# VI. EMERGENT HORTICULTURAL ECONOMIES: THE WOODLAND PERIOD

## INTRODUCTION

The Woodland period in the southeast saw a continuation of the pattern of increasing sedentism, population density, and organizational complexity initiated during the later Archaic. Extended village occupation coupled with the use of native domesticates such as chenopodium, sunflower, and other plants of the Eastern Agricultural Complex is thought to have characterized settlements of this period in portions of the midwest (Ford 1974, 1985; Farnsworth and Emerson 1986; Smith 1986:39-43). In the South Appalachian area large numbers of Woodland sites have been examined in recent years (Figure 43). It was during this period that the first semi-permanent to permanent villages appeared. These communities were characterized by multiple structures occupied part or all of the year, although some population dispersal has also been inferred. Evidence for the use of domesticates by these groups is minimal locally, however, and occupations over much of the period have been described as basically Archaic-like adaptations with pottery. While this is something of an oversimplification - profound changes were occurring in social organization, communal ritual, and patterns of exchange and interaction throughout the region, including within the Georgia/South Carolina area - local populations appear to have made little use of domesticates until the Mississippian period.

Large numbers of Woodland period sites identified by the presence of diagnostic projectile point and ceramic artifacts were found in the Russell Reservoir (Table 2, Figures 3, 4). Although Woodland materials were found at many of the sites that saw subsurface examination, extensive feature assemblages were documented at only two locations, at Rucker's Bottom and Simpson's Field (Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985; Wood et al. 1986). Two possible Middle to Late Woodland structures associated with Cartersville-like ceramics were examined at Rucker's Bottom, while at Simpson's Field a number of early Late Woodland transitional Swift Creek/Napier features were found, including several large pits and a possible structure. Minor Woodland assemblages were found at a much larger number of sites, including Early/Middle Woodland hearths or pits from the Harper's Ferry, McCalla Bottoms, Rufus Bullard, and Rocky River sites (Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985); a Dunlap hearth at Sara's Ridge and other Woodland features at Big Generostee Creek and 9EB17 (Wood et al. 1986:164, 197ff, 240); a Yadkin biface workshop feature from Paris Island South (Thompson and Gardner 1983:113); and minor Woodland feature and artifact clusters at Gregg Shoals and Clyde Gulley (Tippitt and Marquardt 1985:7-16), to cite some of the cases reported here. In addition, the Thunderbird Research Corporation's site testing program recorded Woodland features and stratified Woodland deposits in a number of subsurface units (Thompson and Gardner 1983; Gardner et al. 1983). While individually these data may not appear impressive, collectively they

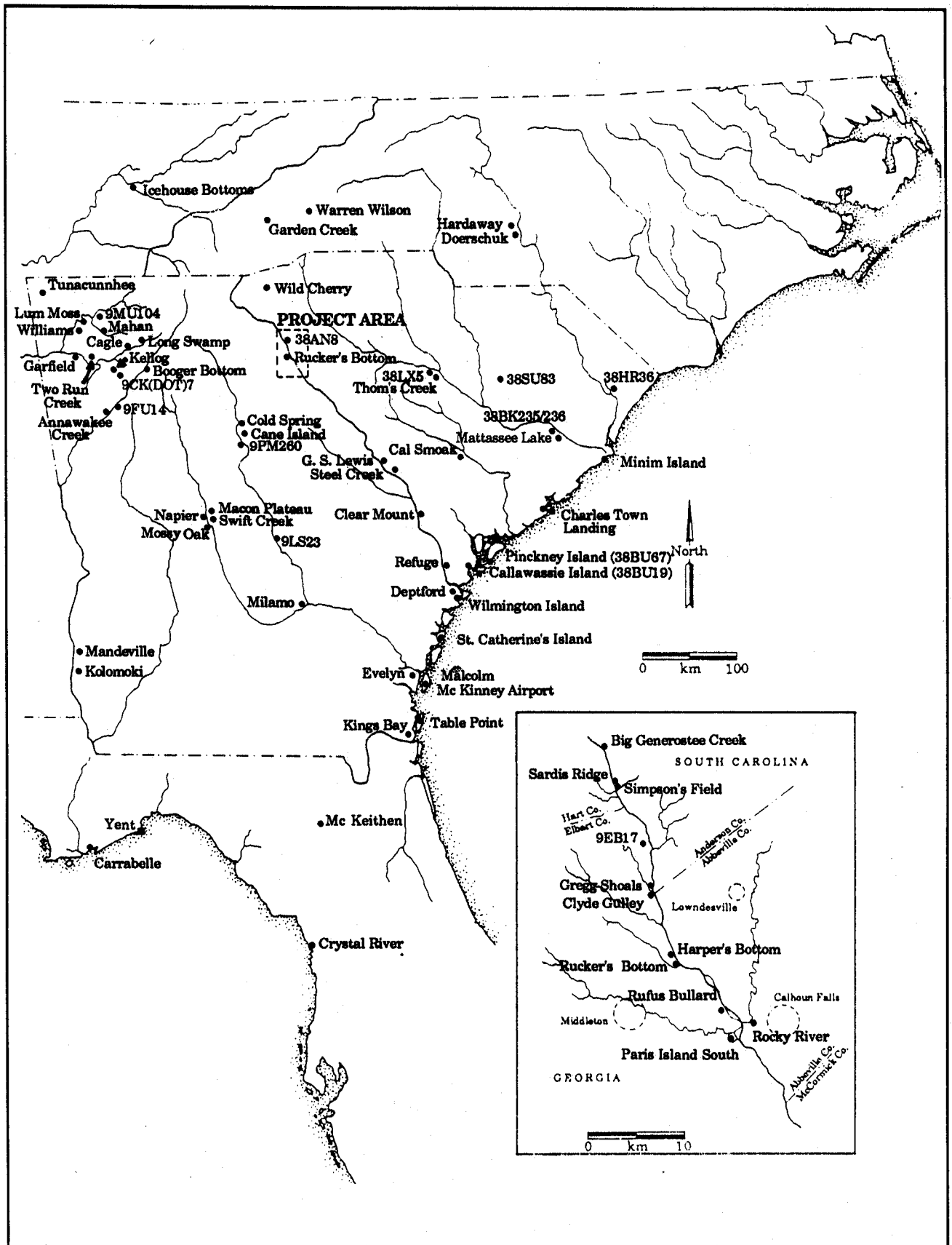



**Figure 43.** Woodland Sites, Richard B. Russell Reservoir and Vicinity.

have provided a series of time capsules documenting local occupations over this period, and details about the Woodland cultural sequence.

Woodland lifeways in the Georgia, South Carolina, and western North Carolina area have been examined in some detail in recent years, with much of the work devoted to cultural historical reconstruction and sequence building (Garrow 1975; Schnell 1975; Keel 1976; Purrington 1983; Anderson et al. 1979, 1982; Anderson 1985a; Hanson and DePratter 1985; Trinkley 1983a, 1988). Prior to the work in the Russell Reservoir the Woodland/Mississippian cultural sequence in the vicinity of the upper Savannah River was very poorly known, rendering the study of this period difficult. The primary cultural sequence employed in the project area until quite recently has been an inferred but largely untested amalgam of sequences developed elsewhere in the region, in the Allatoona Reservoir area of northwest Georgia, at Macon Plateau, and at the mouth of the Savannah River (e.g., Taylor and Smith 1978:82-83). Component recognition was based almost exclusively on the presence of diagnostic ceramics, which were assumed to date to the periods they occurred within in other areas.

The northwest Georgia Woodland sequence (Caldwell 1958, n.d.; Wauchope 1966) begins with the appearance of Dunlap Fabric Marked ceramics around 600 B.C. and, at the same time or slightly later, a crude simple stamped pottery of the Mossy Oak or Dunlap series (Padgett 1980). After about 300 B.C. these wares were replaced by the plain, check, and simple stamped ceramics of the Cartersville series, which have been traditionally thought to extend to between A.D. 300 to 500. The Cartersville series was eventually replaced by the Middle to Late Woodland Swift Creek and then the Late Woodland Napier series. Both of these latter series were initially recognized near Macon Plateau in the late 1930s (Kelly 1938; Fairbanks 1952).

The mouth of the Savannah sequence, which has been widely used in coastal Georgia and South Carolina, includes the Early Woodland Refuge, Early/Middle Woodland Deptford, and Late Woodland Wilmington and St. Catherines series (Caldwell and Waring 1939a, 1939b; DePratter 1979). Modifications to this sequence have recently appeared, encompassing assemblages in the inner coastal plain (Hanson and DePratter 1985; Anderson 1988a). Fairly appreciable differences were evident between the coastal and interior sequences, particularly regarding tempering elements (i.e., grog tempering, common on the coast in the Late Woodland, is absent in the the interior), indicating care must be used when applying the coastal sequence (or any sequence) too far afield. Throughout the remainder of South Carolina away from the Savannah River the recognition and identification of Woodland components has, until quite recently, also tended to rely on work from nearby areas, particularly sequences developed in North Carolina (e.g., Coe 1964; Keel 1976; Phelps 1983). Within the past decade, however, detailed cultural and ceramic sequences have been advanced for the South Carolina sea islands (Trinkley 1980b) and for the inner coastal plain along the Santee and Savannah Rivers (Anderson 1982, 1988a; Hanson and DePratter 1985; Brooks and Hanson 1988). Again, a considerable divergence from classic sequences in adjoining states was evident.

Except for limited work supporting the applicability of Keel's (1976) Appalachian Summit sequence (Beuschel 1976; Goodyear et al. 1979; Wood 1982), the nature of the Woodland sequence and cultural adaptation in the western South Carolina and eastern Georgia piedmont has remained largely unexamined. The Russell Reservoir project offered the first opportunity to address this problem.

## THE EARLY WOODLAND (ca. 3,000 - 2,300 B.P.)

### Introduction

The Early Woodland period in the Eastern Woodlands is traditionally assumed to have been the time of the initial introduction of pottery into much of the region, the appearance of elaborate burial mound ceremonialism, and the first evidence of intensive horticulture (Griffin 1967:180). Recognition of Early Woodland components in the Georgia and South Carolina piedmont has proven difficult because many of the artifact categories used as diagnostics are similar or identical to forms occurring earlier and later in the sequence. Small square to contracting stemmed projectile points, variously typed as Swannanoa Stemmed, Plott Short Stemmed, or Gypsy Stemmed (Keel 1976:126-127, 196-198; Oliver 1981:154-156) are characteristic of the period, as are large triangular projectile points, typically with indented bases, resembling Badin Crude Triangulars, Yadkin Large Triangulars, Transylvania Triangulars, and Garden Creek Triangulars (Coe 1964:45-49; Keel,1976:130-131; Wauchope 1966:109-111).

Ceramic assemblages dating to the Early Woodland period in the Georgia/South Carolina piedmont include sand tempered plain, fabric marked, simple stamped, cord marked, check, and linear check stamped wares of the Dunlap, Mossy Oak, and Deptford/Cartersville series (Caldwell 1958:35, n.d.; Wauchope 1966:46-54; Anderson 1985a; Trinkley 1983a, 1988). Fabric marked pottery is assumed to have been the earliest, followed by simple stamped, check stamped, linear check stamped, and cord marked wares toward the end of the period. In the current analysis fabric marked pottery from the reservoir collections was tentatively assumed to indicate Early Woodland site use locally (unless evidence to the contrary was available), while simple stamped, cord marked, check stamped, and liner check stamped pottery was placed into the later, Middle Woodland period.

Virtually nothing is currently known about the Early Woodland period in the South Carolina piedmont, although a continuation of typical coastal plain sequences has been documented as far inland as the fall line at a number of sites (Ferguson and Widmer 1976; Anderson 1979a; Blanton et al. 1986). To the north of the piedmont, in the Appalachian summit, fabric marked pottery and small square stemmed and triangular projectile points dominate assemblages. The local succession proceeds from larger to smaller stemmed and triangular point forms and the coarser to finer sand and grit tempered pottery of the Pigeon and Swannanoa series (Keel 1976). The Woodland period in north Georgia began sometime between 1000 and 600 B.C., and is identified by the appearance of

Dunlap Fabric Marked pottery (Caldwell 1958:23-25; Wauchope 1966:46-48; Garrow 1975:18, Wood 1981:13-14; Bowen 1982). The earliest securely dated assemblages date to ca. 600 B.C., and are characterized by course sand/grit tempered fabric marked pottery and large Badin and Yadkin-like triangular projectile points. This point form occurs widely at this time level from Alabama to western North Carolina, and replaces the stemmed point tradition dominant since the Early Archaic in many areas (Oliver 1985).

Much of the research conducted to date on the Early Woodland period in the region has focused on the development of artifact typologies and cultural sequences, prompting one researcher to note that once one looks beyond the:

> ...lengthy discussions of the typology and temporal placement of ceramic assemblages and their apparent inherent indications of interregional influence and interaction, there is relatively little information available concerning the lifeways of southeastern populations during this period. ...it is still not possible to establish accurately the timing, duration, and nature of seasonal population movements between different sites within the various settlement systems that existed across the southeast (Smith 1986:37,41).

The nature of Early Woodland adaptation in the piedmont of Georgia and South Carolina, and its relationship with lifeways documented during the preceding Late Archaic period, remains an important topic for research.

## EVIDENCE FOR EARLY WOODLAND OCCUPATION IN THE RUSSELL RESERVOIR: EXCAVATION ASSEMBLAGES

### Introduction

Fabric marked pottery indicative of Early Woodland site use was found at 50 locations in the Russell Reservoir, while Otarre/Swannanoa and Yadkin projectile points were found at 58 and 49 locations, respectively (Table 2, Figures 3, 4). While most of the fabric marked pottery appeared to be Dunlap series material, and hence an unambiguous marker of an Early Woodland component, the temporal range for the point forms was too great to make them effective Early Woodland diagnostics (see below). No major Early Woodland assemblages were excavated in the project area, although minor components were examined at a number of sites. Stratigraphic evidence for an early position for fabric marked pottery was found at several locations, although associated features were unfortunately rare. The data indicate that the initial Woodland position for fabric marking documented in northwest Georgia also generally applies to the eastern Georgia/western South Carolina piedmont. While the finish may be present in later contexts, its primary occurrence locally appears to have been during the Early Woodland.

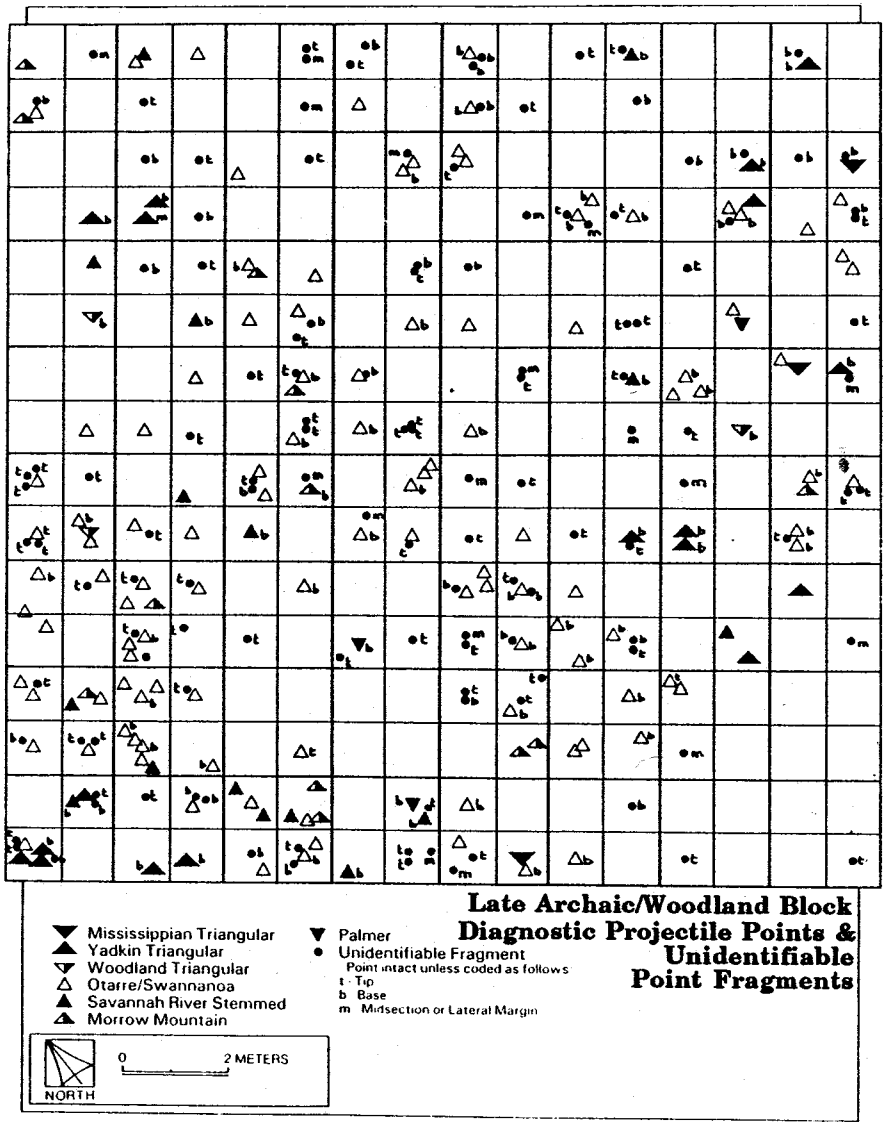
## Sara's Ridge (38AN29)

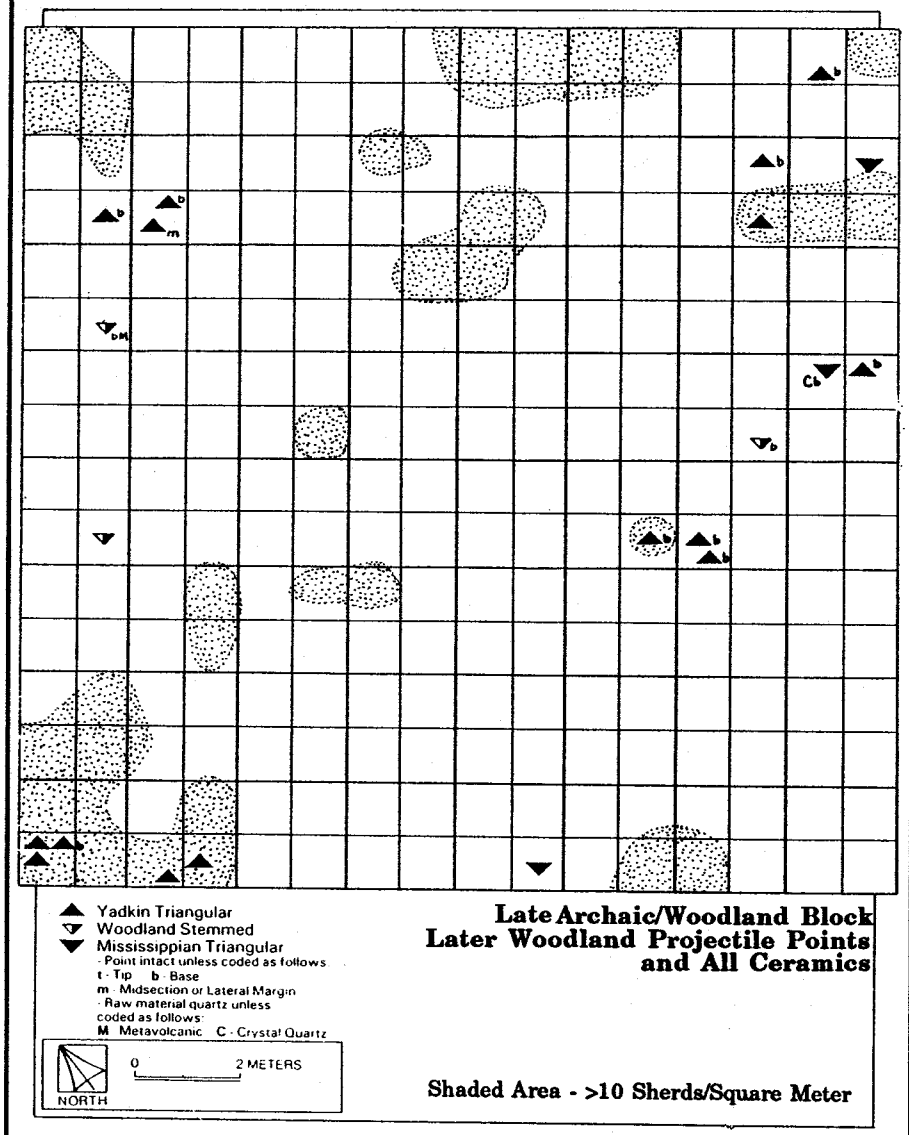
A minor Early Woodland component was identified immediately below the plowzone in XU1 at 38AN29, the Sara's Ridge site (Wood et al. 1986:121, 163-164). Twenty four square meters in these levels were excavated, yielding an assemblage that included a moderate amount of Dunlap Fabric Marked pottery (N=166 sherds), six indented base quartz triangular projectile points or point fragments, three crude quartz bifaces, a scattered rock cluster from a probable hearth, and two small concentrations of quartz debitage. The vast majority of the debitage in these levels was quartz. No other features were found, although a 46 square meter area around the excavation was shovel skimmed. The sherds appear to all come from a single vessel, and comparatively minor site use was indicated.

## Rucker's Bottom (9EB91)

Evidence for fairly appreciable use of the Rucker's Bottom area during the Early Woodland period was found, in the form of numerous small square stemmed projectile points, large triangular Yadkin-like points, and sand and grit tempered fabric marked potsherds (Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:320-361). A 16 x 16 m block was opened in two 10 cm levels below the plowzone in the southern portion of the site specifically to explore the dense Late Archaic/Early Woodland remains thought to be there based on surface distributions and earlier testing. This proved to be an accurate assessment, but unfortunately an unusually large number of artifacts and features dating from the Late Archaic to the later Woodland were found, documenting the repeated, intensive use of this location (Figure 44). Due to the artifact rich, compressed nature of the deposits, sorting out Early Woodland artifacts and features from the multitude of remains proved extremely difficult. Several small clusters of pottery and/or Yadkin Triangular projectile points were observed that may represent the remains of comparatively brief occupations, given the absence of structure outlines, midden staining, areally extensive artifact scatters, or other evidence for extended habitation in unequivocal association with the artifacts. Some of these clusters also had check, linear check, and simple stamped pottery present, and hence probably dated to later in the Woodland; Yadkin points themselves have a broad temporal range, both locally and over the general region (Coe 1964; Claggett and Cable 1982; Blanton et al. 1986).

Small, square to slightly expanding or contracting stemmed hafted bifaces were extremely common at Rucker's Bottom, with over 200 recovered from the southern portion of the terrace; and over 100 in the 16 x 16 m excavation block (Figures 44, 45). These were treated as a combined "Otarre/Swannanoa" category due to ambiguities with the existing type descriptions from the region. The assemblage was roughly intermediate in size between its two constituent types, and was in closest conformity with Oliver's (1981:154-156) Gypsy Stemmed type. While these small square stemmed points were found in a number of later features at the site, where they were assumed to have been intrusive, one was dated to A.D. 340 in Feature M-11 with linear check stamped pottery of the Cartersville series.




Source: Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985: 357, 370

**Figure 44.** Projectile Points and Fragments, and All Ceramics, 16 x 16 m Block, Rucker's Bottom Site, 9EB91.

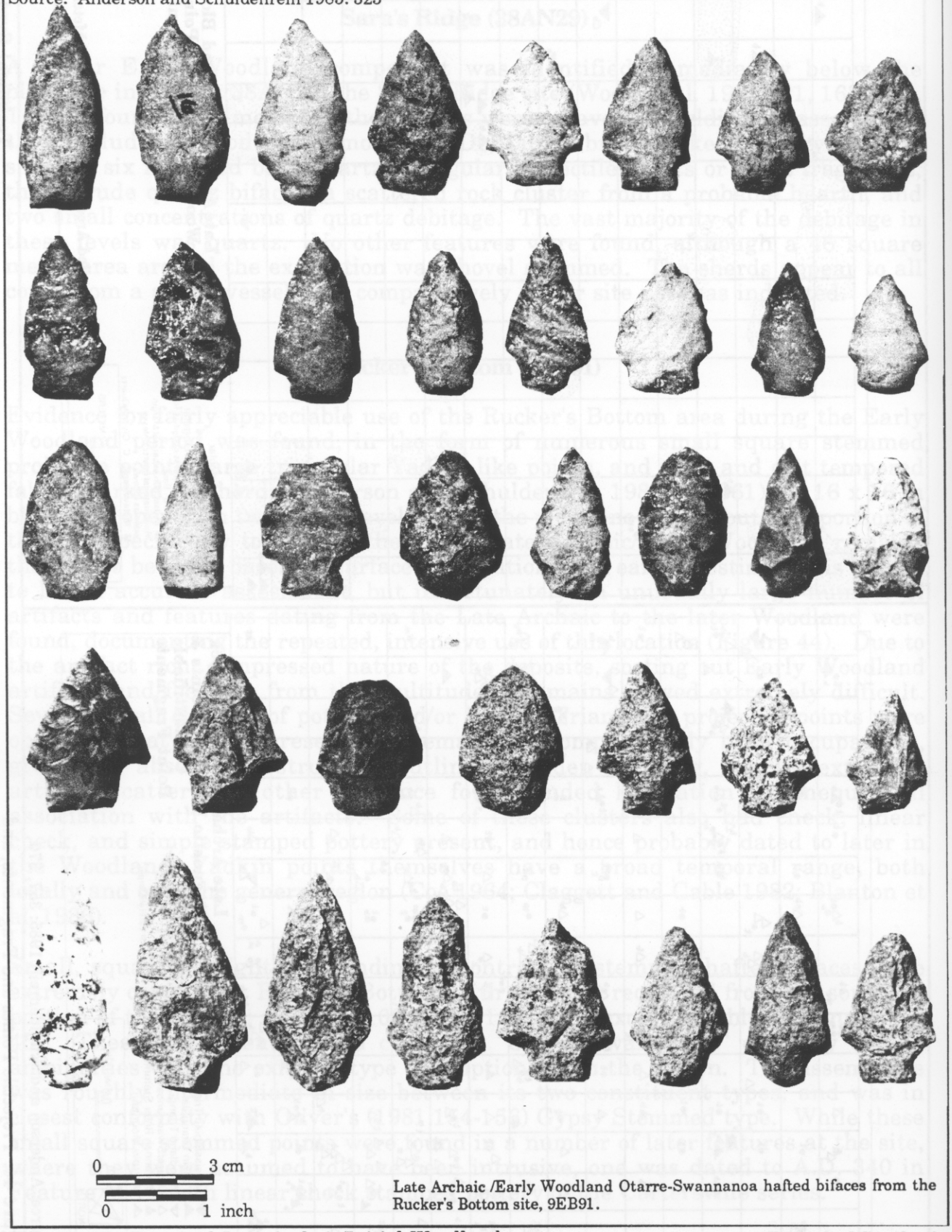



**Figure 45.** Terminal Late Archaic/Initial Woodland Projectile Points in the Richard B. Russell Area.

Evidence for a long occurrence of cord and fabric marking in the local sequence was suggested at Rucker's Bottom, where almost 2,000 cord and fabric marked sherds were recovered in units located all over the terrace (Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:335-340). Cord and fabric marked sherds were found in appreciable quantities in the various test pits and in the large Archaic and Woodland excavation block opened at the south end of the site, where few Mississippian sherds were found. A wide range of (sandy) pastes and finishes were evident, suggesting that several different periods may have been present. Alternatively, and the explanation preferred here, this variability may have been due to highly idiosyncratic manufacturing procedures accompanying the initial Woodland adoption of ceramic technology. Cord and fabric marked finishes were also found in presumably pure Mississippian proveniences on the site, however, such as on the floor of Structure 2 (Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:565). While sorting proved difficult, the later Mississippian wares tended to be better made, with less blurring or overstamping, and with well smoothed to near burnished interiors. The presumably earlier wares, in contrast, were cruder in appearance and considerably sandier in texture. The evidence from the site indicates that equating the presence of fabric marked pottery with the existence of an Early Woodland component, in the absence of other supporting evidence, should only be done with care in the upper Savannah River area.

### Big Generostee Creek (38ABN126)

Dunlap Fabric Marked pottery was found stratigraphically below levels dominated by later Woodland and Mississippian wares in Test Pit 2 at Big Generostee Creek. Fifty one fabric marked sherds, the largest concentration found at any site outside of Rucker's Bottom, were found in levels IV and V; most of the remaining (later Woodland and Mississippian period) sherds from the unit were found in levels I and II. Level IV in the same test pit yielded a large quartz Yadkin-like triangular point, while level VI produced a Savannah River Stemmed point (Wood et al. 1986:181-182). While fabric marked sherds and large triangular points were found in other units at the site, they were infrequent and, when found, were mixed in with later materials. Two kinds of surface finish were observed, a "bold, crudely woven fabric or basket made of large cord" and "a more finely woven fabric" (Wood et al. 1986:207), and the breakage of two or more vessels was inferred. In the absence of midden staining or associated features, site use was probably fairly minimal.

### 9EB17

A possible co-occurrence of cord marked pottery with Dunlap Fabric Marked pottery was observed in XU1 and XU2 at 9EB17 (Wood et al. 1986:223, 238), although the materials were in general level fill with later Cartersville and Swift Creek materials. Cord marked pottery was reported by Wood (1981) with fabric marked material in the Long Shoals phase assemblage at the Cane Island site in the Wallace Reservoir, so an Early Woodland cord marked/fabric marked

association in the Russell Reservoir is not improbable.

### Gregg Shoals (9EB259)

A small number of Dunlap Fabric Marked sherds were found in the disturbed upper two zones (0 to 40 cm) of the 8 x 8 m excavation block at Gregg Shoals; most in the lowest level from 30 to 40 cm (Tippitt and Marquardt 1984:7-16 to 7-21). While large triangular projectile points resembling the Yadkin type were found in these levels (Figure 29), no associations could be determined due to the disturbed nature of the deposits and the large number of later Woodland ceramics that were also present. Debitage in these levels was almost entirely vein or crystal quartz, with only trace amounts of metavolcanics and chert.

## THE EARLY WOODLAND IN THE UPPER SAVANNAH RIVER IN LIGHT OF THE RUSSELL RESERVOIR INVESTIGATIONS

### Chronology and Sequence Definition

Ceramic Artifacts. Dunlap Fabric Marked pottery, as defined by Jennings and Fairbanks (1940), currently appears to be the only initial Woodland ceramic indicator in the upper Savannah River. As noted previously, fabric marked pottery was found at 50 sites in the project area, most of which are assumed to represent Early Woodland components (Table 2, Figure 4). The evidence from sites such as Rucker's Bottom, however, indicates that its position as an unambiguous diagnostic indicator is none too secure. An early position for the finish was documented stratigraphically at Big Generostee Creek, and fabric marked sherds were noted in early levels in isolated units at a number of other sites in the reservoir (Gardner et al. 1983; Thompson and Gardner 1983). At most locations, however, the evidence was more equivocal, with isolated or small numbers of artifacts found in mixed contexts (i.e., Schuldenrein et al. 1985:191; Anderson et al. 1985b:222; Wood et al. 1986:215-219).

At Rucker's Bottom fabric marked pottery was found in Mississippian context, and evidence from this and other sites in the basin, particularly those from the inner coastal plain (Hanson and DePratter 1985; Anderson 1988a) indicates that fabric marking cannot be unequivocally assigned to the Early Woodland whenever it is found. A long occurrence for the finish, spanning virtually the entire ceramic prehistoric era, has been documented throughout much of eastern and central North Carolina (Coe 1964; Reid 1967:8-9; Keel 1976; Phelps 1983; Ward 1983), as well as in the coastal plain of South Carolina (Anderson 1982:293-301, 1988a; Trinkley 1983a, 1988). Within the Georgia piedmont, however, the primary occurrence for the finish appears to be during the Early Woodland, with only occasional materials noted in later Woodland and Mississippian contexts (i.e., Connestee Fabric Marked, Keel 1976:254; Etowah Net Marked, Wauchope 1966:71). In the upper Savannah River Valley, fabric marked pottery appears to occur

primarily in the Early Woodland period, as in north Georgia, with the occasional later occurrences of the finish perhaps representing influences from areas to the east.

Cord marked pottery, which co-occurs with fabric marked pottery in the coastal plain of South Carolina and in much of eastern North Carolina, is comparatively uncommon in the piedmont of western South Carolina and northern Georgia (Wauchope 1966:52,71; Taylor and Smith 1978:297; Goodyear et al. 1979:116-117; Wood 1981:14), a finding supported by the Russell Reservoir investigations (Table 2). The finish was only present in low incidence in project area Woodland assemblages, which was somewhat surprising given the dominance of the ware in both Woodland and early Mississippian assemblages in the lower Savannah River basin (i.e., Stoltman 1974; DePratter 1979; Anderson 1975, 1988a).

Cordmarked pottery found in Woodland context in the Russell Reservoir assemblages tended to have a fairly sandy paste, with irregularly spaced or overstamped impressions and a poorly to well smoothed but never burnished interior finish (e.g., Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:339-340). Close similarity with the fabric marked sherds found in the same proveniences was evident. Cordmarked sherds were only rarely observed within later Middle Woodland Cartersville assemblages, and an occurrence with the Early Woodland Dunlap or the later Woodland and Mississippian Connestee and Savannah series is inferred for most of the cord marked pottery found in the upper Savannah River area. Comparable Early to Middle Woodland cord marked wares from the surrounding region include the Mossy Oak, Swannanoa, and Deptford Cord Marked types (Wauchope 1966:52; Keel 1976:260-263; Phelps 1966; DePratter 1979:126).

No evidence for a transitional ceramic assemblage between the Stalling's and the Dunlap assemblages was found in the project area. Curiously, not a single sherd of initial Woodland Refuge pottery, dated to between 1000 and 600 B.C. along the lower Savannah, was identified in the project collections. Refuge materials, which are characterized by dentate and simple stamping, identify transitional components occurring temporally between Late Archaic Stalling's and Thom's Creek and Early/Middle Deptford occupations in the coastal plain. The absence of Refuge or a comparable initial Early Woodland ceramic assemblage in the Russell Reservoir area was surprising, since pottery was common at this time in the coastal plain of both South Carolina and eastern Georgia, and particularly along the lower Savannah River (Waring 1968c; DePratter 1976, 1979; Lepionka 1983; Anderson 1982, 1988a). This may indicate that the widespread adoption of ceramics did not occur in the upper Savannah River until well into the Early Woodland period, after Refuge times. Given the infrequent occurrence of Stallings and Thom's Creek ceramics in the piedmont, and the apparent late (ca. 600 B.C.) appearance for fabric marked pottery in northern Georgia, this seems to be a plausible inference (Garrow 1975; Bowen 1982). Even if fabric marked pottery was present by or shortly after 1000 B.C. in the upper Savannah River area, the differing assemblages in the coastal plain and piedmont suggest the existence of differing social/cultural systems in these areas, a pattern that had apparently emerged during the preceding Late Archaic.

Projectile Points. A range of projectile point forms were present during the Early Woodland period in the upper Savannah River and over the surrounding region. Unfortunately, none are currently recognized as particularly diagnostic of this specific period. Small, square-to-contracting stemmed projectile points have been found in both Late Archaic and Early Woodland contexts in the region (e.g., Keel 1976:171, 196; White 1982:46-70; Alterman 1987:210-240), while large triangular points have been documented in both Early and Middle Woodland contexts, and possibly into the Late Woodland (Coe 1964; Bowen 1980; Anderson 1985a; Blanton et al. 1986). At the present the primary distinction between the various stemmed projectile point types used to characterize the Late Archaic through earlier Woodland era in the South Appalachian area, given that most have similar stem morphologies, appears to be size. The type descriptions and measurements used to separate "Late Archaic" Otarre or Small Savannah River points from transitional or "Early Woodland" Swannanoa, Gypsy Stemmed, or Plott Short Stemmed points exhibit a considerable degree of overlap in size range and morphology, however, rendering strict application of these forms (i.e., mutually exclusive sorting) a difficult proposition at best (Table 3; see also Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:326-331).

**Table 3. Archaic and Woodland Type Assemblage Measurements from the South Appalachian Area**

| | Morrow Mountain Type I | Morrow Mountain Type II | Savannah River Stemmed | Small Savannah River | Otarre Stemmed | Gypsy Stemmed | Swannanoa Stemmed | Plott Short Stemmed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | 45.0 (30.0-70.0) | 60.0 (30.0-80.0) | 100.0 (70.0-170.0) | 50.9 (43.0-57.0) | 51.4 (37.0-70.0) | 38.6 (27.0-46.0) | 32.6 (21.0-43.0) | 30.5 (25.0-36.0) |
| SW | 30.0 (22.0-45.0) | 20.0 (18.0-30.0) | 50.0 (35.0-70.0) | 28.6 (22.0-34.0) | 30.5 (22.0-44.0) | 21.2 (16.0-26.0) | 19.0 (9.5-24.0) | 19.3 (15.0-24.0) |
| TW | n/a - | n/a - | n/a - | 16.1 (30.0-70.0) | 14.9 (30.0-70.0) | 13.1 (30.0-70.0) | 12.6 (30.0-70.0) | 16.5 (30.0-70.0) |

KEY

Average Measurement
(Range of Measurements)

N= Number of Points in Sample
L= Maximum Axial Length (mm)
SW= Maximum Shoulder Width (mm)
TW= Maximum Tang Width (mm)

Sources: Coe 1964, Keel 1976, Oliver 1981

Examining the average and range values for axial length, shoulder width, and tang width for local Late Archaic and Woodland stemmed point types, as given in the published type descriptions, a clear continuum, from larger to smaller forms is evident within local typologies (Table 3). Savannah River Stemmed points are

the largest, almost twice the size of the small Savannah River or Otarre Stemmed categories, which are in turn approximately 50 percent larger than the Gypsy, Swannanoa, and Plott Short Stemmed types. As noted previously, these measurement data have prompted many local investigators to see an evolutionary trend, from larger to smaller stemmed points, within the local sequence. While this observation is undeniably correct in broad outline, problems arise when points are arbitrarily assigned to one end of this continuum or the other solely on the basis of size. Points classifiable in the Small Savannah River - Otarre - Swannanoa range were found at the three sealed preceramic Late Archaic sites in the Russell Reservoir, as discussed in the previous chapter; in levels dated to between 3800 and 3300 B.P. at Warren Wilson and Stallings Island (Keel 1976; Bullen and Greene 1970), and from 3300 to 3100 B.P. at 38LX5, a fall line site in central South Carolina (Anderson 1979a:78-82), to cite a few examples.

While the smaller stemmed forms like the Gypsy, Swannanoa, and Plott Short Stemmed have been repeatedly dated in late, predominantly Early Woodland contexts (e.g., Keel 1976:198; Oliver 1981; Trinkley 1983b), these types also overlap considerably in size, rendering sorting difficult. Individual points that fall in the area of overlap cannot, therefore, be distinguished. Shoulder width on these forms exhibit the smallest degree of overlap, but unfortunately this attribute is highly dependent on the extent of resharpening a point has undergone. Stem morphology is also of little use, since a range of forms are described or illustrated for these types. In the absence of unambiguous sorting criteria, dating small, square stemmed Late Archaic/Early Woodland points in the upper Savannah River area thus remains a highly subjective, context dependent activity. Examination of average point size over assemblages, rather than individual artifacts, it is suggested, may prove a more reliable method of determining chronology than the use of traditional typologies.

## Early Woodland Settlement

Little evidence for extended use of the upper Savannah River area during the Early Woodland period was documented during the Richard B. Russell Reservoir investigations. No evidence for structures, large subterranean storage pits, and dense occupational middens was found, attributes characteristic of the Kellog phase in northwest Georgia (Caldwell 1958:23-25). Relatively uncomplicated, short term occupations by small groups are indicated, a pattern which stands in considerable contrast to the record left by the seemingly dense Refuge populations present at this time in the coastal plain portion of the drainage. No evidence for stratigraphic continuity between Stalling's, Thom's Creek, and Dunlap assemblages was found, although these wares sometimes co-occurred on the same site. A continuation of Late Archaic lifeways more or less unchanged has been inferred (Campbell and Weed 1984:130), although Early Woodland use of the Russell Reservoir area, if anything, was far less substantial than during the immediately preceding Late Archaic. Although the archaeological recognition and interpretation of sites of this period is in its infancy, it is possible that the upper Savannah River was comparatively depopulated at this time. If people were present, they apparently had little interaction with groups in the lower

portion of the drainage, as evidenced by the absence of Refuge wares in the project area, and the rarity of contemporary or slightly later finishes such as cord marking.

This apparent depopulation or cultural isolation was also indicated in stone tool assemblages. A major switch in lithic raw material preferences was documented between the Late Archaic and Woodland periods in the reservoir area. During the Late Archaic assemblages were typically either dominated by metavolcanics, or by a range of raw materials with metavolcanics a distinct minority. During the succeeding Woodland, in contrast, particularly during the Early and Middle Woodland, assemblages were almost overwhelmingly quartz. This trend was observed in stratigraphic column samples and on diagnostic artifacts at a number of sites within the reservoir, including at Rocky River, Rucker's Bottom, and Gregg Shoals (Figure 27; Anderson et al. 1985b:233; Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:314; Tippitt and Marquardt 1982:21). The use of locally available materials indicates that interaction (exchange or travel) with other areas was fairly minimal, at least when compared with the preceding terminal Late Archaic era. The lithic evidence, together with the mutually exclusive ceramic distributions characteristic of the period, suggests that a decline in long-distance interaction occurred locally at the end of the Late Archaic.

## THE MIDDLE WOODLAND (ca. 2,300 - 1,500 B.P)

### Introduction

Middle Woodland occupations in the northern Georgia area have been traditionally identified by the presence of Cartersville and Swift Creek ceramics (Wauchope 1966). The chronological, spatial, and typological relationships between these series and the adaptations they represent is poorly understood at the present (Anderson 1985a:40-44). In the Appalachian Summit area of western North Carolina the plain, brushed, simple stamped, and check stamped ceramics of the Pigeon and Connestee series, which are assumed to date from between ca. 300 B.C. and A.D. 500 (Keel 1976:239-241; Chapman and Keel 1979:160), are thought to be contemporaneous with the northern Georgia Cartersville materials. Evidence for influence from both areas was expected in the project area, given the results of earlier work in the upper Savannah River. This included the investigations in the Keowee-Toxaway Reservoir where evidence for the applicability of the Appalachian Summit sequence was found (Beuschel 1976), and the survey results reported by Wauchope (1966), which documented the occurrence of northwest Georgia types in the eastern piedmont.

Swift Creek ceramics, originally reported from the type site near Macon (Kelly and Smith 1976), are characterized by a wide range of complicated stamped design motifs, and are common in southwest Georgia and on the Florida Gulf coast, where they have been dated to between A.D. 100 and 450 at sites like Mandeville (Smith 1979). The ware continues into the Late Woodland in central

and northern Georgia, well after its replacement in the Gulf Coastal region by Weeden Island types (Willey 1949; Milanich and Fairbanks 1980). In eastern Georgia, Swift Creek and later, Late Woodland Napier finishes are less common, and are almost nonexistent along the lower Savannah River (Stoltman 1974; DePratter 1979; Hanson and DePratter 1985; Anderson 1988a).

While no unambiguously diagnostic projectile points have been found dating exclusively to the Middle Woodland period in northern Georgia, there is a fair body of evidence indicating that small square stemmed projectile points like the Swannanoa and Gypsy Stemmed types were largely replaced by triangular points of the Yadkin, Garden Creek, Connestee, and related types during this period or slightly earlier (Coe 1964; Wauchope 1966:102-109; Keel 1976; Oliver 1981, 1985; Hanson and DePratter 1985; Anderson 1985:34-35). The Yadkin Large Triangular type was originally defined by Coe (1964:45-49), based on excavations at the Doerschuk site in the North Carolina piedmont, where it was found in association with Badin and Yadkin series pottery. While the temporal range for the type is not well delimited, an occurrence between ca. 200 B.C. to as late as A.D. 1200 in piedmont North Carolina has been suggested (Claggett and Cable 1982:46-47, Figure 4.5). Comparable forms from the Appalachian Summit include the Garden Creek Triangular, attributed to the late Swannanoa to early Connestee periods from roughly 300 B.C. to A.D. 400, and the slightly smaller Connestee Triangular, dated from A.D. 200 to 600 (Keel 1976:130-132, 239). Wauchope (1966:105-109) described similar triangular forms from northern Georgia that he attributed to an Early Woodland age, contemporaneous with Deptford and Cartersville materials. Large triangular points have also been found with Early Woodland Dunlap Fabric Marked assemblages in northwest Georgia and dated to as early as 600 B.C. (Bowen 1982; Wood et al. 1988).

In the coastal plain and fall line areas of Georgia and South Carolina Deptford pottery (the coastal plain equivalent or near-equivalent of Cartersville), which has a temporal range of almost a thousand years, from ca. 600 B.C. to A.D. 500, is found with both stemmed and triangular points (Milanich 1971; Trinkley 1980b, 1981, 1988; Anderson et al. 1982; Hanson and DePratter 1985). Triangular points have been found in Deptford assemblages like the G. S. Lewis West site along the lower Savannah River, together with Gypsy Stemmed-like points (Hanson and DePratter 1985). At 38LX5 in central South Carolina, Deptford ceramics and Gypsy Stemmed-like points were found in a hearth and dated to 660 B.C., uncorrected (Anderson 1979a; Trinkley 1980). There appears to be considerable variation in the time of appearance of triangular points in the general region, with some suggestion that they appear earlier in northern Georgia than in the coastal plain and piedmont regions of the Carolinas. What is indicated by this pattern, if it is indeed accurate, remains unknown; considerable temporal and taxonomic refinement within the region's triangular points is clearly needed.

## Hopewellian Influence in the Local Middle Woodland

The Middle Woodland period in the eastern Woodlands saw the re-emergence of long distance exchange networks, typified by sites of the Hopewell ceremonial and

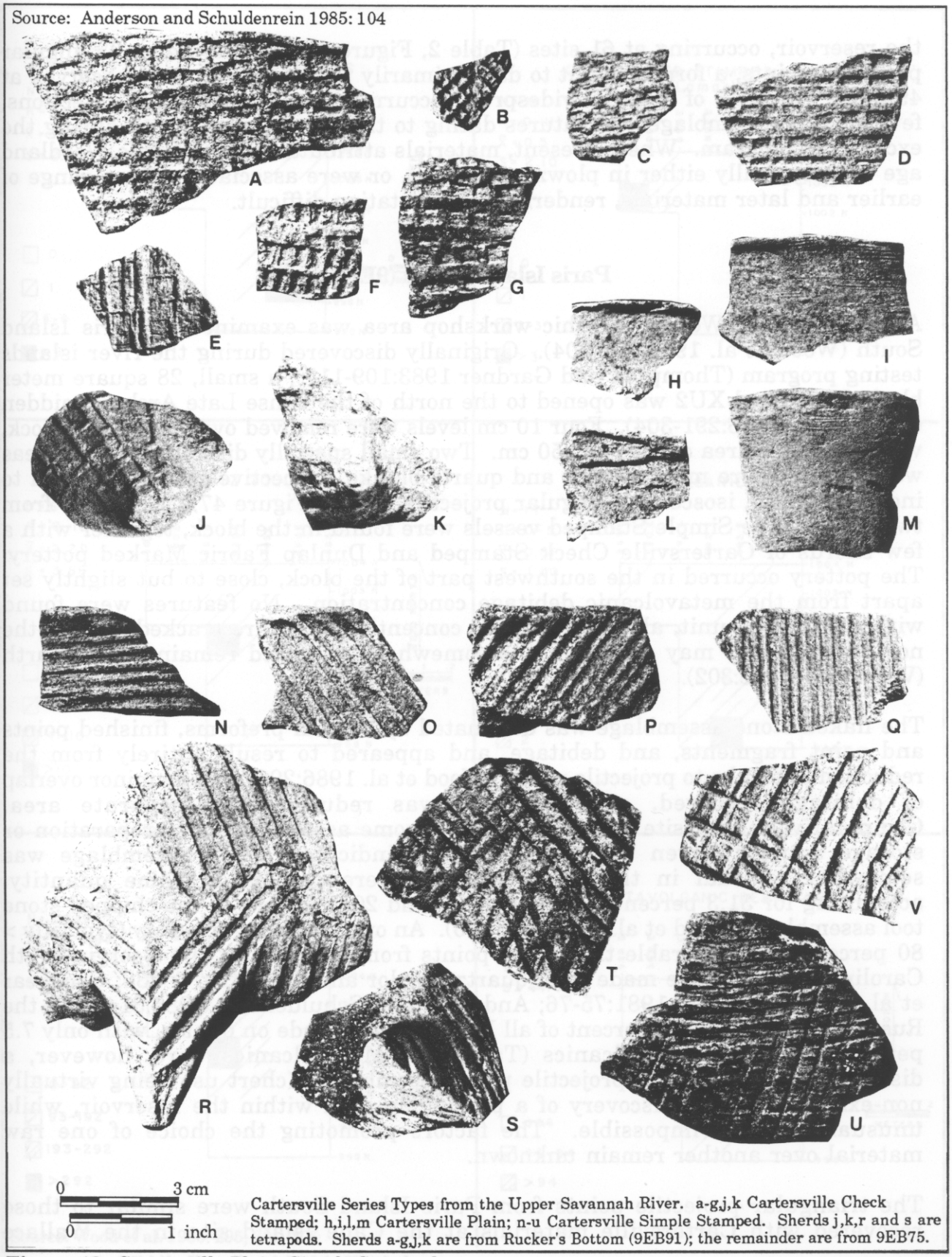
interaction sphere (e.g., Caldwell 1964; Struever and Houart 1972; Brose and Greber 1979). Major sites of this network identified in the South Appalachian area include Mandeville in southwestern Georgia (Kellar et al. 1962; Smith 1979) and Tunacunnhee in extreme northwestern Georgia (Jefferies 1976, 1979). While elaborate burials characterized by grave goods such as copper panpipes and earspools, prismatic blades, galena, cut mica, and platform pipes were found at these sites, these classic Hopewellian materials occurred within otherwise purely local Woodland assemblages. At Mandeville, dated from A.D. 100 to 450 (Smith 1979:183), the period of greatest Hopewellian influence was also the period with the most pronounced occurrence of Santa Rosa/Swift Creek materials, while at Tunacunnhee, Cartersville, Connestee, and Candy Creek ceramics were found at a nearby habitation site assumed to be contemporaneous (Jefferies 1979:165). These sites are thought to represent local trading nodes in the regional ceremonial and exchange network originating within and serving the Hopewellian heartlands of the midwest. An adoption of midwestern Hopewellian ceremonialism by local populations is clearly documented, indicating that more than material goods were moving through the region.

The nature of Hopewellian influence in the Savannah River Valley is not well understood. While it appears that populations throughout much of the eastern Woodlands participated at some level in the Hopewellian ceremonial and exchange network, no evidence for this involvement has been found along the upper Savannah River, nor was any evidence found during the Russell Reservoir investigations. Middle Woodland sites throughout eastern Georgia and South Carolina, in fact, are almost completely devoid of Hopewellian influence, suggesting that the material correlates of this ceremonial/interaction network, at least, did not enter into the area, or have much local significance (Anderson 1985a:36). The only evidence for local participation within these much wider social and ceremonial networks came from the coastal plain portion of the drainage. Minor occurrences of zoned incised punctated ceramics, some red painted, with decorative motifs reminiscent of Hopewellian and Gulf Coastal wares, have been reported from Deptford period sites, including at Deptford and G. S. Lewis West, on the lower Savannah River (Waring and Holder 1968:140-141; Hanson and DePratter 1985) and at Cal Smoak on the Edisto River (Anderson et al. 1979:78, 140-141). The presence of these wares, with their apparent ritualistic or status-linked design motifs, suggest that local Deptford populations, at least in the lower part of the Savannah drainage, were participating to some extent in the regional exchange and ritual network.

## EVIDENCE FOR MIDDLE WOODLAND OCCUPATION IN THE RUSSELL RESERVOIR

### Introduction

Middle Woodland components characterized by Cartersville or Deptford plain, check, linear check, and simple stamped ceramics (Figure 46) were common in




Cartersville Series Types from the Upper Savannah River. a-g,j,k Cartersville Check Stamped; h,i,l,m Cartersville Plain; n-u Cartersville Simple Stamped. Sherds j,k,r and s are tetrapods. Sherds a-g,j,k are from Rucker's Bottom (9EB91); the remainder are from 9EB75.

**Figure 46.** Cartersville Plain, Simple Stamped, and Check Stamped Ceramics, Richard B. Russell Reservoir Area.

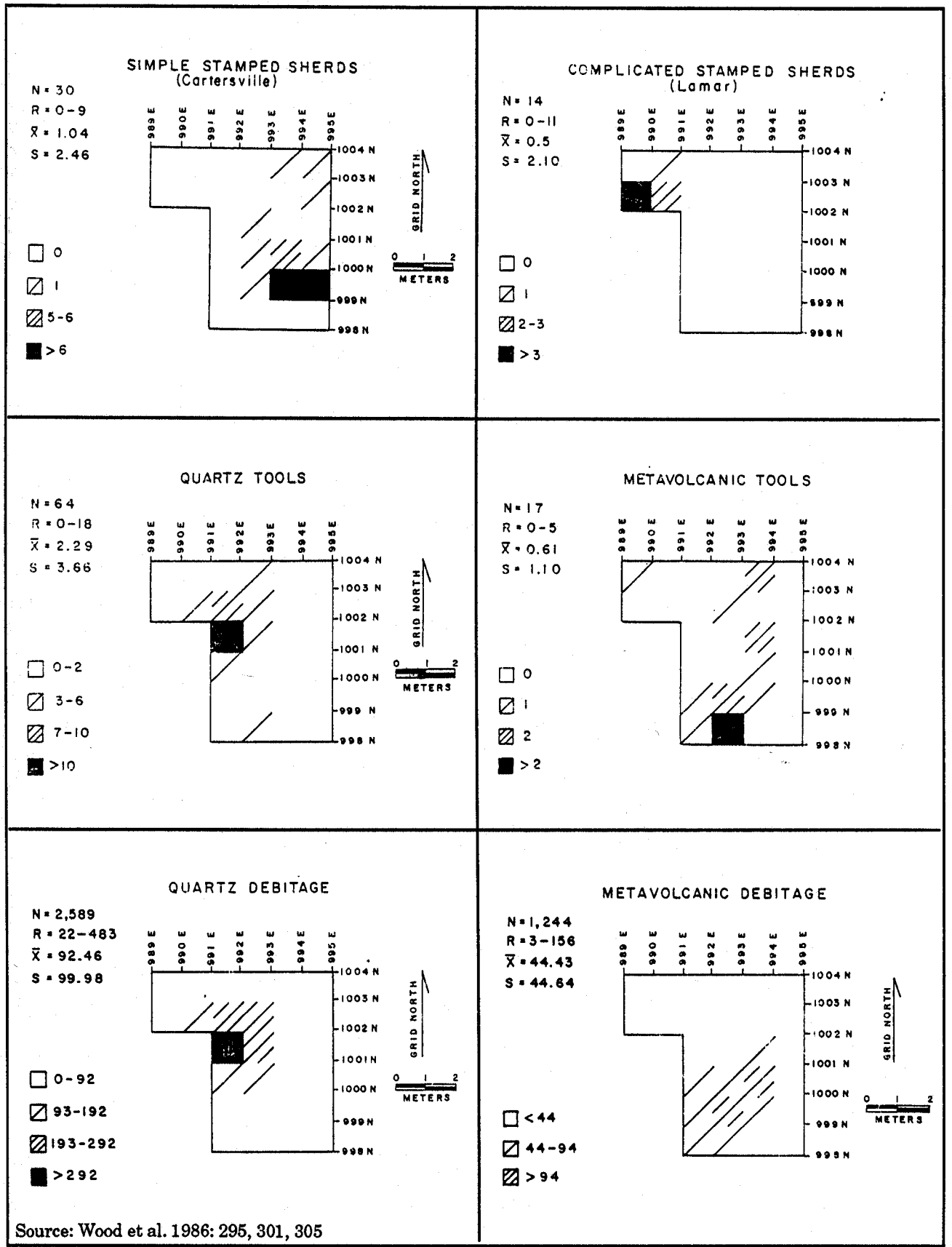
the reservoir, occurring at 61 sites (Table 2, Figure 4). Yadkin Large Triangular projectile points, a form thought to date primarily to this period, were observed at 49 sites. In spite of a fairly widespread occurrence in the reservoir collections, few isolated assemblages or features dating to this period were found during the excavation program. Where present, materials attributable to a Middle Woodland age were typically either in plowzone context, or were associated with a range of earlier and later materials, rendering interpretation difficult.

### Paris Island South (9EB21)

A minor Middle Woodland lithic workshop area was examined at Paris Island South (Wood et al. 1986:291-304). Originally discovered during the river islands testing program (Thompson and Gardner 1983:109-117), a small, 28 square meter block designated XU2 was opened to the north of the dense Late Archaic midden (Wood et al. 1986:291-304). Four 10 cm levels were removed over the entire block, with a smaller area carried to 150 cm. Two small spatially discrete activity areas were found where metavolcanic and quartz blanks, respectively, were reduced to indented based, isosceles triangular projectile points (Figure 47). Ceramics from two Cartersville Simple Stamped vessels were found in the block, together with a few sherds of Cartersville Check Stamped and Dunlap Fabric Marked pottery. The pottery occurred in the southwest part of the block, close to but slightly set apart from the metavolcanic debitage concentration. No features were found within the block unit, although a small concentration of fire cracked rock in the northwest corner may represent the somewhat scattered remains of a hearth (Wood et al. 1986:302).

The flaked stone assemblage was dominated by bifacial preforms, finished points and point fragments, and debitage, and appeared to result entirely from the reduction of blanks to projectile points (Wood et al. 1986:296). While minor overlap of debitage occurred, each material was reduced in a separate area. Comparatively brief site use, possibly with some associated food preparation or storage activity (given the ceramics), was indicated. The assemblage was somewhat unusual in that metavolcanics were present in some quantity, accounting for 31.3 percent of the debitage and 20.0 percent of the chipped stone tool assemblage (Wood et al. 1986:292, 296). An overwhelming majority (typically > 80 percent) of comparable triangular points from this part of the Georgia/South Carolina Piedmont are made from quartz (Taylor and Smith 1978: 236; Goodyear et al. 1979:226; Wood 1981:75-76; Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:314). In the Russell collections, 89.9 percent of all Yadkins were made on quartz, with only 7.5 percent made on metavolcanics (Table 2). Metavolcanics were, however, a distinct minority in local projectile point assemblages (chert use being virtually non-existent), so the discovery of a production area within the reservoir, while unusual, was not impossible. The factors promoting the choice of one raw material over another remain unknown.

The triangular projectile points from Paris Island South were similar to those recovered with Cartersville materials at the Cane Island site in the Wallace




Source: Wood et al. 1986: 295, 301, 305

**Figure 47.** Middle Woodland Lithic Workshop, Paris Island South, 9EB21.

Reservoir (Wood 1981:75), and also resembled forms variously described as Camp Creek, Greenville, and Nolichucky in eastern Tennessee (Lewis and Kneberg 1957:17), Garden Creek and Connestee Triangulars from western North Carolina (Keel 1976:130-132), and Yadkin Large Triangular from Piedmont North Carolina (Coe 1964:45-49). An association of these triangular forms with Cartersville pottery has been documented by Wauchope (1966:102-109). A small stemmed point was also found within the metavolcanic activity area. This form, resembling Keel's (1976:196-198) Swannanoa Stemmed type, and the Thelma or Deptford Stemmed types (South 1959; Milanich 1971:175; Trinkley 1980c), is also associated with Middle Woodland assemblages in the general region.

### 9EB17

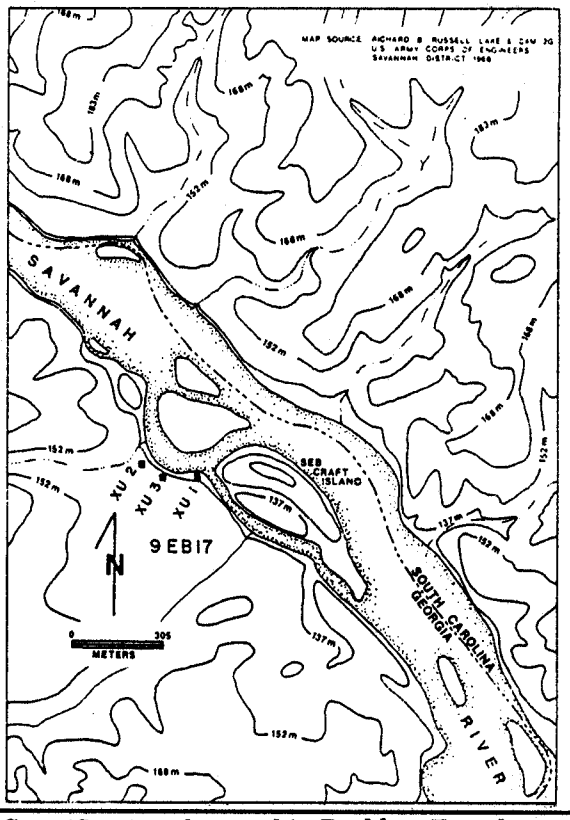
An association of indented based isosceles triangular projectile points with Cartersville Check and Simple Stamped, and Dunlap Fabric Marked pottery, was observed in general level fill in XU1 at 9EB17 (Wood et al. 1986:221-223). Comparable points are widely reported at this time level in north Georgia (Wauchope 1966) and they have been found in the early Cartersville Long Shoals phase assemblage at Cane Island in the Wallace Reservoir (Wood 1981). XU1 was a 10 x 10 m block opened in 1 m squares to better define a subplowzone fabric marked assemblage located in earlier testing activity (Gardner et al. 1983:197). The plowzone was stripped away with a small bulldozer and the underlying deposits shovel skimmed, and two 10 cm levels were then removed (Figure 48).

No cultural features were observed beyond a diffuse rock scatter in the southwest corner of the unit that may have been a hearth, although a moderate artifact assemblage was recovered (284 sherds, 92 flaked stone tools, 4520 pieces of debitage, and approximately 11.3 kg of rock; Wood et al. 1986:219-236). Almost all the tools and debitage associated with these Early/Middle Woodland ceramics were made from quartz, and were points, point rejects, or other bifaces (Wood et al. 1986:227-230). Unifacial tools were comparatively rare (N=8), and were expediently utilized retouch flakes. The ceramic and lithic artifacts were somewhat separated from one another, suggesting use of these artifact classes in differing contexts. The distribution of tools and debitage within the block, coupled with the absence of features, indicated site use was fairly brief and directed primarily to stone tool manufacture. Two discrete activity areas could be differentiated, a chipping station and a possible hearth and associated debris ring, or artifact drop zone. The chipping station, a small lithic workshop area characterized by large number of tools and debitage, was located in the northern part of the block, while the possible hearth was located in the southwest corner, with a number of sherds and stone tools scattered about it (Figure 48).

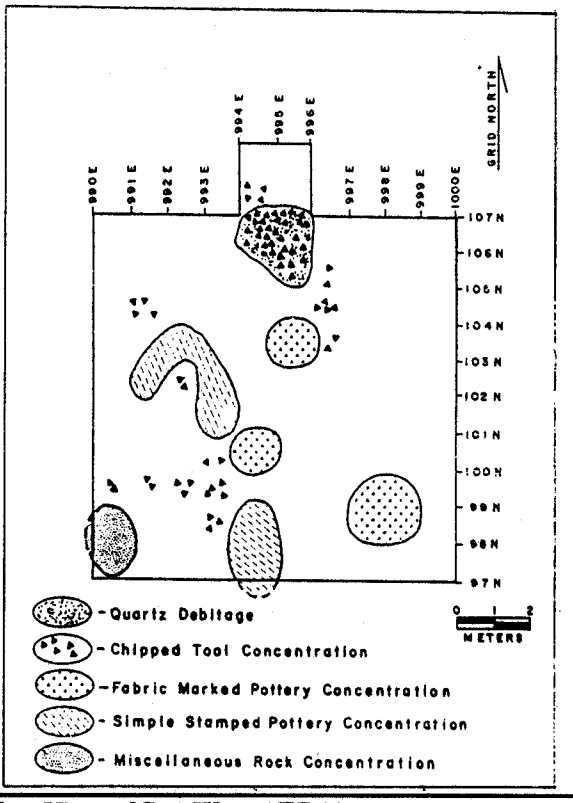
### Harper's Bottom (9EB75)

A pure Cartersville component characterized by plain and simple stamped ceramics was found at Harper's Bottom, on a prominent terrace overlooking the

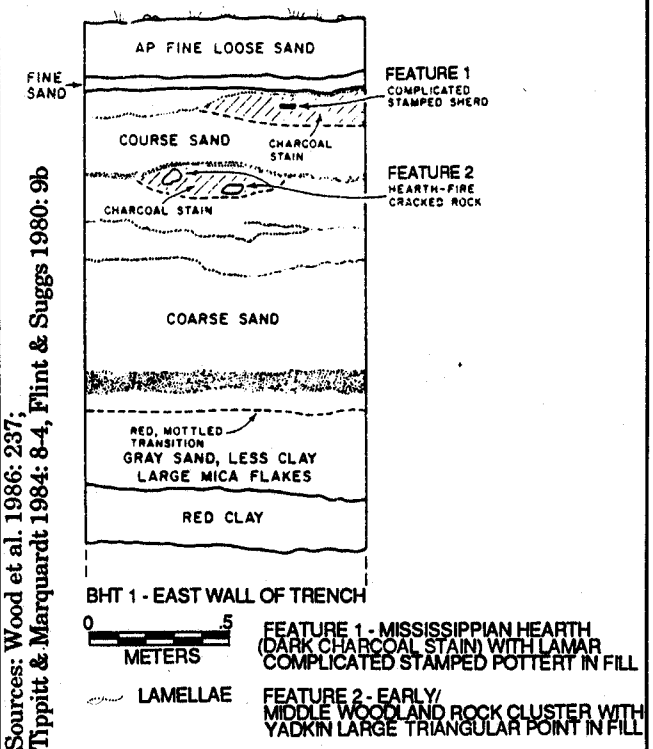
Location of 9EB17.




Composite Plan of XU1, Transect 21, 9EB17




Stratification observed in Backhoe Trench 1, Clyde Gulley Site (9EB387)




Sources: Wood et al. 1986: 237; Tippitt & Marquardt 1984: 8-4, Flint & Suggs 1980: 9b

Plan View of S30 W10, 9EB76.

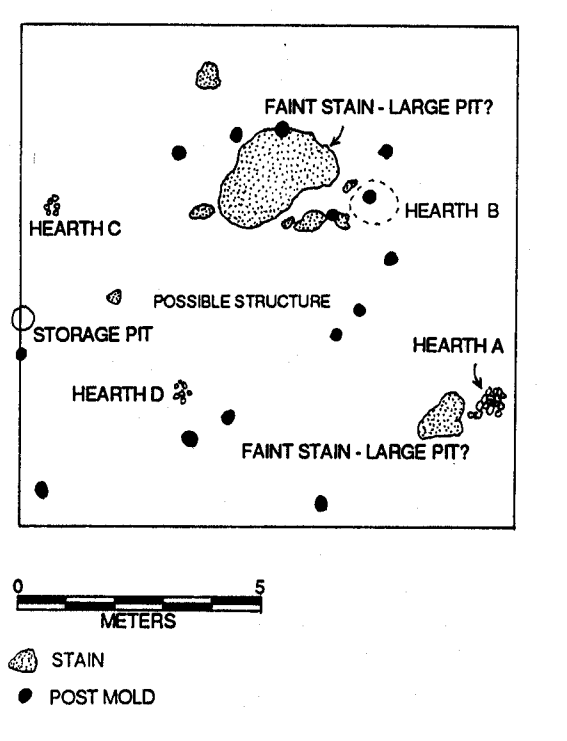



**Figure 48.** Middle and Late Woodland Features, 9EB17, 9EB76, and 9EB387.

Savannah River (Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:99-113). The site area was elevated 5 m above the river channel and was backed by a poorly drained swale that would have been flooded during periods of high water. The dense Middle Woodland component found at the site was almost missed. Only 16 artifacts were found in three 1 m and two 0.5 m test units opened at the site during initial testing operations in 1977 and 1979 (Taylor and Smith 1978:368; Gardner et al. 1983:133-141), together with a small number of surface artifacts. The site was reexamined in 1980 in one last effort to see whether deeply buried deposits were present.

The 1980 testing included a controlled surface collection and the excavation of twelve 2 m units dispersed along the terrace. At the south end of the site, well beyond the area tested previously, in a location thought to lie beyond the scatter, a large quantity of plain and simple stamped ceramics, and lesser amounts of quartz and metavolcanic debitage were found in a dark buried A-horizon located immediately below the base of the plowzone. Ten of the twelve 2 m units were opened in this area, with all fill screened through 1/4 inch mesh. No identifiable features were found, although orange fired clay lenses were observed at the top of the A-horizon in several units that were thought to have been plow disturbed remains of wattle and daub structures. Using a motor grader, a 150 by 20 m area was opened, first to the top of the buried A horizon and then to its base. No features beyond obvious tree roots were found, however, which was surprising given the artifact density in the test units. Woodland period use of the area may not have included major structures, pits, or other features or, alternatively, may have been centered elsewhere on the terrace, possibly in the woodline overlooking the river. Backhoe slot trenches opened in this wooded area only infrequently encountered artifacts, however, suggesting the primary occupation was actually in the area examined in detail.

Most of the diagnostic ceramics recovered at the site were characterized by a fine, micaceous paste and plain, simple stamped, and (rarely) brushed finishes (Figure 46). The only vessel form present consisted of flat bottomed simple stamped jars with tetrapodal supports, a globular body and excurvate flaring rims. The shoulder and rim areas of these vessels were typically plain, with simple stamping restricted to the lower two-thirds of the vessel and extending onto the feet. In paste the assemblage closely resembled Keel's (1976:252-254) Connestee series, while the surface finish was identical to materials classified as Cartersville in northwest Georgia (Caldwell 1958; Wauchope 1966; Garrow 1975). No check stamped ceramics were recovered on the site and, given the evidence from over the region for a replacement of Cartersville plain, check, and simple stamped assemblages by assemblages dominated by plain and simple stamped ceramics (see pp. 245-247 below), a late Cartersville occupation was indicated.

A detailed analysis of the debitage assemblage, which was minimal, indicated little initial reduction activity occurred on the site. No cortical debris was found, and most of the flakes were small. Quartz was the predominant raw material (N=206, 70.3 percent), with metavolcanics (N=83; 28.3 percent) second; only four chert flakes were found. The only tools found at the site were two unidentifiable quartz point tips, a quartz Morrow Mountain, and a metavolcanic stemmed point

resembling the Otarre and Swannanoa types. The two diagnostics were found in the plowzone overlying the Middle Woodland component, and a direct association cannot be assumed. A moderate amount of cracked rock (14.7 kg) was found in the test units, suggesting hearths were present in the area. Comparatively brief, limited occupations, characterized by relatively impermanent wattle and daub structures, were indicated.

### Gregg Shoals (9EB259)

A small number of Cartersville simple stamped and check stamped sherds were found in the upper three zones (0 to 60 cm) of the 8 x 8 m excavation block at Gregg Shoals (Tippitt and Marquardt 1984:7-15 to 7-21). Most of the simple stamped pottery appeared to derive from a single tetrapodal jar, whose paste had a moderate amount of quartz inclusions (ca. 10 - 20 percent) ranging in size from 0.5 to 1.0 mm in diameter. Both large and small triangular projectile points resembling the Yadkin and Caraway types were found in the same levels (Figure 29), but could not be assigned to any specific period. Debitage in these levels was almost entirely vein or crystal quartz, with only trace amounts of metavolcanics and chert.

### Clyde Gulley (9EB387)

A minor Early or Middle Woodland component was found at this site, located near the confluence of Pickens Creek with the Savannah. In Backhoe Trench 1, one of 14 opened to determine the nature and extent of the cultural deposits, a cluster of fire cracked river cobbles with associated charcoal staining was found at a depth of 50 to 60 cm (Figure 48; Tippitt and Marquardt 1984:8-1 to 8-3). Artifacts found with the feature included a quartz Yadkin Large Triangular base, six small plain sherds, and 18 quartz flakes. A Mississippian hearth was found higher in the same unit at a depth of 30 cm.

### Big Generostee Creek (38AN126)

A small number of Connestee simple stamped and brushed sherds were found at the Big Generostee Creek site, in the extreme northern part of the project area. Classic Connestee materials were only rarely noted in the reservoir assemblages, but the materials from Big Generostee Creek closely resembled the type materials:

> The Connestee simple stamped sherds were decorated on the exterior surface with deeply impressed, narrow to medium width grooves which left alternating raised bands of the same size. This decoration appeared to have been produced by stamping with a paddle wrapped with small diameter, non-textile cord-like material. This decoration was applied as parallel impressions, criss-crossed impressions, and as a combination of both in a zoned fashion. ...Paste usually

> contained a fine to medium sand with occasional inclusions of quartz grit.
>
> ...Decorations on Connestee brushed sherds consisted of shallowly impressed, parallel grooves, usually of narrow to medium width. The width of these impressions was very similar to that of the simple stamped impressions, but was, on the average, slightly narrower. This design seemed to have been applied either by lightly dragging a paddle wrapped with a fine fiber across the moist vessel surface or by stamping with a similarly prepared paddle. These impressions seemed to have been applied both parallel and obliquely to the rim line. Criss-cross stamping occurred rarely. ...the paste was consistently sandy... (Wood et al. 1986:206).

Cartersville bold simple stamped and check stamped sherds were found on the same site, and were characterized by a grit tempered paste. A similar pattern of decreasing paste inclusion size over the Middle and later Woodland was noted at Rucker's Bottom (Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:346). No clear evidence for stratification was observed within the later Woodland assemblage at Big Generostee Creek, although a single Swift Creek sherd was found above two Connestee sherds in Test Unit 2 (Wood et al. 1986:182). At the same site some stratigraphic evidence was obtained to suggest that coastal plain and ridge and valley chert was utilized more in the later Woodland and Mississippian periods than earlier in the Woodland (Wood et al. 1986:202).

### Rocky River (38AB91)

At the Rocky River site, where a dense preceramic Late Archaic occupational midden was found, later Cartersville and Mississippian materials were found in the upper levels of the deposits (see Chapter V, pp. 176-181; Anderson et al. 1985b:215-249). These later occupations were found in fair stratigraphic context, together with a number of features including a possible burned house floor (Anderson and et al. 1985b:222-224). The later prehistoric occupations were almost completely confined to the top 50 cm of the deposits. The only identifiable projectile points in these levels were six Yadkin Large Triangulars, all of quartz. In several of the units a gradual replacement of Cartersville Check Stamped by Cartersville Simple Stamped pottery was observed, which was in turn replaced by Mississippian ceramics. The stratigraphic record also documented a high incidence of quartz utilization in the upper, Woodland and Mississippian levels, a pattern that contrasted markedly with the incidence of metavolcanics observed in the Late Archaic deposits.

Two major field seasons of excavations were conducted at the site, in 1980 and 1981. In 1980 11 test units and a 4 by 4 m block were opened through the Woodland deposits, while in 1981 these deposits were examined using ten 2 x 2 m units, one with a 7 square m addition to better define a possible burned house floor, Feature 8 (Glander et al. 1981; Anderson et al. 1985b:221-224). Six possible Woodland features were identified at the site in 1980, four postmolds and two dense scatters

of lithic and ceramic debris. Charcoal from the fill around one of these scatters, which had plain, check, and simple stamped pottery associated, produced an uncorrected date of 50±80 B.C. (BETA-2529; Glander et al. 1981). Little paleo-subsistence data was recovered in 1980, in spite of a conscious effort to collect this kind of information. Minor quantities of hickory nutshell fragments were found in level and feature fill, but sampling for pollen failed to yield identifiable grains.

Only four probable Middle Woodland features were found in the 47 square m area examined in 1981, a cluster of cracked rock from a probable hearth, an oval basin shaped pit 78 x 60 x 53 cm in size, a fairly large postmold, and a large burned area (Anderson et al. 1985b:224). Plain, check, and simple stamped pottery was found in the fill of three of the features, with only plain and simple stamped sherds in the fill of the post. The burned area, Feature 8, was located to the west of the Late Archaic midden on the bluff edge overlooking the shoals. Found at a depth of 50 cm, the feature was an irregular patchy area of fired clay, ash, and charcoal with appreciable quantities of associated debitage (798 pieces) and cracked rock (23.6 kg), and modest amounts of plain, check, and simple stamped pottery. Two 4 liter flotation samples collected from the zone yielded hickory nutshell fragments as well as oak and pine wood charcoal. The feature, which extended over an approximately 3 x 5 m area, was very badly disturbed by treefalls and bank erosion. While interpreted as a burned house floor of Woodland age, its original extent could not be determined.

The Woodland ceramic assemblage at the Rocky River site was dominated by Cartersville tetrapodal jars, with check and simple stamping only rarely extending beyond the shoulder to the rim. The stone tool assemblage was minimal, consisting of a small number of bifaces, expedient unifaces, and Yadkin Large Triangulars. Debitage was common and widespread, however, with quartz the predominant raw material, followed by metavolcanics in much lower incidence. Exactly what was being manufactured, and where it was discarded remains unknown. A fairly extensive Middle Woodland site occupation, probably consisting of one or more hamlets or a small village, was indicated. While horticulture may have been practiced, no evidence for it was found. Use of the riverine area may have been important.

### McCalla Bottoms (38AB288)

Minor Woodland components were indicated at this site by the presence of small quantities of plain, cord marked, fabric impressed, simple stamped, and linear check stamped finishes (Glander et al. 1981; Schuldenrein et al. 1985:175-213). These sherds, of the Dunlap, Deptford, and Cartersville series, were found in and just below the base of the plowzone, immediately above the dense Late Archaic deposits described previously (see Chapter V, pp. 181-184). Sherds with considerable sand in their paste resembled classic Deptford types from the coastal plain, while a few sherds with a near temperless micaceous paste resembled Cartersville types recovered at other sites in the reservoir. Charcoal from the fill of a small pit feature observed at the base of the plowzone was dated to 70±70 B.C.,

uncorrected (BETA-2531; Glander et al. 1981). While no diagnostic artifacts were present in the fill, the date indicated that Woodland features had been present on the site prior to cultivation.

## THE MIDDLE WOODLAND IN THE UPPER SAVANNAH RIVER IN LIGHT OF THE RUSSELL RESERVOIR INVESTIGATIONS

### Chronology and Sequence Definition

The boundary between the Early and Middle Woodland periods in the upper Savannah River area does not appear to have been abrupt. Initial Middle Woodland assemblages were characterized by both stemmed and triangular projectile points, as well as sand and grit tempered plain, simple stamped, fabric impressed, and check and linear check stamped pottery of the Dunlap and Deptford series. Sometime after 300 B.C. and certainly by A.D. 100 to 300 these wares were replaced by assemblages characterized by smaller temper elements and better smoothed finishes provisionally described as Cartersville. Within this local Cartersville tradition two distinct assemblages were present, the earliest characterized by plain, simple stamped, check stamped, and linear check stamped finishes. These were replaced by assemblages characterized by plain, simple stamped, and (less commonly) brushed finishes that resemble Keel's (1976:247-255) Connestee series in some respects.

The dating of the Cartersville assemblages in the upper Savannah River area is currently poorly documented, although ranges of from ca. 200 B.C. to A.D. 400 for the earlier plain, check/linear check, and simple stamped material, and from ca. A.D. 400 to A.D. 600 - 1000 for the later plain, simple stamped, and brushed material are indicated (see pp. 246-247 below). Considerable taxonomic and chronological refinement of the Woodland sequence in the upper Savannah River area is needed. The probability that two or more distinct ceramic taxa had been lumped under the rubric of Cartersville was recognized by several of the project teams working in the reservoir (Gardner 1984:71; Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:340-347; Wood et al. 1986:249). Unfortunately, criteria for resolving these taxa remain ambiguous, although some progress has been made. While the Early and Middle Woodland sequence in the upper Savannah River area can be broadly defined based on the work in the Russell Reservoir, additional field and laboratory work is clearly needed.

### Middle Woodland Settlement

Appreciable numbers of sites assumed to date to the Middle Woodland period were found in the reservoir, suggesting a fairly high population density, possibly coupled with a moderate degree of residential mobility or seasonal movement (Table 2, Figures 3, 4). The nature of these occupations, however, remains largely unknown. Short term camps where limited lithic reduction/manufacturing activities occurred were found at sites like Paris Island South and 9EB17, while

evidence for a possible structure was found at the Rocky River site. Isolated pit, post, or hearth features were observed at several other locations, indicating other limited activity areas and structures were present, but little information about site structure was found. At Rucker's Bottom Cartersville ceramics and features were found over a fairly appreciable area, suggesting the presence of a number of isolated hamlets or possibly a village during the Middle and the Late Woodland period; a comparatively small portion of this scatter was examined, yielding evidence for two or more structures (see pp. 241-243 below). Wide area excavations directed to Woodland period components need to be conducted to unravel questions of site structure and community organization during this period.

No evidence for the use of domesticates was found in any of the Early and Middle Woodland features examined in the project area, and horticulture or agriculture appears to have played only a minor role in local economies. Use of local lithic raw materials characterized most assemblages, and evidence for interaction or trade over appreciable distances was minimal. No evidence for prestige items or for Hopewellian influence was found, suggesting minimal local participation in this interaction network.

Middle Woodland burial ceremonialism remains largely unknown locally. Woodland period sand burial mounds have been reported from the Georgia and South Carolina coastal plain, including from the lower Savannah River Valley (Moore 1898; Thomas and Larsen 1979; Brooks et al. 1982). These mounds contained both extended, flexed, and secondary bundle burials, and have been interpreted as the results of collective mortuary ceremonialism by local populations. Specifically, these mound ossuary complexes are thought to represent the principal burial places for local lineages or larger social entities (Thomas and Larsen 1979; Brooks et al. 1982:56-57). No evidence for comparable features, or for burials of any kind for that matter, was found prior to the Late Woodland in the Russell Reservoir.

## THE LATE WOODLAND (ca. 1,500 - 1,000 B.P.)

### Introduction

During the Late Woodland period, the economic, organizational, and possibly ideological foundations of the cultural adaptation known as Mississippian developed over the southeastern United States. In northern Georgia late Swift Creek and Napier ceramics are considered secure indicators of Late Woodland components, and these wares were found in the Russell Reservoir, albeit in low incidence (Table 2, Figure 4). While Swift Creek ceramics have been documented from ca. A.D. 100 to A.D. 750 in the Georgia area, enough work has been done to differentiate earlier from later assemblages within this series (Kelly and Smith 1975; Rudolph 1985, 1986; Wood et al. 1986:339).

Early Swift Creek ceramics, delimited at sites like Mandeville, are characterized by complicated stamped designs with concentric circles, ovals, and (usually) simple curvilinear design motifs. Rims are typically notched or scalloped and tetrapods are common. Late Swift Creek ceramic assemblages, which date from ca. A.D. 500 - 750, were defined in large part through work with materials from the Swift Creek and Kolomoki sites. These assemblages are characterized by an increase in the incidence of plain pottery and folded rims, a decline in the incidence of notched and scalloped rims, and (usually) more complex complicated stamped designs with some zoned stamping. A fine-lined variant of Swift Creek, called B-Complex to differentiate it from classic south and central Georgia materials, was defined in the Buford Reservoir on the upper Chattahoochee River (Caldwell 1978). This material, which appears transitional between Swift Creek and Napier, is most typically found in the northern and eastern Georgia piedmont, including within the Russell Reservoir (Rudolph 1986; Wood et al. 1986:340-341), and appears to be a regional variant. Similar Swift Creek/Napier materials were found at the Anneewakee Creek site in northwest Georgia, where uncorrected dates of A.D. 605±85 and 755±110 were reported (Dickens 1975; Wood et al. 1986:341).

Napier ceramics, originally recognized during the excavations at Macon Plateau in the 1930s, are characterized by narrow, well executed rectilinear complicated stamping and a (typically) dark gray to black color, suggesting firing in a reducing atmosphere (Kelly 1938; Wauchope 1948:204, 1966:57-60; Caldwell 1958:44, n.d. 313-314; Fairbanks 1952:288). Very little is currently known about the people who made this ware. Some overlap is evident with both earlier Swift Creek and later initial Mississippian Woodstock series ceramics has been documented (Wauchope 1966:60, 437), suggesting the series represents terminal Woodland occupations in the area. An occurrence some time between roughly A.D. 600 to 900, and probably from ca. A.D. 700 to 800, is indicated (Wauchope 1966:60-63, 337-338). The ware is uncommon in northern and particularly eastern Georgia (Ferguson 1971:67; Garrow 1975:24; Keel 1976:221), although it has been found on a number of sites in low incidence (Rudolph 1986).

## EVIDENCE FOR LATE WOODLAND OCCUPATION IN THE RUSSELL RESERVOIR

### Introduction

Late Woodland assemblages were found at a small number of sites in the reservoir. Swift Creek components were found at 13 sites, while Napier sherds were reported from seven locations (Table 2). Small stemmed points thought to date to this period were found at six sites. While the incidence of diagnostics and components was low when compared with other periods, people do appear to have been present. Unfortunately no major, well defined occupations dating to this period were examined in detail. At two sites, Rucker's Bottom and Simpson's Field, dense Late Woodland components were recognized, but only a comparatively minor amount of work was actually done. Structures were found

at both sites, associated with late Swift Creek materials at Simpson's Field and with a probable late "Cartersville" occupation at Rucker's Bottom.

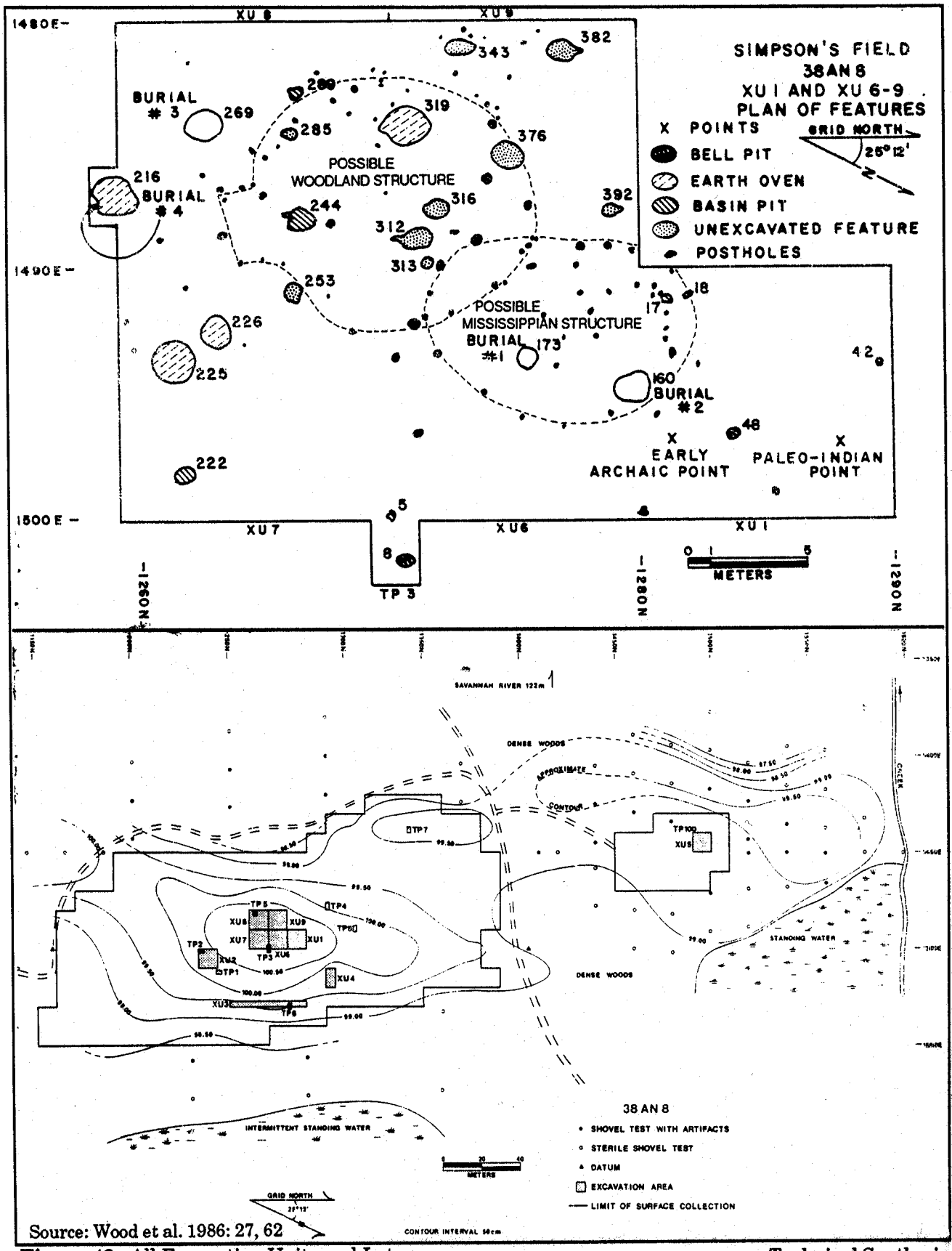
## Simpson's Field (38AN8)

Introduction. At the Simpson's Field site (38AN8) an extensive Late Woodland artifact and feature assemblage was found on an older Pleistocene terrace adjacent and parallel to the Savannah (Figure 49; Wood et al. 1986:49-107). Cultural materials were typically confined to the plowzone, with features intruding into the underlying sandy/clay subsoil. While artifacts ranging in age from the PaleoIndian to the historic periods were found, the primary occupations on the site were during the Late Woodland and Mississippian periods.

Field investigations included controlled surface collection, proton magnetometer remote sensing, and the excavation of systematically dispersed shovel tests, intuitively placed test units, and wide area stripping and shovel skimming. An extensive controlled surface collection, consisting of all artifacts within 10 m grid units, was made over a 2.4 ha area of the scatter that was under cultivation. Some surface separation of the Late Woodland and Mississippian components was recognized, permitting subsequent examination to focus on major concentrations of debris within each occupation (Figure 7; Wood et al. 1986:49). Eighty five shovel tests and 10 test units were opened following the surface collection to further define the deposits (Figure 49). Using a small bulldozer, the plowzone was then removed from a 50 x 50 m block opened in the most productive part of the site, on a low rise. Some 300 square meters within this area, at the south end of the low rise, were shovel skimmed, with all features mapped and examined.

A total of 134 cultural features (out of 399 stains) were found at Simpson's Field, 16 of which could be conclusively attributed to the Late Woodland period. Of the total feature assemblage, 109 stains were found to be postholes, most of which could not be identified to period, but which were assumed to be Late Woodland in age. The Late Woodland features were found primarily in the western part of the block unit in XU's 1, and 6-9 (Figure 49). A probable Mississippian structure and three apparently associated features from the eastern portion of this same block are described in Chapter VII (pp. 304-308).

Woodland Features at Simpson's Field (38AN8). Features attributable to the Late Woodland period at 38AN8 included three bell-shaped pits, five shallow basin-shaped pits, four apparent earth ovens, a cluster of rocks and sherds, and two burials. In addition, 109 postmolds were identified, many of which probably dated to the Late Woodland era, although diagnostics were only infrequently noted in the fill (Wood et al. 1986:63-75). Although no Woodland structures were identified in the report on the work at the site, a suspicious ring of posts and other features was present in center of block that could be a possible structure ca. 8 to 10 m in diameter (Figure 49). Postmolds were widely scattered over the site, and were found in test units in most of the areas examined. Given the subsequent




Source: Wood et al. 1986: 27, 62

**Figure 49.** All Excavation Units and Late Woodland/Mississippian Features, XU1, Simpson's Field Site, 38AN8.

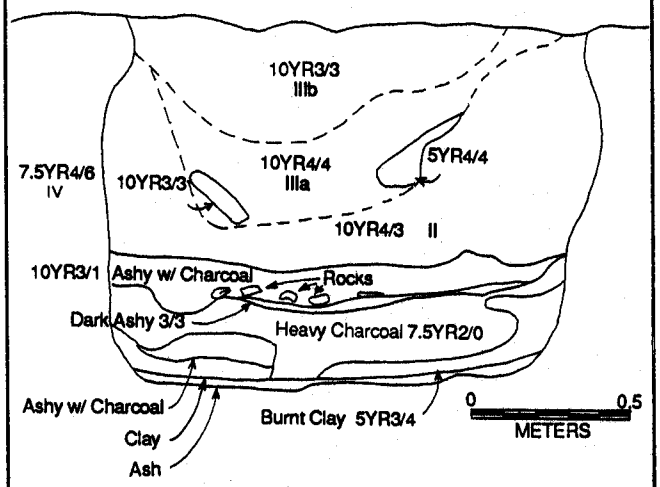
Mississippian occupation on the site, which apparently included a small structure, attributing all of the remaining posts to the Woodland component can not be justified. Wood et al. (1986:107) argued that the site Late Woodland assemblage was probably formed by at least one and possibly multiple households clustered near the crest of the rise. The clustered nature of the earth ovens may indicate communal cooking activity, or alternatively the rebuilding of the cooking facilities of a single household.

The discovery of two burials of probable Late Woodland age suggested extended site use. A human skull and mandible were found in the wall of Feature 216, a probable earth oven, and a number of extremely fragmentary pieces of bone were observed in the general fill of this feature (Wood et al. 1986:69). The remains were attributed to a child of approximately seven years of age. The earth oven, which contained both Swift Creek and Napier pottery, was assumed to have intruded the burial, and thus postdate it. In the absence of much in the way of earlier Woodland materials, the burial was dated to a somewhat earlier period of Late Woodland site use (i.e, sometime before the earth oven was built). The second burial, Feature 269, was a poorly preserved adult apparently buried in a semiflexed position facing the southeast. No grave goods were found, and the condition of the bone was so friable as to preclude its successful collection (Wood et al. 1986:74-75).

Subsistence Remains. Carbonized plant remains were examined from three Late Woodland features at Simpson's Field (Gardner 1986a), while pollen samples were processed from two others (Sheehan 1986). In Feature 216, a probable earth oven (Figure 50), a 25 cm thick charcoal lens near the base produced approximately nine kilograms of charcoal. Analysis of two samples totaling ca. 275 grams identified pine bark and stems (*Pinus sp.*), oak (*Quercus sp.*), unidentified ring porous and ring diffuse species, an unidentified conifer, cane (*Arundinnaria sp.*), an unidentified grass seed, an intact acorn meat, and persimmon *(Diospyrus virginiana)* and sumac (*Rhus sp.*) seeds. The presence of persimmon and sumac seeds, which ripen in the fall, and a high (ca. 1:1) nutshell to wood weight ratio, indicated pitfill probably occurred in the fall (Gardner 1986a:391).

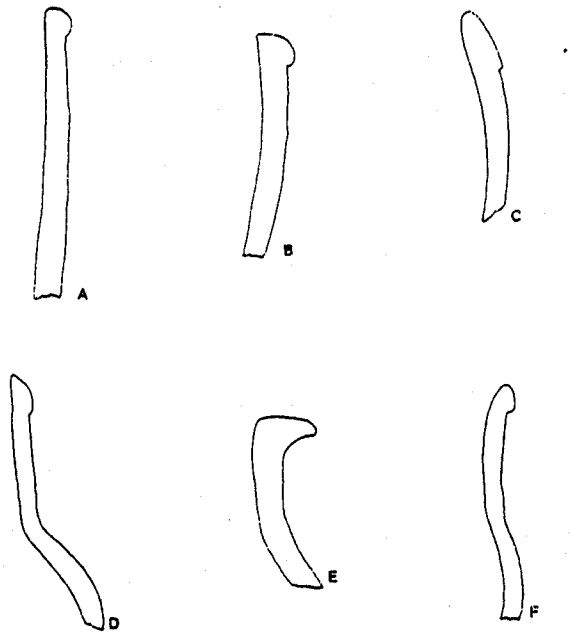
Feature 244, a small basin-shaped pit, yielded acorn and hickory nut fragments and unidentified wood. The absence of seeds and a comparatively high nutshell to wood ratio of 1:2 suggested a winter/early spring deposition (Gardner 1986a:390-391). Feature 319, a second earth oven, yielded acorn, hickory, and butternut shell fragments, a squash rind, and maypop (*Passaflora incarnata L.*), grape (*Vitis sp.*), and polygonum (*Polygonum sp.*) seeds. The presence of grape and maypop, late summer through fall species, and a comparatively low nutshell to wood ratio of ca. 1:3.5, suggested pit deposition during the late summer or early fall (Gardner 1986:390). Some or all of the material from Feature 319, however, may date to the Mississippian period, since a sample of the charcoal yielded an uncorrected date of A.D. 1260±60 (Wood et al. 1986:106).

## Profile of Feature 216, a probable earth oven, 38AN8.




I CHARCOAL AND ASH ZONE
II MIDDEN FILL WITH ABUNDANT POTTERY
III MIDDEN SLUMP
IV SUBSOIL ORANGE SANDY CLAY

## Swift Creek Rim Profiles, 38AN8.

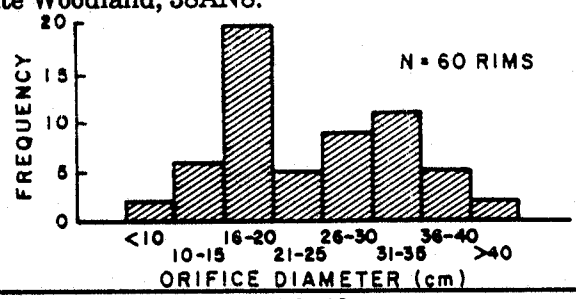



A, B: STRAIGHT SIDED JAR
C: INVERTED RIM, RESTRICTED NECK VESSEL
D, E, F: BOWL WITH SHOULDER AND RESTRICTED NECK

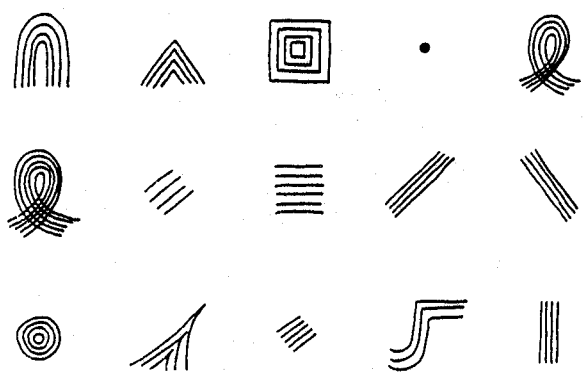
## Frequency of Rim Treatment on Late Woodland Vessels From 38AN8.

| Rim Treatment | N | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Medium Fold (0.5-1.0 cm) | 49 | 54 |
| Large Fold (>1 cm) | 6 | 7 |
| Small Fold (<0.5 cm) | 16 | 18 |
| Fold to Interior | 4 | 4 |
| Straight No Fold | 12 | 13 |
| Flared No Fold | 3 | 3 |
| Totals | 90 | 99 |

## Frequency Distribution of Orifice Diameters, Late Woodland, 38AN8.




## Swift Creek Design Elements, 38AN8.



Source: Wood et al. 1986: 70, 80, 81, 100, 103, 104

## Co-occurrence of Design Motifs in Late Woodland Features, 38AN8.

| Feature | Barred Oval with Chevron Fillers | Nested Squares | Barred Oval with Curvilinear Fillers |
|---|---|---|---|
| TRC 1 | X | X | X |
| 7 | X | X | |
| 8 | X | | |
| 111 | X | X | |
| 216 | X | X | X |
| 225 | X | X | |
| 226 | X | X | |
| 244 | X | | |
| 269 | X | | |
| 289 | | | |
| 319 | X | | X |
| 399 | X | | X |
| Frequency | 11/12 | 6/12 | 4/12 |

**Figure 50.** Swift Creek Features and Ceramic Attributes, Simpson's Field Site, 38AN8.

The range of carbonized ethnobotanical materials in the Late Woodland features at Simpson's Field indicated site occupation took place over several months and probably over two or more seasons, including late summer, fall and winter. Year-round occupation, in fact, cannot be dismissed, although neither can it be proven. Plant species diversity was low, well below the range of species exploited elsewhere in the region at this time level, notably in the Little Tennessee River Valley (Chapman and Shea 1981). This was probably due to sampling considerations, however, specifically the low number of features that were examined, and the fact that two of them were the same category of feature, earth ovens (Gardner 1986a:392). Examination of additional Late Woodland samples from Simpson's Field, which have been curated with the reservoir assemblages, may some day lead to a more inclusive picture of subsistence practices at the site.

Pollen samples were taken from two Late Woodland features, a cluster of rocks and sherds (Feature 7), and a large bell-shaped pit (Feature 8) (Sheehan 1986:396). Although preservation was poor and counts were low, some useful information was recovered. The arboreal pollen spectra indicated the presence of a pine-oak-hickory forest, much like that present in the region today, although the occurrence of pollen from herbaceous species such as ragweed (*Ambrosia)*, the daisy tribe of the Composite family (*Tubuliflorea)*, grasses (*Graminae*), and the Cheno-Am group (*Chenopodiaceae-Amaranthaceae*) also points to open, possibly highly disturbed terrain in the immediate site area. This was interpreted as disturbance in the immediate area of structures, and possibly clearing associated with cultivation (Sheehan 1986:394; Wood et al. 1986:106).

Two grains of *Cucurbita*-type pollen from either squash or pumpkin were found in the fill of Feature 8; complementing the squash rind fragment found in the carbonized sample from Feature 319. This was the only unambiguous domesticate identified in Late Woodland context at the site, although the ragweed, daisy/sunflower, and Cheno-Am pollen may have also come from cultivated species. A heavily corroded possible maize (*Zea* sp.) pollen grain was found in Feature 7, a half-meter diameter cluster of Swift Creek and Napier sherds and small rocks. Because there is considerable interest in the occurrence of *Zea* in Woodland context in the eastern Woodlands, this association requires evaluation. Feature 7 was about 24 cm thick, and was confined to a faint stained area; its boundaries were not particularly well-defined. Charcoal from the fill yielded an uncorrected date of 80 B.C. (BETA-2625, 2030±50 B. P.; Wood et al. 1986:74), which was far too early given the Swift Creek and Napier sherds present in the fill. In light of the the poor feature definition, the spurious radiocarbon date, and the absence of additional supporting ethnobotanical evidence from the site, in the form of carbonized maize remains or additional pollen in secure context, a Late Woodland Zea association at Simpson's Field (38AN8) cannot be considered demonstrated.

Late Woodland Artifacts at Simpson's Field. Small, contracting stemmed quartz projectile points were found in apparent association with the Late Woodland component at Simpson's Field (Wood et al. 1986:75). Although recovered in surface context, they were the dominant hafted biface form on the site next to

small triangular points, which were probably associated with the Mississippian occupation. Similar stemmed points were recovered at the Swift Creek type site near Macon, Georgia (Kelly and Smith 1975:66-81), and have been attributed to this period in the Big Bend area of the Oconee River (Snow 1977:99).

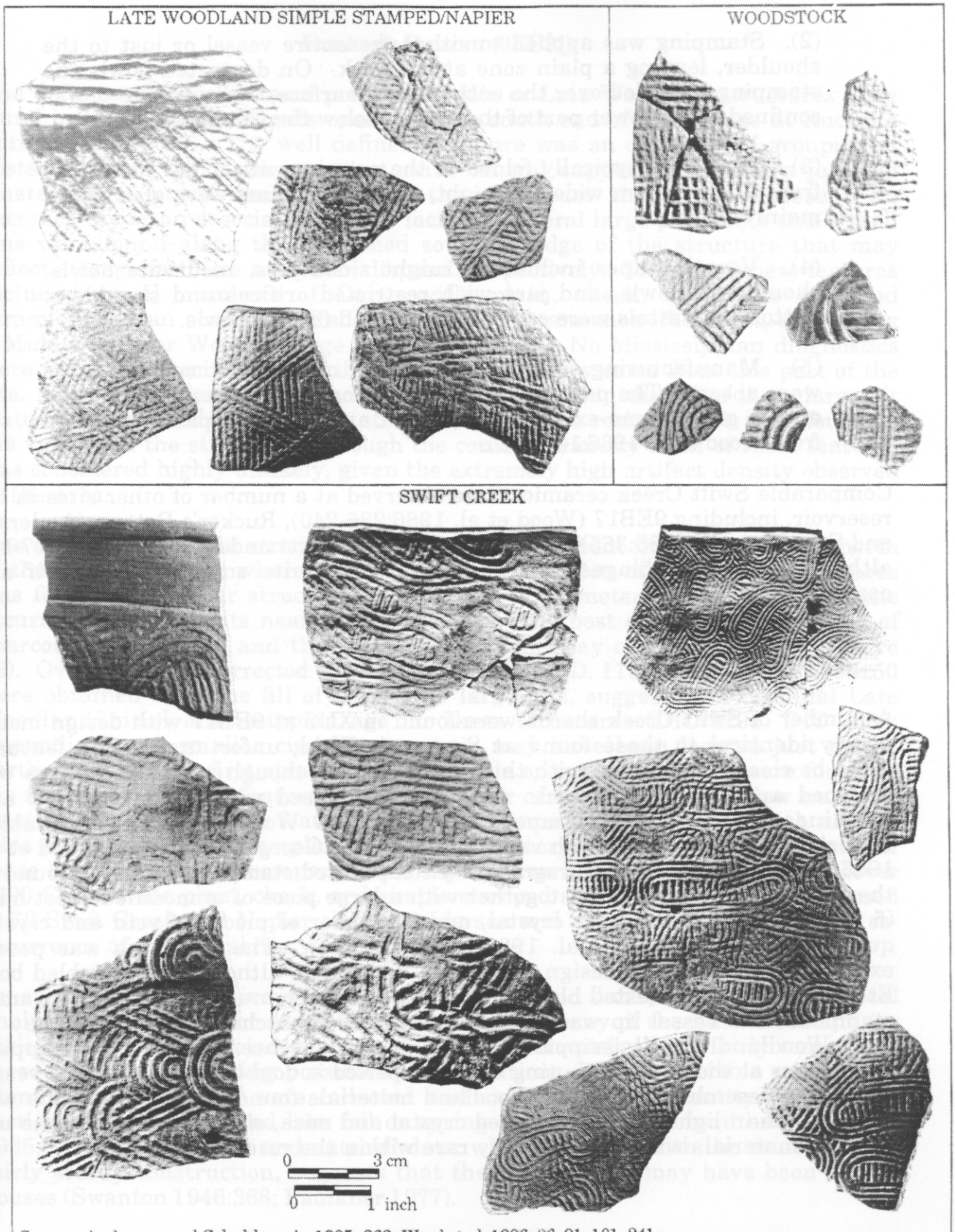
Other presumably Late Woodland artifacts found at the site included bifacially chipped cutting tools, a soapstone elbow(?) pipe fragment, a soapstone pin fragment, a piece of cut mica, a ground stone disk, and a quartz crystal. Quartzite grinding stones with battering and grinding facets were found in six features, and were interpreted as plant processing tools. A pitted soapstone cobble was also found that may have been a nutting stone (Wood et al. 1986:77). The presence of a range of artifacts complements the feature data in indicating extended site use in a number of activities. Debitage recovered from the site was described as "overwhelmingly quartz and represented maintenance activities rather than tool manufacture" (Wood et al. 1986:77).

Late Woodland Ceramics at Simpson's Field. The ceramics recovered from Simpson's Field comprise the best documented Swift Creek/Napier assemblage found in the reservoir, and one of the best documented assemblages on this time level in north Georgia. A total of 298 Swift Creek and 59 Napier Complicated Stamped sherds were found at the site. These types were typically found in direct association with one another in feature fill, suggesting contemporaneous manufacture, use, and discard. Design motifs included ovals, teardrops, chevrons, concentric circles, squares, rectangles, and parallel lines (Wood et al. 1986:77; Figures 50, 51). Vessel forms present included straight sided jars, incurvate bowls, shouldered bowls, and jars with restricted orifices and shoulders. Design and MNI vessel analyses were conducted with the ceramics found in 12 of the identifiable Late Woodland features on the site. Identical design motifs were found in a number of features (Figure 50; Wood et al. 1986:100), suggesting a single comparatively brief but intensive occupation (under one or a few years), rather than several short term, widely separated occupations. More extended occupation, lasting more than one or a few years, was also not indicated (Wood et al. 1986:102).

Plain vessels were typically extensively smoothed or burnished; the great majority of the rims were folded (ca. 83 percent; Figure 50). Vessel size and shape were difficult to determine from the sherds present. A bimodal vessel diameter distribution was indicated, with modal sizes around 16 - 20 cm and 31 - 35 cm (Figure 50), possibly reflecting individual and family cooking utensils, or serving versus storage vessels, respectively.

The Late Woodland vessels from Simpson's Field were characterized by the following attributes:

> (1). Curvilinear complicated stamping motifs were commonly used with ovals or teardrops and filled with parallel lines. Filler elements were often rectilinear chevrons or curvilinear lines. Rectilinear nested squares, rectangles, or diamonds were also popular.




Source: Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985: 363; Wood et al. 1986: 86, 91, 101, 241

**Figure 51.** Simple Stamped, Swift Creek, Napier, and Woodstock Ceramics, Richard B. Russell Reservoir Area.

(2). Stamping was applied to either the entire vessel or just to the shoulder, leaving a plain zone at the neck. On decorated bowls the stamping extended over the entire vessel surface, while on jars it was confined to the lower part of the vessel, below the shoulder.

(3). Rims were typically folded to the exterior with folds commonly from 0.5 to 1.0 cm wide. Straight, unmodified rims were also found, mainly on jars.

(4). Vessel shapes included straight sided jars, incurvate bowls, shouldered bowls, and jars with restricted orifices and shoulders. Bottoms of vessels were conical for jars and flat for bowls.

(5). Manufacturing techniques included coiling, but coil fractures were absent. The paste was hard and generally tempered with sand and/or grit. Some examples exhibited a very sandy paste (adapted from Wood et al. 1986:104-105).

Comparable Swift Creek ceramics were observed at a number of other sites in the reservoir, including 9EB17 (Wood et al. 1986:236-240), Rucker's Bottom (Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:365), and Gregg Shoals (Tippitt and Marquardt 1984:7-15), although the assemblages at these sites were quite small, with few if any associated features.

**9EB17 (Transect 21)**

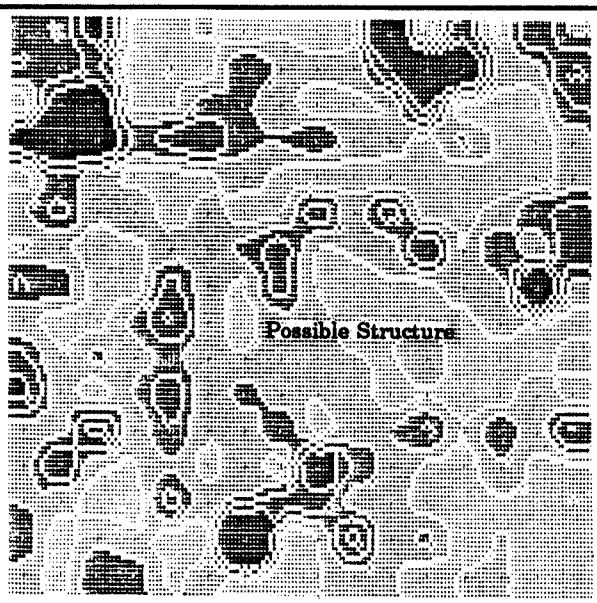
A number of Swift Creek sherds were found in XU2 at 9EB17 with design motifs nearly identical to those found at Simpson's Field; unfortunately, no features could be clearly associated with this material, even though a 10 x 20 m area was stripped and shovel skimmed. One unusual sherd with a zoned check and rectilinear complicated stamped motif may be Woodstock, and resembled materials found in the Etowah valley of northwest Georgia (Figure 51; Wood et al. 1986:240-241). An unusual fragmentary complicated stamped vessel was found in the fill of Feature 13 in XU2, together with a large piece of unmodified sheet mica (5 x 4.5 x 1.5 cm), a quartz crystal, and a number of pieces of vein and crystal quartz debitage (Wood et al. 1986:240, 242, 244). The stamping was poorly executed, rendering the design difficult to determine, although it resembled both Etowah stamped or nested blocks (Wauchope 1966:Figure 217) and crude Lamar stamped. The vessel lip was irregularly scored or hatched. The vessel may be later Woodland or Mississippian in age. In the absence of other Mississippian diagnostics at the site, attributing it to this period is doubtful, although the vessel in no way resembled the other Woodland materials found on the site. This was unfortunate in light of the associated crystal and mica, since evidence for the use of these materials was comparatively rare within the reservoir.

## Rucker's Bottom (9EB91)

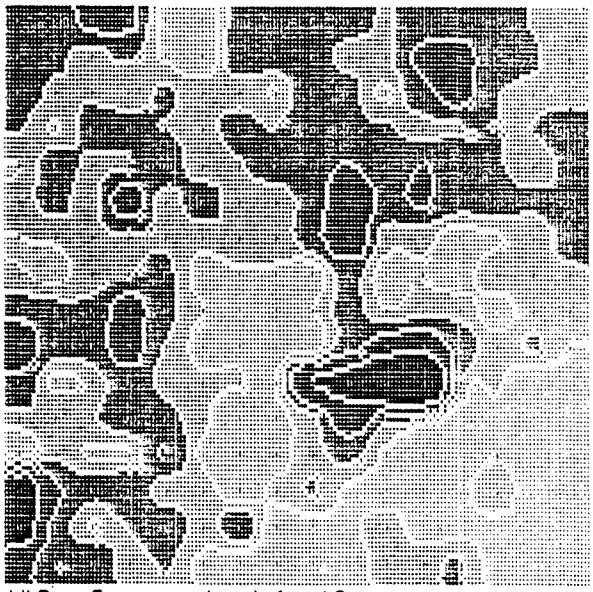
One definite and one or more possible Middle or Late Woodland structures were found in the large block units opened at the south end of the terrace at Rucker's Bottom (Figure 52). The well defined structure was an oval-shaped grouping of posts roughly 7 by 10 m in extent, with central support posts and a jumbled clustering of posts immediately to the southeast that may represent an entranceway or an associated storage facility. Several large pits and a small shell lens were found along the presumed southern edge of the structure that may reflect storage facilities and trash disposal, respectively. The fill of these features included small numbers of Cartersville plain, check, or simple stamped ceramics, and an occasional Yadkin or Otarre/Swannanoa-like point, suggesting a Middle or later Woodland age for the structure. No Mississippian diagnostics were found in association with these features, and few came from this part of the site. Only trace amounts of wood charcoal were found in the fill of these large pit features, in spite of extensive flotation efforts. Three rock clusters were found in the vicinity of the structure, although the contemporaneity of all of these features was considered highly unlikely, given the extremely high artifact density observed in the area.

One or more additional structures may have been present in the area to the north of the first structure, where an irregular concentration of pit and post features was found. A circular structure roughly 8 m in diameter was suggested by the occurrence of large pits near the south side of the post concentration, an arc of charcoal in this area, and the hint of an entranceway on the southeast (Figure 52). Overlapping uncorrected radiocarbon dates of A.D. 1180±45 and A.D. 1090±50 were obtained from the fill of two of the large pits, suggesting a terminal Late Woodland/initial Mississippian age for these structures (DIC-2295, DIC-2296; Appendix I). A smaller circular structure may have been located just to the north. As with the first structure, Cartersville or earlier ceramics were found in the fill of many of the features. Probable later ceramics present in low numbers in at least a few of these features included a burnished plain ware with narrow folds and Swift Creek Complicated stamped pottery. Given the low incidence of these later wares when compared with the Cartersville materials on the site (over 2000 Cartersville plain, check, and simple stamped sherds were found, as opposed to 72 Swift Creek and Napier sherds; Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:321), a co-occurrence of the two series was suggested.

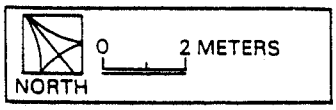
In spite of an intensive program of flotation and laboratory ethnobotanical analysis, no evidence for domesticates was found in any of the Late Woodland (or earlier) features excavated at the site. Carbonized nutshell was fairly common in these features, indicating possible fall occupations, and appreciable use of wild plant foods. Shellfish were collected and eaten in small quantity, and a thin section analysis indicated late fall or spring collection (Blanchard and Claassen 1985:672). The shellfish and nutshell data, when combined with the evidence for a fairly sturdy construction, suggests that these structures may have been winter houses (Swanton 1946:368; Faulkner 1977).

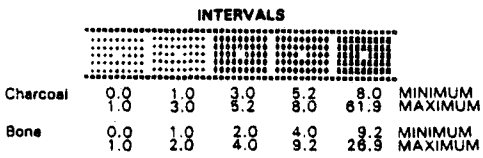


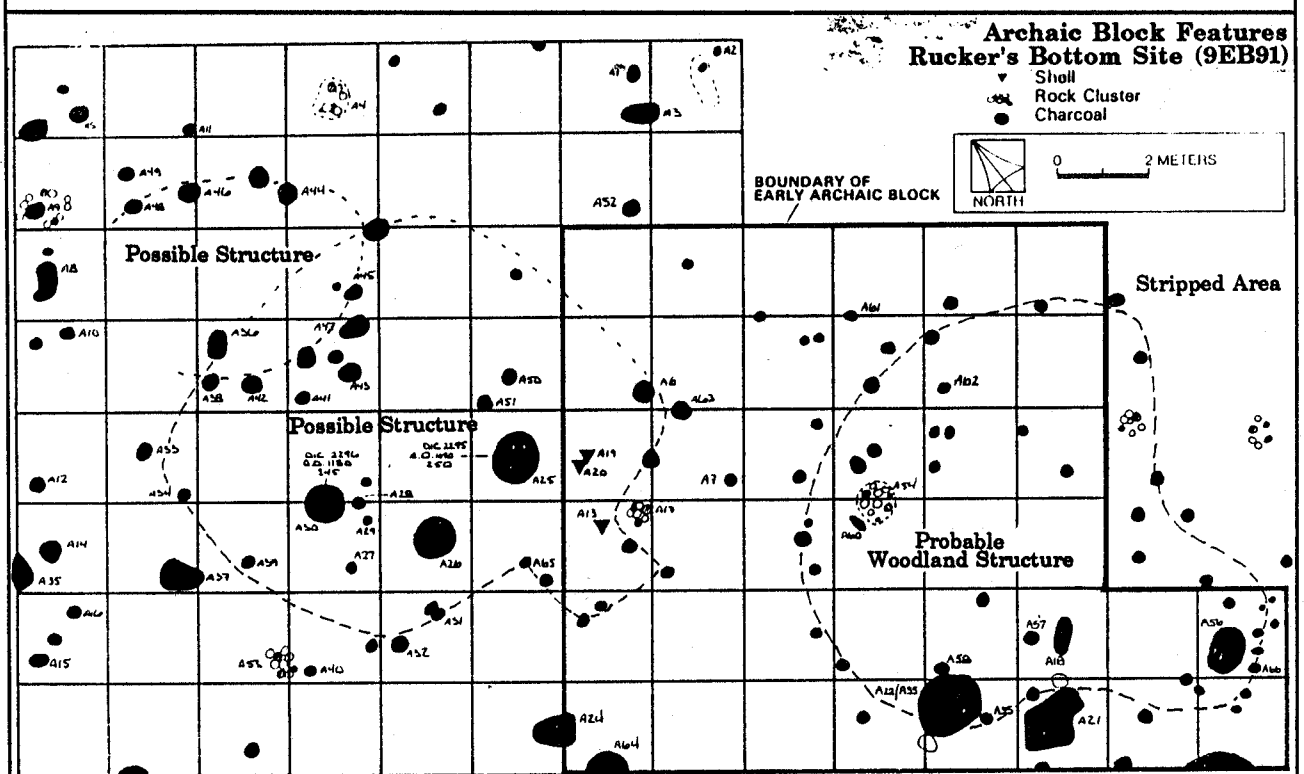

(c) Charcoal, Levels 1 and 2 (0-20cm.) Combined. (Weight Data)



(d) Bone Fragments, Levels 1 and 2 (0-20cm.) Combined (Weight Data)




Source: Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985: 351, 372

**Figure 52.** Charcoal, Bone, and Feature Distribution 16 x 16 m Block Area, Rucker's Bottom Site, 9EB91.

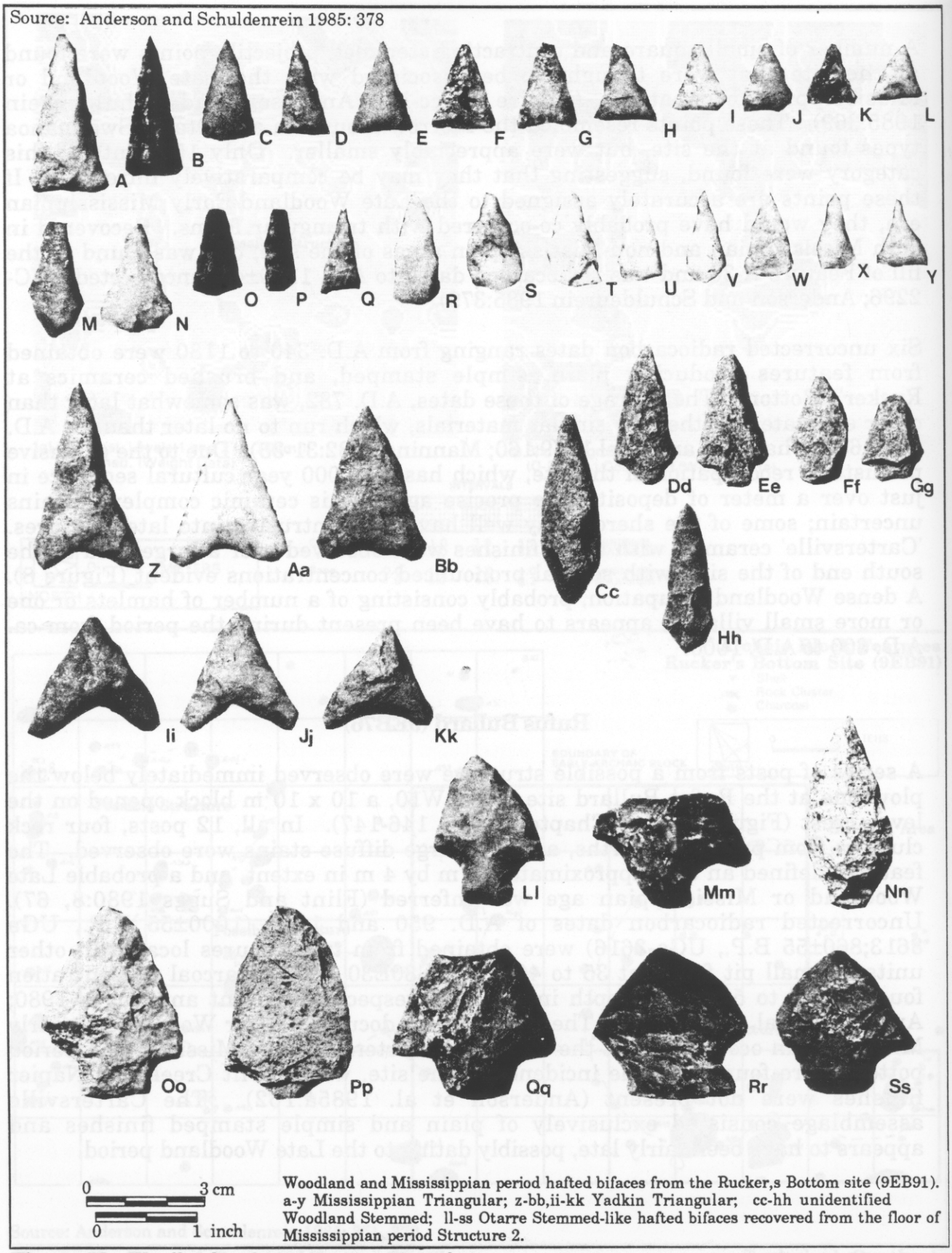
**Technical Synthesis**
**Cultural Resources Investigations**
**Richard B. Russell Reservoir**

A number of small square and contracting stemmed projectile points were found at the site that were thought to be associated with the Late Woodland or Mississippian occupations (Figure 53:cc-hh; Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:369). These points resembled the Morrow Mountain and Otarre/Swannanoa types found at the site, but were appreciably smaller. Only 15 points of this category were found, suggesting that they may be comparatively infrequent. If these points are accurately assigned to the Late Woodland/Early Mississippian era, they would have probably co-occurred with triangular forms. Recovered in both Mississippian and non-Mississippian areas of the site, one was found in the fill of Feature A-30 and was radiocarbon dated to A.D. 1180±45, uncorrected (DIC-2296; Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:379).

Six uncorrected radiocarbon dates ranging from A.D. 340 to 1180 were obtained from features producing plain, simple stamped, and brushed ceramics at Rucker's Bottom. The average of these dates, A.D. 782, was somewhat later than other estimates for these or similar materials, which run to no later than ca. A.D. 500 - 600 (Chapman and Keel 1979:160; Manning 1982:31-35). Due to the extensive prehistoric reoccupation of the site, which has a 10,000 year cultural sequence in just over a meter of deposits, the precise age of this ceramic complex remains uncertain; some of the sherds may well have been intrusive into later features. 'Cartersville' ceramics with these finishes were observed over a large area at the south end of the site, with several pronounced concentrations evident (Figure 8). A dense Woodland occupation, probably consisting of a number of hamlets or one or more small villages, appears to have been present during the period from ca. A.D. 300 to A.D. 1000.

**Rufus Bullard (9EB76)**

A series of posts from a possible structure were observed immediately below the plowzone at the Rufus Bullard site in S30W10, a 10 x 10 m block opened on the levee crest (Figure 48; see Chapter V, pp. 146-147). In all, 12 posts, four rock clusters from probable hearths, and two large diffuse stains were observed. The features defined an oval approximately 7 m by 4 m in extent, and a probable Late Woodland or Mississippian age was inferred (Flint and Suggs 1980:8, 67). Uncorrected radiocarbon dates of A.D. 950 and 1090 (1000±55 B.P., UGa 3613;860±55 B.P., UGa-3616) were obtained from two features located in other units, a small pit found at 35 to 40 cm in S80E30 and a charcoal concentration found at 47 to 52 cm in depth in S40W30, respectively (Flint and Suggs 1980; Anderson et al. 1985a:154). These dates may document later Woodland or early Mississippian occupations at the site. Both Cartersville and Mississippian period pottery were found in some incidence at the site, while Swift Creek and Napier finishes were not present (Anderson et al. 1985a:162). The Cartersville assemblage consisted exclusively of plain and simple stamped finishes and appears to have been fairly late, possibly dating to the Late Woodland period.




Woodland and Mississippian period hafted bifaces from the Rucker,s Bottom site (9EB91). a-y Mississippian Triangular; z-bb,ii-kk Yadkin Triangular; cc-hh unidentified Woodland Stemmed; ll-ss Otarre Stemmed-like hafted bifaces recovered from the floor of Mississippian period Structure 2.

**Figure 53.** Woodland and Mississippian Period Projectile Points, Richard B. Russell Reservoir Area.

### Gregg Shoals

A number of curvilinear and rectilinear stamped sherds were found in the upper three zones (0 to 60 cm) of the 8 x 8 m excavation block at Gregg Shoals (Tippitt and Marquardt 1984:7-15 to 7-21). The curvilinear designs were similar to Early Swift Creek motifs, while the rectilinear designs resembled those found in Late Swift Creek. Both large and small triangular projectile points resembling the Yadkin and Caraway types were found in the same levels (Figure 29), but could not be assigned to any specific period due to the mixed nature of these levels. Debitage in these levels was almost entirely vein or crystal quartz, with only trace amounts of metavolcanics and chert (Figure 27).

## THE LATE WOODLAND IN THE UPPER SAVANNAH RIVER IN LIGHT OF THE RUSSELL RESERVOIR INVESTIGATIONS

### Chronology and Sequence Definition

The nature of the Woodland cultural sequence along the upper Savannah, even after the Russell Reservoir investigations, remains the subject of considerable ambiguity and confusion (Gardner 1984b:48-61; Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:338-365; Anderson 1985a; Rudolph 1985). Only one major component readily accepted as Late Woodland in age was found, the initial Late Woodland Swift Creek assemblage at Simpson's Field that was dated from ca. A.D. 600 to 750. While probable Late Woodland components were found at Rucker's Bottom and Rufus Bullard sites, the associated ceramic assemblages - plain, burnished plain, simple stamped, and brushed pottery - more closely resembled supposed Middle Woodland Cartersville materials from the surrounding region.

The relationship between the seemingly contemporaneous Swift Creek and Cartersville assemblages found in the upper Savannah River will need to be resolved for an effective local chronology to emerge. The apparent absence of Cartersville ceramics in the Swift Creek features at Simpson's Field, and the low incidence of Swift Creek ceramics at Rucker's Bottom and Rufus Bullard, suggests that temporal or cultural differences of some kind existed between the makers of these wares. A cultural rather than a temporal difference appears the most likely, since the contemporaneity of Swift Creek and Cartersville or related ceramics has been noted at a number of sites in the general region (e.g., Kelly and Smith 1976:48; Chapman and Keel 1979:157; Kelly 1979:2; Manning 1982:31). The nature of this interaction remains unknown, however. The regional distribution of these wares may reflect the occurrence of differing groups or cultural entities. In this view, the assemblages found in the upper Savannah River area may represent overlap in the annual ranges or placement of settlements by the Swift Creek populations living predominantly in central and southwest Georgia area and the makers of Cartersville and Connestee ceramics living predominantly in the piedmont and Appalachian Summit area. Alternatively, the Swift Creek wares found in the northeast Georgia piedmont may be special "ceremonial" or

trade vessels used by local populations making less elaborate ceramics. Given their occurrence in general feature fill at Simpson's Field, this latter explanation appears unlikely

Few sites with Swift Creek or Napier ceramics were found in the Russell Reservoir area, and the wares are uncommon in the vicinity of the eastern Georgia and western South Carolina piedmont (Wauchope 1966:436-438; Ferguson 1971:67; Garrow 1975:24; Keel 1976:221-222). While recent analyses suggest they actually occur on appreciable numbers of sites (Rudolph 1985, 1986), a decrease in incidence is clearly evident proceeding from west to east into the South Carolina piedmont. The infrequent occurrence of Swift Creek and Napier ceramics from the Savannah River east suggests that either the region was sparsely populated during the Middle/Late Woodland or that other wares were in use. The assumption here is that other wares, characterized by plain, simple stamped, and brushed finishes were in use. Advocating depopulation based on the absence of diagnostics found in other areas can only have merit if it can can be convincingly shown that no contemporaneous assemblages were present. As recounted previously, Woodland sequences characterized by other diagnostics have been well-documented along the lower Savannah River, across the South Carolina coastal plain, and in the piedmont and mountainous regions of western North Carolina.

An alternative explanation for the low incidence of Late Woodland sites in the reservoir attributed their general absence to depositional conditions (T. Rudolph 1986). This inference, that later Woodland sites characterized by Swift Creek and Napier ceramics were common but were archaeologically invisible because of extensive historic period sedimentation in floodplain areas, does not appear to be borne out. Few Late Woodland artifacts were found in the numerous floodplain testing columns excavated in floodplain and island areas (Thompson and Gardner 1983; Gardner et al. 1983), and during other large scale data recovery projects.

The evidence from the project area suggests that plain and simple stamped wares traditionally documented as Cartersville or Connestee may extend later in time than previously thought in the upper Savannah River, to ca. A.D. 800 to 1000. Eight radiocarbon dates for plain and simple stamped ceramics from the Russell Reservoir were late Middle Woodland to early Mississippian in age (Appendix I). A Late Woodland/Early Mississippian simple stamped series has been documented from the coastal plain of South Carolina (Anderson 1982:308), and similarly late dates have been cautiously advanced for the end of the Connestee series in the Appalachian Summit (Keel 1976:225). While the Connestee series is traditionally dated much earlier, from ca. A.D. 200 to 600, 18 of the 27 radiocarbon dates attributed to the period postdate A.D. 600 (Keel 1976:Table 32; Purrington 1983:142). Over the course of the Woodland changes in paste were evident in the Russell Reservoir area, from coarser to finer sand, a trend also noted in the Appalachian Summit (Keel 1976:247, 256, 260). A replacement (with some co-occurrence) of a heavily sand and grit tempered linear check, check, and simple stamped Deptford-like assemblage by a finer tempered Cartersville series with the

same finishes was observed, with these replaced in turn by plain, simple stamped, and brushed Cartersville materials. Elsewhere in north Georgia, at Cane Island (Wood 1981:29), Booger Bottom (Caldwell et al. 1952:320, 326), and apparently at Two Run Creek (Wauchope 1966:226), a replacement of check and simple stamped ceramics by simple stamped ceramics has been documented. Given this evidence, the existence of a Late Woodland horizon characterized by plain, simple stamped, and brushed 'Cartersville' finishes, and contemporaneous with Swift Creek and Napier assemblages, is plausible in the upper Savannah River Valley (see also Anderson 1985a:40-44). Projectile points in use during the Late Woodland period appear to have been larger Yadkin-like Triangulars, and possibly Mississippian Triangulars, although no good evidence for use of these smaller forms was found. Small stemmed points were found in probable Late Woodland context at both the Simpson's Field and Rucker's Bottom sites, suggesting this form was in use as well.

## Late Woodland Settlement

Given the absence of a reliable local cultural sequence, it is difficult to talk about Late Woodland settlement in the upper Savannah River region with any degree of confidence. At the present the only unambiguous occupations dating to this period are those characterized by late Swift Creek and Napier ceramics. Anderson phase terminology has been tentatively advanced to accommodate sites in the upper Savannah River area dating from ca. A.D. 600 to 750 and characterized by the co-occurrence of Swift Creek and Napier pottery (Wood et al. 1986:236, 342, 390). Named for the occupation at the Simpson's Field site in Anderson County, South Carolina, very little is actually known about these occupations, and phase definition would appear premature. The presence of structures, earth ovens, and burials, and limited evidence for the cultivation of domesticates such as squash indicates extended occupation of the area was occurring. Subsistence pursuits directed to a range of wild plant foods were well documented, and there was also evidence for cultivation. No reliable evidence for the cultivation of corn was found, although a possible maize pollen grain was found in a feature dating to this period.

The small number of sites where identifiable Swift Creek or Napier ceramics were found suggests a low local population density, at least by groups using these wares. The infrequent occurrence of Napier and Swift Creek complicated stamped wares in the Savannah River region and areas to the east may indicate comparatively minimal interaction between groups using these wares, which are common in southwestern and western Georgia, and local Woodland groups. These local populations, it has been argued, employed ceramics characterized by plain, simple stamped, and brushed ceramics that have been traditionally subsumed within the Cartersville and Connestee series. In this view, where Swift Creek and Napier ceramics have been found in the Savannah River region, they may document brief occupations by groups based elsewhere. They may also signal groups involved in trade and ceremonial networks, and possibly more responsive to change (Wood et al. 1986:343).