

# The Macon guide and Ocmulgee National Monument

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- American guide seriesThe Macon guide and Ocmulgee National  
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Notes: Bibliography: p. 119-120.

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## Colonial Trading Path

The first explanation given was that the pits were borrow pits, representing the quarrying activities of the plateau dwellers seeking clay for mound building and the construction of sod-covered houses like the Ceremonial Earth Lodge. They are long, oval excavations, 15 to 20 feet wide, 25 to 60 feet long, and 3 to 11 feet deep, and run continuously around the northeast, north, northwest, southeast, and southwest margins of the plateau. Jennings both updates the history and adds an account of the intercultural exchange that the park has brought about between the post-removal Muscogee Creek people native to the area and Georgians of the last several generations.

## Ocmulgee NM: Guidebook (1940)

These moatlike trenches outside the trading post walls may have served the traders as further defense against attack. Since a number of the burial places discovered at Ocmulgee have been left open for inspection, the visitor, by comparing the different ornaments and tools found with the skeleton, can re-create to some extent the life of the individual. Settlers coming into Georgia and other parts of the Upper South through the Shenandoah Valley and on to the western side of the mountain range had a Pennsylvania-influenced dialect, and were typically small farmers.

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BURIALS The Indians of the Southeast do not seem to have had any uniform method of burial. The archeologist can then determine roughly the time of burial by the type of artifact uncovered with the skeleton.

## Colonial Trading Path

Compiled by the Works Progress Administration, 64-77. Because the prehistoric Indians here built a mound over an earlier cultivated field, the structural layers have been excellently preserved.

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After exploring the museum, venture outdoors to see the Earth Lodge with its original floors that are dated to 1015.

### **The Macon Guide And Ocmulgee National Monument**

Even the 14 clay steps leading from the base to the top of the first building stage are clearly visible. Fortunately, whatever fire did take place here baked the clay floor again, enabling it to survive over a millennium later. In and around the Trading Post the remains of hundreds of Creek Indians of many ages and both sexes were found.

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