

CHAPTER I

Introduction to the Excavations, 1905-1951

The excavations at Moundville reflect the development of American archaeology during the first half of the twentieth century. Clarence B. Moore's excavations, which were motivated by a desire to increase museum collections, reflected, and in some cases surpassed, the accepted archaeological techniques of 1905. The Alabama Museum of Natural History excavations began in 1929 using Moore's techniques as a model; later the museum personnel incorporated the archaeological techniques under development in the American mid- and south-west. By the late 1930's, Moundville archaeologists had developed their own set of techniques and had become not mere passive recipients but active contributors to the corpus of method and techniques which guides American archaeology today.

Methods and Techniques

Clarence B. Moore's basic technique was to excavate totally what he thought to be the richest areas of a site. At Moundville he test-pitted most of the major mounds and trenched the areas surrounding the mounds. When an area of burials was discovered, his crew proceeded to clean it

out. Data recovery was limited to the whole or unusual artifacts, their approximate location within an excavated area, and notes on burial associations. Stratigraphic records, where discontinuities were obvious, were kept sporadically, but systematic mapping of the horizontal or vertical associations of burials, artifacts and strata was not attempted. Furthermore, most classes of archaeological features recognized today, with the exception of burials, went unseen in Moore's excavations.

When the Alabama Museum of Natural History began excavating at Moundville in 1929, C. B. Moore's techniques served as their guide. These early excavations by the Museum were stimulated, among other reasons, by a desire to show that Moore had not exhausted the area as he had stated. Walter Jones said after the close of the 1931 field season, "Our Museum has already obtained a much larger collection [than] that Clarence Moore secured, and we feel that the area will continue to give up its secrets for many years to come" (Jones 1931:1).

As with Moore, the purpose for the early Alabama Museum of Natural History excavations was still to obtain museum specimens. Thus, neither excavation maps nor stratigraphic profiles were drawn. Archaeological

features other than the burials and their associations went unrecognized and unrecorded.

However, after the initial excavations in 1929 and 1930, the use of C. B. Moore's techniques was discarded by the Alabama Museum of Natural History. Horizontal plots of the burials were made, although other archaeological features, with the exception of an occasional fireplace, still went unnoticed. It was only after David DeJarnette's return from the University of Chicago's field school in 1932 that a marked improvement in the recognition of archaeological features took place. Even at this point though, stratigraphy was not considered to be an important class of data at Moundville.

The excavators were aware of stratigraphic techniques; this is implicit in their work at other Alabama sites (Webb and DeJarnette, 1942; DeJarnette and Wimberly, 1940). No doubt, if these men had excavated one of the mounds at Moundville, stratigraphic profiles would have been drawn. However, the decision to excavate only the village areas at Moundville, which were seen by these men as single component sites, obviated, in their minds, the necessity for stratigraphic control. Hence, most burials are described as "X" number of inches below the surface rather than in a given stratum and at a depth below a fixed datum point.

Stratigraphic placement (with one exception) continued to play a minor role in the excavations at Moundville during the most active archaeological years there, 1935 to 1940. The exception was the excavation of Mound W---which is probably not a mound at all but a natural rise in the ground. In contradistinction to most other excavations at Moundville, the excavations at Mound W were conducted on a vertical rather than on a horizontal face. In this way, with the exception of the burials and fire pits which could not be ignored, the depth of the working floor was below the bottom of the house features. The records for the Mound W excavations contain profile sheets in addition to individual sheets for burials and firepits. No horizontal plot of the excavated area was made because the excavation technique used to produce stratigraphic profiles was incompatible with that used for the horizontal plotting of house floors.

In general the archaeological techniques used at Moundville from 1935 to 1940 led to the recognition of most of the classes of data that would be considered relevant today. These various classes of features and artifacts were recorded in a three dimensional system: by grid square and depth below the surface. House wall

trenches and post molds were generally left until either an archaeological floor could be cleared in an area or until a house floor was recognized. The horizontal drawing was then made at this point; a point at which all the stratigraphic data above the floor had been removed. Sometimes the wall trenches or post molds were then cleaned out and their depth below the surface noted.

Both stratigraphic recording and horizontal plots of the features were attempted by Maurice Goldsmith during the Roadway Excavations, but they were not completely successful. Although the failure to use stratigraphic techniques in the excavations should be and is a minor criticism of the work done at Moundville, it was not the most crucial set of data overlooked by the excavators.

The most crucial oversight by the excavators was the failure to provide a master grid system for the site. Each of the Alabama Museum of Natural History's excavations, as can be seen on figure I-1, had either its own grid system, its own boundaries or its own general location. Each excavation was then located more or less tentatively with respect to some topographic or cultural feature on the site. Unfortunately, in some of the excavations, nothing more than an approximate location was given.

For this reason the first task in the reconstruction of the field notes from Moundville was the construction of a master map which would accurately locate all the excavations with respect to the site and the topography. This was necessary before any other work could proceed.

Location of the Excavations.

C. B. Moore was the first archaeologist to produce a map of the Moundville site (1905:129). It was he who gave the mounds the alphabetical designations which are still used today. Moore designated the location of his excavations by a descriptive term which placed the excavated area in relation to one of the mounds (e.g., field west of Mound N). Because Moore produced no excavation maps for the various areas he dug, the locations of his excavations on the master map (figure I-1) are only approximations.

Like C. B. Moore, the Alabama Museum of Natural History continued to use the mound-area designations as units of description for locating an excavation (e.g., west of Mound P), but the placement of the Alabama Museum of Natural History excavations on the master map, with the exception of those for which no field maps were drawn, is much more precise than the location of Moore's excavations. The combination of topographical clues

contained in the field records, the locations expressed in terms of relations to man-made features, and the use of aerial photographs which clearly show many of the excavations provided the basis on which these areas were placed on the master map.

The master map (Moundville: Topography and Archaeological Excavations, 1905-1951), figure I-1, is a composite of a topographical map and a planning map of Mound State Park to which the excavations of ^{C.} B. Moore and the Alabama Museum of Natural History have been added. The topographic map, drawn by G. W. Jones and Sons Engineers in 1930, provides the basic topographic data for the site. This relief map was cross-checked with recent (1967) aerial photographs for the Moundville area.

The areas of the proposed Roadway, Administration Building, and Museum were all excavated prior to the initiation of construction. These areas, which were on a map of the General Development Plan for Mound State Monument, were rescaled with the aid of a reflecting projector and fitted to the topographic map. Again the results were cross-checked with modern aerial photographs for consistency and accuracy of fit. Lastly, the excavations of C. B. Moore and the Alabama Museum of

Figure I-1. Master Map of Moundville Topography and
Archaeological Excavations 1905-1951. Located in
back pocket.

Natural History were fitted into the composite map of the mound area.

The criteria used to place the excavations on the master map varied in relation to the amount of data available for each excavation. For this reason, the placement of each excavation on the master map will be discussed individually. Like Clarence B. Moore and the Alabama Museum of Natural History, I have used the lettered mound areas as a device to partially organize this discussion. In addition to the locational data for each excavation, a brief synopsis of the material recovered from the excavations will be given; thus rounding out the introduction to the excavation reports. The report on the excavations themselves follow in Chapters II through XI.

The following sections of this chapter list the locational data and give a brief synopsis for each of the Moundville excavations. The excavations which are given a lettered mound area designation are first; second, excavations which were given designations other than mound-area designations (Administration Building, Museum Parking Lot) are presented; third, the Roadway excavation, which cuts across many areas of the site is presented. Lastly the Rhodes Site excavation, which is outside

Mound State Monument grounds is briefly discussed.

Mound A. In 1905 Moore sank thirty-three trial holes into the summit of Mound A with no success. This excavation is designated A-1 on the master map. Also, in 1905 and again in 1906, Moore excavated an area to the west of Mound A, designated A-2 on the master map, where he recovered several skeletons without burial accompaniments (Moore 1905:141; 1907:340). The Alabama Museum of Natural History conducted no excavations in the area around Mound A.

Mound B. During the 1905 season, C. B. Moore sank a few trial holes into the top of Mound B and found nothing. Therefore, this excavation has not been placed on the master map. Also, in 1905 Moore tested fields north (designated B-1) and west (designated B-2) of Mound B. The excavation north of Mound B was actually on the raised plaza area in front of the mound. Nothing was discovered in the excavation there. The field west of Mound B was equally unproductive for Moore, although on the western edge near the ravine he did manage to find three skeletons (1905:142). With the exception of some work in the 1930's to stabilize the mound, there has been no archaeological work in the area since 1905.

Mound C. Moore excavated the summit area of Mound C in 1905 and found some of the most richly accompanied burials that have come from the Moundville site. This excavation has been designated C-1 on the master map. Also, "A certain amount of digging was done...[in the area northeast of Mound C]...first near the end furthest from the mound and afterward not far from the base of Mound C, resulting in the discovery of thirty burials..." (1905:167). In 1906 Moore returned to the field northeast of Mound C but this time discovered little or nothing (1907:341). These excavations northeast of Mound C have been designated C-2 on the master map. The burials recovered by Moore from Mound C are presented in Chapter II of this volume.

The Alabama Museum of Natural History conducted some minor excavations north of Mound C in 1930. These excavations are designated by the Roman numeral I on the master map. One, perhaps two, burials were recovered during this excavation. The records from this excavation are extremely sparse, so only an approximate location is given on the map.

Mound D. The areas to the north and south of Mound D were explored extensively by both C. B. Moore and the Alabama Museum of Natural History. Moore also explored

the top of Mound D (D-1 on the master map) and found "disturbed soil and burials in the middle half of the eastern side and in the northern part of the western side" (1905:172). Moore excavated an area to the north of Mound D; this is designated D-2 on the map. Moore observed that the soil in this field was dark "such as that found in dwelling sites" (1905:178). His excavation in this area yielded several burials and a number of artifacts.

Both C. B. Moore and the Alabama Museum of Natural History excavated the raised bridge of land south of Mound D. Moore's excavations are designated D-3; the Museum's excavations have been number II. In 1905, Moore dug several trial holes in this strip of land and recovered many burials and artifacts (1905:184). He returned to this area again in 1906 and sank a trench 172 feet long with a maximum width of 46 feet. Considerable success was again the result of his labors (1907:341).

The Alabama Museum of Natural History almost completely excavated this strip of land south of Mound D during January and February of 1932. The limits of these excavations are outlined on the map. A horizontal plot was made of the burials (numbers 1417-1586) and the

topographic features of the area during the excavation south of Mound D; the artifacts recovered from south of Mound D were numbered SD1-1006. The plot of the ravines to either side of the excavated area made the location of this excavation on the master map quite accurate. A report of this excavation forms part of Chapter III of this volume.

The Alabama Museum of Natural History also did some salvage archaeology in an area east of Mound D which was to be used as a gravel pit. This excavation is numbered III on the master map. The specimens recovered from east of Mound D include burials 2593-2615 and artifacts ED1-45. No topographical features were included in the field map. Therefore, the location of this excavation on the map is only approximate.

One of the last excavations conducted in the Mound D area was initiated when some of "the CCC boys" happened upon two skeletons (numbers 2172 and 2173) north of Mound D. This was not really an excavation. Nonetheless, it is numbered IV on the master map.

Mound E. C. B. Moore sank thirty-three trial holes into the summit of Mound E during the 1905 season, but encountered no indications of burials (1905:188). The Alabama Museum of Natural History conducted five

excavations around Mound E during the years 1929 to 1932. The first of the excavations by the Museum, numbered VII on the map, were conducted during 1929 and 1930, north of Mound E. No field maps were drawn during these years but the boundaries of the areas excavated north of Mound E in 1930 were surveyed during the 1932 field season. Although not plotted on a map, burials 1169-1178 came from the 1929-1930 excavations north of Mound E.

A large area east of Mound E was excavated during December 1931 and January 1932. This area, like the excavations of 1930 was plotted on an excavation map prepared in 1932. Burials 1180-1415 and artifacts EE1-491 were recovered from this area.

The remaining excavations near Mound E were accurately located in relation to the mound and to the surrounding ravines. Twelve trenches were put in to the east and south of Mound E during March of 1932; these excavations are labeled VI on the master map. Burials 1677-1682 and artifacts EE492-508 were recovered from these trenches.

Three excavations were conducted north of Mound E. The first in 1929 and 1930 has been discussed above. The next excavation, which was conducted in February 1932 and which is labeled VII on the map, is immediately south of

the 1929-1930 excavations. Burials 1587-1658 and artifacts NE165-593 were taken from this area.

The next excavations north of Mound E were in March 1932. Part of these excavations are immediately to the south of the February 1932 excavations; the remainder of the March excavation consists of two trenches west of the major block of excavations north of Mound E. Both these excavations are numbered IX on the master map. Burials 1660-1676 and artifacts NE594-601 were recovered in the last of the excavations north of Mound E. Chapter IV of this volume reports the excavations in the vicinity of Mound E.

Mound F. Mound F, which was seamed with gullies in 1905, was nonetheless excavated by Moore. He found several burials in the northeastern part of the plateau, hence he concentrated his excavations in that area. These excavations are labeled F-1 on the master map. The burials recovered by Moore from Mound F are presented in Chapter II of this volume.

The Alabama Museum of Natural History excavated an area to the east of Mound F in December 1933. The excavation map had sufficient topographical features to assure the proper location of the excavation. The area, which yielded burials 1689-1699 and artifacts EF1-5 is numbered X on the map.

Mound G. The summit of Mound G. was tested by C. B. Moore but neither pits, burials, nor artifacts were encountered (Moore 1905:194). In 1906, Moore put in some trial holes east of Mound G and discovered two burials (1907:343). These two excavations, the mound and the ground east of Mound G, have been designated G-1 and G-2 respectively on the master map.

The excavations south and southwest of Mound G, which have been numbered XIa and XIb on the master map, were conducted by the Alabama Museum of Natural History during January 1934. The division of this area into halves was purely arbitrary; the field drawings, which show the locations of the burials, also show the unified nature of the area excavated. However, the field records do not show how far south-southwest of Mound G the excavation was.

Fortunately, there were enough clues in the notes to accurately place the excavation on the map. First, from the orientation of a burial shed placed over the excavation (22° east of North) the orientation of the excavation was established. Second, there was a fence line shown cutting across the southwest corner of the excavation. This fence line, which is also the section line shown on the map (figure I-1), provided a



Figure I-2. AERIAL VIEW OF MOUND STATE PARK IN THE MIDDLE 1930'S. Photograph

courtesy Mound State Monument #6-660

reference point for that corner of the excavation. Therefore, when orientation and fence lines were properly aligned, the excavation was in its proper location. A further check was provided by an Alabama Air National Guard aerial photograph (MSM negative 6 660). This photograph (here reproduced as figure I-2) clearly shows the location of the excavation on the master map to be correct.

The artifacts and burials recovered from the excavation south and southwest of Mound G were numbered in accordance with the artificial division of the excavation. The skeletons from south of Mound G include numbers 1700-1714, 1730-1737, 1763, 1764, 1769, 1770, 1772-1774, 1776-1779, 1785, 1786, 1808-1817, and 1877-1884. Those burials from southwest of Mound G include numbers 1715-1729, 1738-1762, 1765-1768, 1771, 1773, 1775, 1780-1784, and 1787-1807. A description of these burials and the artifacts recovered from south and southwest of Mound G can be found in Chapter V of this volume.

In 1930, the Museum put in a number of trenches between Mounds G and H and met with no results whatsoever. This excavation, whose location on the map is only approximate, is numbered XII. Also in 1930, some digging

took place north-northeast of Mound G and skeletons 1006-1019 were found. However, due to lack of locational information in the notes, this excavation has not been placed on the master map.

On the fourth of July 1933, skeleton 1686 was discovered under the C. C. C. mess tent. Further digging in the mess tent area in 1934 yielded skeletons 1885-1891. The area of the mess tent was probably east of Mound G, but, again, this information was not considered accurate enough to place the excavation on the map.

Mound H. Although by 1905 Mound H had been heavily eroded and looted, Moore discovered several richly accompanied burials in an undisturbed section of the mound. His excavation has been designated H-1 on the master map. These burials are presented in Appendix II of this volume.

The Alabama Museum of Natural History excavated an area southeast of Mound H in November 1930. No excavation map was drawn so the location of the excavation, numbered XIII on the master map, is only approximate. Burials 801-812 and 864-873 and artifacts SEH1-105 were recovered from this excavation.

Mound I. Seventeen trial holes in the summit of Mound I produced no results (Moore 1905:198). However, the summit area has been designated I-1 on the master map. Two excavations were undertaken in the vicinity of Mound I by the Museum during November 1930. The first excavation, east of Mound I, is numbered XIV on the master map; the second, south of Mound I, is designated XV.

The excavation east of I yielded skeletons 813, 814, 816-857, 859-863, 1022, and 1023; artifacts recovered were numbered E11-105. The excavation south of Mound I contained skeletons 874-878 and artifacts S11-24.

Mound J and K. Both these mounds were test-pitted by C. B. Moore and the excavations are designated J-1 and K-1 respectively. The Mound J test revealed only a few bone fragments just below the surface of the summit. The Mound K test revealed no indications of burials, but Moore was convinced that burials had been formerly present and had been eroded away (1905:198-199).

Mound L. C. B. Moore dug through the summit of Mound L and met with no success. The Alabama Museum of Natural History excavated an area south of Mound L, which is designated XVI on the master map, but the records at

present are so confused as to make even the location suspect.

Mound M. During the 1905 field season, C. B. Moore put thirteen trial holes into the top of Mound M. (designated M-1 on the map) and recovered nothing (1905:199). In 1906 upon his return to Moundville, Moore excavated the remains of a conical mound in a field near Mound M. This excavation, from which Moore recovered several burials, is designated M-2 on the master map.

In December 1930 and January 1931, the Alabama Museum of Natural History excavated three areas in a field across a ditch southwest of Mound M. This field and ditch were located on the aerial photograph and the excavations were then placed on the area of the master map which corresponds to the field in the aerial photograph (see figure I-2). The three excavations were designated southeast, south, and southwest of Mound M by the Museum; here they have been numbered XVI, XVII, and XVIII respectively. Like other excavations of the early 1930's, no horizontal plots or square sheets were drawn. However, burial and artifact inventories and associations were kept. Burials 1135-1146 and artifacts SEM1-2 came from the excavation southeast of M; burials 972, 977 and 1030-1040, plus artifacts SM1-51 came from the excavation south

of Mound M; from the excavation southwest of Mound M came burials 880-885, 890-971, 978-1005, 1024-1029, and 1147-1161, and artifacts SWM1-274. Because of the proximity of these three excavations to the inferred location of the palisade wall, it is unfortunate that this wall was not recognized and plotted during these excavations.

Mound N. "Twenty nine trial holes, without discovery of any sort, convinced us [Moore] that this mound had not been used for burial purposes" (1905:199). This excavation is designated N-1 on the master map.

Moore also excavated in the field west of Mound N and found eight burials (1907:344). The approximate location of this excavation on the master map is given by the symbol N-2.

The Alabama Museum of Natural History excavated near Mound N in 1933, 1934 and 1936. Their excavation north of N', numbered XIX on the map, was one of the earliest excavations in which a grid system was used. The excavation north of N, numbered XX on the map was not mapped at the time of the excavation, and its location on the master map is only approximate.

The location of the excavation north of N' was listed in the field notes as being on the "Snipes Place" and on the "Griffen Estate." A drainage ditch which cut across

Check
M of
Griffen Thompson and
Monroe Griffen's and
New Milver Griffen's

the southwest part of the excavation was shown in the field drawings and there was a note that the area of excavation was 100 yards south of Mound W. From these clues, the location of the site was ascertained. The aerial photograph (MSM negative 6 660) showed the drainage ditch, land records showed which areas were in the Griffen estate (later purchased by Mound State Monument) and Mound W was already on the topographic sheet. Therefore, the location of this excavation on the master map is quite accurate.

The burials recovered from the excavation north of N' were numbered 1888 (found in April of 1934) and 2117-2136 (recovered in February of 1936); artifacts NN'1-42 were also recovered. The excavation north of Mound N netted skeletons 1683-1685 and one artifact.

Mound O. This Mound, which had a pot-hunters trench across it when Moore worked it in 1905, nonetheless still contained sufficient burials and artifacts for him to demolish the plateau completely. Moore excavated the top of Mound O to a depth of four to five feet (Moore 1905: 200). Moore's excavation is designated O-1 on the master map. There have been no excavations in the Mound O area since Moore's. The burials recovered from Mound O by Moore are presented in Appendix II of this volume.

Mound P. C. B. Moore put a number of trial holes into Mound P but neither burials nor artifacts were found (Moore 1905:218). The Alabama Museum of Natural History, on the other hand, conducted some of their most productive excavations west of Mound P.

The excavation of the proposed Museum area (June to August 1936) was designated "West of Mound P" by the Alabama Museum of Natural History; this excavation is numbered XXI on the master map.

The field map of the excavation west of P gives the location of the grid system by its distance from the bases of Mounds P and O. These data were cross-checked with the aerial photograph (MSM negative 6 660) on which the excavated area is clearly visible (see figure I-2). Given these data, the accuracy with which the excavation west of P is placed on the map has a very high probability of being accurate. Nonetheless, a further validation for the location given this excavation was provided when the Roadway Excavation was plotted on the map. The unexcavated portion of block 4+00 to 4+50 of the Roadway Excavation was itself a former roadway; this roadway was also the terminus of the excavation west of P. The fact that these two points, which were plotted independently, match so well is an added degree of

assurance for the reconstructions of the loci of both excavations.

Numerous burials (some of which are today in the museum's exhibit areas) were recovered in the excavations west of P; their numbers were 2174-2189, 2204-2223, 2225-2237, 2239-2244, 2248-2345, 2347-2373 and 2375-2383. The artifacts recovered were numbered WP1-243.

Another excavation in the area of Mound P was conducted by the Museum during February 1936 and was designated West of P'. This excavation has been numbered XXII on the master map. A temporary burial shelter was built over part of the excavation west of P' for use as a temporary museum. This burial shelter, it turned out, was the most crucial piece of data used to properly locate the excavation.

The burial shed, or what was thought to be the burial shed, was located and marked on the previously mentioned Alabama Air National Guard aerial photograph. The photograph was then sent to David DeJarnette who confirmed the accurate location of the structure. The excavation west of P' was plotted on the master map only after confirmation that the structure in the photograph was in fact the burial shed and not some other building (see figure I-1).

The burials recovered from the excavation west of P' were numbered 2137-2171. Artifacts from the excavation were designated WP'1-39.

Number XXIII on the master map designates an area east of Mound P. Although a cryptic note in the file of Mound State Monument says only, "mostly surface finds" for this area, it has been numbered for future reference. The excavated areas around Mound P are reported in Chapter VI of this volume.

Mound Q. In 1905, Moore put several trial holes into Mound Q (Q-1 on the master map) and found no burials. However, in a field north of Mound Q (Q-2 on the master map) Moore found several burials quite close to the surface which had been damaged by the plow (1905:219). Moore returned to this area in 1906 and again got the same results, almost nothing (1907:344). In light of Moore's lack of success, the Museum conducted no excavations in the Mound Q area.

Mound R. Areas to the north and west of Mound R produced, both for C. B. Moore and for the Alabama Museum of Natural History, some of the most spectacular artifacts yet found at the Moundville site. However, when Moore tested the mound itself, he found nothing (1905:220).

The first area near Mound R to be excavated by Moore was a low ridge to the north of the Mound. Moore labeled this area "U" on his map; on the master map it is designated R-2. Unfortunately, this ridge had disappeared by the time the topographic map was made of the site, thus preventing a more accurate location of this excavation. In the northeastern portion of the ridge, Moore found and removed a concentration of burials (1905:220).

Next, Moore turned to the field west of Mound R; this area has been designated R-3 on the master map. There Moore found several burials (1905:240) and thought the area productive enough to return there in 1906 (1907: 344).

The Alabama Museum of Natural History, following in Moore's footsteps, conducted several excavations in the fields around Mound R. The three earliest excavations (all north of Mound R) were placed on the master map with the aid of a sketch map made at the time of the excavation.

The 1930 excavation north of Mound R, numbered XIV on the master map, yielded one burial (1036) and eight artifacts (NF1-8). An area on the western edge of the field north of Mound R, numbered XXV and outlined on the master map, was tested in 1931. Burials 1081-1111, 1113-1132 and 1134, plus artifacts NR9-197, came from the

excavations on the western edge of the field north of R. Another excavation was conducted in the same field in 1931. This excavation, labeled "B" on the sketch map and XXVI on the master map, yielded neither artifacts nor burials. Still later, in 1951, a picnic building was to be built north of Mound R. Although the area of the proposed building was in the general area of the 1930 excavation, it was nonetheless excavated. This dig, numbered XXX on the master map, produced nine burials.

To the southwest of Mound R, two areas were excavated by the Museum. The first, numbered XXVII on the map, was conducted in 1930 and yielded burials 1045-1081 and artifacts WR1-161. The second excavation southwest of R was conducted in 1951 on a small knoll near the mound. Seven burials were recovered from this knoll. However, given the extant data, neither of these areas southwest of Mound R can be located with any degree of precision.

An area south of Mound R, numbered XXVIII on the master map, was excavated in 1941. Burials 2990-2992, which were unaccompanied by artifacts, came from this excavation. The directions (given by Goldsmith in the field notes) to locate the excavation south of Mound R allowed its accurate placement on the master map. This

excavation south of R and the other excavations around Mound R will be found reported in Chapter XIV of this volume.

Mounds S and T. These two mounds, which Moore saw as remnants of what were at one time larger tumuli, were excavated by him in 1905. Moore's excavations, which recovered no material from Mound S and only one skeleton near the surface of Mound T, have been designated S-1 and T-1 on the master map.

Mound W. Mound W, which is the only mound not given its alphabetical designation by C. B. Moore is probably not a mound at all. It is probably a natural hillock. Nevertheless, two major excavations and one minor excavation were conducted by the Museum using the "W" as a locational designation.

The earliest excavation in the Mound W area was in January of 1934. The location of this excavation, which was designated north and northwest of W by the Museum and numbered XXXI on the master map, was aided by the fact that part of the excavation was not on park land but on part of the Griffen estate.

Fortunately, the property line between the park and estate had been drawn on the field map of the area. This

property line, which was also a fence line, was located on the aerial photograph and cross-checked with a map of the local land holdings at the time of the excavation. This allowed the accurate location of the excavation on the master map. In addition to burials 1818-1873 and artifacts NW1-60, from north of W, three burials, 1874-1876 were discovered in an adjoining area and numbered with the burials from north of W.

In 1940, the hillock called Mound W was excavated by Maurice Goldsmith. The placement of this excavation (numbered XXXII) on the master map was accomplished with the aid of Goldsmith's topographic sketch of the area. His field map was scaled to the master map and, with the north arrow in the proper position, the sketch was moved about in the area until the topographic features matched.

The material recovered from Mound W included skeletons 2906, and 2920-2989, plus artifacts M°W1-311.

The location of the area excavated south of Mound W is at best confused. I have chosen to designate this as number XXXIII on the master map, although more than one excavation was conducted there. There were, in fact, a minimum of three excavations south of W: one in 1931, one in 1934 and one in 1936. The data are not sufficient to locate the excavations more accurately than they have been on the master map.

Even burials from south of W are confused. For example, some have had more than one burial number. However, E. C. Chapman sorted most of the mess out, and it now seems that burials 1892-1895, 2194-2203, 2224, 2238, 2346, 2374, 2384, 2386-2393, 2395-2398, 2423, 2424, 2426, 2500-2514, 2566, 2626-2628 and artifacts SW1-64 were recovered from south of Mound W.

It is unfortunate that these excavations were lumped under one catchall designation, "South of W." However, this was seemingly the only choice.

In 1947 a small excavation was conducted on the site of a proposed guest cottage. This excavation, labeled Cottage #1 by the Museum, has been designated XXXV on the master map.

The Museum Parking Area, excavated in 1940 and designated XXXIV on the master map, was located from data provided by the map entitled "Mound State Monument General Development Plan." The excavated portions of the proposed parking area (in black on the master map) yielded burials 2993-3000, and 3031-3040 plus artifacts MP1-165.

The excavation of the area to be occupied by the proposed Administration Building, like the area for the parking lot, was accurately located with the aid of the map of Moundville's development plan. The Administration

Building excavation produced burials 2907-2919 and artifacts A^dB1-76.

The Roadway Excavation, numbered XXXVII on the master map, was the most ambitious archaeological project undertaken at Moundville during the 1930's. In brief, the Roadway Excavation was a salvage excavation some 7,000 feet long and 50 feet wide which followed the route of a proposed roadway. In the course of the project, almost 100,000 square feet of trenches were excavated, 258 burials were encountered (numbered 2647-2905), and artifacts 1RW-538RW were recovered. The records for this excavation are among the best at Moundville. However, the engineering map for the roadway that showed the starting or zero point for the roadway excavation was misplaced. This made the reconstruction of the notes difficult.

The records which were available for reconstruction consisted initially of 147 sheets; each sheet represented a 50 x 50 foot square of excavated area. Whole artifacts, burials and other features were shown on these block sheets. Also drawn on the sheets were the location of roadways, ditches and culverts extant at the time of excavation.

These immovable features, such as culverts and ditches, were visible on the aerial photographs of the period, and the old roads showed both on the photos and topographic maps. A model of the roadway excavation was made to the scale of the topographic map. On this model all the features which could aid in proper positioning of the excavations were placed in their various squares. Next, the orientation of each square was determined from the orientation of the burials found in it. At this point, the features on the model were matched to the features on the topographic map. Only when features, orientation, and closure at the end points were judged to be correct were the numbers which designated the excavation blocks put on the master map.

Several months after the reconstruction of the Roadway Excavation, one-half of the engineering map used by the road survey crew was found jammed into an unused filing drawer at Mound State Monument. The road route stakes, which were also used as the grid points on the archaeological map, were on this map. A check of the reconstruction against the route stakes showed the reconstruction to be reasonably accurate; (the maximum error of any location was less than 10 feet). At this point, the excavated areas in the roadway grid system were blacked in and the master map was finished.

Two major excavations were not included on the master map. These excavations, in an area designated as the Rhodes site, were just to the northeast of the park boundary and hence outside the area of topographic survey. The general area of the Rhodes site is indicated on the aerial photograph, figure I-2; the specific locational data for the Rhodes excavations will be discussed in Chapter XI of this volume.

The ten chapters which follow (Chapters II through XI) represent all but one of the major excavations conducted at Moundville. These chapters include over 70 percent of the excavated area, all the excavated structural features, 90 percent of the in situ artifacts and over 70 percent of the excavated burials. The major excavation which is excluded is the excavation in Mound "W". Because of the vertical-face technique used to excavate this area and the resultant problems in the reconstruction of the field notes, the report on this excavation has been reserved for future presentation. The small excavations in the areas of Mounds A, B, C, F, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, Q, S and T have also been reserved for future presentation.

The excavations reported here include excavations in the area of Mound D, Chapter III; excavations in the area

of Mound E, Chapter IV; excavations in the area of Mound G, Chapter V; excavations in the area of Mound P, Chapter VI; excavations in the area of Mound R, Chapter VII; the Museum Parking Area excavation (including excavations north and northwest of Mound "W"), Chapter VIII; the Administration Building excavation, Chapter IX; the Roadway Excavation, Chapter X; the Rhodes site Chapter XI; and the burials from Mounds C, F, H and O, Chapter II.