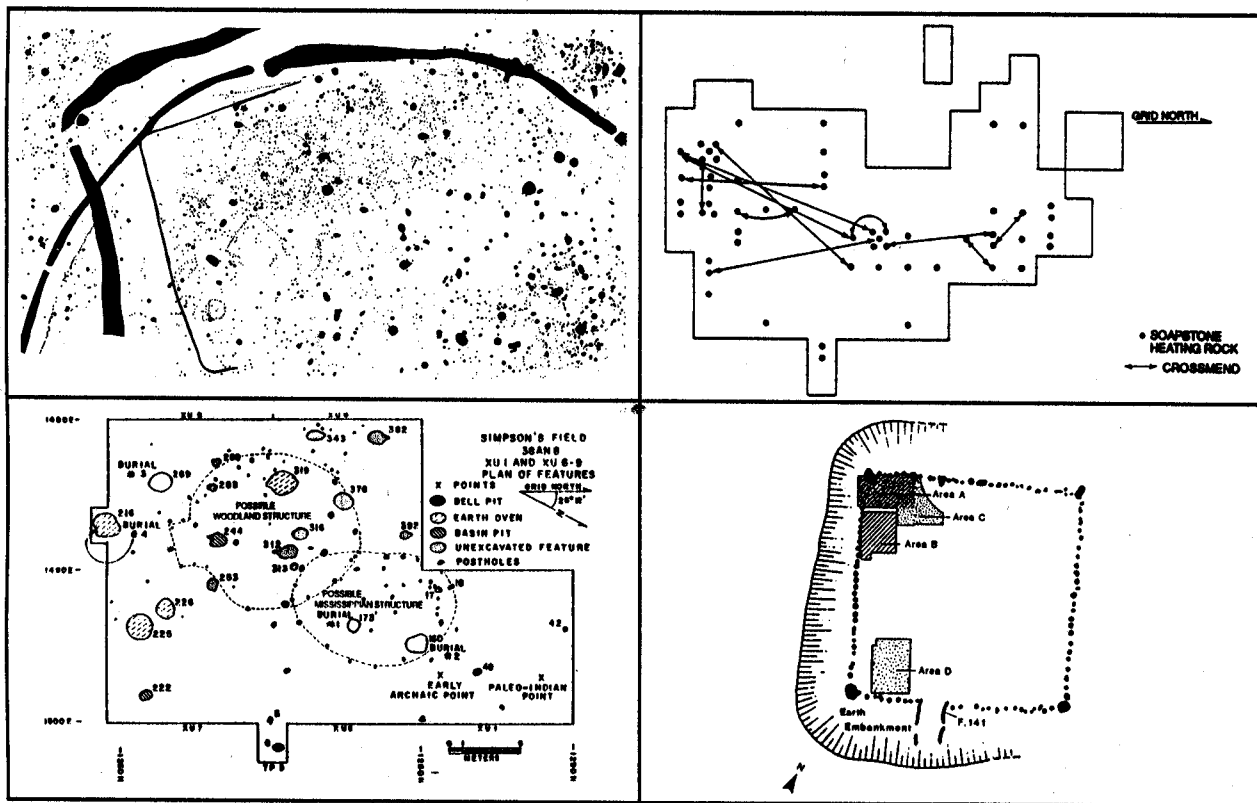


# Prehistory and History Along the Upper Savannah River:

Technical Synthesis of Cultural Resource Investigations,  
Richard B. Russell Multiple Resource Area

## Volume I

David G. Anderson and J. W. Joseph  
Garrow & Associates, Inc.



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**RUSSELL PAPERS 1988**

Interagency Archeological Services - Atlanta, Georgia  
National Park Service

*David G. Anderson*  
*(From JEB, who knew*  
*I had lost my*  
*copy)*

# PREHISTORY AND HISTORY ALONG THE UPPER SAVANNAH RIVER:

TECHNICAL SYNTHESIS OF CULTURAL RESOURCE  
INVESTIGATIONS, RICHARD B. RUSSELL  
MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

VOLUME I

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*John-*  
*With regards*  
*at thanks for*  
*making this possible*  
*David G. Anderson*

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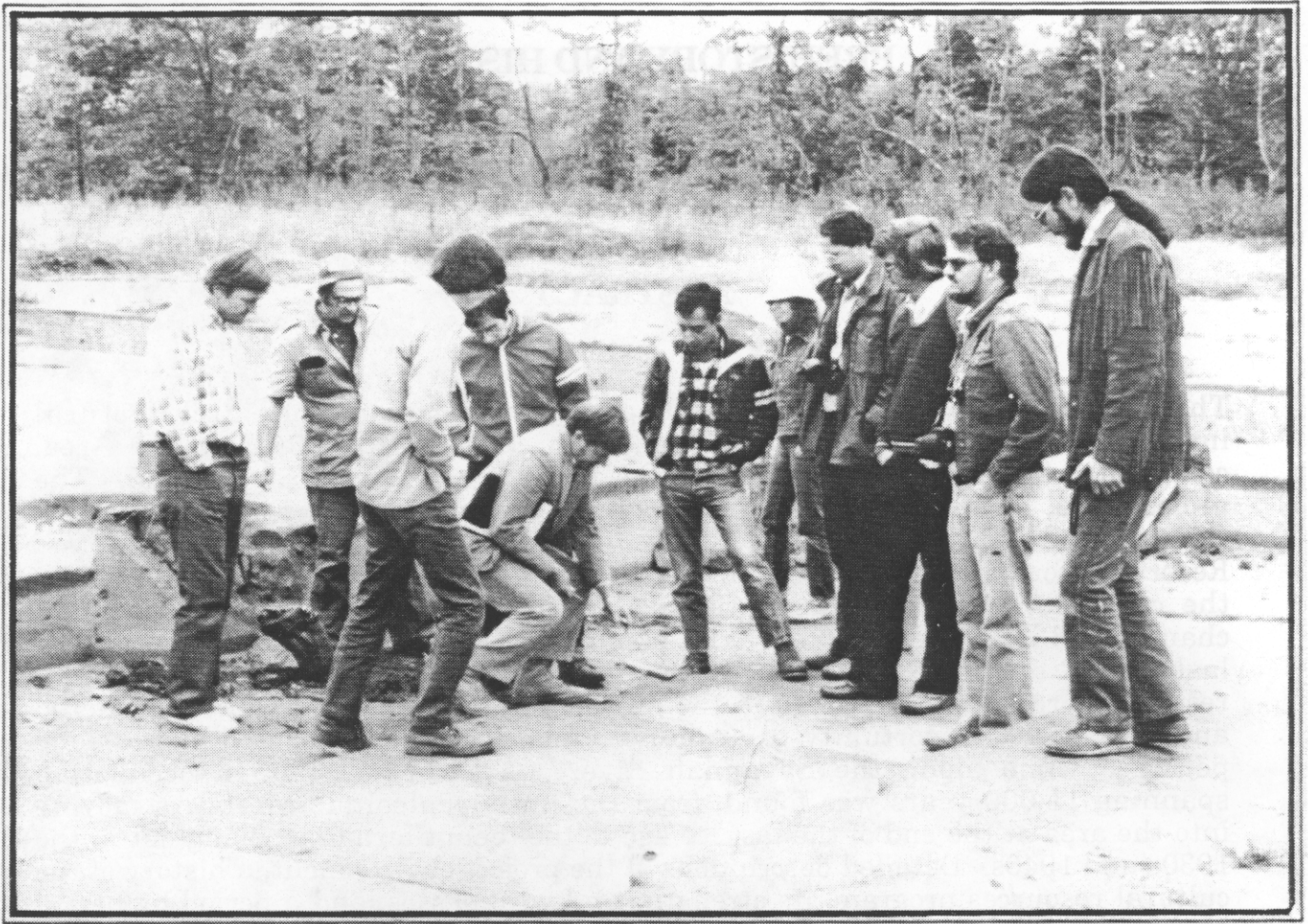
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25 July 1988

**PREHISTORY AND HISTORY  
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**ABSTRACT**

This report synthesizes archaeological, historical, and architectural investigations undertaken in the Richard B. Russell Multiple Resource Area, commonly referred to as the Russell Reservoir, from 1969 through 1985. The project area, located along the upper Savannah River in the central piedmont of Georgia and South Carolina, lies between the J. Strom Thurmond Dam and Reservoir (formerly Clarks Hill Lake) and the Hartwell Dam and Lake. Prior to the construction of the Russell Reservoir, the 28 mile segment of the main channel and its associated tributaries making up the project area represented the last major undammed stretch of the river in the piedmont. The cultural resources program undertaken in the 52,000 acre Russell Reservoir thus offered an unparalleled opportunity to examine human life as it occurred over a long period of time along the Savannah River. A record of human occupation spanning 11,000 years was found, from the initial PaleoIndian settlers moving into the area at the end of the last ice age to the tenant farmers moving out in the 1930s and 1940s. Detailed descriptions of the project environment, a history of the cultural resources program, its strengths and weaknesses, and a period by period discussion of the findings and their significance is provided.



Victor Carbone (1942 - 1986) and Colleagues at the Rucker's Bottom  
Early Archaic Block, Richard B. Russell Reservoir, 1981

l - r: Oscar Brock, Antonio V. Segovia, Roy S. Dickens, Joe Schuldenrein,  
John E. Foss, Victor A. Carbone, V. Anne Tippitt, Albert C. Goodyear,  
William S. Gardner, Sam B. Upchurch, William H. Marquardt.

(Photo by David G. Anderson)

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**PREFACE**

As the Richard B. Russell Cultural Resource Mitigation Program nears its completion, we celebrate with the publication of this report, entitled *Prehistory and History Along the Upper Savannah River: Richard B. Russell Multiple Resource Area Technical Synthesis of Cultural Resource Investigations*.

When planning began for this synthesis, we in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service wanted a report that would go beyond mere storytelling or description; we wanted a study that would interpret and critique the program (the good and the bad). We hoped for a synthesis that would reflect the efforts of each contractor, exceed the sum of the individual reports, and bring a new focus to the history and prehistory of the Georgia-South Carolina piedmont. The Garrow and Associates team has admirably carried out this task with a report that will stand as a valued information source and research guide.

For many of us involved in managing the program, this synthesis provides still more. It is a testament to the clarity and power of thought that was Victor Carbone. He once wrote that the challenge we confront in every large scale data recovery project is to bring meaning to what A. L. Kroeber called "fossils of the mind". Victor met this challenge when he shaped and managed the Russell program. His unique combination of scholarship, vision, and tenacity were undeniably responsible for many of Russell's contributions to Anthropology and History. These synthesis volumes are dedicated, with appreciation, to his memory.

It is an honor to present this work and it has been a privilege to learn from Dr. Carbone, the authors of this synthesis, and all the Russell scholars.

Paul D. Rubenstein  
Savannah, Georgia

John E. Ehrenhard  
Atlanta, Georgia

**PREHISTORY AND HISTORY  
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**FOREWARD**

In this document we have attempted to summarize, as objectively as possible, the cultural resource investigations that were conducted in the Richard B. Russell Multiple Resource Area over the past two decades. This proved a more difficult task than originally envisioned, perhaps because of the closeness we felt with the project area. Both of us had worked at a number locations in the floodpool, and had come to appreciate the setting and its people, and the rich legacy that was soon to be covered over. The work that was conducted, furthermore, was done by individuals who were our friends as well as our colleagues. This made production of the report a particular challenge, since the resulting document would have to stand as a testament to a research program, as well as to an area, that was largely a thing of the past when our writing began. In spite of these concerns, we welcomed the opportunity to prepare this synthesis, and hope our efforts have been successful.

The investigations in the Russell Reservoir stand out from a number of points of view. Given the sheer magnitude of the field effort, the project area represents one of the most intensively studied regions yet examined in the southeastern United States. Much of this work is of a very high quality and will prompt follow-up research for generations to come. The range of investigations undertaken, furthermore, reflect a sensitivity and appreciation for the the diversity of cultural resources present in an area that we believe is still rarely seen, even though this work was undertaken in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Not only were landmark plantations and Colonial fortifications examined, but also small farmsteads, tenant sites, and industrial occupations. Not only were large mound and village sites examined, but also smaller and less spectacular campsites and knapping stations. In many ways the archaeological research was successful at documenting at least something about the lives of many of the region's past inhabitants, a rare accomplishment. Complementing the archaeology, the historical documentation of the Russell Reservoir area was meritorious for the types of investigations it pursued. Archaeology, history, architectural history, and oral history were all applied to the understanding of the region. The result is a unique set of finished documents, the *Russell Papers* and ancillary studies, that combine to form one of the most complete regional investigations yet to be undertaken under the mandate of historic preservation. This work should serve as a model and example for other studies conducted under the requirements of cultural resources legislation, as well as for history and archaeology in general.

The success of the cultural resources program in the Russell Reservoir is in large measure due to the attitudes and concerns brought to the project by the agencies responsible for its overall management, the Savannah District office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Atlanta Interagency Archaeological Services Division office of the National Park Service. Their staffs deserve acknowledgement and thanks. Finally, the large numbers of people who collected information on the cultural resources in the Richard B. Russell Reservoir area over the past 20 years deserve particular recognition, for compiling a site and assemblage data base that stands as one of the best documented and reported in the southeastern United States. To those field archaeologists, historians, architects, preservation planners, land managers, and all their supporting staffs that worked in the Russell area, those who study the past owe a real debt.

David G. Anderson  
J. W. Joseph

Atlanta, Georgia

**PREHISTORY AND HISTORY  
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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The creation of this technical synthesis reflects the effort, support, and active encouragement of a large number of individuals. First and foremost, credit should be extended to the archaeologists and planners at the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and at the Atlanta Interagency Archeological Services Division (IASD) office of the National Park Service. The staffs of these two agencies managed the cultural resource program undertaken in the Russell Reservoir from start to finish, and actively shaped the investigations. Their guidance has led to the results summarized here, and in the many fine technical papers and monographs produced as a result of the reservoir work. At the Savannah District, the signal contributions of Dr. James E. Cobb, District Senior Archeologist from 1978 to 1982, and his successor, Mr. Paul D. Rubenstein must be acknowledged. These individuals provided advice and encouragement throughout the preparation of the synthesis, including detailed reviews of the various drafts. Dr. Cobb provided so much advice and assistance on the history of the project that he was made a co-author of that section of the report. During the formative planning years the Russell investigations were greatly supported by Colonel Tilford C. Creel, the District Engineer. At the National Park Service the guidance of the three successive leaders of the reservoir investigations, Dr. Bennie C. Keel, Dr. Victor A. Carbone, and Mr. John Ehrenhard also must be acknowledged. Planning for a synthesis component to the Russell Reservoir cultural resource program was initiated at an early date, and all three individuals offered their perspective on how it should be shaped.

The production of the synthesis was administered under the guidance of Mr. John Ehrenhard, the current Chief of the Atlanta IASD office, who provided advice and assistance throughout the course of the work, as well as detailed reviews of the draft manuscripts. The synthesis effort owes a great deal to John, and to the vision of his predecessors, particularly Vic Carbone, who was a driving force behind the field and reporting program implemented in the reservoir. Other individuals within the Atlanta IASD office providing advice during the synthesis production were Dr. Mark Barnes, Ms. Jean Godbee, Mr. Wilfred Husted, and Dr. Harry Scheele. Ms. Susan Cleveland, National Park Service Contracting Officer, provided overall administrative support. Other IASD personnel working at the time of the primary field effort in the reservoir who helped shape the work reported here include Dr. Michael Alterman, Dr. David S. Brose, Dr. Margaret Brown, Ms. Karen Cordova, Mr. Ed Hession, Ms. Joy Medford, Mr. Gary Petherick, Dr. Neil Robison, Mr. Joe Watkins, and Ms. Polly Worthy.



A number of specific individuals provided help in the preparation of this study. The staff of Mound State Monument, Moundville, Alabama, where the records and collections from the Russell project are curated, facilitated the detailed analysis of the survey collections undertaken as part of the synthesis effort. Mr. Futato, Associate Director, was particularly helpful, locating artifacts and camera-ready original graphics, as well as providing advice about the course of the research effort. The care with which the project materials are organized and curated at Moundville warrants special mention, since it ensures their long term value. The curation effort associated with the Russell investigations should stand as a model to other institutions. At the University of South Carolina Dr. Albert C. Goodyear, Ms. Nena Powell, Ms. Sharan Pekar, and Mr. Stephen Smith of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) provided access to records and photographs covering the project. Detailed technical review and commentary on the prehistoric section of the synthesis was provided by Mr. Glen Hanson and Mr. Kenneth Sassaman of the SCIAA staff; Dr. David J. Hally of the University of Georgia Department of Anthropology; Mr. Chad Braley, Mr. Thomas H. Gresham, Mr. R. Jerald Ledbetter, and Mr. W. Dean Wood of Southeastern Archaeological Services, Inc.; Dr. Mark Williams of the Lamar Institute. Dr. Michael Alterman of Louis Berger and Associates, Inc. provided a copy of his dissertation research on Late Archaic work in the Russell Reservoir. Detailed reviews of the historic section of the manuscript was provided by Ms. Karen G. Wood of Southeastern Archaeological Services, Inc., Mr. Richard D. Brooks of the SCIAA, and Ms. Beverly Bastion of the University of Mississippi. Ms. Rita Folsie Elliott generously provided a draft copy of her thesis for consideration.

The contributions of Garrow & Associates personnel, who provided an atmosphere of technical support and personal encouragement throughout the project deserve particular mention. Ms. Barbara A. Garrow, company President, and Mr. Patrick H. Garrow, Senior Technical Advisor, provided advice and encouragement throughout the project. Patrick H. Garrow additionally provided detailed technical and editorial commentary on the various drafts, and helped shape many of the ideas that were advanced. Other members of the technical staff providing advice included Dennis Blanton, Daniel T. Elliott, Lisa D. O'Steen, Marvin T. Smith, and Thomas Wheaton. The figures that appear in these volumes were produced by Mr. Richard Bryant, project photographer, and Mr. Vince Macek, graphic artist. They deserve particular recognition for preparing what proved to be an extensive series of illustrations, highlighting this report and its findings.

**PREHISTORY AND HISTORY  
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**PREHISTORY AND HISTORY  
ALONG THE UPPER SAVANNAH RIVER:  
TECHNICAL SYNTHESIS OF CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS  
RICHARD B. RUSSELL MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA**

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