

# SETTLEMENTS OF THE PEE DEE CULTURE

by

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BILLY L. OLIVER. Settlements of the Pee Dee Culture (Under the direction of Robert E. Daniels and Joffre Lanning Coe).

Archaeological data from the permanent state site files, pedestrian survey, personal interviews, and documentary research was used to identify sixty-four domestic settlements of the late prehistoric Pee Dee Indians, a Mississippian-influenced culture identified from archaeological remains found in the southern Piedmont of North Carolina. Principally through the results of excavated data and nineteen radiocarbon dates obtained from two sites, the Leak Site (31RH1) located in Richmond County, North Carolina and the Teal Site (31AN1) located in Anson County, North Carolina, a revised cultural and chronological sequence is presented. Previously, the Pee Dee culture was thought to have "invaded" the southern portion of the North Carolina Piedmont near A.D. 1450 and lasted perhaps until as late as A.D. 1650. This chronological assessment was developed from archaeological investigations that began at Town Creek Indian Mound in 1937.

The present work presents a revised chronology for the Pee Dee Culture that ranges from A.D. 950 to A.D. 1600 and identifies three distinctive cultural phases: the Teal Phase, A.D. 950-1200; the Town Creek Phase, A.D. 1200-1400; and the Leak Phase, A.D. 1400-1600. In short, these phases are described as developmental, florescent, and terminal aspects of the Pee Dee culture.

The earliest Pee Dee activities were associated with developmental Southern Cult activities. These activities were related to emerging ceremonialism and territorial expansion of a chiefdom that traced its origin to the archaeological remains of the Savannah Phase identified at the Irene Site near Savannah, Georgia. This relationship has been referred to as the Town Creek-Irene Axis because of the artifactual similarities between the two sites. A pattern of association with friable loamy soils suitable for

intensive corn agriculture is observed. Significant discoveries include identification of the first domestic Pee Dee structures outside the ceremonial center of Town Creek Indian Mound, the earliest identification of corn and beans in North Carolina, and the earliest radiocarbon dates associated with the Pee Dee culture.

Dedicated to the People of One Fire

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As the fragments of pottery found at archaeological sites represent a portion of what once was, the information presented in this work reflects only a portion of the archaeological knowledge of the Pee Dee culture. The explanations of the Pee Dee culture offered within this dissertation could not have been developed without the physical, intellectual, and financial contributions of a great many people who shared a common interest in archaeology. I am sincerely grateful to the many volunteers who participated in both fieldwork and laboratory activities associated with the Pee Dee Project. Many of these people received their introduction to archaeology during the summer of 1986 and have continued to volunteer each summer since that time; others chose to wash, sort, and catalog the vast numbers of artifacts that had been recovered, and still others participated in both field and laboratory activities. Each volunteer has made a significant contribution towards better understanding of the Pee Dee people and has recognized that the archaeological remains of their culture must be treated with dignity and respect.

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## Chapter 1

### Introduction

Before the white man came to America, a group of Native Americans established an agriculturally-based lifestyle along the frequently flooded banks of the Pee Dee River in what has become southern North Carolina. We identify the archaeological remains of these people and their associated culture by the name given to the river: Pee Dee. It has been traditionally assumed that sometime near A.D. 1450 a group of Indians, presumably Creek-related, moved into the southern Piedmont region, established villages, and built a civic-ceremonial center near the juncture of Town Fork Creek and Little River in Montgomery County, North Carolina. These actions, more than any occurring before or since that time, left a lasting impression on both the land and history of the area.

Foremost among the archaeological remains of these people was an earthen platform mound nearly one hundred feet square which was formerly called "Frutchey Mound" after the name of the landowner, but is presently identified as Town Creek Indian Mound. Located near the small town of Mount Gilead, Town Creek has been the major focus of archaeological research for more than fifty years for Joffre Lanning Coe, Professor Emeritus, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As a result of the innovative archaeological approach implemented at Town Creek more than half a century ago, the site has been reconstructed and is currently operated as a State Historic Site by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. It has also been designated a

National Historic Landmark by the United States Department of the Interior and has served as a training ground for many of America's archaeologists.

Although actions such as these provide official recognition of the importance of Town Creek and the Pee Dee Indians to state and national history, they do not address the important questions posed by the archaeological data.

When did the Pee Dee culture exist?

What spatial area did the Pee Dee specifically occupy?

Where were the village locations situated?

What was the nature of domestic Pee Dee lifestyle?

Was the appearance of the Pee Dee a result of migration or a transitional development of a local population?

How long did the Pee Dee Culture last?

What factors led to the demise of the Pee Dee Culture?

The principal objectives of this study, formally identified as the Pee Dee Archaeological Project (PDAP), were to identify domestic settlements of the Pee Dee culture within the southern Piedmont of North Carolina, to clarify temporal and spatial relationships of these sites to the civic-ceremonial center of Town Creek, and to develop basic information concerning the nature of domestic Pee Dee settlements. From its earliest stages the Pee Dee Archaeological Project was a public education project in

archaeology. With the cooperation of Randolph Community College an innovative public archaeology course that involved 100 hours of classroom, laboratory, and fieldwork was developed. Included among the students who enrolled in this course were retirees, housewives, lawyers, nurses, teachers, factory workers, and policemen who wanted to simply learn more about archaeology. Because of the success of the course, a non-profit corporation, the North Carolina Center for Archaeological Research, Inc. (CFAR) was formed to support archaeological research, conservation, and public education. Financial support for the conduct of this study was principally provided by grants, donations, and volunteer service from the Center for Archaeological Research, Inc. Additional financial support was provided by generous grants from the Cole Foundation, the Foundation for the Carolinas, the Society for History, Research, and Preservation, Inc., and the Friends of Town Creek Indian Mound, Inc. Private contributions made by Dr. P.R. Rankin, Jordan Lumber and Supply Company, Inc., James Wright Surveying Company, Joe M. McLaurin, Sue Stephenson, and several anonymous benefactors were greatly appreciated. More than five hundred people have contributed to the successful completion of the Pee Dee Archaeological Project. Without their support the questions addressed by this study could not have been treated in a comprehensive manner, nor the excavations conducted to the same degree of intensity.

### **Research Questions**

This archaeological study sought to identify "*where*" Pee Dee settlements were located, then established a chronological framework for the occupations identified. Following Thomas (1974:3) the construction of chronology must be of initial concern before archaeologists ask the more esoteric questions of "*how*," "*who*," "*what*," or "*why*" certain events occurred. In the study at hand, this task was made simpler because of the contributions of Joffre Coe and his students as well as many interested and concerned citizens of the southern North Carolina Piedmont. However, because of the nature of the

Town Creek site itself, our visions of the past were less clear in some areas than others. Particularly, I refer to initial dissatisfaction with the radiocarbon dates and a lack of clearly recognizable domestic features at the Town Creek site (Reid 1967:62).

Secondarily, the archaeological nature of the site had to be interpreted within a cultural and chronological framework as it related to other sites within the region. Such a context had been lacking before the present study.

The archaeological remains of the Pee Dee sharply contrast with those of the preceding and succeeding cultural occupations. It is possible in most instances, to clearly identify site locations through both pedestrian surveys and intensive excavations. In surface collections, the principal distinguishing factor between Pee Dee and Late Woodland sites is the presence of the characteristic Pee Dee series pottery which is generally characterized by a variety of complicated stamped motifs and a distinctive fine sand tempered paste. From excavated sites, further distinguishing characteristics, other than the distinctive pottery, may include the presence of urn burials and artifacts such as shell gorgets with cross-shaped designs. Until recently, the presence of the uniquely styled Pee Dee Pentagonal projectile point would have been an additional diagnostic trait. However, this type is no longer considered a reliable indicator of the Pee Dee phase (Coe: personal communication) and appears to represent a product of resharpening while still attached to the shaft of the arrow. It is also a type that appears in greater frequency at Town Creek than at other sites in the region. Very few points of this type were found by the excavations associated with this study.

Given these limitations, Pee Dee sites that involved some special function (e.g., campsites, lithic quarries) where pottery, burials, or ceremonial objects might not occur, may fade into the obscurity of the Archaic lithic scatters and Late Woodland extractive sites found in the area. Identification and association for this type of site may not be possible because stone tools of the Pee Dee differ little from those identified with other

late prehistoric groups. Therefore, the sites where such identifications are possible take on an added importance for the prehistory of the region. From investigation of these sites we may address the following questions in order to develop a broader foundation for future research, and ultimately formulate better questions.

### **Major Research Questions**

Where were domestic Pee Dee occupations located?

What were the temporal and spatial relationships of these sites to the civic-ceremonial center of Town Creek?

What was the nature of a domestic Pee Dee settlement?

### **Minor Research Questions**

1. Are Pee Dee phase sites situated on similar soils?
2. Were Pee Dee phase sites situated away from main river channels along channel remnants?
3. Were Pee Dee sites situated at or near major natural breaks in topography or the environment?
4. Were Pee Dee settlements dispersed or nucleated?
5. Were Pee Dee settlements composed of large villages, small hamlets, or a combination of both?
6. Were Pee Dee settlements fortified? If so, how?
7. Was patterning present within Pee Dee village structure?
8. What was the Pee Dee subsistence pattern? To what degree were riverine, faunal, and agricultural products represented in archaeological remains?
9. Do the majority of Pee Dee settlements pre-date, post-date, or date contemporaneously with the occupation at Town Creek?

10. Are variations in ceramic typology recognizable which might indicate subdivisions within the cultural or chronological range of the Pee Dee phase?

11. Spatially and temporally, how were Pee Dee settlements located in relation to the Town Creek ceremonial center?

12. Is there evidence of status differentiation within Pee Dee settlements (e.g., unequal distribution of subsistence remains, mortuary practices)?

To address these research questions a limited survey of the permanent site files at the North Carolina Division of Archives and History and intensive excavation at two Pee Dee archaeological sites was conducted. A descriptive account of the excavations at these sites, the Leak Site (31RH1) located in Richmond County, North Carolina, and the Teal Site (31AN1) located in Anson County, North Carolina supplemented by analysis of a selected sample of artifacts, features, and human burials from the sites provides the major emphasis for this work.

The first objective of the study was the identification of sites other than Town Creek that had been associated with the Pee Dee culture. This objective was accomplished through records research, study of artifact collections, and pedestrian survey. From a total of sixty-four sites identified with the Pee Dee culture, two sites were selected for excavation: the Leak Site and the Teal Site. The Leak Site (31RH1) was a well-known site to local relic collectors and personnel from the Research Laboratories of Anthropology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. An abundance of artifacts identified with the Pee Dee culture, including burial urns, had been discovered there after a flood in 1936, and the site was generally thought to have been a large Pee Dee village. Excavations of three to four weeks duration were conducted during the summers of 1986, 1987, and 1990. The Teal Site (31AN1), located nearly ten miles downstream from the Leak Site on the Pee Dee River was less well

known, but had also been exposed by heavy flooding in 1936. Excavations were conducted at the Teal Site during the summers of 1988-1991.

The second objective of the Pee Dee Archaeological Project was development of a chronological sequence for the Pee Dee complex through radiocarbon dating and artifact associations at the sites investigated, and others that had produced similar information (e.g., Town Creek (31MG2, 31MG3), the Payne Site (31MR15). A total of nineteen radiocarbon dates ranging in age from A.D. 948 $\pm$ 51 to A.D. 1596 $\pm$ 114 was obtained from the sites investigated. This data supplemented by four radiocarbon dates from Town Creek (Reid 1967), three from the Payne Site (Mountjoy 1988), as well as artifact analyses and comparisons led to development of a chronological sequence and recognition of three phases of development within the range of the Pee Dee occupation in the southern Piedmont of North Carolina: the Teal Phase, A.D. 950-1200; the Town Creek Phase, A.D. 1200-1400; the Leak Phase, A.D. 1400-1600. These chronological divisions represent developing, florescent, and terminal stages of Pee Dee culture.

The third objective was addressed through descriptive accounts of the archaeological remains found at each site. Excavations at the Leak Site confirmed that much of the site had been damaged or destroyed by past flooding and agricultural activities. Those portions that remained relatively undisturbed provided evidence of domestic Pee Dee life during the later stages of the Pee Dee period, including ceremonial activities, subsistence, refuse disposal, and postholes that marked the location of the first Pee Dee domestic structure identified in North Carolina. Charred plant and animal remains clearly indicated the use of corn, persimmon, hickory nuts, acorns, maypop, maygrass, walnut, and grapes (Roberts 1992) as well as deer, turkey, turtle, fish, and freshwater mussels in the diet. Tool types included small to medium-sized triangular projectile points, pousherds, stone hoes, clay pipes, bone fish hooks, and discoidals made of both stone or clay. Clay disks were particularly abundant at Town Creek (Coe

1992:personal communication) and the Leak Site, but neither type was found at the Teal Site.

The archaeological deposits at the Teal Site were better preserved and more abundant than those found at the Leak Site. The Pee Dee materials were deposited above the archaeological remains of the people they had displaced--the archaeologically defined Yadkin Culture (see Coe 1964). Prior to this study it had been assumed that the intrusion of the Pee Dee into the southern Piedmont had displaced a Siouan-speaking Piedmont hill tribe archaeologically identified as the Uwharrie. The stratigraphy of the Teal Site and the absence of Uwharrie material from the Pee Dee distributional area suggests the Yadkin were displaced and their Uwharrie descendants evolved contemporaneously with the Pee Dee.

In certain portions of the Teal Site the prehistoric Yadkin activities were so intensive a thick midden of organic refuse developed. In other areas of the site the Pee Dee left clear indications of hearths, refuse pits, and human burials identified with ritualistic or ceremonial behavior. The latter activities were identified with a square structure thought to represent a ceremonial or mortuary building. This structure, and the related ceremonial material, was associated with developmental Southern Cult activity (see Williams and Goggin 1956) by the earliest Pee Dee occupations that occurred near A.D. 1000. The Southern Cult, or Southeastern Ceremonial Complex (see Waring and Holder 1945), was a complex of motifs and ceremonial objects associated with the development of ranked chiefdoms, specialized priests, intensive corn agriculture, ritual, and ceremony throughout much of the Southeast (cf. Muller 1989; Smith 1986). Thus, the emergence of the Pee Dee in the southern Piedmont occurred nearly 500 years earlier than had been thought and had many traits in common with similarly developing chiefdoms associated with this period of adaptation.

Adaptation involves change and may be viewed in either specific or general terms. The proposed research questions are specific to the Pee Dee Culture, but the resulting interpretations may have more far-reaching implications for broader analysis of cultural and chronological change within the South Appalachian Mississippian region. Seldom does an opportunity present itself, where the archaeological remains of a group of people can be isolated and distinguished from other groups within a restricted area of time and space. The Pee Dee Culture presents such an opportunity and the remainder of this work will detail the investigation of this problem and offer explanations of the recovered data. Over the years many myths and "explanations" have been offered to explain the presence and activities of the Pee Dee in North Carolina. They have been identified as "invaders" and as "the people of one fire." The former referring to the presumed forceful intrusion of the Pee Dee into the Carolina Piedmont, while the latter represents a Creek-related mythological concept concerning self-identification with the keeping of a sacred fire, thus "the people of one fire." However, the fire no longer burns for the Pee Dee, and the once glowing embers have been reduced to ashes within the soil of the land they formerly occupied. There is little that remains to indicate how they lived and died in this land. The reader should bear in mind that:

"Archaeology can only recover the physical manifestation of an act. It can never recover the meaning of the act. Meanings, values, and beliefs are not necessarily inherent in any act or form. The archaeologist must infer meaning or give explanation to the act" (Coe 1983:175).

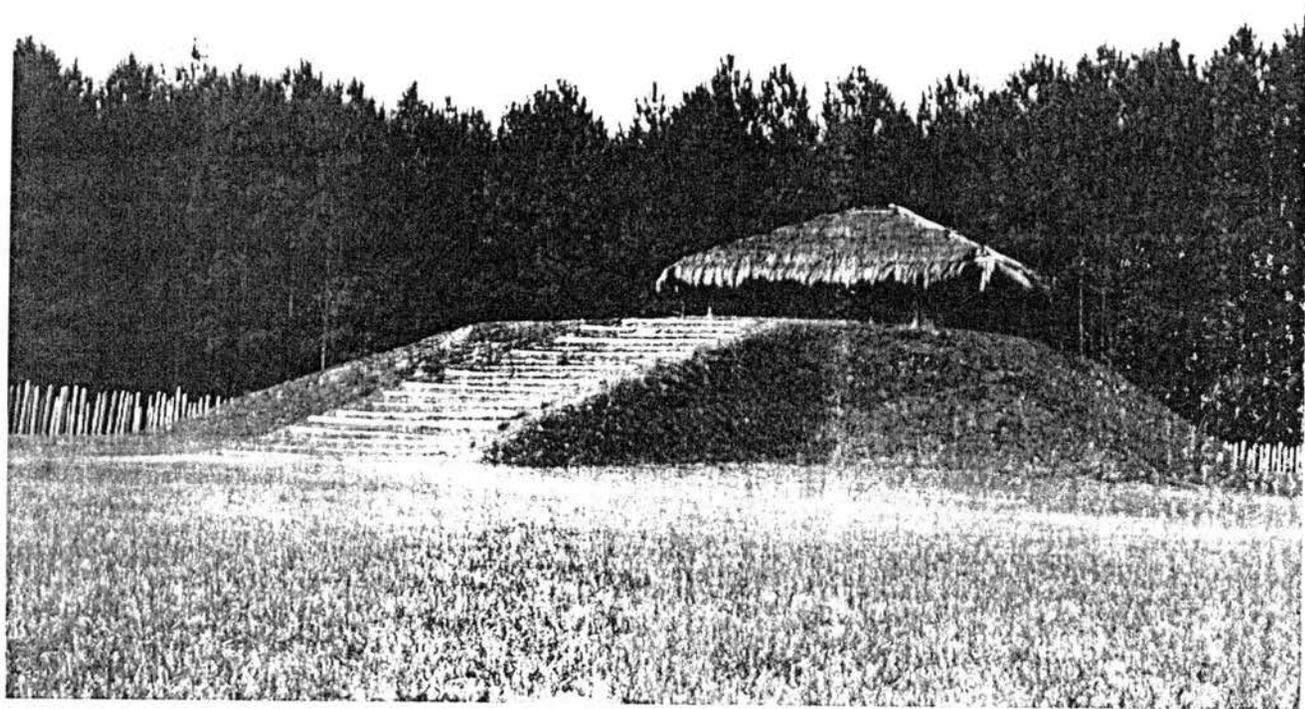


Plate 1. Reconstructed Town Creek Indian Mound, Montgomery County, NC.

## Chapter 2

### Background

The Pee Dee culture has long been considered one of the best archaeological records of the movement of a people in the Southeast (Coe 1952:308-309). Scientific study of the Pee Dee culture began in 1936 under the direction of J. L. Coe (Plate 2). It is no small coincidence that this date also marks the beginning of scientific archaeology in North Carolina. Today, more than fifty years later, the work at Town Creek Indian Mound (31MG2, 31MG3) continues and a new initiative to investigate the surrounding support communities has begun. The scope and volume of data collected during five decades of work at Town Creek is enormous, yet relatively few manuscripts have resulted. Reid (1967:ix) notes "the literature is not burdened with mention of the Town Creek site or of the Pee Dee culture; yet, when mention is made by persons other than the principal investigator, it adds little to an understanding of this site's position in Southeastern prehistory." Direct knowledge of Town Creek and its aboriginal population, the people commonly identified as Pee Dee, is not widespread and most statements in the literature tend to be misleading. It is important to keep this in mind because the decades of work at Town Creek should be viewed as the aging of a great wine that only now has reached a point of maturity. "No wine before its time," so to speak, although I do not intend to conjure visions of Joffre Coe as Carlo Rossi.



Plate 2. Beginning of excavations at Town Creek Indian Mound, 1937 (*Town Creek Archives*).

### **Town Creek Mound (31MG2, 31MG3)**

Town Creek and the Pee Dee culture represent the most northeastern expression of the Mississippian influenced platform mound building complex referred to as "South Appalachian Mississippian" (Griffin 1967:185-190; Ferguson 1971). As such, Town Creek, viewed as a regionally-oriented civic/ceremonial center, and its support communities hold the potential to provide unusual insight into the activities of a particular people within a particular period of time. Although often referred to as a domestic settlement, Town Creek should be viewed more appropriately as a ceremonial center where people came from surrounding villages to conduct important economic, social, and political matters as well as participate in religious and ceremonial activities. These activities included burial of important persons and inter-village competitions through the playing of ball games (Coe 1952:308-309) (Plate 3). Communal defense during times of hostility may have also been a function of a center such as Town Creek. However, the prevailing opinion is that few people, except for the priests in charge, actually lived within the palisaded walls of Town Creek (Plate 4). Therein lies an inherent problem. The specialized nature of the civic/ceremonial center may bias the archaeological record toward things ceremonial, rather than reflect a true perspective of domestic Pee Dee culture.

To render a balanced judgment concerning the Pee Dee culture, elements of Pee Dee domestic lifestyle must be identified. Presently, archaeologists are unable to determine whether the support communities related to Town Creek Indian Mound were large villages or small hamlets; concentrations of loosely organized structures or fortified villages with regularly developed community structure (e.g., houses, outbuildings, and plaza). Similarly, questions of local and regional variability in settlement, subsistence, chronology, ceramic



Plate 3. View of reconstructed mound and mortuary house at Town Creek.

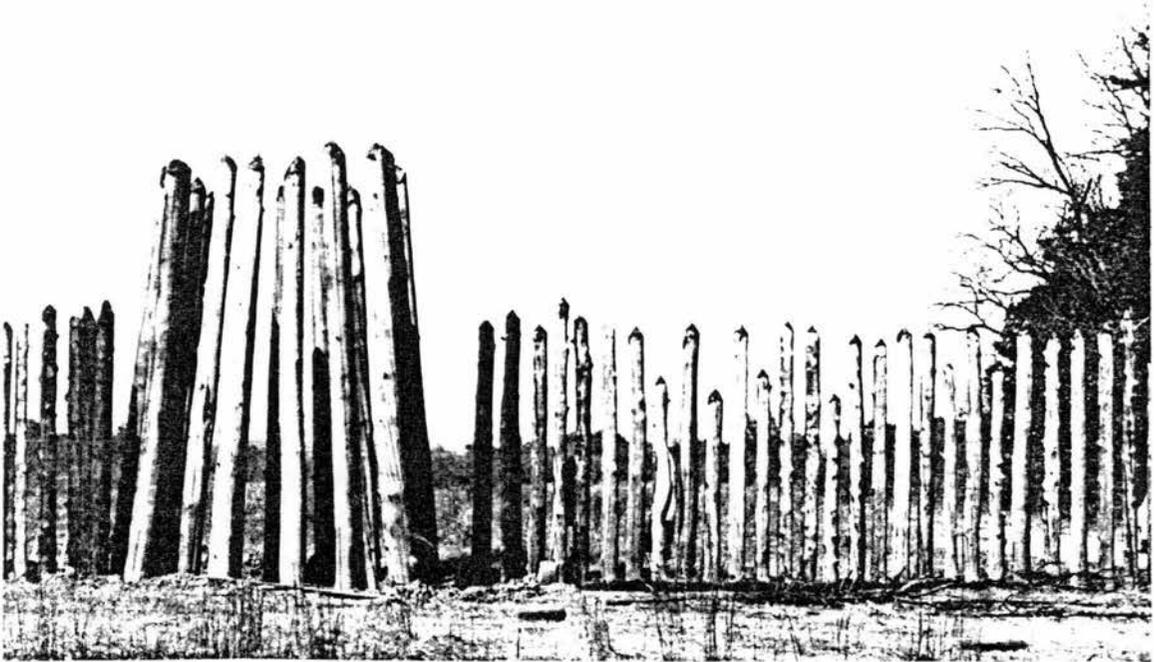


Plate 4. View of bastion and palisade at Town Creek Indian Mound (*Town Creek Archives*).

typology, lithic procurement, and status differentiation, among others have gone unaddressed while intensive research concentrated on the site of Town Creek.

In order to address the question of domestic Pee Dee settlements and their relationship to Town Creek, attention should be turned away from the ceremonial center and focused upon the places where the Pee Dee actually lived on a day-to-day basis...their support communities.

### **Mississippian vs. Mississippian-Influenced Culture**

To establish a framework for interpretation, we must clarify what is meant by the term "Mississippian", and whether or not the Pee Dee phase may be accurately identified as such. According to Smith (1978:486) the term "Mississippian" applies "...to those prehistoric human populations existing in the eastern deciduous woodlands during the time period A.D. 800-1500 that had a ranked form of social organization, and had developed a specific complex adaptation to linear, environmentally circumscribed floodplain habitat zones. This adaptation involved maize horticulture and selective utilization of a number of species groups of wild plants and animals that represented dependable, seasonally abundant energy sources that could be exploited at a relatively low level of energy expenditure." However, Griffin (1967:189), the originator of the Mississippian concept as both period and cultural phenomenon, applies the term "Mississippian" to "...the wide variety of adaptations made by societies which developed a dependence upon agriculture for their basic, storable food supply."

"While Griffin admirably characterized the Mississippian cultures in terms of subsistence rather than esoteric artifacts such as platform mounds, shell jewelry, specialized ceramics, and so forth that are most often used in the generic description of Mississippian, the fact is that there is little information concerning the subsistence of the people who created South Appalachian Mississippian. If

these esoteric items were not present, it would be difficult to say on the basis of artifacts that this area was more similar to other Mississippian complexes than to contemporaneous complexes from the Northeast or the Middle Atlantic Coast (Ferguson and Green 1984:139)."

Griffin further notes a high correlation between rich agricultural soils, proximity to remnant channels, and the location of Mississippian sites. This correlation between Mississippian sites and certain soil types has been addressed by Ward (1965:42-48) and does not need to be addressed further at this point, except to reiterate the observation that Mississippian sites correlate well with soils which exhibit attributes of high fertility and friable texture (e.g., silty loams and fine sandy loams). This association is related to the presumed practice of maize agriculture by Mississippian groups.

According to Ward (1965:45), the "correlation between site locale and a specific soil type can hardly be any more fortuitous than is the distribution of Mississippian sites on the landscape random." Smith (1978:488) develops this concept into a locational model for Mississippian settlement which emphasizes the availability of well drained, easily tilled soils suitable for gardening and access to fish and waterfowl in channel-remnant streams or impoundments. Both of these perspectives concern "*where*" Mississippian sites are located, not "*what*" Mississippian is. What, then, is "Mississippian" and how might it be recognized archaeologically in the North Carolina Piedmont?

Generally, the emergence of the Mississippian is marked by the appearance of distinctive forms of pottery, usually tempered with crushed mussel shell, intensive village-based horticulture, the rise of chiefdoms, and the construction on or around a central plaza of large, earthen, platform mounds that served as substructures for temples, elite residences, and council buildings. Town Creek satisfies some, but not all, of these criteria, and therefore may be variously referred to as "Mississippian" or "Mississippian influenced" depending on the perspective of the observer.

Acceptance of definitions of precisely what attributes characterize "Mississippian" will vary from archaeologist to archaeologist and from region to region. Historically, we can observe that early concepts were applied on the basis of material cultural similarities (Griffin 1985:50-51) which gradually changed to reflect an emphasis on the adaptive responses inferred from the archaeological remains (see Griffin 1967; Smith 1978, 1985). Presently, Griffin (1985:62-63) argues that current applications of the Mississippian term are inappropriate and should more accurately "...reflect the continuing areal interaction of ideas and practices over the broad Eastern wooded area which, during a 1,000 year period, reached levels of development not attained earlier." However, it is unlikely that a universally accepted definition will be developed and applied by the archaeological profession. Instead, it seems likely that existing definitions relative to specific areas and regions of research will continue in use, but will gradually change as databases grow larger and research interests become further refined.

In North Carolina, Coe has long held to his students that Town Creek and the associated Pee Dee phase represent a "Mississippian-influenced" cultural expression, not a true Mississippian phenomenon as may be identified in the major developmental area of the period. Coe (1952) and Reid (1967) consider the Pee Dee Culture as a cultural intrusion into the southern North Carolina Piedmont, most probably from the Georgia-South Carolina region, while Griffin (1967:189) moves the Pee Dee into "...central North Carolina from northern Georgia or the western Carolinas." Reid (1965:65) felt the similarities between Town Creek and Irene were so strong that he postulated a cultural interaction between Town Creek and the Irene Site situated along the Savannah River in coastal Georgia as well as the McDowell Mound, or Mulberry Site (38KE12), along the Wateree River in South Carolina. More recently, this site has been proposed as the location of the ceremonial center of Cofitachique (Hudson, Smith, and DePratter 1984;

Baker 1974), a ranked chiefdom level society visited by Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto in May, 1540.

Whether or not this was the case, the archaeological remains found at Mulberry, Town Creek, Hollywood and Irene bare such striking similarity that they are almost certainly the remains of related groups. However, if the concept of Mississippian is applied in strict fashion, these people cannot be accurately identified as "Mississippian" because they did not utilize shell-tempered pottery, a diagnostic attribute of Mississippian culture. Archaeologists can recognize the construction of earthen platform mounds, plazas, utilization of distinctive pottery vessels, the presence of presumed chiefdoms, intensive village-based agriculture and complex mortuary practices. In this regard, many of the Indians of the Southeast were "Mississippian influenced" to the extent that they freely adapted certain attributes and procedures from elements of Mississippian culture and may be more appropriately identified as "South Appalachian Mississippian" (Ferguson 1971), a regional variation of a broad cultural phenomenon.

Assuming the correctness of this logic and a similar settlement pattern by South Appalachian Mississippian groups, evidence should be found in the archaeological record indicating Pee Dee phase settlements were situated on preferred soil types (cf. Ward 1965; Smith 1978) and in proximity to channel remnants away from the natural levees adjacent to main river channels. An optimum spatial distribution of Pee Dee sites might involve a dispersed pattern of small homestead-type settlements situated on preferred soil types near channel remnants or other impoundments (cf. Smith 1978:489).

Of course, given the "invader" or intrusive hypothesis offered to explain Pee Dee presence in the southern Piedmont, other factors, most notably, the need to defend land and people might affect the selection and distribution of support communities. This factor might have resulted in nucleated settlements which were easily fortified. Because of the nature of the investigations conducted previously, it cannot be stated with certainty

what spatial pattern was utilized by the Pee Dee Indians, nor precisely where the majority of the support communities were located at any particular period of time. Although our knowledge of these factors is limited, it is not "*terra incognita*" as some contend.

### **Geographical Distribution**

One of the better known Pee Dee sites is the Leak Site, 31RH1 (Reid 1965:21-23; 1967), situated along a narrow thoroughfare of the Pee Dee River in Richmond County, North Carolina. The Leak Site is located in a broad section of fertile floodplain commonly called "the low grounds." The primary river channel is over a half a mile distant and a number of additional sites are located in the surrounding area. All indicate at least a brief Pee Dee presence. The distribution of these sites form a linear pattern of placement on natural levees adjacent to the course of the river. This pattern may be observed from just below the modern Tillery Dam near the Town of Norwood to just below the confluence of the Little River and the Pee Dee. Nearly all the recorded sites within this river corridor exhibit some evidence of Pee Dee occupation. Site distributions along the Little River seem to parallel this pattern, but appear less intense.

Pee Dee sites are generally concentrated within a triangular area formed by points located just above the confluence of the Rocky River and the Pee Dee, a point just below the confluence of the Little River and the Pee Dee, and the Town Creek site (Figure 1). This does not imply an absence of Pee Dee sites outside of this small area of concentration. However, when sites are found outside this area they generally exhibit only a small number of pottery sherds and not an intensive occupation. Exceptions to this pattern include the Payne Site (31MR15) in Moore County, North Carolina, several sites in the Cordova area of Richmond County (31RH13, 31RH21), and the Trestle Site (31AN19) in Anson County, North Carolina. Recognition of this apparent concentration of sites may be affected by the presence of major impoundments of the Pee Dee River, both above its confluence with the Rocky River, and below its confluence with the Little

River. Inundation prevents identification of Pee Dee sites which might exist in these areas and may create an illusion of site concentration in those areas not subjected to impoundment.

Although a dispersed settlement pattern seems indicated by an intuitive assessment of Pee Dee site locations, a growing body of evidence supports the hypothesis that the Pee Dee physically displaced the former residents of the area (presumably Siouan-speaking groups). Coe (1952:308) proposed early on that the Pee Dee "moved into the upper Pee Dee River Valley with household and baggage about the middle of the Sixteenth Century, forcing the Uwharrie descendants into the hills of the Piedmont." Given such an "invasive situation," nucleated and fortified settlements might be expected. However, although the degree of contemporaneity has yet to be determined, a dispersed pattern of settlement is indicated by our present knowledge of site location, not a nucleated pattern as might be expected.

This dispersed pattern and an apparent lack of additional palisaded ceremonial centers suggests on the surface, at least, an optimum exploitation of the rich, fertile bottomlands without hostile pressures. Evidence is presently not known to indicate whether these dispersed and outlying sites were fortified. Resolution of this question must await more intensive excavations and development of larger samples from which to base our interpretations. In the meantime, the current research may provide insights into questions which otherwise could not have been considered.

Both Coe (1952) and Reid (1965) have addressed the presumed intrusive nature of the Pee Dee Culture, but little archaeological evidence has been developed outside of the Town Creek ceremonial center. Among those familiar with the work at Town Creek and also collections obtained from intermittent surveys of the surrounding area, a near total absence of Uwharrie series pottery (Coe, n.d.) can be observed within the Pee Dee settlement area. Because the Uwharrie series is identified with the Piedmont Siouan

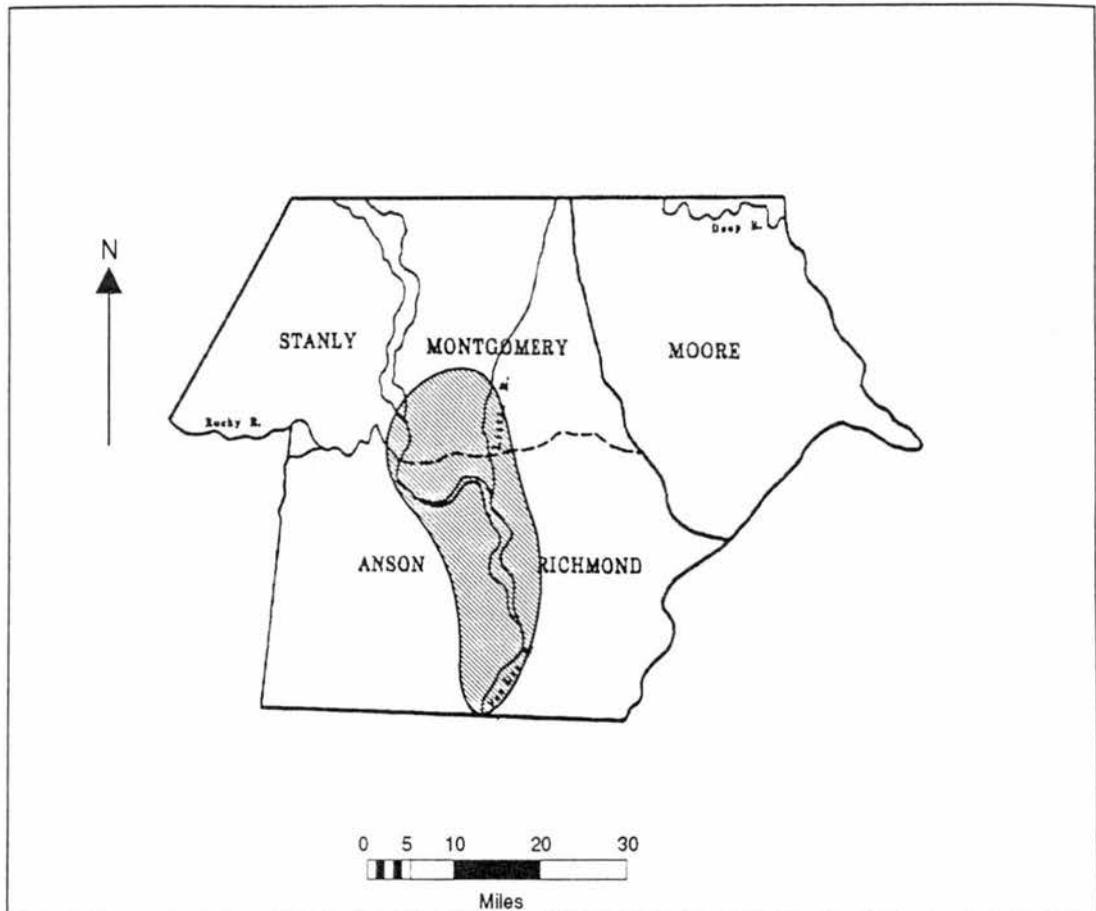


Figure 1. Map of five county Pee Dee distributional area in the southern Piedmont of North Carolina.

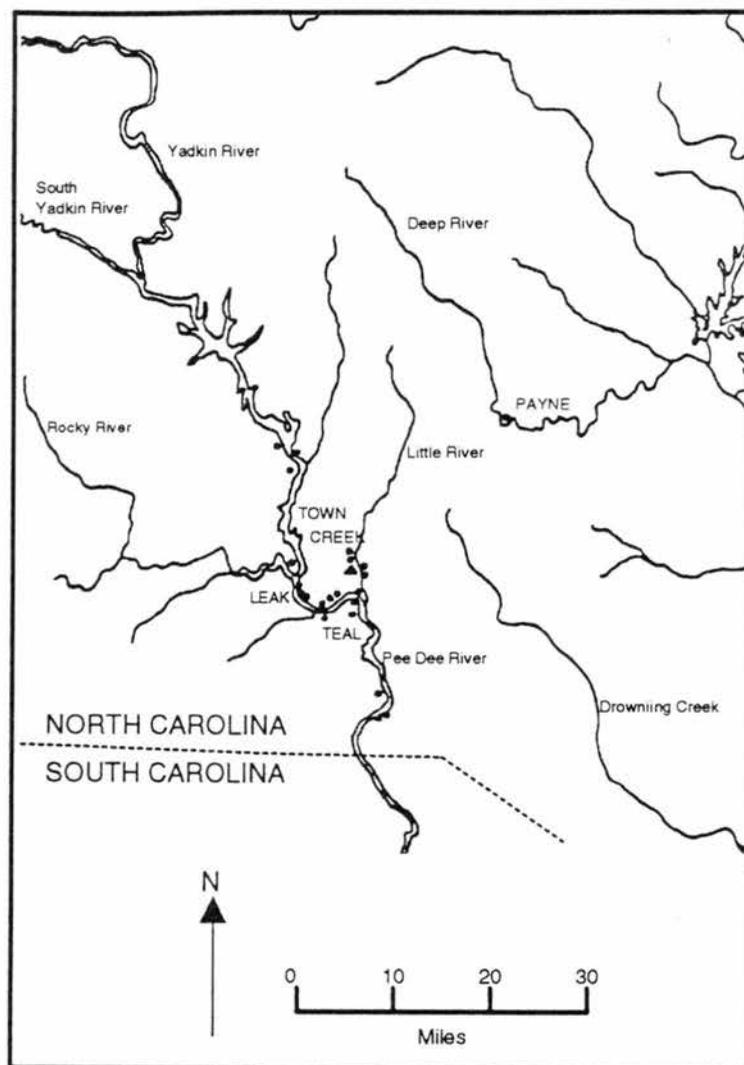


Figure 2. Map of Pee Dee site distribution in the southern Piedmont of North Carolina.

groups and believed to be contemporaneous, but culturally distinctive, with the Pee Dee Phase, the absence of Uwharrie pottery is taken to indicate a form of territorial displacement. Perhaps, encroachment or forcible action which caused the Uwharrie peoples to relocate into the more northern and central Piedmont. A post-Pee Dee return of Siouan groups to the region is indicated by the presence of Caraway Complicated Stamped series pottery (Coe, n.d.) at many sites in the area, including Town Creek, the Leak Site, the Teal Site, and the Andrews Site (31RH60). Exact knowledge of *why*, *when*, and *how* the Pee Dee occupation began and ended in this region is presently unknown.

The question of "*when*" may be addressed through a range of radiocarbon dates for the Pee Dee phase. These dates obtained from Coe's work at Town Creek, but published by Reid (1965:62) and later by Dickens (1970; 1976), represent the current chronological knowledge of the Pee Dee phase in North Carolina. This range includes dates of A.D. 1205-/+140 (FSU174), A.D. 1280-/+140 (FSU176), A.D. 1350-/+140 (FSU145), and A.D. 1355-/+50 (FSU175). The overall length of time represented by these dates is consistent with the pre-radiocarbon era assessment of the Pee Dee phase, but is several centuries earlier than the presumed A.D. 1450-1650 period of occupation (see Coe 1952: ). A focus of the current research has been to develop additional radiocarbon dates for the Pee Dee phase which might allow recognition of its chronological range.

Coe's research at Town Creek presents an enormous body of data concerning activities at that particular site, but because the research design has focused steadfastly upon Town Creek, little other work has been conducted for Pee Dee sites in the presumed area of influence for the Town Creek ceremonial center. In some ways this intense focus has been beneficial because knowledge of Town Creek is great, but in other ways it has

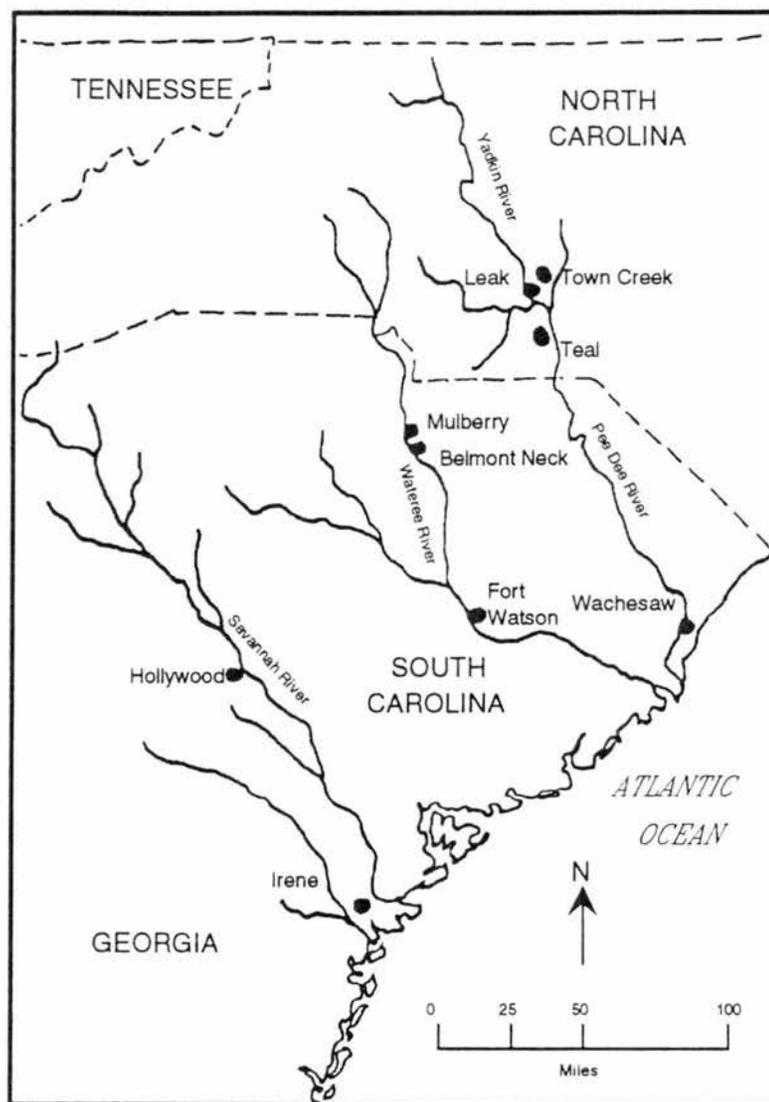


Figure 3. Map of South Appalachian Mississippian sites identified with Pee Dee ceramics.

limited the growth of knowledge concerning the domestic settlements. Minor test excavations have been conducted at outlying sites such as the Teal Site (31AN1) by Stanley South in 1958, at the Leak Site (31RH1) by Bennie Keel in 1963, by Barton Wright at 31MG35 in 1951, and by the author at Haywood's Field (31MG43) in 1986. Surface collections have been made periodically throughout the entire 54 year involvement of Coe and his students in the Town Creek area. These have included all known recorded sites in the region, but more frequently have been conducted at sites where artifacts were more easily collected from the surface. Although collections from these sites sometimes contained large numbers of artifacts, they do not rival those found at Town Creek in quality or quantity.

The location of Town Creek at the fall line does not appear coincidental and the distribution of domestic Pee Dee sites may have been affected more by environmental variables such as the availability of fertile bottom lands and their location between two physiographic provinces than cultural ones. Ferguson (1971:245) identified a pattern of site location for South Appalachian Mississippian sites which concentrated the location for mounds near the fall line. This pattern was considered related to complex environmental, and economic variables that originated in central and northern Georgia. The fall line region was an area ripe for exploitation because it offered a variety of ecological niches suitable for hunting, gathering, and corn agriculture. At the fall line sites were located near the fertile soils of the piedmont as well as adjacent to the coastal plain and could play a pivotal role in controlling trade between the tribes of the coast and those of the mountains. Many of the specialized ceremonial items associated with South Appalachian Mississippian sites were made of marine shell (e.g., engraved conch shell cups, engraved shell gorgets, shell beads, and shell ear pins) which could have been in great demand, but limited supply to only those who could afford symbols of high rank.

At Town Creek only two of the nearly two hundred-fifty excavated burials have produced evidence of marine shell gorgets, both of the circular cross design, but many burials have contained shell beads. Few other grave goods have been associated with individual burials (Coe 1992:personal communication). A similar pattern has been identified from the burials excavated at the Teal Site. At both sites the relative scarcity of marine shell gorgets may suggest their use as powerful symbols of rank, status, or authority only available to a few. Shell beads may have been of lesser importance, but were found more frequently than items made from larger marine shells.

The archaeological data from Town Creek is unparalleled in that it represents the nation's longest continuing archaeological research directed by a single hand. The meticulousness of Coe's methodology is well known and the expected synthesis of Town Creek will no doubt be a major landmark study in American archaeology. However, to characterize Town Creek without information concerning the outlying settlements would be akin to characterization of a church without knowledge of its congregation. Given the extent of the work conducted at Town Creek, we can recognize the nature of ritualistic and ceremonial activities conducted there, but know little about the day-to-day activities of those who built the site and came there for religious, economic, social, or political reasons. The traditional view of domestic Pee Dee activities has been one of speculation rather than substance from the archaeological record. The time has come for substance to replace speculation that:

"...they built along the banks of the river and its tributaries, each village surrounded for protection by stockades of pine poles with watchtowers placed at the entrances. They lived in dome-shaped structures covered with straw. These homes and villages were permanent, located close by the fields which were the Indians' primary source of life. Here they cultivated corn, beans, squash, gourds, pumpkins, and sunflower seeds. Corn was the most important crop grown, in addition to being a basic food, many of the religious ceremonies of the settlers

centered around corn and corn gods. Tobacco, too, was grown for use in ceremonial pipes. Significant sources of food naturally were the streams and woodlands, where the Indians fished and hunted for a wide variety of animals. Clothing was made from hides and cloth woven from plant fibers, opossum hair, or fine feathers.

The daily life of the people included a variety of activities. In addition to those chores associated with the cultivation of crops, hunting, and preparation of food, much time was spent in making houses, cribs for food storage, canoes for travel, drums for ceremonies, and weapons used for war or hunting" (Reeves 1976:1).

## Chapter 3

### **Distribution of Pee Dee Culture and Related Sites in South Carolina and Georgia**

When one attempts to identify the distribution of Pee Dee phase sites in North Carolina, they are confronted with the realization that identification generally depends upon the presence of the characteristic pottery and little else. Reid (1965:64) has observed that similar pottery has been described in South Carolina and Georgia as Savannah, Irene, or Lamaroid. Town Creek has been identified as the northernmost extension of this "Lamaroid" ceramic style which is typified by bold complicated stamped designs. However, there is a noticeable tendency on the part of some to identify any sherd with a complicated stamped design as "Mississippian" or, specifically, in the North Carolina Piedmont as Pee Dee. This tendency fails to recognize the utilization of carved paddle complicated stamped designs by the historic Siouan tribes, the Occaneechi and the Saura, as well as the linguistically related Catawba. "While it may be that the hand that rocks the cradle molds the character of a nation...the shape of the paddle that paddles the pot...(Coe 1961:59)" does not necessarily have the same effect, nor does it necessarily imply contemporaneity.

Sites having complicated stamped pottery are numerous in the Southeast, but less common in the southern North Carolina Piedmont. Generally, sites with complicated stamped ceramics have been identified as "Lamaroid" or "Lamar-like" because of the similarity of ceramics, platform mounds, and ceremonialism. Caldwell (1952:320) and

Reid (1965:65) consider "Lamaroid" sites fairly common in South Carolina and assume the presence of a concentrated prehistoric population along the Wateree and Broad Rivers. Following Griffin (1967) and Ferguson (1971) such sites should be more appropriately identified as South Appalachian Mississippian and not by a vague and generalized concept such as "Lamaroid."

Major South Appalachian Mississippian sites that exhibit similarities to the Pee Dee Complex include the McDowell or Mulberry Mounds (Stuart 1975; Ferguson 1973) and the Adamson Mounds (Stuart 1975) in Kershaw County, South Carolina, the Greenhill Mound and the McCollum Mounds in Richland County, South Carolina (Reid 1965:65), and the Fort Watson Mound (Ferguson 1973), also identified as Scott's Lake, in Clarendon County, South Carolina. In contrast to Town Creek in North Carolina and many sites in Georgia, the South Carolina sites have not been the focus of intensive research efforts and hardly any work has been conducted on non-mound sites in the region (Ferguson and Green 1984:140).

Georgia archaeology has focused more attention on South Appalachian Mississippian sites. In part, this may result from early archaeological explorations and the nature of the discoveries (Moore 1897; Thomas 1894) as well as an apparently greater concentration of such sites. Among the most notable are the Irene Site (Caldwell and McCann 1941) located near Savannah in Chatham County, the Hollywood Site (Thomas 1894; De Baillou 1965) in Richmond County, and the Beaverdam Site (Rudolph and Hally 1985) in Elbert County, Georgia.

### **Irene-Town Creek Axis**

In an early assessment of Pee Dee ceramics, Reid (1965:65-79) identified "an area of cultural interaction" with the Town Creek and Irene sites at the spatial extremes of a similar ceramic distribution. This concept was described as "the Town Creek - Irene Axis" and reflected a recognition of sites possessing similar ceramic assemblages within

a regional area. The geographic and cultural limits of this interaction area were undefined, yet Reid (1965:65-68) felt the nature of certain aspects of the axis could be investigated by comparison of the ceramic assemblages from Town Creek, Irene, Hollywood, and Fort Watson.

"There appears little reason to continue the vagueness of the term Lamaroid throughout the myriad of its manifestations since it has been demonstrated for Cherokee ceramics in western North Carolina that this influence can be typologically refined. Unique ceramic traits cluster along the Town Creek-Irene axis to validate their distinctiveness (Reid 1965:68)."

Reid's insightful identification of the Irene-Town Creek axis preceded Griffin's (1967) recognition of a South Appalachian Mississippian complex, but has seldom been explored by other researchers in the area.

### **Irene Site**

The Irene Site is located on a bluff along the Savannah River in Chatham County, Georgia and is considered "the classic example of a Savannah Phase ceremonial center (Crook 1986:38)." The Irene Site consists of a platform mound, a burial mound, an interior structure divided by long wall trenches, three relatively small domestic structures, and an abundance of pottery. The platform mound was composed of eight distinctive episodes of construction. The first seven identified with the Savannah Phase and the last with the Irene Phase. Each construction phase was characterized by rectangular buildings with rounded corners. Additionally, the final construction phase was enclosed by palisades. The Savannah Phase on the Georgia Coast is believed to begin around 900 A.D.

"...the Savannah Phase represents a mature cultural tradition that developed from the Wilmington Phase, probably with external influence. Basic elements of the long-standing conservative coastal tradition consisting of estuarine and oak forest exploitation by seasonally mobile populations appear to have continued in an evolved form during the Savannah Phase. The most important change may have been a shift in socio-political organization from a prior band-level organization to that of a chiefdom with hereditary chiefs and social segmentation. The Savannah Phase is characterized by nucleated large settlements, dispersed smaller settlements, platform mounds, and the intensive use of single locations as cemeteries resulting in burial mounds. Pottery decorated with cord impressions continued to be made but, unlike Wilmington wares, Savannah Phase vessels were decorated with finer cord marking and crossed as well as linear designs. Check stamped, complicated stamped, and burnished plain pottery were added to the Savannah complex, as well as Mississippian shapes such as cazuelas "(Crook 1986:36-37).

Crook (1986:40) contends several important conclusions may be gleaned from the Irene Site. Foremost, he argues that the energy expended to construct the earthen mound and other structures at the site is greater than that which could be explained by the number of people believed to have composed the resident population. Therefore, labor is presumed to have been employed from other sites in the region. Secondly, the internal spatial arrangement of the site (e.g., long segmented wall trenches, large plaza) may reflect organization of activities beyond those of the people who actually lived there.

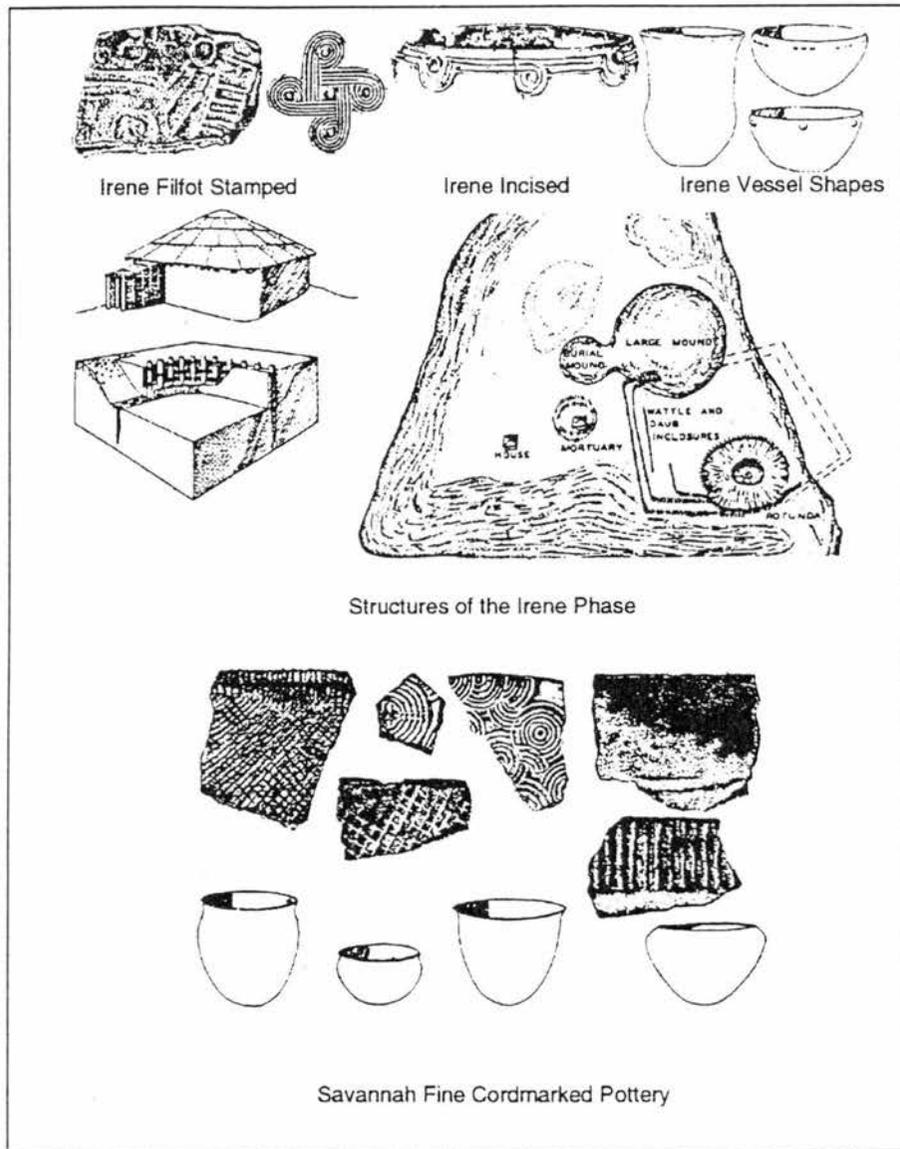


Figure 4. Archaeological materials from the Irene Site, Chatham County, Georgia (from Caldwell and McCann, 1941).

Lastly, palisades erected around the summits of the mounds during the latter episodes of occupation are assumed to indicate defensive positions related to an external threat.

Excavations began at the Irene Site in 1937 and were completed in 1939. These excavations were conducted by the Work Projects Administration under the sponsorship of the Chatham County Commissioners and the Savannah Chamber of Commerce. Fieldwork was supervised by a number of individuals and the final report was written by Joseph Caldwell and Catherine McCann (Caldwell and McCann 1941).

The excavations conducted at the Irene Site were seen as a continuation of the work at Ocmulgee National Monument and other areas of coastal Georgia. The site had previously received a limited investigation by Clarence B. Moore in 1897 (Moore 1898:168). Although Moore's investigation was "limited," he focused more intently on the burial mound at Irene than he did at many other southeastern sites. Unfortunately, other factors also contributed to loss of portions of the site. These included intrusion of a Colonial cemetery, use for borrow by county engineers, and the construction of a Moravian school complete with cellar on the summit of the mound (Caldwell and McCann 1941:vi). Considering these factors, it is somewhat remarkable that meaningful interpretations of both site function and chronology were possible. The latter aspect, chronology, was principally addressed through the abundance of pottery found at the site. Development of a ceramic chronological sequence was the immediate problem at the beginning of the excavations.

The possibility that Irene was a stratified site was suggested by the range of pottery decoration, as well as by the fact that similar design motifs occurred in less variety at other sites in Chatham County and Georgia. The result of ceramic investigation was expected to be a sequence of complexes defined on the basis of typology. It was hoped

that such a series might serve to determine rough chronological associations of depositional features and artifacts other than pottery, and also to determine chronological relations with other sites (Caldwell and McCann 1941:1)

After a sufficiently large sample of pottery had been recovered it was then divided into groups or categories based upon certain observable attributes. These groups, or "types," were principally defined by differences of surface finish and decoration which had been selected as the most likely attributes to observe cultural or chronological change (see Southeastern Pottery Conference 1938). Caldwell and McCann found that these formulated groups were not restricted to their own excavations, but could be observed from sites throughout the region. Pottery from such sites often appeared nearly identical and a relationship was implied. Therefore, as a means of comparison each group was identified as a "type." In contrast to the suggested method (Southeastern Pottery Conference 1938), Caldwell and McCann's system for naming types utilized a single site name for all the types identified with the complex. According to Caldwell and McCann (1941:1):

"A pottery complex is conceived as a group of separate types exhibiting the total attributes of pottery manufacture at a site or group of closely related sites at a given time. The time span itself is arbitrarily selected as being without major changes in pottery manufacture."

From this perspective, a type occurring at several sites yet exhibiting similarity of design, decoration, shape, method of construction, and constant occurrence with other specific types (each having certain distinctive attributes) would be identified by a common name signifying an implied relationship (i.e., Savannah Fine Cord Marked,

Savannah Burnished Plain, Savannah Complicated Stamped). The pottery types identified at the Irene Mound Site consisted of:

Irene Filfot Stamped  
 Irene Incised  
 Irene Plain  
 Savannah Fine Cordmarked  
 Savannah Check Stamped  
 Savannah Burnished Plain  
 Savannah Complicated Stamped  
 Wilmington Heavy Cordmarked  
 Deptford Linear Check Stamped  
 Deptford Bold Check Stamped  
 Deptford Simple Stamped  
 St. Simons Incised and Punctated  
 St Simons Plain

Recognizing that the mound excavations identified eight periods of construction, the pottery types were found distributed within three basic divisions: an Irene Complex, a Savannah Complex, and a Premound component. The Irene Complex was identified within the latest period of construction (Mound 8) and contained specimens of all identified types occurring at the site. However, three varieties of the Irene type were identified exclusively with the Mound 8 fill: Irene Filfot Stamped, Irene Incised, and Irene Plain. Mound 7, directly underlying Mound 8, contained only three pottery types within the occupation zone (Savannah Fine Cordmarked, Savannah Check Stamped, and Savannah Burnished Plain), but exhibited most of the pottery types (Savannah Fine Cordmarked, Savannah Check Stamped, Savannah Burnished Plain, Savannah Complicated Stamped, Wilmington Heavy Cordmarked, Deptford Linear Check Stamped, Deptford Bold Check Stamped, Deptford Simple Stamped, St. Simons Incised and Punctated, St. Simons Plain) found at the site within the fill of Mound 7. Significant exceptions included the Irene types which were found exclusively in a stratigraphically higher episode of construction.

Another noteworthy observation involves the Savannah Complicated Stamped type which was identified within the fill of Mound 6, but not within the occupation zone. From these observations it may be seen that most of the types identified predate occupation of Mound 7, that only the Savannah types (Savannah Fine Cordmarked, Savannah Check Stamped, and Savannah Burnished Plain) were made during the actual occupation of Mound 6 and 7, and that all four Savannah types had been made during the periods of building and occupying Mounds 1 through 5. The earliest Savannah Complex included all four types, but the Savannah Complicated Stamped type had passed from use by the time Mound 6 was occupied. Complicated stamping, then, would not again be a factor until the building and occupation of Mound 8 (Caldwell and McCann 1941:2, 40-52).

As Reid (1965:68) notes, "blatant similarities exist in decoration and rim specialization" between the Pee Dee series and collective Irene and Savannah pottery types. However, the more noticeable similarities of decoration, rim specialization, and vessel shape exist between Pee Dee and Irene types. The earlier Savannah Phase types show some similarity of decoration (surface finish, particularly curvilinear complicated stamped designs), rim form, and vessel shape, but the overwhelming similarity of the Irene types is not found. Pee Dee and Irene pottery types display marked similarity of form, frequency of burnished plain and filfot cross designs, and rim decorations such as hollow reed punctations, appliqués, nodes, and rosettes. However, except for a brief allusion to a Pee Dee Cordmarked type (cf. Coe 1964:33, Figure 28), attributes more commonly identified with the Savannah Phase have not been previously recognized within the Pee Dee complex.

## Hollywood Mound Site (9RI1)

The Hollywood Mound Site (9RI1) is composed of two mounds located in a bend of the Savannah River, Richmond County, Georgia. The site lies on low, flood prone land some 10 miles below the city of Augusta, Georgia. Initial investigations were conducted in 1891 by Henry L. Reynolds, an assistant to Cyrus Thomas of the Bureau of American Ethnology. According to Thomas (1894:317), the results proved to be of unusual interest. Reynolds excavated Mound B, the smallest of the two mounds present, and discovered evidence of stratification as well as a rich array of artifacts identified with the "Southern Cult" (Waring and Holder 1945). Included among the discoveries found on the lower level of the mound were a bottle standing on a tripod of human effigy heads, a vessel engraved with a plumed serpent design (the design includes a forked or weeping-eye), and a bottle painted with a cross and sun motif (Thomas 1894). Also of interest was an exquisite human effigy pipe. However, it may be more important for the present study to observe Thomas' descriptions of several large pottery vessels recovered from the mound than have our vision focused solely upon these exotic specimens.

Thomas (1894:319) notes:

"...Adjoining it on the southeast lay a large culinary pot (N.M. 135205), indicated...as No. 1,...Decomposed animal matter was found in the bottom mingled with scattered particles of black and white ashes. One foot and a half east from pot No. 1, on the same level, lay another pot, 2 (N.M. 135209), having inside it another pot (N.M. 135208)...Almost alongside of the last, on the same level, lay another, 3 (N.M. 135209), inside of which was an inverted pot (N.M. 135210). Decayed animal matter, a few bone beads, a fragment of the tooth of some animal, and some scattering of charcoal cinders were found in the bottom."

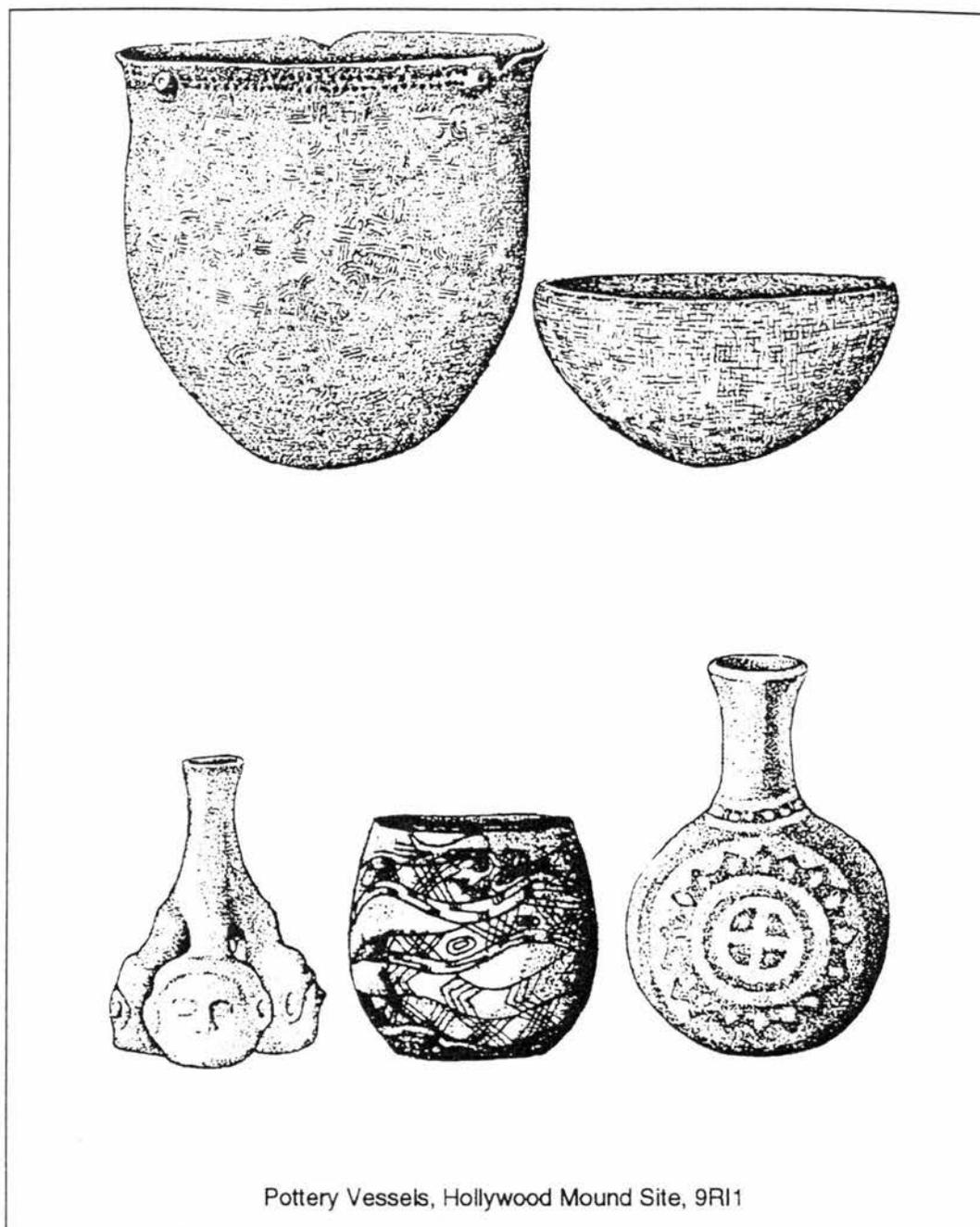


Figure 5. Archaeological materials from Hollywood Mound, Richmond County, Georgia  
(Caldwell 1952).

Although unrecognized by Reynolds or Thomas, the above description accurately describes the situation of urn burials found at the Town Creek site in North Carolina and other similar sites along the "Irene-Town Creek Axis." Evidence of this practice appears unmistakably in Thomas' account (Reid 1965:23).

At Town Creek, burial urns generally are made in the same shape, are complicated stamped, show no evidence of decoration, and are "killed" by knocking a hole in the bottom of the pot. It is common to find an inverted bowl placed over the top of the urn. Coe (1952:309) notes that most infants at Town Creek were interred in large clay pots, while Reid (1965:23) states these pots were used "...solely for the primary interment of infants." Discoveries from the Teal Site (31AN1) in Anson County, North Carolina, to be discussed later in this work, will provide additional information concerning the nature of urn burials within the Pee Dee culture.

Subsequent to Thomas' exploration of the Hollywood Mound, test excavations were carried out in the summer of 1965 by Clemens De Baillou for the Augusta Museum. According to De Baillou (1965:3), many archaeologists thought Thomas had completely excavated Mound B (sometimes identified as the "burial mound") and that investigation of the larger mound would not contribute new information. Because of the frequent flooding of the site and the heavy sediment load of the Savannah River, De Baillou (1965:3-4) acknowledges that some predicted most of the platform mound structure would have been washed away, while others felt the major portion of the site would have been covered by sediments. The latter opinion proved to be accurate.

De Baillou (1965:4-11) first explored Mound B through placement of two ten-foot squares which succeeded in finding the foot of the undisturbed mound. More than five feet of sediment covered the undisturbed archaeological remains. A similar discovery was made for Mound A where a seventy-foot long trench was excavated. Beneath the impressive deposits of sediment were thick layers of post-aboriginal

material, mound slump, evidence evidence of two construction stages, and a premound deposit. The recovered artifacts were dominated by the presence of ceramics which included those types listed in Figure 6.

Figure 6. Distribution of Pottery By Surface Finish, 9RI1

<i>Surface Finish</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Savannah Checked	2212	41.10
Plain	2053	38.15
Savannah Complicated	749	13.91
Roughened	193	3.58
Fabric Impressed	66	1.22
Reed Decorated	55	1.02
Cordmarked	21	.39
Scratched Line	8	.16
Lineblock	7	.14
Etowah	6	.12
Fingernail	5	.09
Simple Stamp	4	.08
Linear Checked	2	.04
Total	5381	100.00

The most abundant pottery type was Savannah Check Stamped (41.1%), although plain surfaced ceramics were nearly as frequent (38.15%). Perhaps significantly, Savannah Complicated Stamped (13.91%) accounted for only a small portion of the total and Savannah Fine Cordmarked was not identified. Reid (1965:21-23) has observed similarities between the pottery found at Hollywood and that found at the Leak Site

(31RH1) and Town Creek in North Carolina. Particularly, Reid observed a similarity of stamp design and rim form among check stamped varieties. Plain sherds at each site were smoothed or burnished with a hard tool sometimes showing irregular burnishing and at others showing a highly polished surface. Interiors are also often smoothed or burnished heavily. The Hollywood complicated stamped ceramics analyzed by Reid (1965:23) included only two stamp designs: a filfot cross and a figure eight. Reid notes that the latter design is not recognized at Town Creek and that a small number of sherds were also identified in the Hollywood sample which had fine cordmarking that was irregularly spaced and applied to the surface of the sherd. Cordmarked sherds were also rare in occurrence at Town Creek, but were found in abundance at the Irene Site.

### **Mulberry Mound Site (38KE12)**

The Mulberry Mound Site is located on the east bank of the Wateree River just south of Camden, South Carolina (Figure 3). Historically, the site has been known as "Chesnut Mounds," "McDowell Mounds," and "Mulberry Mounds" after the name of the plantation on which it is located (Stuart 1975:90). Additionally, in the mid-nineteenth century the Mulberry Site was identified as "Taylor's Mounds" by a local physician, Dr. William Blanding. Blanding's discussion of the Adamson, Boykin, and Taylor Mounds near Camden was used in **Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley** (Squire and Davis 1848) and is among the earliest archaeological reports in the United States. As was the case with the Hollywood Mounds, the Mulberry Mounds did not escape the interest of Cyrus Thomas and the Bureau of American Ethnology. Mr. Henry Reynolds, working for Mr. Thomas, excavated a trench through the center of Mound B, one of three mounds known to exist presently at the site (Ferguson 1973:3), although there may have been as many as ten mounds present when the site was first visited by Blanding in 1802 (Stuart 1975:92).

Archaeologically, observation of a concentration of mound-bearing sites in the Camden area was identified by Joseph Caldwell (Caldwell 1952:319) in his discussion of archaeology of the coastal plain of South Carolina in **Archaeology of the Eastern United States** (Griffin 1952). However, relatively little work has focused on these sites. In 1952, the same year Caldwell's article was published, A. R. Kelly conducted excavations at the Mulberry Mound site (cleaning back the eroding profile of Mound A). Although a formal report has not been issued for this work, Caldwell analyzed the pottery and distributed a paper concerning his observations. Principally, Caldwell identified two pottery types from the collection: Lamar Complicated Stamped, Mulberry variant; Lamar Plain, Mulberry variant. Minor occurrences of Lamar Bold Incised and Etowah pottery were observed from the village stratum and simple stamped, cordmarked, and check stamped sherds were identified from the premound deposits (see Stuart 1975:92).

A member of the 1952 field crew, George Stuart (1970; 1975), wrote an overview of sites in the Camden vicinity, but did not conduct excavations. According to Stuart (1975:96), pottery from the premound deposits was characterized by complicated stamp motifs which were clearly carved and carefully applied. Complicated stamped sherds occurred more frequently than plain sherds (ratio 4:1), and rim decorations consisted mainly of appliqued nodes or simple reed punctations. The village stratum showed marked contrast to these observations in that the quality of stamp design and application declines, the frequency of complicated stamped sherds decreases, and the occurrence of reed punctated rims is replaced by notched or pinched appliqué strips placed just beneath the rim edges. Stuart (1975:108-128) proposed two phases could be identified and associated with chronologically distinctive occupations at the Mulberry site, or as he identified at the time, the McDowell Site. These phases were McDowell I and McDowell II.

McDowell I pottery includes all the pottery types identified by Reid (1967) from the Town Creek vicinity, except for textile impressed and herringbone complicated stamped varieties. The predominance of complicated stamped sherds to plain sherds is similar to that found at Town Creek (Reid 1967:3). Included among the pottery identified with McDowell I were examples of the "arc-angle" motif which Reid (1967:6) considered unique to the Pee Dee series and examples of Pisgah-like sherds. Similar sherds, suggesting contact between the tribes of the southern Piedmont and the western Mountain region, have been found at Town Creek (Coe 1990:personal communication). Bold Incised pottery (Lamar-like) was not identified with the McDowell I phase (Stuart 1975:96).

McDowell II pottery includes folded rims and notching of applied strips placed below the rim of the vessel. Stuart notes similarities in McDowell II pottery and that identified with the protohistoric and historic Qualla series in the western Mountain region of North Carolina. McDowell II pottery was identified with the "late village stratum" excavated by Caldwell and "it has pronounced differences from the characteristics of the McDowell I phase" (Stuart 1975:98). It contrasts markedly with typical Pee Dee pottery from Town Creek and is reminiscent of Lamar ceramics from central Georgia. The McDowell II phase fits well with early historic accounts placing the Wateree Chickanee Indians in the Mulberry or McDowell vicinity (Harriss 1952:28; Ferguson 1973:8). DePratter (1989:144) argues that Mulberry "...must be Cofitachequi," the 16th century town visited by De Soto in 1540 because of its location, size and the observation that no other site in the vicinity can be identified with the mid-16th century (DePratter 1989:144; DePratter and Judge 1986).

Additional excavations at Mulberry were conducted in 1973 by Leland Ferguson (1973:1-33) for the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology of the University of South Carolina. Ferguson directed his investigation toward determination of site size and

the nature of the archaeological deposits. Activities included controlled surface collections, test excavations, and profiling of an exposed portion of Mound A. The results indicated the presence of three mounds and associated remains within a eight acre site complex (Ferguson 1973:1-5).

Ferguson (1973:4) places the Mulberry Site within the South Appalachian Mississippian complex (see Ferguson 1971). This complex is characterized by an extensive use of agriculture and construction of large ceremonial centers and platform mounds. Whether or not the Mulberry Site can be confirmed as the location of Cofitachequi remains to be determined, however, the site can certainly be recognized as one of the most significant in the region.

### **Belmont Neck Site (38KE6)**

Although the amount and intensity of archaeological research conducted in the Wateree River Valley has been limited, several additional sites of which little is known were identified in the Camden vicinity. Specifically, these are the Belmont Neck (38KE6), Boykin (38KE8), Guernsey (38KE14) and Horatio (38RD16) sites identified by Stuart (1975).

The Belmont Neck site (38KE6) is located approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the Mulberry Site on the east side of the Wateree River. The site is situated in a large meander of the river and contains the nearly leveled remains of a single mound (Stuart 1975:121-122). Blanding (see Squire and Davis 1848:108) described the mound as approaching fifteen feet in height during the early 1800s. However, when visited by Stuart (1975:122) in 1950 the mound was almost completely leveled.

Although the Belmont Site was identified as "important," little evidence other than the presence of a mound was available to support such a declaration at the time Stuart's study was conducted. According to Stuart (1975:122) heavy alluvial deposits

covered the site area, thus precluding surface collections. The only reference to artifacts identified with the site (two urns and a polished stone discoidal) could be traced to Blanding (see Squire and Davis 1848:108). However, a more recent study by DePratter and Judge (1986) reports the results of ceramic analysis of surface collections from the Belmont Neck Site, the Adamson Site, and surface and excavated collections from the Mulberry Site. Their conclusions identify six phases which are loosely woven into a chronological sequence for the late prehistoric and early historic periods of the Wateree River Valley in South Carolina. Conveniently, and perhaps too optimistically, the earliest phases Belmont Neck (1200-1250 A.D.), Adamson (1250-1300 A.D.), and Town Creek (1300-1350 A.D.) are divided into fifty year intervals of succession, while the later phases are considered to have lasted longer (McDowell 1350-1450 A.D.; Mulberry 1450-1550 A.D.; and Daniels 1550-1670 A.D.). The general development of the DePratter-Judge chronological sequence is based upon characteristic changes identified in pottery surface finish and rim treatment through time. However, these characteristics differ little from those previously identified by Reid (1967:57-63) for the Pee Dee phase pottery of the Town Creek vicinity. The differences lie in the recognition of specific phases and assignment of somewhat earlier temporal placements than those proposed by Reid.

Where Coe (1952:308-309) and Reid (1967:62) placed the manufacture of Pee Dee phase ceramics not much before 1450 A.D. and terminating with the departure of the Pee Dee people around 1650 A.D., DePratter and Judge (1986) suggest an earlier appearance beginning around 1200 A.D. and extending through 1670 A.D.

The earliest pottery is identified with the Belmont Neck phase (1200-1250 A.D.) named after the site of the same name. Belmont Neck pottery is characterized by complicated stamps, curvilinear designs (particularly concentric circle motifs), plain or notched rims, fine to medium sand tempering, and occasionally burnished plain vessels or zoned reed punctations below the lip. This mirrors Reid's (1967:57) observation from

Town Creek where "complicated stamped pottery is found in higher frequency within the pre mound humus," and "...among the individual complicated stamped designs, the concentric circles...stand out as more popular."

Forty-three per cent of sherds in the sample from the Belmont Neck site were complicated stamped, 31% were plain, and 9% were burnished. An overwhelming majority of rim sherds were without decoration or modification (86% plain), while 7% were notched. Reed punctations placed below the lip occurred, but were generally infrequent. Thus, the earliest Pee Dee-like pottery in the Wateree region demonstrates similar attributes and frequency to that found in the pre mound humus at Town Creek. Later topological variations also parallel the sequence and patterns identified by Reid (1967) in which complicated stamping declines in frequency, while plain and burnished ware increase through time.

### **Boykin Site (38KE8)**

The Boykin Site (38KE8) deserves little mention in the context of this discussion except to acknowledge its discovery by Blanding (Squier and Davis 1848:108) in the early 1800's and later visitation in 1951 by George Stuart (1975:123-128). The site is situated some three miles south of the Mulberry (or McDowell) Site also along the east bank of the Wateree River. Initially, the site contained a mound, but it has since eroded into the river. During Stuart's visit (1975:123) a human burial was salvaged which had eroded from the river bank.

The burial was a primary adult interment, partially flexed, containing six small mica cut-outs and a long stemmed chlorite schist pipe that had metal file marks on the surface. The presence of the metal file marks clearly identify this burial with the historic period. Additional artifacts identified with the site include incised pottery, a complicated stamped urn with plain cover, and two double duck effigies carved from deer tali (Stuart 1975:127).

## Chapter 4

### Distribution of Pee Dee Sites in North Carolina

The distribution of Pee Dee archaeological sites in North Carolina has generally been assumed, rather than known for more than fifty years. Although many sites were identified along the Pee Dee River in the early 1930s, little correlation could be made as to how these sites related to Town Creek or to one another through time and space. Coe's pioneering research at Town Creek represented a consuming passion which did not afford many opportunities for intensive investigations at outlying sites. However, there were occasional opportunities which led to minor excavations at the Leak Site (31RH1), and the Teal Site (31AN1), among others. According to Coe, the intention was to thoroughly investigate these sites after the work at Town Creek had been completed. At the time, no thought was given to the possibility that the excavations, analysis, and reconstruction would extend relatively continuously for more than fifty years (Coe 1990: personal communication). In retrospect, it seems remarkable that from the earliest days of investigation at Town Creek, or Frutchey Mound as it was then called, that Coe had the singular vision of Town Creek as a "...state memorial or state park (Coe 1940: 1)." Today, it stands as a silent, but impressive tribute to Coe's influence on North Carolina prehistory and the historical development of American archaeology.

Although the Town Creek Mound site (31MG2, 31MG3) has always been the centralized focus of research interests, it does not truly form the distributional center for Pee Dee culture sites since it lies well up the Little River at the most northeastern

extension of the Wadesboro Basin, a Triassic depression which abuts the Uwharrie Mountains. The location of Town Creek places it within the last area of broad, fertile floodplains before the Uwharrie escarpment which serves as a physical limitation to northward travel and southern stream flow. Streams flowing through the Uwharries are constricted to narrow channels between resistant volcanic and metavolcanic rocks. Above the Uwharrie region streams flow in relatively normal dendritic patterns, however, as they approach the Uwharries they begin to "funnel" into streams and rivers seeking a common course through the mountainous features. Upon reaching the Narrows of the Yadkin River waters discharge with great volume and velocity into the floodplains that include the locations of the Leak and Teal sites. The course of the Little River on which Town Creek is situated is similar and results in an equally impressive discharge during times of flooding. It is *flooding* more than any other factor that has resulted in the identification as well as the destruction of most Pee Dee culture sites in this cultural area.

### **Flooding and Site Discovery**

Flood records for the Yadkin-Pee Dee begin in March, 1875 with an account of a major flooding in the vicinity of Ansonville which lies west and across the river from the Leak Site. Flood waters were estimated at 37.3 feet just below the Rocky River. No further floods of this proportion are indicated again until August, 1908 when a measurement of 41.3 feet was obtained near Ansonville (McLain 1989; USGS Water Report 1673, Part 2A, South Atlantic Slope, James River to Savannah River 1963). Additional periods of flooding occurred in July, 1916 (18.7 ft), September, 1928 (16.0 ft), October, 1929 (31.4 ft), April, 1936 (32.0 ft), September, 1945 (36.37 ft), October, 1965 (29.11 ft), and March, 1975 (28.05 ft). Much of this flooding may have resulted from hurricanes. For example, a hurricane made landfall near Charleston, SC on July 13, 1916 subjecting much of the region to heavy rainfall. Just prior to this Atlantic hurricane

there was a Gulf hurricane which had landfall in Mississippi on July 5, 1916. The remains of this latter storm moved into western Tennessee and caused heavy rainfall until July 9, 1916. Although the levels for the 1916 flood were not as great as those for the 1875 and 1908 floods, there is little doubt that the combination of two hurricanes had a tremendous effect on the region. In fact, the floods of 1908, 1916, 1928, and 1945 can be linked to hurricanes, while those of 1936, 1965, and 1975 appear linked to slow-moving storms (McLain 1989). Ironically, the dams constructed in the late 1920s along the Pee Dee River appear to have had little effect on lessening the severity of flooding.

The earliest report concerning the frequency and discovery of artifacts in this region was made by F. J. Kron (1830):

"Between the mouth of Uharee and Island Creek, on the river-bottom, large spaces are covered with chips and blocks of chert from which pieces had been taken. The lands being all made by successive deposits from the stream, the remains are found from the surface down to the old bed of the river, to the depth of about four feet. Broken pots, of various material and ornamentation, can be picked up. Among those sent to the Institution will be found one heavy specimen of soapstone, a mineral not found in this neighborhood. Some years ago, a whole pot was washed up during a freshet, but the vessel, which was of about two gallon's capacity, and gourd-shaped, unfortunately fell into the hands of children, was broken, and only a few fragments saved."

At least one of the earliest discoveries of archaeological remains along the Pee Dee River may have resulted from the 1875 flood. Records of the United States National Museum indicate that a "very large earthen pot" was donated by Robert L. Steele of Rockingham, NC in 1884. According to Mr. Steele's information, the vessel was washed out by a freshet in the vicinity of Stanback's Ferry, just above the mouth of Little River, Richmond County, NC. The vessel (Accession 14736) measured 20.5 inches deep, 57.5 inches in average diameter, and 49.5 inches average top diameter. Although an account

published by Douglas L. Rights (1934) in the **Bulletin**, Archaeological Society of North Carolina indicates that Steele explored a "mound on Little River," there appears to be no evidence to support this assertion. The scant records available from the National Museum and the North Carolina Museum of History indicate that Steele donated large earthen pots to each during the late 1880's (Plate 5). Both vessels are identified as having been recovered from Richmond County in the vicinity of Stanback's Ferry and the mouth of Little River. There is little doubt that the place of discovery was the Stanback Ferry Site (31RH8) just north of the confluence of Little River and the Pee Dee.

The most prominent period of flooding and resulting site identification occurred after the April, 1936 flood. As the raging flood waters of the Pee Dee rose above its banks and flooded field after field, an area of Richmond County in the vicinity of Leak's Island revealed an abundance of archaeological remains attributed to an earlier Indian culture. The remains included pottery, stone arrowheads, bones, shells, and fire-cracked rocks from the countless hearths which once burned brightly on this small piece of lowground. The abundance of the material, and the fact that whole vessels were found, led to a great deal of curiosity from local residents. This, in turn, led to the involvement of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina and the beginning of Joffre Lanning Coe's interest in the archaeology of the Pee Dee River Valley.

### **Spatial Context for Pee Dee Sites**

As frequent as reports of flooding have been along stretches of the Pee Dee River, it is surprising that sites have not been reported with greater frequency. A large number of Pee Dee sites probably never existed, but many sites have been scoured, submerged, or covered by sediment and either forever lost or hidden from discovery. Sites that remain often show the erosional scars of past flooding, but seldom suggest the abundance of artifacts which were observed after major floods at the beginning of the century. Tales of "pots and bones" scattered across football field-sized areas washed out by the floods

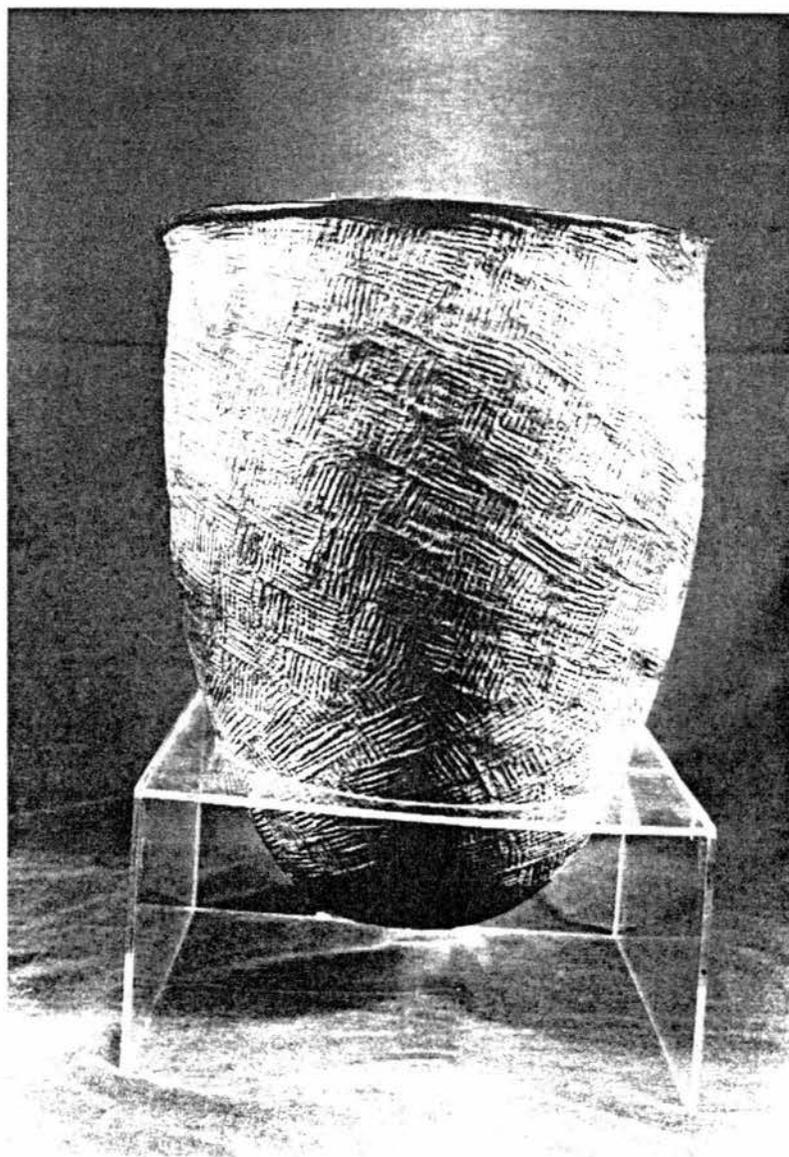


Plate 5. Large burial urn donated by Robert L. Steele to the North Carolina Museum of History (Accession 16.57.1).

abound in local folklore. Similarly, a mystique attached to these accounts has resulted in presumptions that "many such sites are located in the vicinity of the mound and near the river" just waiting for discovery. Almost every recorded site has been systematically collected for artifacts, particularly projectile points, or subjected to forms of undisciplined excavation for many years.

An accounting for the total number of sites that can be associated with the Pee Dee culture has not been compiled previously. Based upon the presence of the diagnostic Pee Dee pottery, sixty-four sites (n=64) (Figure 7) located in five counties can be identified with the Pee Dee culture. These counties include Montgomery, Richmond, Anson, Stanly, and Moore. All form boundaries for the Pee Dee River, except Moore County, which lies east of Montgomery County in the Cape Fear Basin. The recording of a single Pee Dee Site in Moore County stands in contrast to the concentration of sites found along the banks of the Pee Dee and Little Rivers in portions of Montgomery, Richmond, Anson, and Stanly counties.

The majority of Pee Dee sites (n=47, 73.4%) have been recorded along the eastern banks of the Pee Dee River and along the Little River in Montgomery and Richmond counties, while a smaller number (n=17, 26.6%) have been recorded from areas of Anson and Stanly counties that form the western banks of the Pee Dee River. Most sites are situated within 300 feet of a major stream (n=48, 75%) between elevations of 190 and 210 feet above mean sea level (n=45, 70.3%) and lie on Wedhadkee or Chewacla soil types (n=61, 95.3%)(Figure 8). In general, Pee Dee site distribution follows expected trends to occur on prescribed soil types and in proximity to major streams. As first projected by Ward (1965:45) Mississippian period sites "...are located on or approximate to soils with a high degree of matural fertility and a highly friable texture (Ward 1965:45)."

The Wedhadkee and Chewacla soils are comprised of silt loams and fine sandy loams which would be ideal for the practice of intensive corn agriculture. A correlation

of site locale and specific soil types is indicated for the occurrence of Pee Dee sites in proximity to major streams and silt loams or fine sandy loams of the region. Upland areas, such as the Uwharrie Mountain region, were utilized to a lesser degree and show no indication of large Pee Dee habitation sites. In large measure, this absence reflects a cultural preoccupation with the environmental requirements for intensive corn agriculture and the unsuitable nature of the Uwharrie uplands for this agricultural purpose. The Uwharrie Mountain range also may have served a role as a convenient and imposing natural barrier separating the settlements of the intrusive Pee Dee culture and the hill tribes who were forced northward above the Narrows.

### **Montgomery County**

The landscape of Montgomery County is dominated by rolling hillsides and the Uwharrie Mountain range whose steep and rocky slopes are cut through only by the Uwharrie, Little, and Pee Dee Rivers. Seventeen sites (n=17, 26.6%) are associated with the Pee Dee culture in Montgomery County. Fourteen sites (n=14, 82.4%) are located near Town Creek Indian Mound (Figure 10), two (n=2, 11.76%) are located in upland areas, and one (n=1, 5.88%) is located along the Pee Dee River (see Figure 7). Five sites (31MG2, 31MG3, 31MG22, 31MG35, and 31MG43) have been excavated to some extent. Included among these sites are the Town Creek Indian Mound (31MG2, 31MG3) and the Doerschuk Site (31MG22) which have been excavated under the direction of J. L. Coe and are well known in the archaeological literature.

The Doerschuk Site, situated on the last alluvial deposit below the Narrows, was first excavated in 1948 and 1949. It was the second site discovered in the Carolina Piedmont to contain cultural materials in a stratified context (Coe 1964:21-23). The Pee Dee occupation of the Doerschuk Site was limited to use as a hunting and fishing camp and did not contain the abundance of artifacts normally found with Pee Dee village sites

## AN INVENTORY OF PEE DEE SITES IN NORTH CAROLINA (N=64)

Site No.	Elevation	Dist/H2O	Map	Soil Type
31AN1	190	300	Mangum	Wedhadkee-Chewacla
31AN2	190	100	Mangum	Wedhadkee-Chewacla
31AN8	190	100	Mangum	Georgeville-Goldston-Orange
31AN10	200	200	Mangum	Wedhadkee-Chewacla
31AN16	190	200	Mangum	Wedhadkee-Chewacla
31AN17	180	300	Mangum	Wedhadkee-Chewacla
31AN19	140	50	Rockingham	Wedhadkee-Altavista
31MG2 *	220	400	Mount Gilead East	Wedhadkee-Altavista
31MG3	210	200	Mount Gilead East	Wedhadkee-Altavista
31MG4	210	50	Mount Gilead East	Wedhadkee-Altavista
31MG22	270	60	Badin	Georgeville-Orange-Goldston-Chewacla
31MG24	215	400	Mount Gilead East	Georgeville-Orange-Goldston-Chewacla
31MG34	220	50	Mount Gilead East	Georgeville-Orange-Goldston-Chewacla
31MG35	210	300	Mount Gilead East	Georgeville-Orange-Goldston-Chewacla
31MG37	210	300	Mount Gilead East	Georgeville-Orange-Goldston-Chewacla
31MG43	210	200	Mount Gilead East	Wedhadkee-Altavista
31MG44	210	1100	Mount Gilead East	Georgeville-Orange-Goldston-Chewacla
31MG45	210	1600	Mount Gilead East	Georgeville-Orange-Goldston-Chewacla
31MG58	220	300	Mount Gilead East	Georgeville-Orange-Goldston-Chewacla
31MG107	200	50	Mount Gilead East	Georgeville-Orange-Goldston-Chewacla
31MG108	200	75	Mount Gilead East	Georgeville-Orange-Goldston-Chewacla
31MG111	210	200	Mount Gilead East	Georgeville-Orange-Goldston-Chewacla
31MG276	760	300	Lovejoy	Georgeville-Orange-Goldston-Chewacla
31MG295	810	1000	Lovejoy	Georgeville-Orange-Goldston-Chewacla
31MR15	290	100	Robbins	Chewacla
31RH1	200	200	Ansonville	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH7	190	200	Mangum	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH8	190	1000	Mangum	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH13	130	1000	Rockingham	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH18	200	500	Mangum	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH21	140	1200	Rockingham	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH22	210	300	Ansonville	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH23	210	100	Ansonville	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH24	210	50	Ansonville	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH25	270	1200	Diggs	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH26	200	100	Ansonville	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH27	200	100	Ansonville	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH28	190	700	Ansonville	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH29	200	300	Ansonville	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH30	210	100	Ansonville	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH31	200	200	Ansonville	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee

Figure 7. A listing of Pee Dee archaeological sites in North Carolina by elevation, distance to water, and soil type.

Figure 7. A listing of Pee Dee archaeological sites in North Carolina by elevation, distance to water, and soil type (cont.).

Site No.	Elevation	Dist/H2O	Map	Soil Type
31RH32	210	300	Mount Gilead East	Badin-Goldston-Tatum
31RH43	210	300	Ansonville	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH45	210	500	Ansonville	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH50	190	100	Mangum	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH51	190	75	Mangum	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH52	190	20	Mangum	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH53	190	200	Mangum	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH58	280	100	Mount Gilead West	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH59	200	200	Ansonville	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH61	190	100	Mangum	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH62	190	200	Mangum	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH63	190	200	Mangum	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31RH90	230	200	Mount Gilead East	Wickham-Altavista-Wedhadkee
31ST4	620	900	Badin	Hiwassee Gravelly Loam
31ST7	280	240	Badin	Chewacla
31ST10	210	50	Mount Gilead West	Chewacla
31ST25	210	150	Mount Gilead West	Chewacla
31ST30	210	200	Mount Gilead West	Chewacla
31ST31	210	200	Mount Gilead West	Chewacla
31ST32	210	750	Mount Gilead West	Chewacla
31ST33	210	800	Mount Gilead West	Chewacla
31ST36	230	200	Aquadale	Chewacla
31ST38	350	900	Oakboro	Chewacla
31ST49	350	200	Oakboro	Chewacla

Note: \*Mound component of 31MG3, Town Creek Site not counted as a separate site

## TOPOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PEE DEE SITES IN NORTH CAROLINA

### Pee Dee Site Distribution by Elevation (n=64)

Elevation/Ft.	130	140	180	190	200	210	215	220	230	270	280	290	300
Number	1	2	1	14	10	21	1	2	2	2	2	1	5
Percent	1.56	3.13	1.56	21.88	15.63	32.81	1.56	3.13	3.13	3.13	3.13	1.56	7.81

### Pee Dee Site Distribution by Distance from Water

Distance/Ft.	<100	150	200	240	300	400	500	700	750	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1600
Number	20	1	17	1	10	1	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	1
Percent	31.25	1.56	26.56	1.56	15.63	1.56	3.13	1.56	1.56	1.56	3.13	4.69	1.56	3.13	1.56

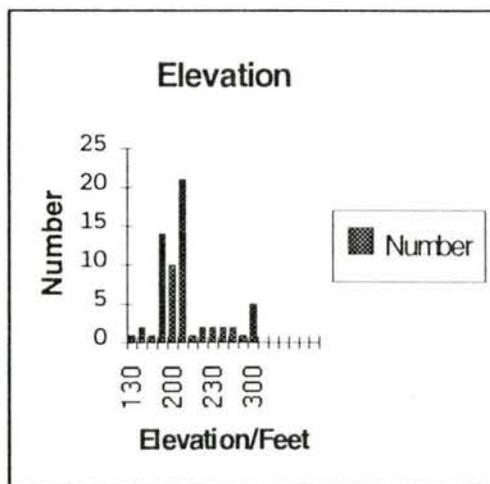
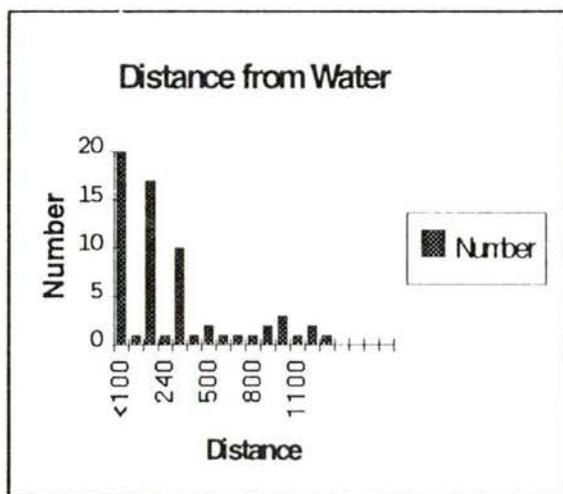


Figure 8. Topographic distribution of Pee Dee Sites in North Carolina.

further down river. A total of 241 Pee Dee pottery sherds was found, including 155 Pee Dee plain, 79 Pee Dee complicated stamped, 3 with brushed interiors, and 4 with check stamped surfaces (Coe 1964:33). This small number of sherds supports perception of the site as a limited use and special activity area.

The Town Creek Indian Mound (31MG2), and associated site (31MG3), have been the focus of nearly continuous archaeological research by Joffre Lanning Coe since 1937. Through Coe's work and reconstruction of the mound and village for use as a State Historic Site, the fragmentary remains of Pee Dee culture have been reassembled into a rich mosaic depicting aspects of their prehistoric lifestyle. The darkened circular stains that indicated where vertical posts once stood have been refilled with cedar posts forming a semicircular palisade around the reconstructed earthen mound that faces the Little River. Entrance to the enclosed area was gained through bastions, or fortified towers, situated at the northern and southern ends of the palisade. A third, probably secret passage way, was formed by an underground cut to the river. The palisade served as a protective barrier and as a visual shield for the sacred activities that occurred within the palisaded walls. The present reconstruction was the smallest of five palisades that surrounded the earthen mound at various times during the history of Town Creek.

The primary structural aspect of Town Creek was the earthen mound which measured 110 feet square and stood some 15 feet high. The mound was constructed by people from the surrounding villages carrying basket loads of dirt and successively piling them until the desired height was obtained. The full height of the mound was not achieved at once, but was attained through stages of construction. The initial Pee Dee structure at Town Creek was not a mound, but was an earth lodge. After an indefinite period of use, the earth lodge collapsed and was eventually enclosed by construction of an earthen berm nearly three feet high and 110 feet square. On this raised platform, a rectangular building was constructed. This building burned and more earth was added to

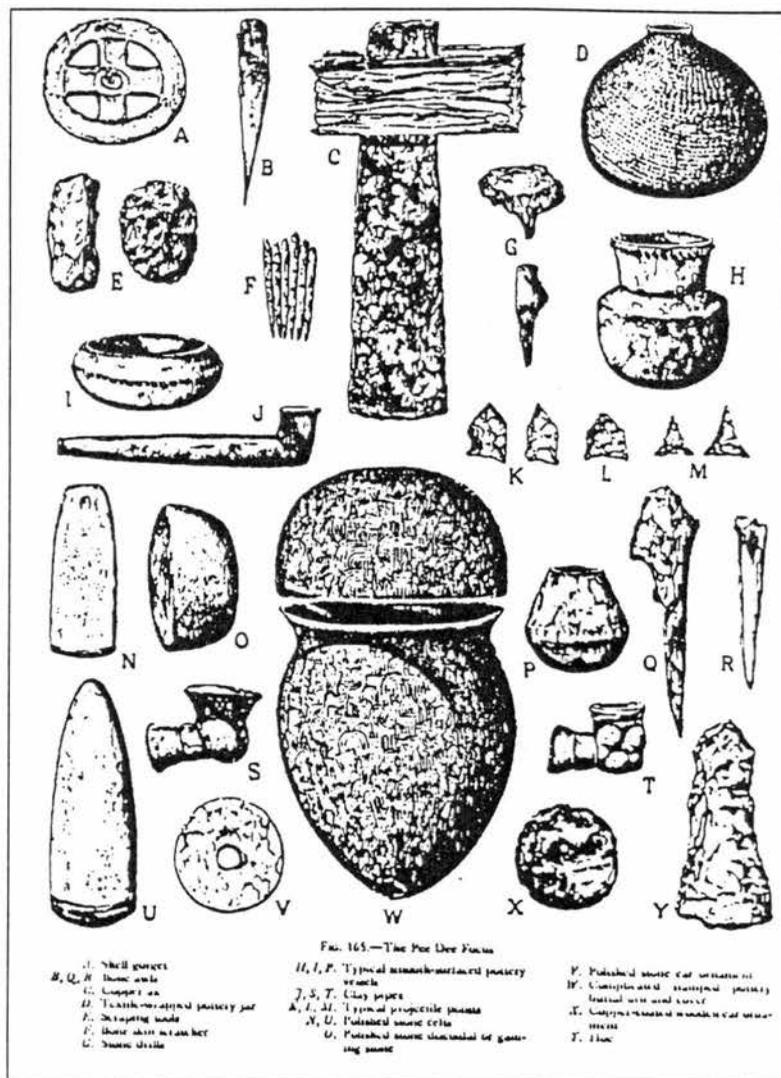


Figure 9. Illustration of artifacts identified with the Pee Dee culture. (From Coe 1952).

cover the charred remains. This effectively raised the height of the mound. A second rectangular structure, a temple or town house, was constructed upon this surface.

"The temple, which was the most important building within the enclosure, was thatched with bundles of grass. Inside, the mud-plastered walls were decorated with paintings. Seats were arranged around the inside wall; village chiefs and the bravest of the warriors sat here. The Creeks were sun worshippers who correlated the sun with fire; a fire laid in a pit at the center of the temple always was kept burning. Symbolically, each of the four logs on the fire faced one of the cardinal points of the compass. The temple contained an altar which held sacred objects used by the priests (Reeves 1976:3)."

In front of the earthen mound on which the temple sat was a plaza where four sheds faced each other forming a "square ground" between them. The "square ground" was considered sacred, and the sheds were identified with specific clans whose members had assigned places within them according to rank. The plaza was a large open area which had a game pole located near its center. Functioning as a goal in the playing of ball games similar to lacrosse, the game field offered warriors from competing villages the opportunity to distinguish themselves. Surrounding the plaza were circular structures that served as mortuaries, while directly across from the mound was a square compound which sat at the river's edge. Enclosed within this small, palisaded area was a rectangular structure which served as a dwelling for priests who maintained the ceremonial center. Other than priests and their attendants, few people actually lived at Town Creek. Instead, people traveled from surrounding villages to participate in periodic religious, social, and political events held at Town Creek.

Sites within the immediate vicinity of Town Creek which may have had domestic functions include 31MG4, 31MG24, 31MG34, 31MG35, 31MG37, 31MG107, 31MG108, and 31MG111 (Figure 10). Test excavations at 31MG4 in 1953 and 1959

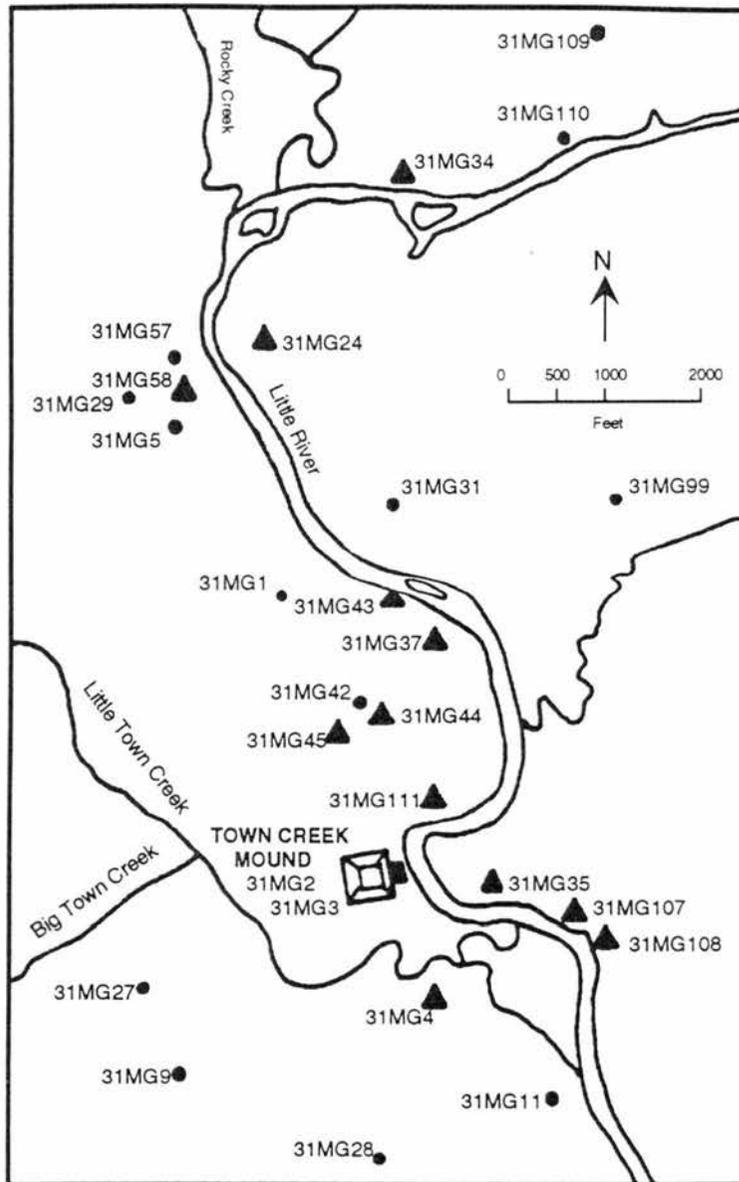


Figure 10. Pee Dee sites in the Town Creek vicinity (Dark triangles = Pee Dee sites, dark circles = non-Pee Dee sites).

revealed multicomponent deposits that included Pee Dee, Siouan, and Archaic components. A potential for "deep pits" was indicated, but not explored further.

Additional investigations by personnel from Town Creek Indian Mound included a small series of test excavations at 31MG35. According to a weekly summary of May 7-13, 1951 (Wright 1951), twelve test units were excavated at 31MG35 to determine its area. One series of tests was placed across a washout, while another paralleled the washout at the "lowest level of occupation." Although two separate and distinct levels of occupation separated by 23 inches of sterile soil were identified, few artifacts were found. Both levels were thought to represent Pee Dee levels of occupation.

For a number of years during the 1970's and early 1980's personnel from Town Creek Indian Mound had observed sheet erosion uncovering an abundance of artifacts at 31MG37 located just north of Town Creek. In 1985 state archaeologist B. L. Oliver and Town Creek site manager Archie Smith conducted a surface collection of a recently scoured area of 31MG37 near the field's edge and the Little River. Concentrations of Pee Dee pottery and fire cracked rock were abundant, but it was not clearly indicated whether the eroding deposits originated from the site or had been redeposited from a site further upstream, 31MG43. To resolve this situation, test excavations were conducted at 31MG43 in January, 1986. Two deep tests and ten smaller shovel tests indicated the site was contained within the plowed soil. Underlying soil zones failed to indicate the presence of subsurface features or artifacts. It was concluded that 31MG43 represented a limited activity loci and was not contributing to the artifact densities found at 31MG37.

The level of importance attributed to Town Creek is unique among sites in the southern Piedmont region. Such a ceremonial center involved a number of people for an extended period of time to build the mound and public buildings, yet the limited archaeological investigations conducted outside the boundaries of Town Creek have not identified satellite communities of sufficient size to have served as this labor force. Pee Dee sites in Montgomery County are concentrated along the Little River and extend into

Richmond County along the Pee Dee River. Montgomery County sites appear to represent small hamlets and limited activity areas rather than large villages which occur more frequently near the Pee Dee River. The larger concentration of sites along the Pee Dee River almost certainly contributed the bulk of the labor force to build and maintain Town Creek as a ceremonial center. Therefore, the sites along the Pee Dee River may hold greater potential for addressing the questions of when the Pee Dee people first entered this region and what attributes characterize their domestic settlements.

### **Richmond County**

On Wednesday, May 6, 1936 several members of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina visited the farm of Mrs. James A. Leak. This group included Dr. and Mrs. Guy B. Johnson, Mr. H.M. Doerschuk, and Mr. Joffre L. Coe. The Leak farm was situated on the east side of the Pee Dee River approximately seven miles southwest of Mount Gilead, NC. Flood waters had covered the lowgrounds with several feet of water. The field was scoured badly and several deep gullies were washed five to twelve feet deep (Plate 6). According to Dr. Johnson's (1936) notes the "surface of the ground over an area of several acres was covered with potsherds the majority of which were small. Johnson (1936) further notes:

"Fifty-eight yards from the corner of a small barn on the road to the south and slightly east there was a area of about a hundred feet in diameter in which there was a great number of potsherds. About half of a bushel was collected and latter (sic) was found to represent about seven pots and one shallow bowl. Also with these sherds there was found several human bones. Fragments of an adult skull and a few rib bones and the pelvis of a child were found.

About a hundred yards south of the barn was located the largest of the washouts. It was two hundred feet long, about fifty feet wide at the widest place, and in a few places about five feet deep. Several pots and skeletons were found in this place...about a hundred feet from the river there was found partly exposed a human skeleton. It was partly flexed lying on its back with knees drawn (sic) up to form a right angle with the body. The skeleton was in the last stages of decay, all of the small bones, the pelvis, shoulder blades, ribs, and vertebrae (sic) were completely gone. The skull was in fairly good condition and was taken out whole. Part of the leg bones and arm bones were also removed."

This site was the first officially recorded archaeological site in Richmond County (31RH1) and today is generally identified as the Leak Site. After the initial visit recovering artifacts, Mr. Doerschuk made several additional visits. On a visit of Tuesday, May 9, 1936 Mr. Doerschuk encountered Mr. John H. Almond of Norwood. Mr. Almond had been one of the men first on the site who dug out eight skeletons, one large pot, and other assorted artifacts. The large pot measured approximately 28 inches high by 15 inches in diameter (Plate 7). It was "killed" and most of the rim had broken off. Mr. Doerschuk arranged for this pot to be donated to the State Museum. According to Doerschuk, Almond and others waded into the depressions resulting from the flood wash. At one edge of the gully he found a series of holes about one and one-half feet in diameter, about the same depth, and spaced from each other in both directions by about six feet. From one of these Almond recovered the large pot and in another he recovered a nearly whole pot. A few small bones were found in each pot and both had holes in the bottom. In retrospect, it is obvious that these vessels were burial urns. However, Almond also described observation of a curious orientation of burials near the urns. Four skeletons were buried with heads together and at right angles to each other. The skeletons were flexed, lying on their right sides, and no artifacts were found in

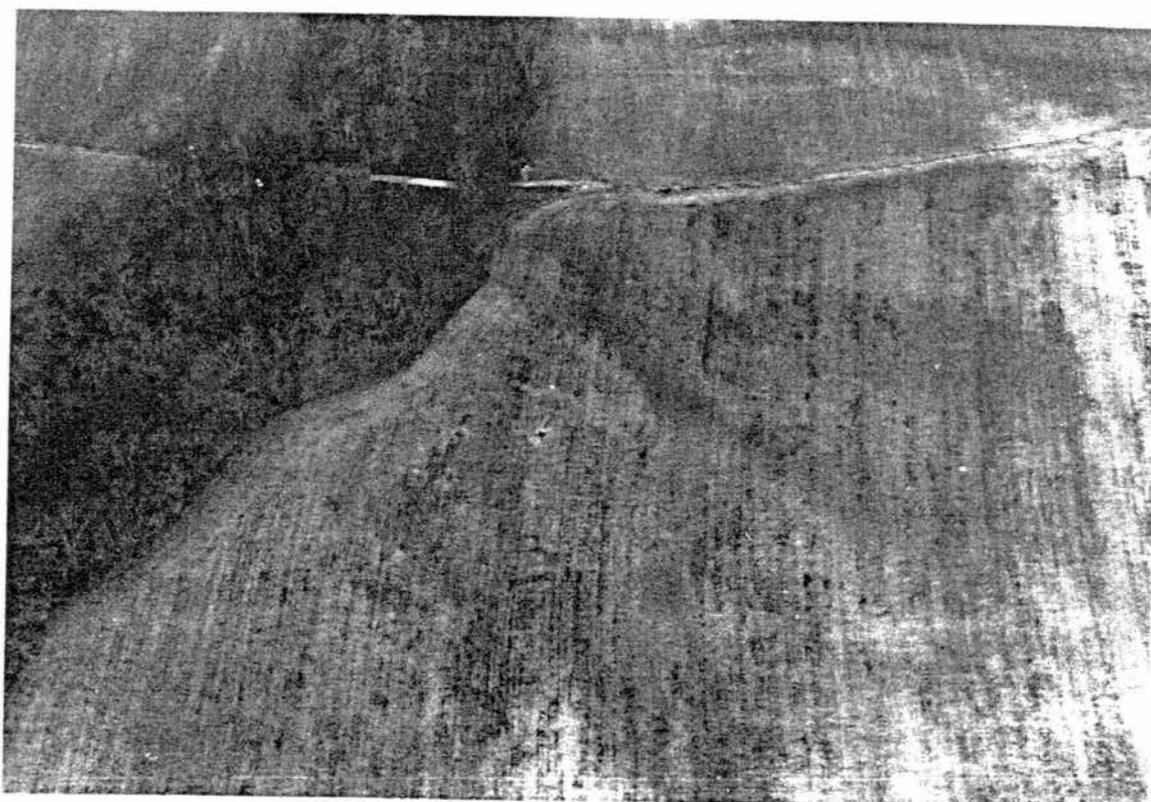


Plate 6. Aerial photograph of Leak Site area. Dark, Y-shaped stain near road indicates erosional gully from 1936 flood.

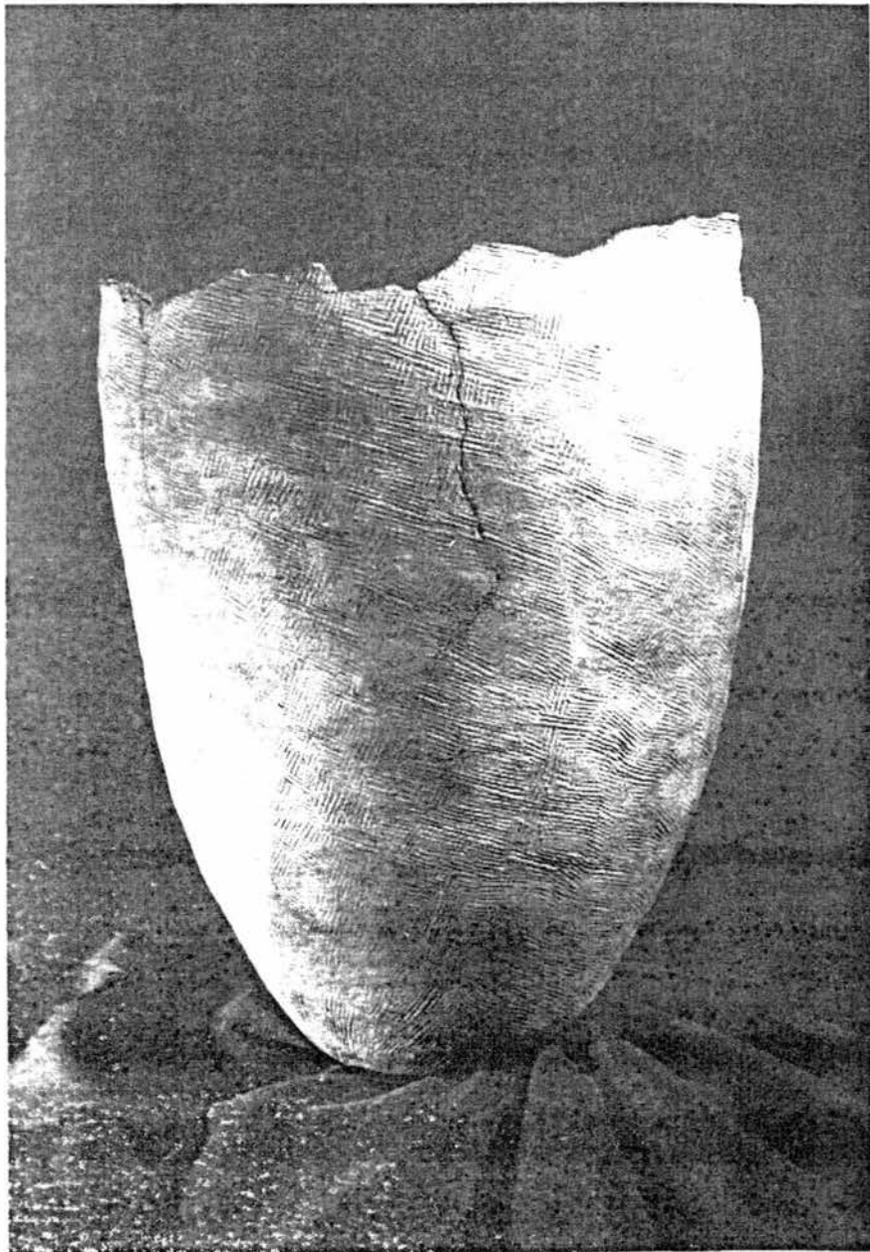


Plate 7. Burial urn collected at the Leak Site after the 1936 flood.

association. Little can be said concerning this curious placement, other than to note its unusual nature.

In Richmond County 29 sites are presently identified with the Pee Dee culture. These sites represent nearly half (45.3%) of all known Pee Dee culture sites in the southern Piedmont. However, only a few sites can be described as "major" and most have been severely damaged or destroyed by erosion, agricultural practices, or looting. Among the larger sites, two stand out from the rest because of the abundance of artifacts collected at their locations over the years: the Leak Site (31RH1) (Figure 11) and the Stanback Ferry Site (31RH8) (Figure 12). Other sites, most of which have been only marginally investigated, may play important roles in future studies. These include the Cole Site (31RH13) (Figure 13), the Leak Island Site (31RH22) (Figure 11), and the Andrews Site (31RH59) (Figure 11).

### **Anson County**

The devastating flood waters which led to the discovery of the Leak Site (31RH1) in Richmond County in the spring of 1936 also exposed a small, but unusually rich, site just a few miles down stream in Anson County. The site was situated along the western bank of the Pee Dee River on lands of the James Teal Plantation about a mile below the mouth of Little River and has been identified by both the names "Little Site" and "Teal Site" over the years. The former identification was derived from the discoverer of the site, George Little, who reported it to Joffre Lanning Coe, then an active member of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina. The latter identification was derived from the surname of the long time property owners and is the identification used within this study.

Artifacts recovered from the Teal Site (31AN1) included projectile points, potsherds, chipped stone drills, celts, stone hoes, clay pipes, bone awls, miscellaneous fragments of animal bone, and three reconstructable pots (Accession 322p1-a17).

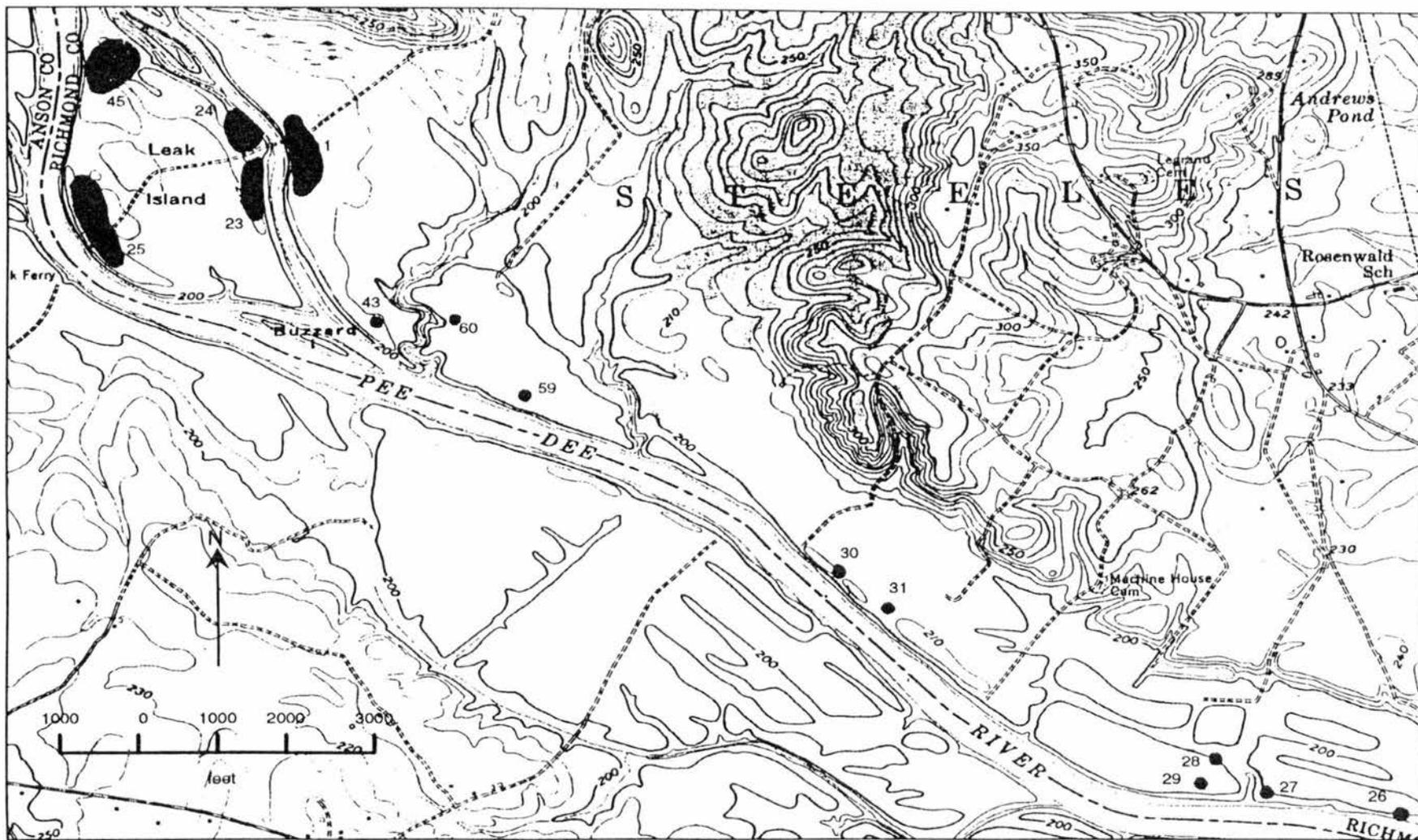


Figure 11. Clustering of Pee Dee sites in the Leak Island vicinity, Richmond County, NC. (From Ansonville quadrangle, U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic map).

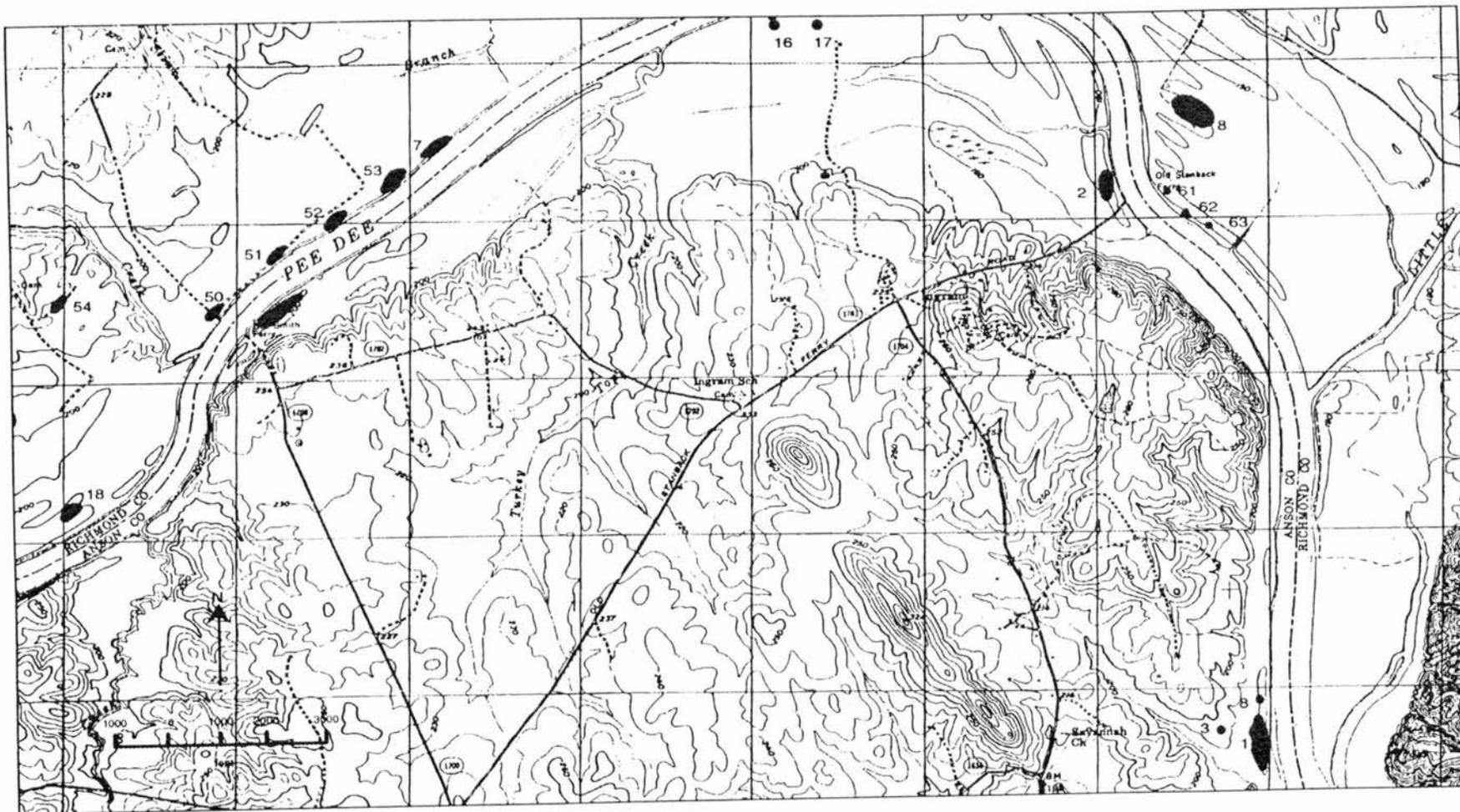


Figure 12. Pee Dee sites in the Teal Site vicinity, Anson and Richmond counties, NC. (From Mangum quadrangle U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic map)

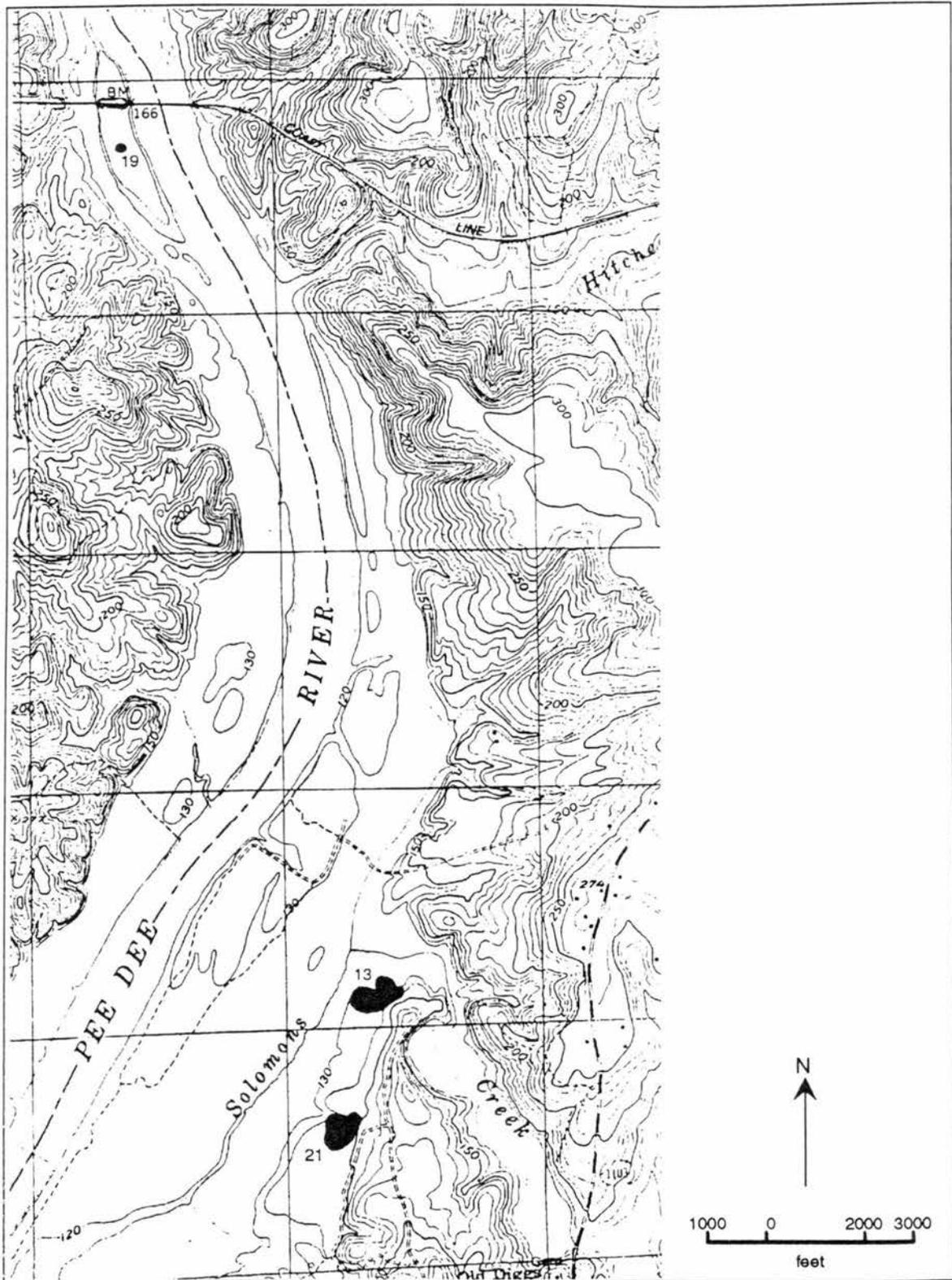


Figure 13. Pee Dee Sites in the Trestle Site Vicinity, Richmond County, NC. (From Rockingham quadrangle, U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic map).

Although a substantial portion of the archaeological remains was identified with a Pee Dee component, a large non-Pee Dee component was also indicated by the presence of cordmarked and fabric impressed pottery not usually identified with Pee Dee sites. The first systematic analysis of pottery for this region was conducted by J. L. Coe on material collected from the Leak and Teal Sites. This analysis clearly indicates a unique contrast between the sites (Figure 15).

Of 1,011 pottery sherds analyzed by Coe 41.64 per cent were identified as "non-Pee Dee," while only 2.63 per cent were identified as "non-Pee Dee" from the Leak Site. This marked difference in frequency of "non-Pee Dee" pottery suggested that the Leak Site was more of a "pure Pee Dee component" than the Teal Site, at least in the area of investigation, but the relationships of the sites to the ceremonial center at Town Creek were uncertain. Coe further observed the presence of a distinctive "simple stamped or brushed" ware at the Teal Site which generally exhibited Pee Dee paste, but for which the associations were not clear. There was not enough of this pottery to allow its identification as a distinctive type and Coe did not know at the time precisely where to place it (Coe 1992: personal communication).

Only seven (n=7) archaeological sites in Anson County can be identified with the Pee Dee culture. In most instances, the research potential of these sites has yet to be determined. Among such sites are the Ingram Site (31AN2) situated at the western terminus of Stanback Ferry (31AN8), the Smith Ferry Site (31AN10), 31AN16, 31AN17, and the Trestle Site (31AN19) (Figure 13). The latter site once held great potential for answering some of the perplexing archaeological problems of the lower Pee Dee basin because it was a stratified site containing Late Archaic through Late Woodland remains. However, it no longer holds the potential it once did. Preliminary excavations in the 1970's by Catawba College students (under the direction of Peter P. Cooper) were sporadic, poorly documented, and never fully reported. Relic collectors excited by the rumors of "great discoveries" by Catawba College pursued independent "excavations"

that severely damaged the archaeological remains. From the existing data it was determined that the once superimposed archaeological remains represented a heavily, and periodically occupied, multi-component site which included both Pee Dee and non-Pee Dee remains overlying a substantial Late Archaic component.

Other Pee Dee sites in Anson County remain known, but poorly understood and must await future research considerations to clarify their role in the prehistory of this region. In particular, unsurveyed portions of Brown's Creek and Rocky River should be explored in an attempt to locate yet unknown Pee Dee sites in those areas. Presently, it can be stated with confidence that all known Pee Dee sites in Anson County are situated close to the banks of the Pee Dee River, suggesting the Pee Dee sphere of influence was more concentrated nearer the river and in Richmond County than the upland region to the west.

### Stanly County

Stanly County, like Anson County to the south, has few recorded sites which can be associated with the Pee Dee culture. Only eleven sites (n=11) can be identified as containing Pee Dee components. These sites include the Hardaway Site (31ST4), the Lowder's Ferry Site (31ST7), 31ST10, 31ST25, 31ST30, 31ST31, 31ST32, 31ST33, 31ST36, 31ST38, and 31ST49. Site locations concentrate on floodplains along the western banks of the Pee Dee River, but several sites (31ST4, 31ST38, and 31ST49) are known to occur on ridgetops well removed from the major floodplains. In general, sites such as these represent short term occupations and contain few diagnostic artifacts.

Coe's (1964) excavations at the Hardaway Site which focused principally on the Hardaway, Palmer, and Kirk occupations of the Paleoindian and Early Archaic periods, also noted Stanly through Caraway phase archaeological materials within the plowed soil. Included within the plowzone were the remains of pottery identified with the Pee Dee complex. Coe (1964:83) remarked that the "...Pee Dee...were least well represented,

but there were sufficient numbers of their artifacts recovered to indicate that these people did occupy the site, even if in small numbers or for short periods of time." Similar observations may have applied to the Lowder's Ferry Site which contained both Pee Dee and Uwharrie remains within the plow disturbed soil that overlaid stratified deposits of the Archaic period. The upper deposits had been substantially destroyed by the grading of a parking lot at Morrow Mountain State Park before archaeologists could investigate (Wood 1949).

Sites identified with the Pee Dee complex are not known to occur above the Narrows of the Yadkin River (above the Uwharrie River confluence the Pee Dee River is identified as the Yadkin River), but may exist within the impoundment areas of Badin, Tuckertown, and Tillery Lakes. Badin and Tuckertown lie just above the Narrows, and Tillery lies just below it. Support for the possible presence of unknown sites within the area of Lake Tillery was published in the *Stanly News-Herald* during the spring of 1927.

According to published accounts (*Stanly News-Herald*: May 13, 1927), an earthen mound located near Norwood would soon be submerged by the Norwood Dam, then under construction by the Carolina Power and Light Company. This "huge pile of dirt" was reported as cone-shaped, thirty-five to forty feet high, one hundred feet in length, and fifty feet wide. It was also reported to have "trees growing all over this mound until a few months ago when they were cut down" and to have been situated "...in the creek low grounds" where the "land is perfectly flat and level as a floor where the mound is situated. Local concerns prompted a visit to the mound site by Dr. Collier Cobb, then head of the Department of Geology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Cobb expressed an opinion that the mound was "artificial" and built by some prehistoric race. Although the *Stanly News-Herald* writer indicated that "With a little excavating, some Princess of the vanished race...might probably be taken from the heart of this pyramid, or at least her personal effects," Dr. Cobb felt untrained persons should not attempt it. Desiring to see the matter followed up by someone knowledgeable in the

field of prehistory, Dr. Cobb wrote to Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, Ethnologist, Smithsonian Institute seeking to determine if the Smithsonian might care to undertake an investigation. Whether or not an investigation actually occurred before the waters of Lake Tillery submerged the mound location is not mentioned in later accounts, but the attention brought about by the newspaper articles led to at least one additional, and unusual, report of an earthen mound in Stanly County.

An August 12, 1927 article appearing in the *Stanly News-Herald* reported the presence of an earthen mound on the estate of the late Rowan Dry near Coble's Mill on the Union County side of the Rocky River. The mound was described as a sell of land nearly fifty feet long and twenty-five feet wide. It was situated in an otherwise level bottom and would not have received more than casual attention from an observer. However, the son of the late Mr. Dry recounted an intriguing story which suggests some truth to the report. An account attributed to the younger Mr. Dry follows:

"When a boy, I often barked my shins, or hitched my plow against a smooth square stone rising upright in the center of this mound, and standing about one and a half feet above the surface. At last, being vexed very much, I decided to dig down and remove the stone, which proved to be some task, since it extended some six feet into the sand, however, being somewhat curious as to the meaning of stone of such smoothness, and symmetry, standing upright from a bed of pure sand, I kept to it, until at the bottom of the stone I unearthed a fine specimen of urn or bowl, about twelve inches in diameter, and perhaps six to eight ... (line missing) ... another perhaps the size of an ordinary tin dipper. Between the two, was a peculiar substance very much like crumbled chalk. Leaning against the upright stone, at an angle of perhaps fifty degrees, was a short flat stone, evidently placed to shelter the pottery, and under this stone I noticed the dirt was of a peculiar grayish black color, very unlike the sand, which fact led me to the conclusion that a human body had been interred with the pottery (*Stanly News-Herald*, August 12, 1927)."

The artifacts recovered by Mr. Dry were used for feed and water troughs around the farm yard, until broken, then were use by local women as markers in laying out quilts. Dry additionally reported that perhpas a dozen or more smooth, flat stones surrounded the single large stone in the center of the mound, but other than these, there were not other stones present in the bottom. The absence of other stones was curious, and the concentration of more than a dozen stones in a single area suggested physical force had created the result. Although patterning of this sort has the ring of intentional placement by the hand of man, the ultimate cause cannot be precisely determined because a site location has not been identified with the report of this mound. Without knowledge of the site location a more substantial investigation of the phenomenon cannot be made and professional researchers must turn theri attention to recorded sites that hold greater promise.

Given the concentration of small hamlet type sites along the Pee Dee near its confluence with the Rocky River (31ST25, 31ST30, 31ST31, 31ST32, 31ST33) (Figure 14), it seems likely that Pee Dee sites may also exist along the lower reaches of the Rocky River near its confluence with the Pee Dee River. Although sites are unknown for this area, several local collectors have reported discovered artifacts in some abundance. Several burial urns have been reportedly collected after freshets scoured areas in this vicinity.

Although Stanly County is extremely abundant in prehistoric archaeological resources, most sites are associated with stone tool manufacturing activities during the Paleoindian and Archaic periods and not with the later cultures. The paucity of intensive survey and excavation relative to the Late Woodland and Mississippian periods, in particular, make meaningful statements concerning the nature of the Pee Dee complex in Stanly County difficult. Most Pee Dee sites in Stanly County occur along the broader floodplains of the Pee Dee River (n=8), however, a number are recorded in locations that might indicate greater utilization of the upland environments in Stanly County when

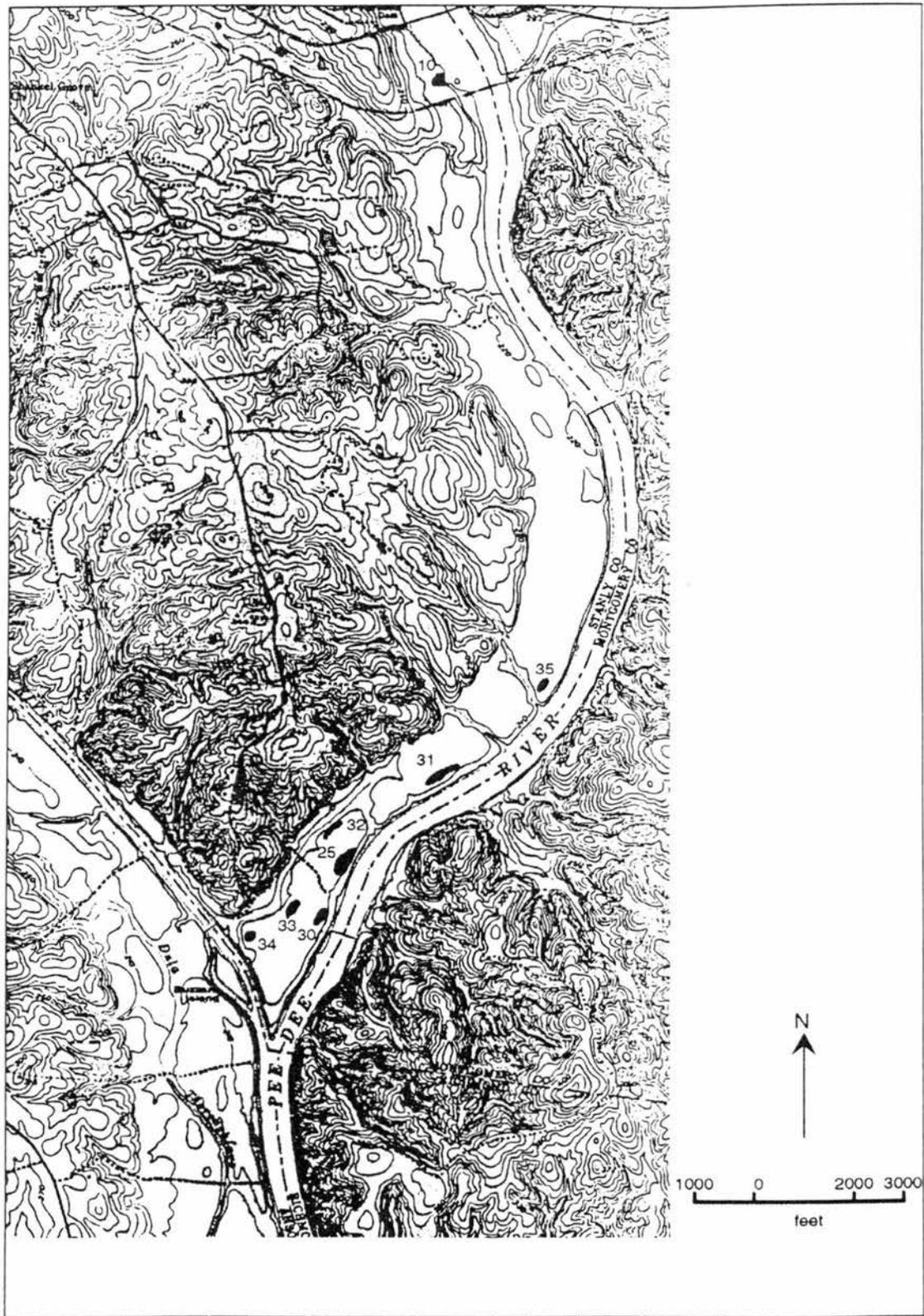


Figure 14. Pee Dee Sites in the Stanly County region (Mount Gilead West quadrangle, U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic map).

EARLY CERAMIC ANALYSIS OF POTTERY FROM THE LEAK AND TEAL SITES BY J.L. COE, 1936

	Total	CS	PL	FC	CC	TX	AA	SS	SD	AAD	NPD
<b>Leak</b>	722	255	187	117	62	28	23	22	21	11	19
<b>Percent</b>	100.00	35.32	25.90	16.20	8.59	3.88	3.19	3.05	2.91	1.52	2.63
<b>Teal</b>	1011	217	121	54	62	2	42	75	9	0	421
<b>Percent</b>	100.00	21.46	11.97	5.34	6.13	0.20	4.15	7.42	0.89	0.00	41.64

KEY

CS = COMPLICATED STAMPED  
 PL = PLAIN  
 FC = FILFOT CROSS  
 CC = CONCENTRIC CIRCLE  
 TX = TEXTILE IMPRESSED

AA = ARC ANGLE  
 SS = SIMPLE STAMPED  
 SD = SPLIT DIAMOND  
 AAD= ARC ANGLE DOT  
 NPD= NON-PEE DEE

Figure 15. Early ceramic analysis of pottery from the Leak and Teal Sites by J. L. Coe, 1936.

upland site frequencies are compared to locations in Anson, Montgomery, and Richmond counties. The highly skilled Pee Dee flint knappers may have prized the fine flints of the Uwharrie region as much as earlier cultures. If so, Pee Dee stone quarries and campsites may have existed in greater numbers than archaeologists have been able to identify. Recognition of Pee Dee sites without the presence of the characteristic pottery is a nearly impossible task.

All known Pee Dee sites in Stanly County, except Hardaway (31ST4), which is situated on Hiwassee Gravelly Loam (n=1;9.1%), occur on Chewacla soils (n=10;90.9%), a silt loam which is frequently flooded and conducive to the primitive agriculture believed practiced by the Pee Dee culture. The nearly total association of Pee Dee sites and Chewacla soils may indicate a predisposition for selection of floodplain locales as habitation sites, or it may reflect a bias due to the nature of the survey conducted thusfar in Stanly County. Future survey and excavations near the confluence of Rocky River and the Pee Dee may greatly enhance our understanding of Pee Dee activities in this area. Until that time there will be more questions than answers about the nature of the Pee Dee culture in Stanly County.

### **Moore County**

Although the official site files maintained by the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology identify three sites with Mississippian period components in Moore County (31MR4, 31MR8, 31MR15), only site 31MR15 may be accurately identified with this period. The disparity results from selection of Pee Dee Pentagonal projectile points as an indicator of cultural and chronological placement at sites 31MR4 and 31MR8. When found without the co-occurrence of ceramics that can be confidently identified with the Pee Dee complex, the Pee Dee Pentagonal point is not considered a reliable indicator of cultural affiliation or time period. This perspective derives from acknowledgement that

the pentagonal form can result from the reworking of hafted triangular blades and may not be a reliable attribute for identification and classification. Therefore, only one site in Moore County has been identified with archaeological remains that can be associated with Pee Dee culture: 31MR15, the Gordon Payne Site (Figure 2).

The Payne Site (31MR15) is located along the western bank of the Deep River near the small town of High Falls in northernmost Moore County (Figure 2). The site was first investigated by Joseph B. Mountjoy of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1973 and has been reported to contain both Pee Dee and Siouan components sometimes occurring as much as 90 cm in depth (Mountjoy 1988:1-3). Additional investigations were conducted in 1974 and 1985. Originally reported as situated on Congaree soils, a recent soil mapping project conducted by the United States Soil Conservation Service identifies Chewacla soils for the location of the site (Coffey 1991: personal communication). Both Congaree and Chewacla soil types are fertile, frequently flooded, and often used for agricultural fields.

According to Mountjoy (1988:2) nearly equal percentages (47%) of the classifiable pottery from the site can be assigned to the Pee Dee series and the Uwharrie-Caraway-Dan River ceramic tradition customarily identified with Piedmont Siouan populations. Excluding artifact counts from micro screening techniques, 32,480 artifacts have been recovered from the 1973, 1974, and 1985 investigations. These artifacts include 468 chipped stone projectile points, 9,328 potsherds, 8 hoes, 6 nutting stones, 4 grind stones, 2 axes, 3 hammerstones, 15 pipe fragments, 47 scrapers, 42 bifaces or quarry blades, 12,007 cracked rocks, 4,818 flakes, 5,682 pieces of bone, 49 shells, and 1 drill.

The 1974 excavations produced a total of 12,927 artifacts (excluding micro screening) from a trench eighteen meters long and two meters wide, and a second trench measuring 5.2 meters long and 2 meters wide. Although the second trench revealed

cultural deposits to a depth of 68 centimeters, an average depth for both trenches ranged from 30-40 centimeters. Applying this estimate, an approximate area of 13.92 cubic meters was excavated during the 1974 season resulting in an artifact density of approximately 928 artifacts per cubic meter or 34.37 artifacts per cubic foot excavated.

Feature excavations included a hide smoking pit, several subfloor basins, and two human burials. However, the most important contribution of the Payne Site excavations was the radiocarbon dating of three features believed to have been associated with the Pee Dee Culture (see Mountjoy 1986, 1988). If the radiocarbon dates and the association with the Pee Dee culture are reliable, they become the earliest known for the Pee Dee. Radiocarbon dates for the Pee Dee culture have been relatively few. Estimations of chronological range have been based upon Coe's (1952, 1964) assessments placing the Pee Dee occupation between A.D. 1550-1650, Reid's (1967) estimate of A.D. 1450-1650, and radiocarbon dates from Town Creek Indian Mound that ranged from A.D. 1205 $\pm$ 140 to A.D. 1350 $\pm$ 140. The radiocarbon dates from the Payne Site were consistently earlier than those anticipated for either the Pee Dee or Uwharrie phase and may provide enlightenment concerning not only the period of Pee Dee intrusion, but its effect upon contemporary Siouan populations in the southern Piedmont. Further work is needed at the Payne Site to determine the complete nature and character of the archaeological remains, but the dating of an early Pee Dee component has provided additional avenues for thought and exploration.

Feature 1, a putatively identified "hide smoking pit (cf. Binford 1967:1-12)" was filled with carbonized corn cobs and contained two Pee Dee complicated stamped sherds. A sample of the carbonized corn cobs was dated to A.D. 1040 $\pm$ 60 (BETA 18412), a somewhat early date for the Pee Dee culture in North Carolina, but nonetheless overlapping the standard deviation for the earliest date at Town Creek Indian Mound of A.D. 1205 $\pm$ 140. A slightly later date of A.D. 1090 $\pm$ 70 (BETA 18410) was obtained

from Feature 3, a large, subfloor pit which contained the remains of a human fetus, potsherds, projectile points, a quarry blade, flakes, cracked rock, and animal bone. Pottery was identified as 16 Pee Dee complicated stamped, 5 Pee Dee plain, and 25 Uwharrie plain sherds. Mountjoy (1988:7-8) submitted the sherds from these features to Joffre Coe for identification to avoid "second guessing" and to determine whether or not they were, in fact, accurate classifications. An independent analysis of sherds from Feature 1 and Feature 3 by B.L. Oliver in 1991 produced similar identifications of 13 Pee Dee complicated stamped, 6 Pee Dee plain, 27 Uwharrie plain, and 1 Uwharrie net impressed sherd.

In addition to the sherds scrutinized by Coe (Features 1 and 3), Oliver looked at pottery from surface collections and test units from the 1974 and 1985 seasons. Included among the material from lower levels of the midden (30-90 cm) were simple stamped and fine cordmarked sherds that exhibited the characteristic Pee Dee paste, but also displayed a distinctive flattened or rolled rim treatment. Notched rims and burnished plain sherds, usually identified with early Pee Dee deposits, were also observed from these levels. However, in contrast to information presented in a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (Mountjoy 1986: Form on file, NC Office of State Archaeology), identifications of Dan River and Caraway ceramics were not made.

Because of the multicomponent nature of the Payne Site, questions should be asked whether or not the charcoal dated was deposited by the hands of the Pee Dee or some other culture that preceded their settlement along the banks of the Deep River. The presence of two Pee Dee sherds in the fill of Feature 1 is not overwhelming evidence for such an association. The presence of 21 (45.0%) Pee Dee sherds in Feature 3 provides a stronger argument, but the identification of 25 (54.0%) Uwharrie sherds from the same context suggests an alternate possibility for association. Was the charcoal from these pits left by the Pee Dee or the Uwharrie? Were the occupations successive or

contemporaneous? Questions of this sort should be resolved through more intensive excavations, development of an extensive chronological sequence of radiocarbon dates, and comparisons to other Pee Dee sites before assumption of an Eleventh Century intrusion by the Pee Dee into the southern Piedmont can be made with confidence.

Given the paucity of archaeological survey in Moore County, few meaningful statements can be made concerning the distribution of Pee Dee sites. Unknown Pee Dee sites, comparable to 31MR15, may be situated along the floodplains of the Deep River and its tributaries. Common sense dictates that where one site is found, others may be likely. However, given that the location of the Payne Site is removed some distance from the normally recognized distributional area for Pee Dee sites, serious questions of where, when, and why the movement into the Deep River area occurred must be addressed to avoid unsupported speculations.

Logically, evidence for movement by the Pee Dee into the Deep River area should be found at locations between Town Creek and the Payne Site. A particularly interesting area for future investigation should explore the floodplains along Cheeks Creek to its headwaters where a drainage divide between the Pee Dee Basin and the Cape Fear Basin occurs. To the west of this divide waters flow down Cheeks Creek emptying into the Little River near Town Creek Indian Mound, then flow into the Pee Dee about a mile north of the Teal Site (31AN1). To the east waters flow into Cabin Creek, then into Bear Creek which flows into the Deep River just upstream from the location of the Payne Site. As the crow flies, the distance between Town Creek and the Payne Site is approximately 31.2 miles. It seems reasonable to assume that the Pee Dee who settled on Deep River followed stream flows to reach that location. If so, evidence for their passing may lie along this course of streams. Furthermore, it is unlikely that the Payne Site represented an nucleated frontier settlement isolated from other small hamlets and villages nearer the ceremonial center of Town Creek. There is the possibility that the

Payne Site archaeological remains may predate establishment of the ceremonial center at Town Creek. If the Payne Site precedes the development of Town Creek as a ceremonial center, the purpose of the site may have been as a pioneer settlement to exploit the Deep River drainage for an expanding chiefdom only then forcing its way into the hills of the southern Piedmont. However, it is unlikely that the Payne Site was established earlier than the pre mound deposits found at Town Creek.

If the encroachment of the Pee Dee into the Deep River area caused the forcible relocation of the Uwharrie culture, or their descendants, hostilities and warfare would have been a constant threat to such a small, isolated community. Conquest and control of territory depends both upon physical occupation and development of successful supply and support lines from a stronger rear position. Although immediate support for the Payne Site may have come from nearby hamlets, it seems unlikely that such sites would have provided the only support for a frontier settlement. Without linkage to a larger, more fortified site in the immediate vicinity, the Payne Site would have been surrounded by those they had forced out. Early stages of the Town Creek Site may have supported this "outpost," but sites yet unknown and closer to the Payne Site would have been better candidates given the distance that separates the two locations. It is also possible that the Payne Site failed to develop for unknown reasons. Whichever is the case, archaeological investigations of the Pee Dee culture should keep in mind that:

"One of the best archaeological records of the movement of a people in the southeast is that of the Pee Dee Culture. It moved into the upper Pee Dee River Valley with household and baggage....forcing the Uwharrie descendants into the hills of the Piedmont. They established large villages and cultivated large fields. They were mature agriculturalists. Yet, they never crossed the narrows of the Yadkin and after less than five generations of constant warfare, they left the region to return to the coast. They contributed nothing to the indigenous cultures except strife and received the same in return. Their period of success is stratigraphically sealed between the deposits

of the dispossessed Uwharrie people and those of the historic Siouan tribes who finally forced their withdrawal" (Coe 1952:308).

For more than five decades archaeologists have sought to clarify the nature of the Pee Dee intrusion into the southern Piedmont of North Carolina. A great deal has been learned. Armed with the wisdom gained from an unparalleled period of investigation and the knowledge that sixty-four sites in five counties have been identified with this cultural phenomenon, attention can be turned towards the Pee Dee Archaeological Project (PDAP) and its investigations of the Leak Site (31RH1) in Richmond County, North Carolina and the Teal Site (31AN1) in Anson County, North Carolina. Knowledge of "the people of one fire" will arise from sites where fires once burned and houses stood by the banks of the river that bears the name given to their culture...Pee Dee.

## Chapter 5

### The Leak Site, 31RH1

The Leak Site ( 31RH1) is situated two miles below the mouth of the Rocky River along a small, narrow channel of the Pee Dee River in the most northwestern portion of Richmond County, North Carolina. It is positioned on a high river bank which has been carved between the mainland and a large island by the waters of the Pee Dee River. In 1936 countless hearths, pottery sherds, and burials were visible upon the newly exposed surface after the freshly plowed soil had been washed away by a spring flood. The site area was estimated to include "about 3 acres of sand bottom (Doerschuk 1936)," but based upon current data encompasses nearly 5 acres. The site has long been surface collected by local relic enthusiasts, members of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina, students from Saint Andrews College, and personnel from the Research Laboratories of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

A description of the Leak Site shortly after the 1936 flood had cut a swath through a major portion of the lowground clearly details the abundance of artifacts at the site:

"On the side towards the barn about 8 pots and burials were found. Some with pottery beads, arrows, axes and the like also lay with them. The pots varied in size from about one foot high to 2 1/2 feet high. Some of the small pots were found covering the large pots. In the large

pots, burials were found; most of these large pots being punctured at the bottom. over the whole area large quantities of pottery sherds were lying. There were many places where dark pits of soil with charcoal were burned hard. This withstood the washing action of the water and therefore stood in place. Many carbonized corn cobs showed very plainly in these pits. Muscle (sic) shells and animal bones were lying about, also many human bones (Doerschuk 1936:1)."

A number of the artifacts recovered during this period were later curated with the Research Laboratories of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. These included the skeletal remains of Burial 1 (Accession 10), a slightly flexed, mature male which was excavated by Guy B. Johnston and Joffre Coe on May 6, 1936; 10 reconstructable pottery vessels (11p1-p10); points, clay disks, sherds and a celt fragment collected from Burial 2 in 1936 by Coe and Harry S. Davis, then director of the State Museum; material from Burial 3 collected in 1936 by Douglas Rights and H. M. Doerschuk (1195m1-b4); and a large burial urn, sherds, several bone tools, and some human bone collected by John Almond, a resident of Norwood (1194a1-p4). The remaining material was either privately collected, redeposited as the deep washout was filled with earth, or left upon the surface to eventually decay or become mixed within the plowed soil. In later years, surface collections were recorded by Coe and Swart in 1940 (77p1-m8), Doerschuk in 1941 (91p1-a11), Sargent and South in 1953 (800/1p1-b31), Doerschuk in 1954 (442a1-a16), Keel in 1961, 1962, 1963, and Crawford in 1964 (2061a1-p44), Dickens in 1964 (1786a1-m6), Saint Andrews College in 1976 (76-78), and by Coe, Rankin, and Oliver in 1985 (8587p1-p11). A large collection amassed by Dr. P. R. Rankin has been kept together and donated to the Rankin Museum in Ellerbe, NC. The Rankin collection includes points, pottery, polished stones, chunky stones, celts, hoes, grinding stones, clay disks, hammerstones, as well as several burial urns

which have been collected from the site over the years. Additional collections have been made by unknown relic collectors, but disposition of the material remains as uncertain as their identities. However, because of the historic watchfulness of the Leaks, the Andrews, and the Jordans, little digging has occurred at the site.

Until initiation of the Pee Dee Archaeological Project (PDAP), only one period of excavation was known to have previously occurred at the Leak Site, the 1961 test excavations conducted by Bennie Keel and Ed Gaines. However, while examining field notes from Saint Andrews College which had been obtained through the courtesy of archaeologist Ruth Wetmore, it was learned that one test unit had been excavated during a 1976 survey of the Leak Site. Later excavations in 1986 conducted in conjunction with the Pee Dee Archaeological Project unintentionally relocated this unit (Plate 8). At the time the source of the excavation was not known and the area was recorded as "a previous excavation of unknown origin." Unfortunately, detailed information pertaining to the nature of the test unit as well as what was discovered within it was not found within the records.

A more intensive search of the records at Saint Andrews College might shed light upon these questions, but doubtlessly contribute little towards meaningful interpretation of the archaeological nature of the site. An interpretative beginning may be found by examining the results of test excavations conducted in December, 1961 by Bennie C. Keel, then site manager at Town Creek Indian Mound.

Keel's excavations included two small test areas identified as Test Pit A and B (Figure 16). Test A was a five foot square unit excavated to a depth of 3.7 feet. Cultural deposits were identified in Level 1 (0-.5 ft.), Level 4 and 5(1.7-2.2 ft.), and Level 7 (2.7-3.6 ft.). Level 1 contained Pee Dee ceramics, a clay disk, chips, and animal bone, Level

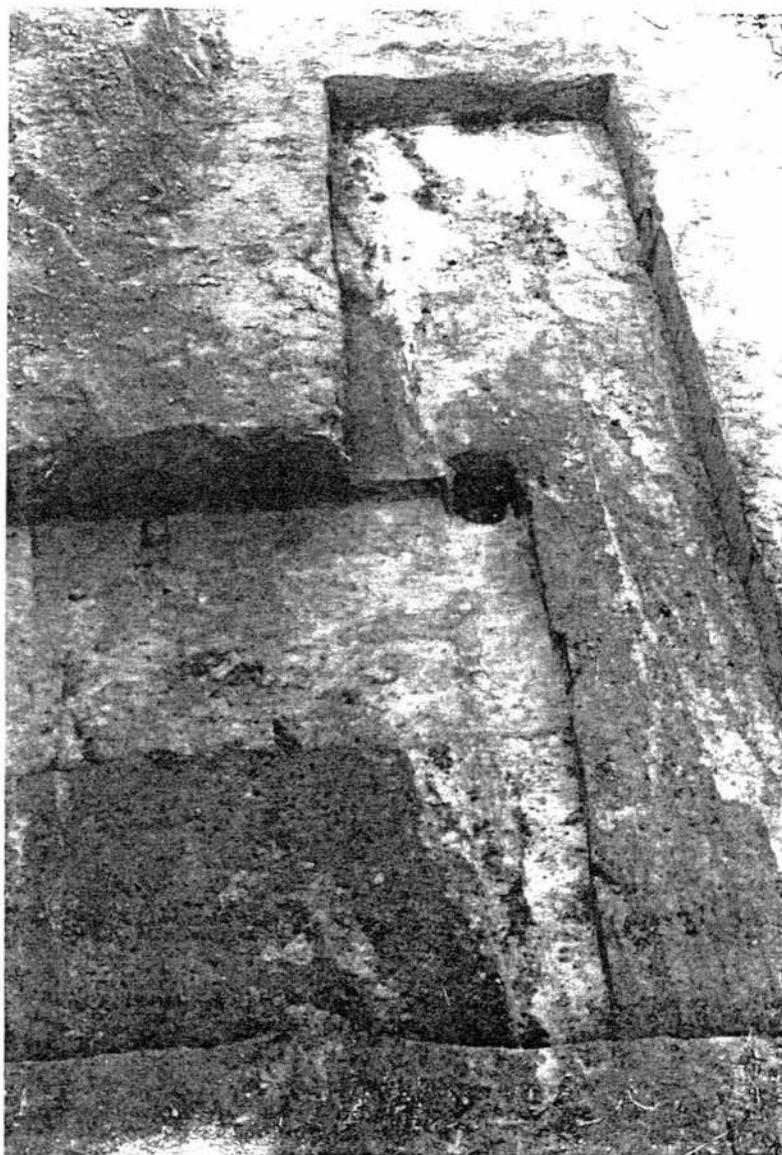


Plate 8. Test Unit A, 31RH1, Leak Site. Note indication of previous excavation in lower left.

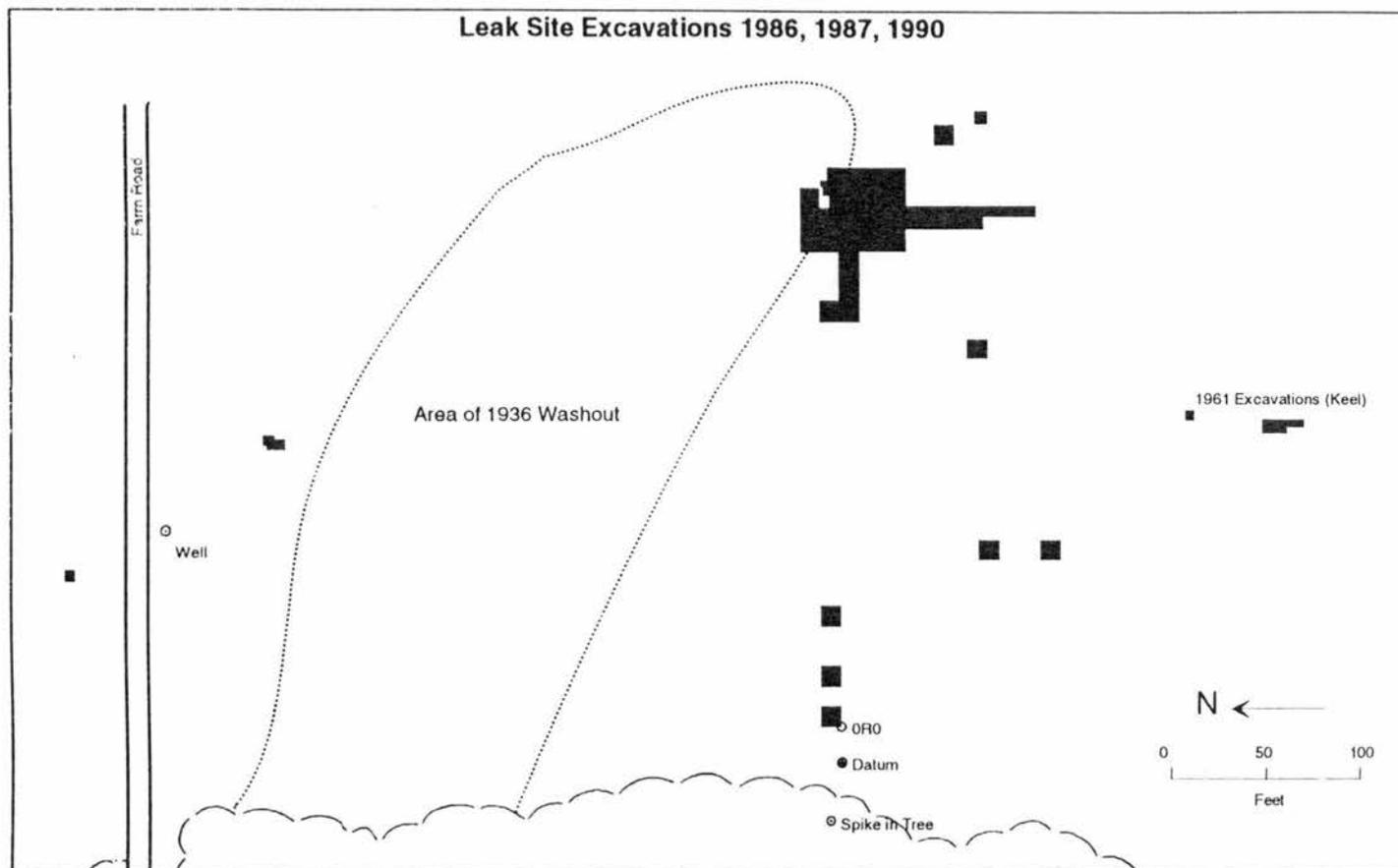


Figure 16. Map of excavated areas at the Leak Site, 31RH1.

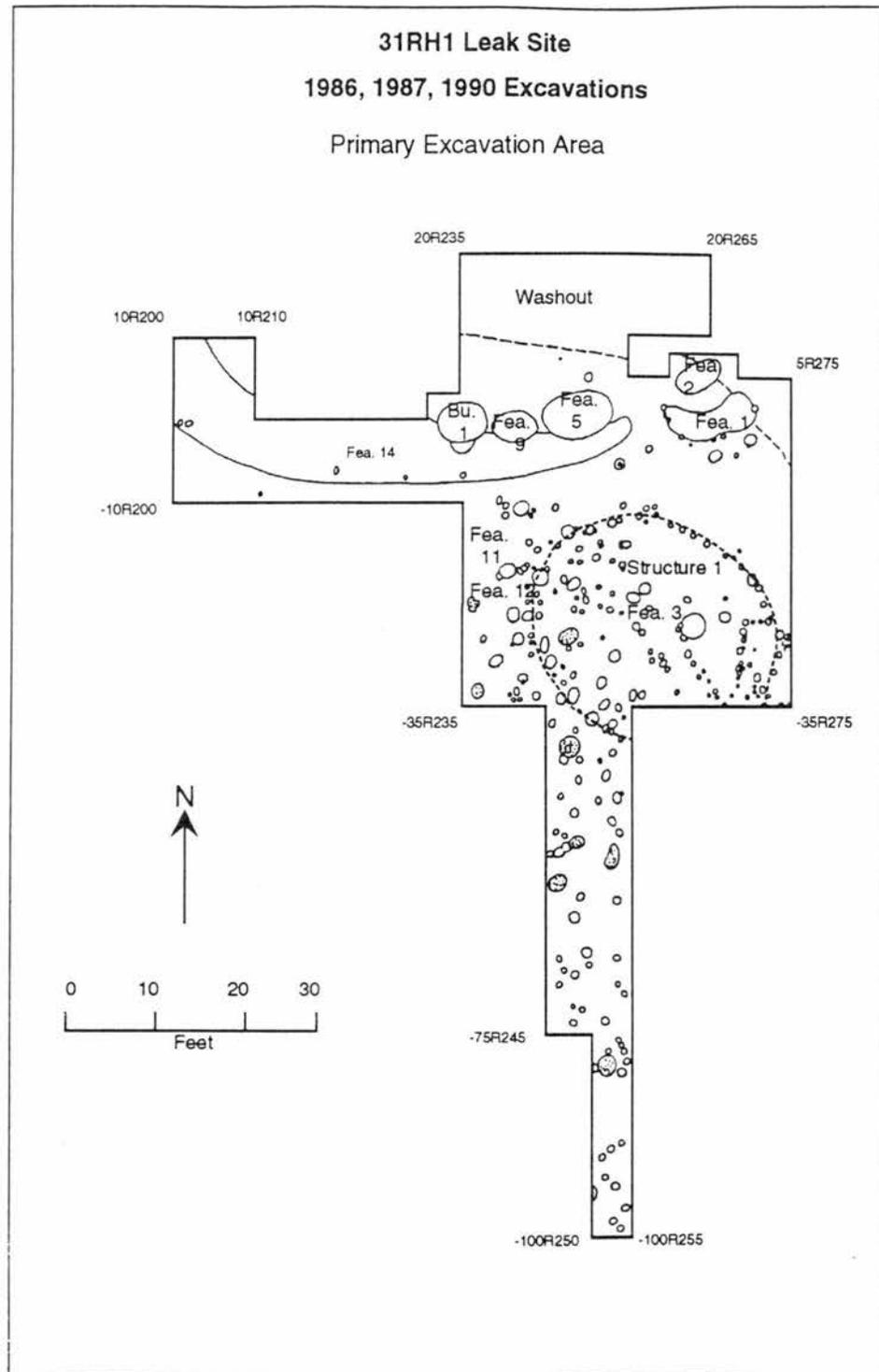


Figure 17. Primary excavated area, Pee Dee Archaeological Project, 31RH1, Leak Site.

4 and Level 5 contained only chips, while Level 7 contained chips and a concentration of four large stones identified as Feature 1. A total of 224 artifacts was recovered. An average artifact density of 11.92 artifacts per cubic foot was indicated for Level 1 which contained evidence of Pee Dee occupation.

Test Pit B was a larger area of excavation (84 sq. ft.) (Figure 16) which successfully identified two features and six postholes at the base of plowzone. Approximately 114 cubic feet of excavated area was screened for artifacts. Features included a charcoal pit (Feature 1) and a cob-filled pit (Feature 2) which were both observed below a silt varve at the base of Level 1 (0-.6 ft.). No midden was observed. Subsequent excavation of a portion of the trench to deeper levels revealed a light brown sand, Level 2 (.6-1.0 ft), separated by a layer of silt from Level 3 (1.2-1.6 ft.). Level 3, a light brown sand, was also separated from the underlying Level 4 (1.7-2.0 ft.) by a band of silt. A total of 290 artifacts were recovered from the unit, but perhaps most significantly ninety-eight per cent of this total (n=285) were recovered from Level 1, the Pee Dee artifact bearing level. Because all of the soil was not screened, an estimate of artifact density for Level 1 can be attempted, but may not be an accurate reflection of the archaeological remains. Keeping this in mind, Level 1 projects an average of 7.92 artifacts per cubic foot of excavation, a surprising low statistic which no doubt reflects the incomplete screening of the plowzone.

The 1961 excavations confirmed the presence of subsurface features beneath the plowed soil, but did not establish boundaries for the extent of the site or clarify the nature of the damage caused by the 1936 flood. How much of the site had been damaged or destroyed by the flood? What was the nature of the Leak Site and how did it relate to Town Creek? When was the Leak Site occupied by the Pee Dee people? These questions could not be answered through excavation of a few test units, but remained to be answered by more intensive archaeological work.

Considering the abundance of artifacts reported during the post-flood period, the artifact densities of 11.92 and 7.92 artifacts per cubic foot from Keel's excavations appear low and could reflect location of the test units outside the major site area, a reduction of artifact densities resulting from repeated surface collecting, redistribution of topsoil for use as fill within the earlier washout, or some other unexplained factor. Resolution of these questions was among the objectives of the Pee Dee Archaeological Project as the first intensive excavations of the Leak Site were planned in late 1985.

### **The Leak Site ( 31RH1) Excavations 1986-1987**

The initiative to pursue exploration of the Leak Site and others in the Pee Dee River Basin, resulted from the subtle direction of Joffre Lanning Coe. Coe, some three years earlier in 1982, had retired from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was preparing to celebrate fifty years of involvement with the site of Town Creek Indian Mound. A grand celebration, including a symposium on archaeological topics related to Town Creek, was planned for the spring of 1987. Coe suggested that it would be nice to have someone say something about the village sites, but at the time little was known about the nature of these sites. Besides, who could he interest in conducting the necessary work?

The art of persuasion had not been practiced more effectively than it was in the summer of 1985. Within a matter of several weeks Coe, Dr. P. R. Rankin, both of whom had observed the aftermath of the 1936 flood, and B. L. Oliver, one of Coe's last graduate students and an archaeologist with the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, were gathered at the Leak Site. As Coe and Rankin walked across the sandy bottom, it was obvious that memories flooded back with as much force as the flood waters that had rushed across the surface of the land some fifty years earlier. Each provided vivid descriptions and pointed out details that otherwise would not have been

known. The visit was concluded by gathering a small surface collection for further study (Accession 8587) and acknowledgment that Oliver would pursue archaeological investigation of the Pee Dee villages in connection with completion of his doctoral degree; Coe would provide technical direction for the study, and Rankin would allow his large collection from the site to be included. Both Coe and Rankin have been stalwart supporters of the Pee Dee Project since that first day when the site was visited and accounts of long ago were retold for a new generation to consider.

As in most instances where recollection plays a role, landmarks in the lowground had changed over the years, but one constant from 1936 remained. A weathered water pump which once stood in front of a barn near the ferry road had survived both the flood and the passage of time. Although the barn was a memory, the pump stood as a sentinel before the site and could be used to relocate the 1936 washout and areas of artifact concentration. Little was it known at the time that the water pump would be destroyed by vandals a few months later, erasing the remaining link between recollection and reality to the spring of 1936. Had its presence not been observed when it was, relocation of the washout would have been more difficult and recollections less clear.

To date, 4389 cubic feet of the Leak Site ( 31RH1) has been excavated and the soil screened through three-eighth inch stretched steel mesh. This activity has resulted from limited excavations conducted in 1986 (1,049 sq. ft), 1987 (1,700 sq. ft.), and 1990 (925 sq. ft.), totaling 3674 square feet of excavated area (Figure 16; Figure 17). A total of 83,220 artifacts (87250p1-p1455) has been catalogued from the 1986 and 1987 excavations representing 2,749 square feet or 3,464 cubic feet of excavation, while the 1990 material remains presently uncatalogued. Given this situation, the 1990 material has been generally excluded from discussion and interpretations are based upon data gained primarily from the 1986 and 1987 field seasons.

### Historic Background

Several hundred years after the last Pee Dee stood on the high banks of the river which now bears their name and looked out across the sandy bottoms that for generations had been their home, the first white settlers moved into the Leak Island area of the southern Piedmont (which was then known as Bladen County, in 1750 as Anson County, and did not become identified as Richmond County until 1779). In 1746, an 810 acre patent was granted to John Clark who sold this tract and another to Benjamin Dumas in 1752. Dumas developed a self-sufficient plantation which included a house, a mill, an orchard, outbuildings, and housing sufficient for twenty-one slaves. A road leading to Stanback's Ferry passed approximately four hundred feet east of the main dwelling which was situated on a slight rise just east of the Thoroughfare and near the mill. A second house surrounded by a fence was built by Amos Dumas, son of Benjamin Dumas, in 1800. The house was situated on a hill northwest of the earlier structure (Cross 1986:1-10). Both this location, on what is now identified as "the red level," and another just southeast of the mill ruins along the Thoroughfare have been relocated during the course of the Pee Dee Project. Discoveries of historic period ceramics, iron nails, and bricks in these areas suggest archaeological evidence for these structures may exist beneath the plowed soil.

The Dumas land passed from family hands in 1832 when it was acquired by Thomas Steele, a prominent land owner, who granted rights to the property to his brother-in-law, William Little. During this time a road and ferry location was established across Buffalo Island (now called Leak Island). In 1851 the property passed from Thomas Steele to Robert L. Steele, then in 1856 to James A. Leak. The Leak family maintained control of the property for the next three generations until it was sold in the 1950's to Homer Andrews, who sold it to the present owner Robert B. Jordan III, president of Jordan Lumber and Supply Co., Inc., a former state senator, and lieutenant governor of North Carolina (Cross 1986:1-10).

### Test Excavations: A Beginning

The initial excavations associated with the Pee Dee Archaeological Project (PDAP), an intensive study of the village sites of the Pee Dee culture, began in late August, 1986. The field crew consisted of Terry Mills, Dick Myers, and John McLain who were joined by more than forty volunteers from the Uwharrie Archaeological Society, Town Creek Indian Mound, and residents from Montgomery, Richmond, Stanly, and Wake counties. From this inauspicious beginning on the banks of the Pee Dee River more than five hundred volunteers have participated in various aspects of the project since 1986 and a unique non-profit corporation, the North Carolina Center for Archaeological Research, Inc. (CFAR), was formed to support archaeological research and develop educational programs for use in public schools and local communities.

After careful study of the few records relating to prior surveys and Keel's (1961) test excavations, a plan was developed to test the Leak Site to determine the limits of the 1936 flood damage and identify adjacent areas which might contain subsurface features suitable for radiocarbon dating of the remains. The Leak Site was selected for study much in the same way a site would have been if applying the direct historical approach. Excavations were targeted for locations where events had been known to occur. Information was available in the form of documentary statements, oral accounts, and archaeological reports which could be used to guide the planned excavations and bypass the football field-sized void created by the 1936 flood. This area was clearly identified from aerial photographs of the Leak site area and excavation units were situated adjacent to it. Because development of chronological data was a particular concern for this project and the time frame for the excavations was limited, information of this sort allowed maximization of effort within the shortest period of time.

A controlled surface collection indicated that archaeological remains were fairly evenly distributed across a five acre area that extended both north and south of the

former ferry road. Test units were placed in both areas and the results field analyzed in order to determine placement for primary units of excavation. Because locations were known for the 1936 washout and the test squares excavated in 1961, initial test units focused upon areas just north and south of the ferry road.

Two test units placed north of the road (Test Units 1 and 2) indicated stratified archaeological deposits ranging from a brown silty loam plowzone which contained Pee Dee pottery, points, flakes, charcoal flecks, animal bone, and fire cracked rock (Level 1, 0-1.1 ft.), underlain by sterile flood sands (Level 2, 1.1-2.0 ft.), which were underlain by a light brown silty loam Savannah River zone marked by the presence of points, flakes, and rock hearths (Level 3, 2.0-3.0 ft.), successive levels of sterile flood sands (Level 4, 3.0-5.9 ft.), and a brown sandy loam with flakes and flecks of charcoal (Level 5, 5.9 ft.) (Figure 18). A cultural association was not identified for the deepest level due to lack of diagnostic artifacts.

Once the stratified nature of deposits north of the road had been determined, attention was directed towards the area south of the road that included the 1936 washout. Although a slight depression, or slue, was observed about fifty yards south of the road, the full extent of the washout and the subsequent refilling of the trench would not become known until excavations had been conducted on the slight ridge extending eastward from the Thoroughfare. Test units placed south of the road confirmed the presence of Pee Dee archaeological remains within the plowzone to depths which varied from ten to fourteen inches. However, only one test unit identified subsurface features which could possibly be identified with the Pee Dee culture.

Test B, a five foot square unit, later expanded to nearly ten feet square, was excavated to the base of plowzone. The test was situated near the northern edge of the washout and produced a total of 1557 artifacts, an average of 29.04 artifacts per cubic foot of excavation. Artifacts recovered from the unit included 1 chipped stone projectile

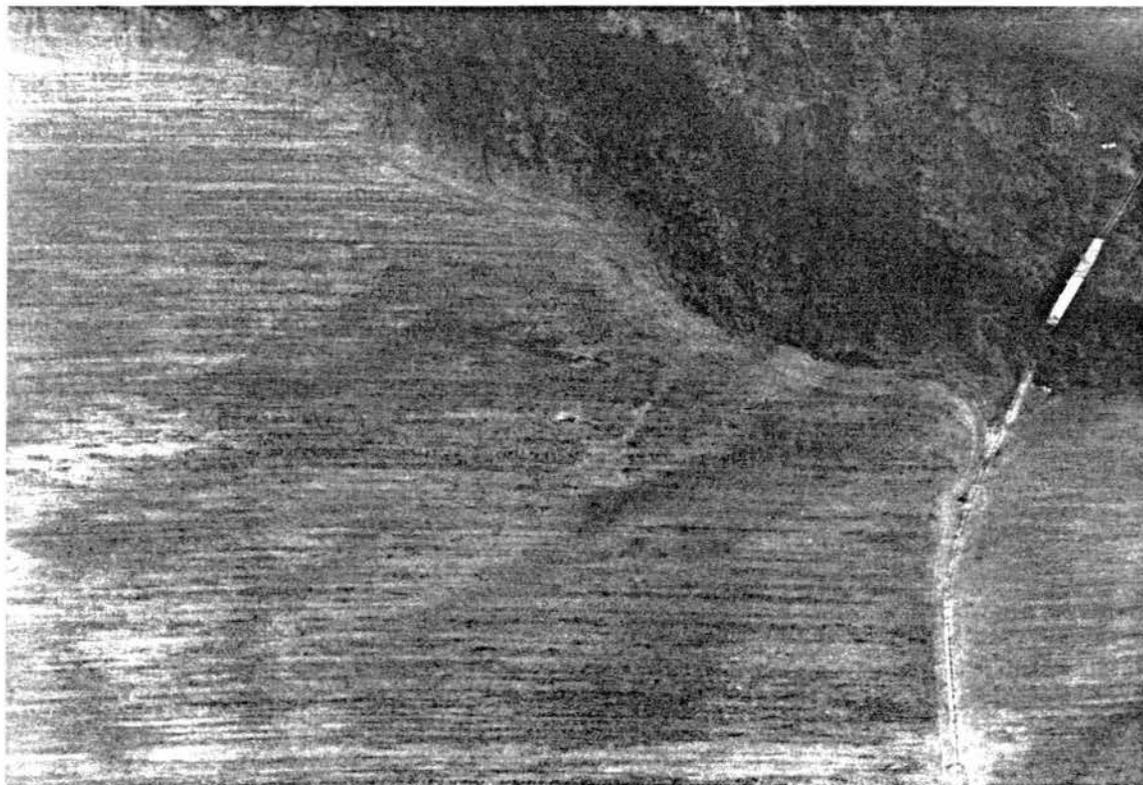


Plate 9. Aerial photograph of the Leak Site area. Dark Y-shaped area indicates location of 1936 erosional gully.

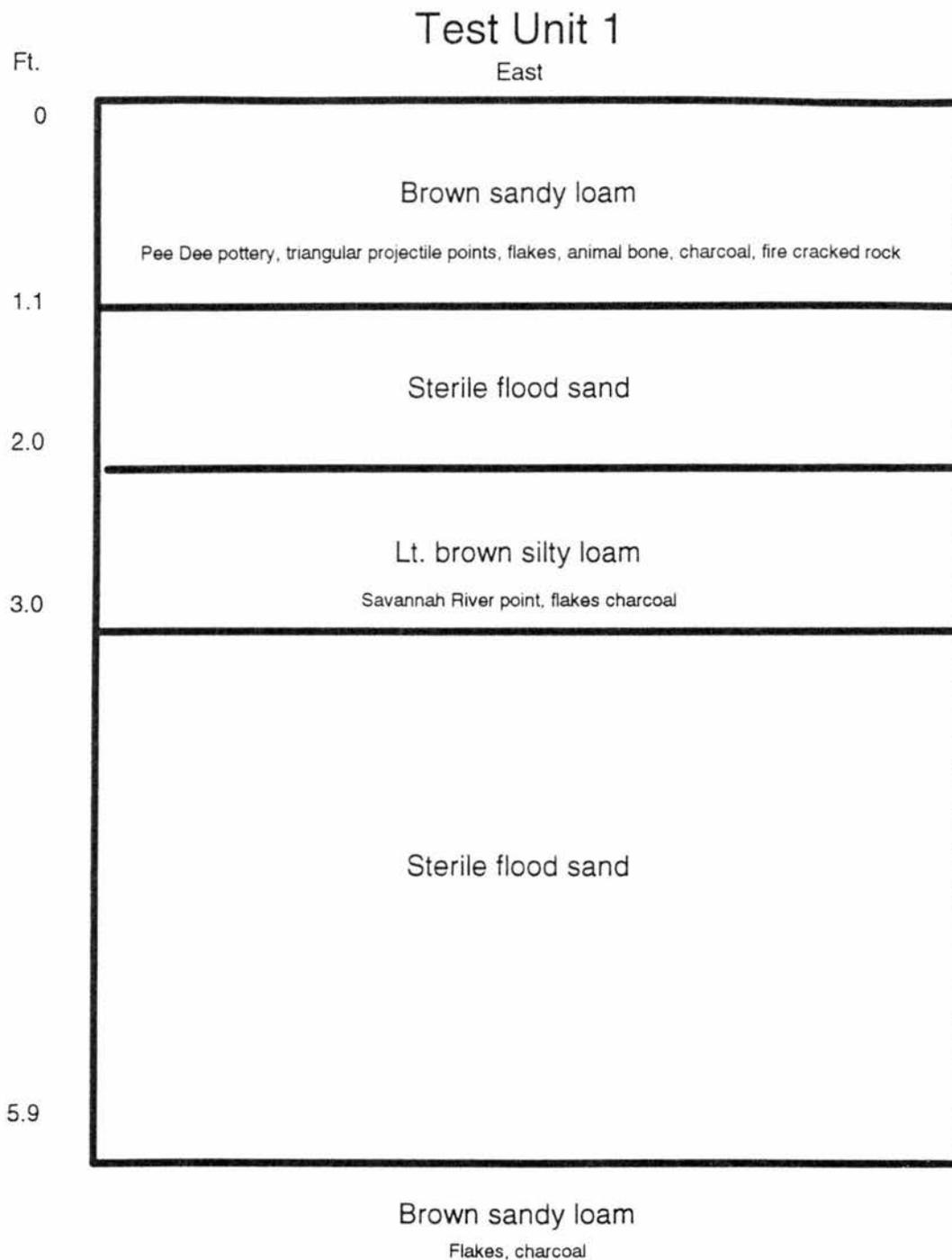


Figure 18. Profile Test Unit 1, 31RH1, Leak Site.

point, 618 pot sherds, 3 clay disk fragments, 2 clay figurine or decorative fragments, 1 clay pipe fragment, 1 grinding stone fragment, 3 biface fragments, 69 flakes, 1 whetstone, 4 daub, 1 bone, 1 vial of charcoal (53.8 g), 671 rocks, 10 fire cracked rock, 23 fragments of mud dauber nests, 2 historic sherds, 115 metal fragments, 11 iron nails, 2 fragments of brick, 2 pieces of glass, and 1 cinder. This total might have been substantially higher had there not been discovery of a previously excavated unit within the western third of the square (Plate 8). At the time, the straight lines of the intrusive feature suggested an archaeological unit, but confirmation was not made until sometime later that this feature was indication of a test unit placed by Saint Andrews College in 1976.

Other than the clearly visible edges of a prior excavation unit in the western third of the square, a compact reddish-orange silty loam with many flecks of charcoal (Level 2) was observed at the base of plowzone(0-0.75 ft.). Nearly three-quarters of the artifacts (n=841, 54%) were recovered from within this zone which occupied 0.2 feet at the base of the plowzone. Although plowscars were visible at the top of Level 2, they appeared more shallow than those observed in other portions of the site. This condition may have resulted from the hardness of the compact soil forcing the disk upward as it encountered the more resistant underlying deposits.

Level 2, which had been designated Feature 8 and removed as a unit, was underlain by a brown sand (Level 3) that contained postholes and several large Pee Dee pot sherds. Feature 8 contained 404 (29.4%) artifacts, including 1 triangular projectile point, 142 Pee Dee pot sherds, 1 clay disk, 175 rocks, 27 metal fragments, 25 flakes, 15 daub, 9 mud dauber nest fragments, 5 fire cracked rocks, 1 grinding stone fragment, 1 clay pipe fragment, 1 bone, and a small amount of charcoal (0.01 g). With the exception of the metal fragments, which represented intrusive elements pulled downward by the effects of disking, all artifacts found in Feature 8 appeared to represent a Pee Dee

association. The shallow deposits, the burnt appearance and hard-packed nature of the soil suggested the possibility that Level 2 /Feature 8 could be associated with the floor of a prehistoric Pee Dee structure. However, because of concurrent feature discoveries made in the primary excavation area, further investigation was deferred until a later date.

### **The Primary Excavations: A Quest For Discovery**

Once test excavations had provided clear evidence for the nature and depth of the archaeological remains at the Leak Site, primary excavation units (10'x10') were placed along the crest of a slight rise that bordered the 1936 washout. Three units 0R10, 0R30, and 0R60 were placed near the western edge of the field, and a fourth unit, -5R265, was positioned near the eastern terminus of the rise as the landform descended into a shallow depression possibly related to the 1936 flood. Squares 0R10, 0R30, and 0R60 indicated an abundance of artifacts within the plowed soil (n=13,223), but displayed only deep plowscars at the top of the yellow sand subsoil. Failure to discover subsurface features was frustrating and thoughts that the site might have been totally destroyed were frequent.

To establish the nature of the underlying stratigraphy, the southwestern quarter of square 0R60 was excavated to a depth of four feet, revealing only the artifact-laden plowzone and the underlying yellow sand in the resulting profile. Although artifacts were abundant in these squares and Pee Dee pottery represented nearly twenty-five per cent of the total artifacts recovered (n=3,296, 24.9%), the lack of subsurface features was a disappointment which would not last beyond excavation of the next square.

Square -5R265 was located at the eastern end of the low rise in an attempt to determine the effects of the flood waters upon cultural remains that might have existed there. The placement could not have been more fortuitous, if a crystal ball had been employed to locate the square. Contained beneath the plowzone within square -5R265

were two dark, oval-shaped stains which stood in dramatic contrast to the surrounding yellow subsoil. These observations were identified as Feature 1 and Feature 2 (Plate 10; Plate 11).

### *Feature 1*

Feature 1 (Plate 10) was a shallow refuse pit that extended under the northeastern wall of the square into an unexcavated area. A 3'x10' inset (5R268) was excavated to fully expose the feature which measured 5.3 feet in length and 2.6 feet in width. Although an unknown portion of the feature had been destroyed by the effects of plowing, the portion that remained *in situ* extended to a depth of 0.78 feet beneath the base of the plowzone. After removal of plowscars which had truncated the top of the feature, the fill was observed as a deposit of black sand with abundant fragments of Pee Dee pottery, animal bone, mussel shell, turtle shell, and charcoal. A single zone of fill (Zone 1) contained 221 Pee Dee pot sherds, of which 56 were greater than one inch in diameter and suitable for analysis (Figure 19). Eighteen rim sherds (n=18) were included within this total. Surface finishes included 27 plain, 22 complicated stamped (2 filfoot cross, 2 curvilinear complicated stamped, 7 rectilinear complicated stamped, and 11 complicated stamped of uncertain design), 2 burnished, and 5 sherds of indistinguishable surface. Rims were overwhelmingly straight to slightly flaring and undecorated. Of this number four were undecorated and inverted, and one exhibited small punctations on the exterior of the rim. Former use of the pottery as small hemispherical bowls was suggested by a lack of decoration and straight to flaring rims.

The functional nature of Feature 1 for disposal of refuse was indicated by an abundance of burned and unburned small animal bone (570.85 g), fish scale (2.52 g), turtle shell (150.80 g), fire cracked rock (193.00 g), discarded mussel shells (449.67 g),

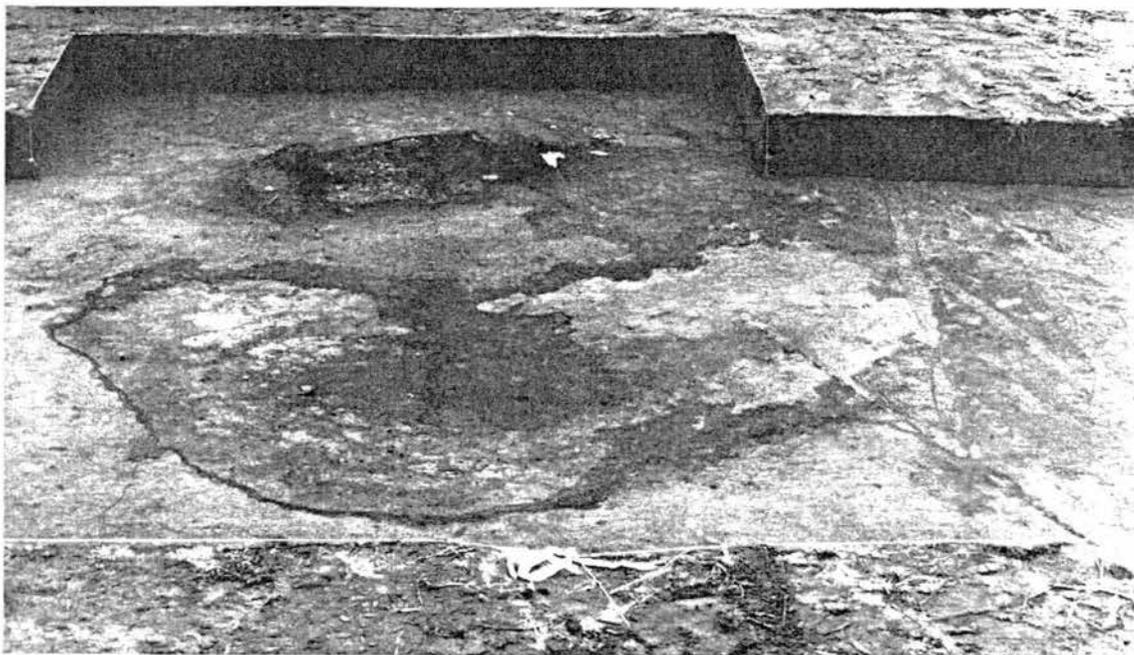


Plate 10. Feature 1 and Feature 2, 31RH1, Leak Site, prior to excavation.

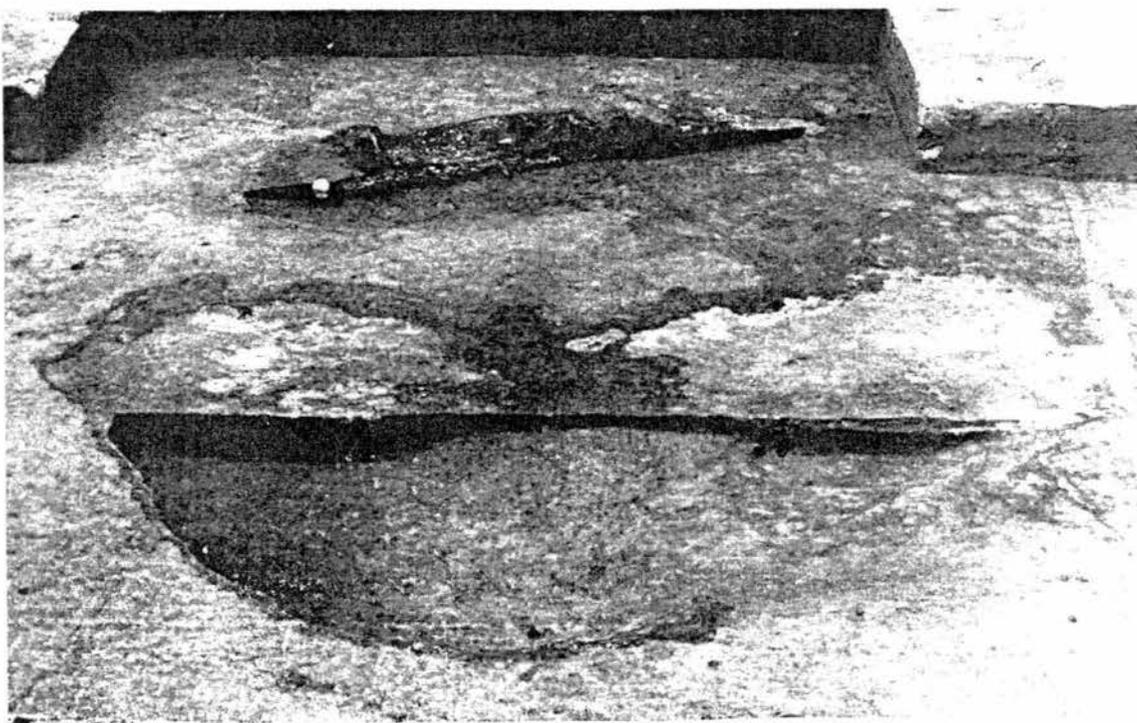


Plate 11. Feature 1 and Feature 2, south half excavated, 31RH1, Leak Site, (*north view*).

charcoal (21.16 g), and sherds of broken pottery (Figure 19). An additional 2,370.30 grams of unsorted material, mostly carbonized remains, greater than 1/16 inch in size was collected from waterscreened samples and reserved for paleobotanical analysis and radiocarbon dating.

A charcoal sample and an additional sample of mussel shell from Feature 1 was submitted for radiocarbon dating to the Center for Isotopic Studies at the University of Georgia. The resulting determinations were the first radiocarbon dates associated with a domestic Pee Dee culture settlement, those obtained by Mountjoy (see Mountjoy 1988) from the Payne Site (31MR15) were the second, occurring the following year. Dates obtained at the Leak Site were A.D. 1459 $\pm$ 175 (UGA 5644) from the Feature 1 charcoal sample, and A.D. 1418 $\pm$ 64 (UGA 5645) from the dating of the mussel shell deposit found within it. Given that both dates overlapped within the range of one error of standard deviation, confidence was placed in the assumption that the dates accurately reflected an aspect of the Pee Dee culture, but whether or not the dates signaled an early or later stage of the Pee Dee occupation in the southern North Carolina Piedmont had not yet been determined and would not be fully understood until several seasons of excavation had been completed at the Teal Site (31AN1) in Anson County.

### *Feature 2*

Feature 2, also identified in square -5R265 at the top of subsoil (0.9 ft./BS), consisted of a large, elliptical stain of reddish-brown sand covered by a shallow deposit of tan sand (Plate 10; Plate 11). Intrusive into portions of the feature were several postholes that formed an arcing alignment which enclosed Feature 2 and extended into square -5R275 where the feature terminated near a deposit of hard-packed reddish-orange silt located in the northeastern corner of the square. This reddish-orange silt deposit was noticeably harder and situated slightly higher than the surrounding yellow sand subsoil. Although further excavation was not conducted in 1986, it seemed likely that this

compact reddish-orange deposit represented a combination of flood deposits and later fill. A further possibility suggests that the reddish-orange, hard-packed silty clay could have represented a prepared, hard-packed floor which was more resistant to the scouring forces of the flood waters than the adjacent yellow sand. Such a prepared floor might have been associated with the interior of a structure or a central plaza. Although the latter is a possibility, the former is the more likely explanation until more extensive excavations have been conducted adjacent to, and within, the flood damaged area of the site, the true nature of this feature remains unknown.

Feature 2 measured 10.5 feet in length, 4.8 feet in width, and after excavation was found to contain three zones of fill. Zone 1, a layer of tan sand two-tenths of a foot thick (0.8-1.0 ft./BS) contained 101 artifacts and appeared to represent either materials redeposited by an episode of flooding or residual material from the overlying plowzone that had not been removed during excavation of that level. The latter explanation is considered most likely because the recovered artifacts were in contact with the tan sand, but not distributed within it. The tan sand was relatively clean and suggested waterborn deposition from an active environment. The artifact total (Figure 20) included 50 Pee Dee pot sherds, of which, only one was greater than an inch in diameter. An assortment of animal bone, flakes, charcoal, daub, rocks, and a single fragment of shell were also recovered from Zone 1.

Zone 2, a reddish brown sand (1.0-1.8 ft.) contained 90 artifacts and represented an intrusive depression that crosscut Zone 3, a light brown sand (1.8-3.3 ft) which contained the least number of artifacts (n=18) (Figure 20). Included among artifacts from Zone 2 was a clay ladle, or dipper handle (Plate 12), and 36 pot sherds that exhibited the characteristically sugary paste of the Pee Dee pottery series. Of the pottery sherds, most (n=31) were less than one inch in diameter and were not analyzed. From

FIGURE 19. FEATURE 1 ARTIFACT INVENTORY

87250 a988	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	1	0.00 HAMMERSTONE	TRASH PIT SHALLOW BASIN N 1/2
87250 a989	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	1	0.00 BURNISHING STONE	
87250 p990	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	99	474.50 SHERDS	7 RIMS, 15 LARGE (299.5g) 77 SMALL (175g)
87250 b991	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	532	236.40 BONE	34 LARGE (122.6g), 498 SMALL (113.8g)
87250 b992	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	12	3.10 TEETH	
87250 b993	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	112	21.00 VERTEBRAE	
87250 b994	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	17	2.00 BONE / FISH SCALE	
87250 eb995	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	1	11.00 CHARCOAL	
87250 m996	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	71	47.90 TURTLE SHELL	
87250 m997	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	5	193.00 FIRE CRACKED ROCKS	
87250 m998	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	54	441.00 ROCK	
87250 m999	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	11	4.70 DAUB	
87250 m1000	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	1	0.32 SHELL	
87250 m1001	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	1	0.00 FLAKES	1/4" WATER SCREEN
87250 m1002	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	1	980.00 WASHING 1/16" MESH	
87250 a1003	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	1	0.00 WORKED BONE	
87250 p1004	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	20	192.20 SHERDS	3 RIMS, 6 LARGE (115.9g), 11 SMALL (76.3g)
87250 b1005	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	32	91.30 ANIMAL BONES	9 LARGE (79.1g), 23 SMALL (12.2g)
87250 b1006	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	7	15.00 ANIMAL TEETH	
87250 b1007	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	26	34.10 TURTLE SHELL	
87250 m1008	FEA 1 N 1/2 Z1	1	3.00 ROCK	
87250 p1009	FEA 1 PZ S 1/2 Z1	5	10.68 SHERDS	
87250 b1010	FEA 1 PZ S 1/2 Z1	1	0.12 FISH SCALE	
87250 b1011	FEA 1 PZ S 1/2 Z1	11	0.16 VERTEBRAE	
87250 b1012	FEA 1 PZ S 1/2 Z1	34	2.50 BONE	
87250 b1013	FEA 1 PZ S 1/2 Z1	1	0.85 ANIMAL TOOTH	
87250 eb1014	FEA 1 PZ S 1/2 Z1	1	3.50 CHARCOAL	
87250 m1015	FEA 1 PZ S 1/2 Z1	7	0.15 SHELL	
87250 m1016	FEA 1 PZ S 1/2 Z1	6	6.10 ROCK	
87250 p1017	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	53	198.16 SHERDS	3 RIMS, 8 LARGE (109.69g), 42 SMALL (88.47g)
87250 eb1018	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	1	6.66 CHARCOAL	VIAL
87250 m1019	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	8	0.00 FLAKES	
87250 m1020	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	50	0.00 ROCK	
87250 a1021	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	1	0.00 WORKED BONE	
87250 b1022	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	7	69.00 ANIMAL BONES	LARGE
87250 b1023	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	1	82.40 ANIMAL BONE	SMALL

FIGURE 19. FEATURE 1 ARTIFACT INVENTORY (CONT.)

87250 b1024	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	119	16.20 VERTEBRAE	
87250 b1025	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	7	45.20 ANIMAL TEETH	
87250 b1026	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	2	1.90 BONE	
87250 b1027	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	108	63.30 TURTLE SHELL - BONE	
87250 b1028	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	27	2.40 FISH SCALE	
87250 b1029	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	29	10.70 BONE (BURNED)	
87250 m1030	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	1	449.20 SHELL	BAG
87250 m1031	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	15	3.90 DAUB	
87250 m1032	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	1	239.20 WASHINGS 1/4	BAG
87250 m1033	FEA 1 FILL S1/2 1/4"	1	1136.90 WASHINGS 1/16	BAG
87250 p1034	FEA 1 5R268 3X10 INSET PS	4	53.10 SHERDS	1 RIM, 1 LARGE (37.6g), 2 SMALL (15.5g)
87250 b1035	FEA 1 5R268 3X10 INSET PS	3	7.60 ANIMAL BONES	LARGE
87250 b1036	FEA 1 5R268 3X10 INSET PS	6	2.80 ANIMAL BONES	SMALL
87250 b1037	FEA 1 5R268 3X10 INSET PS	1	2.30 ANIMAL TOOTH	
87250 b1038	FEA 1 5R268 3X10 INSET PS	2	4.00 TURTLE SHELL	
87250 m1039	FEA 1 5R268 3X10 INSET PS	1	16.40 ROCK	
87250 b1040	FEA 1 FINDING EDGE	7	0.60 BONE	
87250 b1041	FEA 1 FINDING EDGE	4	0.25 VERTEBRAE	
87250 b1042	FEA 1 FINDING EDGE	3	1.50 TURTLE SHELL	
87250 b1043	FEA 1 FINDING EDGE	4	0.30 BONE (BURNED)	
87250 m1044	FEA 1 FINDING EDGE	8	3.00 ROCK	
87250 m1045	FEA 1 FINDING EDGE	1	0.01 DAUB	
87250 m1046	FEA 1 FINDING EDGE	1	6.20 WASHINGS 1/16	BAG
87250 m1047	FEA 1 CLEANING BOTTOM	1	1.00 WASHINGS	BAG UNSORTED
87250 m1048	FEA 1 TROWEL FINAL PHOTO	1	7.00 UNSORTED	BAG

TOTAL 1550 5205.76

Figure 19. Feature 1 artifact inventory.

the remainder (n=5) one sherd was plain, one was generically complicated stamped, two were rectilinear complicated stamped, and one was so overstamped that identification of surface finish was not possible. Additionally, one sherd from Zone 3 was identified as a rectilinear complicated stamped design.

Functionally, Feature 2 represented two distinct episodes of activity. The earliest activity was identified with the archaeological remains of Zone 3, a U-shaped pit that contained few artifacts and may have formerly served as a subsurface storage area. Subsequently, the pit was filled with soil and a second feature identified with the remains of Zone 2 intruded upon the first. The shallow, basin-shaped depression in which the remains of Zone 2 were deposited may have been created intentionally as a repository for refuse or may have resulted from a natural wallowing of the friable, sandy soils, then became filled with miscellaneous debris through a cultural process of accumulation. Whichever was the case in reality, the hands that produced the artifacts identified from Feature 2 were undeniably Pee Dee and most likely dated to the same 15th century time period as those artifacts found in Feature 1.

Because two subsurface features had been discovered and identified within a relatively pure Pee Dee cultural component, an anticipation loomed over daily excavations to discover additional features that might clarify the nature of the Pee Dee occupation at the site. Because the excavations at Town Creek were made more complex by the archaeological remains of both earlier and later cultures, an opportunity to explore a Pee Dee site with little evidence of Yadkin, Uwharrie, or Caraway influence was considered significant.

A series of three additional 10'x10' units (-15R275, -25R275, -35R275) was excavated to the south of square -5R275 and a five foot square unit (0R250) was

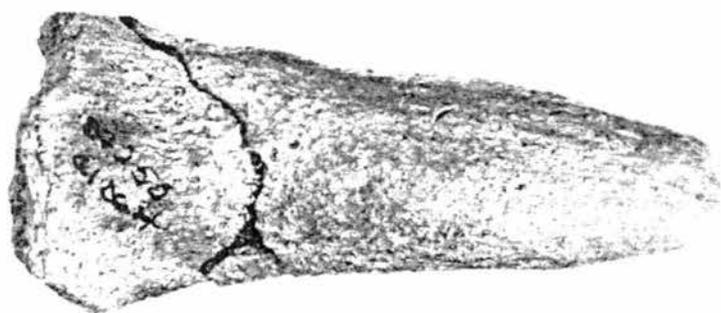


Plate 12. Clay dipper handle, Feature 2, 31RH1, Leak Site.

FIGURE 20. 31RH1, FEATURE 2 ARTIFACT INVENTORY

87250 p1049	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	40	373.50 SHERDS	6 RIMS, 8 LARGE (272.1g), 26 SMALL (101.4g)
87250 b1050	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	15	32.90 ANIMAL BONE	LARGE
87250 b1051	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	78	10.20 ANIMAL BONES	SMALL
87250 b1052	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	3	1.90 TEETH	1 ANIMAL MANDIBLE, 2 TEETH
87250 b1053	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	18	3.10 VERTEBRAE	
87250 b1054	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	58	42.40 TURTLE SHELL FRAG	
87250 b1055	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	6	0.60 FISH SCALES	
87250 b1056	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	7	4.20 BONE (BURNED)	
87250 eb1057	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	1	0.30 CHARCOAL	VIAL
87250 m1058	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	4	0.00 FLAKES	
87250 m1059	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	1	145.40 FIRE CRACKED ROCK	
87250 m1060	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	12	49.70 ROCK	
87250 m1061	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	35	15.30 SHELL	
87250 m1062	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	1	7.20 WASHINGS	VIAL
87250 m1063	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	3	655.00 CHARCOAL-WATERSCREEN	1 BAG CHARCOAL 638g, 2 BAGS 1/16" WATERSCREEN 17g
87250 a1064	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	1	0.00 LADLE HANDLE	2 LARGE AND 2 SMALL FRAGMENTS
87250 p1065	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	1	29.36 SHERD (LARGE)	
87250 eb1066	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	1	12.20 CHARCOAL	VIAL
87250 m1067	FEA 2 L2 DR BRW SAND Z2	2	27.31 ROCK	
87250 p1068	FEA 2 N 1/2 TAN SAND Z1	17	61.50 SHERD	1 LARGE (18.8g), 16 SMALL (42.7g)
87250 b1069	FEA 2 N 1/2 TAN SAND Z1	8	0.60 BONE FRAGMENT	
87250 eb1070	FEA 2 N 1/2 TAN SAND Z1	1	3.50 CHARCOAL	
87250 m1071	FEA 2 N 1/2 TAN SAND Z1	3	0.00 FLAKES	
87250 m1072	FEA 2 N 1/2 TAN SAND Z1	7	3.50 ROCK	
87250 m1073	FEA 2 N 1/2 TAN SAND Z1	3	0.80 DAUB	
87250 m1074	FEA 2 N 1/2 TAN SAND Z1	1	1178.60 SOIL SAMPLE	BAG
87250 p1075	FEA 2 L2 S1/2 TAN SAND Z1	23	69.25 SHERDS	2 RIMS, 3 LARGE (41.55g), 18 SMALL (27.7g)
87250 b1076	FEA 2 L2 S1/2 TAN SAND Z1	7	1.85 BONE	L2 -5R265 S 1/2 TAN SAND ZONE 1
87250 eb1077	FEA 2 L2 S1/2 TAN SAND Z1	1	4.11 CHARCOAL	VIAL

FIGURE 20. 31RH1, FEATURE 2 ARTIFACT INVENTORY (CONT.)

87250 m1078	FEA 2 L2 S1/2 TAN SAND Z1	5	0.00 FLAKES	
87250 m1079	FEA 2 L2 S1/2 TAN SAND Z1	10	5.90 ROCK	
87250 m1080	FEA 2 L2 S1/2 TAN SAND Z1	1	21.90 FIRE CRACKED ROCK	
87250 m1081	FEA 2 L2 S1/2 TAN SAND Z1	4	1.94 DAUB	
87250 m1082	FEA 2 L2 S1/2 TAN SAND Z1	1	2.00 SHELL FRAGMENTS	VIAL
87250 m1082/1	FEA 2 L2 S1/2 TAN SAND Z1	1	0.00 WASHINGS 1/16	BAG
87250 p1083	FEA 2 L2 R/BRW SAND Z2	3	0.00 SHERDS	
87250 p1084	FEA 2 L2 R/BRW SAND Z2	35	296.75 SHERDS	1 RIM, 16 LARGE (258.5g), 18 SMALL (38.25g)
87250 b1085	FEA 2 L2 R/BRW SAND Z2	16	3.50 BONE FRAGMENTS	
87250 m1086	FEA 2 L2 R/BRW SAND Z2	12	0.00 FLAKES	
87250 m1087	FEA 2 L2 R/BRW SAND Z2	6	83.00 ROCK	
87250 m1088	FEA 2 L2 R/BRW SAND Z2	16	23.50 DAUB	
87250 m1039	FEA 2 L2 R/BRW SAND Z2	1	0.00 WASHINGS 1/16	BAG - UNSORTED
87250 p1090	FEA 2 N1/2 RED SILT Z3	2	25.00 SHERDS	1 LARGE (12g), 2 SMALL (13g)
87250 m1091	FEA 2 N1/2 RED SILT Z3	4	0.00 FLAKES	
87250 m1092	FEA 2 N1/2 RED SILT Z3	1	0.60 DAUB	
87250 m1093	FEA 2 N1/2 RED SILT Z3	1	10.00 CHARCOAL (UNSORTED)	VIAL UNLABELED LOOKS LIKE 1/16" WATERSCREEN WASH
87250 p1094	FEA 2 S1/2 RED SILT Z3	4	4.75 SHERDS	ZONE 3 SOUTH 1/2 -5R265 RED-BROWN SAND
87250 m1095	FEA 2 S1/2 RED SILT Z3	3	0.00 FLAKES	
87250 m1096	FEA 2 S1/2 RED SILT Z3	1	0.60 ROCK	
87250 m1097	FEA 2 S1/2 RED SILT Z3	1	0.85 FIRE CRACKED ROCK	
87250 m1098	FEA 2 S1/2 RED SILT Z3	1	0.00 WASHINGS 1/16	BAG UNSORTED

TOTAL 487 3214.6

Figure 20. Feature 2 artifact inventory, 31RH1, Leak Site.

excavated west of square -5R265 in hopes of discovering additional features.

Anticipation turned to dismay as the plowzone was removed from square -15R275 (Plate 13). A total of 2,049 artifacts (25.61 artifacts per cubic foot) had been recovered from the plowed soil and expectations had been high that features would be found, but beneath the plowzone was only a serpentine swirl of red silt bands that undulated across the excavated floor of the unit. No evidence for prehistoric features was observed and serious thought was given towards not extending the excavated area southward. Had the excavations terminated at this point, several alignments of postholes passing through squares -25R275 and -35R275 would not have been detected (Plate 14). As it was, the significance for these darkened stains was unclear because of the continued absence of subsurface features and a noticeable decline in the number of artifacts found.

### *Feature 3*

Attention was turned away from further southward extension of square -35R275 and a 5'x10' inset was excavated into square -35R265. Once again a series of postholes was observed at the top of subsoil, but the alignment appeared linear rather than slightly arcing as the earlier alignment had been. As this new line of postholes was uncovered, an orientation towards the northwest was observed in addition to the presence of a dark circular stain identified as Feature 3 (Figure 17). Feature 3, located in the northernmost area of the inset, measured 3.1 feet in diameter and contained an abundance of charcoal. Patience had been rewarded by discovery of an additional feature, but because little time remained for completion of the 1986 field work, questions concerning the nature of the discoveries were more numerous than the number of features that had been identified. However, several important discoveries had been made, including, at least one, whose importance would not become apparent until several more field seasons had been conducted.



Plate 13. Square -15R275 excavation of plowzone.



Plate 14. Square -25R275 (looking north) with postholes and plow scars visible at top of subsoil.

A decision was made to complete square 0R250 rather than attempt partial excavation of Feature 3 during the time that remained in the 1986 field season. Square 0R250 was extremely rich, including a total of 1593 artifacts within the shallow plowzone. The artifact frequency of 70.8 artifacts per cubic foot was nearly three times higher than many of the ten foot square excavation units. Concentrations of dark brown soil mixed with fragments of mussel shell, charcoal, animal bone, and pottery within the plowzone suggested the presence of a subsurface feature. At the base of plowzone (0.9 ft.) an underlying feature was confirmed, but because it covered nearly all the exposed area and extended into unexcavated areas to the east, west, and south, further excavation was postponed until the following season.

The quest for understanding the nature of the Pee Dee occupation at the Leak Site had begun with a process of exploration and had concluded with modest discoveries of several features and lines of postholes. Through the laborious excavation of 1,424 cubic feet of soil that recovered 26,162 artifacts (18.37 artifacts per cubic foot), a great deal had been learned about the condition of the site: the site was stratified and contained evidence for occupations much earlier than the Pee Dee; portions of the Pee Dee component remained undisturbed within the context of subsurface features, and radiocarbon dates placing the Pee Dee occupation in the early to mid-fifteenth century had been obtained.

A lesser amount had been learned about the nature of the Pee Dee occupation, but previously unknown information had been revealed and the season's artifact total ( $n=26,162$ ) was three times as great as that cataloged by previous surveys and excavations ( $n=8,752$ ). Radiocarbon dates from Feature 1 firmly placed the Pee Dee complex at the Leak Site in the early to mid-fifteenth century and two features produced subsistence information that previously was not known for a domestic Pee Dee occupation. The 1986 field season for the Pee Dee Archaeological Project concluded

with the knowledge that understanding the nature of the Pee Dee culture would require substantially more effort, and the work concluded was only a beginning.

### *1987 Excavations*

Excavations at the Leak Site during the summer of 1987 nearly doubled the total excavated area and artifact count for the preceding season. Sixteen 10'x10' squares, a 5'x10' inset, and 2 additional test units produced 57,048 artifacts from 2,040 cubic feet of excavation for an artifact density of 27.96 artifacts per cubic foot, a figure fifty per cent higher than the previous season's work which averaged 18.37 artifacts per cubic foot of excavation. Both figures were higher than artifact densities indicated for other portions of the site, but considerably lower than the density established for square 0R250. Because of the presence of a suspected feature and the high artifact density for square 0R250, a large block excavation was planned to explore the possibility that the high artifact density and feature concentration found in and near squares -5R265 and -5R275 might correlate with the presence of Pee Dee structure.

### *Primary Excavations*

A rectangular area measuring forty feet by thirty feet in size and enclosed by coordinates -20R265, -20R235, 20R235, and 20R265 was designated the primary block excavation (Figure 17). Squares 0R245, 0R255, 10R255, 10R265, -10R245, -10R255, -20R245, -20R255, and -20R265 situated within this block were excavated to the top of the yellow sand subsoil. An additional area, designated Trench A, was an L-shaped trench extending westward from the primary block at point -10R235. Trench A included squares 0R210, -10R210, -10R220, -10R225, and -10R235 and was also excavated to the top of subsoil. Excavations began by removal of backfilled soil from the 0R250 unit and incorporation of the former test unit into square 0R255.

Squares 0R245 and 0R255 were excavated simultaneously in order to fully expose the feature which had been identified in 1986 to extend beyond the boundaries of 0R250. As square 0R245 was excavated to the top of subsoil, the limits of the feature from 0R255 became clear, as did several faint, circular stains which were observed in the southern half of the square. Additionally, the edge of a dark brown stain stretched across the entire length of the square near the southern balk. Additional units (-10R245, -10R255) were excavated southward to determine the nature and extent of these features as well as the feature identified in square 0R255. A linear concentration of four dark stains extended completely across the excavated area (Plate 15).

#### *Feature 4*

Feature 4 (Figure 17), located in the far western portion of -10R245 was a charcoal rich, circular stain that measured three feet in diameter and extended into square -10R235. Artifacts included Pee Dee pottery sherds, a triangular chipped stone projectile point, a hammerstone fragment, animal bones, and abundant fragments of charcoal. Included among the fragments of charcoal were thirteen charred seeds which were identified as 1 bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), 7 persimmon seeds (*Diospyros*), 2 corn kernels (*Zea mays*), 1 fragment of cane or corn stem, and 1 fragment of acorn meat (*Quercus*) (Yarnell 1992: personal communication). Wood charcoal obtained from Feature 4 yielded a radiocarbon date of A.D. 1272 $\pm$ 50 (UGA 6050), thus making the identification of bean the earliest yet discovered from a North Carolina archaeological site. The earliest beans in the East appear during the early Mississippian period (Yarnell and Black 1985:103), but were probably "late in arriving in the lower Southeast" (Yarnell 1976:8). Identification of beans from a thirteenth century Pee Dee occupation in North Carolina would be consistent with this presumed late introduction.

Portions of Feature 4 were intruded by, at least, two other features, one of which was a human burial (Burial 1), the other a possible ditch or moat (Feature 14). However, none of these observations was the feature first encountered during the 1986 excavations in test square 0R250. That feature extended into square 0R255 and -10R255 as an oval-shaped dark brown stain containing pottery, charcoal, animal bone, and mussel shell. Designated Feature 5 (Figure 17; Plate 16), the stain measured 8.3 feet in length and 5.3 feet in width and appeared to intrude Feature 14. Two additional features (Feature 4 and Feature 9) and one human burial (Burial 1) were located along the same general east-west alignment as Feature 5 (Plate 15; Figure 17). Excavated squares north of this concentration of features (Squares 10R245, 10R255, 10R265) were heavily scoured, exhibited an absence of subsurface features, and an abundance of reddish-orange silty clay rather than the usual yellow sand subsoil. This was direct evidence associated with the southern edge of erosion caused by the 1936 flood and the subsequent filling of the eroded gully.

### *Feature 5*

Feature 5, situated in squares -10R255 and 0R255, showed the deep plowscars that were steadily destroying the archaeological remains contained in the subsurface features (Plate 16). Plowscars were removed and the feature was cross-sectioned (Plate 17). The northern half was excavated as a unit in order to establish a vertical profile, while the southern half was excavated in natural zones. A total of 10,843 artifacts was recovered from the northern half of the feature, however 7,500 of this number were small bones, probably fish, and skew the total count. Subtracting this figure provides a more realistic total for the northern half of 3,343 artifacts. Interesting artifacts recovered from the northern half of the feature included 3 clay pipe fragments, a polishing stone, a hammerstone, 4 fragmented or complete bone fish hooks (Plate 18), and 6,158.51 grams



Plate 15. Feature 4 (*top right*), Feature 5 (*bottom right*), and Feature 14 (*left*) at top of subsoil. Note evidence of deep plow scars.

Designated Feature 5 (Figure 17; Plate 16), the stain measured 8.3 feet in length and 5.3 of mussel shell refuse. The total number of artifacts found in the northern half of Feature 5 (n=3,343) was considerably greater than that recovered from the southern half (n=1,709). but the categories of artifact were generally similar except for the presence of mussel shell, turtle, or fish remains which were more abundant in the northern half. Excavation of specific zones of fill from the southern half of Feature 5 was intended to clarify the nature of the deposits.

Four zones of fill were identified within a large, shallow basin-shaped pit (Plate 19). Zone 1, a brown-black sand contained 202 artifacts including Pee Dee pottery, which was characterized by plain or complicated stamped surface finishes and undecorated rims, animal bone, fire cracked rock, charcoal, and daub (Figure 21). Zone 2, a dark brown silt, contained the greatest number of artifacts (n=997), while Zone 3, a brown silt, contained the least (n=91). Zone 4, a mottled brown silt, contained the second highest total (n=419) (see Figure 21). The abundance of artifacts in Feature 5 and the stratigraphic separation of the specific zones of fill indicated episodes of refuse deposition which were separated by an interval of time, but whether or not these events occurred within a relatively short period or were separated by longer periods of time is not known. Identification of mussel shell, turtle, and fish remains from Zones 2 and 3, and the absence of these species from Zones 1 and 4, may suggest a relatively brief period separated the depositing of these remains.

### *Features 6, 10, 11, and 12*

Subsequent excavations focused upon excavation of squares -20R245, -20R255, -20R265 and determining the nature of features discovered within the primary excavation area. Aside from features identified in -10R245 and -10R255, excavation of the -20R245, -20R255, and -20R265 squares identified four additional features (Feature 6,

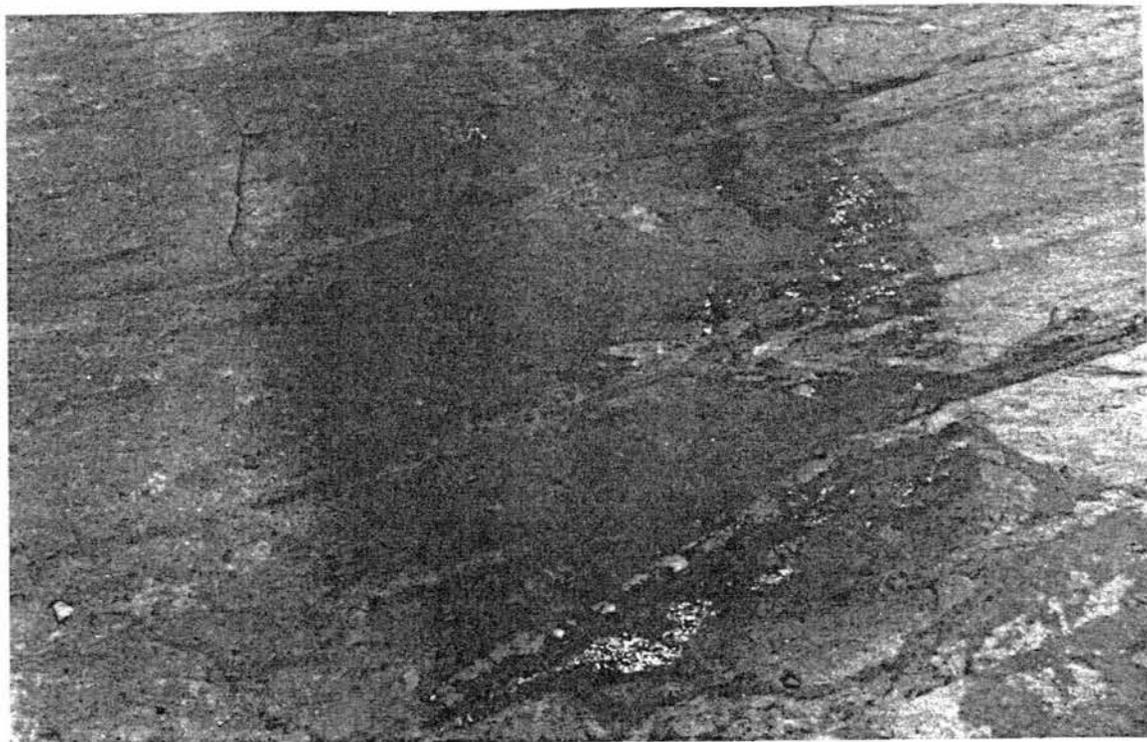


Plate 16. Feature 5, 31RH1, Leak Site, prior to excavation (*west view*).

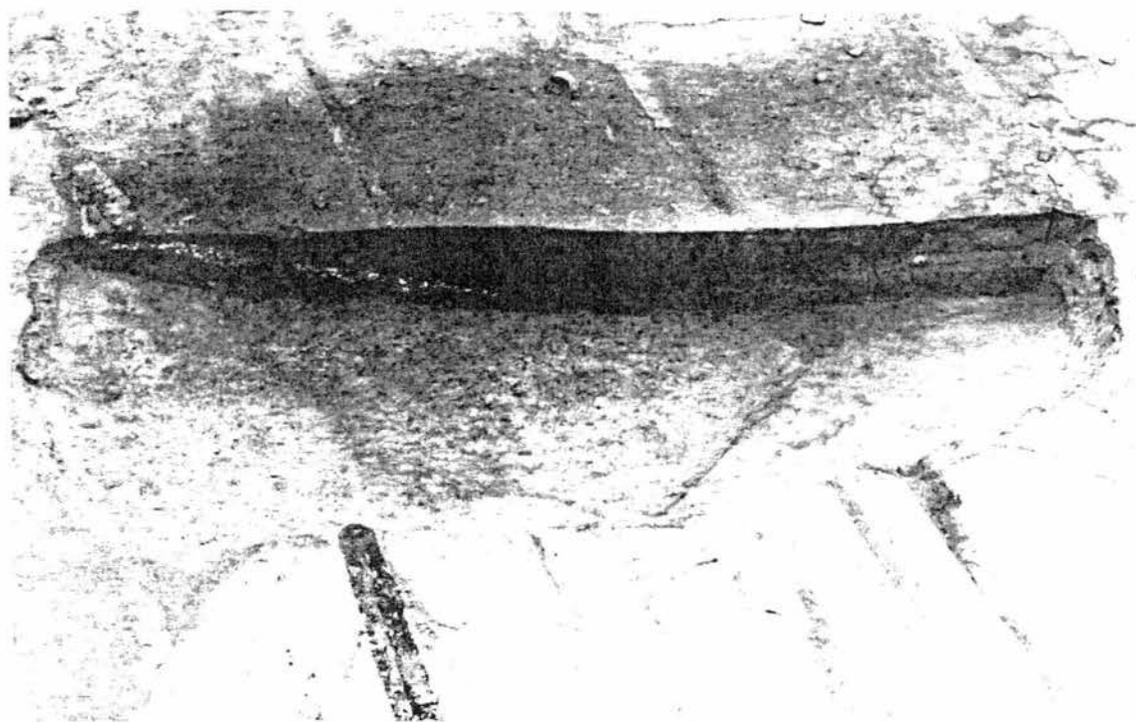


Plate 17. Feature 5, 31RH1, Leak Site, north half excavated (*south view*).

10, 11, and 12), all of which appeared as circular charcoal-filled stains 1.5-2.0 feet in diameter. Closer examination disclosed that Feature 6 and Feature 10 (Figure 17) were filled with carbonized corn cobs (*Zea mays*). These pits may have functioned as "smudge pits" or "hiding smoking pits" (cf. Binford 1967), or more likely, as slow burning sources of smoke to ward off mosquitoes and other insect pests.

### *Structure 1*

Features 6 and 11, plus an additional circular stain, Feature 12, were clustered within a group of postholes which included an arcing line of stains spaced one to two feet apart that extended from the southeastern corner of -20R245 to the eastern wall of -20R265 (Plate 20). When mapped together, these stains joined a line of post holes that was first observed during 1986 in square -15R275 (Figure 17). Excavations conducted south and west of this location in 1990 provided additional identification of a western arc of postholes that connected to the alignment observed previously. A plan view of the excavated area clearly indicated a circular to slightly oval-shaped structure (Structure 1) measuring twenty-five feet in diameter (Figure 17). Structure 1 included a distinctive L-shaped alignment of postholes near its eastern wall. This configuration was reminiscent of the placement of posts for right-angled entrances found in the reconstructed buildings at Town Creek. The similar alignment within Structure 1 may also represent an open doorway with an interior windbreak represented by the L-shaped alignment of postholes.

Discovery of Structure 1 was the first archaeological identification in North Carolina of a Pee Dee domestic structure outside the Town Creek site, but its identification was only a small portion of the prehistoric puzzle concerning the "people of one fire." More meaningful pieces of the puzzle awaited discovery within the charcoal-filled features that had been identified in squares -10R245 and -10R255.



Plate 18. Two bone fish hooks, Feature 5, 31RH1, Leak Site (*natural size*).



Plate 19. View of Feature 5, circular stain in center, and eastern terminus of Feature 14, 31RH1, Leak Site.

FIGURE 21. 31RH1, FEATURE 5 ARTIFACT INVENTORY

LOCATION	ARTIFACTS	NO.	CSPP	SHERDS	BONE	WT.	SHELL	TURTLE	WT.	FISH	WT.	BONE	WT.	CHARCOAL
Plowshares			0	12	16	7.30	0.00	7	1.14	5	0.31	0	0.00	1.70
Top of Fea.	Clay pipe frag	1	0	59	60	13.66	1.19	10	2.00	33	1.89	13	2.74	1.72
Subtotal	279	1	0	71	76	20.96	1.19	17	3.14	38	2.20	13	2.74	3.42
North 1/2	Clay pipe frag	3	2	655	75	286.70	6046.30	260	165.60	154	21.10	417	133.30	35.20
	Polishing stone	1		64	438	146.10	0.05	23	13.80	89	4.30	3	1.10	35.10
	hammerstone	1		16	9	2.30	76.80	4	0.06	7500	33.40	86	9.20	8.50
	fish hook	4		1	2	0.90	32.50	4	1.33	7	0.08			17.30
	cul bone	1		12	190	3.80	2.20			138	31.44			3.10
	nutshell	1			15	8.80	0.66			9	0.85			0.60
	human teeth	2								75	2.60			7.40
	dauber nest	1								50	4.70			0.75
	seeds	8												0.60
	calcified feces	3												4.80
N1/2 Subtotal	10843	25	2	748	729	448.60	6158.51	291	180.79	8022	98.47	506	143.6	180
S1/2 Zone 1	202	0	1	58	92	11.84	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	127.10
S1/2 Zone 2	worked bone	12	1	169	141	96.70	2.70	32	16.60	44	3.85	120	42.75	29.50
	clay handle	1												
	stained bone	1												
	human tooth	1												
Subtotal	997	15	1	169	141	96.70	2.70	32	16.60	44	3.85	120	42.75	29.50
S1/2 Zone 3	91	0	0	14	14	25.36	786.41	17	9.92	23	4.10	0	0.00	3.07
S1/2 Zone 4	419 Clay pipe frag	1	0	195	74	18.36	0.80	0	0.00	3	0.01	0	0.00	18.30
S1/2 Subtotal	1709	16	2	436	321	152.26	789.91	49	26.52	70	7.96	120	42.75	177.97
Fea. Total	12552	41	4	1184	1050	600.86	6948.42	340	207.31	8092	106.43	626	186.35	293.12

FIGURE 21. 31RH1, FEATURE 5 ARTIFACT INVENTORY (CONT.)

LOCATION	FLAKES	ROCK	WT.	DAUB	WT.	WASHINGS	SOIL SAM.
Plowscars	4	10	7.30	0	0.00	49.70	0.00
Top of Fea	13	19	59.05	17	8.48	227.70	0.00
Subtotal	17	29	66.35	17	8.48	277.40	0.00
North 1/2	53	150	547.30	1	68.20	424.00	0.00
	16	6	28.00	14	6.20	3619.30	0.00
	3	30	46.20	4	1.90	76.10	0.00
	8	5	24.00	176	5.55	47.70	0.00
		6	8.80				
		48	8.12				
N1/2 Subtotal	80	245	662.42	195	81.85	4167.10	0.00
S1/2 Zone 1	4	22	161.30	25	6.50	89.50	0.00
S1/2 Zone 2	22	44	290.40	409	176.80	1900.40	0.00
Subtotal	22	44	290.40	409	176.80	1900.40	0.00
S1/2 Zone 3	3	8	14.60	12	2.50	0.00	0.00
S1/2 Zone 4	27	60	1113.18	59	21.80	0.00	1761.10
S1/2 Subtotal	56	134	1579.48	505	207.60	1989.90	1761.10
Fea. Total	136	379	2241.9	700	289.45	6157.00	1761.10

Figure 21. Feature 5 artifact inventory, 31RH1, Leak Site.

### *Burial 1 and Feature 4*

Burial 1 initially intruded Feature 4a (Feature 4, Zone 1), a small refuse pit, and Feature 14, the ditch or moat, both features were successively intruded by a deep refuse pit (Feature 4b). Feature 4b was not clearly observed at the top of subsoil, but was recognized during excavation of Feature 4a as a 2.37 foot deep, straight-walled pit that had truncated Feature 4a and the underlying Burial 1. The fill of Feature 4b was noticeably darker and contained greater amounts of charcoal than Feature 4a. As the depth of the feature increased, the fill became less dark and blended into a mottled yellow sand which occasionally exhibited fragments of human bone.

At a depth of 1.5 feet below subsoil, an articulated right femur, right tibia, and fragmented right fibula of an adult male were discovered (Burial 1a)(Plate 21). Beneath this level and to the west, additional human bones were found in a scattered pattern and at various depths to 2.37 feet below the top of subsoil. None of the scattered skeletal remains correlated for measurements of stature with those of the right leg discovered above in the upper level of fill. Although the bones found near the bottom of the pit were redeposited in most instances, they were seldom fractured and were uniformly gracile in appearance. The femur, tibia, and fibula found above these remains had been fairly large and suggestive of a male. This identification was later confirmed by an osteological analysis conducted by physical anthropologist David Weaver (1988:5-6) of Wake Forest University. Because of the articulated and well preserved nature of the remains, flesh must have surrounded the bones when they were deposited. This observation does not automatically indicate disposal for a dismembered part, but may suggest excavation did not recover all the remains of Burial 1a.

The skeletal remains near the bottom of the pit included an *in situ* skull which



Plate 20. View of postholes, square -20R245, associated with northern wall of Structure 1. Plow scars not removed.

was identified with a second individual, a young female, aged 16-18 years (Burial 1b) (Plate 22). This crania exhibited striking cranial deformation (Weaver 1988:2-3), and had a cluster of several large Pee Dee sherds positioned north of the skull. These sherds were large rims which fit together to form approximately half a vessel (Plate 23). Decoration was present in the form of rosettes placed beneath the lip of the rim along the exterior of the vessel. The surface finish was textile impressed and had a sooty deposit on the exterior, suggestive of use as a cooking vessel rather than an item of ritual significance. Additional sherds of this type were not found within the fill of Burial 1, Feature 4a, or Feature 4b. The textile impressed sherds most likely were placed into the pit at the time the skeletal remains associated with Burial 1b were intruded by Feature 4b. A radiocarbon date of A.D. 1272 $\pm$ 50 (UGA 6050) associated with identification of corn and beans was obtained from charcoal for the undisturbed portion of Feature 4a (Feature 4, Zone 1). Therefore, Feature 4a predates the interment of Burial 1 and the later intrusion of Feature 4b. Following this assumption, the occurrence of rosette rim treatments and textile surface finishes within the Pee Dee pottery series should occur sometime after the beginning of the thirteenth century.

#### *Feature 14*

Feature 14 (Plate 15, Figure 17), an extensive stain identified as a "ditch" when exposed at the top of subsoil, measured sixty-three feet in length and as much as eight feet in width. The dark brown stain associated with Feature 14 stretched the entire length of the excavation area before arcing northward at each end. The eastern extent of Feature 14 abruptly terminated in square -10R255 as the brown stain became lighter, more mottled, and blended into the yellow sand subsoil (Plate 19). Evidence for continuation of Feature 14 into square -5R265 had not been observed during the 1986 excavations. Whether or not this observation relates to the functional nature of the

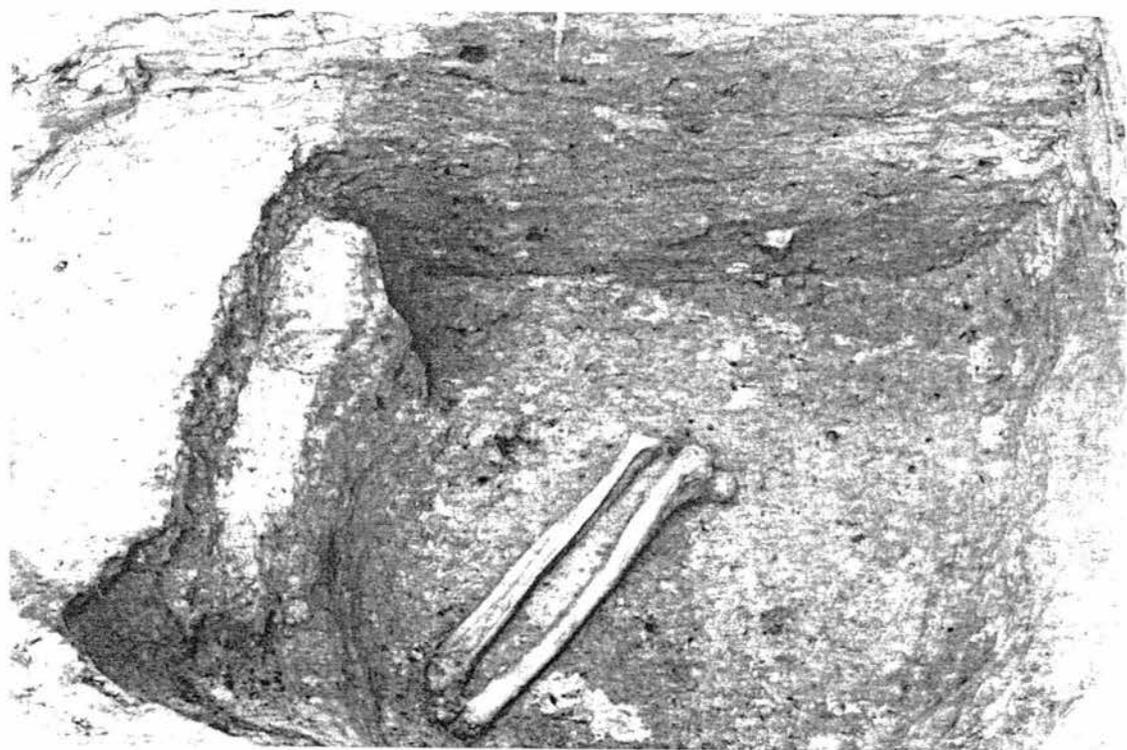


Plate 21. Burial 1a, articulated right leg.

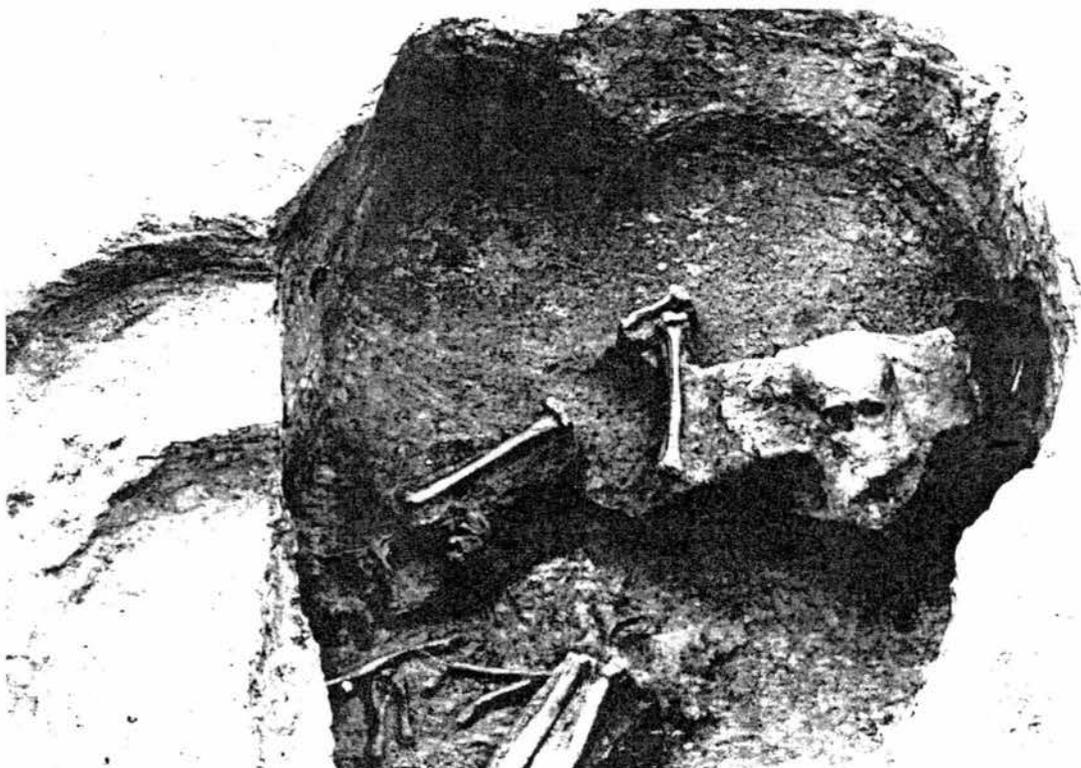


Plate 22. Burial 1b was located beneath Burial 1a and shows evidence of prehistoric disturbance.

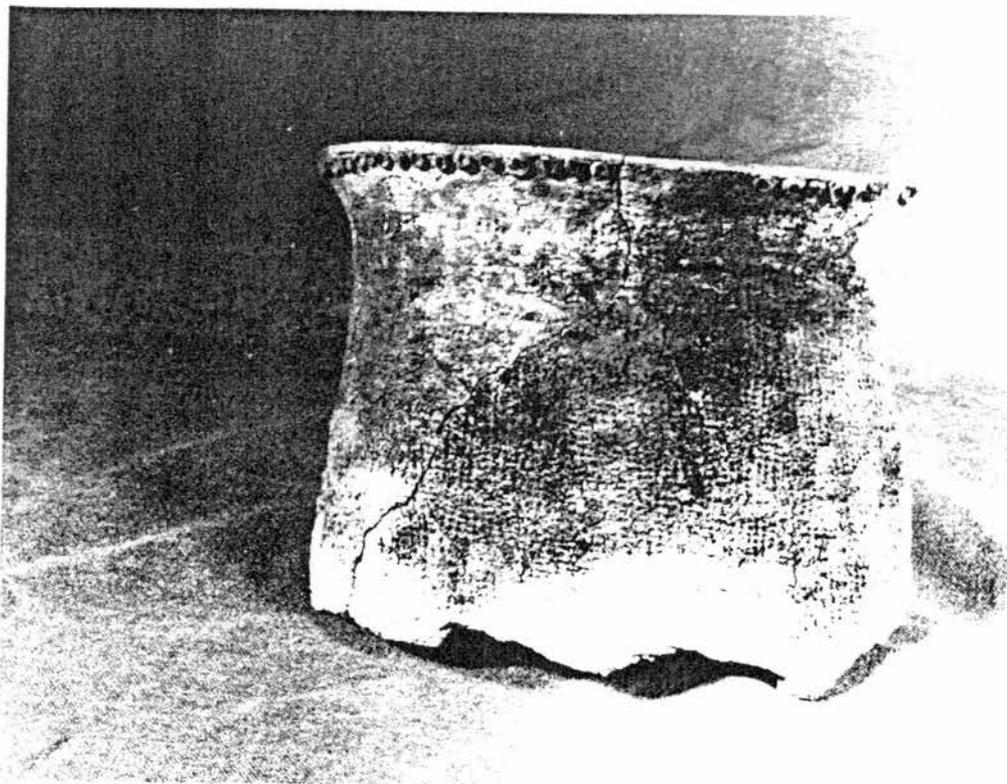


Plate 23. Fitting textile impressed rim sherds with rosettes found near skull of Burial 1b,  
31RH1, Leak Site.

feature as a terminus, an access way, or to erosional episodes at the Leak Site was not determined. However, it seems likely that if the feature extended further eastward, evidence of its extent has been destroyed by flood scouring and subsequent filling of the erosional cut from the 1936 flood.

Curiously, the dark brown soil identified with Feature 14 was first observed as a distinctive soil zone (Level 2) that formed a low, platform-like rise below the overlying plowzone. In profile, Feature 14 was consistently elevated 0.2-0.3 feet above the yellow sand subsoil and appeared to represent either a midden deposit or an old humus zone which had become compact and resistant to the effects of plowing (Figure 22). However, the trench-like nature of the feature observed at the top of subsoil suggested other factors may have contributed to its formation. Because neither explanation was acceptable, a 2.5'x10' cross-section was excavated across the width of the feature at -10R225 to explore it further.

The southern edge of Feature 14 was observed 1.4 feet north of -10R225 as a dark brown stain which extended in a slight angle to the southwest. Twenty-two Pee Dee pot sherds were removed from the top of the feature. Of these sherds six (2 rims, 4 body) were greater than one inch in diameter and could be analyzed for surface finish. Observations included 2 burnished, 1 textile, 2 curvilinear complicated stamped, and 1 rectilinear complicated stamped. Both rim sherds were undecorated and everted. The dark brown silty deposit was designated Zone 1 and excavated. All fill was processed through a low pressure waterscreen system which included 1/2 inch, 1/4 inch, and 1/16 inch mesh screens. Additionally, unprocessed samples were retained for future study and flotation.

Excavation of Zone 1 began at the southern limit of Feature 14. A sloping depression extended into the underlying yellow subsoil 1.17 feet below the top of subsoil and stretched across the unit and into unexcavated area north of Trench A. Stratigraphic

profiles clearly indicated episodes of waterborn deposition for sediments contained in the feature (Plate 24), but stains and concentrations of charcoal or animal bone which did not appear to represent sedimentary deposits were also present. Several concentrations of bone and pottery appeared to have been tossed or dumped into the depression since sedimentary bands were situated both above and below them, while other artifacts were found scattered throughout the fill. Zone 1 contained a total of 828 artifacts including 331 Pee Dee potsherds, 114 flakes, animal bone (61.16 g), charcoal (15.10 g), burned bone (16.33 g), rock (1,220.65 g), fire cracked rock (92.83 g), daub (15.24 g), unsorted washings (840.50 g) and a small amount of fish scale (0.18 g).

Zone 1 was underlain by Zone 2, a tan sand, which first appeared as a rise in elevation near the center of the feature. Excavation of Zone 2 began at a depth of 1.25 feet below surface, but decreased nearly a foot (0.95 feet) as excavation progressed in depth to the west. Zone 2 contained the same categories of artifact found in Zone 1, but the total was less (n=297). A hard-packed reddish-brown silt was discovered beneath Zone 2, but because of time limitations was not excavated during the 1987 season. Zone 3 extended from near the middle of the feature an undetermined distance northward where it continued into unexcavated area. The depth of Feature 14 increased progressively from south to north as did observation of heavily laminated deposits of sediment.

Feature 14 was not clearly identified as a man-made ditch, moat, access way, or borrow area, but several factors support its identification as a prehistoric feature rather than a recent phenomenon. The presence of both waterborn sedimentary deposits and cultural refuse suggests at least two possible explanations. First, that a prehistoric washout created the depression and as shallow waters covered portions of the lowground, the initial sediments were deposited. The eroded cut remained open and contained

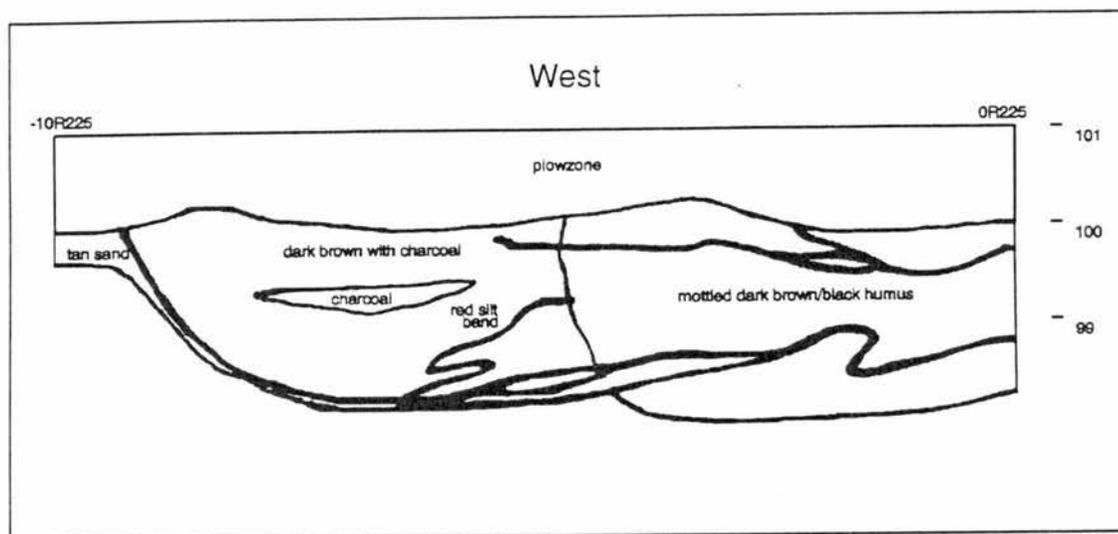


Figure 22. Cross-sectional view of Feature 14, 31RH1, Leak Site.

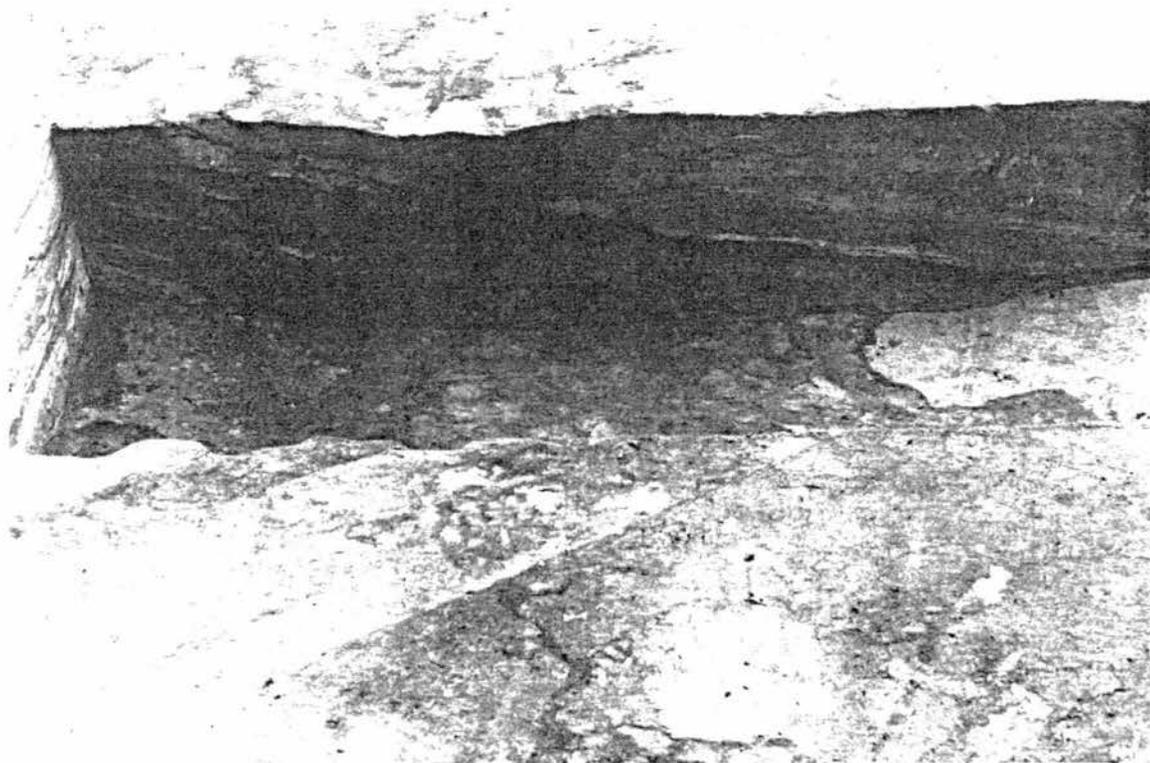


Plate 24. Feature 14 north half looking east.

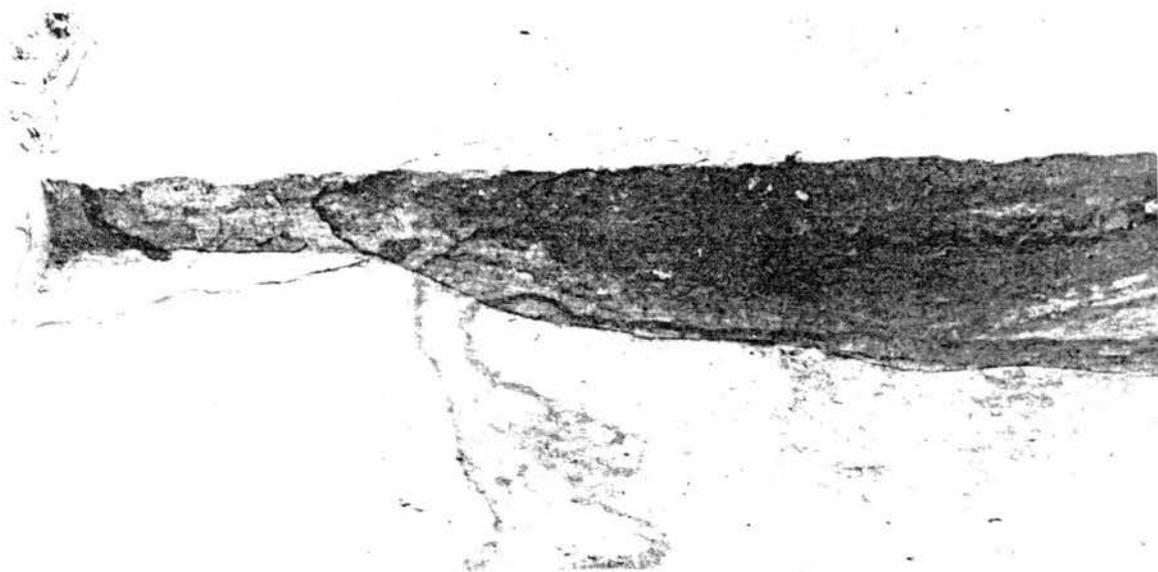


Plate 25. Feature 14 south half looking west.

enough standing water to allow deposition of sedimentary bands and eroded cultural material that gradually accumulated to partially fill the feature. Through the course of time the darker humic soil, and fill associated with the top of the feature, formed from a combination of subsequent natural and cultural processes. Second, Feature 14 was an intentional excavation, perhaps an access way, fortification, drainage improvement, or borrow area, that remained open for a sufficiently long period of time to allow repeated episodes of impoundment, erosion, and deposition to occur before becoming completely filled by a combination of natural and cultural processes.

Ditches are not unknown at Mississippian period sites in the Southeast (cf. Lafferty 1973; Morse and Morse 1983; Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985), and without information to the contrary, Feature 14 has been interpreted as a ditch of undetermined function and extent. Further excavation may clarify the extent of Feature 14, but it is unlikely that the true purpose of the feature will be determined until more lengthy and extensive excavations have been conducted.

The 1987 excavations at the Leak Site concluded a second season of gaining knowledge about the prehistoric activities of the Pee Dee culture. Where the first season had been exploratory in nature, the second had been strategically successful. Information had been developed that could be compared with other Pee Dee sites once excavations had been conducted at those locations.

Identification of an oval structure measuring twenty-five feet in diameter had provided the first comprehensive view of a Pee Dee house outside of Town Creek in more than five hundred years. Thus, speculation concerning the nature of Pee Dee villages had moved closer to explanation as a domestic structure had been discovered and associated with a known context. Subsistence data indicated an intensive use of freshwater mussels, turtle, and fish in addition to small mammals, deer, nuts, and corn in the diet. Uncertainties regarding precisely when the Pee Dee occupations occurred in the

southern Piedmont were clarified by several radiocarbon dates which indicated Pee Dee occupations at the Leak Site dated to A.D. 1272 $\pm$ 50, A.D. 1418 $\pm$ 64, and A.D. 1459 $\pm$ 175. These radiocarbon dates and the artifactual assemblage compared favorably with those obtained many years before at Town Creek Indian Mound, but a better understanding of the chronological range of the Pee Dee would not be fully developed until work at the Teal Site (31AN1) had been completed and thoroughly analyzed. Although excavations at the Leak Site provided new knowledge about the nature of Pee Dee culture, meaningful comparisons to other Pee Dee sites would depend upon careful scrutiny of the recovered artifacts and a search for patterns of similarity or difference that might characterize certain periods of time within the range of the Pee Dee culture. Had the excavations at the Leak Site formed the single focus of this research, a distorted perspective concerning the chronological development of Pee Dee culture would have been the result.

### **Artifacts**

A total of 83,220 artifacts was recovered from the combined investigations of 1986-1987 at the Leak Site in Richmond County, North Carolina from an excavated area of 3,464 cubic feet (Figure 23). This artifact total provides an average artifact density of 24.02 artifacts per cubic foot, a figure substantially higher than indicated by test excavations conducted in 1961 (Keel 1961) several hundred feet to the south which averaged 9.92 artifacts per cubic foot of excavation. The disparity between these statistics suggests a greater concentration of Pee Dee domestic activities in the area of the 1986-1987 excavations than those conducted twenty-five years earlier. This tendency is also indicated by the nature and variety of artifacts recovered from the more recent excavations (Figure 23).

Although relic collectors enthused by the frequent discovery of projectile points had long collected from the plowed fields at the Leak Site, relatively few chipped stone projectile points (n=59, 0.07%) were recovered during the course of the Pee Dee Project. This decreased frequency almost certainly results from the lengthy periods devoted to relic collecting at the site. An illustration of collector intensity may be found in the collection of Dr. Pressley R. Rankin of Ellerbe who has collected more than 5,000 points from the Leak Site during a fifty year period. In contrast to many relic collectors, Rankin has diligently recorded his finds and encouraged professional investigation of the site. Most of the Rankin collection consists of small to medium-sized triangular points that occur ubiquitously within the Pee Dee assemblage, but also included are axes, stone hoes (Plate 26), chunky stones (Plate 27), clay disks (Plate 28), pottery vessels (Plate 29; Plate 30), clay pipes (Plate 31), and a substantial number of pottery sherds. Pottery, more than any other artifact category, dominates the artifactual assemblage from the Leak Site and characterizes the Pee Dee archaeological remains found there. Nearly half of the total artifacts recovered consisted of pottery sherds (n=40,150, 48.25%), while the next largest category was represented by fragments of rock (n=22,005, 26.44%) which does not occur with great frequency in the sandy low grounds, followed in frequency by animal bone (n=9,253, 11.12%) and flakes (n=2,807, 3.37%) from the making and sharpening of stone tools. Although the quantities of rock, fire cracked rock, animal bone, and stone tool debitage contribute toward recognition of the activities that occurred at the site during the prehistoric past, the artifacts made from clay appear to contribute most to our understanding of Pee Dee culture.

### *Pottery*

From the earliest reports of large, well-made pots, burial urns (Plate 29; Plate 30), clay pipes (Plate 31), clay disks (Plate 28), and clay effigies, it has been the fragments of

FIGURE 23. 31RH1, LEAK SITE GENERAL ARTIFACT INVENTORY

CATEGORY	COUNT	PER CENT	WT/GMS
CSPP	70	0.084	
BIFACE	34	0.041	
DRILL	3	0.004	
HOE	18	0.022	
GRINDING STONE	10	0.012	
HAMMERSTONE	25	0.030	
CELT	0	0.000	
STONE DISK	14	0.017	
USED FLAKES	59	0.071	
CLAY PIPE FRAG.	59	0.071	
CLAY DISK	28	0.034	
FIGURINE FRAG.	8	0.010	
CLAY EFFIGY	0	0.000	
POT SHERDS	40150	48.246	
INCISED STONE	0	0.000	
ABRADER	5	0.006	
POLISHING STONE	5	0.006	
SPOKESHAVE	0	0.000	
BURNISHING STONE	1	0.001	
FLAKES	2807	3.373	
BONE	9253	11.119	1180.69
CHARCOAL	190	0.228	4021.55
SHELL	83	0.100	7355.83
ROCK	22005	26.442	135983.84
FIRE CRACKED ROCK	917	1.102	16642.67
FISH SCALE	320	0.385	46.63
MISCELLANEOUS	7156	8.599	
		0.000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83220</b>	<b>100.000</b>	<b>165231.21</b>

Figure 23. General artifact inventory 1986-1987 seasons, 31RH1, Leak Site.

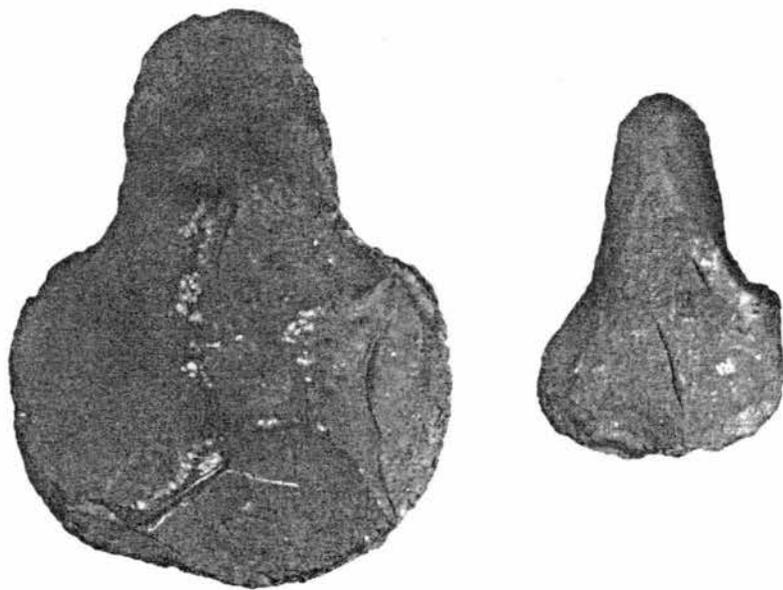


Plate 26. Unfinished spatulate axes, 31RH1, Leak Site.

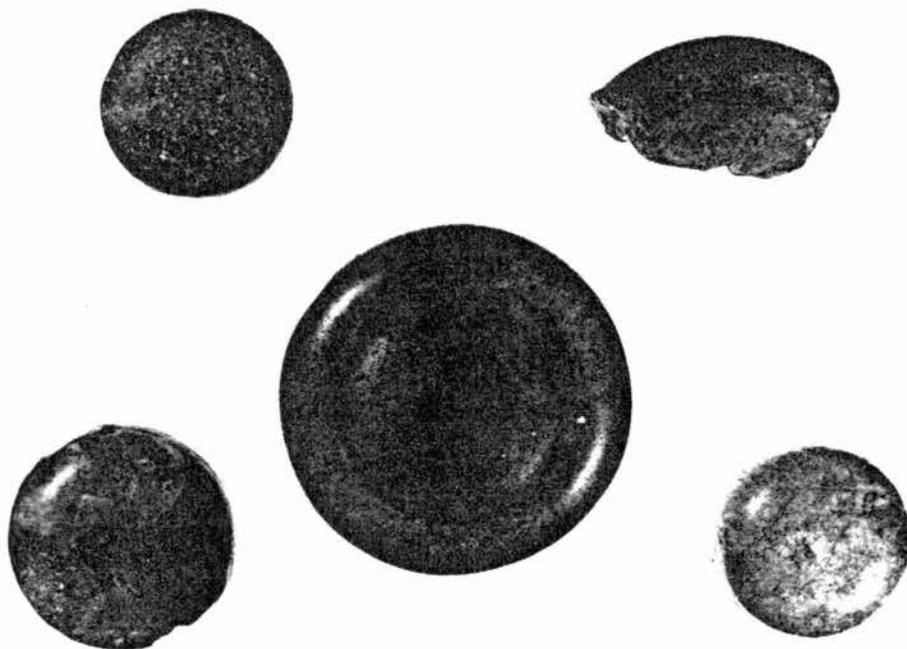


Plate 27. Stone discoidals, 31RH1, Leak Site.

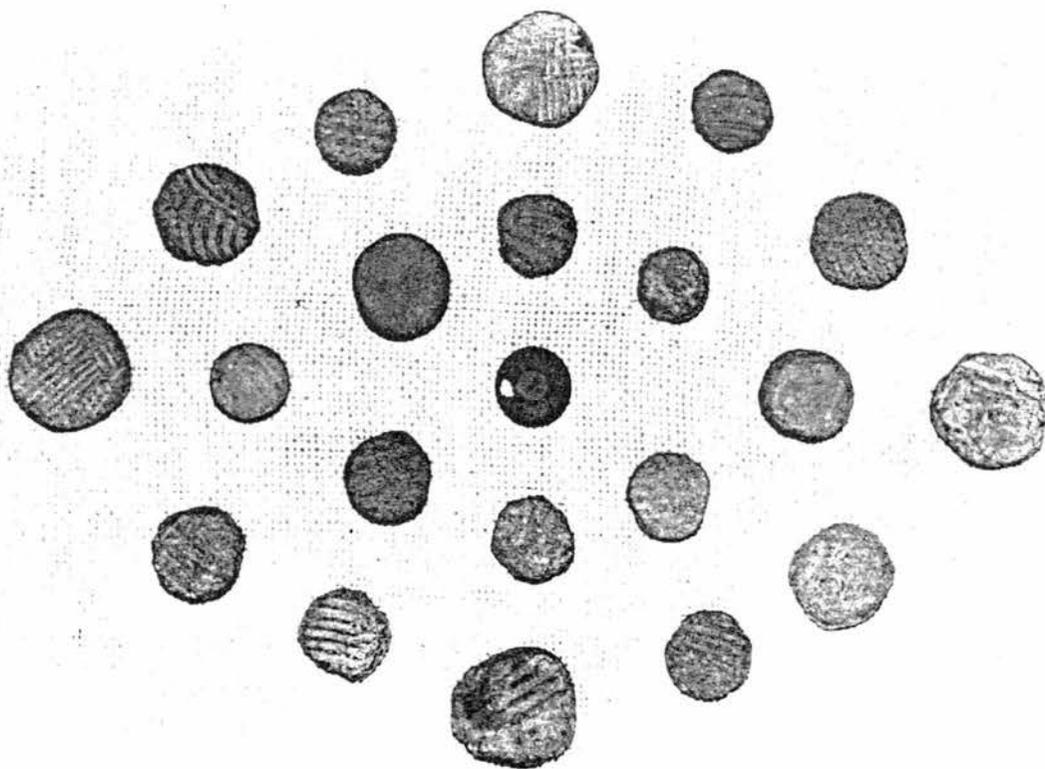


Plate 28. Clay disks, 31RH1, Leak Site.

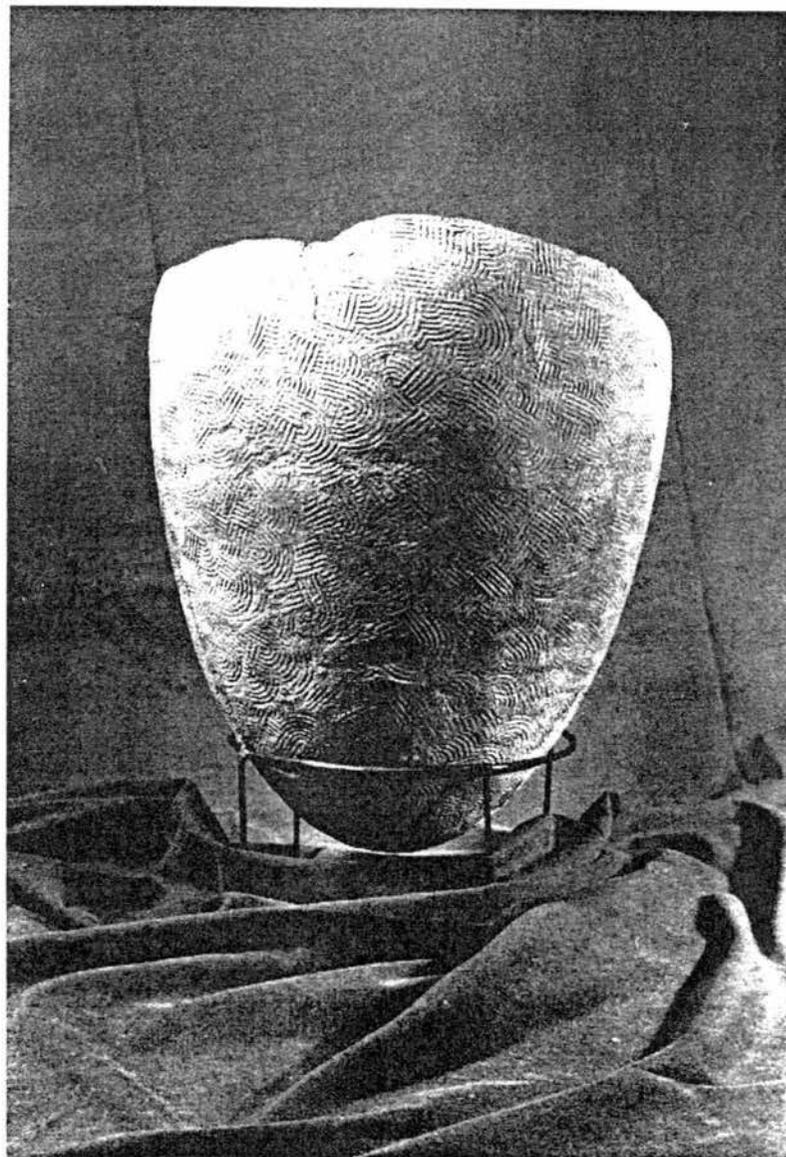


Plate 29. Burial urn, filfot cross surface design, 31RH1, Leak Site.

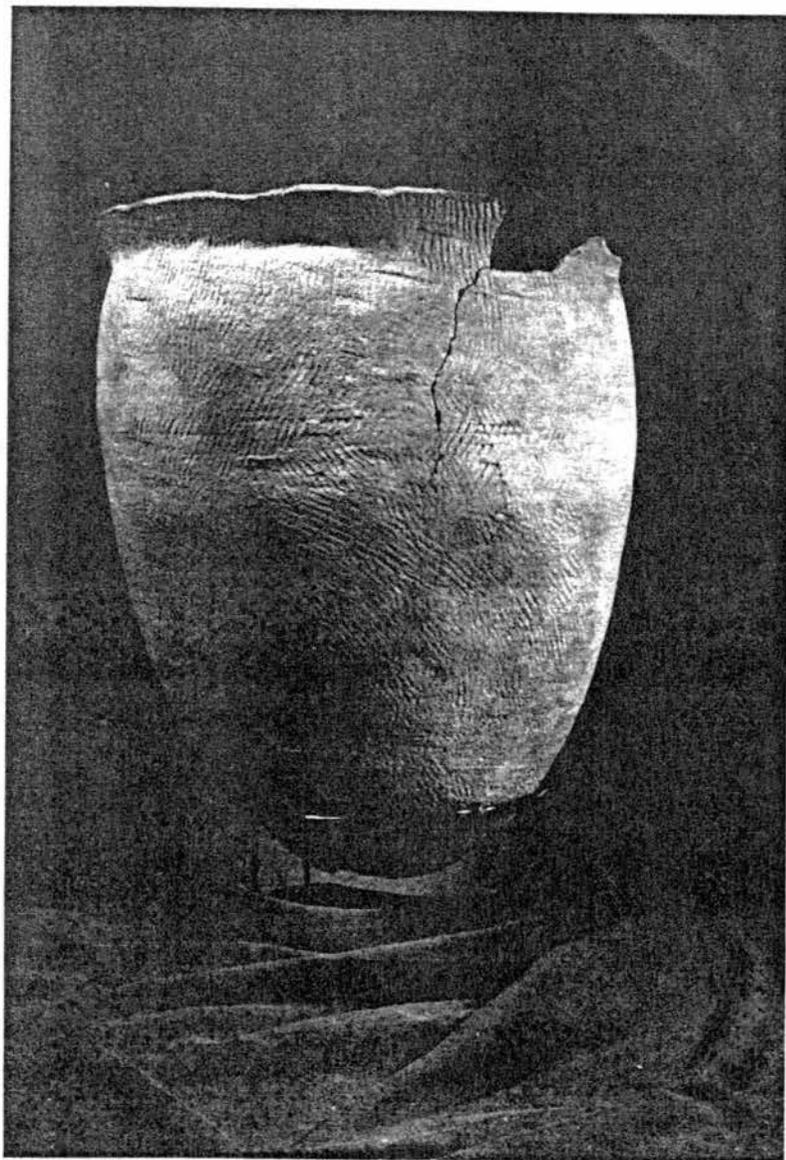


Plate 30. Burial urn, herringbone surface finish, 31RH1, Leak Site.

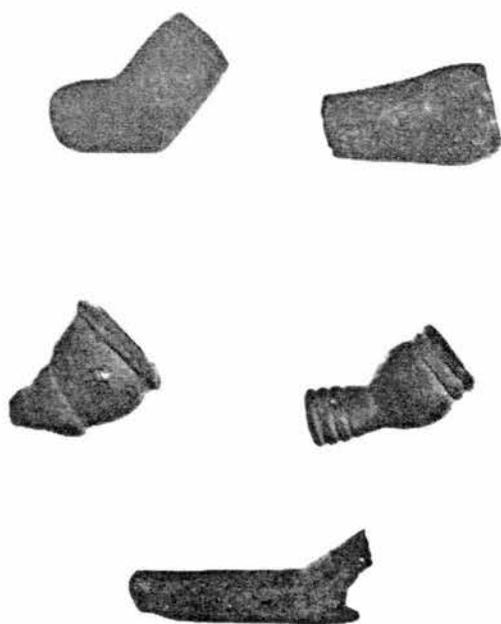


Plate 31. Clay pipes, 31RH1, Leak Site.

clay artifacts shaped by the skilled hands of the Pee Dee potters that have captivated our imaginations and molded our perspectives of their ancient culture. The distinctiveness of the Pee Dee pottery has been described eloquently by Coe (1952: 309) and Reid (1965:19-21; 1967). According to Coe (1952: 309), the Pee Dee were skillful potters, but consistently shaped vessels in the same form and applied surface finishes and decorations in a stereotypical manner. To Coe this overwhelming conformity suggested a lack of creative drive or imagination on the part of the Pee Dee potters. However, the lack of substantial variation may also have reflected the strength of traditional values promoting uniformity within this presumably ranked society.

"All of the burial urns were made in the same shape, varying only in size from five to twenty gallons, and their usual surface finish was the complicated stamp. No decoration was ever applied to these urns. The smaller domestic ware was equally prosaic. There were only three types of surface finish: smooth, complicated stamped, and textile wrapped. Decoration consisted of small nodes or punctates around the shoulder of the cazuela type bowls...nodes, punctates, and rosettes were used almost exclusively on plain surfaced vessels. The textile-wrapped pottery...is unique and, apparently, the private innovation of the Pee Dee potters. In surfacing a vessel in this fashion, it was first wrapped with strips of textile and then beaten all over with a plain paddle. This is the reverse of the usual procedure of wrapping a paddle with textile and then applying the paddle to the vessel" (Coe 1952: 309).

According to Reid (1967:57) temporal differences can be inferred from the frequency distribution of surface finish, rim form, and decoration of Pee Dee pottery. Complicated stamped pottery is found in higher frequency within the pre mound humus at Town Creek than any other surface finish. The frequency of complicated stamped designs decreases in the mound fill and debris zones, while an increase in the frequency of plain surfaces occurs within the same zones. Individual complicated stamped designs are dominated by concentric circles (concentric circle and bulls-eye), quartered circles,

split diamonds, and line block in the pre mound humus. These designs are associated with the earliest levels at Town Creek (pre mound humus). The frequency of arc angle designs remains relatively unchanged within both the humus and the later debris zone. Filfot cross motifs, herringbone, and textile impressed surfaces occur more frequently in the debris layer. The increase in frequency within the debris layer suggests a later temporal association for these designs.

Everted rims occurred more frequently in the pre mound humus, while straight rim forms appeared consistently within both the humus and debris. Inverted rims occurred more frequently within the debris zone. Rimsherds from the pre mound humus showed little evidence of decoration. Although rimsherds with small punctations within incised triangles, pellets, nodes, and notched lips were found within the pre mound humus, rosettes and rim fillets were absent. Rosettes were only observed to occur within the debris zone and accounted for 2.62 per cent of the total rimsherds, a surprising low percentage.

#### *Surface Finish*

An analysis of potsherds from the Leak Site produced results similar to those observed by Reid (1967) at Town Creek. The majority of sherds were overwhelmingly complicated stamped designs, but particular motifs were often difficult to recognize because of the frequency of over stamping. From a total of 40,150 sherds recovered during the 1986-1987 seasons, only 3,506 (8.73) were suitable for analysis (greater than one inch in diameter). The lengthy agricultural history of the Leak Island lowgrounds has reduced large sherds into many small sized fragments (less than one inch in diameter). Sherds of such small size are generally unsuitable for analysis because too little of the paddle design is represented on the surface. For this reason earlier collections made by Coe in 1936 and by Saint Andrews College Indian Museum of the Carolinas (IMOC) in 1978 were included in the analysis to gain a comprehensive view of the pottery from the site.

Figure 24 details the analysis of surface finish from these three collections and Figure 25 identifies the most frequent surface finishes within each collection. Overall frequency patterns were similar for each collection. Complicated stamped designs occurred most frequently (Plate 32), followed by plain surfaces (Plate 33) and filfot cross designs (Plate 34). This sequence was observed for each collection and appears as the predominant pattern for surface finishes at the Leak site. In the Pee Dee Archaeological Project (PDAP) collections the next most frequent motif was an arc angle design (Plate 35), while the Coe collection indicated a concentric circle motif. The IMOC collection indicated textile impressed designs followed by concentric circle and bulls-eye patterns. In the Coe collection concentric circle designs followed filfot cross and were followed in frequency by textile impressed and arc angle, while the PDAP collection indicated the reverse sequence, arc angles, textile impressed (Plate 36) and concentric circles (Plate 35). IMOC materials indicated concentric circles and bulls-eye designs followed textile impressed and these, in turn, were followed by concentric diamond designs.

For interpretative purposes it is more meaningful to view the PDAP and IMOC collections as a single collection of pottery rather than separate collections from the same site (Figure 26). Although collection strategies may have differed, the combined results compare closely with Reid's analysis of pottery at Town Creek. Complicated stamped sherds were the most frequent motif (2,032/46.13), followed by plain surfaces (1,105/25.09), filfot cross (147/3.34), textile (73/1.66), arc angle (69/1.57), and concentric circle designs (44/1.00) (Figure 26). Bulls-eye, concentric diamond, herringbone, quartered circle, simple stamped/fine cord marked, concentric square, line block, Badin fabric, and Yadkin cord marked followed in that order. At Town Creek the "debris layer" showed complicated stamped, plain, filfot cross, concentric circle, and textile as the most frequent surface treatments. The debris layer was composed of material which postdates the pre mound deposits, thus the frequencies of surface finish

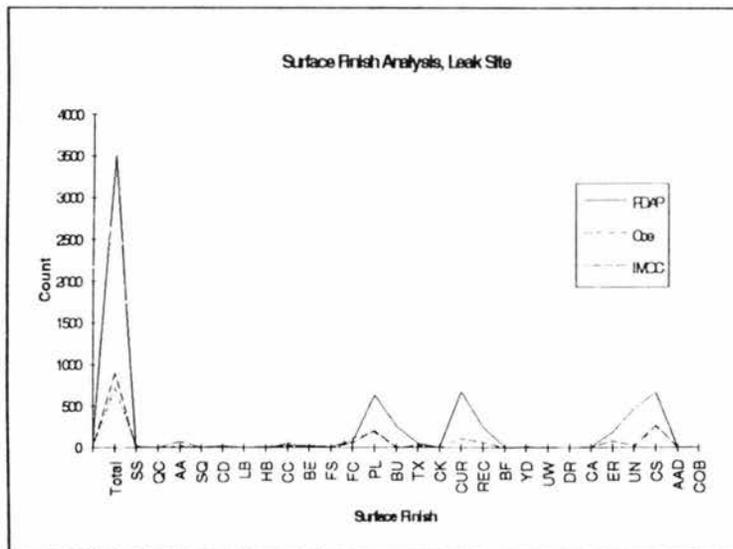
within the debris layer have been identified with the later Pee Dee occupations at Town Creek.

It has become clear from the excavations conducted at the Leak Site that the majority of the archaeological remains date to the period between A.D. 1250-1500. Once again this compares favorably with the data from Town Creek, but is slightly earlier than the traditional view which has placed Town Creek occupations within the period A.D. 1450-1650 (cf. Coe 1952; Reid 1967). Analysis of pottery from the Leak Site indicates a correlation between frequency of surface finish and frequencies identified by Reid (1967:60) for the "debris layer" at Town Creek Indian Mound. Complicated stamped sherds (26.16), plain (25.36), filfot cross (9.69), and concentric circle motifs (5.07) predominated within the debris layer at Town Creek. An early collection of sherds by J.L. Coe in 1936 at the Leak Site indicated a similar sequence of complicated stamped (35.32), plain (25.90), filfot cross (16.20), and concentric circle motifs (8.59) as the most frequently occurring designs (Figure 25).

With the exception of arc angles replacing concentric circles as the fourth most frequent design at the Leak Site, pottery excavated by the Pee Dee Project indicates a similar pattern for design frequency to that identified by Reid from the "debris layer" at Town Creek and that observed by Coe at the Leak Site more than fifty years earlier: complicated stamped (45.29), plain (25.41), filfot cross (2.08), and arc angle (1.97). The association of frequencies for the three major surface finishes as well as the presence of textile impressed sherds as the next most frequent motif suggests the contemporaneity of the archaeological remains at the Leak Site and the debris layer at Town Creek. Reid (1967: 57) observed that filfot cross, plain, and textile impressed designs increased in frequency from the pre mound to the debris layer at Town Creek. Based upon frequency

FIGURE 24. FREQUENCY OF SURFACE FINISH, 31RH1, LEAK SITE

	Total	SS	QC	AA	SQ	CD	LB	HB	CC	BE	FS	FC	PL	BU	TX	CK	CUR	REC
Leak Site/PDAP	3506	10	12	69	7	21	7	15	31	29	19	73	632	259	54	5	673	249
	100.00	0.29	0.34	1.97	0.20	0.60	0.20	0.43	0.88	0.83	0.54	2.08	18.03	7.39	1.54	0.14	19.20	7.10
Leak Site/Coe	722	22	0	23	0	21	0	0	62	0	0	117	187	0	28	0	0	0
	100.00	3.05	0.00	3.19	0.00	2.91	0.00	0.00	8.59	0.00	0.00	16.2	25.90	0.00	3.88	0.00	0.00	0.00
Leak Site/IMOC	897	0	1	0	2	9	1	1	13	13	3	52	209	5	19	4	111	66
	100.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.22	1.00	0.11	0.11	1.45	1.45	0.33	5.80	23.30	0.56	2.12	0.45	12.37	7.36
		BF	YD	UW	DR	CA	ER	UN	CS	AAD	COB							
Leak Site/PDAP		6	2	5	0	10	186	466	666	0	0							
		0.17	0.06	0.14	0.00	0.29	5.31	13.2	19.0	0.00	0.00							
Leak Site/Coe		0	19	0	0	0	0	0	255	11	0							
		0.00	2.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.3	1.52	0.00							
Leak Site/IMOC		1	5	3	0	5	75	27	267	0	7							
		0.11	0.56	0.33	0.00	0.56	8.36	3.01	29.7	0.00	0.78							



KEY	
SS = Simple Stamped/Fine Cordmarked	FS = Fillet Scroll
QC = Quartered Circle	FC = Fillet Cross
AA = Arc Angle	PL = Plain
SQ = Concentric Square	AAD= Arc Angle Dot
CD = Concentric Diamond	BU = Burnished
LB = Line Block	TX = Textile Impressed
CS = Complicated Stamped	CK = Check Stamped
HB = Herringbone	CUR= Curvilinear Complicated Stamped
CC = Concentric Circle	REC= Rectilinear Complicated Stamped
BE = Bulls-eye	BF = Badin Fabric Impressed
	COB= Corn Cob Impressed

## LIST OF MOST FREQUENT SURFACE FINISHES, LEAK SITE, 31RH1

<b>PDAP</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Surface Finish</b>		
Complicated stamped	45.29	1588
Plain	25.41	891
Filfot cross	2.08	73
Arc angle	1.97	69
Textile	1.54	54
Concentric circle	0.88	31
<b>Coe 1936</b>		
Complicated stamped	35.32	255
Plain	29.78	215
Filfot cross	16.20	117
Concentric circle	8.59	62
Textile impressed	3.88	28
Arc angle	3.19	23
<b>IMOC</b>		
Complicated stamped	49.50	444
Plain	23.86	214
Filfot cross	5.80	52
Textile impressed	2.12	19
Concentric circle	1.45	13
Bulls-eye	1.45	13
Concentric diamond	1.00	9

Figure 25. Listing of most frequent pottery surface finishes, 31RH1, Leak Site.

Surface Finish	Number	Per cent
Complicated stamped	2032	46.13
Plain	1105	25.09
Filfot cross	147	3.34
Textile impressed	73	1.66
Arc angle	69	1.57
Concentric circle	44	1.00
Bulls-eye	42	0.95
Concentric diamond	30	0.68
Herringbone	16	0.36
Caraway complicated	15	0.34
Quartered circle	13	0.30
Simple/fine cord	10	0.23
Concentric square	9	0.20
Line block	8	0.18
Badin fabric	7	0.16
Yadkin cord	7	0.16
Unidentified	754	17.21
Total	4381	

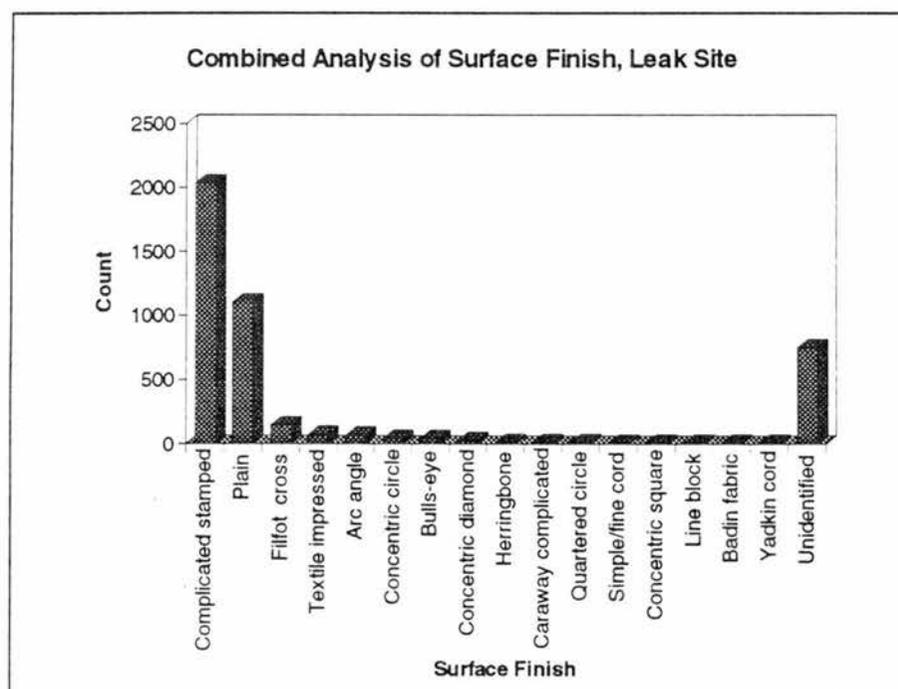


Figure 26. Combined pottery analysis for surface finish, PDAP and IMOC collections , 31RH1, Leak Site.



Plate 32. Complicated stamped sherds, 31RH1, Leak Site (*natural size*). Note over stamping of stamped design.

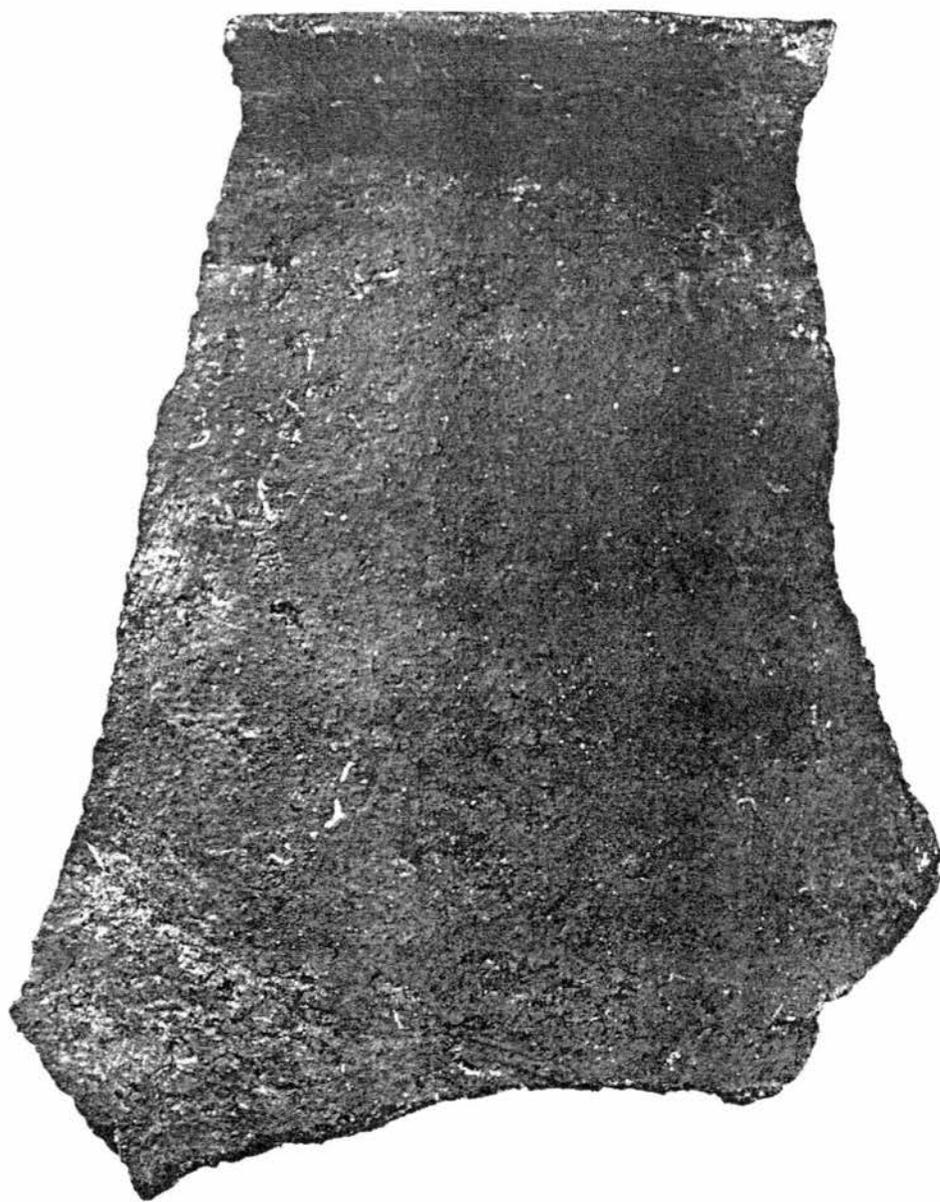


Plate 33. Plain surfaced sherd with everted rim (*natural size*).

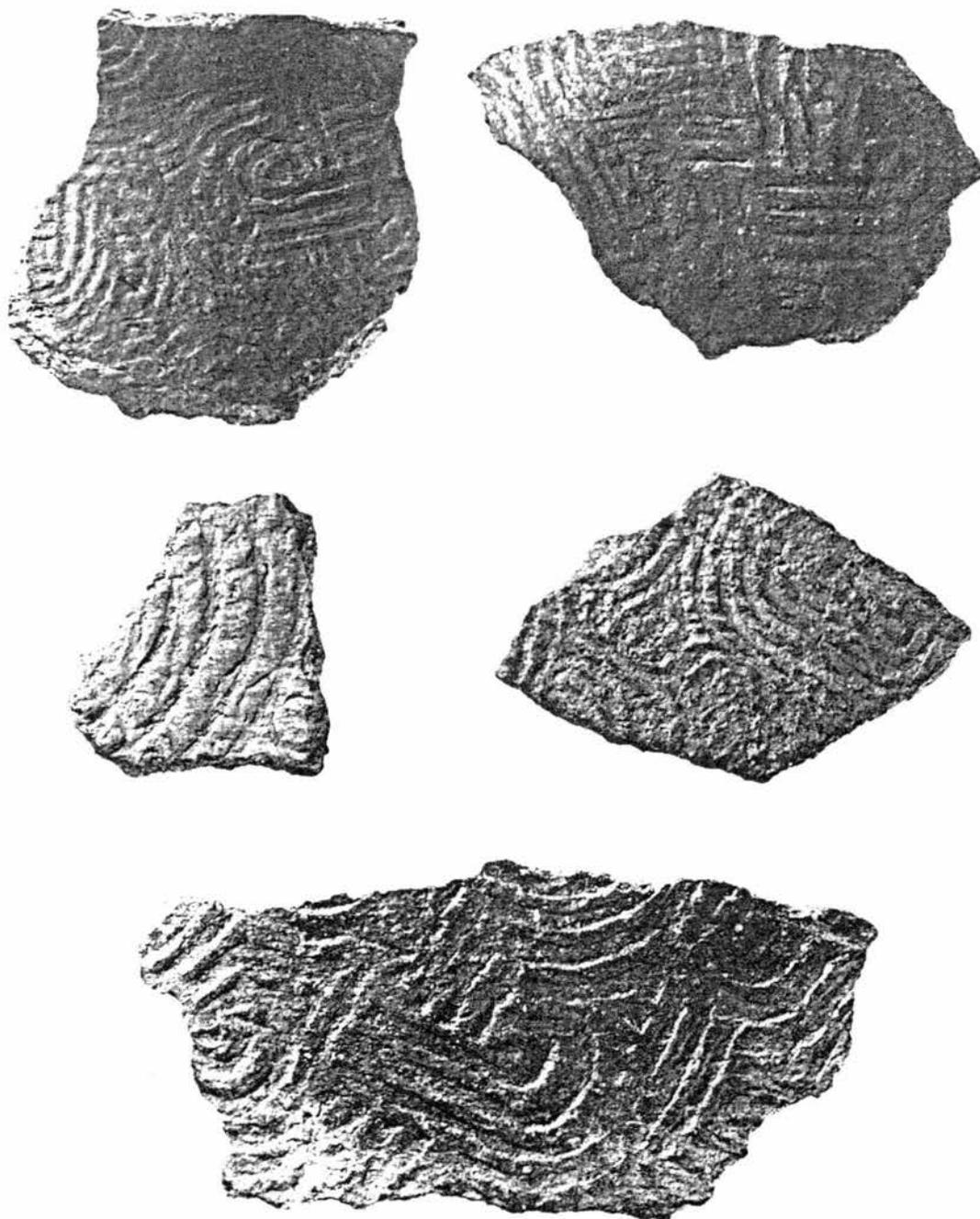


Plate 34. Filfol cross sherds (*top, bottom row, middle right*); curvilinear (*middle left*)  
(*natural size*).



Plate 35. Miscellaneous surface finishes. Concentric square (*top left*), arc angle (*top right*); arc angle dot (*middle*); bulls-eye (*bottom*) (*natural size*).



Plate 36. Miscellaneous surface finishes. Check stamped (*top left, middle right*); corn cob (*top right*); textile (*middle left*); plain (*bottom left*); incised (*bottom right*) (*natural size*).

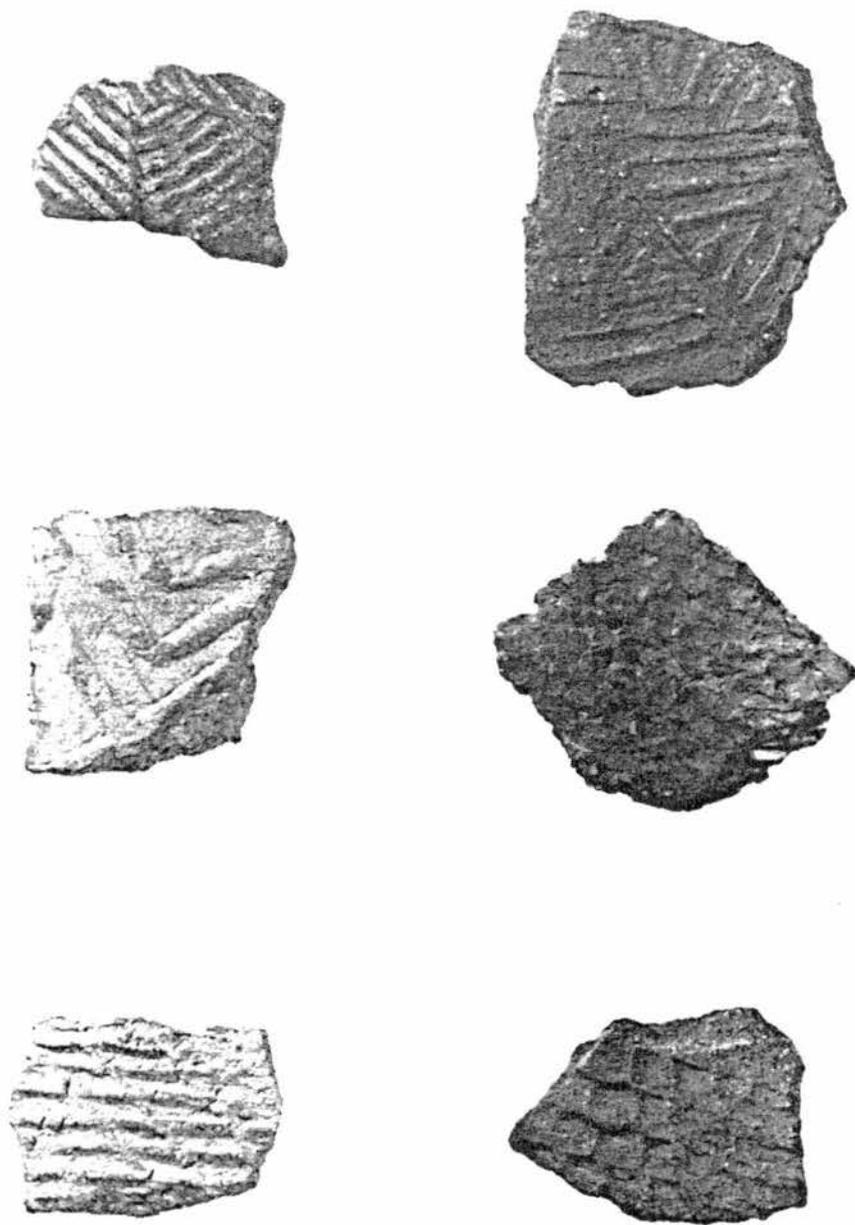


Plate 37. Miscellaneous surface finishes. Concentric diamond (*top*); Caraway complicated stamped (*middle left*); Uwharrie net (*middle right*); rectilinear (*bottom left*); check stamped (*bottom right*) (*natural size*).

of occurrence at both the Leak Site and Town Creek, textile impressed surfaces appear to represent a reliable indicator of Pee Dee occupations dating to the thirteenth century and later.

### *Rims*

The number of rim sherds found at the Leak Site was surprisingly small. Of the 40,150 sherds recovered, only 1457 (3.63%) were classified as rim sherds. Rim form has long been considered a particularly meaningful attribute for the recognition of Pee Dee pottery (Coe 1952: 309; Reid 1967: 57). At Town Creek little decoration occurred on rim sherds from the pre mound humus (2.89%), and only slightly more was observed from the debris layer (13.99%). Most rims from the pre mound were everted forms (55.05%) generally associated with complicated stamped sherds, while straight rims were constant in both the pre mound (31.71%) and debris (31.49%). Inverted rims were found only on plain surfaced sherds and occurred more frequently in the debris (3.49%) than the pre mound (1.09%) (Reid 1967: 58).

More recently Coe (Coe 1992: personal communication) completed a comprehensive analysis of the pottery from Town Creek Indian Mound. The results showed little evidence of decoration in the pre mound (Level A), but an increasing presence of decorative elements in the debris layer (Level X). Rosettes, rim fillets, pellets, and shoulder punctates were not observed in the pre mound, but nodes, incising, rim punctates, and lip notching were found within this earlier level. Thus, the presence of rosettes, rim fillets, pellets, and punctated rosettes suggests identification of later Pee Dee occupations.

At the Leak Site the number of decorated sherds was few. Decorations were dominated by shoulder punctates (3.36%) and rosettes (3.23%). Other decorations occurred less frequently, but included incising (1.37%), rim fillets (1.17%), lip notching (0.96%), nodes (0.69%), and pellets (0.55%). The presence of seven of the eight major

rim treatments indicates both early and late Pee Dee occupations occurred at the Leak Site. However, the predominance of rosettes, which were often punctated, suggests that the principal occupation occurred during the later portion of the Pee Dee culture and may date contemporaneously with the debris layer at Town Creek Indian Mound. Overall, most of the Leak pottery was undecorated (88.47%) and the rims were straight (41.94%), moderately everted (40.84%), or inverted (4.53%). Inverted rims were always identified with plain or burnished surfaces, and folded (1.92%) or flattened (2.06%) rims were infrequent. These frequencies, and the low frequency for sharply everted rims, provide additional support for identification of the archaeological remains at the Leak Site with the later aspects of the Pee Dee culture.

Table 1. Comparison of rim decorations from Town Creek and the Leak Site.

DECORATION	TOWN CREEK		LEAK			
	Level A	Per cent	Level X	Per cent		Per cent
Rosettes	0	0.00	51	19.54	47	3.23
Fillets	0	0.00	8	3.07	17	1.17
Pellets	0	0.00	5	1.92	8	0.55
Punctated rosettes	0	0.00	3	1.15	49	3.36
Nodes	4	0.31	4	1.53	10	0.69
Incising	7	0.55	1	0.38	20	1.37
Rim punctates	16	1.25	12	4.60	0	0.00
Lip notching	18	1.40	1	0.38	14	0.96
Decorated	45	3.51	85	32.57	165	11.32
Undecorated	1237	96.49	176	67.43	1292	88.68
Total	1282	100.00	261	100.0	1457	100.0

The exterior lip treatment of rims from the Leak Site was observed most often as rounded, rolled, or flattened (Plate 38). Rounded rims were smoothed with the hand or a tool to achieve a convex shape, while rolled rims appeared to have been smoothed by hand, then the upper portion of the rim forced over toward the body to form the appearance of a slight fold. Flattened rims were usually square and showed indications

that a paddle was used to depress and shape the rim. The indentations formed by the impression of the paddle on the rim were consistently straight lines which often presented the appearance of shallow notching. The manufacture of both rolled rims and flattened rims often seemed sloppy in appearance and stood in contrast to the dominant rim form which was rounded and straight to slightly everted. The minority treatments may date to an earlier period of Pee Dee occupation at the site.

### *Paste*

Pee Dee pottery traditionally has been identified by a compact, granular, sugary paste which was often coarse in appearance (Reid 1967: 42). Although the paste is easily recognized by those familiar with the pottery type, an understanding of its makeup has not gone beyond this simple description and recognition that quartz sand occurred in moderate to abundant amounts, sometimes mixed with granules of metamorphic rock. Reid felt that granules of talc schist mixed with the quartz sand in Town Creek sherds was a diagnostic of the pottery from that site.

In an attempt to more fully characterize the pottery from this region, selected samples were thin-sectioned by Michael Dixon, a student at North Carolina State University (Dixon 1989). The mineralogical results confirm Reid's observation that schist was present in sherds from Town Creek, but also indicate information about the character of Pee Dee paste from the Town Creek, Leak, and Teal sites that was not previously known.

Five of seven Town Creek sherds were characterized by clays containing a mix of minerals originating from both sedimentary and non-sedimentary sources. Sedimentary minerals were identified by rounded edges that were weathered by water, wind, or a combination of both forces. Additional indications for weathering were observed through recognition of differing mineral optical properties while under microscopic

examination. Non-sedimentary minerals were identified by angular edges that had not been weathered. While a majority (71.4%) of samples from Town Creek showed nearly a fifty-fifty mix of sedimentary and non-sedimentary minerals, only two of five samples (40.0%) from the Leak Site showed similar evidence. This mixture of sedimentary and non-sedimentary minerals does not occur naturally. The implication is that clays were intentionally mixed to obtain a particular product desired by the potter at Town Creek. Because the frequencies of occurrence for clay mixing differ substantially between the Leak and Town Creek sites, selection of a particular blend of clay for pottery making may relate to the importance of Town Creek as a ceremonial center or it may reflect mixing of upland clays from the Town Creek site area with clays from near the Little River. It may have been that vessels intended for use at Town Creek were manufactured following particular methods that emphasized the mixing of clays, while other vessels were manufactured according to different standards. Plates, bowls, and jars used on a day to day basis were not necessarily the same as those used for special occasions and ceremonies.

Leak Site pottery was characterized by a greater matrix than the Town Creek sherds. Essentially, Pee Dee sherds from the Leak site showed a 70% matrix with inclusions of quartz (15%), plagioclase feldspar (10%), amphibole (3%), epidote (1%), and garnet (1%). One sherd contained muscovite (10%) and biotite (5%) which are types of mica. Town Creek sherds exhibited a coarser matrix (50%) with inclusions of quartz (30%), plagioclase feldspar (7%), weathered plagioclase feldspar (4%), epidote (3%), amphibole (2%), muscovite (3%), and alkali feldspar (1%). Trace amounts of shist materials were also identified in several sherds.



Plate 38. Rounded, rolled, and flattened rim forms from the Leak Site, 31RH1.

### *Vessel Shape*

Because whole or nearly complete pottery vessels were not recovered by the excavations at the Leak Site, statements concerning vessel shape must be derived from sherds and earlier collections. In general, three vessel forms are indicated: burial urns, globular pots, and small jars. Burial urns were the largest vessel made by the Pee Dee potters. Eight complete, or nearly complete burial urns have been recovered from the Leak Site. All were discovered following periods of major flooding and erosion at the site. The largest of these urns, the John Almond urn, measured 25.9 inches deep by 19.7 inches wide. A filfot cross design covered its surface.

The burial urns were all made in the same shape, varying only in size and surface finish. The shape of burial urns from the Leak Site was consistently globular with rounded or conoidal bases. Rims were usually straight to flaring. Surface finishes included filfot cross (3), arc angle (2), and lineblock (1). Decorations did not occur, except for a single pinched rim urn found in the Rights Collection at Wake Forest University. Although records indicate that this urn was recovered from the Leak Site, questions arise because of its distinctive nature. Since no other burial urn identified in North Carolina has exhibited decoration of any type, the appearance of a single decorated urn is unusual. The size, shape, and rim decoration of the Rights urn is more reminiscent of South Carolina urns from the vicinity of the Adamson Site than it is to urns in North Carolina. Because the urn is part of a private collection that has only minimal provenience information, the assignment to the Leak Site must stand until future research can place it in a fuller perspective.

Large globular vessels were used for cooking and storage, while smaller jars and cups were used for drinking. The larger vessels had rounded to nearly flattened bases. Rims were slightly everted and several contained rosettes along the exterior of the lip. Smaller vessels such as cups and jars were not identified through the excavations, but are

known from earlier collections. At least one small jar was recovered after the 1936 flood and exists in a private collection (Bill West Collection). The specimen is a small burnished jar with shoulder punctations and a narrow inverted rim.

Table 2. Burial urns, 31RH1, Leak Site.

SITE	ACC. NO.	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SURFACE	MEASUREMENTS	REMARKS
31RH1		Washout	Complete	Filfot	25.9" x 19.7"	Almond urn
31RH1		Washout	Complete			Rankin Coll.
31RH1		Washout	Complete			Rankin Coll.
31RH1		Washout	Complete	Arc angle	24" x 17"	Rights, WFU
31RH1		Washout	Complete	Arc angle	22" x 14.8"	Rights, WFU
31RH1		Washout	Complete	Filfot	24.5" x 22"	Rights, WFU
31RH1	84A411	Washout	Complete	Filfot	17" x 13.5"	Rights, WFU
31RH1	16.57.1	Washout	Complete	Lineblock	16.6" x 13.8"	R. Steele urn

### *Discoidals*

Countless discoidals, or "gaming stones," have been found at the Leak Site. Clay disks are found frequently at late Mississippian sites (Caldwell and McCann 1941:53; Fairbanks 1956:44; Wauchope 1966:189). The exact purpose for these circular disks has not been determined, but traditionally they have been termed "gaming disks." It has been assumed that they were used as tokens or chips in games. Whatever the prehistoric use, it is clear that clay disks are found frequently at the Leak Site. Of the thirty disks found during the course of the FDAP excavations, twenty-four (n=24, 80.0%) were found in squares in or near Structure 1, an oval house. The concentration of disks in this area may relate to patterns of refuse disposal or housekeeping, or both.

Some disks were made of stone instead of clay, and a small number exhibited incisions, grooves, or geometric designs upon one or both surfaces. Several disks exhibited designs that show single pits, depressions in the center of the disk, or radiating lines. One stone disk contained an incised circle around the central pit. The circle was bisected by two perpendicular lines to form a quartered circle on the surface of the disk. The reverse side had a series of incised lines which formed rays bisecting the center of the disk.

A total of eighty-seven discoidals were analyzed from the Leak Site. Thirty specimens (n=30) were recovered during the PDAP excavations and an additional fifty-seven (n=57) were from the collection of Dr. P. R. Rankin. Among the total number analyzed, sixteen were stone disks (n=16, 18.39%) and seventy-one were made of clay (n=71, 81.61%). All clay disks were made from recycled pottery sherds.

Although many sherds retained surface designs from the original pottery vessel, most exterior surfaces were plain or could only be identified as complicated stamped because of the degree of over stamping and the smallness of the sherd from which the disk was formed. Clay disks ranged in diameter from 11mm to 39mm, while thickness ranged from 7mm to 12mm. The average size of clay disks was 21mm in diameter, while stone disks averaged 30mm in diameter. Stone disks ranged in diameter from 17mm to 52mm. Thickness averaged approximately 9mm for clay disks and 11mm for stone. The average diameter of clay disks from the Leak Site compares favorably to those found by Wauchope (1966:189) in North Georgia, but contrasts in size with those identified at Wachesaw Landing in South Carolina (Trinkley, et al 1982:36). Clay disks from Wachesaw are larger in average diameter (29mm) than those from either North Georgia (22mm) or the Leak Site (21mm). Whether or not this variation in size signifies a functional or chronological difference is not known, but it represents an area for future study and investigation.

### *Chipped Stone Projectile Points*

A large number of relic collectors have periodically collected points from the lowgrounds near Leak Island and reported an abundance of points. Therefore, it was with some surprise that relatively few projectile points were recovered by the PDAP excavations. Only seventy points were found, and in fact chipped stone tools were relatively scarce. This low frequency of chipped stone artifacts almost certainly relates to the frequent relic collecting at the site. Beyond the number of points found, attention should be directed to recognition that Caraway (n=13, 32.5%) and Clarksville (n=8, 20.0%) point types were the most frequent occurrences. Pee Dee Pentagonal points (n=2, 5.0%) were seldom found at the Leak Site. Earlier Archaic and Woodland point types were also found, but not in great number. Table 3 presents a listing of projectile point types and frequencies from the excavations.

Caraway points (Coe 1964:49) were first identified in 1936 from the Keyauwee Site excavations near Asheboro, North Carolina. At that time the straight-sided isosceles triangular point was identified with the historic occupations of the area by the Keyauwee and Saponi. The Clarksville triangular point (Coe 1964:112) was a very small triangular point that was equilateral in shape, sometimes isosceles, and identified with the historic period in the Clarksville, Virginia area. In retrospect, it has become apparent through excavations at Town Creek, Leak, and Teal that both point types represent variations on a triangular theme. Neither type can be placed in the hand of a particular group of people at a particular period of time. They are medium to small sized projectile points that were produced by many late prehistoric cultures that possessed the bow and arrow technology.

### *Chipped Stone Tools*

Chipped stone tools and the debitage associated with their manufacture and use were the fourth most frequent category of artifact found (3,026; 3.63%) ranging behind

pottery (40,150; 48.25%), rock (.22,005; 26.44%) and animal bone (9,253; 11.12%). Included within this category (Figure 23) were flakes, bifaces, drills, hoes, grinding stones, and hammerstones. None of this category appears to differ substantially in

Table 3. Projectile point types and frequencies from the Leak Site, 31RH1.

Type	Number	Percent	Percent Excluding Fragments
Clarksville	8	11.43	20.00
Caraway	13	18.58	32.50
Yadkin	4	5.72	10.00
Pee Dee Pentagonal	2	2.86	5.00
Morrow Mt. II	1	1.43	2.50
Randolph	1	1.43	2.50
Kirk Stemmed	3	4.29	7.50
Small Savannah River	2	2.86	5.00
Savannah River	1	1.43	2.50
Gypsy Stemmed	1	1.43	2.50
Fragments	30	42.86	
Unidentified	4	5.72	10.00
Total	70		

manufacture or resource material from those found at any other late prehistoric site in this region, except for two spatulate ceremonial axes which were originally identified as stone hoes (Plate 26). Both forms are unfinished, spatulate in form, and show no indication of soil polish characteristic of use as a hoe. Coe (1992: personal communication) identified these specimens as unfinished forms of the "pierced celt" considered by Waring and Holder (Williams 1977:23) as diagnostic of the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex.

### *Polished Stone Tools*

Polished stone tools or tools which exhibited use in abrading or polishing were few in the PDAP collections (5 abraders, 5 polishing stones, 1 burnishing stone), but were more numerous in private collections. These tools undoubtedly were associated with smoothing, polishing, and burnishing pottery surfaces. However, among the most striking artifacts in this category were the polished chunky stones and stone disks (Plate 27) considered diagnostic of the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex. Although none were found during the 1986-1987 PDAP excavations, a chunky stone fragment was discovered during the 1990 work. In all cases the chunky stones and stone discoidals are smoothed and heavily polished. Chunky stones are consistently made of polished quartzite, while stone discoidals are made of polished rhyolite, rhyolite porphyry, and volcanic slate.

### *Bone Tools*

Other than the four bone fish hooks ( Plate 18) and one cut bone found in Feature 5, bone tools were not identified from the PDAP excavations. This does not imply that they were not frequently used, but most likely relates to the lack of preservation of these items.

### *Plant Remains*

Two feature samples from the Leak Site (Feature 4, Zone 1, south half; Feature 5, Zone 1, south half) were submitted to the Research Laboratories of Anthropology for analysis of plant remains. The analysis was performed by Kitty Roberts (1992) under the direction of Dr. Richard A. Yarnell. The procedure for analysis followed that presented by Yarnell (1974). Each sample was weighed and sifted through a series of U.S. Standard geological sieves that ranged in size from 6.35mm to 0.21mm. All carbonized

plant remains retained in screens with mesh greater than 2.00mm was completely sorted according to type of material. Material retained in screens smaller than 2.00mm was scanned for identification of seeds and previously unrecognized materials. A sample splitter was utilized to obtain each sample. Attempts were not made to quantify distribution beyond ubiquity.

"Ubiquity is the percentage of samples in which an item occurs. Percent frequency derived thereof is the number of samples in which a given taxon is present divided by the total number of samples. Methods of flotation and waterscreening often yield different relative amounts and occurrences of taxa. The data of this report should only be compared with those of similar sample type. The objective of this analysis was to provide a systematic account of the occurrence and quantities of taxa in samples provided (Roberts 1992:1)."

Feature fill samples from the Leak Site were obtained from a low pressure waterscreen system which consisted of 0.5 inch, 0.25 inch, and 0.0625 inch mesh screens. A waterscreen sample ( 0.0625 inch screen) from Feature 4, Zone 1 south half weighing 34.87 grams was analyzed by Kitty Roberts of the Research Laboratories of Anthropology (Roberts 1992) to identify the occurrence and quantities of taxa in the sample provided. The results indicated 0.39 grams of plant remains and 3.83 grams of wood charcoal contained within the sample from Feature 4, Zone 1 south half. Included among the plant food remains were hickory nutshell (*Carya*), persimmon (*Diospyros*), maypops (*Passifora incarnata*), maygrass (*Phalaris caroliniana*) walnut (*Juglans*), acorn (*Quercus*), grape (*Vitis*), and corn (*Zea mays*) (Table 4).

Additionally, thirteen charred seeds which had been recovered from Feature 4, Zone 1 south half were submitted separately to Dr. Richard A. Yarnell for identification. These specimens included 1 bean (*Phaseolus*), 7 persimmon, 2 corn kernels, 1 fragment of cane or corn stem, and 1 fragment of acorn meat. Wood charcoal from Feature 4,

Zone 1 south half was radiocarbon dated to A.D. 1272 $\pm$ 50, making the identification of bean the earliest yet reported in North Carolina.

An additional sample was analyzed from Feature 5, Zone 1 south half, a large, shallow basin-shaped pit (Table 4). Feature 5 was a large oval-shaped stain that contained abundant amounts of charcoal, mussel shell, pottery, animal bone, and fish remains. A two liter sample of 0.0625 waterscreened fill was submitted to the Research Laboratories of Anthropology. This material was divided using a sample splitter. Contained within a 31.69 gram sample was 1.43 grams of plant material and 2.89 grams of wood charcoal. The results of the analysis parallel those of Feature 4, except for the absence of maygrass and walnut shell. Present within the sample were hickory nutshell, persimmon, maypops, acorn, grape, and corn (Table 4).

Table 4. Identification of plant remains from the Leak Site, 31RH1.

Sample	Common Name	Taxonomic Name	Part	Number	Grams
Fea. 4 Zone 1 South half	hickory	<i>Carya</i>	nutshell	5	0.22
	persimmon	<i>Diospyros</i>	cotyledon	1	less than 0.00 grams
			seed coat	1	less than 0.00 grams
	maypops	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	seed coat	1	less than 0.00 grams
	maygrass	<i>Phalaris caroliniana</i>	seed	1	less than 0.00 grams
	walnut	<i>Juglans</i>	nutshell	5	0.03
	acorn	<i>Quercus</i>	nutshell	3	less than 0.00 grams
	grape	<i>Vitis</i>	seed	1	less than 0.00 grams
	corn	<i>Zea mays</i>	cupule	19	0.06
			kernel	9	0.06
Fea. 5 Zone 1 South half	hickory	<i>Carya</i>	glume	8	0.01
			nutshell	61	0.73
	persimmon	<i>Diospyros</i>	cotyledon	6	0.05
			seed coat	1	less than 0.00 grams
	maypops	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	seed coat	1	less than 0.00 grams
	acorn	<i>Quercus</i>	nutshell	113	0.58
	grape	<i>Vitis</i>	seed	3	0.02
	corn	<i>Zea mays</i>	kernel	7	0.04
			cupule	5	0.01
				glume	1

### *Faunal Remains*

Although analysis of the faunal remains from the Leak Site are incomplete, some general statements can be made. Riverine species such as fish, turtle, and mussels were heavily exploited by the Pee Dee occupations at the Leak Site. This is indicated by the abundance of mussel shell refuse, turtle bone, fish bone, and fish scales found in Feature 1 and Feature 5. Feature 5 also contained a number of bone fish hooks. Although non-fish species (deer, turkey, rabbit, and raccoon) appear to have been the principal focus of procurement, there is little doubt that riverine exploitation played a substantial role in the subsistence activities of the Leak Site inhabitants of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

### **Summary**

When the Pee Dee Project began in the summer of 1986 little was known about the nature of Pee Dee settlements outside the ceremonial center of Town Creek Indian Mound. The knowledge learned from the excavations at the Leak Site have provided new information concerning when the Pee Dee occupations took place. Previously, it had been thought that the Pee Dee moved into the area "...with household and baggage about the middle of the Sixteenth Century, forcing the Uwharrie descendants into the hills of the Piedmont (Coe 1952:308)." We can now determine that a substantial Pee Dee occupation occurred at the Leak Site at least a century earlier than this presumed entrance into the southern Piedmont. Three radiocarbon dates of A.D. 1272 $\pm$ 50, 1418 $\pm$ 64, and 1459 $\pm$ 175 suggest the initial entrance of the Pee Dee people into this region must have occurred during or before the Thirteenth Century, and was terminated by the Sixteenth Century. Thus, what had been once explained as the beginning, now represents the concluding era of the Pee Dee culture in North Carolina.

Identification of a domestic structure (Structure 1; Figure 17; Figure 27) represented the first such view of a Pee Dee house in North Carolina outside of the Town Creek site. Because structures and activities found at Town Creek were associated with ceremonial functions and the activities of priests, little was known about domestic Pee Dee village life. Coe (1952:309) indicated that "...Pee Dee people lived in large compact villages protected by stockades and situated close to the banks of the river. Their domestic houses were the usual oval type, but their public buildings were square or rectangular in plan with plastered walls and a peaked roof of thatch." The identification of an oval-shaped domestic structure at the Leak Site confirms Coe's insights into the Pee Dee Culture, but because it is a single structure it cannot be assumed as typical until additional research and comparisons have been conducted.

Although neither stockades nor public buildings were discovered, both may exist in unexcavated areas at the site. The absence of this information does not alter the view of the Leak Site as a large village of the Pee Dee people that functioned as a support community for the ceremonial center at Town Creek. Given the nature and quantity of artifacts recovered since 1936, the Leak Site can be identified as a major Pee Dee domestic settlement associated with developments at Town Creek Indian Mound. The presence of chunky stones, stone discoidals, and burial urns reflect games and ceremonial activities that took place at the site. These artifacts were also found at Town Creek. To what extent the activities associated with these artifacts differed from those at Town Creek can not be known for certain, but it can be acknowledged that artifacts associated with game playing, ceremony, and ritual interment occurred at the Leak Site.

Similarly, it can be recognized that the inhabitants of the Leak village exploited the environment well. They fished using fish hooks and nets; they hunted deer, turkey, rabbit, and raccoon; they gathered acorns, walnuts, hickory nuts, persimmons, grapes and



Structure 1, 31RH1

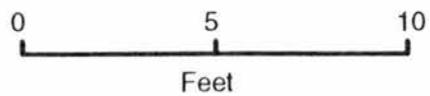


Figure 27. Artisi's sketch of Structure 1 at the Leak Site, 31RH1 (Drawing by *Elissa Oken*).

certain wild plants. Sites were selected for villages based upon their proximity to fertile floodplains and nearby streams. Most importantly, the Pee Dee pursued agricultural activities that included the growing of corn and beans. This emphasis on site selection and corn agriculture played a significant role in Pee Dee culture.

The domestic activities at the Leak Site included burial activities. Little is known about burial customs beyond recognition that both pit burials and urn burials were discovered. The only human burial identified by the excavations contained the remains of two individuals and had been disturbed during prehistoric times. Severe cranial deformation was identified with one individual from this burial. The size and nature of the burial urns testify to the skill of the Pee Dee potters. As at Town Creek burial urns were usually complicated stamped and covered by a plain or burnished bowl. Many of the urns were ritually killed by knocking a hole in the bottom (Plate 39). Decoration was virtually non-existent. Smaller domestic pottery included bowls, jars, and globular pots which usually had surface finishes that were complicated stamped, plain, or textile impressed. A few pots showed the presence of nodes, rosettes, punctates, or rim fillets as decorations, but most were undecorated.

"The Pee Dee Focus gives contrast and life to the study of Piedmont cultures. It appeared so suddenly and was gone so quickly that it resembles a beam of light flashing across a dark sky. It tells us little about the slow plodding growth of the Piedmont hill tribes, but it does give us a better means of establishing relative age as well as a better understanding of the events that happened during the Climactic Phase (Coe 1952:309.)"

The archaeological remains found at the Leak Site reflect Pee Dee cultural activities that took place from the middle of the Thirteenth Century to perhaps the middle of the Sixteenth Century (c. A.D. 1250-1550). This recognition was by itself a revision of the traditional chronological sequence for the Pee Dee Complex in North Carolina which had placed the Pee Dee variously between A.D. 1450-1650 (cf. Coe 1952; Reid

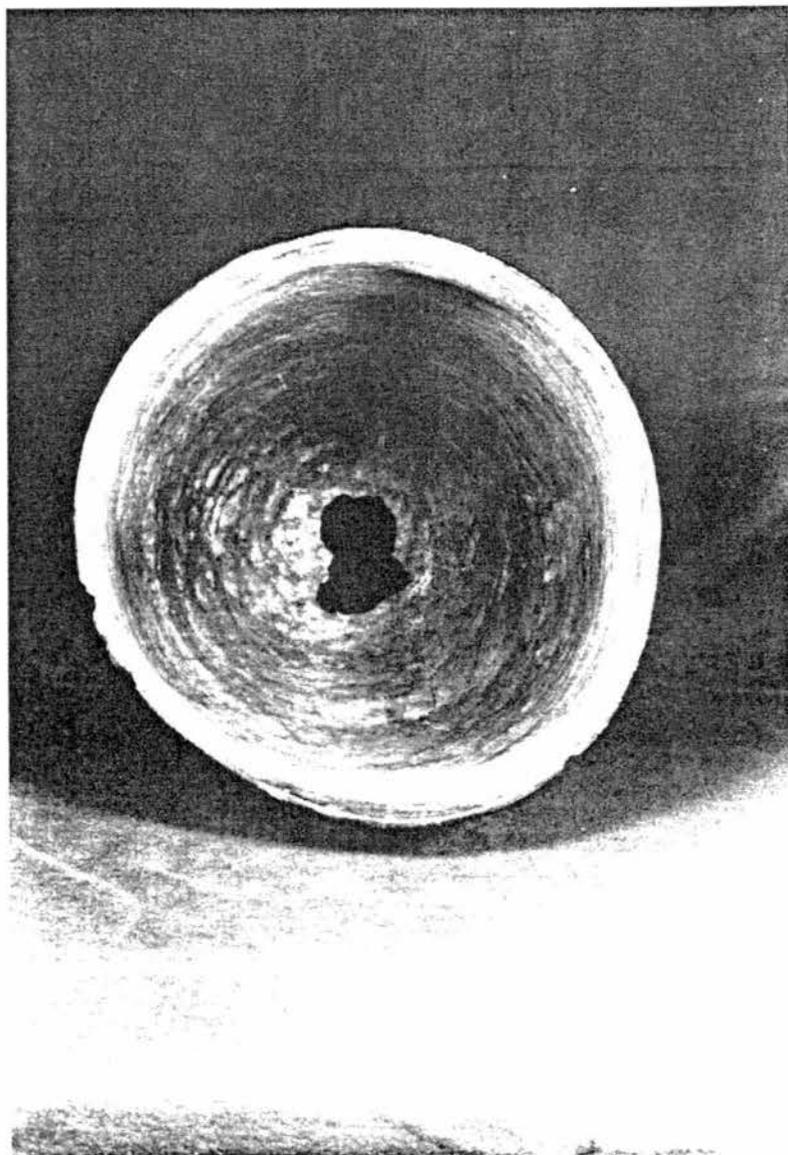


Plate 39. Burial urn with hole punched in bottom (*Accession 16.57.1*)

1967). Had the research terminated with this interpretation, a fuller understanding of the initial Pee Dee expansion into the southern Piedmont might not have been realized. Excavations at the Teal Site (31AN1) in Anson County, North Carolina would demonstrate that the first site excavated was among the last to be occupied by the Pee Dee culture and the last site excavated was among the first sites to have been settled by the Pee Dee. What was perceived as the earliest period of Pee Dee occupation had been the last in a broader and more complex chronological sequence that would forever change archaeological perspectives on the emergence of the Pee Dee into the southern Piedmont.

## Chapter 6

### The Teal Site, 31AN1

The Teal Site (31AN1) first came to archaeological attention after the 1936 flood that scoured many areas of the Pee Dee River valley. Several months after the floodwaters had subsided, George W. Little, a local member of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina, led Joffre Coe to a washed out area on the James Teal Plantation in Anson County. Although not as heavily scoured as the Leak Site (31RH1) which was situated about ten miles upstream on the Pee Dee River, the Teal Site exhibited an abundance of artifacts including 1,103 potsherds, 181 chipped stone projectile points, 27 blades, 5 drills, 2 stone hoes, 3 celts, 2 bone awls, 1 antler tine flaker, 1 clay pipe, sherds from 3 reconstructable pots, and numerous fragments of animal bone (Accession 322p1-a17). Among the items found shortly after the flood were several burial urns including one that was described in the following manner:

"The receptacle is about two feet high and three and a half feet wide. Bodies of children were doubled up and placed in such urns, which were "killed," that is a hole was knocked in the bottom. This enabled the soul or spirit of the person and urn to escape together...It is of baked clay tempered with sand, according to Indian custom. The urn cannot be identified with any particular tribe, but definitely belonged to one of the tribes which inhabited the larger Anson County area. Urns of this type pre-date the white settlement period, and research is continuing on this era of Indian life in the state (Medley 1976:10)."

Although most Pee Dee burial urns range between one and a half and two feet high, none are known to have been as large as three and a half feet wide. The actual size of this particular urn (Acc. No. 67.121.201) was 21.5 inches deep and 18 inches wide, while three others found during this same period of time averaged 20 inches high and 18 inches wide (Acc. No. 322p1, 378-73, 376-24). Burial urns have not been identified with other archaeological cultures in North Carolina, but have been identified with similar complexes in the coastal plain of South Carolina (Judge 1987:65), and areas of Georgia (Snyder 1890; Thomas 1894; Moore 1897; Caldwell and McCann 1941:38). None of the burial urns discovered at the Teal Site were decorated, but all had complicated stamped designs covering the surface of the vessel. Beyond collecting a sample of the artifacts that littered the surface, only two surface collections (Accession 930 p1-Bu11; 1030a1-b7) were conducted at the site until two test squares were excavated by Stanley South in 1958.

South placed two test units near the eastern field's edge to determine the nature of the underlying stratigraphy and the density of artifacts present (Figure 28). Square 0 included an abundance of pottery, projectile points, blades, scrapers, drills, hammerstones, fragments of animal bone, and a single human face effigy made of fired clay (Plate 40). Excavations revealed a brown plowed soil (0-.8 ft.), overlying a black midden (.8-1.3 ft.), which overlaid several zones of clay separated by a deposit of sand that reached to a depth of nearly 6.0 feet (Figure 29). Identified within the square were two human burials (Burial 1, Burial 2), four pit features, one cache of four stone hoes, and several alignments of postholes. Burial 1 was the extended interment of an adult that had been intruded by Feature 4, a large circular refuse pit. Grave goods were not observed, but a number of artifacts including pottery, projectile points, and charcoal fragments were recovered from within the fill. Burial 2, a semi-flexed adult burial lying just to the west of Burial 1, had been intruded in the upper portion of the pit by Feature 3 which also intruded Feature 4. An incised fired clay lump, a potsherd, and a waste flake

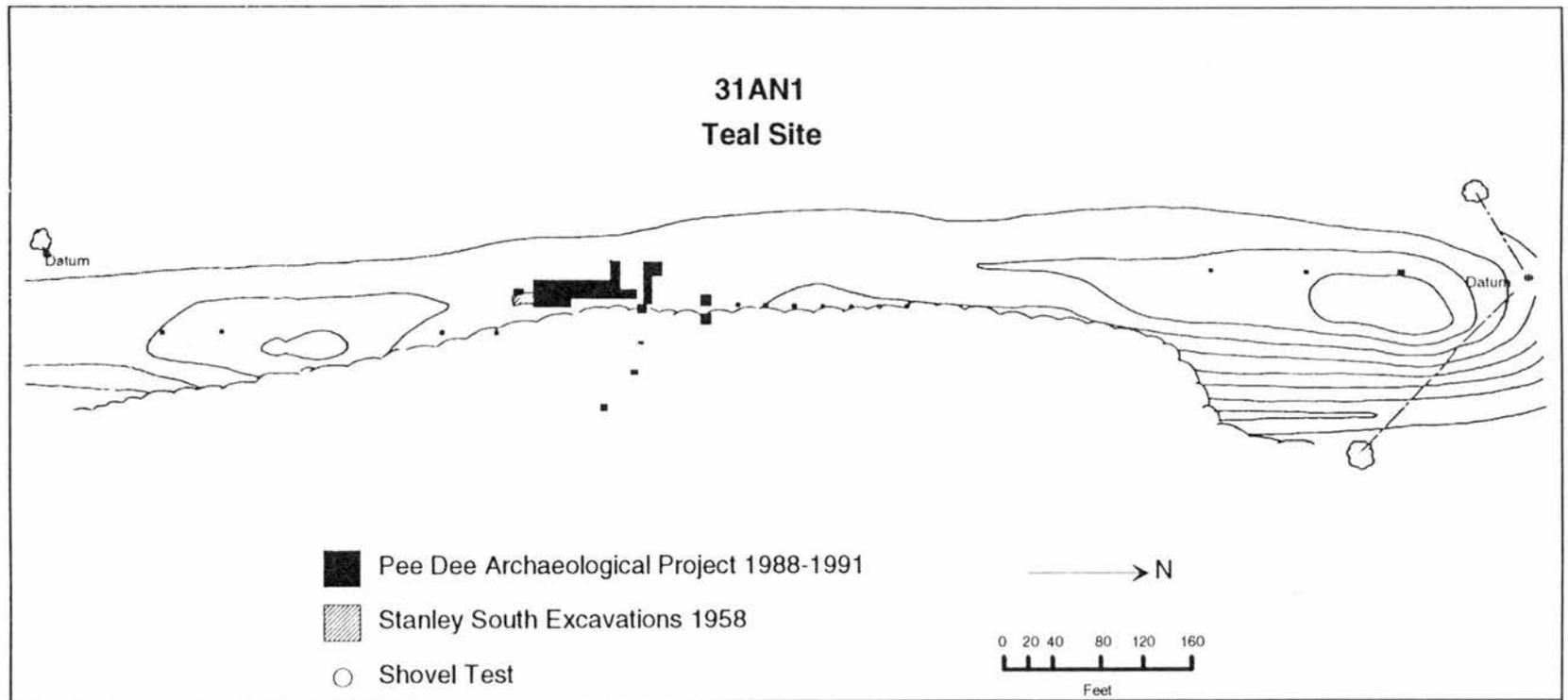


Figure 28. Map of excavated area, 31AN1, Teal Site.

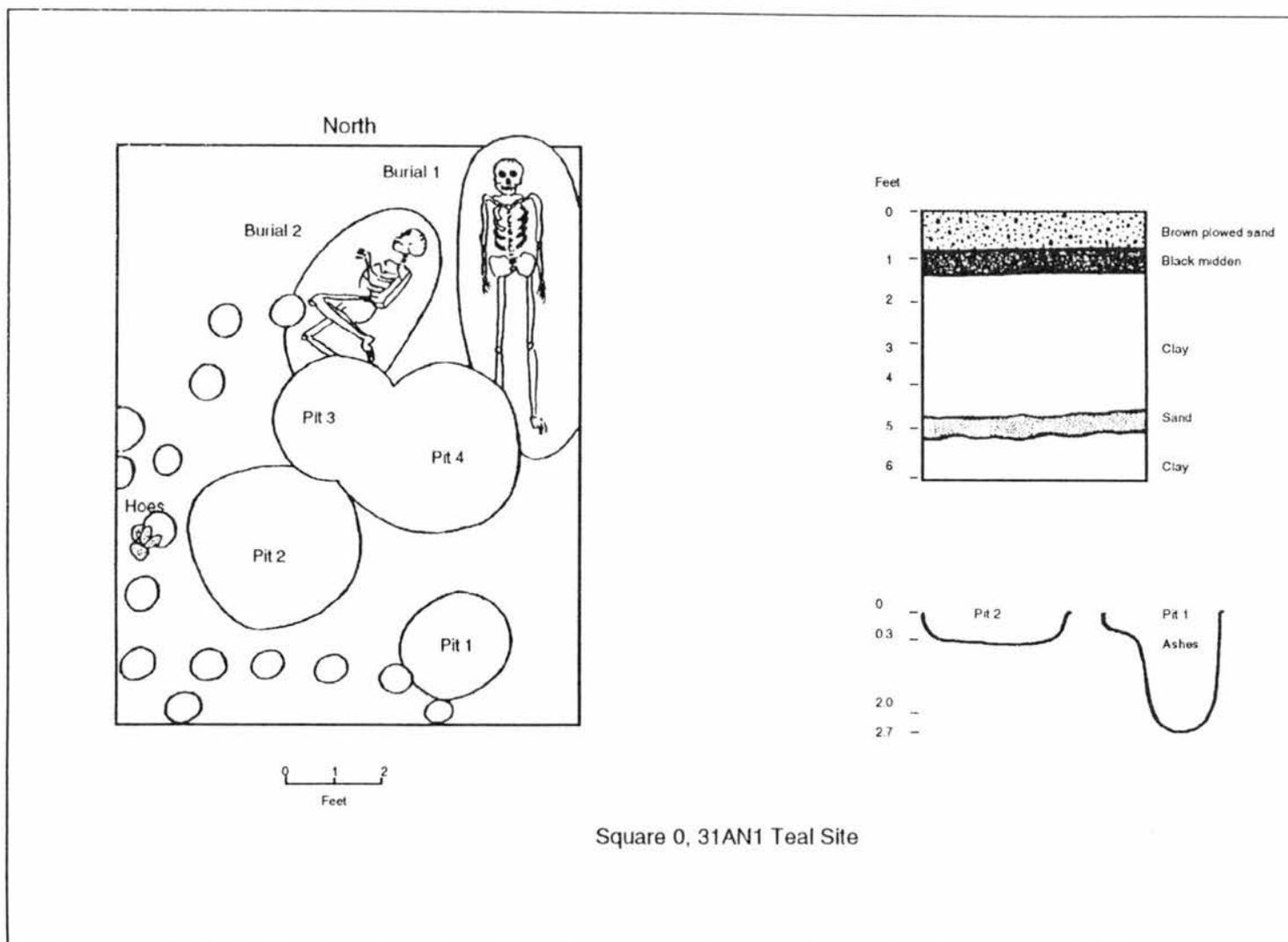


Figure 29. 1958 excavations by Stanley South at the Teal Site, Anson County, NC, plan drawing of Square 0.

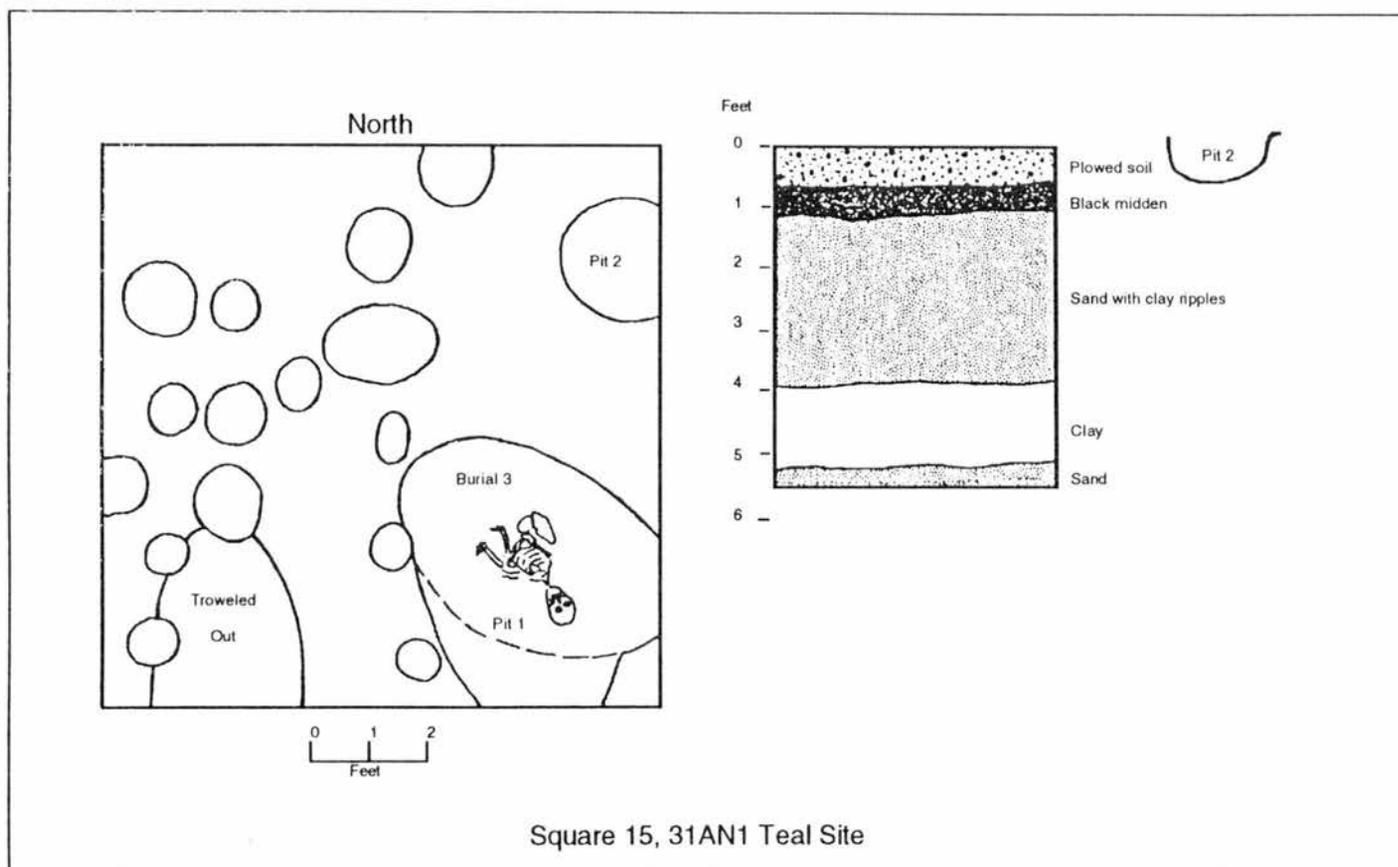


Figure 30. 1958 excavations by Stanley South at the Teal Site, Anson County, NC, plan drawing of Square 15.



Plate 40. Human face effigy made of clay, Square 0, 1958 excavations by Stanley South,  
31AN1, Teal Site.

of stone were found associated with the burial, but intentionally placed grave offerings were not found.

Square 15, located just to the north of Square 0, was excavated to a depth of 6.1 feet. It contained similar stratigraphy to that found in Square 0. Identified at the top of the yellow sandy clay subsoil was a human burial (Burial 3) a feature (Feature 5), and a number of postholes (Figure 30). Burial 3 contained the remains of a child lying on its left side in a slightly flexed position. Associated with the burial were 22 shell beads, an unidentified projectile point, and several flakes.

South's excavations at the Teal Site clearly indicated the richness of the archaeological remains and the potential for the site to contribute to a better understanding of Pee Dee domestic life. However, because work was continuing at Town Creek and the reconstruction of the site was well underway, opportunities to explore outlying sites were few. Further investigations were not conducted until the summer of 1988. Thirty years had passed before another archaeologist sought to investigate the archaeological remains at the Teal Site.

Once several seasons of excavation had been conducted at the Leak Site in Richmond County, the focus of the Pee Dee Archaeological Project had turned to the Teal Site in Anson County to develop comparative information about Pee Dee village life. A working hypothesis assumed that if the Pee Dee had "invaded" the region from the south that earlier settlements should be located in the more southerly distribution area for Pee Dee sites. The Teal Site was situated on the west bank of the Pee Dee River about a mile below the mouth of the Little River and nearly ten miles from the Leak Site. It was the best preserved of the Pee Dee sites in the area between the South Carolina line and the mouth of the Little River.

## The Teal Site (31AN1) Excavations 1988-1991

In the spring of 1988 several visits were made with Joffre Coe to the Teal Site to assess the landscape and how it might have changed from when Coe first visited the site. A particular interest was to generally relocate the area of South's 1958 excavations and to place excavation units in the same area. Unfortunately, a large pine tree that had served as a datum for South had been cut down and the stump removed. Coe did not remember the specific pine tree, but felt the area selected for the first excavation units was close to where Stanley South had worked. This large tree was remembered by Fred Teal, Sr. during a visit to the site in which he walked to an area near the field's edge and stated that the tree had been located in this vicinity. Based upon Mr. Teal's recollection, 1989 excavations began with squares -50R50, -60R50, -70R50, and -80R50. Within a short period of time the accuracy of Mr. Teal's recollection was indicated. An edge of South's earlier excavation was encountered in the southern portion of Square -80R50. Removal of the overlying plowzone revealed this previous excavation was Square 15. Subsequently, soil was removed to expose the excavated area of Square 0 and plot the units into the true north oriented grid employed by the current excavations.

Since 1988 8,560 cubic feet has been excavated at the Teal Site (31AN1). All soil from primary excavations was screened through three-eighth inch stretched steel mesh, while feature and burial fill was subjected to either flotation or waterscreening. Additionally, at least two liters of unprocessed soil was retained from each level or feature zone for future analysis. Where substantial deposits of charcoal were encountered, the charred material was secured and retained for radiocarbon dating. The limited excavations conducted in 1988 (1,808 sq. ft.), 1989 (1,800 sq. ft.), 1990 (900 sq. ft.), and 1991 (1,340 sq. ft.) exposed 5,848 square feet of site area (Figure 31). A total of more than 300,000 artifacts were recovered, but only a portion have been completely cataloged and analyzed. Because of the high artifact density and the limited time frame

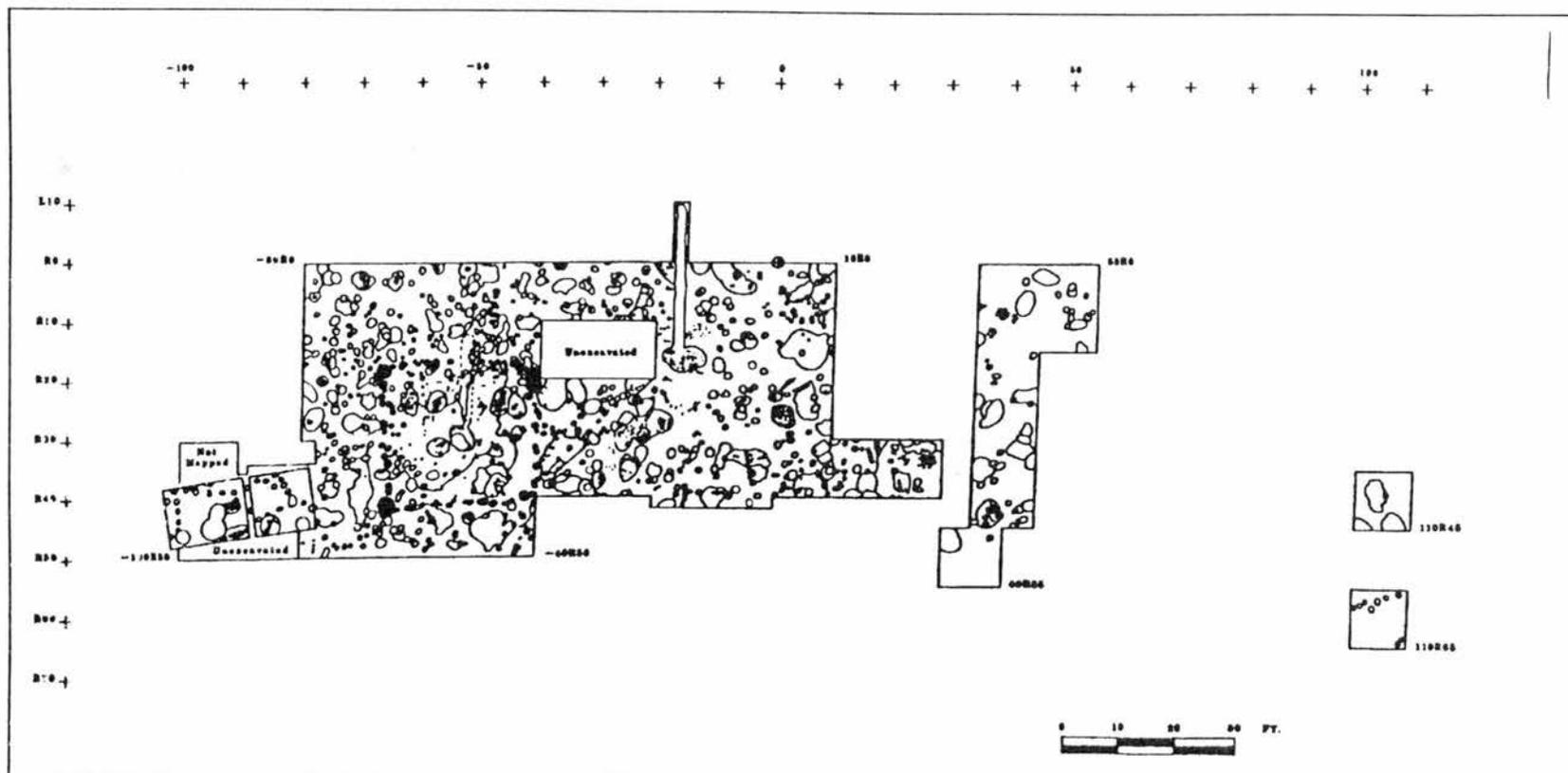


Figure 31. Map of excavated area for 1988-1991 field seasons, 31AN1, the Teal Site, Anson County, NC. Outline of Structure 1 shown as darkened postholes.

FIGURE 32.

31AN1, TEAL SITE ARTIFACT  
INVENTORY (900 SQ. FT.)

CATEGORY	COUNT	PER CENT	WT/GMS
CSPP	319	0.909	
BIFACE	72	0.205	
DRILL	25	0.071	
HOE	6	0.017	
GRINDING STONE	33	0.094	
HAMMERSTONE	0	0.000	
CELT	0	0.000	
STONE DISK	0	0.000	
USED FLAKES	87	0.248	
CLAY PIPE FRAG.	21	0.060	
CLAY DISK	0	0.000	
FIGURINE FRAG.	0	0.000	
CLAY EFFIGY	1	0.003	
POT SHERDS	17397	49.568	
INCISED STONE	13	0.037	
ABRADER	20	0.057	
POLISHING STONE	30	0.085	
SPOKESHAVE	6	0.017	
BURNISHING STONE	5	0.014	
FLAKES	5509	15.696	
BONE	1030	2.935	2090.79
CHARCOAL	58	0.165	1271.63
SHELL	8	0.023	3.76
ROCK	3701	10.545	39545.03
FIRE CRACKED ROCK	4180	11.910	73979.83
FISH SCALE	0	0.000	
MISCELLANEOUS	2576	7.340	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35097</b>	<b>100.000</b>	<b>116891.04</b>

Figure 32. Artifact inventory for ten unit sample (900 sq. ft.), 31AN1, the Teal Site.

for completion of this manuscript, only a portion of the 1988 artifacts and selected features were addressed by this study. However, general discussions reflect a comprehensive view of the site and observations throughout the four seasons of excavation. A total of 35,097 artifacts from ten units of excavation was selected for analysis. A listing of the artifact inventory (Figure 32) indicates nearly half of the artifacts recovered from the 1988 excavations were potsherds (17,397/ 49.6 %). The remaining portion of artifacts was represented by 319 chipped stone projectile points, 72 bifaces, 25 drills, 6 stone hoes, 33 hammerstones, 13 incised stones, 21 clay pipe fragments, 30 polishing stones, a human effigy made of clay, an abundance of animal bone and charcoal, and other miscellaneous artifacts (Figure 32). The average artifact density was 33.43 artifacts per cubic foot of excavated area.

### **Historic Background**

The earliest European settlers, like the Native Americans before them, came up the Pee Dee River from South Carolina. Settlement began in the early 1740s and included English, German, Scotch-Irish, Welsh and French emigrants. Originally, the area west of the Pee Dee River was part of Bladen County, but in 1750 Anson County was formed from it. The eastern boundary of the county was the Pee Dee River, and it was here that most of the best farm land was found. For centuries the quality of the soil and the presence of the river have dominated settlement in the Pee Dee region. As settlers established themselves in this region, they prospered and small farmsteads grew into large plantations. One of these, the Ingram Plantation, or "Riverdale," was located just north of the Teal Site. First established in 1769, the Ingram Plantation was among the largest and most prosperous in the region. Descendants of the the Ingram family still control much of the land in the vicinity of the Teal Site.

Much of the rest of the land in this region of the Pee Dee River has been controlled by the Teal family. Had it not been for Fred Teal, Sr. and Fred Teal, Jr. much

of the knowledge gained from the archaeological remains at the Teal Site would have been forever lost. A number of years ago a hunt club leased the bottom land near the Pee Dee River from Fred Teal, Sr. Mr. Teal made it known to the hunt club members that they were not to dig or explore the Indian site that was situated in the same area. When several members disregarded this prohibition and began digging on portion of the site, the entire hunt club was asked to leave the land. If such misguided curiosity had been allowed to proceed, the integrity of the site would have been destroyed. Mr. Teal's son, Fred, Jr., has played an equally important role in keeping the land in its natural state and doing little that would affect the sensitive archaeological remains. It was with the cooperation and assistance of Mr. Fred Teal, Jr. that the excavations were conducted and the great body of information developed about the Pee Dee and their place on this land.

#### **The 1988 Excavations**

In the early summer of 1988 excavations began at the Teal Site (31AN1) in Anson County, North Carolina. After two seasons of excavation at the Leak Site in Richmond County, a great deal had been learned about the Pee Dee who had occupied that large site located across the river and some ten miles further upstream. The Teal Site was thought to have been a smaller, less intensively occupied site of the same culture. An abundance of archaeological remains soon indicated that the Teal Site was intensively occupied, but during several different periods of time and by several different cultural groups.

Initial investigations at the site were of an exploratory nature. Several test units were excavated toward the river's edge, others were excavated at the northern and southern ends of the levee, and a series of 10x10 foot units was excavated within the central portion of the site where it was believed Stanley South had worked some thirty years earlier. The intention was to explore a broad area of the site to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the stratigraphy and the underlying archaeological

remains. The test units toward the river showed clear evidence of scouring and redeposition of artifacts, while the test units at either end of the levee showed buried deposits at depths of 1.2 feet and 2.1 feet below surface that contained Yadkin pottery. Little Pee Dee pottery was found at either end of the levee, but surface collections indicated Pee Dee pottery concentrated near the middle of the levee. The central portion of the levee was considered most likely to yield evidence about the Pee Dee. Therefore, primary excavations were concentrated in that area.

Three trenches were the primary focus of the 1988 Pee Dee Project excavations. The first trench originated at the 35R0 stake and extended east to 35R45; the second began at 0R0 and extended east to 0R40; the third began at -50R30 and extended southward to -80R30. The separation of these trenches was intended to provide working room as well as comparative data from slightly different areas of the site. Surprisingly, each trench had a distinctive character and produced information that was critical to understanding the site.

The 35R0 trench was located in the deepest portion of the black midden. Yadkin cordmarked pottery was more frequently found in the midden deposits than elsewhere at the site. Nearly a third of the total pottery from Level 2, the black midden, was Yadkin cordmarked pottery ( $n=64$ ; 33.16%) (Figure 34). The 0R0 trench was located in a shallower portion of the midden where Pee Dee and Yadkin cordmarked pottery occurred in similar frequencies to those found in the 35R0 trench. For example, in square 0R10 Pee Dee pottery accounted for 62.77% ( $n=145$ ) of the sherds, while non-Pee Dee Yadkin cordmarked accounted for 37.23% ( $n=86$ ) of the total. Similar frequencies were found in squares 0R20 and 0R30. The -50R30 trench was more shallow than the previous two trenches, but contained a much higher concentration of Pee Dee cultural material. The frequency for Pee Dee pottery was 89.57 per cent, while non-Pee Dee pottery declined in frequency to 10.43 per cent. Table 5 illustrates Pee Dee and non-Pee Dee pottery (>1 inch) frequencies for the three primary excavation areas.

Table 5. Pee Dee and non-Pee Dee pottery frequencies for Trench 35R0, 0R0, and -50R30. Only sherds greater than one inch in diameter were considered.

Trench	Total	Pee Dee		Non-Pee Dee	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
35R0	246	173	70.33	73	29.67
0R0	824	515	62.50	309	37.50
-50R30	1035	927	89.57	108	10.43

These observations were the first to indicate that the archaeological deposits at the Teal Site were separated both vertically and horizontally between the Pee Dee and non-Pee Dee cultures. Non-Pee Dee materials, marked by the occurrence of Yadkin cordmarked pottery (see Coe 1964:30-31), stretched along the length of the entire half mile long levee. In all instances the Yadkin component was identified with the artifact rich black midden and was buried beneath a deposit of fine sandy plowzone. Towards the southern portion of the levee the black midden became thinner and Pee Dee pottery was more frequently found. Uwharrie Phase pottery was not in evidence. Figure 33 illustrates cross-sectional views of the stratigraphy at the Teal Site in which the midden was thickest in the northern and middle portions of the site.

#### Trench 35R0

Trench 35R0 contained excavation units 35R15, 35R25, 35R35, and 35R45. Three squares from this trench have been analyzed (35R15, 35R25, 35R45). Additionally, twelve features and one human burial (Burial 4) (Plate 41) were identified within this area. Primary excavations yielded a total of 10,749 artifacts from the three squares that have been completely analyzed. Nearly half of the artifacts recovered were pottery sherds (4612/42.9%). Approximately two-thirds of the total artifact count resulted from the black midden deposit (Level 2) rather than the overlying plowzone. This difference in frequency attests to the limited agricultural history of the land and the undisturbed nature of the midden that lay beneath it. The sandy plowzone contained

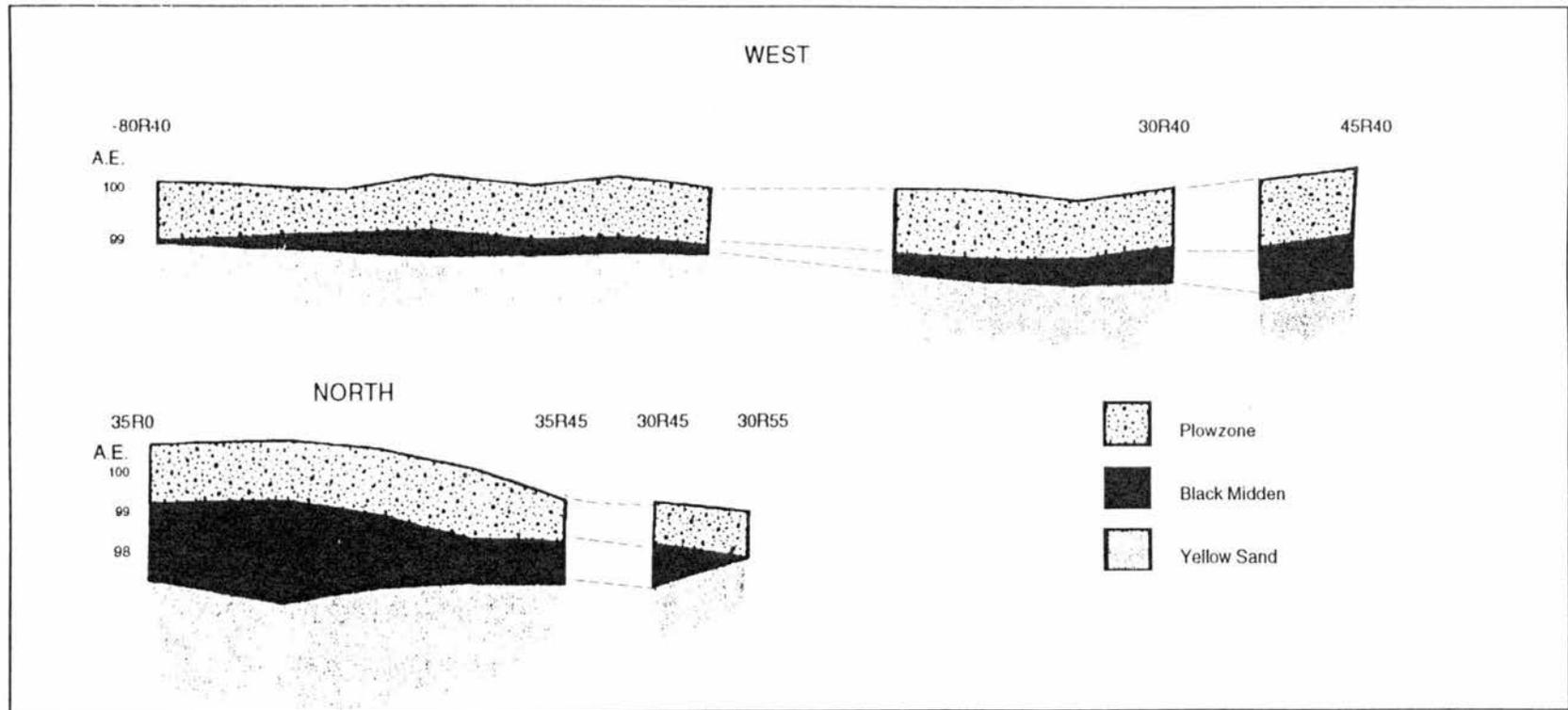


Figure 33. Stratigraphic profiles, Teal Site, 31AN1.

Pottery percentages from 35R0 trench, 31AN1, Teal Site

Location	Level	Total	Simple Stamped	Conc. circle	Plain	Burnished	Curvilinear	Rectilinear	Yadkin cord	Comp. stamped	Textile	Unidentified
35R15												
	Lev. 1 Plowzone	22	2	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	12
	Lev. 2 Midden	127	24	1	8	16	5	4	42	8	0	19
	Total	149	26	1	10	18	5	4	44	10	0	31
35R25												
	Lev. 1 Plowzone	21	7	0	5	0	1	0	4	0	0	4
	Lev. 2 Midden	28	4	0	4	3	0	0	9	0	0	8
	Lev. 3 Subsoil	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Total	52	12	0	9	3	1	1	13	0	0	13
35R45												
	Lev. 1 Plowzone	7	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	1	0
	Lev. 2 Midden	38	10	0	6	3	0	0	13	3	0	3
	Total	45	10	0	6	4	1	1	16	3	1	3
	Lev. 1 Combined	50	9	0	7	3	2	1	9	2	1	16
	Per cent		18.00	0.00	14.00	6.00	4.00	2.00	18.00	4.00	2.00	32.00
	Lev. 2 Combined	193	38	1	18	22	5	5	64	11	0	30
	Per cent		19.69	0.52	9.33	11.40	2.59	2.59	33.16	5.70	0.00	15.54
	Lev. 3	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Per cent		33.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.33
	Total	246										

Figure 34. Pottery frequencies by excavated level, Trench 35R0, Teal Site, 31AN1.

mostly pottery identified with the Pee Dee culture. However, the upper portions of Level 2, the black midden contained a mix of Pee Dee and non-Pee Dee artifacts. Non-Pee Dee artifacts were first observed as a mix of Yadkin cordmarked pottery and an unusual ware that exhibited an essentially Pee Dee paste, but had either a fine simple stamped or cordmarked surface. These particular surface finishes had not been traditionally identified with the Pee Dee series. Occurrences of both Pee Dee pottery and this simple stamped or fine cordmarked ware were not observed in the lower portions of the midden, nor in the features excavated beneath it. Thus, it was evident that the Pee Dee occupations had occurred upon the extensive Yadkin midden in this portion of the site, but had not penetrated its deepest deposits. Later excavations confirmed this observation and led to identification of the distinctive simple stamped and fine cordmarked pottery found here as the Savannah Creek series, a diagnostic pottery type identified with the earliest Pee Dee occupations.

Features identified in Trench 35R0 consisted of refuse pits, rock hearths, postholes, and a human burial (Burial 4). Because of the limited time frame to conduct the excavations, the objectives to investigate Pee Dee components, and observation that most of the features were first observed at the base of the Yadkin midden deposit, few features were excavated from this trench. Exceptions included Feature 8 (refuse pit) located in squares 35R35 and 35R45; Feature 14 (rock hearth)(Plate 42) located in square 35R15 at the base of the Yadkin midden; Feature 15 (rock hearth) located in square 35R15 adjacent to Feature 14; and Burial 4 (Plate 41) located in square 35R45. Only Burial 4 has been substantially analyzed.

Burial 4 (Plate 41) was a shallow interment of a non-Pee Dee adult male, aged 25-35 years. The bottom of the burial chamber barely penetrated the black midden deposits. The skeletal remains were in extremely poor condition, but were arranged in what has been commonly identified as the "jitter bug" position. Two projectile points were found with the remains, one near the left femur and one in the thoracic vertebral



Plate 41. Plan view of Burial 4, Square 35R45, Teal Site.



Plate 42. Feature 14, rock hearth identified at base of black midden, Square 35R15.

area. Both specimens were reworked Archaic points of the Randolph Stemmed type (Coe 1964:49-50). These points had been carefully reshaped from Morrow Mountain II types (cf. Coe 1964:37). They had tapered stems, and were narrow and thick. It did not appear that the positioning of these points was a fortuitous event within the fill of the burial. The position of the points with the skeletal remains was consistent with wounds in the fleshy part of the left thigh and in the upper back.

Coe (1964:49-50) has identified the Randolph Stemmed type with a return to use of the bow and arrow by historic Indian groups after they were no longer able to obtain guns and ammunition during the period A.D. 1725-1800. The shallow position of Burial 4 in the upper portion of the Level 2 black midden and its association with points of the Randolph Stemmed type indicate that Burial 4 was a later intrusion at the Teal Site. Whether or not Burial 4 dates as late as the Eighteenth Century remains to be determined, but it is clear evidence that non-Pee Dee groups occupied the Teal Site after the departure of the Pee Dee.

#### **Trench 0R0**

Artifact frequencies were higher in Trench 0R0 than they had been in Trench 35R0, but the percentage of non-Pee Dee pottery increased as the midden deposit became thinner towards the southern part of the site. A total of 13,114 artifacts was recovered from three units of excavation that have been analyzed (0R10, 0R20, 0R30). Nearly half of this total was pottery (5841, 44.54%), of which non-Pee Dee pottery was a significant amount (37.50%). Fifteen features were identified in squares 0R10, 0R20, 0R30, and 0R40, however only Feature 5 was excavated from this trench. Feature 5, a circular rock hearth was situated in the upper portion of the Level 2 black midden and contained considerable amounts of deer bone, charcoal, a stone hoe, and Pee Dee pottery within its fill. Additional feature excavation was not pursued in Trench 0R0 because of discoveries

in square -50R30 that led to identification of the earliest ceremonial activities known for the Pee Dee culture in North Carolina.

#### **Trench -50R30**

Trench -50R30 was noticeably different than other areas that had been excavated at the Teal Site. A total of 11,234 artifacts was recovered from squares -50R30, -60R30 (partial), -70R30, and -80R30, including 6,530 potsherds (58.13%). The abundance of non-Pee Dee Yadkin pottery that had characterized earlier units was not found in the same frequencies that it had been in other units. Pee Dee pottery was much more frequent, in fact, representing nearly ninety per cent (89.57%) of pottery recovered that was greater than one inch in diameter. Sherd size was consistently larger with more than half of the total pottery found greater than one inch in diameter. This occurrence suggested the archaeological remains were less affected by prehistoric and historic disturbances than other areas of the site had been.

The Level 2 black midden which had characterized earlier excavation units was not found. Beneath the shallow plowzone (0.9 feet) a layer of greyish ash was observed in the northeastern corner of the unit. The remainder of the floor of -50R30 was a homogenous dark brown soil with flecks of charcoal, animal bone, and pottery. In several areas large rocks, or concentrations of fire cracked rock, extruded from the brown stain. The largest, and most noticeable, rock was a waterworn cobble that laid near a concentration of sherds which formed the crushed cazuela-shaped cover of a check stamped burial urn (Burial 5). Within the burial urn were the partially cremated remains of two individuals, an adolescent and a young adult as well as the comingled remains of deer and turtle bone fragments.

Directly west of the burial urn was an oval-shaped yellow sandy stain (Burial 8) that appeared intrusive and in marked contrast to the darker soil around it (Plate 43).

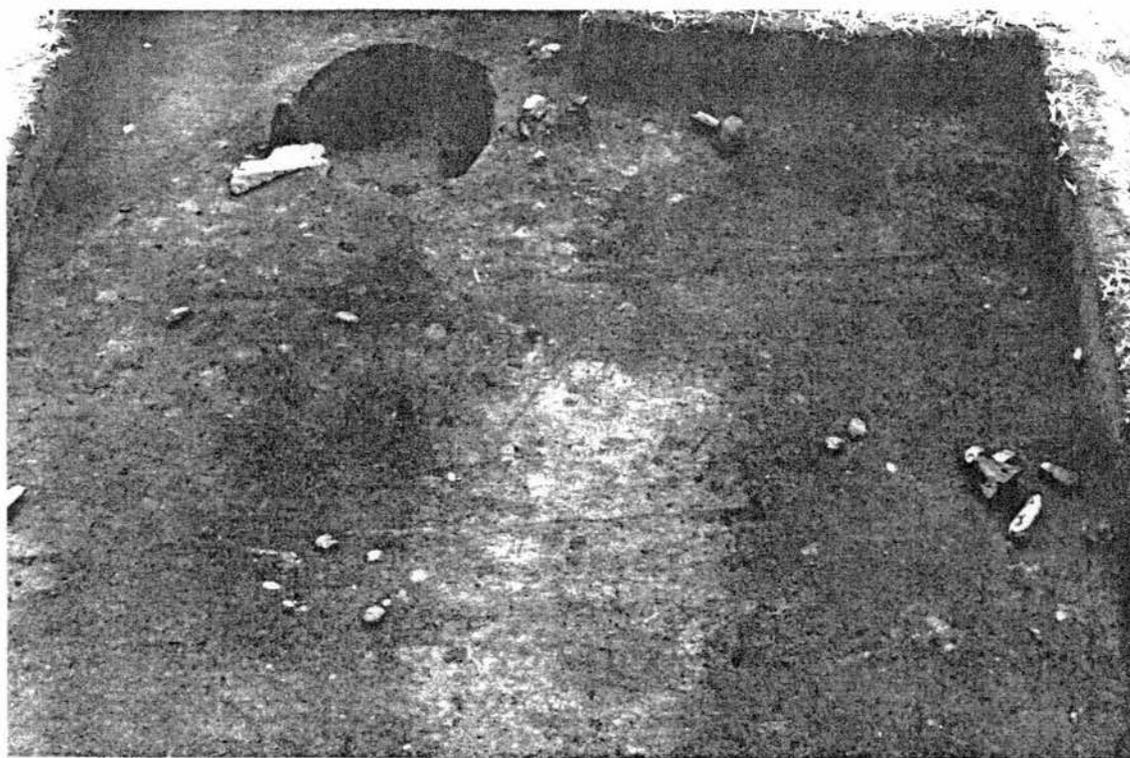


Plate 43. Burial 8 prior to excavation, Square -50R30.

Although it was not known at the time the excavations were conducted in 1988, the discoveries made in -50R30 were associated with a rectangular structure (Structure 1) that was used for ritualistic and ceremonial purposes during the earliest phase of the Pee Dee presence in North Carolina.

The adjacent square, -60R30, was not completely excavated during the 1988 season, but subsequent excavations revealed a reddish-orange fired clay deposit as the remaining portions of a prepared clay hearth (Feature 79) that was located in the center of Structure 1. Leading to Feature 79, the prepared clay hearth, was a buff-colored clay deposit nearly two feet wide, twenty feet long, and four inches thick. The clay deposit identified as Feature 70 exhibited a slight decline in elevation toward the east. The nature of this unusual feature has been interpreted as a prepared clay walkway that descended into a structure with a depressed floor (Structure 1). An artist's rendering of Structure 1 and the clay walkway is illustrated in Figure 35. A second feature of this type (Feature 98) was discovered during the 1991 excavations. It measured 25 feet in length, 2.4 feet in width, 3.6 inches thick, and also terminated at a hearth (Feature 112). It was clear from a cross-sectional profile that a depression had been carefully filled with this buff-colored clay that does not occur naturally on the sandy levee where the Teal Site is located.

Excavation units -70R30 and -80R30 produced an abundance of Pee Dee artifacts including 43 small to medium sized triangular projectile points, 2 drills, 6 incised stones, 1 spokeshave, and 1 grinding stone. Three features (Feature 46, 47, 49) thought to be associated with Structure 1 were also identified. The contents of these features were substantially analyzed. Feature fill samples were submitted for paleobotanical analysis to the Research Laboratories of Anthropology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Charcoal samples were submitted to the Center for Applied Isotope Studies, University of Georgia for radiocarbon dating. The results provided much needed chronological and

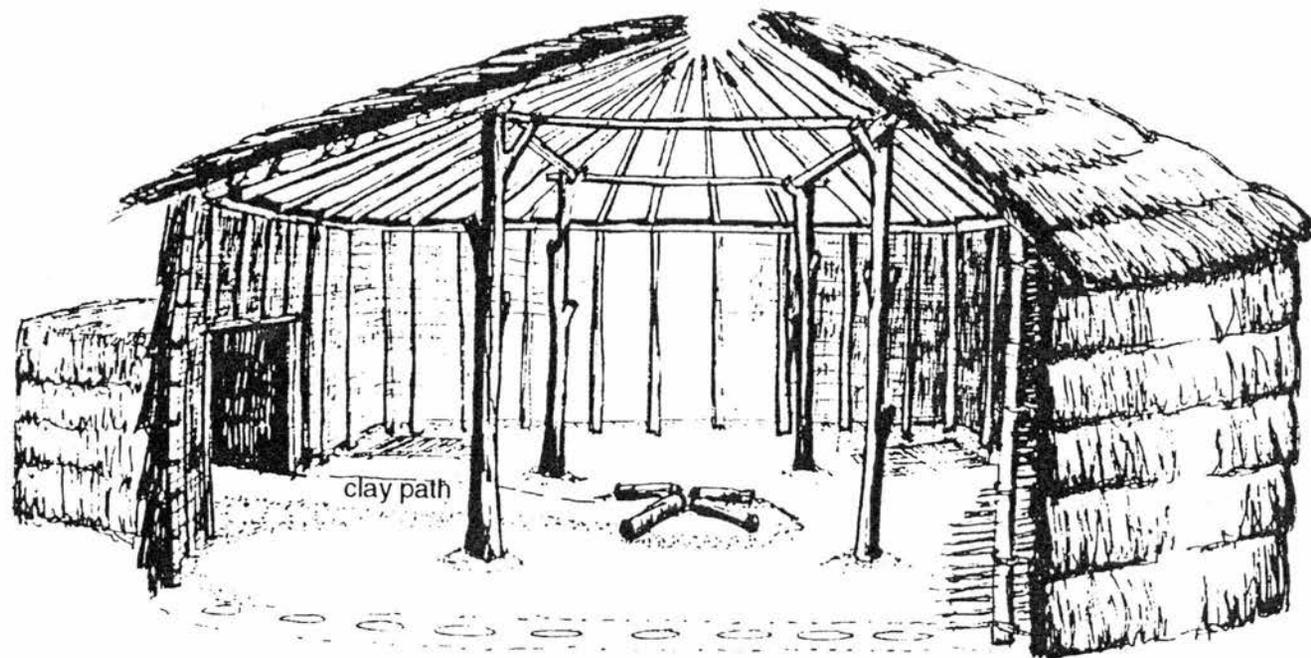


Figure 35. Artist's conception of Structure 1 and prepared clay path, Teal Site (after Wright 1950) (Drawing by Alice Fowler).

subsistence information about the earliest Pee Dee occupations and led to revision of the chronological sequence for the Pee Dee culture.

## Features

A total of 113 features have been identified at the Teal Site, but relatively few have been excavated because of the time limitations imposed for each season's work. Nevertheless, twenty-one features have been partially or completely excavated. The demands of washing, sorting, and cataloging the artifacts from the excavations have been excessive. Therefore, four features (Feature 46, 47, 49, and 51) were selected for discussion because of their importance to the overall chronological interpretation of the Pee Dee component at the Teal Site.

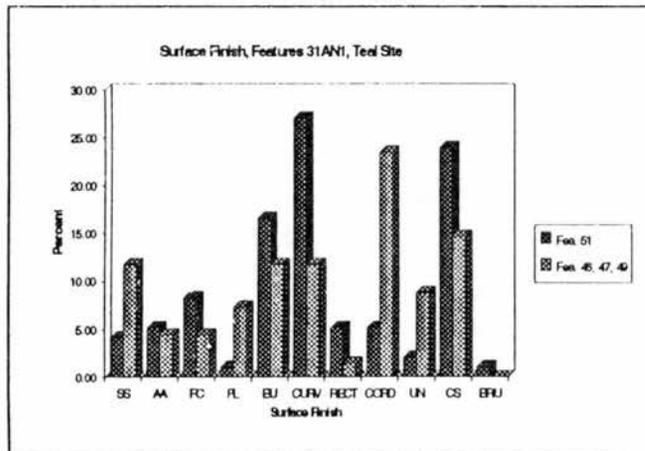
### Feature 46

Feature 46 was a large oval-shaped stain first observed at the top of subsoil in square -70R30. The oval stain measured 4 feet by 3 feet and extended into squares -80R30, -70R20, and -80R20. Only the eastern half was excavated. Contained within the fill were 25 potsherds, fragments of animal bone, and charcoal. All of the pottery fragments exhibited Pee Dee paste, except for 6 sherds identified as Yadkin cordmarked. Those sherds with Pee Dee paste included 4 sherds of a distinctive fine simple stamped or cordmarked pottery. The remaining surface finishes included arc angle, fillet cross, plain, burnished, and miscellaneous complicated stamped designs (see Figure 36). Rims (n=3) were smoothly rounded with no decoration (Figure 37).

A 55.54 gram sample of the floated feature fill was analyzed by Kitty Roberts (1992) of the Research Laboratories of Anthropology. The analysis yielded 0.67 grams of plant food and 1.01 grams of wood charcoal. Plant taxa identified in the sample included hickory nutshell (*Carya*), maypops (*Passiflora incarnata*), and acorn nutshell (*Quercus*). Figure 38 lists the plant taxa, count, and weight identified by the analysis. It

CERAMIC ANALYSIS OF SURFACE FINISH FOR SELECTED FEATURES, 31AN1, TEAL SITE

FEATURE	ZONE	UNIT	TOTAL	SS	AA	FC	PL	BU	CURV	RECT	CORD	UN	CS	BRU
Fea. 51	I,II	-60R30	60	2	2	4	0	13	12	2	3	1	20	1
Fea. 51	III	-60R30	36	2	3	4	1	3	14	3	2	2	3	0
Fea. 46	I	-70R30	25	4	1	0	3	1	3	0	6	3	4	0
Fea. 47	I	-70R30	20	2	1	0	1	4	3	0	6	1	2	0
Fea. 49	I	-80R30	23	2	1	3	1	3	2	1	4	2	4	0
Fea. 51		Total	96	4	5	8	1	16	26	5	5	2	23	1
Fea. 46, 47, 49		Total	68	8	3	3	5	8	8	1	16	6	10	0
Fea. 51		Percent	100.00	4.17	5.21	8.33	1.04	16.67	27.08	5.21	5.21	2.08	23.96	1.04
Fea. 46, 47, 49		Percent	100.00	11.76	4.41	4.41	7.35	11.76	11.76	1.47	23.53	8.82	14.71	0.00



KEY

SS = Simple Stamped  
 AA = Arc Angle  
 FC = Filfot Cross  
 PL = Plain  
 BU = Burnished/Smoothed  
 BRU = Brushed  
 CURV = Curvilinear Complicated Stamped  
 RECT = Rectilinear Complicated Stamped  
 CORD = Yadkin Cordmarked  
 UN = Unknown  
 CS = Complicated Stamped

Figure 36. Distribution of surface finish for selected features, Teal Site, 31AN1.

FEATURE ZONE		Rim	Body	Base	Total	Plain	Flattened	Punctate	Folded	Rosette	Rim strip	Lip notch
Fea. 51	Zone 1	4	18	1	23	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
Fea. 51	Zone 2	3	3	0	6	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Fea. 51	Zone 3	6	30	0	36	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	13	51	1	65	8	3	0	2	0	0	0
	Percent					61.54	23.08	0.00	15.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fea. 46	Zone 1, E1/2	3	22	0	25	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fea. 47	Zone 1	6	13	0	19	5	0	0	1	0	0	0
Fea. 49	Zone 1	6	17	0	23	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	15	52	0	67	12	2	0	1	0	0	0
	Percent					80.00	13.33	0.00	6.67	0.00	0.00	0.00

Figure 37. Rim attributes for pottery from selected features, Teal Site, 31AN1.

Sample	Common Name	Taxonomic Name	Part	Number	Grams
Fea. 46	hickory	<i>Carya</i>	nutshell	41	0.28
	maypops	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	seed coat	1	0.01
Fea. 47	acorn	<i>Quercus</i>	nutshell	88	0.31
	hickory	<i>Carya</i>	nutshell	73	0.36
	walnut	<i>Juglans</i>	nutshell	5	0.04
	acorn	<i>Quercus</i>	nutshell	70	0.33
	corn	<i>Zea mays</i>	kernel	4	0.03
Fea. 49			glume	1	less than 0.00 grams
	hickory	<i>Carya</i>	nutshell	26	0.13
	persimmon	<i>Disopyros</i>	seed	2	0.02
	honey locust	<i>Gleditsia</i>	nutshell	1	less than 0.00 grams
	acorn	<i>Quercus</i>	nutshell	32	0.08
Fea. 51 Zone 1	hickory	<i>Carya</i>	nutshell	9	0.18
	persimmon	<i>Diospyros</i>	seed	1	0.06
	grass family	<i>Poaceae</i>	seed	1	0.01
Fea. 51 Zone 2	acorn	<i>Quercus</i>	nutshell	3	0.03
	hickory	<i>Carya</i>	nutshell	6	0.04
	persimmon	<i>Diospyros</i>	cotyledon	6	0.08
			seed coat	1	0.01
	honey locust	<i>Gleditsia</i>	seed coat	1	less than 0.00 grams
	grass family	<i>Poaceae</i>	seed	1	less than 0.00 grams
	acorn	<i>Quercus</i>	nutshell	5	0.01
Fea. 76			meat	1	0.01
	corn	<i>Zea mays</i>	cupule	1	0.01
	hickory	<i>Carya</i>	nutshell	79	0.93
	sunflower family	<i>Asteraceae</i>	capitulum	1	0.02
	squash	<i>Cucurbita</i>	rind	2	0.03
	persimmon	<i>Disopyros</i>	seed coat	2	0.01
	honey locust	<i>Gleditsia</i>	seed coat	1	0.01
	acorn	<i>Quercus</i>	nutshell	26	0.12
	corn	<i>Zea mays</i>	cupule	5	0.04
			glume	3	0.02
			kernel	1	0.02

Figure 38. Plant taxa identified from selected features the Teal Site, 31AN1.

was not surprising to discover that acorn and hickory nutshells were common within the fill of Feature 46. Both grow abundantly in the Piedmont and have high fat contents (Halls 1977) that would make them desirable as food sources. The hard shells also make them convenient for storage and recovery.

A 12.73 gram sample was submitted to the Center for Applied Isotope Studies at the University of Georgia for radiocarbon dating. The uncorrected date returned was 1002 $\pm$ 51 B.P., or A.D. 948 $\pm$ 51 (UGA 6046), the earliest date known to be associated with the Pee Dee culture. However, this recognition was not made on the basis of a single radiocarbon date, but instead was based much later upon a number of radiocarbon dates, a comprehensive view of the site, and many consultations with J. L. Coe. The date was particularly important because it established a context not only for the early Pee Dee pottery, but also for the fine simple stamped and cordmarked pottery that co-occurred with it at the site. This ceramic type, hereafter called Savannah Creek, was felt to represent a descent from the Savannah Fine Cordmarked pottery type which had been first identified at the Irene Site outside Savannah, Georgia (Caldwell and McCann 1941:43-44). Both types exhibited similar construction, paste, surface finishes, and associations. Related types found elsewhere between the Pee Dee Basin and the Irene Site included Camden Simple Stamped (Stuart 1975:79-90), Santee Simple Stamped (Anderson 1982:302-308), and McClellanville Simple Stamped (Trinkley 1981). A further similarity between Savannah Fine Cordmarked and Savannah Creek was the use of folded or flattened rims, a type of rim specialization that began during the close of the Savannah period and continued to evolve through the Irene period (cf. Caldwell and McCann 1941:42). A similar evolution of rim form appears identified with Pee Dee pottery.

*Savannah Creek Simple Stamped*  
(Figure 39)(Plate 44)

Manufacture: Annular coiling; well fired, hard.

Temper: Moderate to heavy amounts of quartz river sand.

Texture: Moderate to coarse, compact granular appearance; sugary.

Hardness: 3-4.

Color: Exteriors and interiors range from dark orange to reddish orange to dark brown or black.

Surface finish: Exteriors were smoothed then stamped with a carved paddle or a paddle wrapped with narrow strips of leather or sinew. A design of usually closely-spaced, parallel v-shaped or rounded grooves between 1mm-2mm resulted and is often difficult to distinguish from fine cordmarked pottery of the same type. Few sherds do not exhibit heavy cross stamping, usually at oblique angles.

Decoration: Rims were flattened with the paddle to form an L-shaped crosssection.

Impressions of the paddle marking are exhibited on the top of the rim and often on the interior of the vessel just inside the lip.

Form:

Rim: Straight to slightly flaring or everted.

Lip: Usually square, sometimes appears folded or rolled over.

Body: Globular vessels with straight to flaring rims and rounded bases and conoidal jars.

Base: Rounded or conoidal.

Thickness: 7mm-11mm.

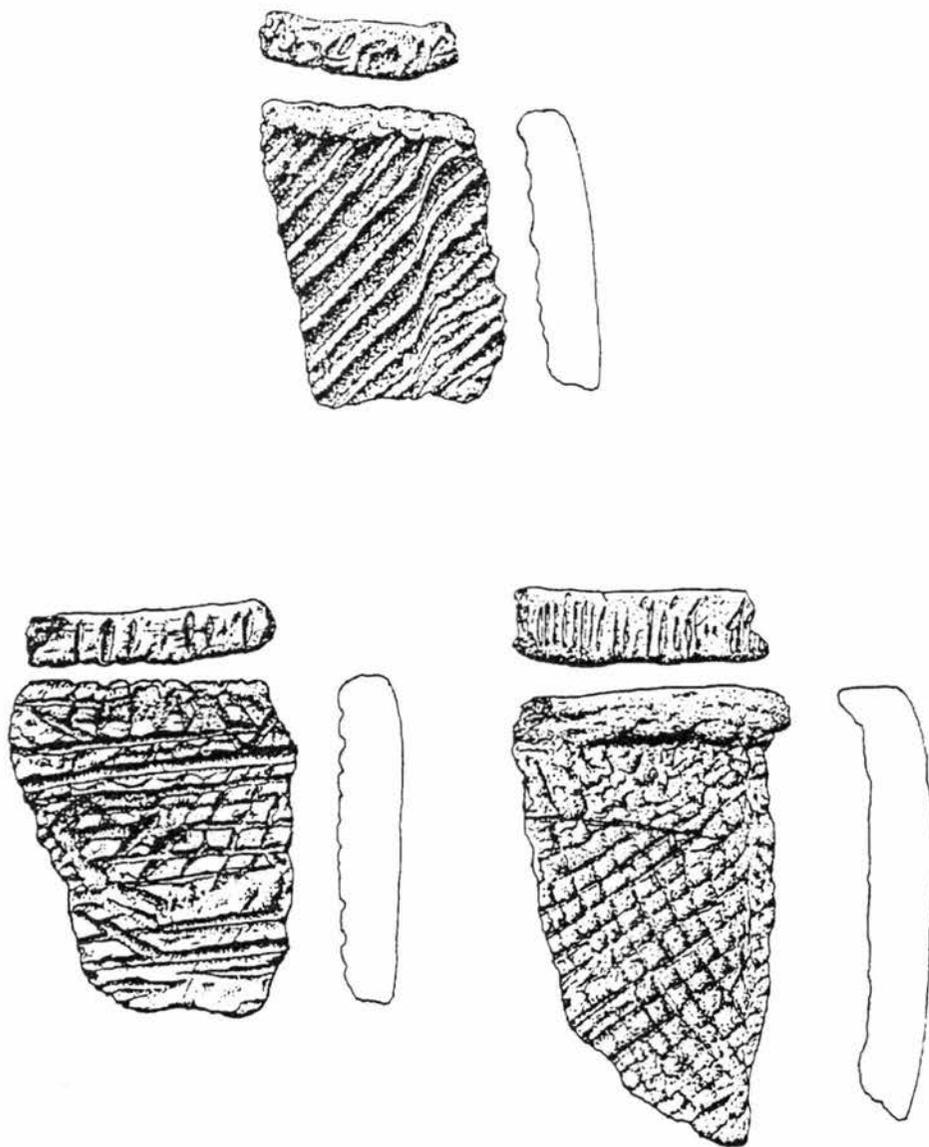


Figure 39. Drawing of Savannah Creek simple stamped sherds (*Drawing by Terry O'Neill*).

*Savannah Creek Fine Cordmarked*  
(Plate 44)

Manufacture: Annular coiling; well fired, hard.

Temper: Moderate to heavy amounts of quartz river sand.

Texture: Moderate to coarse, compact granular appearance; sugary.

Hardness: 2.5-4.

Color: Exteriors and interiors range from dark orange to reddish orange to dark brown or black.

Surface finish: Exteriors were smoothed then stamped with a paddle wrapped with narrow twisted cord. A design of usually closely-spaced, rounded grooves between 1mm-2mm resulted. The impression is often difficult to distinguish from fine simple stamped pottery of the same type. Heavy cross stamping occurs as a rule, usually at oblique angles.

Decoration: Rims were flattened with the paddle to form an L-shaped crosssection.

Impressions of the paddle marking were exhibited on the top of the rim and often on the interior of the vessel just inside the lip.

Form:

Rim: Straight to slightly flaring or everted.

Lip: Usually square, sometimes appears folded or rolled over.

Body: Globular vessels with straight to flaring rims and rounded bases and conoidal jars.

Base: Rounded or conoidal.

Thickness: 7mm-11mm.

#### **Feature 47**

Feature 47 observed at the top of the yellow sandy subsoil was a large shallow basin situated in squares -70R30 and -80R30. The feature measured 7.1 feet in length and 4.2 feet in width, and was separated from Feature 46 by a distance of 2.5 feet.



Plate 44. Savannah Creek pottery sherds, 31ANI, Teal Site.

Relatively few artifacts were found in the charcoal rich fill which yielded an uncorrected radiocarbon date of A.D. 998 $\pm$ 48 (UGA 6047). Pottery found within the fill (n=20) included 2 Savannah Creek Simple Stamped, 6 Yadkin Cordmarked, 1 arc angle, 1 plain, 4 burnished, and 12 complicated stamped Pee Dee sherds (Figure 36). Six rims (n=6) were identified from the collection. Five were plain and smoothed, while one was folded or slightly rolled over. None were decorated (Figure 37).

A water flotation sample weighing 125.57 grams contained 0.76 grams of plant material and 1.51 grams of wood charcoal. Plant remains included hickory nutshell (*Carya*), acorn nutshell (*Quercus*), walnut shell (*Juglans*), and corn (*Zea mays*) (Figure 38). It has long been suspected that the early Pee Dee utilized corn agriculture, but clear confirmation was lacking at Town Creek. The identification of corn at the Teal Site leaves no doubt that the early Pee Dee brought corn with them. The associated date of A.D. 998 $\pm$ 48 presently represents the earliest identification for corn agriculture in North Carolina and fits well with similar dates from the Payne Site (31MR15) in Moore County (cf. Mountjoy 1988:15) (Figure 40). It also provides additional confirmation for the association of Pee Dee and Savannah Creek pottery near A.D. 1000.

#### Feature 49

Feature 49 was an oval-shaped brown stain that measured 3.3 feet in length and 2.4 feet in width. The oval stain was located in square -80R30 and was situated just a few feet south of Feature 46 and Feature 47. Twenty-three pottery sherds (n=23) were recovered from the fill. These sherds were classified as 4 Yadkin Cordmarked, 2 Savannah Creek Simple Stamped, and 17 Pee Dee pottery fragments. Pee Dee sherds included 1 arc angle, 3 filfot cross, 1 plain, 3 burnished, and 9 miscellaneous complicated stamped (Figure 36). Six rims were identified from the recovered potsherds. Of this number four were plain and rounded, and two were flattened in the distinctive manner

UNCORRECTED RADIOCARBON DATES FOR PEE DEE PHASE SITES IN NORTH CAROLINA

Site	ID Number	Provenience	Material	Years B.P.	RC Date /AD +/- Sigma	Low Range	High Range
Leak Site							
31RH1	UGA 5644	Fea. 1, Zone 1	Charcoal	486	1459 +/- 175	1284	1634
31RH1	UGA 5645	Fea. 1, Zone 1	Shell	527	1418 +/- 64	1354	1482
31RH1	UGA 6050	Fea. 4, Zone 1	Charcoal	678	1272 +/- 50	1222	1322
Teal Site							
31AN1	UGA 6041	Fea. 51, Top of L.3	Charcoal	488	1462 +/- 46	1416	1508
31AN1	UGA 6042	Fea. 51, Zone 1	Charcoal	696	1254 +/- 46	1208	1300
31AN1	UGA 6110	Fea. 51, Zone 1	Charcoal	430	1520 +/- 45	1475	1565
31AN1	UGA 6043	Fea. 51, Zone 2	Charcoal	495	1455 +/- 46	1409	1501
31AN1	UGA 6044	Fea. 51, Zone 3	Charcoal	586	1364 +/- 48	1316	1412
31AN1	UGA 6045	Fea. 51, Zone 4	Charcoal	619	1331 +/- 47	1284	1378
31AN1	UGA 6046	Fea. 46, Zone 1	Charcoal	1002	948 +/- 51	897	999
31AN1	UGA 6047	Fea. 47, Zone 1	Charcoal	952	998 +/- 48	950	1046
31AN1	UGA 6048	Fea. 49, Zone 1	Charcoal	951	999 +/- 47	952	1046
31AN1	UGA 6049	Burial 5, Urn	Bone/ash	354	1596 +/- 114	1482	1710
31AN1	UGA 6390	Fea. 53, Zone 1	Charcoal	491	1459 +/- 72	1387	1531
31AN1	UGA 6507	Fea. 101, Zone 1	Charcoal	1000	950 +/- 87	863	1037
31AN1	UGA 6508	Fea. 102, Zone 1	Charcoal	737	1213 +/- 93	1120	1306
31AN1	UGA 6509A	Fea. 103, Zone 2	Charcoal	821	1129 +/- 83	1046	1212
31AN1	UGA 6510A	Fea. 103, Zone 3	Charcoal	631	1319 +/- 78	1241	1397
31AN1	UGA 6512	Fea. 111, Zone 1	Charcoal	914	1036 +/- 86	950	1122
Town Creek (Reid 1967:62)							
31MG2	FSU 174	Premound humus	Charcoal	745	1205 +/- 140	1065	1345
31MG2	FSU 175	Structure I	Charcoal	595	1355 +/- 50	1305	1405
31MG2	FSU 176	Structure II	Charcoal	670	1280 +/- 140	1140	1420
31MG2	FSU 145	Structure II	Charcoal	600	1350 +/- 140	1210	1490
Payne Site (Mountjoy 1988:15)							
31MR15	BETA 18410	Hide smoking pit	Corn cobs	910	1040 +/- 60	980	1100
31MR15	BETA 18412	Subfloor pit	Charcoal	860	1090 +/- 70	1020	1160
31MR15	BETA 18411	Trash pit	Charcoal	820	1130 +/- 70	1060	1200

Figure 40. List of radiocarbon dates associated with Pee Dee sites in North Carolina.

associated with pottery of the Savannah Creek series (Figure 37). As was the case with Feature 46 and 47, a Tenth Century radiocarbon date was obtained from a sample of charcoal. Perhaps significantly, the uncorrected date of A.D. 999 $\pm$ 47 (UGA 6048) was nearly identical to that from Feature 47 (Figure 40).

A water flotation sample of 54.96 grams yielded 0.25 grams of plant material and 0.91 grams of wood charcoal. Identified from the remains were acorn nutshell (*Quercus*), hickory nutshell (*Carya*), persimmon (*Diospyros*), and honey locust (*Gleditsia*) (Roberts 1992)(Figure 38). Feature 49 was a small refuse pit of the earliest Pee Dee phase. Given the proximity, similar contents, and close radiocarbon dates of Feature 49 to Feature 46 and Feature 47, a cultural and chronological relationship seems indicated. Similarly, the location of these features just outside the southern wall of Structure 1 (Figure 41), which is also thought to date to the Tenth Century A.D., may suggest a relationship between these features.

### Feature 51

When first exposed, Feature 51, a rock hearth located in square -60R30, did not appear complex, nor particularly important to the overall interpretation of the site (Plate 45). Nothing could have been further from the truth. Feature 51 was situated within a large dark stain which covered much of the interior of Structure 1. As the feature was cross-sectioned and the northern half excavated, the vertical profile revealed a more complex feature than had been observed at the top of subsoil. Feature 51 was actually two features with four zones of fill (Plate 46). The contents of Zone 1 were particularly interesting because of the presence of charred logs that were aligned at right angles to one another within the fill. Mixed in with the charred logs were large pot sherds, fire cracked rock, and abundant amounts of charcoal. Zone 2 contained similar deposits including the charred logs aligned at right angles. Radiocarbon dates for Zone 1 were A.D. 1520 $\pm$ 45 (UGA 6110), A.D. 1462 $\pm$ 46 (UGA 6041), and A.D. 1254 $\pm$ 46 (UGA

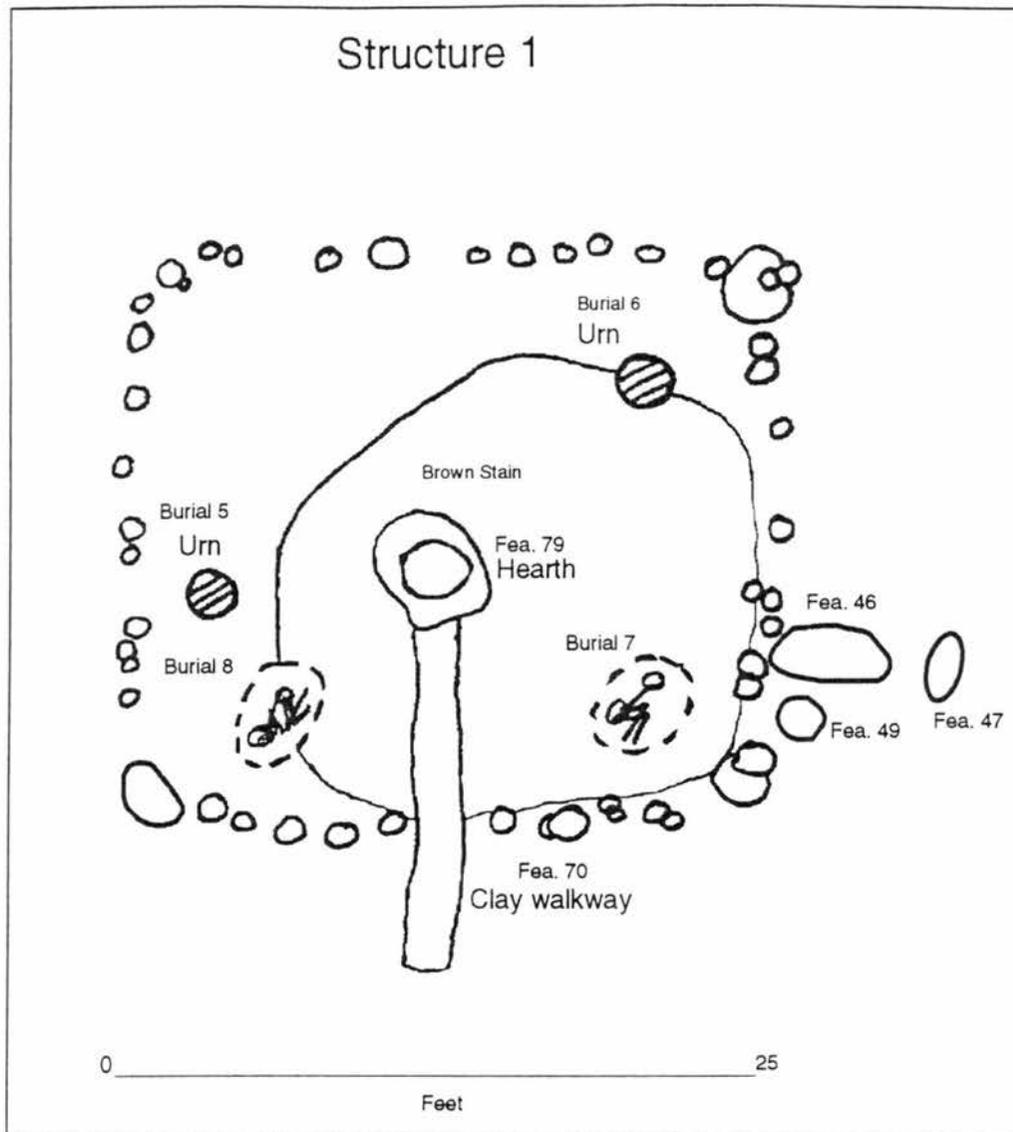


Figure 41. Map of Structure 1 and Features 46, 47, and 49, Teal Site, 31AN1.

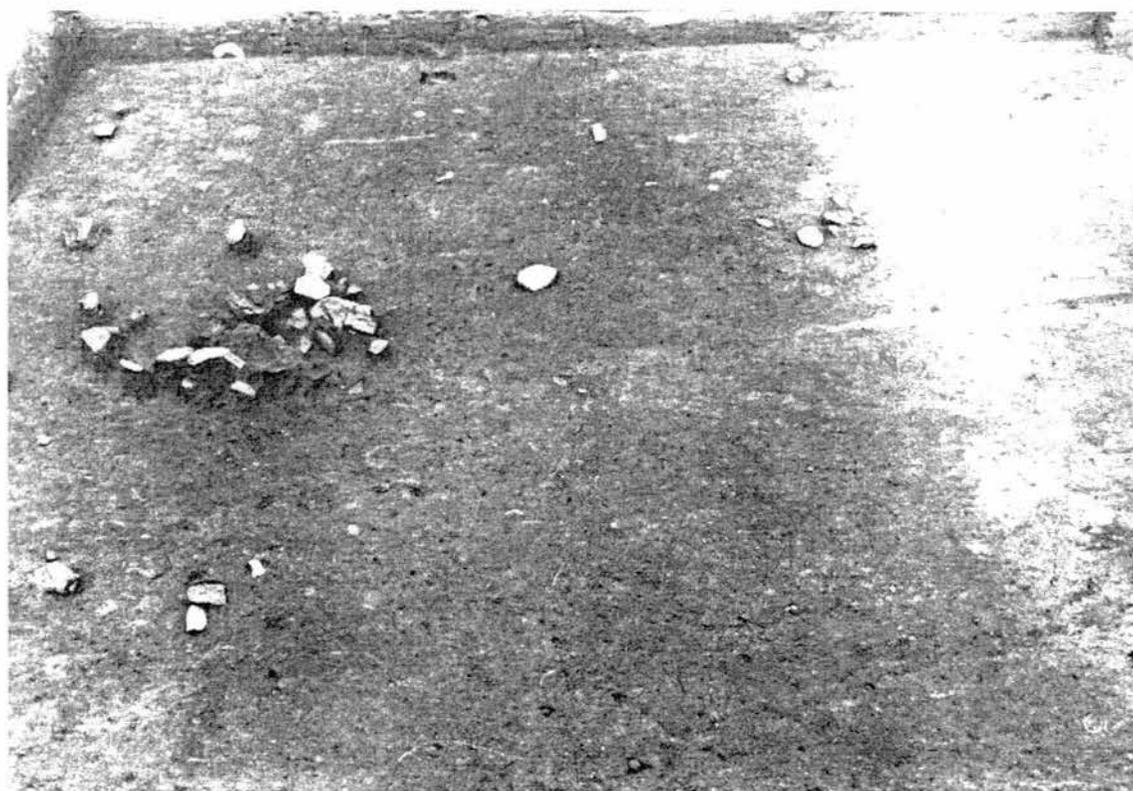


Plate 45. Feature 51, hearth, and Feature 70, clay walkway, Teal Site.

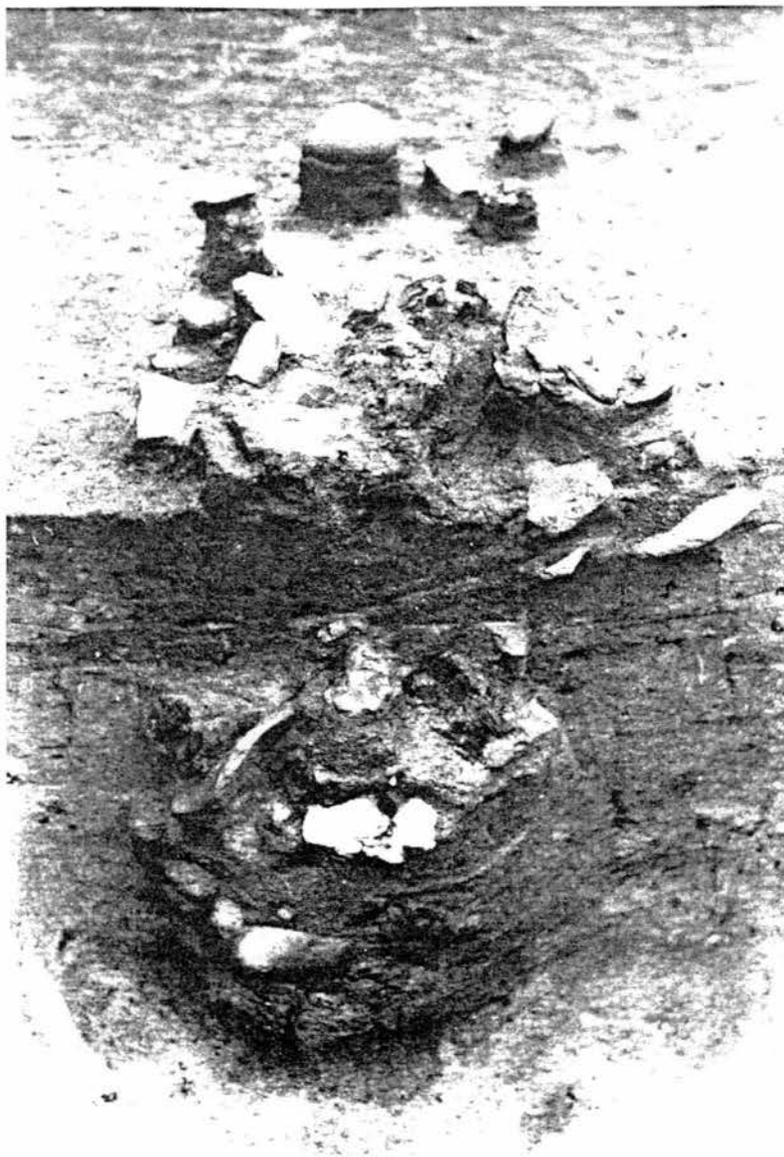


Plate 46. Feature 51, vertical profile, looking south.

6042). The A.D. 1254 date is inconsistent for Zone 1 and most likely represents dating of charcoal fragments from underlying deposits that were displaced when the feature was originally dug. Zone 2 was radiocarbon dated to A.D. 1455 $\pm$ 46 (UGA 6043). Zones 1 and 2 appeared to represent related activities that occurred within a brief period of time. These archaeological remains may actually represent a single episode of activity.

Sixty potsherds were recovered from Zones 1 and 2 (Figure 36). These included 35 Pee Dee Complicated Stamped (58.33%), 13 burnished (21.67%), 4 filfot cross (6.67%), 3 Yadkin Cordmarked (5.00%), 2 arc angle (3.34%), 2 Savannah Creek Simple Stamped (3.34%), and 1 brushed specimen (1.67%). Seven rims were classified as 4 plain, 1 flattened, and 2 folded. None of the rims were decorated (Figure 37). Plant remains identified from the fill of Zone 1 included hickory nutshell (*Carya*), persimmon (*Diospyros*), acorn nutshell (*Quercus*), and a seed of grass (*Poaceae*). Zone 2 produced similar identifications of hickory nutshell, persimmon, acorn, a grass seed, honey locust (*Gleditsia*), and corn (*Zea mays*) (Roberts 1992) (Figure 38).

Zone 3, a dark brown stain with noticeably less charcoal was radiocarbon dated to A.D. 1364 $\pm$ 48 (UGA 6044). Thirty-six potsherds were found within the fill. These included 21 Pee Dee Complicated Stamped (58.33%), 4 filfot cross (11.11%), 3 burnished (8.33%), 3 arc angle (8.33%), 2 Savannah Creek Simple Stamped (5.56%), 2 Yadkin Cordmarked (5.56%), and 1 plain (2.78%) (Figure 36). Six rims were identified from this number. These included 4 plain and 2 flattened. Once again, none of the rimsherds was decorated (Figure 37).

Zone 4 contained no classifiable artifacts, but did contain small fragments of charcoal, pottery, and animal bone sufficient for radiocarbon dating. A radiocarbon date of A.D. 1331 $\pm$ 47 (UGA 6045) was obtained from this zone. Given the overlap of one standard deviation between the dates for Zone 3 and Zone 4, the deposits may reflect a single episode of Pee Dee activity during the Fourteenth Century A.D. The bottom of

Zone 4 exhibited a curious mottling that was excavated further. The result was discovery of Burial 7, a ritualistic interment of four individuals, which contributed significantly to our understanding of the Teal Site and the chronological placement of the Pee Dee culture. Included with the skeletal remains of a 10 year old adolescent was a "square cross" gorget. Square cross gorgets are rare and have been associated with early Southern Cult (Kneberg 1959:5, 39), "Developing Cult" (Muller 1989:11-26), or emerging Mississippian activities dating to around A.D. 1000.

## **Burials**

The first burials (Burial 1, 2, 3) identified with the Pee Dee component at the Teal Site were excavated by Stanley South in 1958. Burial 1 was the extended burial of an adult (Figure 29). Burial 2 was a semi-flexed adult burial found in the same excavation unit as Burial 1 (Figure 29). Burial 3 was the remains of a child lying on its left side in a slightly flexed position (Figure 30). No grave goods were identified with the burials. At present the skeletal remains of these burials have not been analyzed by a physical anthropologist, but a thorough analysis of the burials excavated through the course of the Pee Dee Archaeological Project has been conducted.

### **Burial 4**

Burial 4 contained two individuals, both adults (Plate 41). The primary interment was a "jitter bug" type burial of an adult male, aged 25-35 years. The burial was located in Square 35R45 and was quite shallow. Physical remains included cranial fragments, teeth, humerii, radia, femora, tibia, and phalanges. The second individual was represented by adult teeth. Associated with the primary skeleton were two identical projectile points that had been reshaped from older Archaic points of the Morrow Mountain II type. Typologically, these points were classified as Randolph Stemmed, a type which has been affiliated with the Historic era. Given the position of the specimens

near the left femur and in the thoracic vertebra, a speculation is offered that the projectiles were associated with the demise of the individual. Although it is doubtful that the interment dates as late as the Eighteenth Century A.D., it seems likely that the remains are associated with activities that occurred at the site long after the Pee Dee departed.

### Burial 5

Burial 5 was an urn burial located in square -50R30. The urn was check stamped and a burnished smooth cazuela bowl had been placed over it (Plate 47). Within the contents of the urn were contained the remains two cremated individuals, an adolescent and a young adult (Bogdan and Weaver 1990). Although both burned and unburned bone were contained within the fill, the bone fragments did not indicate dismemberment or defleshing had occurred.

"Burned bones show various alterations in color, weight, surface texture and size. The color ranges from yellow-light brown, black-blue-grey, to white. The color of the bone generally indicates temperature, time of exposure and location to heating. Dehydration due to prolonged heating results in lighter bone and eventually the white stage will be reached and the remains will be very lightweight fragments and ash (Krogman and Iscan 1986). The burning of 'wet bone' will result in shaft fragments presenting transverse or oblique ring fractures in lineal sequence often with longitudinal splitting or warping. Complete calcination will occur if skeletal segments have undergone high heat with prolonged dehydration. Calcination results in a fire-pottery appearance with the feel, weight, and sound of unglazed ceramic" (Bogdan and Weaver 1990:8).

The human skeletal remains were mixed with minor frequencies of burned and unburned deer and turtle bone fragments. The occurrence of these remains may indicate that cremation took place elsewhere and the ashes were redeposited in the urn. The

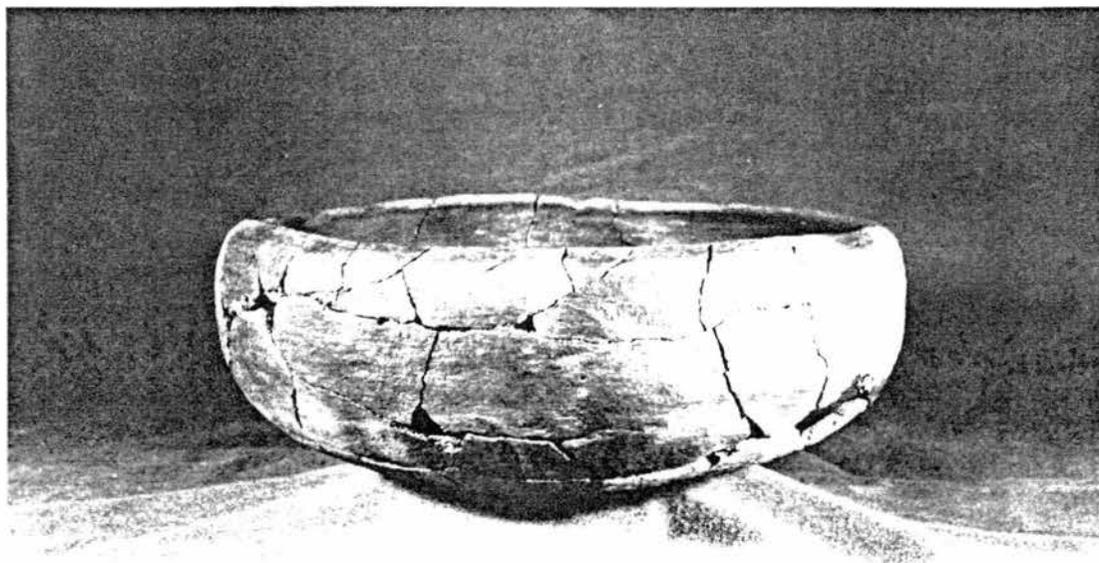


Plate 47. Reconstructed burial urn cover to Burial 5, Teal Site.

animal bones may have been accidental inclusions rather than items associated with a ritualistic activity. Whatever the actual situation, we can recognize that Burial 5 provides the first evidence of both cremation and non-infant urn burial by the Pee Dee culture in North Carolina. Five cremations were found beneath a central shell deposit at the Irene Site near Savannah, Georgia. Included in this number was an urn burial identified with the Savannah Phase (Caldwell and McCann 1941:22).

Five burials were found in the subsoil immediately below the central shell deposit. All were cremated, and with four of them were associated intentionally placed objects. Two burials were found in the central shell deposit itself; both were cremated and one was an urn burial in a narrow-mouthed conical Savannah Burnished Plain vessel" (Caldwell and McCann 1941:22).

These seven cremated burials, with the exception of one found in another area of the site, were the only occurrences of cremation. The circumstances that they were the exclusive type within a stratigraphically defined concentration suggests ritualistic and ceremonial activities may have been associated with the practice of cremation during the Savannah Phase. It may have been customary to begin or consecrate burial areas with cremations, then have later burials interred in a different manner. Whichever was the case, we can only observe the additional similarity between cultural activities of the Pee Dee and those that occurred at the Irene Site.

#### **Burial 6**

Burial 6 was an urn burial located in square -60R40 (Plate 48). The urn was first observed as a circular ring of potsherds near a charcoal rich feature (Feature 49)(Feature 76). The urn did not have a cover. The vessel was 15 inches deep and 16 inches wide. It was conoidal in shape, had a slightly everted plain rim, and had been impressed by a



Plate 48. Burial 6 urn, Teal Site.



Plate 49. Burial 6 urn, prior to excavation.



Plate 50. Laboratory excavation of Burial 6 urn.

carved wooden paddle with an arc angle motif (Plate 50). Skeletal remains were not found within the fill.

### Burial 7

Burial 7 was observed beneath Feature 51 and the floor of Structure 1. Four individuals were identified with the burial (Plate 51). The first individual (Burial 7a) was an adolescent, 10 years of age, laid upon the chest of an adult male (Burial 7b), 25-35 years (Bogdan and Weaver 1990:12-20), lying on his left side in a slightly flexed position. The adolescent burial (Burial 7a) contained a square cross gorget (Plate 52) and a strand of marine shell beads (columella), while Burial 7b contained a similar necklace of shell beads around the neck area. A bundle burial of a 12-15 year old adolescent (Burial 7c) and an infant (Burial 7d) had been placed just above the feet and lower legs of Burial 7b. Neither bundle contained grave goods. With the exception of dental caries in Burial 7b, the individuals from Burial 7 showed no evidence of "...inflammatory bone lesions, trauma, serious dietary deficiencies or infections" (Bogdan and Weaver 1992:22).

The four individuals associated with Burial 7 represented a ritualistic interment that most likely occurred near A.D. 1000. This assignment is based upon the position of the burials beneath the floor of Structure 1 and Feature 51. The lowest zone of Feature 51 has been dated to A.D. 1331 $\pm$ 47 years. Thus, the burials must predate this period. Structure 1, through which Feature 51 intruded, was associated with Features 46, 47, and 49 that have been radiocarbon dated to A.D. 948 $\pm$ 51, 998 $\pm$ 48, and 999 $\pm$ 47 years. These dates identify the earliest activities of the Pee Dee culture in this region and the latest that could have been associated with Burial 7. Therefore, the remains must have been deposited between the range of A.D. 897 and A.D. 1378. However, sometime after A.D. 948 and before A.D. 1046 seems more likely given the closeness of the dates from

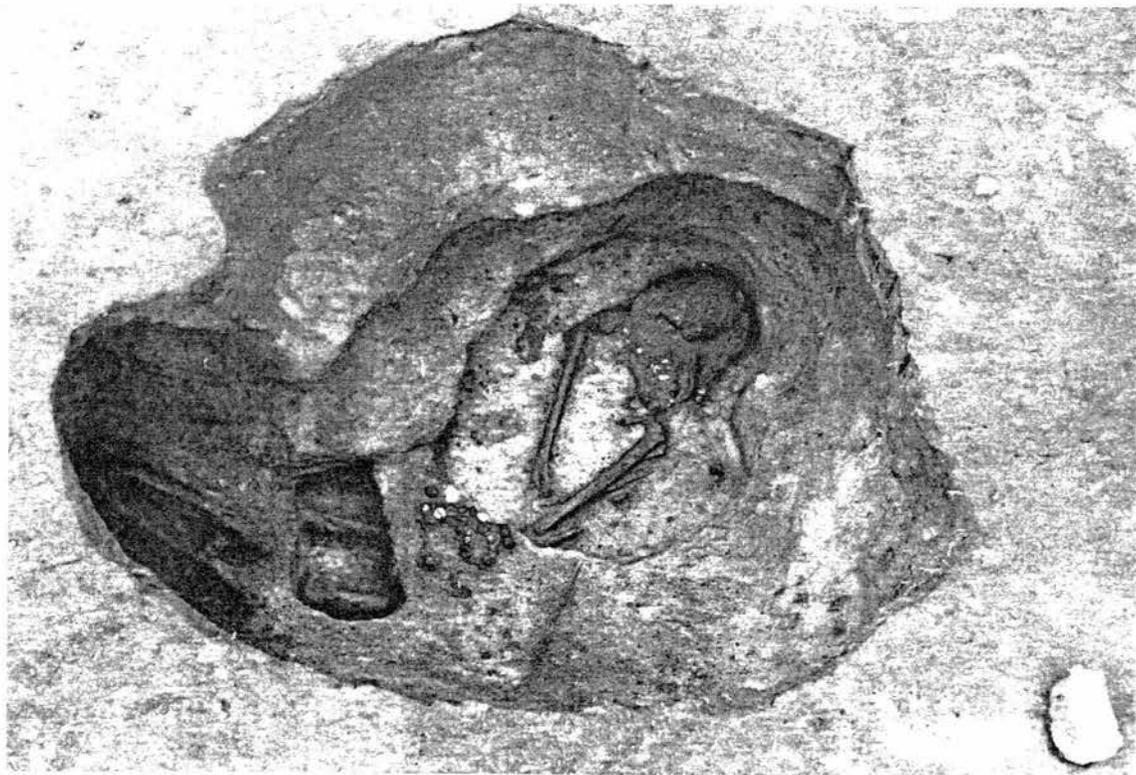


Plate 51. Plan view of Burial 7, a multiple interment of four individuals.

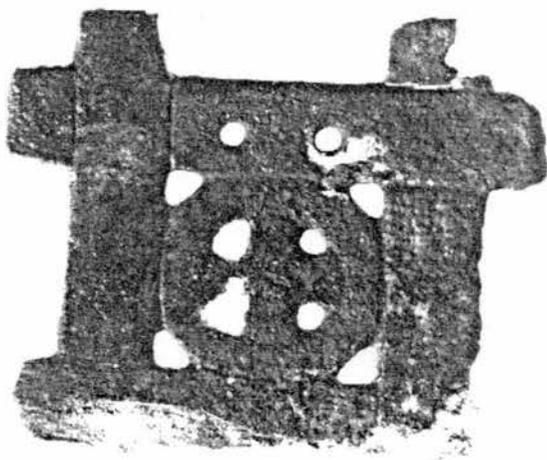


Plate 52. Square cross gorget associated with Burial 7a, Teal Site.

Features 46, 47, and 49. This chronological assignment also fits well with situations where the square cross gorget has been found.

Kneberg (1959:5, 32) has assigned a date of A.D. 1000 to a square cross gorget found by C.B. Moore at the Bennett Place Site in Tennessee (Figure 42). The gorget was associated with a child's grave that included Hiwassee Red on Buff pottery, a shell tempered jar with loop handles, a necklace of small shell beads, anklets of shell beads, and a clam shell spoon (Kneberg 1959:31). Muller (1989:14-15) places the square cross gorget style within the "Developmental Cult" period, A.D. 900-1150. The traditional view that the Southern Cult began with the "Long-nosed God Horizon" (see Williams and Goggin 1956) is not the sole attribute on which to base identifications of "early" or "Developmental" Cult (Muller 1989:15). However, it is significant to identify the presence of a square cross gorget (Plate 52) with four long-nosed clay figures (Plate 53) discovered within Structure 1. A fifth long-nosed effigy (Plate 40) was found near this area during South's excavations (South 1958). The combination of square cross gorget motif, long-nosed clay figures, and Tenth Century A.D. radiocarbon dates suggests a strong association between early Pee Dee activities and those of the early Southern Cult.

### **Burial 8**

Burial 8 was located in square -50R30. The oval-shaped yellow stain was intrusive into the dark brown floor of Structure 1 (Plate 43). Excavation revealed the semi-flexed remains of an adult lying on its right side (Plate 54). No grave goods were present. The skeletal remains were left *in situ*.

Beyond the concentration of burials within Structure 1 (4 burials, 8 individuals), mortuary patterns cannot be recognized through the work that has been conducted. Ritualized interments, usually of more than one individual, are suggested by Burial 5 and Burial 7. Whether or not this observation applies to the Pee Dee mortuary practice in

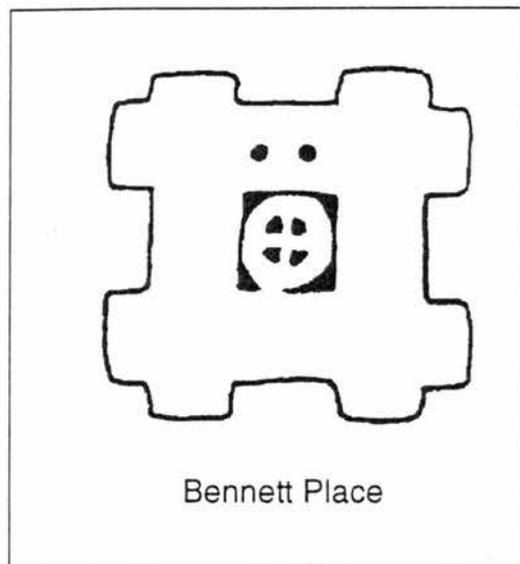


Figure 42. Drawing of square cross gorget from the Bennett Place Site, Marion County, Tennessee (after Knebreg 1959:4).

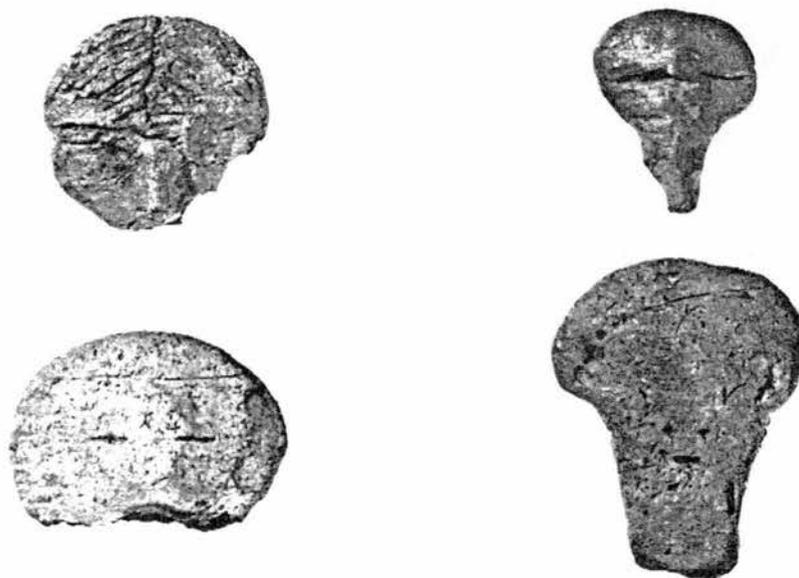


Plate 53. Long-nosed human effigies made of clay, Teal Site (*top row*) and Mulberry Mound (*bottom*, after Stuart 1975)(*Drawings by Terry O'Neill*).



Plate 54. Plan view of Burial 8, Teal Site.

general must await Coe's study of the nearly two hundred-fifty burials from the Town Creek site (Coe, n.d.).

## Structures

Although every square at the Teal Site had postholes, few could be confidently identified with alignments that signaled the location of a prehistoric structure. The short-term nature of the excavations and the intensive prehistoric occupations at the site made identifications difficult, but not impossible. Several circular to oval alignments of postholes may suggest domestic dwellings which have been partially, but not completely exposed, by the excavations (Figure 31). However, only one confirmed structure has been identified: Structure 1.

### Structure 1

Structure 1 was a nearly square structure with rounded corners measuring approximately 25 feet in diameter (Figure 43). The area inside the walls was a dark brown homogenized fill, except in the center of the floor where the remains of a bright orange-red hearth (Feature 79) was located, in the northeastern corner where an abundance of reddish-grey ash was observed, and across a narrow two foot path of tan clay (Feature 70) that extended westward from the clay hearth. Four burials (Burial 5, 6, 7, 8) containing eight individuals have been excavated from within the walls of this structure. Two of the burials were urn burials (Burial 5, Burial 6), and one was a ritualistic burial of four individuals (Burial 7). This concentration of burials is illustrated in Figure 44.

A small test excavation placed into the homogenized brown fill that covered most of floor of the structure indicated a depressed floor that had been covered by six inches of fairly sterile brown sandy loam. This fill was not intentionally placed, but appeared to have accumulated through time, thus sealing the deposits beneath it, and providing a new

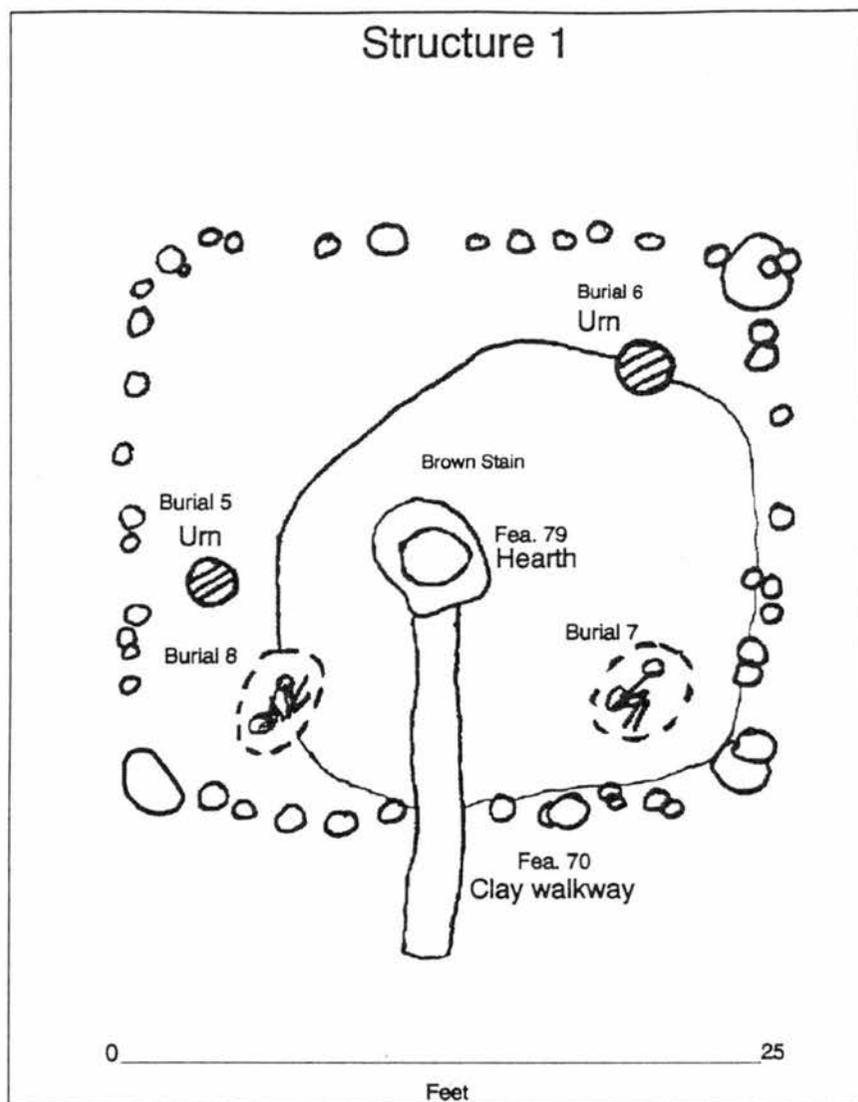


Figure 43. Plan view of Structure 1, Teal Site.

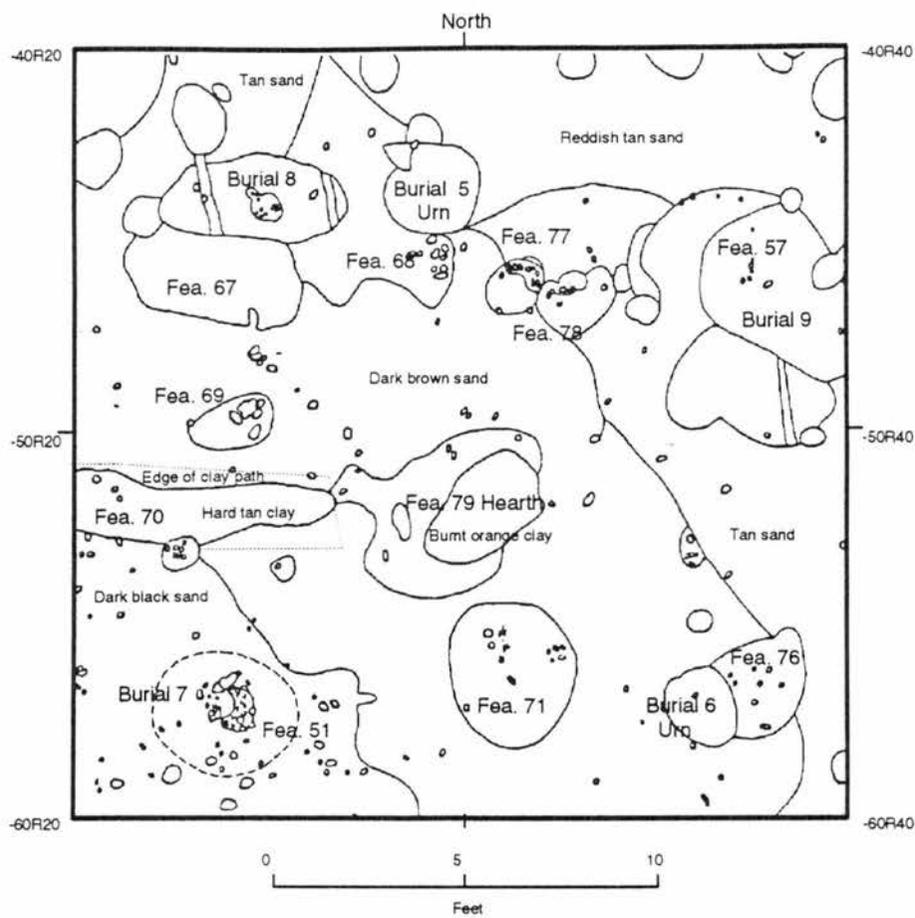


Figure 44. Concentration of burials within Structure 1, Teal Site.

surface on which others could reside. Several features, most notably, Feature 51, Burial 6, and Burial 8, were clearly later occurring events which intruded through the brown stain and the underlying floor of Structure 1. Burial 7 originated with the floor of the structure and dates to the same period of use.

So few burials have been excavated at the Teal Site that statements concerning patterns cannot be made. However, the concentration of four burials (Burial 5, 6, 7, 8) (Figure 43; Figure 44) containing the remains of eight individuals all within the walls of Structure 1 suggests a functional relationship as an early Pee Dee mortuary or ceremonial structure. Observation of a specially prepared clay walkway (Feature 70) further suggests a special importance was attached to this structure. The excavation, transport, and preparation of the clay necessary to build the walkway is more than might be expected for a domestic dwelling, but might be in keeping for a ceremonial building. Similarly, the discovery within Structure 1 of four long-nosed human effigies made of clay (Plate 53), possibly regional variations of the "Long-nosed God Horizon" (cf. Williams and Goggin 1956), and seven incised stones, one with a clearly engraved image of a deer on one side (Plate 55) and an ear of corn on the other (Plate 56), suggests special activities were associated with this area of space. The plan and arrangement of Structure 1 is similar to ceremonial structures identified at Town Creek (Coe 1992:personal communication), the Irene Site (cf. Caldwell and McCann 1941) and the Beaverdam Site (Rudolph and Hally 1985:75-92), but a meaningful understanding of its nature and significance must await future excavations and more detailed studies.



Plate 55. Engraved image of deer on stone found in Feature 66.



Plate 56. Engraved image of corn-like figure, reverse side of stone found in Feature 66.

## Chapter 7

### Conclusions

When the first archaeological remains of the Pee Dee Culture were exposed along the banks of the Pee Dee River, little was known about their lifestyle or when this distinctive culture existed in time. Archaeological investigations that began in 1937 focused upon the most prominent feature left behind by these people, an earthen platform mound located near Town Creek in Montgomery County, North Carolina (Plate 57). Through excavations conducted at Town Creek Indian Mound, a context was developed for interpretation of the Pee Dee archaeological remains. Explanations drew heavily upon the knowledge gained from excavations of the mound and the surrounding compound.

This complex was identified as a civic-ceremonial center of a Creek-related culture. It was assumed that the people of this culture "invaded" the southern Piedmont from coastal areas to the south, and forced out the Piedmont hill tribes who had lived there before they came. Because the archaeological remains indicated few people actually lived within the walls of Town Creek and the earthen mound built there was a labor intensive activity that required many people to construct, major portions of the Pee Dee population were believed to have lived in villages scattered throughout the surrounding countryside. The time period for the Pee Dee occupation of this area was thought to have occurred between A.D. 1450-1650 because of similarities to other

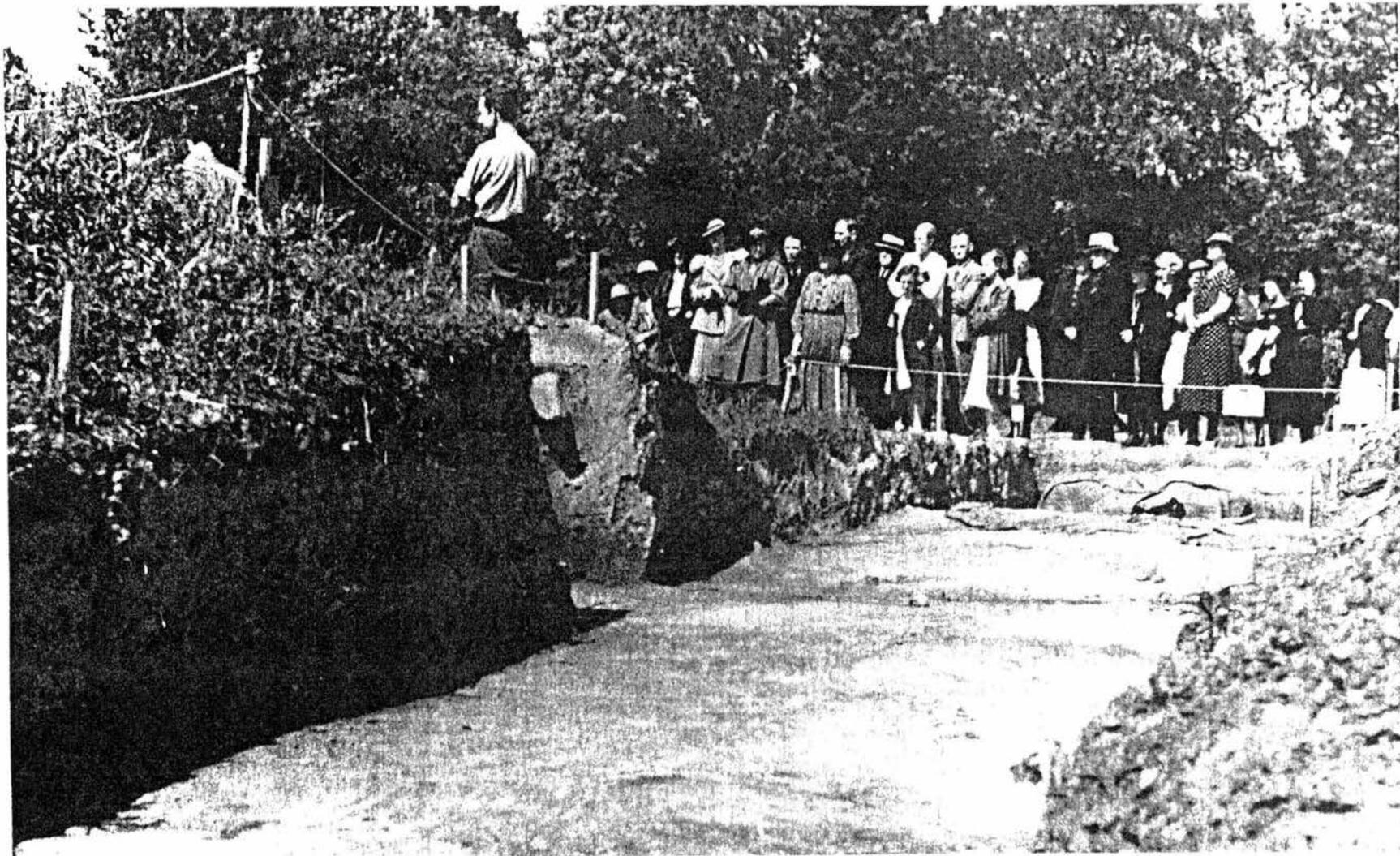


Plate 57. 1937 excavations at Town Creek Indian Mound (*Town Creek Archives*).

ceremonial sites in the southeast and the discovery of human burials in the top of the mound that were associated with glass trade beads (Coe 1992: personal communication).

Hindsight allows recognition that both the chronological assessment and association of trade beads were inaccurate assumptions. The Pee Dee activities were not associated with the historic trade beads at all. Instead the burials and trade beads had been deposited by a later culture, presumably Siouan, that reoccupied the Town Creek site after the Pee Dee had departed. Thus, the justification for extending the Pee Dee time frame into the historic era had no factual basis in the archaeological remains.

When the Pee Dee Archaeological Project began in 1986 certain basic research questions were proposed for study. These included questions regarding identification of where Pee Dee villages were located and determination of when the Pee Dee culture occupied portions of the southern Piedmont. These questions have been successfully addressed and a more meaningful interpretation of Pee Dee culture has been made possible.

The first Pee Dee people came into the southern Piedmont during the latter half of the Tenth Century A.D. or early in the Eleventh Century A.D. (ca. A.D. 950-1050). They came seeking fertile lands on which to plant their sacred corn and build their settlements. They came with a fully developed culture, or as Coe (1952:308) has said, "...with household and baggage." Pottery was most frequently complicated stamped or plain. Among the complicated stamped pottery concentric circles, filfot cross, quartered circle, arc angle, herringbone, and split diamond were the most popular surface finishes. The arc angle design appears uniquely with the Pee Dee (Reid 1967:6).

Evidence for early Pee Dee culture was indicated by a distinctive pottery type that exhibited a sugary paste, but had not yet developed the predominance of surface finishes and rim forms that have been commonly identified with the Pee Dee series (cf. Reid 1967:42-54). This ware, identified as the Savannah Creek series, is characterized by

simple stamped or fine cordmarked surfaces, and flattened rims that often appear L-shaped in cross-section (Plate 58). Savannah Creek pottery co-occurs with Pee Dee complicated stamped and plain pottery. Other than the flattened rims, distinctive simple stamping or fine cordmarking, and an occasionally notched rim, there is little to separate the Savannah Creek ware from the Pee Dee series. In fact, a small number of sherds of this type were first identified by Coe (1964:33) as Pee Dee Cordmarked and this identification may be more appropriate to some because of its historical position.

Similar pottery in South Carolina has been identified as Camden Simple Stamped (Stuart 1975:79-90), Santee Simple Stamped (Anderson 1982:302-308), McClellanville Simple Stamped (Trinkley 1981), and in coastal Georgia as Savannah Fine Cordmarked pottery (Caldwell and McCann 1941:43-44). Although there may be minor variations between these pottery types, there is little doubt that they are typologically, culturally, and chronological related. The discovery of these related types within the coastal area presumably occupied at one time by ancestors of the Pee Dee cannot be a mere coincidence, instead it signals the expansion and advancement of a powerful chiefdom that had its origin in the Savannah Phase (see Caldwell and McCann 1941) associated with the Irene Site near Savannah, Georgia. The Savannah Creek ware is the latest in a line of simple stamping, or fine cordmarking, that preceded the intensive use of complicated stamping by otherwise "Mississippianized" or "Lamaroid" groups that extended from the southern Piedmont of North Carolina through South Carolina to coastal Georgia. At the extremes of this distribution are the Town Creek and Irene Sites, whose acknowledged similarity led Reid (1967:65) to postulate "...a Town Creek-Irene axis--an area of cultural interaction during protohistoric times." The Savannah Creek ware is the principal diagnostic trait identified with the earliest period of Pee Dee occupation in North Carolina, the Teal Phase, A.D. 950-1200.



Plate 58. Savannah Creek pottery series.

## The Teal Phase A.D. 950-1200

The Teal Phase was a time of exploration, frontier settlement, and developing ceremonialism by early Pee Dee, or perhaps "pre-Pee Dee," populations. These people, and their associated culture, represented the northernmost extension of an expanding chiefdom that traced its roots through coastal South Carolina and Georgia. Marked similarities between the fine cordmarked, simple stamped, plain, and complicated stamped pottery vessels, similar stamp designs and rim treatments, rectangular structures with rounded corners, shell artifacts, bone artifacts, and objects of stone identified with the Savannah and Irene Phases support the relationship identified by Reid as the Town Creek-Irene Axis. In North Carolina archaeological remains at the Trestle Site (31AN19), the Teal Site (31AN1), the Leak Site (31RH1), the Town Creek Site (31MG3), and the Payne Site (31MR15), principally identified by the distinctive simple stamped or fine cordmarked pottery, have been associated with the Teal Phase. Radiocarbon dates from the Teal Site of A.D. 948 $\pm$ 51, 998 $\pm$ 48, and 999 $\pm$ 47, and from the Payne Site of A.D. 1040 $\pm$ 60, 1090 $\pm$ 70, and 1130 $\pm$ 70 (see Mountjoy 1988:7-8) provide firm evidence for the early nature of the Pee Dee intrusion (see Figure 40; Figure 45).

Mountjoy (1988:9) has postulated the initial Pee Dee intrusion may have occurred as early as A.D. 980 and as late as A.D. 1160. Given the closeness of the dates from the Teal Site it seems the Pee Dee intrusion may have occurred as early as A.D. 897, but not later than A.D. 1046. Two radiocarbon dates of A.D. 950 $\pm$ 87 and 1036 $\pm$ 86 for late Yadkin Phase features at the Teal Site suggest a more realistic date for the Pee Dee emergence of between A.D. 950 and A.D. 1000. These dates also attest to recognition that little time separated the departure of the Piedmont hill tribes from the intrusion of the Pee Dee into this region. In contrast to the prevailing opinion that the displaced Piedmont hill tribes were represented by people of the Uwharrie culture, cultural and

**Cultural and Chronological Phases of the Pee Dee Indians  
in North Carolina**

**Teal Phase (A.D. ~~950~~-1200)**

Teal Site 31AN1

A.D. 948-/+51

998-/+48

999-/+47

1129-/+83

Payne Site 31MR1E

A.D. 1040-/+60

1090-/+70

1130-/+70

**Town Creek Phase (A.D. 1200-1400)**

Town Creek Site 31MG2, 31MG3

A.D. 1205-/+140

1280-/+140

1350-/+140

1355-/+50

Teal Site 31AN1

A.D. 1213-/+93

1254-/+46

1319-/+78

1331-/+47

1364-/+48

Leak Site 31RH1

A.D. 1272-/+50

**Leak Phase (A.D. ~~1400~~-1600)**

Leak Site 31RH1

A.D. 1418-/+64

1459-/+175

Teal Site 31AN1

A.D. 1455-/+46

1459-/+72

1462-/+46

1520-/+45

Figure 45. Cultural and chronological phases of the Pee Dee culture in North Carolina.

stratigraphic information from the Teal Site and the general absence of Uwharrie remains from the archaeological record during this period indicate it was the Yadkin Culture, and not the Uwharrie, that was displaced by the Pee Dee intrusion into the southern Piedmont.

The Uwharrie culture represented descendants of the Yadkin Phase that had been forced above the Narrows of the Yadkin River. In this region the Yadkin culture gradually evolved into that of the Uwharrie which existed contemporaneously with the presence of the Pee Dee in the southern Piedmont. Although these cultures existed during the same period of time, they did not occupy the same territory. The Uwharrie Mountains served as a natural buffer separating these two different cultures and the extent of interaction between them is unknown.

Recognition for this early era of Pee Dee settlement represents a dramatic refinement of the established chronological sequence which assumed that the Pee Dee entered the southern Piedmont around A.D. 1450. The revised chronology moves the entrance of the Pee Dee backward in time some five hundred years (Figure 45). The period of time that was viewed as the beginning of the Pee Dee era has come to symbolize the terminal aspects of their culture. The first has become the last, and the beginning has become an end.

As villages along the reaches of the Pee Dee River and the Little River prospered, populations increased, and a florescence of Pee Dee culture developed that has been identified as the Town Creek Phase, A.D. 1200-1400. This episode of Pee Dee development through excavations at Town Creek has commanded the attention of archaeologists for more than five decades. Before there was an earthen platform mound and ceremonial center complex at Town Creek, there was a pre-mound occupation associated with the Teal Phase. Sometime near A.D. 1200 the first mound was constructed upon the archaeological remains of this earlier activity. The physical labor

required for the building of the mound was greater than could have been produced by the residents of the complex. Thus, the building of the mound must have involved considerable commitment of labor from outlying settlements such as Leak, Teal, Stanback Ferry, and possibly, the Payne Site. Once established, Town Creek became the focal point for ceremonial activities of this frontier chiefdom. Through generation after generation civic ceremonies and ritualistic burial of high ranking members of Pee Dee society occurred within the palisaded walls that enclosed the compound.

At least three Pee Dee sites, Town Creek, Leak, and Teal, exhibit indications of ritualistic or ceremonial activities, but only Town Creek and the Teal Site can be clearly associated with ritualistic events during the Teal Phase. Those events at the Teal Site are associated with the early portion of the Teal Phase (A.D. 950-1100), while those occurring at Town Creek are identified with the latter portions of this period (A.D. 1100-1200). The Leak Site also had occupations identified with the Teal Phase during this period of time, but it is uncertain to what extent ceremonial activities were conducted. However, there is no doubt about the nature of the activities conducted at the Teal Site.

The Teal Phase component at the Teal Site was associated with ritualistic activities that took place within the walls of a rectangular structure (Structure 1), most likely a structure specifically built for the purpose. Within this structure were found four human effigies made of clay (Plate 53), a uniquely incised stone with the image of a deer on one side (Plate 55) and an ear of corn on the other (Plate 56), a centralized clay hearth with a prepared clay walkway, two burial urns (Burial 5, Burial 6), and a multiple burial of four individuals associated with a "square cross" style gorget (Figure 46)(Plate 52). Gorgets of this design have been identified with emergent Mississippian (Kneberg 1959:5, 39), or "Developmental Cult" (see Muller 1989:11-26) activities that occurred near A.D. 1000. Kneberg (1959:1-39) described a "square cross gorget" from the Bennett Place Site in Marion County, Tennessee (Figure 47) in the following manner.

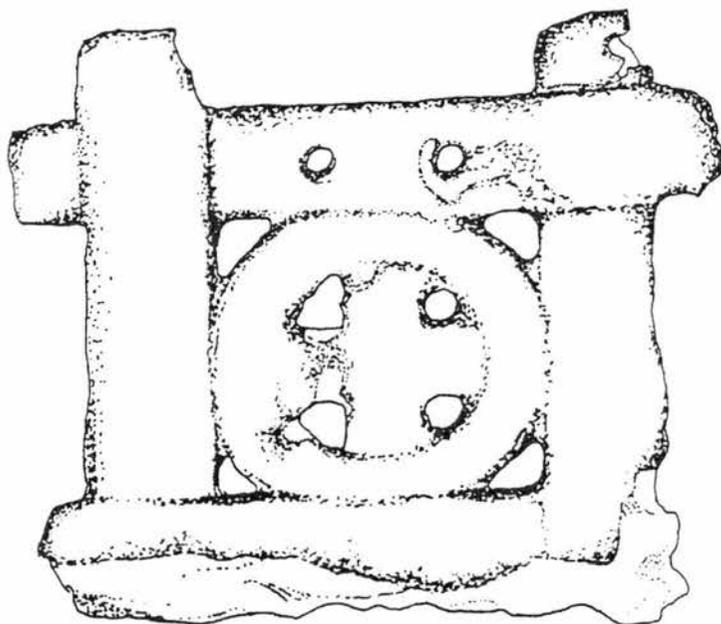


Figure 46. Square cross gorget, Burial 7a, 31AN1, Teal Site (*Drawing by Jim Hewitt; 1.5X*).

The gorget is square with interlocked arms forming the shape. In the center is a cross enclosed in an oval border. This may be one of the earliest designs, since it was found by C. B. Moore in a grave with a Hiwassee Island Red on Buff bowl. This type of painted pottery appears in the early Mississippian levels of Hiwassee Island (Kneberg 1959:5)."

Kneberg's study of shell gorgets identified three groups of shell gorget design along a chronological line of development. The earliest forms of shell gorget included the square cross, turkey cocks, eagle dancer, spider, and circular cross designs. Later forms included scalloped triskele, cruder circular cross, conventional dancer, rattlesnake, and mask designs. The square cross was thought to be the earliest form of shell gorget. Kneberg (1959:38-39) felt that the early forms as a group were associated "with the early and most elaborate expression of the Southern Cult and should date between 1000 A.D. and perhaps 1400 A.D." The identification of a square cross gorget at the Teal Site and two fine circular cross, or quartered circle, gorgets from Town Creek (Coe 1992: personal communication) indicate that the earliest Pee Dee activities were also associated with the Southern Cult, a complex of specific motifs and ceremonial objects first identified by Waring and Holder (1945) as the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex.

Muller (1989:14-15) acknowledges long-nosed god masks and square cross gorgets were used during the "Developmental Cult" period A.D. 900-1150, a time of

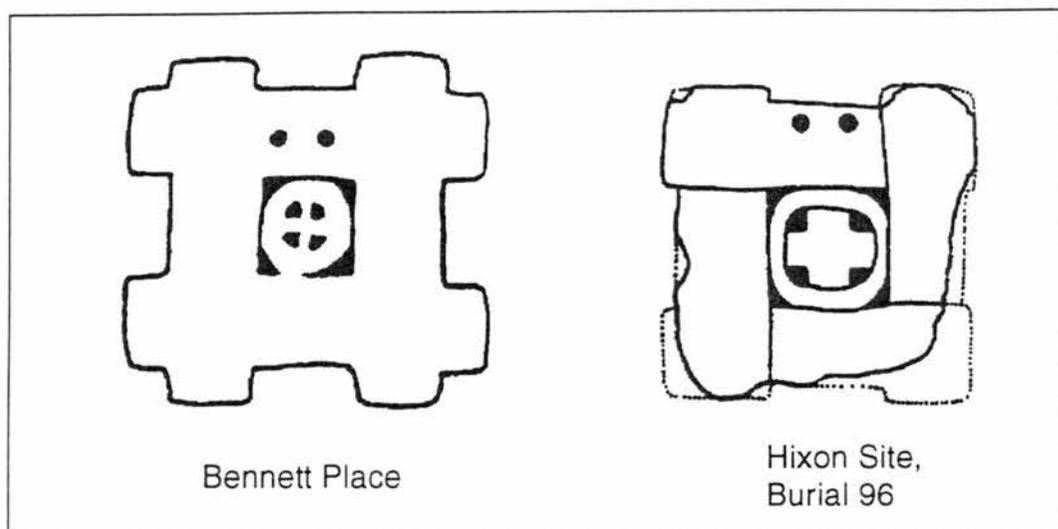
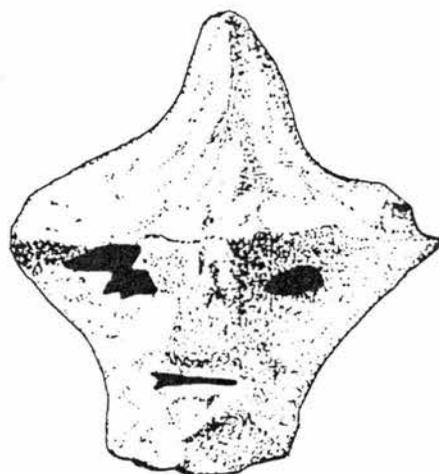


Figure 47. Drawings of square cross gorgets from the Bennett Place Site, and the Hixon Site, Tennessee (After Kneberg 1959:4).

developing ritual, political, and economic practices in the Southeast. Given this perspective, it is important to note that three of the four clay effigies found within Structure 1 at the Teal Site exhibit long noses (Plate 53). Additionally, a fourth "long-nosed human effigy (Plate 40) was discovered just east of this structure. Clay effigies of this sort were not found at the Leak Site, a later Pee Dee context, but two similar figures with "long noses" have been recovered at Town Creek (Figure 48), and another from the Mulberry Site in South Carolina (cf. Stuart 1975)(Figure 49). The association of these "long-nosed" clay effigies and the cross-oriented designs of the shell gorget motifs leaves little doubt that developing Southern Cult activities occurred at the Teal and Town Creek sites. As these developments took place, the earthen mound was constructed and Town Creek became a ceremonial center for the Pee Dee people. Archaeologically, these events reflect the emergence of a new phase of Pee Dee development...the Town Creek Phase.

### **The Town Creek Phase A.D. 1200-1400**

The Town Creek Phase (A.D. 1200-1400) evolved from the preceding Teal Phase as the Pee Dee people successfully exploited the fertile floodplains of the Pee Dee River, the Little River, and the surrounding countryside. The skillful potters no longer favored the complicated stamped, simple stamped or fine cordmarked surface finishes to the same degree they once had, instead plain vessels increased in popularity and the filfot cross was the most frequent complicated stamped design. Textile impressed pottery, an innovation of the Pee Dee potters, is associated with this period. "In surfacing a vessel in this fashion, it was first wrapped with strips of textile and then beaten all over with a plain paddle. This is the reverse of the usual procedure of wrapping a paddle with textile and then applying the paddle to the vessel" (Coe 1952:309). Little decoration was used,



Clay effigy

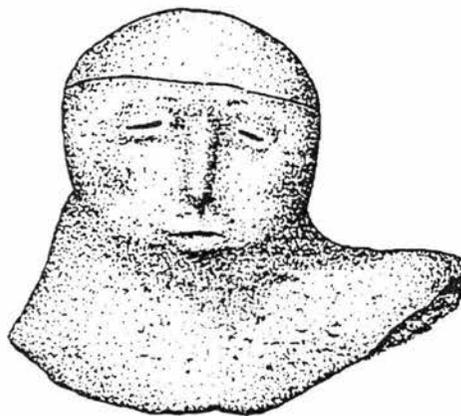


Polished stone effigy

Figure 48. Long-nosed human effigies from Town Creek (*Drawing by B.L. Oliver*).



31AN1, Teal Site



38KE12, Mulberry Mound Site

Figure 49. Drawing of human effigy from the Mulberry Site, South Carolina (*bottom*) and two clay effigies from the Teal Site, North Carolina (*upper*) (*natural size*) (*Drawing by Terry O'Neill*).

but small nodes, rosettes, or punctations sometimes were placed between the shoulder and the lip of the vessel. Most vessels, however, were undecorated and the rims were plain and slightly rounded. Vessel forms ranged from the large burial urns to bowls of varying size, to small pots and jars (Reid 1967:41-42).

The burial customs of the Pee Dee continued to include urn burial as well as flexed and extended interments. Most urn burials were infants whose remains had been placed into a large clay pot, placed into a hole in the ground, then covered with an inverted bowl before earth was placed over the burial. These pots often had holes knocked in the bottom of the vessel as a form for "ritual killing the pot." High ranking individuals were often buried at Town Creek, most in specially constructed "mortuary houses." Few burials at Town Creek contained grave goods, and those that did usually contained shell beads in varying numbers. Native copper was used for artifacts such as axes and coverings for wooden ear spools; bone tools were made and used as awls, perforators, needles, and punches; discoidals made of clay or stone were patiently fashioned into small circles; small right angle clay pipes were made in a consistent form; marine shell was used for conch shell cups, dippers, beads, ear pins, and gorgets. Non-local resource materials such as marine shell, native copper, grey chert, yellow jasper, and occasional sherds of Pisgah-like pottery indicate that the Pee Dee were involved in exchange of raw materials.

During the Town Creek Phase the large earthen platform mound that had been constructed over the remains of a ceremonial earth lodge built during the Teal Phase was rebuilt after the first townhouse, or temple, placed on the mound burned. The burned remains were covered with earth, effectively raising the height of the mound. Upon the newly raised surface, the last temple was built. The temple faced the rising sun and overlooked a sacred area called the "square ground." The square ground was surrounded by four sheds which were occupied by certain clans according to their rank during

ceremonial and political events at Town Creek. A ball pole used for games stood near the square ground. A plaza formed the area for playing games, and around the plaza were a number of mortuary houses and other structures.

The nature and extent of Town Creek indicates that the site was used over a considerable period of time. From an archaeological perspective the florescence of Town Creek and the Pee Dee culture occurred during the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries. Radiocarbon dates associated with the Town Creek Phase include the original dates from Town Creek of A.D. 1205 $\pm$ 140, 1280 $\pm$ 140, 1350 $\pm$ 140, 1355 $\pm$ 50; dates from the Teal Site of A.D. 1213 $\pm$ 93, 1254 $\pm$ 46, 1319 $\pm$ 78, 1331 $\pm$ 47, 1364 $\pm$ 48; and A.D. 1272 $\pm$ 50 from the Leak Site (see Figure 40; Figure 45). During this period the Pee Dee people were increasingly oriented toward ceremonial and ritual activities focused at Town Creek. However, near the end of the Fourteenth Century A.D. a new trend drew people and activities away from the ceremonial center. Town Creek was less and less a focus of ceremonial activity. Whether or not this shift reflects deterioration of the social system, changing political alliances, or the effects of environmental stress is not known, but the decline of Town Creek and the rise of several large sites near the Pee Dee River can be observed through the archaeological remains.

### **The Leak Phase A.D. 1400-1600**

Sometime near A.D. 1400 the broad floodplain on which the Leak Site is situated began to serve a similar role to that which Town Creek had played during the preceding period. These activities are identified as the Leak Phase (A.D. 1400-1600), a time when the Pee Dee people began to concentrate their population as well as civic and ceremonial activities at the Leak Site instead of Town Creek. Town Creek, which had been the ceremonial center for Pee Dee culture for several hundred years, became less frequently used. Whether or not this shift in focus reflects a decline in the rigidly stratified social

structure, consolidation due to increasing hostilities with non-Pee Dee groups, or a response to environmental change is not known. However, the events and activities associated with the Leak Phase are clearly representative of the latter stages of Pee Dee culture in the North Carolina Piedmont.

The Leak Phase was a time of change for Pee Dee culture. At least three sites located on the east bank of the Pee Dee River show indications of large, stable populations during this period. The sites are situated almost equidistantly from one another and are identified as the Leak Site (31RH1), the Asphalt Plant Site (31RH18), and the Stanback Ferry Site (31RH8). Each of these sites has produced evidence of intensive Pee Dee occupation, particularly human burial, but only the Leak Site has been investigated to a substantial degree. Both the Leak and Stanback Ferry sites exhibit evidence of ritualistic urn burials. Pottery from these sites is dominated by complicated stamped, plain, and textile impressed surface finishes. Rims were generally straight to slightly everted, but inverted rims such as those found on cazuela type bowls increased in frequency. Inverted rims always occurred on plain or burnished sherds. Rosettes and rim fillets which were applied to the rim just below the lip are decorative techniques identified with this phase. Rim fillets, in particular, signal the latter stages of the Leak Phase.

As the movement away from Town Creek occurred, the size of the Leak Site increased. Oval-shaped domestic houses were built. Corn and beans were grown in nearby fields. Mussels were gathered from the river. Fish were caught using weirs and bone fish hooks made from split deer bones. Ceremonial and ritualistic activities, as indicated by the presence of chunky stones, burial urns, and unfinished spatulate axes, were conducted. Ball games were played. Clay and stone discoidals, which may have been used as counters or "gaming stones," appeared in abundance during this period. Although discoidals of this type were also found in abundance at Town Creek, they were

not identified with early Pee Dee occupations during the Teal Phase. Thus, the presence of these disks may serve as a reliable indicator for later Pee Dee occupations. Future investigations may enhance archaeological understanding of the activities that took place during this final phase of Pee Dee cultural activity in the southern Piedmont, but until that time we must recognize they contributed little to the indigenous cultures. To paraphrase Coe (1952:308) "Their period of success is sealed between the deposits of the dispossessed..." Yadkin people and those historic descendants of the Piedmont hill tribes who came after them and may have contributed to their withdrawal.

### **Settlements of the Pee Dee Culture**

Through the course of this study it was sought to determine where and when domestic Pee Dee occupations occurred in the southern North Carolina Piedmont. Secondary objectives were to determine temporal and spatial relationships to the civic-ceremonial complex at Town Creek and establish preliminary perspectives on the nature of Pee Dee domestic settlements. Sixty-four archaeological sites have been identified with Pee Dee occupations in the southern portion of North Carolina. The majority of these sites (n=47, 73.4%) were located along the eastern banks of the Pee Dee River and along the Little River near Town Creek Indian Mound. Nearly three-quarters of the sites identified were situated close to a major stream and between 190 and 210 feet in elevation. A clear preference was indicated for placement of sites on Wedhadkee or Chewacla soils (n=61, 95.3%), both comprised of friable loams that would have been desirable for intensive corn agriculture. As first observed by Ward (1965:45), Mississippian period sites "are located on or approximate to soils with a high degree of natural fertility and a highly friable texture." There is no doubt that this process of site selection was at work during the Pee Dee period.

Three phases of development have been identified for the Pee Dee culture in North Carolina: the Teal Phase (A.D. 950-1200), the Town Creek Phase (A.D. 1200-1400), and the Leak Phase (A.D. 1400-1600) (Figure 45; Figure 50). Identification of these phases (Figure 50) has allowed development of a cultural and chronological sequence that identifies the initial Pee Dee occupations with emergent Mississippian, or developing Southern Cult activities. These activities were linked to the expansion of a chiefdom which had its origin in the Savannah Phase of the Irene Site near Savannah, Georgia. Reid (1967:65) recognized a relationship between the Irene Site and Town Creek which he identified as the "Town Creek-Irene Axis."

This relationship was principally based upon pottery similarities such as the predominance of complicated stamping, and the presence of singles of rows of hollow reed punctations, rosettes, or nodes upon vessels. Other attributes found at Irene such as Savannah fine cordmarked pottery and check stamped pottery were noted not to occur at Town Creek in "equal frequency" (Reid 1967:70). Identification of the Savannah Creek pottery series at the Teal Site provides an additional similarity to the Irene Site and stronger support for the position that the early Pee Dee were descendants of a coastal chiefdom that had its origin to the south (cf. Coe 1952:308). Further similarities were found in a rectangular-shaped ceremonial structure, burial urns, clay pipes, shell beads, bone tools, discoidals, celts, abraders, and stone tools. The Pee Dee sites in the Town Creek region are not identical to the Irene Site, but there is no longer doubt that they were culturally and chronologically related.

Pee Dee sites were never numerous and were not particularly large in size. Although fortifications may have existed, excavations at the Leak and Teal sites did not discover evidence of palisades. Early sites identified with the Teal Phase tend to be small nucleated villages which gradually increased in size during the Town Creek Phase. The larger sites, such as the Leak Site, were supplemented by dispersed farmsteads

located nearby in the broad floodplains. A return to nucleated settlements is indicated during the Leak Phase which is the terminal aspect of Pee Dee culture in this region.

At any given time, the total number of Pee Dee villages probably never exceeded a half dozen and the population of each village probably did not exceed several hundred people. Smaller villages or hamlets made up the remainder of the population, and although more numerous than large villages, would have contained less people. Little or no evidence exists to identify farmsteads or campsites that might have been associated with the Pee Dee culture. However, it is clear that the Pee Dee were not an *in situ* development from a Piedmont hill tribe. Instead they were an intrusive culture that sought to exploit and control the broad, fertile floodplains along the Pee Dee River and its tributaries. They brought the initial elements of their ancestral culture with them, but gradually through the five hundred year span that they occupied portions of the southern Piedmont, elements of their culture became uniquely recognizable with the "people of one fire."

"It began with a ceremonial rekindling of the sacred fire; Indians returning to their villages at the close of the busk carried embers from the new fire with which to relight the hearths in their homes. It was because of this sharing of the new fire by all the tribal members that the Indians of the Pee Dee culture referred to themselves as 'people of one fire.' After the lighting of the fire, which signified the start of a new year, four ears of new corn were offered to the spirits; eating of the new corn, which had been forbidden during the first part of the busk, was now allowed. At this time, the young men of the tribe who had reached and proven their manhood during the preceding year were given warrior names; they then were privileged to participate in all adult activities of the tribe..." (Reeves 1976:4-5).

In 1937 when the first archaeological excavations penetrated the earthen mound at Town Creek, little was known about the archaeological remains found there and much

less about the people who had built the earthen mound. Through the course of five decades of excavation and study, much has been learned about Town Creek as a ceremonial center, but it has taken investigation of the outlying villages to clarify when the Pee Dee first established settlements in the region and how those settlements evolved through time. Much has been learned, but many questions remain to be answered. A foundation has been laid for future research to address these questions and elaborate further upon the prehistoric activities of these people who appeared so suddenly and were gone so quickly that they resembled a beam of light flashing across a darkened sky. From the sites where their houses stood and fires burned, future archaeological studies will extract more meaningful knowledge from the ashes that remain and once more rekindle the embers of" the people of one fire."

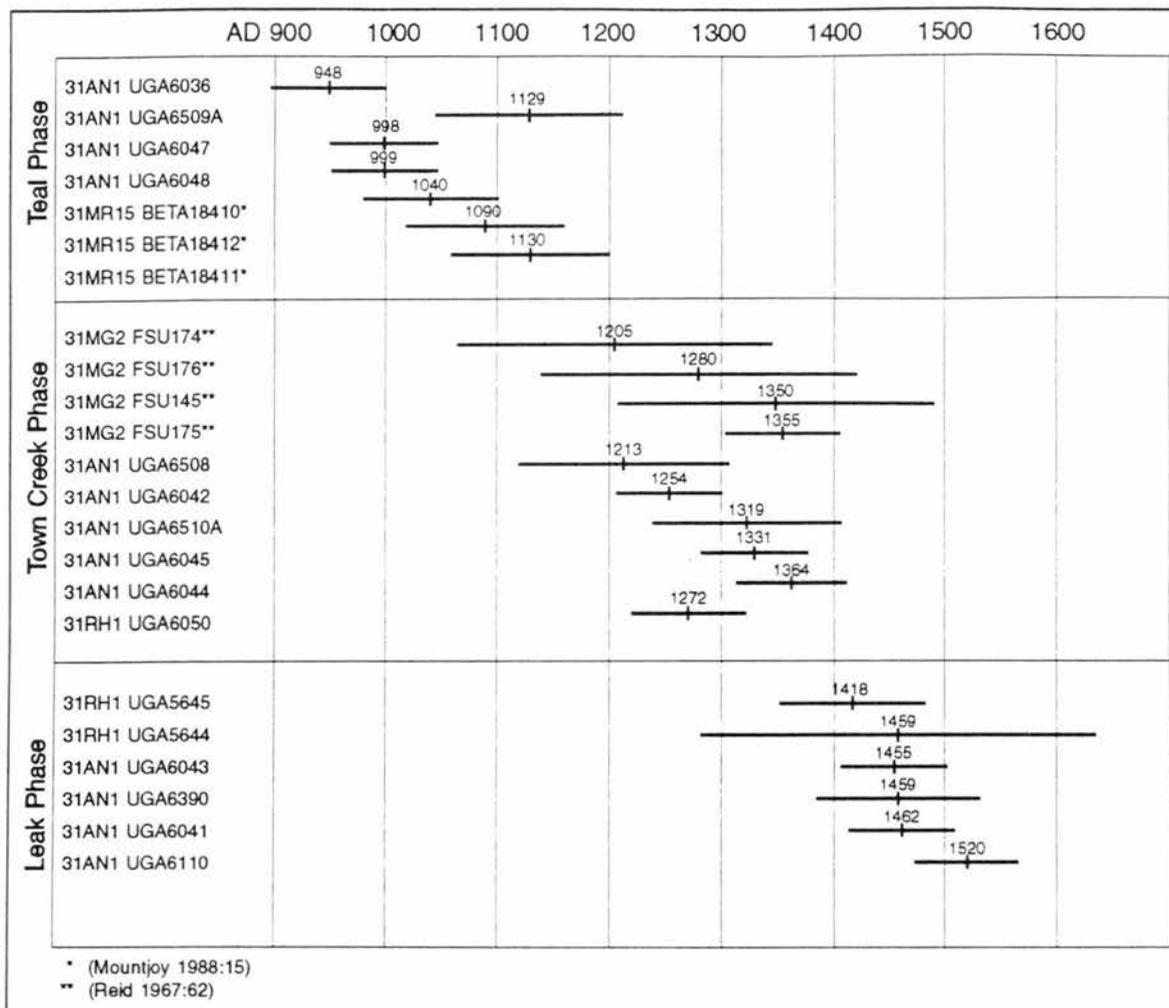


Figure 50. Graph of uncorrected radiocarbon dates according to phases of the Pee Dee culture in North Carolina.

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