

**TEST EXCAVATIONS AT MOUND X, MOUNDVILLE  
(1TU500), 2004**

**By**

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**Early Moundville Archaeological Project**

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## Abstract

In 2004, archaeological investigations were conducted by the University of Alabama at Mound X, a remnant prehistoric mound at the Moundville site (1Tu500) in west-central Alabama. The investigation had three research goals: 1) document Mound X form, composition, and chronology; 2) clarify the stratigraphic relationship between the mound and the palisade line that appeared to be superimposed over the mound ; and 3) recover artifact and ecofact remains to provide evidence of mound-related activities. The investigation proceeded in two stages: a subsurface survey of ground penetrating radar, gradiometer, and shovel-test probes, and an excavation strategy of eighteen 2-m-x-2-m units.

The investigation results accomplished all three research goals. It was discovered that Mound X was a multiple-stage mound constructed in the early Moundville I phase (*ca.* A.D. 1120-1200). Although the original dimensions of Mound X could not be determined due to post-construction truncation and leveling of the upper portion sometime in the past, the form, composition, and sequence of construction was documented for the remnant mound. Other than the clay-and-sand mound construction strata, few intact features were found, most notably Feature 11, a debris deposit or remains of a structure. Mound features produced moderate amounts of broken pottery, low amounts of flaked stone and debitage, and a “pigment complex” (Knight 2004), i.e., considerable quantities of ground and unmodified hematitic sandstone for the production of red paint pigments. Together with recovered mica flakes, the pigment production is likely tied to personal adornment in ritual contexts. The 2004 investigation confirmed what had been suspected since an earlier investigation in 1983, that two palisade wall trenches were constructed up and over the western portion of Mound X at or soon after the formation of Moundville as a fortified regional center in the late Moundville I phase. Thereafter, Mound X was no longer in active use.

The cultural significance of Mound X is two-fold. First, Mound X is one of only two mounds in the region known to date to the early Moundville I phase, the time just prior to the establishment of the Moundville site as the capital of a regional polity. Second, as a result of palisade construction which left the mound no longer in use and outside the protecting walls, Mound X was excluded from a place in the planned arrangement of mounds in the new social order. Mound X is a Moundville Mississippian example of the re-arrangement of the built environment and public spaces that so often accompanied polity formation in emergent complex societies, part of an ideological strategy to re-make or deny old social values and promote new ones (Blitz 2007).

## Acknowledgments

This report is a brief summary account of archaeological investigations at Mound X, a remnant prehistoric mound at the Moundville site (1TU500) in 2004. The research was conducted by the University of Alabama at Moundville Archaeological Park as part of the Department of Anthropology's annual Field Archaeology course and the Early Moundville Archaeological Project (EMAP). EMAP is a multi-year research project designed to further our understanding of the social, political, and economic factors that contributed to the origin and development of the Moundville polity. Mound X was first recognized as a prehistoric architectural feature during limited excavations by the University of Alabama in 1983. The 2004 research was designed to clarify details of Mound X form, function, and chronology left unresolved in the earlier investigation.

The work reported here would not have been possible without the help of numerous people. First, I thank the student excavators who did the physical labor. Members of the 2004 Field Archaeology class included Megan Batchelor, Noah Beardsley, Luke Breland, Meghann Byford, Tony Davidson, Raven Demonina, Isaac Douglas, James Gilbreath, Matthew Horne, Steven Kampis, Jonathan Payne, Samuel Joe Pearson, Anna Rich, Katherine Richter, Jonathan Sheets, Dena Struchtemeyer Jacob Tull, and Leeanne Wendt.

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A "thank you" is due to the following people at the University of Alabama Museums, which administers Moundville Archaeological Park, for whose assistance I am most grateful: Dr. Robert Clouse, Mr. Eugene Futato, Mr. Bill Bomar, Ms. Mary Bade, Mr. Steve Jones, Dr. Katherine Mickelson, Mr. John Lieb, and Mr. Steven Harris. Mr. Jeffery Alvey, Cobb Institute of Archaeology, conducted the gradiometer study.

Thanks are due those colleagues at the UA Department of Anthropology who provided assistance in various ways: Dr. Michael Murphy, Dr. Ian Brown, Dr. Vernon James Knight, Jr., Dr. Lisa LeCount, and Dr. Joseph Vogel.

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## Background and Research Goals

### *Mound X at Moundville*

The well-known archaeological site of Moundville (1TU500), near the modern town of that name, consists of the remains of a prehistoric settlement founded by American Indians 800 years ago along the banks of the Black Warrior River in west Alabama (Figure 1). For several centuries prior to European contact, it was one of the largest settlements north of Mexico. Key features of the 320-acre site are 29 earthen mounds, a central open area or plaza, and a log fortification or palisade that is no longer visible. Mound X is a low rise in the northeastern section of the site (Figure 2). An aerial photo dating to the 1930s shows small buildings near to the Mound X locale, and various lanes and roadways passed close to it in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 3). Mound X is not mentioned by the early investigators of Moundville. This silence about Mound X suggests that the mound was an inconspicuous feature early on, a characteristic that may be related to its unusual history at the site.

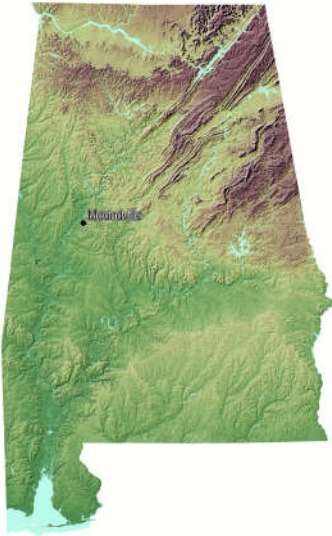


Figure 2. Location of Moundville in Alabama (UA Cartographic Research Laboratory).

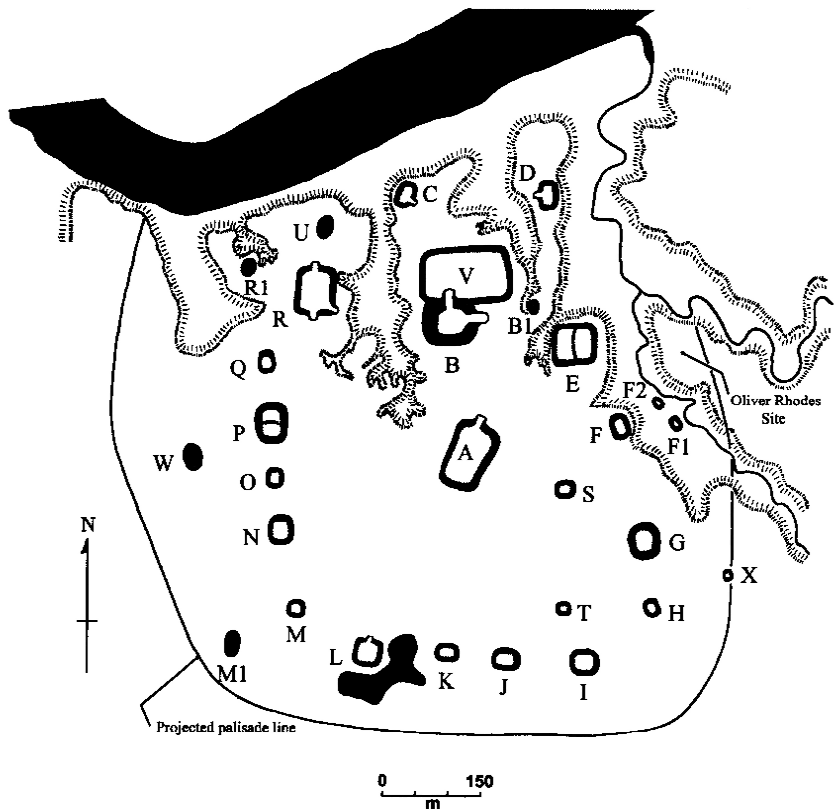


Figure 2. Location of Mound X at Moundville (Source: Knight and Steponaitis 1998).



Figure 3. Aerial view of Mound X locale, 1930s. View to the west, railroad line in foreground, arrow marks approximate location.

#### *The 1983 Investigation*

In 1983, the meter-high rise was confirmed as a mound when Joe Vogel and Jean Allen of the University of Alabama encountered it while excavating a palisade line with a University of Alabama field school (Figure 4). The plow zone was removed from a 30-m-x-15-m area, exposing a white (light grey) clay mass interpreted as a mound remnant (Figure 5), dark organic deposits of ash and artifacts related to mound activities (Figure 6), and palisade lines (Figure 7). An east-west backhoe trench, 35 meters long and one meter wide, was cut across the exposed white clay mass. Based on the trench profile view, the excavators concluded that the clay mass was a remnant mound and that the palisade lines intruded into it. At this point, excavation was terminated. Few artifacts were collected and only a brief description and plan view map were published (Vogel and Allan 1985). Although artifacts from the 1983 excavation are stored at the DeJarnette Archaeological Research Center at the park, the interpretive value of these data is limited because excavation documents are missing. The mound was labeled X, the next unassigned letter in the Moundville site mound sequence.

In the 1990s, developments in Moundville research helped to place Mound X in chronological context. The Moundville chronology was refined, permitting the Moundville I phase to be subdivided into early and late spans based on diagnostic ceramic attributes. Excavations in the northwest Riverbank ECB tract



Figure 4: Aerial view of Mound X excavations (arrow), view to the west, 1983.

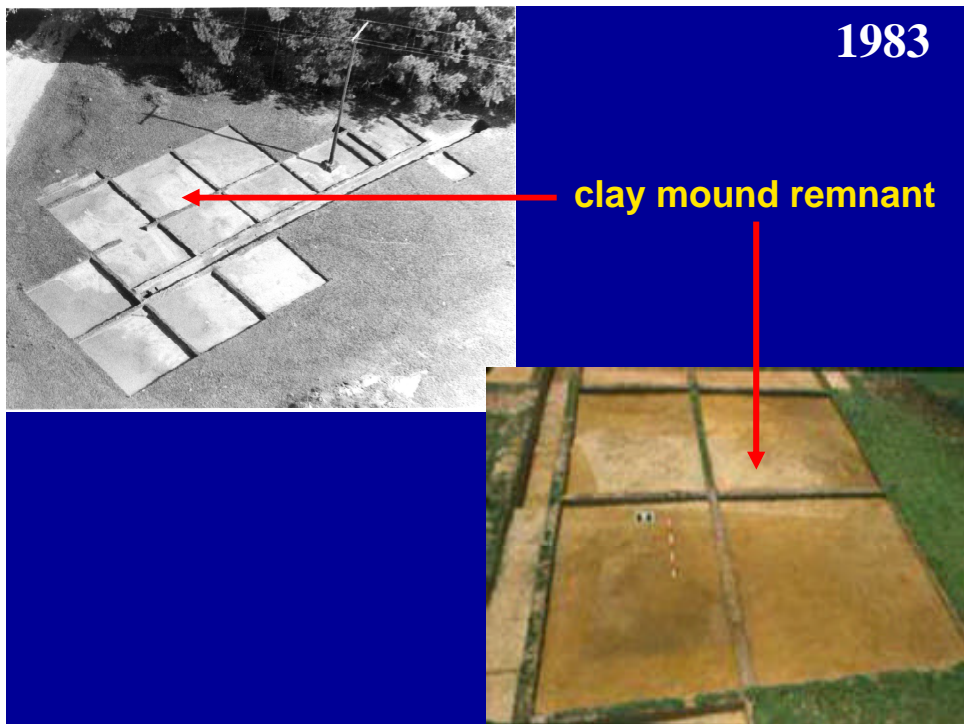


Figure 5. White clay mass exposed beneath plow zone, 1983. Units are 5-x-5-meters.



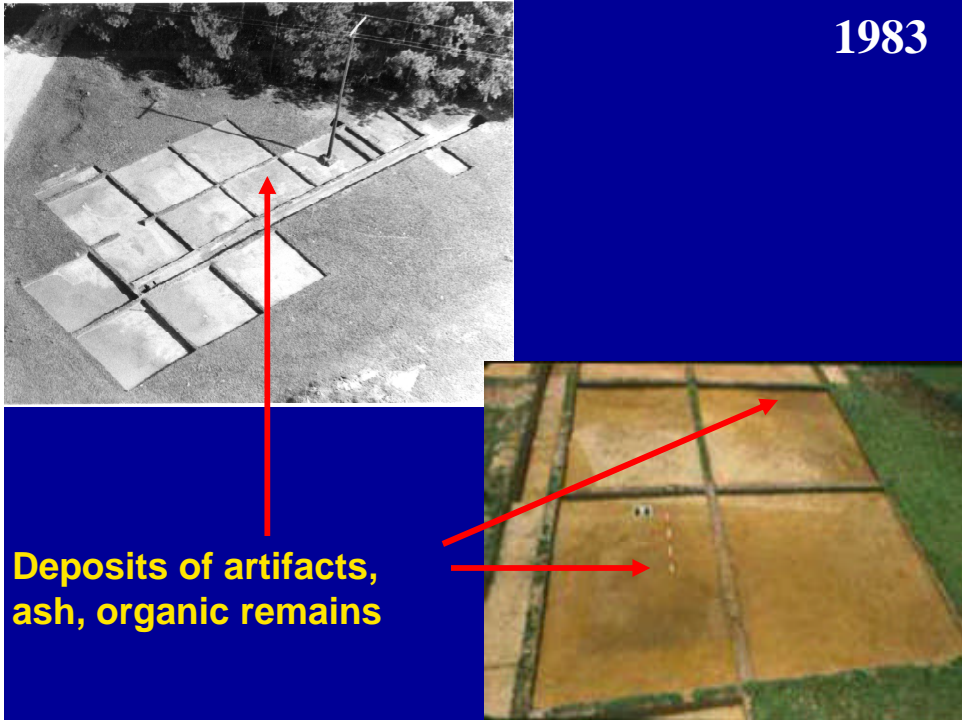


Figure 6. Deposits of dark organic soil, artifacts, and ash adjacent to white clay mass, 1983.

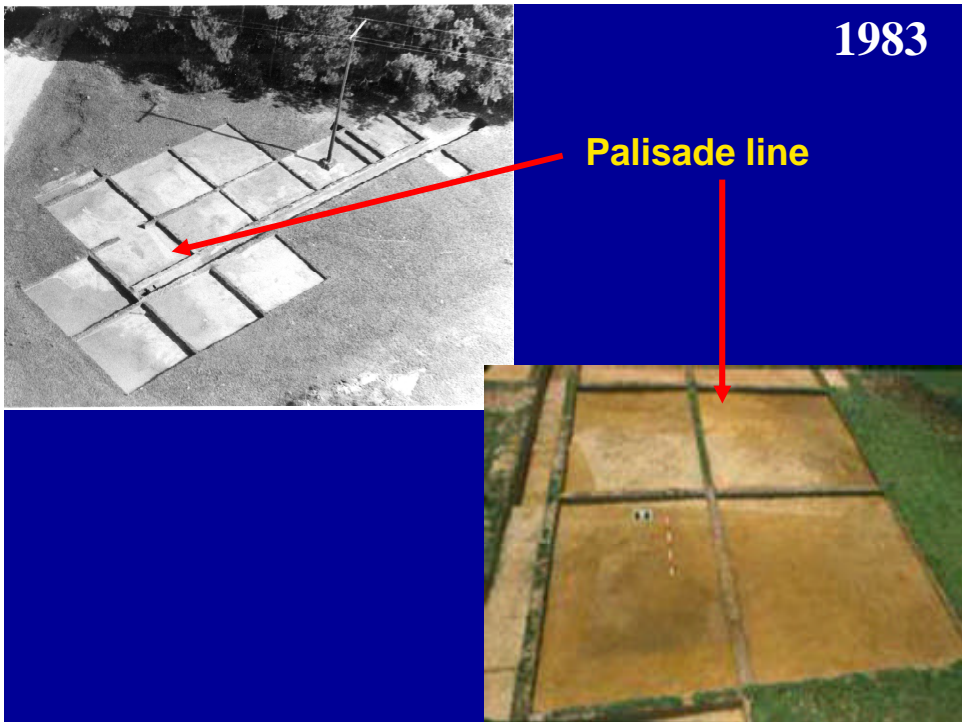


Figure 7. Location of palisade line crossing western edge of white clay mass, 1983.

uncovered two palisade lines (with various re-buildings) dated to the late Moundville I phase, ca. A.D. 1200 (Scarry 1995; also see Ryba 1997). Based on these observations, Knight and Steponaitis (1998:15-16) concluded that 1) initial palisade construction at Moundville dated to the late Moundville I phase, at the time of Moundville's "regional consolidation" as a multiple-mound chiefly center; and 2) Mound X predated the palisade. Together with the 1TU50 mound 900 m to the north (Steponaitis 1992), these two mounds are the only mounds known to date prior to the time of regional consolidation.

### *Research Goals*

In 2004, I initiated the Early Moundville Archaeological Project, a long-term research project to address the origins and early development of the Moundville polity (Blitz 2004). Because Mound X dates at or just prior to the creation of the multiple-mound polity at Moundville, artifacts recovered in and around the mound have the potential to suggest a range of mound activities, and some of the economic and social factors that drew people to this location. Investigations were initiated at Mound X with three goals: 1) document Mound X form, composition, and chronology; 2) clarify the stratigraphic relationship between the mound and the palisade line; and 3) recover artifact and ecofact remains to provide evidence of mound-related activities. Because Moundville Archaeological Park is a protected resource, adverse impact on Mound X had to be kept to a minimum. Therefore, the research strategy consisted of a subsurface survey of remote sensing and shovel-test pits (STPs) designed to delineate the extent of intact deposits at Mound X. The subsurface survey was followed by a series of 2-x-2m excavation units to uncover just enough artifacts, ecofacts, soil and radiocarbon samples, and strata exposure to achieve the three research goals.

### **Subsurface Survey**

#### *Excavation Grid*

At the time investigations began in August 2004, Mound X exhibited very little relief above the general surroundings. Then, and today, it appears as an oval-shaped area about 20-m in diameter and one-meter in height above the surrounding terrain at the 51-m contour on the Moundville Archaeological Park contour map of 1992. Mound X is located in the northeastern portion of the site, about 20 m south of the southeastern corner of the David L. DeJarnette Archaeological Research Center parking lot (Figure 8). Mound H is located about 100-m west-southwest of Mound X. Mound X is located in hectare N1700E1400 of the Moundville site master grid, which was established in the 1980s. However, at the time of the 2004 investigation, few hectare corner hubs for the master grid were actually in place. As time did not permit the extensive resurvey required to establish master grid corner hubs (this has now been accomplished), a local grid was imposed over the Mound X locale for the purposes of the 2004 investigation. The permanent datum for the 2004 excavations is a steel rod at the base of the

power pole visible in the 1983 photographs in Figures 5-7. This datum was given the arbitrary coordinate North Mound H is located about 100-m west-southwest of Mound X. Mound X is located in hectare N1700E1400 of the Moundville site master grid, which was established in the 1980s. However, at the time of the 2004 investigation, few hectare corner hubs for the master grid were actually in place. As time did not permit the extensive resurvey required to establish master grid corner hubs (this has now been accomplished), a local grid was imposed over the Mound X locale for the purposes of the 2004 investigation. The permanent datum for the 2004 excavations is a steel rod at the base of the power pole visible in the 1983 photographs in Figures 5-7. This datum was given the arbitrary coordinate



**Figure 8. Location of Mound X, at arrow.**

North 40 m, East 35 m. From this point, a 60 m-x-60-m local grid oriented N-S was extended to demarcate the Mound X study area (Figure 9). North 0, East 0 was an unmarked point well off the Mound X locale to the southwest. All unit grid coordinates reference the southwestern hub.

### Remote Sensing

Remote sensing was employed to delineate the Mound X configuration and learn as much about the deposits prior to excavation. Two methods were used: ground penetrating radar (GPR) and gradiometer. The GPR survey was conducted by Mr. Steve Jones, Office of Archaeological Research, University of Alabama Museums. Readings were taken at 1-m intervals along N-S grid transects spaced 5-m apart in the 60-m x-60-m study area (Figure 10).

Examination of the mapped anomalies at various resolutions produced a best-solution image of the study area (Figure 11).

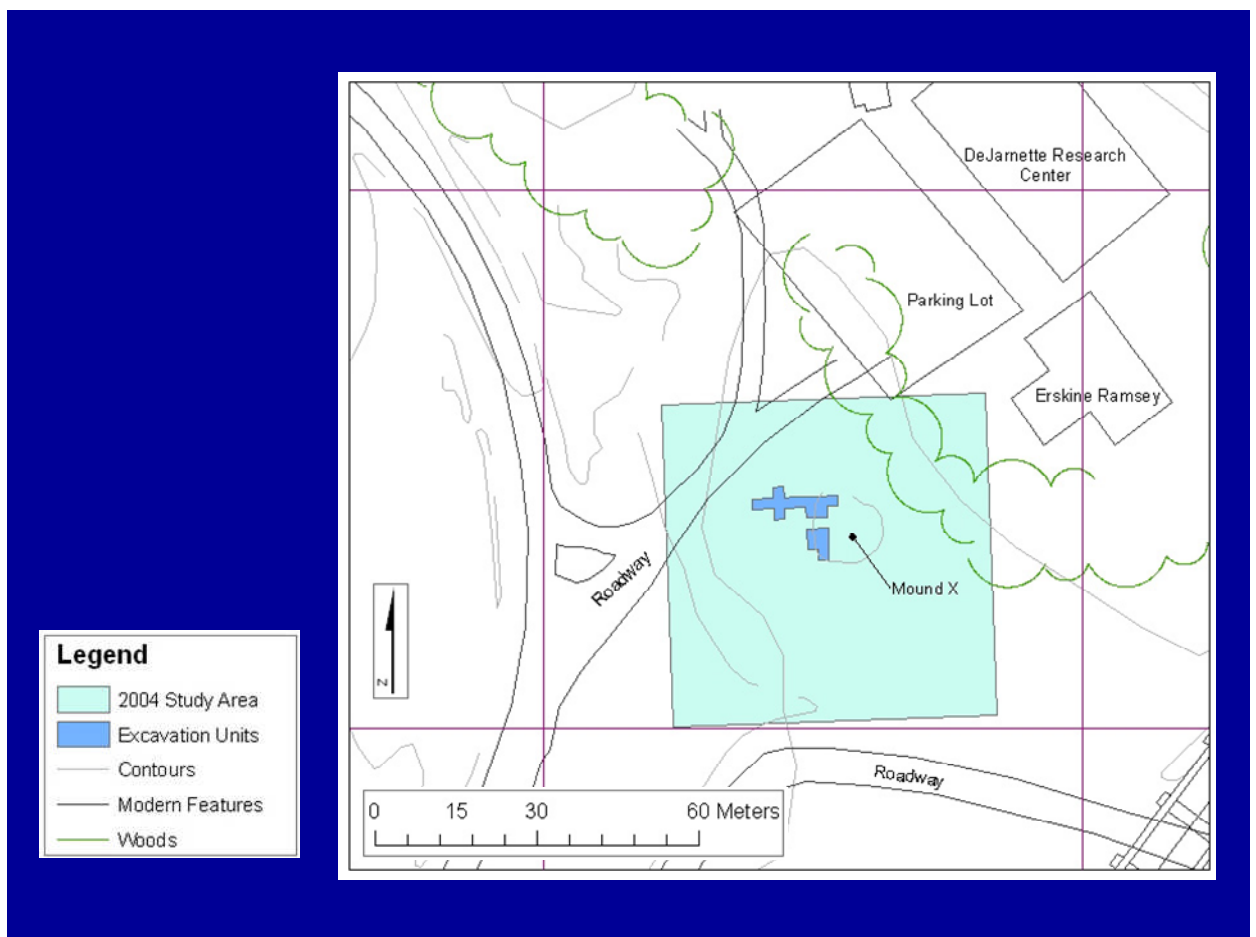


Figure 9. Mound X Study Area



Figure 10. Ground penetrating radar survey.

mindx11

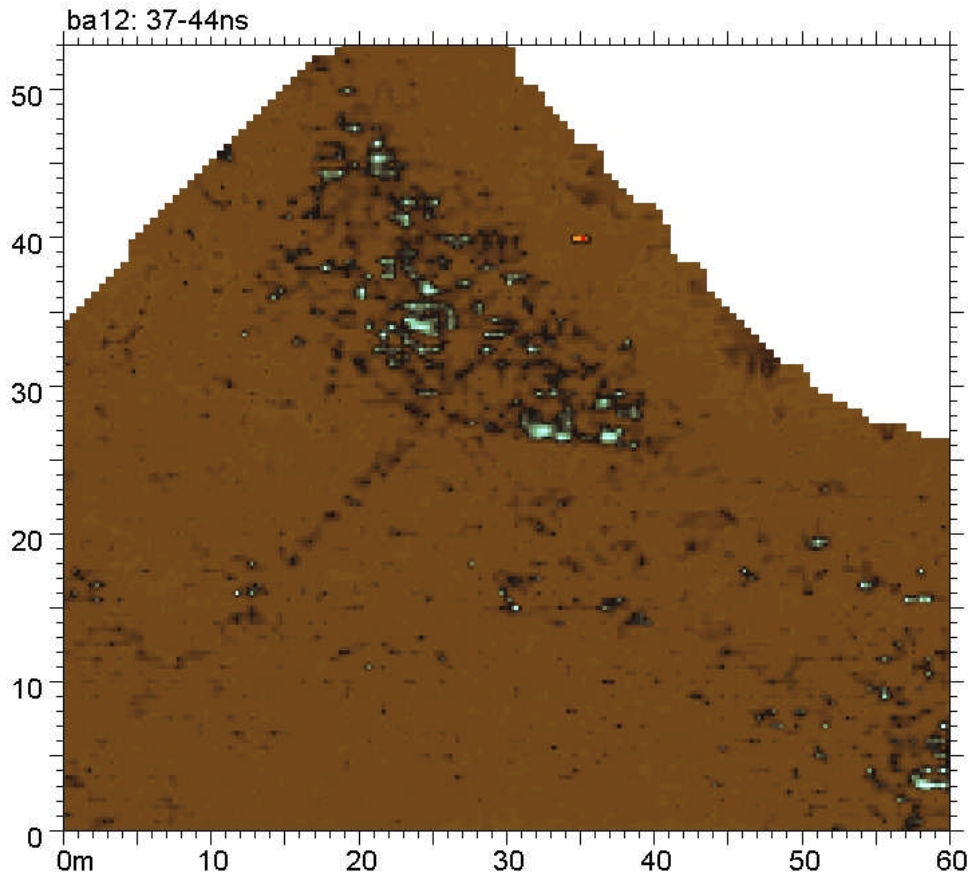


Figure 11. GRP image of Mound X outline produced by Steve Jones.

The elliptical-shaped image at the upper center of the map is the mound outline. The unusual shape is due to later, post-construction destruction and alternation of the mound's original form.

While the GPR survey successfully located and delineated the mound, it was hoped that a complementary gradiometer survey would provide further feature details. The gradiometer survey was conducted by Mr. Jeffery Alvey, Cobb Institute of Archaeology, Mississippi State University. Using a FM-256 fluxgate gradiometer, readings were taken at 5-m intervals along the control grid in the 60-m x-60-m study area. The resulting map proved informative (Figure 12). The area outlined in yellow is the remnant Mound X, with grid point N40E20 at the center of the mound. Just to the northwest is the asphalt road to the DeJarnette Research Center. Two historic ditches or pipelines cross each other to make,

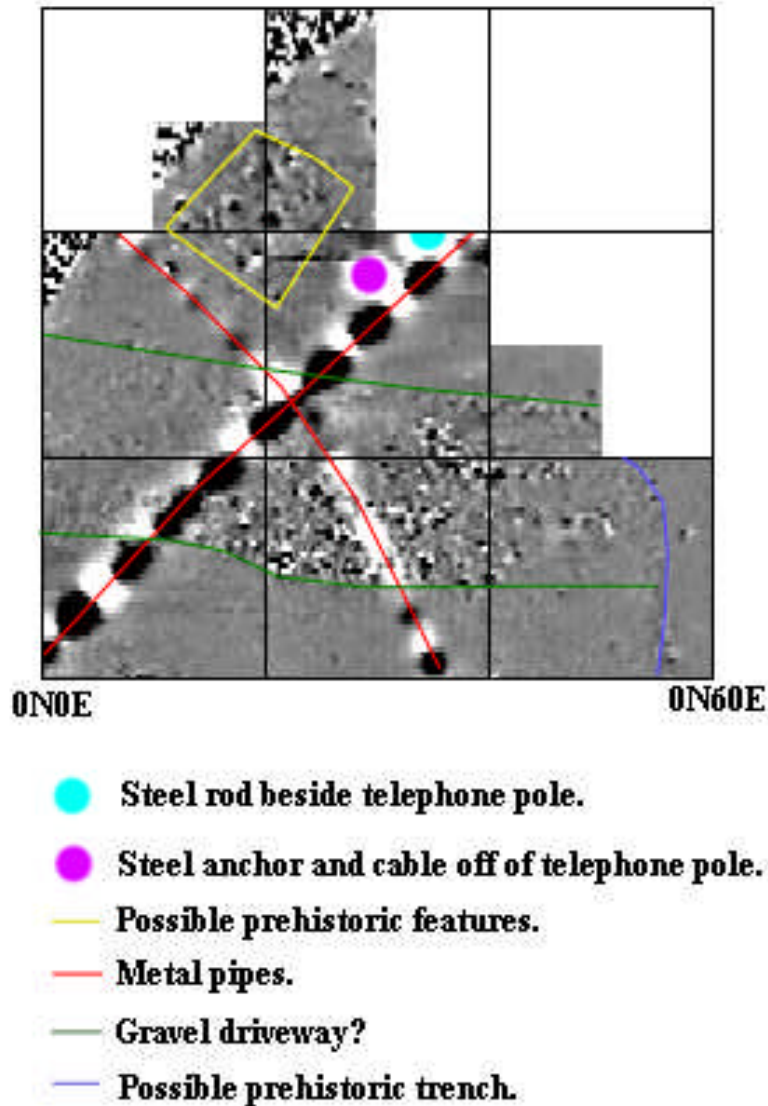


Figure 12. Gradiometer image of Mound X study area produced by Jeffery Alvey.

appropriately, a big “X” on the map! (Now we know why it’s called Mound X). Across the southern half of the study area, outlined in green, is the route of an old gravel road, clearly visible in the 1983 aerial view in Figure 4, and still in use as a short-cut from the park entrance drive to the driveway for the Erskine Ramsey facility in the 1970s.

#### *Shovel-Test Pit Survey*

While the remote sensing successfully delineated Mound X and historic disturbances, it was desirable to systematically probe areas close to Mound X to learn more about the soil matrix just off of the mound so that 1) the mound boundary could be more easily recognized and separated from off-mound

deposits during excavation, and 2) provide further confirmation of the remote sensing interpretations. Thus the STPs were exploratory and not intended to create detailed artifact density maps or locate off-mound features. This task was accomplished with 50-cm-x-50-cm STPs dug to 80-cm below ground surface or sterile subsoil. With one exception (N35E35), STP profiles were not drawn, but depth of charcoal and artifacts was recorded on standardized forms. Avoiding the mound remnant, pipelines, extant driveway, woods, and the old gravel road remnant, a total of 11 STPs were placed at 10-m intervals along the N20, N30, N40 grid lines. The two STPs closest to the gravel road (N20E15, N20E45) and the one closest to the DeJarnette Research Center driveway (N30E5) proved negative; large quantities of gravel were encountered, and intact deposits were absent. All STPs on the N30 and N40 lines recovered prehistoric artifacts and the soil matrix indicated abundant evidence of off-mound residential remains. As intended, these limited probes proved useful in contrasting on-mound and off-mound deposits. Just a few meters off-mound from the SE mound edge, the profile sequence of N35E35 revealed several distinct strata (Figure 13).

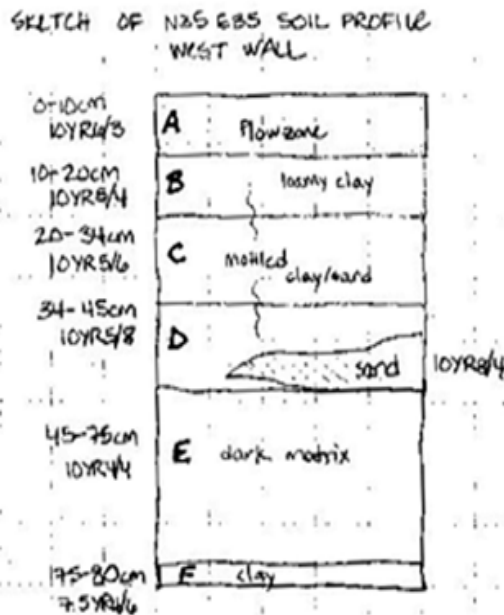


Figure 13. Field notebook sketch of profile in STP N35E35.

Sandwiched between plow zone A and subsoil F were layers of mottled clay and sand B-D, at least some of these strata may be re-deposited/eroded mound fill, part of the post-construction leveling of adjacent Mound X. Stratum E is a particularly dark matrix, interpreted as the surface prior to the re-deposition event. In this and other STPs south and east of the mound, the off-mound soil matrix E was loamy; it was visibly darker in color and more organically enriched than the on-mound deposits, with a lower clay-and-sand content. During the on-



mound excavations, this knowledge helped identify the mound edge in two locations. STP provenience and recovery data are presented in Appendix A.

### Excavation Overview

Placement of the eighteen 2-x-2-m excavation units was guided by the subsurface survey results (Figure 14). The excavations are discussed below in



**Figure 14. Beginning excavations at Mound X, view to the east.**

three sections: 1) western mound edge and palisade units; 2) southern mound edge units; and 3) central mound units (Figure 15). Figure 16 is a plan view of Mound X; the 2004 grid (red) is imposed over mound features exposed beneath the plow zone by the 1983 investigation; the 1983 backhoe trench is outlined in blue. All excavated materials were passed through shaker screens with  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch mesh. Field observations and measurements were recorded on standardized forms for each provenience. The smallest provenience unit is the lot, which may be an arbitrary level, stratum, feature, or any other entity to be kept separate from other such entities; lots are numbered sequentially within each 2-x-2-m

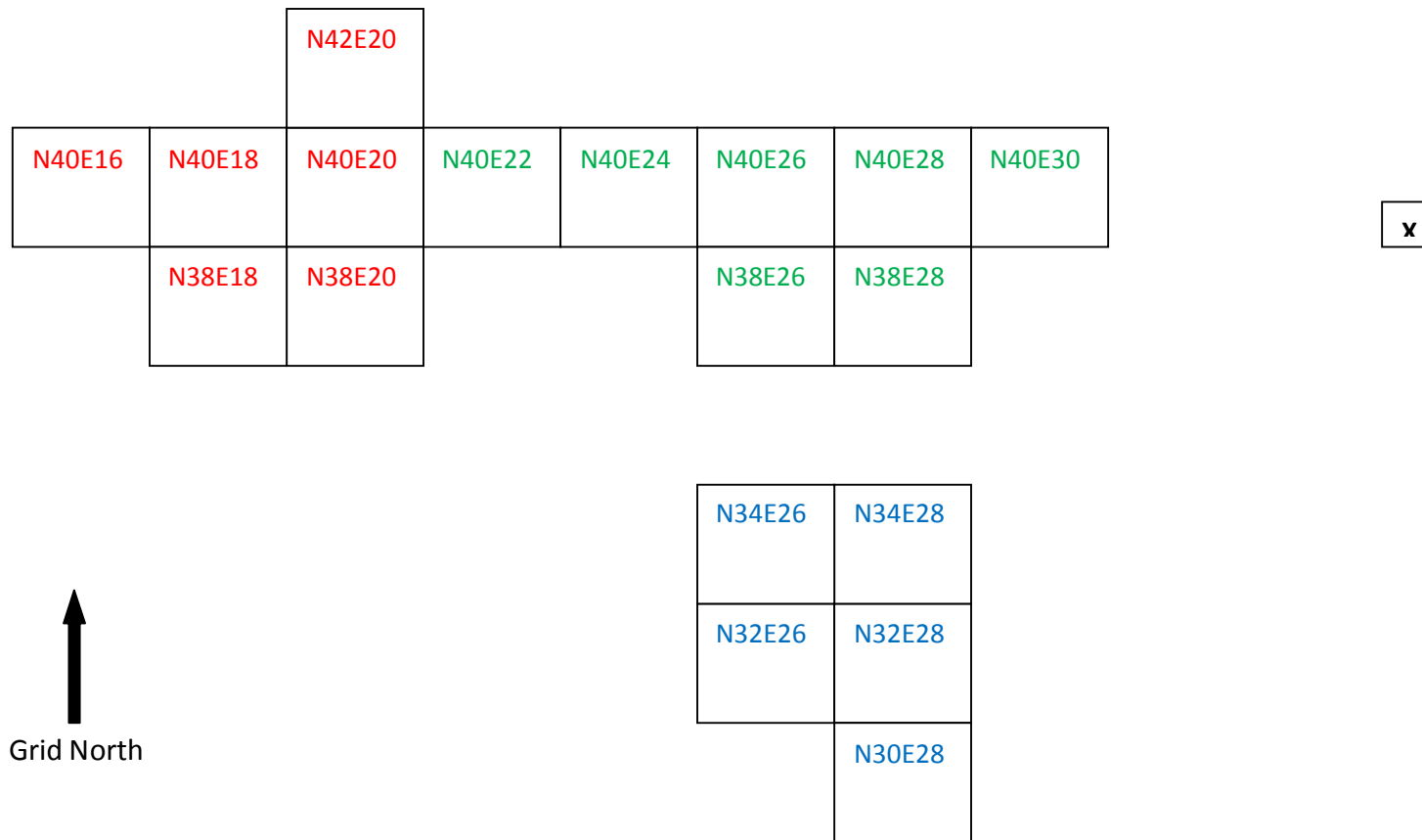


Figure 15. Mound X grid: Western Mound Edge and Palisade units (red), Southern Mound Edge units (blue), and Central Mound units (green). Local grid datum at "X" is a steel rod at the base of a power pole at coordinate N40E35.

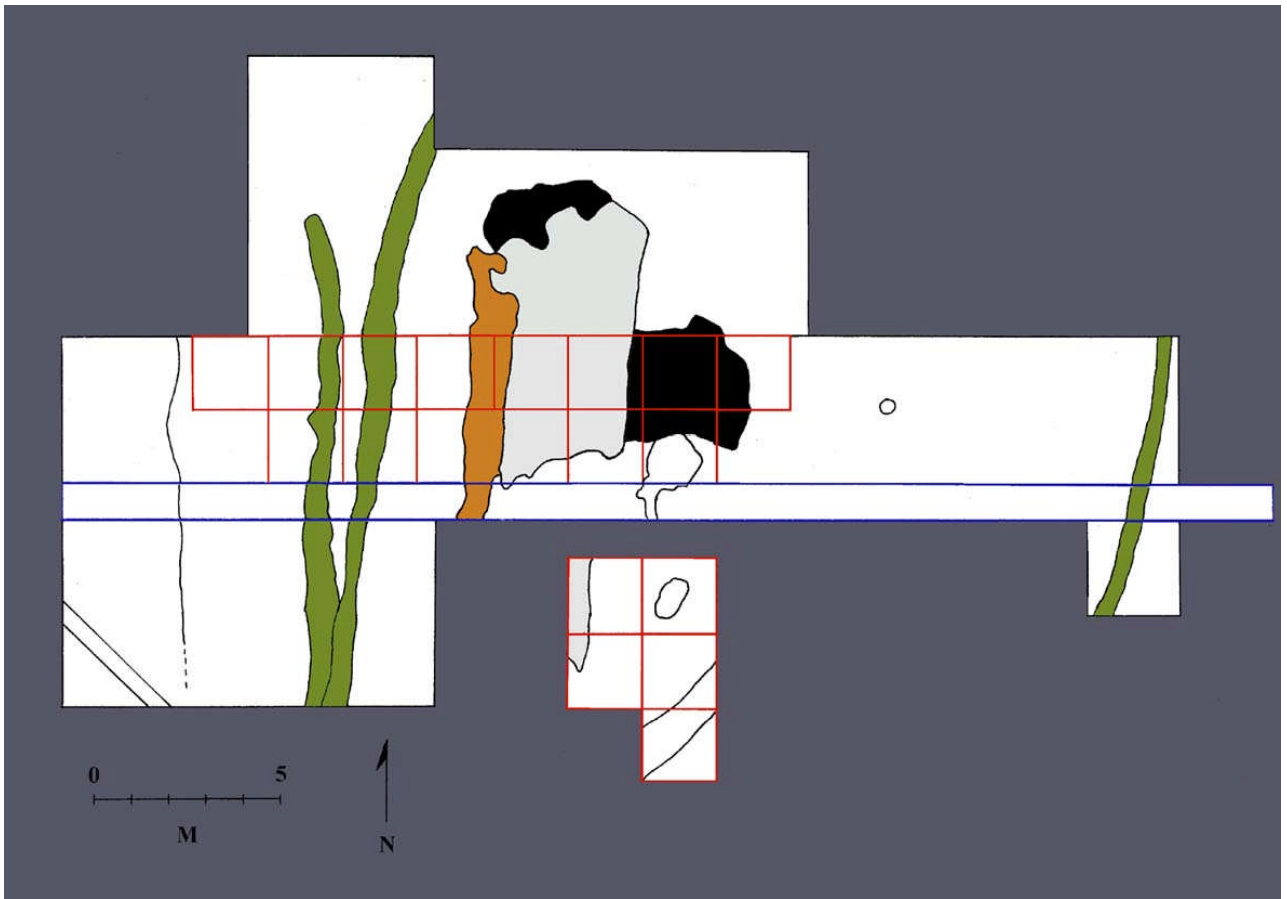


Figure 16. Plan view of Mound X: large block features from Vogel and Allan 1985, with 2004 additions, palisade trenches (green), white clay mound stage, F9 and F7 (grey), debris deposit/structure, F11 (black), yellow-brown clay mound stage, F17 (orange), 1983 trench (blue), and 2004 excavation units (red grid).

excavation unit, and repeat with each new excavation unit, e.g. N20E25: Lot 1, Lot 2; N20E30: Lot 1, Lot 2, etc. In addition to lot numbers, each feature received a feature number in a non-repeating number sequence. In the discussion that follows, units, lots, and features are organized into larger analytical units or provenience groupings, the sets of physical evidence that permit the recognition of a cultural context or event. The excavated volume of each lot was calculated by counting the number of 3.5 gallon buckets per lot. Detailed tabulated data are available in the Appendices.

### Western Mound Edge and Palisade Excavation Units

The western mound edge and palisade units consist of six contiguous 2-x-2-m units: N40E16, N40E18, N40E20, N42E20, N38E20, N38E18. The excavation goal in this block was to locate the western edge of Mound X and clarify the stratigraphic relationship between the mound and the palisade line. The most important analytical or provenience groups in this excavation block, listed in

stratigraphic order, are plow zone, two palisade wall trenches aligned N-S through the units parallel to each other, the truncated mound remnant and associated features, and the underlying pre-mound surface and subsoil. All units are on Mound X except for Unit N40E16, which is at or just off the western mound edge. It became clear during excavation that some past action that had removed upper portions of the mound.

**Plow Zone.** The plow zone extended across all units. It is the uppermost disturbed portion of the Mound X remnant. It was stripped and then replaced in the 1983 excavation.

**Palisade Wall Trenches.** Two palisade wall trenches (F13 and F16), aligned N-S, were exposed beneath the plow zone and intruded into the western portion of Mound X (Figure 16). Only the upper portion of F13 in N42E20 was excavated. F13 and F16 were crossed by the E-W 1983 backhoe trench (F5) (Figure 17). We emptied the old backhoe trench and drew a section profile from N40E18 to N40E22 (Figure 18).



Figure 17. Palisade wall trenches in units N38E20, N40E20, and N42E20, view north.

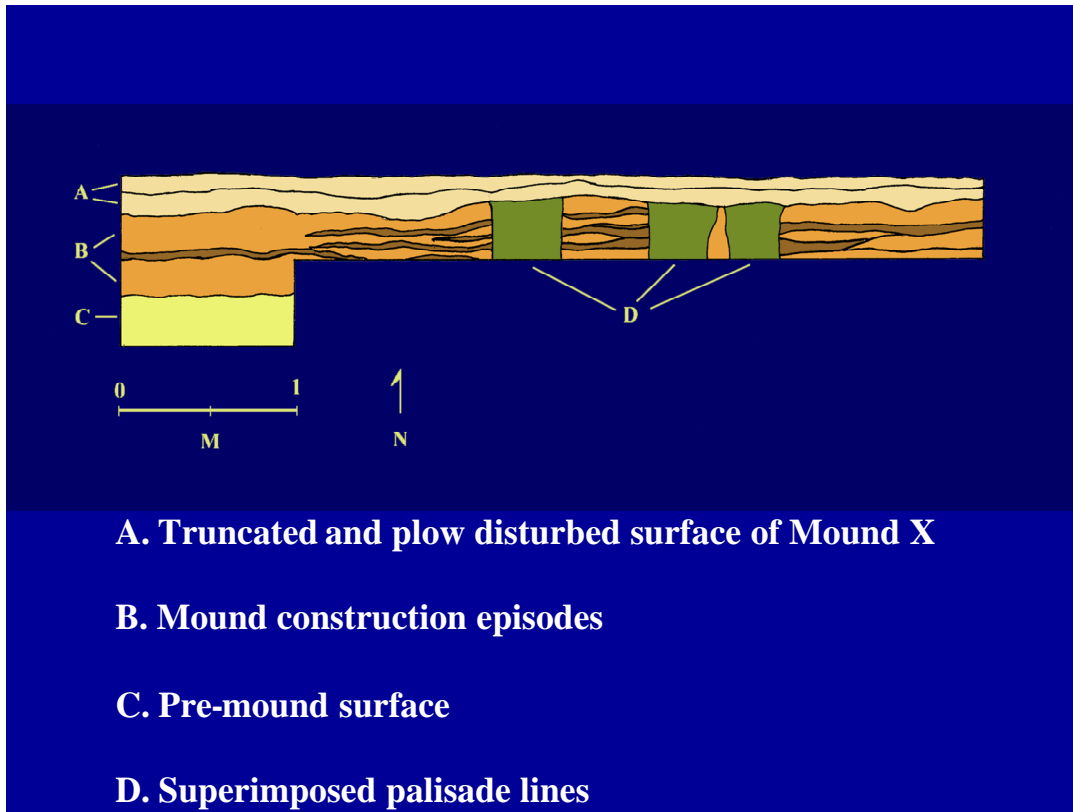


Figure 18. North profile at western edge of Mound X from N40E18 to N40E22.

**Truncated Mound Remnant and Associated Features.** The remnant mound in this location is 65-70 cm thick, including the plow zone. It is primarily a fill and loading construction of clay and sand, with the summit occupation surface largely absent due to some truncation effect in the past. Consequently, only a few features associated with the occupation surface were found: two flat masses of fired clay (F2, F14), and a midden-filled depression (F15). The fired clay masses were puddled clay (i.e., it was not wall daub with typical cane or other impressions), apparently portions of a floor or similar feature, badly disturbed when intruded by the palisade wall trenches (Figure 17).

Another thin layer of midden (N40E16, Lot 2) was encountered just off the western mound edge.

### Southern Mound Edge Excavation Units

The southern mound edge excavation units consist of five contiguous 2-x-2-m units: N30E28, N34E28, N32E28, N34E26, and N32E26. The excavation goal in this block was to locate the southern edge of Mound X. Therefore, these units are shallow horizontal excavations, no more than 30 cm below datum (surface). All units are on Mound X except the southern-most unit N30E28, which straddles the southern mound edge. The most important analytical or provenience groups

in this excavation block, listed in stratigraphic order, are plow zone, a yellow clay mound stage, a shallow pit feature, mound fill, and a white clay mound stage. All of these mound strata and features had been severely truncated by some past action that had removed upper portions of the mound. Unlike the western mound edge and palisade units discussed above or the central mound units discussed below, this area of Mound X was not stripped of plow zone in the 1983 investigation.

**Plow Zone.** The plow zone was found across all units. It is the uppermost disturbed portion of the Mound X remnant. Upon removal of the plow zone, the other strata and features listed below became visible.

**Yellow Clay Mound Stage (F10).** This is a one-meter-wide band of dense yellow clay aligned NE-SW that demarcates the southern edge of Mound X. It represents the latest mound stage for which there is evidence. The upper portions of this mound construction stage were destroyed and removed through some truncating action in the past, which left the only remaining portion of this stage at the base of the mound along its outer perimeter, thus appearing as a linear band in plan view (Figure 19). The dark clay loam soil just to the south of F10 is interpreted as off the mound. While it is possible that remains of an even later mound stage went undetected beyond the limits of excavation to the south, the reasons for concluding that F10 is the final mound stage and the southern mound edge is 1) the dark clay loam soil just to the south of F10 is similar to the soil matrix detected by STPs further east and south; 2) these areas are beyond the mound outline revealed by remote sensing.

**Pit (F6).** This was an oval-shaped pit feature just below the plow zone in N34E28, 160x65 cm and 15 cm deep. It was so severely truncated by plow and other disturbances to the mound that it was little more than a shallow outline, with few artifacts. The function of this feature was not determined.

**Truncated Mound Fill.** When the plow zone was removed, this brown soil matrix was found throughout this block of units, bordered by the yellow clay stage F10 (Figure 19). It is mottled with charcoal flecks and clay. It is mound fill layer that preceded and was later covered by the F10 stage. As is the case with F10, upper portions of this mound stratum were destroyed.

**White Clay Mound Stage (F7).** F7 is a dense white-to-light grey clay construction stage devoid of artifacts at this location. Like the F10 mound construction stage, it is severely truncated. Because it is closer to the mound center, F7 is an older, earlier stage than either the truncated brown mound fill surrounding it or the yellow clay mound stage F10. Although separated by an unexcavated strip, it is clear that F7 is the same white clay mound stage first encountered in the 1983 investigation and later in central mound excavation block, where we labeled it Feature 9; it is the same clay. The F7 and F9 portions of the white clay mound stage align N-S along the remaining eastern edge (Figure 16). This mound stage is discussed further in the next section.

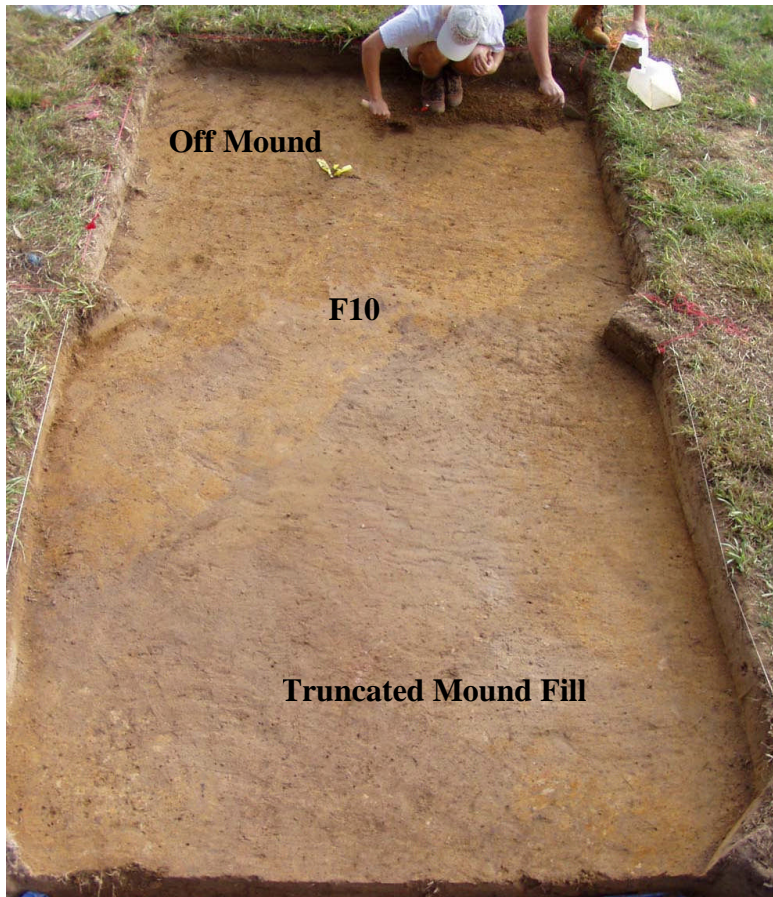


Figure 19. Edge of Mound X in units N32E28 and N30E28, view south.

### Central Mound Excavation Units

The central mound excavation units consist of seven contiguous 2-x-2-m units: N40E22, N40E24, N40E26, N40E28, N40E30, N38E26, and N38E28. The excavation goal in this block was to document Mound X form, composition, and chronology, and recover artifacts associated with mound activities. All units are on Mound X. Immediately beneath the plow zone, several mound features were exposed (Figure 16). Even though these features appear at the same level below datum (surface) when the plow zone was removed, the features represent different sequential stages and episodes of mound-building and use. That the features initially appear at the same level is due to the severe truncation of the upper portion of the mound, noted earlier. However, unit profiles, especially the north wall of N40E24 and a four-meter section from N38E26 to N38E30 clarified mound stratigraphy. The most important analytical or provenience groups in this excavation block, listed in stratigraphic order, are plow zone, the white clay mound stage previously noted, a deep deposit of debris from mound activities, a

yellow-brown clay mound construction stage, truncated brown and reddish-brown mound fill, initial mound fill/ pre-mound surface, and sterile clay subsoil. **Plow Zone.** The plow zone was found across all units. It is the uppermost disturbed portion of the Mound X remnant. Upon removal of the plow zone, the other strata and features listed below became visible.

**White Clay Mound Stage, Feature 9:** Feature 9 a dense white-to-light grey clay mound construction stage; it is the same white clay stage labeled F7 in the southern mound edge units. The F9 portion of the white clay mound stage is an 8-m-x-4-m rectangular mass. F9 is the white clay mass indicated by arrow in the 1983 photo in Figure 5. A profile through F9 is shown in Figure 20. F9 was created by digging down into earlier mound fill and then piling and packing this cavity with about 50 cm of heavy clay to create a new stage. In profile, F9 is an uniform, un-stratified deposit and yet there are small artifacts in it. This observation suggests a secondary context for these artifacts, which were incorporated into the clay matrix during construction.

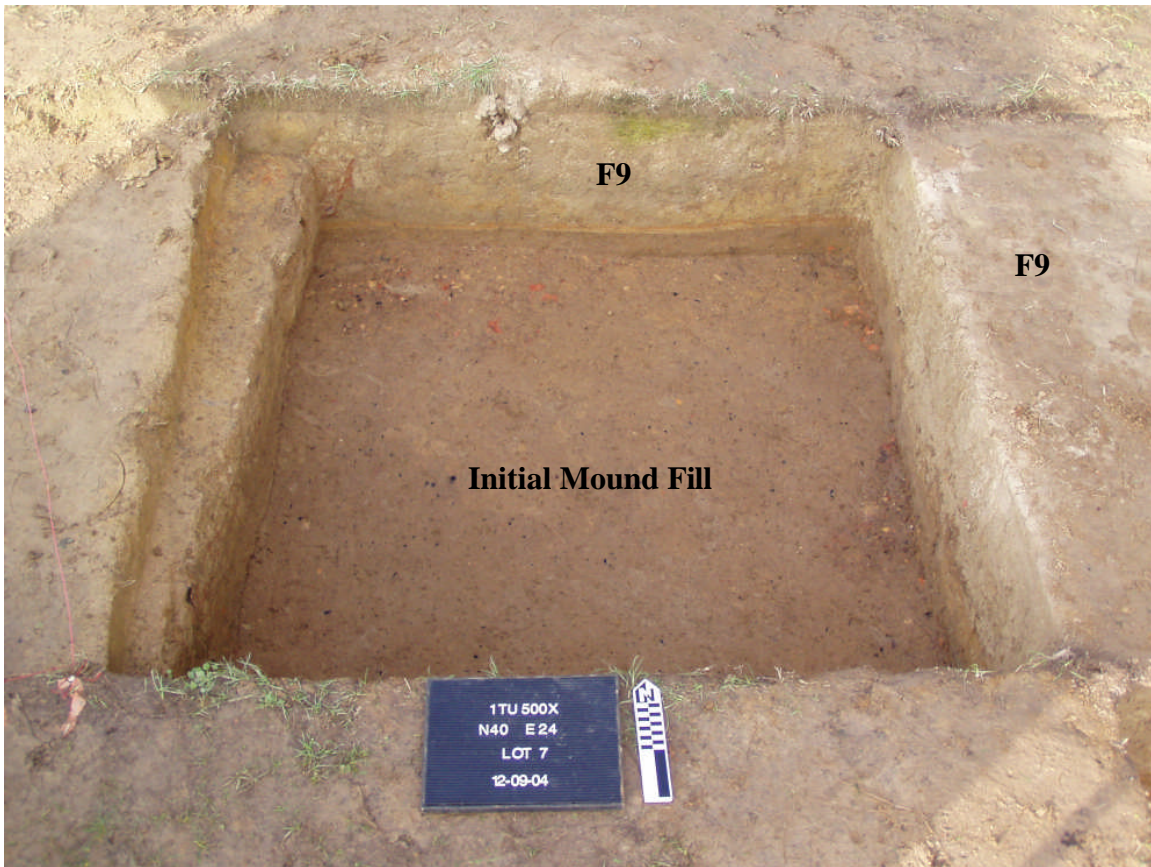


Figure 20. Profile through F9.

**Debris Deposit, Feature 11:** This feature was a rectangular area of debris, approximately 4-m-x-4-m and 60 cm deep, deposited by mound-related activities. F11 is filled with ash, charcoal, bits of bone, ceramics, and lithics. F11 is



depicted in black in Figure 16, and is indicated by the arrows in the 1983 photos in Figure 6. One possibility is that F 11 is a remnant basin-shaped or semisubterranean floor area of a severely truncated structure, which would explain the rectangular shape. If so, then post molds or wall trenches should have been present, but none were found. Semi subterranean structures are present in the early Moundville I phase, but are no longer used in the subsequent late Moundville I phase. F11 is intruded into by the F9 white clay mound stage (Figure 21).

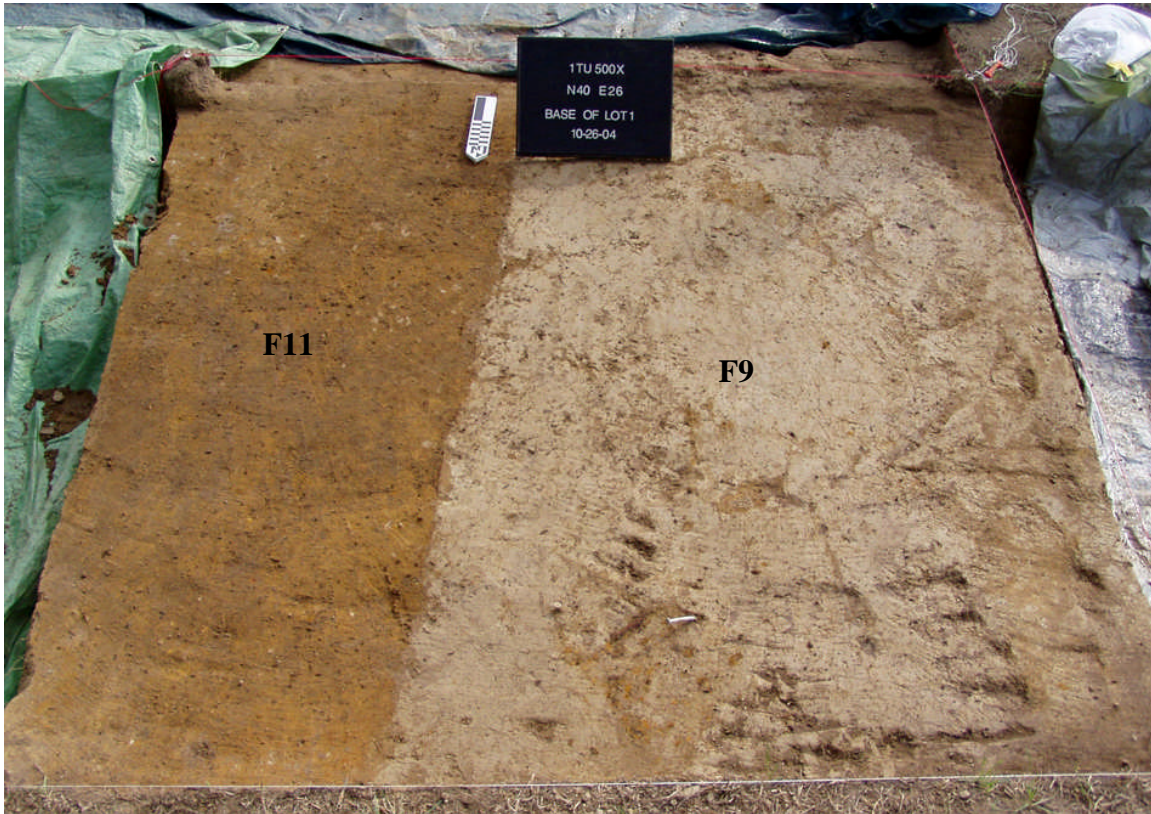


Figure 21. F9 intrudes F11, as seen just below plow zone, unit N40E26, view south.

**Yellow-Brown Clay Mound Stage, Feature 17:** Feature 17 is a mound construction stage of yellow-brown clay with few artifacts. The F9 white construction stage intrudes into and slightly overlays the earlier F17 mound construction episode (Figure 22).

**Truncated mound fill:** This provenience grouping is actually two distinct deposit events of truncated mound fill, of slightly different texture and color, found at two separate locations. A light-brown silty clay mound fill (F12) was found in the eastern most unit N40E30, where it overlays a small portion of F11. F12 is possibly equivalent to the truncated mound fill found in the southern mound edge units. Another area of truncated mound fill, reddish-brown in color,

was found in N40E22 and continues into the adjacent western edge unit N40E18, where it is intruded by the palisade.

**Initial Mound Fill/Pre-mound Surface and Subsoil:** This provenience grouping demarcates the earliest Mound X construction. This deposit underlies and thus predates all of the mound provenience groups described above. It was examined mainly in profile: labeled B in the profile through the western mound edge units in Figure XXX and the four-meter section from N38E26 to N38E30 (Figure 23). Multiple overlapping and discontinuous lenses of ash, sand, and clay lumps are layered in a mottled matrix, indicative of loading and filling. Due to the limited



Figure 22. F9 intrudes F17 in unit N40E24, view north.

horizontal exposure, it was not possible to determine if thin strata just above the contact with the sterile subsoil were occupation debris on the pre-mound surface or mound-building. The Initial Mound Fill was also exposed beneath the F9 White Clay Mound stage in N40E24 (Figure 20).

### Summary

The singular characteristic of Mound X revealed by the investigations is the severe truncation of the uppermost portions of the mound. Just how much of the

mound was removed in the past is unknown. Certainly, the mound has been leveled in the historic era as indicated by the plow zone, detection by the STPs of redeposit and spreading in the adjacent off-mound area to the south and east, and the fact that the uppermost portions of the superimposed palisade lines are also truncated. Mound X is not shown on the Moore 1905 map or on the recently discovered Jones 1930 map, which suggests that it was relatively inconspicuous by the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is even possible that the destruction of the mound took place in prehistory, perhaps as part of the circumstances surrounding the superposition of the palisade over the mound. Despite the truncated condition of the mound, most of the research goals were met. To repeat, these goals were to 1) document Mound X form, composition, and chronology; 2) clarify the stratigraphic relationship between the mound and the palisade line; and 3) recover artifact and ecofact remains to provide evidence of mound-related activities.

### *Mound X Chronology*

While the spatial extent of some mound features could not be documented due to the limits of horizontal excavation, the overall form, composition, and sequence of construction are now known for Mound X. The remains of Mound X cover at least a 20-m-x-20-m area, a rough estimate of the original dimensions. The relative sequence of mound construction and use can now be summarized by listing the analytical provenience groups from oldest (1) to most recent (9):

1. Sterile Subsoil.
2. Initial Mound Fill/Pre-mound Surface.
3. Yellow-Brown Clay Mound Stage, Feature 17.
4. Debris Deposit/Structure, Feature 11.
5. White Clay Mound Stage, Features 9 and 7.
6. Truncated Mound Fill and Associated Features (Features 2, 6, 12, 14, 15).
7. Yellow Clay Mound Stage, Feature 10.
8. Palisade wall trenches, Features 13 and 16.
9. Plow Zone.

While the relative chronological order is established by superposition, the 2004 investigation provides, for the first time, the ceramic evidence to place the entire construction of Mound X in the Moundville I phase, with a high probability of an early Moundville phase time span. Prior to this investigation, an early Moundville I phase affiliation had been suspected based on the superposition of the palisade over the mound, observed in the 1983 excavation. The reason for the suspected early date for Mound X was that all known palisade sequences at Moundville are late Moundville I phase, thus it was presumed that Mound X dated to early Moundville I phase. The conclusion that Mound X was constructed and used in the early Moundville I phase is based on diagnostics such as hemagraved, Moundville Incised *var. Moundville*, Moundville Incised *var.*

*Oliver*, Baytown Plain, and folded-flattened rims found in F9 and F11. In particular, the presence of Baytown Plain and folded-flattened rims in association with the other types suggests the *early* Moundville I phase because these ceramic characteristics are found in only trace amounts or are absent altogether in late Moundville I phase contexts (Johnson 2005).

Assigning a phase affiliation to the palisade lines is problematic due to the absence of ceramic diagnostics. Baytown Plain and Mississippi Plain were recovered in the trenches, but these materials could be attributable to mixing by intrusion into the mound deposits. Regrettably, I must fall back on the rather weak argument that since all known palisade lines elsewhere at the site date to the late Moundville I phase, so must this one. Suffice it to say, however, that nothing was found in the Mound X investigation that would alter the current interpretation, that initial palisade construction at the site coincided with the rapid creation of Moundville's plaza-and-mound plan, ca. A.D. 1200-1250 (Knight and Steponaitis 1998). Thereafter, Mound X was no longer in use.

#### *Comments on Non-Ceramic Artifacts and Activities at Mound X*

Appendix A presents the Artifact Catalog. Appendix B, Unit Summaries, gives stratigraphic, context, and provenience data for each unit. Notable lithics recovered, while relatively few in number, include local chert flakes, two greenstone celt fragments, mica flakes, small pigment-quality hematite lumps (red ochre), a formal palette fragment of fine micaceous sandstone (plow zone), a triangular arrow point (plow zone) and both ground and unmodified limonite, hematitic sandstone, and fine grey micaceous sandstone chunks. There is nothing particularly remarkable about these materials, which are present in both mound and off-mound contexts at Moundville. However, all stages of paint-pigment production, i.e., Knight's (2004) "pigment complex" are present at Mound X, with an especially abundant concentration in F2: red pigment lumps, ground hematitic sandstone, raw pigment-bearing chunks, and pigment-impregnated tabular sandstone slabs that are the "informal" palettes upon which the hematite is ground out of the sandstone matrix. The only formal grey micaceous palette found was a fragment from the plow zone just off-mound. A number of ground grey micaceous sandstone pieces were found on mound, possibly residues of palette production.

Flotation samples were taken and processed (Appendix C), but remain unanalyzed. In addition to faunal and botanical materials recovered, the fine lithic materials retained in these samples might provide evidence of crafting activities. Under the supervision of Dr. Katherine Mickelson, soil samples for phytolith analysis were taken from the four-meter mound profile exposed in from N38E26 to N38E30 and await analysis.

#### *The Cultural Significance of Mound X*

The cultural significance of Mound X is two-fold. First, Mound X is one of only two mounds in the region known to date to the early Moundville I phase, the time just prior to the establishment of the Moundville site as the capital of a regional polity. Because Mississippian mounds were central places on the landscape where activities that promoted both social integration as well as social differentiation took place, locations like Mound X have the potential to provide evidence about the formation of the Moundville polity. Second, as a result of palisade construction which left the mound no longer in use and outside the protecting walls, Mound X was excluded from a place in the planned arrangement of mounds of the new social order, *ca.* A.D. 1200. Mound X is a Moundville Mississippian example of the re-arrangement of the built environment and public spaces that so often accompanied polity formation in emergent complex societies, part of an ideological strategy to re-make or deny old social values and promote new ones (Blitz 2007).

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Appendix A: Artifact Catalog, Tables 1-4

| <b>Table 1. Mound X Artifact Classes by Count</b> |                 |                |                   |               |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| <b>Prov.</b>                                      | <b>Ceramics</b> | <b>Lithics</b> | <b>Fired Clay</b> | <b>Faunal</b> | <b>C14</b> |
| 30N15E1                                           | 68              | 28             | 0                 | 1             | 0          |
| 30N25E1                                           | 17              | 34             | 1                 | 0             | 8          |
| 30N26E2                                           | 3               | 1              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 30N28E1                                           | 57              | 41             | 1                 | 0             | 1          |
| 30N28E3                                           | 38              | 5              | 0                 | 0             | 3          |
| 30N35E1                                           | 9               | 28             | 1                 | 0             | 21         |
| 30N45E1                                           | 72              | 10             | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 32N26E1                                           | 16              | 6              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 32N26E*                                           | 15              | 4              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 32N28E1                                           | 8               | 1              | 7                 | 0             | 0          |
| 32N28E2                                           | 18              | 0              | 0                 | 1             | 0          |
| 32N38E3                                           | 24              | 2              | 1                 | 0             | 0          |
| 34N26E1                                           | 22              | 1              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 34N26E2                                           | 18              | 1              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 34N28E1                                           | 102             | 28             | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 34N28E1                                           | 0               | 0              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 34N28E2                                           | 54              | 1              | 3                 | 0             | 0          |
| 34N28E3                                           | 3               | 4              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 35N35E1                                           | 51              | 8              | 0                 | 0             | 5          |
| 35N45E*                                           | 29              | 9              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 35N45E1                                           | 54              | 2              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 38N20E1                                           | 35              | 3              | 5                 | 1             | 0          |
| 38N20E*                                           | 1               | 1              | 9                 | 0             | 0          |
| 38N20E2                                           | 58              | 33             | 10                | 3             | 1          |
| 38N20E3                                           | 4               | 0              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 38N26E2                                           | 18              | 39             | 3                 | 1             | 2          |
| 38N26E3                                           | 6               | 5              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 38N26/8E                                          | 9               | 2              | 0                 | 1             | 0          |
| 38N28E1                                           | 44              | 75             | 2                 | 11            | 0          |
| 40N16E*                                           | 66              | 25             | 16                | 0             | 0          |
| 40N16E*                                           | 2               | 5              | 3                 | 0             | 0          |
| 40N16E1                                           | 115             | 57             | 11                | 0             | 0          |
| 40N16E2                                           | 362             | 72             | 26                | 0             | 0          |
| 40N18E1                                           | 17              | 9              | 1                 | 0             | 4          |
| 40N18E2                                           | 94              | 55             | 12                | 0             | 10         |
| 40N18E3                                           | 2               | 5              | 11                | 0             | 1          |
| 40N18E4                                           | 6               | 97             | 7                 | 0             | 2          |
| 40N20E1                                           | 80              | 66             | 26                | 17            | 6          |
| 40N20E2                                           | 69              | 257            | 55                | 0             | 1          |
| 40N20E3                                           | 29              | 60             | 70                | 2             | 0          |
| 40N22E1                                           | 6               | 60             | 0                 | 1             | 4          |
| 40N24E1                                           | 16              | 134            | 0                 | 5             | 0          |
| 40N24E2                                           | 31              | 23             | 0                 | 1             | 0          |
| 40N24E3                                           | 1               | 1              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |

|                 |     |     |    |   |   |
|-----------------|-----|-----|----|---|---|
| 40N24E4         | 73  | 2   | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| 40N24E5         | 11  | 1   | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| 40N24E7         | 66  | 12  | 2  | 0 | 2 |
| 40N26E2         | 5   | 5   | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| 40N26E3         | 7   | 7   | 1  | 0 | 0 |
| 40N28E1         | 6   | 92  | 0  | 1 | 0 |
| 40N28E2         | 32  | 35  | 4  | 0 | 0 |
| 40N28E*         | 0   | 19  | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| 40N28E3         | 209 | 6   | 0  | 0 | 8 |
| 40N30E1         | 11  | 4   | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| 40N30E2         | 143 | 36  | 0  | 0 | 1 |
| 40N30E3         | 2   | 2   | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| 40N30E4         | 1   | 0   | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| 40N30E5         | 196 | 23  | 16 | 0 | 4 |
| 40N40E1         | 6   | 8   | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| 42N20E1         | 27  | 2   | 1  | 0 | 0 |
| 42N20E2         | 43  | 23  | 27 | 0 | 5 |
| 42N20E3         | 58  | 184 | 22 | 1 | 0 |
| *****           | 64  | 22  | 4  | 1 | 6 |
| *=no lot number |     |     |    |   |   |



| <b>Table 2. Mound X Artifact Classes by Weight (g)</b> |                 |                |                   |               |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| <b>Prov.</b>                                           | <b>Ceramics</b> | <b>Lithics</b> | <b>Fired Clay</b> | <b>Faunal</b> | <b>C14</b> |
| 30N15E1                                                | 124             | 72             | 0                 | 1             | 0          |
| 30N25E1                                                | 22              | 171            | 2                 | 0             | 4          |
| 30N26E2                                                | 5               | 2              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 30N28E1                                                | 151             | 823            | 5                 | 0             | 7          |
| 30N28E3                                                | 64              | 25             | 0                 | 0             | 1          |
| 30N35E1                                                | 7               | 51             | 2                 | 0             | 1          |
| 30N45E1                                                | 157             | 127            | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 32N26E1                                                | 9               | 7              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 32N26E*                                                | 13              | 66             | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 32N28E1                                                | 6               | 1              | 14                | 0             | 0          |
| 32N28E2                                                | 48              | 0              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 32N28E3                                                | 6               | 0              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 32N38E3                                                | 5               | 97             | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 34N26E1                                                | 36              | 6              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 34N26E2                                                | 10              | 2              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 34N28E1                                                | 144             | 69             | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 34N28E2                                                | 84              | 0              | 6                 | 0             | 0          |
| 34N28E3                                                | 3               | 66             | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 35N35E1                                                | 57              | 16             | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 35N45E*                                                | 51              | 24             | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 35N45E1                                                | 104             | 6              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 38N20E1                                                | 36              | 1              | 57                | 2             | 0          |
| 38N20E*                                                | 1               | 1              | 10                | 0             | 0          |
| 38N20E2                                                | 35              | 67             | 17                | 3             | 0          |
| 38N20E3                                                | 36              | 0              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 38N26E2                                                | 6               | 91             | 4                 | 0             | 0          |
| 38N26E3                                                | 5               | 4              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 38N26/8E                                               | 13              | 71             | 0                 | 1             | 0          |
| 38N28E1                                                | 47              | 347            | 17                | 37            | 0          |
| 40N16E*                                                | 31              | 30             | 20                | 0             | 0          |
| 40N16E*                                                | 1               | 8              | 0                 | 1             | 0          |
| 40N16E1                                                | 120             | 96             | 10                | 0             | 0          |
| 40N16E2                                                | 288             | 552            | 26                | 0             | 0          |
| 40N18E1                                                | 28              | 21             | 2                 | 0             | 9          |
| 40N18E2                                                | 97              | 111            | 11                | 0             | 1          |
| 40N18E3                                                | 1               | 21             | 29                | 0             | 0          |
| 40N18E4                                                | 17              | 116            | 5                 | 0             | 2          |
| 40N20E1                                                | 84              | 285            | 35                | 41            | 1          |
| 40N20E2                                                | 94              | 300            | 35                | 0             | 0          |
| 40N20E3                                                | 62              | 565            | 160               | 0             | 0          |
| 40N22E1                                                | 16              | 320            | 0                 | 0             | 8          |
| 40N24E1                                                | 39              | 501            | 19                | 0             | 0          |
| 40N24E2                                                | 158             | 197            | 0                 | 0             | 0          |
| 40N24E3                                                | 8               | 1              | 0                 | 0             | 0          |

|                 |     |     |    |   |          |
|-----------------|-----|-----|----|---|----------|
| 40N24E4         | 132 | 164 | 0  | 0 | 0        |
| 40N24E5         | 9   | 1   | 0  | 0 | 0        |
| 40N24E7         | 135 | 202 | 1  | 0 | 37       |
| 40N26E2         | 19  | 30  | 0  | 0 | 0        |
| 40N26E3         | 4   | 31  | 1  | 0 | 0        |
| 40N28E1         | 13  | 465 | 0  | 0 | 0        |
| 40N28E2         | 66  | 63  | 7  | 0 | 0        |
| 40N28E*         | 0   | 55  | 0  | 0 | 0        |
| 40N28E3         | 421 | 92  | 0  | 0 | 2        |
| 40N30E1         | 7   | 11  | 0  | 0 | 0        |
| 40N30E2         | 61  | 170 | 0  | 0 | 0        |
| 40N30E3         | 3   | 3   | 0  | 0 | 0        |
| 40N30E4         | 3   | 0   | 0  | 0 | 0        |
| 40N30E5         | 244 | 116 | 40 | 0 | 1        |
| 40N40E1         | 7   | 20  | 0  | 0 | 0        |
| 42N20E1         | 27  | 40  | 8  | 0 | 0        |
| 42N20E2         | 82  | 181 | 31 | 0 | 1        |
| 42N20E3         | 53  | 161 | 20 | 0 | *(no wt) |
| *****           | 37  | 22  | 11 | 0 | 0        |
| *=no lot number |     |     |    |   |          |

| <b>Table 3: Mound X Provenience Volumes</b> |                           |                  |                  |                     |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Prov.</b>                                | <b>Cultural Context</b>   | <b># Buckets</b> | <b># Gallons</b> | <b>Cubic Meters</b> |
| 30N28E1                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | 38               | 133              | 0.5035247           |
| 30N28E2                                     | Mound Fill (F10)          | 0                | 0                | 0                   |
| 30N28E3                                     | Mound Fill (F10)          | 10               | 35               | 0.1325065           |
| 32N26E1                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | 0                | 0                | 0                   |
| 32N26E2                                     | Mound Fill                | 1                | 3.5              | 0.01325065          |
| 32N28E1                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | 0                | 0                | 0                   |
| 32N28E2                                     | Mound Fill                | 29               | 101.5            | 0.38426885          |
| 32N28E3                                     | Mound Fill                | 6.5              | 22.75            | 0.086129225         |
| 34N26E1                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | 0                | 0                | 0                   |
| 34N26E2                                     | Mound Fill (F7)           | 10.5             | 36.75            | 0.139131825         |
| 34N28E1                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | 56               | 196              | 0.7420364           |
| 34N28E2                                     | Mound Fill (F6)           | 30               | 105              | 0.3975195           |
| 34N28E3                                     | Mound Fill                | 2.5              | 8.75             | 0.033126625         |
| 38N20E1                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | n/a              | n/a              | n/a                 |
| 38N20E2                                     | Disturbed (F13, F5)       | 16               | 56               | 0.2120104           |
| 38N20E3                                     | Disturbed (F5)            | 0                | 0                | 0                   |
| 38N26E1                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | 0                | 0                | 0                   |
| 38N26E2                                     | Mound Fill                | 11               | 38.5             | 0.14575715          |
| 38N26E3                                     | Mound Fill                | 4                | 14               | 0.0530026           |
| 38N26feat.54                                | Disturbed (F5)            | 0                | 0                | 0                   |
| 38N28E1                                     | Disturbed (Plow Zone, F5) | 47               | 164.5            | 0.62278055          |
| 40N16E1                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | 72               | 252              | 0.9540468           |
| 40N16E2                                     | Mound Fill                | 37.3             | 130.55           | 0.494249245         |
| 40N16E3                                     | Postmold (F3)             | 0                | 0                | 0                   |
| 40N16E4                                     | Postmold (F4)             | 0.5              | 1.75             | 0.006625325         |
| 40N18E1                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | 0                | 0                | 0                   |
| 40N18E2                                     | Mound Fill/Wash           | 16               | 56               | 0.2120104           |
| 40N18E3                                     | Fired Clay Mass (F14)     | 3                | 10.5             | 0.03975195          |
| 40N18E4                                     | Mound Edge Midden         | 5.75             | 20.125           | 0.076191238         |
| 40N20E1                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | 68.75            | 240.625          | 0.910982188         |
| 40N20E2                                     | Mound Fill and F13 mixed  | 21.3             | 74.55            | 0.282238845         |
| 40N20E3                                     | Fired Clay Mass (F2)      | 7.5              | 26.25            | 0.099379875         |
| 40N22E1                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | 0                | 0                | 0                   |
| 40N24E1                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | 46               | 161              | 0.6095299           |
| 40N24E2                                     | Mound Fill (F9)           | 41               | 143.5            | 0.54327665          |
| 40N24E3                                     | Mound Fill (F9)           | 5                | 17.5             | 0.06625325          |
| 40N24E4                                     | Mound Fill (F9)           | 67               | 234.5            | 0.88779355          |
| 40N24E6                                     | PreMound                  | 8                | 28               | 0.1060052           |
| 40N24E7                                     | PreMound                  | 17               | 59.5             | 0.22526105          |
| 40N26E1                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | 0                | 0                | 0                   |
| 40N26E2                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | 0                | 0                | 0                   |
| 40N26E3                                     | Mound Fill (F11)          | 12               | 42               | 0.1590078           |
| 40N28E1                                     | Mound Fill (Plow Zone)    | 72               | 252              | 0.9540468           |
| 40N28E2                                     | Mound Fill (F11)          | 52               | 182              | 0.6890338           |

|                |                        |     |      |            |
|----------------|------------------------|-----|------|------------|
| 40N28E3        | Mound Fill (F11)       | 40  | 140  | 0.530026   |
| 40N30E1        | Mound Fill (Plow Zone) | n/a | n/a  | n/a        |
| 40N30E2        | Mound Fill (F11)       | 36  | 126  | 0.4770234  |
| 40E30E3        | Clay Mass (F12)        | 3   | 10.5 | 0.03975195 |
| 40N30E4        | Mound Fill (F11)       | 0   | 0    | 0          |
| 40N30E5        | Mound Fill (F11)       | 38  | 133  | 0.5035247  |
| 42N20E1        | Mound Fill (Plow Zone) | 0   | 0    | 0          |
| 42N20E2        | Palisade (F13)         | 11  | 38.5 | 0.14575715 |
| 42N20E3feat.13 | Palisade (F13)         | 11  | 38.5 | 0.14575715 |

| Table 4: Diagnostic Pottery and Misc. Lithics |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                       |              |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Provenience                                   | Pottery                                                                                                                                   | Stone                                                                                                 | Phase        |
| 40N18E1                                       | Moundville Engraved, <i>var. Unspecified</i>                                                                                              |                                                                                                       |              |
| 40N18E2                                       | Baytown Plain                                                                                                                             | Hematite                                                                                              |              |
| 40N18E4 F15                                   |                                                                                                                                           | Muscovite, Ground Hematitic Sandstone                                                                 |              |
| 40N20E2                                       |                                                                                                                                           | Hematite                                                                                              |              |
| 40N20E3 F2                                    |                                                                                                                                           | Greenstone celt fragment, Hematitic Sandstone, Hematite, fine grey micaceous sandstone                |              |
| 40N22E1                                       |                                                                                                                                           | Hematite                                                                                              |              |
| 40N24E1 F9                                    |                                                                                                                                           | Primary Decort. Flake, Secondary Decort. Flake -Bangor chert, Hematite, fine grey micaceous sandstone |              |
| 40N24E2 F9                                    | strap handle with top node                                                                                                                | Hematite, Caulk                                                                                       |              |
| 40N24E3 F9                                    | Moundville Incised <i>var. Moundville</i>                                                                                                 |                                                                                                       | Moundville I |
| 40N24E4 F9                                    | Moundville Incised <i>var. Moundville</i> , Baytown Plain, folded-flattened rim                                                           | Reworked fragment of ground greenstone,                                                               | Moundville I |
| 40N24E7 F9                                    |                                                                                                                                           | Secondary Decort. Flake - Fort Payne chert                                                            |              |
| 40N26E2 F11                                   | Miss. Plain jar handle                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                       |              |
| 40N28E2 F11                                   | Moundville Incised <i>var. Moundville</i>                                                                                                 |                                                                                                       | Moundville I |
| 40N28E3 F11                                   | Circular top node on jar handle, Moundville Incised <i>var. Moundville, var. Oliver</i>                                                   | Ground fine grey micaceous sandstone                                                                  | Moundville I |
| 40N30E2 F11                                   | Effigy adorno (mammal), strap handle                                                                                                      | Hematite                                                                                              |              |
| 40N30E4 F11                                   | Grog-tempered                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                       |              |
| 40N30E5 F11                                   | Moundville Incised <i>var.unspec.</i> , Engraved, Red-filmed exterior, Hemagraved, Cutout Rim - red-filmed exterior, folded-flattened rim | Hematitic sandstone, Muscovite                                                                        | Moundville I |
| 42N20E2                                       | Baytown Plain                                                                                                                             | Secondary Decort. Flake, Blade-like Flake                                                             |              |
| 42N20E3 F13                                   | Baytown Plain                                                                                                                             | Hematite, fine grey micaceous sandstone                                                               |              |
| 30N28E                                        | Moundville Incised <i>var. Unspecified</i>                                                                                                | ground hematitic sandstone                                                                            |              |
| 34N28E2                                       | Moundville Engraved, <i>var. Unspecified</i>                                                                                              |                                                                                                       |              |
| 40N40E1                                       |                                                                                                                                           | palette fragment of fine grey micaceous sandstone                                                     |              |

## **Appendix B: Unit Summaries**

The Unit Summaries are grouped into three excavation sections: Western Mound Edge and Palisade excavation units, Southern Mound Edge excavation units, and Central Mound excavation units.

**Western Mound Edge and Palisade Units:**  
**EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT**  
**UNIT SUMMARY**

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North40East16

Lot Numbers: 1-4 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 9/2/04 – 10/5/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Find edge of Mound X.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is at or just off the western edge of Mound X.

Lot 1: plow zone, humus, 10yr 3/6, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-20 cm. Pop-tops, historic junk, prehistoric pottery, sandstone.

Lot 2: sub-plow zone, midden, 10yr 4/3, depth below datum: 20-30 cm. Terminated at subsoil. Moderate artifact recovery: ceramics, chert flake, hematite, fired clay.

Lot 3: Feature 3 – shallow midden-filled depression intrudes into subsoil, 10 yr 4/3, depth below datum: 30-34 cm.

Lot 4: Feature 4 – 20-cm-diameter post mold filled with red fired clay intrudes into subsoil, 2.5 yr 3/6, depth below datum: 30-38.

Lot 1 was dug at arbitrary level; Lot 2 dug to detected soil change and features at subsoil. Unit excavation terminated at subsoil. The shallow deposits here compared with units to the east indicate that this is the mound edge.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:** Lots 3 and 4 are below Lot 2 and intrude into subsoil. Lot 1 is above lots 2-4.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 1 plow zone; lot 2 midden, possibly redeposited from mound, materials in secondary context; lots 3-4 features in situ.

**5. Create provenience groups as analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow zone (Lot 1).

B. Undifferentiated midden/ mound fill. (Lot 2).

C. Features intrusive into subsoil (Lot 3-Feature 3, Lot4- Feature 4).

D. Sterile subsoil.

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

|                                              |         |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>This Unit</b>                             | N40E18  |
| Plow zone, disturbed mound surface           | present |
| Undifferentiated midden/ mound fill. (Lot 2) |         |
| F3, F4                                       |         |

# EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

## UNIT SUMMARY

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North40East20

Lot Numbers: 1-3 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 9/2/04 – 12/7/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Find edge of Mound X; find palisade line.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X at the western edge.

Lot 1: plow zone, humus, 10yr 3/6, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-20 cm.

Abundant prehistoric artifacts: ceramics, triangular point, fired clay.

Lot 2: clay loam, 10yr 4/6, depth below datum: 20-24 cm. Thin lens of re-deposited mound fill/ or lower portion of plow zone; unclear. Lot terminated when Feature 2 and Feature 13 encountered. Ceramic, bone, fired clay.

Lot 3: Feature 2 – large thick mass of fired clay; it is the remains of a large flat hearth or possibly a floor covering NW quarter of unit; encountered 24 cm below datum. Miss Plain, Bell Plain.

Lot 1 was dug at arbitrary level; Lot 2 dug to detected features. Unit excavation terminated at exposed Features 2 and 13.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:** Lot 3: Feature 3 is below Lot 2. Adjacent to F2 is Feature 13, a palisade wall trench 25-30 cm wide that bisects the middle of the unit N-S. F13 exposed, mapped but not excavated in this unit, so no lot number assigned. Feature 13 is below lot 2.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** F13 is adjacent to and intrudes F2.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow zone (Lot 1, 2)

B. Palisade wall trench (Feature 13).

C. Fired clay mass/hearth/floor (Feature 2, Lot 3).

D. mound fill/construction.

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

| This Unit                          | N40E18  | N42E20  | N38E20  | N40E22  |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Plow zone, disturbed mound surface | present | present | present | present |
| Palisade wall trench (F13)         |         | present | present |         |
| Fired clay mass (F2)               |         | present |         |         |
| Mound fill/construction            | present | present | present | present |



**EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT  
UNIT SUMMARY**

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North40East18

Lot Numbers: 1-4 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 10/5/04-12/7/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Determine if Feature 2 extends into unit from adjacent N40E20.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X at the western edge.

Lot 1: plow zone, humus/clay loam, 10yr 3/2, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-20 cm. Ceramics, hematite, chert pebble, limestone chunk.

Lot 2: disturbed, truncated surface of Mound X, silty clay, 7.5 yr 4/6, depth below datum: 20-26 cm. Thin lens of possibly re-deposited mound fill or lower portion of plow zone; unclear. Lot terminated when Features 14, 15, 16 encountered. Ceramic: Miss Plain, Bell Plain, Baytown Plain, sandstone, hematite.

Lot 3: Feature 14 – fired clay mass, probable hearth remnant similar to F2. Charcoal, ash, Bell Plain, 5 yr 3/3, depth below datum: 22-36 cm.

Lot 4: Feature 15 – shallow midden-filled depression, 10 yr 3/4, silty clay, depth below datum: 25-35 cm. Charcoal, ash, mica, ceramics: Miss Plain, lithics: ground sandstone

Lot 1 was dug at arbitrary level; Lot 2 dug to detected features. Unit excavation terminated when Features 14 and 15 removed; unexcavated mound filled continued below this depth.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

Lot3, F14 and Lot 4, F15 are adjacent to each other and below lot 2. Feature 16 palisade wall trench intrudes F15. Feature 16 not excavated so no lot number assigned.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 2 is disturbed, truncated surface of Mound X. F16 and F15 mixed due to superposition.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow zone and disturbed, truncated surface of Mound X at western edge (Lot 1, 2)

B. Palisade wall trench (F16).

C. Fired clay mass (F14), midden-filled feature (F15).

D. Unexcavated mound fill/construction.

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

| This Unit                          | N40E20  | N38E18  |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Plow zone, disturbed mound surface | present | present |
| Palisade wall trench (F16)         |         | present |
| Fired clay mass (F14).             |         | present |
| Midden-filled feature (F15)        |         | present |
| Mound fill/construction            | present | present |

**EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT  
UNIT SUMMARY**

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North42East20

Lot Numbers: 1-3 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 11/4/04-12/9/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Tracking palisade lines from adjacent unit N40E20

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X at the western edge.

Lot 1: plow zone, humus/clay and sand, 10yr 4/4, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-20 cm. Ceramics, historic junk.

Lot 2: disturbed truncated surface of Mound X, clay loam, 10 yr 3/4, depth below datum: 20-26 cm. Thin lens of re-deposited/disturbed mound fill. Lot terminated when Features 2 and 13 encountered. Ceramics: Miss Plain, Bell Plain, Baytown Plain, lithics: chert flakes, hematite.

Lot 3: Feature 13 –palisade wall trench, 25-30 cm wide, depth below datum: 22-52 cm (excavation terminated before reaching bottom of feature). Ceramics: Miss Plain, Bell Plain, Baytown Plain, lithics: chert flakes, hematite.

Lot 1 was dug at arbitrary level; Lot 2 dug to top of F13 and F2. F2 left unexcavated. Upper 30 cm of F13 removed; unit excavation terminated with unexcavated mound fill remaining.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

F2 is fired clay mass encountered in N40E20.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 2 disturbed truncated surface of Mound X. F13 content mixed due to superposition over mound fill.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow zone and disturbed, truncated surface of Mound X at western edge (Lot 1, 2)

B. Palisade line (F13).

C. Fired clay mass (F2).

D. Unexcavated mound fill.

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>This Unit</b>                   | N40E20  |
| Plow zone, disturbed mound surface | present |
| Palisade line (F13)                | present |
| Fired clay mass (F2).              | present |
| Moundfill/construction             | present |

**EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT  
UNIT SUMMARY**

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North38East20

Lot Numbers: 1-3 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 11/4/04 – 12/9/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Track palisade wall trench F13 from contiguous N40E20.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X at the western edge.

Lot 1: plow zone, humus/clay and sand, 10yr 4/4, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-20 cm. Ceramics, historic junk.

Lot 2: disturbed truncated surface of Mound X, clay and sand, 10 yr 3/4, depth below datum: 20-24 cm. Thin lens of re-deposited/disturbed mound fill. Lot terminated when Feature 13 and Feature 5 encountered.

Lot 3: Feature 5 – old 1983 excavation trench, fill from old trench.

Lot 1 was dug at arbitrary level; Lot 2 dug to top of F13 and F5. F13 left unexcavated. Fill of F5 excavated. Unit excavation terminated with unexcavated mound fill remaining around F13.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

F13 is palisade wall trench encountered in N40E20.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 2 disturbed truncated surface of Mound X. F13 content mixed due to superposition over mound fill.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow zone and disturbed, truncated surface of Mound X at western edge (Lot 1, 2).

B. Old 1983 excavation trench (F5).

C. Palisade wall trench (F13).

D. Unexcavated mound fill.

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

| <b>This Unit</b>                   | N40E20  | N38E18  |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Plow zone, disturbed mound surface | present | present |
| Palisade line (F13)                | present | present |
| Old excavation trench (F5).        |         | present |

**Southern Mound Edge Excavation Units:**  
**EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT**  
**UNIT SUMMARY**

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North30East28

Lot Numbers: 1-3 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 9/23/04 – 10/4/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Find southern edge of Mound X.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit straddles the southern edge of Mound X, half on and half off the mound. The edge is sharply demarcated here with dramatic change in soil color and texture.

Lot 1: plow zone, humus/clay loam, 10yr 4/3, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-14 cm. Large sherd: Moundville Incised just beneath plow zone at Lot 1/Lot 2 interface.

Lot 2: Off mound area of unit, dark clay loam 10 yr 3/3, depth below datum (surface): 14-30 cm.

Lot 3: Feature 10: Band of dense yellow clay 10 yr 5/6, mottled with bits of red clay, truncated mound construction stage at edge of mound, running NE to SW, adjacent to Lot 2, depth below datum (surface): 14-27 cm.

Lot 1 is above Lot 2 and Lot 3. Lot 1 was dug to undisturbed level exposing Lot 2 and Feature 10. Unit excavation terminated at this point.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

Lot 2 (off-mound) and F10 (on-mound) are adjacent. This is the southern mound edge.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 1 plow zone.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow zone and disturbed, truncated surface of Mound X at southern edge(Lot 1).

B. Lot 2, Lot 3 undisturbed mound edge

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>This Unit</b>                   | N32E28  |
| Plow zone, disturbed mound surface | present |
| Lot2 off-mound                     |         |
| Lot 3, F10                         | present |

**EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT  
UNIT SUMMARY**

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North34East28

Lot Numbers: 1-3 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 9/21/04 – 11/4/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Find southern edge of Mound X.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X.

Lot 1: plow zone, humus/clay loam, 10yr 4/4, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-20 cm. Ceramics.

Lot 2: mound fill, 10 yr 4/4, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 20-29 cm, stopped when Feature 6 encountered. Ceramics.

Lot 3: Feature 6: Shallow basin-shaped feature, 10 yr 5/6, mottled with bits of red clay, depth below datum (surface): 29-40 center.

Lot 1 is above Lot 2, lot 2 above Lot 3. Lot 1 and 2 dug to undisturbed level exposing Lot 3, F6. Unit excavation terminated after excavation of F6.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

F6 125cmx65cmx15 cm deep. Function unclear.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 1 plow zone.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow zone

B. Lot 3, F6 shallow pit feature.

C. truncated mound fill near southern mound edge (Lot 2).

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

| <b>This Unit</b>                           | N34E26  | N32E28  |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Plow zone, truncated mound fill Lots 1 & 2 | present | present |
| Lot3 F6                                    |         |         |

# EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

## UNIT SUMMARY

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North32East28

Lot Numbers: 1-3 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 10/5/04 – 11/16/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Trace Feature 10 from N30E28.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X.

Lot 1: plow zone, humus/clay loam, 10yr 4/3, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-17 cm, encountered Feature 10.

Lot 2: mound fill, 10 yr 4/4, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 17-29 cm, dug to level of adjacent units.

Lot 3: Feature 10: 10 yr 5/6, dense yellow clay mound construction stage, truncated. Found in SE quarter of unit. Took down to level of contiguous units, few artifacts.

Lot 1 is above Lot 2 and Lot 3. Lot 1 was dug to undisturbed level exposing Lot 2, mound fill and Feature 10, yellow clay construction stage. Unit excavation terminated after excavation of F10 to level of contiguous units 29-30 cm b/lo datum.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

F10, truncated yellow clay construction stage nearly devoid of artifacts, adjacent to truncated mound fill stage. F10 probably once covered Lot 2 mound fill prior to truncation.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 1 plow zone.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow zone (Lot 1).

B. Lot 3, F10.

C. Lot 2 mound fill

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

| This Unit                                          | N30E28  | N32E26  | N34E28  |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Plow zone, Lot 1                                   | present | present | present |
| Lot3 F10 truncated yellow clay construction stage. | present |         |         |
| Lot 2 truncated mound fill                         | present | present | present |

**EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT  
UNIT SUMMARY**

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North34East26

Lot Numbers: 1-3 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 10/12/04 – 10/26/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Trace Feature 7 from N32E26.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X.

Lot 1: plow zone, humus/clay/clay loam, 10yr 4/3, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-17 cm, encountered Feature 7.

Lot 2: shovel-shaving unit to expose F10, depth below datum (surface): 17-29 cm, dug to level of adjacent units.

Lot 1 is above Lot 2. Unit excavation terminated after exposure of F7 to level of contiguous units 29-30 cm b/lo datum.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

F7 is a dense white-to-light grey clay construction stage devoid of artifacts at this location. F7 is a portion of this same mound construction stage exposed elsewhere and labeled F9. Like the F10 mound construction stages, it is severely truncated. Because it is closer to the mound center, F7 (and F9) is probably an older, i.e., earlier stage than either the mound fill surrounding it or the yellow clay mound stage F10.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 1 plow zone. Lot 2 is a mix of mound fill and F7.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow zone (Lot 1).

B. mound fill

C. F7

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

| This Unit                                  | N32E26  | N34E28  |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Plow zone, truncated mound fill Lots 1 & 2 | present | present |
| F7 clay construction stage.                | present |         |

**EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT  
UNIT SUMMARY**

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North32East26

Lot Numbers: 1-3 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 10/12/04 – 10/26/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Trace Feature 7 from N34E26.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X.

Lot 1: plow zone, humus/clay/clay loam, 10yr 4/3, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-17 cm, encountered Feature 7.

Lot 2: shovel-shaving unit to expose F10, depth below datum (surface): 17-29 cm, dug to level of adjacent units.

Lot 1 is above Lot 2. Unit excavation terminated after exposure of F7 to level of contiguous units 29-30 cm b/lo datum.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

F7 is a dense white-to-light grey clay construction stage devoid of artifacts at this location. F7 is a portion of this same mound construction stage exposed elsewhere and labeled F9. Like the F10 mound construction stages, it is severely truncated. Because it is closer to the mound center, F7 (and F9) is probably an older, i.e., earlier stage than either the mound fill surrounding it or the yellow clay mound stage F10.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 1 plow zone. Lot 2 is a mix of mound fill and F7.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

- A. Plow zone (Lot 1).
- B. mound fill
- C. F7

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

| This Unit                                  | N34E26  | N32E28  |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Plow zone, truncated mound fill Lots 1 & 2 | present | present |
| F7 clay construction stage.                | present |         |



**Central Mound Units:**

**EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT**

**UNIT SUMMARY**

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North40East24

Lot Numbers: 1-7 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 9/2/04 – 12/7/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Determine composition and depth of Mound X deposits.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X.

Lot 1: plow zone/ disturbed truncated surface of Mound X, humus/clay and sand, 10yr 3/3, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-15 cm. Ceramics, historic junk. Stopped at soil change.

Lot 2: Feature 9, undifferentiated dense white-to-light grey clay, mound stage, depth below datum: 15-25 cm.

Lot 3: Feature 9, troweling, depth below datum: 25-26 cm.

Lot 4, Feature 9, depth below datum: 26-40 cm.

Lot 5, Feature 17, yellow-brown clay, mound fill, depth below datum: 26 cm.

Lot 6, Feature 9, shovel-shaving, depth below datum: 40-47 cm.

Lot 7, light brown clay, mound fill/pre-mound surface, depth below datum: 47-57 cm.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

Feature 9, Lots 2, 3, 4, 6 are sequential cuts through an undifferentiated white clay mound stage. F9 is a single stratum, mound-building episode, the surface of which is truncated by plow zone/ later alterations. F9 is the same mound construction stage exposed in the southern mound edge units and labeled F7. F9 intrudes into and slightly overlays F17 (Lot 5), an earlier mound construction episode of yellow-brown clay. Lot 7 is below Feature 9. Lot 7 is a separate and earlier mound fill stratum or pre-mound stratum.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 1 is plow zone, truncating F9 mound stage. F9 is an in situ mound stage, but materials may be in secondary context

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow Zone (Lot 1)

B. White clay mound stage (F9, Lot 2, 3, 4, 6)

C. yellow-brown clay mound construction (F17, Lot 5)

D. light brown mound fill/pre-mound stratum (Lot 7)

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

| This Unit                                 | N40E22  | N40E26  |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Plow zone, disturbed mound surface        | present | present |
| White clay mound stage (F9)               |         | present |
| Yellow-brown clay mound fill (F17, lot 5) | present |         |
| Light brown mound fill                    |         |         |

**EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT  
UNIT SUMMARY**

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North38East28

Lot Numbers: 1 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 9/30/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Determine composition and depth of Mound X deposits.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X.

Lot 1, plow zone/ disturbed truncated surface of Mound X, humus/ clay, clay loam, 10 yr 4/4, ceramics, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-20 cm. Stopped at soil change.

The plow zone was removed to expose F11 and F5 in plan view. F11 present in northern third of unit, mound fill elsewhere. F5 1983 trench emptied out to provide profile view.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

F9 and F11 are adjacent in this unit and immediately below the plow zone. F5 old trench cuts unit E-W in southern third of unit.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 1.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow Zone (Lot 1)

B. F5 (not excavated)

C. F11 (not excavated)

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>This Unit</b>                   | N38E26  |
| Plow zone, disturbed mound surface | present |
| Feature 11 dark brown debris       | present |
| Feature 5 1983 trench              | present |

## EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

### UNIT SUMMARY

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North40East28

Lot Numbers: 1-3 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 9/23/04 – 12/08/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Determine composition and depth of Mound X deposits.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X.

Lot 1, plow zone/ disturbed truncated surface of Mound X, humus/clay loam, 7.5 yr 4/4, ceramics. depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-20 cm. Stopped at soil change.

Lot 2, Feature 11: Lose, dark brown matrix, 7.5 yr 4/6, debris associated with mound activities, deep feature extends into several units, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 20-40 cm.

Charcoal, ceramics, lithics: Miss Plain, Moundville Incised, sandstone, hematite, limestone.

Lot 3, Feature 11: depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 40-54 cm. Abundant ceramics: Miss Plain, Moundville Incised, noded jar handle, horizontal lug, mica, sandstone, charcoal.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

F 11 is a zone of debris associated with mound activities, deep feature extends into several units. Excavation of F 11 terminated at 54 cm with lighter soil change.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 1 is plow zone. F11 in situ.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow Zone (Lot 1)

B. F11, dark brown debris zone (Lot 2-3)

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

| This Unit                          | N40E26  | N40E30  | N38E28  |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Plow zone, disturbed mound surface | present | present | present |
| Feature 11                         | present | present | present |

**EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT  
UNIT SUMMARY**

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North40East30

Lot Numbers: 1- 5 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 10/19/04 – 12/9/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Determine composition and depth of Mound X deposits.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X.

Lot 1, plow zone/ disturbed truncated surface of Mound X, humus/ clay loam, 10 yr 4/4, patches of orange-brown clay, ceramics, historic junk, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-11 cm. Stopped at soil change.

Lot 2, Feature 11: Lose, dark brown matrix, 7.5 yr 4/6, western half of unit, debris associated with mound activities, deep feature extends into several units, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 20-40 cm. Charcoal, ceramics, lithics: Miss Plain, jar handle, effigy rim adornment (bat?).

Lot 3, Feature 12: light brown silty clay, 10 yr 5/6, eastern half of unit. Mound fill, 20-39 cm. Ceramics: Miss Plain.

Lot 4, F 12, shovel-shaving, depth below datum (surface): 39-40 cm. Stopped at soil change.

Lot 5, F 11: depth below datum (surface): 40-59 cm. Artifacts: Miss Plain, hemagraved, Moundville Incised, Moundville Engraved, chert flake, mica, red filmed exterior

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

Feature 11 (Lots 2, 5) is debris associated with mound activities, deep feature extends into several units. Excavation terminated at 59 cm with lighter soil change.

F12 (Lots 3-4) is mound fill, distinct from F11. F 12 may be the truncated mound fill found in the southern mound edge units.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 1 is plow zone. F11 and F12 in situ.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

- A. Plow Zone (Lot 1)
- B. Feature 12 (Lots 3-4)
- C. Feature 11 (Lot 2, 5)

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>This Unit</b>                   | N40E28  |
| Plow zone, disturbed mound surface | present |
| Feature 12                         |         |
| Feature 11                         | present |

**EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT  
UNIT SUMMARY**

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North40East26

Lot Numbers: 1- 3 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 10/19/04 – 10/28/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Determine composition and depth of Mound X deposits.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X.

Lot 1, plow zone/ disturbed truncated surface of Mound X, humus/ clay, clay loam, 10 yr 4/4, ceramics, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-20 cm. Stopped at soil change.

Lot 2, Feature 11: Lose, dark brown matrix, 7.5 yr 4/6, eastern third of unit, debris associated with mound activities, deep feature extends into several units, depth below datum (surface): 11-20 cm. Miss Plain, jar handle.

Lot 3, F11, arbitrary level depth below datum (surface): 20-35 cm. Miss Plain.

Lot 4, F9, trowelled, but did not excavate further.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

F9 is a single stratum, mound-building episode, the surface of which is truncated by plow zone/later alterations. F9 is the same mound construction stage exposed in the southern mound edge units. F9 is immediately beneath Lot 1 and adjacent to F11 in the western two-thirds of unit. F9 intrudes into Feature 11. Feature 11, (Lots 2-3): found immediately beneath plow zone, debris associated with mound activities, deep feature extends into several units, eastern third of unit.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 1.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow Zone (Lot 1)

B. F9 (Lot 4)

C. F11 (Lots 2-3)

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

| <b>This Unit</b>                   | N40E22  | N40E28  | N38E26  |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Plow zone, disturbed mound surface | present | present | present |
| Feature 11                         |         | present | present |
| Feature 9                          |         |         | present |

**EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT  
UNIT SUMMARY**

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North38East26

Lot Numbers: 1- 3 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 10/12/04-12/7/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Determine composition and depth of Mound X deposits.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X.

Lot 1, plow zone/ disturbed truncated surface of Mound X, humus/ clay, clay loam, 10 yr 4/4, ceramics, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-20 cm. Stopped at soil change.

Lot 2-3, mix of F9 and F11, Lose, dark brown matrix, white clay: trowelling.

Lot 4, Feature 5 – 1983 excavation trench.

The plow zone was removed to expose F9 and F11. F5 emptied out to provide profile view.

Excavation terminated at this point.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

F9 and F11 are adjacent in this unit and immediately below the plow zone. F9 intrudes F11. F5 old trench cuts unit E-W in southern third of unit.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** All lots this unit.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow Zone (Lot 1)

B. F5

C. F9

D. F11

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

| <b>This Unit</b>                   | N40E26  | N38E28  |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Plow zone, disturbed mound surface | present | present |
| Feature 11 dark brown debris       |         | present |
| Feature 9 white clay stage         | present |         |
| Feature 5 1983 trench              | present | present |

**EARLY MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT**

**UNIT SUMMARY**

Recorded by: Blitz

Site: 1TU500-X

Local Grid Unit SW Corner: North40E22

Lot Numbers: 1 Unit size: 2x2m Datum: SW corner at ground level

Dates Excavated: 10/7/04

**1. Excavation objective:** Determine composition and depth of Mound X deposits.

**2. Describe lots, correlate them to strata, and discuss relationship of excavation technique to stratigraphy:**

This unit is on Mound X.

Lot 1, plow zone/ disturbed truncated surface of Mound X, humus/ clay, clay loam, 10 yr 4/4, ceramics, depth below datum (surface): Arbitrary level 0-20 cm. Stopped at soil change.

The plow zone was removed to expose F17 in plan view. F17 is a yellow-brown clay mound fill in eastern half of unit. A reddish-brown mound fill/construction was in the western half of the unit at same level as F17. Excavation terminated at this point.

**3. Describe features by lot# and correlate features with strata:**

F17 exposed immediately below Lot 1 plow zone. F17 is mound fill also found in contiguous unit N40E24.

**4. Disturbances/Mixing:** Lot 1.

**5. Create analytical units in stratigraphic order (list temporal phases if known):**

A. Plow Zone (Lot 1)

B. F17 (not excavated)

C. mound fill/construction (not excavated).

**6. Correlate strata and/or features to contiguous units:**

| <b>This Unit</b>                                 | N40E24  | N40E18  |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Plow zone, disturbed mound surface               | present |         |
| Feature 17 yellow brown clay mound fill          | present |         |
| Unexcavated reddish brown moundfill/construction | present | present |

## Appendix C: Mound X Flotation Samples

Samples processed at Office of Archaeological Research, Moundville Archaeological Park.

Table 5

| Provenience | Lot            | Volume (liters) | Flotation Tank | Sample Number |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| N40 E30     | 5 (Feature 11) | 10              | C              | 1             |
| N40 E30     | 5 (Feature 11) | 10              | B              | 2             |
| N40 E24     | 7              | 10              | B              | 1             |
| N40 E24     | 7              | 10              | C              | 2             |