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## The Coats-Hines Site: Tennessee's First Paleoindian-Mastodon Association

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The Coats-Hines site (40Wm31) is located along the south side of a small spring of Spencer Creek, Williamson County, Tennessee (Breitburg and Broster 1995). Mastodon (*Mammot americanum*) remains rested within a late-Pleistocene stratum, a randomly mixed lattice of illite and montmorillonite, overlain by 70 cm of buried Braxton soil, and sealed by a meter of redeposited light brown silty phosphatic Huntington loam. Slight rounding of chert cobbles and pebbles implies the area was an old stream channel, filled sinkhole, or beaver pond. The soil-mineral content is almost all quartz, chert, and sand-sized or larger grains of tripoli, but the silt-sized quartz grains are most abundant in all strata. Sparse exotic heavy zircon and tourmaline minerals are only known from Middle Tennessee loess, a dust blown in from dried Mississippi River flood plain soils to the west.

Disarticulated mastodon remains (Figure 1) consist of molar teeth, tusk, hyoid, two cervical and seven thoracic vertebrae, numerous rib shaft, humerus, radius, and pelvic bones and respective epiphyses. The metrical dimensions of the humerus and its proximal epiphysis imply the animal was a young male, 18-23 years of age. The associated faunal complex includes horse (*Equus* spp.) teeth, deer (*Odocoileus* sp.) antler, muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) humerus and metapodial, dog-sized (*Canis* sp.) first phalanx, turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) phalanx, frog (*Rana* spp.) humeri, painted turtle (*Chrysemys* cf. *picta*) plastron, and carapace and plastron fragments of indeterminate semi-aquatic turtles.

Thirty-four chert specimens that were mapped or recovered within the thoracic cavity and its immediate vicinity include 10 formal tool parts and 24 resharpening flakes. The tools include part of a prismatic blade, proximal bifacial knife, two gravers, two uniface side scrapers, and two scrapers/cores.

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our crew members: Steve Spears, Mike Moore, John Herman, John T. Dowd, George Heinrich, Bob Estes, and Patricia Anderson. A copy of the *The Tennessee Conservationist* is available free of charge through the Tennessee Division of Archaeology.

**References Cited**

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