

Excavations at the Daugherty-Monroe Site, 1971

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Abstract

The 1971 Indiana State University Field School excavated, for the second season, the Daugherty-Monroe site (12-Su-13) in northern Sullivan County, Indiana. The site contains both Allison and LaMotte cultures. Results of tests made in two mounds were largely negative. Excavations in the more southern village area turned out to be pure Allison. Distinctive traits typical of the Allison culture included house patterns, storage/refuse pits and projectile points—a variant of the Lowe Flared Base type. Bone artifacts and refuse were rare compared to LaMotte deposits to the north, but this can probably be attributed to an acid soil in the area excavated.

Introduction

The purpose of the excavations at the Daugherty-Monroe site was to gather additional information on the LaMotte and Allison cultures (1). Excavations were carried out by the Archeological Field School directed by the late Dr. Edward V. McMichael.

The site is located some 30 miles south of Terre Haute, Indiana, on the second terrace of the Wabash River in Sullivan County, east of Hutsonville, Illinois. Before the 1970 summer excavations, it was believed that the site had been occupied only by people of the LaMotte culture (2). It was not until the last few days of the field school that an Allison component was discovered (1). Initial attention was diverted to a group of mounds in a wooded area near the LaMotte-Allison village. Approximately 13 mounds exist in the wooded area 50 yards to the northeast of the main site. Mounds C and H were selected to be tested.

A trench was opened across the center of Mound C (Fig. 1). It was found that a primary clay mound, approximately 15 feet diameter and 26 inches deep, had been built, then a later secondary sand mound added. The clay, according to personal communications with Mr. Cantin of the Indiana State University Geography and Geology Department, was from a fluvial deposit. A skelton of a horse, buried about 50 years ago, was found in the center of Mound C. Three Allison potsherds, numerous fire-cracked rocks and flint chips were found in the burial fill. No other features were found in Mound C.

Mound H rose some 27 inches over its base and proved to be a single structure, with loading of sandy soil. Artifacts recovered consisted of a number of Allison Cordmarked sherds and one Baumer Fabric-marked rim. These were apparently carried in with the fill. There were no post molds or other features to indicate the function of the structure. While

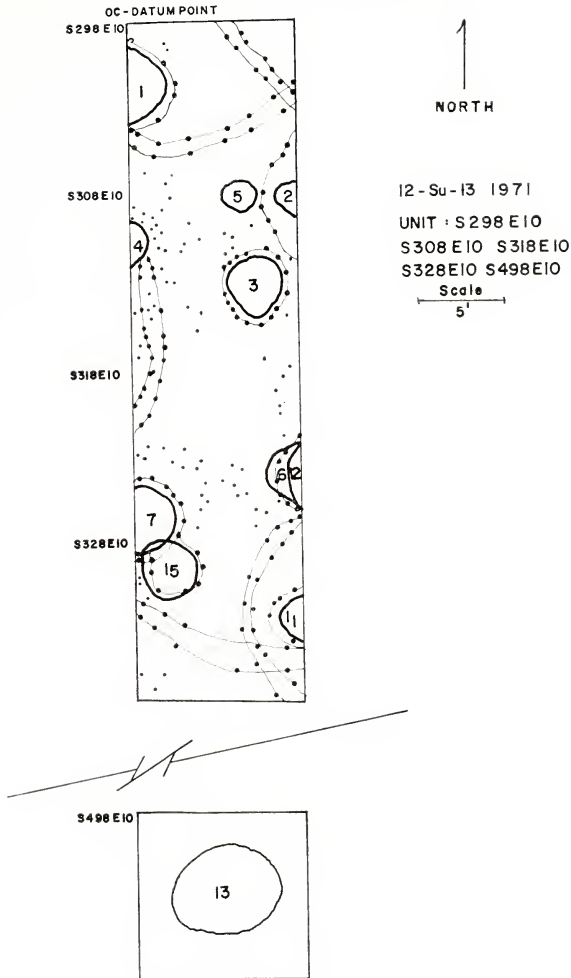


FIGURE 1. *Horizontal plot of features at 12-Su-13 (1971).*

the excavation did demonstrate that Mounds C and H were man-made, no conclusion can be drawn as to their use.

The Village

Excavation of the southern edge of the village demonstrated that only Allison occupation was there. Four 10 x 10 foot units were opened, some 300 feet south of the 1970 excavations. Altogether, 10 basin-shaped pits, averaging about 30 inches deep and 36 inches in diameter were found. All the pits, except Features 5 and 13, had a single row of post molds around them. The postmolds averaged about 6 inches apart and 3 inches in

diameter. These posts may have supported a superstructure used as protection. All of these were storage and/or refuse pits.

One large refuse pit deserves special attention. This pit, Feature 13, was found in a 10 x 10 foot test unit, 200 feet south of the other 1971 excavations, while searching for the village perimeter. The pit contained numerous Allison sherds. Apparently this was a refuse dump located on the edge of the village away from the main house areas.

Portions of possibly six house patterns were also found in the village. Each pattern consisted of a double row of post molds approximately 12 inches apart and with posts measuring 3 to 4 inches in diameter. At the present time it is unknown whether or not the pits were used in or outside these house structures (Fig. 1).

Artifacts Analysis

Artifacts from Mound C consists of three Allison Cordmarked sherds.

The artifacts from Mound H consist of the following sherds: 195 Allison Cordmarked; 6 Embarras Simple Stamped; 1 Baumer type sherd with interior and exterior fabric marks and a squared rim; and 1 piece of deer leg bone. This material all seems to be Allison (except for the Baumer rim sherd) (Table 1).

TABLE 1. *Archeological materials recovered, 1971.*

CERAMIC	
2,190 Cordmarked (53.2%)	44 Simple Stamped (1.1%)
1,038 Smoothed Over Cord (25.2%)	716 Unclassifiable (17.4%)
93 Cross Cord (2.3%)	33 Other (0.8%)
CHIPPED STONE	
6 Lowe Flared base projectiles	1 Trianguloid knife
4 Scrapers	1 Guilford-like projectile
4 Lamellar flake knives (Harrison County flint)	1 Trianguloid projectile
2 knife fragments, 1 parallel sided	
STONE	
1 Nutting stone	1 Celt
1 Abrader	2 Crinoid stems used as beads
OTHER	
1 Fired Clay object (resembling a claw or beak)	1 Copper pin (2.5mm)

The ceramics found in the village during the 1971 excavations are predominantly Stoner Cordmarked along with a few simple stamped sherds of the LaMotte "Embarras" type (3). There were a few aberrant sherds

present, including: 3 cordmarked zoned, 5 simple and check stamped zoned, 1 sherd with interior and exterior cordmarking with the interior marking perpendicular to the exterior, and 6 temperless "toy Pot" sherds.

A study of the rim sherds has shown that 80.7% of the cordmarking is vertical to the rim (Table 2). The cordage ranges from loosely to tightly twisted, and from close spaced to slightly over 5 mm apart. Coil fractures were found on many sherds. Firing was uneven, resulting in both oxidation and reduction on the same vessels. The tempering of the sherds is fine to medium sand and grit.

TABLE 2. *Rim treatment compared to surface treatment.*

	Cordmarked	Zoned	Unclassifiable
Reed punctate	21	—	—
Smoothed	23	—	2
Oblique notching	7	—	—
Scalloped	5 ²	—	—
Notched	8	—	—
Scalloped & notched	3	—	—
Interior notching	1	5	2
Other ¹	4	—	—

¹ Includes one tapered, three interior and exterior notched.

² Probably part of vessel both notched and scalloped from Feature No. 13.

Conclusions

Although the authors regard the LaMotte culture as a direct descendent of the Allison culture, some variations were noted during the 1971 field work.

No house post mold patterns have been observed in the LaMotte section of the village, even though a great number of random post molds were found. The only house pattern found associated with Allison was a "D-shaped" pit house. From work on the Illinois side of the Wabash, Denzil Stephens suspects large circular house patterns for LaMotte. There were no post molds associated with the LaMotte pits, unlike what proved to be characteristic of Allison.

LaMotte pits were generally much deeper, more straight-walled and oval to circular, although their diameters were about the same as Allison. Allison pits were semi-conical, while the LaMotte pits were usually basin-shaped. The deeper LaMotte pits may suggest an increase in population and consequently an increase in storage problems.

A diagnostic trait of the Allison culture is Stoner Cordmarked pottery and for LaMotte, Embarras Simple Stamped pottery. A large quantity of bone tools were found this summer in the Allison excavation. A difference has also been noted between the Allison and LaMotte point types. Both used Lowe flared base point made of Harrison County flint, but LaMotte points appear to have been reworked.

Recent results of Carbon-14 dating has yielded dates of A.D. 570 and A.D. 540.

Literature Cited

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