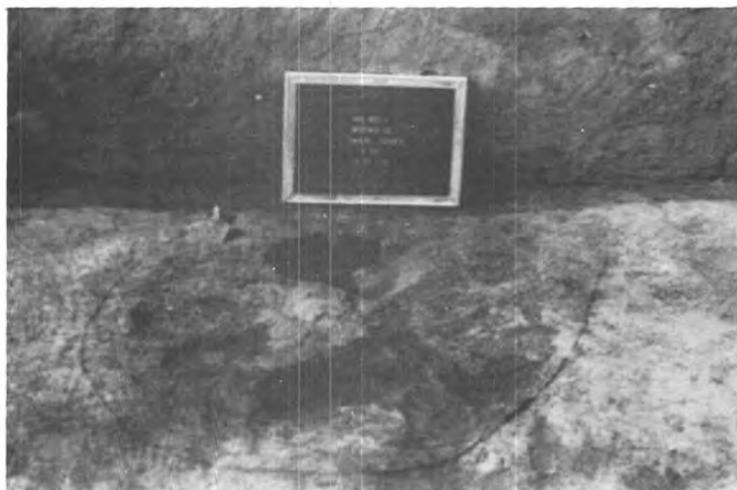


Figure 20: Mound 12  
Feature 55

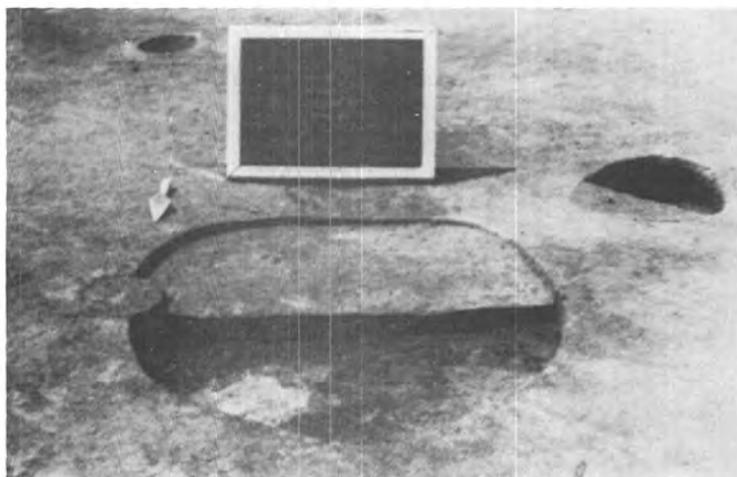


Figure 21: Mound 12  
Feature 57



Figure 22: Mound 12  
742N Profile

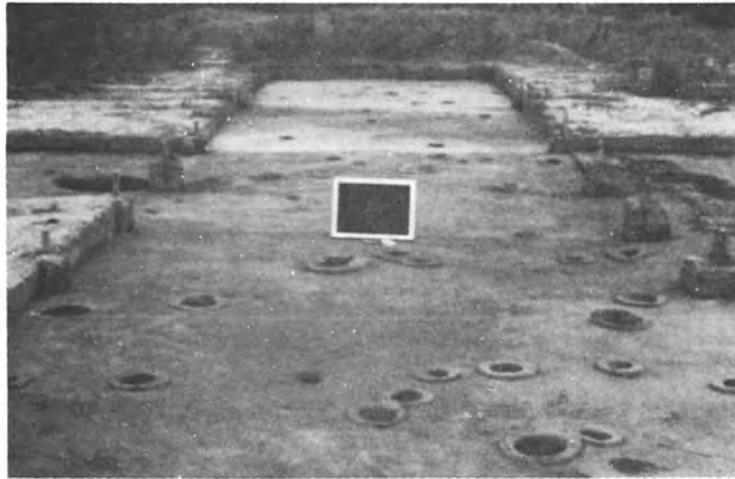


Figure 23: General view of Cochran site  
(looking west)

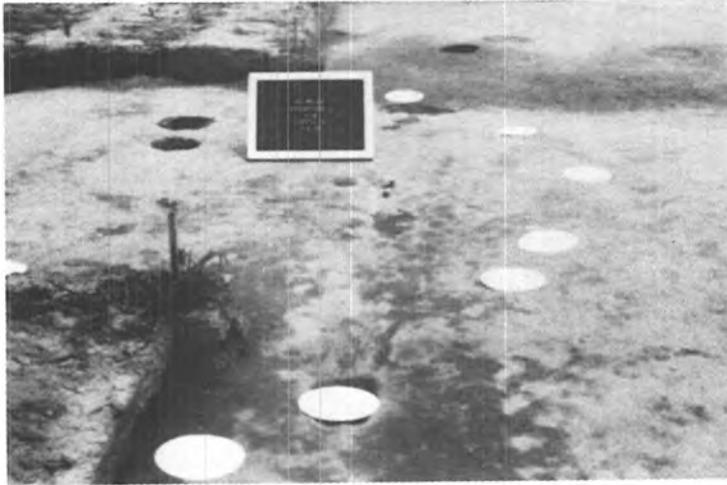


Figure 24: Cochran site  
Structure II

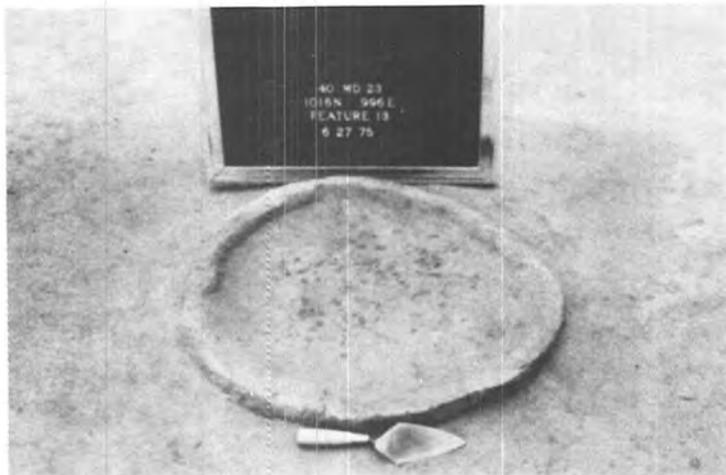


Figure 25: Cochran site  
Feature 13



Figure 26: Cochran site - Copena Triangular point  
on floor of Structure I

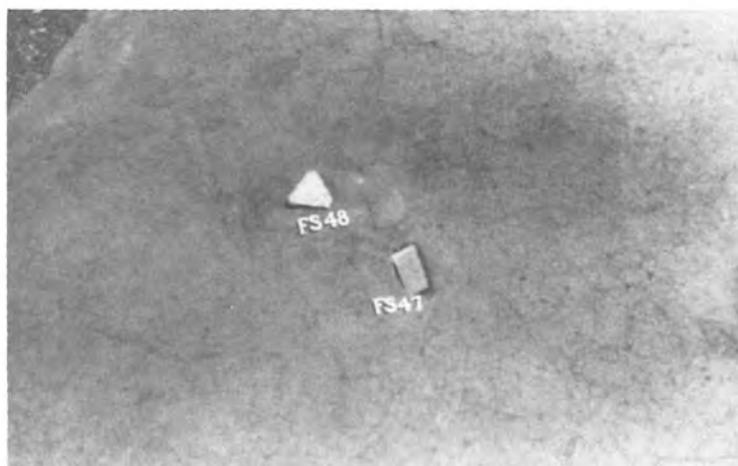


Figure 27: Cochran site-carved sandstone palette  
in situ north of Structure I

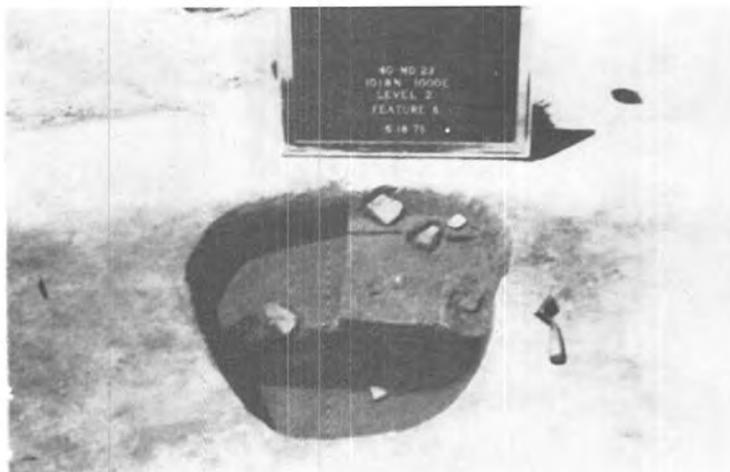


Figure 28: Cochran site  
Feature 8

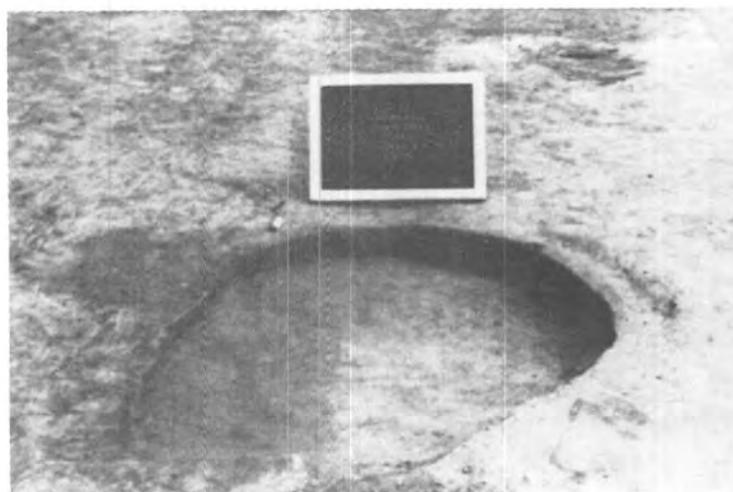


Figure 29: Cochran site  
Feature 14



Figure 30: Quartz crystals  
from the Cochran site

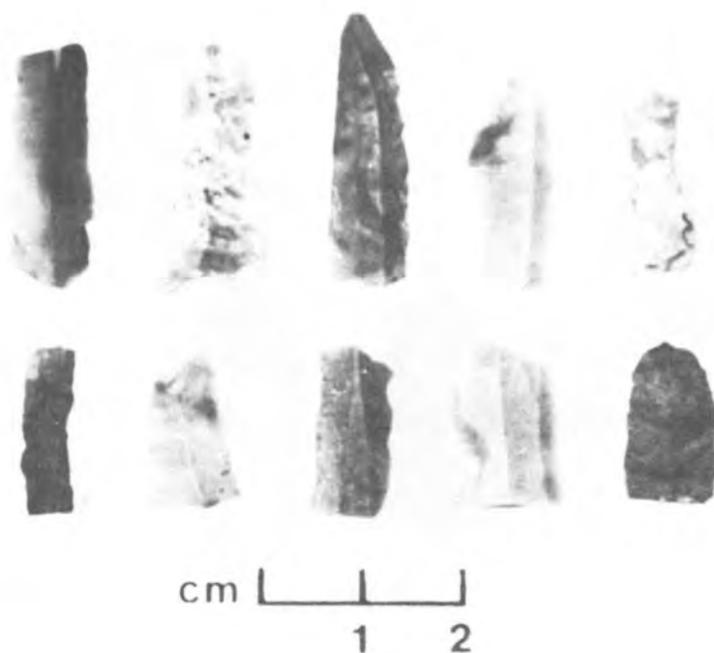


Figure 31: Microlithic blades  
from the Cochran site

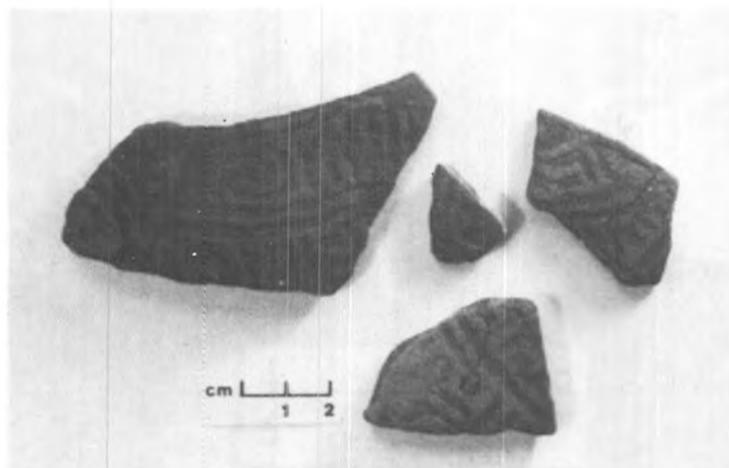


Figure 32: Complicated stamped sherds  
from Feature 46, Mound 14 sector



Figure 33: Copena and Copena Triangular  
projectile points

## ABBREVIATIONS USED IN CERAMIC TABLES

FCM	=	Furrs Cordmarked
BP	=	Baldwin Plain
SPI	=	Saltillo Fabric Impressed
NI	=	Net Impressed
CS	=	Complicated Stamped
SE	=	Sand Tempered eroded
TCM	=	Tishomingo Cordmarked
TP	=	Tishomingo Plain
WFM	=	Withers Fabric Marked
MI	=	Marksville Incised
MS	=	Marksville Stamped
LR	=	Larto Red
CR	=	Clay tempered eroded
CO	=	Clay object

## ABBREVIATIONS USED IN LITHIC TABLES

PP	=	Projectile Point
UF	=	Utilized chert flake
RF	=	Retouched chert flake
B/K	=	Biface/Knife (chert)
WF	=	Waste flake
Ta	=	Thermally altered waste flake
Ua	=	Unaltered waste flake
IC	=	Ironstone flake
IF	=	Ironstone fragment
GS	=	Ground stone
HA	=	Hammerstone
CF	=	Core fragment
FCR	=	Fire-cracked rock (sandstone)
RO	=	Red ochre
Q	=	Quartz crystal
MB	=	Microlithic blade
MC	=	Mica
CP	=	Copper



<u>Provenience</u>	<u>Sand Tempered</u>				<u>Clay Tempered</u>							<u>Sherd TOTALS</u>
	<u>FCM</u>	<u>BP</u>	<u>SFI</u>	<u>SE</u>	<u>TCM</u>	<u>TP</u>	<u>WFM</u>	<u>LR</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>CR</u>	<u>Daub</u>	
F-21-PM1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
F-23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	0
F-24	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
F-25	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	12
F-26	5	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	9
F-28	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
F-30	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
F-31	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	5
F-32	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>571</b>

TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMICS: MOUND 12 SECTOR

<u>Provenience</u>	<u>Sand Tempered</u>				<u>Clay Tempered</u>							<u>Sherd TOTALS</u>
	<u>FCM</u>	<u>BP</u>	<u>SFI</u>	<u>SE</u>	<u>TCM</u>	<u>TP</u>	<u>WFM</u>	<u>LR</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>CR</u>	<u>Daub</u>	
Level 2	6	1	-	19	11	3	-	-	-	-	-	39
F-37	-	-	-	-	2		-	-	-	-	-	2
F-40	6	4	-	-	24	5	-	3	-	-	20	42
F-41	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
F-43	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
F-48	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
TOTALS	13	8	0	19	39	9	0	3	0	0	20	91

TABLE 3: DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMICS: MOUND 14 SECTOR

<u>Provenience</u>	<u>Sand Tempered</u>					<u>Clay Tempered</u>						<u>Sherd TOTALS</u>
	<u>FCM</u>	<u>BP</u>	<u>SFI</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>SE</u>	<u>TCM</u>	<u>TP</u>	<u>WFM</u>	<u>LR</u>	<u>CR</u>	<u>Daub</u>	
F-33	10	4	1	1	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	21
F-42	15	5	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	1	-	25
F-46	36	16	-	6	13	30	13	1	1	6	3	122
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>168</b>

TABLE 4: DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMICS: MOUND 12

Provenience	Sand Tempered					Clay Tempered								Sherd TOTALS
	FCM	BP	SFI	NI	SE	TCM	TP	WFM	MI	MS	LR	CR	CO	
Stratum II	35	11	4	-	1	18	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	72
Stratum III	21	1	6	-	11	12	2	9	-	-	-	8	-	70
Stratum IV	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Stratum V														
Level 1	120	52	65	1	15	44	17	8	4	-	3	1	5	330
Level 2	54	34	184	3	17	21	5	44	-	-	2	-	8	107
F-50	5	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	11
F-55	4	1	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	11
F-57	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
F-61	16	7	12	-	2	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	42
F-63	2	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
F-64	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
F-65	-	-	4	-	-	24	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	29
F-66	-	-	5	-	4	-	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	46
F-70	-	3	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
F-71	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
F-73	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
TOTALS	278	126	364	4	53	124	28	112	6	3	5	11	21	1115

TABLE 5: DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMICS: COCHRAN SITE

Provenience	Sand Tempered				Clay Tempered					Sherd TOTALS
	FCM	BP	SFI	SE	TCM	TP	WFM	CR	Daub	
Level 2	20	8	-	9	2	-	6	2	-	47
F-2	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	8
F-2(PM2)	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	6
F-2 (PM4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0
F-2 (PM5)	1	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	9
F-2 (PM10)	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
F-2 (PM20)	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	3
F-2 (PM21)	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	1	-	7
F-2 (PM24)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	0
F-2 (PM26)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
F-2 (PM29)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0
F-4	4	1	4	4	-	-	-	1	-	14
F-7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F-8	-	1	44	31	2	2	1	1	-	82
F-9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F-10	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
F-12	8	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	12
F-13	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	15	1
F-14	34	4	2	40	2	-	-	-	5	82
F-16 (PM3)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F-16 (PM5)	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
TOTALS	77	20	53	104	16	3	7	7	27	287

TABLE 6: DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMICS (SUMMARY)

<u>Provenience</u>	FCM	Sand Tempered					Clay/Grit Tempered							TOTALS
		BP	SFI	CS	NI	SE	TCM	TP	WFM	LR	MS	MI	CR	
Twin Mound Sector	241	97	1	0	0	197	19	23	1	1	1	0	17	571
Mound 12 Sector	7	8	0	0	0	0	28	6	0	3	0	0	0	52
Mound 14 Sector	61	25	1	7	0	13	36	15	1	2	0	0	7	168
Mound 12	278	126	364	0	4	53	124	28	112	5	3	6	12	1115
Cochran Site	77	20	53	0	0	104	16	3	7	0	0	0	7	287
TOTALS	637	276	419	7	4	367	223	75	121	11	4	6	43	1710

TABLE 7: DISTRIBUTION OF LITHICS: TWIN MOUNDS SECTOR

<u>Provenience</u>	<u>PP</u>	<u>UF</u>	<u>RF</u>	<u>B/K</u>	<u>WF</u>		<u>IC</u>	<u>IF</u>	<u>GS</u>	<u>HA</u>	<u>CF</u>	<u>FCR</u>	<u>RO</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
					Ta	Ua								
Level 2	1	2	3	1	49	111	-	36	1	-	1	36	7	248
Level 3	-	-	1	-	13	15	13	2	-	1	-	6	-	51
Level 4	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	4
F-6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
F-7	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
F-8	-	1	-	-	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	15
F-9	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	9
F-10	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5
F-12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
F-14	1	-	1	-	4	4	-	3	1	-	1	1	1	17
F-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
F-17	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	17
F-24	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
F-25	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F-26	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
F-30	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
F-31	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>380</b>

TABLE 8: DISTRIBUTION OF LITHICS: MOUND 12 SECTOR

<u>Provenience</u>	<u>PP</u>	<u>US</u>	<u>RF</u>	<u>B/K</u>	<u>WF</u>		<u>IC</u>	<u>IF</u>	<u>GS</u>	<u>HA</u>	<u>CF</u>	<u>FCR</u>	<u>RO</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
					Ta	Ua								
Level 2	-	2	-	1	4	20	6	2	-	-	11	3	49	
F-37	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
F-40	-	-	-	-	4	15	1	1	-	-	-	6	27	
F-43	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	
F-48	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>83</b>	

TABLE 9: DISTRIBUTION OF LITHICS: MOUND 14 SECTOR

<u>Provenience</u>	<u>PP</u>	<u>UF</u>	<u>RF</u>	<u>B/K</u>	<u>WF</u>		<u>IC</u>	<u>IF</u>	<u>GS</u>	<u>HA</u>	<u>CF</u>	<u>FCR</u>	<u>RO</u>	<u>Q</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
					Ta	Ua									
F-33	-	4	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	1	-	6	2	-	23
F-42	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
F-46	-	7	-	-	8	23	2	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	45
<b>TOTALS</b>	0	11	0	0	10	33	2	1	1	1	1	7	3	1	71

TABLE 10: DISTRIBUTION OF LITHICS: MOUND 12

<u>Provenience</u>	<u>PP</u>	<u>UF</u>	<u>RF</u>	<u>B/K</u>	<u>WF</u>		<u>MB</u>	<u>IC</u>	<u>IF</u>	<u>GS</u>	<u>HA</u>	<u>FCR</u>	<u>MC</u>	<u>RO</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
					<u>Ta</u>	<u>Ua</u>									
Stratum II	-	5	6	-	7	1	1	2	2	-	-	7	-	2	33
Stratum III	1	3	2	-	9	3	-	2	-	-	-	5	-	3	28
Stratum IV	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Stratum V															
Level 1	2	18	5	-	26	13	-	8	1	-	1	31	3	6	114
Level 2	-	27	8	3	35	1	1	2	-	1	-	25	-	3	106
Stratum VI	1	11	-	-	16	2	-	1	-	6	-	13	-	2	52
F-50	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
F-52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
F-55	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	9
F-57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
F-61	-	7	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	16
F-63	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8
F-66	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
F-71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>388</b>

TABLE 11: DISTRIBUTION OF LITHICS: COCHRAN SITE

<u>Provenience</u>	<u>PP</u>	<u>UF</u>	<u>RF</u>	<u>WF</u>		<u>MB</u>	<u>IC</u>	<u>IF</u>	<u>CP</u>	<u>FCR</u>	<u>MC</u>	<u>GS</u>	<u>Q</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
				Ta	Ua									
Level 2	1	1	9	8	3	3	2	-	-	17	-	3	-	47
F-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
F-2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	8
F-2(PM2)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F-2(PM4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F-2(PM5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
F-2(PM10)	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
F-2(PM16)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
F-2(PM18)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F-2(PM19)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F-2(PM20)	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
F-2(PM21)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
F-4	1	1	-	2	6	2	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	16
F-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F-7	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
F-8	-	6	3	5	17	3	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	38
F-9	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F-10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
F-12	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	6
F-13	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F-14	-	3	-	11	7	-	6	-	1	5	-	-	-	33
F-16(PM5)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTALS	2	12	15	28	38	12	15	0	2	36	6	3	3	172

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION AT  
PINSON MOUNDS (40MD1) STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA: 1978

By  
Ann Toplovich

## INTRODUCTION

The Pinson Mounds Site (40MD1) is a group of thirty-four mounds that extends for two and a half miles along the South Fork of the Forked Deer River near Pinson, Tennessee (Nuckolls 1958). This impressive mound group has been a subject of interest since its discovery by Joel Pinson in 1818, shortly after the Western Section was opened for settlement (Broster and Schneider, 1975:2). The mounds, however, received little attention until J. G. Cisco, a Jackson, Tennessee newspaperman, publicized their importance in the 1880's. In 1916, William E. Myer of the Smithsonian Institution carried out a limited archaeological investigation of the mounds. Aside from this brief investigation, no recorded excavations took place until 1961. At this time the citizens of Jackson began urging the State of Tennessee to purchase this mound complex which, until then, had not received attention or recognition commensurate with its size and importance.

Working on a grant from the National Park Service, the University of Tennessee conducted two field seasons of test excavations to assess the importance of future acquisition of the Pinson Mounds by the State of Tennessee. The first of these investigations was conducted by Fred W. Fischer and Charles H. McNutt in 1961. Interpretations indicated three of the mounds (#5, #9, and #14) contained evidence of Mississippian cultural association and the remainder a Middle Woodland cultural association (Fischer and McNutt 1962). In 1963, Dan F. Morse and James H. Polhemus, III conducted further test excavations that substantiated the earlier findings and expanded the list of cultural associations to Early, Middle, and Late Archaic, Early and Middle Woodland, Mississippian and Historic periods (Morse and Polhemus n.d.:56-63).

In 1966, the Tennessee Department of Conservation purchased the Pinson Mound group with the intent to develop the complex into a state archaeological area and park. John B. Broster, field archaeologist with the Tennessee Division of Archaeology, conducted a series of excavations within the State-owned lands during 1974 and 1975. The results of these excavations supported the interpretation of a Middle Woodland origin for the majority of the mounds, palisade walls, and mortuary features (Broster and Schneider 1975:81).

Development of the Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Area began in June, 1978. Dr. Robert Mainfort, Tennessee Division of Archaeology field archaeologist, monitored the area selected for the construction of the park museum/interpretive center. During the initial preparation of this site, an extensive field of features was exposed and construction was halted. It was subsequently determined that this locality was Mound 11, one of many diminutive mounds at Pinson. Assisted by several Memphis State University students, Dr. Gerald Smith mapped the Mound 11 features in July (Figure 34). As construction continued in other areas, additional features were uncovered and it was determined that further mitigation of all disturbed areas was needed. Funds for salvage operations were provided by the Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Planning and Development. Salvage work was conducted in September by a Division of Archaeology field crew consisting of Ann Toplovich and David Smythe.

Four areas exposed by construction, deemed important because of observed features occurring below the plow zone, were given an order of priority because of time limitations. These areas were numbered I through IV according to priority (Figure 35). Area I was Mound 11, the proposed location of the park museum. The recognition of this exposed area as a mound and the large number of features visible made it a logical choice for top priority. Area II, a section of ground that was cleared during the cutting of an access road to the park picnic area, appeared to have the circular postmold pattern of a structure present. Area III contained several random features exposed in the roadcut for the park's main drive. Located in a section near the park picnic pavillion that had been badly disturbed by construction activities, Area IV was defined by a surface scatter of both prehistoric and historic material.

Four steps were used in each area to salvage archaeological information. First, a general surface collection was made. Next the area was shovel-skimmed or trowelled to expose any features that had been covered by wind-blown soil; often two to five centimeters of dust had to be removed from the surface of features. After features were isolated, they were mapped. The final step was to excavate as many features as possible to salvage information before construction continued. One of the areas, Area I, was saved from destruction by changes in plans for park development.

## AREA 1

Located on Mound 11, Area I was a rectangular exposure measuring 70 meters east to west by 40 meters north to south (see Figure 35). When work began on this section over 40 centimeters of top soil had been removed. This had effectively stripped any plow zone covering the features and the original points of origin for features had been destroyed. The datum point established by the construction project engineer for this area was used as datum point for feature map of Area I. The use of this datum point facilitated tying in all four areas on a single map developed for park construction. A permanent benchmark was established 60 meters due south of the datum point (Figure 35). The map drawn of Area I (Figure 36) in September, 1978, was combined with the area mapped by Dr. Gerald P. Smith in July, 1978 (Figures 34 and 37). Features were sequentially numbered following the nomenclature of Broster and Schneider (1975) and Smith (1978).

Features: Forty-two features and fifty-nine possible postmolds were uncovered in Area I. Five of the features had cultural material present on the exposed ground surface. Two of these were excavated and both were hearths. Two postmolds were excavated, one of which had cultural material on its surface.

Feature 101, a hearth, had evidence of firing on its surface. This feature had an oval shape and was characterized by fired red-orange clay containing a deep purple fire-cracked sandstone. A large, clay-tempered cordmarked sherd was recovered from the surface of the feature. After excavation, Feature 101 measured 65 cm. long, 40 to 50 cm. wide, and 20 cm. deep, and exhibited a flat bottom. Fill consisted of a brown-red sandy clay containing burnt organic material and fire-cracked sandstone. During excavation more clay-tempered cordmarked sherds were found; these were identified as Tishomingo Cordmarked (Thorne and Broyles, 1968:97; Broster and Schneider 1975:65-66; Jenkins and Curren 1975:9). This type of pottery is associated with the site's Middle Woodland component (Broster and Schneider 1975:66).

The second feature, Feature 78, was a large oval pit with a round bottom measuring 118 cm. long, 112 cm. wide, and 48 cm. deep. The fill was a dark brown-red sandy clay with a moderate amount of charcoal. The charcoal, a piece of burned sandstone, and a fragment of calcined bone in the fill indicate function as a hearth. The fill also yielded two fragmented cores, one sand-tempered cordmarked sherd classified as Furrs Cordmarked (Thorne and Broyles 1968:49; Broster and Schneider 1975:61; Jenkins and Curren 1975:7-8), and two sandstone tempered plain sherds of Baldwin Plain (Thorne and Broyles, 1968:15; Broster and Schneider 1975:62; Jenkins and Curren, 1975:6-7), a companion type of Furrs Cordmarked that is associated with the Middle Woodland component (Broster and Schneider, 1975:63).

Cultural material was present on the surfaces of three other features. Features 104 and 113 each yielded one Baldwin Plain sherd while Feature 114 contained a residual clay-tempered sherd. These sherds indicate that the features have a Middle Woodland affiliation.

Two postmolds were excavated in Area 1. Postmold 103 was circular and flat-bottomed; it measured 20 cm. in diameter and 14 cm. in depth. The dark clay fill contained dense amounts of charcoal and no cultural material. Postmold 108 was also circular with a flat bottom, and measured 20 cm. in diameter and 4 cm. in depth. Fill consisted of an ashy brown soil. A residual clay-tempered sherd indicates a possible Middle Woodland association for this postmold.

Artifact Assemblage: A total of 99 prehistoric sherds, 70 lithic elements, 2 historic sherds, and one fragment of glass were collected from combined recovery procedures in Area I. Most of the sherds were extremely small (approximately 1 to 2 cm. in length), having survived both plow and panscraper. The prehistoric ceramics included 41 residual sand-tempered sherds and 4 residual clay-tempered sherds.

In the four reports dealing with the archaeological investigations at the Pinson Mounds, two different pottery complexes have been used in the analysis of ceramics from the site. Fischer and McNutt (1962) established the precedent by using the northeastern Mississippi Miller I and Miller II ceramic complexes of Baldwin Plain/Salttillo Fabric Impressed/Furrs Cordmarked and Tishomingo Plain/Gainesville Fabric Impressed/Tishomingo Cordmarked. Fischer and McNutt saw a close similarity in the Pinson and Miller assemblages (Fischer and McNutt 1962:403). Morse and Polhemus (n.d.) interpreted the Middle Woodland cultural assemblages at Pinson as similar to the Marksville cultural assemblage in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Morse and Polhemus used the pottery series of Thomas Plain/Blue Lakes (sic) Cordmarked and Baytown Plain/Mulberry Creek Cordmarked/Withers Fabric Impressed (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1951) defined in the Lower Mississippi Valley.

John Broster used both Miller and Marksville ceramic complexes in the analysis of cultural materials from his 1974 and 1975 excavations at Pinson. The Marksville ware were favored in the preliminary report of the excavations (Broster 1975). However, in the final report (Broster and Schneider 1975) the Miller types were determined to be more comparable to the Pinson ceramics.

After studying the available literature on Miller series and Marksville series, the differences between the two appear to be slight. Miller ceramics could easily be variants of the Lower Mississippi Valley ceramic types established by Phillip Phillips (Phillips 1970) and many of the Miller ceramics are found on the same sites as the Marksville ceramics. Baldwin Plain, Furrs Cordmarked, Tishomingo Plain, Tishomingo Cordmarked, Thomas Plain, Blue Lake Cordmarked, Baytown Plain, and Mulberry Creek Cordmarked are all present at the Womack Site in Mississippi (Kohler 1966). There are also ceramics in West Tennessee that could have been compared to the Pinson ceramic assemblages, such as the assemblage from the Harmon Creek Site (Kneberg 1952:195; Faulkner n.d.:6-7). However, to facilitate the analysis of Pinson ceramics, the terminology used by Broster and Schneider (1975) was used.

Seven Furrs Cordmarked sherds, 47 Baldwin Plain sherds, 6 Tishomingo Plain sherds (Thorne and Broyles 1968:98; Broster and Schneider 1975:66; Jenkins and Curren 1975:9), and 31 Tishomingo Cordmarked sherds were collected from Area 1. The Tishomingo Cordmarked sherds came from Feature 101 and formed

three larger sherds from a globular vessel. All four of these types are associated with the Middle Woodland, although the Tishomingo types may also be affiliated with a Late Woodland component (Broster and Schneider 1975:66).

Lithics in Area I included 43 fragments of burned and unburned sandstone associated with features. Sixteen flakes, two of which were utilized, 8 fragmented cores, and 1 fragment of ironstone were also collected.

Historic material collected in Area I consisted of one fragment of late nineteenth century purple glass (Kendrick 1971:54), one sherd of early nineteenth century painted pearlware, and one sherd of whiteware.

Summary: A large number of features were exposed in Area I by construction for the park museum. These features are in a very random pattern, and it is possible that a sizeable percentage represents rootholes, tree stumps, or animal burrows. Dr. Gerald P. Smith discerned two possible circular structures on his July, 1978 map (Figure 34). Ceramics from Area I, or Mound 11, indicate a Middle Woodland affiliation. Because Mound 11 was to be covered with fill, few of the features were excavated. The excavation of more features might have revealed crematory pits that would have tied Smith's circular structures to the Pinson mortuary complex (Broster and Schneider 1975:86).

In late October, 1978, Mound 11 was covered with eighteen inches of soil-fourteen inches of red sandy clay and four inches of top soil.

## AREA II

Area II (Figure 35), located 315 meters northwest of Sauls' Mound, was situated in a proposed access road to the park's picnic area. When first examined, a possible circular pattern of features was observed in a panscraped section of the road. However, by the time our research took place, the locality had been further disturbed by both natural forces and vehicular traffic. All evidence of this possible structure had been destroyed. Area II was rectangular in shape and measured 45 meters east to west by 15 meters north to south. A surface collection of cultural material was made in this area.

Five sherds of prehistoric ceramics were collected in Area II, including one residual clay-tempered sherd, one residual sand-tempered sherd, and three Baldwin Plain sherds. These sherds indicate a Middle Woodland association. Also collected in Area II were seven lithic pieces: five flakes, one utilized, one fragmented core, and one fragment of ironstone.

A paved road has subsequently been built over this area.

### AREA III

Area III (Figures 35 and 38) was located 390 meters northeast of Sauls' Mound in a section of the park's main road and measured 30 meters east to west by 10 meters north to south. Several features were observed in this area after construction began. Further investigation revealed four features and nine postmolds. Here, as in Area I, panscraping had removed the plow-zone, but had also made it impossible to determine the points of origin for the features and postmolds excavated.

Features: One of the four features in Area III (Feature 132) had a moderate amount of charcoal on its surface and was chosen for excavation. This proved to be a shallow, circular, round-bottomed hearth measuring 76 cm. in diameter and 19 cm. in depth. Fill consisted of a layer of light gray-brown soil containing ash and charcoal underlain by a fired orange-brown clay. No cultural material was recovered from this feature.

Four of the nine postmolds in Area III were excavated. These postmolds were recorded with feature numbers. Postmold 131 had a diameter of 23 cm., a depth of 22 cm., and exhibited a round bottom. Fill consisted of a dark brown sandy clay containing charcoal. Postmold 134 was 22 cm. in diameter, 21 cm. in depth, and also had a round bottom. One burned fragment of sandstone and a moderate density of charcoal was present in the dark brown clay fill. Postmold 135 was round-bottomed with an 18 cm. diameter and a 5 cm. depth. This postmold was filled with a brown sandy soil containing charcoal. 137 was another shallow, round-bottom feature with a diameter of 33 cm. and a depth of 5 cm. Fill consisted of a brown sandy soil containing a small amount of charcoal. All four postmolds were of undetermined cultural affiliation.

Artifact Assemblage: A surface collection of cultural material was made in Area III. Twenty sherds were collected, including 4 Baldwin Plain, 8 residual sand-tempered sherds, 1 Tishomingo Cordmarked, 3 Tishomingo Plain, and 4 residual clay-tempered sherds. These sherds are associated with the Middle Woodland component. Lithics included 2 waste flakes, 1 utilized flake, and 1 fragment of fire-cracked sandstone.

After Area III was mapped and its features excavated construction continued. The roadway containing Area III was panscraped to a depth of 18 inches below the surface.

## AREA IV

Area IV (Figure 35) is situated near the picnic pavillion, 340 meters north of Sauls' Mound. The surface of the area was so disturbed by construction that any features present had been destroyed. A moderate scatter of historic debris in Area IV may indicate a trash dump associated with a nearby house.

The artifact assemblage for Area IV includes prehistoric and historic material. Seventeen sherds of prehistoric ceramics were collected; 3 Furrs Cordmarked, 6 Baldwin Plain, 7 residual sand-tempered sherds, and 1 Tishomingo Plain sherd. The lithic assemblage for Area IV consists of 9 flakes and one fragmented core. Historic material included glass and ceramics. Nine fragments of clear glass were collected, three pieces of which were decorated with a pressed design. One clear glass jar with markings "Cheesebrough Manfg. Co. CD. New-York" was collected. An opal glass sherd from the cap liner of a "Genuine Boyds Mason" fruit jar was found; this dates from the decade 1900 to 1910 (Toulouse 1969:50-51). Historic ceramics included one sherd of pearlware manufactured in the early 1800's, 20 sherds of whiteware, and 2 sherds of Albany-glazed stoneware (Samuel Smith, personal communication). A twelve volt carlight bulb was also collected in Area IV. Area IV yielded the only faunal material collected: the plastron of a box-turtle, 39 unidentified bone fragments, and 2 teeth that are bovid (Emanuel Breitburg, personal communication).

The majority of the historic material found in Area IV dates from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. This area may have served as a trash dump for the residents of a nearby house. An 1877 map of Madison County houses shows no structure at this location; therefore, a building date sometime in the late 1800's can be assumed. The house is no longer standing.

## SUMMARY

The purpose of the fieldwork conducted at the Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Area in September, 1978, was to salvage as much archaeological information as possible from areas affected by park development construction. A field methodology of four steps was concentrated on four areas of major importance. In each area a surface collection was made and features were isolated, mapped, and excavated. Time and the alteration of construction plans limited the number of features that were excavated. A moderate amount of archaeological data was recovered during this field work.

The cultural assemblage at Pinson included both prehistoric and historic materials. Two hundred and twenty-two prehistoric sherds and 94 lithic elements were collected from combined recovery procedures, as well as an Historic period inventory of 92 items. These artifacts are representative of two of Pinson's seven cultural components, the Middle Woodland and the Historic.

The Middle Woodland component was represented in all the areas examined, and on and around Mound 10. Ceramics with the basic attributes of sand-or-clay-tempering and cordmarking, indicative of the Middle Woodland, were recovered in all areas under consideration. Further evidence of a Middle Woodland association for Mound 10 consists of a projectile point/knife identified as a Type 65 in the Normandy typology (Faulkner and McCollough 1973:101-102) or Baker's Creek point (Cambron and Holse 1969:8). Features in Area I and Area III appear to be of Middle Woodland origins; however, the function and cultural associations of the majority of the forty-six features and sixty-eight postmolds are unknown. It was virtually impossible to interpret the function of features from surface indications. Determining the function of features is potentially of great importance in the interpretation of Area I (Mound 11) in particular. Broster and Schneider (1975) found features interpreted as crematory basins associated with other mounds at Pinson. If the features on Mound 11 also include crematory basins, further support can be given to this conclusion. However, a feature identified by surface indications of firing as a crematory basin could as easily be an hearth or kiln.

Three fourths of the total cultural assemblage from Area IV represents the Historic component. Glass fragments and ceramics from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are probably associated with a house of the same period near this area.

The archaeological data obtained in September from 40MD1 is not sufficient to formulate conclusions regarding culture history, functional analysis, settlement patterns, or subsistence patterns at the site. It is possible that a number of the features on Mound 11 are associated with structures and that information on architecture at Pinson could be derived from these features. At the very least the data gathered by this project supports the conclusions of Fisher and McNutt (1962), Morse and Polhemus (n.d.), and Broster and Schneider (1975) that the major component at the Pinson Mounds is of Middle Woodland age.

Phase I development of the Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Area, consisting of a museum, a picnic area, and roads, led to the disturbance of archaeological features. Two of the areas dealt with in this report, Areas III and IV, were completely destroyed. Area I (Mound 11) had been stripped during initial preparation of the site for the construction of a museum/interpretive center. A new locality, to the north of Mound 11, was subsequently selected for the construction of this facility. After isolating and mapping the exposed features, Area 1 was covered in late October. The cooperation of Mr. Charles Stanfill, project architect, and that of the employees of Forcum-Lannom Construction Company and Griffith Construction Company during salvage operations was greatly appreciated.

Because of shortages in time and manpower for salvaging information at Pinson in September, the function and cultural associations of features in Areas I and III were not determined. More information might have established the presence of structures and helped solve questions at the site surrounding topics such as, but not limited to, chronology, seasonality, site function, role in settlement patterns, and subsistence economy. An intensive program of research, both at the site itself, as well as surrounding areas, will be necessary to formulate an adequate interpretation of Pinson Mounds.

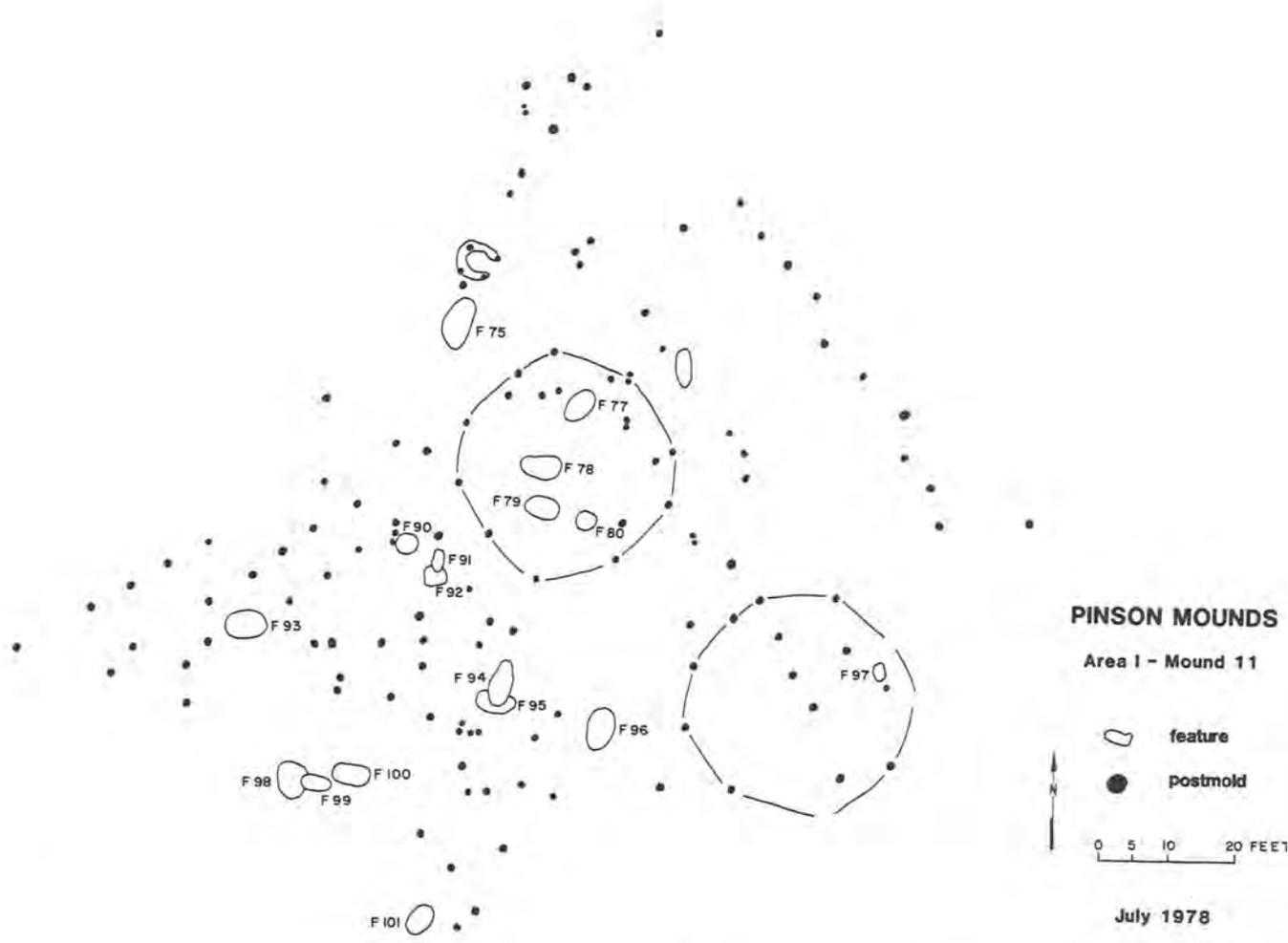


Figure 34: Area I (Mound 11) in July, 1978

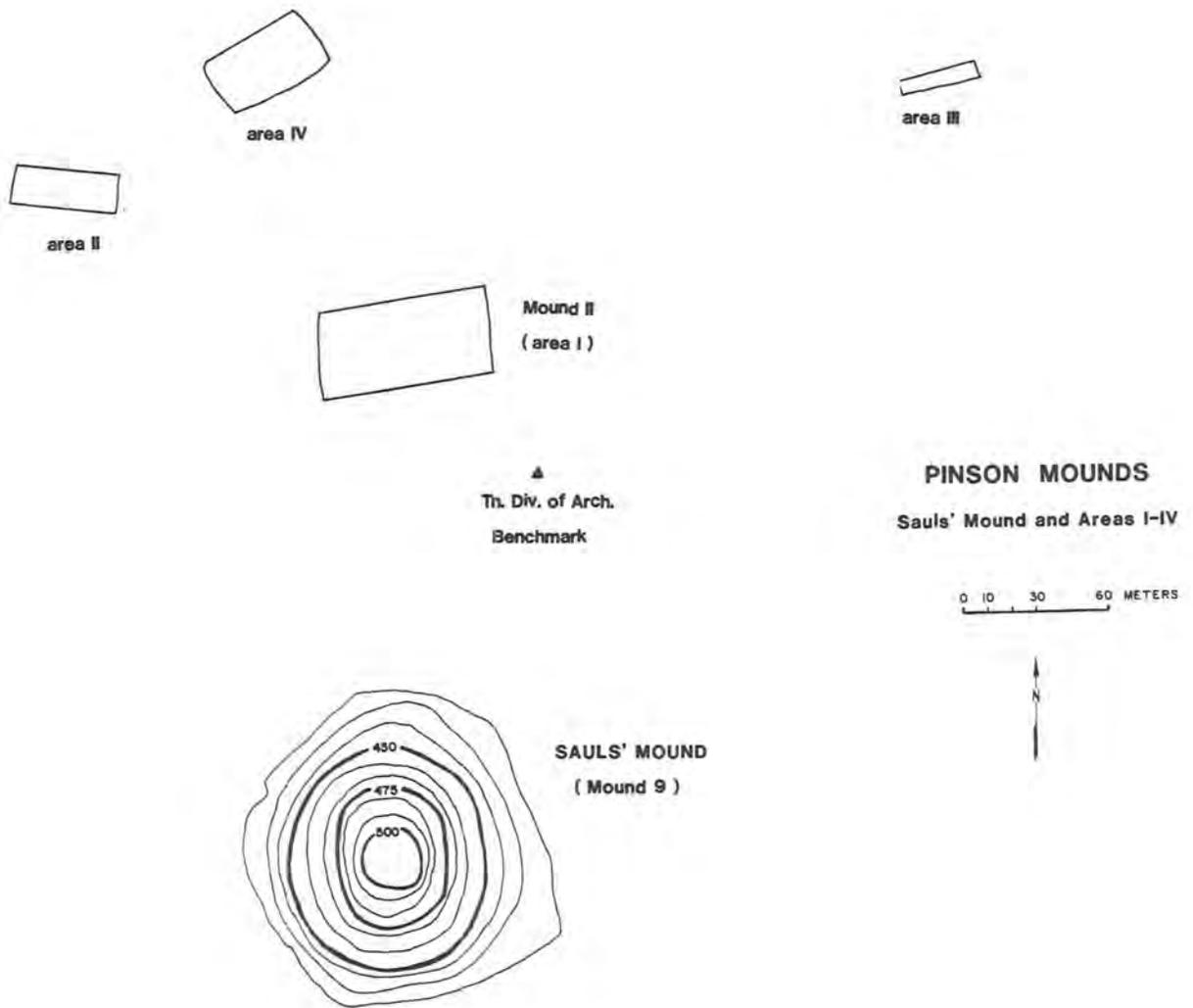


Figure 35: Sauls' Mound and Areas I-IV

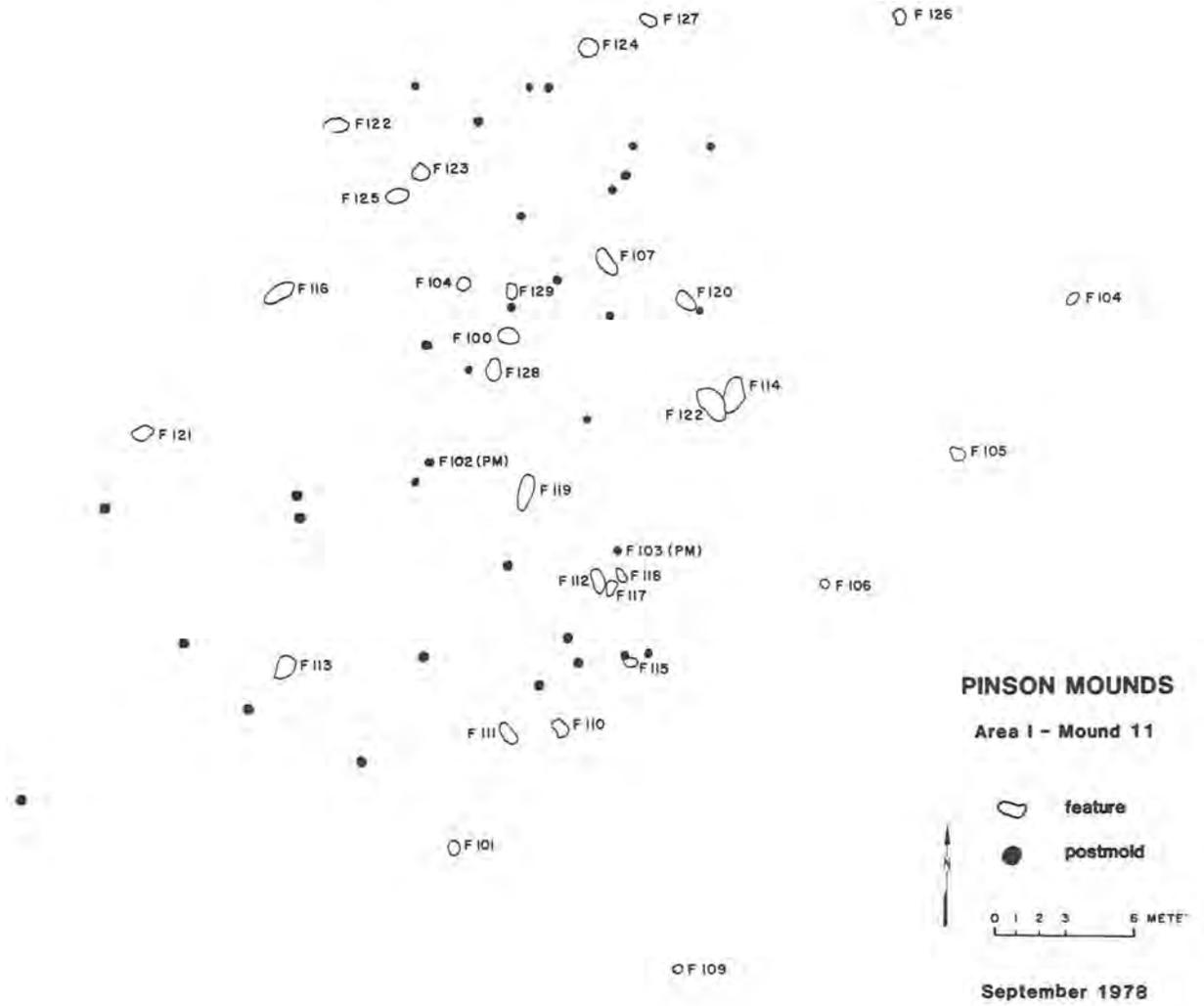


Figure 36: Area I (Mound 11) in September, 1978

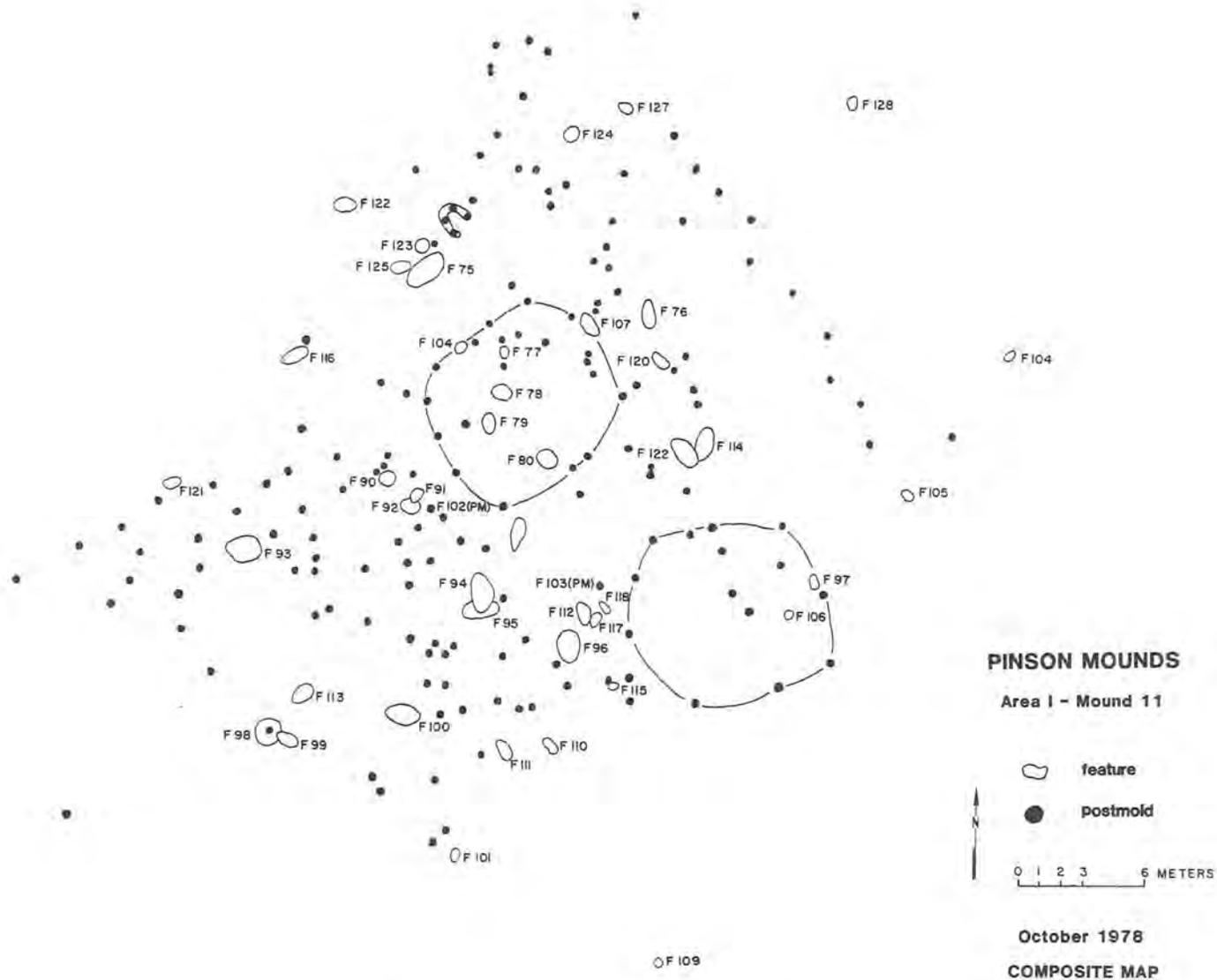


Figure 37: Composite map of Area I

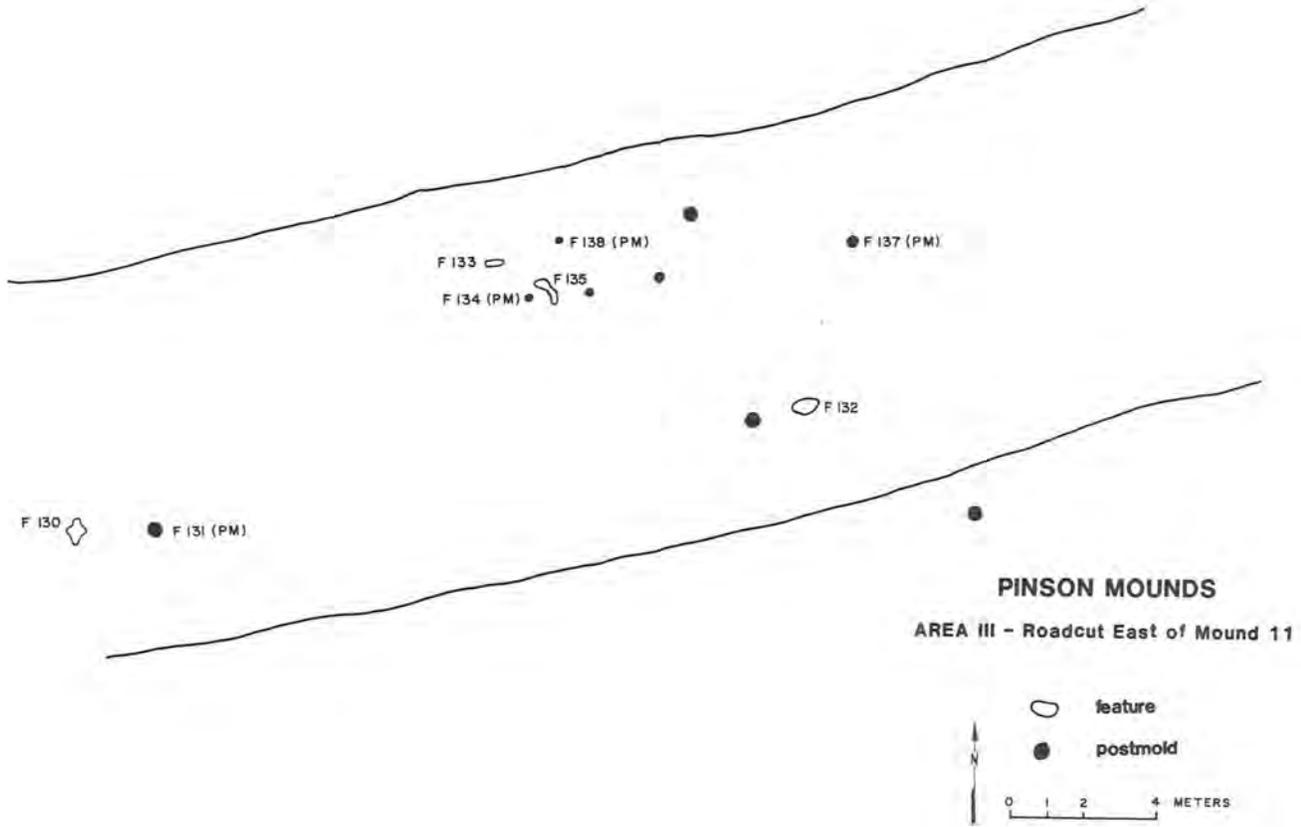


Figure 38: Area III (road cut east of Mound 11)

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