The archeological site recorded as 9PM47 was one subject in the archival research conducted for this project. At the time the project began, there was essentially no accurate information available regarding the history of the site or the archeological investigations conducted there in the past. Site 9PM47 has been assumed by most interested people to be the same site reported by Charles C. Jones, Jr., more than a century ago (Jones 1878:281). That assumption has prevailed in spite of the fact that the effigy mound on 9PM47 is substantially smaller than the one illustrated by C.C. Jones.

In this chapter, we will examine the archeological history the second effigy mound recorded by Jones and the relationship that mound to site 9PM47. A primary goal of our research was the discovery of original notes and manuscripts by C.C. Jones and any other archeologists and historians who have dealt with the site. That goal has not been reached because few original records survive. Some records probably exist but the search for the material will require a considerable effort. That level of work is beyond the scope of the present project. A more manageable goal involved the examination of published accounts concerning past work conducted at the site and other historical events associated with the site. That task has been more productive, particularly with respect to local newspapers. While the newspaper accounts must be interpreted carefully, they remain the most important source of information available at the present time.

The earliest published account of suspected prehistoric rock mounds in the area appears to have been made by George White in his *Historical Collections of Georgia* (White 1854:588).

> Six miles S.W. of Eatonton is a mound composed of quartz rocks of different varieties. Upon it there is a vestige of an ancient wall nearly circular. The inclosure embraces 110 feet (White 1854:588).

The Eatonton newspaper revisited White’s account in 1874 noting that the mound had not been relocated (Eatonton Messenger, November 28, 1874). The newspaper piece also mentioned a “peculiarly shaped rock mound” on the Scott place. That would be the Rock Eagle Mound at the 4-H Center but there was no mention of anything near 9PM47 (see Figure 19). Readers were asked by the paper’s editor to provide further information but follow-up articles have not been found.

The 1878 map of Putnam County shows a landmark with the name "Eagle Rock" on the Scott place but we do not know if that name predates or postdates the publication of Jones' work. The term "eagle rocks" appears to be an old Putnam County term that was used for any type of effigy rock mound. It would be informative to determine if that term appeared before or after Jones' work.

At present, our investigation has yet to find any documentation for the second rock eagle effigy mound prior to the Smithsonian report by C.C. Jones (that was dated 1877). The effigy mound on the Scott Place, now known as Rock Eagle (9PM80), was reported just a few years earlier and while the 1874 newspaper account suggested an unusual shape there was no mention of an effigy. The 1874 newspaper article may have led Jones to the effigy mounds of Putnam County. He may also have been approached by local people as a result of advertisements for his early works that requested information and artifacts (see Figure 24). It is even possible that members of the K. D. Little family contacted Jones concerning the mound. To date, our examination of the large collection of correspondence in the C.C. Jones collections at the University of Georgia Hargrett Library has produced only negative results concerning the discovery of the site. Relevant material may exist in other collections.

**Site Discovery and Reporting by Charles C. Jones**

C.C. Jones published his work on the rock effigy mounds after his major work entitled *Antiquities of the Southern Indians, Particularly of the Georgia Tribes* (Jones 1873). Apparently, *Antiquities* had been completed while Jones was practicing law in New York during the decade following the Civil War based on his older (1850s-1860s) research (Hillyear 1927). We know, for instance, that the text of that book concerning Shoulderbone Mound in Hancock County was presented as a Boston lecture in 1869 (Jones 1869). The absence of information relating to the effigy mounds in his earlier works would seem to logically suggest that they were discovered following his return to Georgia in the mid 1870s.
We have yet to locate Jones’ original notes concerning the Putnam County effigy mounds. To date, only a single reference has been found that seems to apply to his original notes. That information was found in a letter from A.R. Kelly to Isabel Patterson dated May 1, 1953 (Ledbetter 1995). Kelly was instructing Patterson on procuring archival material for her current research. Kelly states:

_The C.C. Jones material on the Eatonton eagles is in an old miscellanea of the Peabody Museum, Harvard, not included in later materials published by Jones in his Southern Antiquities_ (Ledbetter 1995).

Kelly’s brief statement seems to imply Jones’ work at the effigy mounds was conducted at an earlier time and was simply not included in his _Southern Antiquities_ book. An archivist with the Peabody Library was contacted during the current project but the material was not located in the cataloged collections. There is the possibility that the material exists in the “non cataloged” collections which would require additional searching. Harvard is a logical location for C.C. Jones collections since he did receive his law degree from that institution (Coleman and Garr 1983:546). The reason for Patterson’s interest in the notes is not mentioned in the letter. Additional information may exist in the Patterson files at the Columbus Museum but those files were not searched for this project.

A date of 1877 is generally attributed as the date of Jones’ work on the effigy mounds in Putnam County. The year 1877 represents the date of the annual report of the Smithsonian Institutions Annual Report which was published in 1878. The two original copies of the paper found in the Smithsonian and UGA collections are both dated Sept. 4, 1877. A number of writers, dating back to the mid 1930s, have stated that Jones was commissioned by the Smithsonian to conduct the work at the Putnam County effigy mounds (Walters 1995:16). As a point of fact, Jones simply submitted a paper to the Smithsonian. His report was published in the Appendix Section of the Annual Report which is identified as “consisting principally of translations from foreign journals or works not generally accessible, but of interest to the collaborators and correspondents of the Institution, teachers, and others interested in the promotion of knowledge” (Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution for the Year 1877:4). Jones submitted the same paper to other journals, one of which was published the next year (The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland 1879). Actually, an Augusta, Georgia newspaper may have been the first to print the Jones report. Jones submitted a version of his Smithsonian report to _The Augusta Weekly Chronicle and Constitutionalist_ in three installments (UGA newspaper microfilm files). The installments on the Savannah and Oconee River mounds were published on August 22, 1877 and October 10, 1877 but the effigy mound installment was missing from the microfilms. An undated cut-out of the effigy mound newspaper installment was found in one of Jones’ scrapbooks at the Hargrett Library (Manuscript Number 1066).

The C.C. Jones Smithsonian report has been cited in various publications in Putnam County for more than one hundred years but it is doubtful that many of those people actually read the report. The Great Britain volume is never cited so even fewer people had the opportunity to read that paper. The pertinent text from each of those two publications for the effigy mound associated with the project area follows. A few slight, but important, differences appear in the two publications. The text of Jones’ original draft was edited by the Smithsonian prior to publication. The copy of the original text was procured by Crant Crumbaugh of the Rock Eagle 4-H Center from Smithsonian archivist Jeannie Skiar for related research and was made available for this study (the drawings are missing). The full text of that hand written report, along with the Hargrett Library copy is presented as Appendix D.

Figure 114 presents the text and illustration of the effigy mound on the Little plantation as presented in the Smithsonian Institution’s annual report for the year 1877 with the title _Aboriginal Structures of Georgia_ with a subtitle of _Bird-Shaped Stone Tumuli in Putnam County, Georgia_ (Jones 1877a:281-282). That paper was reprinted later in 1878 as a volume devoted entirely to Jones with the same title and subtitle (Jones 1878:b:1-7). Except for slight formatting changes, the two versions appear to be identical. Figure 115 depicts part of the hand-written version of the paper submitted to the Smithsonian with their editorial changes. The manuscript exhibits a Smithsonian stamped date of September 25, 1877. The file is referenced as Smithsonian Institution MS 2400, Division of Mounds Exploration Records 1881-1889, Florida-Illinois, Box 2. A comparison of the final and draft versions shows that the portion of the manuscript relating to the rock effigy on the Little Plantation received only minor editing. Figure 116 is a copy of the version found in _The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland_ under the title _Bird-Shaped Mounds in Putnam County, Georgia, U.S.A._ (Jones 1879:92-96). The British version has less editing and is generally comparable to the manuscript submitted to the Smithsonian. The British version contains at least one modification in that Jones suggests that the effigy probably represents “some variety of the falcon tribe” (Jones 1879:95). Jones proposed no such suggestion in the Smithsonian version (Jones 1878:282).
About a mile and a half from Lawrence’s Ferry, on the Oconee River, and situated on a stony ridge near the main road, on the plantation of Mr. Kinchen D. Little, in Putnam County, is another of these bird-shaped mounds. Like the former, it is composed wholly of bowlders of white quartz rock, collected from the hill on which it stands. (See Fig. 2.)

Figure 114. A portion of C.C. Jones’ 1878 Smithsonian Report describing the second effigy mound.
About a mile and a half from Lawrece's ferry on the Oconee river, and situaed on a long ridge near the main road, on the plantation of Mr. Kinchen & Little, in Pulaski County, is another of these bird-shaped mounds. Like the former it is composed wholly of boulders of white quartz rock collected from the toes of the crenellated hill. [See Figure 2] Its dimensions do not materially differ from those of the tumulus on the Scott place. The tail however, is bifurcated. The head of the bird lies to the south-east, and its wings are extended in the direction of the north-east and south-west. The entire length of the structure from the crown of the head to the end of the tail is one hundred and two feet and three inches. For a distance of twelve feet the tail is bifurcated, and just above the point of bifurcation it is twelve feet wide. Across the body, and from tip to tip of the wings, the tape...
Figure 115 continued. Portion of C.C. Jones’ text on the second effigy mound (pages 11-12).
About a mile and a half from Lawrences’s Ferry, on the Ocone river, and situated on a stony ridge near the main road, on the plantation of Mr. Kinchen D. Little, in Putnam county, is another of these bird-shaped mounds. Like the former, it is composed of boulders of white quartz rock collected from the surface of the circumjacent hill. Its dimensions do not materially differ from those of the tumulus on the Scott place. The tail, however, is bifurcated. The head of the bird lies to south-east, and its wings are extended in the direction of the north-east and south-west. The entire length of the structure from the crown of the head to the end of the tail is one hundred and two feet and three inches. For a distance of twelve feet the tail is bifurcated, and just above the point of bifurcation it is twelve feet wide. Across the body and from tip to tip of the wings the tape gave us an admeasurement of one hundred and thirty-two feet. The body of this bird—which

*Anthropological Miscellanea.*

is evidently represented as lying upon its back—is stouter than that of the eagle, being seventy-six feet in diameter. Its wings are relatively shorter. The proportions of the head, neck and tail are
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tolerably well observed. What particular bird this tumulus is designed to typify we cannot certainly state. It seems probable that some variety of the falcon tribe is intended. The altitude at the breast is about five feet, and from that point the mound tapers to the head and tail, which are some two feet high. At the tips of the wings, which are rather short and quite curved in their outline the height is not more than a foot and a half. The ridge upon which this structure rests have never been cleared. Surrounding this tumulus is an enclosure of rocks similar to those of which the mound is built. This stone circle is symmetrical in outline, and at its nearest approach passes within a few feet of the tips of the wings. By it is the mound completely isolated.
Comparison of the drawings from the two publications and the UGA manuscript shows minor differences in each (Figure 117). The primary differences are evident in the shape of the tail and the attachment of the wings. In the Great Britain illustration, the head and neck differ slightly and the body of the bird is less robust.

These differences are probably explained by the fact that Jones may have been tracing or redrawing (probably using a compass) the figures each time he submitted his manuscript. Differences would also have occurred as a result of the “artistic licence” employed by each publisher. Finding the original field notes and drawings, if they ever existed, should be a primary goal of continued research. However, even if we are limited to the published drawings, it is apparent that these figures cannot be viewed as precise representations of the effigy.

A search of the C.C. Jones Collections at the University of Georgia’s Hargrett Library produced only two letters relating to the publication of the Jones manuscript (Figure 118). One letter is a reply from England in receipt of the Jones manuscript and sketches, dated September 14, 1877. The mention of sketches is particularly important because it may represent another potential source for finding drawings actually produced by Jones. Efforts to recover information from the archives of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland have been unsuccessful to date.

A second letter was written to Jones from Sir Daniel Wilson (UGA C.C. Jones Collection Ms 215, Box 10, Folder 3). Wilson was a renowned archeologist and the author of popular books on the subject. The letter was written from Toronto on November 12, 1877 thanking Jones for the “article on Bird Shaped Mounds.” The date is too early for the two known published sources which suggests that he received a manuscript. Wilson’s work referred to as Prehistoric Man was first published in 1862 and later reprinted.

Figure 117. Comparison of unpublished (top) and published drawings of the second bird-shaped effigy in Putnam County.
Published in our Journal it seems to me very (June 18) that similar earthworks may exist in other districts of America but have as yet been overlooked. Should you be coming to England I hope that I can give you the pleasure of seeing you there. When I think you would be interested in my collections I will send them to you.

C. C. Jones, Jr.
John Romer

Copy of a letter written to C. C. Jones in 1877 noting receipt of his manuscript submitted to the British Anthropological Institute (UGA, C. C. Jones Collection, Ms. 215, Box 10, Folder 3).

Nash Mills, Hemel Hempstead.
Oct. 8 - 1877.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of Sept 14th, its accompanying extract, and sketch, for which I am much obliged. I am sending it on to the Director of the Anthropological Institute so that its contents may be communicated at one of our meetings and some notice of the discovery may be.

C. C. Jones, Jr.

Copy of a letter from Sir Daniel Wilson to C. C. Jones regarding the effigy mound paper.

Your valuable researches into the Antiquities of the Southern Tribes, and papers which I have read since my return from home, have given me more than one line of inquiry. In the last edition of my book (1876) I have referred to your researches upon these points. I forward you a copy of the paper printed in the Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, which may perhaps interest you.

Your obedient servant,

[Signature: Dan. Wilson]

Copy 77. Mr. W. Sturgis Moore

Charles Jones, Jr.

Copy 118. Copies of two letters to C. C. Jones regarding the effigy mound paper (C. C. Jones Collection, University of Georgia, Hargrett Library).
As a part of our research, an effort was made to examine contemporary publications to assess the public and academic reaction to Jones’ report. Basically, there was very little comment concerning his reports. John Lindley had come to the same conclusion several years ago (see page 63 of this report). Our review included archeological and anthropological journals and archeological books housed at the University of Georgia libraries. Our search was far from exhaustive but it was consistent with the observations of several colleagues. Contemporary references to the stone effigy mound publications were found in the literary notices section of The Magazine of American History of 1878 and two “popular archeology” books of the times. Pre-Historic America was written by Marquis De Nadaillac in 1882 and expanded for U.S. distribution (Dall 1884) and The Prehistoric World or Vanished Races by E.A. Allen, published in 1885 (Figure 119). The later dates for the books probably represents publication lag. The 1878 magazine review, which follows, was complimentary.


Here this accomplished antiquarian, whose “dead towns of Georgia” we recently noticed, describes the bird-shaped stone tumuli in Putnam county, Ga., attention to which was first called by Mr. Lapham in 1836. Two animal mounds had been observed in Ohio - one in the form of an alligator, the other of a serpent. One of those in Georgia represents an eagle with extended wings. A second chapter describes some ancient tumuli on the Savannah river, visited by William Bartram in 1776; a third, similar antiquities on the Oconee river. The paper is an admirable contribution to the aboriginal lore of the country (The Magazine of American History, 1878:704).

One point of clarification is required for the preceding quote. Mr. Lapham made discoveries of earthen animal-shaped mounds in Wisconsin in 1836 but he was never involved with the mounds in Putnam County.

The book entitled Pre-Historic America (Dall 1884) was originally published in France in 1882. A note by the editor of the American edition states that the book was translated into English and “modified and revised to bring it into harmony with the results of recent investigations and conclusions of the best authorities on the archeology of the United States. The work of C.C. Jones appears as a footnote in the animal mound section of the book.

Mounds of the form of birds have recently been discovered in Putnam county, Georgia. This is an interesting fact, for hitherto such mounds had only been found in the northern and western states. “Bird-shaped mounds in Putnam county, Georgia.” Anthro. Inst. of Great Britain and Ireland, 1879 (Dall1884:123).

Figure 119. Copy of a page from The Prehistoric World (Allen 1885:351) which contains an illustration of the C.C. Jones effigy mound.
The only identified contemporary publication which actually used one of Jones’ illustrations was the one shown in Figure 119. The book The Prehistoric World or Vanished Races was a massive undertaking written by E.A. Allen and published in 1885. Allen’s book contains one of the most complete and best illustrated accounts of earthen effigy mounds and “mound builders” in general. The book is basically a holdover of an old tradition in archeology which was rapidly losing favor with the reading public. The illustration used in the Allen book is taken from the Smithsonian Annual report.

As previously discussed in Chapter 2, the limited use of the C.C. Jones report in archeological books and text books is partially the result of bad timing. Jones’ report was published at a time when the country’s fascination with mound builder mythology was declining (DePratter 1986:xxvi). During the same period of time, researchers began to question the existence of many of the earthen effigy mounds that had been romanticized by writers such as William Pidgeon (1853) and other popular writers (Lewis 1886). Possibly, the limited interest in Jones’ work may reflect the relative insignificance when compared to the sheer volume of reports of earthen effigy mounds found elsewhere during the mid-nineteenth century. The fact that the Putnam County mounds were made from stone rather than earth was probably not a significant concern to most readers.

We have found no additional works by C.C. Jones concerning the effigy mounds. Jones’ later works were directed to fields other than archeology. The only other nineteenth century work associated with the stone effigy mounds of Putnam County was that of Benjamin Kent. The following is taken from the Annual Report for 1882 (Kent 1883a:770) which was also reprinted in a volume called Miscellaneous Papers Relating to Anthropology from the Smithsonian Report for 1882 which was printed in 1883 (Kent 1883b:96). The title of the report is Mounds in Putnam County, Georgia, by Benjamin W. Kent, of Eatonton, Georgia.

The most remarkable mounds in Putnam County was visited and measured by Charles C. Jones, jr., and the writer, and reported by Mr. Jones, namely, the Eagle Mounds, of which no description is needed in this communication. Since the last report the stone tumuli on the plantation of Dr. J.T. de Jorrette, east of Eatonton, have been disturbed, and besides human bones taken therefrom, a pottery pipe of the ordinary size, and shaped like the head of an eagle, was found. No description is necessary of the other pipes in the series excepting the one made to imitate a human foot, which is remarkable for the hardness of the stone. From the stone tumulus on the plantation of Robert M. Grimes was taken a soapstone finger-ring, not in the writer’s collection, which is without ornamentation. Another finger-ring, found near the Eagle Mound, on Scott’s plantation, is made like a seal ring, with a head on top. None of the pottery collected is remarkable; one vessel is 14 inches high, and a bowl measures 13 inches across the top; all the remaining vessels are about the usual shapes.

There is in this place a chunkeegi stone of white quartz or limestone about 6 inches in diameter, owned by Thomas B. Harwell. It is beautifully smooth, hollowed out on either side, and more smoothly finished than any other implements ever seen by the writer except those of Mexico or Peru. It has no hole through the center like the one drawn in Foster’s Prehistoric Races (p. 218).

The human bones picked up from time to time reveal nothing unusual. It is impossible, however, to get any whole skulls. Attention is drawn to the fact of the existence of human remains under every conical shaped stone tumulus so far examined; but whether such will be proved true of the bird-shaped mound is not known, as the stones are too large to be removed. Regarding the three mounds on Shoulder Bone Creek, near Sparta County, pipes and pottery have been obtained from the largest mound, but no human bones; whereas from the middle mound, which is the smallest, and but little above the level of the bottom lands, having been plowed over for 7 years, many human bones and teeth and beads were taken. Ashes and shells are often found, showing where the aborigines lived. There existed hereabouts, so far as I know, no cave dwellings, and neither masonry or sculptured slabs. While an isolated skeleton is sometimes found, many exist in the tumuli. No skeleton in a cyst or other receptacle has been found, except one of an infant, probably in Mellepuelu. All of the stone tumuli are on high hills, usually on the highest portion; all the earth tumuli are in the bottom lands.

There are various other mounds and shell heaps in this and adjacent counties. There is an earth mound on the lands of Mr. C. Purifoy, in Jasper County, once probably 6 feet high, but now much leveled by plowing. Near Murder Creek, in this county, and not over half a mile from the Clinton road, exists a stone tumulus said to be of immense size, but never visited by the author. Near Little River, and below Pierson’s mill, and on the opposite side, are several stone tumuli, and another group east of these. They are within a few feet of the conical group, and not more than 100 yards apart. There is a mound near Dr. Jorette’s dwelling, near the opposite bank of the Oconee River, from which was dug a bird shaped calumet, and human bones also were found. There is a rock mound on the plantation of Robert M. Grimes, near the line of Hancock and Greene counties, also an earth mound about 8 feet high and 30 feet in diameter, west of the rock tumulus, and near the Oconee River, in Greene County, situated in the bottom land. Near Lawrence’s Ferry, and between Little’s Ferry road and the Oconee River, is a mound supposed to be bird-shaped inclosed in a circle. Upon the plantation of Dr. White, Hancock County, are mounds of earth, near which runs a ditch. Various other small mounds and shell-heaps are scattered over this county (Kent 1883:770).
Kent’s report is difficult to interpret but there are three references to the eagle mounds that are of interest. The first sentence of his report states that he assisted C.C. Jones with his work on the Eagle Mounds. Second, with respect to the “bird-shaped mound,” meaning the effigy mound at the present-day 4-H Center, he notes that the existence of human remains is unknown because “the stones are too large to be removed.” The third reference is found in the last paragraph. Kent makes the following confusing statement. “Near Lawrence’s Ferry, and between Little’s Ferry road and the Oconee River, is a mound supposed to be bird-shaped inclosed in a circle.” At best, this last sentence may simply represent confusion on Kent’s part. At worse, it implies that the effigy mound near Lawrence’s Ferry is not the one described by C.C. Jones. Is it possible that C.C. Jones confused the mound a Lawrence Ferry with another effigy mound? Overall, Kent seems to imply that there is only one well known Eagle Mound in the county.

A request was made for the original Kent manuscript from the Smithsonian archives but it was not found (Jeannie Sklar, Smithsonian Institution archivist, personal communication 2004). The manuscript may exist in files that are not cataloged. Our research indicates that Kent’s report is the last publication of the nineteenth century that deals with the effigy mounds at the local level. Our search of area newspapers has produced articles which mention the effigy mounds. Perhaps the looters finally cleaned out the last of the rock mounds and there was no further interest at the local level. A general search of published archeological material dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries failed to produce additional information with respect to the rock effigies other than the Smithsonian’s catalog listing of mounds published by Cyrus Thomas (Thomas 1891:52). A more exhaustive search of additional libraries would likely produce some references but it is clear that there was very little interest in the subject in the archeological community.

A search of local newspapers likewise produced no reference to the effigy mounds until the 1920s. The lack of publicity in the 1870s is surprising and may represent an oversight on our part (not all newspapers survive in the UGA microfilm collections). Public interest was revived in 1916 with a brief article in a national publication called The Youth’s Companion (see Chapter 2, page 37). While the “Little Rock Eagle” was seldom mentioned in these accounts, the subject of the rock effigy mounds had again become a popular topic and local newspapers articles began to mention the landmarks.

Potentially, the most significant newspaper account relating to the effigy mound on the Kinchen D. Little plantation is found in a 1937 article by B.A. Bustin by the title of What The White Man Found in Putnam (Eatonton Messenger, October 14, 1937). Bustin’s story begins with a few rather disdainful comments about the federally-sponsored archeologists of his day.

Archaeologists from the Smithsonian have spent much time recently in Putnam and adjoining counties examining Eagle Rocks in Putnam and the Indian Mounds in Bibb County. I am no archaeologist, great scientist, or any other kind of professional man qualified to make exhaustive studies of the hidden past. But it seems to me that after all is said and done we know very little more about these antiquities than we did before (Eatonton Messenger, Oct. 14, 1937).

Bustin’s article includes information on several mounds in the area which would have been common knowledge at the time. Of particular interest is his reference to the Eagle Rock near Little’s Ferry (Figure 120). Taken in the context of this article, Bustin would appear to be saying that Professor Charles Little was engaged in the archeological excavations of the mound.

Since Bustin was raised in the same part of the county and was apparently quite familiar with the Little family, it is conceivable that the story is true. Bustin’s story can be interpreted to say that the effigy mound was entirely removed by Dr. Little which seems unlikely if it were an actual archeological excavation.

Figure 120. Potion of a 1937 article by B.A. Bustin that describes the first excavation of the “old Eagle Rock” (Eatonton Messenger, Oct. 14, 1937).
Fortunately, we know more about Charles E. Little than any other member of the Little family thanks to a biography written by James Baird as a Ph.D. dissertation. The dissertation was published by George Peabody College for Teachers in 1949. The title of the work is *The Life and Works of Charles Edgar Little* (Baird 1949). Most of the book deals with Little’s later work as a professor of ancient languages and President of Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee. As noted in the preceding chapter, Charles Little should have had some interest in archaeology as well as ancient languages. Charles Little would have been about thirteen years old at the time that C.C. Jones published his work on the effigy mound on his father’s plantation. Charles Little also had a close connection with Benjamin W. Hunt (Baird 1949:12). Hunt was an extremely influential member of the Eatonton community and was an avid collector of Indian artifacts, particularly those from the mounds of Putnam County (see page 138 for quote from the Macon Telegraph dated March 4, 1934). The title of Dr. Charles Little’s dissertation was *A Grammatical Index to the Chandogya-Upanishad*. The subject matter related to the translation of ancient Sanskrit. Little received his Ph.D. degree from Vanderbilt University in 1899 (Baird 1949:39).

Baird’s book provides a framework of when Charles Little may have possibly “excavated” the effigy mound but the book contains no reference to the event actually occurring. Baird notes that Charles Little was living in Putnam County until 1885 when he enrolled at Peabody College. Little returned to Putnam County where he worked as a school teacher from 1887 to 1890. Little returned to Nashville in the fall of 1890 and remained the rest of his life (Baird 1949 18-24). If Bustin’s story is true, the logical period of time during which Charles Little would have been most likely to have excavated the effigy mound, would have been during the 1880s. Note that other researchers mention a pothole attributed to the Little family at a slightly later date (Kelly 1954: Joslin 1991).

The existence of the “second effigy mound” is found in the 1916 article by State Geologist S.W. McCallie (*Atlanta Journal*, January 23, 1916) and again in a 1926 article written by journalist Elinor Hillyer (*Atlanta Journal*, December 19, 1926). In the earlier article, McCallie quotes C.C. Jones’ Smithsonian report but provides no additional information. McCallie’s method of reference to the second effigy mound was continued in most reports for the remainder of the twentieth century. Writers seemed compelled to mention the existence of the other effigy mound when discussing the Rock Eagle effigy at the 4-H Park but most of those individuals simply quoted information from the Smithsonian report; there is very little evidence that those reporters actually visited the second site.

The 1926 Hillyer article (see Figure 26) provides a little bit of original description relating to the second effigy mound. Hillyer’s article mostly follows McCallie with respect to general descriptions. The following quote is obviously referring back to original description and drawing of C.C. Jones.

> Scientists are convinced that this mound was meant to represent an eagle, but there is another similar structure in the same county on the Oconee river near Lawrence’s Ferry, of which explorers are in doubt as to what bird it is supposed to signify. The body is too stout for that of an eagle and the wings are not long enough” (*Atlanta Journal*, December 19, 1926).

One of the best “first-hand” references to the effigy is found in a newspaper article by the respected local teacher, historian, and writer Fannie Lee Leverette (Figure 121). Biographical Information for Leverette is found in *The Eatonton Messenger* of January 6, 1949 and June 28, 1956. The extracted text of Leverette is taken from an article called *Some Historic Points About Eatonton and Putnam County* (*Eatonton Messenger*, September 11, 1925).

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**Figure 121.** Portion of a 1925 newspaper article by Fannie Lee Leverette noting the smaller rock eagle and snake.
Fannie Lee Leverette was the first individual identified in our search to say that the effigy on the Kinchen place was actually the smaller of the two mounds. Leverette also refers to the effigy as a rock eagle rather than “eagle rock.” The smaller size of this effigy mound was frequently noted in the 1930s by local people. However, those people who were familiar with the C.C. Jones report continued to insist that the effigy was actually larger than the one at the 4-H Park and that persistence continues to this day.

Leverette's mention of a rock snake represents the first recorded mention of that structure. A rock effigy mound in the shape of a snake has never been officially recorded by an archeological site number but there are a couple of references that seem to apply. Kelly's 1954 proposal for work on rock mounds in Putnam County included "a group of structures found on the old Lewis farm near the Sparta Road "Little Eaglet" mound (Kelly 1954a). Sheila Caldwell, who was a part of the 1950s UGA survey work in Putnam County, mentioned the Lewis site in two sections of her report. Caldwell mentioned the Lewis site while trying to interpret a rock mound known as the Baker's site (9PM17).

The mound [9PM17] resembles nothing so much as a very short fat tadpole, but if it is an effigy at all, it is probably a serpent form. At least one other mound of this type exists in the area, at the Lewis site, near the Little Eagle (Caldwell 1954:6).

Sheila Caldwell visited the Lewis site on one occasion and made the following statement.

There is a similar conglomeration [to Hell’s Half Acre site] of rock structures on the Lewis property near the Little Eagle Mound. The writer visited this site early in the survey, shuddered, and walked away (Caldwell 1954:4).

The rock snake is also mentioned by Joseph Mahan (1992). Mahan, who was field director for UGA at Little Rock Eagle in 1950, stated that a stone rattlesnake was located one mile west of 9PM47. The mound was two hundred feet long with a triangular head and three rock piles representing rattles (Mahan 1992:136). Mahan's interpretation of these two effigies is examined later in this chapter.

The location of the Walter (Waldo) Lewis farm is known to be immediately west of the project area. It is shown as the adjoining landowner on the 1929 Holder plat (see Figure 109) and the 1929 Jenkins’ plat (see Figure 111) in Land Lot 437. At an earlier time, LL 437 would have been part of the Kinchen Little plantation (see Figure 99). A brief search of the area during the course of the current project indicated a substantial number of rock piles, most of which were located on agricultural terraces. The extensive area of rock piles was the same area recorded by Wood on a 1975 site form for site 9PM138 (Figure 122). Wood’s map shows a separate concentration of rock piles interpreted to be of historic construction. The area contains several linear patterns of rockpiles but nothing was found which corresponded to the description of a rattlesnake. The area does contain some massive quartz outcrops which should probably be investigated further (Figure 123). The property is presently owned by Weyerhaeuser Timber Company.
Figure 123. Two photographs taken in 2004 of the rock formations on the Lewis farm tract.
The only other 1920s reference to the Little Rock Eagle mound found in our search was a 1929 newspaper article by Leon P. Smith, a professor and Dean of Wesleyan College in Macon (Eatonton Messenger, August 8, 1929). Dr. Smith made several interesting comments in his newspaper piece. He was well traveled and he had visited several of the earthen animal figure effigies in Wisconsin. It was his opinion that the stone effigy mounds of Putnam County were more similar to the Aztec monuments of the Yucatan than the earthen effigy mounds of Wisconsin and elsewhere. Smith quotes the measurements of the effigy from Jones’ report but does add additional comments.

On the Little plantation, about one and one half miles from a ferry on the Oconee river, lies one of these prone eagle stone mounds. Just a few days ago, Mrs. Kinchen D. Little passed away, and it was the plantation of her husband where this monument lies. This is situated on a stony ridge near the main road, and the ridge has been held up by a series of quartz dikes, which were the building material of this historic souvenir...

Jones says: “The existence of two distinctly marked bird-shaped mounds of firm construction and excellent proportions, within the territory occupied by the Southern tribes, is deeply interesting, and will attract the attention of American ethnology.” He passed away before the clearer facts regarding Aztec remains were disclosed as existing in the Eastern United States. I believe that they stone mounds antedate the day of the Creek Indian invaders, or even the Seminole and other Indians of pre-Revolutionary days. I hope that these significant monuments may be preserved carefully, and left in their primitive shape and condition (Smith 1929).

As noted in an earlier section of this report, individuals from Wesleyan were engaged in some type of archeological study in the area in the 1930s (see page 37). For that reason, Dr. Smith and Wesleyan College should be viewed as a potential source of further information. Published biographical information shows that Smith was born in nearby White Plains in 1869 and was educated at Emory and the University of Chicago before becoming a teacher of chemistry and geology at Wesleyan from 1912 until the time of his death in 1937 (Marquis 1942:1147). Our request for information from the library archivist of Wesleyan College received a courteous response but the search was not productive on this subject. A photograph of Smith was procured from the Oxford College, Emory University special collections as the class of 1892 (Figure 124). We do know that Dean Smith was involved in the movement to preserve the mounds in Putnam County in 1933 as shown in Figure 125.

The degree to which Smith actually studied the effigy mounds is unknown but that topic has not been thoroughly researched. His 1929 newspaper article mentions that he had visited the Scott Place mound as early as 1885 (Eatonton Messenger, August 8, 1929). He was apparently familiar with the Little family and he was a contemporary of Charles E. Little. A brief review of published and unpublished material suggests that Smith was an important member of Kelly’s group at Macon Plateau. Mr. and Mrs. Leon Smith were present at the founding meeting of the Society for Georgia Archeology held at Macon on October 13, 1933 (Smith 1939:14). His name appears in Walker’s history of the WPA work at Macon Plateau and (Walker 194:21) and in general correspondence related to Kelly in the 1930s (Ledbetter 1995, UGA Department of Anthropology, non-catalogued A.R. Kelly correspondence files).

Dean Smith’s primary work at Macon consisted of efforts to date very old chert artifacts based upon the rate of decomposition which is generally referred to as patination. Unfortunately, Smith died in 1937 before that work was finished. His research is examined in a paper authored by A.R. Kelly and published in the Georgia Geological Bulletin No. 60 entitled Age Measurements in Decomposed Flint (Kelly 1953:323-329). According to Kelly, Dean Leon P. Smith read a paper on his work of measuring decomposed flint of Macon before the Georgia Academy of Sciences in 1936 but his contribution was never published (Kelly 1953:325). According to one source, Smith concluded that Indians inhabited Ocmulgee Fields (Macon Plateau) as early as 12,000 years ago (Macon Telegraph, May 5, 1937).
The archeological work headed by the federal programs that began in the Macon area in 1933 was controlled by men like A.R. Kelly and J.R. Swanton who developed something of a "mainstream" approach to the study of prehistoric at that time. The archeology conducted in Putnam County during the era was as the work of Native Americans. There were other researchers in the area with different backgrounds and difference perspectives.

Dean Smith's preservation ideas were probably in a minority at the time. A newspaper article printed on April 12, 1934 in The Messenger presents a more popular tourism-oriented view of Rock Eagle mound that had implications for the Little Rock Eagle. Excerpts from the article "Rock Eagle" by S.H. Morgan follow.

Near the Eatonton Madison highway, six miles north of Eatonton, on a mound of earth covering several acres, there is an Indian memorial known as the Rock Eagle by the natives of that section. Its history is so remote that no one knows at what period it was erected. This Rock Eagle, as it is called is constructed of small flint and feldspar stones, gathered in the surrounding territory. From wing tip to wing tip it measures 130 feet and from beak to tip of tail 100 feet. Dr. Black, at the present time chief engineer of the Chancellorsville Homestead Community Inc., estimates there is four hundred cubic yards of stone or one million six hundred thousand pounds used in the erection of the great monument....A very large tribe of Indians must have been engaged in the work, or a more cultured race preceding the American Indians that were found by the white races settling in America...The mound may yield much information of great value if excavations are made....

Pluto tells the story that may be only legend and yet may be true of a lost race called Atlanteans, who lived about 10,000 years B.C. who country vanished beneath the sea. There is said to be biological evidence of the American Continent having once been connected to with Europe and that the cultured races of South America were offsprings of the lost Atlanteans. Who can say that the people whoever they were that built the mounds near Macon, and those near Eatonton, were not these same people (Morgan 1934).

The Morgan article represents one of the few pieces of the period which does not reference C.C. Jones. In fact, the measurements cited are slightly different from those of Jones. The reference to the Atlanteans as builders probably reflects a holdover from the old "mound builder" myths of the nineteenth century although efforts to revive those ideas were still around at the end of the twentieth century (Mahan 1992:150).

The two effigy mounds were described in the Georgia Bicentennial Commission’s Historic Spots and Places of Interest in Georgia (Thomas 1935:106). Ruby Thomas’ report, which cites Jones’ description, would have been widely distributed and that work probably helped to increase awareness of the mounds, particularly of the more obscure effigy mound on the Little place.
WPA Era Investigations

The WPA era archeology in Putnam County appears to have had its beginning in 1934. The focus of that work was Rock Eagle and the nearby Carroll Village site (see previous discussion page 41). The Society for Georgia Archaeology was organized about the same time by a group of prominent, and wealthy, Macon citizens (Schnell 1997). Dr. C.C. Harold was the leader of that organization and he was instrumental in promoting many of the archeological projects across Georgia. Harold was extremely enthusiastic about public ownership of major archeological sites and the restoration of the two rock eagle effigies in Putnam County was an important goal. Harrold’s scrap book of Georgia archeological sites was integrated into the survey work the WPA era (Harrold 1936b). The site information was transcribed in 1939 by WPA personnel (Wauchope 1939). Harrold’s original notebook and transcriptions may be found at UGA’s Hargrett Library.

Harrold was successful in establishing Rock Eagle as a national monument but he had less success with the second effigy. Figure 126 shows a 1937 photograph of Harrold accompanied by Captain Frank Trotter, the pilot of the airship Resolute. The photograph appeared in a newspaper article along with the first aerial photographs of Rock Eagle (Macon Telegraph and News, April 25, 1937).

Putnam County had its own supporters of the archeological projects of the WPA era. Several prominent individuals were members of the Eatonton Kiwanis Club. The Kiwanis Club and other local community organizations apparently served as sponsors for archeological work and other “social” programs in the county. The names of two individuals appeared prominently with respect to archeology. George A. Turner (Figure 127) found employment with the federally funded projects and actually had some limited responsibility for identifying archeological sites in the area. Turner is credited with producing a map in 1936 that shows major Putnam County sites including three rock eagle effigy mounds. Turner’s map is illustrated in this report as Figure 27. George M. Scheer was another Eatonton person who was particularly prominent with respect to archeology. Scheer was a respected local newspaper columnist of the era who maintained a strong interest in prehistory. At a later date, Scheer wrote a popular report of the archeology conducted at the effigy mounds which is still widely cited (Scheer 1958). Of several individuals shown in a 1937 Kiwanis Club photograph (Figure 128), J.N. Stirling, P.C. Rossee, E.F. Griffith, Frank A. Dennis, and George Scheer are among the names noted in 1930s newspapers who were associated with the archeological promotions in the county.
The name W.F. Leverette is associated with the WPA era development of the Rock Eagle Park but there is little evidence that he was directly involved with the Little Rock Eagle. An account of Leverette’s work at Rock Eagle Park is found in a November 24, 1949 newspaper article in the Eatonton Messenger.

A big event of 1934 was the planned visit of two rock eagle effigy mounds by a number of scientists and dignitaries from Washington and many parts of Georgia. The event was publicized in several area newspapers but unfortunately it rained and the visit to the effigy on the Little place had to be cancelled. The text of two of the 1934 newspaper articles follows.

Eagle Rocks To Be Visited Saturday By Many Notables

A number of notables will be in Putnam county on Saturday of this week for the purpose of visiting and examining the famed Eagle Rocks in this county.

The group will consist of Dr. C.C. Harrold, president of the Georgia archeologists, Dr. Kelly, supervisor of the Indian Mound Excavations at Macon, Judge Frank Jenkins of Atlanta, and several other prominent men and women including representatives of the Smithsonian Institute.

The party will arrive here Saturday morning where they will be joined by Dr. J.N. Stribling, president of the Kiwanis club, Dr. E.F. Griffith, and a group of prominent Eatonton citizens. They will visit both Indian rocks in the county and probably make a brief investigation and study the points of interest and will leave for Milledgeville where they will explore Old Oconee Town below that city.

Dr. C.C. Harrold, in a recent communication with a citizen here expressed the hope that all mounds and Indian trails will soon be marked in the state so that they may be preserved for posterity. The huge Eatonton Rocks here have excited a great amount of interest for the past few weeks due to the governmental work which is taking place in various points as to excavation and exploration. Authorities of Wesleyan college in Macon have paid several visits to the county in this regard within the past few weeks. (Eatonton Messenger, March 1, 1934).

Notables Pleased With Eagle Rocks On Visit Saturday

Dr. Swanson says "Nothing Like it South of Wisconsin"

Smithsonian Authorities Gratified to See Good Preservation

The pilgrimage to the Eagle Rocks in Putnam County brought a large number of notables here last Saturday, including the head of the Smithsonian Institute, Dr. W.L. Sterling.

There were 19 cars in the procession and about 40 people. A much larger number would have been here but due to the rain may failed to come. The visitors were able to examine the Eagle Rocks located on the Scott place but due to the fact that the roads were impassable they could not get to the rocks located on the Little place. Dr. J.K. Swanson, Smithsonian authority of Indian Mounds, states that there was nothing this side of Wisconsin comparable to the Eagle Rock which was visited. The party was pleased with the structure and expressed a great amount of interest in preservation…None of the authorities expressed an opinion as to the age of the structure. The cars were led by Dr. C.C. Harrold, head of the Georgia organization of archaeologists…(Eatonton Messenger, March 8, 1934).
The person referred to in the March 8, 1934 newspaper as J.K. Swanson was actually J.R. Swanton. The visits were apparently successful in promoting work at Rock Eagle although that work was not started until two years later. Little Rock Eagle was apparently relegated to a less important status where it has remained. The site was mentioned in the local newspapers in 1936 but it did not receive much attention until 1939 when C.C. Harrold convinced the Georgia Power Company to turn the site over to the University of Georgia for perpetual preservation.

As previously noted, few federal records exist for any work conducted at the Little Rock Eagle site in the 1930s. A request for information from Mr. Richard Vernon, National Park Service, Southeast Archaeological Center, produced the following information.

Accession Number: SEAC-267. A surface collection from Second Rock Eagle, 27 May 1936, old site designation 5PM5 (Putnam County, Georgia). The collector is not listed on any documentation. According to a site inventory card, the site was visited during a 1934 survey; no other information about the survey was located. The collection is an outstanding non-current loan to Ocmulgee National Monument (August 4, 1983); documentation is present.

The only project document present is a site inventory card. The catalog card lists the provenience as “½ mile N. of Oconee Rock Eagle, on property of Georgia Power County (sic, should be Company), about ½ mile from Oconee River, 9 miles east of Eatonton, between Walter Lewis and Jim Holder Place.”

No negatives, photographic prints, maps or microfilm are present.

The very brief site inventory card for Rock Eagle No. 2 is shown in Figure 129. The very limited amount of information shown on the card is still important because it represents some of the only information available from the period. The card notes a size of 100 ft which is smaller than Rock Eagle No. 1. The card notes that the effigy is poorly preserved and has not been restored. Based on the reference to the University of Georgia, the card was filled out after April 1939 (Deed Book P:196). Figure 130 shows examples of the 5PM5 artifacts found at Ocmulgee National Monument.

![Figure 129. Copy of NPS Archeological Site Inventory Card for Rock Eagle No. 2.](image_url)
Figure 130. Selected artifacts from 5PM5 found in the collections of Ocmulgee National Monument.
The National Park Service files also included a letter (dated March 23, 1936) and map relating to Putnam County sites from a Mr. George Turner in 1936. Turner was an Eatonton resident who found work associated with archaeology through the Federal Resettlement Administration. Turner was apparently also a member of the Kiwanis club according to a 1932 photograph depicted by Little (1999:58). The complete Turner map was illustrated in an earlier portion of this report as Figure 27. Figure 131 shows the portion of the map surrounding the project area which identified the location of Turner’s Rock Eagle No. 1. Little Rock Eagle is marked as delta I.

According to Turner’s numbering system, 9PM47 (the project area effigy mound) was Rock Eagle No. 1, 9PM80 (Rock Eagle Mound at the 4-H Center) was Rock Eagle No. 2, and a site now known as Pressley’s Mound (9PM22) was Rock Eagle No. 3. The Park Service switched Numbers 1 and 2 and ignored Number 3. Turner’s letter states that the third Rock Eagle was based on hearsay information (see page 41 for the text of Turner’s letter). Sheila Caldwell revisited the Pressley Mound in the early 1950s and provides a good summary of the history of the site and challenges the effigy theory (Caldwell 1954:6). Pressley’s mound will be discussed further in Chapter 7.

The only comment made by Turner concerning the Little Rock Eagle was that: No. 1 is the mound on the Eatonton-Sparta road that you visited with Dr. Harrold and a group of people from Eatonton (Letter from G.M. Turner to R. W. Smith dated March 23, 1936, SEAC Acc. 266).

The location shown on Turner’s map is relatively close to the actual location of site 9PM47 which is shown by a red dot in figure 131. It may be assumed that Turner’s site locations were no more than approximations. The next mention of the Little Plantation effigy mound was recorded in a couple of newspaper articles written in 1936.

It is possible that most, if not all, of the artifacts shown in Figure 130 were found during the May 27, 1936 surface collection. The artifacts were not cataloged until 1940 and some are listed by different catalog numbers. Catalog Number 40-219 probably represents material collected from one or more sites in the vicinity of the Little Rock Eagle mound. The other catalog numbers may refer to other sites. The sherds date to the late Lamar period but the chipped stone is Archaic. During the current project, one small Lamar pottery scatter was found near the Little Rock Eagle (9PM1408) and larger sites were found to the north. Site 9PM140 was the most intensively occupied (see Chapter 6).

George M. Scheer provided information relevant to this issue of artifacts in a June 4, 1936 column written for the local American Legion. It is obvious from the article that the Legion, with Scheer serving as Publicity Officer, supported the federal works projects in Putnam County.
Sheer’s article recounts a visit to the Little Rock Eagle mound and the nearby Flat Rock area by archeologist Martin Cromer who was at the time involved in the excavation of trenches around Rock Eagle on the Scott Place (see Chapter 2, page 42). The timing of the visit seems consistent with the collection date for the 5PM5 artifacts found at Ocmulgee National Monument. Cromer’s field notes contain no entries for the last week in May 1936 which suggests a break in the work schedule at Rock Eagle (Cromer 1936:129 - 163, SEAC Acc. 266). Thus, Sheer’s account of the trip represents the only record of what may have been Marin Cromer’s only visit to the second rock effigy mound. Unfortunately, only a brief comment is made about the mound itself and that comment is from Sheer’s perspective rather than Cromer’s. The text of the article suggests that Sheer was disappointed in the condition of the mound as it appeared to him “at that time.” The applicable portion of the 1936 article follows.

When Time Began

In last week’s column, I wrote something about the archeological work done by the government in this county, and in which our Commander, George Turner, was so interested. Last week I had such an interesting experience in this field that I must tell about it.

I went out last Wednesday with Legionnaire Skipper Smith, of the Land Use office, and Mr. Marvin D. Cromer, archeologist in charge of the work. Mr. Cromer is a very earnest young man, recently from the Indian Mound work in Macon; he is wrapped up in this research, and shows promise of bringing some very interesting data to light.

We left last Wednesday afternoon to investigate the Little Eagle Rock mound about thirteen miles from the town off the Sparta road between the plantations of Mr. Waldo Lewis and Capt. Jim Holder. The rock mound in itself was not so interesting, at least just then, but going beyond toward the river about a mile or more we came to what is known as Little Flat Rock. This is a flat rocky prominence of several acres in size, overlooking the river and facing Greene county, making a very pretty and interesting picture.

It was here that Mr. Cromer sensed the possibility of ancient Indian village sites; he happened to notice a boulder with a deeply worn path across it. As he explained, it took the feet of countless generations to wear the groove in this rock. From this as a clew he spotted what I would call a red gall in a grey field; the fact that this particular field was level and higher than the surrounding land proved away the possibility that erosion might have permitted either the red clay to be washed in or the grey soil washed away. But Cromer told how the ancients spaded up clay from the lower levels, for their own use. It wasn’t so hard to visualize this and it was easy to make out a fairly circular area in the grey field that indicated a village site. We began to search, and lo and behold! Just as Mr. Cromer predicted, we found broken pieces of pottery, arrow heads and other evidences of a former habitation far enough back that they did not show the knowledge of metal only stone or clay!

Before we left, Mr. Cromer pointed out and explained two other sites. It was wonderful how the trained eye and mind of this young man could ferret out these long forgotten spots, and prove this fact to an ignorant and sometimes skeptical mind (meaning myself).

It is inspiring to witness the rolling back of the curtain from the dim and forgotten past, to push back the horizon of our history. I cannot but have a deep respect for the work of men like Mr. Cromer, who dedicate their lives to a task often thankless and underpaid, and worse - misunderstood, preserving for the generations to come the early history (before the time of written records; of the mysterious peoples who lived and struggled on the edges of what was then primeval forests. If the efforts of these patient investigators are worthless, then we might as well throw away the works of Shakespeare and Homer - theirs were noble fiction, but here men are unfolding a true story of a great race of people who lived where we now live - lived, struggled and died, and in dying left no living trace.

The least that we can do, and as much as these men could ask, would be that we try to preserve a sympathetic attitude to the efforts of these investigators of an ancient American civilization and possible culture. We in Putnam could should be especially happy that this work is going on in our midst (Eatonton Banner, June 4, 1936).

The preceding article is quite informative with respect to the discovery of several apparently well preserved prehistoric sites located near Flat Rock. The site described in the field next to Flat Rock should correspond to one or more of the sites presently defined by 9PM139, 9PM140, or 9PM1400. The article locates the “little Eagle Rock” off the Sparta road and between the plantations of Mr. Waldo Lewis and Captain Jim Holder. The two plantations mentioned were those of Walter Lewis whose house was located west of the mound and J.P. Holder who was living in the old Kinchen Little house. Sheer’s comment that “the rock mound in itself was not so interesting, at least just then,” is an indication that restoration had yet to be accomplished but was still being planned.

Another article appeared in the Eatonton newspaper on June 18, 1936. The article reports a talk presented to the Kiwanis club by A.R. Kelly and the piece further states that Kelly visited “the smaller rock tumulus on the Georgia Power Company lands near Mr. Walda Lewis” (Figure 132).
The article may be a record of Kelly’s first visit to the effigy mound in our project area. Again, there is no description of the mound itself, simply a record of the visit. It should be noted that the “nearby site of an ancient Indian village” refers to the Carroll village (9PM85) and not a site near the Little Rock Eagle. The article stresses the advantages of the restoring the mounds with respect to the “material benefits” of increased tourism in Putnam County (Eatonton Messenger, June 18, 1936).
The preceding two newspaper accounts represent the only documentation for the Little Rock Eagle site identified for the two year period. The local efforts of the federally funded work focused entirely on the larger effigy mound and the nearby Carroll village site at the present-day 4-H Center. C.C. Harrold was still interested in the little eagle effigy mound and at least a part of his efforts over the next couple of years consisted of negotiations with Georgia Power. Because the negotiations were protracted, several important pieces of documentation were produced. Of particular interest was the acknowledgment that not everyone involved seemed totally convinced that the rock mound really represented an effigy and that there were inconsistencies between the site described by C.C. Jones and the site presently identified as 9PM47. This information is found in the reports of the Society of Georgia Archaeology, local newspaper reports, and a deed which transferred ownership of the site from Georgia Power to the University of Georgia in 1939.

The effigy mound associated with the project area remained virtually unknown to the archeological community until about 1938. C.C. Harrold prepared a major presentation on the archeology of Georgia in March, 1939 which discusses Rock Eagle but fails to mention the rock effigy mound on the project area (Harrold 1939:69). Isabel Patterson’s exhaustive work on the Archeology of Georgia (UGA Manuscript 402) which was written in the late 1930s discusses the restored effigy at Rock Eagle Park and then simply states that “there are two other stone effigy mounds which have been located in Georgia that resemble the one described near Eatonton” (Patterson 1939: 154).

C.C. Harrold’s interest in the project area effigy mound appeared as reports printed in the Proceedings of the Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) newsletters of March, 1938 through May, 1939. The newsletter continued to be published for a couple of years afterwards but these were the only years in which the effigy mound was discussed.

The March, 1938 SGA bulletin included the secretary’s report from the June 11, 1937, meeting in Columbus. The report includes the following status report from Putnam County.

Mr. G.A. Turner of the Resettlement Administration, Eatonton, Georgia, reported that there have been no further excavations in the past six months at the Eatonton Eagle Mound but that a fence has been put up to protect the mound from souvenir hunters. He also stated he hoped to soon receive the necessary permission to restore the other stone eagle mound east of Eatonton on the Oconee River (SGA Bulletin, March 1938:5).

The May, 1939 SGA bulletin contains two references to the project effigy mound. The first was found in a report by C.C. Harrold on the final negotiations for the purchase of the effigy. The second relates to a field trip to the site on April 15, 1939. The pertinent text follows.

One other objective which we have had in the past few years is the restoration of the second Eagle Effigy Mound in Putnam County. The Society will remember that in the Savannah Meeting on May 6, 1938, I reported that we had been having negotiations with the Georgia Power Company requesting that the Georgia Power Company donate this site to the University of Georgia or the Society for Georgia Archaeology. At that time the Georgia Power Company offered to lease us the site for one dollar per year. I replied that it would be impossible to use federal labor in restoring this site as long as title remained in the Georgia Power Company. I therefore requested that they reconsider the matter, and I urged that the site be donated to the University of Georgia. I am not prepared to make a final report at this time although I am authorized to state that negotiations have progressed very much in the past eleven months. I do not wish to state that I am sure that the site will be donated, but I have every reason to believe that it will be donated very shortly. If this is done, it will provide a very nice project for the Department of Archaeology since it lies only fifty miles from the campus. In this connection, I wish the public to understand that this mound is in very poor condition at present, since a road has passed over the tail of the eagle and a huge hole has been dug in the breast of the bird. It will be comparatively easy, however, to restore the mound since Colonel C.C. Jones surveyed it very carefully in 1876 and his drawing was published in the Smithsonian report for 1877. In the main this mound is very similar to the other one which has been restored although it is a little larger, and the body of the bird is very much heavier.

If and when the Georgia Power Company does donate this tract to the University of Georgia, I hope that the Chairman of the Executive Committee will have proper resolutions passed by the committee thanking Georgia Power Company (SGA Bulletin, May, 1939:4).

The tone of the report suggests that there was some reservation on the part of Georgia Power with respect to turning over the site to the public. The transfer of the site to the University of Georgia was obviously a compromise and it is likely that Harrold’s prominence was a critical factor in that transfer. It is important to remember that, at that time, very wealthy individuals such as C.C. Harrold were as influential as the fledgling Georgia Power Company.
The 1939 SGA bulletin report provides the first good description of the condition of the effigy mound at the time. Harrold clearly states that the mound is in very poor condition at present, since a road has passed over the tail of the eagle and a huge hole has been dug in the breast of the bird. The reference to a road cut through the tail will be discussed further but it does mean that grading disturbance is not entirely a modern event. The reference to the pothole in the center of the mound is also important because today that pothole has been filled and is no longer visible.

The 1939 SGA field trip was reported in the bulletin as well as local newspapers. The unfortunately brief account from the SGA bulletin follows.

The tenth meeting of the Society For Georgia Archaeology, and its sixth annual meeting, was held at Macon, Georgia, on Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15, 1939 (SGA Bulletin, May, 1939:9).

Saturday Field Trip

On Saturday morning the members and guests met at Eatonton, Georgia, at 10:00 A.M., and drove to the second stone eagle effigy mound near Little’s Ferry, 14 miles east of Eatonton in Putnam County (see President’s report, page 3). After inspecting the mound, the party crossed the Oconee River and after a picnic lunch visited the mounds and village site on Shoulderbone Creek in Hancock County that are being acquired by the State for a state park. The site is somewhat similar in appearance to the Lamar site below Macon and the study collection of surface pot sherds made proved to be of the Lamar type (SGA Bulletin, May, 1939:11).

The April 15, 1939 field trip was well publicized in local newspapers. Of interest, the Eatonton newspapers at the time had come up with the new name “Rock Eaglet” for the effigy which may have been something of a publicity ploy. Finding new names for this effigy mound seems to be a time honored tradition in Putnam County.

The announcement of the 1939 visit by assorted notables was carried in consecutive weeks in the Eatonton newspaper. The first week mentioned several of the people who might be visiting and provided some information on the mound (Figure 133). The article states “Except for its smaller size, the mound is an exact reproduction of the famed Rock Eagle” (Eatonton Messenger, April 6, 1939).

The second weeks announcement reflected a bit of controversy that had developed over the use of the name “Eaglet” (Figure 134). The more scholarly readers noted that the mound was actually larger than Rock Eagle so the name “Rock Eaglet” was not appropriate. From Harrold’s perspective, it was obviously important to embrace the dogma that the real measurements of the mound were those identified in 1877 by C.C. Jones. The mistaken perception of a smaller image advanced by some local people was not appropriate.

Figure 133. Newspaper announcement of planned visit to the Rock Eaglet (Eatonton Messenger, April 6, 1939.)
Rock Eaglet To Be Visited By Archaeological Group

Local People Are Invited To Attend Gathering On Saturday Morning

When the newspapers of the state last week heralded the fact that the Georgia Society will study Putnam county’s Rock Eaglet here Saturday, local people questioned the title of Rock Eaglet.

Dr. C. C. Harold himself was the first to call the Messenger’s hand by saying that the so-called Rock Eaglet is even larger than the reclaimed Rock Eagle. And to his aid came Miss Julia Reese who was also well informed on the history of the Putnam mounds.

Jones Reports

After some study over the week, it is found that the dimensions of Rock Eaglet are given by authorities as being larger than Rock Eagle, but the Rock Eaglet is said to be not so high as the famed Rock Eagle.

In the annual report of the Smithsonian Institute in 1877, Charles C. Jones, Jr. writes of the Indian mounds in Putnam county. After much study and measurements, he wrote the following account of the Rock Eaglet:

“About a mile and a half from the Oconee river on the plantation of Kinchen Little in Putnam county is another of these bird shaped mounds. Like the former (Rock Eagle), it is composed wholly of bowlders of white quartz collected from the hills on which it stands.

“ Its dimensions do not materially differ from those of the tumulus on the Scott place. The tail, however, is bifurcated. The head lies to the southeast, and its wings are extended in the direction of the northeast and southwest. The entire length of the structure from crown of the head to the end of the tail is 102 feet and three inches.

“For a distance of 12 feet the tail is bifurcated and just above the point bifurcated it is 12 feet wide. Across the body, and from tip to tip of the wings, the measure is 132 feet. The body is stouter than that of the eagle.”

Mr. Jones admits that on one knows when and why the mounds were erected.

Putnam Invited

Dr. Harold urged as many local people attend the meeting as possible. The Macon group, composed of lovers of Indian relics from Macon, Columbus, Atlanta and Savannah, will arrive here about the middle of the morning to study the mounds. From there they will cross over into Hancock county.

The people were advised that they will be welcome to bring along a picnic lunch which will be eaten in Hancock county, or if they do not have the time to spend the day, they may just ride out and visit the Rock Eaglet which will take only a few hours.

Figure 134. Second announcement of 1939 visit to Rock Eaglet (Eatonton Messenger, April 13, 1939.)
The events associated with the 1939 visit to the “Rock Eaglet” were reported a week later and seemed a bit anticlimactic. The text of the article follows.

**Eaglet Receives State Attention**

*Putnam county’s second Indian effigy better known as Rock Eaglet was visited Saturday by members of the Georgia Society of Archaeology under the direction of Dr. Charles C. Harrold, president.*

Accompanied by Dr. Robert Wauchope, professor of archaeology at the University of Georgia, the group made a close study of the mound located on the Eatonton-Sparta road and made recommendations that it be preserved for posterity in a similar manner as Rock Eagle.

Among the distinguished visitors Saturday were Editor Carey Williams of the Greensboro Herald-Journal and Dr. T.B. Rice, noted Georgia historian whose articles are carried weekly by the Greensboro paper.

*From the Putnam mound the group crossed the river and visited the Indian site near Shoulderbone creek (Eatonton Messenger, April 20, 1939).*

A search of the Greensboro newspapers produced a single brief comment written several months after the visit. According to Dr. Rice, he was invited to accompany representatives of the Smithsonian Institute and others interested in Archaeology in the early part of this year - 1939 - and we visited both this {Shoulderbone} and the Small Rock Eagle Mound in Putnam County (Greensboro Herald-Journal, November 17, 1939).

A respected avocational archeologist and author named Isabel Patterson was among the society members present at the field trip in 1939. Patterson was a noted amateur archeologist, historian, and writer who was quite influential in her support of WPA era archeology in Georgia (Ledbetter 1999:42).

Like C.C. Harrold, Patterson maintained records of all of the sites she visited. Figure 135 shows a copy of notes found in the Patterson files at the Columbus Museum. The scrap of paper was found a few years ago while conducting research for another project. Patterson’s note gives directions from Eatonton to the effigy mound. The accompanying photograph is the old Rock Eagle postcard that must have been attached for comparative purposes. Based on the measurements, the sketch should probably be viewed as a fanciful version of the drawing in the C.C. Jones Smithsonian report. Patterson records were not re-examined for the current project but additional information is likely to be present in the Columbus Museum files. As previously noted, Patterson’s writings include very little information on the second effigy mound. However, any notes concerning her impressions of the mound site at the time of her visit would be valuable.

Figure 135. Copy of notes and directions made by Isabel Patterson for the 1939 field trip to the Rock Eaglet.
The date of the transfer of the effigy mound from Georgia Power to the University of Georgia Board of Regents was April 12, 1939. The deed is filed in Putnam County Deed Book P page 196. A plat showing the rock mound and the boundaries of the site is found in Putnam County Plat Book 1 page 152 (Figure 136). A portion of the text of that deed follows.

The Chairman [Preston Arkwright] stated to the meeting that in the acquisition of land and water rights for the Furman Shoals Development the Company had come into possession of a tract of land in Putnam County, Georgia, on which Dr. Charles C. Harrold, of Macon, Georgia, stated that there is an old Indian Mound which the Society for Georgia Archaeology desired to repair and rebuild in order that the same might be preserved for posterity, and to that end had requested that a tract of land of approximately 9.34 acres in Land Lot 446 of the Second Land District of original Baldwin, and now Putnam County, Georgia, on which the Mound is located, be conveyed to the Regents of the University System of Georgia. The Chairman stated that the said tract of land is of no use or service to the Company; that he would recommend that the same be deeded to the Regents of the University System of Georgia for the purpose of repairing, rebuilding and preserving the Mound, and submitted to the meeting form of deed dated the 12th day of April, 1939, conveying all the Company's right, title and interest in the said tract of land to the Regents of the University System of Georgia at and for consideration of $1.00.

Figure 136. Copy of a 1939 plat for Little Rock Eagle tract (Putnam County Plat Book 1:152).
The Putnam County deed contains the legal text and description of the tract but not the information found in the Georgia Power copy reproduced on the preceding page. Both deeds include a stipulation that Georgia Power is to retain use of the existing “woods road” which passes through the property and in the event that the Regents decide to close that road, a new one must be built at the Universities expense (Deed Book P:196). The road was important to Georgia Power because it allowed access to the agricultural fields and other resources located to the north of the small tract.

The plat contains a representation of the rock mound which is accurately placed. The location was confirmed by transit readings by SAS during the present project. At present, the boundaries of the tract are well marked and concrete monuments remain at each corner (see site description of 9PM47 in Chapter 6). The mound is shown as a circular concentration of rocks approximately 100 ft (30.5 m) in diameter. The size of the mound is estimated; the deed does not provide an exact measurements. The size does correspond to the estimate found on the Park Service Inventory Card (SEAC Acc. 267).

A slightly confusing aspect of the plat is the apparent representation of an eagle within the circle of stones. An image is readily apparent to some observers but there is still the question of meaning. Does the image represent an outline of the effigy as it appeared at the time or simply a whimsical expression of artistic license on the part of Georgia Power’s draftsman. The image on the plat has been taken seriously in the past as shown in the modified version of the plat reproduced in the National Register Nomination material for the effigy (Joslin 1991). Our efforts to reproduce the image were only partially successful because the Putnam County plat has been laminated for protection. Figure 137 shows an enlarged photograph of the mound image and the redrawing from the National Register Nomination file.

The plat drawing shows a road disturbing a portion of the mound. That is consistent with the comment made by C.C. Harrold in April, 1939 (Society for Georgia Archaeology Newsletter, May, 1939:4). Overall, the orientation and proportions of the image reproduced by Joslin (1991) are more similar to the effigy as mapped by the University of Georgia in 1950 than the C.C. Jones representation. The question arises as to whether there is an actual basis for the representation shown on the 1939 plat. Could it possibly represent someone’s interpretation of the size and shape of the effigy at that time?

Figure 137. Two representations of the effigy mound mapped by Georgia Power in 1939.
A portion of a Georgia Power Company newsletter containing photographs of the two rock effigy mounds was found in the files of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Georgia, Athens (Figure 138). The page was an old photocopy of an undated document labeled only as “Snapshot.” A request was made to the Georgia Power Archives to search for a better copy of the original newsletter but the material was not found. The images shown as in Figure 138 are second or third generation copies of halftones. A tentative date of 1939 is proposed for the mound photographs.

Figure 138. Ca 1939 photographs of Little Rock Eagle (top) compared to 1937 photograph of Rock Eagle (UGA, Department of Anthropology, Putnam County files).
The text of the article suggests that it was written very near the time that the property was transferred to the University of Georgia. That should place the date of publication in the late spring or early summer of 1939. The text of the article follows.

**Georgia Archaeology
Society is Given Deed**

A large pile of rocks and boulders on the site of the Company’s Furman Shoals development in Putnam County was revealed recently by the Society for Georgia Archaeology to be an “Eagle Mound,” religious relic of the Indian tribes which once roamed Georgia.

Upon the recommendation of P.S. Arkwright, president, the board of directors of the Company has deeded the mound, in the form of a 10-acre tract, to the University of Georgia for restoration and archaeological purposes.

The mound itself, which covers an area of about one acre, is shaped roughly like an eagle with its wings outspread. Archaeologists are not certain, but they think that the mounds had a religious significance, playing a part in the animal-worship of the Indians.

Under the supervision of the Society for Georgia Archaeology, students in the department of archaeology, soon to be formed at the university, will rebuild the mound and clean up the tract so that persons interested can visit it conveniently. The mound is about 10 miles east of Eatonton, just off the Eatonton - Sparta highway on a small side road that leads back to the development (UGA, Putnam County files).

It these old newsletters can ever be relocated, it might be productive to examine other issues for possible information. While it is unlikely that they still survive, continued efforts to find the original photographs should be pursued. At present, they represent the oldest photographs of the effigy mound.

The two photographs of the Little Rock Eagle shown in Figure 138 may be oriented as follows. The upper left image shows large rocks in the background which indicates that the photographer was standing at the tail looking toward the head. The upper right image shows a slope from left to right which should conform to south to north. That would mean that the photographer is standing on the west side of the effigy with the head to the left and tail to the right. The right side of the photograph would appear to stop just short of the road cut. While the detail of the photographs are poor, they do provide important information. The upper right photograph provides a good profile view along the length of the mound that may be compared to modern topographic maps.

The text of the article is informative in stating that the outline of the effigy is not easily recognized by the novice. It also notes the recent discovery of the mound. The last sentence of the article is also informative. It notes that the mound is located on a small side road that leads back to the development. At present, we do not know the full nature of the activities associated with the development but it appears that this small side road was quite important for access. Available information tends to suggest that the road was constructed by Georgia Power following purchase of the property in 1929. The construction of the road may have led to the discovery of the mound.

Once purchased, the effigy mound seems to have been set aside for later study by the University of Georgia. One published account by the Works Projects Administration American Guide Series (1940:33) indicated that restoration was still being considered for the second effigy mound. The Georgia Society for Archaeology soon disbanded and the events of World War II shifted priorities for the federal government. The next documented investigation of the Little Rock Eagle by the University of Georgia was nearly a decade later.

A search of newspapers, manuscript files, and published sources produced a single document related to the effigy mounds in the early 1940s. A 1941 manuscript written by a Mr. H. Russell was found in the special collections of the University of Georgia’s Hargrett Library. Excerpts of that interesting paper follow.
Another remarkable feature about these Eagle effigies, and one that seems to give support to their religious significance, is that at the base of the neck of the bird there is a triangular hole about two feet deep. These holes are seen on the figures of the eagles scratched on the copper plates found at the Etowah Mounds near Cartersville. The Chief’s dias in the Macon Mound, which is shaped like an eagle also bears this triangular incision at the base of the neck, and it has since been noticed that almost every design in the form of an eagle drawn, or carved by an Indian bears this symbol. Can it have any relation to the ancient double triangle of Judaism? Whatever they mean or for what purpose they were built is another of these ancient mysteries that will probably remain hidden forever unless someday another Rossetta Stone, or a set of Armah Tablets are found which will give up the secret. Until then we can only look down on the great symbols of a lost age, from the platform provided, and add our guess to those of thousands of others.

Mr. Irwin, a local historian, states that there is a third bird mound at Shoulderbone Creek, in Hancock County, Georgia. This one however, is smaller than the other two, and instead of the eagle being portrayed with stones it is a flat pattern cut into the soil. It is remarkable in this respect however, that after so many years it is still plainly distinguishable among a growth of wild vegetation. When one recalls how the number three enters into most religious orders both ancient and modern one is given to wonder whether this bird, or, Bird Mound as it is called, was not started to complete some form of mystic trinity and that its votaries were disturbed, or, driven out of the country before they could finish it?

Mr. Irwin further stated that two more of the Eagle Mounds exist, one in Ohio, and the other in Missouri; he further states that these two with the Eatonton Eagle form a perfect equilateral triangle with the Eatonton Eagle as the apex (Russell 1941:2).

The Russell paper represents one of the latest accounts found in our research which still adheres to the “Lost Tribes of Israel” myth which was developed a few centuries earlier to help explain the absence of Christians in the New World at the time of first European contact (Manasseh Ben Israel 1652). Only a portion of the above cited document was found in the library files. The copy was typed with some minor editorial notations. A published version of the paper was not found in our search. The reference to a third eagle effigy near Shoulderbone is interesting because C.C. Jones also described a partially excavated monument of aboriginal construction in the same general area (Jones 1873, see Figure 23 in this report).

Before leaving the late 1930s investigations, it is worth examining contemporary aerial photographs and maps that provide some additional information. Figure 139 shows a portion of the earliest available aerial photograph made for the area. The photographs were produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s, Soil Conservation Service beginning in the mid to late 1930s and continued until the present. The photograph shown in Figure 139 was taken April 28, 1938. The resolution of the photograph is not sufficient to show details of the rock mound. An arrow points to the location of the mound which seems to appear as a lightly colored mass. The field road which leads from the main road to the cultivated fields is visible in the photograph. The road makes a slight bend around the mound. The cluster of farm buildings in the lower right portion of the figure represents the Kinchen Little (Holder) farmstead. The effigy mound is located in a somewhat open area which probably represents hardwoods or possibly overgrown pasture. The darker trees are evergreen types such as pines or cedars.

Figure 140 shows the location of 9PM47 on the 1919 Soil Map and a 1939 Department of Transportation’s map of Putnam County. The 1919 map shows a side road well to the west which corresponds to the old Lawrence Ferry Road. The 1939 map shows the new road which impacted the mound. While there is no record of the exact date of construction for the road, it would seem logical that it was constructed after the 1929 purchase by Georgia Power. The property purchased by Georgia Power consolidated several farms which would have made the new road practical. The construction date is consistent with reports of the effigy mound which became much more plentiful after 1930. Prior to that time, the mound would have been less accessible. The oval features depicted above and below the mound on the 1939 map are deposits (mounds?) of rock suitable for road fill.
Figure 139. Portion of a 1938 SCS aerial photograph (location of Little Rock Eagle is indicated by arrow).
Figure 138. Location of Little Rock Eagle effigy mound shown on 1919 soil map and 1939 highway map.
University of Georgia's 1950 Investigations

Documentation, beginning in 1949, refers to A.R. Kelly's plans to investigate the Little Rock Eagle mound. Plans for that research appeared in the University's Department of Anthropology Academic Reports for the years 1948-1949 and 1949-1950, correspondence to the head of the Georgia Farm Bureau, and in a 1949 newspaper announcement in Putnam County (The Eatonton Messenger, November 10, 1949). Archeological investigations were begun in the spring of 1950 but the extent of that work is only partially understood. Kelly did provide status reports of his work, along with the work of other University of Georgia archeologists, to *American Antiquity*. Kelly’s report of the spring work referred to mapping at the two effigy eagle mounds and tests excavations (*American Antiquity, News and Notes*, July 1950:186). With respect to the work conducted in the fall of 1950, Kelly commented that the excavations on one of the eagle sites failed to produce any definitive material that would bracket these structures in the existing chronology of middle Georgia (*American Antiquity Notes and News*, July 1951:87). The excavations were at the smaller rock eagle in the project area.

There was no final report of the work and we have been unable to locate any of the original field notes. A map showing a contour map of the effigy and the location of excavation has survived although it had been missing for a number of years. Photographs of a model of the effigy, based on the 1950 investigations, also survives. Kelly did make a few brief references to the Little Rock Eagle in his 1954 publication on the rock effigy mounds of Putnam County (Kelly 1954:82). Fortunately, the visits by the University of Georgia archeologists were documented in the Putnam County newspapers. Those newspapers provide our best evidence for the individuals who worked on the project and time span of the project. We have made efforts to contact individuals who may have helped with the fieldwork but the two people contacted had no recollections of the events.

Kelly’s departmental reports provide information concerning his plans for work at the Little Rock Eagle mound. Those reports and subsequent reports through the early 1950s provide information concerning various archeological projects conducted by Kelly across the state. The pertinent sections concerning the Putnam County effigy mound follow.

*Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Annual Report 1948-1949*

Attention is called to the gift some years ago to the University System of Georgia by the Georgia Power Company of the second of the large effigy mounds located near Eatonton, Georgia. Ten acres of land comprising this remarkable effigy now are the property of the University System. This forthcoming year this department will propose, probably with application for a Carnegie grant-in-aid, that these two effigy mounds at Eatonton be surveyed by planimetric methods, that sufficient data be gathered on the ground on physiographic and mineralogical problems to enable the preparation of a suitable model exhibit in Le Conte Hall on the Athens campus (University of Georgia 1949:8).

*Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Annual Report 1949-1950*

Under a grant-in-aid from the Carnegie Fund, the head of the department and assistants have begun a survey of the stone effigy "eaglet" near Eatonton, Georgia, two of which are now under the supervision of the Regents of the University System, Rock Eagle Park is to become a recreational area for 4-H Clubs, but the preservation and possible park exhibit of the rock eagle remains a consideration. Similarly, the lesser known "rock eaglet" on the Sparta road in Putnam county has also been donated to the University System for preservation and study. Present investigations will provide engineering recordation, photographs, field notes, permitting recommendations for future study and possible park planning (University of Georgia 1950:1).

The academic report for the next year simply stated that "A.R. Kelly continued work on the Eatonton eagle effigy mounds, Putnam and Hancock counties, Georgia, under a grant-in-aid from the Carnegie Fund" (University of Georgia 1951:3).
The Department of Anthropology of the University of Georgia maintains files which include correspondence and accounting records related to A.R. Kelly as head of the Department of Anthropology. Several pieces of information were found in those files relating to the Carnegie grant. The actual grant proposal was not found in the files. The files include a letter from S.G. Stukes, Coordinator for the Carnegie Grants-in-Aid Program to Kelly dated January 16, 1950, that notified Kelly that his grant request for $600.00 had been accepted. A letter from Carnegie Grant Coordinator Henry King Stanford to Kelly dated August 15, 1950 notes receipt of a letter progress report. Stanford notes: "I am glad to know that more has been carried out in the field in studying and recording data on both of the major structures located near Eatonton." The letter report mentioned by Sanford was not found in the files during our search. Kelly did provide another progress report to Stanford in a letter dated November 21, 1950. A transcription of Kelly’s letter to Dr. Stanford follows.

Dear Dr. Stanford:

As the date for termination of my grant-in-aid approaches I find that circumstance will handicap me in these last days in obtaining some of the data on the Eatonton stone effigy eagles in Putnam County, Georgia. As set forth in my project application and description of Research, there are two of these major effigy structures, located about 20 miles apart in Putnam county. We completed engineering recordation on the lesser known of the two on the Sparta road, 12 miles from Eatonton. We also made an archaeological stratigraphic test to seek pottery and other cultural materials that would help to identify the people responsible for the construction. Archaeological survey in the neighborhood resulted in surface collection of valuable pottery materials which will enable us to identify the tribes living in the region.

Work in the engineering survey of the Rock Eagle Park, however, has been held up pending the availability of materials, especially engineering data, made during the landscaping and preservation work of the U.S. Department of Agriculture 14 years ago. I do not want to repeat this work unless it should appear definitely that these records have been lost or misplaced. Photographic recording of the two eagle mounds has also not been completed, largely due to the fact that the structures are so large that aerial photography will be necessary to get them in proper perspective. Arrangements have been made for this work, using student pilots and photographers at the University of Georgia. I find that such photography will not be any more expensive than using photographic platforms and other types of ground equipment, and will be much more effective.

Also, Miss Mary Kellogg, graduate student in Anthropology from the University of Michigan, our new laboratory technician, wishes to visit her people in Michigan Christmas and will be out over two weeks in December. I am dependent upon her for cataloguing, sorting, preparing the site collections for statistical study and chronological grouping.

I cannot give precise amounts of the grant-in-aid that will remain after December, 1950, carried over into January, 1951, but it seems that I shall have around $200 in labor and less than $100 in supplies.

I would therefore recommend that your Committee grant me an extension on the Eatonton project, allowing me to use the balance of the fund initially granted to this Department (A.R. Kelly files, Letter from Kelly to H.K. Stanford dated November 21, 1950).

Stanford replied to Kelly in a letter dated January 18, 1951, that an extension had been allowed. The files contain a statement dated August 7, 1951 which appears to close out the grant. One final letter in the files relating to the Carnegie grant was written by Stanford to Kelly on December 5, 1951. Stanford noted that he was aware that Kelly would be working at the eagle site during the week before Christmas and that he would like to visit. That late date suggests that Kelly may have conducted additional work at one of those sites later than 1950. However, it is quite possible that Stanford was confused about the actual site of Kelly’s investigation (see Figure 39).

Information related to the Little Rock Eagle is found in correspondence concerning the future development of Rock Eagle Park pn 1949. Portions of a letter from Kelly to Mr. H.W. Wingate, President of the Georgia Farm Bureau are informative with respect to theoretic aspects of the mounds.
I am writing you at the suggestion of Mr. Miller R. Bell of Milledgeville, Georgia, with reference to archaeological sites located within the large area administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture near Eatonton, Georgia. Specifically, I have been interested for some years in the famous stone effigy eagle mound now called Rock Eagle Park, and related structures in the neighborhood.

A second effigy eagle mound near Eatonton was given to the University System some years ago by Mr. Preston Arckwright and the Georgia Power Company...

Mr. Bell suggests that I write you acquainting you with the nationally recognized importance of the archaeological and prehistoric features of this large area, and, if possible, discuss with you the potentialities of development as an outstanding cultural attraction. At this time I will state the simple fact that the effigy mounds and other archaeological features near Eatonton are regarded by American archaeologists as the most perfect and the most imposing examples of effigy architecture in the southern United States, and that they almost certainly belong to a very early prehistoric group of pre-mound building tribes, related to the famous Hopewellian burial mound folk of Ohio and West Virginia, who made an early migration southward with present Putnam Co., Georgia, as their southernmost outpost. These people were in aboriginal Georgia before the mound-builders at Macon, at Kolomoki in southwest Georgia, and at the Tumlin mounds near Cartersville, appeared on the scene. Research into this early period is being pursued at the present time in the Allatoona Basin and on the lower Flint and Chattahoochee by the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Georgia. The famous sites near Eatonton have never been explored (UGA, A.R. Kelly files, September 20, 1949).

A related letter was written to Dean S. Walter Martin by Kelly on September 29, 1949. In that letter, Kelly refers to "a statement of the peculiar cultural values inherent in the prehistoric remains of the area." Kelly's statement was not found in the files.

Kelly laid the groundwork for his visit to Putnam County with several interesting quotes which appeared in The Messenger on November 10, 1949 (Figure 141). The comments were made during a visit accompanied by graduate student Joe Mahan and professor of geography C.F. Lane (The Eatonton Messenger, November 10, 1949).

Published information concerning the results of Kelly's work at the Little Rock Eagle site is found primarily in local newspapers that are reproduced in Figures 142 and 143. That work apparently took place during the months of March and April, 1950.

The archeologists arrived in Eatonton on March 9 but were apparently rained out. One of the crew was Fred Birchmore who still resides in Athens. Mr. Birchmore was contacted during the current project but he had no recollections relating to that work smaller effigy mound (personal communication, September 2004).
Weather Defers Eaglet Survey
By Scientists

A distinguished group of scientists came to Eatonton Saturday to begin a survey of Putnam’s Rock Eaglet, but they were rained out.

Coming down from the University of Georgia were Dr. A. R. Kelly, head of the Department of Archaeology; Charles Johnston, of the University of Georgia Press; Joe Mahan, history student and Fred Birchmere, the boy who gained worldwide fame several years ago by traveling all over the globe on a bicycle. Mr. Birchmere is now studying archaeology at Georgia before resuming his travels again.

Not to be confused with the much publicized Rock Eagle, the Eaglet is an Indian Mound located near the Eatonton-Sparta Highway. When the Georgia Power Company bought the site preparatory to beginning Furman Shoals Dam it deeded the tract containing the Eaglet to the University of Georgia.

Dr. Kelly stated that the Smithsonian Institute recorded the existence of the mound many years ago. He hopes to work it over and find some means to make it an attraction to tourists. The group plans to return Saturday to begin their survey.

Kelly Praises Putnam Survey Of Indian Lore

A preliminary survey of Putnam County’s Rock Eaglet revealed that the county has an Indian effigy that should prove to be a gold mine. By Dr. A. R. Kelly, head of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Georgia, after he had made a study of the Indian Mound located off the Eatonton-Sparta highway. Accompanying Dr. Kelly were Joe Mahan, history student, and Charles Johnston, head of the University Press.

Dr. Kelly and his associates found evidence of the location of two Indian villages near the mound in the form of broken pottery, arrow-heads and shells. He carried them back to classify and determine what group of Indians lived there.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kelly asked that the people of Putnam inform him of any other Indian effigies, village sites or markings in the county. Those who know of fields filled with broken pottery or rocks with carvings on them were asked to pass this information along. It can be most valuable in his study.

Dr. Kelly said that Putnam should put these historic spots in shape and use them as tourist attractions.

“There are counties that would give most anything,” he said, “to have the interesting sites to show tourists that Putnam has.”

March 9, 1950 (above)

March 16, 1950 (right)

Figure 142. Two Eatonton Messenger articles relating to work at Little Rock Eagle in 1950.
Putnam Mounds Get Attention Of Historians

As plans were being pushed to completion for the establishment of a State 4-H Club at Rock Eagle Lake this week, additional work was being performed toward turning the attention of the state to the county's other Indian effigy in East Putnam.

Dr. A. R. Kelly, head of the Department of Archeology at the University of Georgia and a large group of University students worked last week end in a survey of the small mound laid out similar to the noted Rock Eagle. This mound is near the Eatonton-Sparta road near the home of W. A. Lewis. Smithsonian Institute officials studied this mound and wrote a report of it at the same time they did the larger mound.

Historians have all along known of the Indian effigy and appreciated its value, but the Rock Eaglet was lost in the shadows of its big sister, Rock Eagle. The late Dr. C. C. Harrold visited the mound and urged the Georgia Power Company, owner at the time of the land on which it is located, to donate the tract to the University of Georgia. This the Company did.

Dr. Kelly had the tract cleaned off and he had his students for the past several days measuring, taking pictures of it and doing further study of the surrounding territory. Dr. Kelly is interested in any Indian lore in this section and asked that those who know of any areas in Putnam where there is evidence that Indians once lived to contact him through the Messenger.

Dr. A. R. Kelly Will Talk Today To Kiwanis Club

Dr. A. R. Kelly, head of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Georgia and now directing the survey of the Putnam County Rock Eaglet, will speak to the Eatonton Kiwanis Club today, President Douglas Cunningham announced.

One of the nation’s most renowned anthropologists and archaeologists, Dr. Kelly had charge of the restoration of the famous Indian Mounds at Macon, and later assisted in the development of the Rock Eagle Park.

After looking over the Rock Eaglet which is located on the Eatonton-Sparta road, Dr. Kelly stated that Putnam County has an Indian effigy that will attract thousands of tourists if developed properly. It was given to the University of Georgia some years ago by the Georgia Power Company upon the recommendation of the late Dr. C. C. Harrold.

Dr. Kelly is being assisted in the survey of the Rock Eaglet by Joe Mahan, graduate student as assistant in the department.

April 6, 1950

April 20, 1950

Figure 143. Final Eatonton Messenger articles related to work at Little Rock Eagle in 1950.
A brief comment was made about the work in a local newspaper article in early May to the effect that Dr. Kelly and his students have cleaned off this spot well (Eatonton Messenger, May 4, 1950). If the newspaper account is accurate, Dr. Kelly’s crew did spend a substantial amount of time working on the effigy mound. The April 6 article notes that, among other things, photographs were being taken of the work on the mound (see Figure 143). If they actually existed, those photographs have yet to be located. The March 16 article refers to two Indian villages identified near the mound. The village sites may represent sites within the project area but Kelly’s crew did not fill out site forms so the locations remain unknown. Also, the collections from those sites, which are mentioned in the articles, have not been located. The April 20 article notes that Joe Mahan was serving as his field assistant. Joseph Mahan continued to work on similar sites for Kelly in subsequent years. A letter written by Kelly in 1959 mentioned that Mahan was in charge of the explorations of the Stone Circle near Manchester where he was carrying on excavations using students from the Universities off-campus center in Columbus (UGA Department of Anthropology, A.R. Kelly files). It is safe to say that Mahan developed a keen interest in such sites.

Two brief accounts of Kelly’s 1950 work at Little Rock Eagle appeared in Early Georgia, the journal of the recently revived Society for Georgia Archeology. Volume 1 Number 1 was printed in the summer of 1950 and Volume 1 Number 2 was printed in the fall of that year. The text follows.

Survey work on the famous stone "eagle" mounds at Eatonton has begun under the direction of the Georgia Department of Archaeology. This work, to include surveying, mapping, and recording of the data relating to the two main sites, is being conducted under a grant-in-aid from the University Center Program (Carnegie Fund) and will be conducted throughout the spring and fall.

Dr. A.R. Kelly, head of the department, is directing the work using principally student labor from the University.

When the survey is completed, permanent drawings will be made for future research reference and scale models will be constructed for museum display, Kelly says (Early Georgia, Volume 1 No. 1:44).

In the Fall, 1950, work on the survey of the Eatonton stone effigy "eagles" and related structures in Putnam and Hancock counties, Georgia, was resumed. Test pits dug within the enclosing rock circle around the second Eatonton stone effigy uncovered no pottery or artifacts that would help to identify the group culturally. An important phase of the survey is the effort to check the possible relationship of the "stone graves" in the neighborhood to the effigies. Also, surface collections of sherds and stone artifacts are being made on sites near the effigy mounds. Engineering records and photographs will be used in the preparation of small model exhibits of the two effigies (Early Georgia, Volume 1 No. 2:44).

The two reports in Early Georgia suggest that the excavations were conducted in the fall months rather than the spring months covered by the local newspapers. As a point of fact, the newspaper accounts do refer only to cleaning and recording of the mound. Possibly, excavation of trenches was delayed until most of the site recording was accomplished. Newspaper articles were not found for the fall months of 1950. That is surprising considering the amount of news coverage previously afforded to Kelly in Putnam County. The second Early Georgia report states that no pottery or diagnostic artifacts of other types were found during the excavations. Considering the period of excavation, it is unlikely that the excavated soil was screened. Very small objects would have been difficult to recover.

Among the letters found in the Department of Anthropology’s A.R. Kelly files was a letter written by a long time associate, Dr. John R. Swanton (Figure 144). Swanton’s letter is a brief reply to Kelly that deals in part with issues relating to the effigy mounds. One item of Kelly’s earlier correspondence related to the Indians known as the Yuchi. The relationship of these people with the effigy mounds would become the subject of extensive research by Joseph Mahan.
The work conducted by Kelly and Mahan in 1950 was a preliminary study which would lead to the full scale excavation and restoration of the Little Rock Eagle. The text of that plan was presented in an earlier part of this report (see page 56). Kelly’s overall plan is contained within a document called *A Prospectus of Survey and Research Relating to the Eatonton Effigy Mounds and Related Structures in Putnam, County, Georgia, with Recommendations for Development of a Museum at the Rock Eagle Park*. The document appeared in the early part of 1954 but may have been assembled at an earlier date. With respect to the Little Rock Eagle, Kelly’s plan consisted of the following.

2. *To carry out archeological excavations into the Sparta road "eagle" first, as this was partially opened some 50 years ago by the plantation owner and was never backfilled. Also some initial tests were made by A.R. Kelly within the encircling stones. This operation should not be as time consuming or involve as much funds as would the investigation of the Rock Eagle Mound (Kelly 1954a).*

Kelly’s plans to excavate the Little Rock Eagle were abandoned in favor of the effigy at Rock Eagle Park. To our knowledge, no excavation was ever conducted on the mound itself by Kelly’s people. The extent to which they “worked it over” is less clear. His work at Little Rock Eagle is barely mentioned in any of his writings in the early to mid 1950s (Figure 145).
Dr. A. R. Kelly Says County’s Stone Mounds Most Unusual

Dear Tom,

This business of writing to your favorite editor on pertinent, or impertinent, matters seems well explained in the custom of many countries, so I am writing you in regard to the famous stone effigy eagle mounds of Putnam County.

These structures have long been familiar landmarks to Georgians, being described by C. Jones, Whate’s Statistics, and L. Q. Knight. They were reprinted to the Smithsonian Institution in ante bellum days by a visiting antiquarian and were later catalogued by Thomas in his county by county series of ancient remains in Georgia (Smithsonian report). A former editor of the Messenger, in 1874, after his notice of the subject for the stonemason, remarked in the Messenger that there were other remains not noted by White.

Last spring, at this department at the University of Georgia began a survey of the archaeological features associated with the effigy mounds near Eatonton, working from a small research grant from the Carnegie Foundation, and this year another small grant from the University Centre Program in Georgia has enabled us to complete the studies. These grants are small and inadequate to valuable data needed to explain these mysterious remains but have made possible a beginning, and a collection of some interesting facts which give promise of future excavations and related structures in their proper place in Georgia prehistory.

It is believed that there are other localities in or near Eatonton which contain rock structures which seem to be related to the two stone effigies. One of these in the half Acre section exhibits remarkable stone walls, terraces, stone mounds, very extensive and forming a confused mass of extended features which cannot be understood completely without exploration and considerable survey. The oldest residents, many of whom are now living in the hills near the critical area, and checking on old records, indicate that there are prehistoric land-clearing or property marking activities of the early settlers, which sometimes difficult to distinguish between aboriginal features and constructions and the work of early pioneers in the section, and the structures themselves have been disturbed and partially destroyed by removal of stones for road construction and other purposes. One purpose of this letter is to appeal to Putnam County citizens to do everything possible to maintain these prehistoric remains as nearly as possible in their original condition. The present archaeologist, indicating that Putnam County was the centre of a vast prehistoric movement in the region, and elsewhere in Middle America, but the stone effigies and related structures are outstanding in North America north of Mexico.

The construction of effigy mounds in Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa, West Virginia has been noted by American archaeologist in connection with the famous Hopewell culture of the sand mound peoples of Ohio drainage. The civilization of these early burial mound peoples exhibits other imposing costumes, fortifications, the use of copper, mica, carved stone all connected with an elaborate religious art. It is curious that the building of these northern prehistoric peoples on earth constructions should tend to be duplicated in Georgia and the southern piedmont in stone building. One recalls the elaborate stone fortifications at meet preserved in the State Park at Fort Mountain; the equally remarkable stone wall which once surmounted Ladd Mountain, overlooking the site of the Etowah Mounds near Cartersville; and the stone walls which encircled a portion of Brown’s Mount, on the Ocmulgee river below Macon, until their removal some years ago to provide rapier for the Southern Railroad bridge over the Ocmulgee. One of the earliest antiquarian accounts of Georgia, Charles J. C. Jones, mentions that there were stone fortresses on Mount Yonah, overlooking Nacoochee valley, but these have not been confirmed.

A stone mound at the base of Ladd Mountain near Cartersville was removed during WPA days, revealing a ceremonial burial at the base. The objects from this grave were studied by Dr. A. J. Waring Jr. of Savannah, Ga., and reported in American Antiquity.

A copper breastplate, polished beads, with human remains, correlating with similar objects found with Hopewellian burials in Ohio and points north.

Last summer students of the University of Georgia summer field school were exploring limestone caves near Cartersville including a cave near the home of the north Georgia novelist, Mrs. Cora Harris. The burials of some forty individuals in this cave had been removed by local people. The evidence checked last summer by the archaeologists, indicates that these burials were made in the cave, deliberately sealed by carefully placed stones at the entrance. Among the objects found with the human bones were two copper ring shaped objects, gorgets or breastplates, copper beads, pieces of graphite, mica, garnets, polished celts, necklaces of bone teeth. All of these traits correlate again with very early burial mounds found in middle Ala. by Prof. Webb of the University of Kentucky in connection with archaeological work done by the Tennessee Valley Authority. They belong to a prehistoric culture known as the Copena culture, and the people responsible for this culture are thought to be derived from the Hopewellian mound-folk found further to the north. The pottery found in the north Georgia burial caves is a characteristic check-stamped ware, and similar pottery was found with the Copena graves and village sites by Prof. Webb in his Copena explorations. Similarly decorated pottery has been found by our survey in Putnam county recently.

All of this adds up to a strong suspicion that the prehistoric folk responsible for the Etowah stone effigies and related structures are part of a vast migration of tribes, related in some way to these effigy building, fortifying, copper-using groups who lived much further to the north. As yet very little has been discovered in the way of relics has been uncovered near Eatonton to provide a specific tie-in with the better known cultural remains to the north.

Much of what I have written is speculation based on the relation of building features. But if one substitutes stone building for earth construction the parallels are striking. The very puzzling nature of prehistory in Putnam county afforded by these structures constitutes one of the major archaeological problems of the southeastern United States.

There is every reason to hope and believe that further discoveries will disclose clues which will succeed in unlocking some of the evidence which must surely rest in or near the structures described.

It is a fortunate coincidence that most of the survey of the area in and around the two eagle effigies with a view to uncovering relics of the people who constructed these stone mounds, and to prepare a non-technical museum exhibit of the findings in a small museum for the benefit of the public. Two areas at the Lewis place near the “Little Eagle” on the Sparta road, and the Half Way district, also near Pierson’s Mill, need further investigation. Probably another two months would make possible the completion of studies now in progress.

I have always struck me as unusual that a county which contained so much of both prehistoric and historical value as Putnam should be without an active historical society. There are at least two historical facts about your neighborhood that are of national significance, i.e., the locale of the Uncle Remus stories, and the prehistoric contest related to the stone mounds and effigies. I know that there are other interesting historical facets in and around Eatonton, but the two features named potentially have human interest and attraction for the nation as well as the state and region. I would strongly urge upon your citizens the very great importance of these relatively new and still accurate historical values with the view that some action might be taken to preserve and to develop them.

Sincerely,
A. R. KELLY.
problem in general and, to a limited degree, the work at the Little Rock Eagle. The newspaper article was probably similar to manuscripts prepared for earlier proposals such as the Carnegie grant. Kelly's best known work on the subject, *The Eatonton Effigy Eagle Mounds and Related Stone Structures in Putnam County, Georgia*, was published in the Summer 1954 volume of the *Georgia Mineral Newsletter*. Other reports may exist but they have yet to be found. A search of the files of the old Georgia Parks Department was suggested by Mr. Lawrence W. Meier (personal communication, 2004). Reports or other information may survive in the files of other departments of the University of Georgia. Our efforts to find material in this regard have not been successful to date.

Kelly's 1952 article is important in several respects. It provides some theoretical background information which helps to provide some perspective for his investigations. Kelly's 1954 paper expands on those subjects. He refers to some of the other rock mound/feature sites in the county. He mentions two areas on the Lewis place near the "little Eagle." The Lewis place has been previously referenced with respect to the snake effigy but the reference to a second area is interesting. Kelly’s background information section in the second paragraph contains some historical mistakes, particularly with respect to the references to stone eagles being mentioned in White's “Statistics.” The 1952 article represents a scholarly statement of the importance of the sites associated with the rock mound culture in Putnam County that was directed specifically to the people of the county. The article stresses the importance of the sites from a historical perspective rather than stressing the monetary benefits of tourism. The article does not contain a single reference to "gold mines."

Kelly's 1954 *Georgia Minerals Newsletter* publication was originally presented as a paper before the Georgia Academy of Science on April 23, 1954 (Kelly 1954:82). The paper was written and published before Petrullo conducted his work at Rock Eagle. Possibly, Petrullo's discovery of human remains beneath Rock Eagle may have altered his interpretations. Kelly's publication contains several illustrations, some of which are credited to H.R. Fowler who was listed as a student in archeology at the University of Georgia. The 1954 publication represents an academic paper with figures inserted to appeal to a non-academic readership. Kelly's text makes no reference to any of the figures. Some of the effigy illustrations appear to have been used to argue the point that the birds were something other than eagles. In one instance a figure caption actually contradicts Kelly's text. Kelly suggests at one point that the presence of a forked tail on the Sparta road effigy is similar to a southern kite (Kelly 1954:84) while a caption for a figure suggests a hawk (Kelly 1954:85). In this respect, Kelly's text would be more accurate since forked tails are restrict to this single type of kite whereas hawks do not have forked tails. The publication includes a photograph of a "reconstructed model of the Little Eagle effigy on the Sparta road" that was made in the Laboratory of Archaeology at the University of Georgia (Kelly 1954:84). The text contains no discussion of why the outline of the model differs so radically from the C.C. drawing. Frank Schnell has suggested that the small model was the work of Sheila Caldwell. He also noted that a similar model of the larger Rock Eagle was formerly on display at the Columbus Museum (personal communication 2005). Figure 146 shows another photograph with a slightly different view compared to the published photograph of the model (the photograph is reproduced with the permission of Dr. Mark Williams).

The *Georgia Minerals Newsletter* is a rather obscure publication that would have had limited circulation in Putnam County. County history writers do not seem to reference the text directly although Walter's bibliography does include a 1954 manuscript by Kelly with the same name but no publisher (Walters 1995:490). Petrullo's report of the 1954 excavations at Rock Eagle includes several of the Kelly's observations and interpretations which were picked up by later writers such as Scheer (1958) and Walters (1995). The 1954 publication's reference to the Sparta road effigy being a hawk rather than an eagle would logically seem to be the source for changing the name to "Rock Hawk" by Walters, Lavender, and others in the late 1980s (Walters 1995:17).
In several instances, Kelly’s 1954 published paper diverges from a general discussion of rock mounds to provide information relating specifically to the effigy mound in the project area. Pertinent sections from the text of Kelly’s Effigy Mound paper follow.

The second, and not so well known effigy, is located some miles out of Eatonton, Georgia, on the Sparta road. It is smaller than the first eagle but the setting perhaps more impressive. The rocky outcrop looks out over wide, deep valleys which extend for miles. Fortunately for Georgia, both of these structures are now in public ownership and circumstances are favorable for a long neglected investigation into the prehistory of these unique structures (Kelly 1954:82).

Charles C. Jones made no explorations into the Putnam County mounds. He simply measured them with a tape, sketched and described them for posterity. Both mounds, however, have suffered at the hands of treasure hunters, but the injury seems not to have been too serious. One of the early owners of the Sparta road effigy did explore the center of the structure some fifty years ago, without finding anything according to local eyewitnesses of the excavation. The site remains as he left it, with the stones thrown out of the breast of the bird, but with the main outlines intact, head, wings, tail, very much as Jones described it three quarters of a century ago, except for the one excavation and a break in the circle of stones around the effigy. There is doubt on ornithological grounds whether we can really call this Sparta mound an “eagle,” since the aboriginal architects definitely provided it with a forked tail, which would more likely assimilate it to the southern kite or some member of that family...

C.C. Jones is the authority for the statement that cultural items have on occasion been found in stone mounds.
in Putnam county and nearby counties. At one time or another, farmers and others have dug into some of the numerous rock cairns which occur on rugged hillslopes over much of Putnam, Hancock, and Jasper counties, and which in fact, extend well up into the Georgia Piedmont into Tennessee, and into the Carolinas. One type of relic reputed to have come from the stone burial grounds - and they are burial mounds because human bones have been reported in them by various amateur investigators - is the small carved stone effigy eagle pipe, used in the ceremonial smoking to tobacco. These pipes occur in many private collections. The University of Georgia has some striking examples acquired as gifts many years ago. Because of the fact that the University at that time had no museum curator, there is no information given on the source of these fine pipe specimens. The late Rev. Caldwell, father of the novelist and playwright, Erskine Caldwell at Wrens, Georgia, had a large assemblage of such eagle pipes.

The sad fact is, despite all the vague side references, and in many cases the actual presence of the specimens themselves, in no single instance has a trained archaeologist been able to find any definite evidence in situ, in good archaeological context, in the Georgia stone mounds. It is true that we have not dug into either of the two eagle effigies themselves. We have made test pits and minor trench excavations near them, and have surveyed a wide area some twenty miles or more on every side of them in Putnam county. We now have nearly sixty sites in the vicinity of the two mounds, from which we have surface collections. These sites bracket the area and give an insight into what kinds of civilization existed aboriginally in the neighborhood. The theory is that we can get some kind of idea as to what cultural groups were available to produce the Eatonton stone effigies (Kelly 1954:84).

One positive feature of this elusive culture has emerged from the survey to date; we know that the builders of the stone effigies did not live in the immediate area of the mounds. These sites were great religious centers, sacred ground, and were kept ceremonially clean. There are no secular accumulations, burials, refuse or storage pits. Not a scrap of flint or quartz, or a piece of broken pottery, has been found on the immediate area of the two effigy mounds...

Regardless of which time we eventually find the stone mounds associated with, there is still the problem of the burials. Archaeologists, who have seen the Eatonton eagle effigies and who have had experience with the smaller rock mounds in the Georgia Piedmont area, continue to assume that the mounds are likely to be sites covering burials (Kelly 1954:85)...

We may be on the cultural periphery of the Adena-Hopewell development, yet it is theoretically possible, of course, that the beginnings of the burial mound culture actually took place in the South; and that there were stone burial mounds, and possible cave tomb burials, before there were earth mounds. Our rock effigies would then be more ancient than the famous Hopewell effigies. There is hope on this score, because charcoal can be preserved for thousands of years, and even if bone and shell should all be lost from the graves or occupation sites, the chances of recovering charcoal specimens in good context are good…. Plans are under way for a careful investigation of stone mounds in Putnam county, on sites previously catalogued and described from surface features in earlier surveys (Kelly 1954:86).

In summarizing these two Kelly papers, a couple of references are critical for any plans of future restoration of the effigy mound. Kelly states very clearly in two places that the effigy on the Sparta road is smaller than the other effigy mound (Kelly 1954:82). If any of the later historians had picked up on that statement, the controversy over the name “Little” should have been avoided. Walters and others have insisted that because the Sparta Road effigy was located on the Kinchen Little plantation, the word “Little” must refer to the family name rather than being a reference to the size of the effigy (Walters 1995:17). Kelly’s work in 1950 included detailed mapping and that work clearly showed that the effigy that the University of Georgia recorded was smaller than the one recorded by C.C. Jones in 1877. The size discrepancy may have been of no great concern to Kelly. It would be interesting to know if Kelly was aware of notes or documents by Jones that might have explained this. The National Register Nomination report for the effigy mound, which was submitted in 1991, cites portions of Kelly’s 1954 paper but omits his statements concerning its smaller size (Joslin 1991).
Kelly’s 1954 paper also includes important observations with respect to the mound’s state of preservation at that time. He notes a pothole which he attributes as the work of a former owner. Kelly uses second hand accounts to show that no artifacts or other material was recovered from the earlier excavation (Kelly 1954:84). Kelly is probably referring to the 1937 B.A. Bustin’s newspaper article about Charles Little (see Figure 120). Kelly notes that the site remains as that person (Little) left it with the pothole still visible but with the main outlines intact except for a break in the circle of stones around the effigy (Kelly 1954:84).

As previously noted, the notes, photographs, and most other documentation associated with Kelly’s work at Little Rock Eagle in 1950 no longer survive. Fortunately, a plan map of the 1950 excavations resurfaced twenty-five years later. The map was delivered to Dr. David J. Hally in May, 1975, by Clemens deBaillou, or possibly another family member (Dave Hally, personal communication 2004). Clemens deBaillou was an archaeological assistant to A.R. Kelly in the 1950s but we have not determined what, if any, connection he had with the effigy mound. DeBaillou’s name appears in association with several important sites during the period. Figure 147 shows a photograph of deBaillou that was taken by a Mr. Kenneth Rogers at a rock shelter site near Morgan Falls in 1959 (Sparks, in The Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine, August 14, 1959). While at Morgan Falls, he excavated a small rock mound which he interpreted to be a possible anthropomorphic effigy inclosed within a rock ring (deBaillou 1962:16).

According to a biographical sketch prepared by George Lewis shortly after his death in 1977, deBaillou arrived in the United States in 1941 following the Nazi invasion of Austria. He taught language at several universities and during the 1950s he worked with the Georgia Historical Commission, supervising the archaeological laboratory, research fieldwork, and excavations (for A.R. Kelly). He was appointed director of the Augusta Museum in 1964 where he served until 1977, when he retired and returned to Austria (Lewis 1978:33). The present director of the Augusta Museum was contacted during this project for any additional information relating to work at the effigy mound but a search of deBaillou’s files produced no additional information.

A copy of the 1950 UGA map of Little Rock Eagle is shown in Figure 148. The map contains a note made by Dr. Hally which is visible in the lower right corner of the map. The note states that the map was drawn by deBaillou’s wife. Another notation, in a different handwriting, states that the scale of the “model” is 1/4th inch equals one foot (see Figure 146). The very bottom of the map shows the name R.E. Edney and a date of June 1, 1950. Edney probably prepared the original plane table map of the mound. University of Georgia files related to Kelly’s Carnegie grant list the name Edney as one of the individuals on the payroll of that project. An enlarged view of the map is shown as Figure 149. The 1950 map shows the outline of the effigy with a road cutting through the lower portion of a stone circle. Based on the map, the circle is fragmentary. An outline of the effigy has been superimposed on the contour map. It is assumed that the outline was determined and drawn in the field and not at a later time. The map also shows the old pothole as a deeply recessed area on the breast and the locations of the UGA trenches. The trenches were never backfilled and remain clearly visible today. Figure 150 shows the contour map with the outline and trenches removed.
Figure 148. Copy of a topographic map of Little Rock Eagle made in 1950.
The map shown as Figure 149 has the north arrow pointing in the proper direction (the original map shows the north arrow reversed). A metric scale has been added because the map has been substantially reduced. The scale on the original map was shown as one inch equal to ten feet. The trenches are shaded for clarity and an insert is included for comparison to the C.C. Jones map.

Our measurements, which were taken from the original map, show the outside width of the stone circle as 104 ft (31.7 m). The outline of the effigy measures 82 feet (25 m) from the top of the head to the tip of the tail. From wingtip to wingtip the outline measures 80 feet (24.4 m). By comparison, the measurements taken by C.C. Jones in 1877 for his effigy mound were 102 feet (31.1 m) in length and 132 feet (40.2 m) in width. Jones does not provide a measurement for the width of the ring. Based on his drawing, an estimate of 136 to 138 feet seems appropriate. Table 6 provides a comparison of these measurements. Comparisons of the central mound size and tail length are included (these two measurements are more arbitrary). With the exception of the tail, all measurements taken in 1950 are substantially smaller than those made by C.C. Jones.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement (feet)</th>
<th>C.C. Jones (1878:281)</th>
<th>1950 Edney Map</th>
<th>Relative Comparison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>102 ft</td>
<td>82 ft</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>132 ft</td>
<td>80 ft</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle</td>
<td>138 ft*</td>
<td>104 ft</td>
<td>75.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tail Length</td>
<td>25 ft</td>
<td>24 ft*</td>
<td>96.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Mound</td>
<td>76 ft</td>
<td>30 ft*</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Measurement is an approximation.

Figure 150. Copy of the 1950 UGA map with effigy outline and trenches removed.
The measurements taken by the University of Georgia crew in 1950 depict a substantially smaller effigy mound than the one described in by C.C. Jones (1878:281). Also, the relative proportions of different attributes are highly varied when the 1950 map and the C.C. Jones measurements are compared. One explanation is that there has been substantial modifications to the mound since 1877. Because much of the effigy outline shown on the 1950 map is still apparent today, the implication is that there has been restoration, either by Kelly’s crew or at an earlier time. That restoration would have included the construction of an entirely new circle of smaller diameter. Other explanations are that Jones’ measurements are in error or that site 9PM47 is not the same mound described by Jones in his 1878 Smithsonian report.

The 1950 map also depicts a pothole approximately five meters in diameter and about 90 cm in depth which is not apparent today. Kelly’s 1954 publication noted that the pothole still remained open at that time (Kelly 1954:84). The fact that the pothole has been filled in is only one of the modifications that has occurred since 1950.

It must again be mentioned that the work conducted by A.R. Kelly and Joseph Mahan in 1950 was done in preparation of the excavation of the mound (see page 189 of this report). The preliminary steps should have been similar to those employed at Rock Eagle in 1936. Kelly’s preliminary work would have included careful clearing of the site, detailed mapping of the mound prior to excavation (which would account for the 1950 Edney map), and site testing (which remain visible as open trenches). An accurate map was necessary so that the stones removed during excavation could be replaced. The most important question relating to this process is how did they determine the shape and boundaries of the effigy? Was the shape of the effigy and the position of the rock circle just as they found it or did they have to make some “educated guesses” from time to time during the mapping process. Regardless of that question, it may be stated that the outline drawing of the effigy is very accurately reproduced on the model (see Figure 146) and much of that outline is still apparent today.

The Soil Conservation Service flew over and photographed the area on March 14, 1950 which was the same time that Kelly’s crew was beginning their work of clearing of the effigy mound. The 1950 aerial photograph is clearer than those of other dates but the mound is barely visible (Figure 151). Compared to the 1938 photograph (see Figure 139), the area around the mound is more open. Large trees, which may be cedars obscure the head and tail of the effigy mound. Other large rocks which represent a continuation of the quartz vein are visible to the southeast of the mound.

The reports of the other researchers who were engaged in survey and excavations of rock mounds in Putnam County provide little additional information. Petrullo’s report provides limited insight although for some reason he did assign a new site number to the mound. That number is evident on Lavender’s map of Putnam County in which site number 9PM76 is placed very near 9PM47 (Lavender 1988). They are the same site and site and the second site number was subsequently reassigned.
Petrullo’s report simply notes that site 9PM76, the Little Eagle, is the quartz boulder effigy mound on the Eatonton-Sparta highway (Petrullo 1954:33, Lavender 1988:44). The extent of Petrullo research of the Little Rock Eagle site, if any, remains to be determined. Walter’s (1995:17) assertion that Petrullo worked on both effigy mounds in 1954 is unfounded.

Ted Thomas was one of the students involved in the early 1950s surveys of Putnam County. His report of sites in the portion of the county near the effigy mounds provide the follow information as a site description (Thomas 1954, Lavender 1988:116).

9PM 47 - Split Tail Eagle Mound
Location: Off Highway 16 to Sparta on a dirt road which cuts off the highway about 12 ½ miles from Eatonton. The mound is on the right of a small road which bears to the left after turning off 16. It is about one mile from the high Flat Rock.
Soil Type: Cecil sandy loam
Site Type: Quartzite rock effigy mound
Surface finds: none
Comments: The relative significance of this mound and also of the larger eagle effigy mound have been discussed at length by several others, so I will not attempt to elaborate on that. I will confide my discussion to the measurements of the mound as recorded by C.C. Jones in 1978 for his article entitled “Aboriginal Structures in Georgia.”

From head to tip of its forked tail is 78 feet; from wingtip to wingtip is 132 feet; the width of the tail at its widest point is 18 feet; at its most narrow point it is 12 feet; and its head measured from tip of beak to the crown is 26 feet.
Two test trenches were dug by the University of Georgia a few years ago with no results. Other than these two trenches and a small amount of disturbance on the breast of the effigy (which is attributed to rabbit hunters), the bird seems to be in about the same shape as it was in 1878 when Jones observed it (Thomas 1954).

Ted Thomas actually provides the most detailed site description of the effigy mound during the mid twentieth century. The measurements cited are those of Jones rather than Kelly but it is unlikely that Thomas had access to the 1950s information. His reference to two trenches excavated by the University of Georgia at an unspecified date is an indication of his limited access to information. Thomas also provides anecdotal evidence for the creator of the pothole which differs from Kelly’s account (Kelly 1954:84).

While Kelly apparently did not produce a report of this work, his field assistant, Joseph Mahan did publish information relating to the effigy as part of his later research (Mahan 1992). A limited review of Mahan's published works has not produced additional information on the effigy mound but further research may prove beneficial. Mahan’s papers may be found in the special collections of Columbus College. That material was not examined for this project. A.R. Kelly was enthusiastic about Mahan in a letter written to Isabel Patterson dated November 29, 1949.

One of my best students is a graduate named Joseph A. Mahan, who lives near Cartersville, and has long been interested in the more recent Cherokee history of north Georgia. Joe will go to the University of North Carolina next year to begin a two year study there for his Ph.D. in history and archaeology. He plans to do his dissertation on Cherokee occupation of north Georgia in the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. He was public relations officer for the little north Georgia Methodist school, Reinhart College, near Canton, and knows practically everyone in north Georgia...Definitely a very nice person, very acute student, and one of the more promising young scholars of this generation in Georgia. I think he was headed for the presidency of one of those north Georgia colleges, but hope Georgia Univ. is smart enough to add him to their faculty in another two years. He is more interested in colonial history of Georgia and the Southeast, and in ethno-historical study of the Indians, something that has been neglected in Georgia historical research because of our preoccupation with the ante-bellum South, the Civil War and reconstruction...(Ledbetter 1995).
Joseph Mahan became associated with the Columbus Museum in the late 1950s and he remained there during the latter part of his career when much of his research was involved with the group of Native Americans known as the Yuchi. We do not know how much influence Kelly had with this subject but, based on the letter from John R. Swanton to Kelly in 1950, it was a subject that also concerned him (see Figure 144). Mahan produced a number of publications on Yuchi history and mythology. Two of his more important works are The Secret America in World History before Columbus (Mahan 1983) and North American Sun Kings Keepers of the Flame (Mayhan 1992). Mahan was a past president of the Institute for the Study of American Culture, which was interested in the study of European culture in ancient America. Mahan saw evidence of these links in artifacts such as the Metcalf stone which was found near Columbus in 1967 (Figure 152) and significant archeological sites such as Burrows Cave in Illinois and the rock effigy mounds of Putnam County. A portion of the text from his 1992 work which deals with the relationship of the Yuchi people and the effigy mound in the project area will be presented. The first paragraph deals with the origin of the Yuchi people.

Their original name was Zoyaha Wano, “which was the governing word, as it is of today, from their starting point.” They were also called Yustafa Wano, “Upper People or First People.” The element wano in these names means people and zoya is sun filled (Mahan 1992:7).

Before the middle of the seventeenth century A.D. the Zoya and Yustafa Wando (Shawano) were the cohesive central component which formed a common bond among all the peoples of Eastern North America south of the upper shores of the Great Lakes except, perhaps, the areas of the Northeast controlled by the confederated Iroquois tribes. The united peoples were divided into four groups known to themselves as the "Ispogoge, Kispogoge, Muscogulgee, and the Muscovee." They were known commonly as Shawano or Shawanogee which means eagle-serpent people or eagle-serpent-earth people. The group most closely related to the Zoya called themselves Zoyaha. Those descended from the Yustafa were the Chiyaaha (People of the Eye, ie Moon). Both called themselves Yugeeha, “sky-earth,” people. Descendants of both are the people known today as Yuchi (Mahan 1992:8).

The united sky people each had a totemic bird, or perhaps more precisely, a bird genus which provided a communications lineage with the Great Spirit who resided in the sky somewhere in the vastness of space beyond the sun. The Zoyaha knew this supreme spirit in the form of a great bird whose right eye was the sun and whose left eye was the moon. Lightning flashed from his eyes and his cry was the thunder. The being was commonly known as the Thunder Bird whose subordinate messengers were the falconidae, the hawk and the eagle.

In the American Southeast there is dramatic evidence that the peoples belonging to the falcon spirit resided there at least as early as the era the archaeologists call the Late Archaic Period (2500 BC-1000 BC) They advertised their presence by constructing giant effigies of their guardian sky spirit large enough to be recognizable from an altitude of several miles. In Georgia three such structures consist of small quartzite boulders piled in a rounded shape to form the intended image. The bodies of these figures rise to about ten feet at their centers and slope downward to the edges and appendages (Mahan 1992:132).
Seven miles north of the city of Eatonton there is one of these effigies. It is a giant eagle with outstretched wings measuring 120 feet from tip to tip. It is approximately the same measurement from the top of its head to the end of its tail. Its body is ovoid suggesting that of an eagle lying on its back (Mahan 1992:134).

About the same distance east of this Georgia city there is a similar structure of very nearly the same dimensions, and built of the same type of rocks. There are differences between these two figures, however. The latter is enclosed by a geometrically perfect circle of the same stones as the effigy and which originally was about two feet high. The effigy has a plump, almost circular body and a forked tail. These features give it a very decided resemblance to a kite!

Less than a mile westward from the latter figure is the figure of a rattlesnake of similar stone construction some two hundred feet along its undulating length from its triangular head to the three rock piles representing rattle at the end of its tail. Here, I believe, is the totemic emblem of the earth people of the Shawano (Eagle-serpent people) composite.

Constructing large effigy mounds in this early period was not limited to the Southeast. The best known of such constructions is the serpent effigy mound near Locust Grove, Adams County, Ohio. A multitude of others depicting lizards, bears, and even an elephant still survive in the river valleys of Wisconsin. Countless others have been destroyed by the activities of American settlers in the past century and a half.

The most recently reported effigy mounds of similar construction to those in Georgia are on the Island of Bimini in the Bahamas. They, like their mainland counterparts, are made up of piled stones. In their case, however, coral and limestone are the building material. Quartzite was not available.

Based on the presence of these virtually ageless ethnic "signatures" it may be assumed with confidence that people belonging to the eagle, kite, serpent, and bear gens were present in North America in the Archaic Period (Mahan 1992:136).

Mahan’s book continues with evidence used in tracing the Yuchi people back to the third century B.C. as members of a great seafaring race. He also provides a connection with these people with the lost civilization of Atlantis. Part of his evidence was based on the similar effigy mounds made of coral and limestone in the shape of a giant fish and cat submerged off the Island of Bimini (Mahan 1992:135). Mahan’s interpretation of these stone effigy building people follows.

The ancient peoples of the Bahamas were the people of Plato’s Atlantis which extended into the North American continent making it, in his words, "larger than Asia and Africa combined." As the Greek savant plainly states, the Atlantans were the same as the pre-Greek peoples of the Mediterranean, namely the Minoans. This links them clearly to the peoples of Minoan Crete and Santorini and the great seafaring capabilities of both (Mahan 1992:150).

Mahan’s work provides no specific reference to the archeological investigations conducted at the effigy mounds in the 1950s. He concurs with the comment in Kelly’s 1954 paper that the project area effigy mound has a very decided resemblance to a kite (Kelly 1954:84). He also references and describes in some detail the stone snake effigy located to the west of the Little Rock Eagle site (the snake or serpent effigy was noted by Fanny Lee Leverette in 1925, see Figure 121, page 160). Mahan’s work provides a useful mythological framework for interpreting the effigy mounds which diverges from the biblical view imposed by proponents of the popular “Lost Tribes” and ancient Mound Builders theories of preceding centuries.

Research Related to the Effigy Mound, Mid-1950s through the 1980s.

The archeological research relating to the rock mounds of Putnam County essentially ended in 1954 with Petrullo's excavation at Rock Eagle (Petrullo 1954). Kelly’s plans to excavate Little Rock Eagle never materialized (Kelly 1954a). Mention should be made of the paper prepared by Eatonton newspaper columnist George M. Scheer. Scheer was a respected newspaperman and his interest in the Putnam County effigy mounds is visible in many of his articles printed in the Eatonton Messenger. Scheer’s apparent goal was to produce a scholarly paper on the subject and it was submitted to A.R. Kelly for critical review (Figure 153). Scheer’s letter also refers to an Indian exhibit in Eatonton prepared by Sheila Caldwell. Possibly, that exhibit included the UGA effigy mound models.
GEORGE M. SCHEEL
EATONTON, GEORGIA

July 8, 1958

Doctor A.R. Kelly
University of Georgia
Athens, Ga.

Dear Doctor Kelly:

I am enclosing a copy of a manuscript which I turned over to Mr. Cecil Johnson, director of the Rock Eagle 4-H Center. He stated that he would take it up with Mr. Sutton with the possibility of having a bulletin printed from it.

I tried to encompass all that I had read, heard, or seen about the effigy and I am deeply grateful for much of that material from you as you see from its reading.

I shall appreciate your comments very much.

I am sorry that I did not get to speak with Sheila when she was here to arrange the Indian exhibit.

If this material should reach the bulletin stage I would like very much to make acknowledgement in the foreword to yourself, Doctor Petrucco, and to references - how is this done?

Come to see us.

Please let me hear from you.

Sincerely,

George

Figure 153. Copy of a 1958 letter written by George Scheer to A.R. Kelly.
A copy of Scheer’s original manuscript remains on file with the Department of Anthropology of the University of Georgia and the 4-H Center Archives. The letter shown in Figure 153 accompanies the manuscript in the University of Georgia files. Scheer’s paper *The Rock Eagle Effigy* was essentially a popularized version of Petrullo’s 1954 report on Rock Eagle. His paper devotes only a single paragraph to the Little Rock Eagle. It was rediscovered and reprinted in Emory Lavender’s compilation report three decades later (Lavender 1988). The paper was published in a local Electric Membership Corporation bulletin in 1962 (Scheer 1962) as well as brochures for 4-H Center printed during the last twenty years (Scheer n.d.). The paper would have probably been published in the local newspaper. Scheer’s work was the most read and most quoted publication relating to the effigy mounds written prior to *Oconee River Tales to Tell* (Walters 1995).

Scheer was the local authority on the effigy mounds and he was featured again in 1964 when the existence of the second rock eagle was again discovered. The following is taken from an *Atlanta Constitution* article by Leo Aikman.

**Georgia Has Two "Eagles"**

A luncheon conversation with R.L. "Trot" Foreman and Don Hastings Sr. brought out the fact that there is a second "Rock Eagle," that is, one other than the restored Rock Eagle at the 4-H Center north of Eatonton in Putnam County. Neither man knew where it is. Reference to Bill Sutton, at the adjoining table, revealed the second stone effigy of a big bird is also in Putnam County.

Bill referred me to George Scheer in Eatonton. From George, I have this word:

"The other "Eagle" is on the Sparta road coming out of Eatonton within about 500 feet of the highway and close to the bridge (across the Oconee river) marking the boundary between Putnam and Hancock counties.

"The effigy is known as the Eaglet although it is larger than the one at Rock Eagle. Both measure 102 feet from head to tail, but the Rock Eagle effigy is 120 feet from wingtip to wingtip, while the one off the Sparta road is 132 feet across."

"The information which I got," the Scheer letter continues, "was the report of C.C. Jones in Bulletin 37 (now out of print of the Smithsonian Institution) made in 1877.

"The Sparta effigy was on Georgia Power Co. land, but they have deeded the spot to the University of Georgia for research."

My friend in Eatonton says nothing can be discerned now of Georgia’s second "Rock Eagle because the site is grown up in bushes and small trees."

So the effigy built by an ancient people rests there in the underbrush awaiting the day when archeological research and restoration develop it as a Georgia historical site (*Atlanta Constitution*, November 9, 1964).

The last sentence of the preceding article repeats a continuing theme which says that restoration is essential and that restoration should be the same as the image portrayed by C.C. Jones in 1877. People who wanted to leave the mound in its natural state were a distinct minority.

A search of the files of the Department of Anthropology in Athens and the archives of the 4-H Center in Putnam County have produced little information relating to the project area effigy mound for the years between 1954 and the late 1980s. An interesting letter found in the 4-H Center Archives, which was dated May 8, 1970, suggests that the University of Georgia had pretty much lost track of the property by that time. The letter is written by Albert B. Jones, Assistant to the President, to David Malcolm of the Georgia Conservancy. The letter relates to the period of time when the 4-H Center began to exercise control over the Little Rock Eagle property.

*President Davison has asked me to respond to your inquiry concerning the Indian Effigy Mound in Putnam County.*

*The timing of your letter was most appropriate since out Campus Planning and Development Office has been surveying the University’s property holdings and obligations, and this particular area is one in question. The Regents of the University System of Georgia do hold title to the area by deed from the Georgia Power Company.*
I am sending a copy of this letter to our College of Agriculture and Department of Sociology and Anthropology which would have interests in this property.

Since this property is close to the University's Rock Eagle project it is likely that our Extension Service of the College of Agriculture will be involved in the supervision of the area.

We appreciate your offer of help from the Georgia Conservancy and should such a need arise, I am sure the responsible department at the University will be in touch with you. I am returning your two slides as you requested (letter on file, 4-H Center Archives).

The published bulletins of the Georgia Conservancy were examined for the period under consideration but no reference was found to the effigy mound. The Georgia Conservancy was contacted for additional information but no new material was located in their files. The reference to slides possibly relate to photographs of the effigy.

There are no records of official site visits during the Wallace Project. There are no revised site forms or sites photographs in the UGA files for the period. Conversations with several UGA archaeologists who would have been active in the area have provided little meaningful information. The site was located outside the reservoir boundaries which meant that it would not be directly impacted by lake construction. An examination aerial photographs made during the 1960s and 1970s shows that the road that passes close to the effigy mound was well used. Much of that traffic was by loggers who were clearcutting vast areas above the lake. The effigy mound would have been quite vulnerable at that time.

Figure 154 shows two aerial photographs from this period of time. The 1965 SCS aerial is not sharp and little detail is visible other than the roads and tree cover. The 1976 aerial was made by Georgia Power and is much more detailed. An arrow points to the location of the effigy mound on both photographs. The small University of Georgia tract is shown as a small rectangle of trees on both photographs. The larger rectangular area shown on the 1976 photograph is the boundary of Land Lot 446. In both photographs, the effigy mound is shown as overgrown by trees.

Several people who grew up in the area have noted visits to the mound without details. Little detail was ever apparent to most people when viewing the overgrown rock pile (Appendix C). There are stories about visits to the effigy mound by school groups and other organizations during this period. The following paragraph is taken from a February 19, 1990 letter written by Katherine Walters to 4-H Director Arch Smith. The letter was found in the Little Rock Eagle files in the archives of the 4-H Center.

For more than a decade the effigy has been inaccessible to the public. For previous decades, a field trip to study the effigy and the nearby enormous granite outcropping was important for Georgia history, and science classes of the Putnam County school system. For over a century, trips and picnics to the site were traditional for the schools and churches of the Rockville area (Walters 1990).

One verified account was documented during this project. That information was taken from an interview with Mr. Henry Denham of Eatonton, on April 21, 2004. His brief story follows.

In the late 1970s I took a Scout Troop and their Scoutmaster out to the Little Rock Eagle off Georgia 16. Over the years the eagles stones had been scattered and some had rolled down hill. The Scouts spent part of the afternoon putting the stones back on the eagle. Some were so large that they had to be rolled into place. The scoutmaster took some photographs and took one photograph from the top of a nearby tree.

We made the request of Mr. Denham that he contact the scoutmaster to determine if the photographs survived. Mr. Denham was not able to procure the photographs. Still, this one story provides valuable information relating to community efforts to maintain the effigy.
Figure 154. Copies of 1965 and 1976 aerial photographs indicating location of 9PM47.
1990s Investigations

Additional archeological fieldwork was conducted at 9PM47 in 1990 by JoLee Gardner, who was the archeologist for the Georgia Power Company at that time. Gardner’s work consisted of close-interval shovel testing around the mound, surface inspection of nearby areas, and preparation of a plan map of the effigy mound. That work was done as a part of a community-sponsored project, a primary goal of which was to restore the mound to the 1877 configuration depicted by C.C. Jones. The restoration was to be the primary element of an interpretive project which was to include a new access road, a protective fence, a viewing mound, and a parking lot. These latter tasks of the project were all constructed to varying degrees but further restoration was not accomplished.

Interest in the Putnam County effigy mounds had been revived in the late 1980s through the efforts of Katherine Walters, Emory Lavender, and other interested Putnam County citizens. Emory Lavender’s compilation report of previous work related to the effigy mounds in the county may have played a significant role (Lavender 1988). That work included several rarely seen manuscripts which included the work of Petrullo at Rock Eagle in 1954, Scheer’s original 1958 paper on Rock Eagle, and survey reports by Petrullo, Sheila Caldwell and Ted Thomas. All of the archeological work had been conducted in the early 1950s and most had been forgotten. Lavender placed his report in several county and university libraries and his report continues to be used as an important reference document.

Lavender included one 1988 photograph of the Little Rock Eagle which was attributed to himself. Unfortunately, the quality of the reproduction allows few details to be discerned. Mr. Lavender was contacted in an effort to acquire a copy of the photograph but he was unable to provide one at the present time. The photographs from 1988 would be interesting because no photographs of the time have been found which show the mound prior to the clearing of 1990.

Katherine Walters has been credited as the driving force behind the efforts to preserve and restore the "other" effigy mound in Putnam County. Several pages in Oconee River Tales to Tell describe the late twentieth century efforts to reclaim the mound for public viewing (Walters 1995:13). Much of the information used in that section of her book is taken directly from a manuscript entitled Strange Races: The Mound Builders, The Putnam County Rock "Eagle" Effigies." A copy of that manuscript was found at the UGA Department of Anthropology accompanying a letter written in 1989 to Dr. Mark Williams. The 4-H Center archives contains a photocopy of a ca 1990 newspaper with the same text that was probably printed in Eatonton. A primary point made in Walter’s manuscript was that the name Little Rock Eagle was a misnomer because the site was located on the Little Plantation and the mound was actually larger than Rock Eagle (Walters 1995:17). The name Rock Hawk is generally associated with Walters’ book but Emory Lavender deserves some of the credit for the name change (Emory Lavender, personal communication 2004).

Documentation of the archeological work conducted in 1990 is limited to the typed field notes of the mapping and shovel testing. Gardner documented the stratigraphy of the shovel tests and prepared a plan map of the site as an appendix to the National Register Nomination Form prepared by a Georgia Power internist Janine Joslin. The nomination form has been cited as Joslin (1991) throughout this report. Gardner’s contribution will be cited as Gardner (1991).

The 4-H Center Archives contain a document entitled Chronological Log of Activities for the Rock Hawk Effigy Mound Project Putnam County, Georgia. The author of the document, which covers the period of February 1990 to December 12, 1991, is not identified. The document provides a summary of the project and includes dates of the archeological field work, scheduled meetings, and construction work for the period of February 1990 through December 12, 1991. The document is included in Appendix D of this report along with other information relating to the overall project.
Like the previous archeological investigations, the local newspaper is an important source of information. Figures 155 and 156 provide illustrations and text of an article by Emory Lavender that was printed in *The Messenger* on July 19, 1990. The Lavender article lists many of the people involved in the project and provides further information concerning Katherine Walters.

The Lavender article is well written and it stresses the historical importance and educational benefits as envisioned by Mrs. Walters, without promoting the monetary benefits of increased tourism. The article clearly states that the effigy will not be restored at the recommendation of Mr. Morgan of the State Historic Preservation Office (Lavender 1990). Walters later noted that the decision not to restore the effigy was made by the archeologists involved representing Georgia Power, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the University of Georgia. She also stated that it was the opinion of the archeologists that the site would not qualify for the National Register of Historic Places if the restoration changes were made (Walters 1995:15). As of this date, the National Register application has not been approved.

According to available information, Katherine Walters proposed the plan to the Putnam County Commission and other governing bodies in February 1990. A copy of that proposal is found as an attachment to a letter written to 4-H Camp Director Arch Smith dated February 19, 1990. The goals of the project were laid out in the proposal in the section *Action Plan Goal Statement and Objectives for Oconee Bird Effigy Restoration Project*.
Visiting the Lake Oconee hawk effigy on Tuesday, July 17, were (L-R) Pete Ibbotson, senior planner, Oconee Regional Development Center, Milledgeville; JoLee A. Gardner, archaeologist, Georgia Power’s Land Department; and Harold Dennis, chairman, Putnam County Board of Commissioners.—Photo by Emory Lavender

**Lake Oconee hawk effigy**

Mrs. Gardner, who resides at Auburn in Barrow County, said that she and Katherine Walters of Eatonton, a retired school teacher who has been spearheading efforts to preserve the effigy, had spent some two and a half days clearing the effigy of weeds and brush by hand and hand-held tools. They were assisted by two youths involved in summer work programs.

Mrs. Gardner said unwanted trees had been marked and would be cut under the supervision of Tim Smith, Georgia Power’s senior forester.

In addition, Mrs. Gardner and Mrs. Walters marked a trail to the effigy from the Georgia Power road which leads to Georgia Power’s Lawrence Shoals public recreation area.

A parking lot for five or six vehicles will be constructed near the Georgia Power road. A walkway will lead from the parking lot to the effigy.

On Friday, July 20, Mrs. Gardner is to meet with Arch Smith, director, Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

He is coordinating the hawk effigy preservation project for the University of Georgia, which has owned the land on which the effigy is located since 1939.

Mr. Dennis announced that the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has approved a $10,000 Local Development Fund grant, payable in two $5,000 installments, for assistance in preserving the effigy as a park and tourist attraction.

Mr. Dennis said the Putnam County Board of Commissioners has allocated $15,000 toward the project, $10,000 in funds and $5,000 in labor, equipment and materials.

Mr. Ibbotson wrote the grant application submitted to the Department of Community Affairs. He said he climbed a nearby deer stand and a tree to photograph the effigy.

With the development of Lake Oconee as a major recreational and resort area, the hawk effigy is expected to attract scores of visitors.

Unlike the Rock Eagle at the 4-H Center north of Eatonton, the hawk effigy will not be restored.

Mrs. Gardner said plans call for the effigy to be preserved by protecting it from nature and erosion. She said Mr. Morgan strongly favors leaving the effigy as it is today.

During a walking tour of the hawk effigy site, Mrs. Gardner pointed to the remains of a stone wall which once surrounded the effigy.

She pointed to the hawk’s head, its 132-foot wing spread and bifurcated tail.

Because of the bifurcated tail, the stone effigy is thought to be a kite-type hawk.

Putnam County has many known Native American sites, but the Rock Eagle and the hawk effigy are clearly the most striking, bringing one to wonder about the people who created them.

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**Figure 155b. Continuation of Lavender’s 1990 article (The Eatonton Messenger, July 19, 1990).**
Walters’ goals were lofty to say the least. Funding was tight and various organizations were asked to volunteer time and expenses. Walters envisioned a four-story granite observation tower which hopefully would be built by Georgia Power. Much of the archeology would be provided by the University of Georgia at their expense. A summary paragraph describing those goals follows.

To create an adjunct mini-park, adjacent to Lawrence Shoals Park, at the site of the prehistoric Oconee Bird Effigy: 1. By reclamation and restoration of the effigy; 2. by protection of the effigy with a high, strong fence enclosure; 3. by provision of an historic marker of granite, or bronze and granite; 4. by construction of a granite observation tower for viewing - a. the bird effigy; b. a large granite outcropping; c. Wallace Dam; Lake Oconee; e. miles of beautifully forested ridges and valleys; 5. By provision of a spur road, parking area, and walkway for the effigy to become accessible to the public (Walters 1990).

The preliminary archeological field work for the project was conducted by the Georgia Power Company archeologist. Figure 156 shows the plan map prepared by JoLee Gardner. The map shows the outline of the effigy, the location of shovel tests excavated in 1990, the locations of three of Kelly’s 1950 trenches, and the dirt road. Detailed stratigraphic information was recorded for each shovel test but Gardner does not interpret the shovel test stratigraphy. Gardner’s notes describe moderate to very dense concentrations of rocks within the wall or circle. Gardner’s shovel test notes from within the circle suggest a stratigraphy consisting of a shallow humus zone above a reddish-brown silty clay loam above a reddish-orange silty clay loam. Artifacts were not found in the shovel tests.

Gardner’s map shows an effigy outline that is similar to that produced by Kelly’s people in 1950 (see Figure 146). The individual size measurements are not given in Gardner’s notes (1991) or in the National Register Nomination application. The only measurements found in the National Register application are those provided by C.C. Jones in his 1878 Smithsonian report (Joslin 1991).

Figure 156. Plan map of the 1990 testing at 9PM47 (Gardner 1991).
Based on the scale provided on the map, the wingspan is approximately 22.5 meters or 74 feet which is slightly smaller than the 82 feet depicted on the 1950 map. The length of the effigy is approximately the same on the two maps. Gardner’s map does not include the rock wall which she referred to in the July 19, 1990 newspaper article written by Lavender (see Figure 155b). Gardner does mention the rock wall on a couple of occasions in the shovel test notes. Those notes suggest that remnants of the wall were recognized in approximately the same location shown on the 1950 UGA map. Gardner mistakenly refers to both quartz and granite on the mound. The mound was closely inspected during the current project and all of the rock observed was quartz.

The primary differences noted on the two maps relate to the head and tail (Figure 157). On the 1990 map, the head is substantially larger. The head and neck extend farther from the body of the effigy which represents a significant distortion of the 1950 outline. By 1990, the tail appears to have been severely disturbed. The width of the road is shown to be wider which implies that the tail has been damaged by road maintenance.

The archeological fieldwork was finished in October 1990 and the next stage of work was begun. That phase consisted of clearing of trees around the mound, installation of the protective fence around the effigy, and construction of roads, parking lots, and the earthen observation mound. A plat was prepared by Georgia Power Land Department on February 18, 1991, which shows the major elements of the project. A greatly reduced copy of the plat is shown as Figure 158. New labels for have been added to the plat for clarity.

According to the chronological log, during the months of June through August of 1991, workers and prisoners from Putnam County cleared the site areas, graded the parking lot and other areas, and secured additional soil from outside the site area for construction of the viewing mound. Additional construction was accomplished in early 1992.

Figure 157. Comparison of the 1950 and 1990 maps of the effigy outline on 9PM47.
Apparently, a number of photographs were taken during the course of the project which extended from the beginning of 1990 through the mid point of 1992. At present, the only photographs found are in the files of Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in Atlanta. An examination of the Rock Eagle file in the Putnam County library did produce evidence of other photographs as a hand-drawn map and reference to a number of photographs taken on March 14, 1990 (Figure 159). The photographs referenced on the map were not in the file and to date they have not been found. Photographs taken at that early date may have been in the possession of Katherine Walters or Emory Lavender.

The project files of the Historic Preservation Division of the in Atlanta contain a number of photographs taken by Chip Morgan during one or more visits to the site. All of the photographs show a fence in place which dates them after November 1991. Most of the photographs were taken in the winter or spring months of 1992. Selected photographs are illustrated in the following figures. The remainder are included in Appendix D.

Figures 160 and 161 show two photographs of project construction in progress. The photographs are tentatively dated to the early part of 1992 based on information on file at the 4-H Center Archives. The photographs show clearing and the excavation of a large but relatively shallow trench or pit which should relate to the construction of the earthen viewing platform. The three construction related photographs indicate substantial disturbance to the area just north of the dirt road which was to be used for the viewing mound. According to the plat shown in Figure 158, the viewing mound was to be very large with a base width of 100 feet or more. Fortunately, fill dirt was also brought in for the mound (see photograph in Appendix D). Additional grading was conducted to the east in the area for a parking lot and a short section of road from the existing Lawrence Shoals road.
Figure 159. A sketch map dated 1990 showing project area and photograph list (Putnam County Library).
Photograph shows clearing for observation mound.

Photograph shows clearing, probably for observation mound.

Figure 160. Photographs showing earth moving work in 1992 near 9PM47.
An interesting feature may be noted in Figure 161. The bulldozer cut has exposed a continuation of the quartz vein that runs through the effigy mound (the outcrop in the bank cut is marked by the arrow). The exposed vein appears to be relatively narrow and deep. The vein of large quartz boulders is visible on the surface today extending southeast of the effigy on the cut line that lies at the northern side of the road. Some large boulders were removed during the construction clearing as shown in top photograph of Figure 160 (far right side of the photograph in the back dirt or push pile).

Figure 162 shows two photographs of the effigy from ground level (Historic Preservation Division files). These examples are two photographs of a larger series that document the effigy from different perspectives. The remainder are found in Appendix D). The upper photograph is taken from the head toward the tail. The darkly stained bounders which are intact bedrock are visible in the foreground. The dirt piles in the background are related to the clearing of the viewing platform.

The lower photograph in Figure 162 is taken from near the eastern wingtip looking toward the central mound of the effigy. In this photograph, the head lies to the left and the tail to the right. The dirt road is just outside the photograph to the right. The perspective of the photograph is similar to that of the photograph taken in 1939 (see Figure 138).

The areas of construction associated with the project are visible on an area photograph taken in 1994 (USDA 1994). The area of grading associated with the viewing mound appears to be smaller than originally planned. According to the plat shown in Figure 158, the base of the viewing mound was to be roughly 100 feet square. The mound that is present on the site today is smaller and appears comparable in size to the aerial photograph view.
Figure 162. Two 1992 photographs of the 9PM47 effigy mound taken from ground level.

Figure 163. Portion of a 1994 USDA aerial photograph showing clearing related to 9PM47.
The Georgia Power Archives in Atlanta contains a single photograph of the effigy mound which was taken around 1993. The photograph is interesting because it represents the same perspective that would have been gained if the proposed Georgia Power viewing tower had been constructed. The photograph is taken from the dirt road looking southeast. The tail area would be located in the foreground. The body mound is in the center, and the head at the top. Most of the appendages are difficult to make out in the photograph. From this view, the tail appears to be basically missing.

Katherine Walters’ project to restore and preserve the effigy mound was only minimally successful. The project was conducted with community support but very little funding. With that in mind, it is important to assess the legacy of the project. The construction of the fence has protected the rocks within, but the fence does not extend over a large enough area. If the fence was meant to enclose the remains of the effigy mound identified by C.C. Jones, it is only about two-thirds the required size. The amount of damage resulting from clearing outside the fence remains to be determined. If the effigy is actually smaller, as identified by Kelly in 1950, the construction of the fence has disturbed parts of the rock enclosure while leaving other segments unprotected. By most accounts, the earthen observation mound is esthetically inappropriate for the setting. There is some possibility that the construction of the mound may have impacted cultural deposits associated with the site. While limited shovel testing was conducted in the area of the platform prior to construction, that methodology may not have been adequate to identify the low density artifact scatter that seems to be present in the area near the effigy mound (see Chapter 6). A further complication is that artifacts may have been introduced to the site area during construction. Aboriginal pottery was found along the road edges near the mound during surface inspections by SAS in 2004. Does that pottery represent evidence of activities associated with the effigy or was it brought in with the fill dirt (and from where)?

Figure 164. Ca 1993 aerial photograph of 9PM47 (Courtesy Georgia Power Company Archives).
Early Twenty-First Century Activity

Access to the effigy mound remained limited following the early 1990s project. The road was gated and the parking lot was allowed to revert to nature. The effigy itself was maintained by the people at the 4-H Center with help from time to time by University Field School students under the direction of Dr. Mark Williams (Figure 165). While some transit mapping was done, most activities related to clearing. The following paragraph was written by field assistant Jared Wood.

UGA Archaeological Field School Little Rock Eagle Activities

During the summers of 2001 and 2002, the UGA archaeological field school conducted general cleanup of the Little Rock Eagle monument in Putnam County. Dr. Mark Williams was field director, and I was employed as his assistant. The rock monument and the small plot of land on which it stands were donated to the University of Georgia by Georgia Power, and Mark Williams has taken responsibility for its care since the late 1990s. This care generally consists of surface cleanup of the monument by removing weeds and other vegetative growth that have accumulated during a year’s time. These activities have been conveniently conducted during the UGA archaeological field school season. This provided not only an opportunity for a sufficient labor force of student workers, but also a chance to educate students in the prehistory of the area.

The 2001 and 2002 field seasons were no exceptions. On July 13, 2001, Williams and I brought a crew of 16 students to Little Rock Eagle. Using hand tools (sling blades, machetes, and hedge shears), we cut down the briars and various other weeds that had grown over the monument since the summer of 2000. We repeated this activity during the 2002 summer field season with a new crew of students. We returned to the site in the summer of 2003 to conduct cleanup on the monument again, but discovered that the vegetation had already been killed (seemingly with some form of herbicide), and our padlock on the gate of the surrounding fence had been removed and replaced with another. We did not have a key to this padlock, and Williams made subsequent inquiries to both Georgia Power and the Rock Eagle 4-H Center to ascertain the reason for this change in locks and of any pertinent news or activities that had occurred at the site since our last cleanup in 2002. We did not receive a definite answer and have yet to discover exactly who replaced the padlock and why.

Figure 165. Photograph of UGA field school cleanup at Little Rock Eagle in the spring of 2001 (photograph used courtesy of Jared Wood).
The above narrative provides insight into the continuing dilemma which has developed since the University of Georgia acquired the effigy mound in 1939. As noted earlier, the responsibility for site maintenance was addressed in the 1970s when the University's Planning and Development Office turned over responsibility for supervision to the Extension Service of the College of Agriculture at Rock Eagle (letter on file, 4-H Center Archives dated May 8, 1970). Of course, the Anthropology Department still exercises some degree of leverage with respect to research interests in the site.

Recently, renewed interest has surfaced with respect to reviving Katherine Walters' project. A proposal presently exists for the creation of an interpretive park with the effigy as the centerpiece (Figure 166). The project has been spearheaded by Larry Moore, chairman of the Historic Piedmont Scenic Byway Corporation. The University of Georgia’s Extension Service, Georgia Power, Putnam County, the Department of Natural Resources, the Regional Development Centers, and others are again involved in the project (Moore, October 16, 2003). The illustration is taken from the grant proposal which will be Phase II of the project. The project and illustration were introduced to the public in Moore’s October 16, 2003 Eatonton Messenger column by Moore entitled Preserving the Rock Hawk Effigy Area.

Figure 166. Artist’s rendering of the proposed Rock Hawk Park area (Proposal figure dated 9-2, 2003).
In a couple of Mr. Moore’s columns, mention is made of an individual by the name of Talking Thunderbird. Talking Thunderbird, who is of Yuchi and Creek descent, considers himself to be the present-day spiritual protector of the effigy; he was led to the site by the spirits who were dissatisfied with those who had disturbed the "bird" (Eatonton Messenger, May 8, 2003). Figure 167 shows Talking Thunderbird posed on one of the large boulders presently located outside the fence. He believes that the rocks are part of the effigy mound (personal communication, April 2004). The newspaper article provides an interesting account of the history of Talking Thunderbird with respect to the effigy and the theories concerning the original builders which, according to the article, may be the Yuchis or the Lost Tribes of Israel (Moore 2003).

Figure 167. Photograph of Talking Thunderbird at 9PM47 in 2004 (photograph courtesy of Larry Moore).

Mr. Moore’s article of May 8, 2003, includes a statement that Talking Thunderbird believes that there is another Rock Eagle near the restored effigy at the 4-H Center. The referenced location corresponds to an area that was examined by Martin Cromer in 1936. Cromer found nothing of significance in his trenching of the quartz outcrop (Cromer 1936:136).

The 2004 Preliminary Study

The survey phase investigations by SAS allowed only limited examination of 9PM47. Areas along the proposed trail adjacent to the site were surveyed but no excavation was conducted on the site itself since it had already been recommended eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. We did take advantage of particularly good surface exposure to map the site using a laser transit and took additional photographs. The mapping was considered critical for interpretation of older site maps. Much more detailed mapping will be required if restoration is contemplated. Figure 168 shows the contour map with the outline of the effigy shown. The outline was determined by taking a number of close interval shots with the transit. Most of the outline was very easily discerned in the field.
Figure 168. SAS map of 9PM47 produced in 2004.
Figure 169 represents a basic contour map of the landform with the outline removed. The area covers most of the knoll top and the length of the major quartz outcrop which extends beyond the fence to the southeast. The contour map is similar to that produced in 1950 by A.R. Kelly’s crew except for the tail region which is now disturbed (see Figure 150).

Figure 169. SAS contour map of knoll containing 9PM47 (outline removed).

Figure 170 shows an overlay of the outline mapped by SAS in 2004 and the outline defined by A.R. Kelly’s crew in 1950. The 1950 outline, shown as an orange line, includes the tail and a small head. The 2004 outline, shown as a black line, lacks the forked tail and shows a highly exaggerated head area. In talking to several people, their seems to be a consensus that the area which was the head in 1950 has now been reformed into a tail. This would mean that during a more recent “restoration” by some unknown entity, the figure has been reversed. That change occurred prior to 1990 since Gardner’s map also shows the larger head/tail appendage. On a more positive note, the outlines of the wings and body are quite similar after 50 years.

A number of photographs were taken at the same time as the mapping. Figure 171 shows the effigy as it appears from the top of the earthen mound. The lower photograph was taken from the top of the fence at the head (now the tail) of the effigy looking northwest. Figure 172 shows two photographs taken from above the southwest corner of the fence at an elevation of about 10 m. The exaggeration of the head is clearly visible from this view. Figure 173 shows an aerial photograph taken in late winter 2004 by Georgia Power. The image is of low resolution but the effigy is well defined in the photograph.
Figure 170. Overlay of 1950 (orange) outline on the 2004 contour map of 9PM47.
Figure 171. Two photographs of 9PM47 taken in 2004. Top view to south, bottom to northwest.
Figure 172. Photographs of the head (new tail) and body of the 9PM47 effigy (view east to northeast).
Figure 174 shows an apparent artifact that was noted during the SAS mapping at the edge of the old pothole on top of the effigy mound. The rock is a large waterworn cobble which is clearly different from the quartz cobbles found on the mound. The photograph shows the cobble resting on the mound fill. An examination of the 1992 photographs indicates the rock was not present at that time. The rock probably represents a “modern” artifact used for some purpose during the past decade. The rock was returned to its original location after the photograph was taken.
Summary and Conclusions

Our review of the history of the effigy mound presently recorded as 9PM47 has produced a number of interesting findings. Perhaps most interesting, is the discrepancy in size between the mound originally reported by Jones in 1878 and the maps produced subsequently (Figure 175). Because Jones showed exact measurements, the smaller size of the 9PM47 mound is not comfortably explained.

Figure 175. Scaled comparison of C.C. Jones drawings and later maps of 9PM47.
One particularly important observation based on our research is that the mound really has no history. Our search of available records shows that it first appeared in print in the C.C. Jones report in 1878. We have failed to find any account of the effigy mound prior to that time. Hopefully, early records will eventually turn up that will provide some information on the history of the mound. There is also some confusion concerning exactly which effigy mounds were recorded by C.C. Jones. That issue is based on Benjamin Kent’s account in the Smithsonian report a few years later (Kent 1883). Kent’s rather confusing report may be taken to imply that their may be another bird effigy in the area.

Following recording by C.C. Jones, this effigy mound seems to have been forgotten. A search of newspapers and magazine articles show renewed interest in the “second” effigy in the early decades of the twentieth century but there is little evidence that those authors visited the site (McCallie 1916, Hillyer 1926). The most reliable report of the effigy mound next appeared in a newspaper article by local historian Fannie Lee Leverette in the mid-1920s. Leverette said the effigy was smaller than the more famous Rock Eagle and that there was also a rock snake effigy in the neighborhood (Leverette 1925). The effigy mound was also mentioned in late 1920s by Dean Leon P. Smith (Smith 1929). Smith was probably familiar with the site and he is important as one of the few authorities of his era who argued for leaving the effigy mounds in their natural states (Eatonton Messenger 1933).

The effigy mound which was to become 9PM47 was rediscovered in the mid-1930s following road construction on newly purchased Georgia Power property. A number of brief WPA era accounts exist for the mound but apparently there was no excavation or restoration conducted at that time. A.R. Kelly did not work on the site in the 1930s. A very intriguing aspect of the rediscovered mound was that it was smaller than the one recorded by C.C. Jones. A National Park Service site form states the size at about one hundred feet. A plat accompanying a deed of transfer of the property from Georgia Power to the University of Georgia shows a map of the circle as approximately 100 feet. The C.C. Jones enclosing circle should have been between 135 and 140 feet (Jones 1878:Figure 2). The few references to the site conditions from the 1930s suggest very poor preservation (Harrold 1939). There is also one account that the mound was excavated by Charles Little, a member of the plantation owner’s family (Bustin 1937). If true, that excavation probably occurred around 1890.

The site was revisited by a group of A.R. Kelly students in early 1950 under the supervision of Joseph Mahan. The site was cleaned, mapped, and apparently partially restored at that time. No report was written for the work but a contour map survives. That map is the basis for our present understanding of the effigy mound. Kelly clearly notes that the mound is smaller than Rock Eagle at the 4-H Park (Kelly 1954), but that statement has never been accepted by most later authorities. To this day, essentially all published references to the mound quote the measurements of C.C. Jones.

The site was again mapped in 1990 and the results were comparable to the 1950 measurements except for the head and tail areas had been disturbed in the intervening years. Remapping in 2004 again confirmed that the effigy mound presently identified as 9PM47 is substantially smaller than the measurements provided by C.C. Jones (1878). Careful mapping suggests modifications to the mound since 1950 in the head area (which now seems to represent the tail).

At present, it is not possible to confirm site 9PM47 as the same mound recorded by C.C. Jones in 1877. The effigy, and the circle defined by all later investigators is approximately two-thirds the size described by Jones. If 9PM47 is the same site, there have been substantial modifications. Actually, the more important issue should probably be our confidence in Jones’ original assessment. C.C. Jones is viewed as an authority of his time but an examination of his writings shows that his site maps are sometimes flawed. Until the site is rigorously studied, we should be careful in blindly accepting the validity of his measurements and even his conclusions for an aboriginal effigy mound. The possibility that the effigy is a hoax should not be dismissed.