

## CHAPTER IX

### Administration Building Excavation

Preparatory to construction of an administration building for Mound State Monument, the area to be disturbed by the construction was excavated. Maurice Goldsmith and his crew excavated a 50 feet by 55 feet area during a three week period between February 14 and March 5, 1940. The horizontal plot of the archaeological features recovered from this excavation is shown in figure IX-1. The archaeological features recovered from the administration building excavation included five structures (S-1 to S-5), nine firebasins (F-1 to F-9), 13 burials (2907 to 2919), 60 in situ artifacts (1AD to 60AD), and 16 other artifacts (61AD to 76AD).

Of the five structures recovered, three were sufficiently excavated to warrant detailed description. Structure S-1 (also reported by McKenzie 1964a: Table 1, House 2), was a rectangular building; the long axis of structure S-1 was oriented northeast-southwest. Single wall trenches outlined the northern, western and eastern margins of the structure; a series of three wall trenches marked the southern margin of the structure. A small, precedent wall trench was located in the northwest

quadrant of the building and a single wall trench ran eastward from the eastern wall of the structure. All corners except the southwest corner of the building were open. However, only the opening in the northeast corner was sufficiently wide to have served as an entrance. The northern wall of structure S-1 was 14.6 feet long; the eastern wall was 17.5 feet long; the southern exterior wall--measured to the mid-point of the closed southwestern corner--was 16.0 feet long; the western wall--also measured from the mid-point of the southwestern corner--was 19.5 feet long. The wall jutting out from the eastern wall trench of structure S-1 was 19.5 feet long. The interior floor area of structure S-1 was 330 square feet. Features interior to structure S-1 included firebasins F-1 and F-8, several scattered post molds and the short, precedent wall trench.

Structure S-2, which probably is two structures outlined by a series of post molds, one oriented north-south and the other northwest-southwest, abutted the southeast corner of structure S-1. This structure was not completely excavated, thus the dimensions of the building cannot be given. The features interior to structure S-2 included firebasins F-6 and F-7 and burial 2915.



Only the eastern edge of structure S-3 was excavated. The eastern wall trench, which was completely uncovered, was 15.7 feet long. The construction of that wall trench was probably responsible for the displacement of the lower half of burial 2916. Burial 2917 was the major archaeological feature found inside structure S-3.

Fully two-thirds of structure S-4 was excavated. The eastern wall trench of structure S-4 was 10.5 feet long; the southern wall trench was 9.8 feet long. Only nubs of the western and northern wall trenches were uncovered. A few scattered post molds and firebasin F-9 were the major features found inside structure S-4.

Structure S-5 [also described by McKenzie (1964a: Table 1, House 1)] was a moderately large structure whose long axis was oriented northwest-southeast. The lengths of the western and northern walls were 10.5 and 16.6 feet, respectively. The floor area of structure S-5 was approximately 243 square feet. Two firebasins (F-5 and F-3), two bundle burials (2909 and 2910), and an extended burial (2913) which had been disturbed by the construction of firebasin F-5 were discovered inside structure S-5.

TABLE IX-1

## Firebasins from Administration Building Excavation

Number	Square Number	Association	Outside Diameter (Inches)	Inside Diameter (Inches)	Vertical Thickness (Inches)	Interior Depth (Inches)
F-1	15L1	S-1	17	13.5	6	4
F-2	5R4	-	16	15.5	2.5	1
F-3	30R4	A-5	14.5	12	2	1
F-4	15R2	-	10	7.5	4.5	3
F-5	30R2	S-5	18	16	7.5	6
F-6	0L1	S-2	12	10	5	4
F-7	0L1	S-2	12.5	10	4	3
F-8	15L1	S-1	15#	12	5	2.5
			17*	15	5	3.5
F-9	45L5	S-4	19	15	8	6

#(Northeastern)

\*(Southwestern)

Of the nine firebasins found during the administration building excavation, all but two were located inside the structures. The two firebasins not found inside the structures (F-2 and F-4) were located to the east of Structure S-1. Table IX-1 gives the dimensions of all the firebasins found in the excavation.

Maurice Goldsmith recorded the precise location of all artifacts--except potsherds--which his crew excavated. Data for 60 in situ artifacts were included as part of the field map. These artifacts, their location by square number and their associations are presented in Table IX-2. Artifacts which were discovered after they had been displaced from their in situ locations by the excavators are presented in Table IX-3.

All the burials recovered from the administration building excavation have been plotted on figure IX-1. The descriptive data for these burials is given below. These data follow the descriptive format which immediately precedes them.

TABLE IX-2  
Artifacts and their Location from Administration Building Excavation

Artifact	Square Number	Depth (Inches)	Association	Catalogue Number (Suffixed by AD)
Petrified wood	0R3	17	--	15
Cane	0R3	18	--	14
Pottery pipe	5L2	8	In S-2	1
Red paint	5R2	10	--	26
Bone awl	5R3	13	--	16
Corn cob (charred)	5R4	5	Near F-2	2
Small triangular projectile point	10L4	15	--	55
Stone discoidal	10L2	10	In S-1	47
Pebble discoidal	10R2	10	--	27
Bone "tool"	10R4	6	--	3
Small triangular projectile point	15L2	11	In S-1	48
Small triangular projectile point	15R2	18	--	36
Sandstone axe fragment	15R4	7	--	6
Worked stone axe	15R4	13	--	5
Lump of hematite	15R4	12	--	4
Bone bead	20L3	9	In S-1	53
Small triangular projectile point	20 0	18	In S-1	40
Pottery "effigy"	20 0	14	In S-1	46
Small triangular projectile point	20R2	8	--	28
Small triangular projectile point	20R2	21	--	29
Stone tool fragment	20R3	26	--	25
Pebble hammer	25L3	5	--	24
Pottery discoidal	25L3	10	--	54

TABLE IX-2 Continued

Artifact	Square Number	Depth (Inches)	Association	Catalogue Number (Suffixed by AD)
Bone awl	25-0	15	In S-1	41
Worked rock	25R1	10	In S-5	39
Small triangular projectile point	25R3	14	In S-5	17
Pottery discoidal	25R4	24	Just outside S-5	8
Pottery "effigy"	25R4	22	Just outside S-5	7
Worked stone	25R4	15	In S-5	9
Small triangular projectile point	30L2	15	--	49
Worked bone	30L2	14	--	50
Bone needle	30R1	12	In S-5	38
Small triangular projectile point	30R2	14	In S-5	30
Bone needle	30R2	18	In S-5	45
Small triangular projectile point	30R4	15	In S-5	10
Projectile point	35L3	10	--	43
Peopple hammer	35R1	8	Just outside S-5	23
Small triangular projectile point	35R3	12	In S-5	18
Stone mortar (paint grinder)	40L4	6	--	33
Small triangular projectile point	40L4	18	--	56
Small triangular projectile point	40R2	10	In S-5	31
Pebble hammer	40R2	18	In S-5	37
Pottery discoidal	40R3	20	Near burial 2911	19
Small triangular projectile point	45-0	11	--	42
Small triangular projectile point	45R3	17	Near burial 2911	20
Water bottle	45R3	40	In bottom of post mold	34

TABLE IX-2 Continued

Artifact	Square Number	Depth (Inches)	Association	Catalogue Number (Suffixed by AD)
Stone discoidal	45R4	21	near burial 2907	11
Worked flint	45R4	22	near burial 2907	12
Small triangular projectile point	50L4	14	In S-4	57
Pottery discoidal	50R2	13	--	32
Bone awl	50R3	21	near burial 2912	21
Pottery "effigy"	50R4	13	--	13
Charred fibrous material	55L2	20	--	51
Worked stone	55L2	9	--	52
Pottery discoidal	55R3	24	--	22

TABLE IX-3

Unassociated Artifacts from  
Administration Building Excavation

Artifact	Approximate Location	Catalogue Number (Suffixed by AD)
Pottery "object"	0-15 R5	61
Red paint rock	0-10 R3	62
Sandstone abrader	0-10 L3	63
Worked stone fragment	0-10 L3	63a
Stone discoidal	10-20 R4	64
Red paint rock	10-20 R4	64a
Greenstone celt fragment	10-20 R5	65
Greenstone celt fragment	10-20 0	66
Worked stone	20-30 R5	67
Pottery discoidal	30-40 R1	68
Hematite fragment	30-40 R4	69
Small triangular projectile point	30-40 R5	70
Red paint rock	30-40 L1	71
Greenstone celt fragment	40-60 L5	72
Pottery discoidal	50-60 R2	73
Sandstone abrader	50-60 L2	74
Sandstone abrader	Unknown	75
Hematite fragment	Unknown	75a
Greenstone celt fragment	Unknown	76

Administration Building Excavation  
Burials 2907 - 2919  
Guide to Burial Descriptions

N. D. = No Data; -- = Not Applicable

- I. Site designation and burial number (i. e. AD2907).
- II. Square number.
- III. Age.
- IV. Sex (If given on C. E. Snow's burial cards).
- V. Form of burial:
  - A. Single or multiple (if multiple numbers of associated burials given).
  - B. Articulated, partially articulated, bundle, disturbed, skull only.
  - C. Extended, partially flexed, fully flexed.
  - D. On back, on right side, on left side, on face.
  - E. In pit, no pit.
  - F. Dimensions of pit.
  - G. Orientation (head-feet). Directions enclosed in parentheses (E-W) or E-(W), indicate an uncertainty in one or both directions.
- VI. Internal associations and locations with field specimen numbers: e. g. Pot, right shoulder, 1AD.
- VII. External associations:
  - A. In structure, not in structure.
  - B. Nearest firebasin, in feet.
  - C. Nearest neighbor burial number.
- VIII. Stratigraphic and other associations.

IX. Bones recovered; skeletal condition.

X. Remarks.

I. AD2907. II. 50R4. III. Adult. IV. N. D.

V. A. Single B. Articulated C. Extended D. On  
back E. In pit F. 5.9 feet x 1.5 feet x ?  
G. ESE-WNW.

VI. None.

VII. A. Not in structure B. 15 C. 2912

VIII. 28 inches below the surface.

IX. Most of skeleton recovered.

I. AD2908. II. 45R2. III. Adult. IV. N. D.

V. A. Single B. Bundle C. -- D. -- E. In  
pit F. 0.9 feet x 0.6 feet x ? G. --.

VI. None.

VII. A. Not in structure B. 16 C. 2912.

VIII. 24 inches below the surface.

IX. Scraps of skeleton recovered.

I. AD2909. II. 25R3. III. Adult. IV. N. D.  
 V. A. Single B. Bundle C. -- D. -- E. In  
 pit F. 1.7 feet x 1.0 feet x ? G. --.  
 VI. None.  
 VII. A. In structure S-5 B. 4 C. 2910.  
 VIII. 26 inches below the surface.  
 IX. Scraps of skeleton recovered.

I. AD2910. II. 30R3. III. Adult. IV. N. D.  
 V. A. Single B. Bundle C. -- D. -- E. In  
 pit F. 1.7 feet x 1.4 feet x ? G. --.  
 VI. None.  
 VII. A. In structure S-5 B. 2 C. 2909.  
 VIII. 14 inches below the surface.  
 IX. Skeleton in poor condition; none recovered.

I. AD2911. II. 40R3. III. Adult. IV. N. D.  
 V. A. Single B. Articulated C. Extended D. On  
 back E. In pit F. 6.0 feet x 1.7 feet x ?  
 G. NE-SW.  
 VI. Flat worked stone, by right hand, 35AD.  
 VII. A. Not in structure B. 7 C. 2907.

## AD2911 Continued

VIII. 43 inches below the surface.

IX. Bones fairly well preserved.

I. AD2912. II. 50R2. III. Adult. IV. N. D.

V. A. Single B. Articulated C. Extended D. On  
back E. In pit F. 5.9 feet x 1.4 feet x ?  
G. ESE-WNW.

VI. None.

VII. A. Not in structure B. 20 C. 2907.

VIII. 24 inches below the surface.

IX. Bones poorly preserved.

X. Feet crossed at ankles.

I. AD2913. II. 30R2. III. Child. IV. N. D.

V. A. Single B. Disturbed C. Extended D. On  
back E. In pit F. -- G. SW-(NE).

VI. None.

VII. A. In structure S-5 B. 1 C. 2910.

VIII. 20 inches below the surface.

IX. Bones poorly preserved.

X. Skeleton cut off at hips.

- I. AD2914. II. 30L1. III. Child. IV. N. D.  
 V. A. Single B. Articulated C. Extended D. On  
 back E. In pit F. 3.7 feet x 1.2 feet x ?  
 G. N-S.  
 VI. Water bottle, to left rear of skull, 44AD.  
 VII. A. Not in structure B. 12 C. 2913.  
 VIII. 14 inches below the surface.  
 IX. Most of skeleton recovered.

- I. AD2915. II. 0L2. III. Juvenile. IV. N. D.  
 V. A. Single B. Skull only C. -- D. --  
 E. In pit F. 0.7 feet x 0.5 feet x ? G. --.  
 VI. None.  
 VII. A. In structure S-2 B. 2 C. --.  
 VIII. A. 10 inches below the surface.  
 IX. Skull fragments recovered.

- I. AD2916. II. 10L4. III. Adult. IV. N. D.  
 V. A. Single B. Disturbed C. -- D. --  
 E. In pit F. -- G. (ESE-WNW).  
 VI. None.  
 VII. A. Not in structure B. 12 C. 2917.

## AD2916 Continued

VIII. 13 inches below the surface.

IX. No bones recovered.

X. Disturbed by S-3 and by plow.

I. AD2917. II. 10L5. III. Juvenile IV. N. D.

V. A. Single B. Articulated C. Partially flexed  
D. On back E. In pit F. 4.1 feet x 1.1 feet  
x ? G. NNE-SSW.

VI. None.

VII. A. In structure S-3 B. 18 C. 2916.

VIII. 14 inches below the surface.

IX. Bones poorly preserved.

X. Legs partly drawn up and spread at knees.

I. AD2918. II. 20L4. III. Adult. IV. N. D.

V. A. Single B. Articulated C. Extended D. On  
back E. In pit F. 5.8 feet x 1.0 feet x ?  
G. E-W.

VI. 2 small triangular projectile points, N. D., 58,  
59AD.  
Shell bead, N. D., 60AD.

VII. A. Not in structure B. 12 C. 2919.

## AD2918 Continued

- VIII. 14 inches below the surface.
- IX. Bones poorly preserved.
- X. Skeleton slightly disturbed, probably by plow.

- I. AD2919. II. 25L4. III. Adult. IV. N. D.
- V. A. Single B. Disturbed C. Extended D. On  
back E. In pit F. 5.5 feet x 1.2 feet x ?  
G. E-W.
- VI. None.
- VII. A. Not in house B. 12 C. 2918.
- VIII. 12 inches below the surface.
- IX. Bones poorly preserved.
- X. Skeleton badly torn up by plow.