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CONCLUSIONS

• The mounds at Feltus show dramatic functional differences: Mound D shows little evidence of funerary use and no evidence of buildings; Mound C shows a number of clearly defined floors with prepared surfaces and buildings, and Mounds B and A show evidence of buildings and mortuary activity.

• Public events took place at the site that involved the erection of large wooden posts with dedicatory offerings in the fill, such posts were repealed and re-used. Our evidence suggests these events were associated with feasting.

• The large post ritual connected with feasting and platform mound is in many ways reminiscent of the Mississippian ritual pattern described by Knight (2001), which is found across the American South. One can also draw connections with the Vicksburg Mound Ritual.

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LARGE-POST RITUAL

The area beneath and around Mound D also contained a number of large, free-standing posts. These were an integral part of the mound's construction; they were highly ornamented and supported importantritual functions. As noted previously, this mound was destroyed in the mid 20th century AD. We believe the large posts and nearby refuse pits may be connected to communal ceremonies involving sharing and feasting (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Example of a large individual post in the northern plaza.

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Excavations have revealed that each of the four mounds was used differently, although many aspects of their constructional history and function remain unclear.

MOUND A: The “Clean” Platform Mound

Mound A, the largest mound in the group, is 170 ft. tall. It was investigated in 2006 and 2007 with a flank trench, limited testing, and boring (Figure 3). We know from this evidence that the mound was built in at least two stages: an initial construction 3 ft. high, capped by what appears to be a singular massive fill deposit that raised the mound an additional 3 ft (Figure 5). Although the mound was built up essentially step by step and dense, there was no evidence of buildings or exceptional deposition in its summit. It is possible that such occupation or buildings exist, but are buried too deeply under the massive fill to be easily accessible with conventional excavations.

At least two portions of the sub-mound mounds in the southwestern corner and along the eastern edge of the mound, appear to be the result of one or more rapid dumping episodes. These deposits are over 20 ft. thick and full of broken pottery, charcoal, and animal bones. Microstratigraphic analysis indicates that breccia in the mounds’ formation and it was covered over mound immediately after its deposition. Lacks large numbers of local and exceptionally large ceramic vessels (numerous jars with rim diameters over 40 cm and nearly half (and mound middens larger than 20 cm) in the midden very similar to those described if these posts represent structures and/or more ephemeral constructions such as screens, drying racks, etc.

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