

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Kolomoki Mounds

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Kolomoki Mounds State Park not for publication

city, town Blakely vicinity of

state Georgia code 13 county Early code 099

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Georgia Department of Natural Resources--Parks and Historic Sites Division

street & number

city, town Atlanta vicinity of state Georgia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Early County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Blakely state GA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Georgia State Archeology Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records Dept. of Anthropology, University of Georgia

city, town Athens state GA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located about five miles north of Blakely, Georgia, Kolomoki is situated on an elevated spur of land somewhat isolated from the surrounding countryside by rather deep, sometimes precipitous gullies and streams on three sides. Numerous springs feeding the streams may be among the reasons for the intensive occupation of the site. The stream to the east of the site, called Little Kolomoki Creek, was dammed in the 1930s to create Lake Kolomoki. Early descriptions of the site date to the 19th century. In the 1872 Annual Report of Smithsonian Institution, William McKinley noted the presences of five mounds (corresponding to those currently identified as A, D, E, F, and G) at the site as shown on accompanying Map B. McKinley contended that embankments 30 feet wide and from 1 to 2 feet high surround the site. (Refer to Maps E and F.) The two mounds known today as F and G, appeared to be bastions of the embankment according to McKinley. This 1872 report mentioned another feature of the site, a ditch south and east of the largest mound. The structures were also recognized in 1873 by C.C. Jones, who called them the Mercier Plantation Mounds after the owner of the property at that time.

In the 1940s, Charles H. Fairbanks, an archeologist with the National Park Service at Ocmulgee National Monument, described the property. Fairbanks (1941a, 1946) noted the presence of seven mounds at the site (Map C). The largest, 1-Er-4 (Mound A) was described as a rectangular truncated pyramid measuring 325 feet north/south by 200 feet east/west at its base, 66 by 156 feet at its summit, and about 60 feet in height. Other features described by Fairbanks include: the ditch south of the largest mound measuring about 30 feet wide and 4 to 10 feet deep, a small domed mound (1-Er-5, Mound C) north of the largest mound; a 10-foot high domed mound (1-Er-6, Mound D) west of the largest mound; another mound (1-Er-8, Mound E) composed of sand and large hematite boulders still further west; and to the south of 1-Er-6, a low domed mound (1-Er-7, Mound H) which contained a house on its summit until a short time before 1941. Fairbanks also noted the presence of two mounds (1-Er-2, 1-Er-3) in the Kolomoki Creek bottoms east of the large mound. One of these mounds (1-Er-2) was a circular sand structure, about 325 feet long, 30 feet wide and up to 2.8 feet high which traversed a loop of the creek and may have been used as a dam or fish weir. The center of this long mound had been eroded by the creek, and it was thus in two sections separated by the water. Salvage excavations of these mounds, conducted in 1941 prior to the flooding of the creek bottoms, is described in the following paragraphs. The embankments supposedly surrounding the site were no longer evident to Fairbanks in 1941.

In the late 1940s/early 1950s, the site was described by William Sears who directed five years of extensive excavations and analysis which is discussed in the following paragraphs. Sears' measurements indicated that Mound D was 20 feet high and 100 feet in diameter at its final state. In addition to the mounds mentioned by Fairbanks, Sears noted the presence of a low dome-shaped structure (Mound B) south of the largest mound and of 2 dome-shaped structures (Mound F and G) to the west of Mound H. Mound F was slightly ovoid in shape measuring 60 by 50 feet at its base and 6 feet in height. Mound G was contained in the Mercier family cemetery. Sears did not find any evidence on the surface of the embankment described by McKinley. He also doubted the existence of the ramp extending out to the east from the summit of the largest mound as described by Fairbanks. According to Sears' descriptions, this largest mound may have had two levels, for the second half is about 3 feet higher than the north.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 400-1400 A.D. **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The importance of Kolomoki, the type site for the Kolomoki phase, stems in part from its contribution toward an understanding of the cultural chronology and development in the area of southwest Georgia/northwest Florida. The Archaic materials found at the site have not been thoroughly analyzed by the experts and have thus not been included in the following discussion. Following these small Archaic and possible Swift Creek components, the earliest occupation dates from the Weeden Island I period. Characterized by the Weeden Island pottery series, particularly the zone variety of Weeden Island Incised, this component was isolated in collections from washtub-shaped pits. Weeden Island Plain ware was very common, and minority decorated types included Little Kolomoki Complicated Stamped and Napier Complicated Stamped. These early stamped wares were generally characterized by complex stamps with many small units. No structures dating to this period were discerned. Apparently concentrated in a line in the southern part of the State-owned portion of the landmark, the Weeden Island I population of Kolomoki was relatively rather small, Sears (1956, p. 93) estimates "no more than a few hundred people in a few dozen houses."

The Weeden Island I-b period, the succeeding phase manifested at Kolomoki, is actually transitional between the Weeden Island I and Kolomoki phases. Throughout this period, known from collections from midden deposits, the population of the site increased. Although no structures or burials were discerned, the location of the deposits suggests the possibility that the large temple mound and plaza area were already being used. The dominant pottery types began to change during this period. The Weeden Island series decreased in importance. Within that series, Carabelle and Keith Incised and Carabelle Punctated types increased while the percentage of Weeden Island Incised decreased. Minor pottery types such as Wakulla Check Stamped and West Florida Cord Marked appeared. The relative importance of the complicated stamped pottery types increased, and the dominant forms began to change from Little Kolomoki Complicated Stamped to Kolomoki Complicated Stamped. This change in the complicated stamped series involved a flattening of the vessels' bases, a change in rim style, and a gradual trend toward simpler stamped executed in heavy bands and grooves. This period was apparently characterized by maximum cultural contact as evidenced by the presence of trade sherds of the Pasco and St. John series from southern and eastern Florida and of Coles Creek and Troyville types of the Lower Mississippi Valley.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet, #8, item 9.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 286 acres

Quadrangle name Blakely North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	6	9	6	2	9	0	3	4	8	3	7	8	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

1	6	6	9	6	2	9	0	3	4	8	2	6	8	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

1	6	6	9	4	7	6	0	3	4	8	2	6	8	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

1	6	6	9	4	7	6	0	3	4	8	3	4	2	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

1	6	6	9	5	2	4	0	3	4	8	3	4	2	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

1	6	6	9	5	2	4	0	3	4	8	3	7	8	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet, #9, item 10.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Francine Weiss, revised by Cecil McKithan

organization National Park Service date September 1981

street & number 75 Spring Street, SW telephone FTS 331-2641

city or town Atlantat state Georgia 30303

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 9/10/87

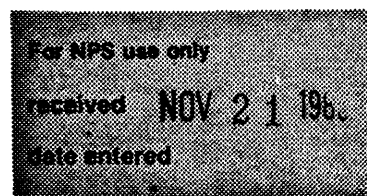
Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

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Excavations

Aside from surface collecting and unrecorded random digging and pot-hunting, the first investigations at Kolomoki occurred in the 1940's. Apparently, National Park Service archeologists acted as consultants when the State with the help of the Civilian Conservation Corps began the development of Kolomoki as a State Park. Surface collections were made by Dr. A. R. Kelley, Jesse D. Jennings, Robert Wauchope, and Charles Fairbanks, then at Ocumulgee National Monument. Wauchope and Fairbanks (Fairbanks, 1946) sunk test pits along the edges of the road being constructed in the park. They exposed evidence of scattered house sites. Fairbanks (1941, 1946) directed the salvage excavation of the two mounds (1-Er-2, 1 Er-3) in the Kolomoki Creek bottoms during 1940-41. Fairbanks believed that these mounds dated to the Swift Creek occupation at the site. There were three stages of construction discerned during excavation of the circular mound (1-Er-2). Apparently, the mound was constructed directly over the swampy vegetation, for it was underlain by a layer of oxidized organic material. The first stage of construction exhibited evidence for an intrusive pit. Very few sherds or artifacts were unearthed during this work. A few Swift Creek Complicated Stamped type pottery sherds, a few rough flint blades, and an occasional small hammerstone were the only materials recovered. Although no burial was found, Fairbanks thought (1941) that the structure was a Swift Creek burial mound and that the soil conditions had destroyed the evidence of any human remains.

The excavation of the long, low mound (1-ER-3) revealed that it was constructed of brown sand with large hematite boulders scattered throughout the fill. Occasional Swift Creek Complicated Stamped and Lamar Complicated sherds, a straight stemmed point, and a claystone were recovered during the excavations. The Lamar sherds may have been intrusive. The shape and position of this mound, built across the creek in one stage of construction, indicate that it may have been a dam or fish weir. These two mounds were excavated to their bases. The soil was too wet to dig any deeper. The site of these structures is now covered with the water of Lake Kolomoki formed by the damming of the Creek.

Much controversy existed between the park developers and the archeologists. The latter claimed first of all that the dam's position should have been changed to prevent the destruction of Mounds 1 Er-2 and 3. They also pointed out that the road construction crew destroyed portions of the village at the site. The contour of 1 Er-6 (Mound D) was apparently changed from a dome shape to a platform mound during the initial restoration activities. After considerable discussion, the park development was continued.

Then, beginning in 1948, William Sears conducted extensive excavations at Kolomoki for the Georgia State Parks Department. These excavations involved an investigation of the various village areas and of Mounds A, B, C, D, E, F, and H (refer to Maps B and D). Most of the village areas had been cultivated for many years, and the plowing had caused incredible mixing of any stratigraphic materials in the uppermost level. However, midden areas and refuse pits which extended below the plow zone were discerned and excavated. Analysis of the materials from these excavations led Sears to the conclusion that three occupations were represented at the site: a Weeden Island occupation in the

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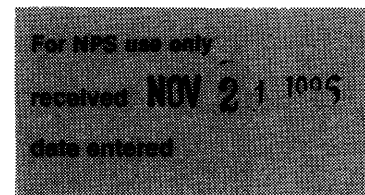
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southern part of the park and just outside of the park boundary, a Kolomoki period village in a large arc surrounding a plaza directly west of the largest mound, and a very small Lamar period occupation east of the large temple mound on the banks of Little Kolomoki Creek (refer to Map D). There was also evidence for some Archaic occupation scattered throughout the site with a concentration of debris on the ridge in the northwest section of the park.

The following excavations were conducted in the mounds as part of this late 1940's/early 1950's examination of the site: 1. Two trenches, one at the base, were dug into Mound A. The trench at the top revealed that at least the last two stages of construction of Mound A date to the Kolomoki period of occupation. 2. Investigations were conducted in Mound B and indicated the presence of large post molds, twenty four to thirty inches in diameter, and the remains of some trenches dug in the process of raising the posts. The lower 30 to 36 inches of each post was buried, and parts of some earlier post hole remains were destroyed by later ones. The potsherds from the excavation of Mound B revealed that at least the final postholes dated to Kolomoki times. 3. The excavations of Mound C enabled the archeological investigators to ascertain little about its nature or function other than the facts that it was constructed of baskets full of earth and that it probably dated to the Kolomoki period. 4. Mound D, the second largest at the site, was found to consist of several stages of construction representing a series of elaborate burial practices. The first building stage involved the clearing of an area about 50 feet in diameter and the burial of five individuals in log-lined tombs. As these graves were being filled in, a scaffold of eight large posts in upright positions was constructed. The earth mound over the graves held the posts in place and was covered with rocks. A rock slab and log tomb containing a male burial was then placed near the southern edge of the scaffold. Bones were cremated over this grave, and a small square framework of poles was constructed over the grave. Two other rock slab and log tombs, both containing females, were located at this level in front of the scaffold to the east. The next stage of construction resulted in a small rectangular platform mound, 30 feet by 50 feet at its base and five feet in height, with human heads and pottery piled against the east edge. The scaffold posts were long enough to protrude from the top of this mound. The subsequent stage of construction consisted of a series of partial cremations of complete bodies in log outlines or head or long bone bundles topped with rocks and earth. Additional basketloads of earth and clay over these cremations resulted in a flat-topped mound with a circular base. Mass cremations covered the top of this mound which was then covered with 3 to 10 feet of clay resulting in a dome-shaped or slightly conical structure. Judging from the ceramic types found in the sub-mound midden, this structure probably dates from the Kolomoki period. 5. Mound E, similar to Mound D, but less elaborate and smaller in scale, contained a funnel-shaped pit at its base. Inside the pit was a cremation accompanied by conch shell beads and copper cymbal-shaped ornaments with pearls in their centers. The pit was then partially filled with rocks. Two bodies were then placed on the sloping sides of the pit. The pit was then covered with earth which was heaped up to form a small dome-shaped core mound. This mound had a skull and copper-covered wooden cymbal-shaped ornament at its top and was capped with rocks. To the east of this core mound, a mass deposit of pottery containing 54 complete vessels was located on the ground surface. This pottery and the core mound were then

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covered with a final cap of red clay. 6. Mound F contained a white clay platform, 30 feet square, under its cap of sandy clay. Only a few sherds were found in the fill. 7. Mound H was similar in form, and probably function, to Mound F. Containing an internal yellow clay platform about 3 feet in height, Mound H yielded a few postholes and burned areas with no discernible pattern and many potsherds of various dates included within the fill. It has been suggested that the platform Mounds F and H served some purpose in the burial ceremonies.

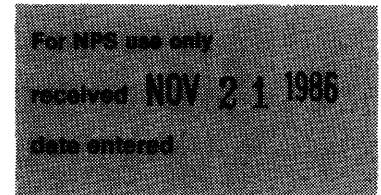
The artifacts from the site include numerous potsherds, ceramic vessels and points. From Sears' excavation alone, 56,090 sherds, 195 restorable vessels, 163 points, 34 other artifacts, and numerous shell beads were recovered. The pottery types include the following complicated varieties: Little Kolomoki Complicated Stamped of the Weeden Island I period; stamped ware of the Weeden Island I-b period; Kolomoki Complicated Stamped of the Kolomoki period; Blakely Complicated Stamped of the Late Kolomoki period; stamped vessels in mortuary deposits showing definite Mississippian influences in vessel form, rim treatment, and area of decoration; and Napier Complicated Stamped dated to the Weeden Island period of the site but not usual in that context as it is generally found in north Georgia. The Weeden Island series, including such types as Weeden Island Red, Carabelle Incised, Keith Incised, Weeden Island Incised, Weeden Island Incised, Carabelle Punctated, Mound Field Net Marked, Indian Pass Incised, Tucker Ridge Pinched, Wakulla Check Stamped, and West Florida Cord Marked, was well represented at the site. The development of Kolomoki Plain from Weeden Island Plain has been illustrated by an analysis of the sherds from the site. Numerous effigy vessels had been included within the mortuary offerings. The mortuary wares often reflect Weeden Island period styles although they were probably buried as part of a ceremony during the Kolomoki period. The points found at the site are generally long and narrow with straight blade sides. Triangular points appear to have become popular during the latter part of the Kolomoki period. A large triangular Lamar period point and several Archaic points similar to those of the Savannah River complex were also recovered. A celt; a chisel; cymbal-shaped ornaments—some of copper, some of meteoric iron, some with pearls in their centers; numerous conch shell beads; pearls; a conch shell dipper and fragments; sheets of mica and mica discs; and a kaolin pendant were among the other artifacts recovered during the excavations. No bone tools were found although bones of deer, turkey, bear, turtle, and opossum were excavated.

Present Condition

At the present time, the site is generally in good condition although there are some problem areas which could use some attention. For instance, erosion continues to plague Mound A and could perhaps be somewhat alleviated. The roads within the State Park area have been widened and other small construction projects have been undertaken, possibly without enough attention to the archeological value of the land.

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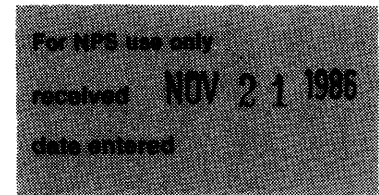
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Several intrusions are located within landmark boundaries. A few small structures and roads within the boundaries obviously do not contribute to the national significance of the property which is based on the site's intrinsic archeological importance. A museum is also located within the boundaries. This structure has been built around a portion of Mound E and has incorporated an exhibit of some of the deposits of the mound. Although this museum is not a contributing factor to Kolomoki's national significance, it is nevertheless valuable in its presentation and interpretation of the excavation findings to the public.

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The Weeden Island I-b phase blends into the succeeding Kolomoki period or phase of the Weeden Island Aspect. The Kolomoki phase represents the most intensive and extensive occupation of the site which is, in fact, the type site for the phase. It is estimated that the population of Kolomoki during this period may have reached two thousand. The village appears to have been a planned community. Mounds A, D, and E lie in a straight line, and the village debris is scattered around the plaza area located between Mounds A and D. Mounds B and C were located to the south and north of Mound A, respectively; and Mounds F, G, and H formed a straight line with Mound H directly south of Mound D and Mound F south of Mound E.

The Kolomoki phase is illustrated by the culmination of an elaborate set of burial practices centering on the interment of a high status individual. Throughout the Kolomoki phase, there was much construction revolving around these ceremonies. All features of construction, deposition and interment were oriented toward the east of the main burial. Many primary and secondary burials with special tomb types were found in the mounds. Retainer sacrifices were apparently an important part of the mortuary ceremonies. From these mounds, archeologists have inferred the existence of a complex social system during the Kolomoki phase. The burial of an individual with retainer sacrifices and with exotic and high status artifacts indicates that a social or class order existed in the community. Some of the numerous artifacts included as mortuary offerings were obviously manufactured for that purpose; for example, "kill holes" were intentionally cut through the bases of some of the mortuary pottery included in Mound E.

The Kolomoki phase actually represents a climax development out of the preceding Weeden Island cultures and is thus considered a phase of the Weeden Island aspect. Evident in southwestern Georgia and northwestern Florida, the Kolomoki populations were most probably supported by advanced agriculture supplemented by hunting and some gathering. The pottery styles of the period represent a continuation of the trends of the preceding Weeden Island I-b times. In the village areas, the Weeden Island ceramic series was entirely absent. The dominant decorated pottery type was Kolomoki Complicated Stamped. The trend toward flat bases and simple stamps continued until the Kolomoki Complicated Stamped type had replaced Little Kolomoki Complicated Stamped. Kolomoki Plain was also a common type. In the burial mounds, however, the Weeden Island series had not died out by Kolomoki times. It was, in fact, the dominant type in the burial mound, although Kolomoki Complicated Stamped vessels appeared as well. It is not unusual for mortuary and ceremonial complexes to be more conservative than the everyday wares, and this was apparently the case at Kolomoki. While the occupants were willing to accept the complicated stamped pottery as their utility ware, they retained the Weeden Island styles for use in their ceremonies. Some of the characteristics of the mortuary wares include: effigy forms, perforation of vessel walls, use of pedestals, red and white painting, and abstract forms.

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The site is within the Southern Appalachian culture area characterized by complicated stamped pottery types and on the northern fringes of the Weeden Island cultures. It is also near the Alabama-Mississippi culture area. The Mississippian traits present in the Kolomoki phase include the village plan, the presence of a large platform mound, and various ceramic features such as certain of the incised styles, painting in red stripes, red and white painting, the presence of owl effigies, effigies on bowl rims facing inward, and the use of lug handles. The platform mound, probably begun during Weeden Island times, is especially unusual for the Weeden Island period and may perhaps be explained by the site's proximity to the Mississippian culture area. Indeed Kolomoki's location on the Gulf Coastal Plain near the northwest Florida coast within the range of many different cultures is probably responsible for the size and complexity of the site and for the cultural changes which occurred there. Additional excavations at Kolomoki would undoubtedly provide further information on the interrelationships between these various culture areas and between Kolomoki and other cultures of the Southeast.

The exact dates of the various time periods represented at Kolomoki are still unclear, but the phases may span a time from perhaps as early as 400 or 500 A.D. until perhaps as late as 1400 A.D. the rise of Weeden Island culture is not clearly understood but is thought to have had its roots in the Hopewell period burial practices and social system and/or in a sphere of interaction involving the Circum-Caribbean area. The rise of this culture type on the Gulf Coastal Plain is a subject requiring additional research. The settlement pattern and the role of the large site of Kolomoki as a social and ceremonial center, probably for various nearby, smaller communities, has yet to be explored.

By about 1400 A.D., the site of Kolomoki was abandoned. The reasons for its abandonment are not clear. In the Kolomoki culture area, the Fort Walton and Lamar phases became prominent, but the relationship between these two phases and the preceding Kolomoki phase is not clearly understood. The Fort Walton phase is probably intrusive from the north, while Kolomoki may have developed into a Lamar variant which eventually became some branch of the Muskogean speaking peoples. After a gap during which time the Kolomoki site was unoccupied, there is a small Lamar component at the site. There appears to be some connection between Kolomoki Complicated Stamped pottery and the Lamar Complicated Stamped wares of the Lamar phase, but the connecting link is missing. It is obvious, however, that the simple stamped design and heavy over-stamping of the Lamar type continued the trend toward more simple stamps evident in the preceding Weeden Island and Kolomoki periods. The Lamar occupation at the site probably represents no more than a small seasonal campsite. There were many regional variants of Lamar throughout the Southeast during the late Mississippian time period which was probably a time of decreasing population. The complex social system may have been threatened by this decrease in population, but some of the rituals were undoubtedly still practiced as evidenced by records of ceremonies of the historic Natchez who are thought to have been an offshoot of the Muskogean in remote prehistoric times.

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Lamar in the area of northwestern Georgia may represent the protohistoric Creek (Muskogean speakers). More specifically, it has been suggested that the Kolomoki culture developed through Lamar into the historic Apalachee, a branch of the Creek, but this speculation cannot be supported at the present time.

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Boundary Description

Beginning at Point A as indicated on USGA 7.5 Quadrangle: Blakely, North , Georgia, proceed south 2800 feet to Point B, thence west 5000 feet to Point C, thence north 1600 feet to Point D, thence 1500 feet east to Point E, thence 1100 feet north to Point F, thence 3400 feet to Point A (origin).

Boundary Justification.

The boundary is drawn to encompass all archeological features discussed in Section 7 including the "Inner Wall" of the earthen embankment shown on Map E. The basis for defining the boundary rests with the series of archeological investigations conducted on the site, these include the 1940-1941 National Park Service excavations, and the 1948 Sears excavation.

STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
EARTH AND WATER DIVISION

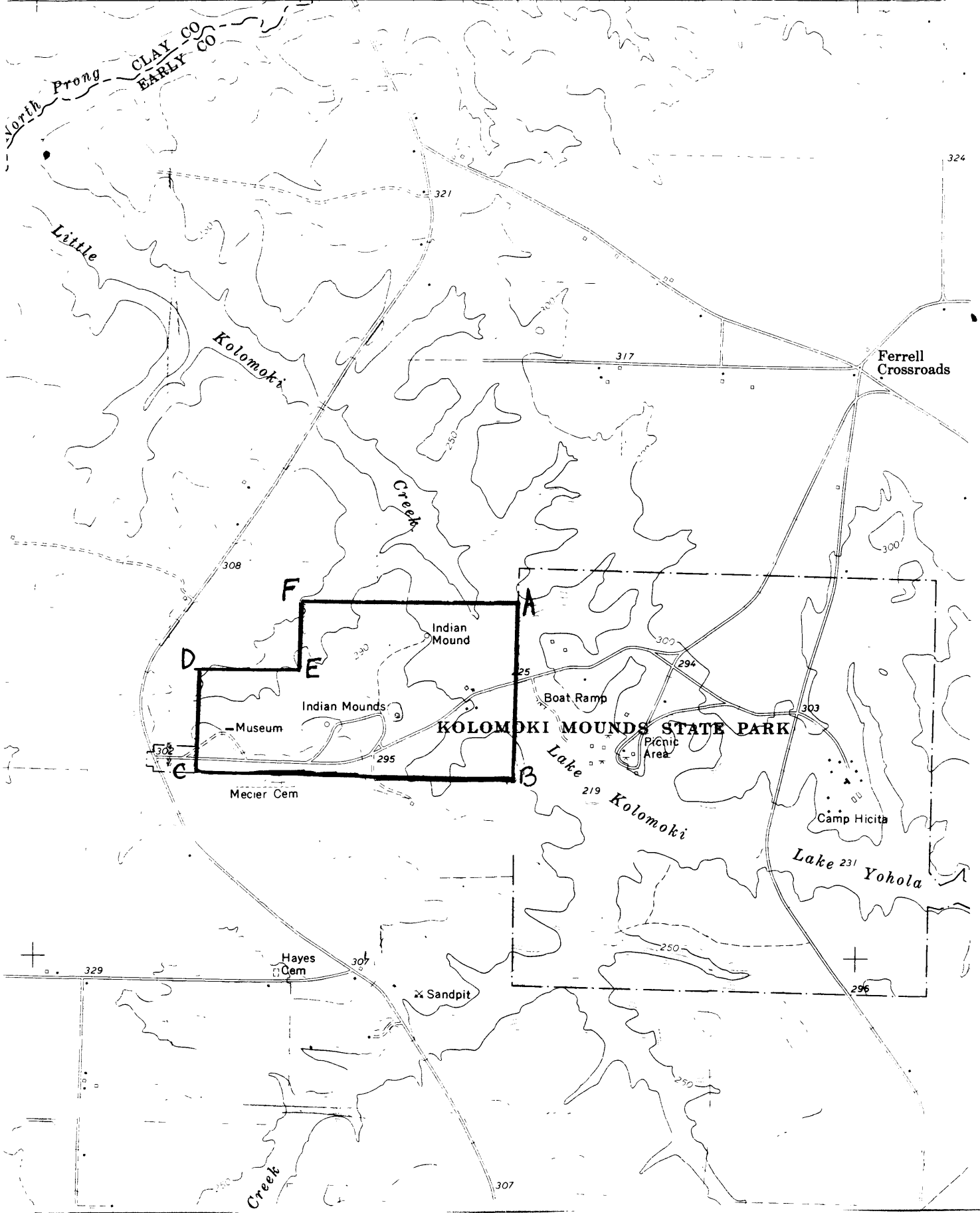
4047 III SW
(ZETTO)

57'30"

695

697

55' 698



Map B

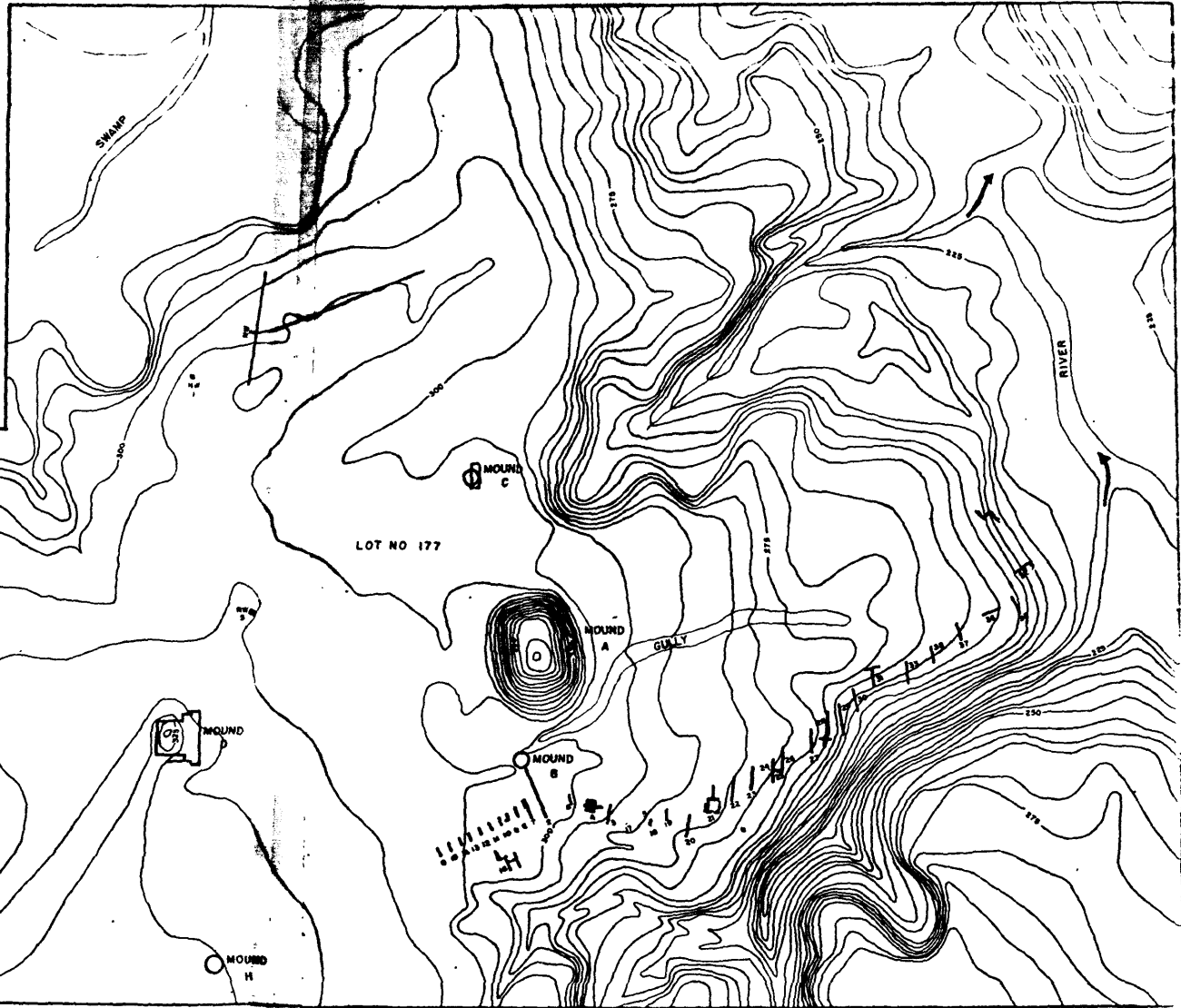
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET

0 50 100 150

Scale in feet

— Elevation

From: Sears (1956).



Map C.
From Fairbanks (1941a).

Land lot 177

Contour Interval 15'

Land lot 184

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA

16-5

16-7

16-3

16-2

16-5

16-6

16-7

Excavated

Building outline

Cup's remains

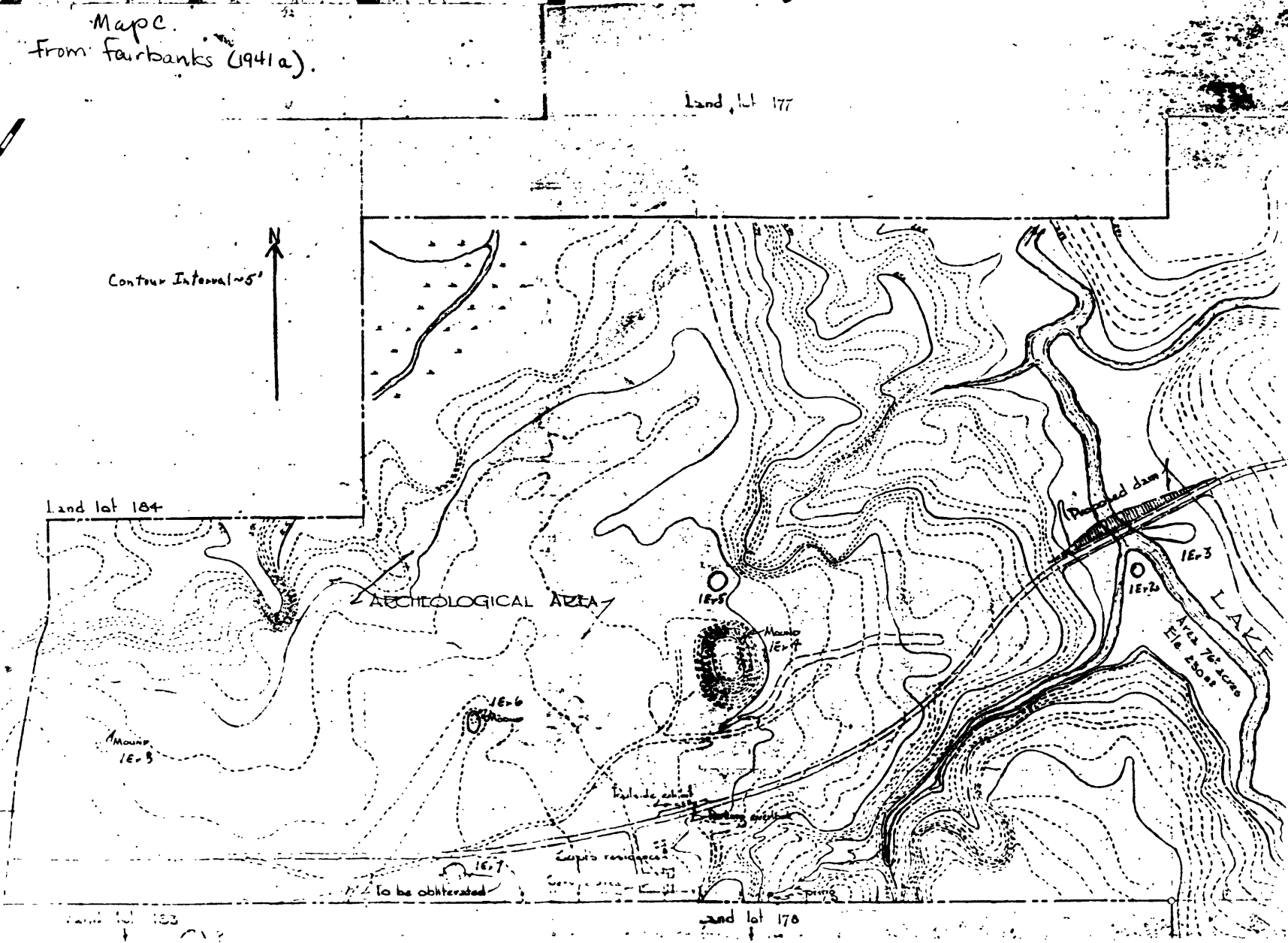
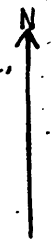
To be obliterated

Rock and dam

LAKE
172 76' across
Elev. 230.5'

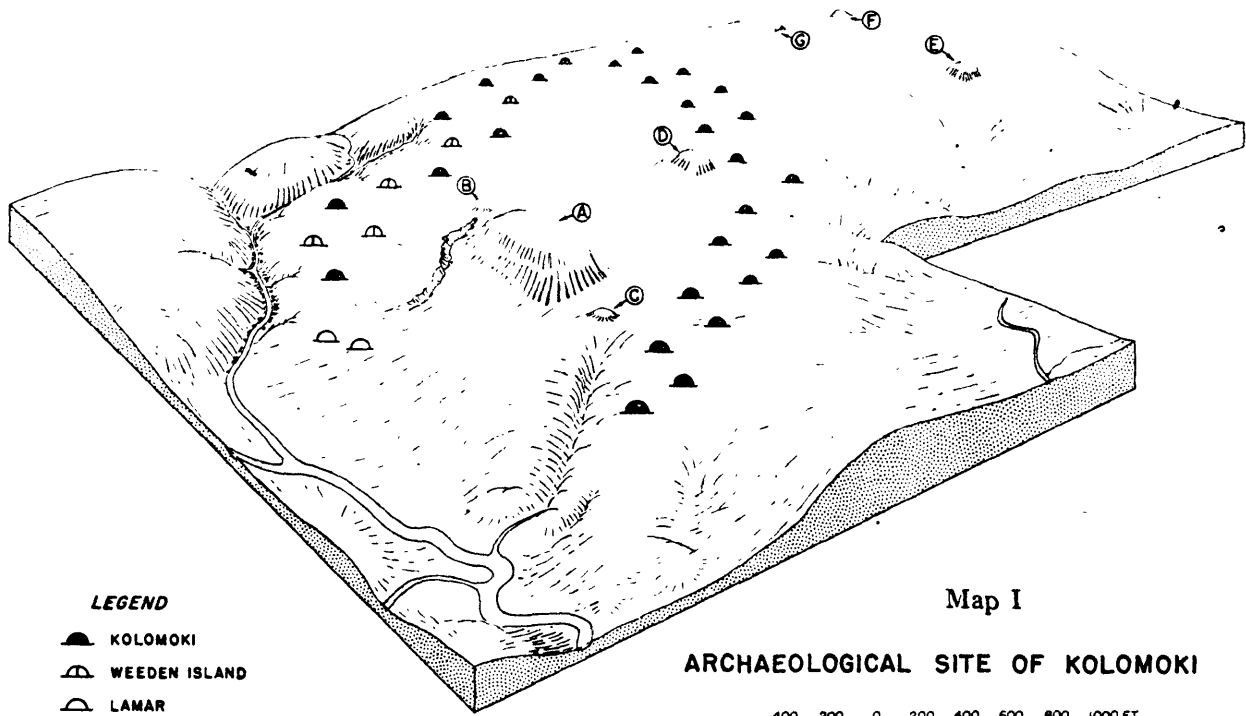
Land lot 183

Land lot 178



EXCAVATION

Map D
From: Sears (1956).



LEGEND

-  KOLOMOKI
-  WEEDEN ISLAND
-  LAMAR

Map I

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF KOLOMOKI

400 200 0 200 400 600 800 1000 FT.
APPROX. HORIZONTAL SCALE

W.W. Thomas

THE SITE-EXCAVATION UNITS IN MOUNDS AND VILLAGE AREA—

Kolomoki, covering some three hundred acres, is one of the larger southeastern sites. Located on Kolomoki Creek which flows into the Chattahoochee River about six miles to the west, it is in the southern corner of Georgia. This position places it on the northern fringe of the Gulf Coastal Plain, not far from the Florida Northwest Coast. In terms of culture areas, it is reasonably close to interior Alabama-Mississippi cultures, in the area of Georgia cultures distinguished by the complicated stamped tradition in ceramics, and to the northern fringe of the area ceramically characterized by Weeden Island style pottery through a part of its history. It seems at least highly probable that this location, in or adjacent to at least one of the main streams of cultural development, is largely responsible for the size, cultural complexity, and rapid change evinced at Kolomoki.

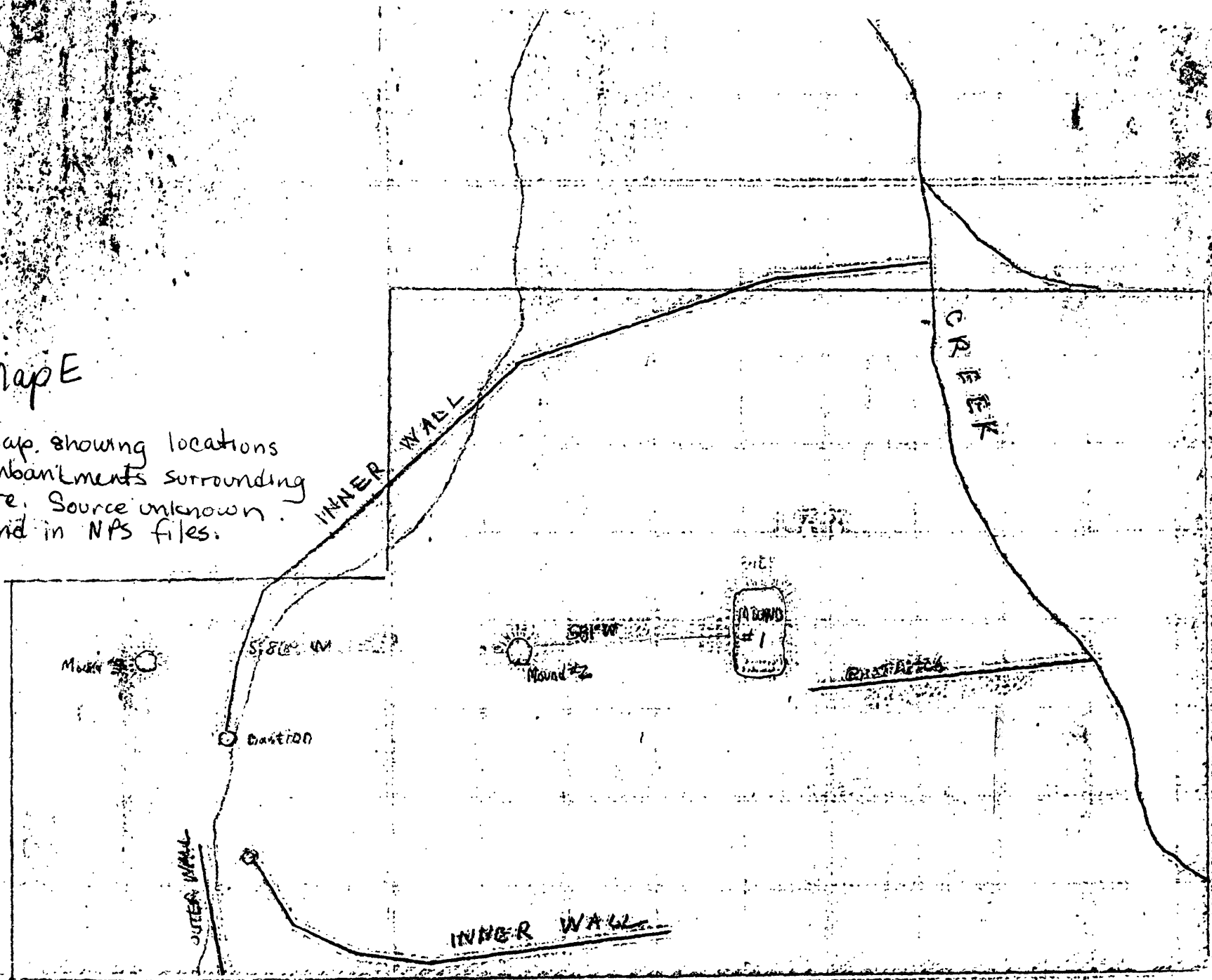
The village areas and mounds representing the remains of aboriginal occupation are found concentrated

toward the center of a low spur, somewhat separated from the surrounding countryside by rather deep gullies and stream cuts which have almost precipitous sides in places. Large numbers of springs issue from the lower edges of these cuts, the water flowing from an underlying limestone stratum. These springs, which never run dry, may well be one of the reasons for the selection of the site as a center for a large population concentration.

Since the uplands apparently have been farmed for nearly a century and for an unknown period of time during the aboriginal occupation, it is difficult to say what the original vegetation may have been. Today, as with all such land in this area, it has a sparse covering of pine and evergreen oaks. The surrounding bottom lands and ravines bear a lush, semi-tropical cypress-magnolia-gum-evergreen-oak vegetation, which has probably changed little in character since the Kolomoki period.

Map E

Old map showing locations
of embankments surrounding
site. Source unknown.
Found in NPS files.



Scale 1" = approx 570

