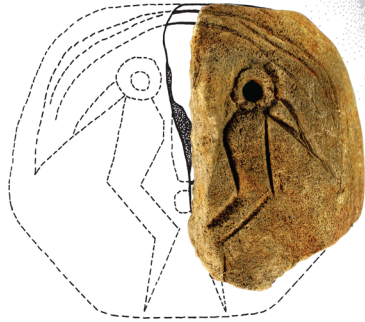
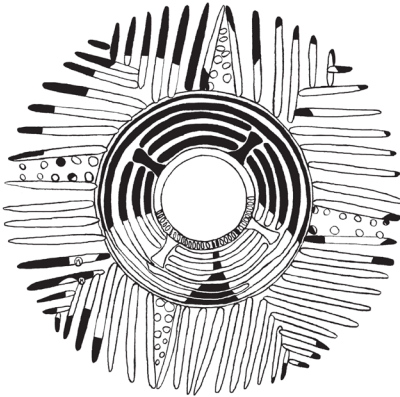


Illinois State Archaeological Survey Research Reports

The Hoxie Farm Site Fortified Village: Late Fisher Phase Occupation and Fortification in South Chicago

edited by

Douglas K. Jackson and Thomas E. Emerson



ILLINOIS STATE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Research Report 27

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with contributions by

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ILLINOIS STATE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Research Report No. 27

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Investigations Conducted Under the Auspices of:

The State of Illinois
Department of Transportation

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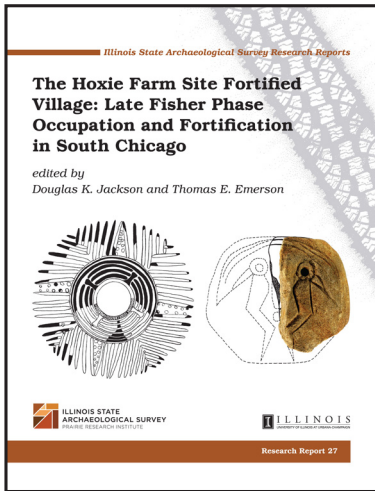
Chapter Appendices

To facilitate the production process long appendices are available online in PDF format and are not included in the paper copy of this report. Copy the URLs below and paste them into a web browser to download the data. Acrobat or a similar program that can open .pdf file is required.

A. Individual Structure Data

http://isas.illinois.edu/publications/data/TARR/27/11CK4_Hoxie_Farm_FV_Appendix_A.pdf

- B.** Ceramic Data
http://isas.illinois.edu/publications/data/TARR/27/11CK4_Hoxie_Farm_FV_Appendix_B.pdf
- C.** Lithics Data
http://isas.illinois.edu/publications/data/TARR/27/11CK4_Hoxie_Farm_FV_Appendix_C.pdf
- D.** Botanical Data
http://isas.illinois.edu/publications/data/TARR/27/11CK4_Hoxie_Farm_FV_Appendix_D.pdf



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Edited by Douglas K. Jackson and Thomas E. Emerson with contributions by Douglas K. Jackson, Thomas E. Emerson, Madeleine Evans, Ian Fricker, Kathryn C. Egan-Bruhy, Michael L. Hargrave, Terrance J. Martin, Kjersti E. Emerson, Eve A. Hargrave, Kris Hedman, Stephanie Daniels, Brenda Beck, Amanda Butler, Jennifer Howe, and Jean Nelson. 2013. Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Research Report 27, xxii+491pp., 237 figures, 105 tables, 4 appendices (online), references. \$42.50 (Paper).

Reviewed by Dale R. Henning, retired. Research Associate with Illinois State Museum and U.S. Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.

This volume is a valuable resource for anyone committed to research in the Midwest's Late Prehistoric period, and offers especially useful data to Upper Mississippian Oneota researchers. The Fortified Village, a palisaded single-component of the late Fisher phase, is separate from and may be earlier than the Hoxie Farm Main Occupation Area.

Jackson is the author of Chapters 1–5. *Chapter 1* offers a description of the multicomponent Hoxie Farm site of ca. 11.7 ha (28.9 acres) and the much broader Hoxie Farm site complex of at least 60 ha (148.2 acres). *Chapter 2* discusses the Hoxie Farm site, its physiography, past climatic changes, and the potential for gardening and useable natural food resources.

Chapter 3 summarizes the Oneota (Fisher and Huber phases) occupations on Hoxie Farm and in the locale. *Chapter 4* summarizes a long history of site destruction and archaeological investigations. Early cultivation practices, railroad and tollway construction, work on the I-80 corridor, and the popularity of the site for decades of 'pot-hunting' have all taken their toll. Formal archaeological investigations began early in the 1900s with efforts by Albert Scharf, followed by the University of Chicago, Bluhm and Wenner, and Ed Lacey rising to the challenges of ongoing site destruction. Illinois State Archaeological Survey (ISAS) fieldwork there began in 1999 and was completed in 2003. ISAS uncovered the Fortified Village in mid-2002. *Chapter 5* describes Fortified Village features (structures, hearths, post molds, pits, fortification ditches, and palisade). Unique features include small circular to oval semi-subterranean structures with no evidence of wall posts and a palisade with surrounding trenches.

Chapter 6 (Radiocarbon Dates, by Jackson and Emerson) offers discussion of 10 useable assays that tie Fortified Village occupation to the 14th century. The authors suggest that it was occupied late in that century and lasted no more than a decade.

Chapter 7 (The Fortified Village Community, by Jackson) offers a good interpretive summary. The location was apparently selected for defense with closely spaced houses arranged

in a series of arcs. Perhaps more than 1,100 structures and over 4,400 people lived inside the palisade.

Chapter 8 (Electrical Resistance Investigations, by Hargrave and Jackson) details the positive results and some lessons learned through resistance survey and ground-truthing on the Fortified Village.

In *Chapter 9* (Late Fisher Phase Ceramics, by Emerson and Emerson), the authors reject typologies based on wares and types, instead employing an attribute analysis that allows flexibility and a degree of certainty when testing various hypotheses within the Fortified Village during the Fisher phase (see *Table 9.10*) and beyond. This approach offers far better results than the hierarchical ware/type approach that simply does not fit the Oneota system of household production of pottery or their obvious absence of population stability. Oneota pottery analysts, take heed!

Chapter 10 (Lithic Assemblage, by Evans, Fricker, Beck, Jackson, Daniels, Howe and Butler) is primarily descriptive and very useful. The chipped-stone assemblage is broadly Oneota with some regional characteristics.

Chapter 11 (Human Remains and Mortuary Behavior, by Fricker, Hargrave and Hedman) is severely limited by the highly acid soils that destroyed most bone. There was a small cemetery; some individuals were buried in the village.

Chapter 12 (Floral Analysis, by Egan-Bruhy and Nelson) is a study of 206 randomly-selected flotation samples. The authors suggest that the Fortified Village was established on Oak savannah; the inhabitants utilized resources of nearby wet and dry prairie habitats. Cultivars, including maize, tobacco, squash, and beans were utilized. Year-round occupation is suggested.

Chapter 13 (Animal Remains from the Fortified Village by Martin) is regrettably, but necessarily, brief. Acid soils also destroyed mammal bone leaving a small sample inadequate to offer testable insights to animal exploitation.

Chapter 14 (Fortified Village Summary, by Jackson and Emerson) revisits Village community details, the inherent value of large excavation areas, the probable rationale for village location, and its age. Probable cultural associations of the Fortified Village, its settlement and subsistence patterns, community organization, and structure types are compared within the Fisher phase. The questions of Fortified Village development, site function, and site occupation-span are dealt with at length. Lithic and ceramic assemblages are comprehensively compared and contrasted with assemblages from Langford sites, and with related Oneota complexes in southwest Michigan, central and southern Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa—as well as the assemblages of Middle Mississippian groups with whom the occupants probably interacted. Hypotheses for Village abandonment and the ultimate fate of the occupants are posed and discussed at length—but still remain in question.

General Comments

As I read the volume, I made many notations. But in the spirit of holding this review to a reasonable length, just a few of them will be discussed here. I agree with the authors'

Book Review

suggested occupation-span of about a decade; there is little repair of the palisade, few houses were laid over others, few had been repaired, and multiple floor layers are rare. Also, there was little trash in the house pits and there were no middens. There is no evidence of warfare; perhaps all useable tools and equipment were removed prior to an orderly exit. Apparently, the occupants planned not to return; no circular manos, grinding slabs (surprisingly none were found), or formed mauls were 'hidden' in storage pits should they be needed in the future.

The lithic and ceramic assemblages are thoroughly analyzed, and the data is presented clearly. As suggested in my earlier comments on *Chapter 9*, I favor attribute analysis of Oneota ceramics with regional and areal comparisons, and hope someday to see the end of 'named types' that confuse rather than contribute. It is interesting that most end-scrapers discarded at the site are bifacially flaked and apparently were not hafted. Western (Mississippi Valley and west) Oneota end-scrapers were unifacially shaped on a prepared thick flake, then often set in a handle. It is a delight to see PIMA-verified catlinite disk bowl pipes here. The timing fits comfortably with the beginnings for their manufacture in western Iowa, and fits well with their presence in many Late Winnebago assemblages.

When I agreed to this review I expected a solid, quality report; those expectations have been met and exceeded. Each chapter is straightforward and factual: a credit to the authors and to the editors. This is a Cultural Resource Management (*CRM*) project done right, the result is a high-quality report with color photos, produced expeditiously and made available at reasonable cost. Here is a lasting contribution to Upper Mississippian research that should be on the bookshelf of anyone interested in the Midwest's Late Prehistoric period. I look forward to reading the ISAS volume on the Hoxie Farm Main Occupation Area, currently in preparation, and hope it will be available soon.