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Archeological Survey of the Trotters Shoals Reservoir Area in South Carolina

E. Thomas Hemmings

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Archeological Survey of the Trotters Shoals Reservoir Area in South Carolina

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ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE TROTTERS SHOALS RESERVOIR AREA IN SOUTH CAROLINA

by

E. Thomas Hemmings
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Prepared by the
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
1970
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INTRODUCTION

The archeology of the western Piedmont of South Carolina is poorly known. Therefore, the opportunity to conduct archeological survey in the valley of the upper Savannah River between Clark Hill and Hartwell Reservoirs was most welcome. This area, the basin of Trotters Shoals Reservoir scheduled for construction by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, lies south of the Cherokee Lower Settlements according to all authorities, and seems to have nearly escaped archeological notice (Adair 1775; Mooney 1900). Nevertheless, the upper Savannah River is bordered by numerous prehistoric and early historic occupation sites, recording man’s presence in the valley for at least 8000 years.

Archeological surveys in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area were conducted by the University of Georgia and the University of South Carolina for the National Park Service. A report on 38 archeological sites in the Georgia portion of the basin has been recently published (Hutto 1970), while an additional 35 sites in South Carolina are described here. Most of these sites are prehistoric and preceramic in origin, representing several millenia when small bands of Archaic hunter-gatherers were exploiting the Piedmont environment by means of simple technologies. A lesser number of archeological sites provided evidence of camps or villages of pottery-making farmers, occupied during the past two thousand years. Finally, surprisingly few traces of our own forbears of Colonial and later historic times are preserved in the reservoir basin, which is now virtually deserted.
The survey project carried out in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area was primarily concerned with recording and describing archeological sites and recommending a course for further recovery of scientific information. However, a secondary aim was to examine in a preliminary way, utilizing survey data, the relationship of prehistoric occupants of the upper Savannah River to their Piedmont environment. In this regard, site size and location characteristics and sample collections of artifacts were analyzed in order to reach an approximate idea of site use. Piedmont landforms are relatively old and stable with respect to the length of human occupation in the region. Thus, the topography itself is evidence bearing on subsistence and settlement, although modern flora and fauna do not necessarily adduce past environmental conditions.

This approach to past cultural ecology is clearly limited by the artificial boundaries of the survey, the reservoir area in South Carolina. Fortunately, the results of the University of Georgia survey in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area were available from the outset of the project. Moreover, the limitations of few sites and small assemblages of artifacts can be offset by additional survey and excavation of selected sites in the upper Savannah River valley. It seems quite likely that many more archeological sites exist in this area than have been recorded, and that the possibilities for investigating prehistory in the western South Carolina Piedmont are excellent.

The Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, conducted archeological survey in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area under Contract No. 14-10-7: 911-23 with the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. Fieldwork was carried out
between January 20 and February 28, 1970. Detailed site records and survey collections are maintained at the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology.
TROTTERS SHOALS RESERVOIR AREA

The Trotters Shoals Reservoir basin includes that part of the upper Savannah River valley and its tributaries, lying below a 490 foot elevation, between the head of Clark Hill Reservoir and Hartwell Dam (Fig. 10). This area includes portions of Hart and Elbert counties in northeast Georgia and Abbeville and Anderson counties in western South Carolina. From Trotters Shoals Dam the reservoir waters will extend about 26 miles up the Savannah River, with major branches about 12 miles long on the Rocky River in South Carolina and nine miles long on Beaverdam Creek in Georgia. The reservoir width is approximately two miles above the dam site, narrowing gradually upstream. The power and flood control storage pool will reach an elevation of 475 to 480 feet above mean sea level, while maximum pool elevation is established at 490 feet (U. S. Army Corps of Engineers 1968).

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The upper and lower valleys of the Savannah River are physiographically distinct. Below the fall line at Augusta, Georgia, the river traverses the unconsolidated sediments of the Coastal Plain; meandering slowly over a broad swampy floodplain, it falls 130 feet in the 125 mile length of the lower valley. The upper valley extends about 85 miles from the fall line north to the junction of the Tugaloo and Seneca Rivers (now within Hartwell Reservoir). In this distance the fast-moving river falls about 370 feet along a relatively straight, narrow valley.
The upper Savannah River lies entirely in the Piedmont Upland province (Fenneman 1938). The Piedmont Upland surface, a gently rolling plain, slopes from the Blue Ridge Mountains in extreme western South Carolina and northeast Georgia to the inner edge of the coastal plain. A characteristic of the Piedmont is a level skyline, which belies the fact that the rivers and their larger tributaries have cut down through the deeply weathered mantle of residual clay to underlying crystalline rocks. At the Seneca-Tugaloo confluence the Savannah River has entrenched its bed about 200 feet below the adjacent upland surface, while at Trotters Shoals, near the midpoint of the upper Savannah valley, the river lies about 170 feet below the upland surface.

The upper Savannah River, like other Piedmont rivers, is marked by outcrops of hard rock and rough water, or shoals, at intervals along its course. Shoals are important features, so far as human use of the rivers is concerned, since they permitted crossings (fords) on foot, horseback, or by wagon, impeded travel by boat along the river, provided excellent conditions for shallow-water fishing, furnished water power, and had numerous other effects on prehistoric and historic settlement. In the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area the Savannah River flows chiefly over schistose rocks of the Inner Piedmont and King's Mountain belts (Overstreet and Bell 1965). An early 20th century survey (Hall and Hoyt 1905) shows that about half the length and three quarters of the fall of the upper Savannah River within the Trotters Shoals Reservoir basin is accounted for by shoals. From north to south these include: (1) Turners Shoals with a fall of 17 feet in two and one half miles, (2) Middleton Shoals.
Shoals with a fall of 11 feet in one and one quarter miles, (3) Gregg Shoals with a fall of seven feet in one mile, (4) Cherokee Shoals with a fall of 19 feet in three miles, and (5) Trotters Shoals with a fall of 69 feet in six miles. Only the last three placenames are in use today.

The character of Piedmont vegetation has changed in historic times, chiefly as a result of agricultural and timbering activity (Luginbill 1926). Today the region is dominated by short-leaf pines, hickories, and deciduous oaks, with a variety of hardwood trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants along the stream courses. Some idea of the native flora in the reservoir area, suggesting the recentness of pine dominance, can be ascertained from the journal of the botanist, William Bartram (Van Doren 1928). Bartram crossed the Savannah River, probably at Trotters Shoals, on May 10, 1776, and proceeded along the eastern edge of the reservoir area enroute to the Cherokee town of Keowee. His account runs as follows:

Having finished my collections and observations ... sat off again ... crossed over into Carolina and soon got into the high road.... The road this day had led me over an uneven country, its surface undulated by ridges or chains of hills, sometimes rough with rocks and stones, yet generally productive of forests, with a variety of vegetables of inferior growth, i.e. Quercus, various species, Juglans hickory, varieties, Liriodendron, Fraxinus, Fagus sylvatica, Fagus castanea, Fagus pumila, s. Chinkapin, Nyssa Sylvatica, Acer rubrum, Aesculus sylvatica, Magnolia acuminata, Magnolia tripetela, Andromeda arborea, Hopea tinctoria, Aesculus pavia, Viburnum, Azalea flammea and other species; Hydrangea, Calycanthus, etc. (Van Doren 1928:266-76).

A discussion of Piedmont vegetational change in prehistoric times is beyond the scope of this paper, but a useful summary of the evidence in the Southeast is presented by Whitehead (1965).
The fauna of economic importance in the upper Savannah River valley in late prehistoric and early historic times probably included all of the following species: bison, elk, deer, bear, wolf, panther, bobcat, fox, racoon, opossum, rabbit, beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, turkey, geese, ducks, quail, passenger pigeons, doves, shad, and sturgeon (Logan 1859; Luginbill 1926). Nearly half this list, including mammals, birds, and fish, became extinct in the region during the last two centuries.

Microenvironmental Zones. Archeological site locations (see Site Descriptions, p. 14) in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area may be divided into four geomorphic and microenvironmental zones. However, reservoir flooding, hence the archeological survey, extends only to the first three zones. These are described briefly as follows:

I. River Channel. As noted above, the course of the upper Savannah River, as well as that of the Rocky River, was marked by frequent shoals. These provided optimum conditions for fishing. The spring run of shad was important in early historic, and probably also in prehistoric times (Logan 1859). Certain aquatic mammals and wildfowl were also concentrated in the river channel microenvironment. Apparently, freshwater molluscs were not abundant, and there are no shell midden sites, such as Stallings Island 50 miles downstream (Claflin 1931).
II. **Alluvial Floodplain.** The upper Savannah and Rocky River valleys are generally narrow, and lowlying alluvial terraces are restricted in extent. Linear areas of floodplain border the Savannah River, particularly at the mouths of tributary streams, and some of the islands are alluvial, notably McCalla Island. Point bar areas within meander loops occur on the Rocky River. In the past the floodplain microenvironment provided suitable habitat for grazing and browsing mammals, game birds, and predators, and was essential for farming.

III. **Valley Slopes.** By far the greatest part of the reservoir basin consists of the highly dissected slopes bordering the rivers. Tributary streams cutting back from the entrenched main streams have created a margin of rugged terrain. All roads in this area today follow the crests of interfluves from the upland surface to the rivers. Men and game animals in the past probably moved back and forth from river to upland surface by way of tributary stream courses and interfluves. Travel parallel to the rivers, across tributary streams and their interfluves, is virtually impossible. The zone of dissected terrain bordering the Savannah River at Trotters Shoals is two miles wide in South Carolina. Numerous, elevated, well drained locations for habitation were available on the valley slopes (see Site
Descriptions, p. 14). Rock outcrops are not common, and caves or shelters are not present in the valley slopes zone.

IV. Upland Surface. The rolling plain of the upland surface lies above the valley slopes, intercepting them along an irregular rim. Presentday roads follow these rims between settlements. The upland surface lies outside the reservoir survey area, but archeological sites occur here and are related to those of the lower zones. Bartram found the upland surface largely forested (Van Doren 1928).

HISTORIC LAND USE

The upper Savannah River valley was never densely settled. Some of the earliest settlers were attracted to springs which occurred along the sides of the valleys at the contact between residual soil mantle and bedrock (Glenn 1905). More often than not, however, farms and settlements were located on the upland surface, and depended on dug wells. By 1740 a few families were farming and raising cattle along the Indian trading path between New Windsor Township (now North Augusta, South Carolina) and Keowee (Oliphant 1964). When Bartram traveled over this "high road" in 1776, he described the country as "an uninhabited wilderness" (Van Doren 1928:267). The upper Savannah River valley and major tributary valleys were eventually utilized for three types of sites related to agricultural development: (1) farms on the best floodplain lands, (2) ferries on stretches of quiet water, and (3) mills at shoal locations. Mills' (1825)
maps of Abbeville and Pendleton Districts show nine mills, two fords, and two ferries in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir basin, while the U. S. Geological Survey Elberton quadrangle (1893) shows one mill and five ferries. A 1903 survey of this stretch of Savannah River lists eleven ferries (Hall and Hoyt 1905). Apparently, the small grist-milling operations were first to decline, and then, as the first bridges were constructed, ferry crossings were abandoned.

In spite of the shoals on the upper Savannah River, it served for a while as a transportation route. Mills (1825) reported that boats "descend from Andersonville with seventy bales of cotton, or ten tons." Later the Charleston and Western Carolina Railroad was constructed on the upland surface, paralleling the Savannah River (U. S. Geological Survey 1930).

At the present time almost no land is cultivated within the reservoir basin, and little other use is made of its resources except for the pine forest, largely planted, which covers the valley slopes. Between Clark Hill and Hartwell Reservoirs on the Savannah River, and below Secession Lake on the Rocky River, the river valleys are in a wild, although hardly pristine, condition (Fig. 1).
FIGURE 1. The Savannah River at the Trotters Shoals dam site. View is to the south, during low water stage. The dam site is the rock outcrop at river's edge on far left; Buzzard Island is on the right.
SURVEY METHOD

Archeological survey of the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area in South Carolina was carried out to locate prehistoric and historic occupation sites below the 500 foot contour, which will be inundated, affected by wavecutting, or endangered by shoreline development. A preliminary study of maps and references to the area was conducted in order to anticipate terrain conditions and specific localities which should be visited. However, the extent of ground cover by vegetation was not anticipated. Even though the fieldwork was accomplished in January and February, the reservoir basin was found to be nearly continuously covered by forest and undergrowth. Every type of disturbed or exposed ground within the reservoir basin was examined, and, occasionally, test pits were excavated in prospective site locations. The manner in which 29 prehistoric sites were located is made clear in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Exposure of 29 prehistoric sites in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area in South Carolina.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF EXPOSURE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF SITES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formerly cultivated land</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presently cultivated land</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dirt roads</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powerline, pipeline, or underground</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cable rights-of-way</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawmill clearings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railroad right-of-way</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosion</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The other six sites recorded were characterized by relatively substantial remains, such as masonry, visible even under dense vegetation. It is clear that numerous archaeological sites remain undetected in the reservoir basin, and that additional survey is warranted when land clearing or construction activity exposes new areas.

At each site located, considerable attention was given to the size of the occupation area and terrain characteristics, as well as to collecting an artifact sample. For this purpose ample map coverage was available to supplement observations on the ground, including the following maps or series:

- Army Map Service, Eastern United States, 1:250,000, contour interval 50 feet.
- Geologic Map of the Crystalline Rocks of South Carolina, 1:250,000, contour interval 25 feet (1965).
- U. S. Geological Survey, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1:24,000, contour interval 10 feet.
- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Trotters Shoals Reservoir Project, Reservoir Mapping, 1:12,000, contour interval 5 feet (1968).

The greatest part of the survey was made by 4-wheel drive vehicle and on foot in the dissected valley slopes of the Savannah and Rocky Rivers. The clay roads and timber bridges were usually passable and always hazardous. Wauchope (1966: Preface) encountered conditions in northern Georgia during the 1930's which seem identical to those in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir basin in 1970.
SITE DESCRIPTIONS

The objectives of archeological survey in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area in South Carolina were, first, to determine the extent of archeological remains in the basin, second, to recommend further action for the recovery of scientific information from these remains, and third, to outline, if possible, the prehistory and early history of this poorly known area. Toward these ends a considerable amount of data was collected, analyzed, and interpreted. The results are reported in this and two subsequent sections.

As a matter of convenience, the 35 sites recorded and described below are classified as lithic (16), ceramic (7), multicomponent (6), and historic sites (3), and fish traps (3). This classification is based entirely on the observed content of the site, including the material collected for laboratory analysis as well as that noted in the field. However, the interpretation of these sites, which is a necessary aspect of the survey objectives, involves a variety of inferences based on observation. In addition to the analysis of artifact collections by standard methods, emphasis was placed on the nature of site size and location. The more important assumptions behind this analysis are that (1) surface samples provide adequate evidence of occupation (relative age, duration, cultural activity, and so on) and (2) observations on modern site locale can approximate past conditions. More simply, for each site the questions asked concerning its past occupation were when, why, and by whom. The lines of inquiry adopted
here reflect the recent emphasis on cultural ecology in New World archeology. Indeed, patterns of site location and content in the upper Savannah River valley are apparent from the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area survey, as described below. These are useful indications of an approach for future work. It hardly needs to be stated that a program of excavation in the reservoir basin is both warranted and necessary.

Site designations used here are in the trinomial system of the Inter-Agency Archeological Salvage Program (state number, county abbreviation, site number), which has been adopted by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology. The identification of artifact materials follows as closely as possible Travis' (1955) classification of rocks and Frondel's (1962) description of silica minerals. Named projectile point and pottery types are based on Coe's (1964) work and other standard archeological sources for the Southeast. The analysis of terrain and site location characteristics, in addition to the procedure of the survey itself, was enhanced by excellent map coverage (see Survey Method, p. 12). Figure 11 shows the location of archeological sites in the South Carolina portion of the reservoir basin. Hutto (1970) located and described 38 archeological sites in the Georgia portion of the basin.

LITHIC SITES

A total of 16 lithic sites was recorded during survey of the reservoir basin. Seven are located on the Savannah River, seven on the Rocky River, and two more than one mile distant from either of these major drainages. All 16 sites occupy elevated terrain within the dissected
zone bordering the rivers. Although the surface collections from these sites were consistently small, it is reasonable to believe that Archaic occupations are represented. Eleven sites yielded Archaic types of projectile points (Coe 1964), and none produced pottery sherds. Archaic components may be present at five other ceramic and multicomponent sites, described later, but for the purpose of analysis and interpretation these 16 lithic sites are assumed to be a fair sample of Archaic remains in the reservoir area. Lithic sites were found to recur in particular kinds of topographic locations within the dissected valley slopes as follows:

I. Promontory Sites. Tributary streams cutting back from the rivers have isolated high interfluves, often with level summits. Occupation was concentrated on the converging ends of interfluves, nearest the river, where the ground slopes off sharply in three directions. Promontory locations provided a restricted, well drained, level occupation area with an excellent view of the river bottom.

II. Ridge Crest Sites. Farther from the river interfluves broaden and provide larger, nearly level, habitable areas. The ground slopes more or less sharply in two directions from such sites. In some cases the location occupied on the ridge crest overlooked extensive areas of lower terrain.
III. **Hillslope Sites.** Elevated locations with predominant low slope in one direction were occasionally selected for occupation, especially near important shoal areas.

IV. **Bluff Sites.** At some points along the rivers, elevated ridges with level summits, bordered by a single steep slope to the river bank, extend for some distance. These bluffs provided larger habitable areas, but had less commanding view of the river bottom than promontory sites.

V. **Knoll Sites.** Knolls are habitable areas of restricted size where the ground slopes in all directions from the summit. Generally, they were well drained, but not greatly elevated above surrounding terrain.

Collections of artifacts from lithic sites nearly all contain significant numbers of whole and fragmentary projectile points, quartz bifaces, hammerstones, and waste flakes (Figs. 6 and 7). At least for those sites recorded, hunting and workshop activity can invariably be inferred. Most lithic sites were suitable vantage points for hunters, and had supplies of knapping raw material, in the form of tabular masses of quartz weathering out of the residual clay, immediately at hand. In addition, some lithic site collections contained grinding slabs, handstones (manos), and pitted slabs or "nutting stones" (Fig. 9g) associated with plant food processing. Vantage point sites without evidence of this heavy grinding equipment are two acres or less in occupation.
area, while camp sites with a varied artifact content range from one to six acres (Table 2). The size of the groups occupying the site, the restrictions of topographic location, and other factors may affect site area, but one can also suggest that men only used a vantage point, while men, women, and children occupied a camp site.

Table 2 summarizes the lithic site types and their characteristics, while a more detailed description for each site is provided below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE DESIGNATION</th>
<th>DISTANCE TO RIVER (miles)*</th>
<th>AREA OF OCCUPATION (acres)</th>
<th>TOPOGRAPHIC LOCATION</th>
<th>SITE TYPE**</th>
<th>PROJECTILE POINT TYPES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38AB11</td>
<td>.05</td>
<td>1+</td>
<td>bluff near shoal</td>
<td>fishing camp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38AB17</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>ridge crest</td>
<td>vantage point</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38AB18</td>
<td>.19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>promontory</td>
<td>vantage point</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38AB19</td>
<td>.33</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>ridge crest</td>
<td>camp/vantage point</td>
<td>Morrow Mountain I</td>
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<td>38AB25</td>
<td>.28</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>promontory</td>
<td>vantage point</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38AB27</td>
<td>.13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>ridge crest (saddle)</td>
<td>quarry?</td>
<td>Palmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>.02</td>
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<td>promontory</td>
<td>vantage point</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

* Represents approximate map distance; actual walking distance is somewhat greater.
** Inferred from site size, location, artifact content, and other characteristics.
38AB11. Site 38AB11 is located on a bluff 20 feet above and 250 feet back from the Savannah River (Fig. 11). The site location overlooks the stretch of river known as Trotters Shoals. Dense vegetation covers the area, except where a dirt road has exposed a surface scatter of quartz flakes. No other artifacts were observed. The concentration of flakes is at least one acre in extent, but the habitable area is greater. The location of the site near shoals suggests that it served as a fishing station, and the low density of artifacts seems to indicate sporadic or brief occupation.

38AB17. Site 38AB17 is located on a high flat-topped ridge 135 feet above and about one quarter mile back from the Savannah River (Fig. 11). The Rocky River flows one quarter mile south of the site, and enters the Savannah nearby at the lower end of Carter Island. If it were not for dense forest in the site area, the surrounding terrain could be viewed in every direction. The area of occupation, defined by a surface scatter of quartz flakes exposed in a dirt road and sawmill clearing, covers about two acres. Artifacts collected in this area include a quartz stemmed projectile point (Fig. 6f), a quartz disc-shaped scraper (Fig. 8h), and a combination scraper and graver on a chert flake (Fig. 8b). The site appears to have had limited use as a quartz knapping location and vantage point by Archaic hunters.
38AB18. Site 38AB18 also occupies a vantage point on a promontory 55 feet above and 1000 feet back from the Savannah River (Fig. 11). It overlooks bottomland on the river and on a tributary creek to the east. McCalla Island is directly west of the site. The area of occupation, judging by a sparse scatter of quartz flakes, is about two acres, and lies within a formerly cultivated field. The artifacts collected here include a quartz disc-shaped scraper (Fig. 8i) and two quartz biface fragments (Fig. 7e). Again, the use of a vantage point for limited workshop activity by Archaic hunters seems probable.

38AB19. One quarter mile to the north, site 38AB19 is located on the same ridge as 38AB18 and in a similar topographic situation. It lies 50 feet above and one third of a mile back from the river (Fig. 11), and has a commanding view of surrounding terrain. The area of occupation, extending over at least six acres, is marked by a surface scatter of quartz and argillite flakes. The site is exposed in a dirt road and adjacent pastures. A collection of artifacts, chiefly from the dirt road, includes the following:

1 quartz Morrow Mountain I projectile point (Fig. 6q).
2 quartz stemmed projectile point bases.
1 quartz leaf-shaped biface (Fig. 7c).
3 quartz biface fragments (Fig. 7a).
1 argillite unifacially retouched flake.
1 diorite gneiss fragment from the bit of a polished axe or celt.
The size and location of 38AB19, as well as its artifact content, suggest use as a habitation site or camp where some workshop activity occurred. Several Archaic components are indicated by the artifact collection, each probably comprising brief occupations by small groups.

38AB25. Site 38AB25 is located on a promontory 40 feet above and 1500 feet back from the Savannah River (Fig. 11). Bond Creek is 200 feet to the south. The site overlooks river and creek bottomland on the east, west, and south. Evidence of occupation consists of quartz flakes scattered over the surface in an area of about two acres, formerly utilized by a sawmill. No other artifacts were observed. The use of the site as a vantage point and workshop by Archaic hunters is probable.

38AB27. This site occupies a rather different kind of location from those previously described. The Rocky River in the vicinity of 38AB27 has a meandering course, entrenched some 150 feet below the upland surface. Steep hills border the river and, in some cases are isolated, or nearly so, in meander loops. Site 38AB27 is located on the left bank of the river, not on the crest of such a hill, but on the saddle behind it (Fig. 11). The river is 40 feet below the site and swings within 700 feet of it on both the northeast and south. Steatite, which appears to be of poor grade for tool-making purposes, outcrops at the site location. Thus, the selection of occupation area may have been influenced both by topography and by the availability of useful raw
material. This area, which was formerly cultivated, is limited to about one acre. The surface scatter of quartz flakes and artifacts appears to coincide with the occurrence of steatite in ledges and as pebble, cobble, and boulder-sized float. Artifacts collected include the following:

1 quartz Palmer Corner-Notched projectile point (Fig. 6t).
2 quartz stemmed projectile points.
3 quartz bifaces.
4 quartz scrapers (Fig. 8f).

Surprisingly, no specific evidence of use of the steatite was observed. Neither the small amount of ledge exposed nor the steatite float exhibited tool marks or other evidence of quarry activity. No quarrying or rough-shaping types of tools were collected, and no finished or unfinished steatite artifacts were recovered. If the common occurrence of artifacts and steatite outcrop does represent quarry activity, then the lack of evidence for use may be due to several factors:

1 mechanical and, perhaps, chemical weathering of low grade steatite obliterated tool marks, 2 limited use was made of steatite and an inadequate archeological surface sample was obtained, 3 quartz unifacial tools usually associated with hide-scraping and woodworking are, in this case, quarrying or shaping tools.

The elevation of site 38AB27 is about 485 feet above mean sea level, or 5 feet below the projected maximum pool level for Trotters Shoals Reservoir. The site will, therefore, be affected by wavecutting. It is recommended that further collection and excavation of the site be carried out before its probable destruction.
Site 38AB28 is located on a promontory 65 feet above and 300 feet back from the left bank of the Rocky River (Fig. 11). It occupies about one acre on the end of the ridge overlooking bottomland on three sides. The occupation area is marked by a sparse surface scatter of quartz flakes exposed by a dirt road and old sawmill clearing. Artifacts recovered here include the base of a quartz Morrow Mountain I projectile point, two quartz projectile point tips, and a fragmentary quartz biface. Site 38AB28 resembles, in every respect, previously described Archaic vantage point and workshop sites with evidence of limited occupation.

Site 38AB29. The surface scatter of quartz, argillite, and chert flakes and other artifacts marking 38AB29 was first discovered at a roadcut 20 feet above and 100 feet back from the right bank of the Rocky River (Fig. 11). This scatter was then traced into a formerly cultivated area on a flat-topped ridge 75 feet above and extending 1000 feet back from the river. The occupation area exceeds five acres and includes the ridge top and its slope toward the river. The density of artifacts and flakes is sparse over this area, and probably represents multiple, briefly occupied, Archaic camps. The site collection includes the following artifacts:

1 quartz Guilford projectile point (Fig. 6p).
1 chert end scraper (Fig. 8c).
1 quartz disc-shaped scraper (Fig. 8g).
4 quartz biface fragments (Fig. 7h).
Angular cobbles and small boulders of argillite occur as float at the site, and this material outcrops at the surface 800 feet south, but no evidence of argillite quarrying was observed.

38AB30. Site 38AB30 is located on the flat surface of a promontory 75 feet above and 400 feet back from the right bank of the Rocky River (Fig. 11). A small tributary stream flows 200 feet to the south. The area of occupation, as indicated by a few quartz flakes and other artifacts, is less than one acre (Fig. 2). The site is presently under cultivation. Artifacts collected include two quartz projectile point tips and a muscovite schist grinding slab (Fig. 9f). The location was suitable for use as a vantage point, but the grinding slab suggests that a small camp, where food preparation was carried on, was also present.

38AB31. Site 38AB31 is located on the nearly level summit of a hill 1500 feet back from the right bank of the Rocky River (Fig. 11). The site is about 65 feet above the river. A small tributary stream flows 700 feet to the north. The occupation area of more than one acre consists of a sparse scatter of quartz flakes and other artifacts, exposed in a dirt road. Artifacts collected here include the base of a quartz Morrow Mountain I projectile point, a quartz biface fragment (Fig. 7g), and a quartzite handstone with one grinding surface and battered edges (Fig. 9a). The site appears to represent a small, briefly occupied, Archaic camp.
FIGURE 2. Site 38AB30, a lithic campsite on a promontory location. The Savannah River is beyond and below the trees in the background.

FIGURE 3. Site 38AN8, a ceramic village site on a floodplain location.
38AB32. Site 38AB32 is located on the nearly flat surface of a promontory and its slope facing the Rocky River (Fig. 11). The occupation area of about two acres is 55 feet above and 500 feet back from the right bank of the river. It consists of a sparse scatter of quartz flakes and other artifacts exposed in the right-of-way of a pipeline and powerline running between the river bank and a textile mill. The collection from the site includes the following artifacts:

1 quartz base of a Morrow Mountain I projectile point.
1 quartz beveled Palmer Corner-Notched projectile point (Fig. 6u).
1 quartz Palmer Corner-Notched projectile point fragment.
1 quartz projectile point fragment of unclassified type.
2 quartz biface fragments.
2 quartzite cobble hammerstones.
1 quartzite handstone with one grinding face and battered edges (Fig. 9b).
1 gneiss grinding slab with shallow circular depression (Fig. 9d).
1 gneiss grinding slab and anvil with shallow trough-type depression and pitting (Fig. 9e).

This assemblage represents more than one Archaic component, and indicates use of the site as a camp where food preparation, as well as workshop activity, was carried on. From the density of artifacts and flakes, occupation was brief and probably by small groups.
Site 38AB33 varies in the characteristics of its location from other lithic sites recorded in the reservoir area. It is remote from a substantial water supply and occupies a hillslope. The Rocky River is one quarter mile west, and a small tributary stream flows 300 feet southeast of the site (Fig. 11). The area of occupation, covering about one acre, is marked by a surface scatter of quartz flakes and other artifacts. The site has been exposed in the cleared right-of-way of an underground telephone cable. The collection from 38AB33 includes the following artifacts:

1 amphibolite pitted cobble with a prepared chopping edge or bit, probably a combination anvil and chopper.
1 amphibolite pitted cobble, probably the remnant of a grinding slab, used as an anvil.
1 quartz Morrow Mountain I projectile point base.
1 quartz stemmed projectile point (Fig. 6e).
1 quartz projectile point tip.
1 argillite projectile point tip.
5 quartz biface fragments.

The factors which led to selection of the site for occupation are unknown, but a local water supply and commanding view were apparently not sought. The artifact assemblage seems to be largely concerned with quartz knapping, which suggests that the site was an Archaic workshop located near a raw material supply.
38AB35. A second site remote from any substantial water supply is 38AB35, located 600 feet north of 38AB33 on a low knoll (Fig. 11). The site is more than 1000 feet from the nearest drainage, a small tributary stream of the Rocky River one and one quarter miles west. The occupation area of about one acre consists of a sparse scatter of quartz flakes and other artifacts exposed in a recent logging road and clearing for a farm dwelling, now burned to the ground. The site location is an elevated knoll, not particularly suitable as a vantage point. The collection from 38AB35 includes the following artifacts:

1 quartzite cobble used both as a hammerstone and a handstone (Fig. 9c).
1 large quartz Guilford projectile point (Fig. 6n).
1 quartz projectile point tip.
2 quartz biface fragments (Fig. 7i).

Again, the factors which led to selection of the site for occupation are not understood, but it is interesting to note that the precise spot was chosen for a twentieth century farm dwelling. The artifact assemblage and site characteristics indicate a small, briefly occupied, Archaic camp where some workshop and food preparation activity occurred.

38AB37. Site 38AB37 is located on a promontory 65 feet above and 800 feet back from the Rocky River (Fig. 11). The junction of Wilson Creek and Rocky River, an area of relatively extensive bottomland, is located one half mile north, and could be easily viewed from the site except for dense vegetation. The area of occupation, extending over
about two acres, is marked by a sparse surface scatter of quartz flakes and other artifacts. The site is exposed by a dirt road and by recent clearing of trees in the area. The artifacts collected here include the following:

1 quartz Guilford projectile point.
1 argillite Savannah River projectile point (Fig. 61).
1 quartz stemmed projectile point.
1 quartz projectile point midsection.
1 quartz projectile point tip.
2 quartz triangular bifaces.
4 quartz crude scrapers.

This assemblage, as well as the size and location of the site, suggests use as an Archaic camp with brief occupations at two or more time periods.

38AN5. Site 38AN5 is located on an eroding hillslope 25 to 75 feet above and 300 feet back from the Savannah River, overlooking the stretch known as Gregg Shoals (Fig. 11). Due to severe erosion, an area of occupation was not possible to define, but quartz flakes and other artifacts were recovered widely scattered on a hill above the shoal. Artifacts collected here include the following:

1 argillite Savannah River projectile point (Fig. 6k).
1 argillite stemmed projectile point base.
1 quartz projectile point midsection.
3 quartz biface fragments.
The site location near a shoal suggests use as a fishing station. The artifact assemblage reflects at least one Archaic occupation, but the collection is too small to indicate emphasis on a particular activity except, perhaps, some knapping of quartz.

38AN6. Site 38AN6 occupies a promontory 55 feet above and 700 feet back from the Savannah River (Fig. 11). About 500 feet north of the site there is a slough which isolates a relatively large low island (formerly known as Pond Island) in the river. The site location overlooks this island, bottomland along the left bank of the river, and the valley of a small tributary stream about 400 feet east. The area of occupation, extending over about three acres, consists of a surface scatter of quartz flakes exposed in a field planted in pine seedlings. The only artifacts recovered here were a quartz Guilford projectile point and a quartz side-scraper (Fig. 8d). The site appears to have served as an Archaic camp and workshop at a vantage point location.

CERAMIC SITES

Seven ceramic sites, including four on the Savannah River, two on the Rocky River, and one distant from these drainages, were located in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area. Small numbers of sherds were also recovered at six sites with evidence of Archaic occupation, described as multicomponent sites in the following section. Ceramic sites recurred in particular kinds of topographic locations, some duplicating lithic site situations along the dissected valley slopes, but most were on more
extensive bottomland areas along the rivers. Continuing the list of topographic locations from the preceding section, these sites are described as follows:

VI. **Floodplain Sites.** Low-lying alluvial terraces border the rivers at intervals, especially where tributaries enter or point bar deposition has occurred. These locations were subject to overbank flooding, and occupation was concentrated on higher areas, such as levees. Presumably, the lower areas, measurable in acres but not in square miles, were farmed.

Ceramic sites of both camp size (one to six acres) and village size (greater than six acres) can be distinguished. Two important kinds of ceramic sites are camps located on bluffs, probably concerned chiefly with fishing, and agricultural villages on floodplain. The site collections are not sufficiently large to bear out this distinction, except that village sites yielded more artifacts, reflecting both population size and permanency of occupation.

Table 3 summarizes ceramic site types and their characteristics. A detailed description of each site is given below.
TABLE 3. Summary of ceramic site types and characteristics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE DESIGNATION</th>
<th>DISTANCE TO RIVER (miles)*</th>
<th>AREA OF OCCUPATION (acres)</th>
<th>TOPOGRAPHIC LOCATION</th>
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<td>Lamar?</td>
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* Represents approximate map distance; actual walking distance is somewhat greater.
** Inferred from site size, location, artifact content, and other characteristics.
38AB12. Site 38AB12 occupies a bluff 35 feet above and 100 feet back from the Savannah River (Fig. 11). One of the largest islands in the upper Savannah River, Paris Island, is about 300 feet west of the site. The area of occupation, defined by quartz flakes on the surface, exceeds one acre, and is exposed along a railroad right-of-way and approach to a trestle. Artifacts collected here include one quartz triangular projectile point (Fig. 6a), one phyllite pendant fragment, and one sand-tempered plain sherd. Railroad construction has covered or destroyed a part of the site, but it appears to represent a relatively small, briefly occupied camp, probably dating to a late ceramic time period. Considerable tillable land was available in the vicinity of the site, both in a landward direction and on Paris Island; the location was also favorable for fishing.

38AB13. Site 38AB13 is located on floodplain 15 feet above and 100 feet back from the right bank of the Rocky River, inside a meander loop where extensive tillable land is available (Fig. 11). A cellar hole at the site location is the remains of a farm dating to the 1930's. The area was formerly cultivated and has grown up in dense brush, hence the area of occupation is unknown. A few artifacts and quartz flakes were observed in dirt roads and on eroded areas over several acres. The collection made here includes a quartz projectile point midsection, two quartz biface fragments (Fig. 7d), and two sand-tempered plain sherds. The floodplain location was undoubtedly suitable for agriculture, and probably could support a moderate-sized village, although no dense
concentration of artifacts was discovered. Conditions favorable for fishing were also present.

The elevation of 38AB13 is about 415 feet above mean sea level, well below the pool elevation projected for Trotters Shoals Reservoir. It is recommended that thorough testing and excavation be carried out at the site prior to inundation.

38AB14. The location of 38AB14 strongly suggests use of the site as a fishing station. It occupies a bluff 40 feet above and 300 feet back from Cherokee Shoals on the Savannah River (Fig. 11). Little habitable land and no tillable areas were available locally. The area of occupation, marked by quartz flakes and other artifacts, is approximately one acre, and is exposed by a dirt road and clearing for a fisherman's shack. The collection of artifacts includes one quartz projectile point midsection, two quartz biface fragments, and eight sand-tempered plain sherds. Occupation was probably brief and specifically oriented to the resources of the river.

38AB22. Site 38AB22 occupies an area of alluvial floodplain on the Savannah River known historically as Harper Ferry (Fig. 11). The bottomland here consists of about 80 acres, lying 10 to 15 feet above the river, bounded north and south by tributary streams. The land was formerly cultivated and is now in pasture. Four small test pits to a depth of 36 inches were excavated in the broadest area of floodplain near Allen Creek. These encountered fire-cracked rock and two sand-tempered plain sherds in
river-laid silt and sand, but no concentration of cultural debris. Quartz flakes were also observed at various points on the surface and on slopes adjacent to the bottomland. A local informant contributed two useful observations about the area; artifacts were frequently plowed up here in past years, and overbank floods, notably one in 1908, deposited silt and sand over the fields prior to construction of Hartwell Dam. The information obtained from archeological survey and from the local resident leads to the conclusion that relatively intense prehistoric occupation occurred at Harper Ferry, but that most evidence is buried under recent alluvium.

Since the site area has an elevation of about 410 feet above mean sea level, it will be inundated by Trotters Shoals Reservoir. It is recommended that extensive testing of the floodplain be carried out to determine whether buried archeological sites are present. The preservation of remains of an agricultural village and, perhaps, of earlier lithic sites might be expected.

38AB26. Site 38AB26 is located on the inside of a meander loop on the left bank of the Rocky River (Fig. 11). The area of occupation includes more than four acres of slightly sloping terrain, 10 to 20 feet above and 100 feet back from the river, which is underlain by bedrock and residual clay. This area is partly cultivated and partly in pasture. The inside edge of the meander loop immediately adjacent to the river is a lowlying, recent, point bar deposit, presently quarried for sand. Artifacts recovered in the occupation area include an agrillite biface,
possibly used as a hoe, a fragment of worked steatite, and two sand-tempered plain sherds. These artifacts and a sparse scatter of quartz and argillite flakes are largely a surface occurrence. The site area is tillable, although not underlain by alluvium, and probably supported a small farming and fishing camp.

38AB34. The sherd concentration marking 38AB34 was exposed by a cleared right-of-way for an underground telephone cable. The area of occupation consists of four or more acres on the slope and crest of a residual clay hill, overlooking a small tributary stream of the Rocky River (Fig. 11). The Rocky River is one mile to the west, and the Savannah River two miles or more to the west and southwest. A collection of artifacts from 38AB34 includes the following:

1 argillite projectile point tip.
2 quartz biface fragments.
1 pottery disc.
3 sand-tempered plain rimsherds.
1 sand-tempered Lamar Plain bowl rimsherd (Fig. 10a).
3 sand-tempered Lamar Complicated Stamped rimsherds (Fig. 10c-e).
60 sand-tempered plain body sherds.
1 sand-tempered Lamar Complicated Stamped body sherd.
6 sand-tempered complicated stamped (?) body sherds (weathered).
1 sand-tempered bold-incised body sherd.

Notwithstanding its location, remote from the larger rivers and extensive bottomland, 38AB34 appears to represent a moderate-sized,
protohistoric, Lamar village (Kelly 1938; Caldwell 1953b). The site is located within the highly dissected terrain bordering the Savannah River, but approximately at the rim of the upland surface. The association with two microenvironmental zones at the valley margin and the modest size of the site suggest that hunting, harvesting of wild plants on a seasonal basis, or some specialized form of horticulture was the basis of site selection, since the requirements for floodplain farming were clearly not present.

The occupation area at 38AB34 lies between 475 and 540 feet above mean sea level, and will be partially flooded by the reservoir waters. The town of Calhoun Falls is three quarters of a mile away. It is recommended that thorough testing and excavation of the site be undertaken prior to its partial inundation or development of the shoreline area.

38AN8. Site 38AN8 occupies an area of alluvial floodplain between 5 and 15 feet above and 400 feet back from the Savannah River (Fig. 11). Tributary streams bound the site area on the north and south. Greens Island is directly west. The location virtually duplicates the area of 38AB22 at Harper Ferry. The sherd concentration marking the occupation area at 38AN8 extends over eight acres on the highest part of a corn-field (Fig. 3). The amount of habitable and tillable land was much greater, at least 80 acres. An artifact collection from the known occupation area includes the following:

1 chert stemmed projectile point (Fig. 6j).
1 quartz stemmed projectile point base.
1 quartz projectile point tip.
1 biotite gneiss pitted slab or "nutting stone."
1 fired clay fragment, possibly daub.
1 sand-tempered plain rimsherd.
1 sand-tempered Lamar Complicated Stamped rimsherd (Fig. 10b).
39 sand-tempered plain body sherds.
2 sand-tempered complicated stamped body sherds.

The site location, size, and artifact collection suggest an agricultural village, which may have been occupied during the protohistoric Lamar period, as in the case of 38AB34. Favorable conditions for fishing adjacent to the village area were also present.

The elevation of 38AN8 is 465 feet above mean sea level, well below the projected reservoir pool level. Thus, the site will be inundated. It is recommended that excavation of the village area and testing of surrounding terrain be carried out prior to impoundment of reservoir waters.

MULTICOMPONENT SITES

Six sites in the reservoir area contained evidence of preceramic and ceramic components in the form of identifiable Archaic and post-Archaic projectile points and pottery sherds. All of these sites, located within the dissected valley slopes bordering the rivers, have been interpreted as camp sites. Three sites are on the Savannah River, two are at the head of Allen Creek, a tributary of the Savannah, and one is on Wilson Creek, a tributary of the Rocky River.
The topographic locations and other characteristics of multicomponent sites tend to corroborate observations made for lithic and ceramic sites. Two sites located on bluffs appear to be fishing camps, while the other four were probably concerned largely with hunting and collecting. A limited amount of farming could also have been carried on where creek bottomland or gentle slopes were available.

Table 4 summarizes the multicomponent site types and their characteristics. Each site is described in greater detail below.
### TABLE 4. Summary of multicomponent site types and characteristics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE DESIGNATION</th>
<th>DISTANCE TO RIVER (miles)*</th>
<th>AREA OF OCCUPATION (acres)</th>
<th>TOPOGRAPHIC LOCATION</th>
<th>SITE TYPE**</th>
<th>PROJECTILE POINT TYPES</th>
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* Represents approximate map distance; actual walking distance is somewhat greater.

** Inferred from site size, location, artifact content, and other characteristics.
38AB10. Site 38AB10 is located on a bluff 45 feet above and 200 feet back from the Savannah River, overlooking the stretch of river known as Trotters Shoals (Fig. 11). The area of occupation, defined by a scatter of quartz flakes and other artifacts along a dirt road, exceeds two acres. Since the bluff surface is in part sandy slopewash material over residual clay and bedrock, the possibility of subsurface remains was tested in an area of planted pines off the dirt road. The test pit encountered fire-cracked rock and sherds from the humus zone to a depth of 12 inches. The artifact collection from 38AB10 includes the following:

1 quartz projectile point tip.
3 quartz biface fragments (Fig. 7f).
1 steatite net weight or bowl rim fragment.
1 steatite net weight fragment showing perforation.
1 granite chunkey stone (Fig. 10f).
2 sand-tempered plain rim sherds.
2 sand-tempered plain body sherds.
1 sand-tempered complicated stamped body sherd.

This assemblage suggests the presence of both preceramic and ceramic components. The site location and net weight fragment indicate that fishing was carried on by the occupants. No tillable land was available in the vicinity.

It is recommended that further testing and thorough excavation of 38AB10 be undertaken. The site lies at an elevation of 380 feet above mean sea level, and will be completely inundated by the waters of Trotters Shoals Reservoir. The possibilities for subsurface archaeological remains seem to be excellent.
**38AB20.** The location of 38AB20 on a ridge crest is 115 feet above and one half mile back from the Savannah River (Fig. 11). A small tributary stream flows 700 feet to the west. The site consists of a sparse scatter of quartz and chert flakes and other artifacts over an area of four or more acres. The area was formerly cultivated, and is now in grass and brush with eroding gullies. Artifacts collected here include the following:

- 1 chert Savannah River projectile point (Fig. 6h).
- 1 quartz end scraper (Fig. 8e).
- 1 quartzite unifacially retouched flake with perforating tip (Fig. 8a).
- 1 sand-tempered plain body sherd.

The size and location of 38AB20, and its small artifact collection, suggest brief use as a hunting or collecting camp by both preceramic and ceramic groups. Some workshop activity was carried on, and the site may also have served as a vantage point since it commands much of the adjacent terrain.

**38AB23.** Site 38AB23 occupies a gentle hillslope overlooking bottomland where Bowman Branch and Deal Creek join Allen Creek (Fig. 11). Bowman Branch and Deal Creek each flow within 600 feet of the site. Although the Savannah River is two miles distant, it is only 50 feet lower than the site and readily accessible by way of the valley of Allen Creek. The area of occupation of 38AB23 is about one acre, judging by a surface scatter of quartz flakes and other artifacts in a cultivated field. The collection
made from this area includes the following artifacts:

1 quartz Morrow Mountain I projectile point (Fig. 6s).
1 quartz stemmed projectile point.
3 quartz biface fragments.
1 amphibolite gneiss anvil.
1 chlorite schist hammerstone or anvil.
2 sand-tempered plain body sherds.

This assemblage appears to represent both preceramic and ceramic occupations at 38AB23. The site size and location suggest use as a hunting and collecting camp, but considerable tillable land was available, both on bottomland at the confluence of the creeks and on contiguous slopes. Possibly the ceramic occupation at 38AB23 was contemporary with and related to a larger ceramic site, 38AB22, two miles down Allen Creek at Harper Ferry on the Savannah River.

38AB24. Site 38AB24 is located on the left bank of Bowman Creek about 400 feet northeast of 38AB23 (Fig. 11). The site size, topographic situation, and artifact content largely duplicate these characteristics of 38AB23 except for proximity to the stream (about 200 feet). The area of 38AB24 is presently cultivated. The site collection includes the following artifacts:

1 quartz Yadkin Triangular projectile point (Fig. 6b).
1 quartz Morrow Mountain I projectile point base.
1 quartz stemmed projectile point.
3 quartz biface fragments.
1 quartzite cobble hammerstone, bifacially pitted.
1 phyllite biface fragment, possibly a hoe.
1 sand-tempered complicated stamped body sherd.

The interpretation of site occupation and use agrees with that for 38AB23. A small camp, occupied briefly, was used as a base for hunting and collecting activity by Archaic groups and, perhaps, for farming by later pottery-using inhabitants.

38AB36. The area of occupation of 38AB36 covers one acre on a low knoll, where a surface scatter of quartz, argillite, and chert flakes and other artifacts has been exposed by the clearing of a powerline right-of-way. The knoll is located inside a meander loop on the right bank of Wilson Creek about three quarters of a mile west of the Rocky River (Fig. 11). The summit of the knoll lies 15 feet above and 100 feet back from Wilson Creek. It is underlain by saprolite and granitic bedrock. No tillable alluvial areas are located closer than one quarter mile south where bottomland adjoins the confluence of Wilson Creek and the Rocky River. The collection made at 38AB36 includes the following artifacts:

1 quartz Caraway Triangular projectile point.
2 quartz Yadkin Triangular projectile points (Fig. 6c).
2 argillite Savannah River projectile points (Fig. 6i and m).
1 quartz stemmed projectile point.
1 quartz projectile point tip.
3 quartz bifaces.
4 quartz biface fragments.
1 chert biface fragment.
1 sand-tempered plain body sherd.

Both preceramic and ceramic components are represented in this assemblage. Small camps associated with hunting or fishing along the creek bottom are suggested by the site's location characteristics and its artifact content.

**38AN7.** Site 38AN7 is located on a bluff 35 feet above and 200 feet back from the Savannah River, overlooking an unnamed island directly to the west (Fig. 11). Little Generostee Creek enters the river 100 feet south of the site. The area of occupation, marked by quartz flakes covering two or more acres, is exposed along a dirt road. The bluff surface appears to be underlain by residual clay. The artifact collection includes the following:

1 chert biface, possibly a cutting and perforating tool (Fig. 10g).
2 quartz biface fragments (Fig. 7j).
1 biotite gneiss pitted slab or "nutting stone" (Fig 9g).
2 sand-tempered plain body sherds.

The site collection, as well as its size and location, suggests a small camp where fishing was a primary activity. The pitted slab may reflect some plant food processing. Both preceramic and ceramic occupations seem to have occurred here.

Site 38AN7's topographic location strongly resembles 38AB10, overlooking Trotters Shoals. Since the elevation of 38AN7 is about 460 feet
above mean sea level, it will be inundated by the reservoir pool.

Thorough testing and excavation are recommended at this site prior to impoundment of reservoir waters.
FISH TRAPS

Three rock structures of a type considered to be the remains of prehistoric or early historic fish traps were recorded in the lower part of the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area. Similar structures have been reported for many of the larger rivers of the eastern United States (Strandberg and Tomlinson 1969). At least one other trap, believed to be of Indian origin, is preserved in South Carolina on the Broad River near Carlisle. It was known historically as Fishdam Ford. Logan (1859:81) describes the Indians' use of fish traps on up-country rivers as follows:

There was another primitive method of taking fish .... It consisted of laying long tapering baskets ... constructed chiefly of canes, in the middle of a shoal or slight water-fall, at a point where two sloping rows of stones, running one from each bank, are made to meet. The fish, following the natural swift current of the stream, would pass into the baskets, and, in those prolific times, soon fill them up.

Adair (1775:432) gives a colorful description of one mode of use of these structures:

Above such a place, I have known them to fasten a wreath of long grape vines together, to reach across the river, with stones fastened at proper distances to rake the bottom; they will swim a mile with it whooping, and plunging all the way, driving the fish before them into their large cane pots.

The permanent part of the trap was constructed of boulders of maximum size convenient for handling. Presumably, these boulders were cleared from the bed immediately upstream and rafted into place.

Boulder alignments were designed to withstand strong currents and to channel fish to a point where they could be trapped, netted, or
speared. In the most common type one or a series of V-shaped rock alignments was placed across the current at a strategic location. The apex of the V downstream might be closed or form a narrow chute. One of the most interesting aspects of prehistoric traps is the probability that an organized work force was involved in their construction and maintenance, and perhaps also in their use. The time of earliest use of fish traps is unknown.

The fish traps located during survey of the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area were studied with some difficulty, since they are visible only at low water. During periods of high discharge from Hartwell Dam upstream, the rock alignments may be two feet or more below the surface. Under these conditions other fish traps may be present, but undetected, especially if less well preserved than those recorded. It is recommended that the known fish traps be examined, mapped, and photographed in detail, in conjunction with salvage excavation of nearby sites.

38AB8. Site 38AB8 appears to be an atypical form of fish trap or, perhaps, a holding pen. It is located at Trotters Shoals where Calhoun Branch enters the Savannah River (Fig. 11). A boulder alignment about 200 feet long angles off upstream from the left bank of the river and joins a second alignment, approximately 400 feet long, nearly parallel to the bank. Both sections are straight and well preserved. The structure might have functioned as a V-shaped trap if the river bank served as the left wing. No chute was discernible at the downstream end. The size and regularity of the alignments suggest that the trap
is of historic rather than Indian origin. However, 38AB10, a presumed prehistoric fishing camp, is located on a bluff about 400 feet upstream, and could well be associated with use of the trap. Both preceramic and ceramic components are represented at this site.

38AB15. A second fish trap is located near Carter Island on a stretch of the upper Savannah River known historically as Cherokee Shoals (Fig. 11). It consists of a 300 foot long boulder alignment extending from the left bank to the low elongate island at the north end of Carter Island (Fig. 4). The irregular arcing segments of the alignment join to form two V-shaped structures near midchannel. The V's appear to terminate in open chutes. At two points in the alignment logs incorporated among the boulders must have been so placed during construction or repair (Fig. 5). An attempt should be made to date the construction and use of the trap by means of radiocarbon age determinations for wood from these logs. Site 38AB14, a ceramic site believed to have been specifically concerned with fishing, is located on a bluff one quarter mile upstream from the trap.

38AB16. A smaller trap is located 600 feet downstream from 38AB15, extending about 200 feet from the left bank to the north part of Carter Island (Fig. 11). The boulder alignment is irregular with no apparent V-shaped structures, although chutes could have existed at several points (Fig. 4). Some irregularity was probably due to the use of large boulders or ledges, already present in the bed, to anchor sections of the alignment.
FIGURE 4. Sites 38AB15 and 38AB16, fish traps on the Savannah River at Carter Island. Boulder alignment of 38AB15 is at the center of the photograph and 38AB16 is in the foreground. View is to the north toward Cherokee Shoals.
FIGURE 5. View of the boulder alignment at 38AB15, showing a log incorporated in the structure. The log was built into the fish trap near midstream, either during construction or repair. View is to the northeast.
FIGURE 6. Projectile points from sites in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area.  

- **a**. triangular;  
- **b, c**. Yadkin Triangular;  
- **d**. triangular;  
- **e-g**. stemmed;  
- **h-m**. varieties of Savannah River Stemmed;  
- **n-p**. Guilford;  
- **q-g**. Morrow Mountain I;  
- **l, u**. Palmer Corner-Notched.  

Length of **a** is 24 mm.
FIGURE 7. Bifaces from sites in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area. 
\(a-g\), small thin bifaces and biface fragments; \(g-j\), large thick bifaces and biface fragments. Length of \(a\) is 36 mm.
FIGURE 8. Flake tools from sites in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area. a, unifacially retouched flake with perforating tip (broken); b, combination scraper and graver; c, endscraper; d, sidescraper; e, endscraper; f, end and side scraper; g-i, disc-shaped scrapers. Length of a is 56 mm.
FIGURE 9. Cobble tools from sites in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area. a-c, handstones with one grinding facet; d, grinding slab with circular depression; e, grinding slab with trough-type depression; f, grinding slab with oval depression; g, pitted slab or "nutting stone." Length of a is 90 mm.
FIGURE 10. Pottery rimsherds and miscellaneous stone artifacts from sites in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area. 

a, Lamar Plain rimsherd; b-c, Lamar Complicated Stamped rimsherds; d, chunkey stone; e, cutting and perforating tool. Length of e is 68 mm.
FIGURE 10. Pottery rimsherds and miscellaneous stone artifacts.
HISTORIC SITES

Only three historic sites were located and recorded during survey of the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area. This number reflects both the thin settlement, which has characterized the upper Savannah River valley, and the time limitation and emphasis of the survey. In some respects, however, the historic sites described here are representative of the place and the period. They include a homesite and mill at Trotters Shoals, a cabin and ferry crossing on the Savannah River, and a farm dwelling on the Rocky River, all in ruins and dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries.

**38AB9.** Millwood, the home of James Edward Calhoun (1796-1889), is located at Trotters Shoals on the Savannah River three quarters of a mile above the mouth of Calhoun Branch (Fig. 11). A South Carolina historical marker commemorating Millwood is placed on Highway 72 at the end of a bridge over the Savannah River one half mile northeast. The rather extensive remains at the site include masonry foundations and chimney footings of the house and outbuildings, masonry foundations of a millworks, and a millrace about one quarter of a mile long. The masonry is dry-laid, untrimmed, natural stone. The area is densely covered by brush and forest, and no artifacts were collected. Millwood is not located on an 1820 map of Abbeville District (Mills 1825), nor on the U. S. Geological Survey 30 minute Elberton Sheet of 1893. Presumably, Millwood was built and abandoned during this 73 year interval.
Since the ruins of Millwood lie below an elevation of 430 feet above mean sea level, the site will be covered by the waters of Trotters Shoals Reservoir. Investigation of the homesite and millworks should be undertaken to obtain a comprehensive view of mid-19th century up-country settlement and technology. Archeological excavation should proceed in conjunction with historical research. Both lines of inquiry could be fruitful, as there remains considerable physical evidence of the Calhoun undertaking, as well as a large amount of archival material relating to James Edward Calhoun in the South Caroliniana Library (Moore 1967).

38AB21. Site 38AB21, Harper Ferry, is located on the Savannah River at the mouth of Allen Creek (Fig. 11). It consists of the remains of a log house, log outbuildings, family and slave cemeteries, and a ferry crossing. Farmland adjacent to the homesite is the location of 38AB22, a presumed prehistoric village site. The Harper home was a large, two-story, log house which, unfortunately, burned to the ground in 1969. An informant who lived in the house until recently claimed that it was 200 years old and that the log barn was built in 1845. The barn and two other early outbuildings remain standing, and the cemeteries are still marked. Slave quarters were not located during the survey. The ferry crossing consists of a deep wagon rut bordered by large trees at the river bank. An 1820 map of Abbeville District indicates the site simply as "Harper's" (Mills 1825). The ferry was probably still in operation in the early 20th century, while the home site and farmland have continued in use until the present time.
the home site and farmland have continued in use until the present time.
The Harper Ferry site lies below the 460 foot contour and will be inundated by the reservoir. As one of the more permanent settlements on the upper Savannah River, it should be investigated, through both archeological and historical methods, prior to its destruction.

38AB38. Site 38AB38 is located one half mile south of the mouth of Wilson Creek on the left bank of the Rocky River (Fig. 11). It consists of the remains of stone foundations of a farmhouse and outbuildings and historic debris on a two acre ridge crest, recently bulldozed and cleared. An artifact collection from this area includes the following:

- 4 aquamarine glass panel bottle fragments.
- 4 brown glass whiskey bottle fragments.
- 1 brown glass bottle fragment with view of a safe, marked ROCHESTER, N. Y.
- 6 clear glass bottle fragments.
- 6 clear glass S C DISPENSARY bottle fragments.
- 1 clear glass jar, marked VASELINE - CHESEBROUGH - NEW-YORK.
- 1 milk glass jar lid, marked GENUINE BOYD.
- 11 brown and gray salt-glazed stoneware sherds.
- 9 plain white ironstone sherds.
- 1 blue transfer-printed ironstone sherd.
- 1 blue-painted Pearlware sherd.
- 1 blue-edged ware sherd.
- 4 cast iron stove fragments.
The bulk of this collection would be expected on a late 19th-early 20th century farm site. The ROCHESTER, N. Y. bottle fragment is identical to a specimen from a refuse dump dated 1876-1896 (Brose and Rupp 1967: Fig. 15c), and the S C DISPENSARY bottle fragments are from a bottle type manufactured between 1893 and 1900 (Fraser 1969). Blue-painted Pearlware and blue-edged ware sherds were manufactured at a somewhat earlier date, about mid-19th century, while the vaseline jar with screw-type closure and shotgun shell base are later, about early 20th century. Thus, the beginning of occupation at 38AB38 was approximately at the turn of the century. The elevation of the site is 20 feet above the projected maximum pool level for Trotters Shoals Reservoir.
The results of archeological survey of the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area in Georgia and South Carolina are sufficient to outline a sequence of human occupation on the upper Savannah River. Interpretation of these results, of course, draws heavily on earlier work in the Piedmont region, including that of Miller (1948, 1949), Caldwell (1952, 1953a, 1953b, 1954, 1958), Kelly and Neitzel (1961), Coe (1964), Wauchope (1966), and others. There are gaps in the upper Savannah River sequence, due both to culture-historical factors and to archeological sampling error.

PALEO-INDIAN PERIOD

The reservoir basin provided no evidence of pre-Archaic peoples, presumably nomadic hunting groups who used lanceolate fluted projectile points and associated chipped stone tool types. Fluted points are less common finds in the Piedmont than on the fall line and coastal plain, but have been reported rather frequently from the Clark Hill Reservoir area. Paleo-Indian occupation of the upper Savannah River valley was certainly not intensive, and was probably succeeded by Archaic occupation about 7000 B.C. (Coe 1964).

EARLY ARCHAIC PERIOD

Palmer Corner-Notched projectile points from 38AB27 and 38AB32, both sites on the Rocky River, are the earliest evidence of occupation
(ca. 6500 B.C.) in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area. However, Dalton, Dalton-Hardaway, and beveled, side-notched, projectile points related to Palmer occur with some frequency in the Piedmont region. The nature of Palmer Complex subsistence and settlement is poorly known, but probably it represents a forest hunting pattern (Caldwell 1958; Coe 1964). The stone tools in surface collections from 38AB27 and 38AB32 are more likely attributable to later Archaic occupation than to the Palmer Complex.

MIDDLE ARCHAIC PERIOD

The Old Quartz Industry defined by Caldwell (1954, 1958) and the Morrow Mountain Complex defined by Coe (1964) are represented at numerous sites in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area. It is now generally believed that weak-stemmed Morrow Mountain projectile points, and unspecialized Old Quartz bifaces and unifacial scraping tools, commonly crudely flaked in white quartz, are closely associated in the Piedmont region. This Old Quartz-Morrow Mountain tradition may persist through three thousand years (ca. 6500-3500 B.C.), reflecting a well established pattern of forest nomadism. The sites are small, elevated well above surrounding terrain, and characterized by evidence of quartz knapping. Sites 38AB31, 38AB32, and 38AB33 in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area produced heavy grinding tools, as well as Old Quartz-Morrow Mountain artifacts, suggesting that plant-food processing supplemented hunting activity. Limited evidence of Guilford occupation (ca. 4000 B.C.) was also obtained at sites 38AB29, 38AB35, 38AB37,
and 38AN6 during reservoir survey (Coe 1964). In the upper Savannah River valley Guilford sites seem to be closely similar to Old Quartz-Morrow Mountain sites in location characteristics and artifact content.

LATE ARCHAIC PERIOD

Sites comparable to Stallings Island and Lake Spring with evidence of sedentism, dependence on hunting and fishing, but particularly on shellfish collecting, and the early introduction of pottery are not found in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area (Claflin 1931; Miller 1949). Presumably, the most favorable mollusc habitat was restricted to the lower section of the upper Savannah River. Some preceramic Late Archaic occupation (ca. 3000-2000 B.C.) in the reservoir basin is suggested by numbers of Savannah River Stemmed projectile points from sites apparently oriented toward fishing. No evidence of early fiber-tempered ceramics was obtained in the reservoir area, although it was present at Stallings Island from about 1800 B.C.

WOODLAND PERIOD

Occupation during the long span from approximately 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1500 in the upper Savannah River valley appears to have been decidedly sparse. The various fabric-impressed, cord-marked, and simple, check, and complicated stamped ceramics, which characterize Woodland sites in the Southeast, were virtually absent in Trotters Shoals survey collections. Hutto (1970) located two late Woodland or Mississippi villages, 9EB85 and 9EB86, on Beaverdam Creek in Georgia.
Each had a mound and village area; Savannah series sherds were predominant in the surface collections, suggesting a date after A.D. 1000. Elsewhere in the upper Savannah River valley evidence of Woodland occupation is equally limited, although early levels at Chauga, Tugalo, and Estatee near the Seneca-Tugaloo confluence date to the Late Woodland or Mississippi period (Kelly and Neitzel 1961). Thus, the important developments, such as full dependence on agriculture and the spread of complex ceremonialism, so well represented in other areas of the Southeast, seem to have largely bypassed the upper Savannah River, perhaps due to a dearth of floodplain farmlands. Relatively few, small, Woodland sites were probably chiefly concerned with exploiting the game, fish, and wild plant resources of the valley, as were earlier Archaic sites. Two of these sites, 38AB24 and 38AB36, produced Yadkin projectile points (ca. A.D. 1200) as well as Archaic point types (Coe 1964).

PROTOHISTORIC PERIOD

Protohistoric Lamar occupation (ca. A.D. 1540-1650) on the upper Savannah River is firmly established by earlier surveys and excavation in the Clark Hill and Hartwell Reservoir basins (Miller 1948; Caldwell 1953a, 1953b; Kelly and Neitzel 1961). During the Trotters Shoals Reservoir survey two Lamar villages were recorded, site 38AB34 on the floodplain of the Savannah River and 38AN8 higher on the valley slopes. Lamar series sherds were also recovered from sites in the Georgia portion of the basin (Hutto 1970). A large Lamar village and mound
group was located near the confluence of the Broad and Savannah Rivers, now within Clark Hill Reservoir (Caldwell 1953b). In the Piedmont region Lamar peoples may or may not have been the direct antecedents of the historic Cherokees, who continued a subsistence and settlement system based on floodplain agriculture and on natural resources.

EARLY HISTORIC PERIOD

In Colonial times the Cherokee Lower Settlements were concentrated at the head of the upper Savannah River or Seneca-Tugaloo confluence. No historic Cherokee remains were noted in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area. After the Revolutionary War the Lower Settlements were essentially abandoned, and their inhabitants decimated and dispersed (Mooney 1900). White settlement of the upper Piedmont proceeded from the early part of the 18th century, but the upper Savannah River valley, which lacked large floodplain areas, was never densely settled. In the 19th century the course of the river was marked at intervals by farms, ferry crossings, and grist mills. Both ferries and mills disappeared soon after the turn of the century.
RECOMMENDATIONS

In the event of land clearance or construction activity within the Trotters Shoals Reservoir basin, additional archeological survey should be carried out. The present survey was greatly limited by dense vegetation, but the pattern of site occurrence obtained indicates that more sites remain to be identified. The presence of additional archeological sites is suspected in three microenvironmental zones: (1) fish traps in the river channel undetected because of high water, (2) campsites on the valley slopes concealed by vegetation, and (3) camp or village sites on alluvial floodplain covered by a veneer of recent sediments.

The floodplain areas may include particularly significant kinds of sites, including relatively undisturbed, productive, agricultural villages and buried lithic sites. Coe's (1964) work in alluvial sites in the Piedmont of North Carolina demonstrates the importance of this kind of investigation. In the Southeast lowlying floodplains may be veneered by two to seven feet of recent sediments resulting from accelerated erosion on agricultural lands upstream (Overstreet and others 1968). Those floodplain areas occurring within reservoir basins can best be explored for the presence of buried sites by a combination of hand-excavated test pits and deep backhoe trenches.

Table 5 lists archeological sites in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area in South Carolina for which further action is recommended. The minimum requirement for investigation in this area is six months of fieldwork by an archeologist and crew of 12 excavators, followed by six months of laboratory analysis and report preparation.
TABLE 5. Summary of archeological sites in the Trotters Shoals Reservoir area in South Carolina requiring investigation and type of action recommended.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE DESIGNATION</th>
<th>RELATIVE AGE</th>
<th>SITE TYPE</th>
<th>ACTION RECOMMENDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38AB27</td>
<td>lithic</td>
<td>steatite quarry?</td>
<td>surface collecting, excavation</td>
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<tr>
<td>38AB13</td>
<td>ceramic</td>
<td>agricultural village</td>
<td>excavation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38AB22</td>
<td>ceramic</td>
<td>agricultural village</td>
<td>backhoe trenching, excavation</td>
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<td>38AB34</td>
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<td>village</td>
<td>excavation</td>
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<td>38AN8</td>
<td>ceramic</td>
<td>agricultural village</td>
<td>backhoe trenching, excavation</td>
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<td>38AB10</td>
<td>lithic/ceramic</td>
<td>fishing camp</td>
<td>excavation</td>
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<td>mapping, photographic record</td>
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<td>home and mill site</td>
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<td>38AB21</td>
<td>historic</td>
<td>farm and ferry site</td>
<td>historical research, excavation</td>
</tr>
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</table>
It is a pleasure to acknowledge the assistance received from a number of individuals during the Trotters Shoals Reservoir survey project. The efforts of Dr. John W. Griffin and Mr. Richard D. Faust of the Southeastern Archeological Center, U. S. National Park Service, greatly facilitated the role of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina. We look forward to continued close cooperation between these organizations. Dr. Joseph R. Caldwell, Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, kindly provided us with the Georgia survey results in advance of the Institute's project. Stanley South, archeologist in the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, read the manuscript, and was particularly helpful with the analysis of historic artifacts. Gordon Brown, Institute photographer, produced the photographic illustrations of artifacts, and James Frierson, Institute draftsman, prepared the artifact drawing and map. Finally, Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, Director of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology and South Carolina State Archeologist, supervised all aspects of the survey project, and has made many useful suggestions for improvement of the manuscript.
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July 22, 1970

Dr. Robert L. Stephenson  
Director and State Archeologist  
Institute of Archeology and Anthropology  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Dear Dr. Stephenson:

We are happy to note our review and acceptance of the report "Archaeological Survey of the Trotter's Shoals Reservoir Area in South Carolina" by E. Thomas Hemmings. Dr. Hemmings and the Institute are to be congratulated on a refreshing approach to the project and for an excellent report. We certainly have no objections to your publication of this report and we shall look forward to seeing it in print.

The Institute's cooperation with the Inter-Agency Archaeological Salvage Program is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John W. Griffin  
Chief, Southeast Archeological Center