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A MULTI-COMPONENT
OCCUPATION
OF AVOYELLES PARISH,
LOUISIANA

Alan Toth

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THE LAKE ST. AGNES SITE
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OF AVOYELLES PARISH, LOUISIANA

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INTRODUCTION

The Lake St. Agnes site (16AV26) has been known to Louisiana archaeologists for a number of years, but its former inaccessibility hampered anything more than cursory exploration. The first professional to visit the site was Robert S. Neitzel, a longtime resident of Marksville, Louisiana. In 1939, he obtained a small surface collection from the mound area and recorded the site's location in the permanent files at Louisiana State University. Neitzel described the mound as pyramidal, approximately 75 feet in diameter and 6 feet high, with a looted pit on the summit. At the time, the Lake St. Agnes mound was in swamp woodlands and subject to seasonal backwater flooding.

For the next thirty years, the only activity at the site consisted of superficial digging on the mound by local curiosity seekers. Human bones were reported as being exposed by the pothunters, but information is lacking on any material that they might have recovered.

Land-clearing operations in the autumn of 1969 initiated renewed interest by archaeologists. Neitzel again visited

Lake St. Agnes in October and recovered a larger surface collection, which revealed that the area had been occupied to some extent for 1400 years or more. Thus, the site was a prime location for studying a large portion of the sequence of aboriginal occupation in the lower Red River region.

The landowners were enthusiastic about obtaining a more complete picture of local culture history and contacted Robert W. Neuman, curator of anthropology at Louisiana State University, for professional assistance. After several inspections of the site and an analysis of its potential, he arranged for the author to carry out a month of intensive investigation.

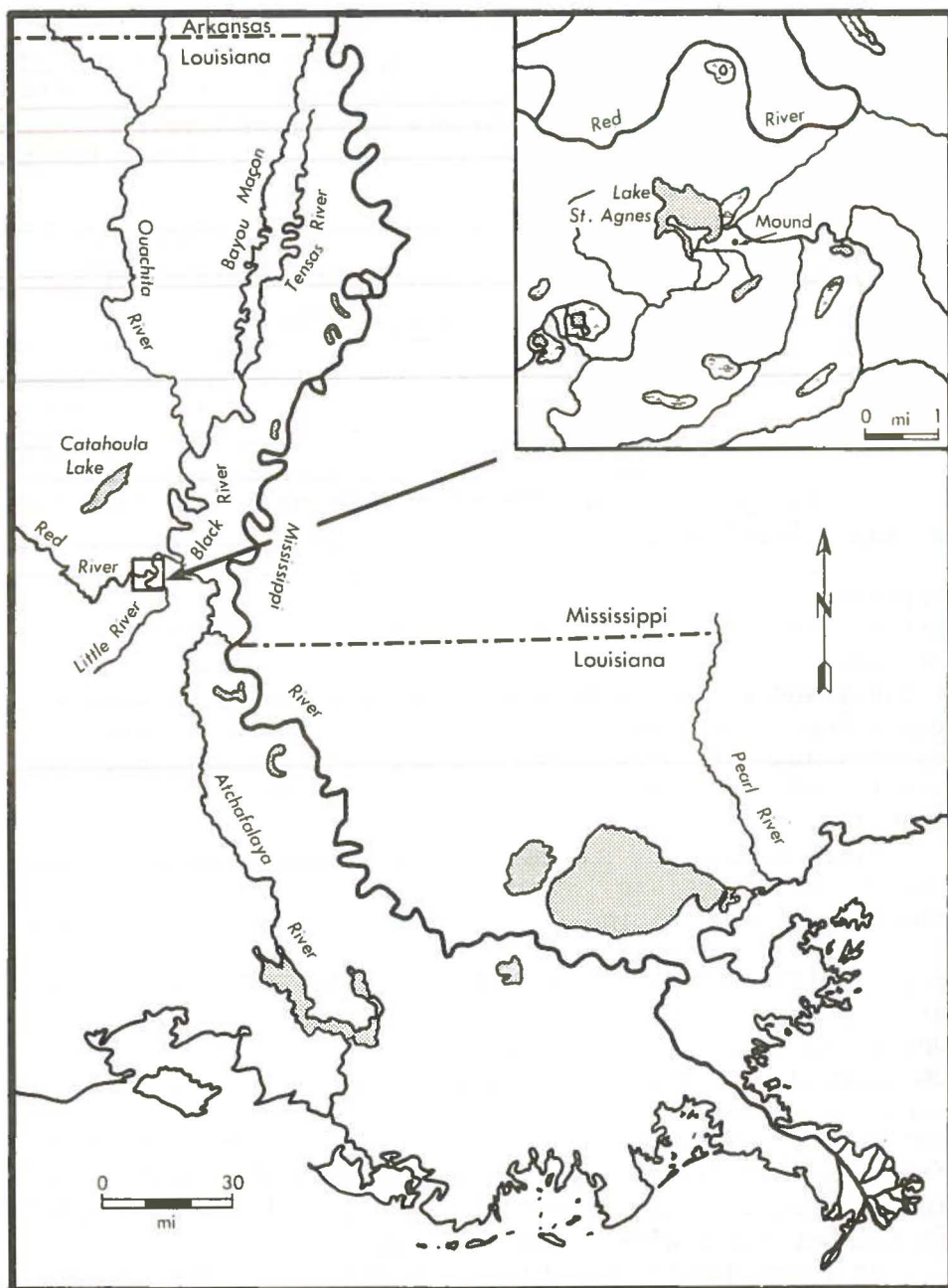
Plans for appropriate excavations were established during a one-day field trip in March, 1972. At that time, the site could be reached only by a boat trip across Lake St. Agnes and down Little River to a position opposite the mound. Land surrounding the mound was still wet from winter flooding.

It was decided that excavations would consist of two separate operations: digging test pits in the village area to obtain information on the occupational sequence; and removing a corner of the mound to expose profiles showing its stages of construction. Actual excavations began on May 17, 1972, and continued through June 15. The period of fieldwork was blessed by nearly perfect weather, and excavations proceeded without interruption. Material recovered was taken to the archaeological laboratory at Louisiana State University for processing and analysis. Results of the excavations and subsequent analysis are contained in the following preliminary report.

PHYSIOGRAPHY OF THE SITE AREA

The Lake St. Agnes site is located in the northern portion of Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana, near the southeastern shore of Lake St. Agnes and approximately 400 feet southwest of Little River (Text-fig. 1). Specifically, on the Moreauville, Louisiana, quadrangle (U.S. Geol. Survey), it lies in the center of

Text-figure 1. Location of the Lake St. Agnes site.



Section 27, Range 5 East, Township 3 North. The region is dominated by a complex system of lakes and bayous that drain eventually into the Red River. On a larger scale, the site is not far from the junction of the Red and Mississippi rivers and, hence, close to two major avenues ideally suited for the spread of ideas and raw materials.

During the centuries of site occupation, the climate was likely very similar to that of the present: inhabitants probably enjoyed a temperate climate with abundant rainfall, averaging around 57 inches annually. Temperatures are unlikely to have fallen much below 20° F in winter, perhaps averaging between highs of 70° to 100° during the remainder of the year.

The environment surrounding Lake St. Agnes is a typical floodplain, rich in natural resources, and marked by landforms normally characteristic of meander belts. Alluviation has had a leveling effect, so that the primary topographic features are low parallel ridges and swales. The ridges represent natural levees formed by meandering streams and consist predominantly of well-drained silty and sandy clays. The swales drain poorly and are filled with thick deposits of clays and silts. They support a dense swamp or forest vegetation. Abandoned channels are conspicuous floodplain features and vary greatly in the degree to which they have been filled. Most of the floodplain surrounding the site is subject to seasonal backwater overflow.

Mixed bottomland hardwoods make up the primary forest type in the floodplain (Hayes, 1945). Drainage is extremely important in determining specific forest growth in such a setting, and a difference of only a few inches in elevation can produce different tree cover (Brown, 1945). In general, lower, wetter areas support cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), ash species, tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*), blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and swamp red maple (*Acer rubrum*). Hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*), willow and locust species, and cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) are found along margins of sandy streams and in areas of deposited silt. The highest ground in the floodplain--on natural levees--supports elm species and a wide variety of oaks.

An intricate network of bayous and rivers drains the

floodplain. Little River, which passes close to the site, drains Lake St. Agnes and connects with the complex bayou system. During winter when the water level is high throughout the system, Lake St. Agnes becomes an open body of water of substantial size. During drier parts of the year, the water level drops markedly, and the lake becomes little more than a large, swampy depression.

Besides regulating drainage, the network of streams provided the inhabitants of the site with a convenient means of transportation by which to exploit the floodplain environment. The many miles of waterways penetrated the most remote regions of the swamps and ultimately connected with the Red and Mississippi rivers, permitting travel to even more distant locations. It is likely that the site's inhabitants made full use of the natural transportation network.

If today's abundance is indicative of past conditions, the floodplain must have been most attractive to the Lake St. Agnes populations as a source of wildlife. Fish are plentiful throughout the bayou system and almost surely were an important food source; it is likely that alligators, turtles, and snakes were taken as well. The site is on the great Mississippi flyway, and the maze of lakes and streams is still one of the major wintering grounds for many species of waterfowl, which no doubt provided a seasonal change in the aboriginal diet. The floodplain offered a wide assortment of mammals as well: white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), red squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), and swamp rabbit (*Sylvilagus aquaticus*) represent only a partial sample of the wide selection of game that might have been exploited. In addition, simple agriculture was possible on the better-drained natural levees, and it is possible that it supplemented the local food supply during at least the latter part of the site's occupation.

The Lake St. Agnes area has been modified geologically many times by meandering streams and recurrent flooding. Long before there is evidence that the site was occupied, the Mississippi River followed a course well to the west of its present location (Fisk, 1944).

It is possible that it passed near the site during this period, if Fisk was correct in speculating that an ancient Mississippi channel followed Bayou Cocodrie, Larto Lake, Little River, and Old River (Fisk, 1940). In one of the most recent studies of Mississippi River chronology, Saucier (1971) estimates that the river used the Cocodrie meander belt from roughly 4000 B.C. to 2500 B.C. and then moved slowly east, until settling in its present meander belt around 800 B.C. As the river moved eastward, the Red River entered some of the abandoned channels and followed them to the new course of the master stream. Little River may have served this purpose at one time, but there is no indication that it did so during the long sequence of occupation at the Lake St. Agnes site.

The natural stratigraphy at the site suggests considerable deposition of recent alluvium. A deposit of heavy gray clay containing reddish lumps begins at an elevation of 43 feet above sea level across the entire site. The deposit is approximately 4 feet thick and rests, in turn, on another deep deposit of similar gray clay with olive lumps. In most areas of the site, the gray clay is buried by a deposit of recent alluvium that averages 6.5 feet deep. There is evidence that most of the alluvium was deposited during the centuries of site occupation. The alluvium consists of various layers of mottled light brown clays and silts, topped by less than a foot of very recent red clay resulting from flooding by the Red River. The red clay drains poorly and is difficult to work, but some of the underlying silts suggest that soil more adaptable to primitive agriculture was available to the aboriginal populations.

SITE DESCRIPTION

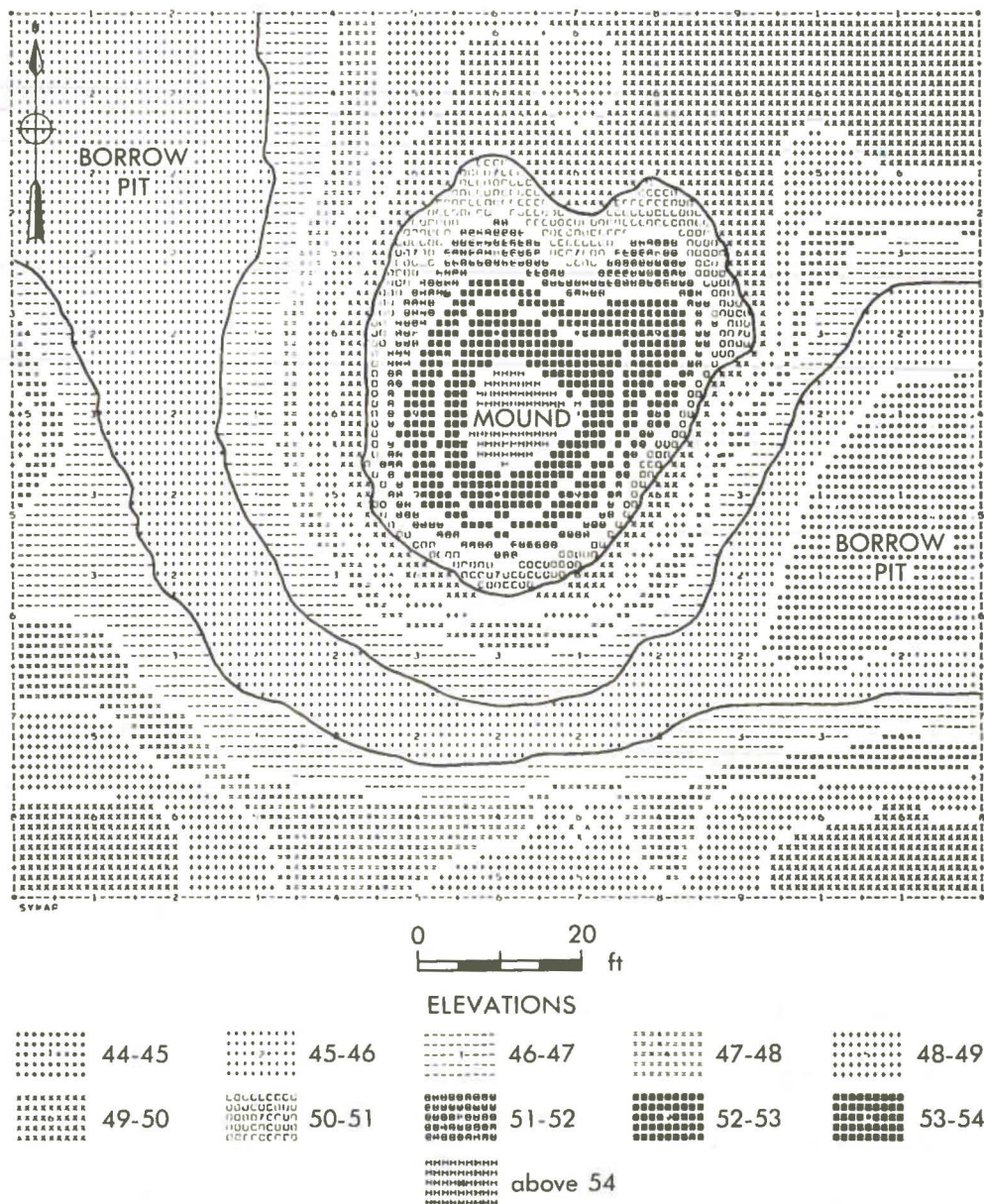
The two or more acres of land at Lake St. Agnes that exhibit evidence of occupation were covered by dense forest vegetation until very recently. In the fall and winter of 1969, the land was cleared and the uprooted vegetation burned in long piles. The locations of the windrows are marked distinctly by linear concentrations of fired clay and burned wood fragments. The cutting blade used in clearing removed

an estimated 6 inches from the mound, and the heavy disc employed to break up the root system disturbed the upper 7 to 8 inches of surface stratigraphy. The location was planted in soybeans for two seasons prior to excavation.

The site is bounded on the north by a zone of bottomland hardwoods that blankets the low-lying area surrounding Lake St. Agnes and the channel occupied by Little River. From an average site elevation of 49.5 feet, the land descends rapidly toward the lake bed to the northwest. The transition between level ground and lake slope is abrupt enough to create the effect of a ridge of high ground running directly west from the mound. To the south is a broad expanse of essentially level terrain that is under cultivation.

The most outstanding feature at the site is a large pyramidal mound (Plate 1). Already the effects of cultivation have given the mound a somewhat rounded appearance, especially across the east/west axis, but enough of its original shape remains to indicate that once it was flat topped. The present dimensions of the structure are approximately 45 feet by 55 feet at the base and as the contour map (Text-fig. 2) reveals, there has been some lateral displacement toward the northeast. The mound rises 5 feet above the average elevation of the surrounding terrain, but adjacent related borrow pits on three sides exaggerate the height of the structure to a full 10 feet.

Cultural debris is found over large portions of nearly two acres around the mound. Most of the material is ceramic, although substantial quantities of worked stone and some bone are present. The densest concentrations of surface debris are found on the mound itself and on the level ground along the edge of the drop-off to the lake. However, the surface distribution of artifacts is not even, and obvious pockets of material, suggesting house areas, are encountered along the edge of the slope to the lake. The farthest of these concentrations is nearly 400 feet west of the mound. Normally, the house areas are separated by spaces in which cultural debris is scarce or absent. There is another concentration of material about 100 feet northeast of the mound. Little debris is present on the level ground east and south of the mound.



Text-figure 2. Contour map, Lake St. Agnes site, 16AV26.

EXCAVATION AND RESULTS

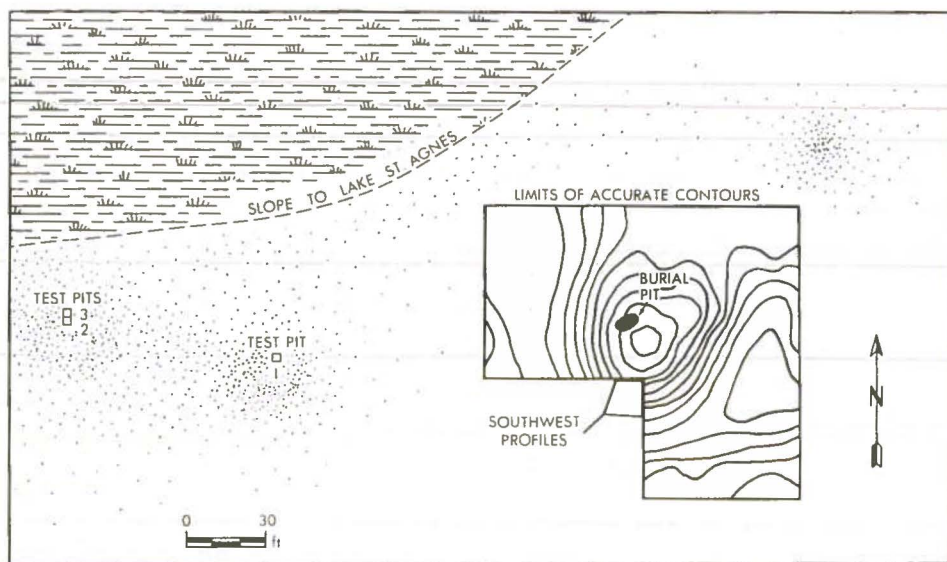
Prior to the start of fieldwork, the Lake St. Agnes site was surveyed by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, which has a local office in Marksville, Louisiana. A datum was established on top of the mound and a grid of 10-foot squares was laid out to cover most of the site area. The survey data were used by the School of Geoscience at Louisiana State University to compile a contour map of the mound and adjacent borrow pit area. As fieldwork progressed, all excavation units were keyed to the site datum to maintain vertical and horizontal control.

The first field operation consisted of intensive surface collecting of cultural debris to determine site limits and lucrative locations for test pits. Surface collecting continued as a secondary operation throughout the period of fieldwork. Because of the remarkable richness of the surface material, only rim and decorated sherds were saved, along with all significant lithic material. It was felt that there might be important differences in the occupation of several zones within the site, therefore, material from the mound area was kept separate from that collected along the edge of the drop-off to the lake.

The site map presented as Text-figure 3 shows the most productive collecting areas, as well as the location of the excavation units. Three test pits were dug in the village area west of the mound, and the southwest corner of the mound was removed to expose profiles along both its axes. Also, a number of soil auger holes were bored in various locations to establish the natural stratigraphy of the site. The result of the combined operations was the amassing of a large quantity of material that was used to determine the sequence of occupation and the construction stages of the mound. The results are summarized by excavation unit.

Surface Collections

For many years, archaeologists working in the lower Mississippi River Valley have relied heavily on analysis of surface collections of pottery to predict occupational se-



Text-figure 3. Map of the Lake St. Agnes site. Stippling indicates concentrations of surface debris. Mound surface is also rich in artifacts.

quences at prehistoric sites. Pottery is a nearly indestructible artifact of man that is normally abundant at Indian sites in the Southeast that were occupied during the last two millennia. After being introduced into the lower valley some time before 400 B.C. (Willey, 1966), pottery experienced a series of many modifications, which are reflected in the size, shape, quality, and decoration of individual vessels. Of these attributes, decoration is probably the most useful to archaeologists since, being nonfunctional, it reflects time changes with the greatest sensitivity. During each period of local prehistory, certain decorations prevailed. With the passing of time, a once popular decoration was modified or replaced, just as changes occur in modern automobile or clothing styles. Therefore, a study of the decoration on pottery from surface collections makes it possible to estimate the periods during which a site was inhabited (Ford,

1936). Further analysis of the percentages of each type of decoration gives a rough indication of the relative population size for each period involved.

The surface collections from Lake St. Agnes were studied, often with attention focused on minute differences in decoration, to determine the sequence of site occupation. The study revealed a long occupancy that can be divided into four broad periods. Each period represents not only an interval of time, but also a distinct type of culture, with specific ways of satisfying the basic needs of a community. The four cultures are not to be confused with "tribes" or "language groups," because the evidence needed for such specific associations simply is not available. Nevertheless, it is safe to say that each period is distinguished by variation in such features as diet, hunting equipment, house type, settlement pattern, and social grouping, as well as by differences in characteristic pottery.

The four culture periods recognized at the Lake St. Agnes site and their approximate durations are: Marksville, A.D. 0-A.D. 400; Baytown, A.D. 400-A.D. 700; Coles Creek, A.D. 700-A.D. 1100; and Mississippian, A.D. 1100-A.D. 1400. There is a slight possibility that one earlier culture period, Tchula, is represented at the site. One foot, or base support, for a vessel was found that has the look of Tchefuncte manufacture. There were also two badly weathered sherds in the surface collection that might be classed a variety of Tchefuncte Incised. However, it would be highly speculative to push the span of the site's occupation back into the last centuries before the birth of Christ. Furthermore, the earliest recognized period, Marksville, is represented by ceramics that are characteristic of the very late part of that period, from roughly A.D. 200 to A.D. 400. The very distinctive early Marksville decorations such as cross-hatched rims and bird designs (Toth, 1974, 1977) are totally lacking.

Looking to the other end of the sequence, there is no evidence of any occupation later than that associated with Plaquemine culture. The very distinctive Mississippian pottery, tempered with pulverized shell, was not found at the Lake St. Agnes site. It should be noted that some of the

design motifs found on Plaquemine pottery are strongly similar to designs on Mississippian pottery from other regions of the lower valley.

Table 1. Surface collections

	TYPES AND VARIETIES	MOUND	WEST	GENERAL	TOTAL
MISSISSIPPIAN	Plaquemine Brushed				
	var. <i>Plaquemine</i>	18	45	23	86
	L'Eau Noir Incised				
	var. <i>L'Eau Noir</i>		2		2
	var. <i>Anna</i>	4	9	3	16
	var. <i>Carter</i>	2	3	2	7
	var. Unspecified	5	2	3	10
	Evansville Punctated				
	var. <i>Wilkinson</i>	4	30	4	38
	Harrison Bayou Incised				
	var. <i>Harrison Bayou</i>	2	13	5	20
	Avoyelles Punctated				
	var. <i>Dupree</i>	4	8		12
	Mazique Incised				
	var. <i>Manchac</i>	6	8	5	19
	Coles Creek Incised				
	var. <i>Hardy</i>	2	13	3	18
	Maddox Engraved				
	var. <i>Baptiste</i>		1	3	4
BAYTOWN	Coleman Incised				
	var. <i>Coleman</i>	3	4	2	9
	TOTAL	50	138	53	241
	Larto Red				
	var. <i>Larto</i>	5	6	3	14
	Woodville Zoned Red				
	var. <i>Woodville</i>	5		3	8
	Evansville Punctated				
	var. <i>Evansville</i>			1	1
	Mulberry Creek Cord Marked				
	var. <i>Edwards</i>	3	1	1	5

Table 1 (continued)

	TYPES AND VARIETIES	MOUND	WEST	GENERAL	TOTAL
BAYTOWN	Churupa Punctated				
	var. <i>Churupa</i>	2	1	1	4
	Alligator Incised				
	var. <i>Alligator</i>	9	13	3	25
	var. <i>Oxbow</i>	1		1	2
	Coles Creek Incised				
	var. <i>Hunt</i>	1	6	1	8
	TOTAL	26	27	14	67
COLES CREEK	Coles Creek Incised				
	var. <i>Coles Creek</i>	2	5	5	12
	var. <i>Mott</i>	1			1
	var. <i>Blakely</i>	1		1	2
	var. Unspecified		7	2	9
	Beldeau Incised				
	var. <i>Beldeau</i>	1	2		3
	Chevalier Stamped				
	var. <i>Chevalier</i>	2	16	8	26
	French Fork Incised				
	var. <i>French Fork</i>		2		2
	var. <i>Laborde</i>	4	2	3	9
	var. <i>Larkin</i>	1	2	2	5
	var. <i>McNutt</i>	3	5	3	11
	var. Unspecified	2	2		4
	Mazique Incised				
	var. <i>Mazique</i>	1	3	3	7
	var. <i>Kings Point</i>	2	4	3	9
MARKSVILLE	Pontchartrain Check				
	Stamped		3		3
	TOTAL	20	53	30	103
	Marksville Stamped				
	var. <i>Manny</i>	2	4	6	12
	var. <i>Troyville</i>	8	6	5	19
MARKSVILLE	Marksville Incised				
	var. <i>Marksville</i>		2	1	3

Table 1 (continued)

TYPES AND VARIETIES		MOUND	WEST	GENERAL	TOTAL
MARKSVILLE	var. <i>Spanish Fort</i>	3	2	3	8
	var. <i>Yokena</i>	2	6	7	15
	var. <i>Steele Bayou</i>	3		1	4
	var. <i>Goose Lake</i>			1	1
	var. <i>Leist</i>	1			1
	var. Unspecified	2		4	6
	Churupa Punctated				
	var. Unspecified	3			3
	TOTAL	24	20	28	72

The specific frequencies of each kind of decoration found in the surface collections are tabulated by culture period in Table 1. Plates 2 and 3 illustrate representative ceramics for each of the four periods; the names listed in Table 1 can be compared to the plates for purposes of identification. A total of 483 sherds from the surface were classified. Also, 176 plain rims were examined, as were 81 decorated pieces that could not be classified either because of their small size or lack of distinctive markings. The unclassified sherds showed no unusual decorative motifs.

Names were assigned to the individual decorations according to a system that is currently employed by most lower valley archaeologists. Names consist of two parts, type and variety (Willey and Phillips, 1958). Defining features for types (such as Coles Creek Incised) are broad enough to include a considerable range of minor differences within an essentially similar category. On the other hand, varieties are much more discrete and are used to subdivide types into culturally meaningful distinctions that reflect differences in time or space (Phillips, 1970). Both type and variety names are listed in Table 1. Occasionally, a type overlaps two culture periods, and it is the variety that is used to determine the exact association.

When studied by period or by location within the site, the frequencies suggest fluctuations in the character of the Lake St. Agnes population. Using the totals, it can be hy-

pothesized that there was not much difference in the site's utilization during the late Marksville and Baytown periods. The Coles Creek period begins a trend toward concentration of debris in the western area, along the edge of the slope to the lake. The higher number of Coles Creek sherds may indicate an increase in site use over the two preceding periods. The number of Plaquemine sherds equals the combined total of all other periods, and again the concentration appears in the western area. In short, the surface collections point to a shift of occupation to the western area and a steady increase in site utilization, which climaxes during the Mississippian period. Hypotheses concerning the occupation sequence at Lake St. Agnes were tested by excavation and then reevaluated.

Surface collections yielded much lithic material, as well as pottery. Most of the worked stone consisted of small chips and flakes, representing by-products from the manufacture of specific tools. Projectile points and scrapers composed the two largest categories of manufactured items.

Plate 4, figure 1, illustrates a sample of the lithic material. The top row consists of dart points, which were used on a medium-sized shaft propelled by an atlatl, or spear thrower. The dart points probably were used during the Marksville and Baytown occupations. The middle row is a sample of small arrow points that are characteristic of the Coles Creek and Mississippian periods. Scrapers, a drill, and a used flake make up the bottom row; these items cannot be assigned to a specific culture period.

Test Pits

Three test pits were excavated in the western area to sample the cultural stratigraphy. Their locations are shown on the site map (Text-fig. 3). Test Pit 1 was on level ground just west of the borrow pit, and Pits 2 and 3 were adjacent to each other, about 80 feet farther to the west. All three units were marked on the surface by dense concentrations of cultural debris.

Test Pit 1 was excavated in March, 1972, during a one-day visit to the site. It was a hasty and incomplete effort to get a quick look at Lake St. Agnes stratigraphy. A square

Table 2. Test pit ceramics

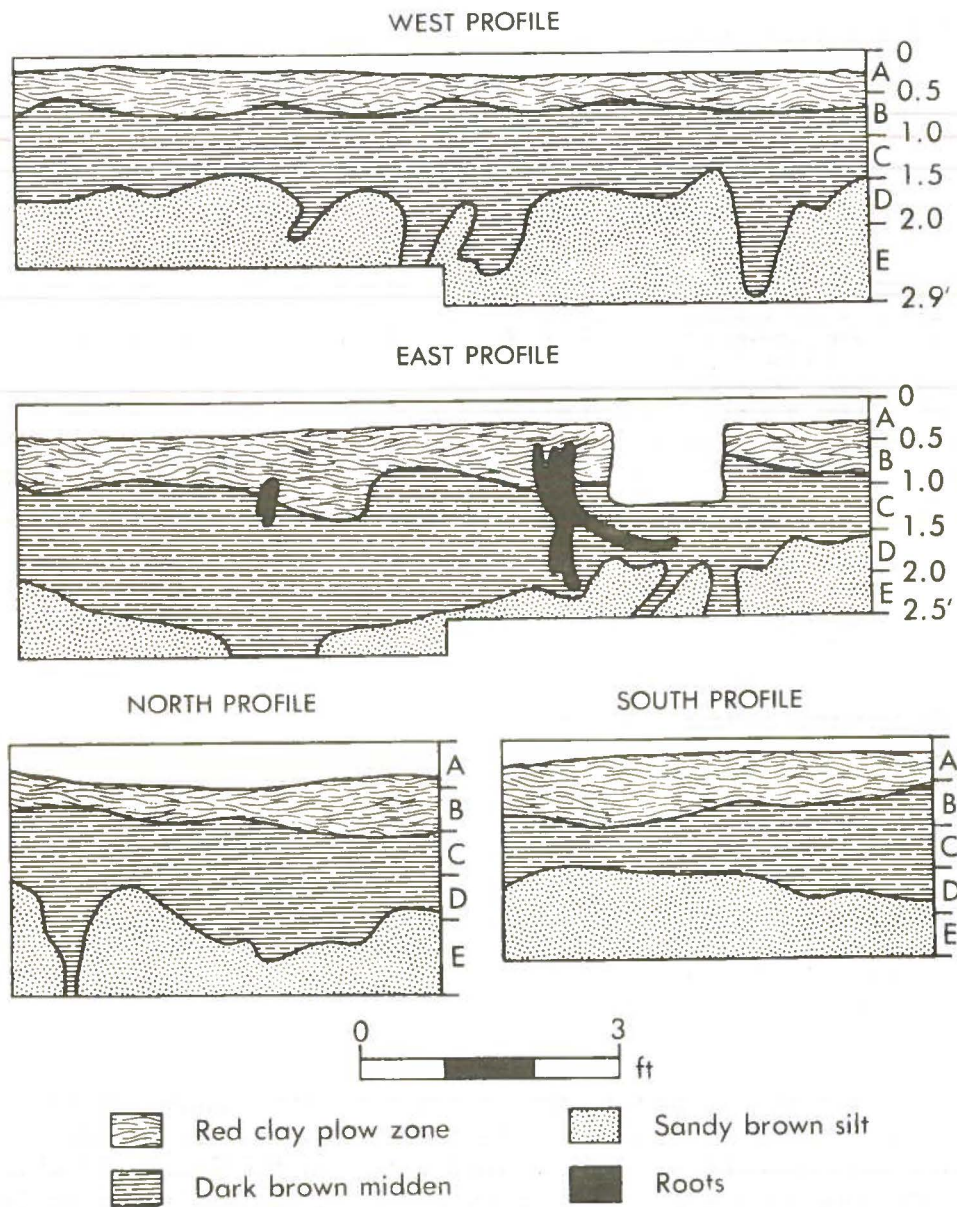
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Table 2 (continued)

	TYPES AND VARIETIES	TEST PIT 1			TEST PIT 2					TEST PIT 3				
		A	B	C	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
COLES CREEK	Coles Creek Incised													
	var. <i>Coles Creek</i>						1				1	3		
	var. <i>Mott</i>				2									
	var. Unspecified	2		1	4	3	1							
	Chevalier Stamped													
	var. <i>Chevalier</i>	2	2	2	2	2				2	2	1		
	French Fork Incised													
	var. <i>Laborde</i>										1			
	var. <i>McNutt</i>	1					2							
	var. <i>Larkin</i>										1			
BAYTOWN	Mazique Incised													
	var. <i>Mazique</i>	1												
	var. <i>Kings Point</i>	1	2		1	1				2				
	Churupa Punctated						1							
	var. <i>Churupa</i>													
	Larto Red						2					2		
	var. <i>Larto</i>													
	Woodville Zoned Red													
	var. <i>Woodville</i>											1		1
	Alligator Incised													
MARKSVILLE	var. <i>Alligator</i>	1					1					3		
	Evansville Punctated													
	var. <i>Evansville</i>	1												1
	var. Unspecified												1	
	Coles Creek Incised													
	var. <i>Hunt</i>						2			1	1			
	Marksville Stamped													
	var. <i>Troyville</i>						2							
	Marksville Incised													
	var. <i>Yokena</i>						2							

Test pits 2 and 3 were adjacent 5-foot squares in the richest collecting area of the site. Text-figure 4 shows the profiles exposed by the combined pits and the levels in which they were excavated. A summary of the ceramic content by level is provided in Table 2. For purposes of stratigraphy, the pits can be discussed as if they were a single unit.

The surface level was entirely within a plow zone of heavy red clay of Red River origin. It contained much fired



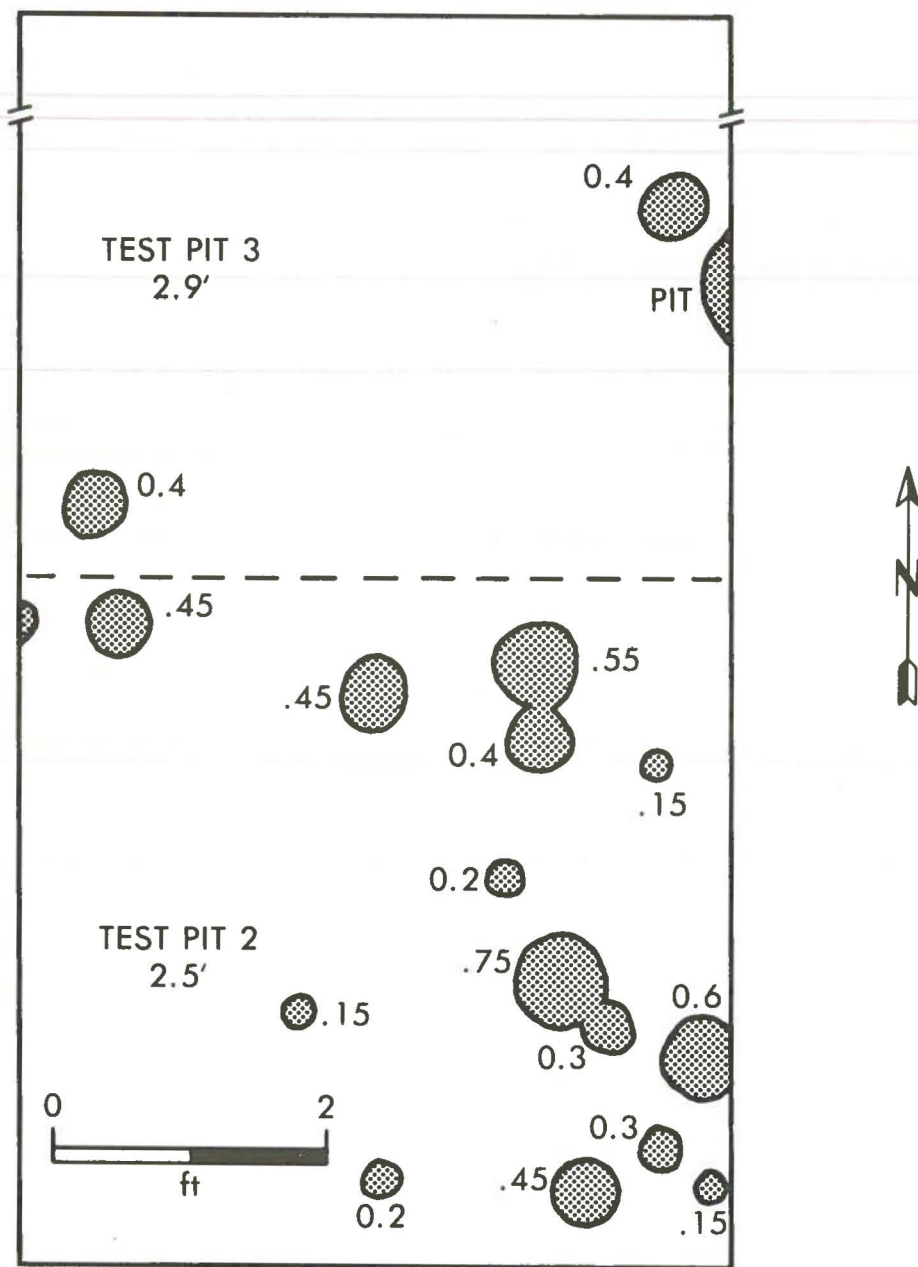
Text-figure 4. Profiles of test pits 2 and 3.

clay because a pile of trees had been burned over the location during land clearing. There was pottery in Level A, but it is difficult to tell whether or not it originated in the red clay or was stirred up by the plow from the layer of brown midden that began in Level B. At the time of excavation, it was assumed that the material had been churned up and that the surface layer of red clay had once formed a sterile cap over the entire site. For reasons that will be explained below, the problem created by the plow zone is an important one because the answer could help to date the upper layer of the mound.

The rich, brown midden began in Level B and also did a number of dead, but undecayed, roots. A problem root was removed from the east wall of Test Pit 2 (see profile in Text-fig. 4) as a unit in an effort to avoid mixing the stratigraphy. The ceramic counts in Table 2 show that the upper portion of the midden zone dates securely in the Mississippian period.

The midden attained a maximum ceramic yield in Level C. The sherd counts document the fact that in Level C, an essentially pure Plaquemine midden turned almost imperceptibly into the remains of a Coles Creek occupation, although the deposit appeared homogeneous during excavation. In addition, the bottom of the level is mixed with a trace of Baytown material. Such gradual and unmarked transitions from one culture period to another are not uncommon in a floodplain situation. Level C also contained two Coles Creek projectile points and the first deer bone found in the excavation unit.

In Level D, the midden began to disappear along the western side of the test pits, where it was replaced by a mottled brown, sandy silt. However, the midden continued abundantly in the northeast corner of the excavation. This fact is also recorded in the sherd counts, because the yield of plain sherds from pit 3 greatly exceeds that of pit 2. Level D of pit 3 had virtually no decorated material, but in Test Pit 2 there was some Plaquemine material. The reappearance of Plaquemine in Level D can be explained to some extent by the roots and intrusive features that were present in Test Pit 2 (see southern end of east profile, Text-fig. 4).



Text-figure 5. Posthole pattern, test pits 2 and 3.

The midden ran out in Level E, and light brown, sandy silt began. The new layer was sterile, except for some minor intrusions from the overlying midden. Postholes stood out quite clearly against the light brown floor, and a number were plotted (Text-fig. 5). The excavation unit was not large enough to expose a definite pattern, but a few postholes that seemed to be connected suggest a building with straight sides supported by posts set into individual holes.

A major feature was seen in the bottom level of Test Pit 3. It was a large, oval fire pit approximately 2 feet wide, four feet long, and 0.6 feet deep (Plate 4, fig. 2). The fire pit was filled with soft gray ash and contained much pottery and animal bone. Floor E of pit 3 was taken down an additional 0.4 feet to reach sterile ground beneath the fire pit. The sherd counts are included in the Test Pit 3, Level E column of Table 2, but in the field, the contents of the fire pit were kept separate from the rest of Level E.

The only decorated sherds in the fire pit date from the Baytown period, and it would not be implausible to postulate such an association. Large bathtub-shaped pits are a diagnostic feature of the coeval Marsden phase in the adjoining Tensas region; however, there were a number of plain sherds that have the feel of Coles Creek manufacture. Some of the plain sherds were fitted together to form parts of three large jars. None of the vessels was complete, but dimensions are estimated to be 10 to 12 inches in rim diameter and approximately 18 inches high. A fourth vessel, partially restored, definitely dates from the Coles Creek period. It is highly polished, with paste equivalent to the *Little River* variety of Baytown Plain. The vessel has the form of a shallow carinate bowl, with a sharp angle between the base and the sides, which are 1.9 inches high. Thus, although the few decorated sherds tell a different story, it seems that the fire pit was made during the Coles Creek period: perhaps it was scooped through a thin layer of earlier Baytown midden.

The fire pit also contained the best faunal sample that was excavated at the site. Identified material consists of 4 deer molars, 2 rodent jaws, 10 fish bones, 2 garfish scales, 2 turtle shell fragments, a piece of cut antler, and 5 deer leg bones. There were 30 additional bone fragments that were too small or too charred for immediate identification.

In summary, Test Pits 2 and 3 tend to confirm the occupational sequence hypothesized from the surface collections of the western area. It appears that there was a minor occupation during the Baytown period. A richer Coles Creek midden accumulated atop the Baytown debris, and perhaps a fire pit was excavated through the earlier material. Finally, a deep layer of Plaquemine midden was accumulated during the Mississippian period. The Plaquemine occupation may have continued as late as the deposition of the Red River alluvium that blankets the entire site. Marksville midden was not encountered in pits 2 and 3, but, as will be shown later, it is possible that this was because the excavation did not go deep enough.

Mound Excavations

The largest excavation unit at the site consisted of the removal of the southwest quarter of the mound. The cut did not extend quite to the center of the mound (Text-fig. 3), but 12 feet of vertical profile were exposed. The profile was analyzed to determine the several construction stages present in the mound.

Power equipment was used to remove the bulk of the mound fill. Operations began with a backhoe trench that outlined the section of mound to be removed; the backhoe trench reached to the base of the mound along both axes. The excavation was monitored closely to assure that no major features were destroyed. Dirt from the trench contained a few sherds and an occasional pocket of midden, but it was clear that no burials were disturbed.

A bulldozer was employed to remove most of the fill from the section outlined by the backhoe. Again, the operation was watched carefully, and there was no sign of burials or other important features. The backhoe removed the final corner where the bulldozer was denied access by lack of maneuvering room. Eventually, the entire southwest quarter of the mound was removed, down to a level approximately 9 feet from the high point in the corner.

A number of roots weakened the east/west portion of the exposed cut, and several sections of the profile collapsed. Thus, it was necessary to move back nearly 3 feet in some places to establish a line of stakes outlining the excavation unit. From a corner stake designated S200W200, lines were

Table 3. Mound ceramics

TYPES AND VARIETIES	CONSTRUCTION STAGES						
	I	IIA	IIB	III	IV	V	VI
Marksville Stamped							
var. <i>Manny</i>	8		2				
var. <i>Troyville</i>	2						
Marksville Incised							
var. <i>Spanish Fort</i>	3		1				
var. <i>Yokena</i>	17		2				
var. Unspecified			1				
Churupa Punctated							
var. <i>Churupa</i>	1		4	2	1	1	
var. Unspecified	2						
Larto Red							
var. <i>Larto</i>	2	1	2	1	2		
Woodville Zoned Red							
var. <i>Woodville</i>	3	2					1
Alligator Incised							
var. <i>Alligator</i>				2	1		
Mulberry Creek Cord Marked							
var. <i>Edwards</i>	4						
Evansville Punctated							
var. <i>Braxton</i>	2						
French Fork Incised							
var. Unspecified	1						1
Chevalier Stamped							
var. <i>Chevalier</i>			1				
Unclassified			2	1			

run 50 feet to the west and south. Originally it was planned to clean the whole length of both walls, but time limitations prevented this from being done. Ten feet of east/west profile were cleaned and 15 feet of the north/south profile (Text-fig. 6). Also, nine 5-foot squares were excavated from the floor in the corner of the cut. They began at the 9-foot level and extended down an additional 3 feet through a layer of base midden.

All of the soil types used as mound fill were encountered in the soil auger holes bored to test the natural site stratigraphy. There can be little doubt that the mound was built from material taken from the adjacent borrow pits. In cleaning the profiles, several feet of mound were removed by hand along both walls. The horizontal and vertical provenience was recorded for everything encountered during the profiling operation. Thus, a fair amount of pottery and several charcoal samples were obtained to aid in dating the construction stages of the mound.

As can be seen in Text-figure 6, the mound stratigraphy was quite complicated, and few clear-cut divisions were present. Although a considerable quantity of sherds was obtained, few of them were decorated (Table 3). Further, when dealing with mounds, the danger is always present that pottery found within a construction stage does not necessarily date it. Often an earlier midden was used as mound fill. Nevertheless, enough information was garnered to postulate a sequence of construction. However, the sequence must be treated as a hypothesis, especially in the absence of reliable radiocarbon dates.

Stage I. The mound profile was exposed to a depth of 12 feet, where a layer of heavy, blue gray clay was encountered. As the water table was reached at this depth, examination of the transition between the base layer of the mound and the natural ground on which it rested was a rather messy affair. Cultural material did penetrate an inch or so into the gray clay, but otherwise there is every indication that the clay represents a sterile base. A deep layer of gray clay was found in all of the soil auger holes at an identical depth.

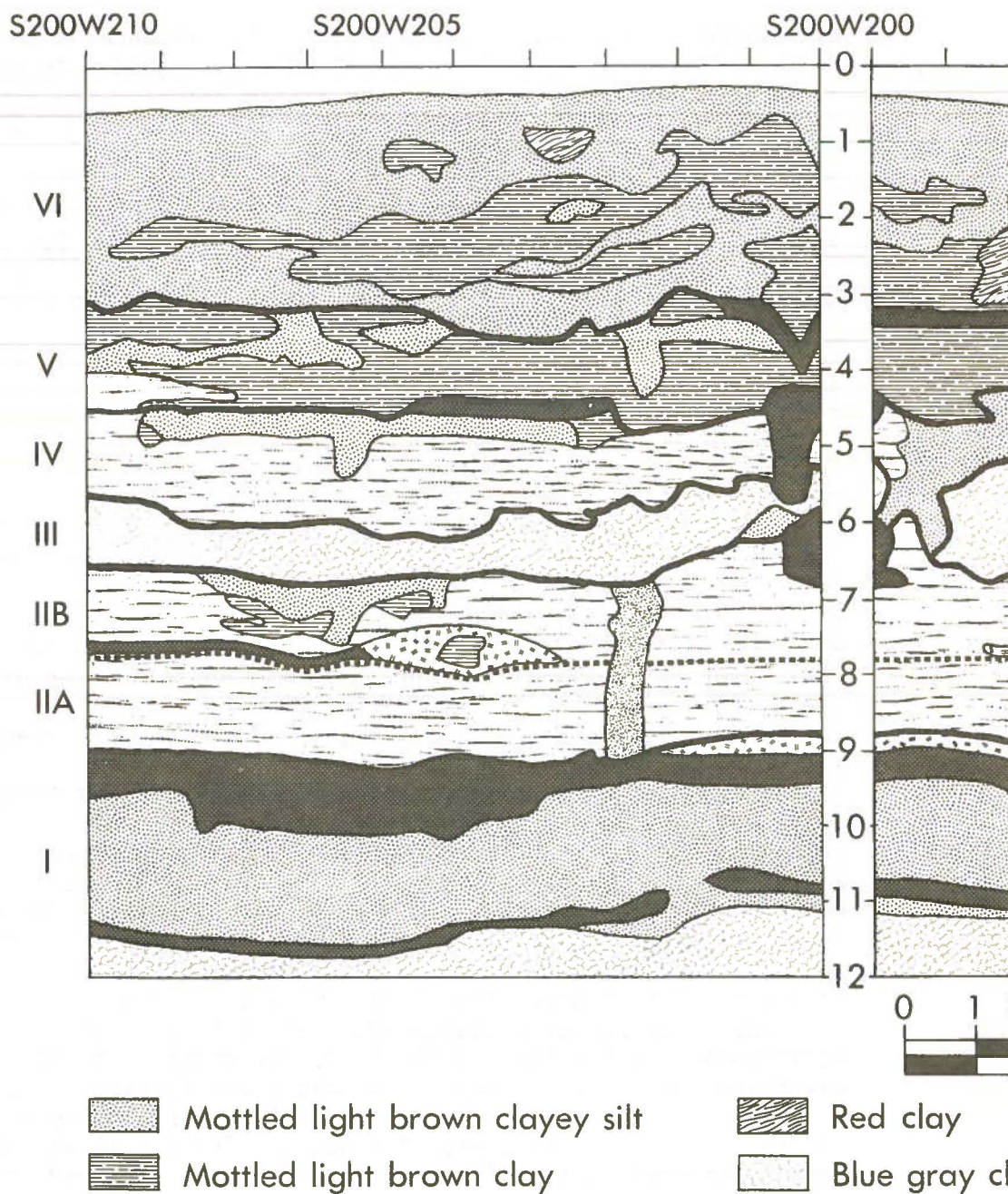
Excluding the unlikely possibility that the mound had

been begun in some sort of depression, the evidence at the base of the mound suggests that the Lake St. Agnes site was first occupied at a time when very little alluvium had accumulated on top of the gray clay. The base midden seems to be of late Marksville origin. During the first stage of mound construction, several feet of mottled, light brown, clayey silt were deposited. When dry, this silt becomes very hard and thus is an excellent mound-building material. A large pit had been scooped into the top of the clayey silt to a depth of about a foot. A number of human burials had been placed in the pit, and it then had been filled with midden. The midden again seems to be of late Marksville origin, although it contained some Baytown pottery as well--possibly intrusive from the overlying layer of fill.

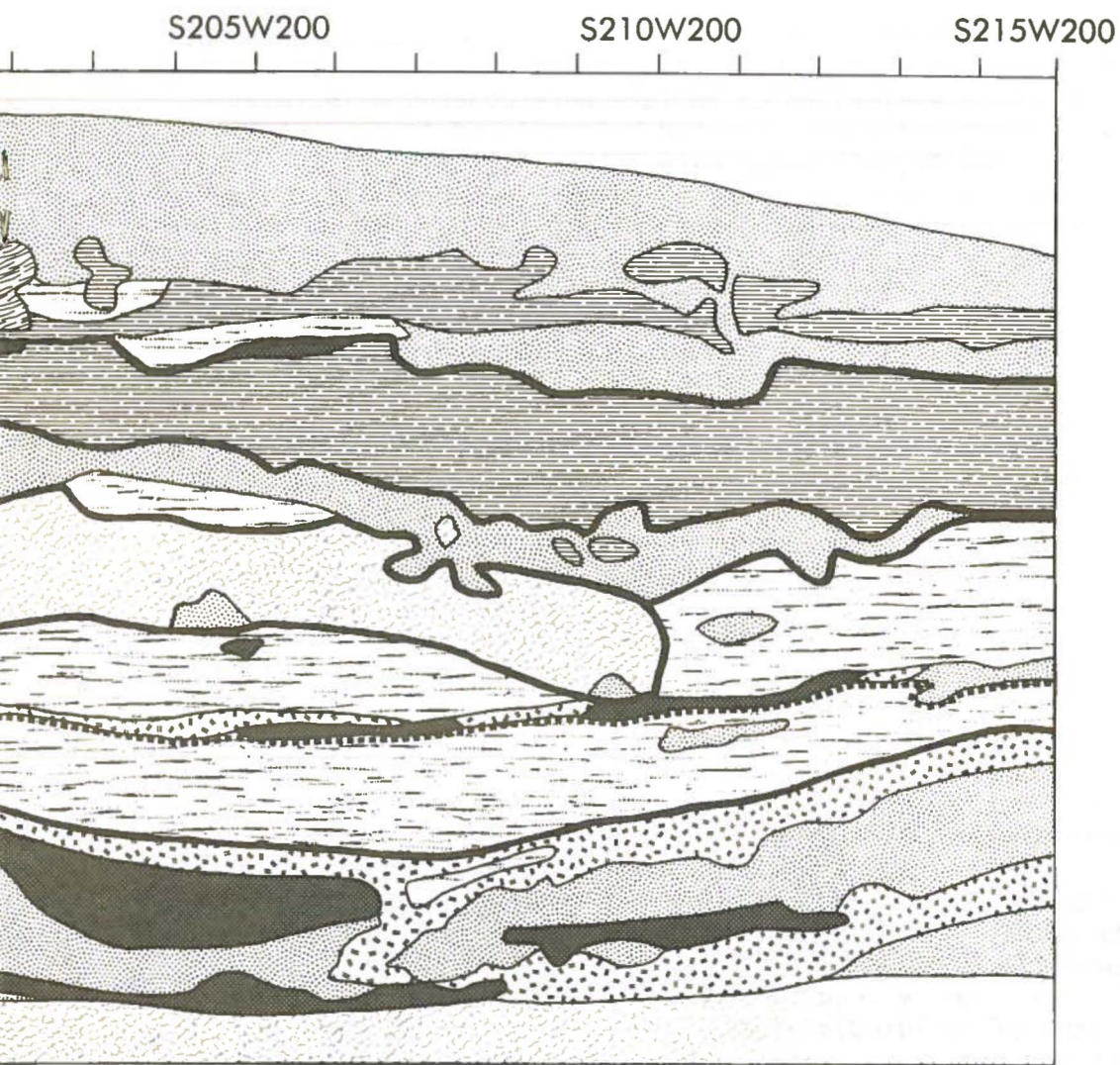
Unfortunately, not enough of the mound was excavated to determine if the clayey silt represents a prepared burial platform such as is found in the early Marksville mounds at Marksville, Crooks, and other lower valley sites (Fowke, 1928; Ford and Willey, 1940; Moore, 1912; Ford, 1963). Although this typical Marksville burial feature remains a strong probability, other classic features were missing. The burials were not accompanied by grave goods; there was no mantle of clay covering the platform; and there was no indication of the usual conical burial mound. The burials were simply deposited in a pit of midden on top of a possible prepared platform.

Burials were found in seven locations within the large pit. All were secondary, and it is impossible to determine the number of individuals represented. A minimum number would be five. Plate 5, figure 1, illustrates the top portion of the pit midden in which the burials were located. The dark zone visible at the bottom of the corner intersection of the profiles is part of the pit midden, and the area immediately in front of it is where the burials were uncovered.

The first burial encountered, Feature 5, consisted of an adult human cranium and a pile of charred bones. The maxilla was broken off *in situ*, and the mandible was missing. A pile of small ribs was situated near the skull, possibly representing an infant buried with the adult. The burial was definitely secondary, that is, the flesh had been stripped from



Text-figure 6. Mound profile, Lake St. Agnes site.



or decayed off the bones before the interment had taken place. The bones were covered by a loose frame of small poles about an inch in diameter, which in turn were covered with split cane matting. The covering had been allowed to burn partially, and as a result, all bones except the skull were badly charred. One excellent Marksville Incised sherd was found while the burial was being exposed.

Feature 6 was another incomplete burial. It consisted of an adult mandible and a few unarticulated bones. A separation of more than 4 feet casts doubt on the likelihood that the mandible is the one missing from the skull of Feature 5, but the possibility remains. Feature 6 was surrounded also by burned debris.

Feature 7 was a very fragile skull that was located close to Feature 5, but outside the burned area of the pit. It was in poor condition and could not be exposed well enough to remove intact. Nearby was another isolated skull, Feature 10, in a similar state of deterioration; it was a child's cranium, and close by was a small mandible.

In the burned area, between Features 5 and 6, was a partial burial, Feature 11, which consisted of half a pelvis and several leg bones. The bones were charred badly, and only the pelvis could be removed intact. Although too widely separated for an in-the-flesh burial, it is conceivable that the pelvis and leg bones might be associated with the skull and other bones of Feature 5.

Just outside the burned area was a tightly bundled pile of bones, designated Feature 13. About one foot farther to the south were two crania, Feature 12. Neither of the features represented complete burials.

In summary, the first stage of mound construction consisted of building a platform of clayey silt into which a pit had been excavated. Several secondary burials had been placed in the pit, and a covering of cane matting burned over some of them. The pit had then been filled with midden that contained late Marksville ceramics and probably dates from that period. None of the burials was accompanied by grave offerings.

Stage II. A thin layer of gray, sandy silt covered the burial pit. The deposit inclined considerably upward to the

south, but not enough profile was exposed to determine if it were part of a mound. Whatever the case, the gray zone marked the base of the second stage of mound construction, during which nearly 3 feet of brown, sandy silt were deposited in two intervals. A thin lens of midden divides Stage II into two substages. The lens probably represents a short interval in which the construction was halted and the surface existing then was used for some purpose. By that time, the mound had been built up 4 feet, but it might not have appeared that high above the surrounding terrain, because alluviation was almost surely taking place simultaneously. After the interval of use, the final 12 to 18 inches of Stage II were added; again, the building material was brown, sandy silt.

Construction Stage II contained a mixture of late Marks-ville and Baytown ceramics, with Baytown predominating. All of the decorated sherds from the midden lens date to Troyville, and this seems reason enough to assign Stage II to that period. However, it has to be assumed that material deposited in a use zone is more likely to have been left by the builders than material found in mound fill. There are many possibilities that can make such an assumption invalid.

Stage III. The most definable mound layer consists of unbelievably tough, blue gray, buckshot clay. The source of this most stable material is the deposit of gray clay that lies uniformly under the entire site. The clay must have come from the bottom of one of the borrow pits, probably the slightly deeper one on the eastern side of the mound. The position of the blue gray clay, approximately halfway up the total mound profile, suggests that one borrow pit was finished before one on the other side of the mound was begun.

Because the blue gray clay comes from a deposit known to be sterile, any cultural debris found within it is very likely to be that of the people building with it. All of the decorated pottery found in Stage III dates from the Baytown period. Thus, it appears that the layer of blue gray clay was added to the mound by Baytown efforts.

Stage IV. There was no sign of use on the upper surface of the blue gray clay. Perhaps it became too difficult to ex-

tract more of this material from the borrow pit, and a new source of fill was selected. Whatever the reasons, another layer of brown, sandy silt and also brown, clayey silt was added to the mound: again, it seems that this was done during the Baytown period. A rather extensive floor of midden was exposed in the corner of the cut at a depth of 4.5 feet from the top of the mound: only a portion of the floor shows in the profile. Besides the Baytown material, the floor deposit also yielded several thick, notched rims that have a Baytown look. In short, it appears that Baytown construction efforts added three stages to the mound and resulted in a fairly level platform some 6.5 feet high.

Stage V. A fairly distinctive zone of mottled, light brown clay is designated as the fifth stage of construction. It is an essentially horizontal deposit, suggesting that the mound was flat topped by the time this stage was completed. In terms of decorated ceramics, there is not much to date the layer, and the few types of decoration represent several different time periods; however, the plain sherds from Stage V have the feel of Coles Creek manufacture. The one French Fork sherd adds strength to this possibility, and Stage V is assigned tentatively to the Coles Creek period.

Stage VI. There was absolutely no identifiable cultural material to date the uppermost layer of the mound. The final addition to the mound consists of a complicated mixture of clayey silt and mottled brown clay. When dry, the clay cracks far more than the clayey silt, and there is no difficulty in telling the building materials apart. Apparently, both were used randomly to complete the mound.

Several pockets of one other soil type were used for Stage VI, and they may help to date the layer. Two deposits of red clay, about the size of individual basket loads, are shown on the mound profile (Text-fig. 6). There is no mistaking this soil type--it covers most of the site and is definitely of Red River origin. The test pit stratigraphy showed that the red clay disappeared toward the bottom of the plow zone and that the Mississippian period was the only possible portion of the occupation sequence during which red clay might have been present at the site. The ap-

pearance of red clay within Stage VI of the mound is the sole evidence on which the final mound construction is assigned to the Plaquemine occupation. Such an association not only is logical, but also it is enhanced by the presence of Plaquemine burials on top of the mound, which demonstrates that Plaquemine peoples at least used the mound.

In review, although some associations are weak, there is reason to believe that each of the cultures represented at the Lake St. Agnes site took part in mound construction. According to the proposed sequence of construction, a low platform containing a burial pit was erected during late Marks-ville times. Three additional stages were added during the Baytown period, resulting in a fairly level platform mound approximately 6 feet high. During the Coles Creek period, another layer was added, and a thin midden lens suggests that the flat surface of the new mound was used for some activity. Finally, the mound attained its ultimate form during the Mississippian period. The total height of the structure at its completion was 11 feet. However, during the thousand years or so during which the mound was being built, floods had added some 6 feet of alluvium to the surrounding terrain so that it never had a net height of over 5 or 6 feet.

Late Burial Pit. To explore the stratigraphy of the Lake St. Agnes mound further, a second excavation unit was planned. The proposed unit was to be a bulldozer cut running east/west directly through the center of the mound to provide a longer and more complete profile of the mound along one axis. The cut was begun, but on the second pass, burials were uncovered at a depth of less than a foot. The subsequent excavation in the burial pit, Feature 8, precluded continuation of the proposed east/west trench.

Feature 8 was an oval pit dug into the top center of the mound. It appeared to be intrusive into the completed mound and contained multiple, secondary burials. The pit was approximately 7 feet long, 4 feet wide, with rounded ends. The long axis was oriented northeast/southwest. The pit was 1.8 feet deep, but considering that some of the mound surface was removed during land clearing, it must have been somewhat deeper originally. In the main, the burials

were undisturbed, although there is evidence that the upper portion of the pit was within the plow zone. Potsherds collected from the surface several months prior to excavation fitted into vessels found within the pit.

The cross section of Feature 8 revealed stratigraphy not found in the profiles of the southwest cut. The burials were surrounded by a dark brown clay mixed with midden. The pit was intrusive into a layer of gray clay mottled with olive lumps. The gray clay in turn rested on mixed brown clay and clayey silt that was similar to the upper mound fill found in the southwest profiles. The olive gray clay under the burial pit was distinctly different from the layer of gray clay containing the reddish lumps that comprised construction Stage III. Soil auger holes showed that the gray with olive lumps was the natural layer underneath the gray clay with red mottling. In short, apparently the deepest material from the borrow pits was used to add a clay cap to the mound's summit. Exploratory holes on top of the mound showed that the cap averaged 0.8 feet in thickness and covered an area at least 20 feet square. The olive gray clay did not extend as far as the southwest excavation unit.

There were at least ten burials in Feature 8, for portions of that many skulls were uncovered. The burials were all secondary and included the remains of both young and adult individuals. Several layers of partially extended midsections were superimposed, but none of the skeletons was complete. Most of the skulls were on a level slightly beneath that of the torsos and leg bones, and were grouped in clusters at either end of the pit. It appeared that the mixed remains of all of the individuals were buried at the same time.

A view of the first three burials uncovered is provided in Plate 5, figure 2. Burial 3 is just left of the north arrow. The mandible of Burial 1 can be seen protruding from the cranium immediately above Burial 3. To the left of Burial 1 is a complete bowl, with L'Eau Noir Incised, variety *Anna* decoration covering its interior. Burial 3 is just to the right of Burial 1. Unarticulated long bones fill the right portion of the photograph. This layer continued over the cluster of skulls.

Four complete or nearly complete vessels were found as

grave offerings (Plate 6). Three vessels accompanied Burial 1, and one vessel was with Burials 7 through 10. The whole vessels clearly identify the burial pit as a Plaquemine effort.

A complete bowl was placed upside down just northwest of the cranium of Burial 1; the interior was decorated with L'Eau

Table 4. Burial pit ceramics

WHOLE VESSELS

Bowl: L'Eau Noir Incised, var. *Anna*
 Jar: Coleman Incised, var. *Coleman*
 Jar: Coleman Incised, Avoyelles Punctated
 Wide-mouth bottle: Baytown Plain, var. *Addis*

PLAQUEMINE CERAMICS

Plaquemine Brushed		Avoyelles Punctated	
var. <i>Plaquemine</i>	4	var. <i>Dupree</i>	1
Harrison Bayou Incised		Evansville Punctated	
var. <i>Harrison Bayou</i>	5	var. <i>Wilkinson</i>	1
Coles Creek Incised		Coleman Incised	
var. <i>Hardy</i>	9	var. <i>Coleman</i>	2
Mazique Incised		var. <i>St. Agnes</i>	9
var. <i>Manchac</i>	10	var. <i>Unspecified</i>	4

ADDITIONAL CERAMICS

Baytown Plain		Mulberry Creek Cord Marked	
var. <i>Unspecified</i>	388	var. <i>Edwards</i>	1
Coles Creek Incised		Alligator Incised	
var. <i>Chase</i>	2	var. <i>Alligator</i>	1
var. <i>Unspecified</i>	1	Marksville Stamped	
Mazique Incised		var. <i>Manny</i>	1
var. <i>Unspecified</i>	2	var. <i>Troyville</i>	3
French Fork Incised		Marksville Incised	
var. <i>Unspecified</i>	1	var. <i>Goose Lake</i>	1
Larto Red		Unclassified	7
var. <i>Larto</i>	5		
Woodville Zoned Red			
var. <i>Woodville</i>	2		

Noir Incised, variety *Anna* . The bowl measured 9.5 inches in diameter and was 3 inches high (Pl. 6, fig. d).

Adjacent to the cranium of Burial 1 and on top of Burial 3 was a nearly complete jar with Coleman Incised decoration. The jar is 4 inches in diameter and 3 inches high. Six parallel incised lines circle the upper portion of the vessel and make four symmetrically positioned loops. Two small decorated lugs are located above two of the loops (Pl. 6, fig. a).

Beneath the cranium of Burial 1 was half of a second jar. Parallel incised lines encircle the rim, and the decoration falls within the category of Coleman Incised. A series of concentric circles, composed of incised lines, highlight the four lobes of the vessel. The background is filled with irregular punctations, similar to the decorative treatment of Avoyelles Punctated. The jar is 3 inches in rim diameter and 3 inches high (Pl. 6, fig. b).

The mixed remains of Burials 7 through 10 were accompanied by a nearly complete wide-mouthed bottle. The bottle is undecorated, but is made of Plaquemine-quality pottery. It is 7 inches high and has a rim diameter of 3 inches; maximum diameter of the bottle is 6 inches (Pl. 6, fig. c).

In addition to the complete vessels, the burials in Feature 8 were accompanied by lithic grave goods. Burial 5 had a large quartz crystal with it, and Burial 3 had been given a hammerstone and a polishing stone. Two broken projectile points were found in Feature 8, but could not be associated with any of the burials.

Table 4 lists the other pottery found in Feature 8. Most of the decorated potsherds are characteristic of the Mississippian period, but some earlier material is also present. The earlier material must indicate that the burial pit was partially filled with midden left during other periods of site occupation.

In summary, Feature 8 represents a burial pit dug into the summit of the completed mound during the Mississippian period. It contained at least 10 individuals who were buried together in a disorganized fashion well after their deaths. The deceased were provided with several pottery vessels and a few stone implements to use in the hereafter. Scattered

human skeletal material on the surface of the mound suggests that the structure may have been used for several other burial pits similar to Feature 8.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Excavation and thorough analysis of all available evidence document the fact that the Lake St. Agnes site was occupied for approximately fourteen centuries. The occupation was probably not continuous over the entire period, but recurrent. Perhaps the site was used as a seasonal camp during some years and as a permanent settlement during others. Surely there were times when the area was not used at all, but ceramic analysis indicates that these were short intervals. Apparently, the advantages in game and transportation offered by the floodplain environment produced an attractive location for aboriginal habitation.

The sequence of occupation at the site can be divided into four culture periods. The first use of the site was during the late part of the Marksville period, from roughly A.D. 200 to A.D. 400. At that time, a platform of clayey silt was erected to provide a resting place for the bones of the deceased, but the usual conical Marksville burial mound was never erected. The ceramics and projectile points left during the earliest defined site occupation are closely similar to other late Marksville artifacts, most notably those of the Issaquena populations, whose sites are widespread in the Tensas and Yazoo basins (Greengo, 1964). Comparable late Marksville material also can be found in the lower Red River region at such sites as Baptiste on the edge of the Marksville Prairie and the Gorum site near Catahoula Lake. During the Marksville period, the average level terrain at Lake St. Agnes was perhaps as much as 6 feet lower than it is today. The deposition of post-Marksville alluvium may account for the general lack of success in locating Marksville village areas within the site.

The second culture period identified at Lake St. Agnes lasted from A.D. 400 to A.D. 700. Three stages were added

to the mound, resulting in a platform some 6 feet high. Two new ceramic decorations, red filming and cordmarking, link the Baytown population with other regions. Similar pottery can be found at the famous Troyville site in Jonesville, Louisiana (Walker, 1936), and at a number of Marsden and Deasonville phase sites in the Tensas and Yazoo basins. Again, it is difficult to define the exact locations of Baytown settlement at the site, but some material from the lowest level of the test pits suggests that the edge of the lake bed west of the mound was at least one place where Baytown peoples camped.

Another layer of clay was added to the mound during the Coles Creek period. By the end of this third culture period, the mound was probably a flat-topped structure and possibly was used to elevate one or more important buildings. Assuming that a popular model of settlement pattern (Sears, 1964; Williams, 1963) is correct, it is likely that the site was a minor Coles Creek ceremonial center used by a dispersed rural population, as well as by site inhabitants. Coles Creek ceramics at Lake St. Agnes are virtually identical to those found abundantly throughout the lower Mississippi Valley (Ford, 1936). The most obvious affinity is with Coles Creek material found at the Greenhouse site, which is only 11 miles to the southwest. A great many parallels exist between the Greenhouse and Lake St. Agnes sites, and findings of the far more extensive excavations at Greenhouse (Ford, 1951) can be used to predict likely results of future excavations at Lake St. Agnes.

The Mississippian culture period, from A.D. 1100 to A.D. 1400, appears to have been a time of maximum site utilization. Characteristic Plaquemine ceramics far outnumber those of the preceding periods. It is hypothesized that during the Plaquemine occupation, the Red River began to flood the site seasonally, leaving a deposit of red clay. A final stage was added to the mound, resulting in a flat-topped pyramidal structure about 6 feet above the natural terrain that, in turn, was also about 6 feet higher than it was when the mound was begun almost 1000 years earlier. The mound summit was used for at least one pit containing a number of secondary burials. Plaquemine ceramics from the site are again closely

comparable to those made throughout the lower Mississippi Valley. The nearest Plaquemine ceremonial center with nearly identical material is the L'Eau Noir site, only three and a half miles to the west.

Considering the size and richness of the Lake St. Agnes site, it is obvious that a month of fieldwork is sufficient only to tap the knowledge of site history. More village excavations, especially in the far western area and the location northeast of the mound, will add considerable detail to the sequence of occupation. Larger samples of faunal and floral material are needed to speculate on changes in dietary habits. Future excavations must go deeper to explore the possibility of buried Marksville village midden. The major portion of the mound is still intact and almost surely more burials and more artifacts remain to be uncovered. Many feet of undis-turbed mound profile exist and contain answers to many of the questions brought to light by the work done to date.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

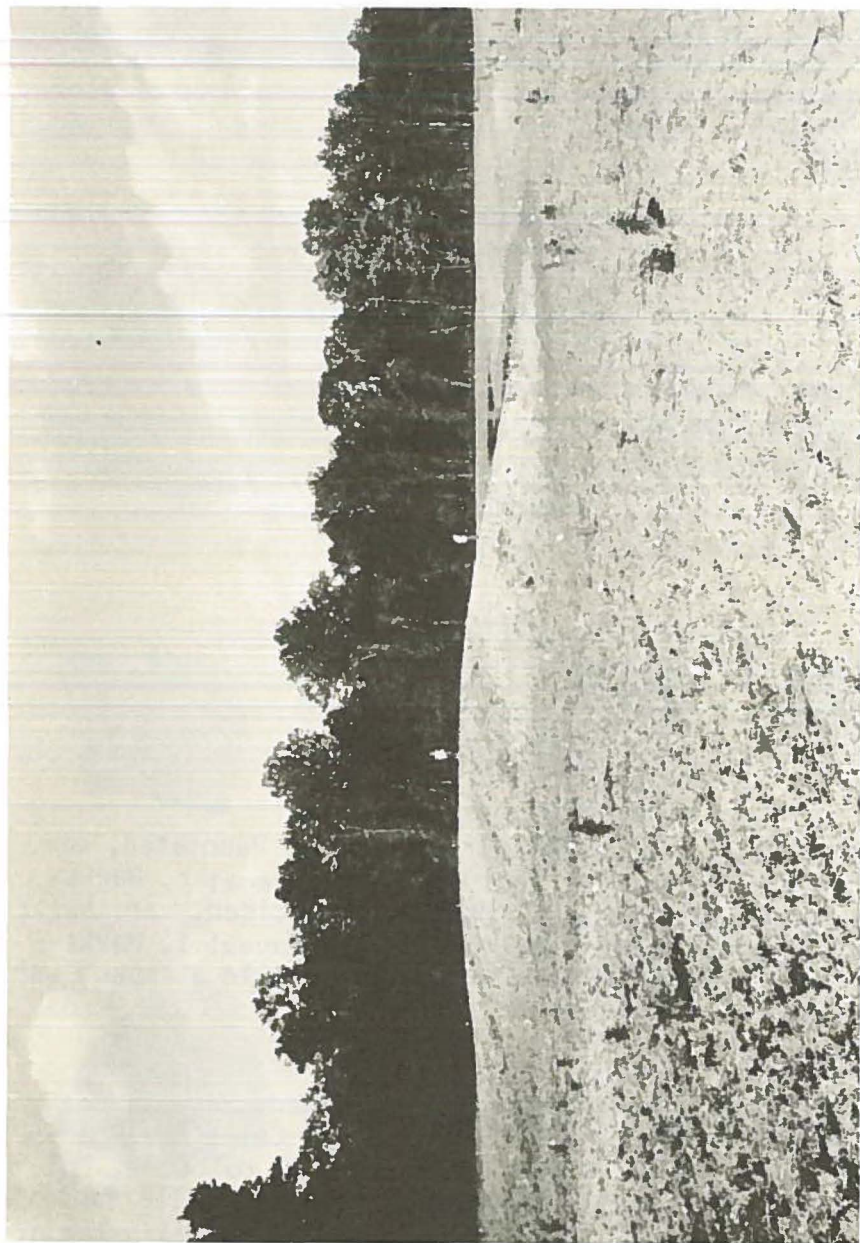
Many persons helped to make the excavations at Lake St. Agnes a successful endeavor. Indeed, I am indebted to more people than I can possibly acknowledge adequately. I would like to thank especially the following persons without whom there would have been no excavation: Marc Dupuy, Jr., and his brothers Richard, Charles, and Robert, who provided not only permission to work on the site, a beautiful camp for our headquarters, and generous assistance every step of the way, but also financial support for the entire operation; Wedon T. Smith and Ernest H. Scott of Jonesville, Louisiana, who, as part owners of the site, also extended full cooperation; Jim Guillory and the Avoyelles Soil Conservation Service for surveying the site and supplying the bulldozer; Robert Neuman for his technical advice and constant guidance; Philip Rivet for taking over much of the actual field supervision; Richard T. Mayeux for the loan of a backhoe; Philip B. Larimore for the computer-run contour map of the site; Dennis and Daniel DeCuir for operating the power equipment, and their great company. To an already long list, I add my thanks to the members of my crew and others who participa-

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Lake St. Agnes mound prior to excavation, view from southwest.

PLATE 2

1. Marksville period ceramics. a, Churupa Punctated, var. unspecified; b, Marksville Incised, var. *Yokena*; c, Marksville Stamped, var. *Manny*; d, Marksville Incised, var. *Marksville*; e, Marksville Incised, var. *Steele Bayou*; f, Marksville Incised, var. *Spanish Fort*; g, Marksville Stamped, var. *Troyville*.

2. Troyville period ceramics. a, Larto Red, var. *Larto*; b, Woodville Zoned Red, var. *Woodville*; c, Coles Creek Incised, var. *Hunt*; d, Alligator Incised, var. *Oxbow*; e, Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, var. *Edwards*; f, Evansville Punctated, var. *Braxton*; g, Alligator Incised, var. *Alligator*.

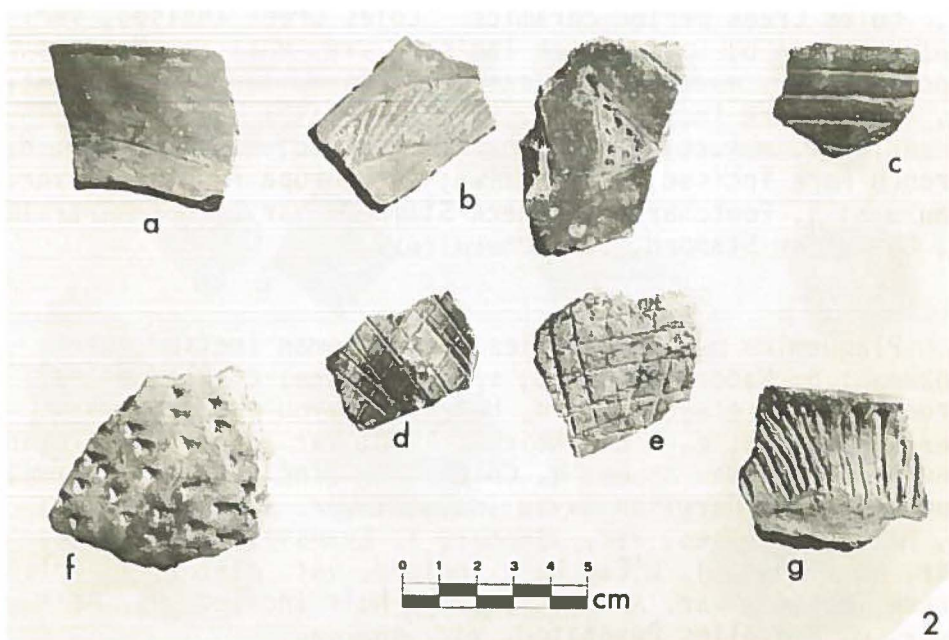
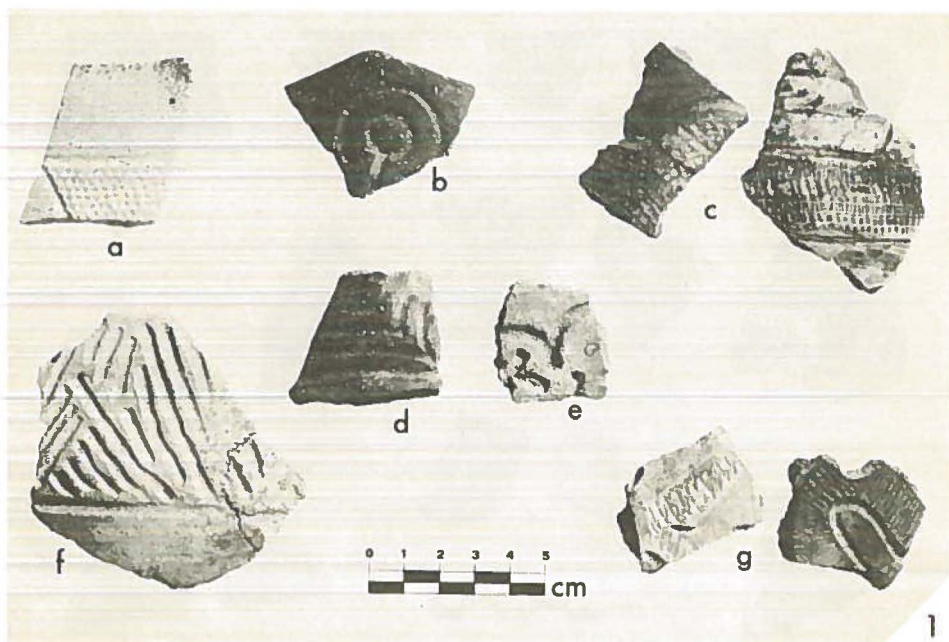


PLATE 3

1. Coles Creek period ceramics. Coles Creek Incised, var. *Coles Creek*; b, Coles Creek Incised, var. *Mott*; c, Mazique Incised, var. *Mazique*; d, Mazique Incised, var. *Kings Point*; e, French Fork Incised, var. *French Fork*; f, French Fork Incised, var. *McNutt*; g, French Fork Incised, var. *Laborde*; h, French Fork Incised, var. *Larkin*; i, Churupa Punctated, var. *Churupa*; j, Pontchartrain Check Stamped, var., *Pontchartrain*; k, Chevalier Stamped, var. *Chevalier*.

2. Plaquemine period ceramics. a, Coleman Incised, var. *Coleman*; b, Maddox Engraved, var. *Baptiste*; c, Plaquemine Brushed, var. *Plaquemine*; d, Harrison Bayou Incised, var. *Harrison Bayou*; e, L'Eau Noir Incised, var. *Anna*; f, Coleman Incised, var. *St. Agnes*; g, Coles Creek Incised, var. *Hardy*, combined with Harrison Bayou Incised, var. *Harrison Bayou*; h, Mazique Incised, var. *Manchac*; i, Evansville Punctated, var. *Wilkinson*; j, L'Eau Noir Incised, var. *Carter*; k, Coles Creek Incised, var. *Hardy*; l, L'Eau Noir Incised, var. *L'Eau Noir*; m, Avoyelles Punctated, var. *Dupree*.

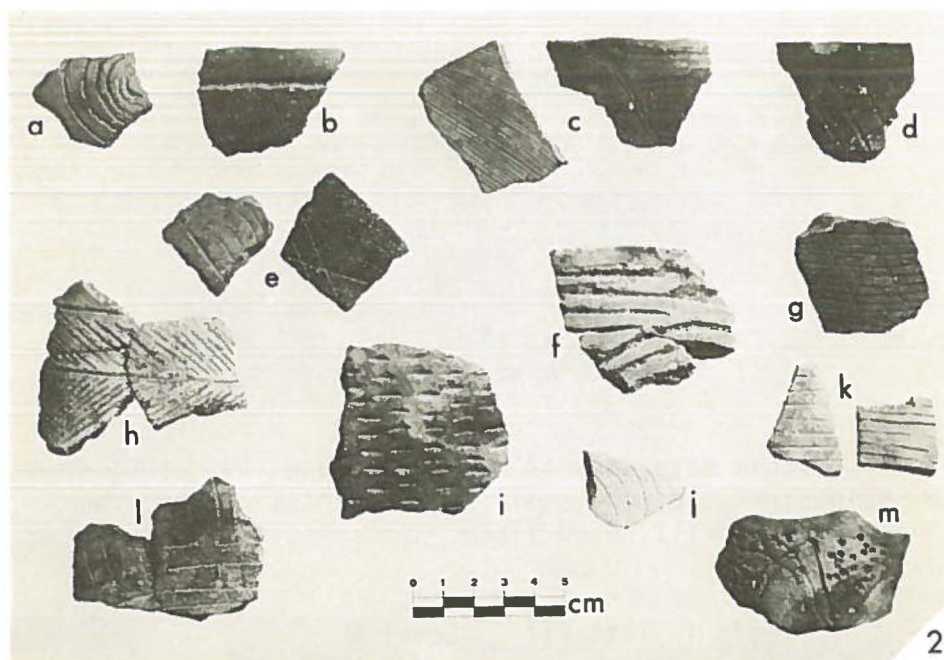
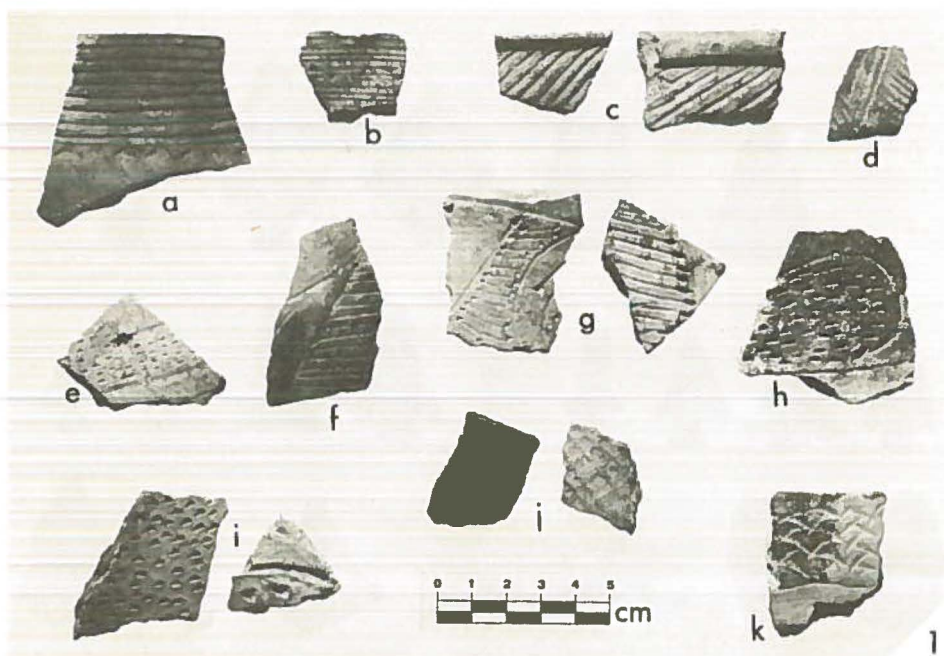


PLATE 4

1. Lithic materials from site surface. Top row, dart points; middle row, small arrow points; bottom row, scrapers, drill, used flake.

2. Firepit in Test Pit 3, Level E.

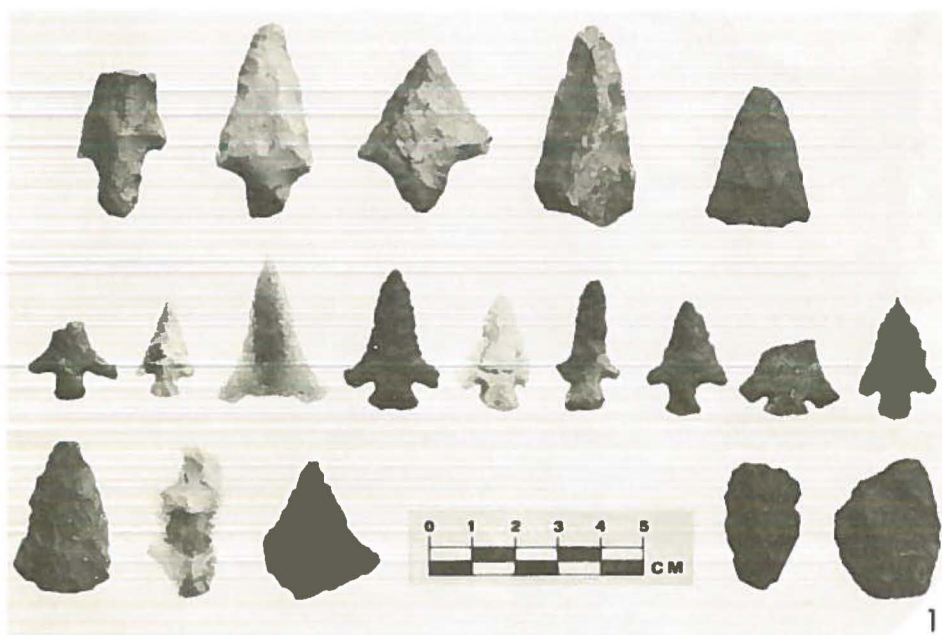


PLATE 5

1. Marksville burial platform.
2. Feature 8, late burial pit; Burials 1, 2, and 3.

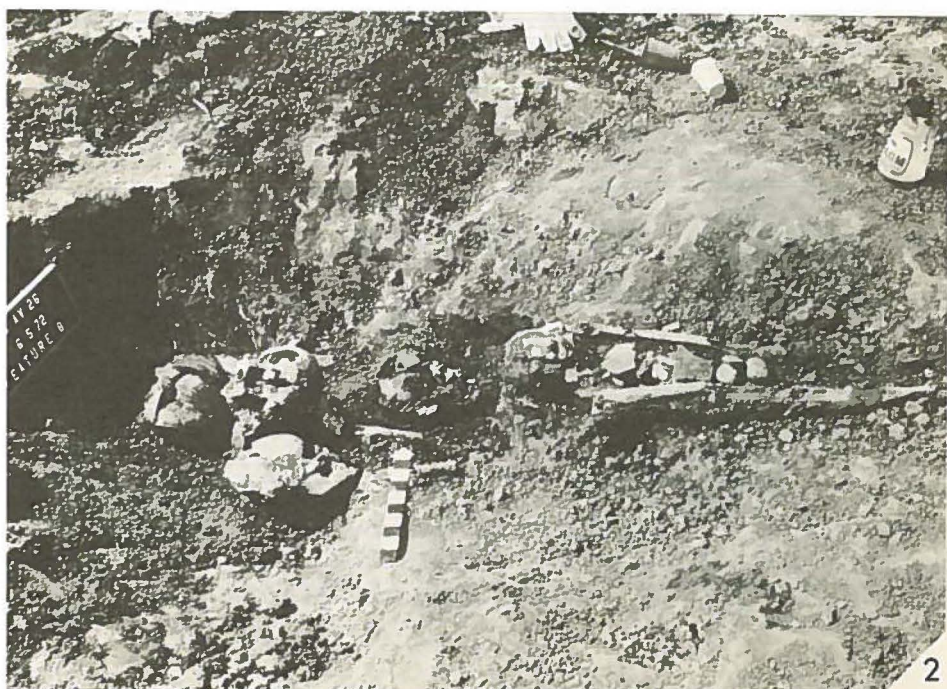
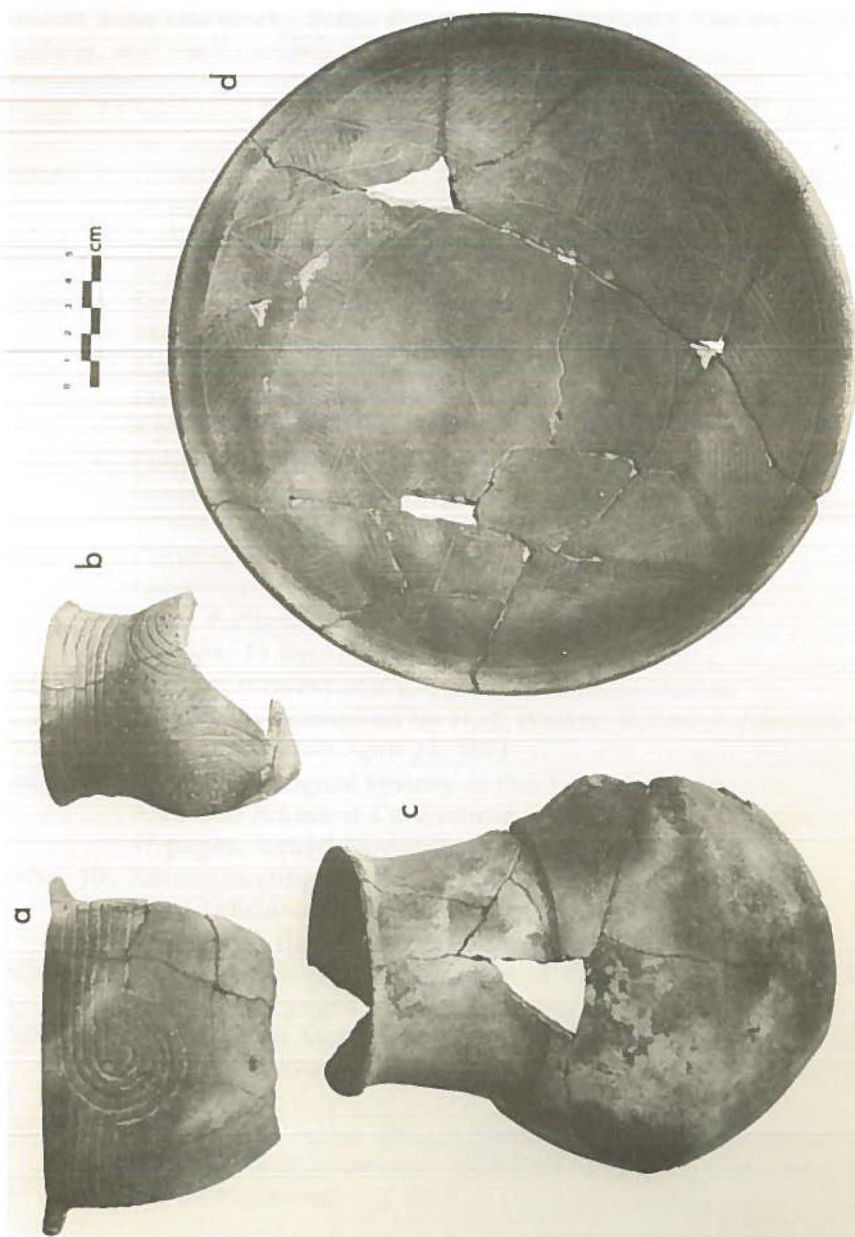
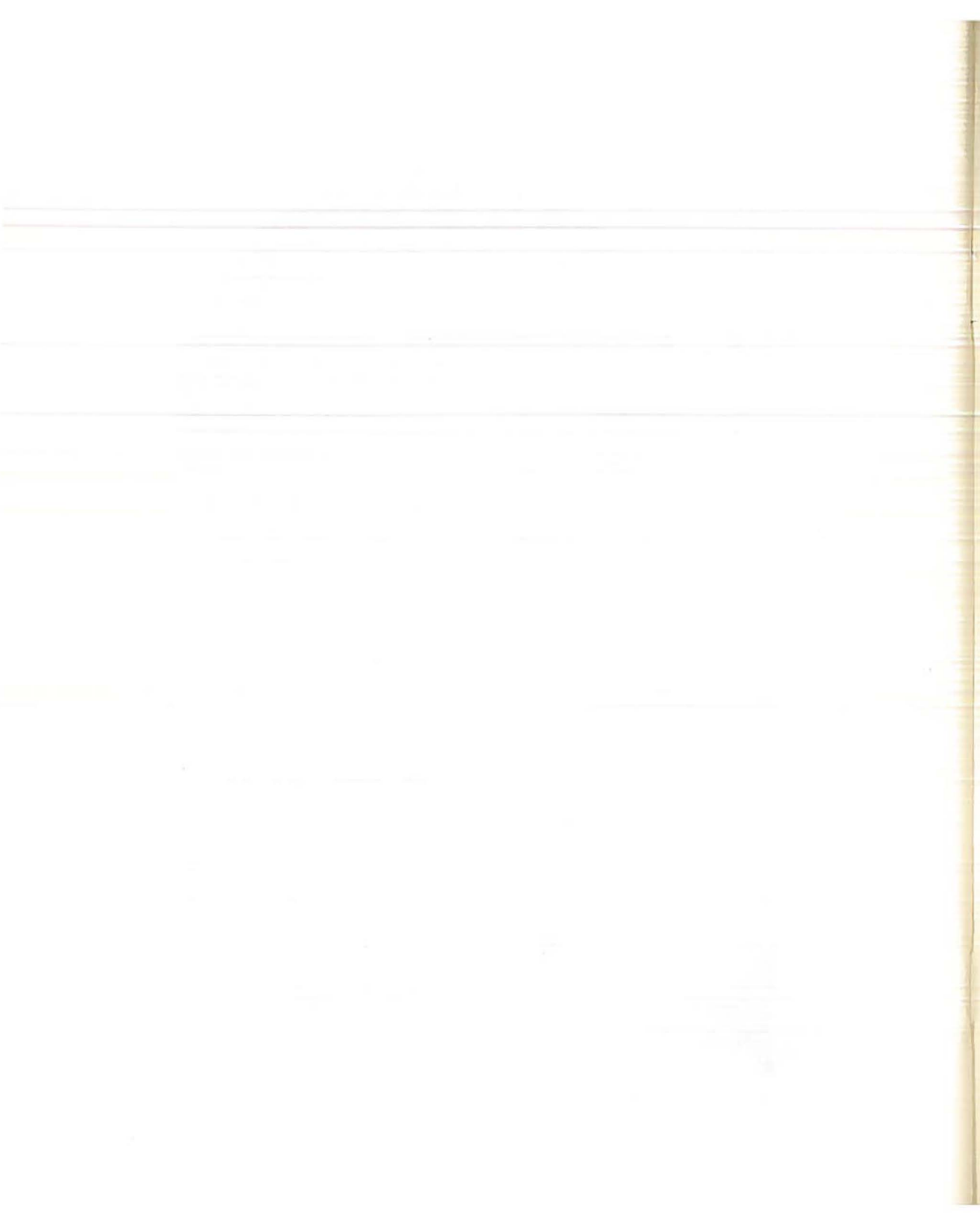


PLATE 6

a, jar, Coleman Incised decoration; b, jar, Coleman Incised decoration; c, wide-mouthed bottle, Plaquemine-quality pottery; d, bowl, L'Eau Noir Incised, variety *Anna*.





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