

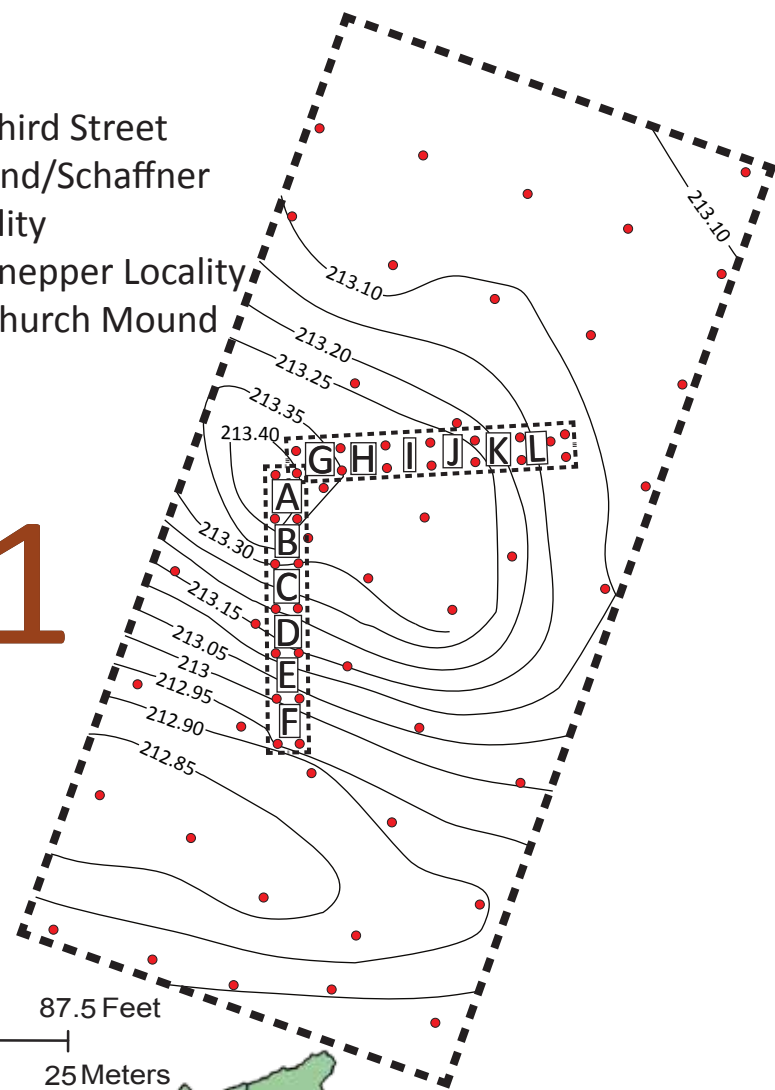
★Composite Map



- (1) Third Street Mound/Schaffner Locality
- (2) Knepper Locality
- (3) Church Mound

1

0 87.5 Feet
0 25 Meters



This site consists of a low rise that was first noticed in 2003 within a vacant lot, nearly 100 meters north of the Third Street Platform Mound. Test excavations in 2015 revealed this to be another Mississippian mound. The top layer of the mound had been disturbed within the past 150 years and contained mixed historic, Oneota, and Mississippian artifacts. The historic disturbances undoubtedly lowered and spread out the top of the original mound. The contour map, suggests that the Church Mound may have originally been another rectangular platform.



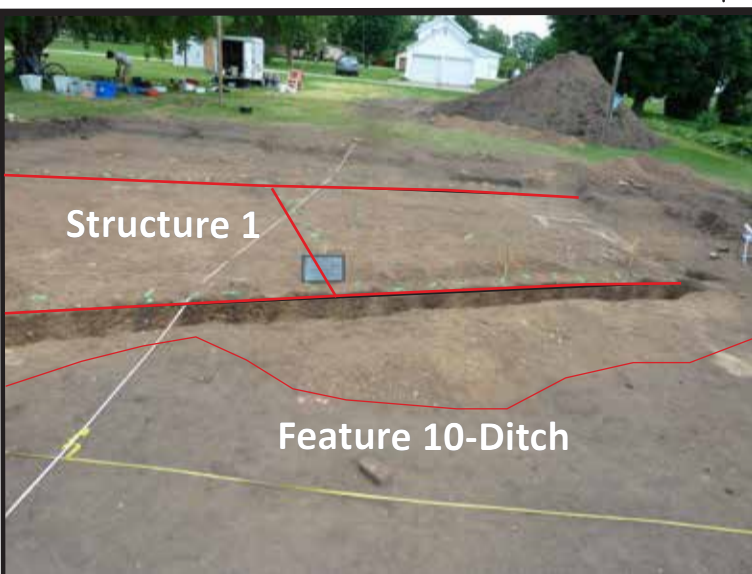
Church Mound

The Trempealeau Archaeology Project

In 2009, archaeologists Danielle Benden and Robert 'Ernie' Boszhardt from the University of Wisconsin and Timothy Pauketat from the University of Illinois began 'The Mississippian Initiative' Project. Their goal was to identify the size and extent of the Mississippian occupation at Trempealeau. After 2013, Benden and Boszhardt continued this research as the "Trempealeau Archaeology Project," with the goal of learning more about the extent of the settlement. They involved local residents in their excavations, (as well as students such as myself) and worked within the modern Village of Trempealeau along Third Street and atop Little Bluff. The excavations uncovered thousands of Mississippian artifacts: red and black painted pottery, special tri-notched arrowheads, polished chips that were shattered from gardening hoes, and micro-drills for making shell beads. The excavations also uncovered Mississippian wall-trench houses, special buildings, additional platform mounds, and a large ditch at the Knepper site that was full of artifacts. Nearly all of the Mississippian artifacts were imported from Cahokia, indicating that people who arrived at Trempealeau 1,000 years ago set up a small community here, bringing their architectural style, knowledge of sun and moon alignments, and religious practices. Mississippians chose this area because of the uniqueness of the Trempealeau Bluffs and Trempealeau Mountain, which has long served as a landmark as well as a revered, special, and powerful place. In less than 50 years, the Mississippian community in Trempealeau ended. Why they left and where they went remains a mystery.

2

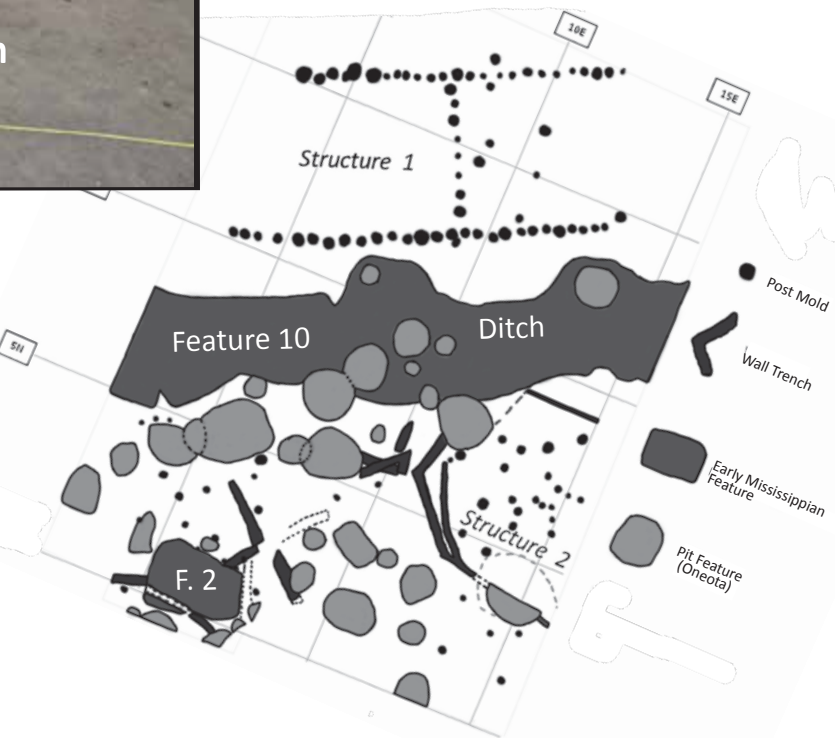
0 87.5 Feet
0 25 Meters



Structure 1

Feature 10-Ditch

Excavation of the ditch revealed that it had been excavated by Mississippians and then used as a place to discard broken pots, stone tools, animal bones, and charred plant remains, probably from activities that occurred on the Third Street Platform Mound and adjacent plazas. The portion of the Knepper site to the south of the ditch contained numerous Oneota storage and refuse pits from activities that occurred 300 years after the Mississippians had departed.

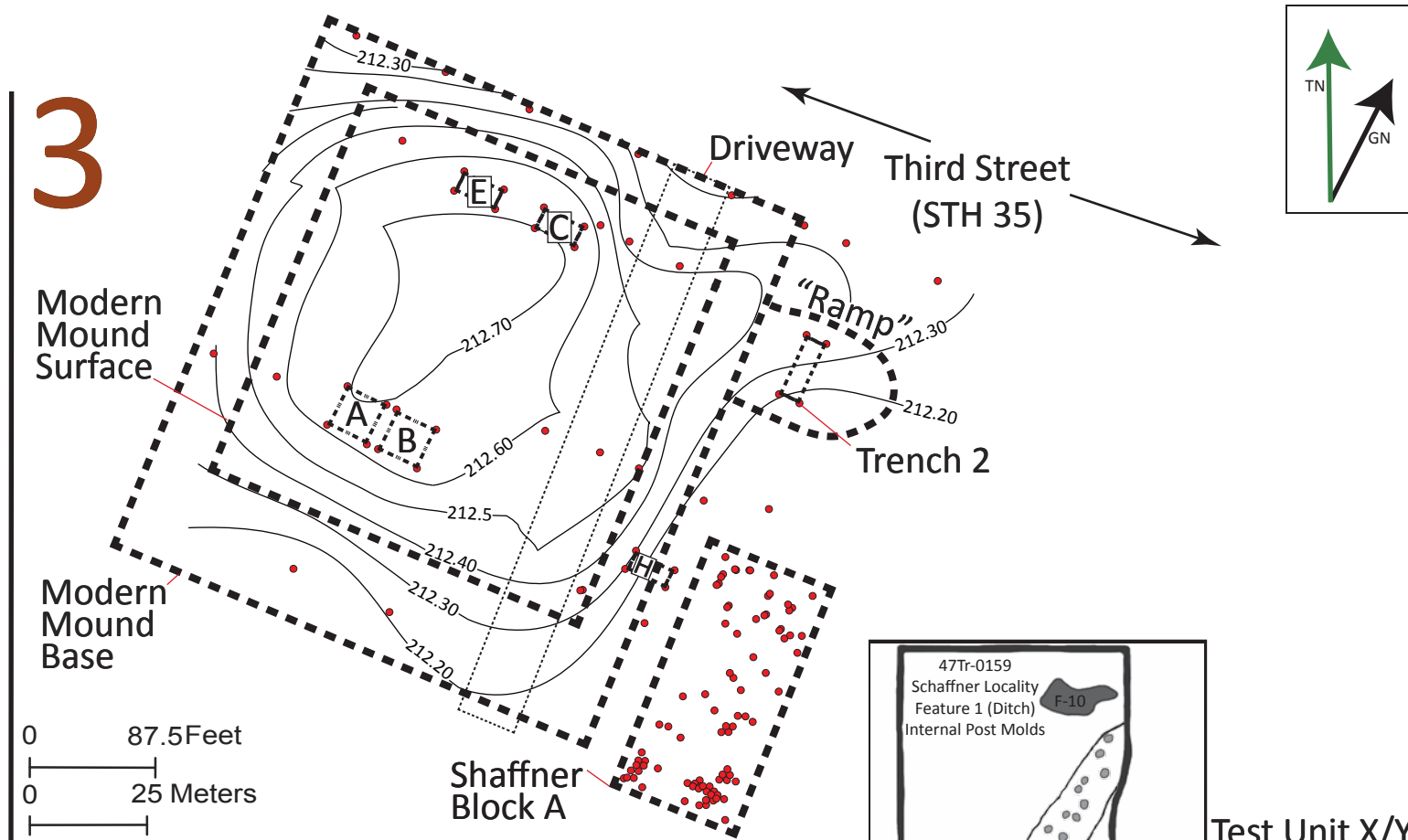


3

Modern Mound Surface

Modern Mound Base

0 87.5 Feet
0 25 Meters



Schaffner Block A



Schaffner Locality

Driveway

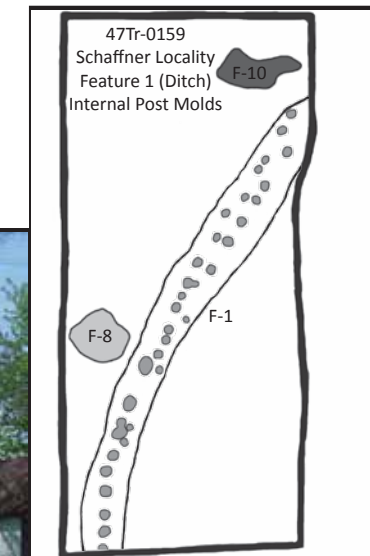
3 Foot high platform

Third Street

The Third Street Platform Mound was originally described by George Gale in 1867 as being 7 feet tall. In 1879, the top four feet of the mound was removed, and for the next century the location and existence of this mound were a mystery. In 1991, archaeologists suggested that a three-foot rise along Third Street might be the remnants of Gale's platform mound. In 2014, the Trempealeau Archaeology Project excavated test units into the rise and adjacent Schaffner Locality. These confirmed that the rise was indeed the base of a Mississippian platform mound that had been constructed nearly 1000 years ago over an abandoned building. A block excavation at Schaffner's, found almost no Mississippian artifacts, suggesting that it was a plaza area at the time the mound was constructed and used. Instead, the Schaffner Locality produced evidence of activities by the subsequent Oneota Culture, which dates to about 700 years ago. The Oneota activities were represented by a few storage pits and concentrations of post molds from building supports. The latter included a double line of posts placed within a curved ditch that indicate a substantial wall, who's function remains unknown.

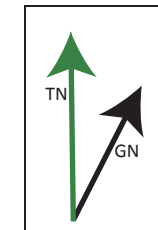


Schaffner Block A



● Common Post Mold
● Oneota Pit
■ Prehistoric pit; unknown

Test Unit X/Y



● GPS Point Measurement
■ Areas of Importance
Letters (e.g. "A" or "K") = "Units"