

tion. Wild plants were utilized extensively. By the Late Archaic, local plants such as chenopodium, sunflower, and maygrass were being cultivated for their starchy or oily seeds, and other plants that were likely domesticated elsewhere, such as squash, were adopted (B. Smith 1992). As cultivated crops became more important, they would have likely had the effect of increasing the available food supply and, hence, eventually human population levels. Cultivation would have also likely increasingly tied people to specific tracts of land, where their field were located, resulting in decreased group mobility (Gremillion 1996; B. Smith 1992). The Late Archaic also witnessed the so-called "container revolution" in which vessels of fired clay or stone appeared from Florida through the Carolinas, but this technology did not spread very far until the subsequent Woodland period (B. Smith 1986; Sassaman 1993, 2002). Like agriculture, pottery production is also thought by some researchers to have led to increases in food pro-

cessing capabilities, and hence to increases populations levels and, because of the fragile nature of this technology, to decreased group mobility (Fiedel 2001; Sassaman 1993, 2002).

*Monumental construction and the emergence of tribal societies in the Southeastern US*

The fact that monumental construction activity, long distance exchange, subsistence intensification, and warfare were all occurring upwards of 5000 years ago in parts of the region suggests that societies more complex than simple bands had emerged (Bender 1985; Saitta 1983). Perhaps the clearest evidence for the emergence of tribal societies during the Archaic period is monumental architecture, the construction of which was likely conducted by a great many cooperating people linked together by common ritual or purpose. Such joint social endeavors as well as the continued use

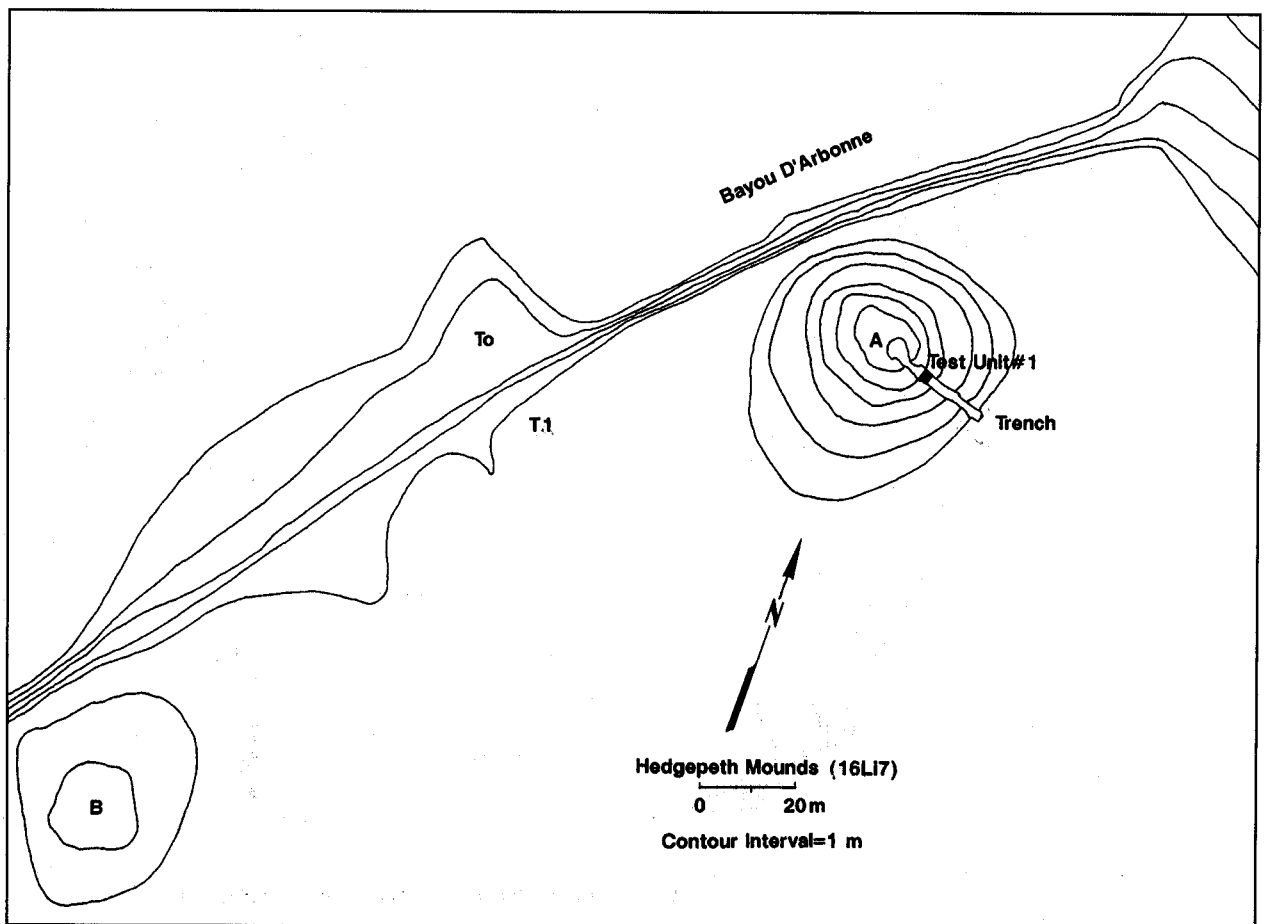


Fig. 5 The Hedgepeth Mounds, Louisiana (adapted from Saunders et al. 1994:146, courtesy *Southeastern Archaeology*).