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MIDDLE WOODLAND SETTLEMENT IN THE UPPER CUMBERLAND RIVER VALLEY: AN EXAMPLE FROM JACKSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Michael C. Moore

Tennessee Division of Archaeology excavations at the historic Fort Blount-Williamsburg site between 1989 and 1994 uncovered evidence for long-term prehistoric use of the site area. Radiocarbon assays of AD 395 and AD 440, along with a material assemblage dominated by moderate-size triangular points, verify a substantial occupation during the Middle Woodland period. The presence of microblades and limestone temper ceramics supports the Middle Woodland designation. One shallow, rectangular feature with extensively burned sidewalls and floor has been tentatively defined as a crematory basin.

Introduction

This article focuses on the prehistoric Middle Woodland component identified during investigations by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology at site 40Jk125 (Fort Blount-Williamsburg) in southwest Jackson County, Tennessee (Smith and Nance 2000). Excavations between 1989 and 1994 uncovered substantial evidence for prehistoric use of the site area. A portion of this evidence comes from the variety of features (including refuse-filled pits, possible hearths, and a partial structure) identified within and immediately adjacent to the fort area. These features, although partially disturbed by fort construction and modern agricultural activity, retained enough integrity to yield important clues regarding the activities of the prehistoric site residents. The information provided by these features was enhanced by the recovery of a considerable number of prehistoric artifacts.

The abundance and diversity of temporally sensitive projectile points, along with a limited sample of ceramics, support the assertion that the Ft. Blount-Williamsburg area was utilized by a variety of prehistoric groups over a span of some 10,000 years. Early site residency from the Paleoindian through Middle Archaic periods appears to have been somewhat ephemeral, with an increase in intensity evident from the Late Archaic through Late Woodland periods. However, the

available site information indicates that the primary occupation was during the Middle Woodland period. This evidence comes as radiocarbon dates from intact pit features, numerous projectile points (including moderate-size triangular), microblades, and limestone tempered pottery (plain surface, cordmarked, and check stamped).

Site Setting

The 40Jk125 site area was established upon a northeast-facing terrace of Smith Bend overlooking the Cumberland River in southwest Jackson County (Figure 1). Smith Bend, one of the many dramatic bends of the meandering Cumberland River, occurs along the margins of the outer Central Basin and Eastern Highland Rim (Figure 2). Most of the eastern, southern, and western portions of Smith Bend are comprised of rather gently sloping, dissected uplands and terraces that range between 480 and 600 ft. AMSL. The northern section of Smith Bend is much more rugged with steep, dissected uplands between 600 and 940 ft. AMSL. Site 40Jk125 occupies a rather level terrace along the eastern edge of the bend with an elevation between 520 and 540 ft. AMSL.

Prehistoric Features

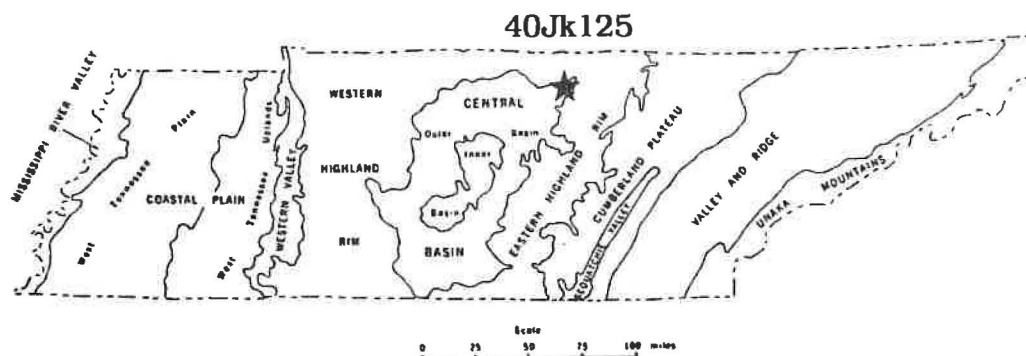
Twenty-seven prehistoric features were defined based upon their associated material, morphology, and/or position relative to historic resources (such as limestone building foundations). Fourteen postholes, eight refuse-filled pits, one hearth, and one tentatively defined crematory basin were among the identified features. Two probable midden-filled gullies or depressions and one unidentified "area of dark soil" were also exposed and labeled as prehistoric. Basic information about each of these features (including shape, size, depth, associated artifacts, and cultural affiliation) has been presented in Table 1.

Structure

Fourteen postholes (Features 20-24, 26-28, 32-37) that form the southeast (corner?) of a prehistoric structure were exposed in a strip block (Figure 3). This



Figure 1. Site Location, 40JK125



structure looks as though it was square to rectangular, but this observation may be subject to revision since the building was only partially exposed. These postholes ranged from 10.7 cm to 24.4 cm in diameter, and 9.1 cm to 42.1 cm in depth. Most of the posthole fill was sterile, with artifact recovery in the few postholes that

did yield material generally limited to a few flakes. Charred wood samples from these features consisted of such species as ash, cane, hickory, and oak.

Two pit features were present within the exposed interior of this structure (see Figure 3). One circular pit with a basin-shaped cross-section (Feature 19)

Table 1. Characteristics of the Prehistoric Features Identified at 40Jk125 (excluding postholes). *

#	Plan View	Diameter	Length	Width	Depth	Cultural Affiliation	Artifacts Recovered
9	Circular	120.0	-	-	49.4	-	Lithic debris, hickory nutshell, wood charcoal.
12	-	-	-	-	20.7	-	Unidentified projectile point fragment, lithic debris.
13	Circular	110.0	-	-	60.0	-	Unidentified projectile point fragment, lithic debris, floral remains (including walnut and hickory nutshell, wood charcoal).
17	Oval	-	82.3	64.0	20.0	-	None.
19	Circular	88.4	-	-	21.3	Mid Wood	Gorget, knife, lithic debris, limestone temper ceramics, burned clay, floral remains (including persimmon seeds/fruit, hickory and hazelnut shell, wood charcoal).
30	Circular	88.3	-	-	16.7	Mid Wood	Lithic debris, floral remains (including squash, paw-paw, persimmon, cherry, grape, pokeweed, maygrass, iva annum, bulb-lily, hickory and hazelnut shell, walnut shell, wood charcoal).
38	Circular	70.1	-	-	40.5	-	Drill, pestle, lithic debris, floral remains (including hickory and butternut shell, wood charcoal).
41	Irregular	-	182.0	-	-	Mid Wood?	Lithic debris, limestone temper ceramics.
44	Rectangular?	-	-	-	-	-	Lithic debris.
45	Oval	-	91.4	53.3	46.6	-	Lithic debris, burned clay, fire-cracked rock.
48	Circular	70.1	-	-	19.8	Mid Wood	Lithic debris, limestone temper ceramic.
55	Circular to oval	-	130.0	100.0	110.0	Late Archaic	Little Bear Creek projectile point, lithic debris, floral remains (including hickory and walnut shell, wood charcoal).
56	Rectangular	-	320.0	76.0	29.0	Mid Wood	Lithic debris, limestone temper ceramics, burned clay, faunal remains, floral remains (wood charcoal).

* measurements in cm.

represents a probable hearth that measured 88.4 cm in diameter and 21.3 cm deep. Included among the moderate sample of lithic and ceramic artifacts recovered were a bar gorget of black shale and one check stamped sherd with limestone temper. The feature also contained burned clay and wood charcoal. The wood charcoal sample, although small, was quite variable as cane, maple, hickory, ash, sycamore, and oak fragments were identified. Persimmon seeds/fruit, along with hickory and hazelnut shells, were also retrieved from the feature fill.

Feature 30 comprised the second pit uncovered inside the identified prehistoric structure. This feature was located just south of Feature 19 immediately adjacent to the structure corner. This somewhat circular pit measured 88.3 cm in diameter, 16.7 cm in depth, and

displayed a basin-shaped cross-section. No evidence of burned walls or base was observed. A moderate sample of lithic debris was recovered from the feature fill. In addition, a quite diverse sample of floral material was retrieved. Squash, paw-paw, persimmon, cherry, grape, pokeweed, maygrass, iva annum, bulb-lily, hazelnut, hickory nut, and walnut were among the identified species. Cane, ash, hickory, and oak wood charcoal was also present.

Crematory Basin

This elongated trench (Feature 56) measured 3.2 meters long, 76 cm wide, and 29 cm deep. Moderately steep walls and a rather flat base were observed in the trench cross-section. This feature has been tentatively identified as a crematory basin as the trench side walls

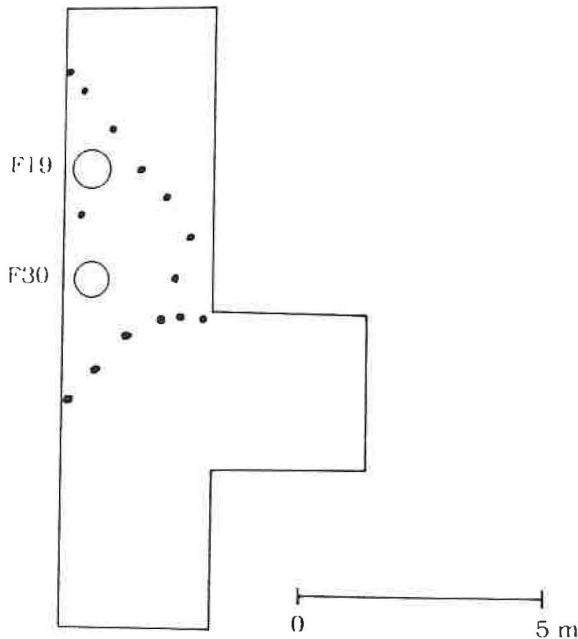


Figure 3. Prehistoric Structure, site 40JK125.

and bottom were heavily burned (see Butler 1977:4). No human remains were positively identified from the sample of burned bone recovered from the feature fill. Other interpretations for Feature 56 include a large hearth or roasting pit. Artifacts found within this feature include limestone-temper ceramics, lithic debris, fragments of burned deer bone, and baked clay. A sample of hickory and ash wood charcoal was also obtained.

Refuse-Filled Pits

Seven additional refuse-filled pits (Features 9, 13, 17, 38, 45, 48, and 55) were scattered across the excavated site area. These features were generally circular, ranging in diameter from 70.1 cm (Features 38 and 48) to 1.2 meters (Feature 9). One oval pit (Feature 17) and one circular to oval pit (Feature 55) were also exposed. Feature 55 was by far the deepest pit with a depth of 1.1 meters. The artifactual material recovered from the fill varied in both quantity and diversity. Floral remains and lithic debris were found in most pits, with one sherd of limestone temper pottery retrieved from Feature 48.

Other Features

Feature 12 displayed an irregular cross-section as one very steep (virtually perpendicular) wall intersected a more gently sloping wall. Such an unusual profile suggests this shallow (20.7 cm) feature was a refuse-filled depression or gully remnant rather than a pit. Very few artifacts other than an unidentified projectile point fragment were retrieved from the fill.

Feature 41 consists of a large, irregular depression estimated to be 1.82 meters wide and rather shallow. This feature was only partially excavated, but did yield several limestone-temper sherds and a moderate amount of flake debris. Not enough of this feature was uncovered to determine if it is a pit of prehistoric origin, or actually a midden-filled depression or gully remnant.

Excavation of Feature 44 was stopped once it was determined to not be associated with the fort. Somewhat rectangular in plan view, the lack of information regarding feature depth and cross-section has made a prehistoric assignment somewhat problematic. A small sample of lithic debris was recovered from the fill that was removed prior to work being stopped.

Artifact Descriptions

The Ft. Blount-Williamsburg investigations recovered 53,904 artifacts of prehistoric origin, including lithics, ceramics, and floral remains.

Lithics

Most of these items (n=53,844) comprised lithic tools and debris made of local varieties of Ft. Payne and Bigby-Cannon cherts. Smoothed, waterworn cortex visible on many of the lithic artifacts indicated that local streams and cobble deposits were valued sources of raw material. Other locally obtained resources observed within the lithic sample include chalcedony, sandstone, siltstone, and shale. Greenstone and steatite constitute non-local lithic resources recovered from the site area.

The recovered lithic artifacts were analyzed and placed within one of 23 categories established on the basis of particular formal and/or functional characteristics. These categories included tested cobble, core, cobble biface, thick biface, thin biface, primary flake, secondary flake, blank flake, microblade, blocky debris, modified flake scraper, modified flake cutting tool,

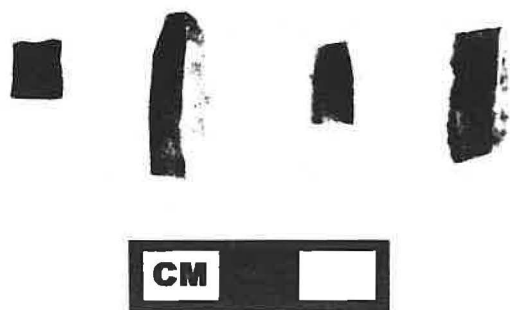


Figure 4. Microblade fragments.

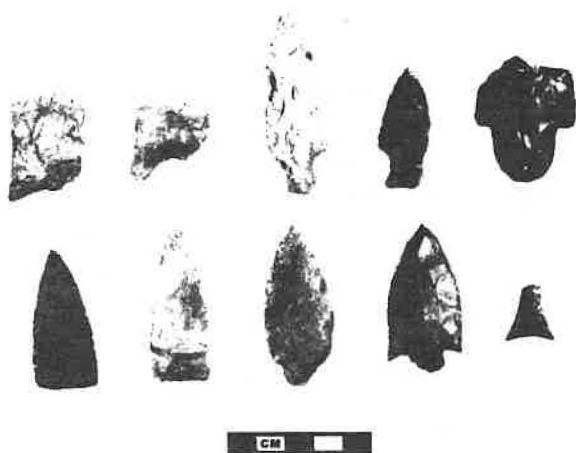


Figure 5. Selected projectile points. Top row (left to right): Clovis, Quad, Little Bear Creek, Mud Creek, Adena. Bottom row (left to right): moderate-size triangular, moderate-size triangular, unidentified dart, unidentified dart, Hamilton.

modified flake spokeshave, scraper, projectile point, knife, drill, rejuvenation flake, gorget, pestle, nutting stone, hammerstone, and hoe. Rather than provide detailed descriptions of each category, the following paragraphs will briefly discuss those artifacts of primary importance. For a more detailed description of all lithic artifacts recovered from the 40Jk125 site area, the reader should consult Smith and Nance (2000).

Microblades (n=4; Figure 4)

The 40Jk125 flake sample yielded four microblade fragments. Each of these specimens comprised rather thin, narrow blades with parallel lateral edges. Two distinct ridges parallel to the blade length were visible along each blade's dorsal surface, giving these artifacts a truncated pyramid appearance in cross-section. Irregular unifacial microflaking was present on each of

the specimen's lateral edges. Whether or not such edge wear was produced by prehistoric use is uncertain since all of the microblades were recovered from disturbed contexts (plowzone or historic feature).

Two microblades were manufactured from an unidentified reddish-brown, fine grain chert with a translucent, waxy appearance. The origin of this particular chert is currently unknown, although it is possible the resource was derived from a local deposit and heated prior to being worked. The other two specimens were made from a mottled light to dark gray, fine-grain chert that is probably local (Ft. Payne?). Blade lengths were not taken since each artifact is broken. Blade widths ranged from 6.7 mm to 9.2 mm, with blade thickness measuring between 1.93 mm and 2.09 mm.

Projectile Points (n=342; Tables 2 and 3; Figure 5)

This functional category includes those stemmed and unstemmed bifaces determined to have been used as dart and arrow points. These artifacts were classified by morphological characteristics, and established type names have been used when possible.

Of the 342 specimens recovered during the investigations, 107 points could be assigned to an established type name or group (see Tables 2 and 3). Identified projectile point types included (in alphabetical order) Adena, Adena Narrow Stemmed, Bakers Creek, Beaver Lake, Clovis, Gary, Hamilton, Kays, Ledbetter, Little Bear Creek, Lowe Cluster, moderate-size triangular (McFarland/Copena), Motley, Mud Creek, Mulberry Creek, Pickwick, Quad, Swan Lake, Wade, and White Springs. The remainder of the sample consisted primarily of unidentified dart base, blade, and tip fragments. Several small fragments of unidentified corner-notched and expanding stemmed darts were also present.

Rejuvenation Flakes (n=2)

Two small flakes of greenstone (with polished dorsal surfaces) were recovered from areas disturbed by historic activity. Although these flakes are likely the result of rejuvenating a greenstone celt, such an association must remain tentative since no greenstone tools have been recovered to date. Greenstone derives from the Appalachian Mountain range some 160 miles east of the site area.

Gorget? (n=1)

This specimen consisted of a rather thin, tabular piece of black shale that was bifacially worked into a

Table 2. Identified Projectile Points Measurements (excluding moderate size-triangular points)

Point Type	Provenience	Total Length	Max Width	Max Thick	Prox. Haft Width	Dist. Haft Width	Blade Base Length	Haft Length
Adena	Feature 3	25.8**	28.9	9.4	12.6	19.1	28.9	17.8
Adena	2850N 4570E, Zn 1	43.2**	35.8	9.0	14.5	23.1	34.7	18.9
Adena	2890N 4580E, Zn 1	24.3**	25.1**	5.4**	15.3	22.3	25.1**	21.2
Adena NS	Surface	40.3**	32.5	11.3	10.7	23.3	31.6	28.7
Adena NS	2840N 4560E, Zn 1	29.4**	22.6	5.4	8.2	11.9	21.1	11.3
Bakers Creek	Surface	38.6**	21.1	7.1	21.1	17.2	19.7	13.3
Bakers Creek	Surface	24.2**	19.2	5.9	19.2	17.0	18.3	13.5
Bakers Creek	Feature 3	48.9	25.7**	7.1	20.0	18.0	25.7**	15.2
Bakers Creek	Feature 14	48.5	20.0**	6.3	13.1**	13.5	20.0**	13.3
Bakers Creek	Feature 59	33.7**	18.6	6.2	14.4	12.8	18.6	12.5
Beaver Lake	Surface	24.7**	17.3	5.3	-	-	-	-
Beaver Lake	2826N 4520E, Zn 1	38.9**	19.8	5.8	-	-	-	-
Beaver Lake	2830N 4470E, Zn 1	40.0**	26.9	8.8	-	-	-	-
Beaver Lake	3210N 4480E, Zn 1	77.1	25.6	6.0	-	-	-	-
Clovis	2850N 4600E, Zn 1	31.9**	19.5	6.6	-	-	-	-
Gary	2826N 4506E, Zn 1	56.9**	30.0**	10.9	10.5	22.0	30.0**	15.9
Hamilton	Feature 3	18.4**	20.6**	4.6	-	-	-	-
Hamilton	2850N 4560E, Zn 1	14.4**	18.5	4.0	-	-	-	-
Hamilton	2850N 4560E, Zn 1	26.0**	15.8**	3.2	-	-	-	-
Hamilton	2850N 4560E, Zn 1	14.4**	18.0	2.9	-	-	-	-
Hamilton	2850N 4560E, Zn 1	15.1**	19.4	3.0	-	-	-	-
Hamilton	2850N 4570E, Zn 1	20.9**	17.9	3.9	-	-	-	-
Hamilton	2850N 4580E, Zn 1	22.2**	17.3**	3.9	-	-	-	-
Hamilton	2852N 4530E, Zn 1	19.9**	17.1**	5.3	-	-	-	-
Hamilton	2870N 4560E, Zn 1	26.8**	15.1	4.4	-	-	-	-
Hamilton	2890N 4580E, Zn 1	15.0**	13.6	3.0	-	-	-	-
Kays	2840N 4500E, Zn 1	39.8**	22.5	7.0	16.4	17.2	22.1	10.1
Ledbetter	Feature 14	21.7**	27.5	7.6	16.4	15.8	27.5	8.0
Little Bear Creek	Feature 55	49.2	20.2	7.2	12.2	11.8	20.2	14.9
Little Bear Creek	2850N 4560E, Zn 1	51.3**	21.0	9.4	11.4	11.5	21.0	13.9
Little Bear Creek	2870N 4550E, Zn 1	62.4	21.3	10.1	11.1	11.1	21.1	11.7
Lowe Cluster	Feature 3	43.2**	21.0	7.1	17.2**	15.5	20.4	10.3
Lowe Cluster	1895N 2885E, Zn 1	24.3**	20.3	4.6	15.3	14.4	20.3	10.8
Lowe Cluster	2850N 4560E, Zn 1	46.4**	24.7	11.5	21.4	18.1**	24.3**	13.8
Lowe Cluster (?)	2950N 4630E, Zn 1	26.9**	20.1	6.9	18.9	14.0	20.1	15.8
Motley	Surface	41.6	17.9	8.0	14.6	12.2	17.1	10.4
Motley	Feature 3	43.0	18.9	8.1	16.8	12.2	18.9	13.4
Motley	2800N 4510E, Zn 1	35.3**	22.3	5.9	19.5	13.6	22.3	12.8
Mud Creek	Surface	49.2	24.8	6.8	19.7	15.2	19.2	11.1
Mud Creek	Surface	45.0	22.3**	8.0	12.7	13.1	19.3**	8.2
Mud Creek	2826N 4506E, Zn 1	28.0**	23.7	8.4	15.5	14.0	21.5	15.2
Mud Creek	2850N 4500E, Zn 1	47.4	24.5	7.3	10.2**	13.4	24.5	10.5
Mud Creek	2870N 4500E, Zn 1	33.8**	20.2**	6.2	16.2	14.0	19.6	9.6
Mud Creek	2905N 4530E, Zn 2	47.1	21.6**	6.9	13.7	12.1	21.6**	13.0
Mulberry Creek	Feature 3	85.7	35.3	10.7	15.8	17.3	32.2	17.9
Mulberry Creek	2853N 4520E, Zn 1	35.8**	30.2	10.5	14.0	16.1	30.2	11.2
Mulberry Creek	2870N 4550E, Zn 2	61.4	26.8	8.1	11.9	13.2	23.6	13.4
Mulberry Creek	2920N 4500E, Zn 1	18.4**	22.5**	6.6	14.6	15.2	22.5**	11.7
Pickwick	Feature 3	51.3**	31.2	9.5	14.8	20.1	31.2	11.2
Pickwick	Feature 14	93.8	33.2	16.2	11.7	23.8	33.2	20.8
Pickwick	Feature 14	68.8**	27.5	14.2	11.2	19.8	27.5	13.9
Pickwick	2850N 4610E, Zn 1	45.9**	26.0**	10.5	8.6**	14.5	21.3	13.5
Pickwick	2870N 4500E, Zn 1	49.6**	37.7**	11.1	15.8**	24.1	37.7**	11.2
Pickwick	2890N 4530E, Zn 1	48.9**	39.5	14.8	12.7	24.4	34.9**	16.5
Quad	2840N 4490E, Zn 1	26.7**	27.6**	6.7	-	-	-	-
Swan Lake	Surface	41.5	21.4	7.0	21.4	15.7	20.7	9.1
Wade	Surface	42.0	37.5	10.0	16.4	16.8	37.5	13.2
Wade (?)	2920N 4530E, Zn 2	26.5**	38.2	11.1	17.3	19.3	38.2	7.9
White Springs	2920N 4500E, Zn 1	37.3	25.5	7.0	18.6	17.9	25.5	6.4

* = measurements in mm.

** = broken.

rectangular shape. A moderate amount of grinding has rendered the broad surfaces relatively smooth but

somewhat uneven. Numerous flake scars were visible along the essentially unfinished lateral edges; although

Table 3. Measurements of Moderate-Size Triangular Points*

Provenience	Max Length	Max Width	Base Width	Thick Max.
Surface	35.5**	24.6	22.7	7.2
Surface	57.9	23.8	23.8	9.3
Feature 3	27.2	20.5	20.4	4.2
Feature 3	59.0	27.0	21.6	7.1
Feature 3	25.0**	22.3	16.9**	3.8
Feature 3	27.0**	20.4	20.4	7.0
Feature 3	41.9**	22.4	20.9**	7.6
Feature 3	15.9**	20.0	20.0	5.7
Feature 3	35.9**	19.5	17.5	7.0
Feature 14	41.1**	23.6	23.6	9.5
Feature 14	37.7	22.0**	22.0**	6.7
Feature 51	38.1**	17.7	15.6	6.5
Feature 59	40.5	24.5	23.6	8.8
2800N 4510E, Zn 1	32.7**	26.7	25.3	7.1
2800N 4520E, Zn 1	39.2**	19.2	18.1	10.0
2800N 4520E, Zn 1	29.3	16.9	16.4	4.7
2800N 4520E, Zn 1	22.5**	20.5	20.4	7.5
2820N 4470E, Zn 1	50.0	22.8	22.2	4.6
2820N 4470E, Zn 1	35.7**	22.2	22.1	4.6
2820N 4470E, Zn 1	46.0**	31.2	25.4	9.7
2826N 4506E, Zn 1	32.1**	19.5	19.1	6.5
2826N 4520E, Zn 1	39.6**	26.1	25.9	6.0
2840N 4480E, Zn 1	17.7**	27.6	20.3**	3.9
2840N 4480E, Zn 1	34.1**	25.6	22.8	8.6
2840N 4480E, Zn 1	37.3	21.5**	18.2**	5.6
2840N 4500E, Zn 1	15.1**	21.3	21.1	4.1
2840N 4510E, Zn 1	36.2	22.9	22.6	8.6
2840N 4520E, Zn 1	39.0**	18.9	16.9	6.2
2840N 4530E, Zn 1	48.9**	22.8	20.3**	9.2
2840N 4535E, Zn 1	63.4**	28.3	27.1**	10.4
2850N 4540E, Zn 1	47.4	18.1	18.1	7.4
2850N 4570E, Zn 1	57.6	21.4	20.1	6.3
2850N 4590E, Zn 1	25.5**	27.9	21.7	5.3
2850N 4590E, Zn 1	28.2**	22.8	22.5**	5.4
2853N 4520E, Zn 1	32.3**	25.6	24.9	9.5
2860N 4480E, Zn 1	27.4**	21.7	20.6	6.2
2870N 4520E, Zn 2	28.1**	23.5	23.5	9.3
2870N 4520E, Zn 2	24.6**	24.3	23.9	5.4
2890N 4525E, Zn 1	43.9**	21.3**	21.3**	5.9
2890N 4530E, Zn 1	22.3**	21.9	21.9	4.3
2890N 4530E, Zn 1	37.6**	25.0	25.0	7.5
2890N 4530E, Zn 1	40.0	17.0	15.9	5.4
2905N 4530E, Zn 1	30.6**	25.0	25.0	6.9
2920N 4490E, Zn 1	24.9**	22.2**	22.2**	5.6
2920N 4490E, Zn 1	24.8**	21.6	21.6	5.8
2920N 4500E, Zn 1	27.8**	21.2	19.2	7.6
2920N 4530E, Zn 2	38.4**	23.7	23.7	8.2
2950N 4630E, Zn 1	26.3**	17.5	17.5	5.7

* = measurements in mm.

** = broken.

several areas that appeared finished display a tapered look with slightly rounded edges. Recovered from Feature 19, this artifact measured 87.7 mm long, 36.4 mm wide, 9.6 mm thick, and weighed 40.8 g.

Pestle (n=1)

One fragment of a brown siltstone pestle was recovered from Feature 38. Somewhat cylindrical, this artifact gently tapered from a broad grinding surface to a smaller, flattened top. The cross-section resembled a short rectangle with well-rounded corners. This specimen measured at least 86.8 mm long, 63.0 mm wide (near the bit end), 38.7 mm thick, and weighed a rather lightweight 143.2 g.

Nutting Stone (n=1)

This nutting stone fragment was formed from a brown, fine-grain sandstone. Square to rectangular in plan view, this artifact displayed broad (opposing) surfaces and somewhat rounded lateral edges formed by modest grinding activity. Single, circular depressions on each of the opposing surfaces measured 15.7 mm and 16.6 mm in diameter, respectively. Fractured lengthwise, the nutting stone measured (at least) 41.8 mm long, 74.6 mm wide, 43.1 mm thick, and weighed 184.5 grams.

Manos (n=8)

All manos were made from brown, fine-grain sandstone similar to that used to manufacture the previously described nutting stone. Although no complete specimens were recovered, five fragments were of sufficient size to determine these artifacts were consistently ground into an oval/rectangular shape, with one broad, flat surface and rounded lateral edges. The face opposite the flattened surface was slightly raised, giving each artifact a plano-convex cross-section.

These tools were quite variable in size, ranging from at least 44.0 mm to 75.2 mm in length (all items were broken), 57.1 mm to 83.7 mm in width, and 37.0 mm to 61.7 mm in thickness. Several of these fragments were rather heavy, weighing up to 460 grams.

Hammerstones (n=13)

Specimens assigned to this category displayed a limited range of shapes and material types. These artifacts varied in size from somewhat small to large, and in shape from oval to irregular. All but one of the hammerstones were derived from stream-rolled chert

cobbles. The lone exception was an oval, stream-rolled cobble of sandstone. Each of these particular artifacts exhibited crushed and pitted areas along their lateral edges. One cobble had been bifacially flaked, with the resulting sinuous edge used as the working area. The remainder of the sample consisted of small, generally irregularly shaped, chert cobble fragments with battered surfaces.

Steatite (n=1)

One squarish, tabular fragment of iron-enriched steatite was found in the (historic) Feature 3 fill. This particular artifact measures 13.9 mm thick, is slightly curved in profile, and strongly resembles a body sherd from some kind of vessel (bowl?). The specimen displays a dark red tint due to a high iron content rather than heat exposure (Michael Hoyal, personal communication, 1995). Steatite derives from the Appalachian Mountains some 160 miles east of the 40JK125 site area, and its recovery in a historic feature makes the cultural affiliation of this artifact somewhat problematic.

Ceramics

A relatively small number (n=59) of ceramic artifacts was recovered during the excavations (Table 4). All but one of the items comprise pottery sherds from plain surface, cordmarked, or check stamped vessels. The other specimen consists of a clay bead. Each of the pottery sherds was examined for such characteristics as paste, color, form, surface treatment, and dimensions. The results of this analysis are presented in the following descriptions, with a comparison to established ceramic types made when possible.

Plain Ware

Number of specimens: 45

Paste: These sherds generally have a somewhat friable to moderately compact paste. All of these specimens exhibit numerous particles of crushed limestone (ranging from less than 1.0 mm up to 2.9 mm in size) as the primary tempering agent. Variable amounts of grit, sand, and/or chert also occur in nearly all of the specimens, although these particles appear to represent natural inclusions within the clay. These additional particles average around 1.0 mm or less.

Table 4. Prehistoric Ceramic Artifacts from the Ft. Blount-Williamsburg Investigations.

Provenience	Plain Surface	Cordmarked	Check Stamped	Bead	Total
Feature 3	2	-	-	-	2
Feature 14	2	-	-	-	2
Feature 19	13	2	1	-	16
Feature 41	2	-	-	-	2
Feature 48	1	-	-	-	1
Feature 56	11	3	-	-	14
2800N 4520E, Zn 1	-	1	-	1	2
2840N 4480E, Zn 1	-	1	-	-	1
2850N 4550E, Zn 1	1	-	-	-	1
2865N 4480E, Zn 1	1	-	-	-	1
2890N 4530E, Zn 1	1	-	-	-	1
2900N 4550E, Zn 1	5	3	-	-	8
2900N 4550E, Zn 2	6	-	-	-	6
2920N 4530E, Zn 2	-	2	-	-	2
Total	45	12	1	1	59

Color: Exterior surfaces and cores range from reddish-brown to dark gray, with dark brown to dark black interiors.

Form: The single rim sherd from this sample is inverted with a flattened lip, probably from a jar. Further attempts to assess vessel form were inhibited by the small size of the remaining body sherds.

Surface treatment: The exterior and interior surfaces, although undecorated, are pockmarked due to leaching of the limestone temper particles. Exterior surfaces tend to be smoothed to somewhat irregular, with interior surfaces being well smoothed.

Dimensions: Rim sherd thickness was 8.6 mm, with the lip measuring 6.9 mm thick. Body sherds vary from 6.1 mm to 9.9 mm thick.

Comparison: Mulberry Creek Plain (Haag 1939, 1942; Heimlich 1952).

Cordmarked Ware

Number of specimens: 12

Paste: The paste of these specimens is virtually the same as that previously described for the plain ware. Numerous particles of crushed limestone were observed in a friable to moderately compact



Figure 6. Check stamped sherd from Feature 19.

paste. Each of these sherds also contains a variable amount of grit, sand, and/or chert particles that appear to be natural inclusions in the clay. The limestone particles range from less than 1.0 mm to 4.0 mm in size. The inclusions of grit, sand, and/or chert are generally much smaller, between 1.0 and 1.5 mm in size.

Color: Exterior surfaces range from light to dark reddish-brown, and dark gray. Core colors range from light to dark brown to gray, while the interior surfaces display brown to dark black colors.

Form: Vessel form is indeterminate due to the small size of the body sherds.

Surface treatment: The exterior surfaces are cord-marked, with cords that range from rather small (0.95 mm) to large (3.7 mm) in size. All surfaces are pockmarked due to leaching of the limestone temper particles. In addition, the exterior surfaces of several specimens have somewhat eroded due to exposure. The interior surfaces do not appear to be as eroded and are generally well smoothed.

Dimensions: These body sherds range between 7.5 mm and 11.2 mm in thickness.

Comparison: Flint River Cordmarked (Heimlich 1952); Candy Creek Cordmarked (Lewis and Kneberg 1946, 1957).

Check Stamped Ware (Figure 6)

Number of specimens: 1

Paste: This body sherd has a moderately compact paste with numerous particles of crushed limestone as the primary tempering agent. These particles range from less than 1.0 mm up to 2.0 mm in size. Several small pieces of quartzite and mica (less than 1.0 mm in size) were also observed in the paste, but these are likely natural inclusions in the clay. Except for the presence of a few mica flecks, the paste of this specimen is virtually the same as other pottery sherds from the site. The appearance of mica is not considered an indicator of a non-local clay source since this resource does occur in association with local sandstone formations (Michael Hoyal, personal communication, 1995).

Color: The exterior, core, and interior surfaces are dark brown in color.

Form: Vessel form is indeterminate due to the relatively small size of the sherd.

Surface treatment: Check stamping is visible on the exterior surface. The impressions are diamond shaped and appear rather large in comparison with other examples from middle Tennessee. Interior surface is smoothed. Exterior and interior surfaces are lightly pockmarked due to leaching of the limestone temper particles.

Dimensions: This specimen measures 8.5 mm thick.

Comparison: Wright Check Stamped (Haag 1939, 1942; Heimlich 1952).

Bead

Number of specimens: 1

Paste: Compact clay paste with no temper evident. Small grit particles (less than 0.65 mm in size) in the clay are probably natural inclusions.

Color: Dark gray to light black.

Form: Bead is barrel-shaped with a somewhat circular cross-section. A small, partially drilled hole occurs in the center of one end.

Dimensions: This specimen is 13.2 mm long and has a diameter of 13.7 mm. The small, partially drilled hole on one end is 2.4 mm in diameter.

Floral Remains

Eight distinct species of tree were recognized in the 40JK125 charred wood sample (Table 5). The recovery of ash, blackgum, dogwood, hickory, honey locust, maple, oak, and sycamore indicates the inhabitants

Table 5. Identified Floral Species from the Ft. Blount-Williamsburg Investigations.

Species	9	12	13	19	20	21	22	23	24	26	30	34	37	38	55	56
WOOD/CANE CHARCOAL																
<i>Arundinaria</i> sp., Cane	-	-	-	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	c	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Acer</i> sp., Maple	c	-	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	c	-	c	-
<i>Carya</i> sp., Hickory	-	-	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	c	-	c	-	c	c
<i>Cornus florida</i> , Dogwood	-	-	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	c	-	-
<i>Fraxinus</i> sp., Ash	c	-	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	c	-	-	-	c	c
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> , Honey	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	c	-
Locust																
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> , Blackgum	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> , Sycamore	-	-	-	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	c	-
<i>Quercus</i> sp., Oak	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	c	c	c	c	-	-	c	-
Bark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	c
NUTSHELL																
<i>Carya</i> sp., Hickory	1	-	11	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	56	-	-	104	23	-
<i>Juglans nigra</i> , Black Walnut	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	114	-
Butternut	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-
Hazelnut	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	-	-	-	-	-
SEED/FRUIT																
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i> , Persimmon seeds	-	-	-	86	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i> , Persimmon fruit	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bulb-lily	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Prunus</i> sp., Cherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Vitis</i> sp., Grape seed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iva annua</i> seed (sumpweed)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Maygrass	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pawpaw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Pokeweed seed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Curcubita</i> sp., squash rind	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Curcubita</i> sp., squash seed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

c = carbonized

were exploiting bottomland forests as well as upland stands. These results are not surprising given the site location and surrounding terrain. Cane, common in extensive stands throughout the floodplain-terraces of the Central Basin, was also identified in Features 19 and 30.

Six refuse-filled pit features yielded charred nutshell. Hickory was the primary nut species represented in the sample, with walnut, hazelnut and butternut also present (see Table 5). These resources were available for collection during the fall season, with hazelnuts obtainable perhaps a bit earlier (late summer to early fall). Comparisons between the nutshell and charred wood samples suggest the inhabitants were likely procuring nuts from the nearby uplands, and utilizing (primarily) bottomland and terrace species for firewood.

Squash, sumpweed, and maygrass represent species considered to be from cultivated plants (see Table 5). These cultigens mature for collection during the late summer season. Cherry, grape, pawpaw, and persimmon were also identified within the floral sample. These wild fruits begin to ripen during the early fall

months. Feature 30 yielded the most numerous species, including an abundant number of squash rind fragments. A substantial number of persimmon seeds were recovered from Feature 19. Both of these features were recorded inside the prehistoric structure.

Radiocarbon Dates

Two samples of charred material from Features 19 and 56 were submitted to Beta-Analytic for radiocarbon analysis. A 10.0 gram sample of charred persimmon seeds/fruit from Feature 19 yielded an uncorrected radiocarbon date of 1680 $\pm$ 70 BP, or AD 270 $\pm$ 70 (Beta-81215). This assay conveyed calibrated results of AD 225 to 550 (at two sigma), and AD 265 to 290 and AD 320 to 435 (at one sigma), with an intercept point of AD 395.

A second sample (16.1 grams) of wood charcoal (probably hickory) from Feature 56 yielded an uncorrected determination of 1600 $\pm$ 60 BP, or AD 350 $\pm$ 60 (Beta-81216). Calibrated results of AD 350 to 605 (at two sigma), and AD 410 to 550 (at one sigma) were obtained, with an intercept point of AD 440.

Table 6. Previously Recorded Woodland Period Structures in Middle Tennessee.

Site	Structure Shape	Structure Dimensions	Reported Component	Associated 14C Dates
<u>40CF5 (Parks)</u>				
Struct 1	circular	6.1 m diameter	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 3	oval	7.4 m x 5.3 m	E Mid Woodland?	none
Struct 5A	rectangular	6.1 m x 4.7 m	Late Woodland?	none
Struct 5B	rectangular	6.4 m x 4.1 m	Late Woodland?	none
Struct 6	circular	7.0 m diameter	Late Woodland?	none
Struct 7	oval	15.2 m x 10.6 m	Woodland	none
Struct 8	oval	not available	E Mid Woodland	none
<u>40CF32 (Eoff I)</u>				
Struct 3	oval	13.6 m x 11.2 m	L Mid Woodland	none
Struct 5	circular	5.5 m diameter	L Mid Woodland	none
Struct 6	circular	4.9 m diameter	L Mid Woodland	none
Struct 7	semi-circular	4.9 m x 3.0 m	L Mid Woodland	none
Struct 8	circular	5.8 m diameter	L Mid Woodland	none
<u>40CF37 (Jernigan II)</u>				
Struct 1	oval	9.4 m x 6.4 m	Late Woodland?	none
<u>40CF48 (McFarland)</u>				
Struct 1	circular	6.4 m diameter	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 2	circular	6.6 m diameter	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 3	circular	6.9 m diameter	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 4	circular	7.1 m diameter	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 5	circular	6.3 m diameter	E Mid Woodland	none
<u>40CF74 (Davidson Branch)</u>				
Struct 1	oval	10.6 m x 9.1 m	Woodland	none
<u>40CF108 (Banks III)</u>				
Struct 1	oval	7.6 m x 6.7 m	Mid Woodland	AD 360+/-315 1460+/-1595 BC
Struct 2	circular/oval	9.1 m x 7.9 m	Mid Woodland	AD 190+/-400; 145+/-430 BC
Struct 3	oval	11.8 m x 10.2	L Mid Woodland	AD 490+/-130; AD 480+/-515; AD 710+/-140
Struct 4	rectangular	10.0 m x 8.8 m	L Mid Woodland	AD 465+/-145; AD 395+/-185
<u>40CF111 (Banks V)</u>				
Struct 1	oval	14.2 m x 9.9 m	L Mid Woodland	AD 395+/-70; AD 455+/-65
Struct 3	circular	not available	Late Woodland?	none
Struct 5	circular	4.6 m diameter	Late Woodland?	none
<u>40CF118 (Ewell III)</u>				
Struct 1	oval	6.1 m x 5.2 m	E Mid Woodland	AD 60+/-100
Struct 2	semi-circular	6.7 m x 4.2 m	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 3	semi-circular	5.8 m x 4.2 m	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 4	circular	4.6 m diameter	Early Woodland	840+/-80 BC
Struct 5	semi-circular	4.4 m x 2.1 m	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 6	semi-circular	7.1 m x 3.6 m	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 7	semi-circular	not available	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 8	square?	7.0 m x 7.0 m(?)	Late Woodland	AD 985+/-70
<u>40FR47</u>				
Struct 1	circular/oval	7.0 m diameter	Mid Woodland	none

Table 6 (continued)

Site	Structure Shape	Structure Dimensions	Reported Component	Associated 14C Dates
<u>40JK27</u> (Hurricane Branch)				
Struct	circular?	3.5 m diameter	Mid Woodland	none
<u>40JK33</u>				
Struct 1	circular?	4.5 m diameter	Mid Woodland	AD 675+/-140
<u>40LN16</u> (Yearwood)				
Struct 1	rectangular	11.5 m x 6.5 m	E Mid Woodland	30+/-60 BC
Struct 2	oval	9.0 m x 7.5 m	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 3	rectangular	9.5 m x 7.5 m	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 4	semi-circular	7.5 m x 4.5 m	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 5	square	11.5 m x 11.5 m	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 6	semi-circular	5.5 m x 4.5 m	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 7	oval	12.0 m x 9.0 m	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 8	square	8.0 m x 7.0 m	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 9	square	13.0 m x 12.0 m	E Mid Woodland	AD 150+/-75
Struct 10	rectangular	9.0 m x 6.0 m	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 11	circular	8.0 m diameter	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 12	square	8.0 m x 7.5 m	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 13	rectangular	9.0 m x 6.5 m	E Mid Woodland	none
Struct 14	square	7.0 m by 6.5 m	E Mid Woodland	none
<u>40TR27</u> (Duncan Tract)				
Struct 1	circular	12.0 m diameter	Woodland	none
Struct 2	oval	11.0 m x 7.0 m	Woodland	none
Struct 3	circular	11.6 m diameter	Woodland	none
Struct 4	circular	9.0 m diameter	Woodland	none
Struct 5	circular	9.8 m diameter	Woodland	none
Struct 6	oval	12.0 m x 8.0 m	Woodland	none
Struct 7	circular	11.0 m diameter	Woodland	none
<u>40WM51</u> (Fernvale/Lester/Stymie)				
Struct 1	circular	3.0 m diameter	Mid Woodland	none

Discussion

Activities associated with the construction and occupation of Ft. Blount-Williamsburg undoubtedly disturbed (and likely removed) much of the evidence for prehistoric occupation of the site area. However, a number of prehistoric features were identified within, as well as adjacent to, the actual footprint of the fort. Although the identification of discrete prehistoric activity areas was not realistic due to the high level of early historic and modern disturbances, the types of artifacts recorded during the excavations did permit an assessment of when the site was inhabited.

Temporally sensitive projectile points recovered during the investigations (see Tables 2 and 3) support a Paleo-Indian through late Woodland use of the site area

(Cambron and Hulse 1983; Justice 1987; McNutt and Weaver 1983). The length and intensity of the site occupations appear to have varied from short-term camps to more long-term village habitations.

The recovery of six Paleo-Indian projectile points (Clovis, Beaver Lake, and Quad) supports an early prehistoric use of the site area. Recent research has uncovered evidence for a sizable Paleo-Indian presence within middle Tennessee, including the Eastern Highland Rim (Breitburg et al. 1996; Broster 1989; Broster and Norton 1990, 1993, 1996). Site 40JK125 appears to be an ephemeral hunting camp during this period. The lack of other tools (such as scrapers) or features classified as Paleo-Indian severely restricts our ability to identify additional activities by these early residents.

The excavations found no indication of Early Archaic use of the site. Somewhat limited evidence for a Middle Archaic occupation was recovered as one probable LeCroy point (reworked into a drill) and one White Springs point. These tools may indicate a fleeting use of the site, or may comprise previously collected points brought to the site by later inhabitants.

The increased number and variety of Late Archaic projectile points (Gary, Ledbetter, Kays, Mulberry Creek, Little Bear Creek, and Pickwick) suggest more extensive site activity during this period. In fact, the site area was likely used as a relatively short-term camp for hunting game and/or collecting seasonally available resources (such as shellfish, nuts, and berries). Feature 55 possibly represents a pit associated with the storage and/or processing of such resources (specifically nuts). This pit was subsequently used for refuse disposal. Rudimentary cultivation of certain weedy annuals was probably another site action.

The hunting/butchering of game persisted to be an important site activity during the Early Woodland period (based upon the presence of Wade, Adena, Adena Narrow Stemmed, Swan Lake, and Motley points). These site residents likely continued to gather nuts and berries, and probably increased their cultivation of wild plants. However, there is no evidence to suggest these people were living at the site for extended periods of time. None of the intact features can be confidently associated with the Early Woodland occupation. In addition, the recovered ceramic sample dates to the Middle Woodland period.

An overwhelming amount of evidence points to the Middle Woodland period as being the primary prehistoric component. The recovery of several specific types of artifacts and features from the site area paints a clear picture of Middle Woodland residence. Among the artifacts indicative of this period are the numerous moderate-size triangular points (see Table 3). These particular points, which range from extremely well crafted to somewhat crude, favorably compare with such previously defined types as McFarland and possibly Copena (Kline et al. 1982; Webb and DeJarnette 1942). Other identified point types associated with this time period include Bakers Creek, Lowe Cluster, and Mud Creek. Interestingly, nearly 60% ($n=63$) of the 107 classified points can be defined as Middle Woodland.

Four microblade fragments were recovered from the site area. Although their function has been the subject of some speculation, the production of these par-

ticular tools represents an industry with strong ties to Middle Woodland populations (Mainfort 1986; Mainfort and Walling 1992; Odell 1994). Research has suggested that microblades were employed in specific activities associated with Hopewell mortuary ceremonialism (Odell 1994). These actions included the scraping of hides to prepare clothing or covering, cutting reeds for matting, preparing selected cuts of meat for consumption, and manufacturing objects of bone or shell.

The site excavations recovered limestone-temper ceramic sherds comparable to Mulberry Creek Plain, Candy Creek Cordmarked, and Wright Check Stamped. These types commonly occur on previously recorded Middle Woodland sites in Middle Tennessee (Dillehay et al. 1982; Kline et al. 1982; McNutt and Weaver 1983; Walling et al. 2000). Over 50% of the ceramic sample from 40JK125 was recovered from two features (19 and 56) that yielded dates well within the time range for the Middle Woodland period. Feature 56 was tentatively defined as a crematory basin similar to that identified at the Middle Woodland period Yearwood site in Lincoln County (Butler 1977, 1979). Both the Yearwood feature and Feature 56 comprise shallow, rectangular pits that measured between 2.8 and 3.2 meters long and 0.76 to 2.0 meters wide. The side walls and bottoms of these features were heavily burned, but no cremated human remains were identified within the feature fill. However, the lack of (identifiable) burned human bone does not necessarily disprove Feature 56 as a crematory basin. Butler (1977:4) stated that the remains of redeposited cremations at Yearwood appear to have been carefully collected (possibly sifted) from the crematory fire and then reburied. If the same care in reburial was taken at 40JK125, then the absence of burned human bone in Feature 56 should not be unexpected. The presence of microblades (previously suggested to be associated with mortuary ceremonialism) at the site represents complimentary evidence for Middle Woodland ritual activity in conjunction with cremation of the dead.

The identification of at least one structure constitutes hard evidence of a more permanent prehistoric presence at 40JK125 (see Figure 3). Assignment of this structure as Middle Woodland should remain cautious at this time. One argument supporting a Middle Woodland association is the presence of a probable hearth (Feature 19) within the structure's southeast corner that yielded a corrected date of AD 395. Interior pit fea-

tures and/or hearths have been recorded within other Middle Woodland structures from middle Tennessee (Bacon and Merryman 1973; Cobb and Faulkner 1978; Faulkner and McCollough 1974, 1978, 1982a, 1982b; Kline et al. 1982; McNutt and Weaver 1983). Very few of the previously identified Woodland structures in middle Tennessee display the square to rectangular pattern observed at Ft. Blount-Williamsburg (Table 6).

A decline in site use is suggested for the Late Woodland period based upon the small amount of artifactual material and absence of features that could be associated with this time frame. Late Woodland artifacts recovered from the site consist of Hamilton arrow points from disturbed contexts. From the available evidence, 40Jk125 appears to become a less intensively occupied camp from which to stage hunting activities. Similar to previous time periods, the maintenance and/or manufacture of stone tools probably continued to be a site activity.

No evidence for Mississippian use of 40Jk125 was found during the excavations. The complete absence of such diagnostic artifacts as shell temper ceramics and Madison-type points seems odd given such a long-term use of the site area. It is possible, although rather remote, that the fort construction completely destroyed all traces of a Mississippian occupation.

Concluding Remarks

Grand statements about the settlement and subsistence patterns of the 40Jk125 prehistoric residents cannot be made at this time. The multi-year Ft. Blount-Williamsburg project was implemented to identify the actual fort location and associated historic features. Thus our only information about prehistoric site use is restricted to that area uncovered by the historic excavations. An assessment of the prehistoric site boundaries was not part of the research design. Comparison of the identified prehistoric deposits with other sites within and immediately adjacent to the study area must be done with this restriction in mind.

Most of the archaeological information from the immediate study area comes from a small number of limited reconnaissance surveys and excavations on the Cumberland River (Amick 1978; Ball 1979; Butler 1975; Dillehay et al. 1982; DuVall 1990; Fox 1977; Kimball and DuVall 1986; Morse 1967; Morse and Polhemus 1963). Virtually all of these studies were conducted as a result of proposed projects on U.S.

Army Corp of Engineers property. However, several site reports have been generated as a result of proposed TDOT road and bridge projects adjacent to the 40Jk125 site area (Anderson 1997; Bradbury and Kim 1994; Cridlebaugh 1986; Bentz 1986; Kim 1992). A limited number of pipeline and private property surveys have yielded additional archaeological data (Alexander 1992; Autry 1977; Hood 1984; McIlhany 1988a, 1988b).

A lop-sided view of prehistoric occupations within this portion of the Cumberland River drainage is presented by these investigations. Excavations at the Robinson (Morse 1967), Penitentiary Branch (Cridlebaugh 1986); and Chapman (Bentz 1986) sites have provided a rather detailed view of Late Archaic lifestyles. In contrast, information about Woodland occupations is somewhat restricted to multicomponent site investigations (Anderson 1997; Ball 1972; Dillehay 1982). Mississippian period discussion is generally limited to initial site identification (Butler 1975; DuVall 1990).

Comparative site information regarding the Middle Woodland period is needed to provide a framework for understanding the primary prehistoric component at 40Jk125. Unfortunately, the small amount of basic Middle Woodland data from the study area handicaps any interpretation of the 40Jk125 occupation. For example, two structures exposed at sites 40JK27 (Hurricane Branch) and 40JK33 represent the only (probable) Middle Woodland structural patterns available for comparison (see Table 6). The Ft. Blount-Williamsburg prehistoric structure does not favorably compare with either of these buildings. Also, the tentatively defined crematory basin (Feature 56) represents a unique feature previously unidentified for this portion of the Cumberland River drainage.

Recent data recovery investigations at site 40Jk147 yielded evidence for a Middle Woodland component (Anderson 1997). This site was recorded upon a terrace of the Cumberland River roughly six miles downstream from Ft. Blount-Williamsburg. The sparse number of cultural features exposed during the 40Jk127 excavations comprised two pit features and eight scattered post molds. No structural pattern could be determined from the post molds. However, five radiocarbon dates (calibrated ages between AD 555 and AD 655) were obtained from three of the post molds, as well as one pit feature and a localized midden deposit. Among the recovered artifacts were a variety of limestone temper ceramics (including plain surface, cord-

marked, check stamped, simple stamped and complicated curvilinear). The simple stamped and complicated curvilinear ceramics do not favorably compare with the modest 40Jk125 sample. Several moderate-size triangular projectile points from 40Jk147 are similar to the Ft. Blount-Williamsburg specimens, but do not dominate the projectile point assemblage like 40Jk125.

The paucity of Woodland information for the 40Jk125 study area is in stark contrast to the Upper Duck and Elk River drainages in southern middle Tennessee. Previous archaeological excavations on the Tims Ford and Normandy Reservoirs succeeded in recovering a wealth of information concerning Middle Woodland sites (Faulkner 1968, 1988; Faulkner and McCollough 1974, 1978, 1982a, 1982b). Two Middle Woodland phases (Brickyard and Owl Hollow) were initially defined on the basis of early investigations at Tims Ford (Faulkner 1968). Later work at Normandy refined this chronological framework, with the Brickyard phase being included as part of the McFarland phase (early middle Woodland). The Owl Hollow phase was retained to define the late middle Woodland period. The reader should refer to Cobb and Faulkner (1978), Faulkner (1988), Faulkner and McCollough (1982b), and Kline et al. (1982) for an extensive review of these Middle Woodland phases. Dates for the McFarland phase range between 200 BC to AD 200, with the succeeding Owl Hollow phase dating between AD 200 to AD 600 (Faulkner 1988).

An interesting discordance occurs when attempting to evaluate 40Jk125 using the criteria established for southern Middle Tennessee. As an example, the two radiocarbon dates obtained from Ft. Blount-Williamsburg (AD 395 and AD 440 corrected) would place this site firmly within the Owl Hollow phase of southern middle Tennessee. However, many of the recovered artifacts (especially the ceramic and lithic samples) agree more with artifactual assemblages associated with McFarland phase sites. In addition, the Hopewellian mortuary ceremonialism inferred by the presence of microblades does not fit well with the Owl Hollow phase. The partial structure pattern from 40Jk125 does not favorably compare with McFarland or Owl Hollow structures, and not enough of the site area has been investigated to determine a community or settlement pattern.

Are we to assume from these apparent discrepancies that comparisons between the Ft. Blount-

Williamsburg study area (Cumberland River) and southern Middle Tennessee sites are not productive lines of inquiry? On the contrary, archaeological research at the Chapman site in Jackson County led one researcher to conclude that the roots of Middle Woodland culture in much of middle Tennessee can be traced to the earlier Terminal Archaic period (Bentz 1986:141). The spatial arrangement, forms, and types of features and structures evident at the Terminal Archaic Chapman site appear most similar to those of the Middle Woodland period in the Duck River drainage (Bentz 1986:141). Additional excavation at 40Jk125 would provide desperately needed information to evaluate this (and other proposed) idea(s) for Middle Woodland sites within the upper Cumberland River area.

Summary

The Ft. Blount-Williamsburg project yielded important clues about a Middle Woodland settlement along the upper Cumberland River in Jackson County. A partially exposed structure contained two pit features that yielded evidence of late summer to early fall subsistence around AD 395. These pits held the remains of hickory nut, pawpaw, persimmon, squash, and other foodstuffs. The site residents during this time utilized plain surface, cordmarked, and check stamped ceramics with limestone temper to prepare and store these and other food items. Numerous medium-size, triangular projectile points were manufactured and utilized by the occupants in hunting and butchering activities. Poor bone preservation hampered the identification of specific game animals consumed and/or processed by the site residents. Several microblades recovered from the site area were likely employed in mortuary ceremonialism associated with cremation of the dead.

Comparison of the 40Jk125 Middle Woodland component with other Middle Woodland sites was limited in the immediate study area due to the lack of recorded information. Additional excavations at Ft. Blount-Williamsburg are needed to identify the prehistoric site boundaries and accurately document the range of features and artifacts present at the site. Such excavations in turn would provide this portion of the upper Cumberland River drainage with a site that could be used in valid comparisons with Middle Woodland sites throughout middle Tennessee.

Notes

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