

## Continued Excavations at the Daughtery-Monroe Site

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### *Abstract*

The excavation of the Daughtery-Monroe Site, designated 12-Su-13, was carried out for the third consecutive year by the 1972 Indiana State University summer field school. The site is located just east of the Wabash River in northern Sullivan County, opposite Hutsonville, Illinois.

At this site, there appears to be two cultural components, one being LaMotte, with cultural assemblages of Lowe-Flared Base points, and predominately simple stamped pottery, and the other being Allison, with the cultural assemblages of Lowe-Flared Base points and Stoner Cordmarked pottery. Cultural affiliations to the Southeastern United States are suggested by the material found at this and previous excavation seasons.

### Introduction

The field work on which this report is based was conducted by the Indiana State University Field School between June 15 and July 18, 1972. The field work completed at this site in previous years was supervised by the late Dr. Edward V. McMichael. This work was supervised by Mr. Robert E. Pace. The crew consisted of five students and two student assistants.

The 1972 field school gave special attention to three problem areas that have arisen as a result of prior excavations at this site. The first was that the site had previously been defined as a circular village around a centralized plaza area. However, excavations disproved this, as based on several pits and house patterns found in the general location where the plaza was presumed to be. Second, the Carbon-14 dates taken from both Allison and LaMotte features reveal a date of 500 A.D. Therefore, clarification of the distinctions between the two cultures is needed. If the Carbon-14 dates prove correct, in that both cultures appear at the same time, then a third problem arises. If the Allison and the LaMotte cultures are different, then they are emerging as either co-existent or as a transitional stage at Su-13. Another question that can be raised is that of whether this was a permanent occupation over a short period of time or a seasonal occupation over a relatively long period of time.

### Methods

A grid was first established to mark locations for soil sampling. Soil core samples were taken at each stake with an open sleeve corer. The samples were taken in four sections: 1) 0-9 inches (on the basis of a plow zone of approximately 9 inches); 2) 9-15 inches; 3) 15-21 inches; and 4) 21-27 inches. Soil samples were analyzed for pH and the presence of charcoal, bone, shell, sherds, etc., to indicate the vertical and horizontal distribution of cultural debris within the site.

Six 10-foot x 10-foot units were opened. Two 5-foot x 10-foot extensions were also opened. All units were excavated by clearing and

leveling at approximately 12 inches with a shovel. At this depth a number of features became noticeable. Since all material was to be saved for later quantitative measurements and studies, all fill was sifted through ¼-inch mesh screens. Features and soil disturbances were recorded, including post molds. Features were then excavated by troweling. The method employed was to cross-section features before removing them entirely. When possible, carbon samples were collected for Carbon-14 dating. Soil samples were also taken from each feature for floral and faunal recovery through flotation.

### Site Description

The Daughtery-Monroe Site is located in the N½, Sec. 21, T8N, R11W in the Fairbanks Quadrangle. It is situated on the second terrace of the Wabash River in northern Sullivan County, Indiana, just northeast of Hutsonville, Illinois. The center of the site is approximately

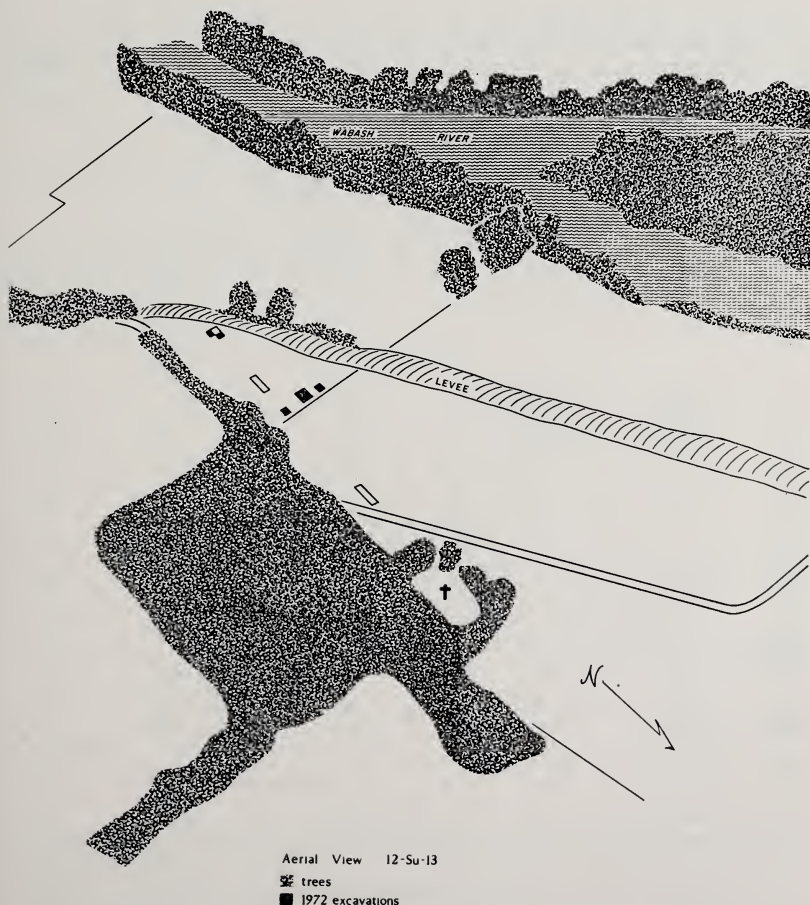


FIGURE 1. Overall view of the Daughtery-Monroe Site, 12-Su-13.

¼ mile east of the present Wabash River channel. The site extends about 800-1,000 feet North-South and 700-800 feet East-West (Fig. 1).

Present land usage divides the site into two areas . . . a village area and a mound area. Overall, the site is a raised, oval sand ridge. It is bisected by a drainage pattern that fans out to form a depression about one-fourth the size of the site in the southwest section. This depressed section was previously thought to be a plaza area. There is also a man-made flood control levee that extends along the western edge of the site. There are 13 low sand mounds on the edge of the ridge to the east. Most of this area is wooded and has much undergrowth.

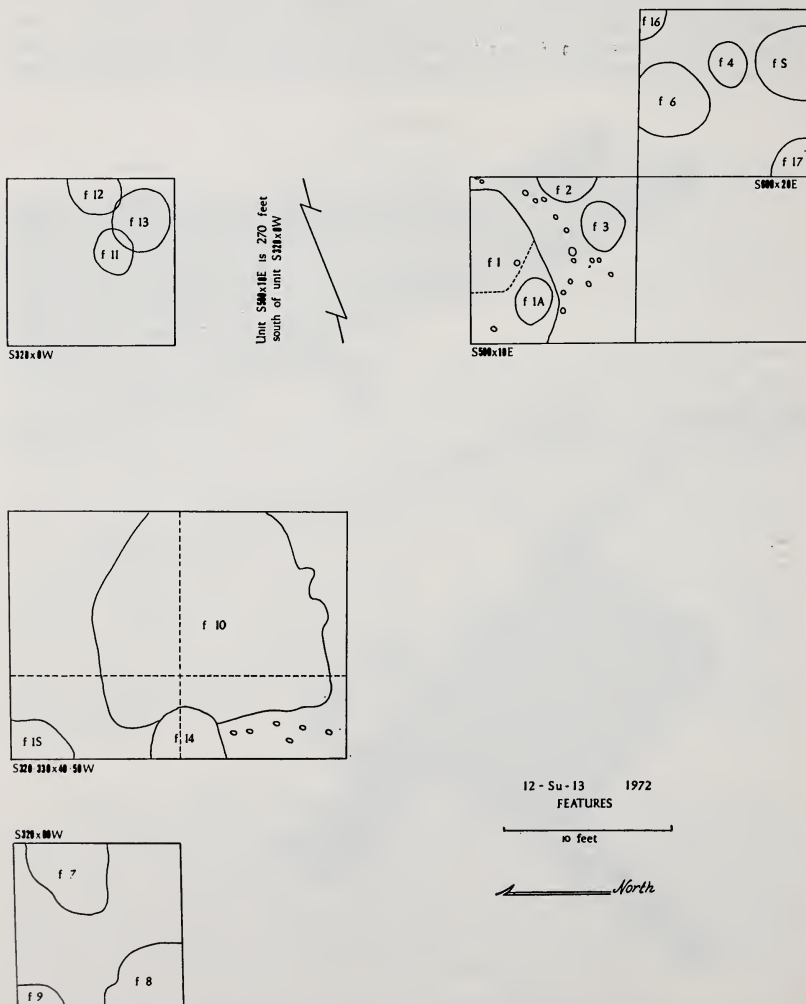


FIGURE 2. Location of features at the Daughtery-Monroe Site, 12-Su-13.

## Cultural Features

Only those features of particular interest are described (Fig. 2).

Feature 1 first appeared as a general midden area comprising the north one third of the unit which has a single row of post molds conforming to the outer limits, indicating a possible house pattern. Another smaller circular feature (designated Feature 1-A) was found within Feature 1. Feature 1A was identified as a fire hearth with very steep sides and a round, flat bottom. Later work on Feature 1 indicated that it was a circular semi-subterranean type house, possibly that of a "Keyhole" type, as described at the Hatchery West Site (1). Approximately half of the feature was within the excavated unit. The house was estimated to be 14½ feet in diameter. The depth from the center of the house to the present surface was 3 feet. For material recovered, see Table 1.

Feature 2 was a deep earth oven with steep walls and a flat circular bottom. The abundance of firecracked rock and charcoal indicate that it was last used as a refuse pit, possibly by the inhabitants of Feature 1.

Features 7 and 8 were very productive refuse pits that yielded more material than all of the other features together. The presence of large

TABLE 1. *Cultured debris recovered by feature.*<sup>1</sup>

Feature	Sherd	Flint	Shell	Bone	Charred <sup>2</sup>	Stone
1	9	4.5		1.5	1.5	148
2	11	Trace	Trace	4	2	65
3	2			.5		3
4	7	Trace		Trace	Trace	3
5	13	2		Trace	Trace	90
6	48	Trace		1	1.5	95
7	46	1	89	56	3	421
8	141	Trace	183	36	5	822
9	8	Trace	1	2		74
10	44	Trace	1.5	3	Trace	1567 <sup>3</sup>
11						33
12	20	Trace		6	5	33
13	19	Trace		6	Trace	114
14	22	1	6	21	Trace	442
15	20	Trace		2.5	Trace	441
16	1			.75	Trace	23
17	13	1		2	Trace	23
18	3.5	Trace	1	2	Trace	25

<sup>1</sup> Reported in ounces<sup>2</sup> Charred includes all that is carbonized: charcoal, nuts, etc.<sup>3</sup> Sample only



quantities of shell greatly aided in preservation of the bond material in both pits. Feature 7 yielded a larger proportion of simple stamped pottery than Feature 8 which yielded predominately cord-marked pottery. Since these pits are adjacent, similar in form, and open at the same depth, the difference in contents raises some interesting questions with regard to seasonality of use and/or of social status.

On the basis of the presence of a large quantity of fire-cracked rock and an area of burned sand, Feature 9 was probably a cooking pit.

Feature 10 was a sandstone-clay floor, the true dimensions of which are unknown due to considerable disturbance by plowing. Estimated floor size was 12 by 14 feet. An elongated fire hearth, filled with ashes, extended 6 feet into the south side of the floor. The floor was composed of sandstone slabs with clay in and around each slab. The presence of nails in the hearth area and pieces of metal underneath the sandstone indicated the feature to be historic. This feature delayed excavation due to time spent speculating about its origin. It was first thought to be prehistoric because sandstone floors are fairly common in Middle and Late Woodland burials.

Features 3, 4, 11, and 12 were all shallow, bowl-shaped refuse pits with moderately sloping sides and rounded bottoms.

Features 5, 6, 13, 14, 15, and 18 were deep refuse pits with rounded bottoms. Features 13 and 18 were very steep sided while the others had moderately sloping sides.

The dimensions of Features 16 and 17 are not known because they both run into walls of units not yet excavated.

### Cultural Debris

Cultural material recovered from the 1972 excavation was abundant, with sherds and bone refuse being especially common (Tables 2 and 3). Recovered flint varied from unit to unit, but was less common than for other sites along the Central Wabash. Only seven features contained shell, two having especially great amounts. An appreciable amount of stone was recovered and weighed. Only a sample of stone recovered from Feature 10 was returned to the laboratory for weighing. The floral analysis at Su-13 showed few signs of specific plant procurement practices by the inhabitants. Evidence suggesting dispersal of seeds by the gathering habits of man, as opposed to dispersion by natural means was poorly represented. However, the presence of large amounts of carbonized nuts, with some *Chenopodium* seeds, and *Polygonum* seeds suggest at least a fall habitation of the site. There were no floral remains found that could not have been supported by the plant communities of the area near the site.

### Discussion of Artifacts

The ceramics recovered were readily classified as Cordmarked, Embarrass Simple Stamped, and Check Stamped, with only a few plain

TABLE 2. *Catalog of archeological materials recovered, 1972.*

CERAMIC	
8,889 cordmarked (88.34%)	763 unidentified (7.58%)
375 simple stamped (3.73%)	14 "other" (0.14%)
21 check stamped (0.21%)	
CHIPPED STONE	
9 Lowe-Flared projectiles	5 blades
1 Capena-like projectile fragment	8 lamellar flake knives
1 trianguloid projectile	24 scrapers
1 "crude" projectile	31 lamellar flakes
11 projectile fragments	915 chips and spalls
2 drills	
BONE	
1 bi-pointed awl	2 used antler tines
2 awls	1 bone pin or needle
2 bone punches	1 worked bone "tool"
1 bone plug	
STONE	
6 milling stone	11 abraders
1 slate gorget	8 polishing stones
OTHER	
1 pearl bead	1 clay pipe (bowl)
1 crinoid stem	1 copper pin inserted in bone

sherds present. As in previous years at this site, trace amounts of pottery from toy or miniature vessels were recovered. In general, the sherds recovered conform to the description of the Embarrass series, as defined by McMichael and Winters (2).

Tempering of the sherds consisted of sand and/or grit, with sand predominating. Most of the sherds have a sandpaper texture. The predominant surface treatment of sherds recovered this season was cord-marking, which almost always ran vertical to the rim and varied from loosely spaced to very closely spaced. The simple stamping on sherds, on the other hand, always ran horizontally to the rim. In general, decoration of all sherds found was confined to the lip of vessels.

TABLE 3. *Surface treatment compared to lip/rim treatment.*

	"Piecrust"	Squared	Rounded	Notched	Other	Totals
Cordmarked	36	40	22	18	5 <sup>1</sup>	121
Simple Stamped	10	6	3	18	1 <sup>2</sup>	38
Plain		2	4	3	2 <sup>3</sup>	11
Totals	46	48	29	39	8	170

<sup>1</sup> 1 squared castlabeled, 2 castlabeled, 1 cordmarked, and 1 reed punctate

<sup>2</sup> Stick punctate angular

<sup>3</sup> 1 outer beveled and 1 inner beveled

Projectile points found were predominantly of the Lowe-Flared variety. A single trianguloid point found resembles those earlier identified with LaMotte assemblages. A Copena-like point fragment was also recovered. This may indicate southern influence, in that the Copena point is usually associated with upper Alabama and lower Tennessee in late Hopewellian times (3). The flint material used was usually Harrison County Flint, even though chert was locally available, and sometimes used.

Bone artifacts included three awls, one being bi-pointed, two punches, and a plug. Other bone objects found included one pin or needle, two antler tines which had been used and a worked piece of bone for which the function is unknown. A perforated bone piece in which a copper pin was inserted was also found. Traces of fiber were preserved on the copper pin itself, indicating the fiber was used to securely wedge the metal in the bone handle.

Worked stone included milling stones, abraders, polishing stones, and a fragmented slate gorget.

Two other artifacts of significance included the bowl of a clay pipe and a perforated pearl bead.

### Conclusions

From the results of excavation:

- 1) We can rule out the possibility of the plaza as being located in the depressed area at this site. The features found here are that of a heavy occupational type, whereas plaza areas typifying other Allison-LaMotte sites are generally devoid of cultural material.
- 2) Evidence suggests a seasonal occupation at this site.
- 3) More extensive examination of pottery types is needed to determine whether they can be defined as chronological, seasonal, and/or showing status.
- 4) Affiliations with Southeastern United States was based on simple and check stamped pottery. A site which shows the most likely connection is the Mann Site in Posey County, Indiana, where Southeastern pottery types occur. It seems most likely that some manner of southern intrusion took place in late Hopewellian times and the influence and/or people responsible continued up the Wabash Valley to create this culture (4).

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