

sites of Illinois and Missouri from 5000 to 4000 cal. B.P. (Claassen 1996:243; Russo 1994b:106–108).

Other elaborate Middle and Late Archaic cultures are known from across Eastern North America, among which perhaps the best known archaeologically are the Shell Mound Archaic cultures of the Midsouth and lower Midwest (Claassen 1996; Marquardt and Watson 1983), the Benton Interaction Sphere in the lower Midsouth (Johnson and Brookes 1989), the Stallings Island Culture of Georgia and South Carolina (Sassaman 1993), the Mount Taylor culture of the St. Johns river valley of northeastern Florida (Piatak 1994), and the Old Copper culture of the Great Lakes Region (Stoltman 1986). All appear to have participated in the long distance exchange networks spanning much of the

region at this time. While still considered egalitarian societies, it is clear that some individuals had much higher status than others, and likely competed in their own and other societies for recognition and leadership in warfare, exchange, and probably the direction of public construction episodes and ceremony.

During the Middle and Late Archaic periods across much of Eastern North America, appreciable evidence also appears for substantial house construction activity (Sassaman and Ledbetter 1996), the beginnings of violent conflict between groups (Milner 1999; M. Smith 1996), long distance trading networks (Jefferies 1995, 1996; Johnson 1994) and, as noted previously, increasing ceremonialism manifested in large-scale earthwork construc-

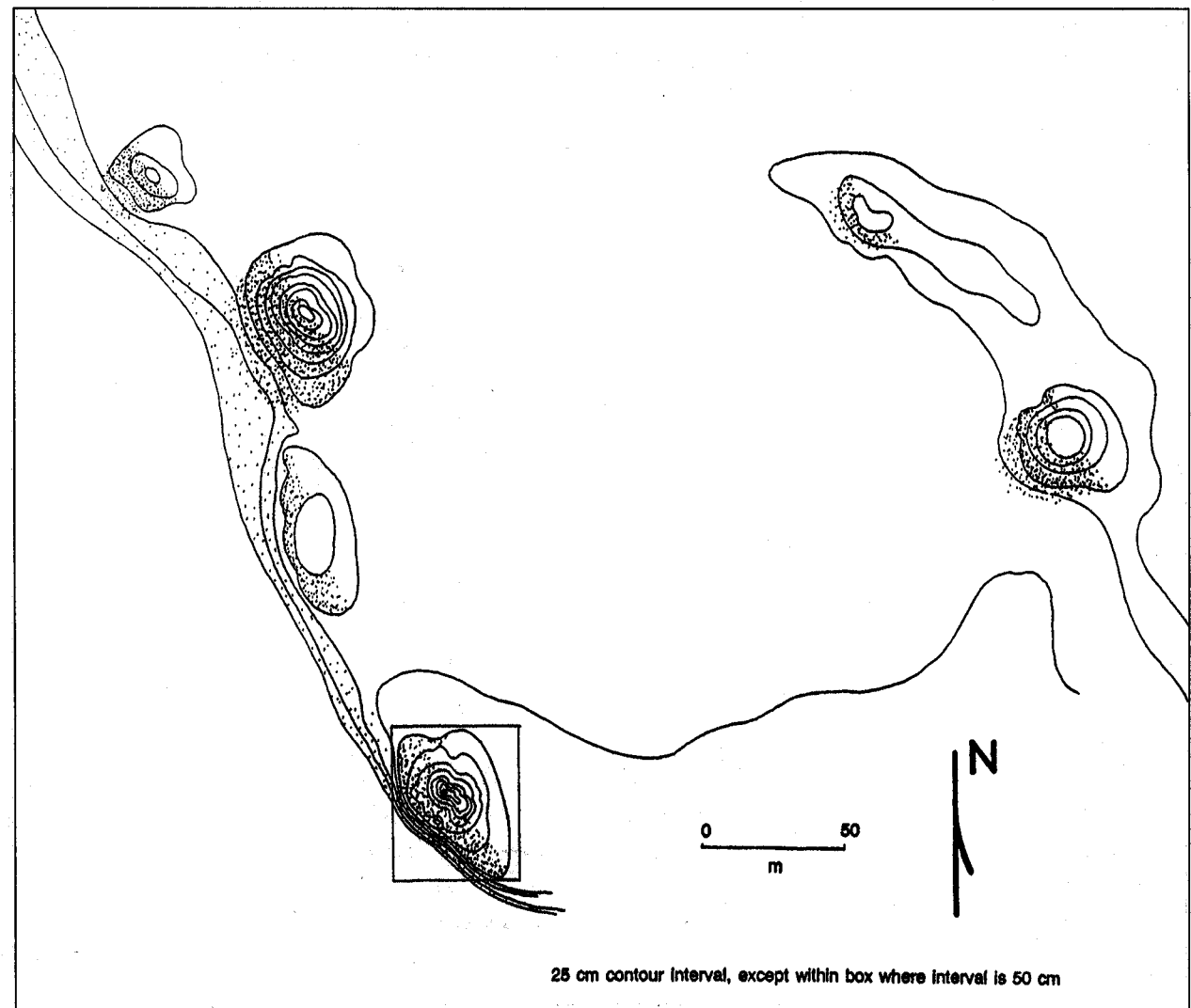


Fig. 4. The Frenchman's Bend Mounds, Louisiana (drawn by Jon Gibson, adopted from Saunders et al. 1994:139, courtesy *Southeastern Archaeology*).