CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an intensive archeological survey of the corridor of a proposed interpretative trail to be located near Wallace Dam in Putnam County, Georgia. The survey was conducted prior to completion of final development plans and minor changes of the route were allowed so that some archeological sites could be avoided. The project area is located in the eastern portion of Putnam County (Figure 2) in an area associated historically with the rural community of Rockville. The majority of the fieldwork was conducted during the winter months of 2003-2004.

Project Background

The proposed pedestrian and bike trail system will connect an existing two mile-long Department of Natural Resources interpretive trail with Georgia Power’s Lawrence Shoals Recreation Area. A trail, approximately 3 m in width, will be constructed using a small bulldozer. The proposed method of construction is meant to result in minimal impact with respect to soil disturbance. The proposed pedestrian and bicycle trail project is meant to include a number of interpretive aspects that relate to the surrounding natural and archeological features. The archeological survey was responsible for the actual corridor and any archeological site identified near the trail. The trail is one part of the community sponsored project sponsored by the Historic Piedmont Scenic Byway Corporation that includes areas in both Putnam and Hancock Counties. The stone effigy mound (9PM47) is to be a focal point of the overall trail project. Community support for the trail project is also being provided by Putnam County, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the University of Georgia’s Board of Regents, The Georgia Power Company, the local Regional Development Center (RDC) and others.

Figure 2. Location of Project Area.
The trail is located on property owned by the State of Georgia, the Board of Regents of the University of Georgia, and the Georgia Power Company. Most of the area under consideration is managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as part of the Oconee Wildlife Management Area. The most substantial portions of the property are owned by the state and Georgia Power. Most of the Georgia Power Company property within the project area is maintained under a contract with Department of Natural Resources which covers various details relating to the wildlife management area. Because the overall project includes federal grant funding, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Historic Preservation Division required an archeological survey prior to trail construction.

**Project Setting**

The project area is located in eastern Putnam County and extends over several ridge projections that overlook the Oconee River. A series of river shoals extend upstream from the project area. From south to north, they are Lawrence, Riley, and Long Shoals. Figure 3 shows two photographs of the shoals areas in 1975. The photographs are from the University of Georgia’s, Department of Anthropology, Wallace Reservoir photographic files. Those files contain a small number of pre-inundation photographs of the Lake Oconee area. Additional photographs may be found in the Georgia Power Company’s archives in Atlanta but the distribution of those photographs is restricted by ownership privileges invoked by that company. Today, the river is covered by the waters of Lakes Oconee (also known as Wallace Reservoir) immediately adjacent to the project area. The upper reaches of Lake Sinclair extend over the river channel to the south of Wallace Dam.

The property is bounded on the north and east by Georgia Power Company property and on the south by Georgia Highway 16 and timberland property owned by Weyerhaeuser. The western part of the project area is bounded by Weyerhaeuser property and small privately owned tracts. The proposed trail will extend across areas that were once intensively cultivated prior to being converted almost exclusively to timber management during the past half century. With the exception of an extensive granite exposure known locally as Flat Rock (Figure 4), most of the project area consists of pine plantations. A few hardwoods remain near the old farmsteads but most areas consist of either maturing pines or clearcut regrowth. Figure 5 and Figure 6 depict several views of the different landscapes and surface covers within the tract.

The project area lies in the Washington Slope District of the Piedmont physiographic province (Hodler and Schretter 1986:17). The Piedmont is characterized by hills and ridges dissected by a dendritic drainage pattern of streams and rivers. The topography of the area has been described as the result of a long period of erosion of an old plain whose former existence is indicated at the present time only by the smooth, even skyline. The topography is cut by the larger streams into major divides, which are in turn subdivided by the smaller streams, until the whole region is a series of ridges, the surface varying from undulating to gently rolling and hilly. As a rule the streams have cut their courses about 100 feet below the crests of the intervening ridges. In parts of the area the slopes are smooth and long, while in other places the descent is rapid, with a correspondingly more broken and rougher topography. The topography becomes more irregular and broken near the rivers (Long 1922:890).

Geologically, the project area lies in the interior portion of the Charlotte Belt (Figure 7). Rocks of the Charlotte Belt are high-grade gneisses, schists, and amphibolites with other intrusive bodies, including granite plutons (Hatcher 1972). Specifically, the project area is dominated by biotite granitic gneiss (Georgia Geological Survey Map, 1976). In these areas, the surface is underlain by crystalline rock, predominately granite and granitic gneiss.

Putnam County contains the most rolling and hilly topography of any county in the immediate area, with the main divides cut by a number of short streams with deeply incised tributary ravines and gullies (Long 1922:891). Elevations in the project tract range from approximately 450 feet above mean sea level near the lake’s edge to 640 feet on the highest ridge. The project area includes high ridge crests, slopes, and ridge projections that are separated by permanent and seasonal streams that flow into the Oconee River. The proposed trail will cross only a few areas that might be described as tributary floodplains. The tributary valleys typically contain very narrow floodplains flanked by steep hillside slopes. As a consequence of long term cultivation, these valleys tend to be highly eroded and today appear as little more than large gullies.
Figure 3. Two photographs taken of the Oconee River in 1975 showing nearby shoals.
Figure 4. Photographs of the project area showing an area known as Flat Rock.
Figure 5. Photographs of the project area showing two logged areas.

*Top:* A surviving old tree growing from a rockpile in a logged area; *bottom,* view of typical clearcut regrowth.
Figure 6. Photographs of the project area showing the western boundary and an overgrown historic site.

Top: Eroded ridges along Highway 16. Below: dense vegetation cover along Lawrence Shoals Road.
Figure 7. Geologic map of Putnam, Greene, and Morgan counties showing location of project area.

The project tract is drained by several small unnamed tributary streams that flow directly into the Oconee River. The western portion of the project area is drained by a larger stream known during the early nineteenth century as Otter Branch and later called Cedar Creek or Jenkins Branch. The southern portion of the property is drained by a larger stream known during the nineteenth century as Mile Creek but referred to throughout most of the twentieth century as Herndon Branch. The nearest major tributary on the Putnam County side of the river is Crooked Creek. The upper watershed of Crooked Creek lies slightly west of the project area and that stream flows into present-day Lake Sinclair about 6 miles to the south/southwest. One interesting fact relating to Crooked Creek is that its primary channel extends a substantial distance to the west and ends at the high upland divide that contains the larger effigy mound known as Rock Eagle (9PM80). Shoulderbone Creek is the closest large tributary on the opposite side of the river. Shoulderbone empties into the Oconee (now Lake Sinclair) approximately 2 miles south/southeast of the project area.

Originally, the soils in the Piedmont consisted of fertile sandy loams, but two centuries of poor land management have resulted the loss of most of that soil. Topsoils encountered today frequently consist of plowed subsoil and erosional gullies are commonly encountered on most ridge slopes. The upland soils of the project area are composed primarily of Cecil sandy loams and Davidson clay loams (Long 1922, Payne 1976). Much of the soil was naturally rocky and certain soil types such as Cecil cobbly sandy loam are named for that characteristic. The rock effigy mound is located on Cecil cobbly sandy loam. With respect to the project area, the last areas to be cultivated contained Davidson loams. That observation is based upon a comparison of the soil maps with Soil Conservation Service aerial photographs dating to 1938. The floodplain areas contain deposits of mixed sands and clays that represent historic period slopewash that has accumulated in low-lying areas. Observations made during the course of fieldwork suggest that most of the upland soils in the project area are moderately to severely eroded.

At the time of European contact, the natural vegetation in the Piedmont was dominated by an oak-hickory-climax forest in the uplands, with an oak-hickory post-climax forest in the lower elevations (Wharton 1978:153). That forest growth was quickly removed in the early years of the nineteenth century as much of the land was converted to farmland. Secondary forests developed over much of the area following exhaustion of farmlands and the arrival in force of the boll weevil in the 1920s. Afterwards the landscape was generally dominated by pine with hardwoods restricted to low-lying areas along streams. By the mid-twentieth century, most of the project area consisted of cultivated tree farms composed of pines.

Cultural Background

Based on widely accepted evidence, the Piedmont has been occupied for approximately 12,000 years, although recent work along the Savannah River in South Carolina and elsewhere in North and South America has raised the possibility that people were actually present before that date (Goodyear 2000). The traditionally defined prehistoric record of the region is generally divided into four broad culture-historic periods, defined as Paleoindian (10,000 to 7800 B.C.), Archaic (7800 to 800 B.C.), Woodland (800 B.C. to A.D. 900), and Mississippian (A.D. 900 to 1540). Table 2 presents a summary outline of cultural chronology developed from major archeological projects and overviews that include Anderson and Joseph (1988), Anderson et al. (1990), Elliott and Sassaman (1995), Hally and Rudolph (1986) and Stanyard (2003).

**Paleoindian Period (ca 10,000-7800 B.C.)** The Paleoindian period in Georgia is generally recognized by the occurrence of fluted and unfluted lanceolate projectile points such as Clovis, small Clovis variants, Redstone, Suwanee, Beaver Lake, Simpson, and Quad. Dalton points occur at the end of this period and represent the transition into the following Early Archaic period. Highly formalized hafted endscrapers and plano-convex scraper tools are frequently found on Paleoindian period sites. Traditionally, Paleoindian subsistence patterns have been portrayed as highly mobile bands of hunter-gatherers following the seasonal cycles of ripening wild foods and migrating herds of animals, some of which are now extinct. Occupation areas appear to be on well-elevated ground above rivers, major stream drainages, and swamps. A number of Paleoindian projectile points have been reported but few actual sites have been recorded in this area (Anderson et al. 1990).
### Table 2. Cultural Chronology of the Central Piedmont of Georgia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Beginning Date</th>
<th>Horizon/Phase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paleoindian</td>
<td>ca 10,000 B.C.</td>
<td>Clovis, Dalton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Archaic</td>
<td>7800 B.C.</td>
<td>Taylor/Big Sandy, Kirk/Palmer, LeCroy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Archaic</td>
<td>5800 B.C.</td>
<td>Stanly, Morrow Mountain Piedmont Allendale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Archaic</td>
<td>3000 B.C.</td>
<td>Paris Island, Savannah River Stallings (earliest pottery)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Woodland</td>
<td>800 B.C.</td>
<td>Kellogg/Yadkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Woodland</td>
<td>A.D. 200</td>
<td>Cartersville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Woodland</td>
<td>A.D. 600</td>
<td>Swift Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergent Mississippian</td>
<td>A.D. 900</td>
<td>Napier, Vining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Mississippian</td>
<td>A.D. 1000</td>
<td>Vining/Woodstock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Mississippian</td>
<td>A.D. 1225</td>
<td>Etowah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Mississippian</td>
<td>A.D. 1350</td>
<td>Savannah equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protohistoric</td>
<td>A.D. 1540</td>
<td>Lamar (Bell Phase)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Native American</td>
<td>A.D. 1650</td>
<td>Historic Creek Cherokee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Period</td>
<td>A.D. 1790s</td>
<td>Euro-American</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A growing body of evidence suggests that the New World was populated by humans prior to the established threshold of 12000 BP (before present). North American sites including Meadowcroft rock shelter in Pennsylvania (Carlisle and Adovasio 1984, Adovasio et al. 1999), Cactus Hill in Virginia (McAvoy and McAvoy 1997), and the Topper site in South Carolina (Goodyear, 2000, 2001; Chandler, 2001) have stimulated great interest in the possibility of pre-Clovis occupation. Because of the rarity of sites and the small amount of available data, little may be stated with certainty regarding pre-Clovis occupation. The Topper site (38AL23) has yielded core tools as well as numerous burin-like "bend-break" tools reminiscent of Arctic/maritime types. Topper-like tools have been reproduced experimentally and have been demonstrated to be functionally very effective (Jones 2002). Pre-Clovis research is still in its infancy. As more sites are discovered and investigated, a clearer impression of this period will emerge.

The survey and limited excavation related to Paleoindian sites in Wallace Reservoir and nearby areas has been reported in a number of papers and publications (Anderson et al. 1987, 1990:33; DePratter 1975; Goodyear 1999:456; Ledbetter 1978, 1980, 1986; O'Steen 1983, 1996, O'Steen et al. 1983, 1986). During the Wallace Mitigation survey, a small amount of field time was allotted for limited testing of the identified sites that had produced early Paleoindian artifacts (Ledbetter 1978). One of the sites, 9GE309, was selected for excavation. UGA archeologist Paul Webb, using kids provided by a public works program excavated a 4 x 6 m unit and encountered a dense Early Archaic deposit overlying a sparser deposit containing Dalton and Clovis material (Ledbetter 1980).

To date, approximately 100 Paleoindian sites have been identified in the reservoirs and upland survey tracts in the Oconee River watershed extending from just north of Athens to the Lake Sinclair dam (O’Steen 1996:94, SGA Paleoindian Recordation Project). Over 80 percent of those sites are late Paleoindian Dalton sites. Dalton sites are particularly plentiful in the shoals region in Wallace Reservoir and the next shoals area to the north along the Oconee River (Barnett Shoals). The Dalton time period does appear to represent the first intensive utilization of the region (O’Steen 1996:104).
**Early Archaic (7800-5800 B.C.).** Warmer, moister conditions developed as the influence of Pleistocene glaciation faded. Sea levels began to rise and, according to fossil pollen records, temperate oak hardwood forests dominated the region (Delcourt and Delcourt 1987), that led to changes in human adaptations visible in the archeological record. Projectile points associated with the Early Archaic period include side-notched and corner-notched varieties typed as Taylor, Big Sandy, Kirk, and Palmer, and bifurcated points. Formal unifacial tools, similar to those made during Paleoindian times, continued to be produced during the first part of the Early Archaic period. The distribution and general pattern of Early Archaic sites suggests that the subsistence pattern of Early Archaic hunter-gatherers consisted of highly mobile, small groups of people utilizing both uplands and lowlands for food resources. Larger Early Archaic sites at major stream confluences may represent periodic meeting points of several small groups, perhaps on a seasonal basis. Anderson and Hanson (1988) have suggested a seasonal movement of bands up and down river drainages in the Southeast with aggregation sites at the Fall Line. O'Steen (1996:106) has suggested that along the Oconee the major aggregation sites did not occur at the Fall Line but at other shoals regions, specifically the Long Shoals area in Wallace Reservoir and Barnett Shoals to the north.

Early Archaic sites are common in the region but most are known from surface finds (O'Steen 1983, 1996). Limited excavation data from Wallace Reservoir is available from 9GE309 which contained a rich deposit associated primarily with a Kirk/Palmer component (Ledbetter 1980) and 9GE153 which produced Kirk and Dalton points in mixed context (Smith et al. 1981). Projectile points found on area sites are made from locally available quartz and Piedmont chert as well as nonlocal materials. The diversity in raw materials is significant since it implies that Early Archaic people had access to extensive resources outside the boundaries of the Oconee River drainage. In terms of currently used models, Early Archaic sites in the area appear to represent small foraging camps and seasonal base camps (Anderson and Hanson 1988, O'Steen 1996).

**Middle Archaic (5800-3000 B.C.).** In much of the Southeast, the Middle Archaic is identified by the tapered stem point types Kirk Serrated/Stemmed, Stanly, Morrow Mountain, Halifax, and Guilford (Coe 1964). Near the Fall Line, late Middle Archaic occupations are identified by MALA, renamed Allendale (Whatley 2002:13) and Brier Creek Lanceolate points (Sassaman 1985, Elliott et al. 1994). In northwestern Georgia, the late Middle Archaic is associated with stemmed points generally referred to as White Springs/Sykes (DeJarnette et al. 1962, Lewis and Lewis 1961). While a number of these point types are well established, and well dated, elsewhere in the southeastern United States, the Piedmont of Georgia has been saddled with the concept "old quartz culture" which for many archeologists still means upland quartz scatters and tapered stemmed points (Caldwell 1954, 1958; Johnson 1981:56).

This period corresponds to a climatic episode known as the Hypsithermal or Altithermal Interval. That time is interpreted for areas to the north and west as having drier and warmer conditions (Delcourt 1979, Wright 1992). The effect of the interval on the southern Piedmont remains in question (Schuldenrein 1996:3). Neumann (1998) suggests that the Piedmont regions of Georgia and South Carolina witnessed increased precipitation attributable to a gulf tropical air mass that contributed to the drying trends in the Midwest. Possibly in response to these environmental changes as well as external population dynamics, there were distinct cultural changes in the Southeast that characterize the Middle Archaic (Coe 1964; Blanton and Sassaman 1989; Sassaman and Anderson 1994).

There are sufficient differences in projectile point types, settlement patterns, raw material use, and overall tool assemblages to suggest the Middle Archaic of Piedmont Georgia can be separated as early, middle, and late time periods. The early part of the Middle Archaic is associated with Kirk Serrated/Stemmed and Stanly projectile points. In the Lake Oconee area and throughout most of Georgia, these points are identified in very small numbers (Stanyard 2003). The middle portion of the period would equate to Morrow Mountain. A primary question remains in determining just how long Morrow Mountain points were produced. Several researchers suggest extending the time into the sixth millennium before the present time (Anderson 1979:60, Sassaman 1993:61, and Whatley 2002:82).

The latter part of the Middle Archaic is more problematical with respect to the project area region. Coe (1964) proposed the types Guilford and Halifax as terminal Middle Archaic point types. While the type Halifax has never been widely accepted, the type Guilford has been used throughout the Piedmont of Georgia and South Carolina. Points superficially similar to the type descriptions of White Springs (DeJarnette et al. 1962) and Sykes (Lewis and Lewis 1961) do occur frequently on upland lithic scatters in the area.
Locally, these late Middle Archaic points frequently occur on upland sites typically associated with Morrow Mountain site settings and in past years would have been included in Caldwell’s Old Quartz Culture. A recent publication of Georgia projectile point types included a distinctive smaller variety with a provisional name of Piedmont Allendale (Whatley 2002:16). Similar bifaces recovered from the western Georgia Piedmont have been referred to as Late Middle Archaic Stemmed points (Jordan et al. 2003:77).

There is evidence that suggests a constriction of settlement mobility range by Morrow Mountain times. Local lithic raw materials were used, especially for the manufacture of Morrow Mountain points, and in the Piedmont a preference for quartz is evident in every collection. Morrow Mountain phase sites are often characterized by artifacts consisting of well-made projectile points in association with expedient flake stone tools and debris, bifaces, and bifacial cores, with minimal amounts of nonlocal lithic resources, such as chert or metavolcanic material. Middle Archaic sites are found most frequently in upland settings in the Piedmont. Hunting and gathering remains the primary subsistence mode throughout the Archaic period with a gradual shift toward a reduction in mobility range, a broadening of the subsistence base, and the probable introduction of some cultigens by the transition to the Late Archaic period.

The most significant Middle Archaic excavation along the Oconee has been conducted near the dam on Lake Sinclair. Testing and data recovery of the Furman Shoals site, 9BL69, produced substantial numbers of Morrow Mountain points, lithic remains, and groundstone tools in a stratified alluvium (O’Steen et al. 1994, Espenshade et al. 1994). The site represents the best evidence to date for a Morrow Mountain base camp and possibly a Fall Line aggregation site on the Oconee River. One potentially significant Middle Archaic site (9PM215) was excavated near the project area during the Wallace project but was only minimally documented (Hally and Barber 1978).

Late Archaic (3000-800 B.C.). During the latter part of the Archaic Period, climatic conditions were similar to those we experience today (Delcourt and Delcourt 1987). The Late Archaic period is characterized by evidence of horticulture and sedentism and the intensive exploitation of shellfish and aquatic resources. Late Archaic sites are typically identified by Paris Island, Savannah River, Otarre, Abbey, Elora, and Gary projectile point types (Whatley 2002), and by the introduction of fiber tempered pottery and soapstone vessels. In southeastern Georgia, Stallings Island fiber tempered pottery occurs as early as 2550 B.C. (Stoltman 1972), and grit tempered Thombs Creek pottery appears by 2050 B.C. (Trinkley 1980). Fiber tempered pottery was frequently found on floodplain sites in Lake Oconee (Elliott 1981a) and Lake Sinclair (O’Steen et al. 1994:422) but Thombs Creek pottery has not been identified. There is evidence of widespread use of river and major tributary valleys during the Late Archaic period with larger and more intensively occupied sites occurring in floodplains (Elliott 1981a). Occupation of the uplands may have become less intensive.

A regional framework for our understanding of the Late Archaic period in Georgia reflects in large measure from excavated data from intensively occupied sites along the Savannah River and Georgia/South Carolina coastal areas. Much of our knowledge for the region is based on excavation of shell midden sites such as Stallings Island, Bilbo, and White’s Mound. These sites are quite different from the small upland sites typically found in the uplands of the Piedmont. Previous Late Archaic research is thoroughly reviewed in operating plans prepared for Georgia (Elliott and Sassaman 1995, Stanyard 2003) and South Carolina (Sassaman and Anderson 1994). A more detailed examination of many research issues relating to the period is found in Sassaman and Anderson (1994). Particularly pertinent is work published during the last two decades for sites along the Fall Line area of the Oconee River (Espenshade et al. 1994, O’Steen et al. 1994) and Ocmulgee River (Ledbetter et al. 1994), and the upper Ocmulgee River drainage (Stanyard 1997, Stanyard and Stoops 1995). These latter projects produced important information relating to domestic sites, some of which were located in upland settings similar to the project area.

During the Wallace project only five Late Archaic sites were specifically selected for testing or data recovery level excavation. 9PM205 produced substantial amounts of fire-cracked rock, chipped stone, and moderate amounts of groundstone in a midden zone. Rogers noted the presence of rock clusters but there was no recognizable patterning of features. The excavations provided basic information concerning prehistoric diet, activities, and resource utilization (Rogers 1982:140). Rogers interpreted the site as a base camp location occupation that was occupied for several weeks or longer (Rogers 1982:143). Rogers interpreted the other excavated Wallace sites, that were also levee sites, as short-term episodes. Interestingly, those other sites also contained midden stains, often dense deposits of chipped stone and fire-cracked rock, and many contained preserved rock clusters interpreted as hearths.
Excavated data from sites along the Savannah River and elsewhere in the Southeast have provided the contextual framework needed for understanding the Late Archaic period in the area. Unfortunately, the Wallace excavations were conducted at a time when our understanding of the Late Archaic was based on the results of the excavations at shell midden sites such as Stallings Island (Claflin 1931) and Groton Plantation (Stoltman 1972, 1974). There was a general consensus at the time of the Wallace investigations that Late Archaic settlement was not particularly intensive in the area because shell midden sites similar to Stallings Island were lacking. Many Late Archaic sites were eventually discovered during the Wallace survey but all appeared to represent either small extractive sites or small habitation areas. Large intensively occupied sites were not found. At that time, there was no clear understanding of chronological sequences relating to projectile points, soapstone vessels, or fiber tempered ceramics. For that reason, the few reports written twenty years ago provide little meaningful information.

The work conducted along the Savannah River, and to a lesser extent at other sites in the central Piedmont, have provided the typological information needed to interpret the Wallace sites, but to date no effort has been made to interpret the available data. Elliott et al. (1994:370) created a revised phase sequence for the Central Savannah River Area that is critical to the interpretation of the Wallace data. It is important to note that Elliott’s phase sequence was meant to be restricted geographically to the Savannah River drainage (personal communication 2000). Firm data for comparable site assemblages in other river valleys should be procured before Elliott’s phases are extended elsewhere.

In the operating plan for the Archaic period north of the Fall Line, Stanyard concludes that Elliott’s Paris Island and Mill Branch phases have crystallized into well defined archeological concepts that temporally and geographically bind specific cultural expressions within the catchment, but that the other phases are too broad in scope (Stanyard 2003:56). Stanyard proposes for the eastern and central Piedmont Region an undefined phase (5000 to 4600 B.P.) That would include Brier Creek Lanceolate, Benton-liked stemmed, and possibly Guilford points. Paris Island would be used for the period of 4600 to 4200 B.P. and Mill Branch phase would cover the period of 4200 to 3850 B.P. Stanyard replaces Elliott’s Lovers Lane phase of 3850 to 3450 B.P. with a "Stallings" phase for the Eastern Piedmont/Savannah River area and a "Black Shoals" phase for the Central Piedmont that would include the Lake Oconee area. Stanyard prefers to the term "Undifferentiated Post-Stallings" (3450 to 3000 B.P.) for the end of the period. Stanyard’s view seems predicated on the demise of population centers on the Savannah and arrival of the Stallings phase people in the Piedmont.

There is general agreement among researchers that at some point during the Late Archaic period a hierarchy of settlement developed. That hierarchy minimally consisted of large floodplain aggregation sites located near the Fall Line, dispersed residential base sites located in both upland and riverrine locations, and small short term logistical camps. During the period, the Fall Line aggregation sites were the focus of diverse subsistence and nonsubsistence production as well as ceremonial activities. There is the possibility of fall and winter dispersal of populations to the uplands. There is the suggestion that by ca 3500 B.P. the large floodplain sites on the Savannah River were abandoned and populations spread away from the river with settlement of smaller drainages becoming dominant (Sassaman et al. 1990:315).

**Woodland Period (800 B.C. to A.D. 900).** The Woodland period in the Southeast is characterized by extensive use of ceramics, increased reliance on agriculture, and increased ceremonialism, as shown by the construction of burial mounds, and the development of permanently occupied villages. The Woodland period is divided into three subperiods: the Early Woodland (800 to 200 B.C.), the Middle Woodland (200 B.C. to A.D. 600), and the Late Woodland (A.D. 600 to 900). Throughout most of the Piedmont, Early Woodland pottery is identified by sand tempered and fabric marked pottery. Early Woodland stone tool assemblages are generally comparable to Late Archaic tool kits, except for a change to triangular projectile points in the Piedmont. Small stemmed points and expanded stemmed points are also associated with the Middle Woodland period. Later Early to Middle Woodland pottery includes complicated stamping generally referred to as Swift Creek Complicated Stamped (Willey 1949:378) and Napier (Jennings and Fairbanks 1940). At the present time, the end of the Woodland period is defined by the pottery type Vining Simple Stamped (Williams and Thompson 1999:129). It is important to note that Vining pottery is the same as Mossy Oak simple stamped which Kelly and others once mistakenly attributed to the Middle Woodland period in the region (see Williams and Thompson 1999:81 for discussion).
A general shift toward more permanent settlements of larger villages along major streams and river floodplains occurred as the Woodland period progressed. A variety of environments were also exploited in the interriverine regions. Those areas contain smaller, and presumably temporary, camps for special extraction purposes such as hunting, collecting and storage of plants, and procurement of lithic raw material. Hunting and gathering of wild foods continued, but horticulture became increasingly important with the growing of cultigens such as beans, corn, and squash. Long-distance trading networks became more firmly established, and ritual mortuary behavior is evident archeologically for the first time. During the Middle and Late Woodland period, socio-political centers emerged, symbolized by the presence of mound sites, and population density continued to increase. Socio-political organization became more complex, culminating in the Hopewellian Ceremonial Interaction Sphere. A considerable amount of controversy exists in the archeological community concerning mounds and other ceremonial features constructed of stone that are attributed to the Woodland period. There has been speculation that the construction and use of the Rock Eagle effigy mounds has some relationship to Hopewell (Kelly 1954:86). A few issues were resolved by the excavation of one stone mound on Plant Scherer in Monroe County (Jefferies and Fish 1978). Plant Scherer represents the best excavation data for the region with respect to Woodland Period rock mound construction.

Woodland period sites in the region are relatively common but few excavations have been conducted. Sites occur primarily as low to moderate density pottery scatters in floodplain settings. Most sites are small habitation sites or temporary camps. Extensive excavations were conducted on the one major mound center, 9GE10, that dates to Middle and Late Woodland period (Fish and Jefferies 1978, Jefferies 1994:76, Wood 1981). Excavations of the larger of two mounds at Cold Springs defined several buildings stages with associated structures. Other structures, including possible pit houses, were excavated in the village area. The primary pottery type associated with the site was Swift Creek. Limited excavations have been conducted at another important Swift Creek site (9MG46) located in Morgan County on the Little River. 9MG46 produced evidence of small earthen mounds and one small rock mound thought to date to the period (Williams 1990a).

Excavations associated with the Early Woodland period have been conducted at Furman Shoals on Lake Sinclair (Espenshade et al. 1994 and at the Cane Island site (9PM209) in Lake Oconee (Wood 1981). Wood’s research focused upon an Early to Middle Woodland household area. Two structures were inferred from the patterning of features such as pits, postmolds and rock clusters and from artifact patterning. The Long Shoals phase was defined based on the work at Cane Island. The phase dates to the latter part of the Early Woodland period and produced pottery dominated by Dunlap fabric marked and Cartersville Linear Check Stamped (Wood 1981:93). A portion of a formerly large Middle Woodland Swift Creek site was recently investigated on Reynolds Plantation. The site’s significance was noted during a survey for Reynolds Plantation (Ledbetter 1998a:281). Data recovery excavations conducted in 2000 produced several large thermal features and one small round structure. The structure was four meters in diameter and consisted of 16 posts. Analysis of the excavated material is ongoing but preliminary interpretations suggest the structure and surrounding features are part of a larger village site approximately 100 m in diameter.

Emergent Mississippian A.D. 900-1000. In central Georgia, and primarily in Putnam, Jones, Jasper, and Monroe Greene counties, data from U. S. Forest Service surveys and other projects have been used to provide evidence for a seldom recognized early Mississippian simple stamped ceramic complex, termed Vining (Elliott and Wynn 1991, Meyers et al. 1999). Vining components are frequently identified on large, predominantly upland sites in the region. Ceramic density is high, with approximately 22 to 42 percent of the assemblage containing simple stamped or overstamped surface decoration and approximately 58 to 78 percent consisting of plain surfaces (Elliott and Wynn 1991:12-13). Lesser amounts of check stamped and rectilinear complicated stamped designs occur in these assemblages, but curvilinear designs are not found. Small triangular points consistently occur on Vining ceramic sites. Elliott and Wynn (1991:12) suggested a time range for the Vining phase of approximately A.D. 950 to A.D. 1150. Uncorrected carbon dates of 960 +/- 60 B.P. and 1020 +/- 60 B.P. were recovered from Vining Phase features from the Tarver Site in Jones County (Pluckhahn 1997:30. Worth reported a OCR date range of A.D. 950 to 1150 from the Raccoon Ridge site in Morgan County (Worth 1996).

Vining site clusters identified in the region include the Vining Cluster, just north of Lake Sinclair, and the Half Acre Cluster, just west of the study area (Elliott and Wynn 1991:6). Approximately 16 sites with Vining pottery were identified among the 3,000 archeological sites recorded in the Lake Oconee Reservoir survey (Elliott and Wynn 1991:4).
A small number of intensively occupied Vinings sites were found in Lake Sinclair (O’Steen et al. 1994). Of the seven recorded Sinclair sites, five are located within a five km wide area along Little Island Creek and the main channel of the Oconee River. An isolated site occurs mid-way up Little River and one site is identified in the upper portion of the reservoir. This indicates site clustering within a specific area and not reservoir-wide settlement (O’Steen et al. 1994). Available survey information from areas northeast of the project area show no evidence of Vinings settlement (Ledbetter 1998, Pluckhahn 1997a) suggesting the present project area lies at the edge of Vinings area. Woodstock pottery seems to define a comparable time period to the north (Pluckhahn 1994a:20).

**Mississippian Period (A.D. 900-1540).** This period represents the height of Native American cultural complexity. Mississippian culture is characterized by increased political and ceremonial sophistication, reflecting a ranked or hierarchical society and the emergence of an elite class, as evidenced by preferential treatment of the dead. Agricultural production intensified and it is thought that a dependence on corn production as a primary food source developed. The Mississippian Period is generally separated into Early, Middle, and Late. Early Mississippian sites are characterized by Woodstock and Etowah complicated stamped pottery. Middle Mississippian sites are characterized by later variations of Etowah pottery designs termed Savannah.

Near the project area, Mississippian mound construction that appears linked to Middle and Late Mississippian times occurred at sites such as Shoulderbone (Williams 1990a), Little River (Williams and Shapiro 1990), Dyar (Smith 1994) and Scull Shoals (Williams 1988a). Non-mound settlement data have been studied for the Lamar period, especially as related to sites in the Lake Oconee area (Lee 1977; Kowalewski and Hatch 1991; Rudolph 1994; Rudolph and Blanton 1981). Portions of a large palisaded village occupied during Savannah times have been excavated at the Marshall site (9OC25) located north of Lake Oconee near Barnett Shoals (Hatch et al. 1997).

The Late Mississippian is characterized by distinctive stamped and incised pottery named Lamar (Kelly 1937, 1938:47-48; Jennings and Fairbanks 1939). Lamar pottery is also characterized by applied rim treatments on grit tempered ceramics. A ceramic-based chronology has been refined by Smith (1981, 1983) and expanded upon by Williams (1988a) for the middle Oconee river valley based on the excavated data from Dyar, Scull Shoals, and the Joe Bell Site (Williams 1983). Smith defined the Stillhouse phase, a regional manifestation of the late Etowah subperiod, in the pre-mound occupation levels at Dyar Mound in Wallace Reservoir. The Etowah Complicated Stamped concentric, interrupted diamond design motif is the only design identified at Dyar Mound (Smith 1981, 1983). Williams (1988a) subdivided the phase into the Stillhouse (A.D. 1225 - 1300) and Scull Shoals (A.D. 1300 - 1375) phases based on his research at Scull Shoals Mounds.

During the Lamar period, farming, hunting, and exploitation of aquatic resources played important roles in the subsistence strategy (Bonhage Freund 1997, Boyko 1996, Shapiro 1983). Specialized extractive sites, identified as small sites near shoals and upland locations, were visited by people who probably had more permanent residences on an area of prime agricultural soil (Shapiro 1983:263, Bonhage Freund 1997:80). The seasonal importance of aquatic resources was a factor affecting settlement patterns, and the effect is especially apparent in the late Lamar settlement when site numbers increased substantially (Smith 1981:63, Rudolph and Blanton 1980:17). Lamar mortuary practices with respect to burials at domestic sites are well documented (Hatch 1995); however, there is a body of evidence that links the Lamar period to boulder outcrop cremations (Braley et al. 1985).

**Protohistoric Period (1540-1650).** European expeditions made first contact with native populations along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The DeSoto expedition of 1540 traveled up the Oconee Valley but crossed the river well to the southeast (Hudson et al. 1986:65). Little is known about the Indians of the region for the next 250 years. Archeological evidence indicates that the large mound centers were depopulated because of disease and breakdown of political authority. Substantial population movement occurred and areas that may have once been buffer zones earlier were filled in by farmstead settlements. Large geographic areas now identified as Putnam, Greene, Morgan, and Hancock counties appear to have been intensively occupied during this period by people generally defined by the Bell phase (Kowalewski and Hatch 1991). In the areas of Oconee and Oglethorpe Counties to the north of Lake Oconee, protohistoric pottery is characterized by high proportions of complicated stamping in addition to fine and bold width, multiple line incising. The period has been named the Wolfskin Phase (Ledbetter and O’Steen 1992, Williams 1988b). Sites of the phase have been identified in Hall, Jackson, and Clarke counties but not to date in the Lake Oconee counties (Ledbetter and Braley 1987, 1990; Ledbetter and O’Steen 1992; Pluckhahn 1994a).
Upland Lamar settlement appears to be late, although at present it difficult to accurately separate the latest Dyar phase pottery from Bell phase pottery when dealing with small plowzone sherd collections. Investigation of upland sites of the Lamar period had been limited prior to the past decade. Much of the published work of Hatch and others has focused on the fundamental question relating to architecture, site layout, and subsistence. At present, the sample of excavated upland Lamar sites is quite small. Since the Wallace project of the late 1970s, only a few late Mississippian period house sites or farmsteads in the Oconee River valley have been excavated. Blanton (1986) excavated a Mississippian period house site in Hancock County, close to, but just outside of, the Oconee River basin, and found enough features in a plowed and eroded context to allow descriptive analysis. Blanton's site did produce a few Spanish-era glass beads. A preliminary report concerning work by Worth at the Raccoon Ridge site in nearby Oconee County has been published (Worth 1996). Worth exposed a Lamar circular structure with interior burials and associated pits and exterior rectangular structures in a pattern comparable to that defined by Hatch (1995). Excavation of additional upland Lamar sites in the Oconee Valley has been conducted by SAS (Ledbetter 2000) and the University of Georgia (Williams 2005).

The most extensive work on such sites has been conducted by Hatch (1995) on a series of Lamar period homesteads in Morgan and Putnam Counties of Georgia. These investigations included controlled surface collection (the sites were in plowed fields) and test pitting, followed by mechanical stripping of plowzones and the mapping and excavation of features. The results of this research, viewed in concert with more limited excavations at other sites, indicates that the array and arrangement of architectural, domestic, and mortuary features is strikingly consistent from site to site. In general, these sites contain a large circular domestic structure, one to four smaller rectangular buildings, associated interior and exterior features, and a single, large trash pit. In the sample of sites excavated by Hatch (1995:143-148), circular buildings range in size from 8 to 10.5 meters in diameter and consist of 12 or 16 individually set posts. Posts are set at regular intervals and reach 35 to 50 cm in depth. In many cases some or all of these wall posts were paired, as support posts were added to extend the life of the building.

The presence of daub in postmold fill indicates that these buildings were plastered with clay. A doorway, recognized by a gap in the wall posts, is usually positioned to the east-southeast or southeast. Three or four interior roof support posts (in the case of 12 or 16 post buildings, respectively) are found clustered in the central portion of structure interiors. Outside of the support posts there are three concentric rings of activities represented by features. The innermost consists of a ring of burial pits, followed by a series of storage pits, shallow basins, and hearths. Near the outer wall, posts for bench supports are located, as are small basins used as storage space under the benches.

Although not present on all Lamar homesteads investigated, most also contain one or more rectangular buildings. Hatch (1995:146) found that these structures are smaller than the circular buildings, having about 20% of the latter's floor space. Each is constructed of single-set posts, and apparently were not plastered with daub. Central portions of interior space are clear of features, but small basins, shallow hearths, and burials do occur along the walls. Burials also occur just outside the doorway and up to 5 meters away from it. On sites where rectangular structures are present, they tend to be located to the southeast of circular buildings. When more than one is present, they tend to be arranged with their long axes perpendicular, forming a small courtyard. These buildings were apparently shorter-lived, showing a greater tendency to be rebuilt than the circular structures.

Outside of, but within close proximity to buildings, there is a scatter of posts and small features. Features include smudge pits, outdoor hearths, storage facilities, and posts that appear in clusters suggestive of racks or scaffolding. Included in this scatter of features are fairly large basin-shaped pits filled with domestic refuse. Generally, one of these features is found for each circular building and is presumed to be the location where clay was excavated for daub. These features are filled with pottery and a variety of food remains, and contain evidence of stratification and occasional burning (Elliott and Boyko 1989; Hatch 1995; Hatch et al. 1997; Williams 1983; Worth 1996).

From his excavations of several Lamar house sites, Hatch (1995) has concluded that the Lamar population explosion of the Late Mississippian period in the Oconee Valley forced residents to change from an incidental use of uplands to an intensive, year-round occupation. Hatch found winter and summer houses at each farmstead he examined, and, based on site density, postos that surrounding ground was cleared and farmed, then abandoned after nutrient depletion, thus accounting for the large number of sites of short duration.
Excavation of several Lamar farmsteads on Reynolds Plantation in Greene County has been reported as preliminary observations (Ledbetter 2000:161). The habitation areas are recognized on the surface or in plowzone contexts by an area of higher pottery density that is generally spread over an area of no more than 50 to 60 m. These Lamar pottery "hot spots" do correspond to the locations of preserved subsoil-intruding features associated with household features. On the excavated Lamar sites, those features are consistently distributed over an area between 30 and 35 m long. In some instances feature scatters produce an oval pattern, while others are elongated conforming to landforms. Results from Reynolds Plantation generally confirm Hatch's (1995) observations concerning upland Lamar household patterning conducted previously in the region. However, there does appear to be greater variation in site layout at Reynolds Plantation. The preliminary results of data recovery investigations now allow some modifications to Hatch's model. One difference concerns the types and distribution of structures found on upland habitation sites. The sample of sites examined by Hatch contained one large round house and several rectangular structures. Hatch also identified burials within each household cluster of features. To date, eight Lamar farmsteads have been completely excavated at Reynolds. Large round structures have been positively identified in only three of those excavations. The remaining five contain either a single rectangular structure or groups of rectangular structures.

The Lamar sites at Reynolds Plantation appear to contain substantially fewer burials when compared to Hatch's sample. Within the eight referenced excavated farmsteads, only four contain burials. Burials have also been noted in one additional farmstead location that was only partially excavated. It is possible that the Reynolds' sites represent a broader range of Lamar site types than previously examined by Hatch and others. Some of those differences may be temporal. Diagnostic pottery from various excavated farmsteads includes Duval, Dyar, and Bell phase material (most are single component). Most of the sites also represent less intensive occupations or occupations of shorter duration compared to the sample investigated by Hatch. The lower frequency of burials at Reynolds may reflect that short-term occupation. Alternatively, there is the possibility that Lamar people were interred only in specific habitation areas or at locations away from the domestic areas such as rock mounds. The obvious conclusion from work conducted to date at Reynolds Plantation is that every Lamar habitation site is not exactly the same. A larger sample of excavated sites will continue to provide additional information relating to upland Lamar settlement.

**Historic Period (1650 to present).** As previously discussed, the Oconee Valley contained a substantial late Mississippian and protohistoric population. As more and more archeological research is conducted it does appear that the region actually witnessed increased settlement after Spanish contact in A.D. 1540. For a short time, the area may have been something of a safe haven. That safety disappeared as European settlement began in earnest. By the latter part of the eighteenth century the Oconee River was a frontier boundary and a focal point of great hostility between the white settlers and the Creek Confederacy.

During the centuries following initial European exploration, the Spanish, French, and English began colonizing a region that was inhabited by Indians often referred to as Creek. Before 1715, the date associated with an Indian rebellion known as the Yamassee War, the region of the upper Oconee, Savannah and Chattahoochee drainages was occupied by Indian groups who later became part of the Creek Confederation. Williams (1988b) notes that the Lower Cherokee, Westo, Yuchi and Shawnee are historically documented groups during this time. After the Yamasee War of 1715, the Muskogean-speaking tribes banded together in the Creek Confederacy for mutual defense against and trade with the European powers. The eastern tribes migrated west, settling west of the Ocmulgee River and finally moving on to settle along the Chattahoochee and Coosa Rivers in western Georgia and Alabama. The Lower Creek towns were situated on the Lower Chattahoochee River. At times the Confederacy acted in concert, as in the French and Indian War of the 1760s, although usually the tribes acted independently. Both the Creeks and Cherokee claimed parts of the region at the time of European colonization. After several periods of Indian Wars, the Creeks left northern Georgia to the Cherokees. Following land cessions of 1817 and 1818, the Cherokee Indians were confined to areas of northwestern Georgia.

The period of earliest European-American settlement in the Georgia Piedmont is largely undocumented. Many early inhabitants were probably traders, hunters, cattle farmers, and squatters whose transient nature left little for the archaeological or historical record. Most had moved on by the time the lands of the east side of the Oconee were officially created in the late eighteenth century (Cadle 1991; Price and Wood 1989:15). The Upper Creek Path, also known as the Path to Oakfuskee, passed two miles to the south of the project area.
The Upper Path was an aboriginal thoroughfare that later connected English trading houses in Carolina with Creek towns in what is now north-central Alabama. After the American Revolution, Colonel Elijah Clarke led a military campaign up the Oconee River into lands then claimed by the Cherokee Nation, and as a result the Cherokee Nation was forced to sign a treaty at Augusta, Georgia on May 31, 1783, ceding a tract of land between the Tugaloo and the upper Oconee Rivers (Cadle 1991:75). However, because the Creeks also claimed that land, a title was not relinquished until 1790 (Cadle 1991:75-76). The state of Georgia began distributing the new lands in 1784. Petitions for land were accepted, and in April of that year warrants were issued for Washington County.

While settlement was officially allowed, during most of the last two decades on the eighteenth century, the region under consideration was basically Indian territory. At that time the Oconee represented the Indian boundary. During the 1790s a series of military forts and private blockhouses were constructed along the eastern side of the Oconee. Maps prepared to illustrate the locations of those early forts provide some of the most detailed views of the Oconee settlement at that time (Figure 8). The illustrated map is credited to Adjutant General Augustus Elholm and is generally dated to 1793. That date corresponds to the year that Governor Edward Telfair ordered a series of forts be constructed along the Oconee River to be manned by Georgia militia.

Figure 8. Copy of a portion of the ca 1793 Elholm map showing landmarks near the project area.
In 1794, Elijah Clarke led a group of settlers west across the Oconee River into Indian territory and established a small settlement across the Oconee River from Fort Fidius (Hunt 1973:40). His domain extended about 100 miles from the Appalachee River to the fall line and is known by historians as the Trans-Oconee Republic. Clarke planned a series of forts along the Oconee, one of which was to be built opposite the mouth of Shoulderbone Creek in what is now Putnam County, a short distance south of the project area. Walters (1995:85) identifies the blockhouse as Fort Carson but there is no evidence of construction. Several settlers from the Greene County side of the Oconee joined Clarke's short lived scheme, including William Kimbrough and Archibald and David Gresham. Detailed accounts of the history of the Republic are found in Hunt (1973:39) and Walters (1995:82). Figure 9 shows one interpretation of the Republic fort locations. The map is adapted from the Georgia Forts series produced by the Georgia Archives and History several years ago (Page 1971:11).

It must be understood that while these maps appear quite detailed, the various site locations are only approximations. The exact locations of the forts are, in particular, a source of academic dispute and few have actually been archeologically recorded (Ledbetter 2000:59). Figure 10 shows an interesting map dated 1794 which provides a more accurate view of the settlement landscape directly across the Oconee River from the project area. The map, which shows the newly established Hancock County line, was drawn with north pointing down or to the bottom of the page. The houses of two residents shown on the county line are both Fosters and one or both of those individuals should relate to Foster's Station shown on the Eliholm map.

The territory now known as Putnam County was originally laid out as Baldwin County, which was created in 1803 (Figure 11). Putnam County was split off from Baldwin in 1807. Land was distributed by means of land lots of 202 1/2 acres with owners selected by a land lottery. The area became settled mostly as small farms with only a few larger plantations developed during those early years. An early industry was represented by small grist and saw mills that were established soon after initial settlement. From the start, the economy of the region was based on the plantation system, with most plantations growing a diversity of crops that included upland cotton.

Figure 9. Sketch map showing forts and planned Trans-Oconee Republic forts along the Oconee in 1794.
Figure 10. 1794 map showing settlement along the new Hancock County line.
Figure 11. Portion of the 1803 Baldwin County Land Lot Map showing lots in project area.
Locally, many of the "plantations" were no more than small farmsteads containing a couple of hundred acres or less. Those early farmsteads were subsistence farms which had little in common with the large landholdings of a relatively few planters (Bonner 1964). Farm and plantation life in Middle Georgia during the period of the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth centuries represents an important topic of study with respect to the project area. Middle Georgia was largely settled by people from the Piedmont of the Carolinas and Virginia. Migration patterns followed soil and topography, settlers tended to chose land similar to that they left behind. Thus, the mountaineers followed the Appalachians and Blue Ridge southwestward; "piney woods" people stayed within the Coastal Plain, and Piedmont farmers and planters settled the rolling oak and hickory hills north of the Fall Line. These first settlers generally were younger offspring of planters in the older states to the east and with them came slaves several generations removed from Africa (Andrews 1870:72).

By 1840 Middle Georgia was a thriving agricultural region. Although many children and grandchildren of the first settlers had moved to newer western lands and soil exhaustion was widespread, the population had stabilized and scientific agriculture was gaining acceptance. A prosperous middle class of yeoman farmers predominated. They owned few or no slaves, although hiring slaves from neighboring planters was a common practice. Their houses, and even those of many planters, were unpretentious. Log houses covered with clapboards, and frame houses, two rooms over two with shed rooms, were the common dwellings of yeoman and planter. Brick houses were infrequent in rural middle Georgia. Housing for slaves varied from farm to farm. Often, they were constructed with the same heavy mortise and tenon framing as their masters' homes; chimneys were stick and mud, field stone, or brick; interiors were often left unsealed (Flanders 1933).

The area's plantations frequently resembled small villages. Numerous dependencies surrounded the owner's house and usually included a detached kitchen, commissary, smoke house, blacksmith shop, dovecote or pigeon house, privy, and other small structures having specialized uses. Slave quarters were usually located within view of the master's house in a linear grouping, or forming a right angle. Slave houses most often were single room structures, although double (or duplex) houses were built also. Nearby springs and wells served for drinking, cooking, and washing purposes.

Prior to the Civil War, most middle Georgia plantations practiced a diversified agriculture. Although cotton was the cash crop, grains, vegetables, and grasses were produced for home consumption; meat was largely produced for home use and included fowls, beef, pork, and, to a lesser degree mutton. Farms and plantations were usually located near watercourses. Joel Chandler Harris referred to farms in the Oconee River valley as "river plantations." Besides rich bottom land, streams afforded water power for grist mills, gins, and other small industries; many farmers operated water-powered industries as an adjunct to their agricultural enterprises (Flanders 1933:209). On larger rivers, the planters may have maintained ferries for their own use as well as the general public.

Civil War activity largely by-passed the local community under study although the potential was surely present. Sherman's troops passed about six miles to the west during the March to the Sea in November 1864 and no record of pillaging in the local community has been found. One newspaper article dated August 6, 1864, does provide some insight into the disruption of the local area caused by union raiders in 1864 (Figure 12). Other local newspaper accounts may be found in the local Putnam County newspaper known as The Countryman which was printed at Turnwold Plantation, located just a few miles to the northwest of the project area.

While the immediate area was not directly a part of the conflict, most families were greatly affected in other ways by the war. Kinchen Little, whose plantation forms the bulk of the project area, lost two sons early in the war. Those sons are buried in the family cemetery within the project area. War shortages did result in a revival of home crafts for most families. The Countryman, at the time, commented on the home-made blankets made by Christine Little, the wife of Kinchen Little. This and other stories are recounted in Walters (1995:289).

The post-war period of reconstruction was a particularly difficult time for southerners, particularly of the planter class. For many local people who actually had little direct connection with the fighting the time was actually more painful than the war itself (Neal 1914, Baird 1949). Most southerners seemed to feel that they had put up a good and noble fight and they should be left alone to rebuild the South. Of course, that did not happen.
The biography of Charles Edgar Little contains a portion of a letter written by Carlisle Martin in 1868 (Baird 1949:3). Martin was the father of Elizabeth Little who along with her husband Kinchen D. Little revived and operated the extensive postbellum plantation that covered most of the project area. A portion of that insightful letter follows:

With us at the South, the great question is to make a living. Formerly the question was to make money to get rich. The idea of making enough simply to live had been supported by food and shelter and clothing—was considered small doing. But times have changed now. The settlement of war and still more the diabolical legislations of an accursed Radical Congress—an Assemblage of Hell Hounds—have made this land a land of wretchedness indeed...Land, to use a common expression, “is dirt cheap.” It can be bought for two to five dollars an acre. Improvements—good land near railroads...But enough of this sickening subject, I cannot write about it without getting mad—mad that the people of the North do not drive such demons as Stevens, Sumner, Shallaberger—"et id omne genus"—and that whole crew from the halls of Congress to their abodes of obscurity and put true, honest men in their place, that peace and harmony may be restored to this troubled country. We want peace—and to let be lost. Give the South these and She would soon recover from her ruin and again flourish in all her beauty for there is no land that surpasses her in all the elements of national greatness or individual happiness. Place the negro in control of her government and her ruin—eternally—is sealed forever. Let her along—and the South would soon master the situation, and rise to her former glory.
What wages do farm hands receive in your part of the country? Men do all work-plow-hoe-cut and haul wood-split rails-make fences, etc., the freeing of the negro will work an entire change in the whole system of labor in this country.... I am trying negro labor at present-but the "free negro" is a poor "institution." You cannot depend on him-He is as uncertain as the wind-He is a broken stick... The war has so broken up everything in this country, it is pretty hard doing anything. Farming implements are worn out and broken up stock is scarce and dear-provisions are very scarce-and when the war closed nobody scarcely had a cent of money! "All had been swept away." I lost fifteen thousand dollars and am now poor (letter from Carlisle Martin to his brother William Martin dated March 1, 1868, published in Baird 1949:3).

As most people are aware, the bitterness expressed in the Martin letter continued to shape to attitudes of many southerners for many decades to come. An excerpt from the early twentieth century autobiography of Basil Llewellyn Neal who was another member of an old planter family in east-central Georgia is also insightful.

The years have brought the people of all sections of our country into a closer union than ever before in all our history, but it is impossible for those who remember them, to think of the days following the surrender of our armies in Virginia and North Carolina, with all their humiliation and bitter resentments, with absolute calmness and dispassionate consideration. It is never well to nurse our dislikes, and the men and women of our generation may wonder why the survivors of the Old South and the veterans of the Civil War sometimes seem unreasonably bitter against the North, even yet, but if any apology or explanation is needed, let it be remembered that the defeat of our cause, the downfall of the Southern Confederacy, the despoiling of our property and the defeat of many of the choicest of our men, young and old, were not all that the people of the South were called upon to endure. We felt then, and we feel yet, that the South, brave, loyal to its convictions, and faithful to its political faith even unto death, deserved the treatment that brave men have always accorded to other brave men after they have fought each other to a finish. It was because we did not receive this treatment at the hands of our Northern foes after the war was over, that there sprung up amongst us a feeling of the deepest resentment against the United States. We had once fought the Union in open and desperate battle, now we learned to hate the very name with a bitterness that we had never known before. It was Reconstruction, so called, and not the war, that made our people hate the "Yankees" an appellation that can never mean to our children what it meant to us, a fact for which none are more grateful than are their fathers.

The heart sickens after the lapse of these fifty years at the recollection of those days and their history. Our negroes were free. This we expected, and were, in a measure, prepared for it when we surrendered. The flower of our young manhood had fallen in battle, or were disabled by the wounds they received in battle. All this we knew and accepted as part of the award of the high court of arms which we had appealed. Many of our homes were desolate, and much of our land was laid waste. This we, also, knew, and accepting it as inevitable, went to work to restore our lost fortunes, our desolate fields and our bereaved families. We had met hardship and danger and death on the battlefield; now we were determined to show our mettle in rebuilding the South. We were weary of war; we were glad that peace had come, even though it was the price of defeat, and we were more than willing to take our place in the nation our fathers had founded. But this we were not allowed to do. We had laid down our arms. The North had not (Neal 1914:71).

The postbellum years brought adjustments to both society and agriculture. Many farmers and planters moved to nearby towns or the county seat, leaving their homes rented to white managers or, in many cases, vacant. The freedmen also moved. They did not wish to live under the eye of the former master or overseer and gradually vacated the old slave quarters. Freedmen also refused to work in the gang system of antebellum days, preferring to rent or share-crop a small acreage. The old plantations were transformed into many sub-parcels worked by freedmen and their families. New houses were built, or the former slave houses were moved to new locations on the plantation. The postbellum tenant houses were often inferior to the old slave houses (Barrow 1881:832). Thus the nuclear aspect of the plantation was changed and dispersed. In the lean years following the War many of the agricultural reforms of the 1840's and 1850's were shelved. Cotton, the cash crop, was seen as a quick fix for economic woes. It was now cultivated to an extent unknown in antebellum years. Food crops, as a consequence, were curtailed, and even pork was imported in large quantities from the Midwest. Land was carelessly cultivated and many plantations became so dissected by gullies, some twenty to fifty feet deep, that settlement roads and even houses were swallowed as the gullies grew deeper and wider (Raper 1943:54).

By the beginning of the twentieth century plantations and farms had undergone many changes. White population had largely disappeared from the old plantation districts; absentee white landowners resided in nearby villages or the county seats. The result was decay and poor farming practices on the land. The antebellum plantation messuage largely disappeared as tenants dispersed over the hills to work their individual acres. Woods lots disappeared as the mania for cotton acreage absorbed all energy and resources; on some plantations hardwood for heating and cooking became so scarce that firewood had to be imported by rail from South Georgia swamps (Raper 1936:222).
At the beginning of the twentieth century, farms and plantations in Middle Georgia were in a state of irreversible decline. The new century brought further forces to bear on traditional agricultural practices; better job opportunities in the cities lured many tenants off the land. Changes in technology, better modes of travel and many other factors were behind the population shift. The event that finally broke the back of the plantation was the arrival of the cotton boll weevil after World War I. The economic disruption caused by the weevil was immediate and disastrous. In the wake of economic ruin, tenant houses were abandoned by the thousands as families moved to Atlanta, New York, and Detroit (Figure 13). Most of the few remaining plantation houses were vacated, and deserted land became sedge fields, then, after a few years, pine woods (Raper 1943).

A Depression-era study of land use in nearby Greene County shows just how much the former rich agricultural land had declined. According to the government report, dated 1939, 95 percent of the that county was in woods, four percent in abandoned crop land, and only one percent of the land in the area was being cultivated (Agricultural Extension Service 1939:9). The report recommended that most of the land was suitable only for timber or pasture. Within the next few years many of the remaining farms were purchased by land companies and the timber industry.

Putnam County actually weathered these economic disruptions better than Greene County by shifting emphasis to the dairy industry (Walters 1995:391). This is brought out very well in a 1937 newspaper column that chronicled the visit of a Macon newspaper reporter named Eugene Anderson to the Rockville area during the period of the Great Depression (Figure 14). Several of the old plantations around the project area were converted to dairy farms which helps explain why some of the old structures managed to remain standing until the middle part of the twentieth century.
These companies. The company quickly initiated a marketing campaign in the area (see Figure 15).

Appalachian Development Company (Putnam County Deed Book M:195). These deeds show Georgia of property was purchased by Georgia Power; initially through subsidiary companies known as The community eventually forced Howe to sell the property and the dam site. Soon, substantial amounts of the proposed dam site just upstream from the present location of Wallace Dam (see Chapter 4 for an overview of land ownership). The purchaser of the property at that time, Charles F. Howe, produced the picture, these books will portray the old South and its inhabitants as nothing else could. The Turner burying ground is about two hundred yards away from the residence, and is in itself a valuable part of Georgia history.

Putnam Cannot Afford
"Putnam County cannot afford to let this historic spot be forgotten. It could be made a Mecca for all who have heard about Uncle Remus and B'r'er Rabbit." Thus spoke one of the inhabitants.

But Putnam is not alive to its historic values. It was settled after Hancock, and Wilkes, and BALDWIN, and some of the older counties across the river; therefore, its Indian history stands out above the other history. It has two Eagle Mounds about twelve miles apart on a straight line to the river. The government is making a wonderful park and a huge lake just off the Madison highway at the big mound, but the "Eagle" a short distance from the river, is not so well known. It was built of rock, and vandals have thrown out the rocks hoping to find some kind of treasure underneath.

Putnam has its full share of dead towns, as well as Indian signs.

Rockville school once flourished and was surrounded by huge country stores and boarding places for the students who came far and near. It now has seven students and one small store. In the highway near where the roads fork a game of checkers represents the chief activity of the community. It is played near the middle of the road, or wherever the shade falls from a neighboring tree. C.F. Gregory has a nice residence across the road within easy reach of the store. The school building, not far away, is in fine repair, and would house several hundred students, but the students are not available, and there is talk of letting the property revert to the original owners according to the terms of the deed of gift many years ago. Seven students, it is claimed cannot justify the use of such a valuable building and fine property.

Oconee Springs
On down the road is the famous Oconee Springs, with its huge hotel and other boarding accommodations.

One man occupies the hotel, and the summer visitors have ceased to come. Oldtimers describe the place as having been, in years gone, as popular as Indian Springs; but the ferry across the river at that point has been abandoned, and people have cease to think about Oconee Springs.

Over on the other side of Rockville is a big home occupied by a lone man, in the evening of his life; and a little farther away is the once-flourishing village of Phoenix City, now represent by one store instead of many.

All over Putnam county are to be suggestions of better days. "But," says the oldtimer, don't think merely of the dead tree; new sprouts are growing where the old stump stood. The dairy business is increasing all over the county, and where you find livestock, you find improved soils and diversified agriculture. Putnam had given up everything for cotton; then came the boll weevil and Putnam went down. She has passed through dark days since that time. She has tried many things in her effort to stage a come-back, but she knew nothing but cotton. She was once noted for the fine horses and fine mules she could raise. She contributed much to the science of botany, and was outstanding amount the counties of Middle Georgia; but she surrendered all to her allegiance to King Cotton. Now the dairy cow seems to be giving her a new hope. Then here and there you find some of the best corn that Georgia can grow, and a magnificent residence indicates that Putnam yet has successful farmers.

Briar-Patch Farms
The Briar Patch Farms are being conducted under the government supervision, and so are the Piedmont Farms over in another direction. The rehabilitated farmers talk hopefully. They say if they had such an opportunity 20 years ago, life would have been different.

Putnam has every resource that she ever had except population, but the boll weevil got her. For generations to come troubles will be date back to the advent of the boll weevil.

Figure 14. Transcription of a 1937 newspaper column describing the area surrounding the project area. (Eatonton Messenger July 8, 1937)

For nearly a hundred years, most of the lands within the project area tract have been associated either directly or indirectly with the regions industrial development for nearly a hundred years. Because the property joins a major river shoals, it became an object of land speculation with respect to hydroelectric production in the early twentieth century (Figure 15). Plots dating back to 1907 show the proposed dam site just upstream from the present location of Wallace Dam (see Chapter 4 for an overview of land ownership). The purchaser of the property at that time, Charles F. Howe, produced something of a scandal in the area by promising for the next twenty years to build the power plant without ever following through with the project (Eatonton Messenger, April 30, 1926). The local community eventually forced Howe to sell the property and the dam site. Soon, substantial amounts of property was purchased by Georgia Power; initially through subsidiary companies known as The Oconee Electric Light and Power Company in 1926 (Putnam County Deed Book L:597) and then the Appalachian Development Company (Putnam County Deed Book M:195). These deeds show Georgia Power President Preston Arkwright and Secretary W.H. Wright with the same official titles at each of these companies. The company quickly initiated a marketing campaign in the area (see Figure 15).
S U R V E Y I N G  F O R
B I G  P O W E R  P L A N T.

Large Force of Engineers at Work
Near Mr. A. A. Kimbrough’s.
Projected Railways.

Mr. C. F. Howe, of Macon, who is
in the employ of the Bibb Power Co.,
with a large force of engineers, is mak-
ing a survey of the lands along the
Oconee river, with the idea in view
of erecting a mammoth power plant
near Mr. A. A. Kimbrough’s place.

It is said that 100 acres of land near
Cawthon and Shoulder have been pur-
chased and that the millionaire con-
cern will build a dam and erect a power
plant on the river at some point near
the lines of Greene, Putnam and Han-
cock. Foster Harley and R. D. Clan-
cy, two Sparta boys, are with the
company.

The Bibb Power Company is the
concern which is erecting the Atlanta,
Macon and Albany Electric railway.
It is backed by many millions of New
York money and is going to do big
in Georgia during the next five years.

It is estimated that something like
30,000 horse power can be obtained
from the Oconee near Mr. Kim-
brough’s.

Greene county is much interested in
this project. It will mean electric
lines throughout the county, and also
that our manufacturing industries will
be operated by electricity.

The Georgia-Electric railway, pro-
ected from Atlanta to Augusta, and
taking in all the important towns,
it is said, will come through Walton
and Oconee counties. The farmers in
those counties are taking & great
interest in the road, and have agreed to
give three dollars an acre to the line,
while those living off the line will
contribute a pro-rata sum.

After leaving High Shoals the road
will run direct to Watkinsville.

There is no doubt but that Greens-
boro will be tapped by the line before
the thing gets through with.

Greensboro (Ga.) Herald-Journal,
September 13, 1907

The Pulse of the Nation

LISTENING copper wires, sus-
pended from high steel towers, criss-
cross America, carrying the life current
of the country --- electricity.

Wherever they go, human benefits fol-
low. Production costs decrease and the
standards of living advance; the house-
wife is freed from petty drudgery; homes
are made happier.

The electric light and power business is
a basic industry. It must grow and
expand or other industries cannot --- and
communities cannot. This industry may
be depended upon to anticipate the pub-
lic’s demands, because it is founded upon
the principle of private enterprise and
progress.

GEORGIA
POWER COMPANY
A CITIZEN WHEREVER WE SERVE

Eatonton Messenger, August 3, 1928

Figure 15. Examples of newspaper entries related to hydro-electric development and the project area.
The property purchased by Georgia Power became known as the Furman Shoals Development. That name is generally related to the ill-fated attempt to build a hydro-electric dam downstream at Furman Shoals of the Oconee. That project and any efforts at dam construction adjoining the project area was stopped by the Great Depression and the second World War. A dam for Lake Sinclair was eventually completed in the early 1950s and Wallace Dam for Lake Oconee in the late 1970s.

The history of the project area from the perspective of Georgia Power’s development should include some interesting lines of research. The struggle of private enterprises such as Georgia Power to enter the federal government regulated utilities market is well documented and one newspaper column by Greene County’s Thaddeus B. Rice provides an excellent description of the frustration felt by many local people. The following excerpt is taken from a 1941 editorial in the Greensboro Herald Journal.

When politicians wake up to the fact that their phobia against privately owned public utilities and industries is choking the country to death and preventing a return to normalcy, the Georgia Power Company will harness the Oconee River, create power for vast industries, develop rural electrification and make “Cracker’s Neck” as desirable as it was in the long, long ago. But just so long as they bow the knee to autocracy and paternalism our relief rolls will multiply and our industries will crumble to dust. Experimentation with guinea pigs and mongrel dogs may be alright; but human lives and personal property are too sacred for impractical college professors to shake together in test tubes with such reagents as are designated by alphabetical codes.

The published history, with the title History of the Georgia Power Company 1855 to 1956, was compiled by Wade H. Wright. Mr. Wright was the company secretary during the time when the project area lands were purchased. That book is concerned with a larger scope and contains essentially no information for the local area. Questions were posed to Georgia Power Archivist Margaret Callhoun concerning any personal knowledge of the history of the project area property but relatively little specific information was forthcoming. Dr. Calhoun noted that Georgia Power’s land department maintained the property and was involved in local agricultural programs during the depression era (personal communication 2004). Unfortunately, Dr. Calhoun’s search of the archives failed to produce documentation of the project area for that period. Possibly, specific information may come to light during some future investigation.

**Organization of the Report**

The information procured during this study includes the results of our archeological survey and a compilation of background information procured from a variety of mostly obscure sources. Because the project area contains two of the more important archeological sites in Putnam County (the effigy mound and the Kinchen Little plantation site), substantially more background research was conducted than is typically associated with a Phase 1 survey report. Hopefully, some of this information will be used as a part of the “interpretive trail” project. The archeological survey information specifically relating to this project is presented in Chapter 3 (methods), Chapter 6 (survey results), Chapter 7 (summary and interpretations), Chapter 8 (recommendations), Appendix A (site forms), Appendix B (artifact list), and Appendix C (rock pile data). Background information is presented in Chapter 2 (previous research with emphasis on the better known Rock Eagle at the 4-H center), Chapter 4 (archival research relating to the study area), Chapter 5 (background research for Little Rock Eagle Mound), Appendix D (copies of original manuscripts by C.C. Jones), Appendix E (photographs and files associated with the 1990-91 work at Little Rock Eagle), and Appendix F ( informant interviews relating to the effigy mounds in Putnam County and the Little Plantation).