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Mulberry Plantation Exploratory Archeology

Leland G. Ferguson

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MULBERRY PLANTATION EXPLORATORY ARCHEOLOGY

by

Leland G. Ferguson
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Prepared by the
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
December, 1973
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INTRODUCTION

During the spring of 1972, the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology of the University of South Carolina was contacted by Mr. Richard W. Lloyd and Mrs. Hope Boykin concerning the archeological situation at the Mulberry Plantation on the Wateree River. Mr. Lloyd pointed out that while an excavation by the University of Georgia in 1952 had stripped back the face of the eroding mound at the Mulberry Site (38KE12) (Figs. 1 and 2), the river had eroded more since that time, and there was again a need for salvage archeology. Beyond the natural destruction, Mr. Lloyd reported that the site was being vandalized by relic hunters.

We at the Institute recognized the problem posited by Mr. Lloyd, however, we felt that another salvage expedition for the purpose of excavating the face of the large mound would only be a stop-gap measure. Conditions called for a full scale evaluation of the site with consideration of an extensive salvage program involving complete excavation of the site before it is eroded away by the Wateree River or ruined by relic hunters.

After conferring with Mr. John Daniels, President of Mulberry Resources, I conducted an exploratory archeological investigation at the site between May 14 and May 25, 1973. Primary objective of the project was to determine the size of the site and the amount of overburden that would have to be removed for extensive excavation. Field activity included making a controlled surface collection, excavating six test pits and cleaning a section of the face of Mound A. Information resulting from this work revealed that the site is a concentrated unit of at least three mounds, covering about eight acres. Adequate
FIGURE 1. Eroding Profile of Mound A.
FIGURE 2. Sketch Map Showing Location of 1973 Test Excavations.
The archeological investigation should include about twelve months of intensive archeological field work followed by a continuing program of research aimed at solving specific problems concerning this important site.

ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The major occupations of the Mulberry Site fit into a cultural complex called South Appalachian Mississippian. This complex, which was centered in northern Georgia, was related to the Middle Mississippian culture of the Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee River Valleys. The fundamental features of Mississippian culture were the extensive use of agriculture and the construction of large ceremonial centers usually including truncated pyramidal mounds. These mounds were used as substructures for temples and have come to be called temple mounds.

Between about A.D. 1200 and the time of European contact the South Appalachian Mississippian complex was manifest in the South Carolina coastal plain as a vitalizing activity. This vitalization seems to have included an increased dependence on agriculture, an increase in population and the construction of ceremonial centers often containing temple mounds.

The most northern of these ceremonial centers was at Town Creek on the Little River, a tributary of the Pee Dee River, in North Carolina. Joffre Coe of the Research Laboratories of Anthropology of the University of North Carolina has directed excavation at this site since 1936. His description of the Pee Dee Focus in Archeology of Eastern United States (Griffin 1952) is a short, though comprehensive, statement concerning the people who used this site.
To the south two major ceremonial centers of this type were excavated along the Savannah River. The Hollywood Site near Augusta, Georgia was excavated during the nineteenth century (Thomas 1894), and the material is similar to that found at Town Creek (De Baillou 1965, Reid 1965). At the mouth of the Savannah River the Irene Site was excavated as part of a Works Progress Administration project in the late 1930's. Joseph Caldwell and Catherine McCann (1941) reported on the excavations, and again there was a striking similarity between this ceremonial center and both Hollywood and Town Creek. Within the triangle formed by these three sites is a large portion of the coastal plain of South Carolina. Evidence indicates that this area was the eastern frontier of Mississippian influence, and that there is an important opportunity here to study the mingling of indigenous people with the newer and more sophisticated Mississippian culture.

Town Creek, Hollywood, and Irene—all of these sites that have received primary attention are on the periphery of the core area of eastern South Appalachian Mississippian culture. To date, the few comments and limited archeological investigations that have been conducted in the Low Country provide only a tantalizing suggestion of the information that remains in the ground. One of the earliest archeological reports in the United States was written by William Blanding, a physician from Camden. The report was paraphrased and used in Ephraim G. Squire and Edwin H. Davis' survey of Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley (1848) (Appendix I). The Mulberry Site (called Taylor's Mounds by Blanding) was among sites along the Wateree River that were discussed. A map showed two large mounds which were surrounded by a moat.
or embankment.* In addition to this discussion of Mulberry, Blanding mentioned other mounds in the Camden area including the Adamson Mound and Boykin's Mound.

Later, during the 1880's, the Smithsonian Institution sent an expedition into the southern states to reconnoiter the archeological situation. After the excavation at Hollywood, Henry Reynolds moved on into South Carolina where he excavated a trench through the center of Mound B at the Mulberry Site (called the McDowell Site by Thomas (1894) in his report of Reynolds' excavations) (Appendix II). This report is the only published material on a mound excavation in the interior of the South Carolina coastal plain, and while it is lacking by modern standards there is enough evidence to suggest that there is a close relationship between this site and the sites of Town Creek, Irene and Hollywood.

Beyond archeological comments, historical documents and hearsay also indicated that the central portion of the coastal plain was rich in the debris of past cultures. Since the time of European colonization the historical records have included numerous references to the large populations of Indians living along the major river valleys, and cultures living on swamps and table lands along the Santee River drainage seem to have been especially active during the historic period. Sites were frequently reported from these major river valleys, and one of the most frequently referred to was the site of Fort Watson (now called the Scott's Lake Site). This site has recently been the objective of an investigation by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology of the University of South Carolina (Ferguson 1972).

*Today there are only three visible mounds, and there is no evidence of a ditch or embankment.

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The comprehensive volume *Archeology of Eastern United States* (Griffin 1952), which contained Coe's article on the Pee Dee Focus, included another article that was an important statement concerning the eastern manifestation of South Appalachian Mississippian. Joseph Caldwell discussed the archeology of the coastal plain of South Carolina and Georgia. In this synthesis, Caldwell mentioned the concentration of prehistoric sites near Camden as well as Scott's Lake and other sites in South Carolina including the Greenhill Site near Columbia and the McCollum Mound in Chester County. During the same year as the publication of Caldwell's article, A. R. Kelly conducted salvage excavations at the Mulberry Site with the financial assistance of the owner of the Mulberry Plantation, Mr. David R. Williams, and the Charleston Museum. Kelly's project included cleaning back the face of Mound A which was being eroded by the Wateree River. Caldwell (n.d.) has written and distributed a paper on the ceramics excavated by Kelly during this investigation, but there has been no formal report.

More recently George Stuart (1970) has written a synthesis of the archeology of Camden and vicinity (Appendix III). This synthesis is based on past reports, Stuart's observations as a member of the crew during the 1952 excavations and his own boyhood survey of the area. In his synthesis Stuart suggests that the prehistoric occupation may be divided into two stratigraphic units—McDowell I and II. Pottery from the sub-mound unit of Mound A (McDowell I), according to Stuart, is similar to the ceramics from the Town Creek Site in North Carolina; from the Adamson Site near Camden (Stuart 1970); from the Scott's Lake Site on Lake Marion (Ferguson 1972); and from the Irene Site at the mouth of the Savannah River. McDowell I may begin as early as A.D. 1400
and probably terminates prior to A.D. 1650. The upper levels of the
site (McDowell II) produces pottery reminiscent of the popular Lamar
style from central Georgia. McDowell II begins about the middle of
the seventeenth century and continues into the early part of the eight­
eenth century.

The McDowell II Period blends nicely with the early historical
accounts of the Wateree River area. In 1701 John Lawson, Surveyor
General of North Carolina, traveled to the banks of the Wateree River
near Camden where he met the Wateree Chickanee Indians (Harriss 1952:
28). This together with other historical citations led Stuart to the
hypothesis that the Mulberry Site was the location of a ceremonial
center and perhaps village of the Wateree Indians.

Thus, the Mulberry Site is part of the core of the vital cultural
movement that swept the coastal plain more than five hundred years ago.
The sites that have been excavated on the periphery of the South Carolina
coastal plain all point toward the Santee River drainage as a major
subarea of South Appalachian Mississippian development. The Mulberry
Site has frequently been listed as a point of major interest in the
archeology of the coastal plain area; yet today our knowledge is limited
to a generalized sequence of events, suggestive historical accounts,
interesting artifacts and maps that do not fit the contemporary landscape.

SURFACE SURVEY

The first step in this investigation was a controlled collection
of artifacts from the surface. A reference point was set up in the
middle of Mound B and seven radial lines were set out over the site.
Along these lines at 200' intervals intensive collection of surface artifacts was made. This collection was designed to provide a general idea of the distribution of artifacts and types of artifacts on the site.

The surface data provided information concerning both historic and prehistoric occupations. Concentrations of historic material were clustered in the western section of the site between Mound B and the confluence of Big Pine Tree Creek and the Wateree River. Additionally, there are a number of bricks, apparently from the foundation of a house, on the summit of Mound A. We know from the historical accounts (Blanding 1848) that in 1806 the overseer of the plantation had his home on the summit of one of the Indian mounds. Slave cabins occupied the tops of some of the other mounds.

Prehistoric Indian artifacts were found to concentrate on and closely around the mounds. Artifact frequency dropped sharply in the surface collections beyond the eastern edge of Mounds B and C.

TEST EXCAVATIONS

Surface survey provided a concentration of artifacts in the vicinity of the mounds at Mulberry. The possibility remained, however, that a larger portion of the site to the east and south of the mounds might be covered by flood deposition. Test Pits 1, 4 and 5 were placed so as to examine the depth and character of the sediment and to determine if there were a buried level of prehistoric or historic occupation.

Test Pit 1 was placed about 650' northeast of the center of Mound B and Test Pit 5 about 550 north-northeast of Mound B (Figs. 2, 3 and 4). Strata within these test pits consisted of sedimentary materials all of
FIGURE 3. Strata of the Northwestern Profile of Test Pit 1.
FIGURE 4. Strata of the Northwestern Profile of Test Pit 5.
which were underlain by an orange colored sandy clay (Level A in Test Pit 1, Fig. 3). Level B overlying A in this test pit was darker than the other strata and featured animal burrows that intruded into Level A beneath. This level seems to have been the humus or topsoil level at the time when the mounds were constructed. Layers C, D and the plowed soil are then soil that has been deposited during the great period of upland erosion and river flooding during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The orange sandy clay of Level A is similar to a layer of orange clay found about three feet below the pre-mound humus level of Mound A where that mound is exposed on the river bank. This clay also appears in Test Pits 4 and 5. Elevations taken on the top of this stratum at the various locations revealed there to be no more than one foot variation in elevation over the different portions of the site. Thus, this clay seems to have formed a fairly level subsoil base prior to mound construction and later flooding. Based on this limited stratigraphic information a conjectured profile from Mound A to Test Pit 1 is shown in Figure 5.

Test Pits 2, 3 and 6 were located in the vicinity of Mounds B and C. In marked contrast to Test Pits 1 and 4, these mound excavations revealed a wealth of material (Table 1). In addition two pit features were found in Test Pit 3 (Fig. 6). These pits both contained sherds and fragments of deer bone. In the vicinity of Mound C, Test Pits 2 (Fig. 7) and 6 revealed basket loaded soil, evidence of upright post construction and mottled layers similar to soil layers found as temporary floors in other mounds.

**MOUND A EXCAVATIONS**

In the course of our work we cleaned a profile of the southern end of Mound A (Fig. 8). This profile revealed a course of mound stratigraphy about 11 feet high consisting of at least three stages. The basket loaded
FIGURE 5. Conjectural Profile of the Mulberry Site.
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**TABLE 1.** Sherd Frequency From Test Pits.
FIGURE 6. Test Pit 3 Showing Excavated Pit.
FIGURE 7. Test Pit 2 Showing Charred Post Mold.
FIGURE 8. Mound A Profile Pre-mound Midden Outlined Just Above Sign.
mound fill was placed directly on top of about one foot of pre-mound midden. A small pit filled with corn cobs was found eroding from this midden. The pit was excavated and samples recovered for use in radiocarbon dating.

As previously mentioned there was an orange clay subsoil stratum beneath Mound A similar to that found in the lower levels of Test Pits 1 and 5. However, at this location on the river bank there was a series of seven strata of alluvium, some containing humus, between the subsoil and the humus level that subtended the mound. These layers are probably part of a natural levee deposited by the river prior to Indian occupation.

CONCLUSIONS

The archeological background and our exploratory excavations invite more extensive excavation of the Mulberry Site. Previous investigations and comments relating to this site suggest that this was one of the most important prehistoric ceremonial centers in the southern Atlantic Coastal Plain. The site may have been later occupied by the Wateree Chickanee Indians, and we know that during the early nineteenth century it was occupied by European and African-Americans. Thus, on this site we have the opportunity to study the full pattern of cultural change from prehistoric Indian through the establishment of the United States and European-American culture.

Exploratory excavation during the past year has indicated that the complex at Mulberry does not cover an extensive area. The entire site is contained in about eight acres. This evidence suggests that we are either working with a ceremonial center without a surrounding village or a tightly compacted village immediately adjacent to the
ceremonial area. There is also the possibility that the village lay to the west of Mound A and has been washed away by the Wateree River.

Our ignorance coupled with imminent danger to the site by erosion demands we accomplish several things through archeology. First, we need to examine the site beneath the overburden of mound slump and silt. With this accomplished we can examine the situation of Mound A, and hopefully we will be able to relate the site to the elaborate map prepared by William Blanding in the nineteenth century. Next, we need to immediately begin the salvage of Mound A and the area around the mound that is in danger of being destroyed by the action of the river. Then, the most important goal is that we develop an understanding of human activity that took place at the Mulberry Site. Through intensive archeology of this site we shall be able to derive a picture of the living patterns of the people. Social, religious and technological information is available, and the task of an archeological investigation should be to find such information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I feel that the priorities for investigation are as follows:

1. A map of the site beneath the overburden of silt and mound slump should be constructed.

2. Mound A and other features in imminent danger of being destroyed by vandalism or erosion should be excavated.

3. The site area should be excavated with a sampling program that will insure a holistic picture of the occupations.

The mapping phase of this excavation will require the use of heavy earth moving equipment. First, for an outline of the boundary of the
site and major constituent features we will need to test extensively with a backhoe. Once we have a general picture of the site pattern beneath the overburden we should employ heavy earth moving equipment to completely strip large areas of soil from the site. After this operation the cleared areas should be cleaned by an archeological crew and features such as mounds, houses, pits, ditches, burials, etc. mapped. This operation would probably take about six months to complete with an archeological crew of twenty to thirty people. Using this technique we should be able to clear and map approximately sixty-percent (about 200,000 square feet) of the site.

The exposure of large areas of archeological sites is not a new technique, but it has been seldom used in Southeastern archeology. The site at Town Creek in North Carolina has been excavated in this manner, but the entire body of earth has been moved by hand and the process has taken about thirty years to complete. Yet, Town Creek is a permanently preserved site that is not in danger of being destroyed. It was a site on which time could be afforded. Another drawback to the process used at Town Creek is that only now, after thirty years of work do we have an entire picture of the site from which to begin more sophisticated studies.

Stanley South, of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, used heavy earth moving equipment to remove large areas of soil from an archeological site in a salvage situation on the Roanoke River in 1956. This work, also done under the direction of Joffre Coe, was one of the first attempts in the Southeast to quickly uncover large areas of an archeological site with heavy equipment. The technique proved to quite valuable. More recently, South has successfully used this technique at the moundless Indian ceremonial center adjacent to the original Charles Towne
(also related to the Mulberry Site) as well as at the Revolutionary War Fort at Ninety Six. His results suggest the technique to be perfectly suited for use at the Mulberry Site.

After the initial mapping phase of the excavation, the second phase will involve the careful excavation of Mound A and other features exposed on the river bank. Using a small bulldozer to remove layers of sterile mound fill, this portion of the project could be completed in another six months with a crew of twenty people.

The last portion of this project will be the phase in which we shall contribute significantly to understanding the prehistory of the Wateree River Valley. No prehistoric archeological site in the interior of South Carolina and very few in the Southeastern United States has ever been approached with a map of the entire site in hand as well as a research program designed to obtain a comprehensive picture of the cultural activity on the site. Archeology has heretofore been limited to the excavation of small holes providing a chronological sequence founded on the changing designs of potsherds. Of course this work is fundamental, but our study of the past impells us to proceed beyond the fundamentals to a more complete understanding of past human activity. A significant portion of this research could be conducted during another three months period with a crew of approximately twenty people. However, archeological investigation would still not be complete, and on the basis of our comprehensive initial research we could develop a detailed plan of small scale excavation over a period of years that would be significantly productive.

Once excavated the site at Mulberry should be the topic for at least one lengthy monograph and several articles in scholarly journals. The
information from the site can be easily compiled by local and state museums for educational purposes. Beyond this, if the owners are interested the site is perfectly situated for development as a focal point for a continuous process of investigation and education.

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"On the opposite side of the river, about two hundred yards below
the mouth of Pine-tree creek, is a group of mounds, surrounded by a low
embankment (J). One of them has been nearly washed away by the river,
and the others have been much reduced by cultivation. The largest is
yet twelve or fifteen feet high, with a very wide base. From these
mounds are disclosed arrow-heads, axes, urns, and other vestiges of art,
accompanied by human bones and the bones of wild animals, and marine
shells, all much decayed. As the water washes away the side of the
mound on its bank, charcoal, urns, bones, etc., in successive strata,
are exposed; as though it had constituted a cemetery, receiving deposits
from time to time, from its commencement to its completion. The strata
vary in thickness from six to eighteen inches, and are mixed with much
mica, sometimes in large plates. It was long under cultivation in corn,
then indigo, and in 1806, when I first saw it, in cotton, which is still
cultivated on it. On the large mound stood the overseer's house; around
it, on the smaller piles, were the negro quarters."

*Extracted from Vol. I, Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge,
1845, pp. 107-108.
APPENDIX II
CYRUS THOMAS' REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION OF THE
HOLLYWOOD MOUND IN RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA

SOUTH CAROLINA
KERSHAW DISTRICT
McDowell Mound No. 1

The Wateree river is at present washing away the western end of a
large mound situated on its left bank on the McDowell farm, 4 miles
southwest from Camden, South Carolina. It is a large, oblong structure,
which, after repeated plowings and floods is now reduced to 10 feet in
height. Its major axis is 154 feet, and minor axis 115 feet. Three
smaller mounds are yet to be seen almost adjoining it on the north and
east, all of which it is said, were, formerly encircled by a low earthen
wall, no trace of which, however, is now visible.

In exploring it a trench 10 to 15 feet wide and 60 feet long was
run lengthwise through the mound in a northwest and southeast direction,
which was connected also with a north and south trench 15 feet wide,
coming from near its southern edge towards the center.

This mound was not used as a place of burial, the scattered frag-
ments of human bones that were found being rather accidentally thrown
up with the earth than remains of deliberate interments. The investi-
gation has not succeeded in demonstrating the use for which it was con-
structed: possibly it was a domiciliary mound.

*Extracted from the Twelfth Annual Report, Bureau of American

-25-
Some fragmentary human bones, Unio shells, and the bones of deer were found scattered indiscriminately here and there through the earth at a depth of from 1 to 2 feet. They manifested but little sign of decay. A foot and a half below the surface, 3 feet east of the center, were the remains of a hearth or fire-bed about 9 feet in diameter. A similar fire-bed 4 feet in diameter lay at the same depth 15 feet south of the center. In the south trench, 6 feet from the center and 3 feet deep, was a small fire-bed, alongside of which were small piles of shells and charred corncobs. The molds left by four posts which had decayed away were met with a short distance east of the center 1½ feet below the surface. The two northernmost ran down perpendicularly 4 1/2 feet, and at the base of the southernmost, 5 feet deep, was a pile of burnt corncobs 1½ feet in diameter and 3 inches deep. Other smaller piles of these charred corncobs were found here and there through the mound at various depths, the deepest being 8 feet. No other feature of interest could be discovered in connection with them. West of the northern post hole, near its base, had been placed a small rude pot of the texture similar to the fragments found in the vicinity. It was found crushed in completely, with a few black coals and conch shells within it. Four feet to the northeast of this, on the same level, lay a pile of sixteen shells (N.M. 135763). Two small pieces of human bones were also found in the vicinity.

Twenty-five feet south of the center, at a depth of 5 feet, a large firebed resting on sand was encountered, directly beneath which, in vertical succession, were three others, the lowermost being 8½ feet deep. A pile of charred corncobs and a pile of shells were found adjoining these hearths on the north at the depth of 6 feet. All the shells found thus in
piles in this mound were of the same kind and uniform in size. In the earth directly over these fire-beds were found a piece of perforated sheet copper (N.M. 135761) and a broken pipe (N.M. 135759). Forty-two feet east of the center, at a depth of 4 feet, four post holes were in a line north and south, but they could not be traced deeper than from a foot to a foot and a half. Immediately below the center, 9 feet deep, there was a pile of wood ashes mixed with black coals, 1½ feet in diameter. Near by lay a small pottery disk and a small piece of bone from a human arm.

McDowell Mound No. 2

This is a small mound lying about 30 rods northeast of the one last described. It has been so materially reduced by the plow and the frequent floods of the river that it is at present only 2 feet high. A trench was carried through it north and south, 4 feet deep and 11 feet wide, but nothing was found except the remains of a perpendicular post, 1 foot in diameter, a little to the south of the center. The post was indicated by the charcoal in the mold and about 2 feet of decayed wood at the bottom. It appeared to be either of cottonwood or sassafras. Scattered promiscuously through the earth of this mound were fragments of pottery similar to that taken from mound No. 1. A small discoidal stone was found.
APPENDIX III

GEORGE STUART'S SUMMARY OF INFORMATION FROM THE MULBERRY SITE

McDowell (Mulberry)

The surface collection from the McDowell, or Mulberry, site provided the basis for a short unpublished paper (Stuart 1967) in which I noted that there appeared to be both quantitative and qualitative differences between the pottery from the stratum underlying Mound A on the one hand, and the village area stratum north and south of that mound on the other. The analysis of the pottery collected during the 1952 Charleston Museum-University of Georgia excavation of the site (Caldwell n. d.) reinforces and expands those conclusions reached from a study of the earlier surface collections.

Caldwell's analysis drew upon a stratified sample of several thousand sherds recovered from those two parts of the McDowell stratigraphy: the presumably earlier stratum beneath Mound A, and the stratigraphically higher—and thus presumably later—level of the village area south of Mound A. From the total, Caldwell notes two principal types of pottery, complicated-stamped and plain, which he names, respectively, Lamar Complicated Stamped (Mulberry variant) and Lamar Plain (Mulberry variant). Minority wares included, according to Caldwell, Lamar Bold Incised, Etowah Complicated Stamped, and a few sherds decorated by simple stamping, cord marking, or check stamping. Of these, Lamar Bold Incised was confined to the village stratum; the rest, to the pre-mound sample (Caldwell n. d.).

The same study leads to the inference of a long occupation for the McDowell, or Mulberry, site and—based on small selected samples from the total sample—an indication of certain pronounced differences between


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the ceramics of the two levels as follows: In the pre-mound sample, (1) complicated-stamped ware is generally characterized by clear carving of paddles and careful application of stamping to vessel bodies; (2) there is more complicated-stamped pottery in relation to plain sherds (ratio, 134:49); (3) rim decoration is mainly accomplished by the use of appliqued nodes or simple reed punctate. In contrast, the pottery from the village stratum (1) reflects a sharp decline in the quality of stamp carving and application; (2) contains less complicated-stamped pottery in relation to plain (ratio, 75:103); also, (3) reed punctuation decoration of rims is almost totally replaced by the use of notched or pinched appliqued strips just beneath rim edges (Caldwell n. d.).

The surface collections and other information available to me suggest several additions or modifications to the above data: First, the use of covered burial urns for the interment of infants is apparently confined to the earlier level of the site. Second, I believe—and admittedly, this is more subjective than statistical—that there is a proportionately greater amount of bold incised pottery at the site than indicated by Caldwell's sample, and third, this incised pottery, as was true of Caldwell's sample, is confined to the later village stratum of the site.

In view of the above data, and for convenience in the discussions below, I have tentatively divided the archeological profile of the McDowell site into two hypothetical sub-phases: McDowell I and McDowell II.

Pottery of the McDowell I sub-phase equals the sub-mound manifestation and coincides strikingly with that of the Pee Dee Series represented by the Town Creek site in the Uwharrie Locality of North Carolina, and with the ceramics of the Irene Phase of the Savannah Locality.
McDowell I pottery (Figs. 45 and 48) includes all categories of rim decoration enumerated by Reid (1967) for the Town Creek pottery and, except for two (textile-wrapped and herring-bone stamp decoration), all stamp motifs of the Town Creek sample, including the "arc-angle" stamp (Fig. 52, G) which Reid notes as unique to the Pee Dee Series (Reid 1967: 6). The 134-to-49 ratio of complicated-stamped to plain ware in the McDowell sub-mound sample (Caldwell n.d.) -- or McDowell I stratum -- is approximately equal to the 4:1 ratio noted by Reid (1967: 3) in the Town Creek collection. Another diagnostic of the Pee Dee Complex, the presence of burial urns, is apparently characteristic of the McDowell I sub-phase at the McDowell site as well.

Sherds resembling Pisgah pottery types (Fig. 4, F and H) also occur at the McDowell site. Whether these particular examples are from the McDowell I level or not, I do not know, but similar sherds of the same Pisgah type, evidently traded from the mountain area of western North Carolina, were found at Town Creek (Reid 1967: Plate VIII). As noted above, none of the bold incised pottery that Caldwell calls Lamar Bold Incised occurs in my McDowell I collection or Caldwell's corresponding pre-mound sample. Neither does it occur among the Pee Dee material from Town Creek (Reid 1967: 69). Instead, the few incised sherds from that Uwharrie Locality site include a motif pattern of incised triangular zones filled with punctate stipple (Reid 1967: Plate XIV). Possible stylistic relatives of this Town Creek type of incising are evident in two sherds from the McDowell site (Fig. 46, I and J), though I do not know if these came from the pre-mound, or McDowell I, level.

Pottery of the postulated McDowell II sub-phase is that which Caldwell found in association with the late village stratum at the
McDowell site and, as noted above, it has pronounced differences from the characteristics of the McDowell I sub-phase. Thus, it does not hold up well in comparison with the Pee Dee pottery from Town Creek. McDowell II pottery does, however, bear close resemblances in quality of stamping and rim treatment to the North Carolina pottery type Qualla Complicated Stamped that occurs on the Historic Cherokee horizon in the western part of the state (Coe, personal communication). Specific modes of treatment common to both Qualla Complicated Stamped and the McDowell II rim sherds in the available sample (Figs. 42-44, 46, and 47, A) include both the folded rim and the notching of an applique strip below the rim. Indeed, similarities are so pronounced between the two sets of ceramics that it would be difficult to separate a mixture of them. The incised pottery of the Qualla Series, Qualla Incised, also bears a strong similarity to the incised pottery of McDowell II (Figs. 42 and 43).

On an areal level, this Protohistoric and/or Historic incised ware occurs in sundry and subtle variation over the coastal, piedmont, and mountain zones from Georgia into western North Carolina. As Caldwell recognizes, its manifestation at the McDowell site closely corresponds to the type Lamar Bold Incised, first published by Kelly (1938) and described by Jennings and Fairbanks (1939), and, by extension, to Irene Incised—another variant of Lamar (Caldwell and McCann 1941: 48).

The ultimate validity of the hypothetical McDowell II sub-phase in the Wateree Valley Locality depends in part on an explanation that will account for the occurrence of this incised pottery in the McDowell II complex at the type site, and its appearance with the Irene ceramic complex of the Savannah Locality, for the latter, as indicated above,
corresponds very closely with the McDowell I manifestation in all other respects. One rather speculative explanation is suggested by the spacial and temporal distribution of this particular style of incising: that it diffused as a separate trait from the coastal area centered around the lower Savannah River, for it relates in slightly different ways to the pottery complexes within which it has been found. Its occurrence as part of the Irene Complex has been noted and; though extremely rare, the incised pottery occurs with Irene- (or Pee Dee-) like pottery at the Rembert site, farther up the Savannah (Caldwell 1953). As one moves away from the Savannah drainage and inland, however, this type of incised pottery appears to fall chronologically later in relation to specific local sequences: Lamar Bold Incised, for example, appears in the upper level of its type site on the middle Ocmulgee (Kelly 1938)--a situation similar to that of the stratigraphic profile of the McDowell site. An even later manifestation appears in unusual "hybrid" forms in which instances bold incising and complicated stamping occur on the same vessel, not at McDowell, but at Lamar (Kelly 1938: Plate 12, A), Nacoochee (Heye, Hodge, and Pepper 1918: Plate XXXIX), and at the Peachtree site (Setzler and Jennings 1941: Plate 36, A). No variants of Lamar Bold Incised ware appear--or, in terms of diffusion, never reached--the Pee Dee site of Town Creek (Reid 1967). Though this areal picture is undoubtedly an over-simplification of a highly complicated situation, it could indicate why a variant of Lamar Bold Incised pottery appears in the McDowell II sub-phase of the Wateree Valley rather than in McDowell I.

The radiocarbon dates that place the beginning of the Pee Dee mani-
festation in the Uwharrie Locality around A. D. 1400 (Reid 1967: 62) suggest what appears to be a reasonable starting date for the McDowell I sub-phase I have tentatively proposed for the Wateree Valley Locality, though the apparent southwest-to-northeast movement of culture that terminated in the Pee Dee manifestation at Town Creek might indicate a slightly earlier beginning for its appearance in the Wateree Valley. An ending date for McDowell I is suggested by the estimated terminal date for the Pee Dee occupation of Town Creek, around 1650 (Reid 1967: 62-63). This corresponds closely to the estimated end of occupation at the Irene site, about 1600 (Caldwell and McCann 1941: 73). If this span is correctly defined, the McDowell II sub-phase must have lasted from sometime around A. D. 1600 or 1650 into the Historic period.