THE OHIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Number 2 October 1999

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Martha Otto

I hope those of you who were lucky enough to be in the field this summer had a successful season and are getting on to the cleaning, cataloging, and analysis. I also hope to read about your activities in upcoming OAC Newsletters or hear about them at future OAC meetings.

I have some good news to report. Bob Genheimer has told the Board that the Late Prehistoric publication should be going to the printer by the first of the year. We are all looking forward to getting back on a regular publication schedule.

Please note on your calendars, if you haven't already, the annual meeting of the Eastern States Archeological Federation on November 18-21. As Ohio's representative to this organization, the OAC is the official host for the meetings. They will be held at the Kings Island Convention Center and Resort, Kings Island, Ohio, about 25 miles northeast of Cincinnati along I-71. A full program and registration form will be sent to OAC members along with the election ballot, which you should receive soon. Bill Dancey has organized an interesting workshop for OAC members on Friday morning, November 19 at Fort Ancient State Memorial, and a symposium on Friday afternoon at the Kings Island Convention Center that should be of interest to both OAC and ESAF members. By the way, you can join ESAF as an individual, which includes a copy of the annual publication *Archaeology of Eastern North America*. Recent issues have included articles by Brian Redmond, Ken Tankersley, Brad Lepper, and David Stothers, among others. Membership information is available at http://www.siftings.com (further information on the ESAF annual meeting is at http://www.quad50.com).

By the time of our fall meeting, we should have the OAC website on line (or at least very close to being on line). Like the Newsletter, the website will be an important communication link to our members, to potential members, and to people who are interested in or have questions about archaeology in Ohio. Also, like the Newsletter, the website provides an opportunity for all OAC members to write articles, announce fieldwork opportunities, etc. These two outlets are ideal for communicating, perhaps in abstracts or executive summary form, the results of the contract archaeology projects underway in the state.

OAC elections are fast approaching. Thanks to all the candidates for running. As the end of my term as your president approaches, I want to express my thanks to the other officers, trustees, and committee chairs for all their efforts during the past two years. I am confident that the next two years with Bill Dancey at the helm will see the Council expand its membership and continue to make a significant contribution to Ohio archaeology.

OAC/ESAF MEETING NEWS

The Autumn 1999 OAC meeting will be held Friday, November 19th at the Fort Ancient Museum in conjunction with the Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF) meeting. The ESAF conference runs from Thursday to Sunday, November 18-21 at Kings Island Resort and Conference Center. The OAC meeting will open as usual with coffee and donuts at 9:00 a.m., followed by a presentation at 9:30 a.m., a business meeting at 11:00 a.m., and an afternoon paper session.

The morning presentation is by Todd Tucky of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. Todd will be describing the Preservation Office's Data Automation Project. This project entails the electronic processing of OHI, OAI, and National Register data and linking it with digitized USGS topographic maps through MAPIT (Mapping and Preservation Inventory Tool), a Geographic Information System program. The project, which is near completion, will be available for use at the Preservation Office in Columbus and on-line via the Internet. (*continued on next page*)

IN THIS ISSUE

In the afternoon on November 19th, a symposium entitled "Ohio archaeology: Its Past, Present, and Future" will be presented at the ESAF meeting site, a short drive from Fort Ancient. The times of the symposium are 3:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. The papers making up the symposium will comprise a period by period summary of the state of knowledge of Ohio archaeology along with identification of research directions. All but one of the presenters are the organizers of previous OAC conferences: Paleoindian and Early Archaic (William Dancey), Archaic (Kent Vickery), Early Woodland (Martha Otto), Late Prehistoric (Robert Genheimer), and Historic (Mike Pratt). The exception is Mark Seeman who has been asked to cover the Late Woodland.

By combining the OAC fall meeting with the ESAF meeting it is hoped that OAC members would stay through Saturday and Sunday to hear papers on the ESAF conference schedule. A banquet on Saturday night features Dr. Thomas Dillehay who will be speaking on "The peopling of the New World as Seen from South America." The registration fee for the conference is $15.00 ($13.00 before Nov. 1). The preliminary program and registration information can be found on the web at http://www.quad50.com/esaf98mt.html (the "98" is correct).

AD HOC LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEE REPORT

Al Tonetti, Committee Chair

State Legislation, 123rd Ohio General Assembly, 1999-2000

Chair's note: It is important that OAC members understand state (and federal) laws affecting archaeology and related matters, such as vandalism, desecration, and cemeteries. This is particularly important now because some members of the Indian artifact collector community in Ohio may seek to modify Ohio laws that they perceive as a threat to collecting Indian artifacts. Also, some Native Americans who worked to get recent revisions to Ohio's vandalism and desecration laws passed may attempt to revise these laws again as they find that these laws are not effective in prohibiting the excavation of Native American (and other) human remains and associated grave goods during archaeological investigations or when the excavator has the permission of, or is, the property owner, and do not affect the curation of such remains and grave goods at non-federally funded institutions. Please prepare to address these matters by educating yourself about Ohio's laws dealing with archaeology.

S.B. 51. Increases penalties for the desecration of a place of worship or an object of reverence or sacred devotion

Despite what you may have heard from some individuals in the Indian artifact collector community, **this bill (now law) does not increase the level of offense for desecrating an "Indian mound or earthwork, cemetery, thing, or site of great historical or archaeological interest" [ORC Section 2927.11(A)(3)] from a second degree misdemeanor to a felony.** The intent of this law is to increase the level of offense for desecrating churches, temples, and similar places of worship, not archaeological and historical sites or cemeteries as defined in the existing desecration statute. The law increases the penalty for desecrating a "place of worship, its furnishings, or religious artifacts or sacred texts within the place of worship [ORC Section 2927.11(A)(4)], or any other object of reverence or sacred devotion [ORC Section 2927.11(A)(6)]," and ***specifically references that it does not apply to the section of the existing desecration law prohibiting desecration of archaeological and historical sites and American Indian cemeteries.***

Based on the amount of physical harm to such property, the law increases the level of offense from a second degree misdemeanor to a fifth, fourth, or third degree felony. The law also permits the recovery of compensatory, punitive, and exemplary damages, court costs, attorney's fees, and other reasonable expenses in convictions for all forms of desecration (Ohio Revised Code [ORC] Section 2927.11) and vandalism (ORC Section 2909.05) from the offender by the person suffering injury or loss pursuant to ORC Section 2307.70.

This bill was signed into law by Governor Taft on June 17,1999. It became effective September 20, 1999.

The full text of this and all other bills and laws, and the Ohio Legislative Service Commission's analysis of this and all other bills, can be acquired from your State Representative or from the Ohio General Assembly's Web site at <http://www.legislature.state.oh.us>. Copies of existing Ohio laws, including the vandalism and desecration laws referred to above, can also be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.avv.com/orc>.

Federal Legislation

Revisions to 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," Approved by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

On February 12, 1999, following six years of review, comment, and study, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) formally adopted revised regulations

mplementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). These regulations were prepared pursuant to the 1992 amendments to the NHPA. The NHPA requires that Federal agencies take into account the affects of their actions on historic properties and provide the ACHP an opportunity to comment on such actions. The version adopted is based on the May 1998 draft of the proposed regulations. The final regulations were published in the *Federal Register* on May 18th and took effect June 17th.

The revised regulations emphasize the responsibilities of Federal agencies and permits more direct involvement from State, local, and Tribal governments, and the public, in the Section 106 process. The revised regulations also reduces the ACHP's role in routine Federal undertakings, thus permitting the ACHP to focus its involvement on complex and controversial Federal undertakings and overseeing the implementation of the Section 106 process.

Draft Guidance on Archaeological Data Recovery Projects Issued by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

[Chairs note: The ACHP seeks comments on this guidance intended for use by Federal agencies, State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and others pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800. **Everyone should read and consider the implications of this guidance.** It contains some very useful, interesting, and perhaps controversial guidance, such as recommending that **archaeological data recovery is not appropriate when Native American "human remains, associated or unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or items of cultural patrimony" are present or likely to be present.** OAC members should have received a copy of this guidance either at the May 21 OAC meeting or with the minutes from that meeting. If you have not received a copy and want one, please contact Al Tonetti at atonetti@aol.com or (614) 268-2514]

The ACHP has issued a draft *Federal Register* notice and guidance on consultation for projects involving archaeological data recovery. Basically, the ACHP has developed a recommended approach for consulting on the recovery of significant information from archaeological sites. The guidance is intended to 1) simplify the process of reaching agreement in these situations, 2) clarify expectations for archaeological data recovery plans, 3) clarify expectations for consultation with affected parties, 4) ensure that archaeological data recovery is used only when appropriate, and 5) make clear that if Federal agencies and other consulting parties follow this guidance, the ACHP is unlikely to get involved in consultation or raise objections to resulting agreements unless there is an unusual or controversial situation. This guidance took effect on the effective date of the revised Section 106 regulations, June 17, 1999. Written comments concerning this guidance should be directed to the Executive Director, ACHP, Old Post Office Building, 100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., #809, Washington D.C. 20004; FAX (202) 606-8647; email <achp@achp.gov>.

The guidance identifies 10 basic principles concerning the treatment of archaeological sites when archaeological data recovery is being considered, and 12 principles concerning resolving adverse effects through the recovery of significant information from archaeological sites. A model format for a Memorandum of Agreement concerning archaeological data recovery projects is also included in the guidance.

Current information about the revised 36 CFR Part 800 regulations and the draft guidance on archaeological data recovery projects can be obtained from the ACHP's Web site <http://www.achp.gov>.

Draft Principles of Agreement Regarding the Disposition of Culturally Unidentifiable Human Remains Issued by the National Park Service

At its June 25-27, 1999 meeting, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Review Committee approved draft principles of agreement regarding the disposition of culturally unidentifiable human remains pursuant to Section 8 (c)(5) of NAGPRA. Written comments received by September 3, 1999 were to be considered by the Review Committee at their next scheduled meeting. The draft principles were published in the *Federal Register* on July 29, 1999 (Vol. 64, No. 145, pp. 41135-41136). The *Federal Register* notice notes that the Review Committee "wishes to underscore the preliminary nature of the principles and their placement as a beginning point for consideration of this topic." Comments should be addressed to, and copies of the notice can also be obtained from, the NAGPRA Review Committee c/o Departmental Consulting Archeologist, National Park Service (2275) 1849 C. St., NW. (NC340), Washington, DC 20240. Electronic comments are unacceptable. For additional information contact Dr. C. Timothy McKeown at the National Park Service at (202) 343-4101.

Revisions to 36 CFR Part 61, "Procedures for State, Tribal, and Local Government Historic Preservation Programs," Approved by U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

On March 9, 1999, following nearly two and half years of review, comment, and study, the National Park Service published the final rule revising requirements for State, tribal, and local historic preservation programs carrying out actions under the NHPA. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and eight U.S. territories participate in such programs on lands under their jurisdiction, as do more than

1,100 certified local governments and 17 tribal governments. These regulations were prepared pursuant to the 1992 amendments to the NHPA. The rule took effect June 9, 1999.

The revisions to 36 CFR Part 61 do not address the Indian tribe sections of the regulations, 36 CFR Part 61.8 and 61.9. These sections are currently under development by NPS in consultation with federally recognized tribes and other interested parties. When a draft of these sections is completed it will be issued for review and comment in the *Federal Register*. Given the increased role of federally-recognized tribes, and for that matter state and local governments in the NHPA as a result of the 1992 amendments, Sections 61.8 and 61.9 may result in further revisions to 36 CFR Part 61.

Senate Bill 548, to Establish the Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Fort Miamis National Historical Site in the State of Ohio

On March 4, 1999, Ohio Senator Michael DeWine introduced Senate Bill 548 designating the Lucas County, Ohio sites of Fallen Timbers Battlefield (1794) and Fort Miamis (1794-1813) as national historic sites. These two sites are associated with the U.S. military history and Native American culture between 1794-1813. In May, the bill was recommended for approval by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and is now before the U.S. Senate. The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical assistance to the State of Ohio, local governments, and to nonprofit organizations in order to implement a stewardship plan and develop programs to preserve and interpret the historical, cultural, natural, recreational, and scenic resources of these two sites.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 2000 PUBLIC HISTORY AWARD FROM THE OHIO ACADEMY OF HISTORY

Nominations are sought for the Public History Award to be presented at the annual meeting of the Ohio Academy of History 28-29 April 2000 at Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio.

To be nominated, a public history project, publication or program must have been accomplished within the previous two years and completed by 3 January 2000. Nomination forms and general rules should be requested from:

Dr. Stuart D. Hobbs
Ohio Historical Society
1982 Velma Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497
Phone: (614) 297-2608
E-mail: shobbs@ohiohistory.org

The awards program covers all public history fields, including exhibits, publications, audio-visual documentaries, oral history, public programs, symposia, archival projects, and historic preservation. Nominations which demonstrate meritorious achievement beyond the routine functions of everyday work are encouraged. All historians, whether employed by an academic or public institution, are encouraged to apply.

Nominated projects publications, or programs must:

- Include a completed nomination form and all support material required by the rules.
- Demonstrate original research which adds to a greater understanding of the past.
- Demonstrate creativity in the way the project, program, or publication is organized and presented.
- Demonstrate originality or uniqueness in design and historical interpretation.
- Educate or communicate with the intended audience.
- Follow commonly accepted rules of evidence and logic in providing proof of statements, facts, and conclusions.

The deadline for submission of nominations is January 3, 2000. Nominations must have a postmark no later than that date.

PLANNING MEETING NOTICE FOR PUBLIC TELEVISION SERIES

Voyageur Media Group, Inc. is inviting archaeologists, scholars and the general public to attend a planning meeting for *Ohio Archaeology* - the first documentary series about the State's rich cultural heritage. The planning meeting is scheduled from 10:00 am to noon on Thursday, November 18th at Fort Ancient State Memorial. The meeting formally launches the planning phase of this media project. *Ohio Archaeology* is a series of six, eight-minute documentaries examining new archaeological research on the ancient Native American cultures that once flourished throughout the state. The series is intended for distribution to public television stations, schools and museums during Ohio's Bicentennial in 2003.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP before November 1st by contacting producer Tom Law at: 513-871-0590 (phone), 513-871-2490 (fax) or pangea@fuse.net (e-mail). A modest lunch and beverages will be provided. If you are unable to attend, please let us know if you are interested in participating on this project. The planning meeting will cover such items as the organization of the overall series, episode topics, the formation of an advisory panel, fundraising, content, distribution and a project budget, work plan and timetable.

Voyageur Media Group, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the production of documentaries about science, history and culture.

The organization's related production credits include *Saving A Kentucky Time Capsule* and *Searching for the Great Hopewell Road*. Voyageur is currently producing a similar series, *Kentucky Archaeology*, for the Kentucky Heritage Council. Over the past year, Voyageur producer Tom Law has been discussing the feasibility of an Ohio Archaeology series with representatives from various institutions and communities. "Scholars, Native Americans and teachers have all expressed the vital need for a documentary series on the subject that is accurate, engaging and honorable," according to Law. "This planning meeting is the first step toward achieving that goal." The planning phase for this project is made possible with a generous grant from The George Gund Foundation.

PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM ON THE NEWARK "HOLY STONES"

A public symposium on the Newark "Holy Stones" will be held at the Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum in Historic Roscoe Village on November 6, 1999, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The "Newark Holy Stones," discovered in the 1860's in the context of the two-thousand year old Hopewell Culture Indian mounds near Newark, Ohio, were immediately controversial. Inscriptions on the stones were in a form of Hebrew that suggested that Jewish visitors may have been present in the Ohio Valley and even, perhaps, were the moundbuilders themselves. The debate over the authenticity of the stones has erupted again in recent years as archaeological, linguistic and anthropological evidence of pre-Columbian contacts and voyages to the Americas has been discovered. Much of the controversy rages around the evidence. Are iconoclastic scholars making too much of limited and circumstantial evidence? Or, are mainstream archaeologists and academics so entrenched in their traditional paradigms that they're ignoring any signs to the contrary? The symposium will allow for advocates from both sides to present their views and engage in discussion and debate.

Symposium panelists include: Suzanne O. Carlson (New England Antiquities Research Assoc.), Dr. Kenneth L. Feder, (Central Connecticut State University), Dr. Bradley T. Lepper (Ohio Historical Society), and Dr. J. Huston (Ohio State University). Dr. Robert Fox, a corporate ergonomist at General Motors in Detroit, will be the moderator. The symposium takes place at the Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum in Roscoe Village where the Newark Holy Stones are permanently displayed.

Authors will have their books available for purchase and signing. Cost is $8. (Includes Proceeding Booklet with position papers by each panelist and break refreshments.) Advanced registration is recommended. Contact the Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum for more information and to receive registration form.

Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum
Historic Roscoe Village
300 N. Whitewoman St.
Coshocton, OH 43812
740/622-8710
Contact Person: Patti Malenke, Director

HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE THOMAS WORTHINGTON ESTATE (ADENA STATE PARK)

Craig S. Keener

Professional Archaeological Services Team

Historical archaeological excavations conducted by Professional Archaeological Services Team (PAST) of Columbus have been ongoing at the historic Thomas Worthington Estate (Adena) in Chillicothe, Ohio since June 1, 1999. The archaeological investigation has to date involved the excavation of a total of 362 square meters in an attempt to identify and better understand early nineteenth century outbuildings associated with the main house of the estate. The Thomas Worthington estate is the former home of Thomas Worthington who was one of Ohio's first state senators and highly influential in early nineteenth century Ohio politics. The Worthington estate is a significant historic site representing the only plantation style residence in the state, and one of only two remaining residential structures built by Benjamin Latrobe, America's first architect. Archaeological testing and excavation were

initiated by the Ohio Historical Society (OHS) in 1997 and 1998 to identify the location of several outbuildings in various areas of the estate (Keener 1998). One specific location near the main house, where previous surveys identified a portion of an outbuilding/foundation dating to the early and mid-nineteenth century, was selected for total excavation. The goals of the current excavation conducted by PAST are to ascertain the full dimensions and associated features of the identified foundation and attempt to determine the function of this former building. The resulting excavation has been able to determine that the foundation measures 42 feet by 60 feet. Discovered nearby were other significant features that include a sandstone and brick lined well, and another small foundation representing a possible icehouse or root cellar.

Artifacts and depositional patterning at the site are now being analyzed and, although it is preliminary, the large outbuilding appears to have served various utilitarian functions and most probably acted as a storage facility for food processing activities associated with the main house. It is also possible, on the basis of what little archival research exists, that this foundation may have served as a stable for a short duration of time. PAST and OHS researchers are actively comparing both archaeological and historical information from this investigation with historical sites in Virginia and the Southeast. The historical archaeological assemblage recovered from the estate can enable researchers to compare these findings with other high profile estates such as Monticello and Mount Vernon where significant historical archaeological databases have been established. OHS tentatively plans to use the archaeological data and findings to help reconstruct several of the outbuildings in preparation for Ohio's bicentennial celebration. Any OAC members interested in the findings at the Thomas Worthington estate are encouraged to call Dr. Craig S. Keener at (614) 238-3750.

References Cited

Keener, Craig S.
1998 An Archaeological Survey of Portions of the Ohio Historical Society's Adena Site in the City of Chillicothe, Ross County, Ohio. Unpublished report on file at The Ohio Historical Society.

THE STRAIT SITE: A MIDDLE TO LATE WOODLAND SETTLEMENT IN CENTRAL OHIO

Jarrod Burks and William S. Dancey

The Ohio State University

In 1997 The Ohio State University (OSU) conducted a field school at the Strait site, a Woodland period settlement in Fairfield County, Ohio. This work followed preliminary investigations begun in 1983 and is ongoing. From the beginning, the artifactual evidence suggested that the Strait site constituted an occupation occurring at the juncture of the Middle and Late Woodland periods. Subsequent research has reinforced this impression and led to the conjecture that the site represents a case of community nucleation preceding that documented for the early Late Woodland (Dancey 1992, 1994).

Located in the headwaters of Walnut Creek about four km south of Buckeye Lake, the Strait site is situated at the periphery of the Scioto River drainage (Figure 1). The site sits atop an escarpment ca. six meters above a small creek fed by a perennial spring. About half a kilometer to the south, Walnut Creek meanders westward toward the Scioto River, some 50 kilometers distant. The rolling and hummocky terrain around Strait represents the glaciated western edge of the Allegheny Plateau. At the time of Euroamerican intrusion, this area was dominated by a Beech-Maple forest, with prairie and wetland species growing in the vicinity of the marshes now flooded by Buckeye Lake.

The Strait site was first brought to the attention of professional archaeologists in 1983 by members of the newly formed Sycamore Run Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Ohio who were working with representatives of the Region 6A branch of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. This collaboration produced a systematic surface collection of some of the site's plowed contexts (Sycamore Run Chapter 1983). In 1985, members of the Sycamore Run Chapter returned to Strait to investigate a topographic rise thought to be a Middle Woodland mound (Gehlbach 1985) (Figure 2). No burials were encountered, and the excavation was abandoned. In the early 1990s, much of the land on which Strait now lies changed hands, and the new owners have enthusiastically supported continued systematic exploration by Ohio State University archaeologists.

The prehistoric deposits at Strait are extensive. Archaeological debris extends along the escarpment's edge for approximately 700 meters in a band approximately 200 meters wide (Figure 1). A farm complex occupies the

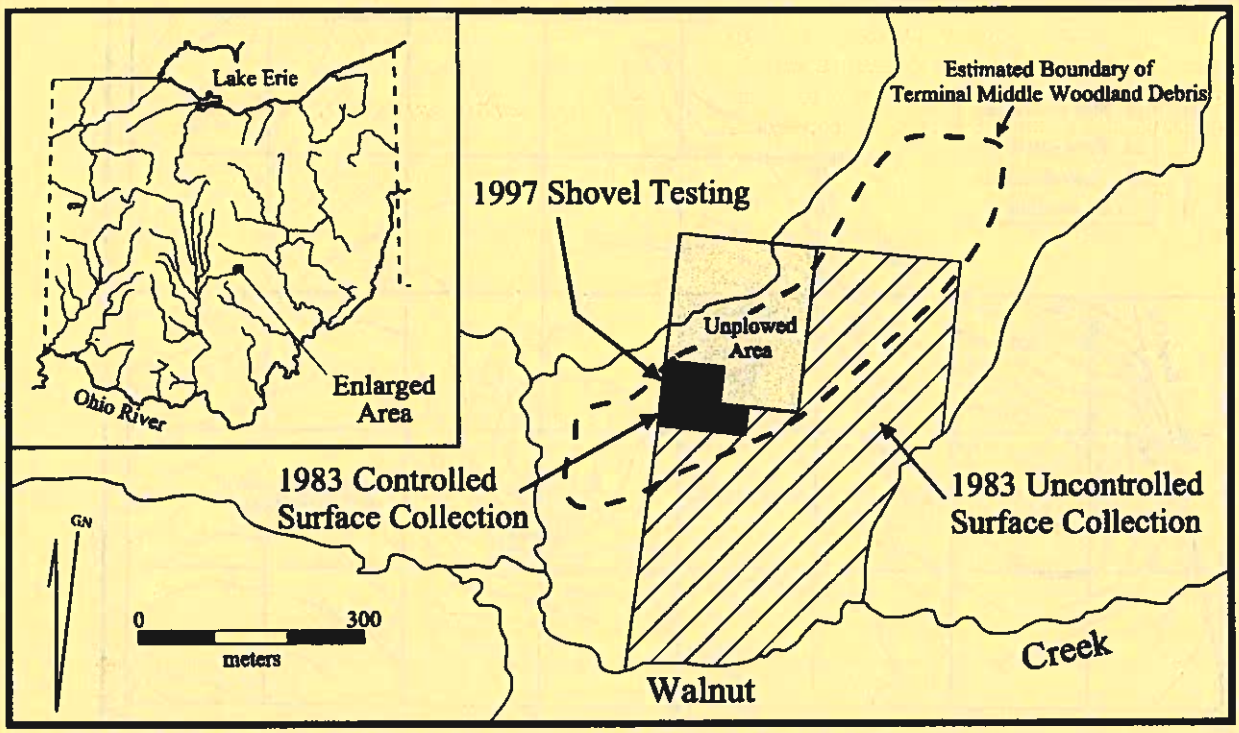

Figure 1. Position of the Strait site in the middle Ohio Valley and the location of on site surveys.

northern half of the site, and much of the southern portion is cultivated. Miraculously, however, nearly two hectares of the southern portion has been preserved in an unplowed woodlot. The occupied area is a hummocky, gently sloping surface on which artifact debris occurs in clusters corresponding to the major ground swells. Significantly, a consistent set of homogeneous artifact styles (Figure 3) dominates the assemblages of all clusters. In particular, projectile points from Strait are morphologically consistent with those types Justice (1987:208-214) groups in the Lowe Cluster, and pottery resembles the Newtown type (McMichael 1984). In addition, all clusters contain abundant evidence of bladelet production and use. While in some contexts these artifacts might indicate temporally distinct occupations, at Strait they are consistently associated as members of cohesive assemblages. It is on this basis that the site is thought to represent the transition from Middle to Late Woodland. Furthermore, the striking stylistic similarity from one cluster to another suggests that the entire site constitutes a single occupation.

Current Field Work

Since 1994, OSU students under the direction of William S. Dancey have been studying the nature of the unplowed deposits at Strait. In the autumn of 1994 and the spring of 1995, scattered shovel tests in the unplowed tract found no evidence of a plowzone and located several largely intact midden deposits (Burks et al.1995). Based upon these findings, a two-part field research plan was developed for the 1997 field school.

The primary goal of this research was to gain a better understanding of the extent and spatial organization of the archaeological debris in the woodlot through shovel testing. A second goal was to determine the character of the subsurface sediments through block excavation.

Shovel Testing Program

A stratified, random shovel-testing program was established to obtain an artifact sample from the midden throughout the unplowed tract. A 20 by 20-meter grid system was set up over the entire tract, with the grid corners marked by wooden hubs (Figure 2). Each 400 square meter block served as a sampling stratum within which 30 shovel test units were randomly located. The shovel tests, approximately 30 by 30 cm in size, were excavated in 20-cm deep levels until sterile subsoil was encountered. The excavated sediments were passed through one-quarter inch mesh hardware cloth, and all items left in the screen were returned to the lab for processing and analysis. In all, nearly 300 shovel tests have been excavated and processed to date.

The shovel-testing program resulted in three kinds of basic information: 1) a large artifact sample from across one area

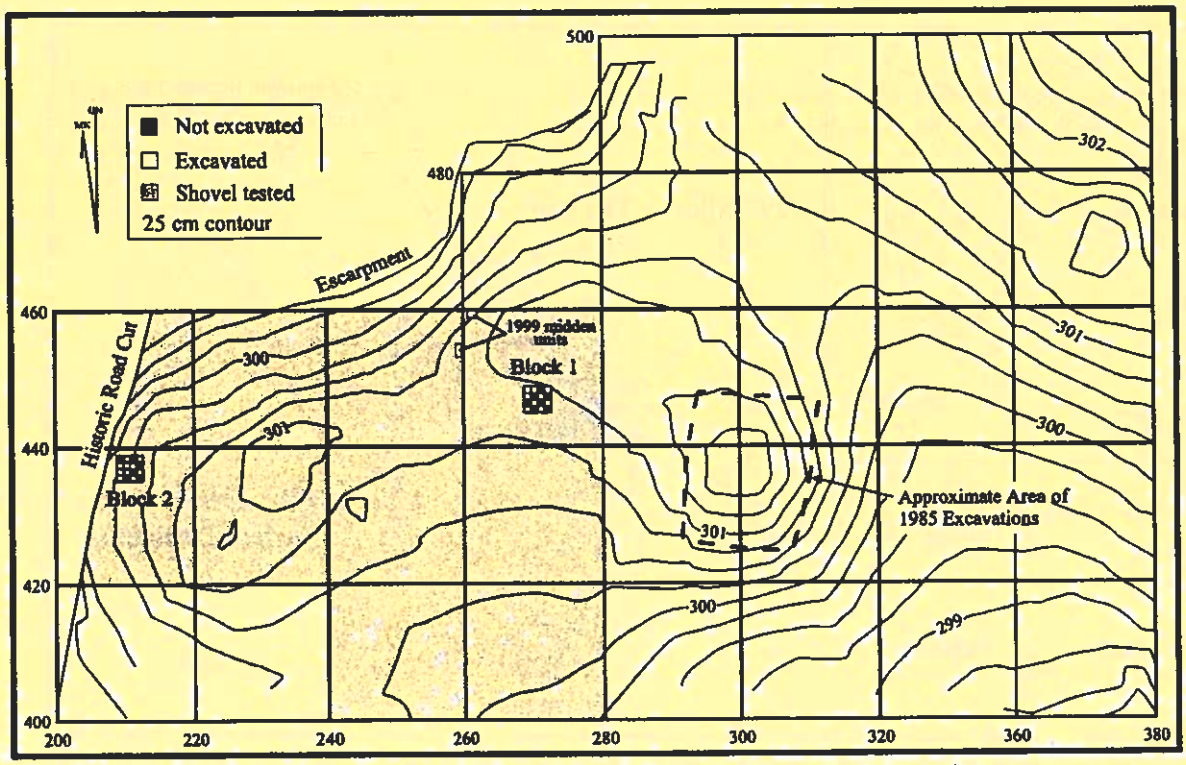

Figure 2. Unplowed wood lot showing the location of shovel-tested grid units, block excavations and the 1985 excavtion.

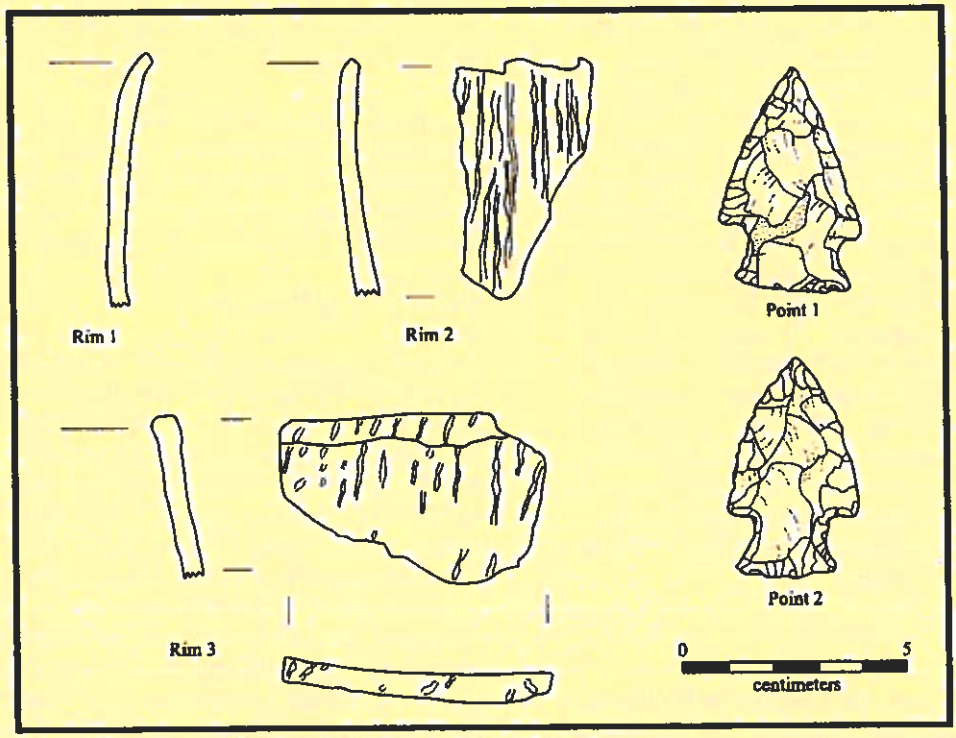

Figure 3. Representative projectile points and select cord-marked rim sherds.

of the site, 2) spatial patterning in the location of artifacts, and 3) information on the depth of the deposit and the degree of cultural feature preservation.

Over 8000 artifacts have been recovered to date through shovel testing. Lithic tools and tool making debris represent the largest class of artifacts (N=3,863). Vanport chert is the dominant raw material type, but Upper Mercer, Delaware, and Brush Creek materials are also present. Fire-cracked rock (FCR) was the second most abundant class (N=3,664). Preliminary study suggests that FCR is differentially distributed according to size and that clusters of it mark the location of food processing areas. Ceramic vessels are represented by 935 sherds, most of which are cord-marked body sherds. Another well-represented class of artifacts at Strait is bladelets. In the shovel-tested area of the site, 92 whole and fragmented bladelets have been recovered. This assemblage augments a sample of 53 bladelets and 13 cores from the systematic surface collection of the plowed portion of the site adjacent to the woodlot.

Preliminary spatial distribution analyses suggest that Strait artifacts cluster at two levels. First, the bulk of the items have been recovered from well-drained, topographic highs across the site's seven hectares. Secondly, smaller areas of differing density are apparent within the first order clusters as shown in Figure 4.

Block Excavations

After gaining a basic understanding of the spatial variability in artifact distribution through shovel testing, two 4 by 4-meter blocks were excavated in areas of different artifact density (Figure 2). In each of these blocks, alternate 1 by 1 meter units were excavated. Adjacent units were opened as features were encountered. Block 1 was positioned on the south side of an arc of midden extending westward from the topographic feature excavated by the Sycamore Run Chapter in 1985. This block uncovered the remains of a broad and shallow 30 cm deep basin (Feature 1) which contained a number of large cord-marked body sherds and large utilized flake tools (Figure 5). Also found in Block 1 was one postmold. Block 2, which was located near an old, historic road cut on the west edge of the site, exposed seven prehistoric features (Figure 5). Feature 4 represents another broad and shallow basin. However, this feature exhibited two strata, the lowest of which was filled almost entirely with burned hickory nuts. A number of bladelets and Lowe Cluster-like projectile points were present in the feature fill. Two other pits and three or four postmolds were also documented in this block. While the postmolds lacked material culture, the pits contained additional debris

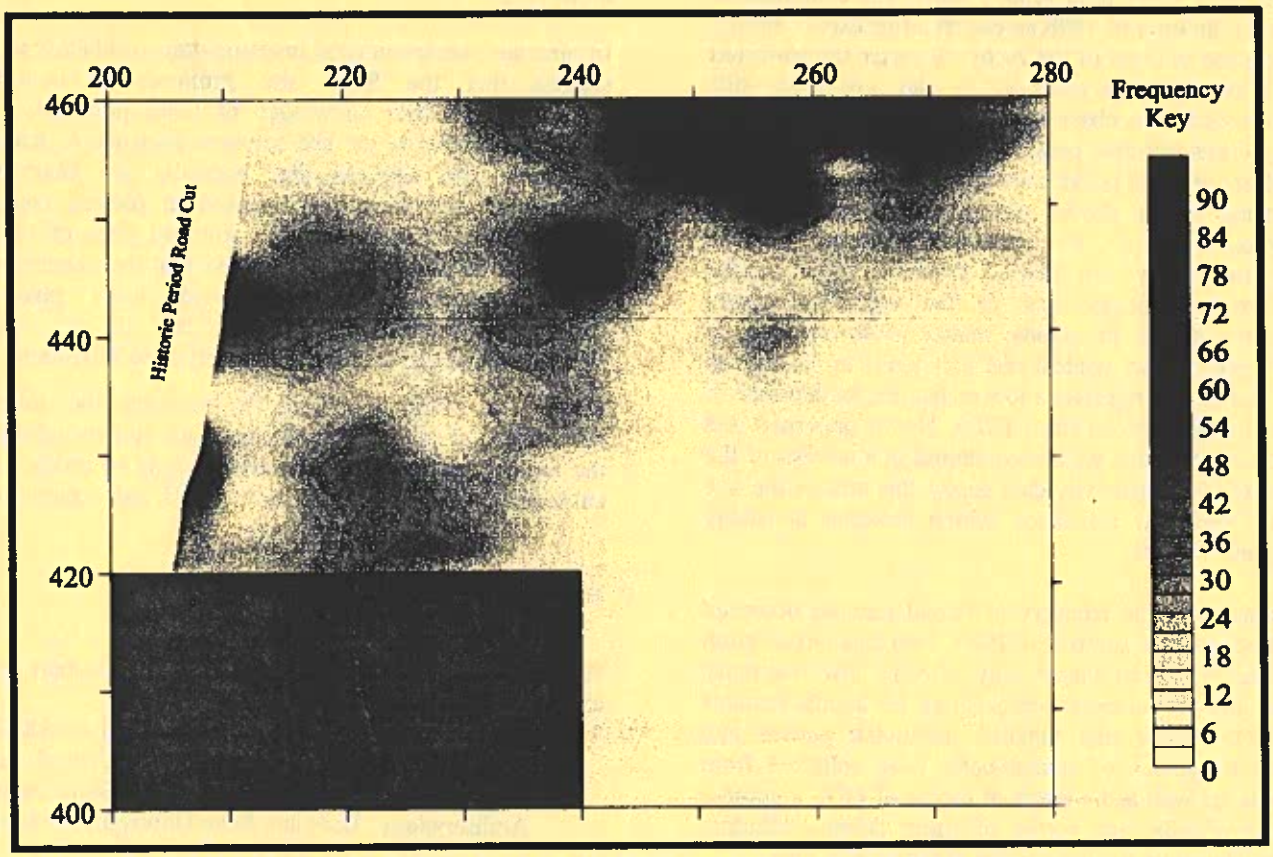

Figure 4. Combined frequency distribution of ceramic and lithic debris from shovel testing program.

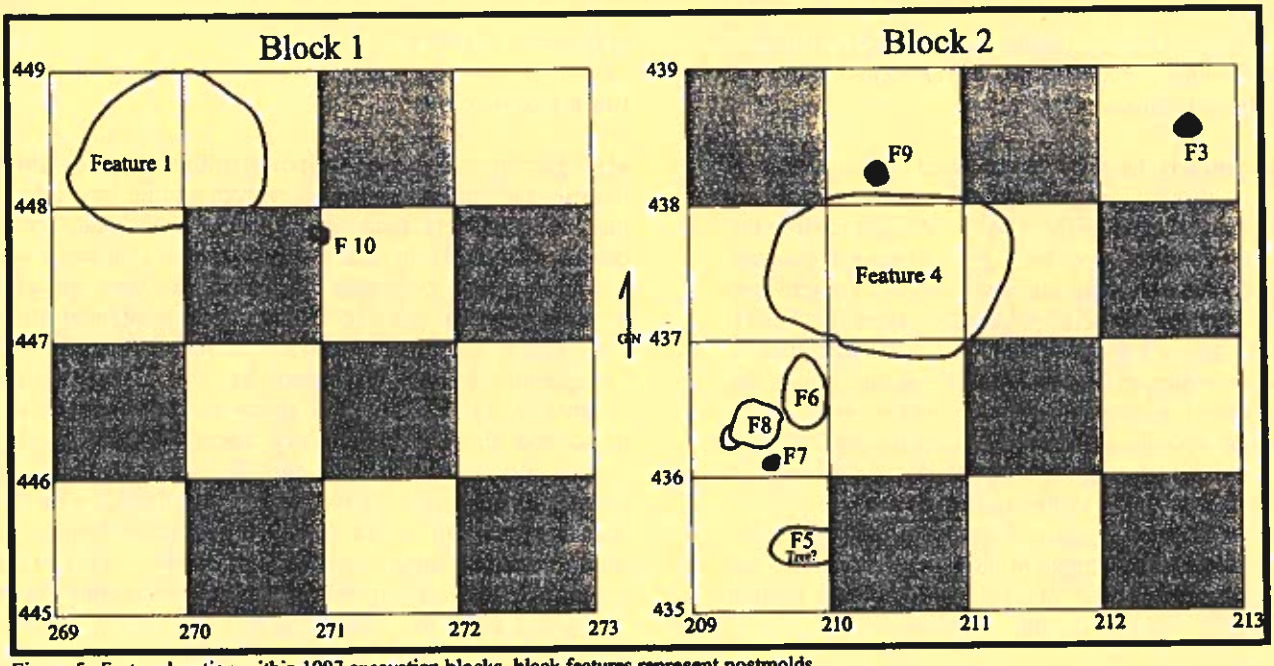

Figure 5. Feature location within 1997 excavation blocks, black features represent postmolds.

consistent with the materials located in Feature 4.

1998-1999 Work

Since the 1997 OSU field school, work has continued at Strait. In the autumn of 1998 an electrical resistivity survey was conducted in eight of the 20 by 20 meter shovel-tested blocks. While the data generated by this survey are still being processed, two observations of note can been made. First, numerous, discrete peaks in electrical resistivity were found. Many of these peaks correspond to concentrations of FCR located during shovel testing. These concentrations may represent dumps for expended materials used in cooking and other fire related activities. The second observation brought to light by the resistivity survey concerns the degree of organic matter in the midden. In areas of high artifact content, the soil tends to be high in organic matter and registers a low resistance. In one area of the shovel-tested blocks (near E260, N460) unburned and burned faunal remains were encountered in a number of the shovel tests. The resistivity data depict this area of the site as having very low resistance, which indicates unusually high organic content.

The potential for the recovery of faunal remains occupied our attentions in the summer of 1999. Two small excavation units were placed in the vicinity of very low resistance readings, and shovel tests were positive for animal remains (Figure 2). Nearly one hundred additional burned and unburned fragments of animal bone were collected from these units, as well as hundreds of pieces of FCR, a number of pottery sherds, and pieces of lithic debris, including bladelets. Based on the topography of the area and the results of this summer's excavations, it is likely that this organic rich midden with preserved animal bone extends north to the edge of the escarpment.

Summary

In summary, archaeological investigations conducted to date suggest that the Strait site promises to contribute substantially to our knowledge of Ohio prehistory. The unplowed portion of the site contains evidence of features, structures, and artifacts that normally are obliterated, fragmented, truncated, and smeared in plowed contexts. Comparison of the assemblages from all parts of the site will allow testing of the proposition that the clusters were contemporaneous and represent an early phase in community nucleation beginning late in the Middle Woodland and accelerating in the early Late Woodland.

Finally, it offers a chance to evaluate the inherited systematics of Midwestern archaeology and straighten out the logical relationships between concepts of artifact type, cultural type, cultural period, time period, and occupation.

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NOTES FROM THE FIELD, 1999: MORE HOPEWELL "HOUSES" AT THE STUBBS EARTHWORKS SITE

Frank L. Cowan, Ted S. Sunderhaus, and

Robert A. Genheimer

Cincinnati Museum Center

The Cincinnati Museum Center renewed its campaign of extensive excavations at the Stubbs Earthworks site (33Wa1) throughout the summer of 1999. The 1999 field work was unanticipated and initiated on short notice, spurred by last-minute schedule changes that pushed forward the building of an additional access road onto the grounds of the new Little Miami High School. The access road crosses one of three of the Archaeological Conservancy's conservation easements, collectively named "The Fleischmann Ancient Indian Culture Reserve," that preserve portions of the large Ohio Hopewell geometric earthworks complex mapped in 1839 by Charles Whittlesey (1852). The easement agreement allows strictly limited encroachments onto the easement property but provides for up to 120 days for archaeological investigations prior to the onset of construction.

The Cincinnati Museum Center initiated excavation of the 400-square-meter construction impact area on June 10, 1999 with the cooperation of the Little Miami School District, the Archaeological Conservancy, Inc., and the Dugan & Meyers Construction Company. The Fleischmann Foundation provided the generous financial assistance without which these field investigations could not have taken place. The deadline for fieldwork completion is early October; hence, this update is being written while we are still in the final days of the field recovery process.

The 1999 fieldwork is only the latest phase of intensive excavations that began in May 1998 in advance of the construction of the new Little Miami High School (Cowan and Clay 1998; Cowan, et al. 1998). During the six-month-long 1998 field season, Cincinnati Museum Center archaeologists conducted nearly three hectares of magnetometer survey and 3,400 square meters of subsurface excavation across the northern portion of the 86-acre school property (see Figure 1). The unprecedented scale of those investigations was made possible by the assistance of hundreds of volunteers, including professional, student, and amateur archaeologists, and by generous funding support from Gray & Pape, Inc. and 3D/International, Inc.

Highlights of the 1998 field season included documentation of the post mold remnants of thirteen wooden Hopewell structures, located both within and outside the conjoined circle-and-rectangle geometric earthwork enclosure. These included large-scale civic-ceremonial structures as well as structures that may have been temporary accommodations for participants who gathered at this site for periodic celebrations and events.

Inside the earthwork enclosure, two large submound wooden structures were identified to the north and south of the preserved mound easement (Transects 11 and 25; see Figure 1 for locations). These structures are almost undoubtedly parts of a larger, multi-chambered "big house" that was eventually dismantled and covered by mound fill. The nature and location of those structures substantiate earlier interpretations that the presently visible mound is but a small remnant of the once much larger, irregularly shaped mound mapped by Whittlesey. The excavated structures were entirely devoid of artifacts, mortuary facilities, and human remains, although some cultural debris was included

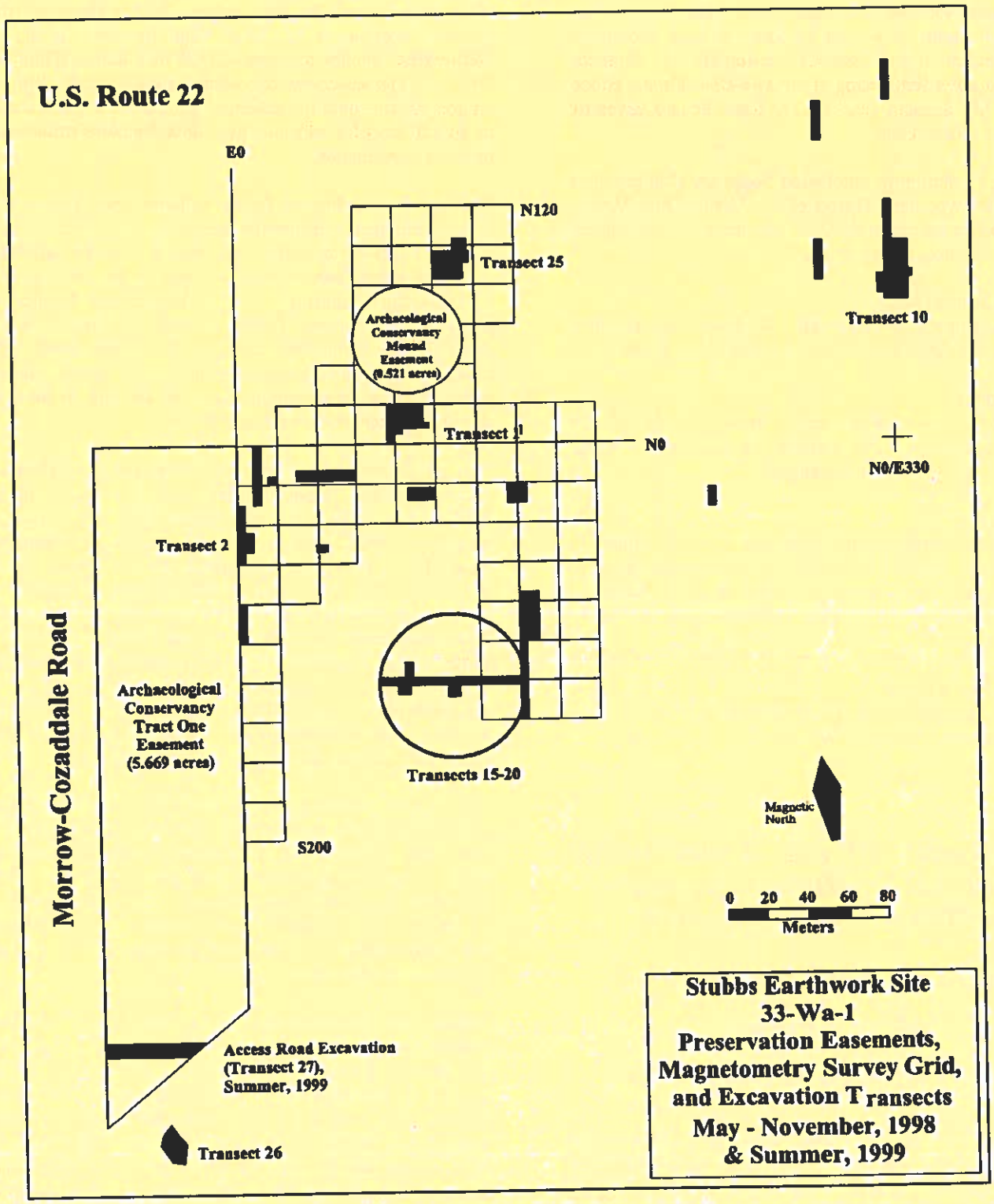

Figure 1: Map of Stubbs Earthworks site excavations for 1998 and 1999.

in the soils used to refill the post molds prior to mound construction.

Located outside of the earthwork enclosure at a location where Whittlesey had mapped a large circular earthwork was Structure 8, an immense, 73-meter diameter circle of 172 huge postholes, exposed by Transects 15 - 20. The postholes could have supported posts 20-35 cm in diameter and several meters in height. The circular enclosure was eventually dismantled, the postholes were deliberately refilled, and the former circle of posts may subsequently have been capped by the ring-shaped earthen berm illustrated in the 1839 map. The post molds were often filled with sediments containing cultural debris, but since no artifacts were observed on the plow zone surface in that portion of the site during earlier surveys described by Genheimer (1996,1997), the artifact-bearing fill must have been transported from other portions of the site. A very small "C-shaped" structure, Structure 9, was found inside the circular post enclosure.

Outside of the earthwork enclosure, excavators documented nine "house-like" post structures: one in Transect 2, five in Transect 10, and three in Transect 26 (see Cowan, et al. 1998:Figures 3 and 4 for illustrations of the structure in Transect 2 and of four of the five structures within Transect 10). One of the more interesting aspects of the nine house-like structures is their architectural diversity. Three structures conform to conventional expectations for Ohio Hopewell house structures, i.e., they are rectangular and have rounded corners. On the other hand, one structure is square with squared corners, three are circular, one is "C-shaped", and one is a circular structure with evenly paired post molds forming inner and outer wall rings. To our present knowledge, this latter structural form has no analogs in eastern North American prehistory, much less in Ohio Hopewell. All evidence indicates that these architecturally disparate structures are Hopewell in origin.

The focus of the 1999 excavations is Transect 27, a 9.0 by 48.5-meter excavation covering the area where the proposed access road will cross the Archaeological Conservancy's easement Tract One (Figure 1). The 5.7-acre easement tract encompasses the eastern half of the Stubbs Mill Blade site, 33Wa256, the largest and most artifact-rich of the 28 Hopewellian artifact concentrations that together make up the Stubbs Cluster in the Little Miami River valley (Genheimer 1996, 1997). The southernmost end of the Tract One easement, the location of Transect 27, exhibits very dense concentrations of fire-cracked rocks within the plow zone, but other artifact classes appear to be relatively sparse in that portion of the site.

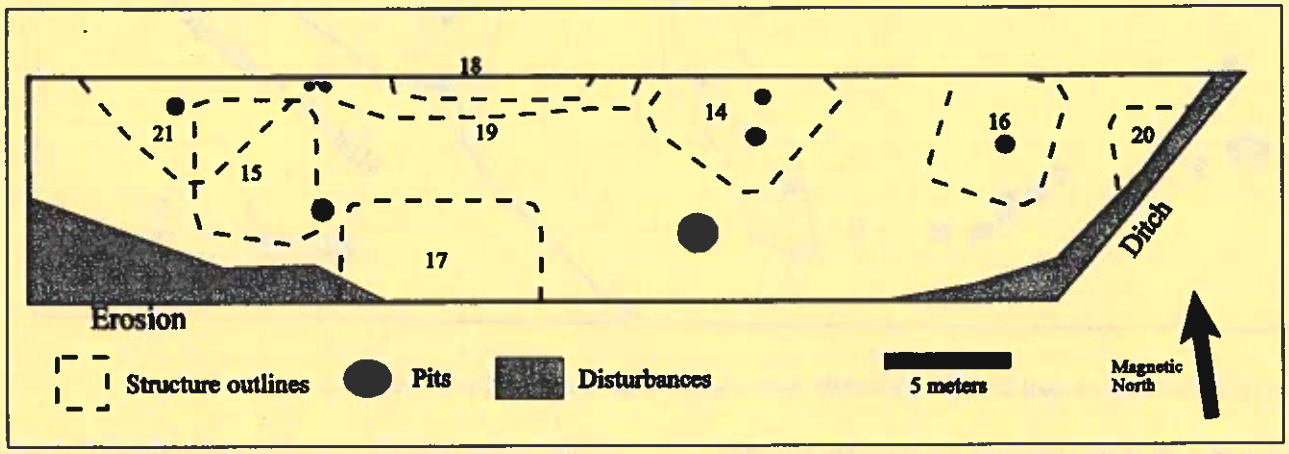

Figure 2: Schematic map of Transect 27 and "house" structures.

Excavations were initiated by stripping the transect of plow-disturbed topsoils with a self-loading pan and a smooth-edged backhoe bucket. Mechanized plow zone and topsoil removal exposed 31 post molds and pit features. Subsequently, three-and-a-half months of repeated shovel-shaving and trowel-scraping of the 400-square-meter area have brought the total number of features within the transect to more than 380. Many post molds were not detectable until the transect surface had been stripped of as much as 15-20 cm of sub-plow zone subsoils.

Eight "house-sized" and "house-like" Hopewell structures are exposed by Transect 27. Figure 2 is a schematic sketch-map illustrating the sizes, shapes, and locations of the house-like structures and of some of the larger and more distinct pit features within the transect. All of the structures are rectangular with rounded corners. Three structures, Structures 14, 15, and 16, are sufficiently exposed to permit measurement of complete "house" dimensions. These vary from 5.5 by 5.5 meters to 7.0 by 6.0 meters. Structures 17

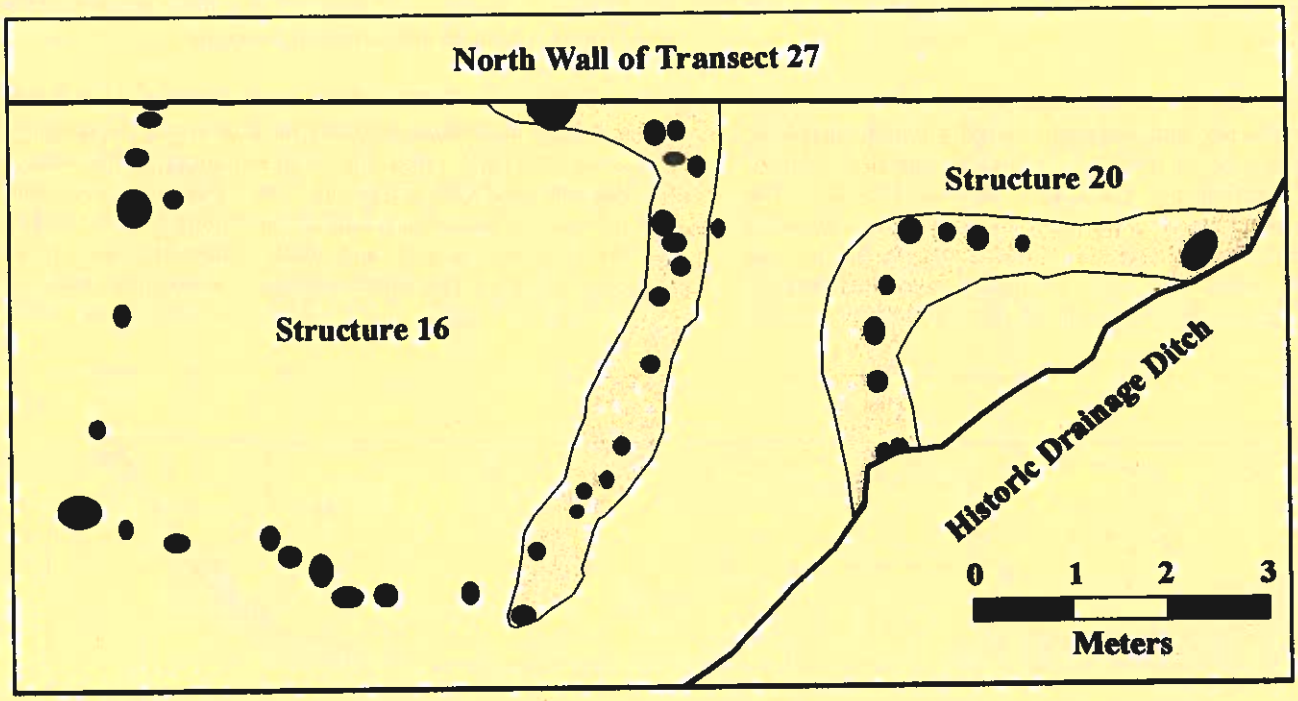

Figure 3: Structures 16 and 20, with presently documented post molds and wall trenches.

and 21 may be a bit larger, although the complete structure outlines are not exposed. The transect exposed only the southernmost walls and corners of Structures 18 and 19, and Structure 20 is represented only by its northwestern corner.

It is evident that this portion of the Stubbs Earthwork complex was a very busy place some 1,600 to 2,000 years ago. But it is also clear that these building remnants are the accumulation of repeated building and use episodes that took place over significant periods of time, as indicated by structure overlap (Structures 15 and 21) and by the direct superimposition of Structures 18 and 19. In addition, the extremely close proximity of some other "houses" (e.g., of Structure 15 with both Structures 17 and 19) suggests that those structures probably were not strictly contemporary. Nevertheless, the scant artifactual evidence indicates that all are products of Hopewellian period construction and use. Also intriguing are the apparently common orientations of many of these structures. Structures 15, 17, 18, 19, and 20 are identically oriented, and Structures 14 and 21 share the same northeasterly orientation. Structure 16 exhibits an orientation intermediate between the two more common alignments. It is conceivable that the principles that may have governed structure orientation in this portion of the site changed through time.

One of the surprising details of these structures is the method of their construction. Each of the eight structures within Transect 27 was built using a wall-trench construction technique, a building method conventionally thought to have become common in eastern North America only in Mississippian times. The wall-trenches are very subtle, even subtler than the post molds, and the evidence for their existence did not become apparent to us until quite late in the field season. Nonetheless, we have been able to trace out remnants of the broad, shallow wall-trenches for parts of each of the structures. The wall-trench features are characterized by very compact, somewhat mottled silty soils with trace amounts of fine gravels redeposited into linear depressions in the clayey silt B-horizon subsoils. Removal of wall-trench fills frequently exposed remnants of post molds previously "missing" from wall lines; the wall-trench sediments appear to have filled in the holes left by pulled posts, obscuring them from all efforts at detection at higher elevations.

Figure 3 is a sketch-map illustrating Structures 16 and 20 as examples of wall-trench construction in the easternmost end of Transect 27. The eastern wall of Structure 16 provided our first clue for the use of wall-trench construction, but we did not at first recognize the true significance of that wall-trench feature, and we did not generalize from it until we'd stumbled across additional "anomalous" wall-trench segments in other structures. Subsequent reexamination has extended the wall-trench to include the northeastern corner of the structure, and we have found profile evidence of the wall-trenches in the northern wall of the transect. We expect to be able to trace out at least some of the wall-trench

along the southern and western sides of Structure 16 before the field season is concluded. Structure 20 is located in a corner of the transect that we didn't shovel-shave until very late in the excavation season, by which time we were looking for wall-trenches. Even in that instance, we found most of the post molds before we were able to detect the very subtle traces of the wall-trench outlines. Rodent burrow disturbances presently obscure a portion of the surviving Structure 20 wall-trench where an additional two or three post molds should be located.

Figure 4 is a northern wall profile of Transect 27 at the point where the western wall of Structure 16 extends beyond the excavated transect. The profile shows the broad, shallow wall-trench along with the mold of a wall post that was pulled when the structure was dismantled. Although the plow zone is very clearly differentiated from the underlying soils, the distinctions between undisturbed subsoil, wall-trench fill, and post mold fills are very subtle, even in cross-sectional profile.

The extreme subtlety of the distinctions between the wall-trench fills and their surrounding subsoils (often only minor differences in the ped structures of the two soils) suggests that only same-depth subsoils were usually being used to refill the wall-trenches once the post holes were dug and posts put into place. It seems unlikely that this could have occurred if the wall-trenches were excavated from the original ground surface, since very dark, readily visible topsoils would have been mixed into the wall-trench fills. Our tentative conclusion is that the prairie sods and topsoils must have been removed from the entirety of the house footprint to expose a B-horizon subsoil "floor" prior to excavation of the wall-trenches and the emplacement of the wall-posts. This conclusion must be considered, for the present, to be an untested hypothesis as we have, as yet, no direct evidence for even the most shallow semi-subterranean house-basins preserved beneath the plow zone. Yet, this hypothesis seems to be the most economical way to explain the difficulties we've had in detecting wall-trenches and the sudden appearance of subtle post mold "tops" deep within the sub-plow zone subsoils. In retrospect, we strongly suspect that at least all of the rectangular house-like structures we excavated in 1998 were also of wall-trench (and possibly house-basin) construction - we simply missed (or misinterpreted) the signs of those construction methods (we weren't looking for them, after all). Whether or not any of the circular "houses" were built using the wall-trench method, we just don't know and probably won't be able to reconstruct from our recorded evidence. We are currently still seeking further corroboration for the house-basin hypothesis in Transect 27.

Despite increasingly compelling evidence that these "house"-like structures were well built and designed to last, there is equally compelling evidence that these were not routinely occupied residential (domestic) structures. Despite the presence of eight structures, the artifact content of Transect 27 is extraordinarily sparse. With the exception of fire-cracked rocks in the plow zone, we estimate that there are literally more features than artifacts in this transect. Even assuming compulsive fastidiousness in "house-cleaning" and site maintenance by the builders and users of this portion of the site, we would have expected that at least very small flakes, sherds, and bits of charcoal and burnt soil would have accumulated sufficiently that such debris would commonly have become trapped in vacant pits,

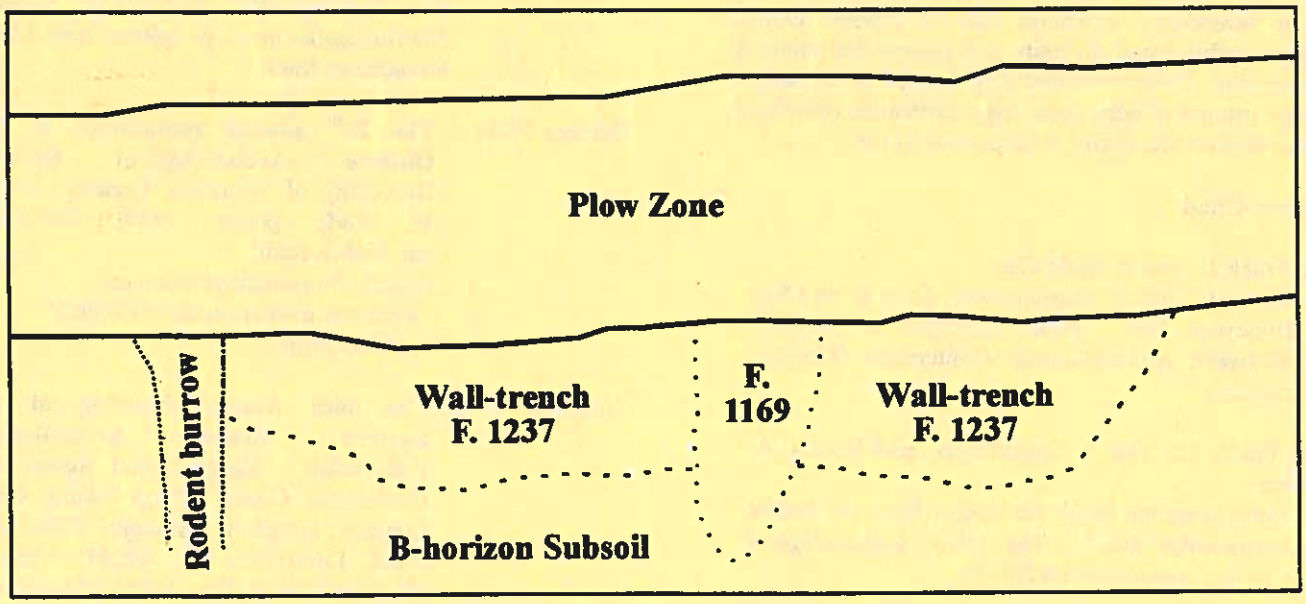

Figure 4: Profile of Structure 16's wall-trench (F. 1237) and post mold (F. 1169), along the north wall of Transect 27.

post molds, and other depressions, or ground into subsurface soils. That is not the case. Most features are entirely devoid of artifacts, and features containing even traces of charcoal or burnt soil are remarkably rare. It would appear that these well-built structures were seldom occupied and were used only for relatively brief periods of time. There is nothing to suggest that the full range of daily tasks and activities were being carried out within or adjacent to these structures.

The Stubbs Earthworks site continues to astonish us with a wealth of new clues to the probable appearance of large Ohio Hopewell earthwork complexes during their actual periods of use. While we have tended to visualize these sites in terms of the historically surviving earthen architecture, it may have been primarily wooden architecture, including wooden architecture of truly monumental proportions, which dominated the local landscape during much of the active use-lives of these sites. Earthen structures may have gradually replaced wooden ones only in the later stages of site use. Temporary housing accommodations, also of wood, abounded all around the earthworks. Nearly every excavation unit not situated on low-lying ground and where there was even a modicum of surficial debris outside the area of the earthworks has yielded evidence for "house-like" structures and, usually, evidence for densely packed multiple structures. The seventeen "house-like" structures thus far exposed exhibit remarkable architectural diversity and unexpected methods of construction. These empirical observations have changed our mental images of what these large earthwork complexes must have looked like during their periods of use.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1999

October 21-24 **The 45th Annual Midwest Archaeological Conference.** Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Contact: Lynne Goldstein or William Lovis, 1999 Midwest Archaeological Conference, Dept. Of Anthropology, 354 Baker Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1118; E-mail: *barrickl@pilot.msu.edu* [please note MAC on message line].

October 29-31 **The 26th annual symposium of the Ontario Archaeological Society.** University of Waterloo. Contact: Robert W. Park, phone: (519) 888-4567, ext.5666;E-mail: rwpark@watarts.uwaterloo.ca web: arts.uwaterloo.ca/ANTHRO/OAS99.html

November 17-21 **The 66th Annual Meeting of the Eastern States Archeological Federation.** Kings Island Resort and Conference Center, Kings Island, Ohio. Contact: Joseph E. Granger, 8708 Eton Road, Louisville, KY 40241; phone: (502) 852-6864; Fax: (502) 852-4560 or E-mail: jegran01@ulkyvm.louisville.edu.

November 17-21 **The 98th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association,** Chicago Illinois. Contact: AAA Meetings Dept., 4350 N. Fairfax Dr., Suite 640, Arlington, VA 22203-1620; Phone: (703) 528-1902,ext.2; E-mail: jmeir@ameranthassn.org.

2000

March 17-18 The 18th Symposium on Ohio Valley Urban and Historical Archaeology, Shakertown at Pleasant Hill Kentucky. Contact: Kit W. Wesler, Wickliffe Mounds Research Center, P.O. Box 155, Wickliffe, KY 42087, Phone: (270) 335-3681; E-mail: Kit.wesler@murraystate.edu.

April 5-9 The 65th Annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Philadelphia Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia. Contact: SAA Head-quarters, 900 Second St. NE #12, Washington, DC 20002, Phone: (202) 789-8200; E-mail: meetings@saa.org.

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March	February 1st.
October	September 1st.

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