

May 15, 2013 Site #

TA: Cranford, David

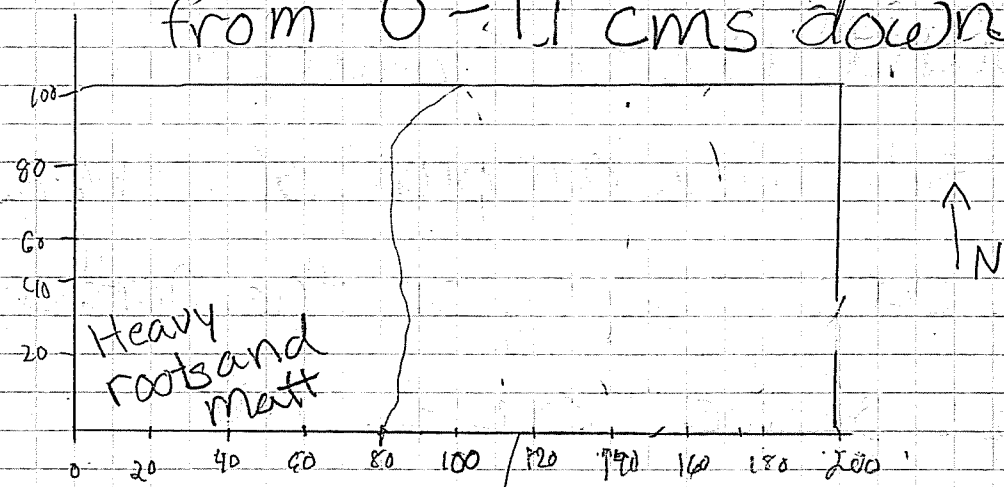
Our site is located close to pumpkin lake. The location was selected due to a previous test dig in the 1970's. On the southern side of the mound which produced a considerable amount of artifacts. We are digging on the northern slope of the mound. The

pit identification number is 274R374, which is the 274R384 of the Southwest corner of the 1x2 trench.

There is considerable amount of
Vegatation in the area. Heavy amounts
of posion ivy, brush and trees.

Core samples taken in the
area of the trench showed
Charcoal and animal bone.

Level one was started
from 0-11 cms down.



thick roots 1cm = 20cm
with little root matting

With the clearing of the roots
water began to leak out into
the pit. The color of the
top soil was a dark brown
and homogenous (7.5 YR 3/2).

5/16/13 Pumpkin Lake Day 2

When we uncovered the pit at the start of the day we noticed standing water. It appeared to be coming from the ground. This made digging for level 2 very difficult. The dirt was gelatinous and broke up in to semi-soild sheets.

It was like very heavy Jello Gigglers.

The third level was 1st planned to go to a predetermined depth of 31cm from the Southeast corner to create a level flooring for

the pit. Dr. Stephoraitis decided to change the predetermined level depth to 40cm, making each level 30cm deep for time's sake.

At level 3 we began to find pottery sherds and flint scraps. We did not find a lot but the sherds did have some lip pieces.

There was still a considerable amount of roots in the western side of the pit but considerably less on the eastern portion. The dirt was gooey.

5/17/13 Pumpkin Lake Day 3

We finished level 3 and moved into level 4. We could tell from the first inspection that human activity had clearly occurred from large amounts of charcoal and large sherds. On the eastern side of the pit close to the northern corner we found large pieces of what appeared to be from the same pot. The western side produced a few flakes and a couple of sherds but not near the amount of the other side.

5/20/13 Pumpkin Lake

Today we finished up level 4 and the buried A is clearly visible through out the bottom of the pit.

We carefully move through the Buried A using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " inch screen for the first couple of buckets, however it wasn't yielding very much and David said that it was taking us to long with little artifact yield, so we went back to $\frac{1}{2}$ " screens. By the end of the day we made it to the E horizon.

It had signs of small animal and bugs burrowing through it but no cultural evidence.

We began to map the profile of the walls.

The Eastern side of the pit shows the most activity with what might be a stake hole.

Doctor Stephenaitis saw some wash on the North Eastern corner. It looked like tiger stripping.

5/21/13 Pumpkin Lake and
Fosters

Today we finished taking the final measurements and pictures. After we were done we did not refill the pit because we may come back at a later date and expand it on the eastern side to gather more information about the possible stake hole and pottery break.

In the afternoon we moved to Foster mound. It is a difficult site to get information from because the mound had a home built on top of it in the late 1700's.

Archeologists had dug a test pit on the front side. Sadly it yielded very little pre-historic items. To try to reach an area that was not disturbed by historical artifacts.

The site number is 446 R 618.

Because the home owner is allowing us to dig so close to his house we did our best to keep his grass intact and alive. David showed Steven and myself how to remove the sod in pieces exposing the

dark surface A.

The first level was planned to be dug at about 12 cm bd. At this level we found a lot of historical items. Shards of glass, nails, brick and pebbles. We took measurements at the end of level 1.

Southwest corner was at 15 cm, Northeast at 10 cm, Northwest at 10 cm and Southeast at 12 cm.

5/22/13 Lessley Mound
T.A.: Meg Digteam Leader: Ashley

On Wednesday the digteams were reshuffled and I was moved to Lessley Mound. Located in Lessley just outside of Woodville this mound was on property purchased by Lessley, MD in the mid-1800's. He was a country doctor and the only one for miles. The family has owned the land ever since, although it wasn't until recently that a descendant lived on the property. On the very top of the mound is a family grave yard that has

fallen in to a state of disrepair.

Although it appears that the current land owner and Hessler descendant, Mr. Webb, maybe in the process of returning it to proper condition. There is also several unmarked graves of Slaves and descendant of Slaves buried on the ground surrounding the mound. Mr. Webb is no longer allowing for people to be buried in the grave yard and surrounding mound area. It was becoming to be to many and difficult to say no to some and yes to others. So the practice was stopped.

The test unit was dug on the side of the mound to limit the potential of digging into an unmarked grave. The test pit is 1 x 2 meters, and the side number is 197R663. The first level was dug yesterday to 20cm bd. We first took measurements to see how deep we were actually at.

Level 2 was dug at approximately 35cm down. We were clearly into the mound fill. There were considerable roots in the pit. Most of the roots appeared to be cedar and about forearm

Size in thickness. There are very old cedar trees located in the graveyard on the top of the mound. Sifting produced a few flakes as well as some ceramic sherds.

The soil was red brown in color and appeared to be a silty loam. It was heavy, dense, and difficult to sift.

5/23/13

Lessley

Level 3 started today, 30cm below. The dirt was thick and root filled. Sherds present as well as flakes, not a lot found but still some pieces present. Once level was reached we began cleaning up the walls. On the eastern wall, Mallory found an arrowhead. The exact type of arrowhead was unknown, and placed into a special bag to be identified later in Lab. The day was winding down and despite our efforts

We could not finish the level.

The buried A was clearly present and throughout the bottom of the pit.

Later that night we worked in lab for an hour. Dr. Stephonaitis, Meg, David and Ashely looked at the arrowhead found in wall. They were unclear as to the small stem of the arrowhead. Further investigation was required.

5/24/13

Natchez

T.A.: Meg

Fieldhouse

Due to an excessive backlog of collected samples and limited work available in the field without having more transportation.

Meg asked Cashen, Mallory and me to work on cleaning and logging the artifacts collected.

We started first thing in the morning and went through the day finishing all but 2 collected bags and the new items collected that day.

It was personally the most fun I had so far. All the digging and location of levels began to make sense.

Working on sorting and cleaning allowed me to appreciate the art work on the sherds. It made it more real because you could see what this person created. It made everything seem human and less like just moving dirt. I think sometimes it is easy to lose sight of that in the field. Especially when you are dealing with roots and heavy mud. It helped me recenter on the work.

5/28/13 Lessley site #: 197R6G3
TA: Meg + Ashley

Today we returned to Lessley mound. Kelly and Morgan had worked on the pit on Friday 5/24. They were screening with $\frac{1}{4}$ " screen due to the thick nature of the dirt, the process was taking quite a while.

For the sake of time we moved back to $\frac{1}{2}$ " screens.

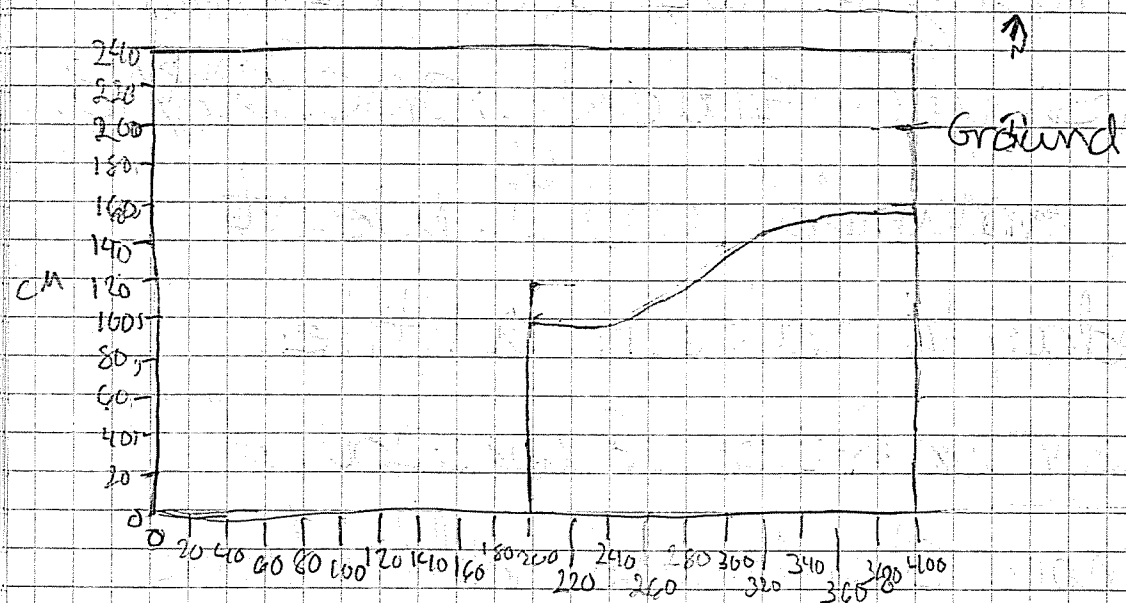
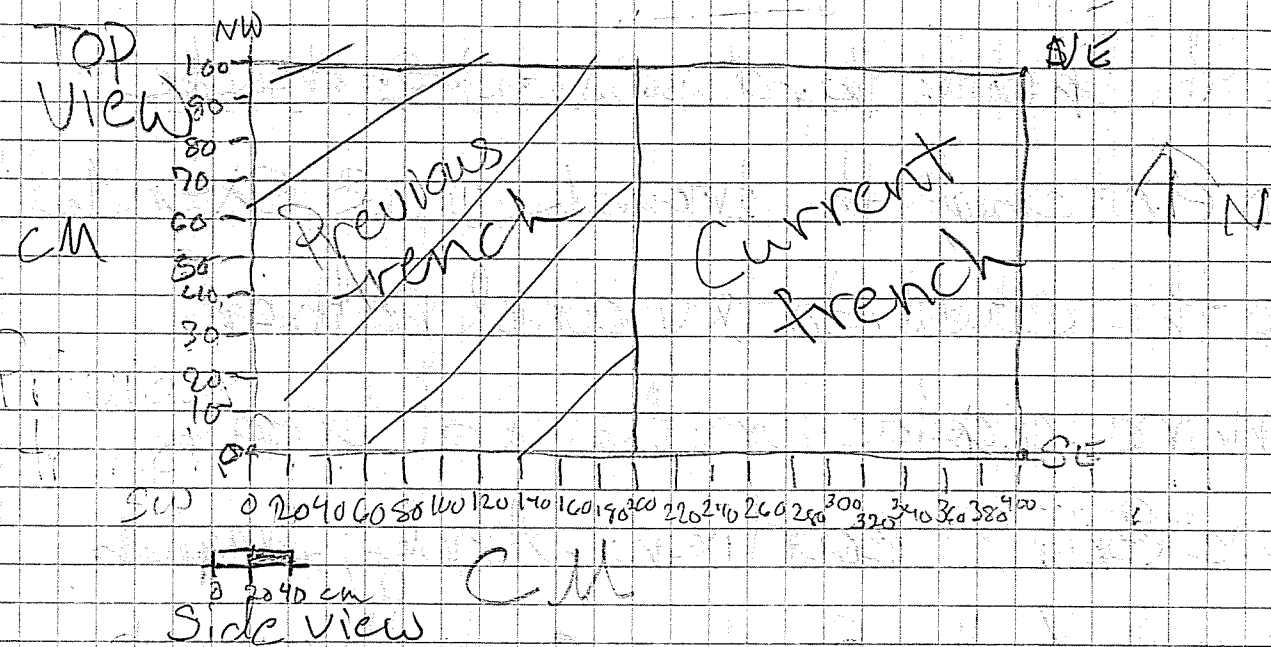
Few sherds were discovered as we finished out the buried A horizon. Two water samples were collected.

5/29/13 Pumpkin Lake
Site: 274R386 T.A.: Meg

Due to the evidence collected from the original test pit I worked with David, the decision was made to extend the trench was extended to the east to try and gather more data on the pot break we found earlier. Anely, Amanda and Kelly E dug out the first levels very quickly on 5/28/13. Meg, Amanda and I went in today to take it a little slower and see if we could find more sherds and indications

What might have occurred.

Instead of using predetermined levels
we tried to follow the Natural
Soils present in the Mound



We were clearing on top of a midden
with lots of sherds and lithics.

The levels of the profile aren't
as clear as we would like them
to be, however we believed we
were getting back to mound
fill. It was a dark mottled
soil. We could see circular
marks from insect and small
animal activity. We excavated
in two layers because the
soil was difficult to read.

The eastern half is the
most difficult to read.

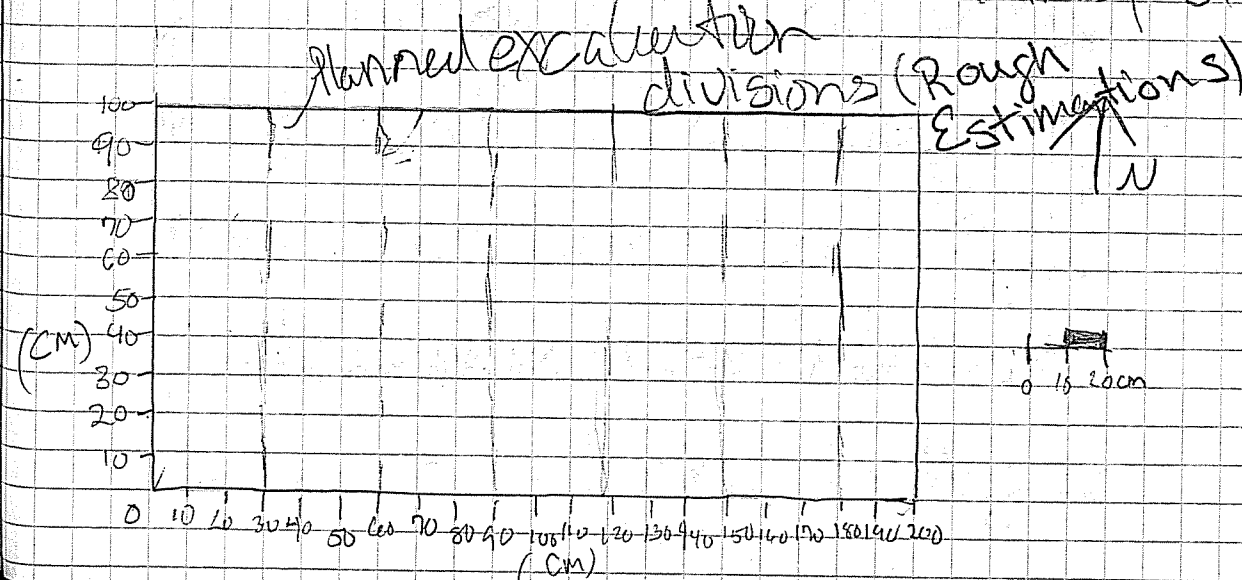
5/30/13

Pumpkin Lake

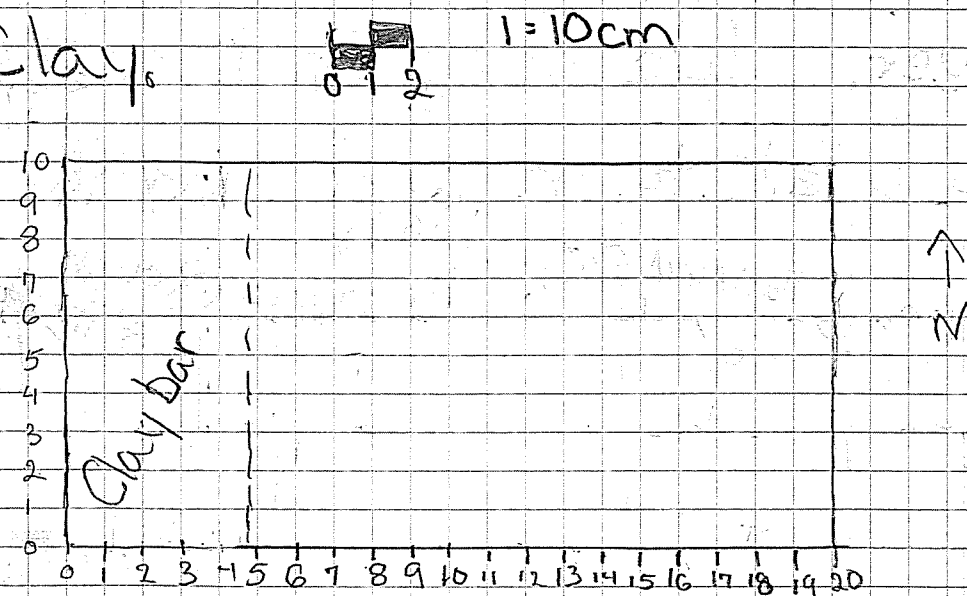
Site: 274R386

TA: Meg

Today our goal is to knock out the rest of the Unit. To ensure we follow the profile we broke up Zone 5 into two parts. We made note of the whitish mold clay, Meg said it was fairly common to take clay from bottom of the river. We dug in blocks as well to try and find the profile.



The goal was to do our best to follow the profile, so we shot for approximately 117 cm down. The first 30 cm we noticed this huge platform of clay. At first we thought it may just be balls of clay but as we cleared the fill we noted that it was too thick and too large just to be random balls of clay.



We did not find any artifacts within the river clay.

As we began to chunk out the next section of the predetermined sections, Amanda was digging, Meg doing paperwork describing the clay slab, and I was screening the new dirt. I began to notice large squares of whitish noticeably porous material. It appeared to me to be bone but I wasn't sure. I have never found bone before so I took it to Meg so

she could make a better identification. She examined the pieces and agreed that they were from a biological source. As more dirt was screened we collected more of what appeared to be the same kind of bone. The slight curve of the pieces I thought human.

Meg said that it maybe human skull but that it may also be turtle shell. Meg decided to call both John O'Hear and Dr. Steponaitis. Unfortunately Dr. Steponaitis was at an important conference in New Mexico and could not be

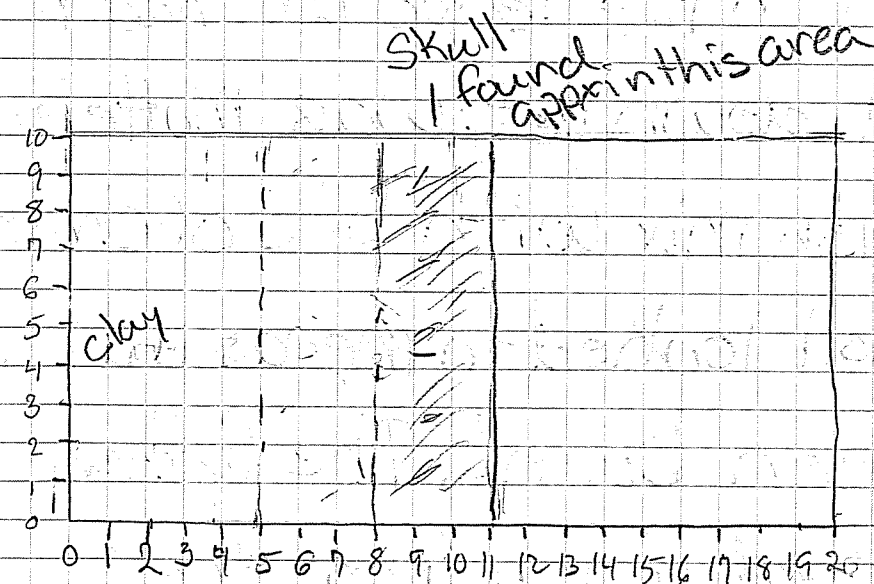
reached at the moment. John was at the Lessley site and proceeded to head over. We continued on to try to find out more until John could make it to our site over an hour away. We found more pieces ranging from small (less than a cm) to medium (about 1 to 3 cm), and for the most part the pieces appeared to be square with no rough edges. After lunch John arrived and began to examine the pieces. Meg had asked Amanda and I to keep our guess to ourselves so John would come to his own conclusion

without any undue influence, John cleaned the pieces as best as he could do in field. He took out a small magnification glass and looked over the bits for what seemed like an eternity. Finally he looked up and asked some question about how we found it and if they were sitting on top each other or scattered?

They appeared to be scattered.

He sighed and said that they were human. I was so excited but I kept quiet as both Meg and John debated

what should happen next. They decided to carefully keep going to see if they could find more of the skull or if it was just random bits of someone who gathered mound fill and did not know they were taking dirt from an old burial site.



The area that contained the pieces of skull was a different color of dirt. It was near the clay slab but the dirt was very dark like a grayish black we find on top soil. The soil from the Stratum above it, which could clearly be seen in the ledge we had not brought down yet, was mottled orangish mix with bits of charcoal. The soil looked to me as if it had been burnt. The further we moved away from the center of the trench and closer to the eastern wall we

did not find any other bone artifacts.

5/31/13

Pumpkin Lake

Site: 274 R 386 TA: Meg

I felt a bit off this morning
as I packed up for the day.

I got to the site and got sick.

Meg made the decision to
send me home. I spent the
day reading the required readings
and thinking about the discoveries
made yesterday (5/30).

6/3/13

Bayou Pierre

Site: 623R975 Mound D

TA: David

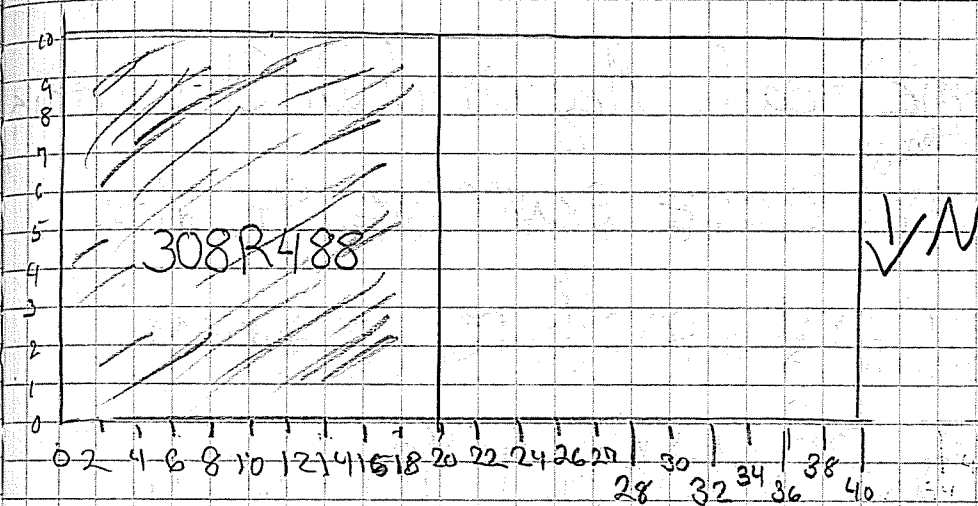
Today I worked with Andy at a trench he and Kelly E had almost finished the unit on the side of the mound, as David, Cashen and Steven worked on a unit directly on top of the mound. Andy and I cleaned up the walls and tried to clean trowel the floor. Sadly we did not get as much accomplished as Andy would have liked, because I am still slower than I would like to be and require help doing some things.

I also feel as if there was
miscommunication between us.

I don't think I fully understood
what he was asking me to do at
some points.

6/4/13 Bayou Peirre
Site: 308R486 Mound B

TA: Ashly
This unit is unique because
it is two units side by side.

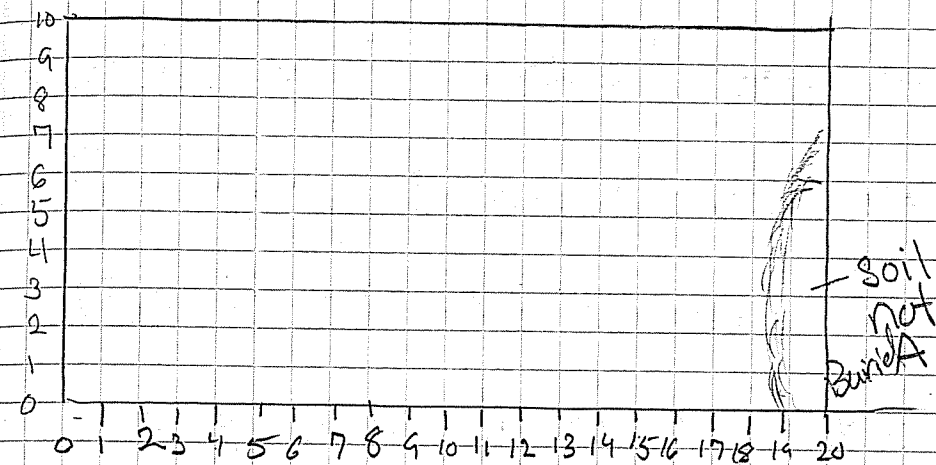


I was working with Kelly E, Joel
and Cashen. Kelly E and I
worked primarily on 308R486.
While Cashen and Joel focused
on

I placed the string on the unit and began to take the unit down to the buried A. This mound is barely noticable. The area had been plowed for a very long time and it also may have been a site for a homestead. Meg and Dr. Steponaitis had taken core samples in the area to confirm there is some evidence of a mound.

The estimation that the buried A was at 35cm approx., was not the case. The buried A showed up at approx. 20cm. It was fairly uniform through out except for on the

western corner which still looked like Mottled soil.



We recovered a tremendous amount of historic artifacts.

6/5/13

Site: 308R486

Size: 1x2

Bayou Pierre

Mound B

TA: Ashly

Day 2 returned to the same unit as I worked on 6/4. Kelly E, Steven, Mallory and Joel were apart of the crew. I primarily worked with Kelly E and Steven.

Tempers seemed to follow with high tempaures. We moved in to the E and possible BT, but the amount of lithics coming from the soil is astounding.

We brought Ashly over to try to figure out what was going on.

Ashly cored further down into the trench to see if anything was going on in the lower levels. The samples seemed homogenous throughout.

6/6/13

Sick at home while everyone gets to do stuff. Tomorrow hopefully.

6/7/13

Site: 1077R627

Smith Creek

Mound C

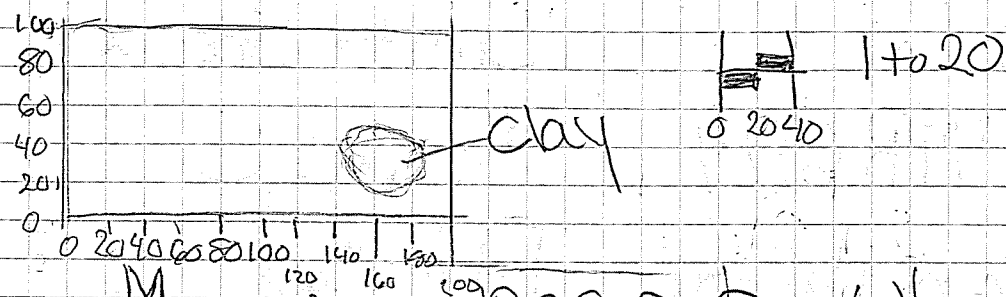
Crew: Cashen, Mallory,
Morgan and Meg.

TA: Meg

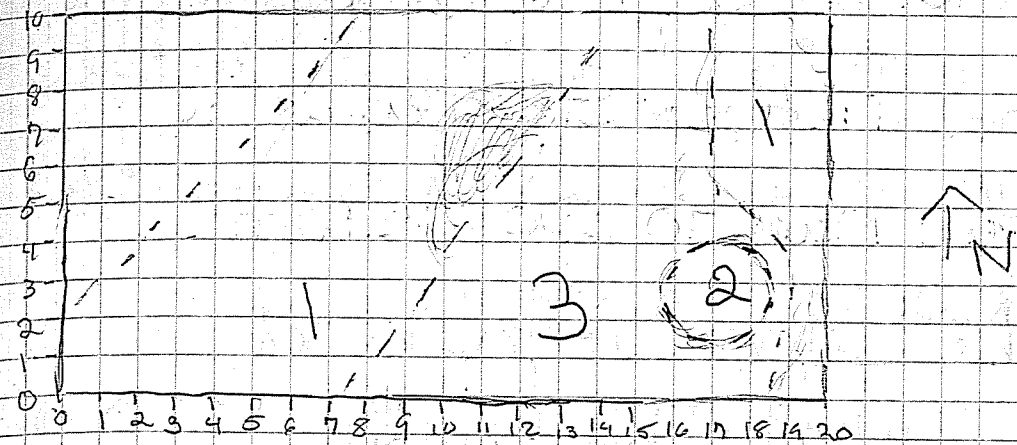
Size: 1x2

When we arrived to the unit the first level was excavated for the most part. We finished it up and leveled it out and took pictures. Even though the 1st level was started we collected a large bag and some animal bone.

We dug into the second level we noticed a discoloration in the eastern corner.



Meg was near by when we noticed the almost circular clay in the next level. We carefully leveled out level 2 to reveal other possible features. Possible post hole, pit, and mud floor.



- 1.) Reddish mud
- 2.) Clay
- 3.) Darker soil.

There was considerable flakes, sherds and animal bone.

We during the day discussed at great length. The largest mound located closer to the was dug by non-profesinal archeologist. Burials were unearthed and just left out and not properly

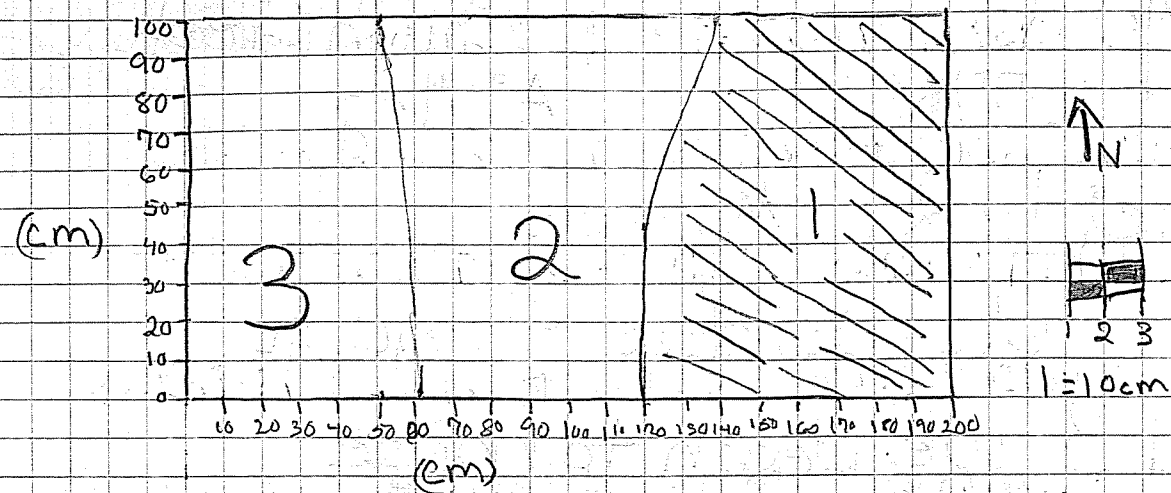
Cared for and grave goods taking. Professor Steponafias and Meg had to speak with with the owner of the land was hesitant about allowing us to dig because of the past. The Native Tribes asked us not to dig on the mound closest to the road because of the known burials.

6/10/13
Unit 1077RC2M

Smith Creek
TA: Meg

Size: 1 x 2 Mound C

As we dug through level 3 we began to notice even more features. Meg made the decision to follow the natural level down. There was an orange layer throughout the middle of the trench save the area closest to the East and West walls. We followed the level 1 of the post holes down. This meant we did not shovel or travel the eastern half of the trench due to the features.



1- not excavated and location of a possible pit and post holes
 2- Orange soil

3- Black soil with mottling
 small pockets of orange.

2 + 3 on the map began to slope very steeply. Meg was a little nervous about it but it was the natural level. Underneath the orange, the soil was slick and black mixed with

pockets of grayish sand full of bone, charcoal and fired clay.

As we moved closer to the western wall we saw two different types of black soil. It made it harder to define the two by eye but the feel of the two was drastically different.

6/11/13

Shelter Lab.

Today I bagged and rough sorted in the morning. I learned how to float in the afternoon and washed sherds.

6/12/13

Smith Creek

unit: 1077R62M

TA: David + Meg

Mound C Size: 1x2

Today was incredibly hot. David and I picked up where Meg and Cashen had left off yesterday which was going 30cm/d for level 4. We finished and started level 5. The mud coming out was heavy and thick. As the tempure climbed following the sun, the dirt began to bake in the screen. The rest of the afternoon was a bit hazy. I remember David shoveling and screen because I had Pop sweat and he gently

encouraged me to sit down and cool off. I felt guilty for not being able to do a lot. David said he would rather do it than have me pass out. I moved a lot slower and took lots of breaks. It was just crazy hot.

6/13/13 Winsor & Bayou Pierre
GPS set up, TA: Ashly
Mapping and Team leader: Andy
Clean up.

I spent the first part of the day setting up the mapping equipment with Andy at Winsor Mounds. It was one of the coolest things ever. He told me about how the equipment uses American and Russian satellites to map the area and creates something that archeologists worldwide could look at and understand. As the computers gathered info

We mapped and test cored
what was believed to be the
mound.

After lunch we went to
Bayou Pierre to help clean up
but they mostly had it done. So
I went home with the group
and floated the rest of the afternoon
and evening.

6/14/13

Smith Creek

Unit₁ 1077R627

TA's Ashly, David,

Unit₂ 1049R597

+ Meg

The first part of the day,
Steven and I helped Ashly
screen Unit₁. I asked Meg if I
can map the walls for Unit₂,
because I only had done it
at Pumpkin Lake. So Steven
and I mapped the rest of the
day. We finished everything but
the eastern and western wall.
Our biggest problem was gawky
at sherds and not focusing on the
job at hand. It was a bit frustrating.