

12-1995

## 38GR226: The Pumpkin Site Greenville County, South Carolina

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### Publication Info

Published in *PastWatch*, Volume 4, Issue 3-4, 1995, pages 8-9.

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**38GR226: THE PUMPKIN SITE**  
**GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
By Tommy Charles



*Portion of Site Showing Flags  
Which Locate Numerous Features*  
Photo by Tommy Charles

Archaeological investigations at the Pumpkin site (38GR226) located in the northern part of Greenville County, South Carolina, will resume in late November and/or early December, weather permitting. Research at the Pumpkin site is focused on the prehistoric Indian Connestee culture that occurred there between 200-600 AD.

During previous excavations in early spring and summer of 1995, topsoil was removed from an area measuring approximately 22 X 90 meters exposing more than 500 features in the red clay subsoil. Most of the features appear to be post molds but a number are large pits. Mapping of the exposed area has been completed, and a number of the large pit features have been entirely or partially excavated. Several of the partially excavated pits contained large pottery sherds, and we will continue excavating these hoping to recover enough sherds to reconstruct and determine vessel forms. A number of post molds will be excavated to obtain material for carbon 14-dating. Only a few

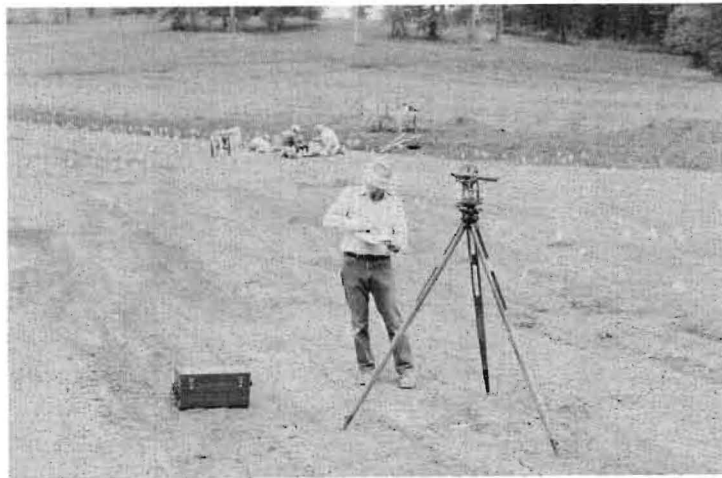
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*Volunteers Pat Holden and  
Jack Sheridan Digging a  
Feature at the Pumpkin Site*  
Photo by Tommy Charles



*Volunteers Dick Albyn and Ruth  
Wetmore at the Pumpkin Site*  
Photo by Tommy Charles



*Dr. Chester DePratter  
Mapping the Pumpkin Site*

days will be required to complete this phase of our work. Lab analysis and preparing a written report will follow.

The Pumpkin site appears to be at, or very near, the southern end of the Connestee cultural range, and it is the most southerly-such site ever excavated in South Carolina. Most Connestee sites occur in North Carolina and Tennessee, and those states are where most research on this culture has been done. The Pumpkin site offers an excellent opportunity to acquire data from a "lower" Connestee village to compare with those data recovered from the mountain sites, possibly determining what, if any differences there were between the mountain and lower towns.

Approximately one quarter of 38GR226 has been exposed, mapped, features sampled, and carbon-14 dates acquired. The wisdom of stripping, mapping, and excavating the remainder of the site is yet to be determined. The thought is intriguing, but future research at Pumpkin will depend on local interest, availability of funds, and, after data analysis, determining whether more data are needed.



*North Profile, Feature #19  
Large Pit of Undetermined Use*



*Volunteers Chris Sheridan  
and Rowell Bosse Digging  
Feature at the Pumpkin Site*

Archaeological research at Pumpkin is being conducted by the SCIAA working jointly with volunteers from the Greenville area and with assistance from the SCIAA/Savannah River Archaeological Research Program archaeologists. Financing for the project is provided by local citizens through the SCIAA / ART.

Persons interested in participating with the excavation of 38GR226 and/or extending financial support may make inquiries to the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, 1321 Pendleton, Street, Columbia, SC 29208 at (803) 777-8170.

The following persons are those who assisted with the research at 38GR226, the Pumpkin site in Greenville County. Most are volunteers who labored at the site; a few gave financial support (in **bold**), and services (in **bold\***) for which we are grateful.

- Dick Albyn
- Jim Baldwin
- Lezlie Barker**
- Monica Beck
- Rowell Bosse
- Olga Bowles
- Wesley Breedlove**
- Eddie Carver\***
- Harris Cottingham
- Chester B. DePratter
- William Doris
- Amy Durenburger
- Chris Gillam
- Antony Harper**
- Duard Hart
- Pat Holden
- Mary Hudgens
- Patsy Hudgens
- Michael Hudson
- Sandra Hudson
- Vickie Kreling
- Billy Ledford\***
- Ann McCuen**
- Brent McMilleon
- Virginia Mills
- Raymond Powell
- Chris Sheridan
- Jack Sheridan
- Brian Siegel and daughter Alma
- Keith Stephenson
- Laurie Waldrop
- John Walker**
- Patty Walker**
- Ruth Wetmore
- Sandra Wilson and daughter Sherry