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LATE HOPEWELL SETTLEMENT PATTERNS IN SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA

In 1992, archaeologists from the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology conducted an investigation of late Middle Woodland Mann phase (ca. AD 100-500) settlement patterns in southwestern Indiana. Support for this research was provided by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of historic Preservation and Archaeology.

Prior to this investigation, our knowledge of the Mann phase was derived almost exclusively from surveys and excavations conducted by Dr. James H. Kellar at a single site--the Mann site (12 Po 2). (J.H. Kellar, "The Mann Site and "Hopewell" in the Lower Wabash-Ohio Valley", in *Hopewell Archaeology*, edited by David S. Brose and N'omi Greber, pp. 100-107, Kent State University Press, 1979). The major goal of the present study has been to place the Mann site within a broader context through the development of a preliminary model of regional settlement patterns.

Field survey, collections research and collector interviews were conducted in an effort to document the full range of functional and locational variability in Mann phase settlements. Three classes of Mann phase settlements have been defined.

"Short-term extractive camps" comprise the most numerous class of Mann phase sites. These sites are minimally characterized by the presence of diagnostic Lowe Cluster projectile points and/or distinctively thin lamellar blades. No examples of this site type have been excavated.

Short-term extractive camps are the most widely distributed of the Mann phase sites. They are located on floodplain, terrace and interior upland landforms.

"Hamlets" comprise the second-most numerous class of Mann phase sites. These sites are characterized by the presence of utilitarian ceramics in addition to the diagnostic projectile points, lamellar blades, and a wide range of lithic tool types and debitage. These ceramics are thin-walled cordmarked and plain subconoidal jars which are often notched on the superior lip surface and tempered with grog, limestone or fine grit. Components representative of this settlement type have been encountered in excavations at three sites: Kuester (12 Vg 71), Hovey Lake (12 Po 10), and Ellerbusch (12 W 56). These excavations reveal a consistent pattern; they all reflect small- scale occupations represented by loose clusters of shallow basin- shaped pits indicative of food-processing rather than storage functions and are sometimes accompanied by thin middens and/or scattered postholes. The Grabert site (12 Po 248) may represent another excavated Mann phase hamlet (see Ruby, Bret J., "Excavations at the Grabert Site (12 Po 248): A Late Middle Woodland Habitation Site in Posey County, Indiana", in *Current Research in Indiana Archaeology and Prehistory: 1990*, edited by Christopher S. Peebles, pp. 15-18. Research Reports No. 12, Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, Bloomington, 1991). Excavations conducted within one of three small midden concentrations at this 1.6 ha site (the largest documented Mann phase hamlet) uncovered part of an ovoid structure and a series of associated processing pits. Faunal remains from this site indicate a short-term, warm-season occupation. However, the recovery of comparatively high frequencies of decorated Hopewellian ceramics and exotic raw materials such as mica, copper, and galena, in addition to the presence of a nearby conical mound (12 Po 52), suggest that the Grabert site

may have been the focus of corporate-ceremonial activities rather than strictly domestic activities.

Mann phase hamlets display a more restricted spatial distribution. They are limited to bottomland settings, with several examples located within the active floodplain, which would have precluded year-round settlement.

"Corporate-ceremonial" sites comprise the least-numerous of the Mann phase settlement types. These sites display evidence of activities reflecting supra-household integration and non- subsistence tasks. One of the most spectacular examples of this settlement type is the GE mound (12 Po 885). The GE mound was accidentally discovered in 1988 during earth-moving operations associated with the construction of a county road and subsequently subjected to extensive looting. The GE mound was a loaf-shaped structure approximately 125 meters long, 50 meters wide and 6 meters high, reflecting an investment of corporate labor on a truly monumental scale. In fact, this site ranks among the five largest Hopewell mounds in the Midwest. A long list of status-related artifacts was recovered from the mound, including several thousand chert bifaces, large obsidian and quartz crystal bifaces, a silver-covered copper earspool and a series of copper celts. Limited test excavations conducted by the Indiana Department of Transportation recovered evidence for the production of status-related artifacts, fragmentary burned and unburned human bone reflecting a complex mortuary program, and many artifacts that had been intentionally destroyed through heating or smashing. (see Tomak, Curtis H., "The Mount Vernon Siotte: A Hopewell Ceremonial/Burial Site in Posey County, Indiana". Report prepared for the Indiana Department of Transportation, Indianapolis, 1990). The Martin site (12 Vg 41), is a more modest example of this settlement type. This site contains at least two small conical mounds preserved in 19th century cemetery. Cultural debris surrounding the mounds suggests a Mann phase affiliation.

Mann phase corporate-ceremonial sites are located on terrace landforms, as well as upland locations overlooking bottomland settings. None have been identified within the active floodplain. This suggests that activities involving supra- household integration may have been scheduled to correspond to those portions of the year when lowland habitats were inaccessible.

The Mann site itself occupies a unique position within the preliminary settlement pattern model developed here. This site, located on a flood-free, high terrace landform, served both corporate-ceremonial and domestic functions. The scale and complexity of mound and earthwork construction, mortuary programs, and non-mortuary ceremonialism at the Mann site is rivalled in the Midwest only by the classic Ohio Hopewell sites of south-central Ohio. At the same time, four seasons of survey and test excavation at the Mann site have documented domestic habitation debris including high densities of processing pits, storage pits and deep midden accumulations, on a scale certainly unparalleled by any of the Ohio centers, and perhaps by any contemporary site in the Midwest.

The present study has documented functional and locational variability in the Mann phase, and future research is intended to develop a truly systemic model of Mann phase settlement.

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