CLASS SCHEDULE DATE _____

NAME _____ SCHOOL _____

ADDRESS _____

PERIOD	MON.	RM.	TUES.	RM.	WED.	RM.	THURS.	RM.	FRI.	RM.
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										

5/8/13

BATES MOUND #2:
Crew: Andy Valiunas
Meg Kassabaum

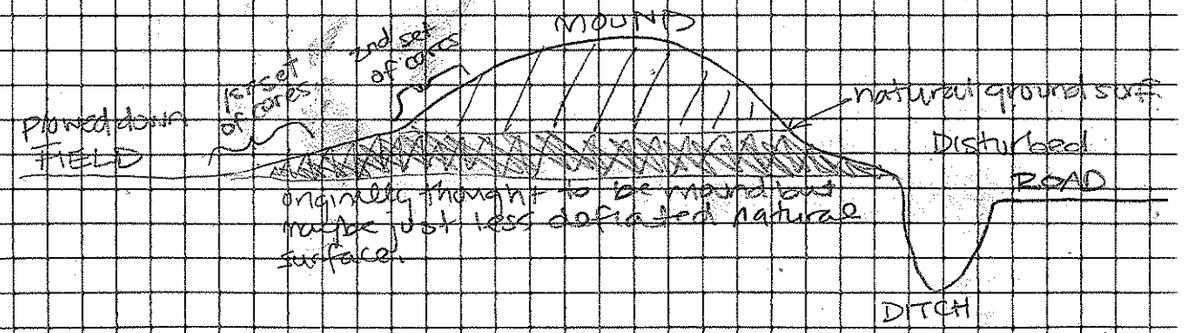
Spent the morning coring at Bates #2 in order to set in this summer's unit. We began coring with a row on the SW corner of the mound near the inflection point between the slope + the surrounding flat field.

Our first core was:
(1) 0-5cmbs A horizon
gradual transition to brown silt (maybe E?)
gradual transition to yellow clayey-silt that may be the natural B$_t$

We moved approx 2m downslope and cored again:
(2) 0-3cmbs A horizon
by 15cmbs we were into B$_t$

We moved upslope between these two cores:
(3) 0-7cmbs A horizon
23cm= transition to E
48cm= transition to B$_t$

These all looked more or less natural and we determined that perhaps the mound has a smaller footprint than originally thought.



So, we moved upslope to what appeared to be a second inflection point after augering at the very summit:
(4) 0-10cm A horizon
45cmbs very light basketload? (10cm)
130cmbs maybe B$_t$ - hard but odd color

This whole core looked different enough from natural soils that we became fairly convinced that Bates #2 is a mound, not a natural rise, bluff remnant, etc.

We then moved to the NW corner:

(5) 0-5cm A horizon
20cmbs E horizon maybe

Core became too wet to pull up so we abandoned it.

Finally we cored a bit further up from this NW core

0-3 A horizon
30cmbs = thin dark lens (loading?)
40cmbs = thicker dark lens
44cmbs = gray clay (gumbo) w/ iron concretions

At the time we decided not to go any deeper but to use this location (the first evidence we had of obvious loading, midden, soil, or transported soil) to set in our unit.

We set a unit (1018R523 = SW corner) + shot in all 4 corners using Darlene.

5/8/13

BATES MOUND #1
Crew: Molly Valiunas
Meg Krassabaum

After making our way into the site (we had to get the code for the combination lock from Gene Bates = 1225 and figure out how to turn off the electric fence = there is a stop switch just to the left of the gate), we began coring in the SE corner.

Our upslope core had:

(1) 0-3 cmbs = A horizon
3-152 cmbs = homogeneous brown fill
152 cmbs = transition to Bt.

We then moved downslope:

(2) No real A-horizon
0-32 cmbs = homogeneous brown fill
32-49 cmbs = darker fill zone
49-58 cmbs = possible buried-A
58-79 cmbs = gradual shift to E horizon
79 cmbs = transition to Bt.

This fill seemed somewhat promising because of some of the darker lenses, but we decided to put a couple cores on the N flank as well.

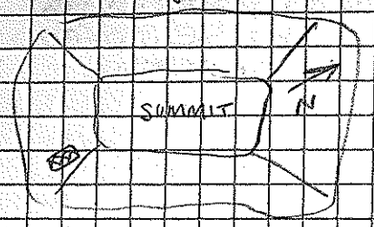
Way on the NW corner we put down one core:

(3) 0-2cm A-horizon
2-60 cmbs = homogeneous Bt-like fill
60-79 cmbs = darker fill
*small rim sherd was pulled up at 71 cmbs - not broken! Without much washing we couldn't tell much about it ... but it looks woodland and sure implies it's not an archaic mound!
79 cmbs = transition to Bt with no real E-horizon

We really liked this spot because of the sherd but the stratigraphy was not interesting at all and there was most Bt-like fill with hopes of finding a similar type of deposit as matched we put a core on the NE edge of the mound.

(4) 0-10cmbs = A horizon
10-66cmbs = Mottled brown fill
66-76cmbs = darker lens / A-horizon
76cmbs = B_t.

In the end we ended up setting up the unit on the SE corner a bit further towards the E slope than we ideally wanted, but it was the best place to avoid big tree roots, heavily slope-wash areas or disturbed areas.



SW corner = 361 R964
and all corners were shot in with the Total Station.

5/9/13

PUMPKIN LAKE
Crew: Meg Kassabaum
Andy Valiunas

We headed into the Pumpkin Lake field only knowing about the 1970s UMS excavations which state that they dug on the South side of the Mound and found an A horizon followed by a thick wash layer, then brown fill, then subsoil. We did not work on the S side at all because we wanted to find more interesting and informative stratigraphy.

First we cored near the SE corner in the area most cleared as a path to the back of the mound.

(1) 0-10cmbs A horizon
10-134cmbs Brown Fill
134-144 cmbs E horizon
144 cmbs B_t

We saw no evidence of striations that would indicate wash. We moved downslope to:

(2) 0-8cmbs A horizon
8-93cmbs Brown Fill
93-99cmbs Buried A horizon
99-125cmbs E horizon
125 cmbs B_t ?

(3) moved downhill again:
0-3 = A
3-52 = brown fill
52-60 = A (buried)
60-78 = E then B_t

Here it shows that the UMS didn't recognize the soil horizons. We also still saw no evidence of wash but also no particularly interesting stratigraphy. So we moved to the back side of the mound. in NW

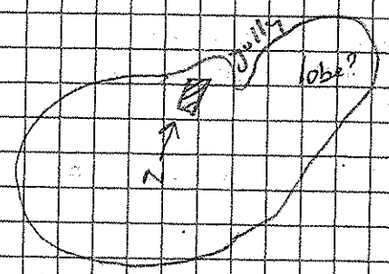
(4) 0-3cmbs = A horizon
3-96cmbs = heavily mottled brown fill
hit some calcined bone (faunal) @ 70cmbs
96-127 cmbs = DARK A horizon (but this was very wet and may very well include the darker portion of the E horizon as well.
127-129 cmbs = E horizon
129cmbs = B_t

And then moved downslope to:

(5) 0-3 A horizon
3-10cmbs = somewhat mottled brown fill
10-83cmbs = A horizon buried
83-91 = E horizon
91cmbs = Bt

We quit the unit over these two cores because of the heavy matting and the calcined bone.

SW corner = 274 R 384



5/10/13 - 5/12/13

Moved into Sunshine Shelter, etc.

5/13/13

Today, Andy + Amanda drove North of Vicksburg to set UTM points at Hardee + Dornbusch.

Mallory, David, and I also reconciled the points that were set in in February at the Grand Village.

Most importantly, Mallory, David and I went to set units at Fosten Mound A.

We knew that the UMS had dug on the W side (road side) of the mound and though the fill looked loaded, it had mixed indian pottery and late 18th/early 19th century white ware, thus it seems like the whole mound may have been expanded at some point around that time. Their unit was currently located just downslope from the central AC unit.

We cored on the N side of the mound around the center of the Mound flank, about ½ way downslope

(1) We saw heavy basket loading ranging from lines of light brown to almost black zones. Some were heavily mottled, some seemed so dark, crunchy that they might have been midden loads.

We then moved 2 or 3 m downslope to try to hit the mound base.

(2) Thin A (mostly grass root mat) followed by 100cm of homogeneous dark brown fill with some burnt earth throughout. Between 100 + 110 cmbs we think we hit the Bt transition w/o too much of an A or E horizon

Between these two cores we placed another one:
(3) we hit the same A (roof mat from grass) followed by brown fill
At 12cmbs we hit a buried A horizon
At 13cmbs we hit the Bt

Because we saw what looked like obvious basketloading and no surefire evidence of historic material or disturbance, we went ahead and put this unit over these cores in the center of the N flank about half way down slope

SW corner = 443R613

5/14/13

STUDENTS ARE HERE!

CREWS:

BATES #1: Fieldschool Crew
Crew Cheif: Ashley Peles (AAP)
Crew: Ben Davis (BGD)
Emily Anding (EAA)
Cashen Almstead (CRA)

BATES #2: Mississippi Mounds Trail Crew
Crew Cheif: Amanda Cinnar (AC)
Crew: Andy Valiunas (AV)
Mallory Melton (MAM)
Kelly Ervin (KME)

PUMPKIN LAKE: Fieldschool Crew
Crew Cheif: David Cranford (DJC)
Steven Brantley (SMB)
Morgan Welch (MARW)
Kelly White (KMW)

We spent the day moving them into the shelter, touring them around Natchez and visiting Feltus (new padlock code = 0270), Pumpkin Lake, Bates 1 and 2 and Foster.

5/15/13

FIRST DAY IN THE FIELD!

Each group strung their unit, cleaned off the top, set up the screens and dug off the A horizon as a natural level (so sloped) of 5-10cm.

example:

At the end of each A-horizon level (#1) we clean troweled and then photographed the sloped unit. They then moved onto Level 2 in each unit which was just a 20cm level of moundfill.

Bates #1 crew made it through 2 levels (A horizon + one in moundfill) - nothing in first level and a sherd and a few rocks. One rock had an odd very white silt surrounding part of it. Pottery is grog tempered. There are definite basket loads and with some different soils (light + fluffy) (orange + clayey).

Bates #2 crew made it through the A-horizon level and most of the way through the next 20cm level of mound fill. The soil is really clayey but not like B. It is very gray - it has charcoal flecks sometimes but it also (near the top) had a probable 1950s ceramic piece. I am back to questioning if it's a mound - I suppose it could be a more recently push pile.

I didn't spend much time at Pumpkin Lake but they pulled sherds and stone material out of the A horizon. When they started L2, they immediately found a creamware sherd (probably still associated with the A). Then a fair amount of prehistoric sherds and rock in the second level. Sherd count seems to be pretty high.

5/16/13

Andy and I went back to Bates #1 to core more + set in another unit. We began by coring the summit in the center of the mound:

(1)
- 0-4 - A horizon
- 4-8 - light fill
- 8-60 - brown mottled fill } clear break
- 60-76 - orangey fill
- 76-86 - dark loads/lenses
- 86-89 - orangey fill
- 89-161 - darker mottled fill
- 161-168 - orangey w/ burnt earth - possible floor complex

Mostly we hit basket loading I think, but down at the very bottom we hit a possible floor complex that was made up of soil very heavily mottled with burnt orange. We put a second core to see if this continued.

(2)
- 0-5 - A horizon
- 5-8 - light fill
- 8-94 - brown mottled fill
- 94-129 - darker fill
- 129-143 - very dark fill
- 143-149 - lighter orangey fill
- 149-158 - dark very wet fill
- 158-169 - orangey w/ burnt - possible floor complex

All of the transitions in the previous core were like ~~loading~~ loading except for the possible floor complex that showed up here as well.

(3)
- No A horizon
- 0-4 cm - orange
- 4-150 - brown fill
- 150-169 - darker - potential A/E

For core #3 we moved to the center of the N flank and tried again about halfway up slope. Here we went back to seeing the more or less homogeneous brown fill down to a possible A, and then in subsoil. We didn't see any evidence of loading and certainly not of that floor complex. This could indicate that it's not a real floor or that it's Plaquemine era and built in the mantle rather than pancake style

In the end we decided to put the unit over the original core where we found the sherd (the NW corner of the mound). We layed out the SW, NW & NE corners using the total station but had to put in the SE by tape.

SW = 389R948

Andy began digging that unit with Carhen. They made it through L1 today, and went down about 10cm even though the A horizon is very very thin. They found a fairly high density of sherds.

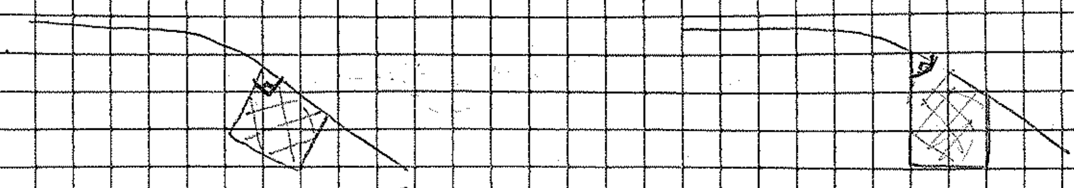
Ashley and her crew kept digging in 361R964, they did 1 30cm level into fill. I believe they are still entirely in fill though for a while she was debating if there was an A→B transition in the N wall. They'll continue going down tomorrow. The most exciting thing today is that this unit produced an Anna-Incised rim fragment of a fairly large plate. Thus, one question answered – this is A PLAQUEMINE mound!!! Other pottery + some stone was also recovered.

Mallory and Amanda kept working on Bates #2 – we went into the day questioning if it was a mound but I went over to help and I am now more convinced that it is a mound – I can see some loading and the zone that the historic material is in is separate at the top. They are now digging a 30cm level through VERY clayey soil. It's gray clay with some iron deposits and completely devoid of material. They are screening it but often just breaking up the big pieces and then dumping it. MORGAN went over in the afternoon to help them screen. We augered a bit too and there is definitely some layers (mostly darker) beneath the clay.

David also kept going down in his unit and is continuing to find a lot of pottery including two decorated pieces – one maybe Marksville Incised.

5/1–/13

Beginning at Bates #2, Mallory, Amanda and Morgan started today by cutting back the walls on their unit. The NE corner was significantly undercut (as a result of



the optical illusion of digging on a slope) so we first focused on cutting back the walls evenly.

Yesterday they had cored in two spots + thought they were just above the A. It turns out they were not + the dark soil they were seeing was just loading, etc.

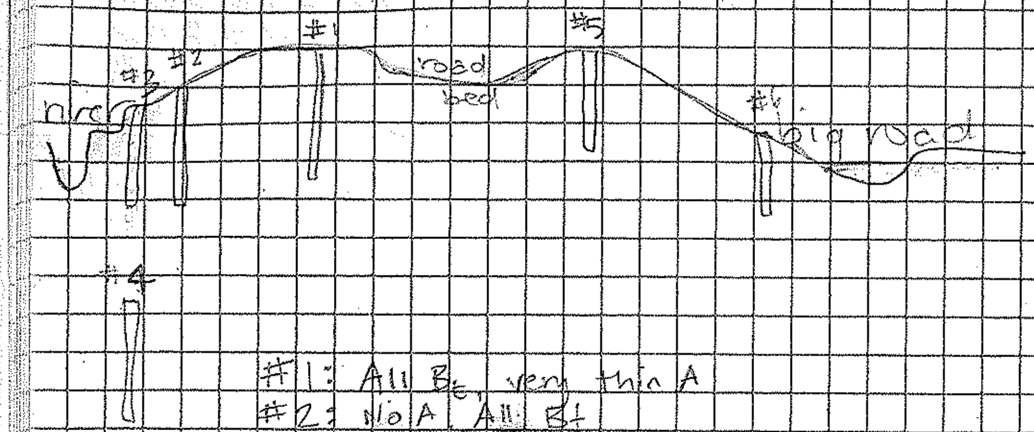
We talked to Gene + Lisa Bates for a little while at the end of the day. They say the mound has definitely been there since Gene was a young boy and that the road was paved in the 1960s. They remember someone digging in it at some point but had no idea when, who or what the study was. George says (according to Vin) that it was LSU and they "dug the shit out of that spot". Gene also reported finding a Middle Woodland point shaped like the ones used on Marksville on the Natchez Trace – in the field S + E of the mound.

So far what they are finding is somewhat consistent w/ a highly disturbed or refilled zone of fill... but it does odd that not a single prehistoric artifact has been found!

For info on Pumpkin Lake, see David's journal

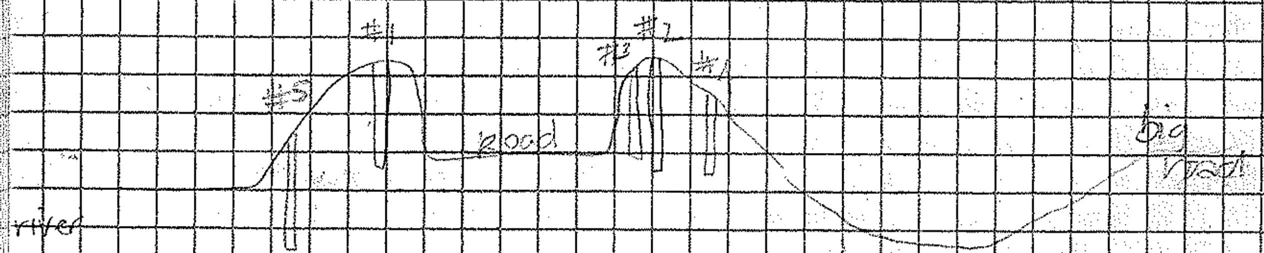
5/20/13 LESSLEY - coring for unit placement

MOUND C?



#1: All B_t, very thin A
#2: No A, All B_t
#3: Lots of mottled + lensing fills, softer B_t
#4: A, soft B_t, lensing (E?), hard B_t
#5: 10cm A, hard B_t
#6: A, soft B_t, a few lenses, soft B_t w/ large dark mottles and small yellow swirls

MOUND B?



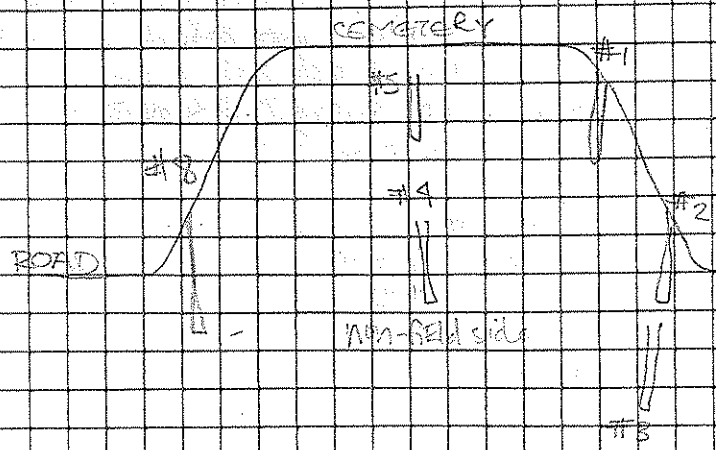
#1: Light fill @ very top w/ lensing, soft B_t, maybe C
#2: NATURAL A, E, hard B_t
#3: A, B_t (maybe an E between?)
#4: NATURAL, A, E, B_t
#5: B_t then C, found concretion in C horizon soil

After all of this I do not think these are mounds - though it may still be worth coring them. The "summits" show either natural soil (A → E → B_t) or depleted natural horizons (thin/no A → B_t → C). On the river side of the "mounds" we have fill that looks very much like mound fill. I believe that this is some flood deposits mixed with a lot of wash from the depleted bluff remnants upslope, perhaps exacerbated by road cuts, clearing, etc. going on upslope.

MOUND A: Obviously a Mound

#1 - 10cm A, fill (less mottled)

#2 - 10cm A, fill to 68, light zone w/ thin
* red line on top - possible floor, dark fill to 73, thin black zone, then back to mottled fill, another [illegible] break @ 119, burnt orange, to 131, 133-142, dark A, 142 - E



#3 All mottled fill
134 - 140 = A
140 - 146 = E
146 - B_t

#4 - Developed A
- Brown less mottled fill
80cmbs - sherd

#5 - A
B_t mottled fill all the way

#6 - brown mottled fill
- Field side 1/2 way down

#8 - not much A
☆ B_t fill
76 - 83 = A
83 - 90 = E
90 + B_t

#7 - Fill to 92 = A
- 96 = A
- 100 = E
100 = B_t
- Field side lower down
Brown fill to natural

We decided to set two units based on the starred cores. #2 was an easy decision because the fill was really interesting (including potential floor/floor complexes). We did not find these potential floors extending to the next core over however! #2 also had a highly developed buried A.

SW corner = 211R625

#8 was not as interesting in the fill stratigraphy but had 8x fill down to a well-developed A than a natural profile

SW corner = 197R663

5/21/13

Andy + Emily started on 211R625 and Mallory + Cashen started on 197R663 today at Lessley

211R625 had to go down about 15 cm to get beyond the A horizon for level one, 197R663 had to go down more like 30 in order to get below the obvious historic disturbances.

211R625, Level 1 had a lot of ceramics, some lithics + a small amount of historic material. While clean troweling the base of level 1, they uncovered 2 pieces of Mazique Incised pottery v. Manchac

197R663 had pottery, lithics + historics as well. The only decorated pottery seems to be 2 sherds of Duquesne Brushed

211R625 also went down 30cm for level 2. Distinctly less pottery but still some!

Balks were left in the corners of these units to hold the nails in since the ground was so crumbly.

Bobby Webb came out to visit today. John was also in the field for a while.

5/22/13 LESSLEY

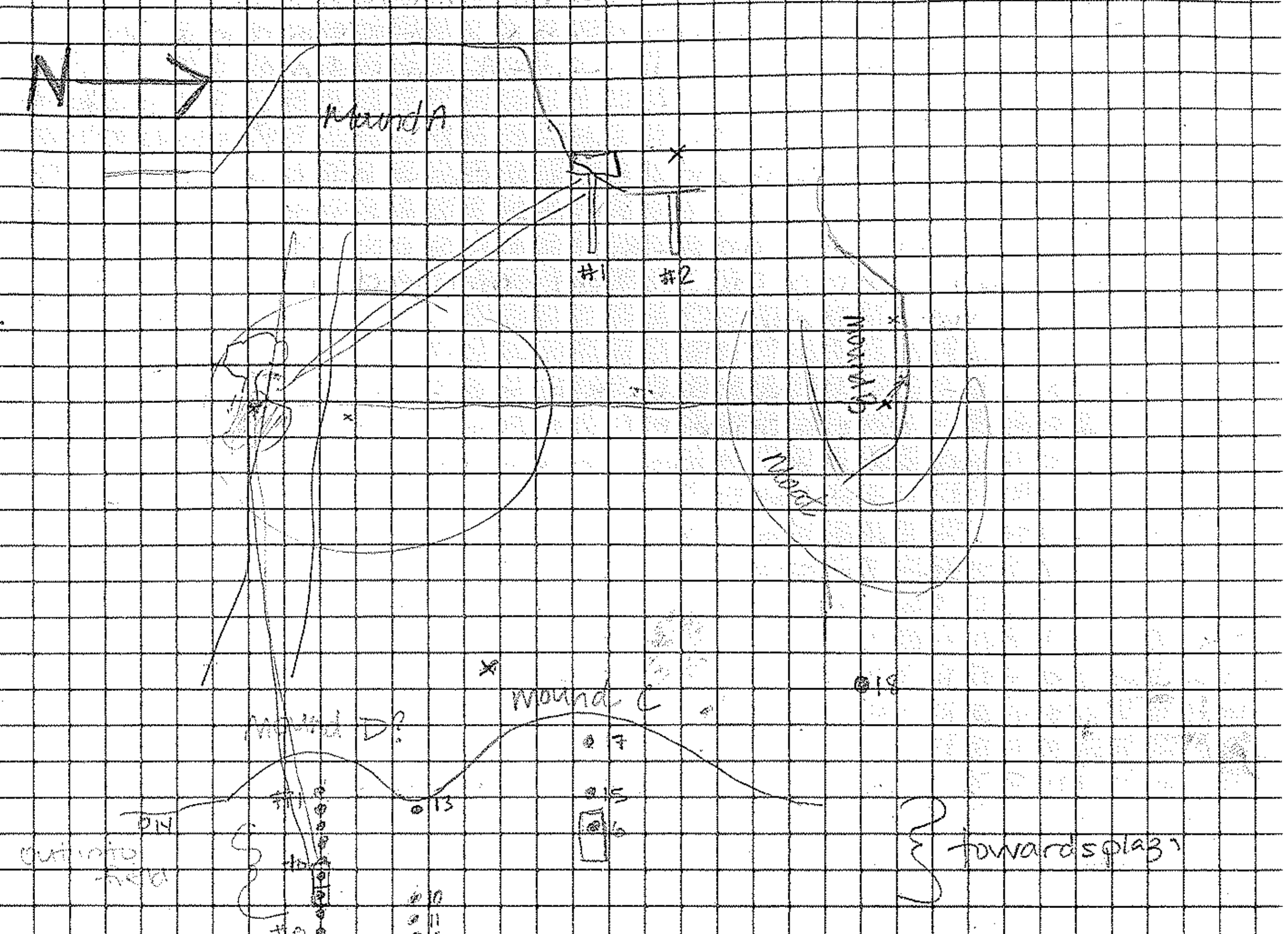
21IR625 - Began Level 3 w/very little/no rain damage from last nights deluge. Andy + Steven worked here. Lithic + ceramic material in moderate quantities. The soil was light w/darker mottles and VERY wet which made clean troweling a challenge!!! undercut the SE corner a bit.

19TR663 - Began Level two w/minor rain damage to the SW corner. Mallory, Cashen and Kelly W. worked here. They are also finding moderate # of artifacts (perhaps a few less than the other side of the mound). They have more roots and the soil is also quite wet.

21IR625 - Photoed after lunch and then began Level 4 - another 30cm level down to about 1mbd. Ashley dug the whole thing while Andy, Stephen + I screened. In the first (top) half of it there was A LOT of burned earth and also a lot of pottery, in the second half of the level that dropped out significantly.

19TR663 - Photoed after lunch and then began Level 3 - another 30cm level down to about 30cm above the buried A horizon. There was not a whole lot in it.

5/23/13 SMITH CREEK



#1: 0 - 58 - very dark fill, a few mottles, charcoal, burnt earth
58 - 68 - light gray zone
68 - 171 - very dark fill, very few mottles
171 - on - dark, more orangey fill w/charcoal + burnt earth
- hit something hard about 180cm

#2 0 - 67 - more mottled fill, some dark, some lighter but hard levels
67 - 70 - likely floor
70 - 109 - dark fill
109 - 117 - dark fill w/yellow mottles
117 - on - midden, w/ lots of burnt earth + charcoal
* Sherd @ 150cmbs

#3 0 - 10 - then hit something hard - lighter orange, homogeneous
10 - 94 - orangey soil w/ burnt earth + charcoal, no distinct
94 - 140 - dark midden fill - sherd on top to surface line
140 - 150 - light silty fill w/ some mottles
150 - on - very dark middeny soil

#4 0-50 - dark homogeneous fill
& sherd @ 44cmbs
50-135 - gradual to lighter fill w/ charcoal + other debris - 10cm @ [illegible] clean orange
135-170 - noticeably darker - A? midden?
170-on - E horizon ?

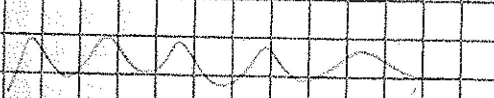
#5: 0-36 - homogeneous dark w/ some mottles
36-77 - orange w/ charcoal [illegible]
77-83 - clean orange
83-160 - noticeably darker, enriched A ?
160-on - E horizon?

#6 - 0-71 - black midden soil - less material
71-72 - light striated wash
72 - too hard to auger through - floor?

#7 - 0-110 - black middeny soil - less material
110 - on - E horizon

#8 - 0-31 - plow zone - slightly lighter
31-100 - middeny A horizon - less material
100 - on - E horizon

#9 - 0-33 - plow zone - slightly lighter
33-43 - A/midden? dark! very little material
43-74 - lighter transitionary
74 - on - transition to E horizon



#10 - 0-29 - plowzone
29-108 - A/midden - less material
108-136 - transition to E horizon
136 - on - Bt

#11 - 0-33 - plowzone
33-67 - A/midden very little material
67-96 - lighter transitionary zone
96-on - transition to E horizon

#12 - 0-28 - plowzone
28-85 - A/midden - very little material
85-106 - transition to E
106 - on - Bt

#13 - 0-15 - A horizon
15-on - fill/midden w/ a fair amount of burnt earth + charcoal.

#14 - 0-160 - dark fill w/ some burnt earth + charcoal
160-on - E horizon

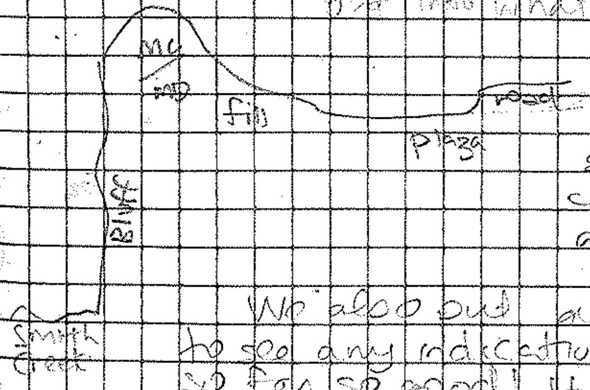
#15 - RIGHT BY FIXED POINT #7
0-10cm - very loose A
10-136 - C horizon fill
136-148 - heavily mottled fill
148 - on - C horizon fill

#16 - 0-10 - A
10-73 - dark w/ orange mottles
73-80 - charcoal + ash burnt orange - potential floor
80 - on - alternating zones of yellowbrown black and C - brown. 5-10cm zones then ~30 cm zones
Alternating dark and light

#17 - 0-60 - Homogeneous gray fill
60-95 - C horizon fill
95-103 - Homogeneous gray fill
103-on - Black somewhat clayey fill

#18 - 0-32 - plow zone
& sherd @ 3[illegible]cmbs
32-138 - dark midden w/ some material
138 - on E horizon

Our focus today was on figuring out the Eastern end of the site with Mound C and D. Sitting along the bluff edge are 2 lumps, the N one is larger than the S one but both are quite distinct. Our augering shows they are both mounds and that the fill/midden extends well out into what I would have called "the plaza". This is either fill or middens all the way until the field truly flattens out. The line seemed to follow a line of clover through the field, but also a distinct topo line.



We also out a couple holes between MC + ME to see any indication of an oval midden — so far so good! It seems to be there

#1: 100 - 122 = Midden / A
122 / 132 = E
132 / 142 = E > Bt
Stopped @ 142

MOUND A

#2: 0-101 = fill / midden
-101 = E horizon

We did two cores at MA on the N side of the mound. It seems that there is a midden under the mound but no indications of anything like MA at Feltus. We need to come back to this mound when we have more time and be more systematic about it.

Ricky Dooley came by to say hi and asked us about a possible mound further N of MA. We walked up there along a small mowed road running parallel to the highway. To me it looks like a natural ridge in that it is very gradual in one direction (away from the road). We augered it once a way up the slope and found a thin A followed by heavily compacted Bt. We concluded this is definitely not a mound.

BAYOU PIERRE MOUND D

5/24/13

#1 (W)
0-10 - A horizon
10-16 - grayish (potential E?)
16-93 - mound fill - some lensing + mottling, not much
93-101 - A horizon
101-113 - E horizon
113 - on - Bt

#2 (S)
0-10 - A horizon
10-73 - Bt fill
73-100 - very underdeveloped A horizon
100 - on - Bt

#3 (E)
0-31 - very gradual shift from A
31-180 - Bt fill - sand/loose mottles than others

#4 (SUMMIT)
0-10 - A horizon
10-131 = quick transition to darker soil after very mottled softer fill
131-141 = dark soil
141 = gradual transition to lighter again

#5 (N)
0-25 - very gradual shift from A
25-78 - fill w/ some mottling
78-88 - buried A - the darkest yet
88-93 - maybe E transition
93-110 - soft Bt
110 - on - hard Bt

Not much of an A horizon here so we set one unit on the slope and one on the summit (where the stratigraphy was more interesting). I still think there is a chance this is an Archaic mound - we even thought we may have seen some development of an E horizon over the mound - but maybe not since it wasn't consistent.

SW flank unit = 623R975
SW summit unit = 622R987

BAYOU PIERRE MOUND A

#1 0-10 - A, very loose
10-16 - dark fill
16-on - yellow fill + brown fill layers

#2 0-15 - A horizon
15-160 - yellow + brown fill, very clean
160-on - Bt ?

#3 0-9 - A horizon
9-21 - possible fill - maybe modern?
21-24 - buried A?
24-27 - E horizon
27-on - Bt

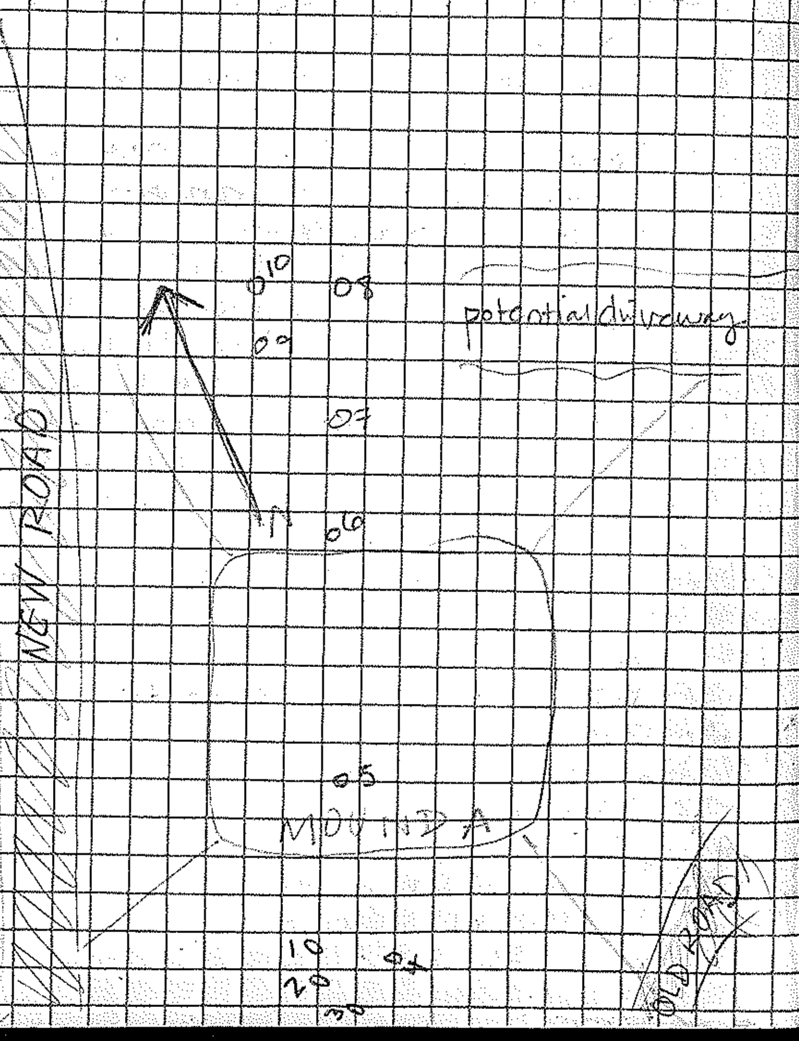
#4 0-6 - A horizon
6-100 - yellow + brown fill
100-107 - E horizon ?
107-on - Bt ?

#5 0-10 - A horizon
10-142 - C horizon fill
142-152 - Dark layer
152-on - alternating dark + yellow [illegible] fill

#6 0-7 A horizon
7-on fill - various brown lenses

#7 same as above - seems to indicate mantle construction - mound [illegible]

#8 0-40 - A horizon
40-51 E?
51-on - Bt

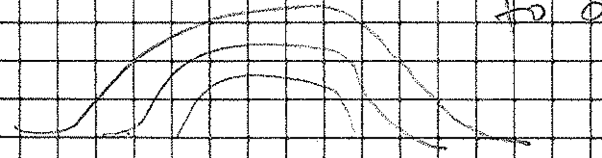


#9 - 0-10 - A
10-155 - interesting fill layers
155-165 - E horizon? (No prob A)
165-180 - Bt

#10 0-25 - A
25-55 - fill?
55-69 - E?
69-on - Bt?

The "E-horizon" here - if that's what it is seems pretty different it's more like C horizon type material.

Mound A was much more difficult to interpret! It seems like the mound is fairly damaged by various roads etc. So it is hard to find what seems to be an intact slope and hard to determine where the natural ground surface lies. We did cores on the NE and SW flanks and on the summit. In each we hit a big zone of B/C horizon fill w/ very little zoning or mottling. Then at a certain point the fill got more stripey and interesting. The [illegible] of this on the flanks and the summit certainly seems to indicate mantle construction so we were always going through the most recent fill zone. However this also made it really hard to ID anything interesting to dig.



We decided to just set one unit here (on the NW corner on the mound near the base)

SW corner = 254R491

Putting it near the corner let us not put it on too much of an angle into the mound.

[illegible] 4th unit will either go on MB if there's anything [illegible] somewhere else on MA or we will just clean up the [illegible] fill of the old road cut that sliced through the [illegible] of the mound

5/27/13 MEMORIAL DAY

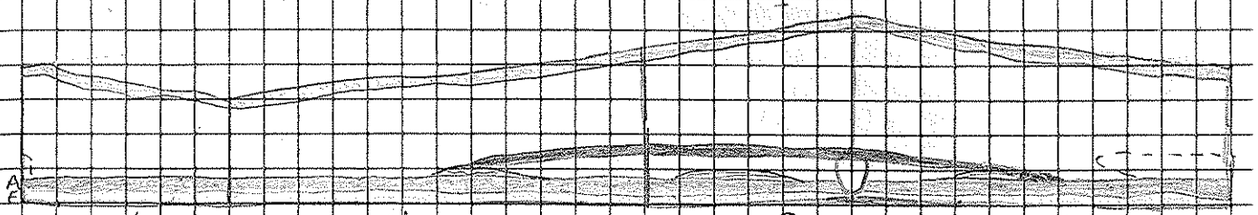
We did not work but Ashley, David and I went down to Wilkinson County to show Bobby Webbs daughters + their friends around Lessley.

Andy Lewis of the Woodville Republican also visited Lessley and toured Smith Creek w/us.

5/28/13

I started out my day at Pumpkin Lake. I started at the profiles that David had drawn while Andy, Amanda, and Kelly E. began extending the trench 2m to the East in order to get more of that pottery filled deposit.

I did some fairly major overhauling on the 674R384 profile maps to correct a number of issues. Below is a basic sketch of the profiles w/ some notes as to what I changed from what David had and why:



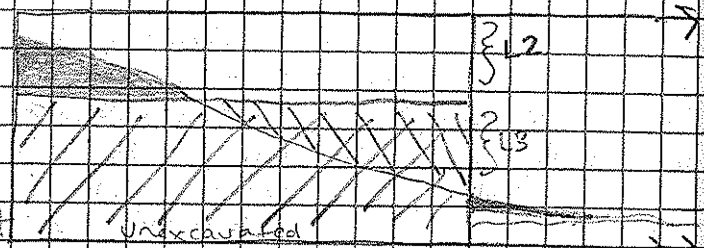
consistent modern A horizon across the whole unit, large zone of mound fill below it that is more or less homogeneous w/ minimal backfilling. Today John and I added one interesting zone to the SW corner of that fill zone. It is odd in the sense that it has a lot of mottling of very light-almost white + silt. It sits right on the A but does not cut into it. We changed a few lines associated w/ the possible surface/Midden that was black and filled w/ pottery. Some of it was more clear after additional scraping. It comes down to connect it to a thin wash layer (or just past it to the A horizon). I also added the wash layers to the drawings. We had noted it but David didn't really see it. Upon further scraping it is definitely wash and exists in the N, E + S walls but only in the center so it is discontinuous. There are visible striations in it but it's all pretty dark, instead of yellow as wash often is. Over this wash and before the floor/Midden is a small zone of mound fill. This fill is a bit lighter than the mound fill above it. Cutting down through this zone and into the underlying A horizon is a potential post hole filled w/ heavy clayey fill.

Meanwhile Kelly, Amanda and Andy got through the first level of taking off the A in about 10cm. There was a fair amount of material.

We then decided to do a 40cm level in order to take off enough fill to bring the whole unit down to a flat floor at 50cmbd. In the process of digging they went a bit deep in the center of the unit so we extended the whole level to 45cm to flatten it out. We were finding a lot of good sized material.

Interestingly, Mallory hit a dark zone quite early in the eastern half of the unit. Assuming it was just dark loaded fill, we went on through it to 55cmbd. Unexpectedly, it seemed like more material was coming from the lighter typical mound fill than from the darker stuff.

That said, when they got the whole level out it was easy to see that the two dark known zones could connect up!

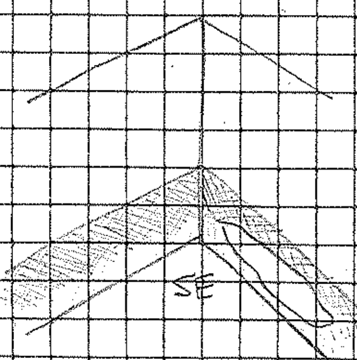


David had said that he augered and hit that black surface a couple meters into the mound and then thought it was pretty flat but that doesn't appear to be the case. Maybe what he hit down there is something else entirely!

About this time John showed up and we instructed them to finish up that level as an arbitrary 45cm level, clean it up, photo it, etc. and then take out the wedge of fill that would connect the two spots where we can see the black, as Level 3.

John and I then went to Bates #2 to check their profiles. What a weird unit!!! I still really don't know what to say about it... The top 30cm is definitely disturbed - it had historics (all very recent) in it and was really clayey homogeneous fill. Lower down however they do get to something that roughly resembles mound fill. It is heavily basketloaded with really dark and really light fills. John pointed out that a lot of the "loads" look really small - like possible "shovel loads". I don't know if I really buy that because it would seem really weird to shovel two such distinct fills into a mound randomly. Granted it also seems really odd that all that fill could be prehistoric and not have a SINGLE artifact in it! Below this zone of basketloaded fill they have a fairly continuous thick potential A horizon surrounding the whole unit. In some places it is hard to see because there is dark fill right on top of it.

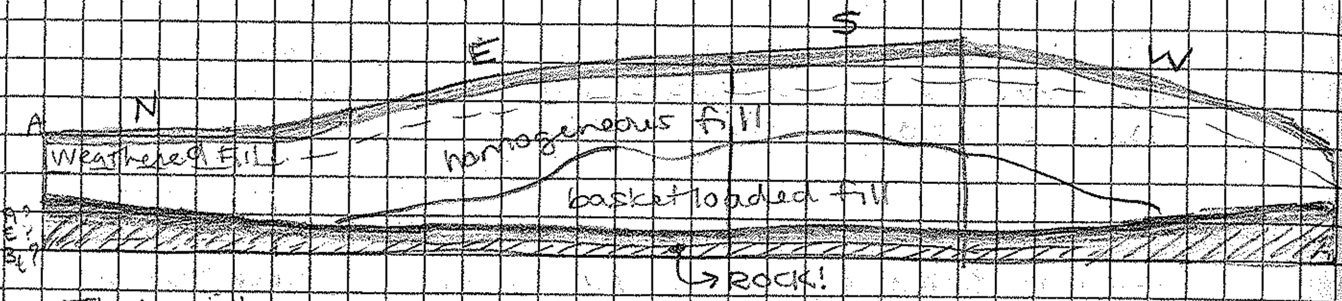
Everything drawn on their profiles looks fine to me, but John and I are kind of questioning if they are actually below the A. In the SE corner of the unit under the A horizon (supposedly) there is what looks like a basketload of gray silt (different in both color and texture) - how could that be there if that was an actual original A? We decided to auger around to try and determine if they were truly at the bottom. Sadly, the augering was inconclusive - there is a zone of varying thickness of gray mottled stuff which, if you arguing for that being the A, could be interpreted as an E horizon. If you are arguing against that being the A [illegible] looked more like mottled fill than E. Below that there is a zone of clayey crumbly yellowish-brown stuff. Again, it COULD be Bt but it would be really weird Bt! Its very mottled - has a lot of small roots and iron concretion lines throughout it. It is also much more crumbly than chunky like typical Bt.



We tentatively decided that we should go another 20cm level to make sure that we are down. The series of soil colors looks ok (black → gray → yellow-orange) but none of the textures feel right at all. We thus did not spend much time checking the profiles in detail.

We then moved to Bates #1 which was MUCH more straightforward!

We checked the NW unit first. It has a basic A horizon, fairly homogeneous moundfill w/a buried A+E under it all.



That said.. there were a few very weird things about it — the A horizon is actually sloping up away from the mound! This seems odd especially since the little Mesa that the site is on is so flat! Would that potentially indicate that the Mesa-top is artificially flattened? The A is also quite variable! In some places it is quite easy to ID.. but in other places (such as the N wall) you can hardly tell it apart from what is below + above it. It doesn't seem to be very developed at all + and they did draw in a line for the E + the Bt.. but the E line was super gradual (maybe only staining) and really just split the diff between the somewhat more obvious top of A + top of Bt. Could they have scraped away the original A (maybe even down into the Bt perhaps) and then deposited the darker A or midden over that scooped out area?

This hypothesis is kind of supported by a fairly good-sized cobble that was down on the line labeled as the intersection of the E and the Bt. The cobble looked heat treated + clearly had 3 nice flakes removed from one end.

Since there should be no stone in the loess... if the currently mapped interpretation of the strata is correct, this should be impossible.

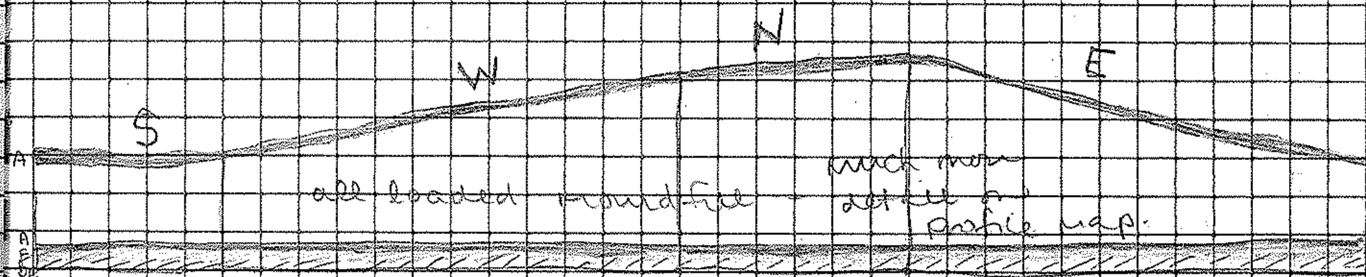
I see 3 possible explanations:

① Like described above, the "A and E" could be dark fill and staining over an excavated out Bt. Down in that excavated out part, someone placed or dropped that rock.

② Since there is little to no E horizon development. The rock could be from an earlier occupation that an A-horizon formed over.

③ That somehow there is a feature or something that that rock is in that is invisible in the profile wall but nonetheless exists.

In the SE unit everything seemed pretty straightforward + accurate on their drawing. We added a burrow line and re-connected a few corners that didn't match up.



We then went to Foster but due to rain, lack of tarps and other craziness I didn't really get to see David's profiles in detail. I can say however, that I think we'll need to add some more lines.

John and I stayed at Foster long enough to meet w/ Tom [illegible], landowner at Henderson, who is hesitant to let us dig without more info because of erosional concerns.

5/29/13

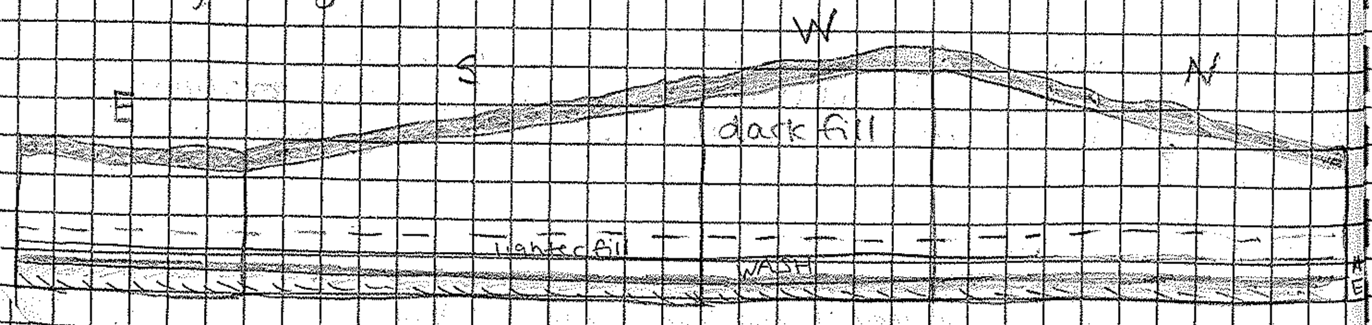
A crew went to work on Lessley w/ Ashley and a big crew to Bayou Pierre to work with David.

I took Amanda and Kelly W. to Pumpkin Lake. On Monday, the crew had made it down to the midden so we started peeling it back and bucketing it for waterscreening. We troweled it all back chunking out the level down to a point where it started to turn lighter. It seems that the boundaries both above it and below it are very diffuse but are mostly staining. Most of the hand-collected material from the midden was large Marksville Incised sherds, plain sherds and lithic material. Very little bone (especially when compared to the Fetus midden) for being so dark! There were obviously a lot of organics that broke down in that soil — so the preservation must just not be very good.

Before they got to these base of the midden, I actually left to take the generator + shop vac down to Lessley, per John's request

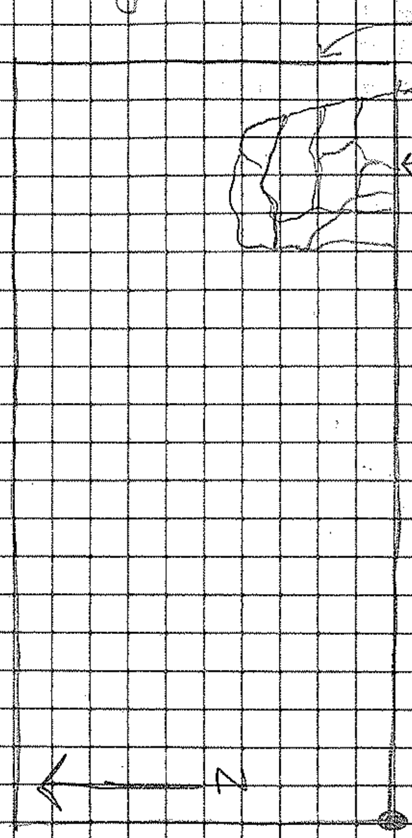
I wasn't there for long because soon after I got there it POURED on us and we headed home about one hour early.

Mallory and Morgan were mapping in the roadside unit. I checked the scribing + mapping in that unit and agreed w/ most everything.



The only problem was that the slightly lighter fill zone just above the wash layer was labeled a "pedogenesis" — which I don't really think makes any sense. Ashley said she thought it was lighter because some minerals/organics had leeched out of it, but I think it is more likely just a slightly different fill given that that would be an odd location for leeching to occur! I reccommended they rename that zone.

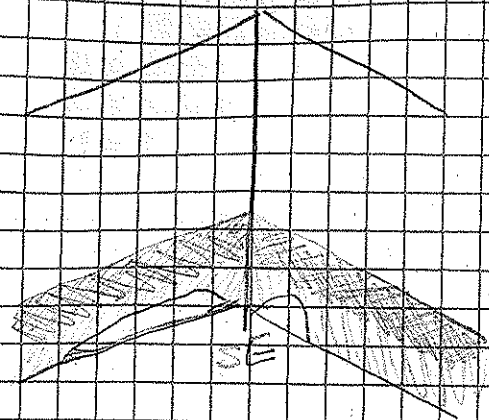
In the far unit Ashley + Cashen had exposed this really interesting patch of burning on the ground.



When she described it to me, I assumed it was just a surface burn like those from under MA at Fetus — not very hard — mostly a difference in color — and only dramatic on the surface and fading away gradually from there on down. This however is harder than that and hard-fired through a few cm. They were mapping this feature on to the floor when the sky opened up. It was kind of cracked, but obviously was originally one solid piece. It really looks like an area of fired floor, but it seems odd that it would only be in that one place. I wonder if it is more like a hearth area or something that saw repeated burning to get it so thick, hard and fired!

No time to excavate it or get into drawing the profiles but before it rained we did note and discuss some probable burning

activity in the SE corner:



The E wall almost looked like it had a light basketload under the A horizon but especially when matched up w/ the present semicircle in the S wall, I think we just clipped a good-sized burrow in that corner.

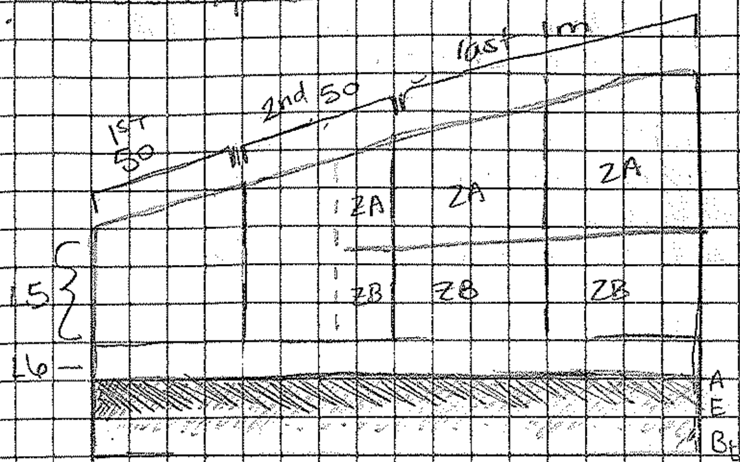
We got drenched tarping the units + loading the canoe but we made it home and did an hour of lab before dinner. Then the whole crew did another hour after dinner to finish up the washing.

Foster material - one Addis paste sherd?
Lessley material - all Plaquemine
Pumpkin Lake material - all Marksville
Bayou Pierre material - looks Coles Creek so far w/ some potential McCoy CCI and other Baytown Paste sherds. Also maybe Scallorn point?

5/30/13

Spent the day at Pumpkin Lake w/ Amanda and Kelly W.

We were trying to dig out the wedge of fill above the A horizon but below the midden. We decided to work from the old profile that was exposed in David's old unit. We began by digging the first 50cm of the wedge down to approx. 10cm above the buried A-horizon.



It turns out that this was a perfect place to stop as we came down right on top of the feature that was visible in David's profile corner.

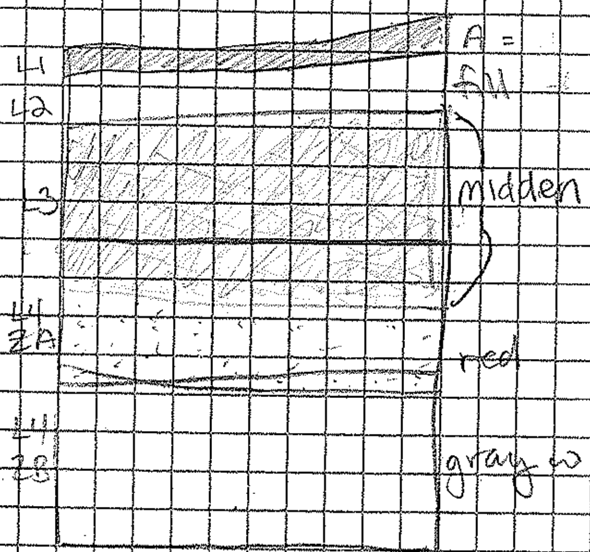
A bit of material came out of this 50cm wedge but not much. We then moved on to excavating the 2nd 50cm block again all as one zone. We got approximately 1/2 way through this wedge when Kelly started pulling skull fragments out of the screen. They were either turtle or human - but a little thick to be turtle and w/o any visible scutes or seams in the carapace. Once we IDed them as likely human remains, we slowed down and cleaned up the mini profile wall that we had created. We saw two distinct zones on this wall - a reddish more mottled top zone and a more homogeneous dark gray zone. We also clean troweled the floor at this point and took some good photos of clay features associated w/ David's.

We could see 4 bone fragments (IDed by roofing nails in the plan view photos) in the underlying gray zone and in the floor.

We tested the hypothesis that all of the bone was from this dark gray zone by digging. The remaining portion that 50cm wedge stratigraphically, separating the two zones — A (reddish) and B (gray).

We found nothing in the zone A and more skull frags and shells in the zone B. After cleaning up this 1m profile we could distinctly still see the 2 zones and decided to excavate the last 1m block as two levels — Zone A + Zone B.

Zone A was not as empty in this final block — that said, there was a fair amount of the dark potential midden still excavated as L3. This could be where some of the material comes from — even though the excavators all noted that it was not all from this dark zone.



This dark zone could indicate that we were not entirely through the midden when we stopped L3... It could also just be large amounts of staining.

Regardless — some of this dark soil was screened w/ L4. Likewise, we tried to stop at the top of the gray before starting L4 ZB, but just as before we stopped too soon and ended up w/ some of the red in our next level. Since there was not too much in it — it doesn't matter too much.

The skull (and other) material definitely thinned out in this last meter of Zone B. But it was definitely still there.

John came out at one point and confirmed that it was definitely human.

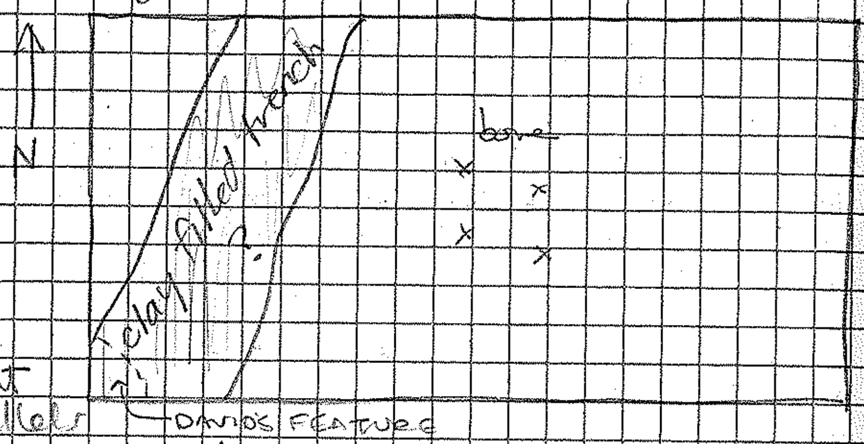
5/31/13

Kelly, Amanda, and I headed back out to Pumpkin Lake. Kelly got to work finishing Zone B of this level but got to feeling sick really quickly.

I ended up leaving Amanda alone for a while + took Kelly home. Mallory was there w/ Steven taking care of the backlog of water screening.

When I returned, Amanda had just finished clean trowelling the final floor of Level 4. We took the pictures (plan and profile) and also took a set of the surbed (W) end of the unit w/ the weird clay in it.

We mapped this level even tho it was more or less an arbitrary level. It clearly showed a line of clay deposits diagonal across the unit. This diagonal arrangement more or less parallels the long axis of the mound.



Once we mapped this I spent the rest of the day digging out and then clean trowelling and photo-ing and mapping Level 5.

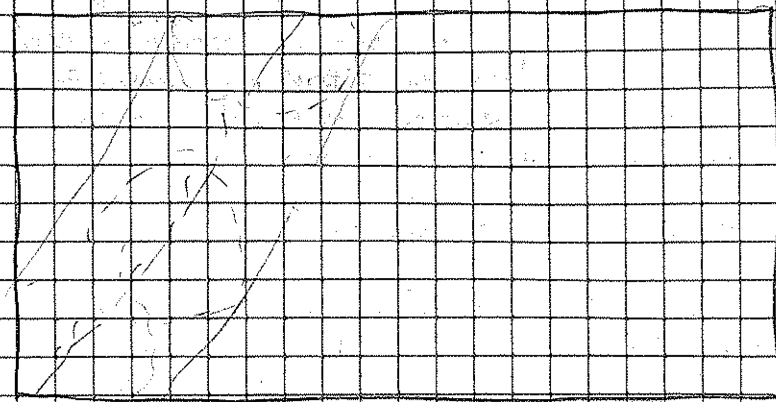
Level 5 was through 10-20 cm of the gray deposit down to the buried A. We found a few more skull frags and a few other artifacts but not too much. The A-horizon was quite a bit darker and reasonably easy to come down on. I came down 1/2 a cm across the whole thing and then began trowelling.

It really doesn't seem like there is anything on the A-horizon surface though a lot of small flecks of charcoal are visible. The A is not

terribly flat and it kind of seemed like the particularly low spots were filled w/ a very thin layer of black charcoal (almost like wash?) As I clean trowelled, I pulled off the 1 cm — there were a lot of mottles — mostly from old bug activity.

In the W end again we still have that kind of trench thing filled w/ clay

N



It definitely cuts down into the A so it is more like a feature than a lens or zone in the fill. We thus assigned it feature #1.

At this point you can kind of see that it might be 3 separate posts, but you can't really tell. They were mapped in before we closed up.

We just dry screened all of this but took flot samples from the burn-rich gray zone B. Before clean trowelling this level, I cut the walls way back

6/3/13

Vin is back in town today.

He and I decided to spend time this week going to each site + checking it or finishing it to make it ready for backfill.

First we went out to Pumpkin Lake to make sure they were okay... a fair amount of water had made it into the unit. (Also David had gotten the van stuck at Bayou Pierre - not a good start for the day!)

Amanda and Joel spent the first part cutting back the Buried A horizon around Feature 1 (the trench of clay) and bucketing it for waterscreening. They are more or less pedestaling the feature because it is so wet. After all of that level was removed except for the feature, they bisected the feature through its middle (ie: diagonally through the unit). It was so wet and she really couldn't interpret it so Vin and I had them leave it for me to come back to.

Meanwhile, Vin and I moved to Bates #2 to look at all of the stuff John and I had looked at. We also came to the conclusion that another 20cm level would settle the problem of whether we are in the subsoil or not. Vin seems less concerned that we're in something modern than John does, but he did add the possibility that we're in someone's backfill (the Bates brothers both hear stories of someone completely excavating the mound).

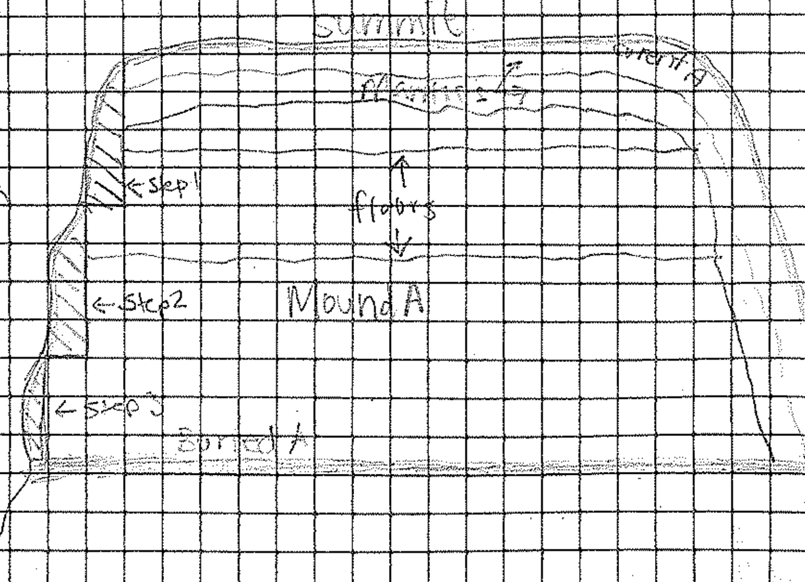
We had Amanda + Joel come over when they gave up on Pumpkin Lake and dig out that level. They shoveled out the dirt onto a tarp so it could be screened later if we decided we weren't down all the way. However she says it looks like Bt all the way across the unit + nothing in it - so it sounds like we ARE down + there's no reason to screen that dirt.

After lunch, we headed North to Bayou Pierre to see how people were doing there and to set some more units.

We started out by augering around a bit to explain to Vin why Mound A was so confusing and how hard it was to find a buried A! We talked a bit about some of the site's peculiarities that Vin knew about... For example, Mound C was reported by Highway Department archaeologists as a natural rise and thus completely destroyed. (John says that this was typical of the Hwy Dept people during that time.) We are thus not even going to look for it. Furthermore, the same folks built a berm right along the road (mostly N of the mound) to try to prevent runoff and erosion of the cut bank.

We really decided that we needed to dig to figure it out. Thus we moved on to setting in a long, skinny profile to cut from the summit to the base of MA. There is a place along the OLD roadcut on the N-most end that is nearly vertical. Using the total station we set two points 1m apart on the summit (237R503.5 and 238R503.5) and two pts one meter apart on the base (238R509 and 237R509). We only wanted to cut a 0.5m wide window and due to a tree encroaching on the southern half, we decided on the N 1/2. They will dig it by first clearing off the current A horizon to hopefully see some of the important strata (including the Buried A, floors, etc.)

Once they are IDed, they will start setting out steps + cutting vertical profile walls to reveal internal strata to be photographed + mapped w/ the total station.



We then moved on to figuring out MB. Using Wailes diary of his visit to Smith Creek, we know that there is a small rise approx. where MB should be. We pulled a tape from the NW corner (i.e. Wailes datum point) even though which corner is NW is kind of ambiguous (this one is more just N).

When we got to the center of the mound we put down a couple augers. Surprisingly there was clear evidence of fill.

Idealized core:

0-15 = plow zone
15-20 = mottled fill
20-30 = A horizon
30 on = subsoil.

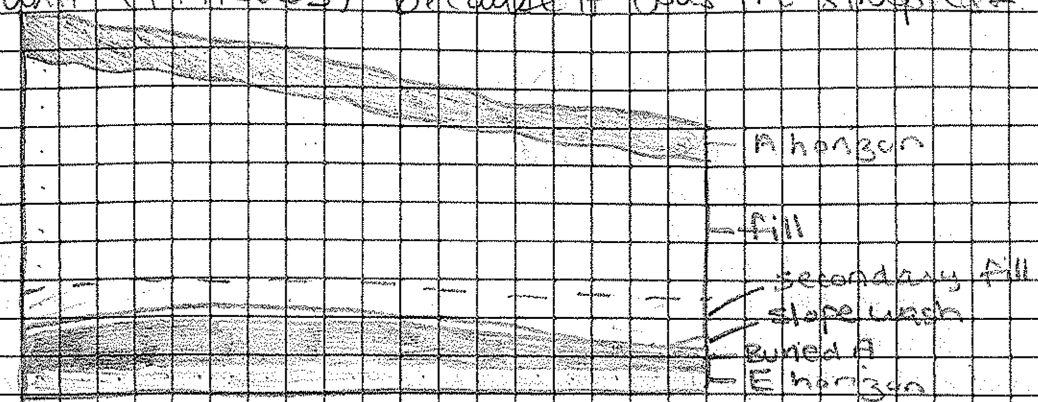
The fact that the A-horizon appears to be intact shows the plow must have been pulling up fill (also why the plowzone is more brown/less black).

We put in a couple augers to be sure + set in a 1x4 m trench (301R 488 and 301R 486) to get a good sample from it and a look at the stratigraphy.

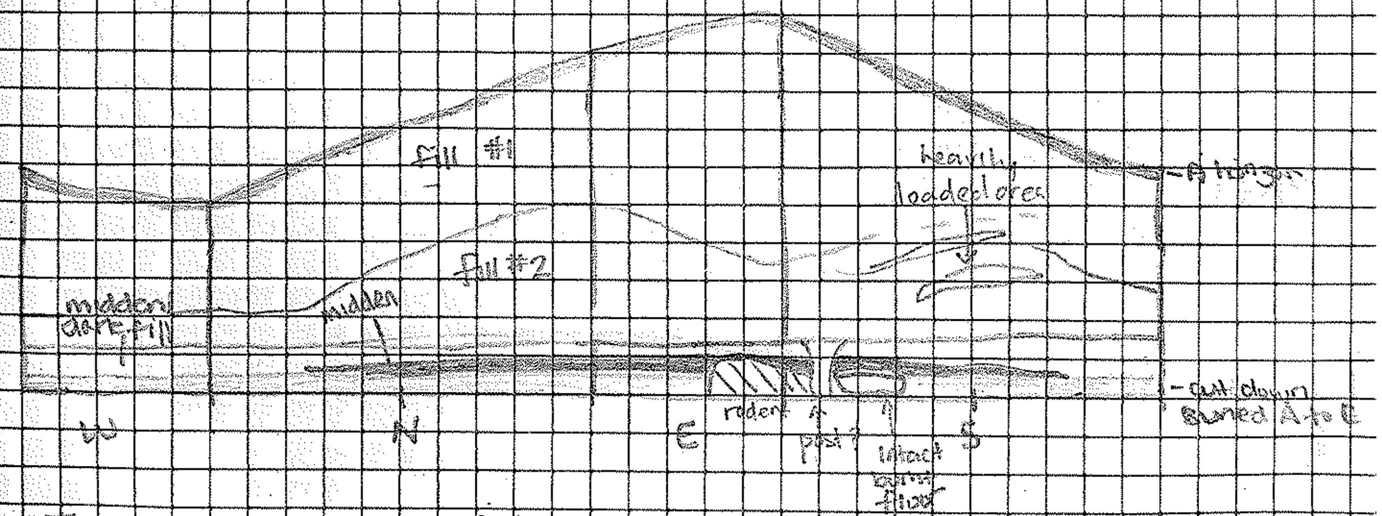
6/4/13

Vin and I went down to Wilkinson County today while the rest of the crew went to Bayou Pierre to finish up on Mound D and keep working on Mound A + B.

We started out at Lessley trying to check and finish up both of those units. We started at the road side unit (197R663) because it was the simplest.



It basically consisted of an A horizon w/ mound fill beneath it down to a Buried A->E transition. Sitting on the A is a thin layer of slope wash - it is heavily striated and much lighter + siltier in color. Ashley IDed another stratum of mound fill just above that that differed a little in character. She called it weathered, but I'm not sure about that...
The other unit (211R625) was a bit more complicated.



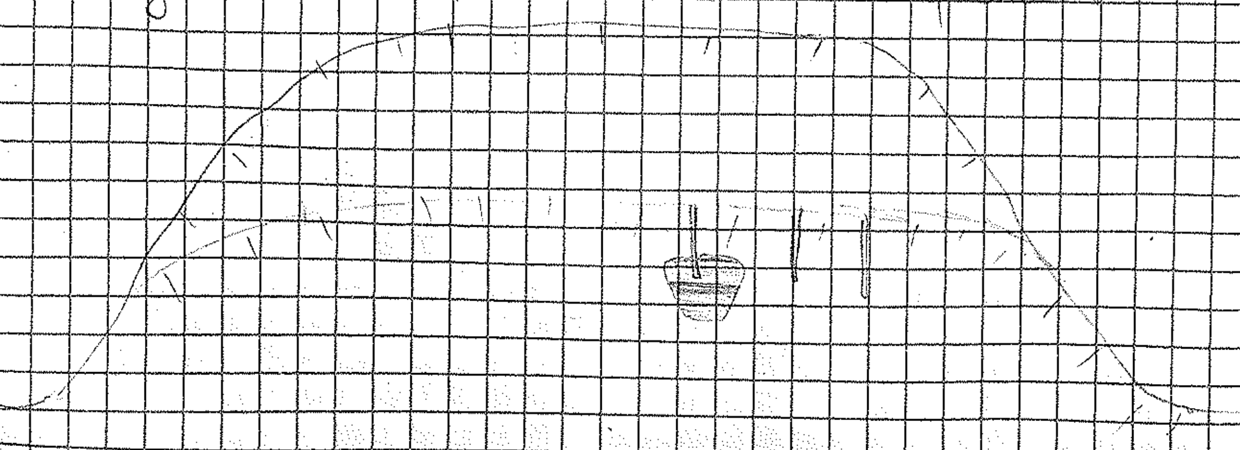
The area near the SE corner really messed us up and the swale in general was difficult. particularly when following the difference between fill #1 (top) and fill #2 (bottom). We decided that the line was definitely there and rises to

a sort of berm even if hard to see in a couple of places. Importantly, we also decided that the buried A was likely largely scraped away (≈ Foster) and then had a dark midden deposit on top of it - almost like a replacement A. This midden is sherdy + charcoaly in some places + then above it it is just dark. We called this fill midden. A potential post is coming down off the top of these which may argue that it is a surface. The burned floor area is coming off of the Buried A.
After finishing these units, we pulled all of the string nails etc. and packed up all of the plywood weights etc and took them to Smith Creek.

We then spent the rest of the afternoon exploring Smith Creek in terms of where to put units. We started at Mound C where I showed him where Andy and I augered. We decided to set a 1x4m unit between + over auger #5 + #6 to hopefully intersect the possible floor and also maybe see the edge of it since we didn't hit it in #5.

We then moved to discussing the main section of Mound C and decided to put a unit over what we'd IDed as a possible floor w/ some burning in #16.

Finally, we went over to MA to explore that a bit more. We both agreed that putting a basal unit near where Andy and I put our first core - N toe of MA. We decided to move it back away from the road a bit more to be safe. We then went up and augered on the terrace made when they did the



road cut. Our goal was to auger down into John's window cut into the road cut in February. We wanted to see if we could pick up that same black patch.

From the top there was fairly interesting basket loading and other color changes. Then about a 1m 40cm down, we hit a zone of 3cm of perfectly clean sand sitting right a top a quick and clean transition to the dark black soil. We couldn't tell for sure but are either on that black surface John exposed or just above it in which case there is a series of stacked black levels. I climbed back up to John's window but couldn't get any sand to show up in that mini-profile.

Ricky Dooley came home at that point and we talked to him about where to put units. He requested that we not put them anywhere that he regularly mows. He okayed all of our unit placements.

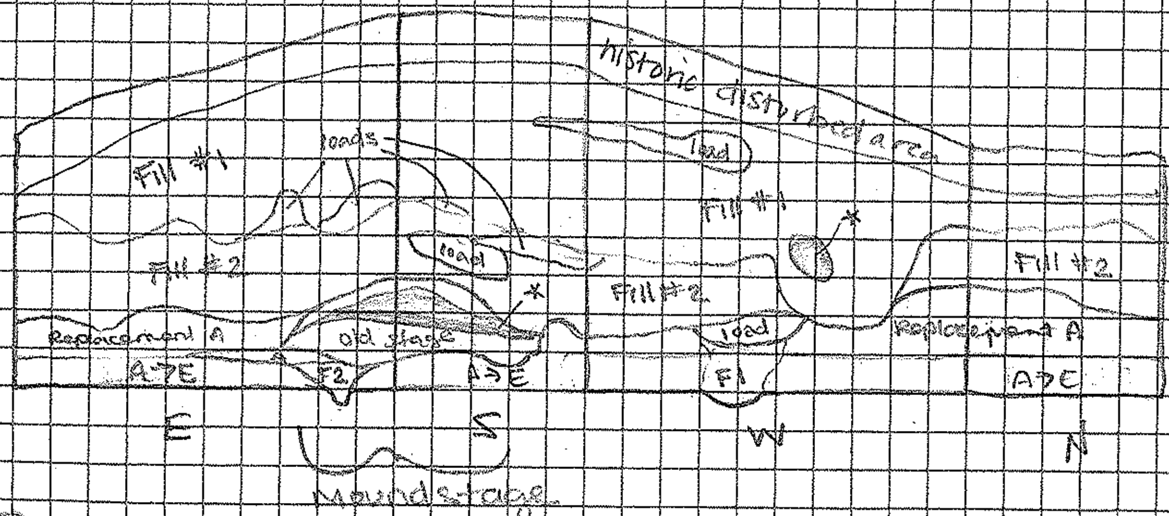
We spent the last hour or so trying to get the total station working. Ricky had gone through + systematically pulled all of our flags that were not on the mounds - and potentially the pins as well. We thus began to work off of MB's 3 fixed points. That said, we just could not get them to be internally consistent and had to give up cause we were running out of time. We left the unit setting for another day but IDed a place in the plaza from which you could see all of our units.

6/5/13

Andy + Morgan went down to Wilkinson County today to retake some of the profile photos at Lessley that were never shot w/a flash. They then went to Smith Creek to set in units but had the same problem that Vin and I had. See Andy's notes for more detail. The MC points just seem to be moved off but he eventually found 2 that worked on MC and set a new fixed point in the plaza from which other things can be set.

They got one unit set in in Mound C today: (1044R597) this is the one that is through fill and has the potential to hit a floor.

Meanwhile Vin and I spent our morning trying to figure out Foster. There is a lot more going on there than David originally drew.



*→
There are at least 2 spots w/ what looks like upside down natural soil profiles. We are hypothesizing that these are actually sod blocks that were inverted when they were put in the mound.

The buried A horizon, like @ Lessley, may have been scraped away and then a dark zone - almost like a replacement A was put down before the mound was constructed.

One important change is that Vin and I were able to trace a couple lines entirely around the unit. One David had IDed in some places but not others + another we saw entirely on our own.

The other important change was the recognition of the small corner of a likely earlier mound stage in the SE corner.

Though there were definitely some MC-Escher-like problems w/ the profile lines connecting up to seasonal zones of fill - I think that in the end we were both happy w/ our explanation by the end.

The depositional sequence is thus as follows:
- Buried A was largely scraped away but is visible in a few places. F2 comes down from this
- Early stage of the mound (SE corner) was built using sod blocks + loading.
- A dark layer - possible replacement A - was added to whole area around early mound - F1 likely comes off this + maybe slumped + filled in?
- The next major mound stage is put down covering both the replacement A and the older mound.
- The next mound stage covers this (no evidence that this transition was left open for long?) and include another sod block.
- The entire top zone was heavily disturbed during historic times probably associated w/ construction of the house on top.

In the end, this really did all make sense to us but I have to admit that it was really hard to follow! And we may have been a bit fried by the end of the day because the direct sun was really miserable!

At the end of our morning there David + Ben showed up to dig the features in the bottom, thus we could really call the unit done. Those are added to the profile map + the map to the left.

We then moved on to Batts #1 To again re-photo the units and make sure O.K agreed w/ Johns + my interps.

Beginning w/ the NW unit, we spent our time cleaning, rephoting, and then thought about the explanations for the rock that was the most likely.

We decided that this is what likely happened:

1- The area now under the mound was excavated out somewhat, thus removing the Buried A 'C horizon

2- That tool was then dropped into that excavated out area.

3- That tool was buried when the pit was filled in but that fill was left open so long that an A-horizon developed into it.

4- The mound was built on top of this somewhat developed A.

Didn't change any lines but made a few more dotted and really took away the idea that there was an E. We then moved to the SE unit to re-clean + re-photo but didn't seem to find much to change.

We then moved to Batts #2 to check out the newly excavated level. Upon seeing it it sure is drawn in the B+. On the profile map I spent my time erasing lines + making new ones up while Vin cleaned it up for photos. They drew in nearly every load bit rarely did they match up with ones on other walls. Some I fixed, but many I just erased because the level of detail they drew in just obscured the general patterns. I also added general descriptions (such as dark clay vs. light silty etc) to their Munsell descriptions.

6/6/13

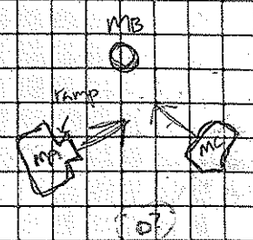
We began today by sending Andy out to Smith Creek to keep setting units and Vin and I went to Windsor. Andy had not sent the Windsor points to Doug so we more-or-less just went to meet the wildlife, Parks + Forests people and to make a determination about MD

The man was very nice + more or less gave us permission to do what we like on that land. He also sent an escort. From him we also got a lead on how to get in touch w/ the landowners for MB across the road and were told that the cemetery mound was privately owned

MOUND D AUGERING RESULTS:

0-18 plow zone (homogeneous gray)
18-35 mound fill (mottled, some B)
35-45 A horizon (dark blackish, little charcoal) B top
45-53 E horizon
53-105 E→B transition (orangey, but not yet stiff)
65 or - hard B

We walked out into the field to a rise that Vin had noted as being in the correct position w/ respect to the other mounds and what Ian noted in his CMS fieldnotes sketch map. We honestly weren't expecting much especially considering the layout MBs A, B + C all seem to be oriented to a plaza that would be in the center of a TRIANGLE not a rectangle.

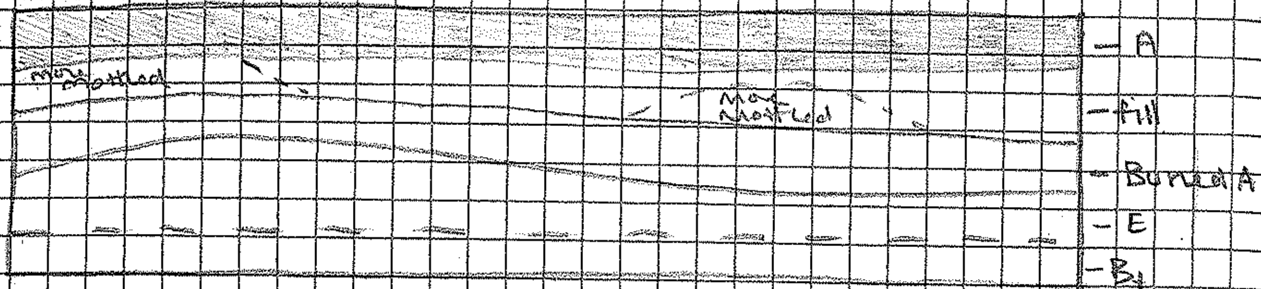


That said, when we got out there, there is definitely a hump there. The cores we put down (see above) most definitely show evidence of fill (see profile described above)

This core also confirmed that unit to Feitus most soils have a transitionary zone that connects the E and the B.

We put a number of augers down but will need to either put in a unit or do some more systematic augering.

We then went by Bayou Pierre to check on the MD units and see how the crews were doing on MA. The MD flank unit was quite simple:

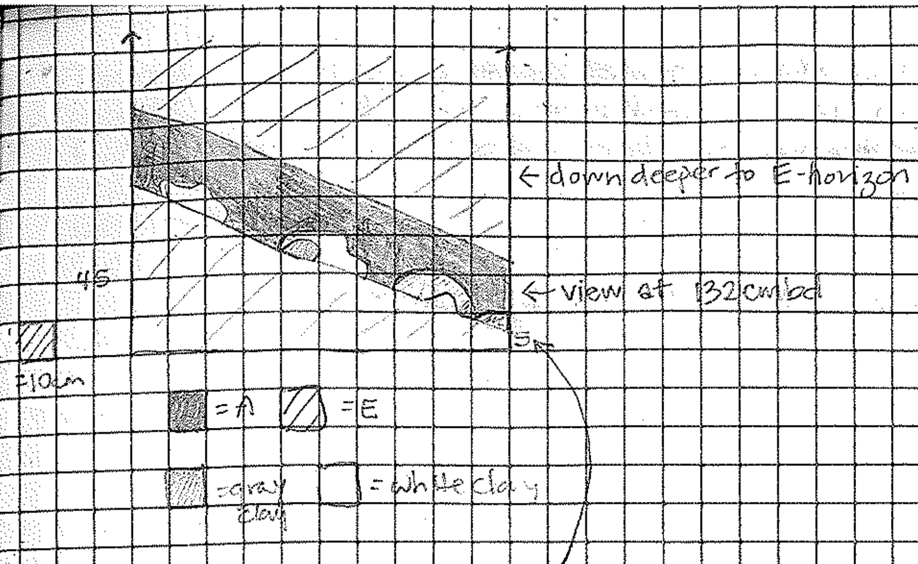


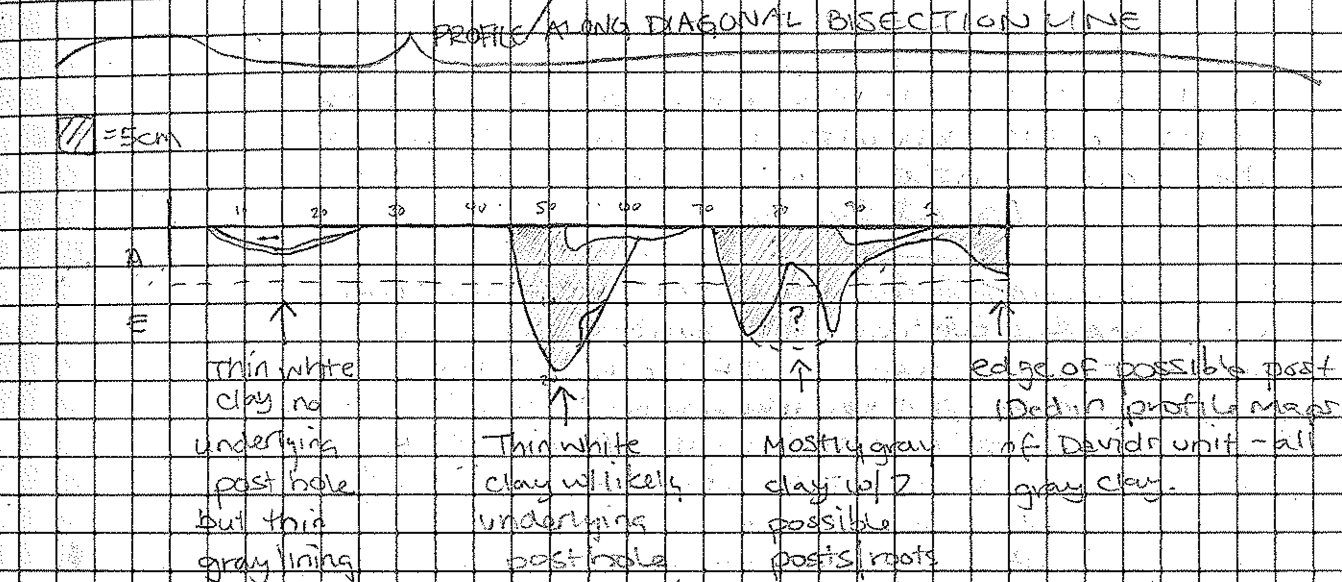
The summit unit was a bit more complicated but still pretty easy to interpret. Since we didn't have a ladder we couldn't get in the unit but it distinctly has 2 surfaces / breaks in construction. The top one is a clean floor that David describes as looking like the Oreo floor in MA at Fetus. The bottom one looks alot like a buried A horizon. There are small flecks of charcoal below that tells us its not just Bt fill. Also, David augered down to the next buried A (the real one) 2.5 m bd. I think there is a chance, however that that second floor down is an A horizon just perhaps one that formed on a mound surface that was left for a long time + grass etc grew on. It has that gradual look about it. Will have to come back to this one before making the profile official.

Moving over to MA, we checked on the flank unit first + they seem to have the basics down. Were coming down on the A tho overall there wasn't much in it. The trench going from the summit to the base had just gotten started but had a long ways to go. They had potentially uncovered the Buried A but to me it looks like [illegible] underneath it not the [illegible] so I'm not sure.

MB trench is finishing up - they seem to be down below the Buried A and into subsoil; ↗

PUMPKIN LAKE





However they say they are still finding lots of flakes and other debitage (but no sherds). I don't know the geomorphology well enough, but it seems possible that they are digging in an Archaic or Paleoindian occupation of a Pleistocene terrace (Vin said he has experienced this over on the Pearl River terraces). This time depth may be old enough for that to happen.)

We told them to go a bit deeper to be sure its sterile + then stop.

After helping to batten down the hatches in advance of rain, Vin and I returned to Jefferson County where he dropped me off to deal w/ Feature one (see previous page for diagrams).

Amanda and Joel had left this row of features / trench of clay pedastled because it was wet and difficult to interpret. I mapped in what I saw as the top of 3-4 post features about 3cm deeper than Amanda had mapped them. Most had 2 distinct types of clay in them - a white clean clay w/ some iron streaks running through it and then a gray, more crumbly clay. The white is like the white stuff from MB @ Feltus which Vin says must be kaolin (though others seem to disagree.) The gray is more like the clay from the [illegible] balls at Feltus.

After cleaning them off, I bisected them on a diagonal across the unit (though almost parallel to the edge of the mound) (see profile drawing). The first one appeared to be really shallow (1A). The second one seemed a bit more post-like w/ a small white cap above a more normally shaped clay-filled post hole (1B). The third one is more ambiguous because it has that white clay kind of connecting it (1C) with what is left of the feature David saw in the corner of his unit (1D). 1B was the only one that I had to dig down into the E below our ending level.

After photoing + drawing these profiles, I cored out the other half. I just collected everything together as one F1 flot sample since they were very hard to separate out.

I then chopped down + dry screened the remaining pedastle + Vin came back to get me.

Tonight we did a lab exercise where we labeled and laid out all of the diagnostics from Lessley, Bayou Pierre MD, and Pumpkin Lake.

Lessley was the most confusing one because nearly all of the sherds are Anna Phase ceramics w/ a few exceptions that are a good deal later (such as Leland Incised). Surprisingly, these are from quite a ways down. The girls commented that that level had a lot of disturbance (burrows, etc.) so it could have come in in those - but that seems unlikely... in which case the mound may be a bit later than we thought...

Bayou Pierre seems to be solidly middle to late Coles Creek. Pumpkin Lake is quite solidly late Middle Woodland - Troyville.

6/7/13

I began the morning w/ a stop at Roberts barn to get some equipment to take to Smith Creek w/ the help of David and Ben. And then the 3 of us went out to Pumpkin Lake to take some of their equipment and to show them what remained to be done out there.

They needed to finish cutting down from the floor to the correct elevation for that final level, clean trowel, look for features, cut back and clean the wall for their final photo and then map.

Apparently when they got down to the basal level there was a more subtle row of post that followed along Feature 1 down below the clay zones I excavated. I saw one of them (now Feature 1A) but missed the others when F1 was bisected.

David and I discussed it and decided to leave the whole Feature as it was originally designated as Feature 1 and then assign 1A (the one I dug), 1B (the one in the N wall) 1C (the one near the S wall) and 1D (the one in the Swale) to each individual post. See David's notebook for the details on how these were excavated. He bisected and drew them then so I added any information on 1A to his map.

We noted that Feature 1D seems to be a later feature cutting down from a buried surface ABOVE the surface the 1A, 1B + 1C were coming from. That is reflected in the profile map.

After I got Ben + David started, I went to Bates #2 briefly to dig out an A-horizon sample for Radio-Carbon dating. I took about one sandwich bag of soil in a strip along the upsloped 1m profile. I took it from the dark zone just below the zone of clay in a patch about 30cm long and only 3cm deep. I chose this part since it seemed to be the place where we were most confidently able to see the A horizon from the rest around it.

After that, Bates #2 is ready for backfilling!

I then took the long drive down to Lessley to take A-horizon samples from there as well. Even though that mound is clearly Plaquemine the ceramics were just confusing enough that it made sense to solidify the dating of my samples. I took one from each unit in the location that looked the darkest. Again about 1 sandwich bag worth of soil in a strip along the top of the A w/ the most organic material.

I ran into Bobby Webb on my way in to the site so after I got those samples I gave him the go ahead for backfilling.

Finally I headed down to Smith Creek to see how the crew was doing there. Andy had started them on the unit closest to the plaza (the down slope unit of a 1x4m trench in the plaza (1049 R 597, the other will be 1049 R 595). They were just finding INCREDIBLE amounts of material. So far it looks just undifferentiated and black all the way down but out of every 30cm level we got two huge bags of ceramics + some lithics, fired clay, etc. They had made it just a bit below the plow zone and it was the screaming that was slowing them down because there were so many sherds in the screen.

Andy also got two people on removing the A horizon on the NE unit (1077 R 627). Though they were not getting as much + they were still getting a ton of material.

On my way out, I stopped to check out Lessley. Bobby had already backfilled the unit further from the road. I'd guess it will slump a little but not too much. I just packed down the soil and moved it around a bit so it wouldn't pool + erode the corners.

6/16/13

Ashleyo crew continued to work on Bayou Pierre on Friday finishing units and beginning the mapping process. Today, she and a smaller crew went out to finish that up. She was to mostly work on the MA step trench while the students mapped.

That means the rest of us really went down to Smith Creek en force. In the plaza they just continued going down in quick 30cm levels through thick midden. The sherd size is moderate right between what would be considered as secondary deposition and primary deposition.

They noted an increase in large primary-looking sherds just above where Andy and I hit the thing we thought we interpreted as a Burn. We also noted that the soil color was getting distinctly lighter.

The bottom of one of our 30cm levels took us down to just above that level and we planned to stop there so we could come down on top of it slowly... and then stop the level just above the floor. We kept slowly but surely scraping down to it and continuing to get lighter + lighter soil but nothing clear and obvious and certainly not anything that we couldn't auger through.

At first I thought this was just because the level compressed and the floor was actually a bit deeper... but as we went under post one 72cm prediction I started to worry so we raced down from the floor... NOTHING!!!

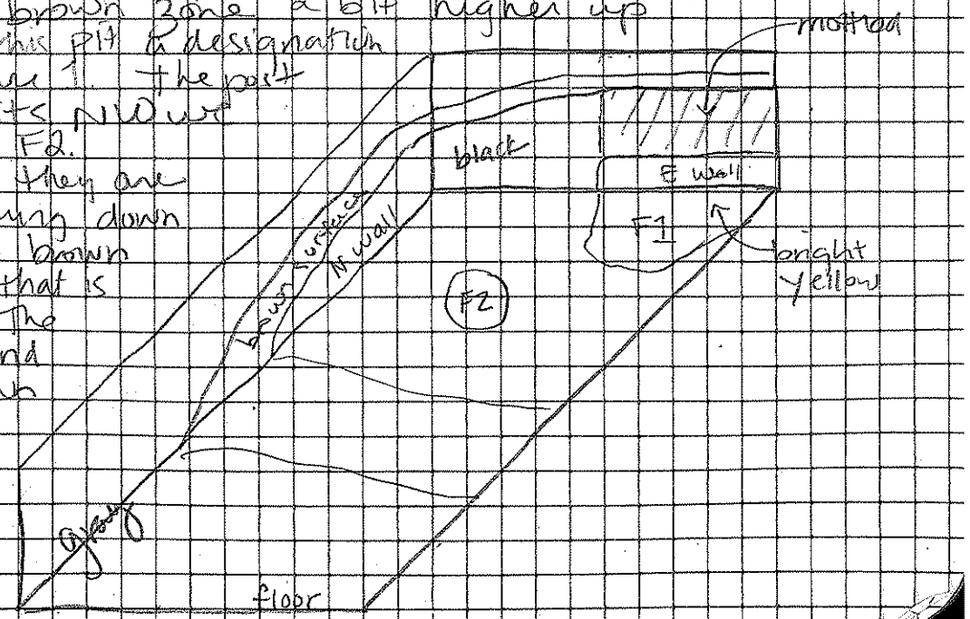
The light zone we were in continued on for a little while, but then it was just back to black midden fill. We stopped the level there and I had him dig a window down another 10cm or so directly over our original auger hole. We found one red rock that we must have hit dead on.

The light zone surrounding it must have been what convinced us there was wash. Oops. Regardless, the unit was completely worth it due to the sheer amount of materials and is also important in that it is allowing us to get a good look at that character of these GIANT refuse deposit in the plaza. Still kinda disappointed about the lack of floor though!

We decided to just keep going through it in 30cm levels as we were all the way to the bottom so they kept going.

Meanwhile in the Mound C unit, things got pretty crazy. After getting past the A-horizon / plow zone we were in a dark black zone w/tons of materials in it. We began working down through a 30cm level. We made it through most of the level when Kelly W. noticed a clearly visible post hole as she was shoveling. At that point the unit was close to level (just a bit higher in the E than the W) so we decided to leave it there and clean it up where it was.

When we did a post and a pit were clearly visible in the E ½ of the unit. The pit was filled entirely w/ bright yellow silt but it was easy to see a line coming down from a brown zone a bit higher up. We gave this pit a designation of Feature 1. The post got its own designation called F2. I assume they are both coming down from a brown surface that is visible in the E wall and sloping down to the N wall.



We cut through this surface and thus it is visible in the N, S, and E walls and then cutting across the floor part way through the W½ of the unit. Thus, in the W½ of the unit we are still above that surface and in the E½, we have cut through it and are now in a darker black fill zone below it.

Cleaning this up was all we could do before it was time to go home.

Once we found these features our digging slowed down significantly. I sent Kelly E. over w/ one student to start the Mound A unit (1058 R 2460). Today they just got set up and began removing the A-horizon.

Like everywhere at Smith Creek, they're getting alot of material but definitely not as much as on the other side of the road.

6/11/13

Today John and Vin took Morgan and Kelly Ervin with them to backfill in Jefferson Co. They got Bates #1, Bates #2, Pumpkin Lake, and Foster done!

Ashley and Andy went up to Bayou Pierre to clean and photograph the step trench (the photos have nails in them that should allow us to make a photomosaic). They also shot in w/ the total station the important lines instead of doing any drawings.

Vin was up there with them for a while and interpreted what they were seeing as a steeply sloping flank midden. It was so steep that they actually intersected it in a number of spots. Beyond this flank midden, I did not hear too much about what they discovered in that trench! Ashley should have the most extensive notes.

The rest of us went to Smith Creek for the day to keep working on those 3 units.

The plaza unit was the most straightforward... we just continued down in 10cm levels. The material started out really heavy but by the end of the day was starting to lessen. The material continues to be almost all ceramics.

The Mound A unit was also fairly straightforward w/ finishing the A-horizon level and then beginning 10cm levels through mound fill. At first I was concerned about whether we were solidly into mound fill at this unit or if we might be more in slope wash slump deposits.

By the end of today's levels, I felt fairly confident we were in loaded fill. There are some basketloads and some are trending down in the direction of the slope.

I spent most of my time at the Mound C unit because it was certainly the most complicated. We wanted to try to remove the buried zones stratigraphically because we had a good idea of a gray zone then a brown then zone of a [illegible] mound surface then a black zone.

Of course as soon as we started doing it, it turned out to be much more complicated than we thought it would be. At first, following the slope of the gray to brown transition was quite easy as the color change was dramatic and the transition was crisp. Then we started to lose it.. the brown layer seems to have disappeared completely (we confirmed that it was not just decayed by [illegible] in a few places). Then things became harder to follow because it was basically following a black layer on top of a black layer! I am confident that we were able to get it out accurately + follow the line based on a very slight color change, a more dramatic soil texture change and a very dramatic shift in amount of material. The lower level, once the brown disappeared was almost middeny in the amount of small material (bone, lithics, charcoal, etc.) After following it down, it's obvious that it continues to dip steeply following that initial brown line. Moreover, some material seems to be laying flat on that surface, [illegible] indicating it might be some sort of midden.

6/12/13

Today Joe "Wilkie" Collins was supposed to visit the site along w/ a whole crew of other people so I decided to just be in charge of "guest relations". Since we had the whole crew down there today including most of the TAs, it was plenty of people.

I got everyone started before Joe showed up but then spent a good deal of time with him. (See notes for his visit a couple of pages back!) They are summarized w/ a bit more detail here..

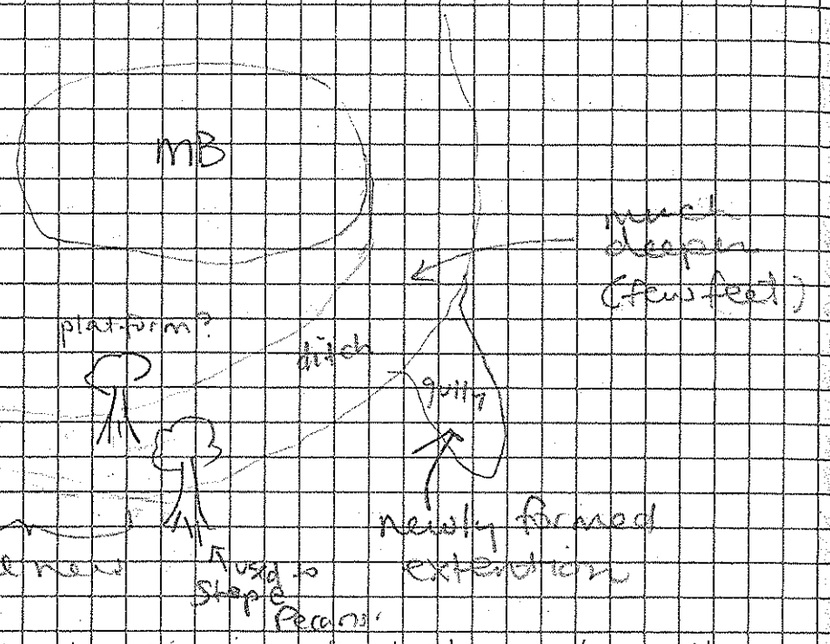
I started out by giving him a tour of all of our excavations as well as discussing what Andy and I found in our coring. He then took me basically on a circular tour around the site explaining the locations of his excavations, what was found in them, as well as his impressions of the site from collectors, etc.

Regarding the MA area he did not have a lot of information.. but he did tell me that when he was there with Sibley, they would camp up there and do ceremonies, etc.

Regarding the MB area he had a lot more to say. We walked into the remains of Sibley's trench and he definitely remembers being there.. He said that nearing the summit of the mound the trench walls were well above our heads. He recalls one burial in particular that was excavated out of this trench. One was buried w/ a great deal of shell beads and he said it was found about 1/3 of the way up the trench. I believe that this same burial had a projectile point in its skull (though I may have misunderstood and these are two different burials). Regardless, the one with the projectile point in the skull was apparently the centerpiece of Sibley's small museum. Joe does not know where this burial or the other material has ended up

He described the MB trench as going all the way through the mound, so it must have been either backfilled or very slumped

Finally, the last thing we discussed is that he thinks the ditch surrounding the mound has gotten MUCH deeper and also cut much further around the mound on the plaza side (toward the road).



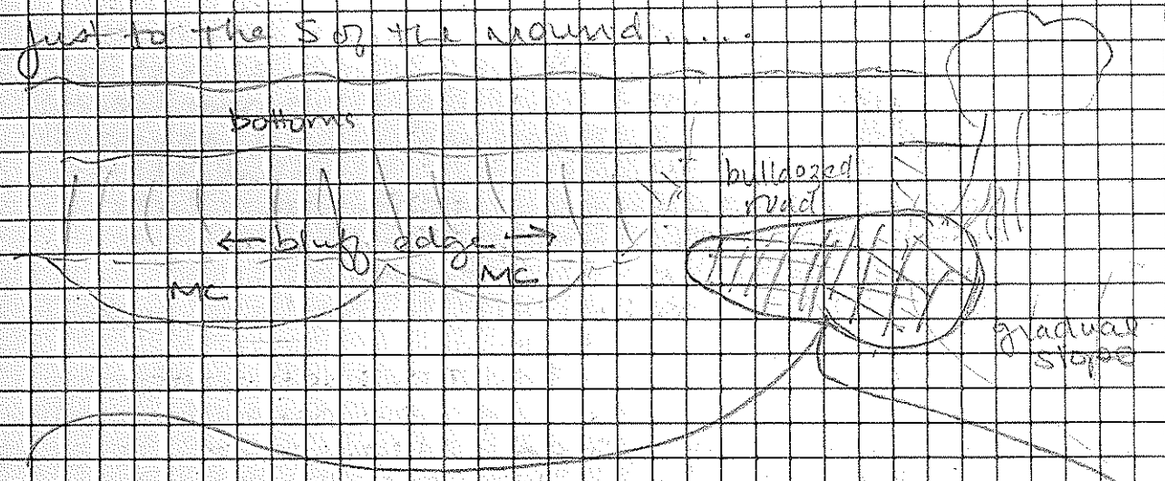
He noted that the erosion had obviously gotten quite bad, given that there was a new extension gully cutting more or less South, the ridge that wasn't there at all while he was there. We went to look at that gulley and it seems that at some point, a Dooley brother had filled it in/cemented it.

I don't believe that this means the gully is not a prehistoric feature necessarily, but I have to admit to being a bit saddened by the news that it hadn't always been such a deep, dominant moat.

He had not worked much on the Mound C area but I did ask him whether he remembered there being a distinct rise as there are now. He said no and then seemed to be contradicted w/ what everyone says. No one remembers anything out of a single mound down there and some remembers that at one point that mound extended all the way across.

If this is the case it is a big mound - either a long skinny ridge-type mound, or a much larger platform/conical mound. Somehow the former seems more likely - partially because the excavations indicate that the mound has some very dense stone and a ton of stuff in it - and yet very little is reported on eroding out of the backside of it into the creek.

Just to the S of the mound....

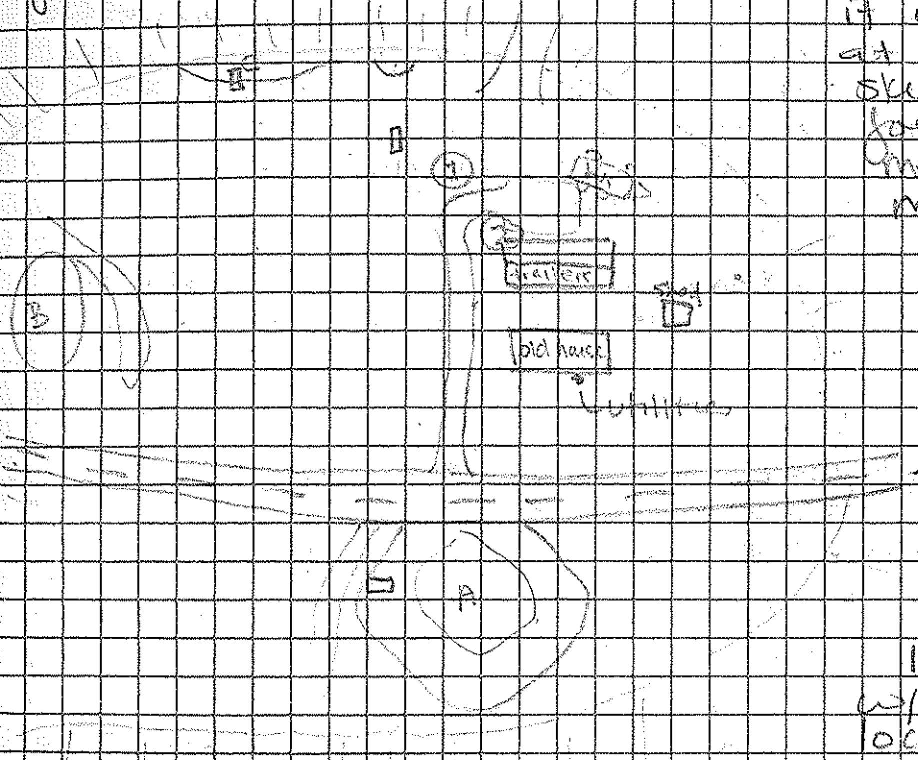


We noted a pretty interesting potential area to dig! He said there was a spot right on the bluff edge where Genny Dooley used to dig. He said she basically just dug a hole out there because there was so much cool stuff

He described it as being just on the bluff edge right on the S corner of a road that had more recently been bulldozed down. He hypothesized that a good deal of it was probably bulldozed away but I think it would be worth probing around there

When I asked him to describe that character of the deposit he said he thought it seemed like a filled in gully. Big shonds VERY dark and a large area (too big for a pit?) part way down the bluff.

When discussing other places where Gerry found a lot of material he told me that he would have thought the garden where she found so much material was actually further W than I'd been thinking. I thought it was about at #1 on this sketch map. Joe thinks it may have been more like #2 based on the fact that the old house was a great deal closer to the road than the current trailer site.



I later confirmed w/ Ricky the location of the old house and he said the road side was basically at the point where the utility pipe still sticks out of the ground. Interestingly, he refers to this as the "back" of the house.

In the process of discussing the garden location, he independently mentioned that he envisioned having a circular shape of lots of material surrounding it and very little in the very center. This naturally corroborates the idea that it was laid out like Feltus + Greenhouse

Finally, we spent a great deal of time discussing what he had found along the Southern side of the site - especially since that is an area where Ricky doesn't really want us to dig at this point.

To the W of the shed just off of the bluff edge Joe says a buddy of his found a cache of 3 celts all shaped the same and of the same material but in 3 progressive sizes.

Near that spot, very close to the shed, is where he dug his 6' x 6' unit when the Dooleys took down their hogs' corn crib. He remembers the crib as sitting a little higher than the surrounding area perhaps because the crib had been standing for so long.

He estimated that in this unit, the natural ground surface was about 1m 50cm bs and that all the soil above it was just black and full of ceramics and other material. He thinks he remembers that they collected 275 lbs of pottery! He said they dug it over several weeks and dug very slowly using only trowels, picks etc - no shovels. He says that Gerry Dooley kept all of the material.

In addition to all of the collections, there were many features at the bottom of this unit! In the corn crib area he remembers finding 11 posts! There were some small ones like under MA at Feltus but he also said there were some quite large ones more like those we were finding in the Feltus S plaza! I believe that it was one of these posts that they found a bear bone in!

In addition to those posts they found a large hearth feature that contains evidence of pottery making - in the form of fired coils and hand squished lumps of clay! Good to know there are definitely features in the unmounded end of the site.

His impression is that this deposit continues quite some way but he did note that he remembered it getting shallower as you got closer to the school bus

Presumably this is all part of that oval shaped midden... but systematic coring would be the best way to tell.

Joe went off to visit Bonnie Dooley (who had stopped by earlier w/ her son who found CC pottery in the creek a mile or so down the road) but came back for lunch. During lunch he did explain one really interesting thing that I did not know. He said that the truly black (almost w/ a blue or purple rather than a yellow or red) soil that we have here that has absolutely no material in it and is actually a bit more clayey comes from really old filled in gullys.

Basically over time gullys form, fill up and disappear. When the fill in naturally it is w/ lots of leaves + other organics that decompose (over many many years) into that particular soil... so throughout the bluffs you can find gullys w/ that stuff in specific[illegible]

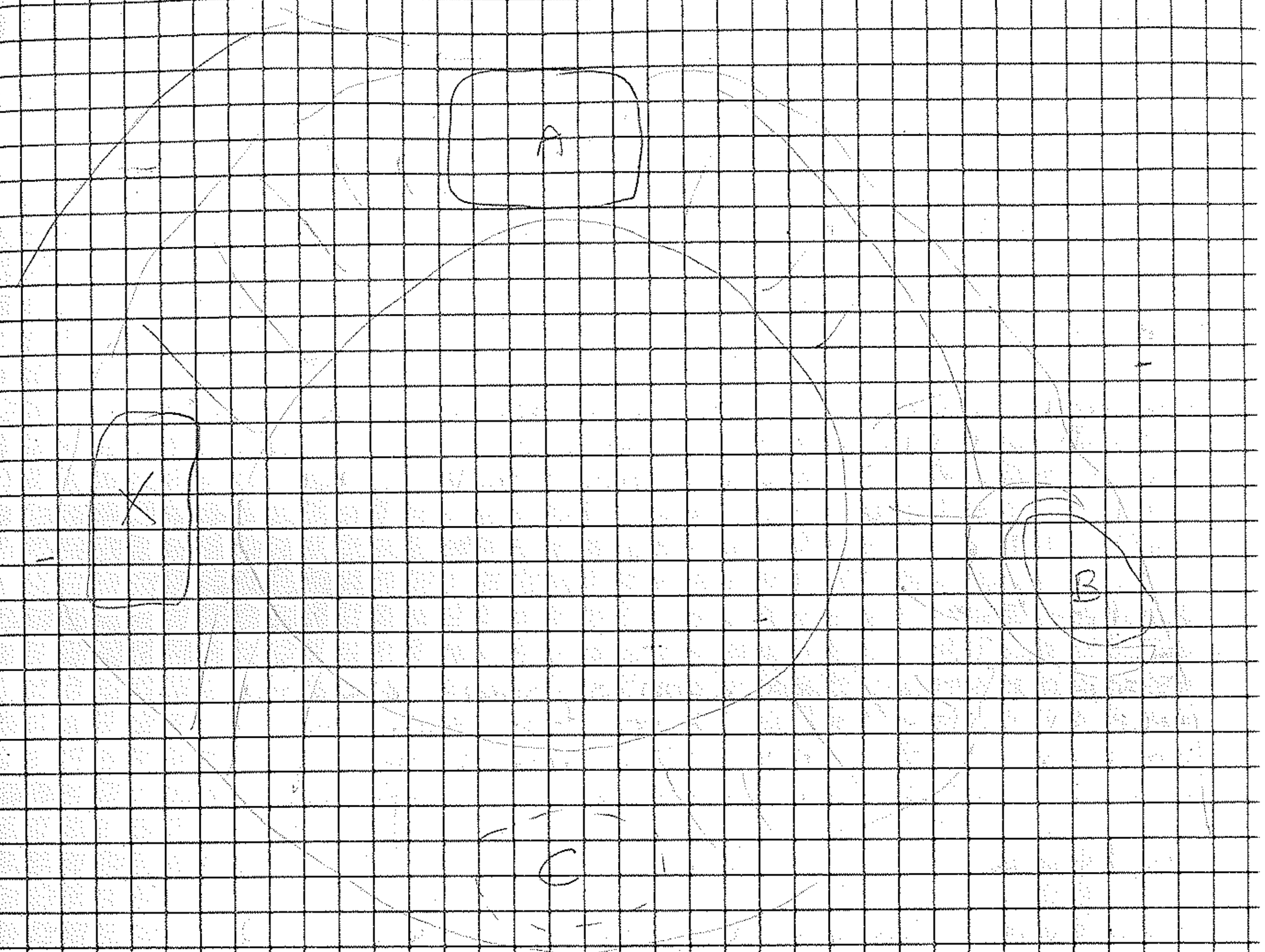
He thinks we have a layer of that stuff in MC

Vin showed up in time to meet Joe + talk to him a bit but not for long. Later that afternoon we had another whole group of visitors — Jessica + George, Sam Brookes and Daniel LaDu Marianne Crow. I also gave them the whole tour which took a good long time.

6/12/13
JOE COLLINS!
VISIT!

✓ 3 cells, same material
✓ hog corn crib + 6'x6' unit
✓ In 50 - 275 lbs of pottery
tons of post holes @ base of it
shallower by box

11 posts
hearth w/ coils [illegible]



20' exposed + continued
bulldozed path down - filled gully
~2m down - very thick
2 burials - Sibley had dug a lot
bear vertebra w/ Collins pt

✓ ulbinate
shell beads
✓ 1/3 way up trench
✓ pt in skull

/ Ditch = few feet deeper, stuff under Pecans
/ filled gully = here
/ 7' deep

trench went all the way thru[illegible]

Meanwhile, the crew kept going on all of the units.

I did not keep up all that well w/ what was going on, but in the [illegible] unit they took some samples of that midden stuff. In the MA unit they continued to go down through mound fill.

In the plaza unit they thought they were done as it was getting lighter at the base... after a quick auger[illegible], we decided they had to go one level deeper for it to get light enough to see features.

6/13/13

I stayed home today w/ [illegible] to get stuff done in the lab and prepare for a talk in the evening. David took the crew to Smith Creek to keep working and the rest went to Bayou Pierre to back fill.

6/14/13

We had plenty of people down at Smith Creek today so I spent much of my time augering around the site to see if I could locate any of the features Joe Collins described. I was also trying to come up w/ a plan of what we should do next there if we have the time.

The results of the augering are on the next 2 pages and in short, I think we'd be better off spending time doing more augering (potentially even systematically) at the site than we would be [illegible] another unit that could be hard to finish.

#1 Between 2 double trees behind [illegible] on N end
38 cm = E
64 cm = Bt

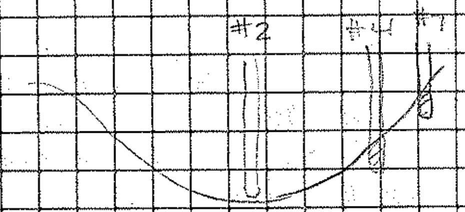
#2 Right by bulldozed path down the bluff to S by large tree, at level of the base of the tree
Dark soil throughout
Sherd @ 43 cmbs
Sherds burnt earth charcoal throughout down to 96 cmbs

Pit or filled in gully?

#3 Just off bank to N =
A horizon w/ [illegible]
w/ Bt beneath it

#4 ~1.5 m S of #2
dark soil w/ lots of material to abrupt stop into Bt
@ 62 cmbs - sherd at abrupt transition

#5 ~4 m W of #4
A > E > Bt natural transition



#6 Down in bulldozed path down bluff
straight into C horizon

#7 ~1/2 m S of #4
-28 cm - Bt
above that fill

Joe Collins IDed this as a location where Jenny Dooley always found tons of material + dug to find it. Either a pit or a filled in gully.

#8 on edge of bluff just SE of school bus
A > E > Bt natural transition
* sherd in A

#9 ~10 m S of #8 on edge of mowed lawn
A > Bt natural transition (somewhat deflated)
* sherd in A

#10 Just at front of school bus off SE corner of trailer
Dense midden to [illegible]
61 - 74 = E
74 on = Bt

#11 10m W of #10
0-55 = midden
55-72 = E
then into B

#12 10 m W of #11
0-56 = midden
56-74 = E
then into B

#13 10m W of #12 @ NW corner of small outbuilding about 6m from large tree

0-54 = middn
54-67 = A horizon
67-1m = E horizon

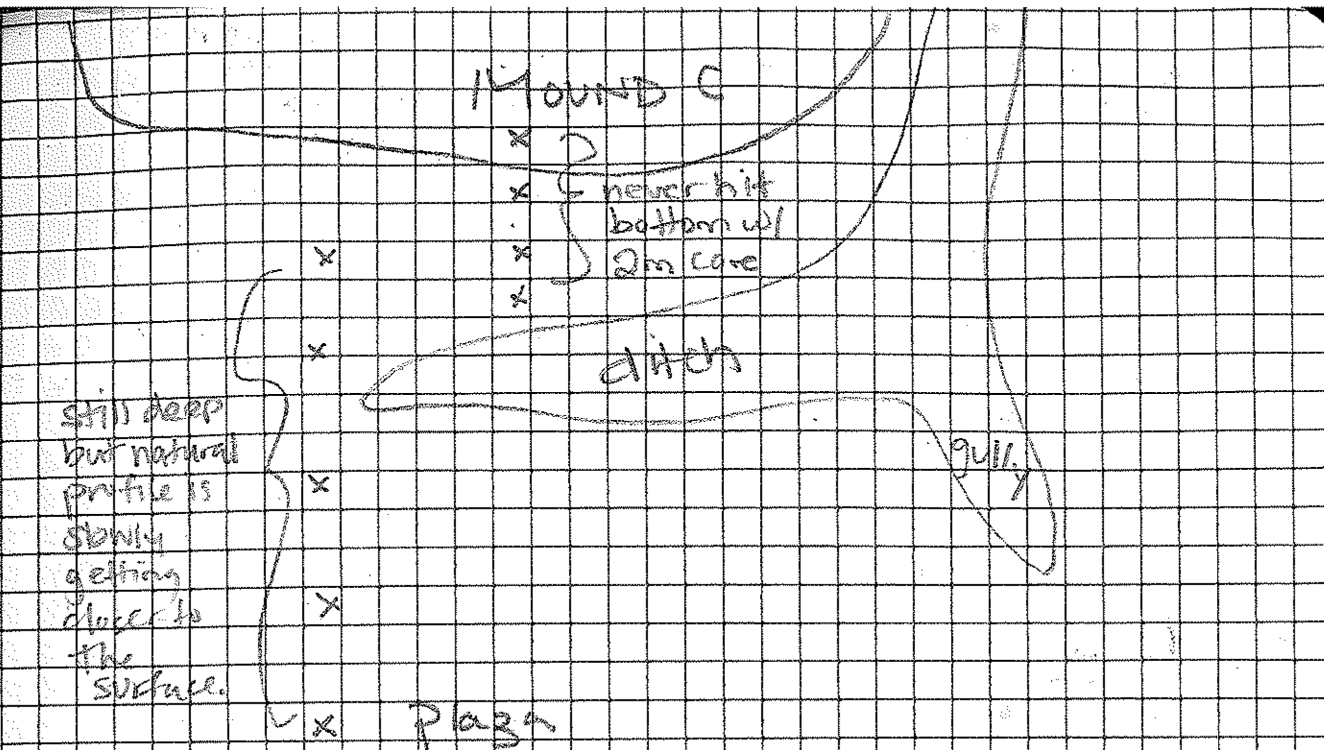
#14 just on other side of outbuilding (NE corner)

0-91 = midden
91 = transition to E

#s 10-14 seem to be following the midden from E→W along the S edge of the mesa.
This must be the midden that Joe Collins dug his 6'x6' unit in.
#s 13+14 are about the location that he showed me.
Perhaps #14 is so much deeper because they dug into the subsoil and then backfilled?

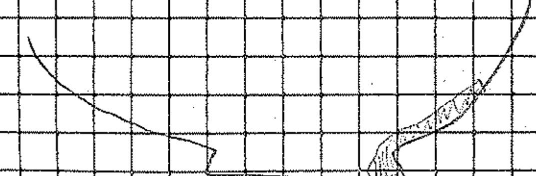
Both of these two locations would be ideal to dig, however they are both in mowed portions of Ricky's yard which he requested we not dig in.

I then moved to augering on Mound C. In short... it seems like the entire flat area between the toe of MC and the ditch is constructed! didn't have time to really figure this out... but there is obviously a lot more going on over there than we knew.



This area of fill did not necessarily look as dark and middeny as the fill in the plaza unit but was distinctly NOT natural.

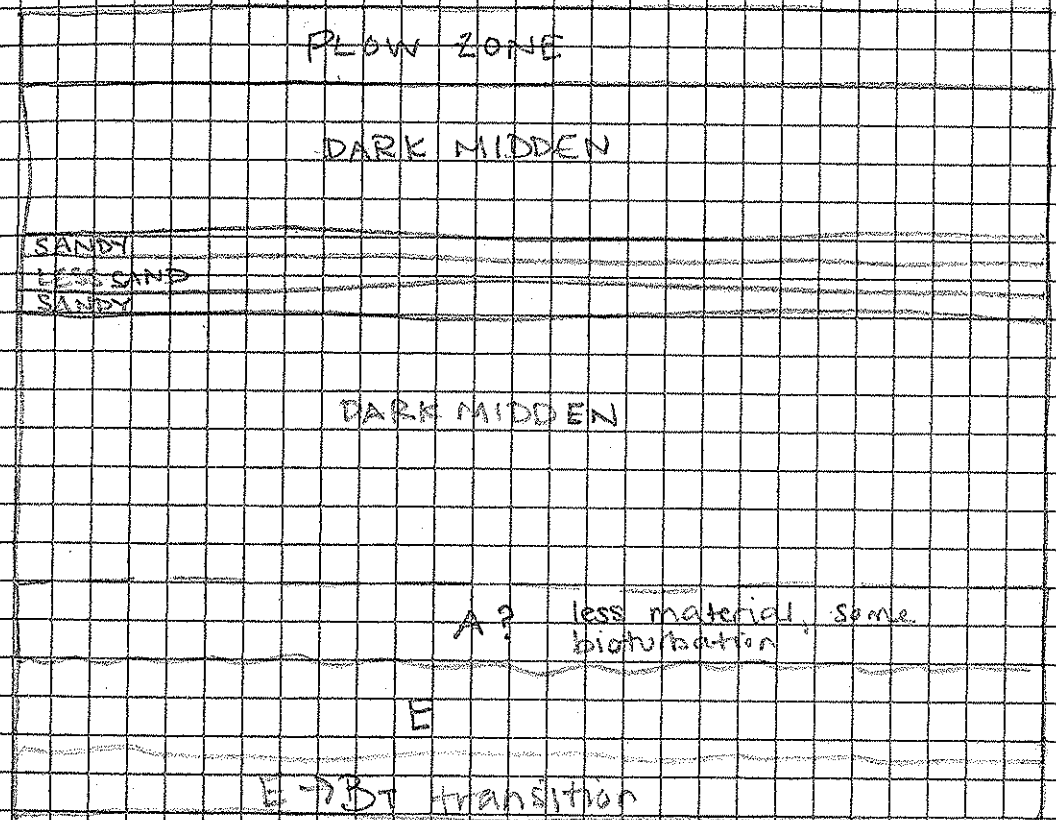
In the MC unit they continued to go down through highly variegated fill - the colors ranged dramatically from black to light yellow. The unit also continued to produce interesting material (bones + sherds mostly). The most interesting piece today was a very strange basal fragment w/ unknown type of decoration on it. The decoration seems to be zoned cross-hatching (almost like a weird variety of French Fork?) and the base is round and almost on a little pedastle - I've never seen a CC base like that before! No one else seems to recognize the decoration either.



In the MA unit they continued down into the mound fill to what they thought was the buried A. At the very top of this buried A they hit a round anomaly that looks like a pH. We ast it cleaned up and photoed before we left but couldn't get into it... to me, the boundaries

look oddly uneven/diffuse - but we'll see.

Kelly W and Steven spent all of the day mapping the plaza unit that David and I had scribed. The stratigraphy is quite straight-forward with only a few zones/bands across the middle that could be isolated due to their lighter color and higher sand content.



Other than these bands there really weren't even distinct loads or anything to record. The only exception is one load w/in the central sandy zone that has a lot of burnt material in it.

The only thing I changed from the way that David had drawn it was to add a line for the A horizon. Color-wise the A is very hard to differentiate from the dark midden all along it, however I think there is a distinction... First, there is less material in the A, a bit more mottling and some big krotovina coming down right from the line. More convincingly, the A → E transition is definitely a gradual, natural one and thus the A MUST be there intact.

After they got done mapping everything in, they started to go around each wall pulling + mapping in any artifacts that were in the walls - they finished all but one.

We left a bit early to go visit Daniel LaDue's excavations at Maziquo.

6/5/13

Last day in the field! Yikes! Vin and I began the day by heading down to Smith Creek to give Ricky Dooley, Polly + Tom Rosenblatt a tour.

After they left Vin and I briefly looked at each unit to make sure we understood what was happening and had a game plan for after I left.

The plaza unit was straightforward and no changes were made.

The mound A unit was also straightforward - it does look like there is one mound surface in the unit that has some gray midden stuff on it. We have samples from that. Thus they just have to dig out that possible pit and get down into sterile in the next level.

The mound C units strata are just insane. It seems like there is just the one really obvious surface that had the features coming down off of it. The fill below it is just insanely colored and the possible yellow pit in the SE corner was just the beginning of that... Near the bottom it turns to mostly yellow/light brown fill and when Vin and I augered at the deepest part we couldn't hit anything but more of that fill. We decided that stopping at that point and getting things cleaned + mapped well is where we should put our effort.

Around lunchtime we headed N to Windsor to check out the spots that Andy + Emily had flagged as potential unit locations based on the augering they did while waiting for the GPR to do its thing.

At Mound D, they set it approximately where our auger test had confirmed fill so we were fine with that.

Mound B was a bit more confusing. They had set flags on the summit where they said they had found a floor (something hard and red w/ white and black layers right on top of it). We consistently hit the very hard, red burned layer at roughly the same depth. We did not see the other layers that Andy described but there is certainly something up there so we went ahead and decided to put a unit up there.

That placement was corroborated by the fact that we could not find the supposed Buried A horizon that Andy noted off one side of the mound AT ALL! It seemed to us that all along the toe of MB the auger went straight into Bt. As we moved up the mound things didn't get all that much more clear so we just scrapped the idea of putting a unit there at all since we didn't have time to go deep.

After that we met the rest of the crew who had stayed home cleaning + packing at the church Hill store for our crew photo.

WHEW!!!

What a six weeks!!!