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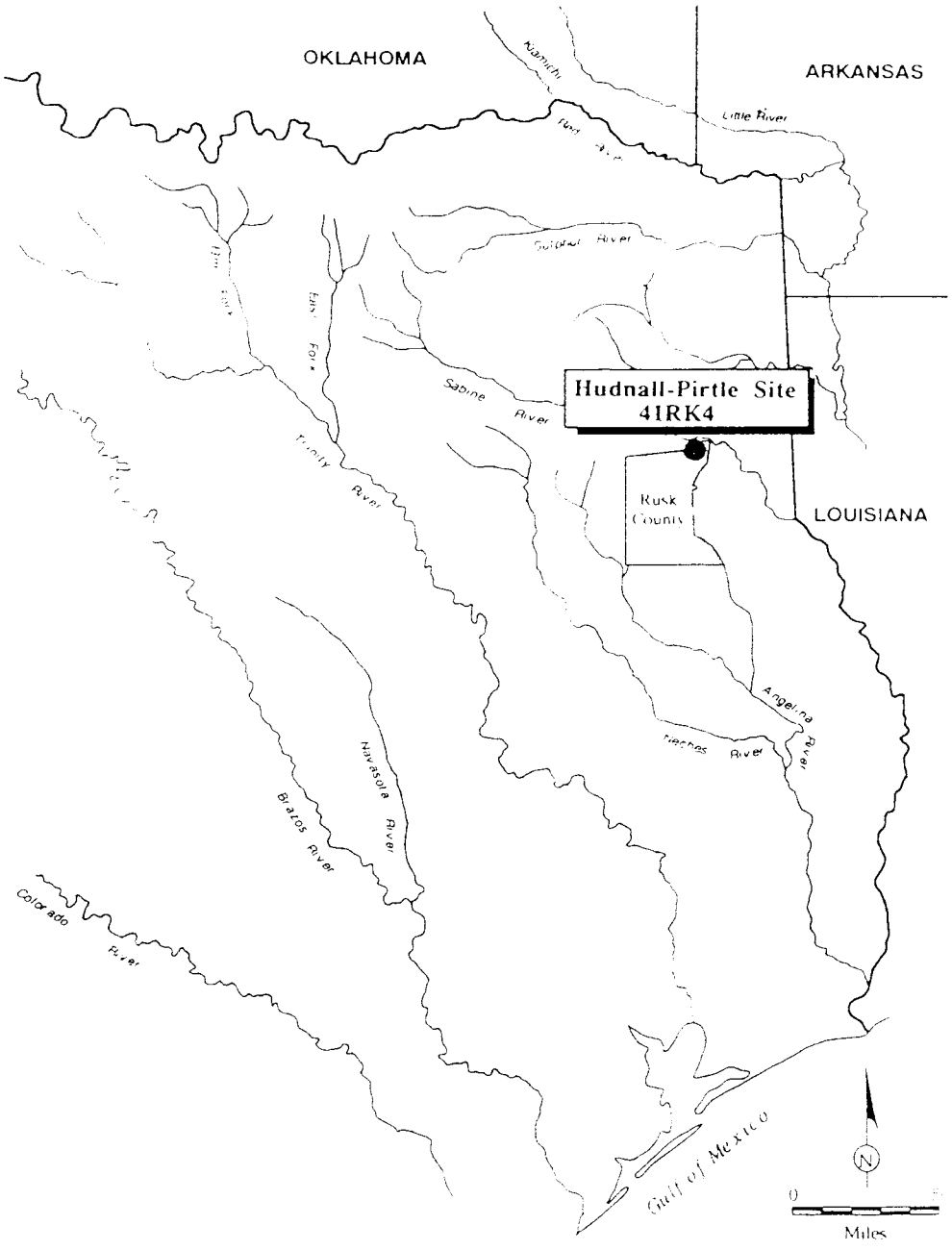

Map Showing Location of Hudnall-Pirtle Site in Rusk County, Northeast Texas.

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EDITOR
Timothy K. Perttula
Texas Historical Commission
Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
H.F. (Pete) Gregory
Rt. 6, Box 378
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Frank F. Schambach
Arkansas Archeological Survey
P.O. Box 1381
Magnolia, AR 71753

George Sabo III
Arkansas Archeological Survey
P.O. Box 1249
Fayetteville, AR 72702-1249

Robert L. Brooks
Oklahoma Archeological Survey
1808 Newton Dr.
Norman, OK 73019-0540

Ann M. Early
Arkansas Archeological Survey
Box H-7657
Arkadelphia, AR 71923

DISTRIBUTION and SUBSCRIPTIONS
Lois Albert
Oklahoma Archeological Survey
1808 Newton Drive
Norman, OK 73019-0540

COLES CREEK CULTURE AND THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI SOUTH

Frank F. Schambach

Certain Lower Mississippi Valley (LMV) traits, mostly Coles Creek ceramic traits, but also traits such as temple mounds and certain mortuary patterns, appear at Late Fourche Maline and Early Caddo sites in the Trans-Mississippi South, particularly at sites in the Red River Valley in northwest Louisiana and southwest Arkansas (Schambach 1971, 1982a, b). Explaining how these traits got there and understanding their role in the development of Caddo culture is one of the basic problems in the archaeology of this area. The conventional explanation has long been that they represent a full scale intrusion of Coles Creek culture into the Trans-Mississippi South (Dickinson and Lemley 1939). Thus Michael Hoffman (1970:151-157; 1971:779-780) has created a Crenshaw phase of Coles Creek culture in the Great Bend region of the Red River Valley in southwest Arkansas, and Clarence H. Webb attributed the initial major occupation at the Mounds Plantation site in northwest Louisiana to "Coles Creek peoples" who "laid out the plaza, possibly constructed Mound 2 as a quadrilateral temple substructure, and--at the opposite end of the plaza--established a burial area where Mound 5 sits" (Webb and McKinney 1975:119-120).

James A. Ford, who knew Coles Creek culture as well as anyone ever will, objected to thus usage thirty years ago, an objection I consider perfectly valid today. Ford (in Davis 1961:113) said that "the term Coles Creek has been misused in the past. Coles Creek peoples had a distinct area, not extending very far west. It runs from the mouth of the Red River west to Alexandria, and by the Mississippi to below Vicksburg."

My position is that Coles Creek culture did not penetrate the Trans-Mississippi South and that few, if any, of the so-called Coles Creek traits we find at Fourche Maline and Caddo sites in the Red River Valley came directly out of the Coles Creek heartland. Most of them appear to be generic LMV traits that were only acepted into Late Fourche Maline and Early Caddo culture after considerable modification. To me, this indicates diffusion of selected LMV traits into this area over several hundred years (as the range of Coles Creek pottery types at sites in the Trans-Mississippi South clearly shows) probably from multiple sources within the LMV, some of which were outside the territory of Coles Creek culture as defined by Ford (1951). The main source--as I will argue below--was probably the Plum Bayou culture of the Arkansas River Lowlands (cf. Rolingson 1982).

Naturally, the major arguments in this debate involve the Coles Creek pottery of the Trans-Mississippi South. I published a study of this pottery nine years ago (Schambach 1982b:165-172), so all I need do here is review my conclusions. The basic conclusion is

that we never find complete Coles Creek ceramic assemblages (to say nothing of complete Coles Creek cultural assemblages) at sites in the Trans-Mississippi South. The full range of Coles Creek types, including some important ones, did not diffuse to this area. Instead we invariably find a limited range of LMV decorated types (never plain wares) appearing as minority types in late Fourche Maline and Early Caddo assemblages. Pottery resembling Coles Creek Incised is the most common. Pottery now mistakenly called French Fork Incised is next in frequency. Occasionally we see some Beldeau Incised. But we never see the bread-and-butter Coles Creek types Chevalier Stamped and Mazique Incised, or the perhaps somewhat more exotic type, Ponchartrain Check-Stamped. The absence of Chevalier Stamped is particularly significant in view of Phillip's (1970:64) observation that, whenever Coles Creek Incised is found, Chevalier Stamped is "almost invariably" found with it.

The so-called Coles Creek Incised pottery of the Trans-Mississippi South is a mixed bag of pottery with Coles Creek attributes that can be divided into four groups. **Group 1** is bogus Coles Creek Incised sherds that came from Caddo pots with Coles Creek-like rim designs. Since the Caddo ceramic tradition is derived in part from the Coles Creek ceramic tradition, rim sherds from at least eleven Caddo types with horizontally incised rims can be mistaken for certain varieties of Coles Creek Incised. I suspect that 30 to 50 percent of all the Coles Creek Incised identified in the literature of the Trans-Mississippi South is misclassified rim sherds from vessels of various Caddo types. Some sherds would only fool an inexperienced analyst, others would fool anyone. Take away this pottery and the apparent Coles Creek influence in the Trans-Mississippi South is considerably diminished.

Group 2 is pottery with Coles Creek designs on distinctive local pastes, particularly bone-tempered pastes, but also including grit temper and mica temper. At least 10 percent of the Coles Creek Incised pottery from southwest Arkansas sites is bone-tempered, and so is some of the French Fork Incised pottery. Bone-tempering is an old Fourche Maline trait, going back to about 500 B.C. (Schambach 1970), and a good indication that local potters were borrowing Coles Creek designs from somewhere in the LMV. We also find in the Trans-Mississippi South flat bottomed jars or beakers with Coles Creek decoration on the rims. Flat bottomed jars have a long history in the Trans-Mississippi South but they are less common in Coles Creek ceramic assemblages, where bowls predominate.

Group 3 is practically a null group. It is pottery that looks like real Coles Creek pottery made by real Coles Creek potters. Occasionally I see sherds like this and they suggest some kind of direct contact with Coles Creek culture. But for every one of these sherds there are dozens that deviate from Coles Creek norms.

Group 4 is this deviant Coles Creek pottery, and it includes most of the Coles Creek Incised pottery of the Trans-Mississippi South. This pottery does not quite match pottery from the Coles Creek heartland in either paste or design. As has been pointed out time and again (Ford 1951:125; Wood 1963:12; Webb and McKinney 1975:77), the paste of southwest Arkansas and northwest Louisiana Coles Creek Incised is different from the Coles Creek Incised of central Louisiana. Central Louisiana Coles Creek Incised is a hard, high-fired, fine-grained, often polished, gray ware. But this **Group 4** pottery is a thicker, softer, coarser, lower-fired, often unpolished, reddish-brown ware (Ford 1951:125; Newell and Krieger 1949:118; Wood 1963:12; Webb and McKinney 1975:77). Since paste is a basic criterion for types in the Phillips (1970:26) classification for the LMV, these differences must be taken seriously. Those who consider this pottery real Coles Creek pottery, as opposed to Coles Creek designs on local paste, can only do so by writing off these differences as due to properties of local clays that were beyond ther control of the potters. I contend that they reflect the superior techniques of central Louisiana potters. Had these potters or their techniques been present in the Trans-Mississippi South, we would see it in the pottery. Even if they could not duplicate Coles Creek paste exactly, I do not think they would have simply adopted the inferior Fourche Maline paste.

The designs on this pottery also tend to be slightly off-key, at best, and frequently they are at the extremes of the LMV varieties. For every sherd with a decoration that really fits a LMV variety, there are a frustrating dozen that deviate in some way. Even the best Trans-Mississippi South Coles Creek is not really good LMV Coles Creek. Almost everyone recognizes this, which is why this pottery is often referred to as "Northwest Louisiana Coles Creek", or "Red River Coles Creek" or "Webb's Coles Creek", as opposed to the "good" Coles Creek of the LMV.

There are two ways this off-key Coles Creek pottery can be classified within the Phillips type/variety system. One is the traditional way, which is based on a normative-diffusionist model. That is, you look at the sherds and try to guess which LMV variety the local potters were trying to produce, in their own poor way. The other way is to follow Phillips's (1970:27) rule of continuity which states that "a typological unit having split distribution in space or time, even though the pottery cannot be sorted, should be automatically separated into varieties." By applying this rule to Coles Creek Incised pottery from the Toltec site in the Arkansas River Lowland region and the Crenshaw site in the Great Bend region, Martha Rolingson and I have found close ceramic ties between these regions that were not apparent before. Much of the "deviant" Coles Creek Incised of the Great Bend region fits easily into new varieties that also appear in the Arkansas River Lowland region. For example, two of our new Coles Creek Incised varieties, Keo and Lonoke (Rolingson 1982:

Figure 31b-d), dominate certain Coles Creek period assemblages in both regions, but are rare, if not absent, at Coles Creek sites in central Louisiana.

The outstanding example of a misidentified Coles Creek type in the Trans-Mississippi South is the so-called French Fork Incised pottery found at Crenshaw and many other sites in southwest Arkansas but rarely, if ever, in northwest Louisiana (Lemley 1936: Plates 7 & 8; Dickinson 1936: Figure 16, G1; Hoffman 1970:158; Harrington 1920: Plate LXVIIIb; Webb and McKinney 1975). Because of its very complex and undeniably French Fork body designs, this type has always seemed to be compelling evidence of direct LMV influence in southwest Arkansas during Coles Creek times. But it is more likely that it was developed in southwest Arkansas, perhaps at Crenshaw itself, by Fourche Maline potters who were taking liberties with certain LMV designs.

The French Fork designs on this pottery are invariably on the vessel bodies (Weeden Island-style) rather than on the rims where they should be on French Fork Incised, while the rims almost invariably bear a Coles Creek Incised design, usually with one or two lip lines. So here we have pots that are loaded with LMV decorative attributes, which ought to make them good LMV pots, but they are actually too good to be true. They have too many LMV attributes and some of them are in the wrong places. What we are seeing here, I think, is the first expression in any southwest Arkansas pottery type of one of the basic traits of the Caddoan ceramic tradition, the use of different rim and body designs on the same vessel. It is significant that these vessels are usually flat bootomed jars out of the Fourche Maline tradition rather than bowls out of the Coles Creek tradition. This pottery, long thought to be the best example of an intrusive LMV type, is actually our best candidate for the earliest recognizable Caddoan pottery type. Phillips (1970:83; also Brain 1971:63) has obscured this point by using a pot (or its identical twin) from the Crenshaw site in southwest Arkansas as the type specimen for French Fork Incised, without giving its provenience or noticing that the French Fork design is in the wrong place for a LMV vessel. Nor does he mention that (again, foreshadowing the Caddo ceramic tradition) the original vessel is red-slipped and has white pigment in the incised lines and in the background stippling. In my forthcoming report on the Crenshaw site I am renaming this pottery Lemley Incised in hono of Judge Harry J. Lemley's pioneering work at Crenshaw.

The complex patterns of reinterpretation and recombination of diffused LMV traits that we see in these pottery types are also apparent in traits outside the ceramic complex. Although Coles Creek style flat-topped mounds were being built in the Fourche Maline 7 period (A.D. 700-900), such as Mound C at Crenshaw and perhaps Mound 2 at Mounds Plantation (Webb and McKinney 1975:119), there is no evidence that these mounds had temples, charnel houses, or dwellings on top (Schambach 1982b:156). The Fourche

Maline people and the Early Caddo accepted the idea of flat-topped mounds from the LMV, but they used them as a new kind of burial mound, in keeping with their ancient, ultimately Hopewellian tradition.Apparently all the important Early Caddo sites such as Crenshaw and Bowman in Arkansas, Gahagan and Mounds Plantation in Louisiana, and the Davis site in east Texas have these templeless flat-topped mounds with deep grave shafts sunk through them (Hoffman 1971; Schambach 1982b; Story 1972; Webb and Dodd 1939; Webb and McKinney 1975).

There are many significant differences between the group burials in the deep pits in these mounds, with their carefully arranged skeletons and abundant grave goods, and the sanitary landfill-style mass burials without grave goods at the Greenhouse site (Ford 1951:Figure 11). These differences must reflect major differences in social organization and ceremonial orientation between Coles Creek culture in the LMV and late Fourche Maline and Early Caddo cultures in the Trans-Mississippi South. The often abundant offerings in these graves stand in strong contrast to the "unrelieved lack of grave goods" that John Belmont (1967) finds characteristic of Coles Creek culture. If Belmont is right, this adds an ironic twist to the interpretation of all the so-called Coles Creek Incisaed and French Fork Incised pots that have come from graves in the Trans-Mississippi South. Each one is proof that the grave in which it was placed was not a Coles Creek grave.

The main LMV ties of the Late Fourche Maline and Early Caddo cultures of the Red River Valley seem to be with the Toltec site and Plum Bayou culture rather than with the Coles Creek culture in central Louisiana. My working hypothesis is that the Louisiana segment of the border between the Lower Mississippi Valley and the Trans-Mississippi South was closed to massive movement. Possibly the great Red River Raft was already in place by A.D. 700, or earlier, blocking traffic up and down the Red River Valley, as it did later on in the Caddo period. Or perhaps this was a deeply hostile frontier, or simply a closed frontier, between peoples with major cultural and linguistic differences (particularly the latter). Proponents of the idea of Coles Creek culture in the Trans-Mississippi South never consider the language question, the probability that the Fourche Maline people of the Trans-Mississippi South were speaking proto-Caddo, while the Coles Creek people were speaking proto-Natchezan. Indeed, if the Coles Creek influence on the Trans-Mississippi South was as massive as they claim, and as recent (A.D. 700 to A.D. 1100), how are we to explain the major linguistic differences between these two areas at the historic date line?

Note

This paper was originally presented in a symposium titled *Coles Creek and its Neighbors* at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, New Orleans, October 20, 1988.

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Hudnall-Pirtle Site: An Early Caddoan Mound Complex in Northeast Texas

by
James E. Bruseth
Texas Historical Commission

The Hudnall-Pirtle (41RK4) site is situated on a large T-1 alluvial terrace of the Sabine River in northern Rusk County of Texas (Figure 1). This part of Texas, commonly referred to as Northeast Texas, is part of the Southern Gulf Coastal Plain, a relatively level, sloping plain formed by pre-Pleistocene embayments of the Gulf of Mexico. From a biogeographical perspective, the site is located in the Oak-Hickory-Pine Forest. This area represents the western extension of the Southern coniferous forests, and is dominated by shortleaf, longleaf, slash, and loblolly pine trees (Jordan, Bean, and Holmes 1984:28). In the floodplains of rivers and major creeks of Northeast Texas, the dominant vegetation is hardwood trees, including oak, hickory, elm, and gum. Soils consist of light colored to dark colored sands and sandy loams, with denser clays in the floodplains of major rivers and creek. The soils have been heavily leached by relatively high rainfall that ranges between 40 and 50 inches per year (Bomar 1983). Soils are generally acid, causing poor preservation of faunal remains in archeological deposits.

The first written description of the site is in an unpublished manuscript by amateur historian William Woldert from Tyler, Texas. In a section of the manuscript on old Indian trails, Woldert (1932) describes a "Mound Trail" that crossed the Sabine River in northern Rusk County and passed near a mound that almost certainly has to be part of the Hudnall-Pirtle site. He provides directions and distances to the mound from several surrounding towns, and plottings of these measurements correspond almost exactly with the Hudnall-Pirtle site.

In the 1930s, Hudnall-Pirtle site was recorded during a Works Progress Administration (WPA) sponsored archeological survey at the University of Texas (UT). A. M. Woosely of the WPA-UT program located the site based on information supplied by surrounding landowners, and recorded it as consisting of a "medium sized earth mound" (Woosley 1939). While notation of a single mound is perhaps understandable due to the heavy vegetation that likely covered the site at the time, almost certainly if he had spent any time walking over the area he would have noted the presence of several other earthen mounds. In many respects, though, it is fortunate that the site was recorded as only having a single mound. This put it into a class of sites for which there are numerous examples in Northeast Texas. If its true size and significance had been properly understood, almost certainly WPA-UT archeologists would have wanted to excavate the site.

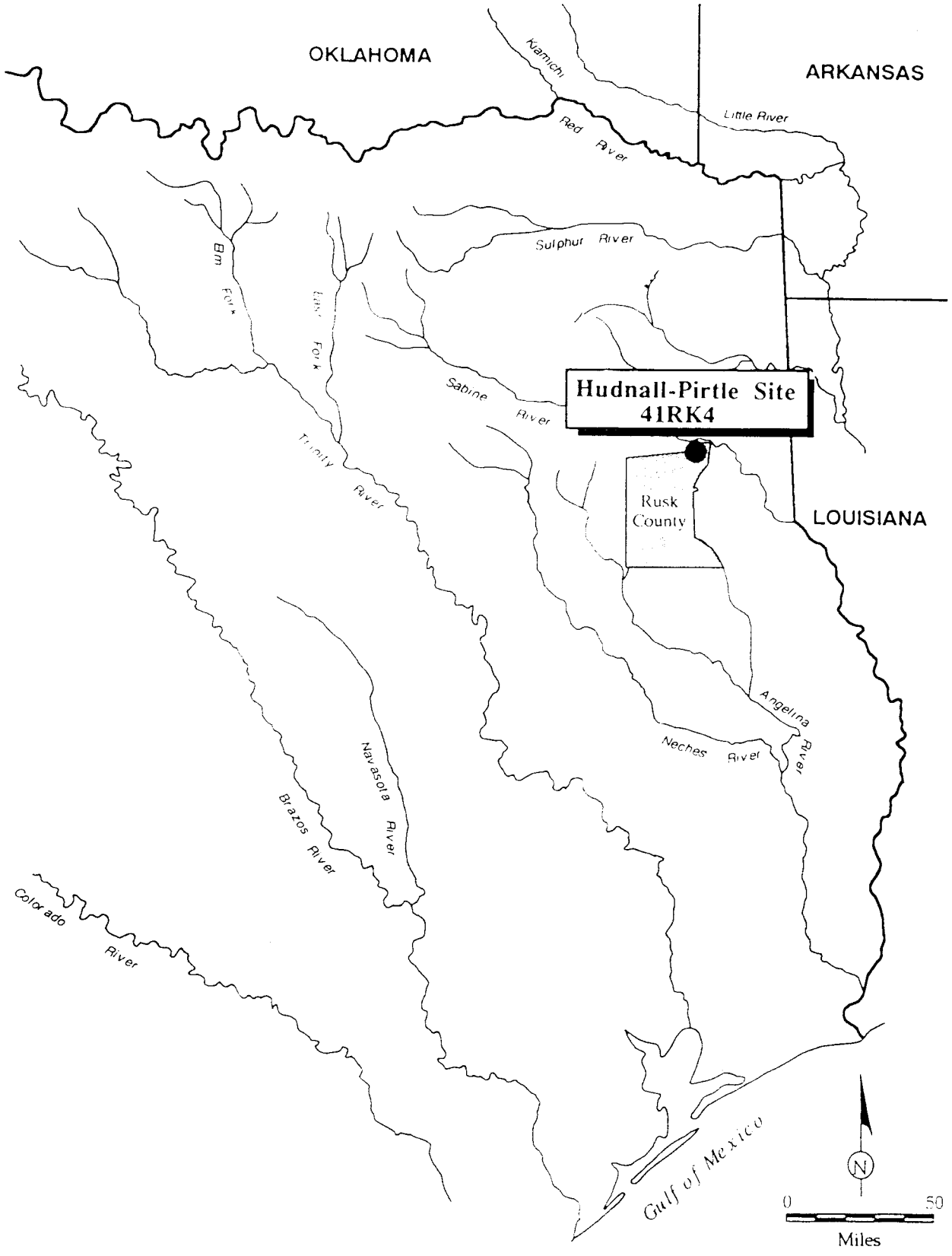

Figure 1. Map Showing Location of Hudnall-Pirtle Site in Rusk County, Northeast Texas.

Given the relatively rudimentary techniques that were being used at this time, the site would likely have been excavated with little attention for note taking and with great emphasis on obtaining display quality artifacts.

The next mention of the site is in the published transcripts of the Seventh Caddo Conference held in 1963 (Davis, Wyckoff, and Holmes 1971:101). During a discussion of diagnostic artifacts traits from Early Caddoan Period sites, then amateur archeologist Calvin Jones presented the following information about the site:

> ...there is one big mound site (Bivins farm) located in the Sabine bottomlands of northeastern Rusk County. It is composed of five mounds arranged around a plaza; they consist of two large rectangular temple mounds and three large circular mounds. I would guess this site to be primarily of Alto origin although tests in the village area revealed Alto and Coles Creek sherds. (Davis, Wyckoff, and 1971:101)

Surprisingly, none of the other archeologists attending the conference followed up with questions or comments about this obviously major Caddoan mound center.

During the mid-1960s, Calvin Jones conducted archeological investigations at the site. Although none of these investigations have been reported, limited details on this effort are available from discussions with his mother, Mrs. Jones of Longview, Texas. Calvin appears to have spent much of his time working on what is labeled as Mound C on Figure 2. He dug an east-west trench across the entire mound. The width of the trench is not known, but based on the appearance of the mound today (the trenches were not backfilled), his trench must have been at least 1 m wide. A perpendicular trench oriented from the center of the mound to the south was also dug and appears to have been of equivalent width. According to Mrs. Jones, both trenches were dug to the bottom of the mound. The only artifact found was a "ceramic vessel with nodes on the exterior." Otherwise the mound consisted of sterile "sugar sand."

Calvin apparently concluded that the mound capped a sub-mound pit, likely a burial chamber, and decided that excavation needed to continue deeper. However, the unconsolidated sands of the mound caused the trench walls to cave in, and he decided it was not safe to continue the existing trenches deeper by hand. At this point, he enlisted the aid of Mr. Sam Whiteside from Tyler, Texas, to assist in the excavations. Mr. Whiteside owned a front-end loader and volunteered its use to help remove the mound fill and to expose the subsurface pit. The front-end loader was brought to within a mile of the site, at which time it began to rain. The rain was sufficiently great that the front-end loader could not continue to the site and was taken back to Mr. Whiteside's

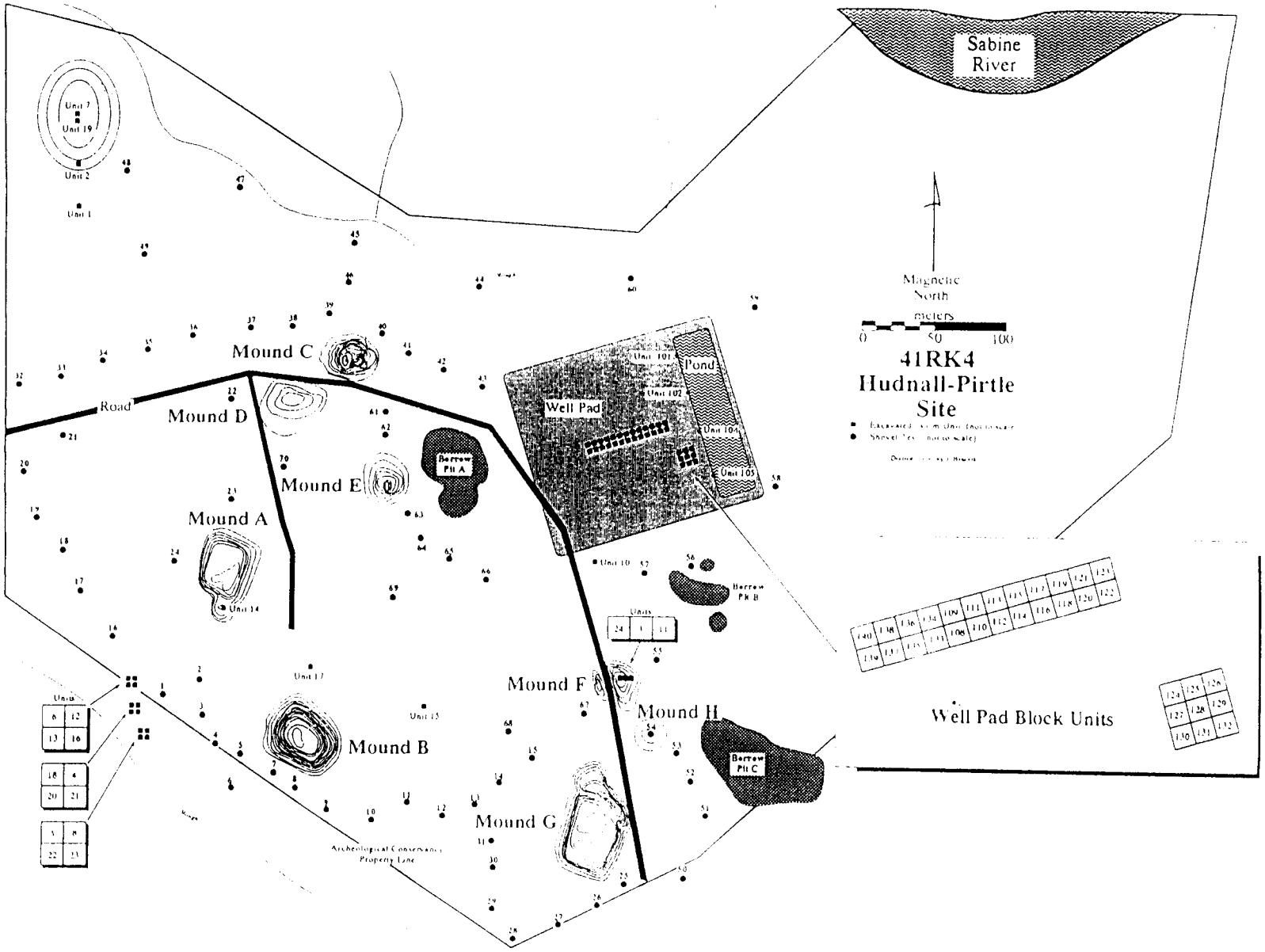

Figure 2. Map of the Hudnall-Pirtle site showing 1989 and 1990 excavations.

house. This activity was never attempted again, and the rain is responsible for preventing Mound C from being totally excavated.

The site was re-discovered by the author and Bob D. Skiles in the early 1980s based on the description given in the Seventh Caddo Conference transcripts. The site was located, visited, and re-recorded. A short time later, the author came into contact with the Archeological Conservancy, and explained the importance of the site and underscored the need to permanently preserve it. Under the guidance of the Conservancy's Southwest Regional Director, Mr. Jim Walker, the site was acquired in 1986 and is today an archeological preserve.

During 1989 and 1990 the Archeological Planning and Review Department of the Texas Historical Commission tested the site to gain a better understanding of its size and periods of use. Seven of the eight mounds were mapped (Mound H was found after the testing program had ended), shovel tests were conducted over much of the Conservancy's property, and several test investigations were conducted (see Figure 2). Two block excavations were placed in an area disturbed by recent oil drilling activity to sample the remaining deposits (Units 108-140). Unfortunately, the upper 30 cm of the deposits had been removed by the preparation of the well pad, and other deposits were totally removed by a pond constructed on the eastern edge of the pad.

This effort and additional block excavations placed in the southwestern portion of the site (Units 4-6, 8, 12, 13, 16, 18, 20-23) encountered substantial preserved middens deposits. These areas contained several features including postholes, pit, and hearths. No complete posthole patterns could be identified, however, in the 45 square meters exposed in the village areas.

Limited work was conducted in two of the mounds. Excavations (Units 3, 11, and 24) in Mound F showed the presence of a burned, and likely dismantled, structure on the pre-mound surface. The structure was apparently capped with clay and sand while the burned timbers were still hot, as seen by the fire reddened quality of the clay in direct contact with the charred timbers. Two radiocarbon dates were obtained on charcoal from the timbers. These dates, calibrated according to Stuiver and Becker (1986), are A.D. 1158 +/ 70 and A.D. 1174 +/- 70. The mound cap was 1.3 m in height. Mound A, located across the plaza from Mound F, was sampled by a single unit (14) placed in a small, conjoined mound. The mound was found to be 1.2 meters in height, and Early Caddoan Period village debris was located beneath it. The fill was sandy loam with no discernable stratigraphy, and the purpose of this part of Mound A is unknown.

Two units (17 and 15) were placed in the plaza, and failed to recover more than a few flakes. This is in marked contrast to units in the well pad area and in village deposits southwest of the plaza where hundreds of artifacts were found in each unit.

Four units (1, 2 ,7, and 19) were placed in what at the time was thought to be a man-made mound in the extreme northwestern corner of the Archeological Conservancy's property. This effort showed that occupation occurred over the surface of the mound, but that the mound itself was a natural terrace rise and not man-made.

Shovel testing was conducted across the site (see Figure 2) and was instrumental in defining the location of village deposits. Substantial numbers of artifacts occurred in virtually all shovel tests outside of and around the plaza. Nearly all portions of the Archeological Conservancy's property contain village deposits, mounds, or the plaza. There are two exception to this. The first is between Shovel Test 59 and the Sabine River (see Figure 2). This area is low and is covered by water during several months of the year; the site boundary ends about 10 meters northeast of Shovel Test 59. Second, a small portion of the site extends beyond the Conservancy's property on the southwest, between the property line and the slough shown on Figure 2. Otherwise, the Archeological Conservancy's property line delimits the site boundary.

It is apparent from the aforementioned evidence that the site served as a civic-ceremonial center and a village for a large resident population. Although shovel tests inside the plaza failed to show much artifactual evidence, work outside of the plaza showed occupation debris over much of the remainder of the site. The village area seems to have been located around the plaza and the mounds. The plaza appears to have been intentionally kept clean of trash, and most likely reserved for specialized activities. Limited testing in two of mounds indicates that one capped a structure and the other served an unknown purporse. It is likely that some of the other mounds may have served as burial tumuli for high status individuals, but this has not been confirmed by the testing program.

The excavations at the site confirmed Calvin Jones' assessment that it was occupied during the Early Caddoan period. Ceramics of types Pennington Punctated-Incised, Crockett Curvilinear Incised, Holly Fine Engraved, Weches Fingernail Impressed, Davis Incised, and Dunkin Incised were recovered. A few sherds of Coles Creek Incised, *variety Coles Creek* were also found suggesting an earlier occupation as well. Projectile points were almost exclusively the arrow types Alba, Bassett, Colbert, and Homan. A copper bead was found in the midden deposits in the southwest portion of the site.

The artifacts and other information from the Texas Historical Commission's recent excavations are being analyzed by the author with the assistance of Timothy K. Perttula. A report of the findings is expected to be completed during 1992 and will be published either as a journal article or a special publication of the Texas Historical Commission.

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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF STORMY POINT

Jim Hardey and Claude McCrocklin

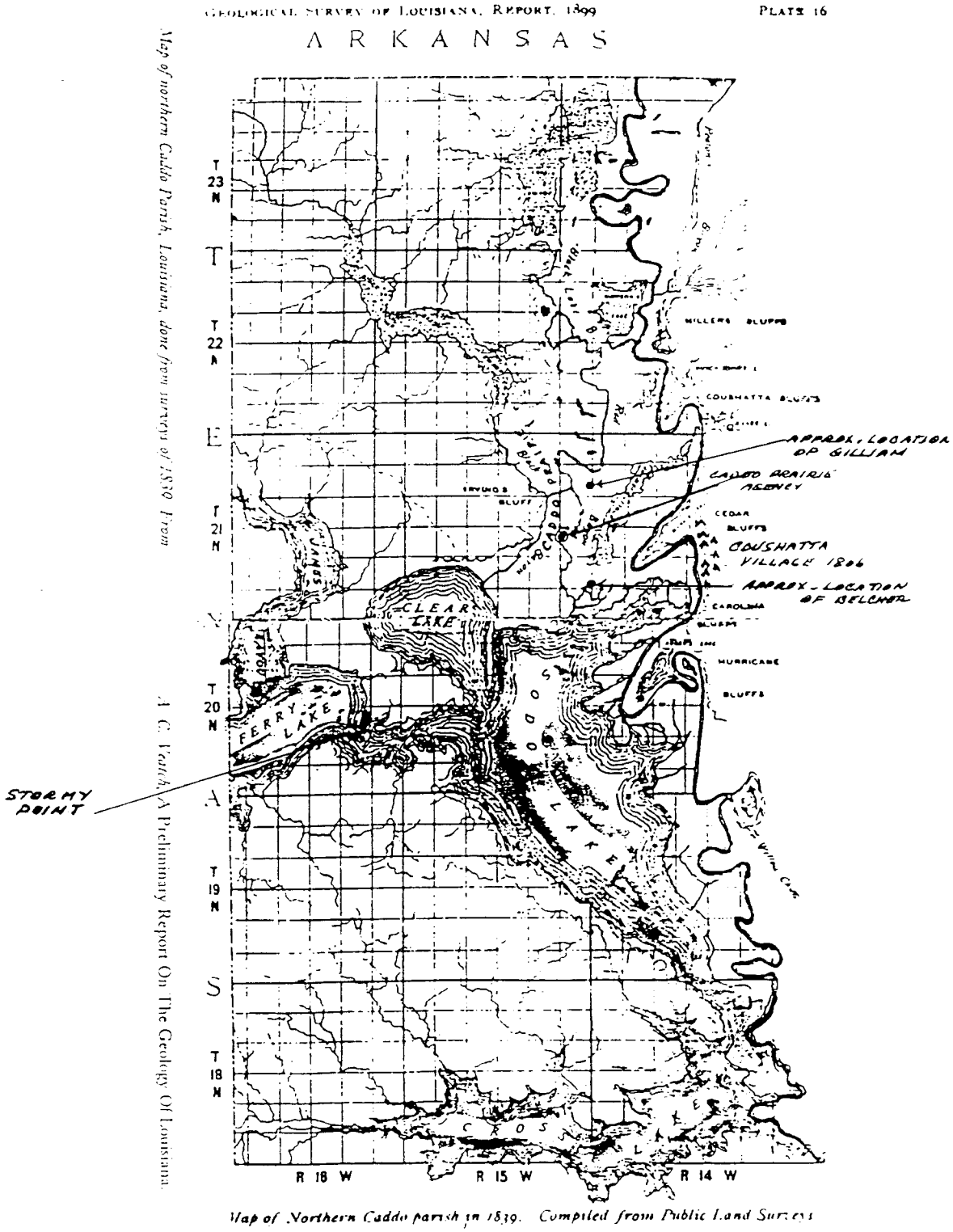
This is a report on an archaeological survey of the point of land that extends south into Caddo Lake opposite Mooringsport, Louisiana. The nineteenth century name for this area was *Stormy Point*, and the area into which Stormy Point extends was called Ferry Lake in 1839 (Figure 1). The primary purpose of the survey was to find eighteenth century and early nineteenth century Caddo Indian sites, with the focal point of the survey being the thirty acre southwest tip of the point; other areas were looked at but not thoroughly investigated. Prehistoric Indian and early Anglo-American sites found while surveying for the Historic Caddo sites will also be reported.

Landscape

The sandy 10 meter high southwest end of Stormy Point is a grass-covered area with a fringe of trees and brush along the west bank. The extreme south tip of the point to the water's edge is covered with large trees and dense undergrowth. The top of the point is more open with some trees and clumps of briars and brush. Occasional palmettoes, cactus, and cedar trees dot this area, and several large walnut trees are along the bluff edge.

There are several moderate to large-size shallow depressions on the west side of the area. One of these could be the remains of Colonel Pitts' cellar (see below). The others are probably oil field related depressions as there is a heavy scatter of oil field material all over the point. Power and pipe lines cross the point from east to west with the right-of-way for each cutting through the west bank to the water's edge. The east cut gives a good profile of the point's stratigraphy and reveals that the sandy soil averages one to two meters in thickness. To the north of the site area is a large forty acre field that used to be cultivated. No extant features other than the power line are on the west side of the point.

The impression one gets while standing on Stormy Point is that it is an unusual place. The high overlook of Caddo Lake with water on three sides is beautiful, and one can appreciate why the Indians from Paleo-Indian times to the Historic Caddo period would have chosen to live there. Later, Anglo-American settlers built their homes there for the same reasons; there are no single component sites found to date on Stormy Point.



Map of northern Caddo Parish, Louisiana, done from surveys of 1839 From A. C. Veatch, A Preliminary Report On The Geology Of Louisiana.

Figure 1. Map of Northern Caddo Parish, Louisiana, done from surveys of 1839 (From Veatch and Harris 1899)

History

A remarkable account of the nineteenth century Caddo Indian history of Stormy Point is given in the document **A Geological Report on Northern Caddo Parish in 1899.** This report is part of Veatch and Harris's **Geological Survey of Louisiana, 1899.** The discussion of Stormy Point, Ferry Lake is as follows:

> A cellar dug near the end of Stormy Point by Col. S.D. Pitts in 1885, disclosed quite an amount of pottery at a depth of from four and one-half to five feet. One large pot, when found, was full of living ants, evidently attracted there by something the pot contained. A smaller pot was filled with children's bones. An iron tomahawk, two iron rifle barrels and an iron knife about eight inches long were also found.
>
> About 1870 high water washed out the bluff on the southwestern corner of the point and exposed a skeleton. The forehead was covered with a thin highly ornamented piece of silver bent to fit the skull. On the back of the head was a circular piece of silver. These pieces are said to have been analyzed by a local jeweler and pronounced virgin silver. On the shoulders were thin crescent shaped pieces of metal. They were described as having been coated with green, and are hence inferred to have been copper.
>
> The son-in-law of Larking (sic) Edwards, the interpreter and friend of the Caddoes, "Old James Shemick", from whom the place was bought, stated several years before the skeleton was found that the last chief of the Caddoes was buried somewhere in that vicinity.
>
> This point was a favorite place for the collecting of the Caddo Indians when they desired to start for Shreveport. They crossed the lake at Newport point and their trail from there to Shreveport is said to have been quite visible as late as 1860.

Stormy Point was also the place where the Caddo Indians were to receive the final installment payment for their lands sold in 1835, and from where James Shemick (or Shenix) operated a ferry across Ferry Lake in 1840 (From testimony of Larkin Edwards before Robert Marye, Justice of the Peace, at Shreveport on the 16th of December 1840 [O'pry 1928:77-78]).

Methods

The survey methods used were surface collecting, test excavation and screening with a 1/4-inch hardware cloth, metal detector scans, and probes with a steel rod. The most effective of these were surface collecting and test excavations. The metal detector scans were largely ineffective due to the heavy subsurface scatter of old oil field debris, such as pipe fittings, nuts, bolts, washers, etc. Some of this litter was eliminated by setting the detector on maximum discrimination. This eliminated small iron objects, but detected the lead musket balls, copper trade material, and other nonferrrous metal artifacts present on the site. A Pelorus compass and a range finder calibrated in meters was used to plot the site location and areas where artifacts were recovered.

Site Description

There is a site along the entire south end of Stormy Point. Artifacts and cultural materials dating from prehistoric times to early twentienth century oil field related activity may be found, but due to the heavy vegetation, there are very few places where artifacts may be seen on the surface. These are in the dirt roads, where the bluff edge has eroded or has been disturbed, and along the shoreline.

The most prominent features on top of the point are the remains of old chimney falls where the early Anglo-American settler's houses stood. These are marked by dense concentrations of fragmented hand-made brick, broken glass and ceramics, and nails. There are two of these sites, one in the center of the ridge just south of the power line, and another on the southwest bluff line near the east right-of-way cut. They are both mid-to-late nineteenth century sites, with the one in the center of the point appearing to be the older of the two. A third and earlier house site is believed to have eroded off the southwest edge of the point. Older material, such as eighteenth and early nineteenth century European ceramic sherds, dark green wine bottle glass, thin (2 mm) window glass, gun flints, large caliber musket balls, and square nails are scattered from just below the bluff to the water's edge. At high water, quantities of this material is washed out by wave action and can be collected along the shoreline. Occasional Caddoan ceramic sherds are found among this European material, but their age is uncertain due partly to our lack of knowledge of just what types of pottery to expect on nineteenth century Caddo sites.

Prehistoric and Historic Sites

Early to middle Archaic lithic materials were found along the shoreline and in washed out areas along the bluff edge. Dart points found ranged from Early Archaic San Patrice points to corner-notched and side-notched Middle Archaic types. Knives, scrapers, grinding stones, and numerous flakes and chips were also found along the shore. On top of the point, nickel and quarter-sized Caddo ceramic sherds are found scattered over the surface along with an occasional arrowpoint.

Of the two historic house sites on top of the point, the one in the center area appears to be older in age. This could be the house site of James Shemick (or Shenix?); the artifacts from the test excavations and surface collecting tend to indicate this as the hand-made brick from the chimney fall is soft, almost daub-like, and the European ceramic sherds are of early nineteenth century age. Glass, buttons, square nails, and other small artifacts belong mostly to an early to mid-nineteenth century component, while the later material scattered over the site is attributed to early twentieth century oil field activity.

The house site on the southwest edge of the point appears to be of late nineteenth century age. Close to the east side of the site is a large depression. It has oil field pipe in it now, but it looks as if the depression was already there when the oil field people enlarged it. This is based upon the results of excavating and screening the heaped-up dirt around the depression. Horse shoes, wagon fittings, square nails, glass, ceramic sherds, thin sheet copper, and Indian lithics were found in this fill dirt. This depression could mark the site of Colonel Pitts' house and cellar.

The early nineteenth century material below the bluff to the shoreline is an enigma since no existing concentration on the point can be associated with it. The most probable explanation is that the area from which it derived crumbled off the top of the point sometime in the past. This is substantiated by the abraded surfaces and rounded edges of the ceramic sherds and the fragments of glass found in this area. High water wave action buffeting the material with the natural iron ore gravel on the beaches would cause these types of wear. In contrast, if the material was coming from the lake bottom and washing up on the beach, at least some of the newly arrived sherds would still have sharp, crisp edges.

The origin of the prehistoric Indian material found on the shoreline likewise cannot be determined. Some of the dart points, like the historic materials, are worn smooth while others have sharp surfaces as if just washed up from out in the lake. Since none of the area below the bluff has any stratigraphic integrity, we will probably never know the origin of any of this prehistoric or historic material.

Comments

Although we did not find a single component nineteenth century Caddo Indian site in our investigations, we did find enough evidence through research and field tests to substantiate that one is there at Stormy Point. We did find enough archaeological material, both prehistoric and historic in age, to justify a continued investigation of Stormy Point. The two early nineteenth century Anglo-American house sites alone would be worth excavations. In this respect, our survey of Stormy Point was a success, and thus the data recorded should be of use to archaeologists who would want to do a more detailed study of the site.

Acknowledgments

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assisting us in our study of it. Jim Hardey was field director for the survey and Ms. Ruth Rainey kept the survey records. Both did valuable research work for the project.

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The Community Heritage in the Spanish Americas

Sponsored by the National Park Service, the conference focuses on the colonial community in the Spanish Americas, with discussions of the social, political, and economic impacts resulting from the encounter of the Native American and European worlds during the Spanish Colonial period. Papers will be presented on topics such as "The Material World of the Missions", "El Camino Real: The Old San Antonio Road", and "The Columbus Quincentenary: American Indian Perspectives". For information on registration, please contact: Quincentenary Committee, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 2202 Roosevelt Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78210.

49th Plains Anthropological Conference

The Conference will be held November 13-16, 1991 in Lawrence, Kansas. For further information, contact William B. Lees, Kansas State Historical Society, 120 W. 10th, Topeka, KS 66612.

1992 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology

The conference will be held January 8-12, 1992 in Kingston, Jamaica. The program theme is "500 Years of Change: Contact and the Consequences of Interaction", with a focus on interaction between Europeans and Native Americans of the Caribbean, Africa, North America, and South America. For information on registration and papers, please contact Douglas V. Armstrong, Chair, SHA 92, Anthropology Department, 308 Bowne Hall, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York 13244-1200.

Gran Quivira Conference XX

The Gran Quivira Conference is being held in Texas from October 10-13 with meetings in Goliad and San Antonio. Paper sessions will discuss the frontier settlement patterns of presidios, missions, civilian communities, ranching enterprises in the San Antonio Valley, and their effects on the indigenous population, as well as Spanish colonial studies in history, archaeology, architecture, art history, and geography for Northern Mexico and the U.S. Southwest. For information on registration, please contact Adan Benavides, Jr., GQ Conference, 251 Harmon Drive, San Antonio, TX 78209-4245.

Sixth North American Fur Trade Conference

The Fur Trade Conference will be held September 25-29, 1991 at Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, Michigan. The Conference program will include papers on the "European Economic Foundation of the Fur Trade", "The Fur Trade in the French Regime", "The Response of Native People to the Fur Trade", "Native People and Trade Strategies", "Material Culture of the Fur Trade", and "Fur Trader's Strategies". To register or receive more information, please contact: Sixth North American Fur Trade Conference, Mackinac State Historic Parks, P.O. Box 370, Mackinac Island, Michigan 49757.

Southeastern Archaeological Conference

This year's Southeastern Archaeological Conference will be held November 6-9, 1991 at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Jackson, Mississippi. Pre-registration is $30, and $35 for registration at the meeting. Dr. Jesse Jennings will be the special Friday night banquet speaker. To register or receive more information, please contact the local arrangements chair: Sam Brookes, U.S. Forest Service, 100 W. Capitol St., Suite 1141, Jackson, Mississippi 39269, phone (601) 965-5518.

CONTRIBUTORS

James E. Bruseth, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas
Jim Hardey, Shreveport, Louisiana
Claude McCrocklin, Shreveport, Louisiana
Timothy K. Perttula, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas
Frank Schambach, Arkansas Archeological Survey, Magnolia, Arkansas