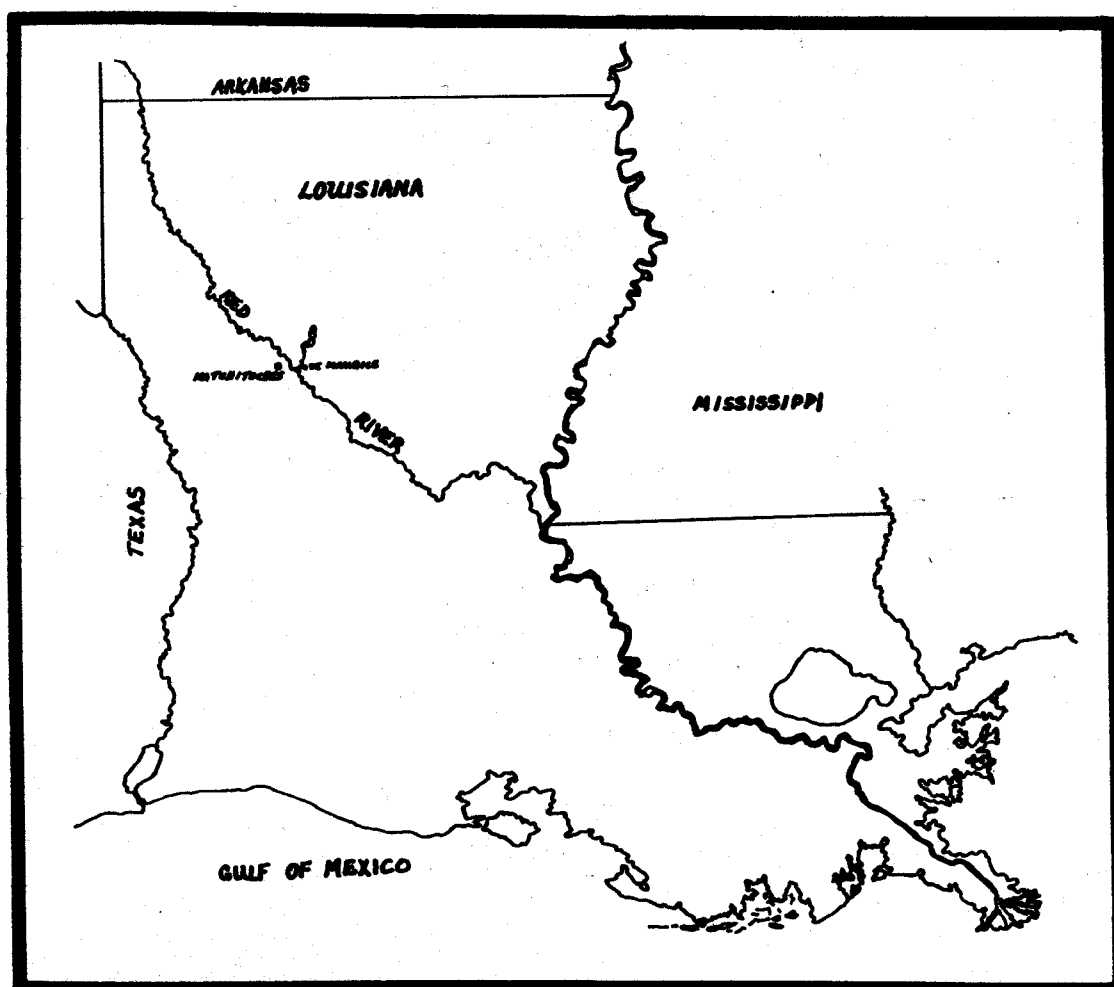


# CADDOAN

## ARCHEOLOGY

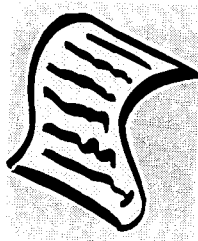


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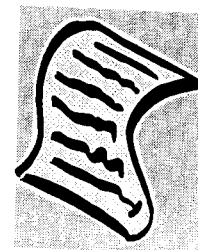
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# **Archeological Field School, Black Warrior Valley, Alabama, December Intersession December 27, 1997 - January 10, 1998**

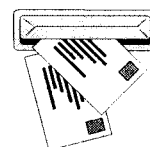
This work is part of the Late Mississippian Archaeological Project in the Black Warrior Valley of Alabama, near Moundville Archaeological Park. Moundville was one of the largest and most powerful prehistoric Native American communities in the southeast during the Mississippian period (A.D. 1000-1500). Funding is by the National Science Foundation, as a predoctoral research grant to the Field Director, Mark A. Rees, Department of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma. The project will examine the collapse of the Native American polity of Moundville (ca. A.D. 1400-1700) through excavations at outlying mound sites. Mississippian mound sites included large earthworks topped by temples, council houses, and homes of the nobility. Participants can look at the political and economic organization of late prehistoric southeastern North America through both the archaeological excavation and directed readings. Instruction in archaeological techniques and methods will also be taught. Students may register for 3 hours of undergraduate credit in **Anthropology 3930, Fieldwork in Anthropology**. Avocational volunteers will also be accepted.

Course introduction and orientation will be given at 9 a.m. on December 22, 1997, at the Southeastern Archaeological Lab (111 E. Chesapeake, Norman OK — down the hall from the Oklahoma Archeological Survey). The two weeks of fieldwork will followed from December 27, 1997, to January 10, 1998, in west central Alabama. Housing will be provided at Moundville Archaeological Park, 15 miles south of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Transportation between the park and the site will be provided. The park preserves 317 acres of the prehistoric community.

If you are interested in attending this field school for credit, contact Mark A. Rees, Field Director, at the Department of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma, Norman OK 73019; or, Southeastern Archaeological laboratory, Room 130, Building 134SC, 111 E. Chesapeake, Norman OK; or email [marees@ou.edu](mailto:marees@ou.edu); or phone (405) 325-6824 (lab) or (405) 447-1796 (home). You could also contact the Intersession Office, OU College of Continuing Education, University of Oklahoma, Norman OK 73019; phone (405) 325-3899. If you are interested in working as a volunteer, contact Mark, not the Intersession Office.



## **REGIONAL NEWS**



### ***Oklahoma***

The Oklahoma Archeological Survey again staffed a booth for four days (September 22-23 and 25-26) at the Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City. Lee Bement and Lois Albert constructed a time-line exhibit of Oklahoma archeology. Posters and survey newsletters and brochures were distributed, as well as some items from the Oklahoma Anthropological Society and the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office.

On October 11, the Oklahoma Anthropological Society held their Fall Meeting at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa. The theme of the meeting was "Prehistory and History of the Tulsa Areas Through Civil War Reconstruction". Papers presented were Pleistocene/Holocene Transition and Early Holocene Periods in the Tulsa Area (Paleoindian 10,000 to 6000 B.C.) by Don G. Wyckoff, The Middle Holocene Period (Archaic Hunter Gatherers, 6000 to 1000 B.C.) by Richard R. Drass, Late Holocene Period (1000 B.C. to A.D. 1500) by Don Henry, Protohistoric Period (A.D. 1500 to 1750) by George Odell, Immigrant Native Americans prior to the Civil War (A.D. 1750 to 1861) by Garrick A. Bailey, Civil

War and Reconstruction (A.D. 1861 to 1880) by William M. O'Brien, and The Civil War Battle of Round Mountain, Nov. 19, 1861, by Frank Winchell.

Jeri Redcorn called me recently with news about two things. One is that she has started a pottery class with about a dozen Caddo ladies attending. It meets in Oklahoma City. The other item is that Lowell (Wimpy) Edmonds died recently. He was the head singer at the dances at Binger during the Caddo Conference. This is a great loss for the tribe because he was the only person who knew all of the songs. If you want to send your condolences to his widow, the address is: Mrs. Lowell (Pat) Edmonds, PO Box 384, Anadarko OK 73005.

*Lois Albert*

### **Oklahoma Department of Transportation Conducting Cultural Resource Inventory**

In the Fall of 1995, John Hartley, Department Archaeologist for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) obtained a grant under the Intermodal

Surface Transportation Act (ISTEA) to identify and assess cultural resources within and adjacent to rights-of-way along the Oklahoma state highway system. The goal of the project is to provide a more efficient means by which ODOT can evaluate cultural resource concerns in management and planning. Phase I of the project, which has been completed, involved researching files at the State Historic Preservation Office and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey to identify all previously recorded archaeological sites and historic properties listed on or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) within 1/8 mile of a highway. Approximately 1600 such properties have been identified. All available information on each property is recorded on a data base and locations will be transferred onto digital topographic quads obtained from the United State Geological Survey.

Phase II of the project is now well underway and involves field inspections and some minimal testing of select archaeological sites identified during Phase I as known to extend, or possibly extend into existing rights-of-way. The criteria for site selection in Phase II are NRHP properties and those which appear to have potential for significance based on available data. The former category includes sites with little or no information available from which to judge potential significance. The field inspections are designed to identify sites having potential for significant deposits in the right-of-way which may be affected by regular maintenance

activities, active erosional processes, or by future highway related construction.

Sites identified during Phase II as exhibiting potential significance and undergoing active destruction by erosion and ODOT maintenance activities will be proposed for Phase III, which is aimed at determining the most efficient means of minimizing these impacts. Measures to be considered during Phase III include erosion control efforts, revised maintenance techniques, and salvage excavations.

The completed project will be updated as part of the regular Highway Archaeology and will provide an important tool in managing cultural resources along the Oklahoma state highway system. The project is being conducted under the supervision of John Hartley, ODOT Department Archaeologist, and Robert Bartlett, Highway Archaeologist for the Oklahoma Highway Archaeological Program. However, the bulk of the work is being performed by archaeologists Gary Edington and Lynita Langley-Ware.

*Robert Bartlett*

### **Shoreline Survey of Broken Bow Reservoir**

Archeological & Environmental Consultants of Austin, Texas (Tim Perttula, Principal Investigator and Dan Prikryl, Project Archeologist) recently completed a shoreline survey of Broken Bow Reservoir in anticipation of a 5 foot rise in lake elevation by the Tulsa District of the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They also relocated and evaluated nine previously known sites along the current shoreline. During the work, 26 new sites were recorded, and they range in age from Late Paleoindian to the Early Caddoan period. Several of the new sites, mainly Archaic in age, have deep (+1-2 meters) alluvial deposits with burned rock features and concentrations, while others simply contain low densities of Big Fork chert and novaculite flakes in rocky soils.

Of the nine sites to be relocated and evaluated, one (the Panther Creek site, 34MC408) has intact and stratified archeological deposits in one area at least 1.9 m in thickness (but probably extending to

more than three meters in depth). These deposits appear to date from ca. 5000-2000 years B.P.

Another site, Hee Mountain (34MC415) has substantial Archaic and Caddoan deposits buried in a small knoll overlooking the Mountain Fork River. At the normal pool elevation of 599.5 feet amsl, the buried site deposits are two to three feet underwater, but low lake levels during the survey exposed the site.

The report of investigations is scheduled for submission to the Tulsa District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in January 1998.

*Tim Perttula*

## ***NORTHEASTERN TEXAS***

The Texas Historical Commission, Division of Antiquities Protection, is finishing excavations at 41UR133 prior to the completion of Lake Gilmer on Kelsey Creek, a tributary of Little Cypress Creek. Dr. James E. Bruseth is directing the excavations, and Mark Parsons is the Project Archeologist. Available information from the excavations indicates that the site contains a well-preserved Late Caddoan Titus phase occupation with several middens, at least one circular structure, pits with charred corn, and several burials with accompanying grave goods. Excavations have been underway since early October,

and are expected to continue through December 1997. For more information on the Lake Gilmer project, see the "Lake Gilmer News" section on the Friends of Northeast Texas Archaeology website (<http://www.skiles.net/fneta>).

Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc. is excavating site 41TT653 in the Piney Creek drainage (a tributary of White Oak Creek) in the Monticello B-2 Mine area. Victor Galan is the Project Archeologist. The work at this Titus phase site has exposed superimposed Caddoan structures that had apparently been covered by a small earthen mound.

The 5th East Texas Archeological Conference is scheduled for February 7th, 1998 at the Robert Muntz Library on the campus of the University of Texas at Tyler. The conference is being sponsored and organized by the Friends of Northeast Texas Archaeology, with Bo Nelson handling the local arrangements and Tim Perttula organizing the program. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Alston Thoms

(Director, Center for Environmental Archaeology at Texas A&M University), who will be talking about his recent archeological research at the Civil War prisoner-of-war site of Camp Ford in the Tyler, Texas. For more information, contact Bo Nelson at 903-856-5291 or by e-mail at [RboNelson@aol.com](mailto:RboNelson@aol.com)

*Tim Perttula*

## LOUISIANA

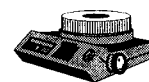
Fifteen students from Northwestern State University of Louisiana are participating in an archaeological field school at the Fredericks Site (16NA2) located in northeastern Natchitoches Parish. The project is being directed by Regional Archaeologist Jeff Girard. The Fredericks Site was visited by Clarence Webb and James Ford during the 1930s. Several test pits were excavated at the site from 1967 to 1969 by students at Northwestern State University under the direction of Kim Curry. The site contains a late Marksville period ceramic assemblage with represented decorated types that include Marksville Incised *var. Yokena*, Marksville Stamped *vars. Mabin and Manny*, and Churupa Punctated. Ford noted that Fredericks is located further

northwest than any other site containing significant amounts of Marksville pottery.

Both Webb and Ford identified a single conical mound at the Fredericks site. Webb also noted two or three additional rises that may be small mounds. One of the goals of the field school is to determine the number of mounds at the site. So far we have tested two of the low rises and found both to be deliberately constructed earthworks. We also are making a contour map, attempting to find the extent of the site through excavation of a series of shovel tests, and obtaining sediment samples for flotation in the hope of recovering food remains.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS



**December 27-January 10** *OU December Intersession Archeological Field School*. Black Warrior Valley, Alabama (near Moundville Archeological Park). See preceding section for details.

### 1998

**January 7-11** *Annual Meeting, Society for Historical Archaeology*, Atlanta GA. For more information consult the web page at <http://www.mindspring.com/~garrowga/sha1998/index.html>

**March 13-14** *39<sup>th</sup> Annual Caddo Conference*. Arkadelphia AR. Program chairs, Ouachita National Forest archeologists; arrangements chair, Ann M. Early. We welcome suggestions, ideas, and recommendations for program activities and events. Contact:

Meeks Etchieson, USFS

PO Box 1270

Hot Springs AR 71902

phone (501) 321-5252; fax (501) 321-5382

e-mail /s=m.etchieson/oul=r08f09a@mhs-fswa.attmail.com

or

Ann M. Early

PO Box 7841

Arkadelphia AR 71999-0001

phone (870) 246-7311; fax (870) 230-5144

email: amarie@iocc.com

**25-29** *63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society*

*for American Archaeology*. Seattle WA. For more information contact: Jonathan Driver, Program Chair, Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, V5A 1S6, Canada; (604) 291-41182; fax (604) 291-5666; e-mail driver@sfu.ca

**April 6-10** *Third International Symposium on <sup>14</sup>C and Archaeology*. Lyons, France. Symposium themes will be dating series and chronologies of transitional periods and applications of radiocarbon to historical studies from various parts of the world. Contact: Jacques Evin, CDRC, 43 Bld de 11 Novembre 1918, 69622 Villeurbanne Cedex, France; fax 33-7243-1317; e-mail cdrc14@cismsun.univ-lyon1.fr

**September 5-7** *15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the American Quaternary Association*. Hotel Krystal Vallarta, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The meeting theme will be *Northern Hemisphere - Southern Hemisphere Interconnections*. Registration fees (before June 30, 1998): \$90, students \$50; after June 30, 1998: \$120, students \$50. For more information, contact the local organizing committee: e-mail AMQUAMEX@servidor.unam.mx. Margarita Caballero Miranda is in charge of field trips; 10 are planned. Her e-mail is maga@tonatiuh.igeofcu.unam.mx



***Sabine River and Middle Red River Ceramics:  
Musings on the Ceramic Data Used in Schambach's  
"Continuing the Discussion of the Spiroans  
and Their Entrepots"***

*Timothy K. Perttula,  
Frontera Archaeology*

One part of Frank F. Schambach's (1997a) most recent missive on the archaeology of the Arkansas River Valley of Eastern Oklahoma and points south concerns the "so-called Sanders focus pottery" (Schambach 1997a:20) at sites in Southeast Oklahoma and Northeast Texas. Using a compilation of his own (Schambach 1997a:Table 1) from 23 sites taken from a list in Bruseth et al. (1995), Schambach puts forth several assertions:

1. In the Red River Valley, Sanders Plain, Sanders Engraved, and Maxey Noded Redware are rarely found outside of the Sanders site (Schambach 1997a:20);
2. "Bona fide" specimens of these types in Northeast Texas sites other than Sanders are infrequent (Schambach 1997a:20);
3. Because they are so infrequent, these ceramic vessels must

be pots made by Arkansas Valley Spiroans "that local Caddos obtained in trade from the Sanders entrepot" (Schambach 1997a:23).

I should like to provide information that corrects a number of errors relating to these ceramics and ceramic assemblages in Schambach's (1997a) Table 1. These are errors above and beyond those corrected by Albert (1997:10-11) in a later issue of *Caddoan Archeology*. Noting these errors in Schambach (1997a) probably will not have any effect on the direction Schambach's "new paradigm" is taking; in fact, they probably look like speed bumps on the paradigm highway (Schambach 1997b). Nevertheless, their publication may give one pause, and if not that, then at least should help to set the record straight on one small aspect of the archaeology of this area, a region of the Caddoan Area that may not be familiar to many readers of *Caddoan Archeology*.

**Problems with Schambach's Table 1 and Red River Sites**

There are some serious problems with the ceramic data summarized by

Schambach (1997a). Let's begin on the middle section of the Red River,

downstream from the hypothetical Sanders site entrepot.

First, the Holdeman site is reported by Schambach to have 195 pots, with four Canton Incised, two Sanders Engraved, five Maxey Noded [Redware], no Monkstown Fingernail Impressed, and no Sanders Plain vessels. Actually, the Holdeman site ceramic assemblage includes 255 vessels (Perino 1995), 31 percent more than listed in Schambach's Table 1. Of that sample of 255 vessels, 60 belong with an Early Caddoan period component (with Spiro Engraved, Crockett Curvilinear Incised, Pennington Punctated Incised, etc.), and another 86 belong with a ca. post-A.D. 1300 McCurtain phase component with Avery Engraved, Nash Neck Banded, and the like. This leaves 109 vessels that hang together, IMHO, as a ceramic assemblage dating before about A.D. 1300, and probably sometime after A.D. 1000/1100.

Guess what kinds of ceramic types are common in this "middle" component at the Holdeman site? The four most common kinds of ceramics include: plain and non-slipped vessels (53 percent of the assemblage), plain red-slipped vessels (9 percent), Maxey Noded Redware (8 percent), and Canton Incised (8 percent). Canton Incised, Maxey Noded Redware, and Sanders Plain (i.e., interior and exterior red-slipped bowls and carinated bowls with grog and grog-bone tempered pastes) are more common at the site than Schambach would have us believe, with nine, nine, and 10 vessels apiece,

respectively, while it does appear to be the case, as Schambach suggested, that there are two Sanders Engraved vessels. Maxey Noded Redware and Canton Incised each comprise a rather substantial 22 percent of the decorated ceramics from this "middle" component at the Holdeman site.

Perino (1995) provides some useful photos of some of the Maxey Noded Redware bottles (Perino 1995:Figure 6b-c and Figure 13d), Canton Incised (Perino 1995:Figure 5e) vessels, and Sanders Engraved (Perino 1995:Figure 24d) bowls from the Holdeman burials, and a complete set of photographs from the Museum of Red River collections from the site are on file at the Division of Antiquities Protection at the Texas Historical Commission in Austin, Texas. So too with the Sanders Plain vessels, with Perino (1995:Figure 13c, Figure 14b, and Figure 24e) illustrating several from the Holdeman site. Some of these plain red-slipped bowls have scalloped rims, much like those from the Sanders site itself (Krieger 1946:Plate 24b-c and Plate 28d).

A recent (March, 1997) visit to the Holdeman site also proved to be enlightening, as I had an opportunity to examine vessels in the landowner's collection from the site. In his collection, among other vessels, I noted one Maxey Noded Redware bottle, four plain red-slipped bowls (two with scalloped rims), two or more plain scalloped rim bowls without a red slip, and a plain red-slipped bottle.

### **Problems with Schambach's Table 1 and Sabine River Sites**

Schambach (1997a) includes the Hines, Spoonbill, Taddlock, and T. Moody sites in his Table 1. I will discuss the ceramics from each site in turn. The first three sites are in the Lake Fork Reservoir (Bruseh and Perttula 1981), on Lake Fork Creek or one of its tributaries, while the T. Moody site is on Mill Race Creek, a tributary of Lake Fork Creek.

According to his research, the Hines site (41WD450) has 13,781 sherds and a paltry total of nine Canton Incised sherds and four Sanders Engraved sherds. The totals for identified Canton Incised and Sanders Engraved sherds tallies with the figures in Bruseh and Perttula (1981), but the Hines site actually has only 1,378 sherds!

At the Spoonbill site (41WD109), his totals are again quite inaccurate. The total number of sherds from this Early and Middle Caddoan period site is 2,581 (Bruseh and Perttula 1981:Table 5-1), not 25,811 as Schambach (1997a) would have it. Furthermore, of the four pots from the site, only one is Sanders Engraved (not two as listed in Schambach's Table 1); the other (Vessel 1, Burial 2) is a plain bottle (Bruseh and Perttula 1981:Table 5-10). A private collection of vessels from the Spoonbill site has a classic Maxey Noded Redware bottle with one row of punctates below the neck, and in the same burial was a Canton Incised jar and a plain red-slipped bowl (Mark Walters, 1997 personal communication).

The Taddlock site (41WD482) has 18,605 sherds, not 18,394. There is only one vessel from the site, an engraved carinated bowl (Bruseh and Perttula 1981:53), not five Canton Incised vessels. Of the 2,926 rim and decorated sherds from Taddlock, 758 are classified as Canton Incised (Schambach lists the total as 759), and another 305 are identified as Sanders Engraved (Bruseh and Perttula 1981:Table 5-8); Schambach lists only 290. I should note that Maxey Noded Redware is present in the ceramics from these sites, although unfortunately the exact number is not quantified (Bruseh and Perttula 1981:87).

The Thomas Moody site (41WD577) has 484 sherds (Perttula and Gilmore 1988:Table A.4-15), not zero. Eleven (2.3 percent) of the sherds are red-slipped. Of the 60 rim and body sherds that had identifiable decorative elements, there are two Sanders Engraved sherds and eight Canton Incised sherds (Perttula and Gilmore 1988:Table A.4-19). Most of the other decorative elements are incomplete engraved and incised designs, or are from vessels with punctated or brushed-punctated-appliqued decorations. Several other sites in the Mill Race Creek valley have Sanders Engraved and Canton Incised vessel sherds, including A. W. Bishop (41WD217), 41WD569, and Audrey E. Allen-Smith (41WD575) (Perttula and Gilmore 1988:Figure A.4-8h and Figure A.4a-d, n), while the A.W. Bishop site ceramic assemblage also has

Maxey Noded Redware (Perttula and Gilmore 1988:Figure A.4-8i).

Taking these four sites mentioned by Schambach (1997a), his Table 1 inaccurately suggests that they contain 57,986 sherds of all types and nine pots, including five Canton Incised, two Sanders Engraved, and two Monkstown Fingernail-Imprinted vessels. Of the sherds, according to Schambach, only 1.4 percent can be identified as Canton Incised, 0.5 percent are Sanders Engraved, and there are no Maxey Noded Redware, Monkstown, or Sanders Plain sherds. However, using the correct figures in Bruseth and Perttula (1981) and Perttula and Gilmore (1988), the Hines, Spoonbill, Taddlock, and Thomas Moody sites actually contain only 23,048 sherds (a difference of 34,938) and five vessels. Forty percent of the vessels are Monkstown Fingernail-Imprinted, followed by

one Sanders Engraved vessel, one unidentified diagonal engraved carinated bowl, and a plain bottle; each of the five vessels have temper, vessel form, and/or decorative elements consistent with late Early Caddoan to Middle Caddoan period contexts in the upper Sabine River basin. Maxey Noded Redware is present, but in low frequencies.

With the considerably reduced numbers of sherds from the four Lake Fork Creek basin sites, more than 3.5 percent of the sherds are identified as Canton Incised and 1.4 percent are Sanders Engraved. This is a 2-3 fold increase in representation from the figures provided by Schambach (1997a). Indeed, sherds of the Canton Incised type actually accounts for about 29 percent of the 2760 decorated sherds from the four sites, while Sanders Engraved sherds comprise 11.7 percent of the total decorated sherds.

#### **Other Areas with Middle Caddoan Ceramics of Note in Northeast Texas**

Investigations along the Middle Red River during the 1991-1992 Texas Archeological Society Field School has recovered some of the "so-called Sanders focus pottery". In the Youth Area at the Roitsch or Sam Kaufman site (41RR16), 5.2 percent of the 625 sherds have plain red-slipped surfaces, including two plain rims from carinated bowls and 30 red-slipped body sherds (Perttula and Iruegas n.d.). Also found were sherds of Sanders Engraved, Canton Incised, and

one sherd of Maxey Noded Redware. A site opposite the mouth of the Kiamichi River (41RR305) had Sanders Engraved, Canton Incised, and red-slipped sherds among the 55 sherds collected there (Perttula n.d.). At the Roitsch site itself, Feature 601, with a calibrated radiocarbon date at 1-sigma of A.D. 1154-1296 (.75 relative area under probability distribution), contains five Sanders Engraved sherds and several plain red-slipped rims among the seven plain

rim recovered in the feature fill. Similarly, excavations in Sanders phase contexts in the East Mound at the Roitsch site has recovered at least three plain red-slipped grog-tempered rim sherds, 37 Canton Incised sherds, and sherds of Sanders Engraved.

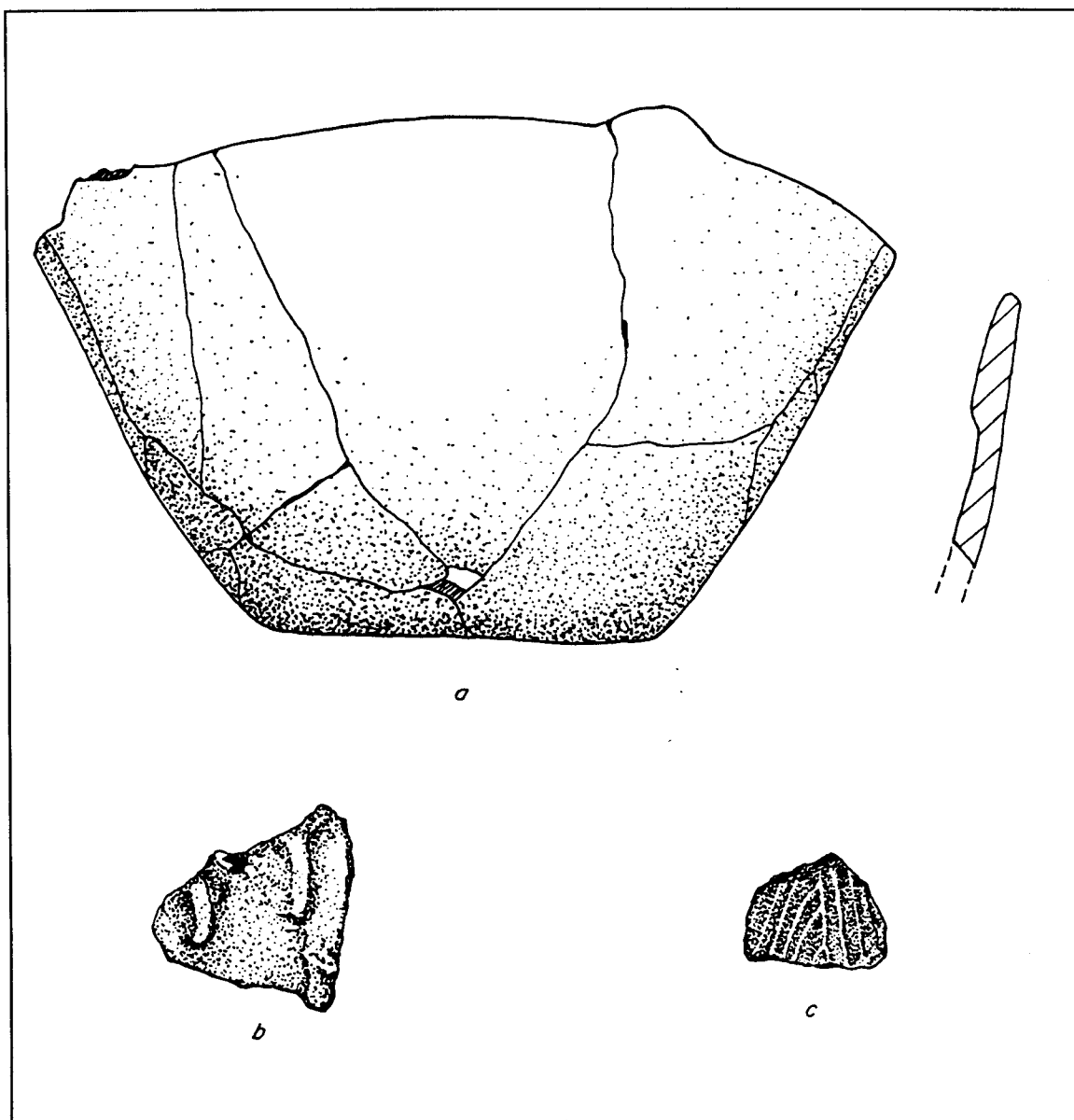
The Limerick site (41RA8) on the Sabine River, to the west of the three Caddo sites at Lake Fork Reservoir, has a small ceramic assemblage with 155 decorated sherds (Duffield 1961). Canton Incised comprises 23.9 percent of the decorated sherds (Duffield 1961:Figure 13c, e-g), and another 5.2 percent are identified as Sanders Engraved. Red-slipped sherds are mentioned (Duffield 1961:88), but not quantified, and several of the plain rims have lip notching and interior thickened rims; these are common Middle Caddoan period rim treatments (see Krieger 1946:186).

Lip notched and scalloped rims are also present in the 221 sherd ceramic assemblage at 41RA65 on Lake Fork Creek (Perttula and Skiles 1995); the Caddoan component at the site is estimated to date between ca. A.D. 1150-1300 (Perttula and Skiles 1995:11). Among the 15 decorated sherds are three Sanders Engraved (Perttula and Skiles 1995:Figure 1c-d) and seven Canton Incised (Perttula and Skiles 1995:Figure 1e, h). Another site in the Lake Fork Creek basin with Sanders Engraved and Canton Incised sherds is the J. O. McCreight Mound (41WD9) (Perttula 1989). In the assemblage of 343 sherds,

Canton Incised is particularly common ( $n=42$  or 86 percent of the decorated sherds (Skiles and Perttula 1989:Table 3). Plain red-slipped sherds comprise 5 percent of the sherd sample from the site.

Near the mouth of Lake Fork Creek is another Middle Caddoan period site with Canton Incised, Sanders Engraved, Maxey Noded Redware, and plain red-slipped carinated bowls, the Carlisle site (41WD46). A single calibrated radio-carbon date of A.D. 1387-1443 (0.65 relative area under probability distribution) has been obtained from Feature 1, a buried midden deposit (Perttula et al. 1993:37). Of the 616 sherds from the site, seven are from two separate Maxey Noded Redware bottles in the buried midden. These are grog-tempered and have sets of parallel lines of applique nodes on the bottle. Another 12 decorated sherds (with engraved diagonal and/or triangles as well as cross-hatched designs) are identified as Sanders Engraved (Perttula et al. 1993:Figure 7 and Table 5), and at least 35 more incised and incised-punctated sherds with parallel diagonal incised, opposed diagonal incised, cross-hatched incised, diagonal incised/punctated panel, and cross-hatched incised with punctation panel are Canton Incised sherds.

Several sites on Big Sandy Creek, a tributary of the Sabine River, in Wood County have plain red-slipped Sanders Plain vessels, Maxey Noded Redware bottle sherds, and Sanders Engraved sherds (Perttula 1986). Ninety-five percent



*Figure 1. Middle Caddoan Period Ceramics from Big Sandy Creek, Wood County, Texas: a, red-slipped bowl, 41WD117; b, Maxey Noded Redware, 41WD145; c, Sanders Engraved, 41WD145.*

of a plain grog-tempered and red-slipped bowl with rim peaks was found eroding out of a road bank at 41WD117 (Figure 1a). A thermoluminescence date of ca.

A.D. 1280 (Alpha-2398) has been obtained from one of the sherds from this vessel. Maxey Noded Redware (Figure 1b) and Sanders Engraved (Figure 1c) sherds

have been recovered at 41WD145, along with portions (estimated from eight sherds) of two plain red-slipped vessels. Several Canton Incised sherds were noted at 41WD178 in the Big Sandy Creek drainage. Of the 1,044 sherds from the McKenzie Mound (41WD55), 14 percent are red-slipped, and at least one rim has lip notching (Granberry 1995:Figure 19). Another 40 sherds are from cross-hatched incised Canton Incised vessels (Granberry 1995:Figure 19a, c), and there are eight sherds from Sanders Engraved carinated bowls (Granberry 1995:Figure 19b). Eight calibrated radiocarbon dates from structures in the McKenzie Mound range from A.D. 1284-1470 at 1-sigma, and seven of the eight dates range from A.D. 1284-1433.

At the Hurricane Hill site (41HP106) on the South Sulphur River, there are 26 sherds of Sanders Engraved, 44 Canton Incised sherds, and 4 Maxey Noded Redware sherds from several different intra-site contexts (Perttula 1998). This is out of a total of 347 sherds from the site with an identifiable decorative element. Interestingly, plain red-slipped rims, while present in the fill of one extended burial (Feature 68), account for less than 1 percent of the 8127 sherds from the Hurricane Hill site. One of the Maxey Noded Redware sherds came from the central hearth in a rectangular structure on the South Rise; the hearth has an archeomagnetic date of A.D.  $1300 \pm 50$ , and six other calibrated radiocarbon dates from these deposits indicate the Middle Caddoan component there dates from

about A.D. 1250-1375 (Perttula 1997).

Finally, a quick review of ceramic data from the Cypress Creek Basin in Northeast Texas is enlightening. Thurmond's (1990) compilation mainly focuses on the Late Caddoan Titus phase archaeological materials that are so abundant in the Cypress Creek Basin, but he notes Sanders Plain, Sanders Engraved, and Canton Incised vessels at five habitation and/or mound sites in Camp, Morris, Titus, and Wood counties with Middle Caddoan period components (Thurmond 1990:146, 175, 184, 191, 213).

At the Harold Williams site (41CP10), two Sanders Plain vessels were found in a burial with a Pease Brushed-Incised jar and a bottle with an engraved rattlesnake motif; such motifs appear to be characteristic of Middle Caddoan period assemblages in East Texas (Middlebrook and Perttula 1997:7). The Richard Watson site (41MX6) has two Sanders Engraved carinated bowls and five Sanders Engraved sherds, and there is also one red-slipped interior engraved bowl. At the George L. Keith mound site (41TT11), Thurmond notes 30 Sanders Engraved carinated bowl rim sherds, from a minimum of 18 Sanders Engraved vessels, seven red-slipped Sanders Plain carinated bowl sherds, and 73 plain carinated bowl rims (from a minimum of six vessels) that he considers to probably be Sanders Plain (Thurmond 1990:184). Two Sanders Engraved carinated bowl rims have been recovered in limited work at the Tigert

No. 1 site (41TT36), and the Minnie Garrison site (41WD16) ceramic assemblage includes one Sanders Plain carinated bowl rim.

On the basis of this and other ceramic information from the Cypress Creek basin, Thurmond (1990:226) concludes that "...it is clear that components related to Krieger's (1946) Alto and Sanders foci are present in the Cypress basin". How does

Thurmond recognize these components of interest? The answer is easy: they have Sanders Engraved, Hickory Fine Engraved, Sanders Plain (red-slipped carinated bowls) and Canton Incised vessels. According to Thurmond (1990: 226-227), the Sanders Engraved, Sanders Plain, and Canton Incised bowls tend to have short rims with squared or scalloped lips; if the reader will remember, I've mentioned the scalloped rim Sanders vessels earlier in this paper.

### Conclusions

Based on the problems and errors embedded in Schambach's (1997a) Table 1, I recommend to the reader that this table be used with caution. Ceramic data from other sites I did not examine might not stand up to scrutiny either. What does that say about the conclusions Schambach (1997a) reached based on the table? Furthermore, our quick tour of Northeast

Texas sites indicates that the "so-called Sanders focus pottery" (i.e., Sanders Engraved, Canton Incised, Maxey Noded Redware, and Sanders Plain) is a good bit more abundant than Schambach realizes based on his limited scrutiny of the region's archaeological record. It is doubtful these are entrepot trade goods.

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## ***Historic Caddoan Occupation in the Natchitoches Area: Recent Attempts To Locate Residential Sites***

*Jeffrey S. Girard*

*Abstract:* Information regarding the Natchitoches, Doustioni, and other historic Caddoan groups near Natchitoches, Louisiana consists almost entirely of burial data. This paper reviews the information and describes recent attempts to locate residential areas.

### **Introduction**

At the time of initial French contact in the late seventeenth century, peoples living around present-day Natchitoches, Louisiana were the southernmost of the Caddoan speakers along Red River. Relatively little archaeological and historical research concerning these groups has been conducted and consequently not much is known of their history or life-ways. From an archaeological perspective, information has been limited to one mound and three cemeteries, all of which were investigated only briefly more than 50 years ago (Beyer 1897; Walker 1935; Webb 1945). Recently, I made an attempt to locate residential areas associated with these mortuary con-

texts. Although the scope of the investigations has been limited, two sites -- the St. Maurice Site (16WN265) overlooking the modern Red River, and the Lambre Point Site (16NA544) along Cane River -- contain significant scatters of historic Caddoan pottery and may represent portions of villages dating to the late seventeenth or early eighteenth centuries.

This paper reviews the early archaeological evidence of historic Caddoan occupation in the Natchitoches area, and describes the finds at the St. Maurice and Lambre Point sites.

### **Early Evidence of Historic Caddoan Occupation**

#### *The Henry Mound Site*

The earliest published description of a historic or protohistoric Caddoan archaeological site in the Natchitoches area was made George Beyer in 1897. Beyer (1897) reported that local residents excavated at least three skeletons from a mound on the

Henry Plantation located near the town of Campti, Louisiana (Figure 1). Each skeleton had one or two pottery vessels placed near the skulls.

Beyer re-excavated the area and found the mound embedded in a levee construc-

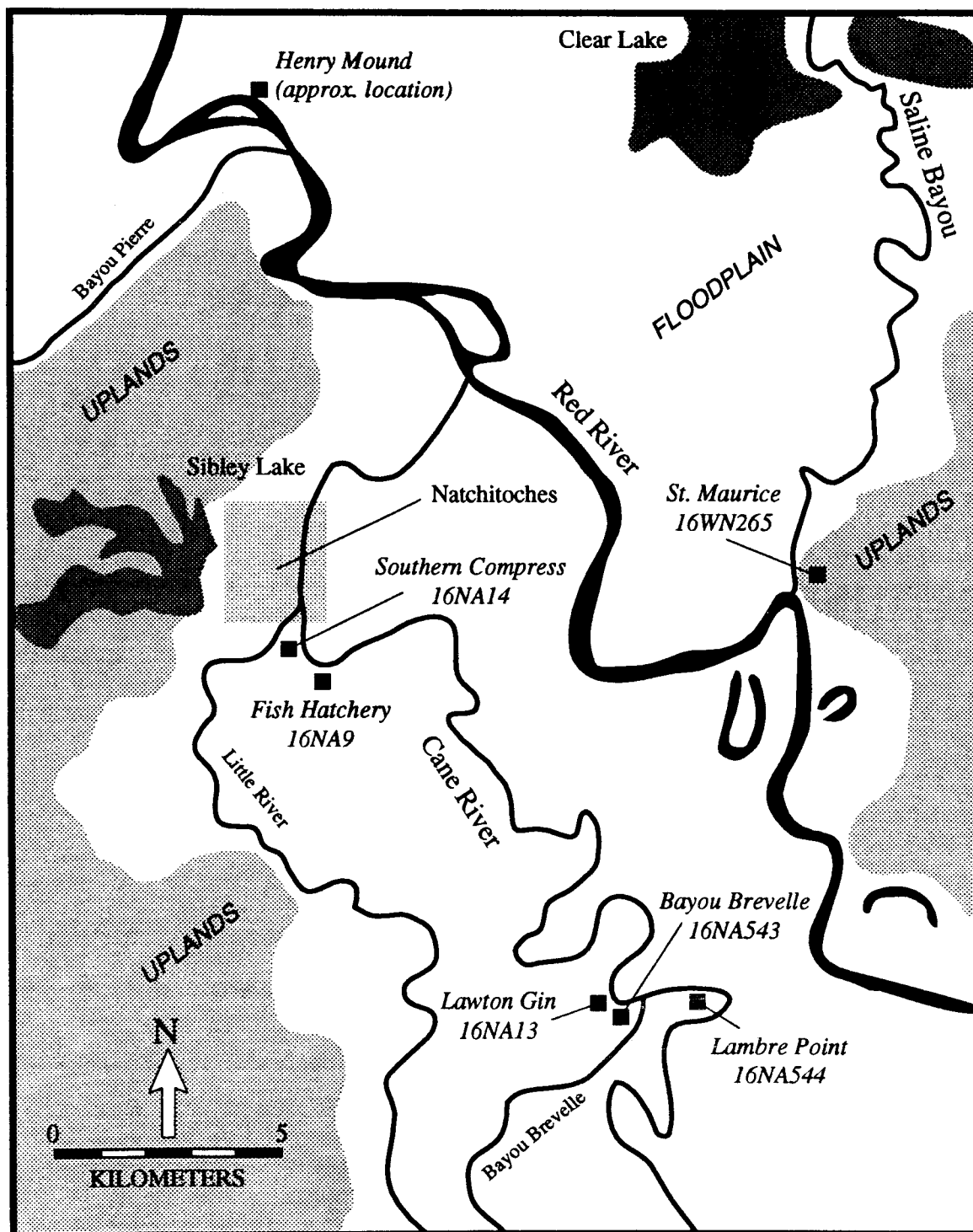


Figure 1. Locations of Historic Caddoan Sites in the Natchitoches Area.

ted in 1867 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The base of the mound was estimated to have been about 50 ft (15 m) in diameter and, when examined by Beyer, it was a little over 6 ft (1.8 m) high. The lowest four feet of fill consisted of hard, dark brown clay. Additional skeletons were found resting on the top of the clay embedded in a red sandy clay. Overlying the sandy clay was an ashbed containing charcoal. Another layer of red clay, approximately 10 in (25.4 cm) thick, covered the ashes. A smaller ashbed rested on the clay. The entire mound was capped by more red sandy clay.

No European trade goods were reported by Beyer. The recovered pottery vessels, however, indicate that an early historic period occupation is represented. Beyer illustrates a bottle with a form often exhibited by the type Natchitoches Engraved. The vessel appears to have scrolls of engraved lines with tick marks and bands filled with small punctations. Also illustrated is a Fatherland Incised or Cracker Road Incised jar, a large sherd of Natchitoches or Hodges Engraved, and a Belcher Ridged jar. Beyer also reported that an undecorated *Busycon* shell drinking cup was found with one of the burials.

The mound was being eroded by Red River at the time of Beyer's investigation and apparently now is completely destroyed. Unfortunately, inaccuracies in the published location map make it difficult to determine the precise location of the site. Beyer did not report finding midden debris beneath or around the mound, and no sites

with similar pottery have been recorded in the area since that time.

#### *Cemeteries Along Cane River*

Between 1930 and 1950 three historic Caddoan cemeteries were found south of the modern town of Natchitoches along Cane River. Cane River was, prior to the 1830s, the primary channel of Red River.

The earliest identified cemetery was discovered in 1931 when approximately 100 burials reportedly were uncovered during scraping and trenching operations associated with construction of a national fish hatchery (16NA9). The area subsequently was investigated by Winslow Walker of the Bureau of American Ethnology who was then conducting a survey along Red River trying to locate historic Coushatta and Natchitoches sites (Walker 1935). Walker described the artifacts which had been recovered in association with the burials. Included were historic Caddoan ceramic vessels, shell and glass beads, chipped stone projectile points, ground stone chopping implements, and metal objects such as scissors, brass bells, bracelets, and an iron spike. Interestingly, Walker also noted that two horse burials, each with associated pottery vessels, were found.

At the nearby Southern Compress cottonseed oil plant (16NA14), two burials were found by workmen in the spring of 1946 when tree stumps were dug alongside the highway. The site was visited by Clarence Webb, Monroe Dodd, Robert Scott, and Mike Beckman. According to Webb's

notes, the workmen found two complete ceramic vessels, fragments of others, and a stone artifact with the burials. Webb and his associates found two additional burials. One was shallow, badly disturbed, and contained no associated artifacts. The second burial, of a child, had approximately 300 beads around the neck, and approximately 100 more at the left wrist (Gregory and Webb 1965). Two metal bracelets (iron?) also were found around the left wrist. To the right of the head were two ceramic vessels, one of which contained a copper band or bracelet and a small portion of woven fabric.

Two years prior to the Southern Compress find, Webb investigated another historic Caddoan cemetery along Cane River (16NA13). In 1944, while constructing the foundation for a gin barn, Mr. A.G. Lawton encountered six or seven human burials, some of which had associated pottery vessels and glass beads.

Webb was notified about the find and arrived a few days later when excavations were being made for the scale platform. Four additional burials were struck and partially damaged by the machinery, but Webb was able to obtain information concerning the deposits and made detailed descriptions of the artifacts. The burials were found at an average depth of 2 to 3 ft (60-90 cm) below the surface within or just beneath a heavy layer of clay, which was overlain by 18 in (45 cm) of sand. Pottery vessels included with the burials included the types Natchitoches Engraved, Keno Trailed, and what would later be defined as Emory Punctated.

No artifacts were found on the surface at the Lawton Gin site although Webb states that surface visibility was poor. He was told that other human bones had been plowed up in an adjacent field and more were found 300-400 yards downstream.

### **Recent Investigations at the St. Maurice Site (16WN265)**

In the spring of 1997 the probable location of a portion of the village occupied by the early eighteenth century Caddoan group known as the Dousitoni was investigated as a project of Northwestern State University's Regional Archaeology Program. The site, known as the St. Maurice Site (16WN265), was recorded initially in 1991 during a survey for a proposed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation area located near the mouth of Saline Bayou in Winn Parish (Wojtala 1991). Remains of

several structures and widely scattered artifacts thought to relate to early twentieth century occupation of the town of St. Maurice were recorded during a surface survey. No Caddoan artifacts were reported. The proposed recreation area did not pose a threat to the site and no additional work was carried out.

During the fall of 1996, I was contacted by the landowners who found a perforated spatulate celt while leveling a hilltop for

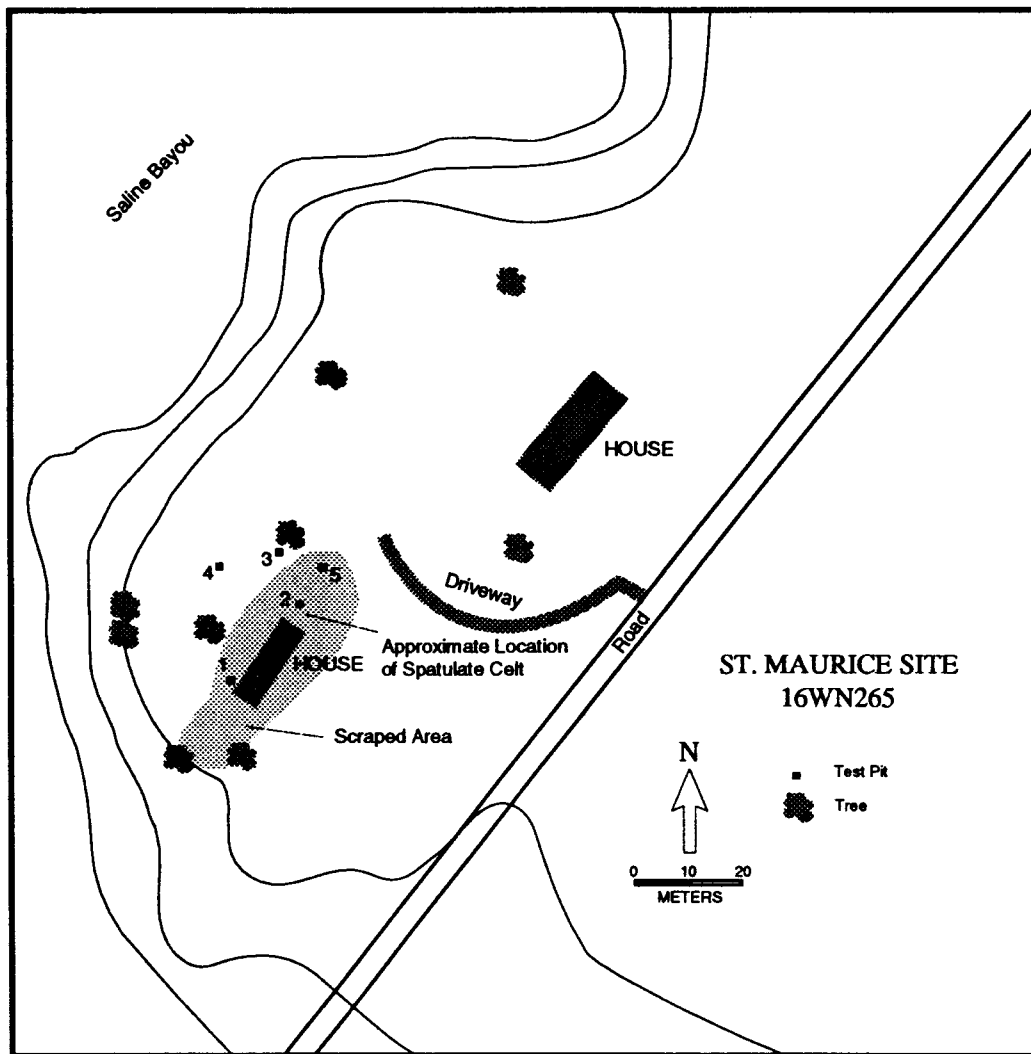


Figure 2. Sketch Map of the St. Maurice Site (16WN265).

house construction on the western side of the site (Figure 2). I visited the site and found a low density scatter of sherds, chipping debris, and bone in a graded area about 100 m x 40 m in size. Historic Caddoan occupation was indicated by numerous shell tempered sherds with the types Natchitoches Engraved, Keno Trilled, and Fatherland Incised represented.

#### Historic Information

Historic Caddoan artifacts at the St. Maurice Site seemed particularly interesting because of the possibility that the Doustioni village was located in this area. In 1690 Henri de Tonti, in search of survivors of the La Salle expedition, left the Taensa towns on Lake St. Joseph and, accompanied by several Tensas, traveled

west to the Caddo country. The travelers arrived in the Natchitoches area on February 17. Tonti noted that three villages, called Natchitoches, Ouasita, and Capiche, were present in the area. The latter name, Capiche, does not show up in later texts and Swanton (1942:13) suggested that either it refers to the group later called the Doustioni, or perhaps was a misspelling of a group called the "Nakasa" later identified as living along Red River to the north.

Ten years later, in April of 1700, Bienville came into the area from the Ouachita drainage to the northeast. His party had to go around a large lake (probably the Saline Lake, Black Lake, Clear Lake area). Four leagues to the southwest of the lake he encountered two huts of the Natchitoches. After another four leagues he arrived at the Souchitiony [Doustioni] village--

The men came for me and carried me on their shoulders underneath a kind of sheltered marketplace, roofed with palmetto palms, where they had assembled to sing the calumet to me. I gave a small present to them and to the chief of the Natchitoches, and gave them a calumet of peace. At this village of the Souchitionys there are fifteen huts assembled in a cluster. In front of the village the

river is wide and full of  
uprooted trees  
(McWilliams 1981:150-  
151).

Swanton (1942:Figure 1) places this village at the mouth of Saline Bayou in the vicinity of the St. Maurice site. The fate of the village is not clear from existing historical information. According to Swanton (1946:130):

In 1702, on account of the failure of the crops, St. Denis removed the Natchitoches tribe from Red River and settled them beside the Acolapissa on Lake Pontchartrain. The Doustioni, however, remained in the country and reverted for the time being to a hunting life. In 1714, when St. Denis brought the Natchitoches back and began an establishment among them, the Doustioni accepted his invitation to settle close by. In 1719, La Harpe speaks of them as living on an island in Red River not far away. We hear nothing more about them, and they probably lost their identity in the Natchitoches tribe.

Euroamerican presence in the vicinity of the St. Maurice site probably dates back to the eighteenth century. Mobley (1995:121) notes that what is now the Corps of Engineers recreation area was the crossing of the Rigolette de Bon Dieu (the name of the modern Red River channel prior to the rivers' shift from Cane River) for the main road linking Natchitoches to Natchez (and hence the El Camino Real and Natchez Trace). It is likely that a ferry crossing eventually was located in the area. Wojtala



(1991:26) found no archaeological remains in the proposed recreation area and argued that any improvements once located there have been destroyed by erosion from the modern river.

Although Wojtala (1991:25) suggested that the Euroamerican town of St. Maurice developed as a lumbering community during the early twentieth century, settlement actually dates back to the early nineteenth century. According to Mobley (1995:130-133) in the 1820s the Prothro family purchased land from Alexandro O'Reilly who had a large Spanish land grant in the area. A mansion (the Prothro Mansion) was constructed in 1826, and became a noted landmark in the area until it burned in 1981. A post office was present at the town by 1848, and several stores were situated along the road to the ferry landing during the late nineteenth century. Construction of the railroad in 1900 resulted in a shift in settlement to the northeast. The present day community is located even further away from the river along U.S. Highway 71.

#### *Description of the Site and Test Pits*

The site is situated on a remnant of the Pleistocene Prairie terrace. The western portion investigated during 1997 lies on a ridge between the Corps of Engineers road to the recreation area on the east and a steep slope to the channel of Saline Bayou on the west (Figure 2). To the south, the ridge slopes gradually to Red River. The investigated portion of the site is now a private residence with most of the surface covered by short grass and gravel. According to the landowner, a small rise was

present in the scraped area where the spatulate celt was found. Unfortunately, the scraping has taken most of this area down to the clay B horizon. The scraped deposits were dumped on the slope to the south where many artifacts are now present on the surface.

I made a surface collection of artifacts from the scraped area and from the slope to the south. I then excavated four 50-x-50-cm test pits and one 1-x-1-m test pit. Three of the pits (TP1, TP2, and TP5), including the 1-x-1-m unit, were placed in the scraped area where 10 to 20 cm of sandy loam remained over an argillic B horizon. Caddoan artifacts were found mixed with later materials. No evidence of a mound or other cultural features were encountered.

The remaining two test pits (TP3 and 4) were placed in a grassy area to the north where artifacts were visible in displaced deposits from gopher burrows. The upper sandy loam soil horizon was significantly thicker with the B horizon at 40 to 50 cm below surface. Although a few Caddoan artifacts were recovered from these units, most materials related to twentieth century occupations.

#### *Discussion of the Artifacts*

A total of 108 Caddoan sherds was collected from the surface and 36 more were recovered in the test pits. The sherds are relatively small and consequently it is difficult to relate them to specific types with certainty. Descriptive categories are used to tabulate the specimens in Table 1. However, some comments regarding the

**Table 1. Caddoan ceramics from the St. Maurice Site (16WN265).**

	Surface	TP1	TP2	TP3	TP4	TP5	TOTAL
Incised							
single line	5	0	0	0	1	0	6
horizontal	2	1	0	0	0	1	4
curvilinear	7	2	0	0	0	0	9
Trailed	5	1	0	0	0	0	6
Brushed	3	0	0	0	0	1	4
Ridged	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Punctated	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Engraved							
single line	3	2	0	1	0	1	7
curvilinear	6	2	0	0	0	0	8
hatched zone	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
hatched band	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Undecorated	71	7	0	4	0	11	93
Total	108	15	0	5	1	15	144

type affiliations are possible.

Three specimens have three parallel curvilinear incised lines and likely relate to the types Cracker Road Incised or Fatherland Incised. All three sherds are thin (4-5 mm), shell tempered, and have a thin red slip or wash on the exterior surface.

Several other curvilinear incised specimens were recovered. Incising tends to be deeper and wider but design patterns cannot be ascertained. Possible type affiliations are Foster Trailed, Winterville Incised, or Emory Punctated-Incised.

One of the five recovered trailed sherds has closely spaced lines and almost undoubtedly relates to the type Keno Trailed. The vessel exterior has a thin reddish-brown wash or slip. The remaining specimens may be Keno or Foster Trailed.

The ridged specimens are Belcher Ridged -- both specimens are shell tempered body sherds. The brushed specimens may be Karnack or Plaquemine Brushed. One specimen has fine, thin brushed lines bordered by a wide incised line and probably relates to the type Mound Tract Incised.

The engraved specimens are difficult to type. One sherd has curvilinear cross-hatched zones bordered by wide incised lines and relates to the type Maddox Engraved as defined by Phillips (1970: 107-109), but differs from Webb's (1948:108) type Maddox Band Engraved. The specimen has a polished exterior surface and fine textured paste with no visible temper. Engraved curvilinear lines, some with tick marks, are present on several specimens. These sherds most likely relate to the types Natchitoches or Hodges Engraved.

**Table 2 . Chipped Stone Artifacts from the St. Maurice Site (16WN265)**

	Surface	TP1	TP2	TP3	TP4	TP5	Total
Flakes	8	10	1	8	6	17	50
Fire Cracked Chert	1	4	0	5	1	7	18
Bifaces	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Cores	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Total	9	15	1	13	7	27	72

Although the collection is small, similarities to the pottery recovered from the McClelland and Joe Clark sites in Bossier Parish (Kelley 1994) are apparent, and a roughly contemporaneous occupation relating to the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century is likely.

Chipped stone specimens consist primarily of chert flakes (Table 2). Two fragments of flake bifaces (probably blanks for arrow point production) were recovered in Test Pit 5. Two split pebble cores and fire-cracked angular fragments of chert also were recovered.

#### *Euroamerican Artifacts*

Most of the recovered artifacts relate to the Euroamerican occupations of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Ceramics consist primarily of undecorated whiteware/ironstone sherds. One interesting exception is a possible banded creamware sherd found on the eroded south slope. The sherd suggests that some material might be present that is associated with late eighteenth century use of the area as a ferry crossing.

A variety of iron and glass artifacts were

recovered, all of which relate to nineteenth or twentieth century occupations.

#### *Summary*

The St. Maurice Site is of considerable interest. The location at the point where Saline Bayou, a major Red River tributary, meets the floodplain has made it important to human activity dating back at least to the late seventeenth century. The site probably represents a portion of the Doustioni village recorded by Tonti and Bienville. It later became a convenient place to cross the Rigollette de Bon Dieu (later Red River) for travel eastward from the town of Natchitoches. The complexity of the site's history, however, presents considerable challenges for archaeological interpretation. The probable Doustioni occupation appears to have been concentrated on the top of the ridge and recent scraping has displaced most of the deposits containing artifacts. No underlying features were detected. Elsewhere, a small number of Caddoan artifacts were found mixed with nineteenth and twentieth century materials. However, additional survey along the lower portions of Saline Bayou should result in more evidence of historic Caddoan settlement.

## **Investigations along Cane River**

### *1996 Investigations at the Lawton Gin Site (16NA13)*

During the spring of 1996, I excavated seven auger tests in the vicinity of the Lawton Gin Site in order to see if I could locate a buried surface containing habitation debris. The first auger test was excavated adjacent to a scatter of bricks and a filled cistern in a grassy field between the gin barn and a pecan grove. The bricks probably represent the remains of the tenant house that appears on Webb's site sketch map (Webb 1945:Plate 10). The second auger test was excavated approximately 50 m south of the first, probably in the garden area where human bones reportedly were found. Although possible buried soils were encountered by the auger tests, no artifacts were recovered.

Five more tests were excavated closer to the gin barn, but evidence of human occupation was obtained only in one test located adjacent to a concrete curb that probably is the foundation for the former scale platform where the burials were found. A mottled reddish brown stratum containing charcoal flecks was encountered 1.1 to 1.9 m below the surface and one small undecorated grog-tempered sherd was recovered. The stratum is deeper than the burials reported by Webb, and it is possible that it relates to an older surface occupied during prehistoric times.

### *Bayou Brevelle Site (16NA543)*

It was reported to Webb that additional

human bones had been plowed up 300-400 yards downstream from the gin barn. Presently, there is an extensive artifact scatter in this area that continues to the mouth of Bayou Brevelle (Figure 1). The artifacts relate primarily to nineteenth century activities although four Caddoan sherds, one French faience sherd, and several English creamware sherds are suggestive of late 18th century occupation as well. Most of the artifacts probably relate to the nearby Beau Fort Plantation thought to have been started by Louis Bartholomew Rachal in late 1700s. Although the presence of Caddoan sherds suggests that a portion of a historic Caddoan village may be represented, it should be noted that early nineteenth century conveyance records show that "Indian pots" were not unusual household items in the Natchitoches area (Anne Malone, personal communication).

### *Lambre Point Site (16NA544)*

Continued survey downstream from the Bayou Brevelle site, conducted during the spring of 1996, resulted in the discovery of the Lambre Point site (16NA544) situated on a point bar on the interior of a large bend in Cane River (Figure 1). A low density scatter of sherds, chipped stone, and faunal remains was found across an area of approximately 150 m by 50 m.

A surface collection was made that included 56 sherds, all of which are thin (4-6 mm) and shell tempered. Three

undecorated rim sherds and ten engraved body sherds are present. The engraved sherds have single or multiple parallel lines. One sherd has a curvilinear ticked line and possibly relates to a Natchitoches Engraved vessel.

Also recovered were 77 chert flakes and five flake bifaces, only one of which appears to represent a finished tool. This tool is a small, unstemmed, triangular arrow point made of novaculite. The other bifaces, all of local chert, probably are point preforms. Possibly introduced by human activity are two chunks of friable sandstone and one small chunk of a soft claystone that has a smoothed surface.

Seventeen animal bone fragments, six drum fish otoliths, four mussel shell fragments, and one human lower incisor also were found on the surface. The only recovered item possibly relating to European manufacture was a small, thin scrap of iron.

I returned to the site in the fall of 1996 and excavated twelve bucket auger tests. As expected in a recent point bar context, the sediments are complexly stratified. Deposits consist of fine sandy loam with lenses of siltier material. Very small

sherds, flakes, bone and mussel shell fragments were recovered in most of the auger tests. All specimens came from the upper 30 cm of deposit and it is likely that little or no deposition has taken place on the site since the occupation. Given the plowing and nature of the deposits, it is unlikely that subsurface features are present on the site.

Like those on the surface, all sherds recovered in the auger tests are thin (4-6 mm) and have shell temper. Three specimens have incised (possibly engraved) lines, but are too small to ascertain the form of the design elements. The bone specimens are small fragments that, with the exception of a turtle shell fragment, cannot be further identified.

The thin shell-tempered pottery and probable presence of the type Natchitoches Engraved indicates that historic Caddoan occupation is represented. The small size and apparent low artifact density suggests that a campsite or other limited activity area is represented rather than residential debris. However, it is possible that a portion of a village is represented that was occupied only briefly. We hope to carry out more intensive investigations at this site in the future.

### **Comments**

During the early 18th century, Caddoans in the Natchitoches area appear to have maintained the dispersed floodplain settlement pattern that dates back to late pre-

historic times along the Red River to the north. The Natchitoches village probably stretched over a distance of 12 to 15 km from the point at which Cane River and

Little River diverge to beyond Bayou Brevelle (Figure 1). A portion of the Doustioni village appears to have been located on a Pleistocene terrace remnant at the mouth of Saline Bayou. It is likely that other households were dispersed upstream along Saline Bayou for several kilometers.

By the early nineteenth century, Caddoan population levels had dropped dramatically (cf. Swanton 1942:23; Pertulla 1992:229) and smaller, but more aggregated, communities appear to have been located near marginal floodplain lakes. Several small archaeological sites probably associated with these communities have been identified along the edge of Sibley Lake and the Chamard/Dolet Brake area to the north (Webb and Gregory 1986:28).

Additional archaeological and historical research on historic Caddoan settlement in

the area will enable a better understanding of the cultural processes involved in the rapid changes in Caddoan lifeways associated with eighteenth century European colonization.

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