

Foreword

by Vincas P. Steponaitis

One of the great pleasures of my coming to the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill in 1988 was the opportunity to work with Trawick Ward in the Research Laboratories of Archaeology (RLA). Although I had never met Trawick prior to my interview for this job, I certainly knew of his writings and his reputation as a fine excavator. Over the thirteen years that we spent together in the RLA, I came to appreciate even more fully his talents. This collection of essays on North Carolina archaeology, presented to Trawick on the occasion of his retirement from the university, gives me a chance to reflect on his many contributions to the archaeology of our state and region.

Trawick made his mark as a scholar very early in his career, with a paper entitled "Correlation of Mississippian Sites and Soil Types," which he wrote as an undergraduate. Published in *Southeastern Archaeological Conference Bulletin* 3 (1965), this paper was widely cited and years later was reprinted in *The Late Prehistoric Southeast: A Source Book* (Garland, 1986), a compendium of Southeastern archaeology's greatest hits. Elsewhere in these pages, Bennie Keel recounts the many projects on which Trawick subsequently worked, and his inimitable account requires no further elaboration. I need only note that Trawick's most recent book, *Time Before History* (UNC Press, 1999), which he co-wrote with Steve Davis in the years just before his retirement, will surely stand for many years as an indispensable synthesis of North Carolina archaeology. Much of this synthesis rests on field work in which Trawick himself played an important role.

Trawick also made lasting contributions as a teacher. Although not officially in a "teaching job," he influenced many generations of students at UNC-Chapel Hill through participation in RLA seminars, supervision of field projects and field schools, service on thesis and dissertation committees, and just plain one-on-one tutoring. His guidance is visible even today in many of these students' writings, which cover many aspects of Southeastern archaeology, and in their field work, which always strives to attain the high standards that Trawick set.

I've had the privilege of working with many fine colleagues over the years, and Trawick ranks among the finest. As director of the RLA, I often sought his advice and was always rewarded with straight talk and common sense. Time and again his unwavering candor kept me out of trouble, something for which I will always be grateful. Over the years, I and many others

have come to value his friendship. We've also come to rely on his skill in cooking pigs: Trawick's barbeque, done in classic North Carolina style, has been known to attract archaeologists and other aficionados from hundreds of miles away.

There is no better evidence of Trawick's lasting influence on Southeastern archaeology than this book—a *festschrift* organized by his present and former students. What a fitting tribute to Trawick as a scholar, a teacher, and a friend!