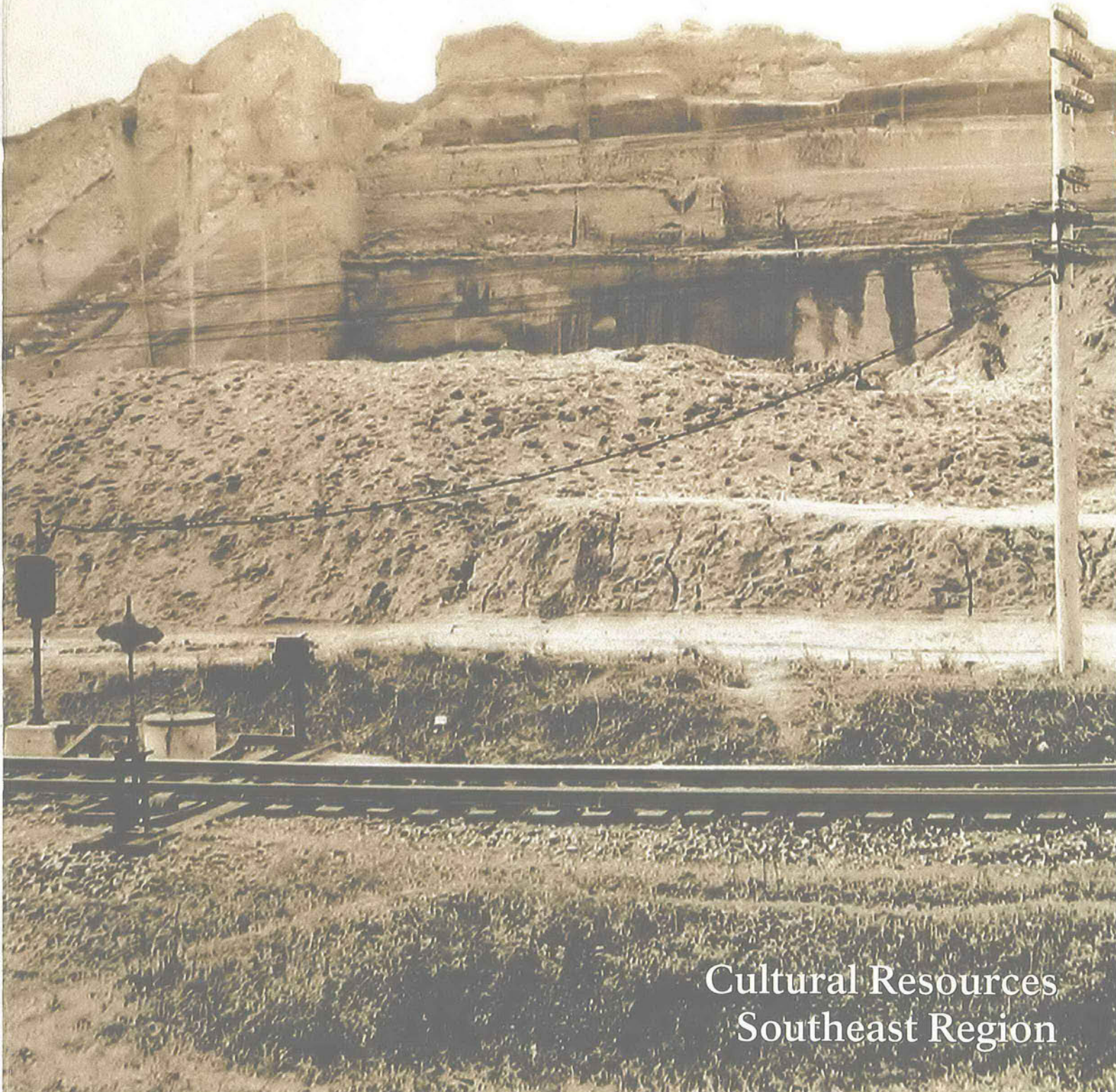




# Ocmulgee National Monument Cultural Landscape Report



Cultural Resources  
Southeast Region

363/D-87

---

Ocmulgee National Monument

# Cultural Landscape Report

August 2007

Beth J. Wheeler

National Park Service

Southeast Regional Office

Cultural Resources Division

TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER  
DENVER SERVICE CENTER  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



**Cultural Resources Division  
Southeast Regional Office  
National Park Service  
100 Alabama Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(404) 562-3117**


Ocmulgee National Monument  
1207 Emery Highway  
Macon, Georgia 31217


<http://www.cr.nps.gov/ocmu>

About the cover: The Funeral Mound during excavation.  
(LCS# 001188) Photo in Ocmulgee National Monument  
collection.

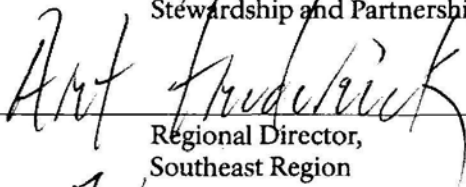
This cultural landscape report exists in two formats. A printed version is available for study at the park, at the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service, and at a variety of other repositories around the United States. For more widespread access, this cultural landscape report also exists in a web-based format through the web site of the National Park Service. Please visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) for more information

# Ocmulgee National Monument Cultural Landscape Report

Approved By:  7/31/07  
Date  
Superintendent,  
Ocmulgee National Monument

Recommended By:  8/5/07  
Date  
Chief, Cultural Resource Division  
Southeast Region

Recommended By:  8/6/07  
Date  
Associate Regional Director, Cultural Resource  
Stewardship and Partnership, Southeast Region

Approved By:  8/7/07  
Date  
Regional Director,  
Southeast Region  
Folk



---

# Table of Contents

List of Figures .....	vii
Foreward .....	ix
<b>Introduction</b>	
Management Summary .....	1
Historical Summary .....	1
Scope of Work .....	2
Study Boundary .....	2
<b>Site History</b>	
Prehistory .....	5
Early Prehistory .....	5
Early Mississippian .....	5
Late Mississippian (Lamar) .....	7
Historic Creek Indians and European Contact .....	7
Macon and Fort Hawkins .....	9
Civil War .....	9
New Deal Archaeology .....	11
South Plateau .....	12
Middle Plateau .....	15
North Plateau .....	16
Lamar Site .....	19
Summary .....	20
Park Development .....	21
Recent Park Improvements .....	23
<b>Existing Conditions</b>	
Main Park .....	29
Visitor Center .....	29
Earth Lodge .....	30
Trading Post area .....	31
Cornfield Mound, Trenches, Southeast Mound .....	33
Major Mounds and Wetlands .....	34
Dunlap House and Mound, CCC, and McDougal .....	36
Lamar Unit .....	37
<b>Analysis of Integrity</b>	
National Register Significance .....	41
Spatial Organization .....	41
Circulation .....	42
Archeological Features .....	43
Small Scale Features .....	44
Structures .....	44
Natural Systems .....	45
Topography .....	45
Vegetation .....	46
Views .....	47
Evaluation of Integrity .....	47
Summary .....	49
<b>Treatment Recommendations</b>	
Management Philosophy .....	51
Archeology .....	52
Tribal Consultation .....	52
Treatment .....	52

Park-wide .....	53
Dunlap House Area .....	54
North Plateau .....	55
Middle Plateau .....	55
South Plateau .....	57
Lamar Site .....	59

## Bibliography

Books and Published Reports .....	61
Unpublished Reports .....	62
Maps, Drawings, and Plans .....	62
Other References .....	63

## Appendix A

v

---

## List of Figures

1	Map of Georgia.....	2
2	Ocmulgee National Monument site map, 2007. ....	3
3	Watercolor representation of Mississippian village. ....	5
4	Cornfield discovered below Mound D.....	6
5	Representation of a Mississippian dwelling on a mound platform .....	7
6	Lamar Mound B with spiral ramp cleared .....	7
7	1779 Map of Lower Creek Trading Path.....	8
8	Carolina traders, c.1700 .....	9
9	Civil War earthwork,1974 .....	10
10	Dunlap House,1970 .....	10
11	Railroads traversing Ocmulgee mounds, 1873.....	10
12	Aerial view of excavation area, 1939.....	11
13	Great Temple Mound before excavation, circa 1930. ....	12
14	West platform of Great Temple Mound (Mound A), 2006.....	12
15	Map of excavations by David J. Hally.....	13
16	Field drawing of Lodge 3 between Mound A and B. ....	14
17	Mound stepped ramp uncovered during excavation.....	14
18	North profile of Funeral Mound (Mound C) .....	15
19	Overview of the excavations on North Plateau .....	16
20	Cornfields discovered below Mound D.....	17
21	Cornfield Mound excavation.....	17
22	Earth Lodge excavation, 1930s. ....	18
23	Earth Lodge reconstruction of concrete shell, 1937.....	18
24	Excavation of trenches near Earth Lodge, 1935.....	18
25	Location of Dunlap Mound, Dunlap House, and Civil War earthwork in 1935. ....	19
26	Excavation at the Lamar Mounds. ....	20
27	Aerial of park looking northeast with CCC camp .....	21
28	Trading post and burial shelters, 1941.....	21
29	Original CCC bridge to Earth Lodge from the Visitor Center, 1941.....	22
30	Visitor Center before planting .....	22
31	Funeral Mound shelter .....	23
32	Map of overall park planting plan .....	24
33	Proposed development for the Lamar Area.....	25
34	Lamar site aerial, 1965. ....	26
35	Entrance island, 2006. ....	29
36	Southwest elevation of Visitor Center, 2006.....	29
37	Railroad overpass, 2006. ....	30
38	Vista from Visitor Center to Earth Lodge, 2006. ....	30
39	1995 Bridge to Earth lodge from Visitor Center, 2006.....	31
40	View from Earth Lodge to Visitor Center, 2006. ....	31
41	Concrete curbing around trading post foundation, 1970. ....	32
43	Depressions used as corn storage pits, 2007.....	32
42	Overview of trading post and moat, 2006 .....	32
44	Cornfield Mound (Mound D) with woody vegetation, 2006 .....	33
45	Inner trench mown, 2006 .....	33



46	Outer trench with mature vegetation, 2006. ....	33
47	Southeast Mound (Mound E), 2006. ....	34
48	Great Temple Mound (Mound A), site visit 2007. ....	34
49	Funeral Mound (Mound C) retaining wall, 2006. ....	34
50	Funeral Mound looking east, 2006. ....	35
51	Funeral Mound parking lot and fence, 2007. ....	35
52	Walnut Creek wetlands, March 2007. ....	36
53	Civil War earthworks, 2006. ....	37
54	Dunlap Mound, 2007. ....	37
55	McDougal Mound, 2007. ....	37
56	Culvert on the Lamar levee, 2006. ....	38
57	Damage by hog rooting at the Lamar site, 2006. ....	38
58	Lamar Mound B with vegetation, 2006. ....	39
59	Ocmulgee National Monument Existing Conditions map. ....	40
60	1938 aerial of Main Park unit. ....	43
61	Visitor Center, 1951. ....	45
62	Topography of Great Temple Mound, 2007. ....	46
63	Stratigraphy of Funeral Mound (Mound C) during excavation, date unknown. ....	46
64	Map of vegetation zones in 1989. ....	47
65	Vista from Earth lodge to Great Temple Mound, 2006. ....	47
66	Celebrants at the Ocmulgee Indian Festival. ....	52
67	Erosion of old visitor path, 2007. ....	53
68	Inner trench, 2007. ....	55
69	View north-northwest of Earth Lodge, 2003. ....	56
70	Earth Lodge entrance with erosion, 2007. ....	57
71	View of stream north of culvert, 2007. ....	57
72	View south from parking lot, 2007. ....	58
73	Hog rooting at the Lamar site, 2006. ....	59
74	Ocmulgee National Monument Treatment map, 2007. ....	60

---

## Foreword

We are pleased to make available this cultural landscape report, part of our ongoing effort to provide comprehensive documentation for the landscapes and historic structures of National Park Service units in the Southeast Region. A number of individuals and institutions contributed to the successful completion of this work. We would particularly like to thank the staff at Ocmulgee National Monument for their assistance throughout the process. We are also appreciative of Jill Halchin at the Southeast Archeological Center for her input. We hope this study will be a useful tool for park management in continuing efforts to preserve the cultural landscape and to others interested in the significance of the park's many cultural resources.

Dan Scheidt, Chief  
Cultural Resources Division  
Southeast Regional Office  
August 2007



---

# Introduction

## Management Summary

This cultural landscape report (CLR) for Ocmulgee National Monument located in Macon, Georgia, documents the landscape history and existing conditions of the area known as Ocmulgee Old Fields, a site settled by a succession of prehistoric tribes and excavated by archeologists in the 1930s. The CLR documents the historical development of the landscape, inventories existing conditions, and analyzes historic and existing conditions to evaluate landscape significance and integrity. Treatment recommendations are provided to guide rehabilitation and preservation of the cultural landscape at Ocmulgee.

The park is significant for its collection of earthen mounds and archeological sites associated with the Mississippian culture along the Ocmulgee River. Nomadic Paleo-Indians lived at Ocmulgee Old Fields, followed by a succession of prehistoric cultures (10,000 BCE- 1700 AD).<sup>1</sup> There are additional historic resources in the park dating to early European settlement and continuing through modern times.

In the 1930s, extensive excavations by New Deal archeologists took place and the Macon Plateau became an archeological type-site for several cultural groups. The park was established in 1936 by presidential proclamation and Depression-era relief programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed roads, utilities, and the Visitor Center. Cultural resources, landscape features, and archeological sites of each period remain from the prehistoric era to the historic development of the site as a national monument.

Modern transportation routes define the boundaries and context of the park today. Constructed in the 1960s, Interstate 16 effectively separates the mound complex and majority of the park resources from the river, which parallels the

southwestern park boundary. The Norfolk Southern Railroad owns a right-of-way that bisects the main park unit. The Lamar site remains a separate unit located two miles south along the Ocmulgee River with limited public access.

## Historical Summary

The prehistoric mounds and modern park amenities at Ocmulgee link a continuum of human occupancy spanning over ten thousand years. A southeastward migration brought nomadic hunters to central Georgia during the Paleo-Indian period and successive tribes of hunters-gathers and farmers inhabited the land along the Ocmulgee River. The existence of Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian, Lamar, and historic Creek Indian material culture and features reveal the significance of the site and the changing yet continued use over time.

The earthen mounds created by the Mississippians remain the most impressive landscape features at Ocmulgee. Village sites, storage pits, and trenches associated with the mounds were uncovered in the 1930s and the ceremonial Earth Lodge was reconstructed in 1937.<sup>2</sup> The Mississippians created the massive mounds in several distinct building periods, but abandoned the area before European exploration. An English trading post was located on the Ocmulgee River in 1690 and the Creek Indians, descendants of the prehistoric Mississippian people, returned from the Chattahoochee River to trade, staying until 1720.

The city of Macon was established in the nineteenth century and nearby land was used for industry and agriculture. Railroads constructed in 1843 and 1873 bisected the mound complex and destroyed part of the mounds nearest the tracks. During the Civil War, Federal Gen. Stoneman briefly used the Dunlap House (now a park residence) as a headquarters site

---

1. Ocmulgee Old Fields is used to describe the Macon plateau area settled in ancient times. This term was used historically to refer to the early prehistory of the site.

---

2. Tommy H. Jones, *Ocmulgee National Monument: The Earth Lodge Historic Structure Report*, NPS, 2005. The Earth Lodge was discovered in the spring of 1934 and "restoration" of the Council Chamber began in 1936.

and fighting took place near Walnut Creek just south of the mound complex.

In the 1930s, Ocmulgee became the site of the largest archeological excavation in the eastern United States. The information recovered from the projects completed between 1933 and 1942 established a standard ceramic and cultural typology in the region and led to the eventual creation of the National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC). The New Deal archeology brought not only much-needed jobs to Middle Georgia, but national attention as well. Strong local support bolstered by the federally funded excavations resulted in the establishment of Ocmulgee National Monument on December 23, 1936.

The initial park development began under relief programs concurrent with the archeology. The CCC was responsible for roads, fences, plantings, and park facilities. The Earth Lodge was reconstructed within a modern concrete structure over and around the original clay floor. In 1938, construction of an Art Moderne visitor center began, but work halted at the beginning of World War II. The building was finally completed in 1951. After the war, Ocmulgee received only modest improvements despite the system-wide construction emphasis associated with the NPS Mission 66 initiative.

In the late 1960s, the construction of Interstate 16 parallel to the Ocmulgee River affected all aspects of the park. Over the past fifteen years, only a few modifications have occurred, including rerouting the main entrance. Today Ocmulgee interprets the entire span of human history on the Macon Plateau and preserves the Mississippian mounds and archeological sites.<sup>3</sup>

## Scope of Work

This CLR addresses the significant features of Ocmulgee National Monument and changes to the landscape over time. The prehistoric occupation and early park development cover a period of significance that spans the Pre-Columbian era to the twentieth century. As with most prehistoric settlements, the lack of written documentation results in research primarily from archeological investigations and ethnographic/anthropological studies.

3. Proclamation by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, December 23, 1936, No. 2212, Enabling Legislation, Stat. 1798.

Archeology at Ocmulgee revealed prehistoric land use patterns and material culture, but due to the nature of the evidence, information is general. Archeology reports and academic papers were consulted for primary documentation about the prehistory of Ocmulgee, though many field records are lost or incomplete. The 1930s excavations yielded extensive collections of photographs, artifacts, and drawings. The park archives provided historical maps, drawings, plans, and photographs of the New Deal excavations and National Park Service administration. Secondary sources supplied additional information on regional and local history, culture, and geography.

Though Superintendent's Reports date back to the 1940s, there are few current planning documents for Ocmulgee National Monument. The most recent document, a Resource Management Plan was written in 1992. The most current General Management Plan was approved in 1982. A thorough Administrative History (1986) and Vegetative History (1989) were also vital resources for this CLR.

## Study Boundary

The Ocmulgee National Monument is located on the Macon Plateau in Middle Georgia and includes two separate land tracts, representing the main park and Lamar units (Figure 2). The park is adjacent to the City of Macon on the Fall Line of the Ocmulgee River between the Piedmont and Coastal Plain of Georgia. Located southeast of Emory Highway, the park encompasses approximately 702 acres.



FIGURE 1. Map of Georgia.

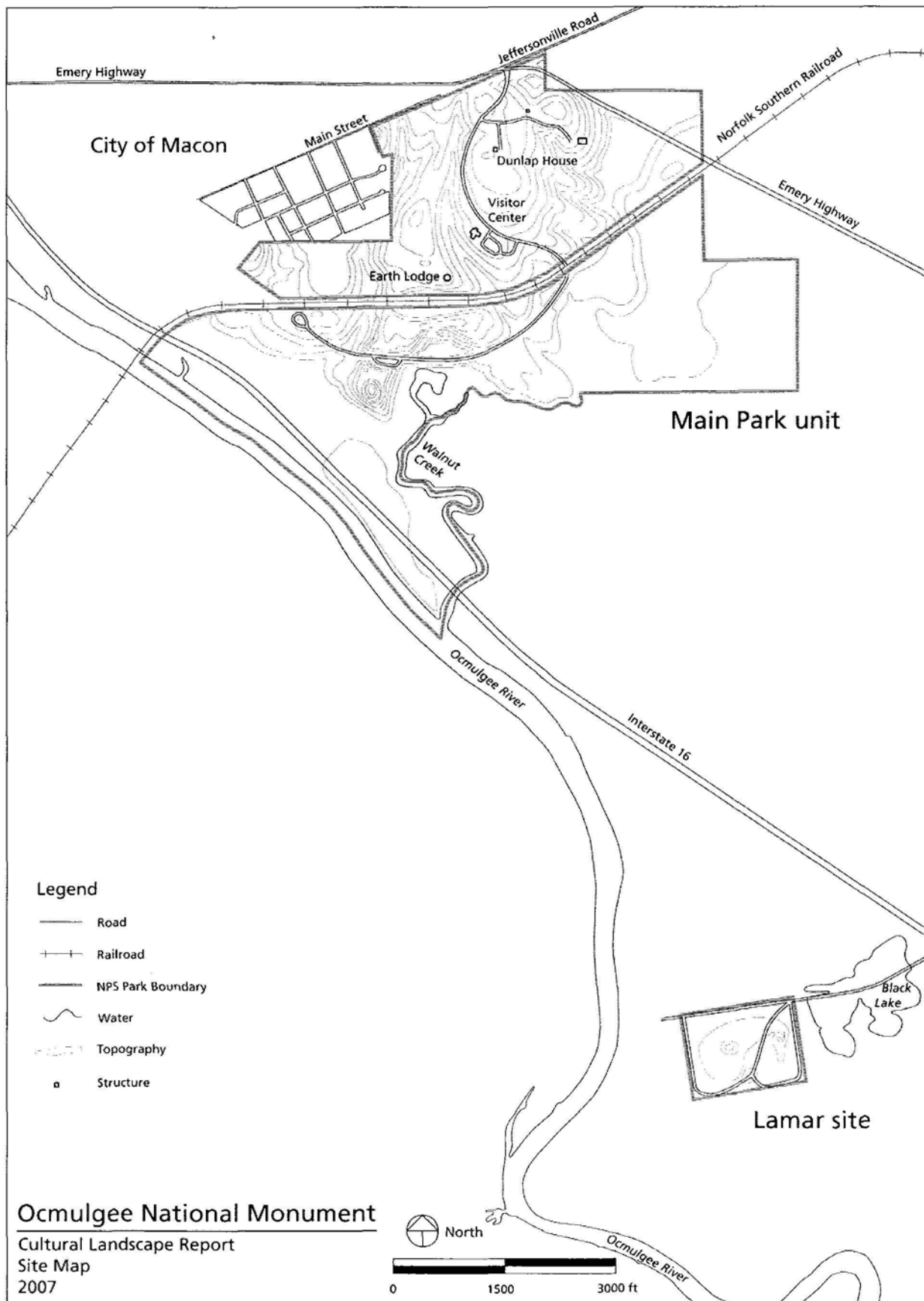


FIGURE 2. Ocmulgee National Monument site map, 2007.

The main park unit is bisected by the Norfolk Southern Railroad and bordered to the southwest by the Ocmulgee River. The main park consists of a portion of the Macon Plateau, rolling hills, and wetlands associated with Walnut Creek to the south of the mounds. The construction of Interstate 16 extensively changed the park hydrology, leaving swamps and wooded wetlands on the floodplain. The 657-acre tract includes seven prehistoric mounds, an Art Moderne Visitor Center, the historic Dunlap House, the reconstructed Earth Lodge and numerous archeological features.

Two miles south of the main park unit, the Lamar site represents a Late Mississippian cultural context. The site sits on a hammock slightly elevated from the surrounding floodplains and oxbow lake nearby. Two large mounds (A and B) and a palisaded village site are present on the 45 acres owned by the National Park Service. A rectangular levee, constructed in the 1930s, encloses two and half sides of the Lamar site but remains unfinished. This CLR addresses the entire park, both the Lamar site and the main park unit.

# Site History

## Prehistory

### Early Prehistory

The earliest known inhabitants of North America migrated across a land bridge from Siberia almost 17,000 years ago as glaciers receded to the north.<sup>1</sup> Paleo-Indians explored and colonized the new continent, taking advantage of various food sources and living in small nomadic bands. Though little remains of the Paleo-Indian presence on the Macon Plateau, evidence suggests hunter-gatherers first occupied the site nearly 12,000 years ago. This early inhabitation is evidenced by a fluted spear-point, or Clovis point, found at the site. Contemporaneous sites in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia also produced fluted Clovis points, indicating a dispersed migration.<sup>2</sup> The Paleo-Indians likely used the Macon Plateau as a hunting ground or campsite.

The Archaic period (8000 BCE-1000 BCE) follows the Paleo-Indian period and contributes to the archeological record at Ocmulgee. Archaic populations were more numerous, traded non-local items, and used an increased range of lithic tools. The Archaic people shaped projectile points into scrapers, spears, knives, and choppers and developed technology to include the *atlatl* and the early production of pottery.<sup>3</sup> Around 3,000 BCE, southern coastal Indians migrated to the Macon Plateau. These Archaic people remained hunter-gatherers, but subsidized their diet with shellfish, shad, and sturgeon.<sup>4</sup> The proximity to the river and elevated topography made the location ideal for Archaic tribes, who left fiber-tempered pottery and

worked stone tools on the plateau as evidence of their habitation.

Greater changes in occupation, pottery, lithic form, and culture occurred during the Woodland period (1000 BCE- 900 AD), including more populated and larger settlement sites. While there is no direct evidence of increased food supply, fishing and hunting continued as the beginnings of agriculture supplemented the collection of berries, nuts, roots, and seeds. Woodland people camped on the Macon Plateau and left considerable quantities of pottery, later classified as Mossy Oak Simple Stamped, Dunlap Fabric Marked, and Swift Creek Complicated Stamped. The complexity and variety of decoration and form during this period along with early crop cultivation defines the characteristics of the Woodland culture.<sup>5</sup>

### Early Mississippian

The most significant cultural period on the Macon Plateau was the early Mississippian culture (900 AD-1100 AD) often referred to as mound builders or master farmers. The Mississippians were thought to have migrated from the central Mississippi Valley to settle east of the Ocmulgee River in central Georgia. Apparently replacing existing Woodland populations, the Mississippians were a distinct

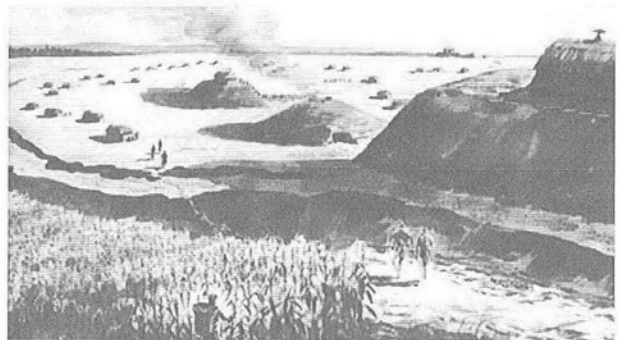


FIGURE 3. Watercolor representation of Mississippian village. (Pope, Handbook #24, 1961)

1. Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC), Southeastern Prehistory, Paleoindian Period. <<http://www.cr.nps.gov/seac/outline/02-paleoindian>>, accessed May 29, 2006.
2. G.D. Pope, Jr., *Ocmulgee National Monument*, NPS Historical Handbook Series No. 24. (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956), p.8. Clovis points were named for the High Plains site where they were first discovered. Clovis points have a distinctive channel, or fluting, formed on one or both faces and had broad uses as both weapon and tool.
3. An *atlatl* is a short tool used in spear-throwing to provide leverage.
4. Statement of Management, *Ocmulgee National Monument*, National Park Service, 1976.

5. David J. Hally, ed. *Ocmulgee Archaeology, 1936-1986* (Athens and London: The University of Georgia Press, 1994).



cultural group that dominated the material culture of the period and area.<sup>6</sup> The Mississippians had complex sociopolitical organization and relied more heavily on agriculture than did their Woodland predecessors.<sup>7</sup> Distinguishing this culture type were different ceramic decorations and forms and a variety of building features with religious or ceremonial functions. Most noted however, were large earthen mounds and earth lodge structures, such as those preserved at Ocmulgee National Monument.

The southeast Mississippian culture primarily populated towns along the fall line of rivers and developed agricultural settlements similar to the Ocmulgee Old Fields. They cultivated corn (with some evidence of squash and beans), while continuing to hunt and gather.<sup>8</sup> Archeologists in the 1930s found evidence under the Cornfield Mound of undulating ridges of topsoil in parallel rows. This distinct landscape feature along with archeological evidence of burnt corn reveals prehistoric agriculture on the Macon Plateau.

- 
6. Debate over the origin of the Mississippian Macon Plateau culture continues. Long thought to be an intrusive and distinct culture from the Mississippi Valley, others argue that *in situ* cultural development may have occurred at Ocmulgee. Mark Williams, "The Origins of the Macon Plateau Site" in *Ocmulgee Archaeology*, ed. David Hally.
  7. Sylvia Flowers, "Macon's Mississippians, Ocmulgee National Monument." <<http://www.nps.gov/ocmul/Macon-Plateau.htm>>, accessed July 17, 2006.
  8. Charles M. Hudson, *The Southeastern Indians* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1976), p. 80.

The Mississippian material culture documented at Ocmulgee was predominately Bibb Plain (98%), Halstead Plain, and McDougal Plain. Largely undecorated and usually small-rimmed jars, the pottery was very different from the Woodland shards found during excavations. The simple, unadorned ceramics necessitated separate classification and were grouped with projectile points and effigy figurines from the Mississippian period.<sup>9</sup>

The construction of truncated pyramidal mounds is the most character-defining landscape feature remaining from the Mississippian culture. The mounds, which were purposefully shaped and leveled, served as elevated platforms for important buildings and, in some cases, extensive grading was completed before the mounds were built. Archeologists discovered posthole foundations, stepped clay ramps, and stratigraphic layers indicating distinct intervals of construction. Evidence was also found of later extensions, created by adding basketfuls of river-bottom sand to widen the terrace area on top of the mounds and support the existing slopes.<sup>10</sup> The Greater Temple Mound (Mound A) and Lesser Temple Mound (Mound B) at Ocmulgee likely served as ceremonial mounds while the Funeral Mound (Mound C) was used for burials. The mound complex at Ocmulgee is the largest in Georgia, with seven mounds associated with the Mississippian occupation. A periphery trench, village sites, and storage dugouts related to the mounds were also uncovered.

- 
9. Williams p. 130-131 in Hally.
  10. J. Earl Ingmanson, "Archeology of the South Plateau," *Ocmulgee National Monument*, 1964, p. 11-12.



FIGURE 4. Cornfield discovered below Mound D. (Pope, Handbook #24, 1961)

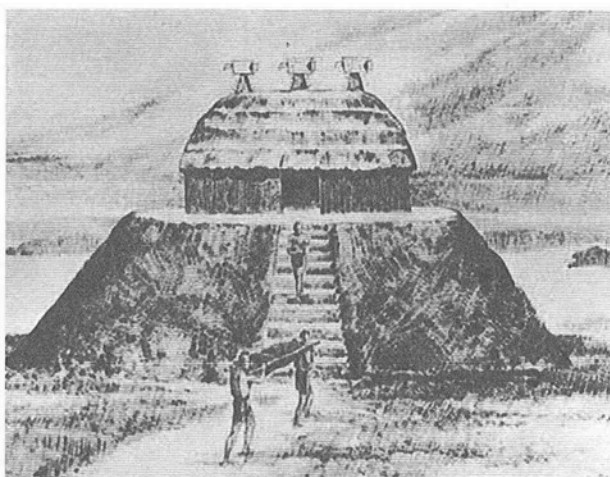


FIGURE 5. Representation of a Mississippian dwelling on a mound platform. (Pope, Handbook #24, 1961)



FIGURE 6. Lamar Mound B with spiral ramp cleared. (Pope, Handbook #24, 1961)

### Late Mississippian (Lamar)

Though the Mississippian culture on the Macon Plateau declined around 1200 AD, other places like Etowah in northwest Georgia and Moundville in Alabama continued to prosper. By 1350 AD, Late Mississippians settled two miles downriver from the mounds at Ocmulgee. The typologies and context developed from this site define a distinct prehistoric culture, one of the last to engage in mound construction. The site and cultural group were named Lamar in the 1930s, after local property owners.

The Lamar people built two earthen mounds (Mound A and B), one encircled by a unique spiral ramp.<sup>11</sup> Excavations in the 1930s uncovered a village site, perimeter palisade, and ceramics including Lamar Complicated Stamped, Lamar Bold Incised, and Lamar Plain. The Lamar were similar to other Mississippian cultural groups in mound

11. David M. Brewer and Susan Hammersten, "An Archeological Overview and Assessment of the Lamar Mounds Unit of Ocmulgee NM," National Park Service, SEAC October, 1991, p. 1, 20.

construction and way of life; but the distinct ceramic type, downstream location, and later settlement period distinguish the Lamar site from the main park unit at Ocmulgee National Mounment.

The historian Charles C. Jones, Jr., published *Antiquities of the Southern Indians, Especially Those of Georgia* in 1873 as a historical and archeological study and described the Lamar site in detail:

...in the valley-lands of the Ocmulgee, upon Lamar's plantation—are several large tumuli. The presence of these mounds, and the numerous relics scattered throughout the length and breadth of the valley for miles, afford ample testimony that this rich alluvial soil was once the seat of a numerous and, perhaps, permanent population. The *débris* of frequent encampments along the bluffs of the river prove that the aborigines, during the lapsed centuries, congregated here in numbers for fishing and hunting; and old clearings in the valley give evidence that they supported themselves in part by the cultivation of maize.<sup>12</sup>

## Historic Creek Indians and European Contact

European explorers recorded Indian village sites in middle Georgia as early as the sixteenth century. The Macon Plateau was temporarily abandoned at that time; however, an expedition led by Hernando DeSoto (1539-1540) met the Lamar culture at an unidentified location further south along the Ocmulgee River. The explorers documented general information about the Indians' daily life and land use practices in their records.<sup>13</sup>

The Lamar population declined soon after DeSoto's expedition and by 1650 relocated to the falls of the Chattahoochee River.<sup>14</sup> Designated Creek by the English settlers, the amalgamation of earlier Indians, including descendents of the Lamar, returned to

12. Charles C. Jones, Jr., *Antiquities of the Southern Indians* (1873, reprint Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1999), p. 162.
13. Peggy Froscheauer, "A Vegetation History of Ocmulgee National Monument," Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, 1989, p. 14.
14. Alan Marsh, "Ocmulgee National Monument: An Administrative History," National Park Service, 1986, p. 5.

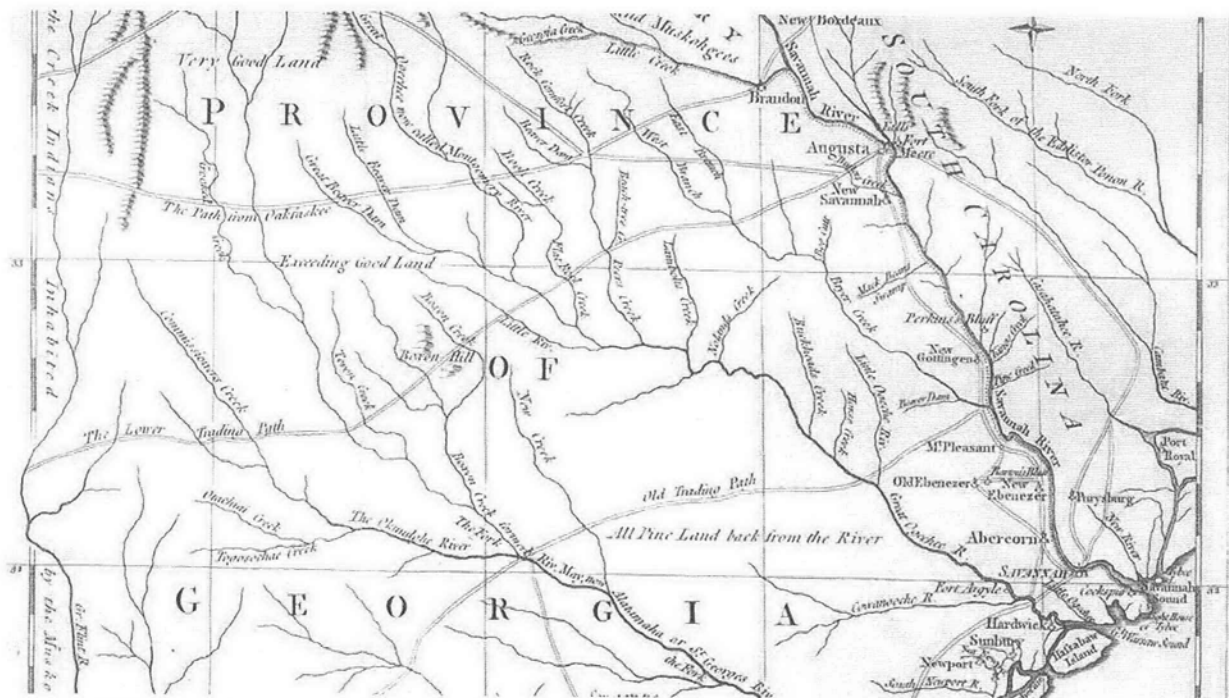


FIGURE 7. 1779 Map of Lower Creek Trading Path.

Ocmulgee in 1690 to trade with a newly established English fort.<sup>15</sup> These Lower Creek people were the last to inhabit Ocmulgee Old Fields, though they retained claim to the land for another 150 years, despite returning to the Chattahoochee in 1720.

The 1690 fort, constructed by English colonists from Charleston, served as an outpost for trade and foothold in the unstable relations of the western frontier. The fort was a five-sided fortified stockade built just northeast of the two temple mounds. This site was uncovered during the 1930s excavation and its location is still visible and interpreted by the park.

The fort had a main entrance along the well-worn Lower Creek trading path, the prehistoric route leading to present day Augusta. A ditch surrounded the fort, likely for a moat or stockade built from locally harvested trees.<sup>16</sup> Twentieth century archeologists uncovered postholes, burials, and artifacts within the fort. Items typical of Creek village sites were found alongside trade goods of European manufacture.<sup>17</sup> The fort served not only as a colonial trading post but also as a launching point for a 1703 raid on Apalachee Indian settlements in north Florida. This raid drove the Spanish back to St. Augustine, lessening their

influence in the area while allowing the English to assert greater dominance over southeastern tribes.<sup>18</sup> Despite successful trade and the diminishing Spanish influence, tensions soon rose between the English and Creek Indians and fighting broke out. The Yamassee War (1715-1717), fought primarily over land and trade, proved unsuccessful for the tribes that sought to drive out the English.

In the 1730s, Gen. James E. Oglethorpe's rangers also visited the Ocmulgee Old Fields and in 1739 wrote the earliest known description of the mounds. The group visited Lower Creek villages on the Chattahoochee and Oconee rivers before stopping at Ocmulgee, "where there are three Mounds raised by the Indians over three of their Great Kings who were killed in the Wars."<sup>19</sup> The account also describes the bounty of the Southeast during this period with an abundance of trees, grapes, and fruits.

In the late 1770s, William Bartram traveled through Georgia passing the Ocmulgee Old Fields. His account included the following description of the prehistoric settlement and mounds:

15. The Creek Indians were included in the Muscogean language group.

16. Froscheauer, p. 19.

17. Pope, p. 48-49.

18. Sylvia Flowers, Ocmulgee Chronology < [http://www.nps.gov/ocmu/History.htm#Proto\\_Historic](http://www.nps.gov/ocmu/History.htm#Proto_Historic) >

19. William Bartram, *Travels Through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida* (Savannah: The Beehive Press, 1973 facsimile of the London edition published in 1792).

About seventy or eighty miles above the confluence of the Oakmulge and Ocone, the trading path, from Augusta to the Creek nation, crosses the fine rivers, which are there forty miles apart. On the east banks of the Oakmulge, this trading road runs nearly two miles through ancient Indian fields, which are called Oakmulge fields: they are the rich low lands of the river. On the heights of these low grounds are yet visible monuments, or traces, of an ancient town, such as artificial mounts or terraces, squares and banks, encircling considerable areas. Their old fields and planting land extend up and down the river, fifteen or twenty miles from this site.<sup>20</sup>

## Macon and Fort Hawkins

Early American settlement began in the nineteenth century with an expanding foothold in the area. In 1805, the Creek ceded all land east of the Ocmulgee River to the United States government, except a 15-square mile tract that included Ocmulgee Old Fields. The exemption of this area from the treaty cession illustrates the importance of the site to the Creek. The following year, the U.S. government built Fort Hawkins adjacent to the reserved Creek territory where East Macon is today. The fort, known at the time as a trading factory, was set up as a supply depot, post office, and trading post for local tribes.<sup>21</sup> Fort Hawkins included a stockade, ditch, house, and two blockhouses.



FIGURE 8. Carolina traders, c.1700. (OCMU Collection)

20. Ibid, p. 52-53.

In 1821, the Creek ceded their claims to land between the Ocmulgee and the Flint rivers. The second Treaty of Indian Springs ceded land east of the Chattahoochee River in 1825, but was rejected by many of the Creek and invalidated by the Federal government. The following year, the Treaty of Washington was signed, passing all Creek lands east of the Chattahoochee, including the reservation around the Old Fields, to the government and paving the way for development. Fort Hawkins and the area around the mounds was surveyed and auctioned off in a land lottery and settlers officially established the town of Macon in 1828.

The land surrounding the mounds was increasingly used for agriculture and manufacturing during the early nineteenth century, but it was the railroad that most severely affected the landscape at Ocmulgee, cutting into the Mississippian mounds. In 1843, the Central of Georgia Railroad built a rail line across the Macon Plateau. The initial railway cut destroyed portions of the Lesser Temple Mound (B), left a littering of artifacts, and exposed prehistoric burials.<sup>22</sup> The cultivated land around the mounds caused additional changes to the landscape. Intense agricultural production eroded topsoil and grazing denuded less profitable understory vegetation on the forested bottomlands near Walnut Creek. Silt from the Macon development and local plantations accumulated downriver at the Lamar site causing deep sandy deposits.<sup>23</sup>

## Civil War

By the mid-1800s, Samuel Dunlap owned the plantation on Ocmulgee Old Fields, constructing a house on the site in 1856. The only fighting of the Civil War to take place near Macon occurred on land owned by the Dunlap family, though a battery was commissioned near Fort Hawkins to protect the town. Federal General George F. Stoneman arrived at Macon on July 30, 1864, and used the Dunlap House as temporary headquarters. Union soldiers repulsed a Confederate attack and hastily constructed an embrasure near the occupied house. Shortly after the Battle of Dunlap Hill, Rebels

21. Ross F. Holland, Jr., *Fort Hawkins Frontier Fort, OCMU, Georgia*. (Washington, DC: NPS, 1970)
22. J. Earl Ingmanson, "Archeology of the South Plateau: Ocmulgee NM," National Park Service, p. 13. Archeologists in the 1930s estimated three-fourths of Mound B was removed by the 1840s rail line.
23. Froeschauer, p. 32-33. Brewer and Hammersten, p. 6.



FIGURE 9. Civil War earthwork, National Register photo, 1974.



FIGURE 10. Dunlap House, National Register photo, 1970.

captured Stoneman at Sunshine Church and sent his troops to a prison camp at nearby Andersonville. The Confederates constructed a U-shaped earthwork in the southeast yard of the Dunlap House to protect the Walnut Creek railroad trestle from future attacks.<sup>24</sup>

Fighting took place again in November at the Battle of Walnut Creek, when Federal cavalry were sent to divert attention from General Sherman's March to the Sea through Georgia. Although the Union presence was brief, the Civil War brought major changes to the landscape. The absence of slave labor halted agricultural production, dramatically curtailed industry, and slowed the southern economy during the fighting.<sup>25</sup>

Farming and industry resumed around Macon after the war, focusing on cotton and corn production. Clay was mined in open pits for brick manufacture

24. Marsh, p. 6.

25. Froeschauer, p. 33-40.

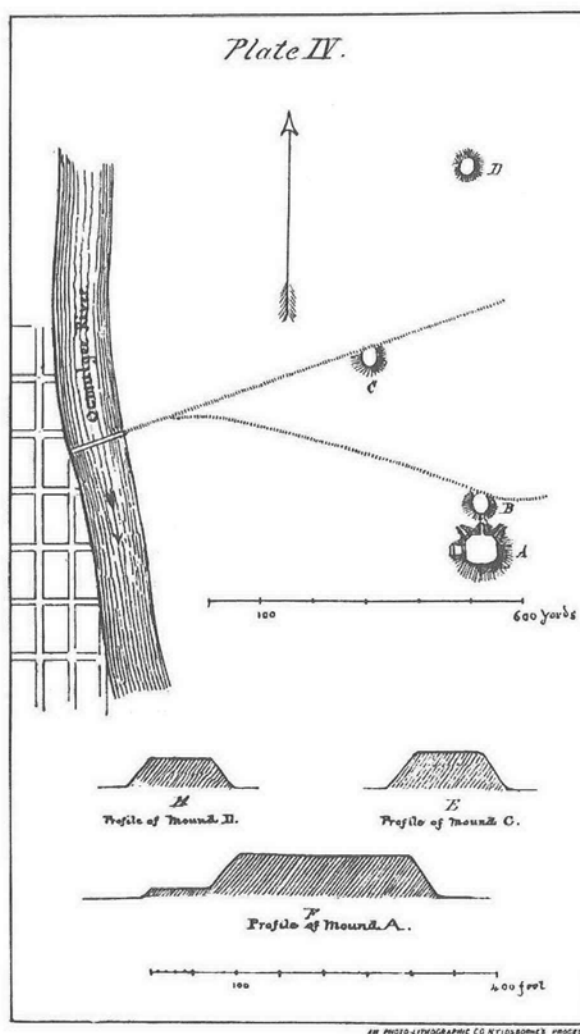


FIGURE 11. Railroads traversing Ocmulgee mounds, 1873. (Plate IV, Charles C. Jones, Jr. *Antiquities of Southern Indians*).

and portions of the Ocmulgee Old Fields served as a dairy farm, fertilizer factory, and brick factory.<sup>26</sup> Changes to the vegetation, wetlands, and soils took place with the renewal and increase of industry near Macon. The dairy farm to the south of the mounds produced erosion, rapidly increasing the silt accumulating at the Lamar site. Some land was cleared for cattle grazing and a large borrow pit was excavated to produce clay for brick making.

In 1873, the Central of Georgia Railroad leased the line passing through Ocmulgee to the Macon, Dublin, & Savannah Railroad and relocated the railroad track to its present location to the north. The right-of-way destroyed the northern half of the

26. Marsh, p. 6. Marsh includes a footnote with the narrative locations of Cherokee fertilizer factory, Anderson brickyard, the clay mine, the railroad roundhouse, and dairy farm on the Middle Plateau. No structures from this period remain in the park.

Funeral Mound (Mound C) and cleared vegetation along the new route. The line construction included extensive grading, erection of a brick overpass spanning a farm road, and the building of a railroad roundhouse near the Funeral Mound. Historian Charles C. Jones, Jr., described the erosion caused by the railroad in his book, *Antiquities of the Southern Indians*. He noted the 1873 excavation removed a “considerable portion of the northern side of the central mound” yet “it is still about forty feet high and is conical in form.” Jones listed in detail the relics exposed by the railway, concluding that the Funeral Mound contained both historic and prehistoric burials. His assertion was later supported by archeology in the 1930s.<sup>27</sup>

Further damage occurred to the mounds when a portion of McDougal Mound became fill dirt for construction of the Emery Highway in the early twentieth century. By that time, Macon’s population had grown and Ocmulgee became a popular leisure ground and recreation area, contributing further damage to the site resources. For example,

27. C. Jones, p. 159-160.

motorcycle races left wide, eroded tracks on the mound slopes.<sup>28</sup>

## New Deal Archaeology

Local citizens concerned with preserving the Ocmulgee mounds contacted the Bureau of American Ethnology in 1922. The effort led by Gen. Walter A. Harris (President of the Macon Historical Society), Dr. Charles C. Harrold, and Linton M. Solomon (members) eventually caught the attention of the Smithsonian Institute. Harris first organized the Society of Georgia Archeology and with heightened local interest purchased an option to buy the property. The newly formed society solicited the Smithsonian again in 1929 and aided by Congressman Carl Vinson in 1933, secured New Deal funding for archeology. The Smithsonian arranged for Civil Works Administration (CWA) money and appointed Arthur R. Kelly to lead the

28. Marsh, p. 6. Froeschauer, p. 54.



FIGURE 12. Aerial view of excavation area, 1939. (OCMU Collection)

excavations. James A. Ford, a recent graduate, was hired to assist.<sup>29</sup>

Arthur Kelly, a Harvard-trained anthropologist, led the largest excavation east of the Mississippi at Ocmulgee between 1933 and 1942. Over the years, funding came from various federal agencies including CWA, Works Progress Administration (WPA), Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), and the Emergency Relief Administration (ERA). The local community provided labor for the excavations with later help from the CCC. Skilled workers attended archeology night school for training in field methods, trowel excavation, engineering, and laboratory methods.<sup>30</sup> The excavations were significant in providing scientific data, a ceramic typology, and a cultural sequence for the prehistoric tribes that lived on the Macon Plateau. The archeology at Ocmulgee also began the careers of several prominent archeologists who contributed to the New Deal work, including James Ford, Jesse D. Jennings, Gordon R. Willey, and Charles H. Fairbanks.<sup>31</sup>

Kelly used letters as labels for the mounds first described by Charles C. Jones, Jr. (though later NPS staff changed the names to be more descriptive) and divided the plateau into workable areas (North, Middle, and South Plateau). The crew, split between Kelly and Ford, began excavations in December 1933. Only a few weeks into the process, over 200 men were employed six days a week in two shift schedules. Kelly led work clearing Mound A, improving the approach road and started excavations on Mound C and Mound D, while Ford directed work at Mound A of the Lamar site. Surveying and trenching of the mounds soon led to intensive excavations, particularly upon discovery of the trading post, village site, and Earth Lodge. Joseph B. Coke, a local resident, took photographs throughout the project.

Although the landscape at Ocmulgee was stripped bare during this period, the information gathered from artifacts and archeological features in a large-scale context proved invaluable. The artifacts and mounds offered information about the temporal history of early settlements along with clues to technology, culture, and lifeways. The features unearthed by Kelly, Ford, and their crew exposed

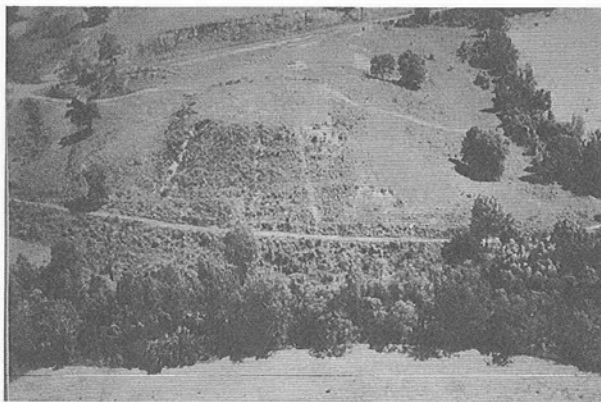


FIGURE 13. Great Temple Mound before excavation, circa 1930. (OCMU Collection)

the landscape manipulated by prehistoric peoples and provided a foundation for archeology in the Southeast. In searching for prehistoric remains, archeologists ignored most remnants from the historic period, including the Civil War.

## South Plateau

**Mound A.** The excavation of Mound A (later renamed the Great Temple Mound) began in January 1934 with a test pit on the mound platform, but collapsing walls soon ended the investigation. Other units in the mound uncovered composite stratigraphy, namely intervals of sandy soil capped with clay. The presence of artifacts, hearth sites, and building postholes in several occupation layers suggests a phased mound construction. The sequence discovered at Mound A dates the final elevated layer to the Mississippian period. The earliest layers suggest the plateau was terraced prior to mound construction. The excavation also found evidence of stepped clay ramps located on the north slope and a “west platform” added at a lower elevation.



FIGURE 14. West platform of Great Temple Mound (Mound A), 2006.

29. Marsh, p. 7.

30. John W. Walker, “Ocmulgee Archeology: A Chronology,” Southeast Archeological Center, National Park Service, 1989. p. 7.

31. Ingmanson, “Archeology of the South Plateau,” p. 1. Walker also refers to the “young turks” of archeology in Hally.

John R. (Jack) Walker revisited the Macon Plateau in the 1960s and excavated portions of Mound A to determine the impacts of erosion. He discovered remnants of a low curb enclosing the top of the mound and a one-foot platform that may have been a base for three separate structures. A hearth associated with the platform aligned directly with the central ramp. Walker also found pottery shards

and effigy artifacts below the larger mound, reconfirming evidence of an earlier, smaller mound.<sup>32</sup> The park replaced the wooden stairs in 2001, prompting archeological testing on the southeast slope.

32. Walker, p. 38.

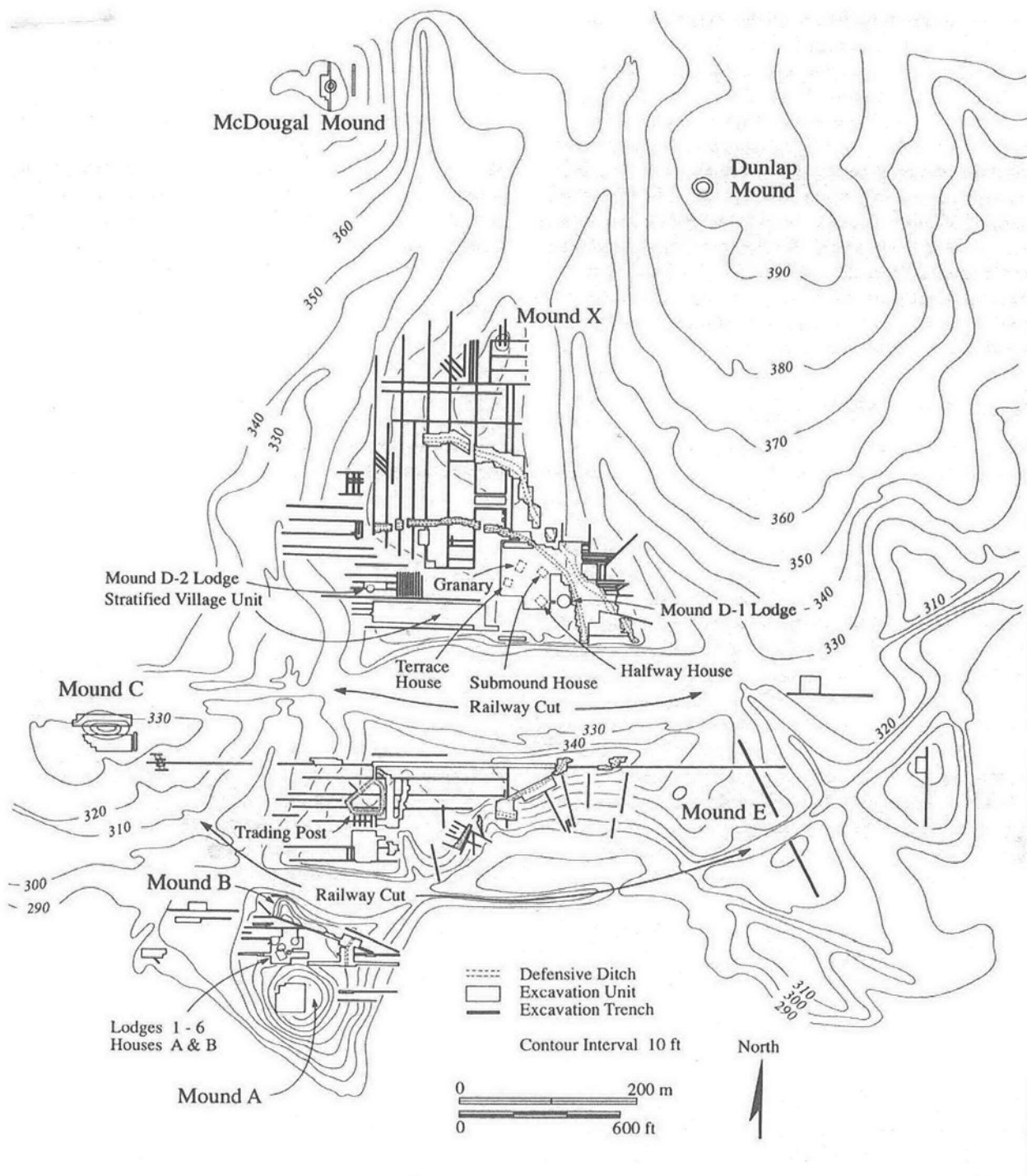


FIGURE 15. Map of excavations at Ocmulgee National Monument by David J. Hally.



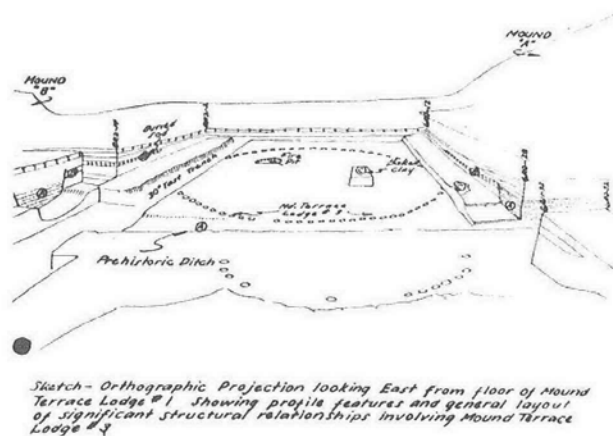


FIGURE 16. Field drawing from James A. Jackson of Lodge 3 between Mound A and B.

**Mound B and Village site.** Archeologists estimated Mound B (later renamed the Lesser Temple Mound) to be one-quarter of its original size when work began in 1934.<sup>33</sup> With the north portion of the mound cut away by the 1843 railroad, archeologists studied the stratigraphic profile that remained. Four phases of construction were distinguished: first, a red clay footing, then two separate layers of sand and clay fill, and finally a cap of yellow clay. The identified layers provided the necessary sequence for comparison with soils from Mound A to the south. The phases of construction and artifacts dated Mound B to the Mississippian occupation of the Macon Plateau.

As the 1936 summer season progressed, excavations in the area between Mound A and B (identified together as the South Plateau) began. The dig uncovered five occupation levels and a distinct village site associated with the Mississippian mounds. The remains included a series of lodges, a remnant of the Lower Creek trading path, additional sections of a prehistoric trench found to the north, and other building footprints. A trench dating to an historic occupation suggested later ceremonial use after mound construction.<sup>34</sup>

The village site contained postholes of a circular house and the burned remains of a rectangular house. Several lodge sites stratified on top of one another had circular footprints and central fire pits. One lodge contained the remains of the entrance, wall collars, and benches similar to the reconstructed Earth Lodge on the Middle Plateau.<sup>35</sup> Despite the pattern of postholes indicating that numerous lodges were built, removed, and rebuilt,

33. Ingmanson, "Archeology of the South Plateau," p. 13.

34. Ibid, p. 40.

35. Ibid, p. 18-23.



FIGURE 17. Mound stepped ramp uncovered during excavation. (Pope, Handbook #24, 1961)

the span of occupation was relatively short. All artifacts and features were associated with the Mississippian period and contemporaneous with the adjacent mounds. A central plaza, which was typical of western Mississippian settlements, was not evident, and the alignment of the mounds and village sites suggests the possibility of sub-communities on the Macon Plateau.

**Mound C.** The 1870s railroad bisected Mound C (later renamed the Funeral Mound), leaving only the southern portion adjacent to the railroad tracks intact. Archeologists began work on this section on December 26, 1933, and excavated six trenches before undisturbed soil was found.<sup>36</sup> Mound C yielded evidence of burials in several successive occupation layers and the remains of a log burial structure were found within the mound. The number of discovered graves indicates the importance and religious association of the feature as a funerary mound. Small glass beads found in the uppermost layers, dating from 1700-1730, offered further support to Charles C. Jones, Jr.'s hypothesis that historic Creek remains were added to the Mississippian burial site.

The profile excavated by Kelly sliced through the southern edge of several occupation layers, destroying the few inches of mound platform left after the railroad cut and uncovering a stepped ramp. Evidence of a palisade or fence line at the top edge of the slope suggested the mound platform was

36. Walker, p. 7.

set aside for ceremony. Uncovered postholes formed a rectilinear shape and were widely spaced, indicating a possible building or designated area related to the Mound C burials. The mound was not backfilled or reshaped after excavation, but left exposed to exhibit the colorful and unique soil layers in the north profile. The crew recorded the sequence of mound platforms and commissioned an oil painting to document the multicolored stratigraphy.<sup>37</sup>

After the excavation, the Mound C north profile remained exposed until CCC crews constructed a protective shelter. The large wooden shed straddled the profile between the peak of the mound and the railroad right-of-way and remained in place until the 1950s, when erosion and disrepair prompted its removal. When Charles Fairbanks reexamined the northern profile, he demolished the wooden shed and removed the final portions of the mound platform left by the New Deal archeologists. Fairbanks excavated additional units in the Funeral

Mound (renamed prior to work in the 1950s) before regrading the slopes to their pre-New Deal appearance and stabilizing the surface with sod. The sharp north profile and limited funding for fill dirt caused most of the regrading to occur on the south slope, visually moving the mound ten to fifteen feet south.<sup>38</sup>

## Middle Plateau

**Trading Post.** In the summer of 1934, the archeologists discovered dugouts or “pit houses” on the Middle Plateau. James Ford excavated the features, opened units nearby and in 1935 revealed the trading post site. The dugouts were first interpreted as subterranean houses, then as borrow pits, and finally identified as corn storage pits. The pits roughly outline the north boundary of the five-sided trading post. The storage pits excavation also revealed a trench, or moat, surrounding the fort site with interruptions at the entrances along the base and riverfronts.

37. Mrs. Carolyn Smith Meriwether painted the bisected Funeral Mound to portray the stratigraphy not captured by black and white photography. The oil painting currently hangs at the Ocmulgee NM Visitor Center.

38. Charles H. Fairbanks, “The Stabilization of the Funeral Mound,” Ocmulgee National Monument, NPS, 1964, p. 12.

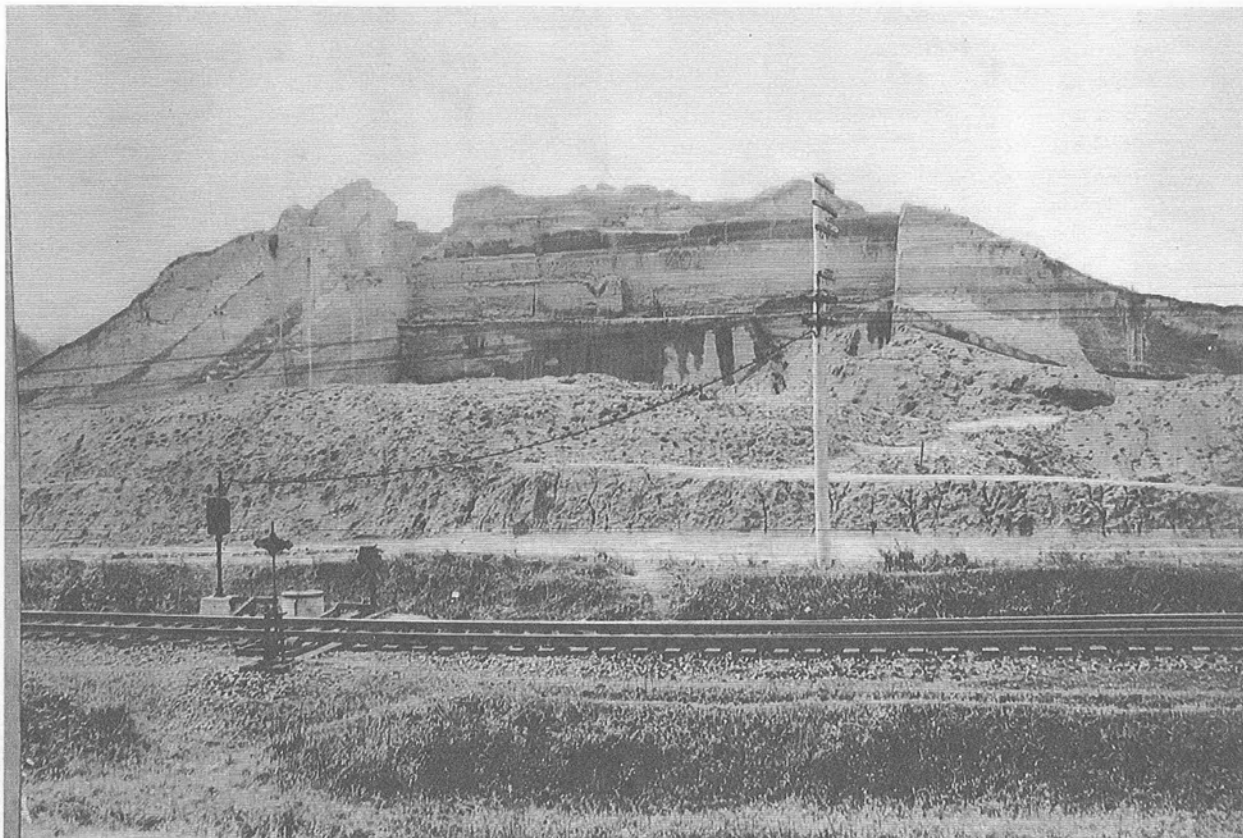


FIGURE 18. North profile of Funeral Mound (Mound C) with 1873 railroad in foreground. (OCMU Collection)

Adjacent to the corn storage pits, the trench surrounded evidence of the walled enclosure of the trading post. Remnants of horizontal logs bounded the perimeter of the fort within the trench. The fort, situated on level ground, had interior soil stains indicating storeroom buildings and houses.<sup>39</sup>

Postholes aligned in wide ovals, suggesting house construction with walls of bent saplings covered with brush, reeds, or sod. Refuse pits and midden deposits found inside the fort contained European artifacts such as copper and brass sheets, clay pipes, coiled iron wristlets, beads, and iron ornaments as well as native items such as pottery. The fort excavation also included the graves of women and children buried with beads and other ornaments and the burial of several cremated remains. The total number of burials within the trading post points to a stable population on the Macon Plateau around 1700, while the presence of grave goods suggests an established relationship between the English and Creek. Besides prehistoric midden deposits and burials, artifacts included military items, such as buttons, knives, swords, pistols, buckles, and flints.

Investigation of the Lower Creek trading path that once passed the fort entrance revealed bluish clay 6 to 8 feet wide at a depth of 14 to 24 inches. The abandoned trail filled with settled clays and deposited sands, creating a trench-like feature with distinctive stratigraphy. The fort, corn storage pits, trench, house sites, burials, and trading path each relate to the different land uses during the historic period. The concentration of features and artifacts uncovered by the archeologists documents the first English occupation in addition to well-developed Mississippian and later Creek settlements on the Middle Plateau.

**Mound E.** In the summer of 1934, excavation of Mound E (later renamed the Southeast Mound) took place. No profiles, plans, or field notes exist for this investigation of the Middle Plateau, resulting in only scant records for the landscape feature.<sup>40</sup> The excavation uncovered prehistoric burials, plain pottery, and stone projectile points. Several chipped stones found near Mound E indicated the consistent occupation of the site from Archaic times through the Mississippian period. Later reinterpretation of the data suggests the mound was “an archeological cousin to the Dunlap and McDougal Mounds at the Monument outside of the fortification ditch...most



FIGURE 19. Overview of the excavations on North Plateau, showing excavated trench feature. (Pope, Handbook #24, 1961)

likely built during the later stages of the Macon Plateau period.”<sup>41</sup> No other information on the Mound E excavation exists.

## North Plateau

Between 1933 and 1939, the most intensive excavations at Ocmulgee took place on the North Plateau. Survey trenches systematically numbered and laid out at right angles provided control points for the large-scale investigation. The excavations nearest Mound D included the discovery of house sites, a stratified village site, prehistoric cornfields (under Mound D), the Earth Lodge, and dugouts, or trenches. The North Plateau also uncovered clear evidence of the continued occupation of Ocmulgee Old Fields. A Paleo-Indian Clovis point was found in 1935 west of the Earth Lodge and scatters of flint flakes from Archaic and Woodland inhabitants were located nearby.<sup>42</sup> Besides the obvious Mississippian landscape features and archeological sites, the assemblages of stone tools and early ceramic types indicated a persistent presence on the North Plateau that predated the Mississippian period.

**Mound D.** Mound D measured 9 feet in height and 150 feet in diameter before excavation began in December 1933. By the following spring, the mound was bisected and all elevated soil removed from the southern half. Ford unearthed burned corncobs and revealed a layer of undulating topsoil beneath the mound. The ridges and furrows formed parallel rows indicating a garden or cultivated fields used by the Mississippians. The feature was the first intact agricultural remnants found in buried contexts by archeologists.<sup>43</sup> Mound C was renamed the Cornfield Mound, and though only partially

39. A.R. Kelly and Louis Friedlander. Excerpt from Trading Post Research Report, Ocmulgee National Monument. p. 1.

40. J. Earl Ingmanson, *Mound E Southeastern Plateau and Middle Plateau Fortifications*, OMCU, 1965, p. 4.

41. *Ibid*, p. 19.

42. Hally, p. 55.

43. *Ibid*, p. 96.

excavated, was left exposed until the end of the project.

A 35-foot square house site, called Halfway House for its location midway between Mound D and the Earth Lodge, was uncovered in 1934. The site had a baked clay floor and sand pits lined with baked clay surrounding the exterior. The sub-floor structure, found the following year, resulted from prehistoric leveling to create a flat floor. The Halfway House shared the same stratigraphy as the Earth Lodge and was contemporaneous with other Mississippian features. A floor disturbance on the west side of the house was similar to the cultivation pattern uncovered below Mound D. This feature supports evidence of the changing uses of the Macon Plateau during the Mississippian period.

In 1935, an artifact scatter west of Mound D revealed two separate houses at the same location. The initial house site appeared to predate the Earth Lodge, while the other house dated to later in the Mississippian period. Both sites were reburied in 1936.<sup>44</sup> Nearby, archeologists uncovered another lodge site similar to the reconstructed Earth Lodge as part of a larger stratified village. The village was a



FIGURE 20. Cornfields discovered below Mound D. (Pope, Handbook #24, 1961)

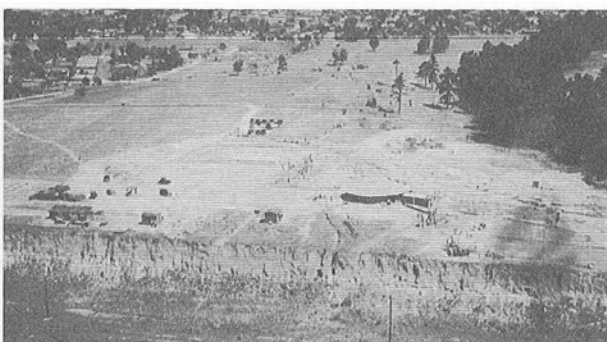


FIGURE 21. Cornfield Mound excavation. Note temporary shelter over Earth Lodge excavation, center right, and railroad cut in foreground. (OCMU Collection)

Mississippian-era complex with ceramics from the Woodland era and later Creek occupation intermixed.

Archeologists in the 1930s also surveyed a low rise on the North Plateau but excluded the “mound” from major excavation. Mound X, previously identified in historic maps of the area, was north of the Earth Lodge and Mound D. The eroded mound was trenched but not excavated as part of the North Plateau project and a soil profile was recorded.<sup>45</sup> Today the mound is a negligible height and mown regularly as part of the maintenance for the overall landscape. The NPS List of Classified Structures (LCS) lists Mound X as a historic feature, though New Deal archeologists excluded the mound from designation as a significant feature of the projects.

**Earth Lodge.** First uncovered in February 1934, the Earth Lodge remains the primary attraction at Ocmulgee today. The excavation of a low rise east of the Mound D yielded the outline of the circular lodge and soon all attention focused on the “council chamber” excavation. Excavation revealed a clay bench with individual seats encircling the periphery, structural timbers, a central fire pit, and entrance walls. The clay bench was slightly elevated with oval depressions in front of each of the 47 seats. A pronounced effigy platform in the likeness of an eagle or a vulture had three oval depressions and seats opposite the entrance. The council chamber preserved intact architectural features from the Mississippian period and, with evidence of burnt structural debris and the absence of ceremonial material, suggested the abandonment and purposeful burning of the lodge. The Earth Lodge interior contained only one artifact, a ceramic pot.

The construction of a temporary shelter protected the council chamber while excavations continued. Once the charred timbers were removed for dendrochronology (which was never completed due to the condition of the material), detailed drawings and maps were made to record and interpret the structure’s features. In December 1936, James Swanson Jr. designed a reconstruction of the Earth Lodge with an earth-covered concrete shell. The reconstructed Earth Lodge included a modern structure around the prehistoric floor, leaving the central fire pit, clay effigy platform, circular seating, and entrance pillars exposed as an interpretive exhibit of the Mississippian structure.

44. J. Mark Williams and Joseph N. Henderson, “The Archeology of the Macon North Plateau: 1974,” Florida State University, 1974, p. 24.

45. *Ibid.*, p. 38.

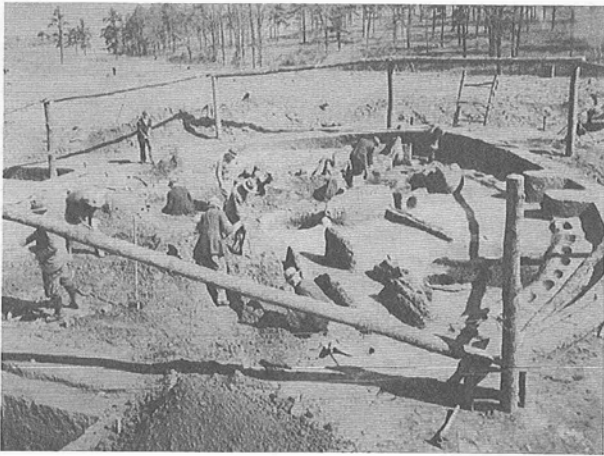


FIGURE 22. Earth Lodge excavation, 1930s. (Harpers Ferry Collection)



FIGURE 23. Earth Lodge reconstruction of concrete shell, 1937. (OCMU Collection)

The reconstruction, completed in 1938, blended the authentic prehistoric features with modern technology. A stable turf roof covered the concrete shell, despite the likely treatment of clay coating suggested by Kelly, Ford, and Swanson. The decision to use grass instead of mud on the Earth Lodge roof was not only practical for continued maintenance, but visually impacted the landscape.<sup>46</sup> The exterior dimensions of the new building were expanded beyond the prehistoric lodge boundaries in order to provide a ventilation system and decrease the visual appearance of height. The original wall height was never determined during excavations and the construction plans called for a compromise that would preserve the features while allowing visitors to access the interior comfortably.<sup>47</sup> The Earth Lodge immediately became the focal point of

46. James T. Swanson, *Discovery, Excavation, Restoration of a Prehistoric Indian Ceremonial Earth Lodge*, NPS, 1939, p. 17, 44. For a detailed discussion of the planning and construction process and chronology, see Tommy Jones' *Ocmulgee Earth Lodge HSR*, 2005.

47. Jones, p. 26.

interpretation once Ocmulgee was designated a national monument.

**Trenches.** The dugouts, or trenches found on the North Plateau form two parallel, interconnected depressions ranging in depth from three to nine feet.<sup>48</sup> The inner trench measures 1100 feet in length (average 15 feet wide) and the outer trench 1200 feet (average 25 feet wide), each forming a gradual arc and continuing onto the Middle and South Plateau. When first excavated by the New Deal crew, the trenches contained burials, artifacts, and occupation layers. Once a portion of the trench fill was removed, the depressions revealed irregular and undulating substructures. Kelly had several interpretations of the dugouts including defensive trenches, a series of elongated borrow pits for mound fill, or "pit houses" for storage and habitation. The trenches were a typical feature used in the Midwest and migrating tribes may have influenced their shape or use on the Macon Plateau.

The North Plateau trenches, together with associated segments further south, form a periphery feature around the Mississippian settlement at Ocmulgee. The trenches enclose several domestic sites, five extant mounds, and the excavated council chamber. Reexamining the origin of the trench construction, archeologists in the 1970s hypothesized use for both defense and fill dirt.<sup>49</sup> The absence of charred wood and the presence of numerous random postholes suggest the trenches were not inhabited. A NPS superintendent augmented the features with additional soil in the 1940s to interpret the trenches as prehistoric defenses. The trenches, only partially backfilled, still have earthen embankments south of the excavated portions near Mound D.



FIGURE 24. Excavation of trenches near Earth Lodge, 1935. (OCMU Collection)

48. Williams and Henderson, p. 32.

49. *Ibid.*, p. 35.

**Dunlap and McDougal Mounds.** The Dunlap Mound, west of the Dunlap House and the McDougal Mound, at the northwestern park boundary are outside of the periphery trench located on the North Plateau. Though historic records noted several additional mounds outside the trench features and east of Macon, the New Deal survey included only these two mounds in the excavation plans. The Dunlap and McDougal Mounds, north of the periphery trench, likely date to later in the Mississippian period.

Because of repeated plowing and orchard plantings, the initial survey excluded the Dunlap Mound. At the time, the area was the site of the overseer's house, a chicken house, and a garden, but after subsequent identification, work began on the Dunlap Mound in 1936. The initial mound was 6 feet high and 100 feet wide. The mound investigations revealed a rectangular house site below two layers of prehistoric fill. The recovered pottery indicated the fill was added to complete the mound during the Mississippian period. The house site had regular intervals of posthole construction with red clay between the openings.<sup>50</sup> Since there was no evidence of abandonment or burning, it is

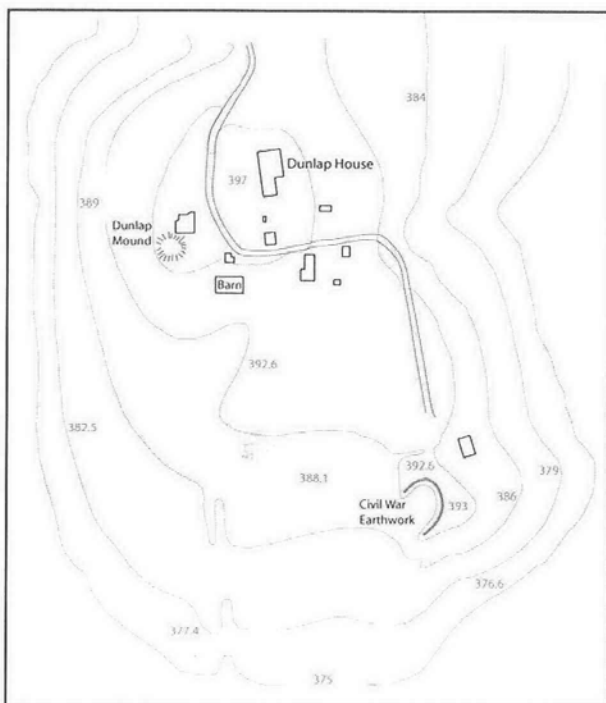


FIGURE 25. Location of Dunlap Mound, Dunlap House, and Civil War earthwork in 1935. (From *Vegetation History* copy of DSC etic map 363/41011)

likely the building was reused. The house had no associated midden deposit, but the pottery and architectural features indicate that the Dunlap Mound was one of the later mounds constructed at Ocmulgee.<sup>51</sup>

Oral history suggests McDougal Mound received its name from Captain McDougal, commander of Fort Hawkins, who was buried in the mound in 1809 and joined later by his brother.<sup>52</sup> The McDougal Mound changed considerably when part of the dome-shaped pile became road fill for East Macon, resulting in a smaller mound. In 1936, the excavations removed a larger portion of the sandy fill and revealed an inner mound or house-platform. The platform was roughly rectilinear and covered with archeological evidence of sod. The platform and house site were similar to those found at the Dunlap Mound and Cornfield Mound (D). After excavation, the McDougal Mound was reconstructed with additional fill, intentionally increasing the height to pre-excavation levels.

### Lamar Site

The Lamar site dig began at Mound A with excavations led by James Ford. Initial testing around the mound, instead of on the slope, uncovered the remnants of a house site. The crew opened adjacent units to expose the domestic floor surface and a large village midden was uncovered. Only a quarter of the entire site was sampled, but flint, ceramics, charred cornhusks, bone, wood and burned clay were found.<sup>53</sup> No excavation at Mound B occurred.

In 1938, construction of the levee began along the boundary of the site, which had been previously cleared of all vegetation. The levee was imperative due to flooding, and testing took place to avoid disturbing or covering major archeological features. Due to funding cutbacks, the levee was never completed, despite a concrete culvert at the corner added by the WPA crew. Today the levee and culvert are considered utilitarian and non-contributing historic resources. Trench excavations beyond the village revealed a ring of postholes marking a palisade fence 3,560 feet long.<sup>54</sup> The palisade encompassed both mounds, the village site, and unidentified borrow pits totaling an enclosed area of 21.5 acres. The palisade had double postholes, indicating the replacement of posts and suggesting a lengthy occupation by Lamar Indians. The

50. J. Earl Ingmanson, "Dunlap and McDougal Mounds: Ocmulgee National Monument," SEAC, National Park Service, 1964, p. 2-4, 13.

51. *Ibid.*, p. 13.

52. *Ibid.*, p. 14.

53. Brewer and Hammersten, p. 29.

54. *Ibid.*, p. 32.



FIGURE 26. Excavation at the Lamar Mounds. (OCMU Collection)

excavations at the Lamar site found burials, additional house sites, and yielded a homogeneous ceramic collection, together defining the Lamar culture within the Mississippian context.

## Summary

The New Deal archeology continued until 1942, with the crew swelling to its highest numbers (over 700) in 1935. A delay in anticipated funding in 1936 caused a large portion of the work force to depart, leaving the CCC to end the intensive excavations on the North Plateau and only sample survey larger areas of the Macon Plateau. Beyond the actual digging at Ocmulgee, archeologists compared samples of charred timbers and living trees for dendrochronology data.

Arthur Kelly published journal articles on his findings at Ocmulgee during his tenure, while academic discussions of pottery classification and typology were ongoing.<sup>55</sup> Previously archeologists and historians had had only limited studies of the Mississippian period mound complex, but the New Deal excavations supplied archeological evidence

for the lifeways of many prehistoric people that were once only conjectural. The landscape features provided information on the spatial organization of the plateau and the chronology of mound construction.

Other excavations in central Georgia amplified ceramic data found at Ocmulgee and gave the sites geographic and temporal context. Crews excavated 18 village and mound sites in Georgia and spent one summer session excavating Fort Hawkins a mile northwest of Ocmulgee.<sup>56</sup> Related excavations outside of the park added to the information and history of the region. Work at Brown's Mount, a nearby site, in the summer of 1935 included a geological study and the excavation of a collapsed lodge, originally thought to be a low mound. The comparative information created a standard ceramic nomenclature for the area, while the resulting artifact collection from the Macon Plateau provided the Visitor Center with contemporary museum exhibits.

Though the New Deal excavations uncovered the prehistoric Ocmulgee landscape, the archeological excavations left a denuded and leveled scene.

55. Walker, p. 13.

56. *Ibid.*, p. 15.

Inconsistent funding delayed backfilling of excavation units and several areas were left hollowed out and barren. Planting grass provided minimum protection to the sites by covering features and preventing erosion. The 1930s were significant for transforming the ancient domestic and agricultural landscape into a concentrated, working archeological project.

## Park Development

The same local men--Harris, Solomon, and Harrold-- involved in initiating the federally funded dig were instrumental in the establishment of Ocmulgee National Monument. After much lobbying, Congress authorized the park on June 14, 1934. However, the bill included language restricting the government from buying the designated land. Local citizens raised funds and eventually purchased 678.48 acres of the 2,000 acres originally proposed for the park. President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed the site a national monument in 1936. The National Park Service began administration with minimal staff, appointing Arthur Kelly acting superintendent until Jesse D. Jennings arrived in 1938. Superintendent Jennings oversaw the initial development of the park and coordinated the New Deal crews already at Ocmulgee.

In 1937, the CCC established a camp at the new monument to develop the park facilities and construct roads, culverts, parking lots, and fences. The crew camp (NM-4, Company 1426) was located to the east of the Dunlap House. The CCC built the park road in the 1840s railroad cut and provided labor for reconstruction of the Earth Lodge. Crews also guided visitors, aided in



FIGURE 27. Aerial of park looking northeast with CCC camp at top right of photo. Buildings form concentric horseshoe around driveway circle. Excavated survey trenches evident south of camp. (OCMU Collection)



FIGURE 28. Trading post and burial shelters, 1941. (Harpers Ferry Collection)

archeology lab work at Macon Municipal Auditorium, and planted vegetation along trails and the northern park boundary. The alternating magnolia and holly trees planted near McDougal Mound by CCC workers still exist today. While most crews worked on park improvement projects, others worked with James Ford on archeological excavations.<sup>57</sup>

A Master Plan in 1939 outlined the major facilities to be constructed while Superintendent Jesse Jennings managed projects that transformed the archeological site into a national park. Wooden stairs were built leading to the top of the Great Temple Mound to provide access and stop erosion caused by climbing visitors. The new Funeral Mound shelter protected the exposed north profile of the mound. Two burial exhibits displayed prehistoric remains in situ at the trading post site. Jennings' wife laid out the half-mile Opelofa trail, following the historic tramline once used by the brick factory.<sup>58</sup> Superintendent Jennings also reinterpreted the archeological dugouts and reconstructed an earthen embankment along the prehistoric trench on the North Plateau.<sup>59</sup> The embankment was sodded with Bermuda grass and conveniently left off plans approved by the regional office. An expanded two-way tunnel under the railroad tracks was initially proposed as part of the 1939 plan, but less expensive pedestrian footbridges were built instead.<sup>60</sup>

57. John W. Walker, "A Brief History of Ocmulgee Archeology" in *Ocmulgee Archaeology*, ed. David Hally, 1994. p. 23.

58. Jesse D. Jennings, "Macon Daze" in *Ocmulgee Archaeology*, ed. David Hally, 1994. p. 49.

59. *Ibid*, p. 50.

60. Marsh, p. 19.



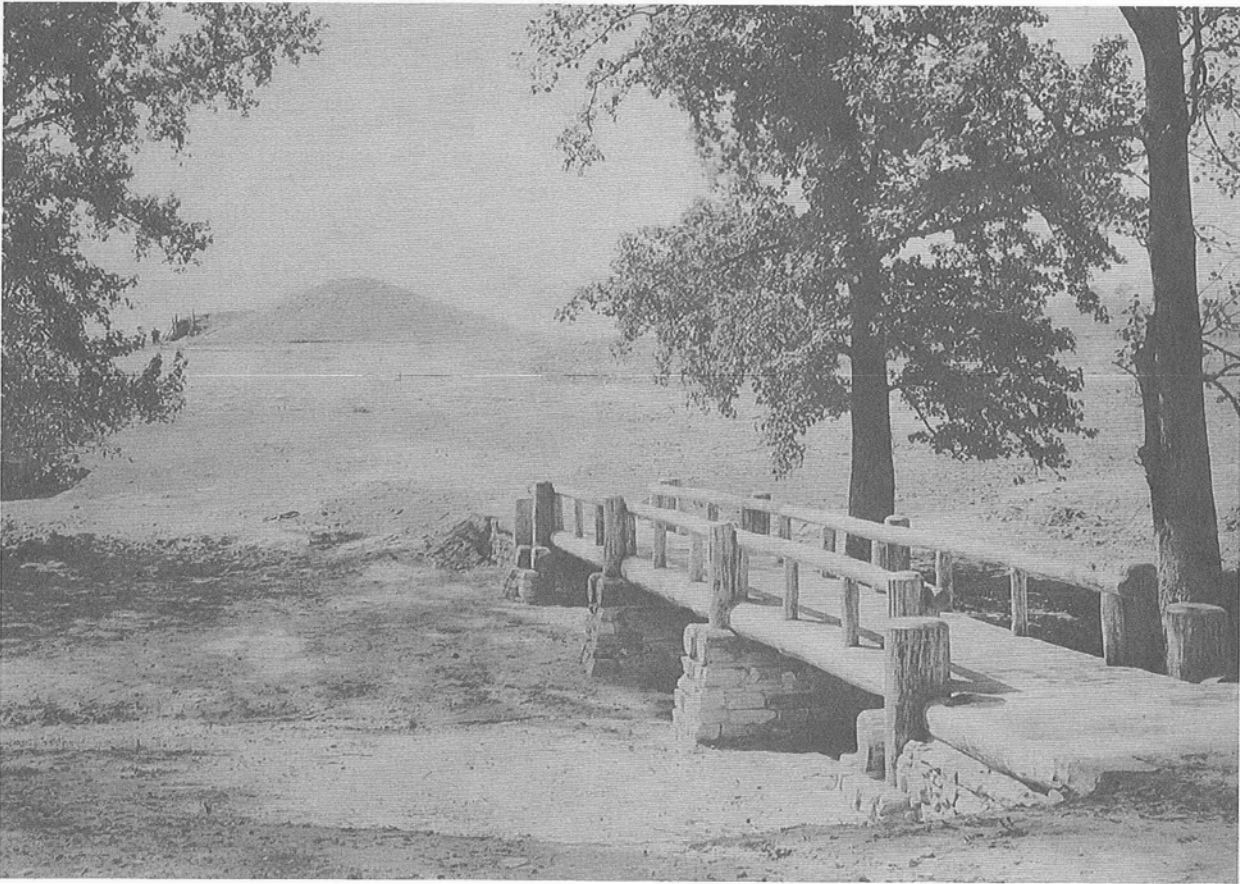


FIGURE 29. Original CCC bridge to Earth Lodge from the Visitor Center, 1941. (OCMU Collection)

The Visitor Center construction began in 1938 and continued until 1941 when funds were suspended. The building, a two-story Art Moderne structure is stuccoed concrete with glass blocks, rounded corners, and a decorative cornice inspired by the “Lamar Bold” style of pottery. The design by James T. Swanson (NPS Assisant Architect) was a departure from the rustic style used at other national park visitor centers established in the 1930s and created a debate when construction began. Following the brief construction hiatus during World War II, the building was finally completed and dedicated in November 1951. The building is the only Art Moderne visitor center in the NPS Southeast region.<sup>61</sup>

The Visitor Center housed park administration, museum exhibits, and the artifact collection generated by the excavations. In 1941, a flagstaff was

61. The Art Moderne style is typified by rounded, smooth stucco walls and a flat roof, together emphasizing horizontality. Features include glass-block or metal windows and an open floor plan. The decorative horizontal lines along the roof at Ocmulgee, also representative of the style, are adapted from the Lamar Bold ceramic pattern.

erected in front of the building and the parking lot was completed under Jennings’ supervision. Complimented by a formal, designed landscape, the Visitor Center is the central point of orientation for visitors touring the park.

The straight path leading from the Visitor Center to the Earth Lodge was the main view from the designed landscape. The vista purposefully aligned the southern windows of the Visitor Center with the



FIGURE 30. The Visitor Center before planting of the designed landscape. (OCMU Collection)

Earth Lodge, mirroring the path between the park's two important structures. Spanning the shallow swale in the path, the CCC crew built a bridge with stone pilings and a rustic log railing. The bridge has been rebuilt several times since the 1930s.

Other park landscape projects were planned, but never implemented. A 1942 planting plan of the mound parking lots documents the intended landscape design. However, similar to the Visitor Center, funding problems prevented completion of the extensive planting beds. The Lamar site was scheduled for development, concurrent with the improvements on the Macon Plateau, but no work was undertaken (Figure 33). In 1942, the park abandoned the levee project begun by the WPA crew.

## Recent Park Improvements

Throughout World War II, Ocmulgee was managed through benign neglect and many construction projects were delayed. Although archeological testing resumed on a small scale after the war, park management and maintenance remained limited by both staffing and funding. In 1948, the NPS added five acres to the Lamar site tract, preserving the extent of the village settlement. In 1952, the Dunlap House was rehabilitated for the Superintendent's residence and a new porch added.

Starting in 1953, major landscape improvements occurred at the National Monument. Archeologist Gus Pope, Jr. supervised removal of trees from atop the Great Temple Mound and the dismantling of the Funeral Mound shelter after years of deterioration. Charles Fairbanks began excavating and reshaping the Funeral Mound in 1954.<sup>62</sup> The north portion of

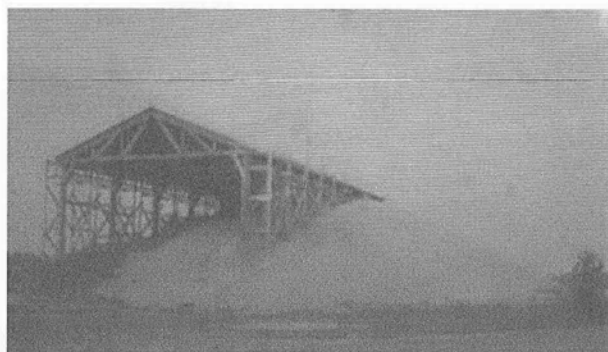


FIGURE 31. The Funeral Mound shelter, shown here under construction, was dismantled in 1954. (OCMU Collection)

the shelter remained in place on the mound as a low retaining wall and the burial shelters were removed from the trading post site the following year.<sup>63</sup> Throughout the 1950s, community outreach occurred and archeology continued periodically with small compliance projects related to regional development.

In the late 1950s, plans were announced for an interstate highway through Macon to Savannah. The battle over this highway, which was designated Interstate 16, marked the next two decades at Ocmulgee and the outcome altered the park permanently. The highway as originally proposed sliced through the national monument. However, as it was ultimately constructed in the late 1960s, the road paralleled the park boundary, separating the mounds and settlement site from the Ocmulgee River. Along with affecting the National Monument landscape, the interstate also changed local hydrology of the floodplains in the park.

Superintendent Albert Dillahunty, who voiced strong opposition to the interstate, received park funding from Washington, DC for several projects to improve the landscape. Dillahunty removed the remainder of the Anderson company brick kilns and the railroad roundhouse foundation, eliminating all nineteenth century remains from the park. He instituted an intensive mowing schedule for the mounds and vistas and "reconstituted" the diminished Civil War earthworks by covering them with additional dirt to increase their size.<sup>64</sup> In 1964, the park staff cleared vegetation from the Lamar mounds and levee for the first time since World War II. The limited access and repetitive flooding had left the site abandoned and densely overgrown.

During the same period as the Interstate 16 development, the National Park Service was entrenched in its Mission 66 initiative, a system-wide effort to modernize and improve visitor facilities and services. However, this program did not significantly affect Ocmulgee National Monument. During the Mission 66 period, the park built only one new staff residence, a wood-sided ranch house, located on the maintenance road east of the Dunlap House.

In 1966, the Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) was established at Ocmulgee as an NPS research

62. Charles Fairbanks, *The Archeology of the Funeral Mound, Ocmulgee National Monument, Georgia*, National Park Service, 1956.

63. Marsh, p. 43.

64. *Ibid.*, p. 46 and Froeschauer, p. 40.

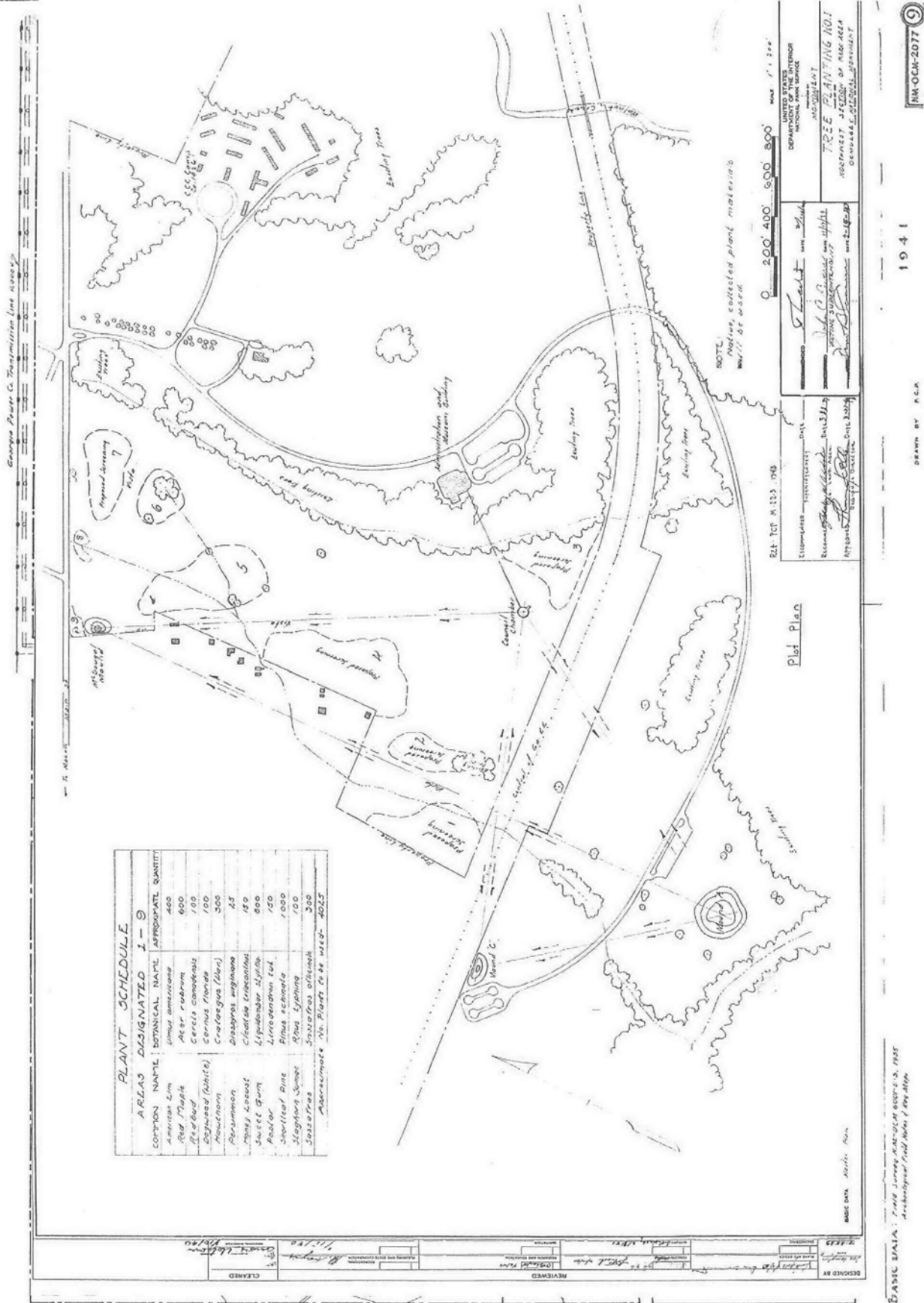


FIGURE 32. Map of overall park planting plan. Location of CCC camp and vistas noted. (DSC etic map 363/2057)



facility. The center for archeology developed from the mitigation efforts for Interstate 16 and the primary artifact collection from the 1930s. The SEAC storage facility originally occupied the basement of the Ocmulgee Visitor Center, but in 1972 was relocated to Tallahassee, Florida. SEAC studied the context of the artifacts, stratigraphy, and features as archeological methodology became increasingly scientific. Initial research worked toward publishing the projects originating under the New Deal excavations. Today SEAC coordinates all archeological work in the NPS Southeast region.

During the 1970s, park administration relaxed landscape maintenance for a “natural look”, a departure from the highly maintained landscape of the 1960s.<sup>65</sup> The 1976 Statement of Management detailed a successional plan for forested and “nature zones” with a bimonthly mowing schedule in the areas around the mounds.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Visitor Center was renovated and climate control added to the Earth Lodge. Park management continued to rely

65. Ibid, p. 49.

on a small staff even with expanded interpretation. A Creek Indian Week festival occurred in 1972 to celebrate the heritage of the Macon area with a parade, exhibits, displays, craft demonstrations, and performances.

In 1978, the Mayor of Macon and the regional planning commission studied a proposal submitted by E. G. Sherrill, a local citizen, which suggested vast changes to Ocmulgee National Monument. Sherrill proposed clearing trees between the mounds and the interstate to improve the views and reconstructing temples atop the mounds. Sherrill also suggested rebuilding an Indian village near the trading post site and hosting Civil War interpretation in the park. The Regional Director did not approve the recommendations made by the planning commission, though local interest in the park continued.

The General Management Plan (1982) and a later Resource Management Plan (1992) addressed the natural and cultural features at Ocmulgee NM. During this time, cost efficiency guided maintenance policies and the mowing schedule was again scaled back.<sup>66</sup> The maintenance building was



FIGURE 34. Lamar site aerial, 1965. (OCMU Collection)

constructed in the 1980s and in 1991 the park added Drake Field to the northern park boundary, a seventeen-acre tract that was originally the Bibb Manufacturing Company recreation field. In the 1990s, the park repaired the damage from motorcycles left in the Great Temple Mound and replaced culverts and curbing in Visitor Center parking lot.

In 1990, the north end of the park road was shifted east with the realignment of the main entrance. The new interchange improved safety on Emery Highway and created a new traffic light intersection just east of the original entrance. The brick piers on either side of the former entrance were left in place and the old roadbed was seeded with grass and planted with pine trees. A new entrance included yucca and juniper plantings and a new park sign.

---

66. Ibid, p. 57.



# Existing Conditions

## Main Park

The city of Macon surrounds the main park unit on the north and west. A railroad track bisects the property and the Ocmulgee River borders the park on the southwest. The main park is the centerpiece for interpretation and contains the park road, Visitor Center, Earth Lodge, mounds, trails, and various archeological sites.<sup>1</sup> Vegetation is cleared for vistas between the mounds and buildings, while the remainder of the tract has mixed pine-hardwood forests and wetlands.

The access to the park from Emery Highway is a divided entrance lined with a row of clipped cylindrical Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) shrubs bordering the road. The entrance island is landscaped with juniper and yucca. The two-lane asphalt road beginning at the entry passes the Dunlap House and leads to the Visitor Center parking lot before continuing under the 1870s brick railroad overpass. The park road follows the 1840s railroad cut south of the existing track to parking near the Great Temple Mound and terminates at the Funeral Mound parking area. A turnaround is located before the overpass for vehicles too large to pass.



FIGURE 35. Entrance island, 2006.

1. The park currently uses named designations for the mounds, i.e. Great Temple Mound, Lesser Temple Mound, Funeral Mound, Cornfield Mound, and Southeast Mound. The CLR will use these official terms for the existing features.



FIGURE 36. Southwest elevation of Visitor Center, 2006.

The railroad overpass allows one lane of traffic under the current rail line. The narrow brick arch is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, but has been repaired and modified in recent years, compromising its integrity. The overpass is not tall enough or wide enough to allow school buses to pass and limits vehicular access to the mounds. The National Park Service does not own the overpass structure or the railroad right of way.

## Visitor Center

The Visitor Center landscape reflects the formal design of the Art Moderne building. The area includes a large parking lot with two islands, a picnic area, wayside exhibits, and a ground-floor terrace adjacent to the building. A flagstaff is located at the road and displays an inscription honoring the local Macon men that helped establish the park.

In 2000, the park landscaped the area to replace aging trees and in 2003 replaced the lawn. Mesh cages are still in place to prevent deer from feeding on the young trees. Mature crepe myrtles screen the utilities behind the building and clipped dwarf boxwood are located along the sidewalk at the front entrance. An ADA-accessible picnic area at the east end of the parking lot was completed in 2006.

The concrete terrace near the administrative offices extends southwest of the Visitor Center from the ground floor. The terrace has low concrete walls, benches, and clipped dwarf boxwood that echo the



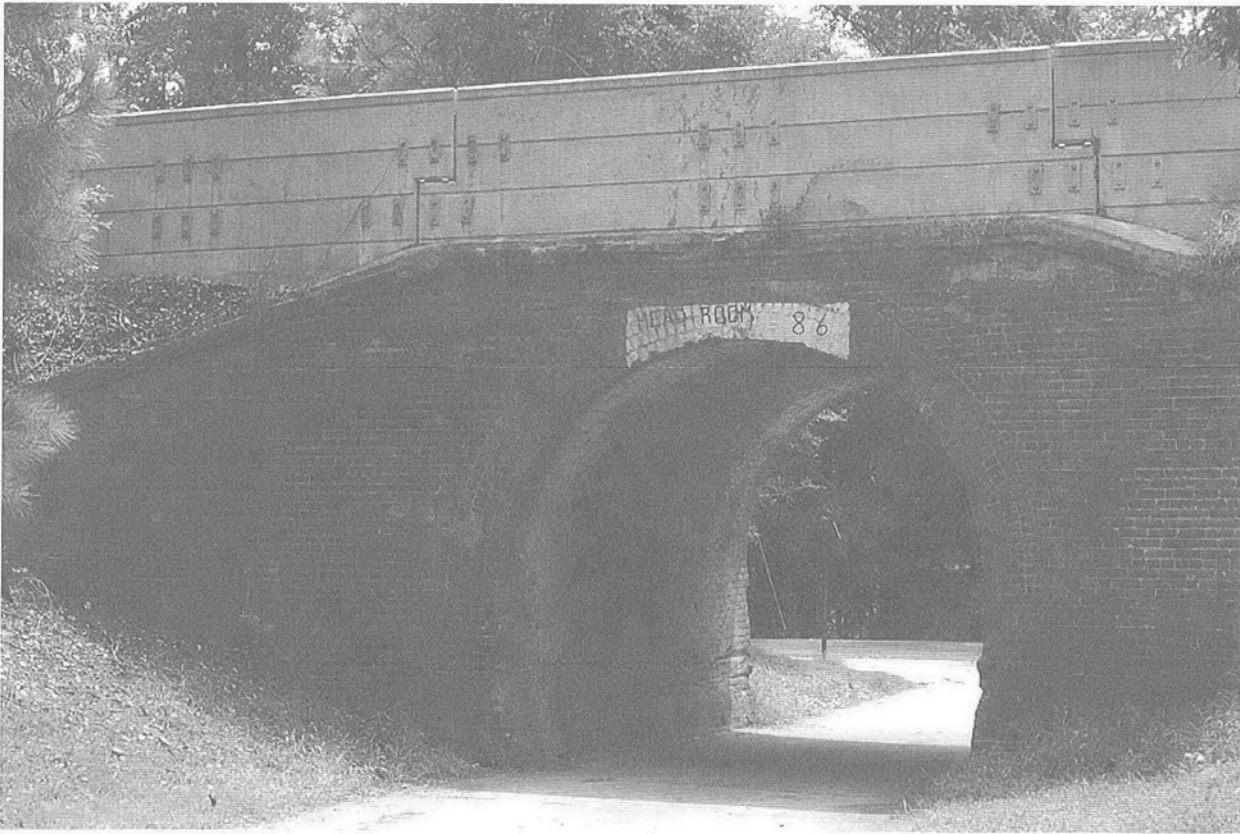


FIGURE 37. Railroad overpass, 2006.

curved building design. From the Visitor Center terrace, a seven-and-a-half-foot wide concrete path leads directly to the Earth Lodge with mature pines, sweet gums, and oaks framing the vista. Two wayside exhibits are located along the path.

A modern bridge spans the drainage swale between the Visitor Center and Earth Lodge along the concrete path. This bridge, constructed in 1995 by the U. S. Army Reserves, is a contemporary wooden boardwalk over battered stone pilings, similar to the original rustic piers. The bridge is weathered and in fair condition with several of the planks already replaced. Evidence of an earlier culvert from a 1960s design is visible below the bridge.

## Earth Lodge

The concrete path continues beyond the swale in a straight line to the Earth Lodge and follows the circular base to the entrance. The field around the structure is mown annually with 8-10 feet on either side of the path mown more frequently. The longer grasses preserve the 1930s archeological sites, prevent erosion, and help guide visitor access. The surrounding woodlands frame vistas in opposite

directions to the Visitor Center (northeast) and the Great Temple Mound (southwest).

The Earth Lodge rises 19 feet from its base and forms a cone-shaped mound with a flattened top. The structure is covered in earth, which conceals the concrete roof, and measures 150 feet in diameter. The entrance is oriented in an easterly direction with large peeled logs forming a rustic surround. The Earth Lodge is the primary visitor destination after the Visitor Center and is the



FIGURE 38. Vista from Visitor Center to Earth Lodge with concrete path spanning swale, 2006.



FIGURE 39. 1995 Bridge to Earth lodge from Visitor Center, 2006.

starting point for several walking trails to other areas of the park. While the reconstructed Earth Lodge incorporates the original prehistoric clay floor, benches, and platform; the main structure is historic.<sup>2</sup>

The trails at Ocmulgee are well-delineated and maintained. The Opelofa trail, River trail, and Loop trail are gravel surfaced and traverse the Walnut Creek wetlands. The Heritage trail is an eight-foot-wide asphalt path that leads from the Visitor Center west through Drake field to the park boundary with Macon. All other trails are grass or wood-chip footpaths. From the Earth Lodge a mown grass trail leads west to the Cornfield Mound and the Bartram trail leads to the trading post site from the Visitor Center parking lot.

### Trading Post area

From the Great Temple Mound parking area, a sloped concrete path leads to the 1690 trading post site and archeological features on the Middle



FIGURE 40. View from Earth Lodge entrance to Visitor Center, 2006.

Plateau. The path crosses the 1840s railroad cut and terminates at the intersection of the Bartram trail and the trading post wayside exhibit. The exhibit map points out the location of the Lower Creek trading path, Civil War trench, corn storage pits, trading post, and moat. Mown Bermuda grass now covers the archeological features.

The most prominent visible features are long angled depressions surrounding two sides of the fort. The trench, or moat, was left unbackfilled after the 1930s archeology. The exterior of the fort (inside the

2. For more detailed description of the Earth Lodge see *Ocmulgee Earth Lodge Historic Structure Report*, NPS, 2005.

trench) is demarcated with concrete curbing, accurately representing the boundary of the trading post. Almost all modern representations of the trading post show a palisade exterior, though archeological evidence of horizontal wood remnants contradicts this assumption. The trading post was the site of the exhibit shelters built over Creek burials by the CCC, but no buildings remain. Today the fort feature is a flat grassy area enclosed by the concrete curbing. The moat or trench remains unbackfilled.



FIGURE 41. Concrete curbing around trading post foundation, National Register photo, 1970.

The excavated prehistoric corn storage pits are located to the north of the trading post. The rounded depressions remain unfilled and covered in mown grass. The depressions, also described as dugouts, represent features of the Creek village located adjacent to the trading post. This spatial organization points to the relationship between the Creek and the English during the historic period.

Within the last five years, a new pedestrian bridge was constructed over the existing railroad track to the north of the trading post area and corn storage pits. The steel and concrete bridge built with NPS



FIGURE 42. Overview of trading post and moat, 2006.



FIGURE 43. Depressions used as corn storage pits with unexcavated trading post "moat" in background, 2007.

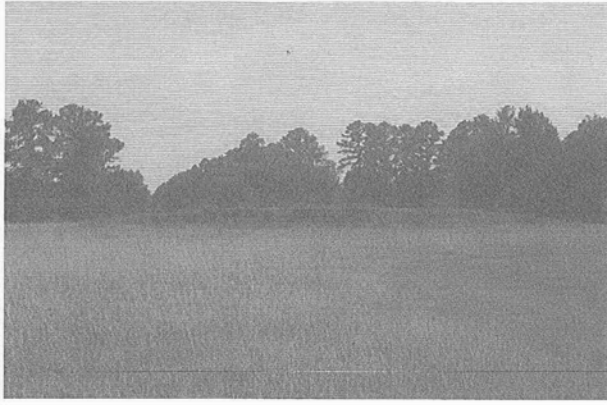


FIGURE 44. Cornfield Mound (Mound D) with woody vegetation, looking north, 2006.



FIGURE 45. Inner trench mown, 2006.

Fee Demonstration funding eliminated the hazardous footpath crossing the railroad tracks. The rail line provides high-speed service on an elevated gravel track. The bridge now spans the track as well as an adjacent area once the site of a few commercially developed buildings in the early twentieth-century. The footpath and bridge connect the trading post to the Earth Lodge.

### Cornfield Mound, Trenches, Southeast Mound

The Cornfield Mound (Mound D) today remains visibly bisected from the 1930s archeology. The excavated southern portion of the mound was not backfilled, though the northern portion remains elevated and sloped. The sharp profile rise in the middle of Cornfield Mound promotes erosion and woody vegetation, but reveals the landscape left by the New Deal workers. The northern half of the mound rises 6 feet in a gentle slope to the west of the Earth Lodge, adjacent to the prehistoric trenches. The southern portion of the mound is flat and grassy, covering the archeological remains of the Mississippian cornfields. The 1992 Resource Management Plan identifies the incomplete backfilling of the mound as a priority for visitor interpretation, but the project has not been completed.<sup>3</sup>

The prehistoric trenches to the north of the mound were partially excavated and left unfilled. The parallel trenches remain in sections as a series of oval depressions in semi-circular bands. The inner trench has tall grasses that are cut annually and more-closely mown turf to either side. Nearest the Cornfield Mound, the trench is built up by an



FIGURE 46. Outer trench with mature vegetation, 2006.

embankment created by Superintendent Jesse Jennings. The outer trench is smaller and has mature woody vegetation growing in the depressions. The park manages these trenches, with similar dimensions and purposes, in two different ways today.

The Southeast Mound (Mound E) is surrounded by a hardwood forest due east of the trading post exhibit. The Bartram trail winds through the woods and connects the mound to the Great Temple Mound parking area. The grass-covered mound is 30-50 feet wide and rises 5 feet at a low slope to form a conical mound. A large stump remains in front of the mound from a recent tree removal. A semi-circular trench associated with the New Deal excavation directly to the west of the mound has tall grasses and forbs growing in the unfilled depression. This prehistoric trench is similar to those found in the North Plateau and is maintained with annual mowing.

3. *Resource Management Plan, Ocmulgee National Monument*, National Park Service, 1992, p. 6.



FIGURE 47. Southeast Mound (Mound E), 2006.

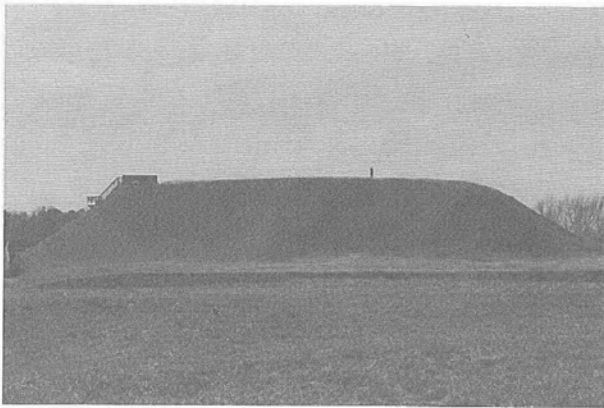


FIGURE 48. Great Temple Mound (Mound A), site visit 2007.

## Major Mounds and Wetlands

**Great Temple Mound.** The Great Temple Mound (Mound A) rises almost 50 feet in a truncated pyramid on the South Plateau. The largest of the Ocmulgee mounds, it measures 300 feet wide at the base and 160 feet on the elevated platform. Terracing makes the height of the river-facing slope almost 90 feet. The three ramps on the north slope remain visible but not as predominant as noted during the 1930s investigation. The mound is planted with grass and the steepest slopes covered in successional native grasses that support woody vegetation.

The Great Temple Mound is accessed from the parking lot in the 1840s railroad cut by steps and a concrete sidewalk leading to the mound base. A wayside exhibit is located at the top of the stairs on the level plateau adjacent to the Lesser Temple Mound. The trace of the previous path to the northwest corner of the mound is visible. The current ascent of the Great Temple Mound begins on the southeast slope with modern wooden stairs

leading visitors to the elevated platform. The top of the mound is a flat, grassy area with a small earthen rise surrounding the perimeter. There is no wayside exhibit atop the mound. The western slope still has subtle evidence of erosion; however, the park restored deep ruts (ten to twelve feet) left from motorcycle damage in the 1992. The south and west slopes of the mound have several excavation units that were never backfilled by archeologists. The steepness of the slopes makes these areas difficult to maintain.

The view from the Great Temple Mound includes most of the park as well as the city of Macon and the wetlands to the south, owned by the Archeological Conservancy. A newly constructed bridge along the River trail is visible in addition to development around Macon. Though Interstate 16 is not visible, noise pollution from the nearby highway impacts the visitor experience. The view of the Ocmulgee River once enjoyed by the Mississippians is gone, screened by vegetation and obstructed by the highway.

**Lesser Temple Mound.** Adjacent to the Great Temple Mound, the Lesser Temple Mound (Mound B) is a truncated pyramid rising 10 feet from the South Plateau. The mound was greatly diminished by the 1840s railroad and today a steep northern slope marks the historic railroad cut. The Lesser Temple Mound is covered with successional grasses and mown annually. The mound platform has turf grass and a wooden stair on the south slope provides visitors access to the top of the mound.

**Funeral Mound.** The Funeral Mound (Mound C) parking lot is the terminus of the park road and includes two parking islands, a concrete sidewalk, and an empty wayside exhibit awaiting replacement panels. There are scattered pine trees nearby and,



FIGURE 49. Funeral Mound (Mound C) retaining wall, looking west, 2006.



FIGURE 50. Funeral Mound looking east. Trace of former stairs at center of the mound, 2006.

except on the northeast side, the area surrounding the mound remains an open field. A planting plan for the site was never completed though a few mature trees exist east of the mound. A wooden post-and-rail fence borders the northern half of the parking lot and the chain link fence along the park boundary is visible just beyond the mound. A loop trail begins south of the parking lot and follows an old railroad roadbed, passing an old well and the presumed site of the railroad roundhouse. The trail leads west to the park boundary before circling around to the Funeral Mound parking lot. The woodlands have encroached on the open field to the south of the mound in recent years, while invasive kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) and privet grow in the forested area along the park boundary.

The Funeral Mound is oblong with a concrete retaining wall along the north base. The mound rises 20 feet and is 60 feet wide and 200 feet across. The south of the mound has a gentle slope and the northern grade is comparatively steeper. The west slope of the Funeral Mound once had concrete stairs leading to the top. The stairs have been removed, but the location is still visible near the wayside exhibit. The mound is mowed weekly on the south slope, monthly on the north slope, and grasses are encouraged to grow to prevent erosion from climbing visitors. The mound is less than half

of its original size after being partially graded during the most recent excavations in the 1950s.

To the east of the Funeral Mound lies a Creek village site. A walking trail connects this area with the trading post site and parking lot. The village excavation was backfilled and today appears as a gentle-sloped, grassy field. Beside the village site, a natural stream runs through willows and successional woodlands. The streambed, once maintained by equipment, has been left to run its natural course in recent years. A culvert at the park road allows the stream to meander through the village site.



FIGURE 51. Funeral Mound parking lot and fence, 2007.



FIGURE 52. Walnut Creek wetlands, March 2007.

**Walnut Creek Wetlands.** The Walnut Creek wetlands form the southeastern border of the park and occupy the low-lying elevations. Walnut Creek flows into the Ocmulgee River and the wetlands surround the historic clay-mining pit used for brick manufacture in the nineteenth century. The wetlands are the last remnant of the floodplain the Mississippians would have encountered, but today remain permanently flooded due to manipulated hydrology from construction of Interstate 16. The wetlands provide a natural habitat for plants and wildlife in the park.

### **Dunlap House and Mound, CCC, and McDougal**

The Dunlap House housed the Superintendent until 2006 and is still used as a park residence. The historic house is visible from the park road and located on a secondary road leading to the maintenance area. There are several historic cedars in the front yard and a line of recently planted crepe myrtles parallel the driveway. A carport was added in the 1950s (replaced in 1994) behind the house and an abandoned wooden shed remains (to be demolished). There is no evidence of the Federal embrasure constructed near the house during Gen.

Stoneman's occupation. The Dunlap Mound, also visible from the park road is discernable as a slight rise to the west of the house. The mound has diminished with years of cultivation and today is mown as a part of the Dunlap House lawn. The mound rises 5 feet.

Leaf litter and patchy grass cover the Civil War earthwork located behind the Dunlap House. The feature is surrounded by forest, which was thinned in the late 1990s as part of a fuel-reduction program in selected areas of the park. The program removed under-story vegetation from the mature pine forest. This open setting provides excellent preservation of the restored Civil War embankment as recommended by the NPS.<sup>4</sup> Visitors access the earthwork and Dunlap Mound from a trail beginning at the Visitor Center.

The road beyond the Dunlap House continues past a Mission 66 ranch house used for staff residence on to the former CCC camp and current maintenance yard. Little remains of the CCC complex other than evidence of concrete footings. Some indication of

4. Shaun Eyring and Lucy Lawliss, "Preserving Battlefield Terrain: Technologies for Earthworks Management" in *APT Bulletin*, Vol. XXXI, No. 4, 2000. p. 13-19.



FIGURE 53. Civil War earthworks covered in leaf litter with mature trees nearby, 2006.



FIGURE 54. Dunlap Mound, looking north, 2007.

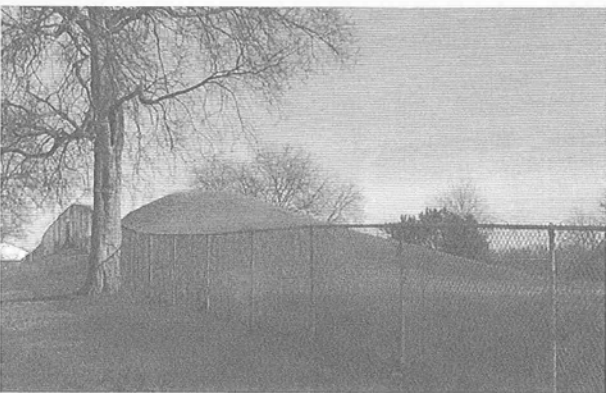


FIGURE 55. McDougal Mound, 2007.

road grading is apparent in the leaf litter. The undergrowth in this portion of the park was also mechanically removed for fuel-reduction. The open under-story reveals a chain link fence bordering Emery Highway and a short remnant of the original wooden boundary fence constructed in the 1930s. The maintenance area includes a large metal shed, gravel piles, and a parking lot.

The McDougal mound stands at the end of a footpath leading to the northwestern-most corner of the park. The trail parallels the northern park boundary, passing the row of magnolia and holly trees planted by the CCC, to terminate in an open field adjacent to private property. A chain link fence borders the park boundary and cuts across the western portion of the McDougal Mound. The mound is 15 feet tall with woody vegetation on the west slope. The rest of the mound is grass covered and stabilized. The vegetation, chain link fence, and graded slope outside of the park boundary contribute to erosion on the west side of McDougal Mound. Vines continue to grow on the chain link fence near this mound.

## Lamar Unit

The Lamar Mounds are located two miles south of the main park unit along a county road paralleling Interstate 16. The unimproved road provides a trail for the initial approach, with a fenced gate restricting access. The road ends at Black Lake near the foundation of a covered bridge. An overgrown foot trail winds around the lake to reach the NPS property. Along the trail, evidence of backhoe damage and a mid-20th century dumpsite are apparent. Because of limited access and interpretation, the site is managed on a minimal maintenance schedule. Clearing of trails and roadways within the site occurs every few years and weekly patrolling monitors for vandalism and looting.

The 45-acre site is susceptible to periodic flooding since the only protection is an incomplete levee partially surrounding the site. This six-foot earthen berm alleviates some of the problematic drainage and a culvert at the southeast corner provides an outlet for the partially enclosed area. Within the levee, the Lamar mounds and archeological sites are located amid a successional forest. The terrain is flat and slightly elevated from silt deposited before the levee was constructed.

The forested area conveys a noticeably different setting than the historic photographs of the site, which was originally cleared during excavations. Currently, most vegetation at the Lamar site is overgrown and the occurrence of Chinese privet is extensive.<sup>5</sup> A regional exotic management team

5. The Lamar site was not included in the 1989 *Vegetation History of Ocmulgee National Monument* but *An Archeological Overview and Assessment* was published in 1991.





FIGURE 56. Culvert on the Lamar levee, 2006.

visits occasionally to treat invasive species, but there is no regular maintenance plan beyond the clearing of roadways within the site.

The Late Mississippian palisade trench uncovered during the 1930s was not backfilled completely, resulting in empty excavation units. The units, or ditches five to ten feet wide, resemble a pattern of tree falls with regular oblong depressions. The course of the palisade enclosure broadly encircles the Lamar mounds. The depressions signify the boundary of the prehistoric landscape but are the result of historic New Deal excavations.

The condition of the mounds (A and B) is compromised by thick vegetation and exotic species. Despite occasional clearing, trees continue to grow on the Lamar mounds and mature American elms (*Ulmus americana*) are located on top of Mound A. While the defining spirals of Mound B have smoothed with erosion, vegetation is the primary impact on the mound platforms and slopes. While small vegetation and leaf litter protect the earthen landscape features from erosion, large mature trees threaten the Lamar mounds.<sup>6</sup>



FIGURE 57. Damage by hog rooting at the Lamar site, 2006.

Damage by feral hogs also affects the village site and archeological features. Hogs have rooted the Lamar site causing destructive ground disturbance. Tall chain link fences around each mound deter looting and vandalism and incidentally provide additional protection from feral hog damage. The incongruous chain link fences offer necessary security but provide a ready place for exotic vines and briars to grow.

6. Eyring and Lawliss. p. 13-19.



FIGURE 58. Lamar Mound B with vegetation, photograph by Jill Halchin, SEAC, 2006.

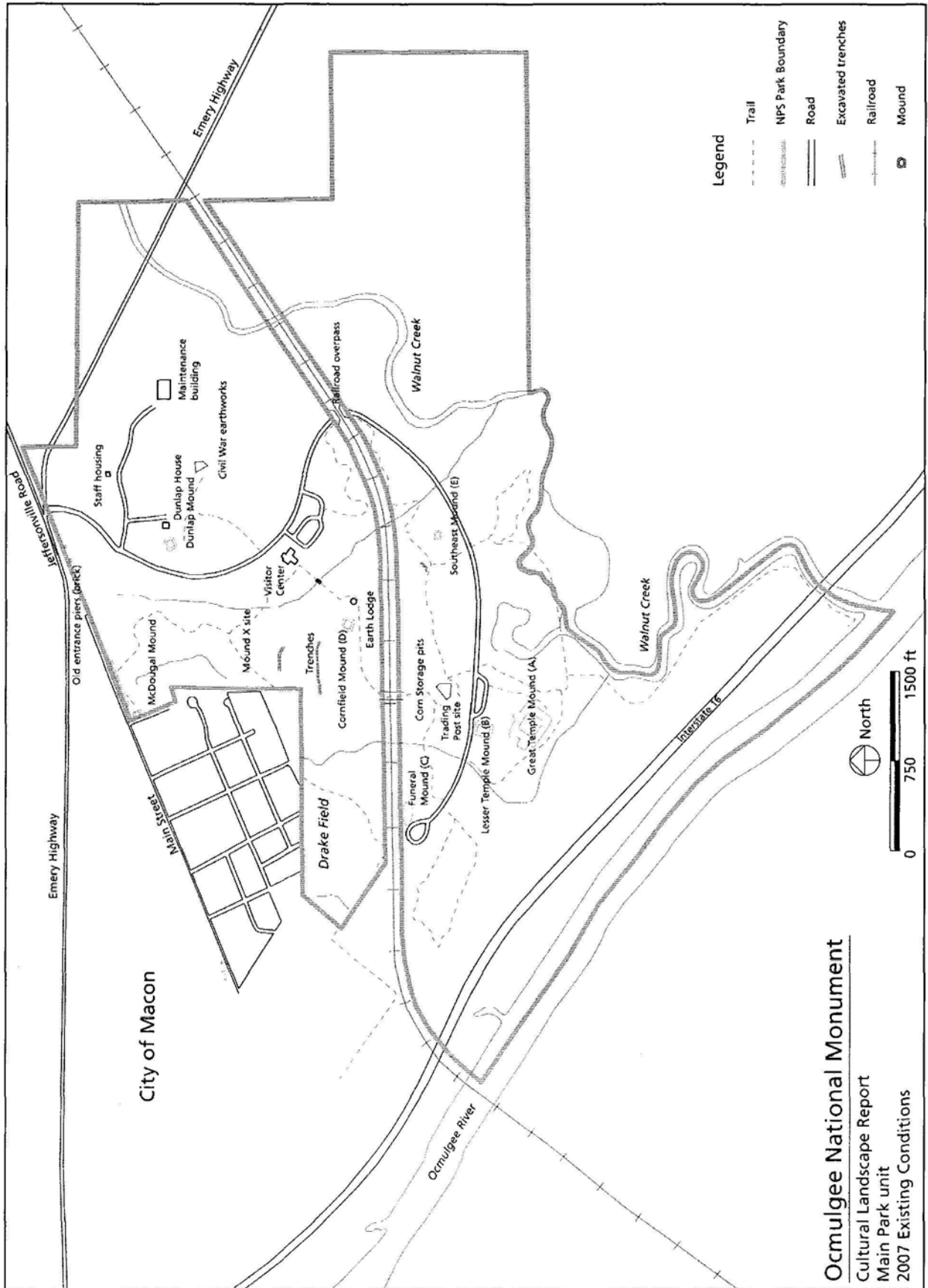


FIGURE 59. Ocmulgee National Monument Existing Conditions map.

---

# Analysis of Integrity

The analysis below compares the findings of the site history with the existing conditions to identify extant landscape features and associated characteristics that convey historical significance. The integrity of each characteristic is evaluated within the context of the landscape as a whole. This process is the groundwork for establishing the period of significance and for identifying a framework against which all changes in the landscape can be compared. It is an important step for developing appropriate and relevant treatment strategies.

## National Register Significance

The Ocmulgee National Monument was administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Places with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966. The park historic district is significant for contributions to the broad patterns of history (Criteria A), the distinctive architecture of the Visitor Center (Criteria C), and the potential to yield archeological information (Criteria D). Ocmulgee was the site of habitation for thousands of years and the earthen mounds constructed by the Mississippian culture survive as landscape features that are the centerpiece of park interpretation. The Visitor Center is a unique example of Art Moderne architecture and was an important model for museum design in the National Park Service. The entire park is also significant for the archeological information preserved in the unexcavated portions of the Macon Plateau, the Lamar site, and the floodplain. Analysis of the cultural landscape suggests the period of significance spans the pre-Columbian era to the twentieth century (10,000 BCE- 1951 AD).<sup>1</sup> The park contains a significant ethnographic landscape with designed features from later historic periods. Together, the site represents a continuum of human occupation along the Ocmulgee River.

---

1. The National Register database (NRIS) lists periods of significance from 1000 AD-1874 and from 1925-1974. The nomination lists separate periods from 1100 AD-900 AD, 1250 AD-1650AD, and 1690-1715. Additional dates include 1937 and 1941.

In 1997, an overlay Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) district was designated covering the park and an area beyond the park boundaries. Ocmulgee National Monument and the surrounding land was the first TCP site listed with this designation east of the Mississippi River. The Muscogee (Creek) culture has longstanding traditional values associated with Ocmulgee Old Fields and a tribal interest in protecting the resources and archeological information not previously excavated. The present Muscogee Nation considers Ocmulgee a principle site in the establishment and early origins of the Muscogee Confederacy and traces a direct ancestral connection to the area.<sup>2</sup>

The majority of the park's extant landscape features contribute to the broad period of significance, including the prehistoric, historic, and modern eras. However, there are some historic landscape features in the park that do not contribute to the period of significance or the established National Register contexts. For example, an extant brick culvert and the Lamar levee are noted as utilitarian components and non-contributing resources in the National Register nomination. Additionally, the brick railroad overpass is listed as an historic structure significant to the transportation history of Georgia, but Central of Georgia Railroad retains ownership, and thus is not a contributing feature to significance at Ocmulgee. The landscape characteristics described below identify specific changes to Ocmulgee. The tables under the characteristic heading denote the integrity of features for each significant era.

## Spatial Organization

Archeology revealed the general spatial organization and boundaries of the Mississippian culture on the Macon Plateau. The plaza area and villages retain their pattern as archeological features despite the absence of above-ground physical remains. The orientation and clustering of the larger mounds inside the prehistoric trenches are visible today and wayside exhibits interpret the landscape from several vantage points. The Dunlap and McDougal Mounds preserved as landscape features to the

---

2. National Register of Historic Places Revised Determination of Eligibility, Ocmulgee Old Fields TCP, Georgia SHPO office, 1997.

outside of the trenches indicate later occupation and additional mound building beyond the mound complex.

The proximity of several Creek villages to the English trading post also conveys the historic layout, further defined by trenches, trails, and natural drainage systems. The trading post is located to the east of a Creek village site and artifacts from local sources and imported manufacture were found throughout the area. The interrelationship of the Creek and English in the seventeenth century is evident in the spatial organization of the archeological record.

The preservation of the mounds, the discovery of subterranean features, and the development of visitor services resulted in a designed landscape at Ocmulgee National Monument in the historic era. The Visitor Center orients the visitor and interprets the archeology, while trails and roads provide access to the Earth Lodge and mounds. The 1930s design has not changed spatially, though landscape features such as stairs and bridges have been updated. The organization of the landscape during park development conveyed the importance of archeological finds and utilized pre-existing features such the railroad cuts and mounds.

The Lamar unit, distanced by two miles, reveals the larger spatial organization and context of Mississippian settlement along the Ocmulgee River. The mounds and village site clustered on the river's eastern floodplain, south of the Macon Plateau, retain their spatial organization as archeological features. While excavations uncovered the palisade enclosure and buildings within the village, the landscape today does not convey the prehistoric pattern. The mounds are isolated in fenced areas and the remainder of the site has limited accessibility and is overgrown. During excavations, the Lamar site was cleared and the mounds, village, and palisade pattern visibly delineated.

The spatial organization of the park's landscape has been impacted by historic railroad cuts, excavations, and park development but conveys the prehistory of the Macon Plateau.

**Table #1: Spatial Organization**

Feature	Prehistoric	Historic	Modern
South Plateau	X	X	X
Middle Plateau	X	X	X
North Plateau	X	X	X
Visitor Center		X	X
Lamar site	X	X	X

## Circulation

The park road follows its historic New Deal alignment and matches the 1840s railroad cut south of the existing track. The main route through the park has not changed since the 1930s, though the Emery Highway entrance was rerouted in the early 1990s. The park road does not represent a prehistoric circulation path but continues to serve as the historic vehicular route to the major mounds. The sidewalk and trails provide the pedestrian approach from the Visitor Center to the Earth Lodge and other archeological features on the North Plateau. The trail system developed incrementally, beginning with the historic Opelofa trail through the Walnut Creek wetlands and most recently expanded with the addition of the paved Heritage trail to the city of Macon. The Heritage trail follows the historic trace of Clinton Street and continues along the trail used by the Bibb Mills recreation field. New bridges mark the improvements made to pedestrian paths in recent years. The only known prehistoric circulation route is the Lower Creek trading path, preserved as an archeological feature on the Middle Plateau and identified by an interpretive sign.

The circulation at the Lamar site consists of overgrown avenues leading to and encircling the mounds. The 1941 development plan was never implemented, but roads laid out during excavations of the site are intact. A well-used county road originally provided access to the Lamar mounds until the present U.S. Highway 23 bypassed the site.

The circulation pattern in the park persists with the alignment of the park road and bisecting railroad line, though additional trails have been added. Minor changes to the entry of the main park and Lamar sites occurred.

**Table #2: Circulation**

Feature	Prehistoric	Historic	Modern
Lower Creek path	X	X	
Park road		X	X
Visitor Center path		X	X
Opelofa trail		X	X
Heritage trail			X
Bartram trail		X	X
River trail			X
Lamar site	X	X	

## Archeological Features

The archeological sites at Ocmulgee define the character of the landscape, identify prehistoric settlements, and are significant historic features in their own right. The New Deal excavations revealed a layering of prehistoric material culture, buildings, and land uses. The exposed features and interpreted areas also represent the largest archeology investigation in the eastern United States.

In the evolution of the Ocmulgee landscape, the abandoned prehistoric settlements became agricultural and industrial land before preservation

attempts began in the 1920s. During the New Deal project, archeologists stripped down the cultivated fields, graded excavation areas with shovel and trowel, and dug control trenches and test units. The period of intensive archeology in the 1930s simultaneously revealed a wealth of information about prehistoric civilizations and destroyed the landscape, removing and discarding plant material and soil.

The preservation of these sites today under mown turf, successional grasses, woodlands, and wetlands maintains the integrity of location, setting, and association. The New Deal work left many



FIGURE 60. 1938 aerial of Main Park unit. (OCMU Collection)

important features exposed because of limited funding or agency turnover. These archeological features signify the historic excavations as much as the prehistoric characteristics they represent. Today areas such as the Cornfield Mound, trading post moat, and corn storage pits remain leveled and hollowed out. Except for the Funeral Mound, other mounds were stabilized using uncovered information to represent original Mississippian features. A variety of management practices over the years has left inconsistent treatment of landscape features following excavation. The construction of Interstate 16 destroyed the bottomlands near the Ocmulgee River. Despite the mounds and archeological sites having a range of integrity and conditions, overall the features convey the significance of Ocmulgee.

The archeological features at the Lamar site are similar to those at the main park unit. The vegetation and inaccessibility preserve the important Lamar features, but the archeological sites are uninterpreted, covered by Chinese privet, or surrounded by chain link fences. The significance of the Lamar site remains in the prehistoric archeological features and the potential of unexcavated areas.

The archeological sites at Ocmulgee NM retain integrity and are significant to the prehistoric occupation as well the 1930s landscape.

**Table #3: Archeological Features**

Feature	Prehistoric	Historic	Modern
South Plateau	X	X	X
Middle Plateau	X	X	X
North Plateau	X	X	X
Lamar site	X	X	X

## Small Scale Features

The small-scale features at Ocmulgee are secondary in significance to the mounds and archeological sites but represent the historic park development accomplished by the CCC. Since the 1930s, most small-scale features have been modified or removed. The park replaced the original rusticated bridge to the Earth Lodge several times, most recently in 1995 with a modern boardwalk over stone pilings. Staff removed all parking area culverts in the late 1990s, though one historic brick culvert remains. The flagpole added to the Visitor Center

landscape in 1941 was repainted and wayside exhibits throughout the park are in varying conditions. Modern pavers and benches accentuate the Visitor Center terrace. The historic Lamar levee, considered non-contributing and utilitarian, remains uncompleted and not regularly maintained. The small-scale features at Ocmulgee have had minor, but repeated, changes.

**Table #4: Small Scale Features**

Feature	Prehistoric	Historic	Modern
Flagstaff		X	X
VC terrace		X	X
Earth Lodge bridge		X	X
Parking culverts		X	Removed
CCC culvert		X	X
Lamar levee		X	X

## Structures

The Dunlap House, Visitor Center, and CCC camp contribute to the history of Ocmulgee in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and signify the ongoing use of the area. The Earth Lodge, reconstructed in 1937, represents the Mississippian prehistory of the site. The other extant structures, a modern maintenance building and staff house, do not contribute to the significance of the main park unit. No structures exist at the Lamar site.

The Dunlap House, constructed in 1856, was a plantation farmhouse and rehabilitated for use by the archeologists in the 1930s. The 1939 park Master Plan retained the building to become the Superintendent's Residence. A porch was added in 1952 and other improvements made in 1957.

The Visitor Center retains integrity and significance as an outstanding example of Art Moderne architecture. Recent repairs to the building include a new roof, weatherproofing, replacement of some windows, and the installation of the Discovery Lab. The building sits on its original footprint with a wide terrace surround, incised frieze, and glass block entrance. The Visitor Center landscape was part of the original Master Plan, but the onset of World War II and reduced funding left the planting plan incomplete. Photographs from the dedication ceremony in 1951 show hedges lining the parking lot and oak trees planted in the parking islands.



FIGURE 61. Visitor Center, 1951. (Harpers Ferry Collection)

The CCC camp exists as a landscape feature with ruins in the northeast portion of the main park unit. The camp originally housed workers and officers in a collection of buildings forming a horseshoe pattern around a circular entry drive and flagpole. Large buildings included the dining hall, recreation hall, and barracks with smaller buildings for a variety of specialized functions. Today the only remnants of the camp are exposed concrete footings with evidence of grading and roadways in the terrain. Though the structures no longer remain, the remnants of this historic work camp are important to the history of the New Deal efforts at the park.

The reconstructed Earth Lodge approximates the original Mississippian Council Chamber first discovered in 1934. The interior preserves the original clay floor, bench seating, eagle effigy, fire pit and portions of the surrounding walls from the prehistoric era. The circular structure dates to 1937 and protects the significant elements with a concrete wall and roof.<sup>3</sup> A sloped turf exterior covers the Earth Lodge, though some question the authenticity of an earth-covered building located in the southeastern United States.<sup>4</sup> Alterations to the viewing platform and Earth Lodge entrance occurred in the 1950s and again in the 1970s. The historic structures at Ocmulgee have had minor changes and updates since the 1930s, but retain significance and integrity.

Table #5: Structures

Feature	Prehistoric	Historic	Modern
Visitor Center		X 1951	X
Earth Lodge	X	X 1937	X

3. T. Jones, *Ocmulgee Earth Lodge HSR*, p. 2.

4. Ibid, p. 61. Also see Lewis Larson, "The Case for Earth Lodges in the Southeast," in *Ocmulgee Archeology*, ed. David Hally, p. 105.

Table #5: Structures

Feature	Prehistoric	Historic	Modern
CCC camp		X 1937	
Dunlap House		X 1856	X
Quarters #2			X 1966
Maintenance building			X c. 1980

## Natural Systems

Walnut Creek and the Ocmulgee River are the primary water features that delineate the main park boundaries and border the Macon Plateau. The Ocmulgee River was vital in providing natural resources to Paleo-Indian and Archaic campsites and to villages occupied by Woodland, Mississippian, Lamar, and Creek Indians. The inhabitants used the river and nearby drainage systems for food, tools, and building materials essential to survival. Archeology revealed that later phases of mound building used sand from the bottom of the Ocmulgee River. These layers added height to the mounds and reinforced the slopes.

The construction of a levee on the western side of the river in Macon changed the hydrology of the park and today Interstate 16 separates the Ocmulgee River from the main park unit and Lamar tract. An undetermined number of archeological sites on the prehistoric floodplain are now submerged. The natural drainage continues to define the boundaries of the cultural landscape and offers a native ecosystem for indigenous plants and animals in the park.

Although the natural systems at Ocmulgee NM remain on and near the Macon Plateau, changing hydrology and impacts from construction projects have lessened the integrity of these features.

Table #6: Natural Systems

Feature	Prehistoric	Historic	Modern
Ocmulgee River	X	X	X
Walnut Creek	X	X	X
Wetlands	X	X	X

## Topography

The natural plateau adjacent to the Ocmulgee River provided an ideal location for nomadic and later agricultural tribes to settle. A sequence of cultural groups occupied the fertile land on the elevated plateau and left traces of life on the floodplains below. The Mississippian culture additionally manipulated the topography by creating massive



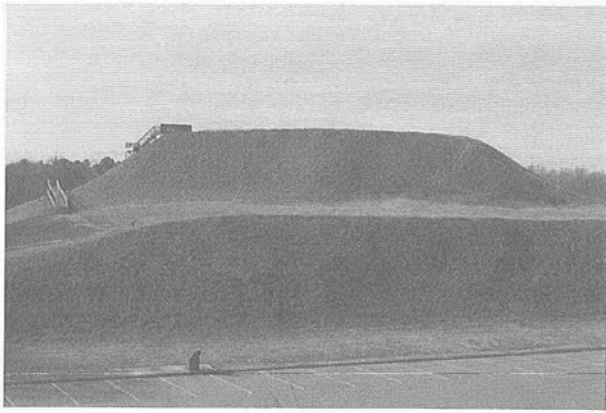


FIGURE 62. Topography of Great Temple Mound, looking southwest and 1840s railroad cut (now parking lot), 2007.

earthen mounds to accentuate the elevation. Stepped clay ramps such as those on the Great Temple Mound and the Funeral Mound emphasized the importance of the mound topography and provided access to the raised platforms. Evidence discovered during excavation revealed abundant material culture and building sites on top of the mound and village sites near the lower mound base. The flood plains below the plateau had archeological information, but much of the area is now submerged.

Aside from the mounds themselves, the railroad cuts slicing through the mound complex are the most obvious change to the Macon Plateau topography. The steeply graded cuts however, are historic features established during the nineteenth-century and used today by the current rail line and visitors driving to the South Plateau mounds. Archeologists further altered the grade by excavating several feet into the soil, creating for a short time, a stripped and barren landscape with exposed prehistoric features.



FIGURE 63. Stratigraphy of Funeral Mound (Mound C) during excavation, date unknown. (Pope, Handbook #24, 1961)

The grading of Emery Highway in the 1940s obliterated a portion of the CCC camp and changed the topography at the north end of the main park unit.

The Lamar settlement utilized the lower floodplain elevations for a village site and constructed two earthen mounds. Topography at the Lamar site was manipulated into mounds similar to those on the Macon Plateau.

The topography of several mounds remains intact, though grading and excavation altered the features. The railroad cuts greatly impacted the Macon Plateau.

Table #7: Topography

Feature	Prehistoric	Historic	Modern
Great Temple Mound	X	X	X
Lesser Temple Mound	X	X	X
Funeral Mound	X	X	
Cornfield Mound	X	X	
McDougal Mound	X		X
Dunlap Mound	X	X	
Southeast Mound	X		X
Mound X	X		

## Vegetation

Although the landscape and vegetation altered significantly during prehistoric times, vegetation data is unavailable for the prehistoric era. The need for building materials, defenses, and cropland suggests Mississippian farmers cleared the area around the Ocmulgee mounds. *A Vegetation History of Ocmulgee National Monument* describes the changes in vegetation from 1540 to the present. The New Deal archeology cleared major portions of the Macon Plateau for wide-scale excavations.

Today the landscape consists of open grassy fields, punctuated by mounds and framed by hardwood forests and wetlands. Some areas have encroaching second growth forests, while the mound complex and archeological features remain cleared and mown regularly. The Lamar site is overgrown with privet, but supports a second growth forest around the mounds. The natural vegetation at Ocmulgee, like the topography, reflects a continuous history of human alteration since prehistoric times. The

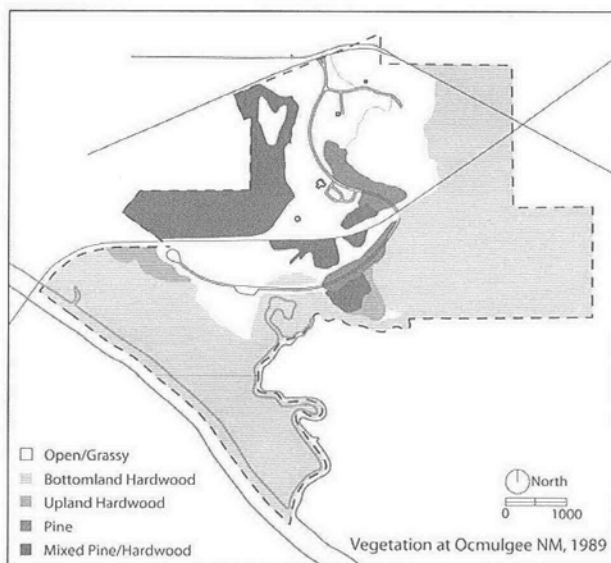


FIGURE 64. Map of vegetation zones in 1989 (drawn from Vegetation History).

vegetation has been consistently altered during the period of significance.

Table #8: Vegetation

Feature	Prehistoric	Historic	Modern
Hardwood	Unknown		X
Pine	Unknown		X
Upland hardwood	Unknown		X
Bottomland hardwood	Unknown		X
Open/grassy	Unknown	X	X

### Views

The views within the park are integral to the prehistoric mounds and park design. Intentional vistas connect the Visitor Center, Earth Lodge, Great Temple Mound, Lesser Temple Mound, and Funeral Mound. The evidence of buildings on top of the mounds indicates the intentional topography of the Mississippian features and the resulting landscape overlook. The elevated platforms created a view of the surrounding area for observation or defense. In the 1930s, the park designed vistas between the mounds and provided access to the platforms to maintain views.<sup>5</sup>

5. Tree Planting No. 1 map, 1941. (DSC etic 363/2057)



FIGURE 65. Vista from Earth lodge to Great Temple Mound, 2006. This view across the Macon Plateau is one of the most important in the park. The area between the features (before the railroad bisected it) would likely have been cleared.

The view from the mound platforms is an important characteristic of the landscape, but has changed extensively during the period of significance. The vistas in the park remain partially intact from the historic era. Development in and around Macon impacts the views from the accessible mounds (Great Temple Mound and Lesser Temple Mound) and compromises the integrity of the landscape setting.

The city skyline is visible from the top of the Great Temple Mound and while vegetation screens Interstate 16, the roaring sound of the highway is apparent on the platform. Besides the interrupted soundscape, the mound overlooks wetlands to the south in the former borrow pit used by the brick company during the nineteenth-century. The adjacent Ocmulgee River contributes to the cultural landscape as a significant view from the mound platform. Overgrown vegetation obstructs all views at the Lamar site. The mound platforms and ground level village site have no internal or external viewsheds presently.

Table #9: Views

Feature	Prehistoric	Historic	Modern
VC to Earth Lodge		X	X
Earth Lodge to GTM	X	X	X
View of Macon		X	X
Lamar site		X	

## Evaluation of Integrity

The ability of a landscape to convey its historical significance through extant landscape features and

characteristics is described as possessing integrity. The National Register provides seven qualities that, when combined, define integrity. These include location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Because landscapes invariably change over time, the assessment of integrity addresses the features at Ocmulgee in an overall context and evaluates how the significance of the site is conveyed through each quality.

**Location.** The cultural landscape of Ocmulgee has excellent integrity of location, strengthened by the continued use of the Macon Plateau over the past ten thousand years. The permanence of the mounds and ongoing preservation of archeological sites support the significance of the prehistoric habitation at this location. The surviving earthen mounds, remnants of prehistoric cornfields, and remains of building sites and Earth Lodges form the context for historic significance and display excellent integrity of location. Although the archeological sites are covered in grass or forest, the important features are interpreted and remain in situ.

**Design.** The original ethnographic landscape has moderate integrity of design. The mounds and village sites survive as archeological sites, but excavations removed large portions of mound stratigraphy and features once preserved in the soil. The inherent destructiveness of archeology uncovered valuable information yet removed portions the cultural landscape associated with the Mississippians. The spatial organization of the mounds conveys the prehistoric land use and design of part of the Ocmulgee Old Fields, though interpretations of archeology fieldwork differ and some records are incomplete.

The 1930s Visitor Center landscape retains original design features such as the terrace, flagpole, and circulation routes. Changes made to the landscape are compatible with the original design, including a new ADA accessible picnic area and replacement of oak trees in the parking islands. A minor change to the parking lot alignment and installation of new curbs occurred in 1993.

**Setting.** Ocmulgee was once the site of a Paleo-Indian campground, a Mississippian cultural center, a frontier trading post, agricultural fields, and an archeology excavation. The park today retains integrity of setting from the historic park development and interprets elements of the multi-layered landscape. The construction of Interstate 16 and Emery Highway, adjacent incompatible development, and archeology each impacted the setting at Ocmulgee National Monument. The

Dunlap House contributes to the nineteenth century setting of Ocmulgee, representing the cultivation and Civil War significance of the landscape.

Today the interstate highway separates the mound complex from the Ocmulgee River, a connection that once drew Native Americans to the Fall Line plateau. Ocmulgee was a settlement purposefully positioned near resources critical for survival. Modern transportation routes diminish the integrity of setting by disconnecting the park from the river. Overgrown vegetation and invasive, exotic plants compromise the Lamar site setting.

**Materials.** Ocmulgee has moderate integrity of materials. Farming, motorcycle races, flooding, and excavations have compromised the material integrity of the Ocmulgee landscape over the years. The removal of layers of soil affected the composition of the earthen mounds and level portions of the Macon Plateau. The backfilling of excavation units (and later erosion control projects) helps convey the prehistoric significance of the features despite the loss of original material. Fill dirt replaced by archeologists, however, does not recreate the lost stratigraphy of sand and clay.

In addition, erosion and railroad cuts impacted the Lesser Temple Mound, Funeral Mound, McDougal Mound, and Dunlap Mound. Prehistoric portions of the mounds remain missing. While the Great Temple Mound has some erosion and damage from visitors, grading and backfilling are still apparent on the southern slopes. Historic uses such as farming and industry also diminished the significant materials on the Macon Plateau.

**Workmanship.** New Deal excavations compromised the workmanship of the original mounds and prehistoric landscape. The integrity retained at the core of Ocmulgee National Monument varies from mound to mound and between individual excavation areas. The grass turf stabilizes existing mound slopes and retains the layers of sand and clay created by the Mississippian Indians. Lamar Mound B remains the most intact of the mounds. Other mounds including the Lesser Temple Mound, Funeral Mound, and McDougal Mound have been bisected, excavated, and regraded. The remains of the Earth Lodge retain excellent integrity of workmanship, despite the 1975 grading of the exterior earthen portion. Both the McDougal Mound and Funeral Mound have replaced fill dirt to replicate the height prior to excavation. The excavations removed soils and artifacts that defined the character and use of the

landscape. Overall, the sites at Ocmulgee today have diminished integrity of workmanship due to backfilling, successive vegetation, and park alterations.

**Feeling.** Ocmulgee National Monument preserves a feeling of grandeur within the maintained grounds of the park. Woodland forests frame the vistas to grass-covered mounds, highlighting the impressive earthen features. Archeology sites, accessible along trails and the park road, add to the mystery of ancient life on the Macon Plateau. The dominance of the prehistoric features in the landscape supports the strong integrity of feeling across the open space and serene park setting.

**Table #10: Affiliated and Traditionally Associated Tribes at Ocmulgee National Monument**

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Kialegee Tribal Town
Miccosukee Indian Tribe
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Poarch Creek Indians
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians

**Association.** The associative values of Ocmulgee Old Fields retain good integrity given the recent designation of the site as a Traditional Cultural

Property and its classification as an ethnographic landscape. The importance of the site to the Muscogee Nation and other affiliated tribes underscores the high integrity of association of the main park unit and Lamar site.

Each September, an annual Ocmulgee Indian celebration occurs at the park and tribal consultation continues to take place on relevant park projects. The close involvement and connection of tribes in park events and projects maintains the integrity of association. The cultural landscape connects the ancient and the modern at Ocmulgee.

**Summary**

As a whole, Ocmulgee retains integrity given the extensive period of significance, continual occupation, and historic park development. The cultural landscape conveys some degree of integrity in each of its seven aspects. The integrity of location, association, and feeling express the significance of the Mississippian tribes on the Macon Plateau, while the historic park development is reflected in integrity of design. The extant landscape features illustrate the historic significance though the structures, archeological sites, spatial organization, views, and topography. Though the integrity of setting, material, and workmanship is lessened at Ocmulgee, the ethnographic landscape preserves the most important aspect of its prehistory, association with its affiliated and traditionally associated tribes.

**Table #11: Summary of Landscape Integrity for Ocmulgee National Monument**

Aspects of Integrity	Prehistoric era	Mississippian era	Lamar era	Colonial trading post era	Civil War era	19c. industry era	Archeology and park development
Location	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Design	Yes, subsurface features are covered	Yes, mounds intact but no stratigraphy	Yes	No	No	No	Yes, minor changes to park road
Setting	No	No	No	No	Yes, Dunlap House contributes	No	Yes
Materials	No	Yes, mounds partially compromised	Yes, mounds intact	No, subsurface remains only	Yes	No	Yes
Workmanship	No	Yes, varies for each mound	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Feeling	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, replaced with curbing	Yes	Yes, but buildings removed	Yes
Association	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



---

# Treatment Recommendations

The treatment recommendations for this Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) articulate a preservation strategy for long-term management of the cultural landscape based on research, inventory, and analysis. The evolution of the landscape is considered alongside significance, existing conditions, and current use in recommending an appropriate preservation approach. The CLR combines the site history and analysis of integrity with park input to outline appropriate treatment and a management philosophy.

Recommendations follow National Park Service policy, including the NPS Management Policies, the Director's Order No. 28: *Cultural Resource Management Guidelines*, and the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. These documents identify four types of treatment: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. Each treatment ranges by level of physical intervention and includes specific guidelines and standards.

**Preservation** is the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the on-going maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

**Rehabilitation** is the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features, which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

**Restoration** is the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other historic periods in its history and reconstruction of

missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

**Reconstruction** is the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.<sup>1</sup>

This CLR recommends preservation of the overall Ocmulgee cultural landscape and rehabilitation of several character-defining features. Despite the excavations, the archeological information does not provide enough evidence to accurately reconstruct or restore the prehistoric landscape. The proposed treatment maintains the existing condition and general character of the landscape, while returning integrity to the mounds and sites. Preserving the extant landscape interprets the extended period of significance (10,000 BCE – 1951 AD) and conveys the associative value of the ethnographic landscape. Treatment also includes management goals that consider overall park concerns and address public access, interpretation, natural resources, and contemporary use.

## Management Philosophy

At Ocmulgee, long-term management of the cultural landscape should follow the guidelines for treatment, prioritizing tribal consultation during all projects and protecting significant archeological sites. This management philosophy, unique to the Ocmulgee landscape, guides general and specific recommendations while accommodating other park goals into an inclusive approach. The *Secretary of Interior's Standards* for preservation and rehabilitation direct the treatment

1. Charles A. Birnbaum, ed. *The Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1996), p. 18, 48, 90, 128.

recommendations for the cultural landscape, while the management philosophy provides overall reference for future park management. Preserving the park's cultural landscape within the context of natural resources, visitor use, and ethnographic association allows for meaningful interpretation, public access, and resource stewardship.

## Archeology

Today the archeological and architectural features at Ocmulgee National Monument contribute to the larger cultural landscape. The New Deal excavations marked the largest dig in the Southeast and became an important period in the continuum of history at the site. The project left areas backfilled or developed (such as the Earth Lodge) and many archeological sites exposed or covered with grass. The 1940s stabilization interpreted the features in situ, while revegetating the Macon Plateau. Archeology offers an additional approach to managing and interpreting the cultural landscape. Subsurface features require not only maintenance but an emphasis on interpretation. SEAC is involved in all issues concerning archeology at Ocmulgee. The protection of sites is measured by the current stability as well as the threat of ground disturbances.

## Tribal Consultation

A key component of the Ocmulgee management philosophy is park consultation with traditionally associated tribes. The ethnographic landscape requires discussion with tribes in all ground-disturbing projects, especially impacting cultural resources within the park. Whether reinterment, ceremonial use, or physical changes to historic landscape features, compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is required by law. In all changes to the cultural landscape, tribal consultation is mandatory to preserve significant, tangible features and intangible cultural associations. The guidance of affiliated groups helps to retain the integrity of the cultural landscape.

## Treatment

While the management philosophy provides a vision for the overall landscape, the specific treatment options described below outline guidelines for preservation or rehabilitation of individual



FIGURE 66. Celebrants at the Ocmulgee Indian Festival held each September at the park.

resources. These recommendations consider visitor safety, resource stewardship, and environmental sustainability, reflect historic and contemporary management issues, and address changes to the existing conditions that preserve or rehabilitate the landscape. The treatment recommendations are organized by geographic location.

The General Management Plan and Resource Management Plan address the landscape as both a natural and cultural resource. This classification applies to the vegetation at Ocmulgee, primarily the open fields, woodlands, and low-lying wetlands of the main park unit and Lamar site. Grasses protect archeological resources from erosion and soil compaction, while pine and hardwood forests frame park vistas. The forests and wetlands provide a habitat to native wildlife. Cyclic maintenance and the inventory and removal of invasive exotics should continue to be a priority in maintaining healthy natural resources.<sup>2</sup>

2. The regional inventory and monitoring team manages exotic vegetation at Ocmulgee. The team visits the park (three times in 2006-2007), removes invasive plants, and treats targeted species in isolated areas.

## Park-wide

**Issue.** Erosion is a park-wide issue and the most common threat to mounds and earthworks. Wind, water, mowing, and visitor misuse erode important earthen features and damage archeological sites.

**Recommendations.** The extant mix of native and exotic grasses covering much of the Macon Plateau should be maintained to preserve subsurface features and unexcavated areas. Grass offers a “soft approach” to protecting archeological sites. The groundcover adapts easily to the environment and prevents wind and sheet (water) erosion. Roots reinforce and strengthen soil left exposed after excavation.<sup>3</sup>

Bermuda grass found on the Earth Lodge, mound platforms, and corn storage pits protects the landscapes features with an easily sustainable, yet exotic groundcover. Native grasses cover the remainder of the Macon Plateau and are mown to direct visitor traffic and highlight important points of interest. These grasses should be maintained to prevent erosion and enhance the natural habitat of the park. The mix of native and exotic grasses on specific sites and slopes works successfully at Ocmulgee in preventing erosion. With subsurface resources stabilized, the park efforts to manage individual features should be consistent.

Annual and semi-annual mowing maintains a healthy grass cover by checking encroachment of woody vegetation, promotes erosion control, and protects archeological resources. Infrequent mowing minimizes the potential for soil gouging from mowers and prevents weather-related damage. The current mowing schedule results in taller grasses that act as a natural deterrent for visitors attempting to climb the fragile slopes. Mowing should remain seasonal and cautiously avoid disturbing any underlying soil. The park may also consider alternatives to managing the vegetation at Ocmulgee.

- Practice erosion control on the plateau and mound slopes by sustaining groundcover and targeting areas of exposed soil and steep slopes for revegetation.

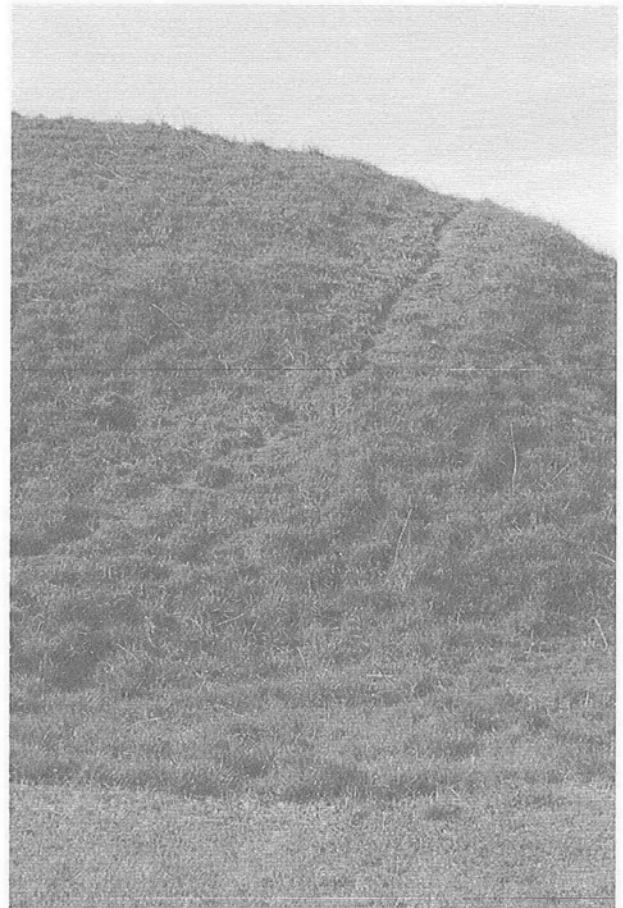


FIGURE 67. Erosion of old visitor path up to Great Temple Mound platform, 2007.

- Maintain a regular mowing schedule and a mix of predominately native grasses on the plateau and slopes. Encourage a natural ecosystem to allow a healthy and diverse mix of grasses.
- Maintain Bermuda grass cover in corn storage pits, on mound platforms, and covering interpreted features as well as in high visitor traffic areas and on trails.
- Research feasibility of prescribed fires as an alternative for managing grasses on the Macon Plateau. Concerns such as effectiveness, urban development, air quality, staffing, and training should be addressed.

**Issue.** The National Register and the LCS database do not include all of the CCC features at Ocmulgee.

**Recommendations.** The inventory should be expanded to include all historic features in the park and information should be added to the National Register nomination.

3. Robert M. Thorne, “Revegetation: The Soft Approach to Archeological Site Stabilization,” Technical Brief No. 8, NPS, Washington, D.C., 1992.



- Add Civilian Conservation Corps context to the National Register historic-district period of significance and document CCC camp ruins.
- Document all changes to the landscape, such as storm damage, replacement plantings, and rehabilitation projects.
- The park road stone culvert should be added to the LCS and included in the additional documentation for the National Register nomination.
- Reevaluate Mound X in LCS and the National Register nomination. The feature was not distinguished as a mound during the New Deal excavation and has little integrity today.

**Issue.** Interpretive panels and wayside exhibits need replacement and repair throughout the main park unit.

**Recommendations.** Missing and damaged outdoor wayside exhibits should be replaced in kind. Current waysides are located out of major viewsheds at the request of associated tribes. Tribes also barred installation of waysides on the mound platforms. This preference should be followed for all additional interpretation. Self-guided and guided walking tours can further interpret the resources at Ocmulgee.

- Replace the empty Funeral Mound wayside exhibit.
- Clean small bronze signs frequently, as birds tend to rest on them.
- Develop a self-guided walking brochure to explain the significance of archeology at Ocmulgee.
- Interpret the nineteenth century history of the Opelofa trail as a tramway for the brick factory.

**Issue.** More detailed maps of the cultural landscape features are needed.

**Recommendations.** The mapping at Ocmulgee should be updated and record keeping continued.

- Produce parkwide GIS mapping that includes location of vanished nineteenth century buildings within the park boundaries and other significant features.

#### **Additional Park-wide Recommendation.**

Investigate scenic easements as an alternative to expanding park boundaries. Short of new legislation, the park should protect the adjacent archeology preserve and continue resource stewardship.

### **Dunlap House Area**

**Issue.** Woody vegetation grows on the steepest slope of the McDougal Mound, threatening archeological resources. The vegetation shades the mound, preventing desirable native grasses from growing and leading to accelerated succession.

**Recommendations.** This mound slope requires more attention than other turf-covered slopes in the park. The vegetation should be maintained regularly and new groundcover established.

- Remove woody vegetation from the McDougal Mound slopes and reseed with Bermuda grass.
- Remove vines on the perimeter chain link fence near the McDougal Mound.

**Issue.** Although currently well preserved, the Civil War earthworks have several mature trees creating a potential threat of damage from wind throw.

**Recommendations.** At present, leaf litter and sparse grass stabilize the Civil War earthworks. This treatment for historic earthworks provides a sustainable groundcover and offers the best erosion protection in forested areas.<sup>4</sup> The large trees creating this groundcover should be monitored regularly and removed when necessary to avoid damaging the feature. Replanting should occur adjacent to the resource to provide continued protection and groundcover.

- Remove all invasive exotic species from the earthworks.
- Preserve exposed earthworks with leaf litter to prevent erosion and minimize human impact.

4. *Guide to Sustainable Earthwork Management* (90% draft). National Park Service in association with the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, 1998.

- Monitor hazardous trees on and around earthworks. Remove large trees when size threatens integrity.

**Issue.** The Dunlap House is a contributing historic resource and should be preserved at Ocmulgee NM.

**Recommendations.** On-site housing deters crime on park property and promotes upkeep of the historic building. The Dunlap House should remain in use by the park and in good condition.

- Maintain the Dunlap House as a park residence.
- Remove non-contributing outbuildings in disrepair.

## North Plateau

**Issue.** Despite the spatial relationship, archeological significance, and similar function, the periphery trenches uncovered on the North Plateau have inconsistent treatment. The mature vegetation in the outer trench contrasts with mown appearance of the inner trench.

**Recommendations.** Coordinate treatment of the prehistoric trenches and clear the outer trench of mature trees and woody vegetation. The inner and outer trench should have a homogeneous appearance, maintained with regular mowing. Extra caution should be used in removing larger trees and shrubs as not to disturb archeological remains or the concave slopes of the feature. An archeologist should be present if any ground-disturbing work takes place.

- Clear mature vegetation from the outer trench.



FIGURE 68. Inner trench, looking north, 2007.

- Periodically cut saplings and brush to prevent damage caused by large, mature trees.
- Maintain both trenches with grasses mown annually (as the inner trench is now). Keep the inner trench preserved and interpret the embankment added in the 1960s.

**Issue.** The alternating magnolia-holly plantings along the northern boundary of the park are significant to the New Deal development at Ocmulgee.

**Recommendation.** Preserving the feature will maintain historic integrity and the boundary screen from private property to the northwest. A long-term plan for tree replacement should match species with the original and retain existing spacing between new plantings.

- Develop a long-term plan for tree replacement and document all new magnolia and holly plantings.

**Issue.** The Visitor Center landscape serves to orient visitors to the park and preserves historic features from the development era.

**Recommendations.** The Visitor Center landscape should retain its formal design and coordinate modern amenities to compliment the historic features.

- Continue to use a native plant palette for any new trees and shrubs planted near the Visitor Center. The historic Visitor Center planting plan (Appendix A) provides guidance on species type and location.
- Replace benches at the Visitor Center wayside with a type more complimentary to the 1930s style. Benches of rounded concrete or metal should reflect the Art Moderne architecture.
- Replace brick pavers at the wayside exhibit nearest the Visitor Center with concrete similar to the adjacent path.

## Middle Plateau

**Issue.** The limited accessibility at Ocmulgee National Monument is a primary concern. Vehicular access to important features located on

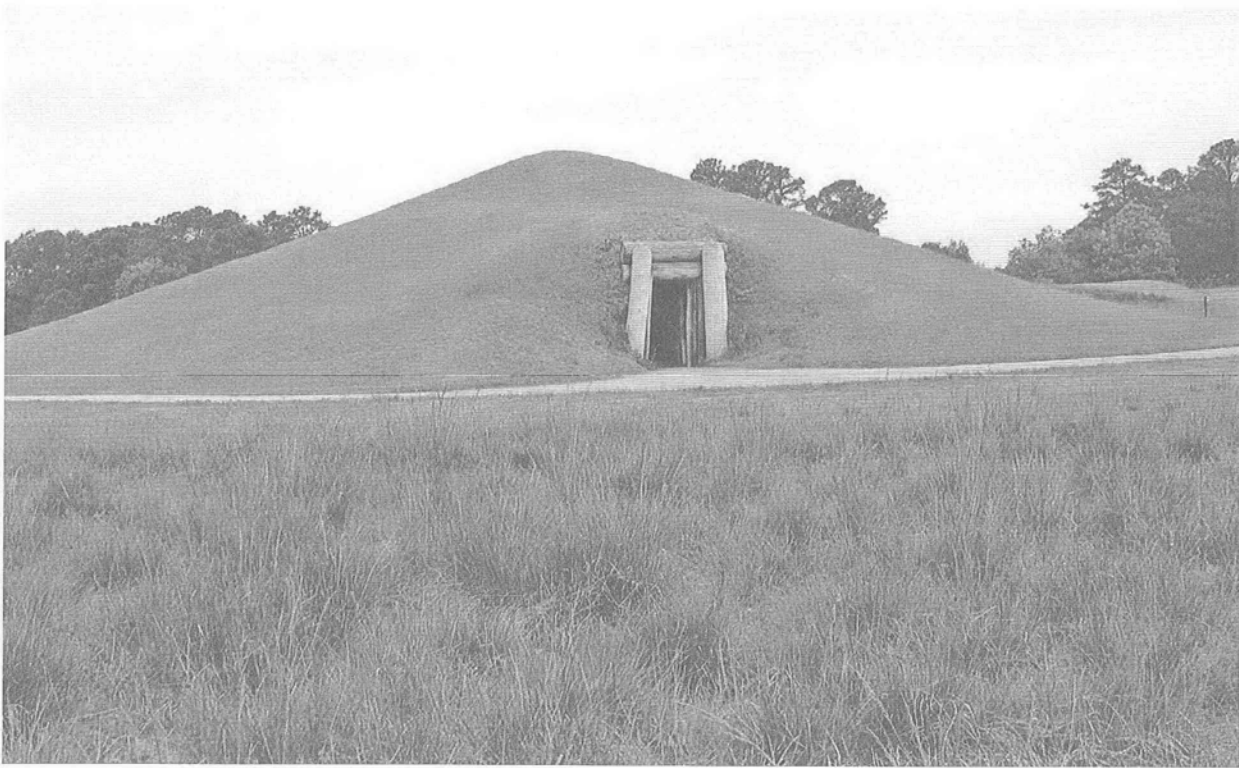


FIGURE 69. View north-northwest of Earth Lodge entrance and rounded top, 2003.

the Middle and South Plateau is restricted by height limitations. Pedestrian access is limited by a steep grade.

**Recommendations.** Restricted points of access can be addressed with available alternatives that do not compromise other natural or cultural resources in the park.

The narrow railroad overpass restricts visitor access from the main park road approach by limiting the size and height of vehicles that can pass. Planning documents dating back to the park development era note this problem, but no alternatives have been developed.<sup>5</sup> The National Park Service does not own the overpass or railroad right-of-way; therefore, all potential action must be in agreement with Norfolk Southern Railroad. The overpass is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, thus; all alternatives should comply with Section 106 and the *Secretary of Interior's Standards* and be developed in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office. The CLR recommends providing alternative access, either by golf cart or shuttle van, for visitors unable to drive under the historic overpass. The park can emphasize the

Visitor Center path as the preferable means to reach a larger portion of the plateau by foot.

The concrete path leading from the Visitor Center to the Earth Lodge slopes upward from the wooden bridge at an angle steeper than Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulation. This pedestrian path offers access to the North and Middle Plateau and is the primary route to the Earth Lodge. The width and surface of the current path complies with current standards, however for complete accessibility the slope should be decreased or the park route extended to meet ADA grade requirements.

Modifications to the existing path or any proposed addition should maintain vistas, meet ADA requirements, and involve tribal and Section 106 consultation. Access is a cultural landscape priority for visitor safety and interpretation.

**Issue.** The exterior appearance of the Earth Lodge contributes to the cultural landscape and should be rehabilitated following recommendations in the Historic Structure Report (2005).

**Recommendations.** As recommended by the Earth Lodge HSR, reestablish the level, circular top of the Earth Lodge. This character-defining feature has

5. The Ocmulgee Mission 66 proposal also approved an expanded two-way underpass, though funding never materialized for the project.

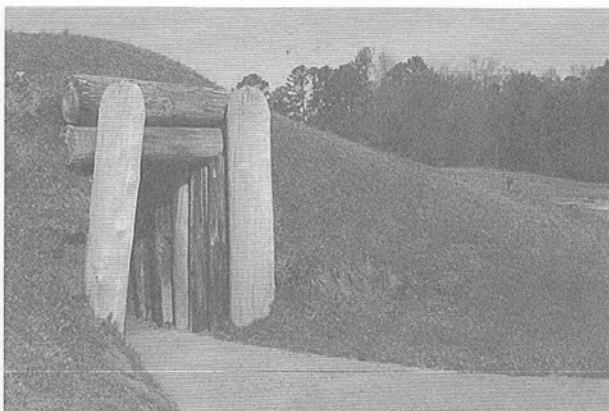


FIGURE 70. Earth Lodge entrance with erosion, 2007.

been increasingly shaped over the years from repetitive mowing.

- Level off the rounded top of the Earth Lodge and rehabilitate the exterior appearance.
- Match the exterior Earth Lodge grass cover above and below the concrete structure.
- Rehabilitate eroded soil surrounding entrance area. Replant with groundcover to stabilize.
- Add a wayside exhibit outside the Earth Lodge to address the exterior appearance of the structure and provide alternative interpretations.<sup>6</sup>

**Issue.** Trees encroach on the vistas between the major mounds, the Earth Lodge, and the Visitor Center.



FIGURE 71. View of stream north of culvert near park road, 2007.

6. Jones, p. 90.

**Recommendation.** Maintain the vistas by selective clearing or thinning of encroaching trees and shrubs.

**Issue.** The bisected slope of the Cornfield Mound (Mound D) supports woody vegetation, limiting the establishment of native grasses on the slope and promoting erosion.

**Recommendation.** The Cornfield Mound slope should be cleared regularly and maintained with native grass groundcover to stabilize and minimize slumping.

## South Plateau

**Issue.** Stream blockage causes erosion to Creek village archeological sites.

**Recommendations.** The modern park culvert near the Funeral Mound channels a natural stream under the road flowing south to the Ocmulgee River. The stream has backed up in recent years, causing erosion on either side of the natural streambed and changing the path of the stream considerably. The staff moved the wooden footbridge upstream to provide access to the Funeral Mound and to avoid the growing wetland area. Maintaining the park road culvert, removing debris periodically, and monitoring the stream can prevent additional erosion during natural flooding and storms.

- Clear debris from the natural stream east of the Funeral Mound periodically to prevent erosion.
- Monitor vegetation along streambed and maintain as necessary.

**Issue.** Erosion particularly affects the large mounds on the South Plateau.

**Recommendation.** At Ocmulgee, the slopes of the Great Temple Mound and Funeral Mound exhibit the most prominent signs of erosion. The mound slopes should be rehabilitated to stable, uniformly-shaped features with additional soil and groundcover. The park should interpret the diminished mound size resulting from railroad cuts and archeology. Proposed changes to the Funeral Mound highlight this recommendation.

- Back fill remaining archeological units and erosion scars on the Great Temple Mound. Due to the size and the steepness of slopes, the Great Temple Mound maintenance should be



FIGURE 72. View south from parking lot to encroaching forest, 2007.

managed as an individual PMIS project or contract.

**Issue.** Feral hogs pose a threat to archeological resources by rooting into the soil and destroying stratigraphy and artifact remains. This damage has been minimized at the main park unit over the past few years due to a successful trapping program. Hogs remain a problem at the Lamar site and there is widespread evidence of rooting outside of the fenced mounds.

**Recommendations.** The park has creatively managed this repeated threat by citing feral hogs for violations under the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA). This legislation details the assessment and penalties for damage to archeological sites. By citing the hogs as ARPA violators, the park is able to use funding to trap and remove the hogs.

- Continue trapping feral hogs and document damage to archeological sites.
- Prosecute ARPA violations and coordinate condition assessments with SEAC.

- Rehabilitate damaged areas with additional soil and replace vegetation.

**Issue.** The successional pine forest south of the Funeral Mound is encroaching on the field near the parking lot.

**Recommendation.** The trees should be cut back to reopen the field to native grasses.

- Remove encroaching successional pine forest and maintain boundary. See Figure 63.

**Issue.** Repetitive flooding affects mature wetland trees that screen the main park from Interstate 16. The loss of vegetation amplifies noise from the interstate, in turn disturbing the soundscape as well as views from the Great Temple Mound. Deposits soils from floods also cover archeological sites adjacent to the river.

**Recommendation.** Monitoring the hydrology of the Ocmulgee River helps indicate threats to the southwest boundary of the main park unit and assessing the condition of buried prehistoric sites. The vegetation screen along Interstate 16 should be preserved to obstruct noise and light pollution and visually separate the modern highway.

## Lamar Site

Due to location and limited access, the Lamar site needs less landscape maintenance than the main park; however, the absence of Lamar from most documentation threatens the long-term preservation of the resource. The park should address larger issues of feral hog damage, looting, and flooding before substantial clearing and interpretation projects occur. The site should be included in routine maintenance and interpretation plans.

**Issue.** Lamar Mound B has mature Elm trees that threaten the archeological remains. A sizable tree fall can disturb soil and stratigraphy on the slopes and platforms.

**Recommendation.** Remove large trees from the Lamar mounds with low-impact tree removal. SEAC suggests the heavy equipment needed for tree removal may damage the site. However, necessary alternatives may be costly. Protecting the archeological significance of the mound and site should be a priority.

- Stumps should be left in place to rot and prevent additional damage to the slopes and archeological remains.

**Issue.** Exotic vegetation threatens the Lamar site.



FIGURE 73. Hog rooting at the Lamar site, photograph by Jill Halchin, SEAC, 2006.

**Recommendation.** Clear vegetation regularly on road and trails, particularly the Chinese privet found extensively at the site. Remove exotic vines such as Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) from chain link fences surrounding the mounds.

**Issue.** Looting and vandalism are continual threats to archeological sites at Lamar.

**Recommendation.** Continue monitoring for vandalism. Backfill excavation units along palisade feature to protect against looters and scouring, if site is open to the public. Prosecute any APRA violations.

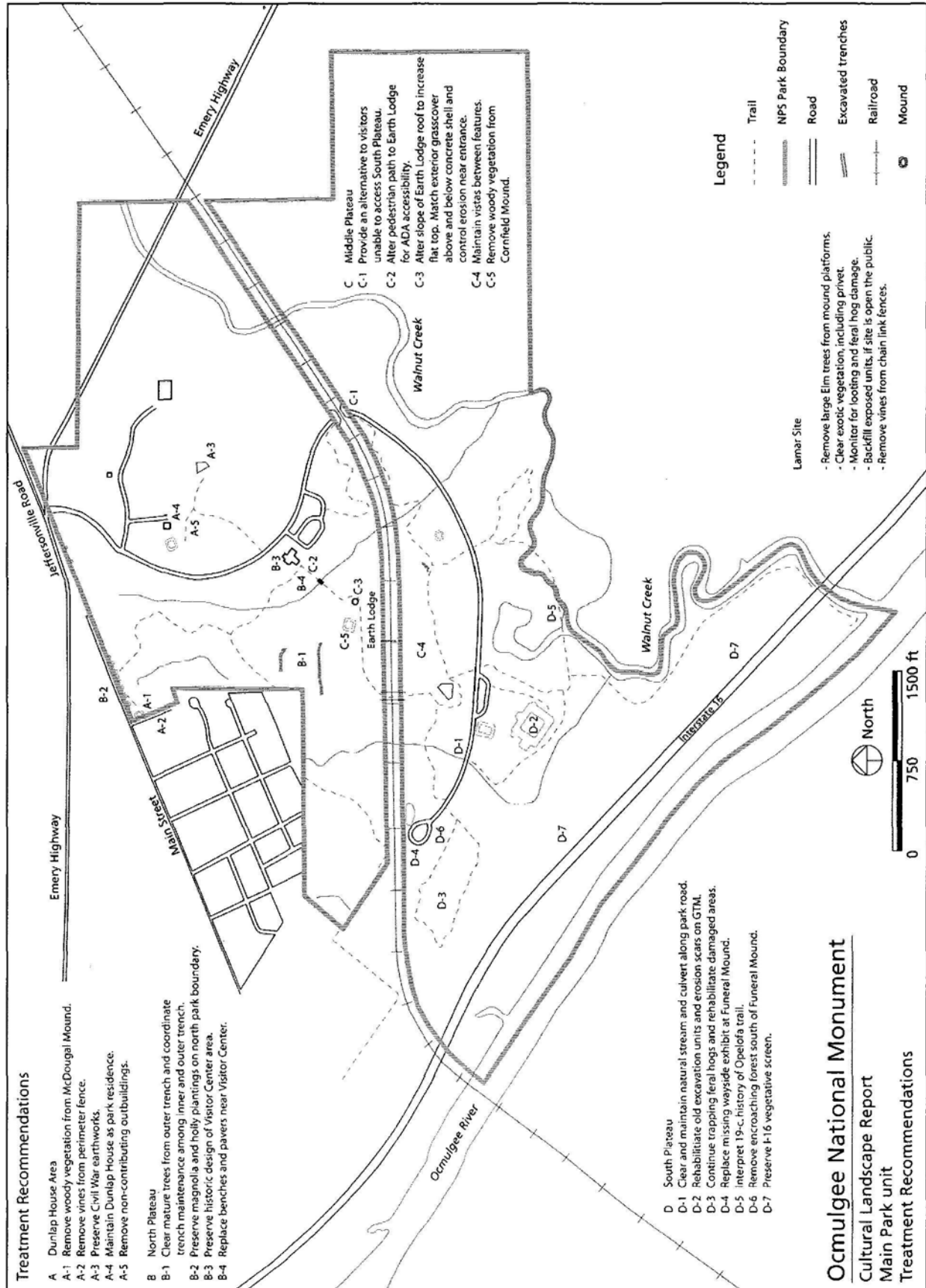


FIGURE 74. Ocmulgee National Monument Treatment map, 2007.

---

# Bibliography

## Books and Published Reports

- Bartram, William. *Travels Through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida*. Savannah, GA: The Beehive Press, 1973 facsimile of the London edition published in 1792.
- Birnbaum, Charles A., ed. *The Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1996.
- Eyring, Shaun and Lucy Lawliss. "Preserving Battlefield Terrain: Technologies for Earthworks Management" in *The Journal of Preservation Technology*. Association of Preservation Technology Bulletin, Vol. XXXI, No. 4, 2000.
- Hally, David J., editor. *Ocmulgee Archaeology, 1936-1986*. Athens and London: The University Press of Georgia, 1994.
- Holland, Jr., Ross F. *Fort Hawkins Frontier Fort, Ocmulgee National Monument, Georgia*. Washington, D.C.: Office of History and Historic Architecture, Eastern Service Center, National Park Service, 1970.
- Hudson, Charles M. *The Southeastern Indians*. Knoxville, TN: The University of Tennessee Press, 1976.
- Jones, Jr., Charles C. *Antiquities of the Southern Indians, Particularly of the Georgia Tribes*. Reprinted. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 1999. Originally published New York, NY: D. Appleton and Company, 1873.
- Jones, Tommy H. *Ocmulgee National Monument The Earth Lodge Historic Structure Report*. Historic Architecture, Cultural Resources Division, Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service, 2005.
- Marsh, Alan. "Ocmulgee National Monument: An Administrative History." Macon, GA: Ocmulgee National Monument, National Park Service, 1986.
- McAllister, Martin E. "Archeological Resource Damage Assessment: Legal Basis and Methods." Technical Brief, No. 20, DOI Departmental Consulting Archeologist/NPS Archeology Program. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 2007.
- Page, Robert R., Cathy A. Gilbert, and Susan A. Dolan. *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques*. Washington, D.C.: Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, National Park Service, 1998.
- Parker, Patricia L. and Thomas M. King. *National Register Bulletin # 38: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Properties*. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1998.
- Pope, Jr., G. D. *Ocmulgee National Monument, Georgia*. Washington D.C.: National Park Service Historical Handbook Series No. 24, Government Printing Office, 1956. Reprinted in 1961.
- Swanson, Jr. James T. "A Report Including Discovery, Excavation, Restoration of a Prehistoric Indian Ceremonial Earth Lodge, Ocmulgee National Monument." Bibb County, Georgia: Branch of Plans and Design, National Park Service, Region One, 1939.
- Swanton, John R. *The Indians of the Southeastern United States*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institute Press, reprinted 1979.
- Thorne, Robert M. "Revegetation: The Soft Approach to Archeological Site Stabilization." Technical Brief, No. 8, DOI Departmental Consulting Archeologist/NPS Archeology Program. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1990. Revised 1992.



## Unpublished Reports

- Brewer, David M. and Susan Hammersten. "An Archeological Overview and Assessment of the Lamar Mounds Unit of Ocmulgee National Monument." Tallahassee, FL: Southeast Archeological Center, National Park Service, October 1991.
- Brockington and Associates, Inc. "Archaeological and Historical Delineation of Ocmulgee/Macon Plateau." [Project NH-16-1 (91) and FLF-540 (16) (17)] Atlanta, GA: Georgia Department of Transportation, July 1995.
- "The Creeks Return." Ocmulgee Auxiliary Corporation, Macon, GA, 1972. Unpublished, SERO files.
- Ewers, John. "Exhibit Plan for Ocmulgee National Monument." Macon, GA: Ocmulgee National Monument, National Park Service, June 1940.
- Fairbanks, Charles H. "The Archeology of the Funeral Mound, Ocmulgee National Monument, Georgia." National Park Service, 1956.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Stabilization of the Funeral Mound." Ocmulgee National Monument, National Park Service, August 1954.
- Froeschauer, Peggy "A Vegetation History of Ocmulgee National Monument, Macon, Georgia." CPSU Technical Report Number 51. Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 1989.
- Ingmanson, J. Earl. "Dunlap and McDougal Mounds, Ocmulgee National Monument." Richmond, VA: Southeast Region, National Park Service, 1964.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Mound E, Southeastern Plateau and Middle Plateau Fortifications, Ocmulgee National Monument." Richmond, VA: Southeast Region, National Park Service, 1965.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Archeology of the South Plateau: Ocmulgee National Monument." Richmond, VA: Southeast Region, National Park Service, 1964.
- Jennings, J.D. "Ocmulgee Archeology, Summary through May 1938." Ocmulgee National Monument, 1938.
- Karwedsky, Robert, Patricia O'Grady, Pamela Fesperman, and James Stroutamire. "The Archeology of Mounds A and B and Plateau: Ocmulgee National Monument." Society for American Archeology paper, 1978. Unpublished, SERO files.
- Kelly, A. R. and Louis Friedlander. Excerpts from Trading Post Research Report "Archeological Explorations at Macon, Georgia." Ocmulgee National Monument, September 12, 1938. Unpublished, SERO files.
- Nelson, Ben A., David Swindell III, and Mark Williams. "Analysis of Ocmulgee Bottoms Materials at the Southeast Archeological Center." The Florida State University, July 1974.
- National Park Service. *Guide to Sustainable Earthworks Management* (90% draft). In association with the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, 1998.
- Prokopetz, A. Wayne. "An Analysis of Post Houses Site 1Bi4 Macon, Georgia." Florida State University, October 1974.
- Walker, John W. "Ocmulgee Archaeology: A Chronology." Tallahassee, FL: Southeast Archeological Center, National Park Service, 1989.
- Williams, J. Mark and Joseph N. Henderson. "The Archeology of the Macon North Plateau: 1974." Florida State University, 1974.

## Maps, Drawings, and Plans

Plans are located in NPS archives at Denver Service Center, Technical Information Center (DSC/TIC); with duplicates in the OCMU map collection. Online versions of maps, drawings, and plans are available at *eTic*, though sensitive archeological information is restricted.

363/2077 Topo. Base Map & Excavations Roads, Trails-Proposed Development The Lamar Area, Ocmulgee National Monument, 1941. (Figure 33)

363/20009 Key map of Lamar Mounds, Ocmulgee NM, L.K. Sessions, 1940. (restricted)

363/80016 Historical Base Map, 1965. (restricted)

363/3020 Topographical Base Map, 1965.

- 363/60030 General Development Plan, 1940.
- 363/30001 Key Map of Macon Plateau Group, 1937.
- 363/20006 Base Map of South Plateau, OCMU NM, J.E. Ingmanson, 1964.
- 363/20007 Key Map of Mound "C" Excavations, Macon Plateau Group, L.K. Sessions, 7/14/39. (restricted)
- 363/60001 Ocmulgee National Monument Vegetation Types, unknown date.
- 363/20015 Portion of OCMU NM showing Archeological Areas, date unknown. (restricted)
- 363/2027 General Development Plan. Trading Post Burial Shelters, 1941. (restricted)
- 363/2060 Obliteration of Railroad Fill, 02/01/41.
- 363/2057 Tree Planting No. 1, 1941. (Figure 32)
- 363/2064 Planting Plan, Mound A parking area, P.C. Paderer, 1942.
- 363/2065 Planting Plan, Mound C parking area, 1942.
- 363/60019 Worksheet, date unknown. (Appendix A)
- 363/41011 Topography for Proposed Area of Ocmulgee NM, 01/01/1935. (Base map for Figure 25)
- 363/80000 Design evaluation for park entrance, Alts. I-IV, 1980.
- 363/8007 Nature Trail planting, 1939.
- 363/82002 Topo and Mound map with all excavation and CCC camp, 1979. (restricted)
- General Management Plan/Environmental Assessment, Ocmulgee National Monument. Denver, Colorado: Denver Service Center, National Park Service, September 1982.
- Resource Management Plan, Ocmulgee National Monument, 1992.
- Statement for Interpretation (FY93 Revision), Ocmulgee National Monument, National Park Service, 1993.
- Statement of Management, Ocmulgee National Monument, National Park Service, 1976.

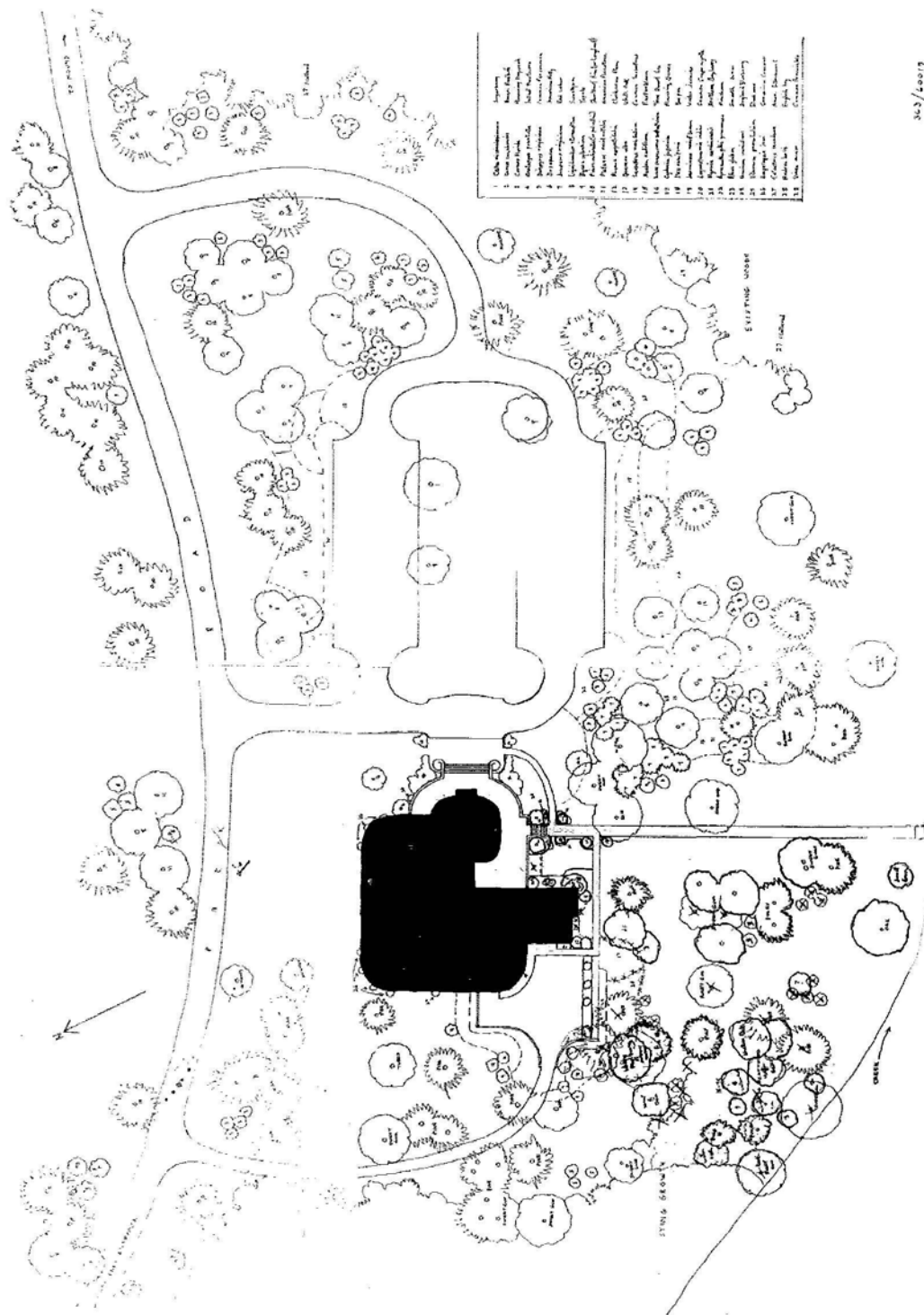
## Other References

- Enabling Legislation, Proclamation by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, No. 2212 December 23, 1936, Stat. 1798. (See Marsh, *Administrative History*, Appendix C)
- Ocmulgee National Monument, History & Culture. (<http://www.nps.gov/ocmul/historyculture/index.htm>)
- Southeastern Archeological Center, Southeastern Prehistory. (<http://www.cr.npr.gov/seac/outline>)
- Harpers Ferry Photo Collection.
- Ocmulgee NM Photo Collection.
- Notes from conversation with Alex Entrup, Regional Monitoring Team, May 10, 2007. Author's files.
- Notes from condition assessment by Jill Halchin, Southeast Archeological Center, May 15, 2007. Author's files.



# Appendix A

WORK SHEET  
Landscape - Visitor Center



303/4007





As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

NPS D-87 August 2007

Ocmulgee National Monument

Cultural Landscape Report

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Ocmulgee National Monument  
1207 Emery Highway  
Macon, Georgia 31217

[www.nps.gov/ocmu](http://www.nps.gov/ocmu)

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™