

Interim Report of the Daughtery-Monroe Site: An Allison-LaMotte Village¹

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Abstract

The Daughtery-Monroe site is located in Sullivan County, Indiana, within one-fourth mile of the Wabash River. The site is composed of two components, with the earlier being the Allison level as determined by finds of the Stoner Complex ceramic series. Also pithouse outlines were found along with the cordmarked ceramic type in heavy concentrations and some Lowe flared-base projectile points. Overlaying this component was the Late Woodland LaMotte village with extremely heavy occupation. Lowe points and Embarrass ceramic series sherds were the most diagnostic and common artifacts of this level. The LaMotte village is a circular one with a depression near the center which is believed to be a plaza area. Influence for the flared-base point and the ceramic stamping tradition seem to stem from the Mann site in Posey County, Indiana, along the Ohio River, although ultimate influence comes from groups farther to the southeast.

Introduction

This report describes the archeological excavations carried out during the summer of 1970 at the Daughtery-Monroe site, 12-Su-13, in Sullivan County, Indiana. Personal communication with Denzil Stephens, an amateur archeologist familiar with the area, was the initial impetus for the archeological testing done at the site (4).

The work was done by an archeological field class at Indiana State University and the authors. Thanks are due to Dr. William Daughtery, property owner of the section of the site excavated.

The site was chosen for a field school because of its accessibility, size, and availability. More specifically there is a need for a more precise definition of the Woodland Allison and LaMotte cultures which occur at this site. During the excavation special attention was given to locating house patterns, and due to the seeming compactness of the LaMotte village, a palisade line was also sought.

Site Description

This site is located in the N $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 21, T 8N, R 11W in the Fairbanks Quadrangle. It is located on the second terrace of the Wabash River in Sullivan County, Indiana, east of Hutsonville, Illinois, and some 30 miles south of Terre Haute, Indiana. The center of the site is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of the present Wabash River channel. To the south of the site there is a very recent cut-off in the form of a semi-circular ox-bow lake. A relatively old cut-off that is now a bayou is located about 1 mile east. The river possibly flowed in one of these old channels at the time the site was occupied.

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Overall, the site is circular with a depression near the center. This depression is 10 feet below the top of a circular ridge which delimits the extent of the site. At present a man-made flood control levee covers the western edge of the site. Although this may impede some excavations, it helps protect the majority of the site from flooding. During the past few years, the site has been in the soil bank and at present there is a cover crop of rye. The soil is sandy and slightly acidic. Stephens (personal communication) reported that when he saw the site under cultivation and with no covering crop, he could discern numerous circular dark areas near the outside perimeter of the site. These are probably large house areas that had been partially turned up by the plow. The central section has lighter colored soil and is thought to be a plaza area. This is supported by surface collections of the area revealing fewer cultural remains than on other parts of the site. Stephens also reported 12 or 13 low mounds located east and northeast of the site. Most of this area is wooded and has much undergrowth. None of the mounds has been tested to see if it is related to the site. The site is 800-1,000 feet north-south by 700-800 feet east-west. (This measurement may be an underestimate since parts of the West and East edges of the site are covered with a levee and trees, respectively). The area near the site along the first terrace could have been excellent agricultural land. The trees in the area offer a wide variety of nuts and wild berries and the area is still a good hunting ground for deer.

Field Techniques

Vertical controls for the site were established by using a surveyor's transit and running a line of levels from the nearest benchmark. The vertical control point at the site was established at Datum A with an elevation of 455 feet. Using this elevation as a base, a 2-foot contour map was made of that part of the site that was easily accessible. Horizontal controls were maintained by the establishment of three datum points, two of which are relatively permanent. With the aid of these points N-S and E-W base lines were laid out which were oriented on Magnetic North. The point where these two lines intersect was designated 0-0 point, from which all measurements were made in setting up the grid system. Ten by ten foot units were chosen and were staked off along the N-S base line near the North edge of the village area (Fig. 1).

The plow zone, which averaged 9 inches in depth, was removed and the earth sifted for cultural materials which were bagged by provenience. Because the previous work at the site did not show any natural stratigraphic levels, the work was conducted by arbitrary 3 inch levels. A 6 inch balk was left between each excavated unit for vertical control in the event that some stratigraphic relationships might be uncovered. Each level, feature, and outstanding artifact were given a separate field number. Each level and all cultural features were carefully troweled, and detailed field notes were kept to discern all possible postmolds and their patterns. This was neces-

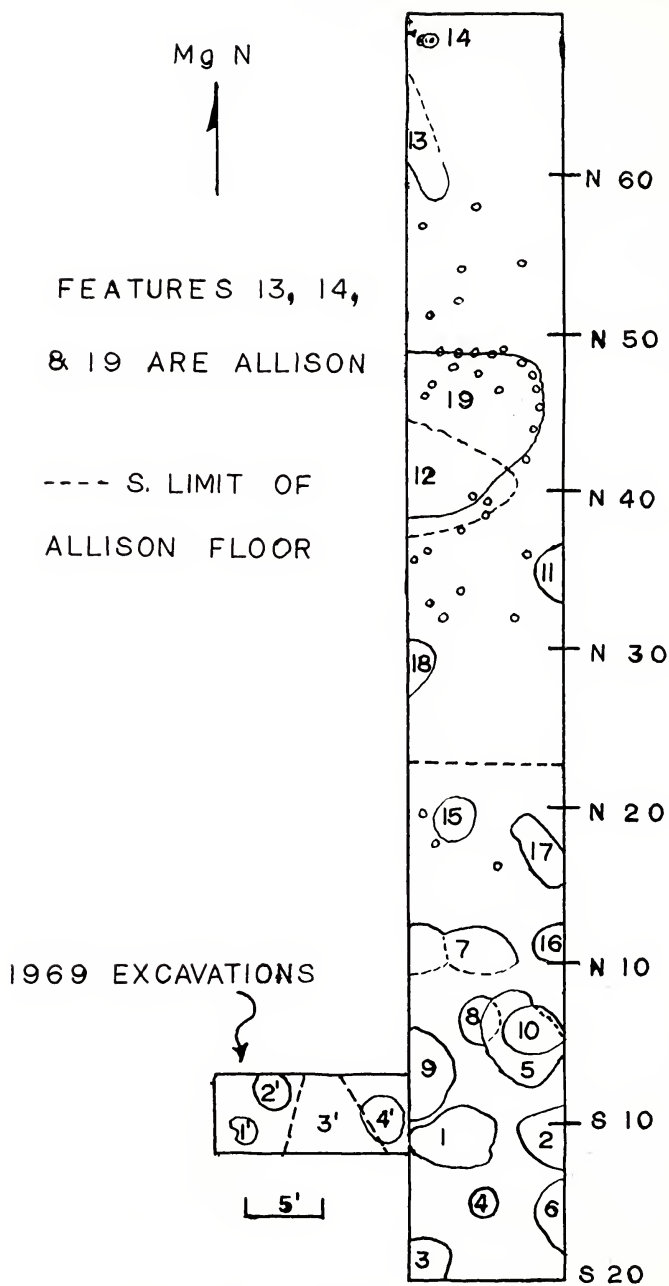


FIGURE 1. Horizontal plot of features at 12-Su-13.

sary because of the sandy soil and the tendency of soil discolorations to bleach out over centuries of time. Complete photographic records were also made.

Excavations

A total of 800 square feet of excavation revealed 19 cultural features (Fig. 1). Three of these features were in the earlier Allison component and probably dated from 0-400 A.D. The most interesting and perhaps most important of these features is the outline of a probable pit house (Feature 19). This feature was overlain by a more recent LaMotte refuse pit. The Allison pit began at a 26-inch depth and continued to 49 inches below the surface. It had steep-walled sides and a nearly level floor with a slight central hump. Fourteen post molds which surrounded this half-excavated structure averaged between 4 and 5 inches in diameter. A probable entryway was exposed along the South edge of the pithouse where the walls were less steep. Dimensions of the feature are: 12 feet N-S, and 9 feet 6 inches E-W (only half of the feature has been excavated in this direction and it is estimated that the house pit was 18-19 feet along this axis). No internal features were found, probably due to the house pit being used for refuse after occupation had ceased. Feature 13 may have also been a house pit, but no specific outline or postmolds were found. North of this feature was a single isolated human skull found in a slightly darker area. It may have been purposefully buried by the Allison peoples. The rest of the skeleton may have been destroyed by the acid soil. Also the area where the lower body parts might have been found was not excavated. There were no grave goods associated with the skull.

Those areas that seem to have been the living floors outside of the dwellings were relatively free of debris. Possible further excavation along the rise may reveal the refuse areas. The size of the Allison component is unclear, but it seems to be concentrated along the top of the rise. Cultural remains showed that the Allison level ended in the unit labeled N20-E10 (with the LaMotte features 11, 15 and 18 being intrusive into the floor) containing Allison remains (Fig. 1). Probably between the time of the Allison occupation and the later LaMotte levels, there was a period of floods or aeolian deposits, which covered the top of the rise with a sandy-clay. This fluvial or wind blown layer was noticed only toward the top of the rise.

The later LaMotte occupation is characterized by intense occupation, as determined by the size and multitude of the pits found in so small an area. Sixteen storage and/or refuse pits were uncovered. Most of these were near the south end of the trench. The majority of the features were basin-shaped storage-refuse pits ranging from 3 x 3 feet to 7 x 6 feet in their surface dimensions and all were relatively shallow (their average depth was about 36 inches B.S.). A large amount of cultural material came from these features. They were extremely dark and organically rich in comparison to the light sand

matrix that surrounded them. In one instance, three pits overlapped one another (Features 5, 8, and 10) and after their excavation, the series of cross-cutting relationships was apparent. Two of the pits (Features 2 and 3) were much deeper than the others and were bell-shaped. Both pits were nearly 3½ feet in diameter at the bottom of the general midden and constricted to a narrower neck, and then opened into a globular lower chamber. Both were definitely storage pits.

There was an abrupt break in the heavy LaMotte occupation debris beginning in the unit N20-E10, and although there were no postmolds that suggest there was a palisade, the sudden termination of the LaMotte village features suggests that there was some sort of physical restraint surrounding the community. The LaMotte features trend along a NW-SE line. This trend fits with the assumption that the village is circular, since the trench was cutting across the north-eastern edge of the site.

Although there were no specific traces of agricultural activity, some is suspected to support such an intense occupation. A charcoal sample (Sample No. RL-84) submitted to Radiocarbon, Ltd. (Charles Turek, personal communication), from Feature 4 (a LaMotte pit) resulted in a date of 1460 ± 130 years B.P. or A.D. 490 (6).

Discussion of Artifacts

The Allison Component

The ceramics of the earlier component at the Daughtery-Monroe Site can readily be classified as Stoner Cordmarked and Stoner Plain ware as defined by Winters (5). Tempering of the sherds is dominantly sand and less frequently grit. Lack of uniform firing causes oxidation of some areas and reduction of other areas on the same pot. In general the sherds tend to have a "sandpaper" texture, but many were smooth. The predominant surface treatment encountered in the component is cordmarking, which usually runs vertical on the vessel (Table 1). Cords varied from loosely to tightly twisted and ranged from closely spaced to nearly 4 mm apart. Coil fractures were noticed on a few sherds. The average thickness of a "random" sample of 203 body sherds of the Stoner Cordmarked variety was 5.3 mm with a range of 3.1 to 8.3 mm.

The simple stamped sherds found associated with Allison materials do not seem to have been part of the Allison component as they do not occur in the lower levels. Root and animal action may account for their presence. Stoner pottery was also undoubtedly mixed into the LaMotte component as the people of this second occupation dug pits through the Allison village.

Decoration in the Stoner ceramics was confined to variations in treatment of the lip and rim areas of vessels (Table 2). A smoothed squared lip predominates, but variations do occur. The predominant vessel form was a jar. Generally the neck is constricted and the rim

TABLE 1. *Catalog of archeological materials recovered, 1970.*

Allison	LaMotte
CERAMIC	
1551 cordmarked (90%)	4572 simple stamped (59.2%)
88 plain (5.1%)	2430 cordmarked (31.5%)
85 simple stamped (4.9%)	603 plain (7.7%)
3 "other" (trace)	112 check stamped (1.5%)
	23 "other" (trace)
CHIPPED STONE	
1 Lowe Flared projectile	7 Lowe Flared projectiles
1 flake knife	2 trianguloid projectiles
1 thumbnail scraper	1 diagonally notched projectile
1 worked piece	2 straight stemmed projectiles
51 chips and spalls	6 projectile fragments
	4 flake knives
	2 blade fragments
	3 flake scrapers
	1 core-chopper
	232 chips and spalls
STONE	
1 pitted stone	3 single pitted stones
	3 bi-pitted stones
	5 grooved sandstone abraders
	2 hammer stones
	1 metate
	1 igneous celt
BONE	
2 cannon bone awls	4 cannon bone awls
1 bone beamer	6 awl tips
1 awl tip	1 split bone awl
1 cut and perforated deer phalanx	4 turtle shell cup fragments
379 bone fragments	1 antler cylinder
	4 used antler tines
	1 bone needle
	1 cut and perforated deer phalanx
	1 conical drilled object
	5 worked bone fragments
	2909 bone fragments
OTHER	
1 copper pin	1 copper fragment
2 clay pipe fragments	74 carbonized hickory nut shells
2 carbonized hickory nut hulls	1 carbonized walnut shell
10 mussel shells (sample only)	1 carbonized pecan shell
	1 carbonized grape(?)
	146 mussel shells (sample only)
	1 cannon coat fragment

may show a slight flare. Vertical cordmarkings may run to the lip or end in the neck region and the markings of a few of the rims were oblique to the lip. In only two instances did cordmarkings run parallel to the lip.

TABLE 2. *Surface treatment compared to lip/rim treatment, Allison Component.*

	Interior Notched	Thinned Square	Rounded	Other ¹	Totals
Cordmarked	5	31	13	5	54
Plain		1			1
Totals	5	32	13	5	55

¹ 1 highly thinned rim with round lip, pinched to give it a wavy effect; 1 with vertical punctates in the lip; 1 flattened lip with cordmarking; 2 had flatted lips with oblique incisions.

Aberrant sherds within the Allison component included two Hopewell Incised sherds, one Naples Dentate sherd, and a portion of a miniature vessel which was sand tempered and had a flattened lip. All but the last are probably trade sherds.

The only projectile point recovered in association with Stoner Ceramics was of a Lowe Flared Base type described by Winters (5). The point was made of blue-gray "Harrison County Flint." A flake knife was of the same material. Of the chips and spalls, slightly over 20% were of the blue-gray material (Table 1).

The cut and perforated deer phalanx had the proximal end cut off and ground smooth. The distal end of the bone had a groove worn into it deep enough to reach the hollow center. This object may have been worn or could have been used in the "cup and pin game" known from historic groups. Well over half of the bone fragments recovered were deer, but some small mammal, fish and turkey bone were also identified (Table 1).

Carbonized hickory nut hulls were recovered in association with Stoner ceramics. The 5.8 cm long copper pin had a square cross-section in the shaft area and had been ground to a sharp point on one end. The clay pipe fragments were parts of elbow pipes and were temperless (Table 1).

The LaMotte Component

Artifacts associated with the LaMotte component of the site were more abundant than those associated with the Allison component. Ceramics from the later component conform to the Embarrass Ceramic Series as defined by Winters (5). The predominant surface treatment was simple stamping followed by cordmaking, plain, and check stamping (Table 1). The tempering of the sherds was sand and/or grit with sand predominating. The average thickness for the group was slightly over 5 mm. The average thickness of a "random" sample of 160 simple stamped sherds was 5.5 mm with a range of 2.4 to 10.7 mm. Lands ranged from 1 to 3.6 mm wide and averaged 2.2 mm. The grooves ranged from 1.3 to 4.2 mm and averaged 2.6 mm wide. Simple stamping nearly always runs horizontally in this group. Cordmarkings, in contrast, nearly always run vertically and

vary from loosely spaced at a maximum of 5 mm apart to very closely spaced. The cord also varies in that the twists may be tight or loose. A sample of 190 Embarrass Cordmarked sherds had an average thickness of 5.0 mm and ranged from 2.8 to 7.7 mm.

A comparison of Stoner Cordmarked and Embarrass Cordmarked sherds from the site showed them to be nearly identical. Texture has been previously presented as a means for the separation of the two, but analysis of samples of sherds from the Daughtery-Monroe site showed that a variety of surface textures occur in both.

Aberrant sherds found associated with Embarrass ceramics include two Hopewell Incised sherds. Five cordmarked sherds had trailed lines and two of these had reed impressions giving a zoned effect. Decorated sherds have been recorded for other LaMotte sites, but are rare (5). In general, decoration was confined to the lip.

Of particular interest are the two temperless rims (Table 3). Two similar rims were found in the 1969 excavations. All of these rims were from miniature vessels or "toy pots" and were internally notched. One of the 1969 specimens had small punctates on the body portion, but the others were smooth. Further work on LaMotte sites may establish this as a new pottery type within the Embarrass Ceramic Series.

TABLE 3. *Surface treatment compared to lip/rim treatment, LaMotte Component.*

	Interior Notched	Thinned Square	Rounded	Other	Totals
Simple stamped	110	30	15	6 ¹	162
Cordmarked	9	32	18	9 ²	68
Plain	4	3	3		10
Check stamped	2	1	2		5
Temperless	2				2
Totals	128	66	38	15	247

¹ Simple stamped: 2 sherds vertical simple stamping; 1 with deep vertical punctates on lip; 2 notched vertically; 1 with reed punctates in the lip.

² Cordmarked: 2 sherds with oblique incised lines on flattened lip; 5 with deep vertical notches probably made by fingernail; 1 lip cordmarked on flat surface; 1 externally notched lip.

The predominant vessel form in both Embarrass Cordmarked and Embarrass Simple Stamped from the Daughtery-Monroe Site was the jar. The necks were slightly constricted and the rims usually had a slight flare. Bowl forms also occurred and usually had deep vertical notching of the lip.

Projectile points associated with the Embarrass ceramics were predominantly the Lowe Flared variety (Table 1). Of the seven Lowe Flared projectiles from the excavation five were made of the blue-gray "Harrison County Flint" while the other two were made from local cherts. The two trianguloids found are like those found in

the LaMotte assemblage from the site in 1969. The diagonally notched two straight stemmed points belong to the Saratoga Type Cluster. Both of these types were defined by Winters (5). These Archaic point types belong to the Cache Diagonally Notched point type, and may belong to an earlier component of the site disturbed by the digging of refuse and storage pits or may have been brought in by LaMotte people. Of the chips and spalls recovered only 10% were of blue-gray chert. Some of the points made of this imported material had been broken and reworked until in some cases they bore faint resemblance to their original form.

The igneous celt had been pecked into shape, but ground smooth on the bit end.

Bone artifacts of interest include a cut and perforated deer phalanx made in the same manner as the one from the Allison component (Table 1). The bone needle was 8.1 cm long, had a round cross-section for most of its length, and was flat at the eye-end. Most of the awls were made from deer cannon bones but one was made from bird bone. One of the turtle shell cup fragments was nearly complete and another was about half complete. The edges of the carapaces had been ground and the vertebrae scraped out. Preliminary identification of the animal bone associated with Embarrass ceramics include deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), bob cat (*Lynx rufus*), wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), catfish (*Ameiurus nebulosus*), turtle (*Terrapene carolina* and other species). One bone artifact was unique. It was a blunted cone-shaped object 2.2 cm long, basal diameter of 0.87 cm and tip diameter of 0.5 cm. The base had been drilled leaving a cone-shaped depression 0.48 cm in diameter.

One amorphous copper sheet 3.5 mm thick was found in the LaMotte materials.

Summary

During the summer of 1970, excavations were conducted at the Daughtery-Monroe site to learn more of the LaMotte Culture of the Wabash Valley. During the course of this work, the earlier Allison Culture was exposed. The LaMotte village conformed to prior descriptions by Winters (5), being circular and situated on slopes of a second terrace, adjacent to the Wabash River. A depressed central area was devoid of cultural remains and presumably was a ceremonial area. The Allison occupation, although poorly sampled, appears to be situated on top of a sandy rise, generally north of the LaMotte occupation.

The earlier Allison occupation yielded evidence for what seems to be a D-shaped pit house, with postmolds around its perimeter, plus a few other possible pit-like features. Characteristic artifacts were Stoner series pottery, dominated by cordmarked surfaces and sandy paste and a single example of a Lowe projectile point. Artifact forms which can be added to the Allison Complex include: bone beamers, cut and perforated deer phalanges, and copper pins.

The LaMotte component on the other hand was marked by many storage and/or refuse pits of several types, usually productive of many artifacts and other cultural debris. While certainly house structures must have been present, no direct evidence was found. Also, evidence for a suspected palisade was not found. Simple stamped pottery of the Embarrass Ceramic series was the dominant ceramic surface treatment, and Lowe projectile points, plus a few triangular projectile points are characteristic forms. Additional traits which can be added to the LaMotte Culture include: turtle shell cups, cut and perforated deer phalanges, bone awls, antler cylinders, and conical drilled objects.

There is an obvious close relationship between these two cultures, mainly in ceramics. In LaMotte, simple and check stamped pottery appear in the area, with simple stamped the dominant surface finish. This and the addition late in the LaMotte sequence of triangular points are about the only distinctions between these highly similar cultures of the middle to late Woodland of the Wabash Valley.

The source of the innovations in LaMotte can probably be traced most directly to the Mann site in Posey County, Indiana (1) and less directly, but rather certainly, to the southeastern states of the United States, especially centering in Georgia. A study by one of the authors confirms this (3). Further work will be conducted at this site.

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