

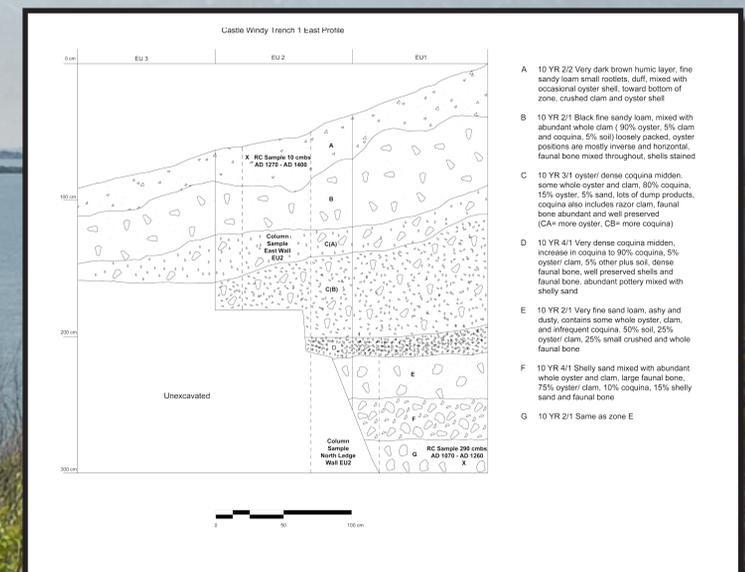


A SHELL TALE: Anthropogenic Landscapes of Canaveral National Seashore

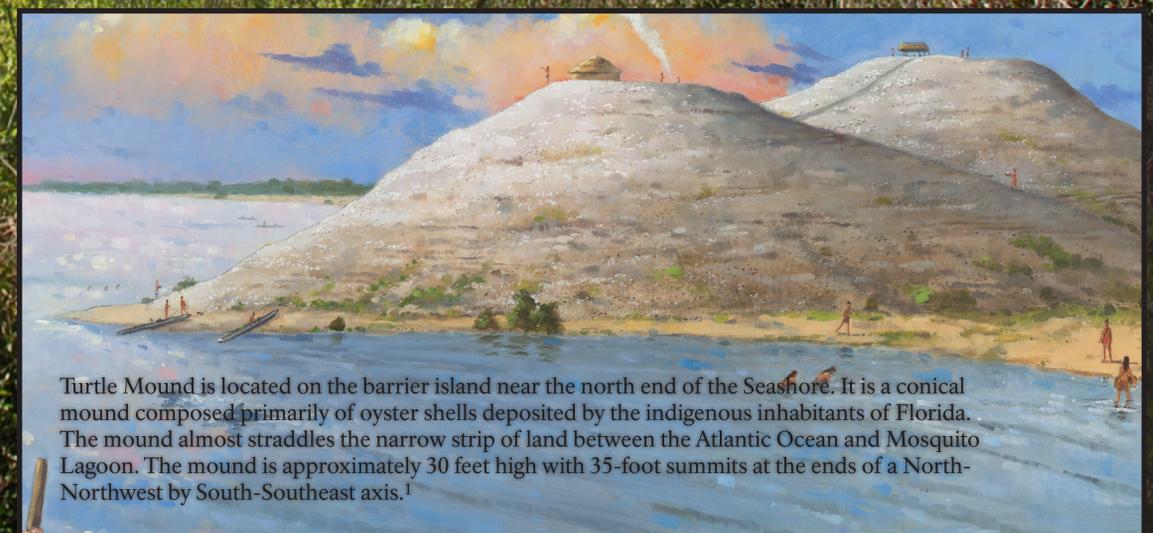
Rusty L. Simmons, Southeast Archeological Center

In 2008 SEAC Archeologists began working with Canaveral National Seashore in efforts to nominate Turtle Mound as a National Historic Landmark. Also as part of this nomination, fieldwork was conducted at two additional sites, Castle Windy and Seminole Rest, to salvage archeological evidence that would soon be lost to the eroding shoreline. As part of this project, twelve test units were excavated yielding more than 105,000 artifacts. Furthermore, SEAC Archeologists, volunteers, and friends assisted the park with the stabilization of these mounds and middens by creating oyster beds and planting mangrove trees along the shoreline. Since its start, this project has hosted more than 205 volunteers logging over 2000 hours of fieldwork to aid the park in preserving its cultural and natural resources.

Located on the shore of Mosquito Lagoon, Castle Windy is a roughly crescent-shaped shell midden or mound approximately 295 feet long by 120 feet wide, with a maximum height of 17 feet. Covered with mature vegetation, including trees and shrubs, the midden began to develop around AD 1200 and continued for another 300 years.¹



Seminole Rest consists of several prehistoric shell mounds dating from 2000 BC to AD 1565. Snyder's Mound, which lies on the shore of Mosquito Lagoon, was a large quahog-clam processing center dating from about AD 600-1420. It was used primarily between AD 700-1100. It measures approximately 740 feet from north to south and about 340 feet east to west and is approximately 13 feet high. Fiddle Crab Mound is a much smaller shell-capped sand mound, purposefully constructed, approximately 15 feet in diameter sand mound, purposefully constructed, approximately 15 feet in diameter.¹



Turtle Mound is located on the barrier island near the north end of the Seashore. It is a conical mound composed primarily of oyster shells deposited by the indigenous inhabitants of Florida. The mound almost straddles the narrow strip of land between the Atlantic Ocean and Mosquito Lagoon. The mound is approximately 30 feet high with 35-foot summits at the ends of a North-Northwest by South-Southeast axis.¹