

# SEAC

# newsletter

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## NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Public Law 89-665

The National Historic Preservation Act is one of importance to the future of archeology, and one with which all archeologists should make themselves familiar, at least in general. It calls for the preservation of historic, archeological, architectural, and cultural sites, and outlines a mechanism for this preservation.

Although the Law went into effect in 1967, few people know of its provisions, and even fewer archeologists know of its existence--and yet in every state, it can and probably will effect the archeological research and the preservation of archeological sites. The law provides for placing sites of national, state, regional or local significance on the National Register, in essence, an expansion of the National Historic Landmark program. The expansion of the kinds of sites which can be placed on the Register greatly expands the potential for preservation of prehistoric Indian sites--but only if archeologists are aware of the provisions of the Law, and what their particular State is planning in relation to putting sites on the Register.

Every state has a liaison officer, who is the contact between the Keeper of the Register in Washington, and a committee in the State which outlines a State Plan for Preservation. Once a State Plan has been approved by the Washington office, there are matching funds available on a 50-50 basis with State funds, for preservation of sites (historic, architectural, cultural--(whatever that is--as well as archeological). Such preservation could include archeological testing and excavation in order to aid in interpretation of a site.

Every state has a liaison officer, but every state does not yet have a State Plan. In only one state (Nebraska) is the liaison officer an archeologist--in all others this person is not necessarily knowledgeable about archeology, and yet he and his committee have a certain amount of control over future Federal funds which will be expended within the State for archeological work. It behooves you to find out who the liaison officer is in your State, and to make sure that an archeologist is in on the formulation of the State Plan for Preservation. At the present time, each state seems to be in a different level of organization of this work--for example, Arkansas has no State Plan yet because of funding problems; Missouri not only has a State Plan but is implementing it. Find out what is going on relative to PL 89-665 in your state--it may affect the future of archeology.

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MEETING IN KNOXVILLE

November 7, 8, and 9  
1968

The Historic Sites Conference:

The 25th Annual Southeastern Archeological Conference will be held at  
McClung Museum in Knoxville, Tennessee, Saturday and Sunday November 8 and 9.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SOUTHEASTERN ARCHEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

From:

THE SOUTHEAST ARCHEOLOGICAL CENTER, MACON

The custom, or tradition, of holding the meetings of the Southeastern Archeological Conference at Ocmulgee National Monument every other year is well-established, and those of us here in Macon appreciate the privilege of being host to the Conference at such frequent intervals. It occurs to us, however, that we may be selfish in this regard. There are many institutions now engaged in archeology in the Southeast, and it may be that meeting away from Macon only every other year does not give these institutions sufficient opportunity to invite the Conference to meet with them. We would like to throw the question open to the membership of the Conference, particularly since next year would be our turn again. Should we continue the present pattern, or, for example, should we meet at Ocmulgee only every third year?

In summary, we like having the meetings here, but we don't want to hog the show.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed Fred)

Charles F. Bohannon  
Superintendent, Ocmulgee National Monument

(Signed John)

John W. Griffin  
Chief, Southeast Archeological Center

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### MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY ARCHEOLOGICAL PROGRAM

This is the name for an as-yet non-existent program of archeological research devoted to recording the prehistory of the Alluvial Valley before it disappears beneath the land plane and the land leveler--to say nothing of the subsoiler and the California plow.

Two studies recently, one in the Mississippi delta region of southeast Missouri, and one in the delta of Eastern Arkansas, revealed that modern agricultural practices in the Delta are taking a tremendous toll of archeological sites--a toll far greater than we ever imagined. Not only that, but the Soil Conservation Service (who advises farmers and gives them certain Federal aid to help in these new farming practices), says that by their estimate, all the land in the Valley that is levelable, will have been leveled in 25 years. The two archeological surveys revealed that one fourth of the known archeological sites had been destroyed by leveling or other modern agricultural practices in the last 10 years.

In the Alluvial Valley, leveling land for more efficient use of modern machinery, contouring for rice fields, and many, many other more complicated economic factors, are changing the whole look of the land. Natural levees and ridges are being flattened, mounds are being pushed into low places, and the archeological sites are going without record.

Bob McGimsey and Hester Davis of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, and James B. Griffin, of the Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan, took a short two week tour of parts of the Alluvial Valley in August, and met with a total of over thirty archeologists whose area of research is in the Delta. All said the same thing--we've got to get the sites recorded, and fill in the gaps in our knowledge of the Valley before it is too late. And gaps there are--Paleo-Indian and Archaic sites are being recognized, and these are often located on the levees and ridges which are the first to be leveled. Almost no period in the chronology of the Valley is well known. After gathering the information and ideas expressed at these meetings, McGimsey, Griffin, and Chapman went to Washington to confer with the National Park Service, the Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Agriculture on what approach might be best for getting the information recorded in the valley. Another meeting was held in St. Louis on October 11, at which a Steering Committee was agreed upon to look for funds and consider proper legislation to get the program off the ground. The Steering Committee consists of: James B. Griffin, Carl Chapman, C. R. McGimsey III, William Haag, and Stephen Williams.

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From the Editor: This is my swan song, the last of these newsletters which I shall write. I am resigning as Assistant Editor for the Southeast for Current Research in American Antiquity--and thereby as Editor of the SEAC newsletter. Things in Arkansas are happening too fast for me to keep up with everything. Bettye Broyles has agreed to prepare Current Research for the Fall, and will be editing the next issue of the newsletter. Now someone else will bug you about getting information in on what is going on in the Southeast!

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### ALABAMA

A major exploratory of the Hickory Bend site on the south bank of the Tallapoosa River some 20 miles east of Montgomery, Alabama was begun in October 1967 and is still underway. By spring, at least four cultural periods had been identified, beginning

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with a Cartersville-Deptford-like Early Woodland campsite. By Middle Woodland times, the site had grown to village size with what appears to be a palisade structure surrounding it. This seems to be the Hope Hill complex which has a time range of around A.D. 600-800. Site abandonment and reoccupation continually occurred throughout most of Late Woodland and Mississippian times, with the final large village complex ending in the Moundville period. The site was briefly occupied in European contact times by Creek hunters. Of the 51 features found so far, 19 are burials, and the rest are hearths or trash pits. Numerous house post patterns relating to both Woodland and Mississippian times have been recorded.

David Chase  
Montgomery Museum of Fine Art

ARKANSAS

Three archaeologists, working full time for the Arkansas Archeological Survey have recorded several hundred sites during the fall and spring of 1968, of all time periods and in all parts of the state. In addition, several small salvage projects have been conducted: Burney B. McClurkan was asked to investigate the site of Fort Curtis in Helena before a parking lot was built over it. He found that no subsurface features remained, because, as local informants finally revealed, 15 ft. of earth had been removed from the site just before the turn of the century. Dan Morse conducted salvage excavations at the Hyneman site in Poinsett County where leveling had revealed burials and trash pits. The pits contained considerable debris of Late Woodland-Early Mississippian traditions of a hitherto unrecorded phase. Also at this site was a pit containing several Poverty Point-like clay balls of the classic types. Morse has also recorded approximately two dozen Paleo-Indian projectile points from northeast Arkansas, almost all of which are of the Eastern Clovis variety. Much new information on the Woodland occupation of northeast Arkansas has been recorded in the surveys. In the Ouachita River valley and its tributary streams, James A. Scholtz has begun investigations of salt-processing sites, of which seven have been recorded to date.

Four more archaeologists are being added to the staff of the Arkansas Archeological Survey on July 1, 1968: John Huner, Kenneth Cole, Frank Schambach, and Martha Rolingson. There will then be 7 full-time archaeologists, plus a coordinating staff of 6 people full-time and 4 people half-time working on a state-wide coordinated program of research, conservation, and preservation of Arkansas' archaeological resources.

Hester A. Davis  
Arkansas Archeological Survey

FLORIDA

Under the direction of L. Ross Morrell, State Archaeologist, test excavations were conducted at the Spanish Mission of San Juan de Aspalaga (Pine Tuft 8Jel) in Jefferson County. These preliminary excavations revealed a rectangular floor and adjacent wall bases of a wattle-and-daub structure, with numerous olive jar sherds intermixed with charred timber and daub at the wall edges. Excavations will continue at the site starting in

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mid-June 1968. San Juan de Aspalaga was among the Spanish missions destroyed by Moore's raids in 1704.

The Marine Archaeologist for the Florida Board of Archives and History, Carl J. Clausen, is preparing a final report of the 1966-67 investigations of the campsite of the survivors and salvagers of the Spanish fleet which sank off the lower Florida East Coast in a 1715 hurricane. In addition to the data developed on the European occupation, some useful information was recovered on what is probably the terminal phase of the local aboriginal ceramic tradition. Funds for the excavation were provided by the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials through the Florida State Museum. A small interpretative museum is scheduled to be erected at the site. Two reports are also being prepared by Clausen on the many thousands of artifacts recovered from two of the Spanish ships wrecked in the 1715 storm. One of these wrecks, which lies immediately offshore from the Spanish camp, is thought to be that of the 60-70 gun Capitana, or flagship of the fleet. The recoveries, which range from complete muskets to copper pots, crucifixes, and ship's gear, provide a startlingly detailed look at early 18th-century shipboard material culture.

L. Ross Morrell  
State Archaeologist

During April and May, 1968, a six-week program of excavation was carried out in the Bear Lake Mound group in Everglades National Park, by the National Park Service, under the direction of John W. Griffin. The Bear Lake Mound group is a large midden site near the southern extremity of the Florida mainland which was occupied in all presently defined periods in the Glades continuum. Primary emphasis in the excavation was to gather materials for the analysis of subsistence patterns, and to interpret, insofar as possible, the changing environment of the area exploited by the inhabitants. Ample material for radiocarbon determination was collected in order to give further checks on Glades chronology.

John W. Griffin  
Southeast Archeological Center

Under a salvage contract with the National Park Service, the Florida State Museum has completed test excavations, under the direction of Ripley P. Bullen, at the foot of Sunday Bluff on the bank of Eton Creek. The site will be covered by 10-15 ft. of water when the Cross-Florida Barge Canal is completed. The site consisted of a series of small middens, composed of dirt and snail shells. Four sequential occupations contained St. Johns Plain sherds and an occasional Deptford Cross Simple Stamped sherd. The lowest ceramic layer contained Orange Plain and Orange Incised sherds as well as a few thick St. Johns Plain sherds in the upper portions of the occupation layer. This is the first site excavated in Florida in which the change from the Orange to the Transitional period has been found.

Ripley P. Bullen  
Florida State Museum

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at the Florida State University in Tallahassee has moved into a new building which provides ample space and facilities for an expanded program. One of the first such programs

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to be initiated is to be a zoo-archaeology laboratory.

Stanley J. Olson  
Florida State University

GEORGIA

During the spring of 1968, University of Georgia students, under the direction of David Hally, excavated a multicomponent site on Pistol Creek, a small tributary of the Savannah River in Elbert County. The Shennault site has a Savannah River phase occupation and a stratigraphically earlier component which has yet to be identified. This latter is characterized by abundant cores and flakes and an almost exclusive use of quartz. Survey work in the area has succeeded in locating a quartz quarry and a quartz workshop on Pistol Creek 2 miles to the east of the site.

Because of recent vandalism at the Rood Mounds site in Stewart County, the University of Georgia and the Columbus Museum of Arts and Crafts have joined in a program for protection and development of this site as a park. Excavations will continue the work begun in 1955 by Caldwell. Preliminary examination has revealed that this site was protected by at least two large moats completely enclosing the land side of the site. The project will be under the direction of the University of Georgia, while the field work will be carried out by Frank Schnell (Columbus Museum).

A. R. Kelly is currently involved in exploration of steatite quarries in South Carolina and Georgia, and in the study of the significance of steatite in the transition between Late Archaic and Early Woodland in that area.

David Hally  
University of Georgia

Under a grant from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Schnell continued work at the Singer site in Stewart County, discovering what may be the remains of a semisubterranean ceremonial structure covered by a small mound; the excavations also revealed that one of the large mounds is actually a natural hill which has been terraced. Schnell also continued the resurvey of the Walter F. George Reservoir during the winter months when the pool level was low. A large number of previously unrecorded sites have been exposed by flooding and wave action.

Frank Schnell  
Columbus Museum of Arts and Crafts

KENTUCKY

Joseph E. Granger, formerly of the State University of New York at Buffalo, has joined the Anthropology Department of the University of Louisville. A program of research in archaeology has been established, and limited test excavations have begun at the McNeely Lake site with the help of undergraduate students. The site is an Archaic rockshelter, previously dug by amateurs. An attempt is being made to gather all material previously



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excavated and to correlate this with the work being conducted by the University of Louisville crew.

Joseph E. Granger  
University of Louisville

During the fall of 1967, the University of Kentucky Museum of Anthropology undertook three preliminary site surveys in cooperation with the National Park Service, under the direction of M. A. Rolingson with the field work conducted by Frank Fryman, Jr. Two of these surveys are in the southeastern Kentucky mountains, a region in which systematic archaeological research has only recently been initiated. Eighteen prehistoric sites were located in the proposed Ulvah Reservoir on the North Fork of the Kentucky River. These include rockshelters and open campsites. Forty-four sites were located in the proposed Parker Branch Reservoir on the Rockcastle River, a tributary of the Cumberland River. Materials recovered in both areas suggest a primarily hunting-based economy, beginning in the late Archaic period and continuing into the late prehistoric period. Only a few sites have a heavy enough midden and artifact concentration to indicate a sedentary, horticultural occupation, and most of these can be attributed to Fort Ancient culture. Woodland Transition pottery is found in the rockshelters, rather than in the open valley sites, but the lithic industry of these shelters is similar to that found at the campsites on the valley floor. Further excavations will explore the possibility of seasonal nomadic cycles to explain this situation. The emerging pattern for the mountain region is one of marginality with hunting and gathering remaining predominant until the intrusion of the Fort Ancient with a horticultural subsistence base. The third project of the Museum was a brief survey of land below the Wolf Creek Dam on the Cumberland River, where the Corps of Engineers is planning construction. Two sites were found, both of which are Archaic.

Martha A. Rolingson  
University of Kentucky

#### LOUISIANA

Robert W. Neuman (Curator of Anthropology, Louisiana State University) conducted three days of test excavations in the fall of 1967, at the site of Fort Baton Rouge (1779-1810), situated along the Mississippi River in East Baton Rouge Parish. Only a small quantity of material was recovered, and no structural remains were exposed. Artifacts attributable to the early history of the site include fragments of stoneware, porcelain, bottle glass, gun flints, musket balls, unidentified metal objects, and a Spanish coin dated 1789.

Robert W. Neuman  
Louisiana State University

#### MISSISSIPPI

Under the direction of Richard A. Marshall (Mississippi State University) a brief test was made of the Shaw site, located several miles west of Shaw. Surface material included a number of Dalton points and associated Dalton complex artifacts, but no Dalton level was distinguished in the tests.

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certain, however, that the remains found are the results of a Dalton occupation and are not casual artifacts brought in by people of later cultures. The site is due to be leveled in the spring of 1968.

Richard A. Marshall  
Mississippi State University

Six months of excavations at the Winterville Mounds, Washington County, will be completed in the spring of 1968. This research project, funded by National Science Foundation and the Mississippi State Park System grants and sponsored by Yale and Harvard universities, is aimed at (1) a historical and cultural reconstruction of this great site, and (2) an analysis of early Mississippian contact in the Lower Valley. Preliminary conclusions suggest that the mounds were largely built during the Early Mississippian period, sometime soon after A.D. 1000, by an indigenous population which was directly influenced by Mississippian peoples, possibly from southeast Missouri. A later Mississippian occupation with Cult associations exhibits a definite decline in mound construction.

Jeffrey Brain  
Yale University

TENNESSEE

The University of Tennessee, under contract with the National Park Service, fielded two excavation crews in the summer and fall of 1967. One party, composed of students supervised by Charles H. Faulkner, spent eight weeks excavating four sites. Principal investigation was of the Martin site (40Mr20), which contained evidence of an early Mississippian (Hiwassee Island) component overlying an early Woodland occupation. Also tested were three sites yielding historic material. One may be Tommotley (40Mr5), an 18th-century Cherokee site. Another Cherokee occupation (40Mr32) provided a sample of 18th-century Cherokee material somewhat later in time than Tommotley. The third historic site was a 19th-century occupation (40Mr22).

The second University of Tennessee field party, supervised by J. B. Graham, spent 23 weeks excavating parts of a historic Cherokee site, Citico (40Mr7), an early Mississippian occupation (40Mr 27), and a Woodland site (40Mr25). At the Citico site, 22 burials and evidence of 3 house floors were uncovered. This site proves to be a multicomponent site with Cherokee, Dallas, and Woodland occupations. However, although multiple occupations are indicated, no continuum appears evident between Dallas and Cherokee. 40Mr27 provided evidence of a Hiwassee Island occupation with remains of five structures. The Woodland sites showed some evidence of an early Archaic occupation, with Mississippian material on the surface. J. B. Graham and his crew started field work again at the Citico site in April, 1968.

Alfred K. Guthe  
University of Tennessee

EAS  
AS

W. L. Gibson (Southern Methodist University and the Texas Archeological Salvage Project) conducted a survey of a small proposed reservoir on a



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tributary of Denton Creek near Decatur in Wise County. One thousand acres were systematically covered resulting in the discovery of one small site and an even smaller single activity unit.

Jon L. Gibson  
Southern Methodist University

VIRGINIA

Under the direction of Howard A. MacCord, Sr. (Virginia State Library), the Archaeological Society of Virginia conducted test excavations in 17 sites in 1967. Six were historic sites, and 11 were prehistoric.

C. G. Holland (University of Virginia) made a survey of the valley of Craig Creek in Botetourt and Craig counties in anticipation of construction of a dam by the Corps of Engineers.

Anthropology-archaeology courses are being offered in several areas of the state. In addition to the programs at the College of William and Mary and at the University of Virginia, Richmond Professional Institute has a survey course in world archaeology, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg has hired Joseph Benthall to teach anthropology there. Norman Barka of the College of William and Mary has conducted a 12-lecture course in historical archaeology in Hampton, financed by the urban renewal project, preparing for salvage archaeology in the urban redevelopment area of downtown Hampton.

Howard A. MacCord, Sr.  
Virginia State Library

WEST VIRGINIA

The activities of the Section of Archeology, West Virginia Geological Survey, were limited to laboratory work during the winter and spring months. The remainder of the faunal material from the Buffalo Site was washed and catalogued, with half of it being delivered to Dr. John Guilday of Carnegie Museum for analysis. The skeletal material from the same site is being analysed by Dr. James Metrus, at Clarion College, Clarion, Pa. Dr. Edward V. McMichael will spend the months of June, July, and August in Morgantown writing the final report on the excavations at the Buffalo Site. When completed, this publication should add greatly to our knowledge of the Fort Ancient People.

Work will resume in June at the St. Albans Site under a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Bettye J. Broyles  
W. Va. Geological Survey

25th SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 8 and 9, 1968

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

GENERAL PROGRAM

HEADQUARTERS: Sheraton Campus Inn on Lake Ave (within walking distance of the McClung Museum).

TOPIC: Flint Technology -- Are there significant differences in technology that can give insights to cultural characteristics? What of breakage patterns, wear marks, reworking? Can functional differences be attributed to any of these?

FRIDAY: 8:30-9:30 Registration (\$1.00 fee) and Orientation at Frank H. McClung Museum, Circle Park, UT Campus.

9:30 a.m. Convene in Archaeology Lab. (Room 64)  
"Lithic Materials and Technology" by John Witthoft,  
University of Pennsylvania.

12:30-2:00 p.m. LUNCH

2:00 p.m. "Prehistoric Lithic Preferences: Aides to Site Analysis",  
Don G. Wyckoff, Oklahoma State Archaeologist.

7:00 p.m. BANQUET, Hermitage Room, University Center.  
\$3.00 (tomato juice, stuffed pork chops, broccoli, potatoes,  
mixed green salad, Sherbert Parfait).

SATURDAY: McClung Museum Auditorium.

9:30 a.m. Summary of Friday session.

12:00-1:30 LUNCH

1:30 p.m. PAPERS

"Sluicing System Used at the St. Albans Site, West Virginia"  
(15 minute film), Bettye J. Broyles, West Virginia Geological  
Survey.

This is intended to be a discussion meeting. Come prepared to express your ideas.

Certainly there is more to be determined from lithic materials than is provided by the identification of artifact types. Are there suggestions of changing human adaptations indicated?