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South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology--University of South Carolina

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THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

NOTEBOOK

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA • COLUMBIA

A monthly report of news and activities of mutual interest to the individuals and organizations within the framework of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina and for the information of friends and associates of the Institute.

ROBERT L. STEPHENSON, EDITOR

VOLUME I

APRIL 1969

Number 4
THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

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Miss Karen Lindsay, Student Laboratory Assistant
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Mr. Donald R. Sutherland, Collaborator (Department of Anthropology and Sociology)
The Institute has solved its space problem on the campus at last. The University is going to completely remodel the north half of the basement of Maxcy College for us providing 4,500 square feet of clean, new space. We will have bright, well lighted offices and laboratory space and photographic darkroom facilities. Storage for field equipment will be adjacent in the basement of Coker College. Work has just begun on the remodeling, and we expect to move in in June.

This month's NOTEBOOK reflects the general activities of the Institute and contains three brief articles by students at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S. C. Wofford has a system of an "Interim Period" of a month between fall and spring semesters in which the students engage in any kind of worthwhile projects they care to. This year Dr. John Harrington, of the geology department, had nine students organize three projects in archeology. One was to locate and record all of the prehistoric steatite quarries they could find in the Spartanburg area. A second was to locate and record rock shelter sites. The third was the excavation of one of the rock shelter sites. Under Dr. Harrington's direction these students did a commendable job and at our suggestion have written their projects up for the NOTEBOOK. We have taken some editorial liberties with the manuscripts and are publishing them in this issue.

We continue to be pleased at the responses to the NOTEBOOK and especially pleased that only one respondent returned the back cover of last month's issue indicating no further interest in receiving the bulletin. Even this was done by a colleague indicating that the person was no longer with that organization but would we please start sending the colleague the NOTEBOOK.

We can still use short manuscripts from any of you who would care to send them. Also notes of news from departments in nearby states or from people or agencies in South Carolina would be welcome. Send them to:

Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, Director
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The Society had its monthly meeting at the Science Museum on April 18. Despite storm and a serious tornado warning in the afternoon and early evening we had 55 members in attendance. Mr. Don Sutherland, of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology spoke to the group with an illustrated talk on "Archeological Field Methods". The talk was well received and illicited numerous questions.

Membership in the Society is open to anyone who is sincerely interested in any aspect of archeology. Dues are $5.00 per year or $6.00 for a family membership. Applications can be had from the Secretary, Miss Lucia Harrison, P. O. Box 1970, Columbia, S. C., 29702, or by writing me at the Institute address. It is the aim of the Society to band together all of those in the state who are interested in archeology for the mutual benefit of all and the development of an understanding of the history and prehistory of South Carolina, through the scientific interpretation of its archeology.

SAVANNAH RIVER PLANT VISIT

At the invitation of Mr. Karl Hurde of the Atomic Energy Commission at the Savannah River Plant, John Combes and I visited that area on April 7. I spoke to the assembled A.E.C. people who have an interest in archeology about the research prospects for the area and the utilization of the Federal Antiquities Act and how to report archeological sites.

Mr. Hurde spent the afternoon touring the plant area with us and showing us locations of prospective sites that hold promise for future excavation. We discussed the need for a thorough survey of the plant area and received the complete cooperation in this from Mr. Hurde on behalf of the A.E.C.

ROCK HILL

Visited Rock Hill on April 12 and saw the fine collection of prehistoric and historic material of Mr. William Simpson. This collection was made by Mr. Simpson's father between 1885 and 1923 and has been in storage for over 40 years. Now Mr. Simpson is unpacking and displaying it at his home and doing the best he can to develop a catalog for it. The collection includes a considerable quantity of chipped stone and ceramic material ranging from Archaic to historic, all from the immediate vicinity. There is also a fine group of old Catawba pottery vessels and one group of Panamanian vessels. In
addition there are many historic items of the early settlement period.

While at Rock Hill I also visited the York County Nature Museum and visited briefly with its director, Mr. Lee Settlemyre. This fine museum building houses an excellent collection of African animals stuffed and exhibited in natural habitat settings. There are also some exhibits of North and Central American Indian materials.

TRIP TO CAMDEN

On April 17, I went to Camden to meet with representatives of the Camden Historical Commission and to discuss the archeological work needed there. The early historical aspects of this town are being developed with the strong support of Mr. Richard Lloyd and active participation of a number of local people. They have hired Mr. William Byrnes to head their development and are asking the Institute to provide the professional advice and assistance for the archeology.

We toured the Revolutionary War battlefield area of the town and viewed the excavations made last year by Dr. Alan Calmes. These were well done and well selected but much more is needed. Camden, like Ninety-Six, was a major crossroads in the inland area of the state in the mid-18th century and played a most significant role in the Revolutionary War. In addition to the historic archeology, Camden has a major mound group nearby representing one of the best possibilities in the state for developing a research project on the prehistoric Indian occupations of the sedentary village periods.

A plan of research development was tentatively worked out between Camden and the Institute that would be practical and productive.

CHARLES TOWNE PROJECT

Excavations at the site of Charles Towne on Albemarle Point in Charleston began on April 1. This is the second phase of the work by the Institute, sponsored by the South Carolina Tricentennial Commission. Stanley South is in charge of the excavations and began the month with a small crew of five. By the end of the month two more crewmen were added.

The main problem of outlining the perimeter of the town was attached first with excavation of the ditch and presumed palisade line along the east and northeast sides of the town. Heavy equipment was used to speed up the work once enough hand work had been accomplished to clearly identify the features and assure that nothing would be lost by use of the heavy equipment.
In addition to work on the 1670-1680 town, tests have been made around the foundations of the early 18th century plantation house. The size and general outline of the house have been determined and several interesting features noted. Artifacts and structural details suggest a construction date of between 1790 and 1810. One interesting feature at ground level in the house is a plastered, bath tub-shaped structure. Has anyone seen this kind of feature from that period in a house elsewhere?

Work was accelerating at the end of the month with prospects of adding extensively to an already good, hard-working crew.

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**A SURVEY OF SOAPSTONE QUARRY SITES**

by James M. Overton

Wofford College

A project was organized in January 1969, during Wofford College's "Interim Period", to investigate soapstone (or steatite) quarry sites in the immediate vicinity of Spartanburg, South Carolina. The purpose of the investigation was to locate as many of these sites as possible with the hope that perhaps the best one could eventually become a state park of historic significance. These sites are quarry locations where soapstone outcrops have been used by ancient man, presumably in the Late Archaic Period, as a source of stone bowls. The naturally soft soapstone was easily carved, even with stone tools, and provided a servicable bowl for use in the primitive household when properly carved to the desired shape.

During the month, four such sites were found along a NE-SW line through the Piedmont extending from the Cherokee County-Spartanburg County line approximately three miles to the southwest. It may be assumed that further exploration along this line will turn up more soapstone quarry sites, perhaps even better ones than those discussed here. Finding these sites in such a small area indicates that there probably are numerous soapstone quarries in the area.

The first site (38SP11) is the southwestern-most of the group. Many small outcrops of soapstone were seen and some excellent bowls, bowl fragments and carvings were found. The artifacts recovered suggest that two styles of bowls were made here. One is an oval bowl with a flat bottom, the other is a circular bowl with a round bottom. Perhaps these were representative styles of two separate cultures. No excavations were conducted but a detailed map of the area was made. The site has potential for further investigation but has the disadvantage of being adjacent to an occupied dwelling and has been vandalized to some extent in that bowls and fragments have been carried away.

The second site (38SP12) is but three quarters of a mile northeast of the first and appears to be the best site of the four. The area covers approximately 15 acres. Due to the thick underbrush no bowls or bowl frag-
ments were found but large scars were seen on many of the extremely large outcrops. Some of these bowl-carving scars were up to three feet in diameter. The site has several advantages: (1) It is the largest site found to date giving broad promise for excavations. (2) The natural outcroppings are large. (3) The area is relatively untouched and the outcroppings have not been vandalized. (4) There is an abandoned logging road nearby providing easy access. (5) The land may be easier to purchase than that at the other sites.

The third site (38SP13) is but a quarter of a mile from the second and may actually be a part of the second site. The same logging road is adjacent to this site. Carvings and fragments of bowls were found but vandalism has taken its toll of the site. The outcroppings have been damaged and many bowls have been carried away.

The fourth site (38SP14) is approximately a mile northeast of the third site. It must have been a good one at one time as it is reported that more than 600 bowls have been taken from this one site. The outcrops have been badly vandalized and in places one can see where the stone has been sawed away for tombstones.

A thorough search of this NE-SW line of soapstone outcrops for many miles in each direction is needed to record the potential sites in the area of Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties. The four sites recorded should be thoroughly searched and test excavations conducted. The second site described should be extensively excavated and has a potential for development as a state historic park.

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**A SURVEY OF ROCK SHELTER SITES**

by Jack Howle, Ed Venters, and Cam Varner, Wofford College

This project was carried out as a part of Wofford College's newly begun "Interim Period" which is a month of intensive study of some subject in one area. Our project was concerned with the location and mapping of rock shelters in the upper Piedmont. We based our operation at the college in Spartanburg. Under the direction of Dr. John Harrington, we searched for areas in which the exposed rock was horizontally layered. This horizontal layering provided the possibility for differential erosion that would be necessary to create the shelters for which we were looking.

Two locations provided the basis for a further concentrated search. The first was near the town of York in York County, South Carolina, some 35 miles east of Spartanburg. In this area we discovered five shelters of reasonably habitable size and several smaller ones. It is significant that in this area these shelters are situated in close proximity to each other in an area of about two square miles.

The first shelter (38YK11) is a large overhang of rock with a large rock
in front of it forming a "room" open at both ends. It is approximately 10 feet wide, 15 feet long, and 7 feet high. The floor fill is 18 inches deep at the mouth and becomes shallower inside and toward the smaller, opposite opening. The larger opening faces to the northwest. The shelter is situated on a steep incline but the floor has filled to a relatively flat surface. There is an old stream bed about 30 yards to the north. Three test pits were excavated in the floor fill near the mouth of the shelter but no charcoal or artifacts were found, although the ceiling of the shelter showed some smoke blackening.

The second shelter (38YK12) is a large "mushroom" shaped rock with the overhang forming usable shelter on all sides. The ceiling varies from 2.5 feet to 4 feet above the floor fill and has only a little apparent smoke blackening. The floor fill has been partially disturbed by cultivation. The primary occupation area faces along the east, south and west sides. It is in an open field that has lain fallow for a few years. No test pits were dug.

The third shelter (38YK13) is approximately 50 yards east of the second and is essentially the same description as the second. The ceiling is one or two feet higher. No tests were made.

The fourth shelter (38YK14) is a rock overhang with flat, horizontal ceiling and a vertical rear wall. The occupation area faces north and is 7 feet wide, 4 feet deep and 2 to 2.5 feet high. There is no apparent roof debris in the floor fill. Some previous digging is evident in the floor fill but we did not test the fill. The site is situated in a fallow field on a moderately sloping hillside. A stream flows about 150 yards from the site.

The fifth shelter (38YK15) is another "mushroom" shaped rock with the overhang forming usable shelter on three sides. The ceiling is approximately 5 feet high and the overhang covers an area three feet to four feet wide. The overhang faces north, east and west. It is situated on the top of a cultivated hill. No tests were dug in the floor fill.

The second site location is behind Tryon Peak in Polk County, North Carolina, just across the state line. Here we found one large shelter (31PK11) of overhanging rock some 60 feet long and extending out over an area about 8 to 10 feet wide. There is abundant smoke blackening on the ceiling and the floor is strewn with angular rocks that have fallen from the ceiling. A test pit was excavated in the floor fill and charcoal deposits were found to a depth of four feet.

Both these areas hold promise for productive excavation in the future that would aid substantially in interpreting the prehistory of this portion of the Piedmont.
THE HOLIDAY INN ROCK SHELTER

by James Bozard, James Hilton, Donald Williamson, and Paul Powers, Wofford College

One of the three projects of Wofford College's "Interim Period" archaeological research, under the direction of Dr. John Harrington of the Department of Geology, was the excavation of a small rock shelter. The four of us spent most of the month excavating here in January 1969 and in analysing and writing a report on the materials.

The shelter (31CD11) is located on the southwest bank of the Broad River in Cleveland County, North Carolina, approximately a mile north of the state line. It is owned by Mr. Charles Hamrick of Gaffney, South Carolina who kindly gave us permission to excavate. It consists of a gneissic rock overhang formed from erosion by the Broad River as it sweeps around a large bend, the overhang being located on the outside of the bend, with its nearest point to the river about 30 feet distant. The shelter overhang covers an area of about 45 square yards with a probable occupation area of about 60 square yards.

The floor of the shelter is flood plain sediment from the Broad River interspersed with fallen rocks from the shelter roof. Stratification presents a difficult problem since bedding planes in the river fill slant steeply downward from the back wall to the front of the shelter as seen by the position of the roof fall material and observation of the bedding planes. Consequently material found near the surface toward the back wall may be as old as material found deeply buried near the front of the shelter. The overhanging rock, forming the ceiling of the shelter is in two pieces having been split and wedged apart by the roots of a large tree growing on the hillside above the overhang. During ancient occupation these two sections of rock apparently formed a single rock. The overhang shelters a "U"-shaped area approximately 14 feet wide and 12 feet deep.

Before excavation we ran a reference base line between two trees on opposite sides of the shelter. It was from this line that all measurements were made. Artifact locations were mapped in by measured distances from this line. We also ran a level line from a point at the rear of the shelter to the base line and measured depths of artifacts from this line (figure 1).

Two excavation pits were dug within the shelter fill. Pit No. 1 was located toward the front of the shelter and was 4 feet by 5 feet and slightly over 6.5 feet deep. All excavated material from this pit was sifted and this wasted a great deal of time. We also found many large rocks in this pit that also slowed down our work. In the upper levels of this pit we found a 1944 nickle, a broken Pepsi-Cola bottle and some rusty nails. At a depth of 6 feet we found the tip of a projectile point and a scraper, both made of quartz. Great quantities of chips were also found at this level. At a depth of just over 6.5 feet we hit the water table and had to abandon the pit.
Pit No. 2 was excavated along the rear and central portions of the shelter and was 10 feet by 4 feet with a forward extension 6.5 feet by 2 feet. It was dug to a depth of 3 feet. Within this pit were numerous large roof rocks lying at a uniform angle reflecting the slope of the ground at the time they fell. At a depth of about 20 inches we found two Morrow Mountain points, three potsherds, two scrapers and numerous chips. The slope of the ground here as indicated by the fallen roof rocks gave us the reason why these artifacts were at such shallow depths in Pit No. 2 and similar artifacts were as deep as 6 feet in Pit No. 1. This slope could also be clearly seen in the stratigraphic profile.

A rough sketch of a profile of the shelter as viewed from the southeast side is seen in figure 2. The Broad River is some 30 feet from the mouth of the shelter. The floor fill is river sediment deposited as a result of frequent flooding on a steeply sloping shelter floor resulting in occupation material being deposited at deeper absolute levels from the horizontal in the front of the shelter than at the rear. It appears that actually the oldest material recovered was that found toward the rear of the shelter and this area (Pit No. 2) was the most productive. Quartz was the dominant artifact material and the scrapers, most of the chips, and all but one projectile point were made of it. The other chips and artifacts were of Carolina slate. Stream pebbles were the major source of quartz and many chips and scrapers were found with round, smooth surfaces still partially intact as is characteristic of stream pebbles.

This small, well protected shelter is a significant one and additional work should be done here to completely excavate it. Time ran out on our project before we were able to finish what should have been done. Our cultural sequences and projectile point type names as used here are based upon "Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont" by Joffre Lanning Coe. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, 1964.
FIG. 1.

Plan of Excavation of Holiday Inn Rock Shelter

Scale: 1 cm = 1 foot

O = Location of Artifacts
Fig. 2
Profile of Holiday Inn Rock Shelter

Scale: 1 cm = 1 foot

Rock Overhang

Pit #2
Rock

Surface

To River

Pit #1
Rock