

Using Experimental Archaeology to Reconstruct the Circular Post Structure from the D. Hitchens Site

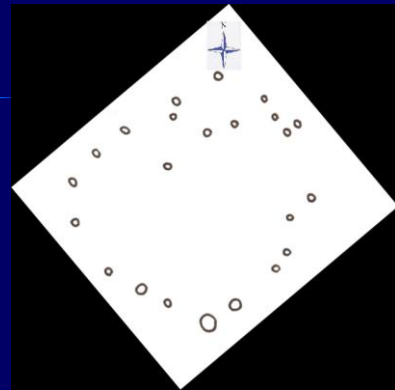
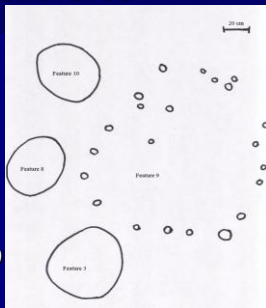
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Experimental Archaeology

- Importance
 - Finding functionality
- Limitations
 - Not a perfect time machine
 - Interpretation

The D. Hitchens Site

- Field school 2006
- 11-MS-1124
 - Mississippian
 - Four features
 - 2 processing
 - 1 storage
 - 22 posts feature 9
 - Used 17

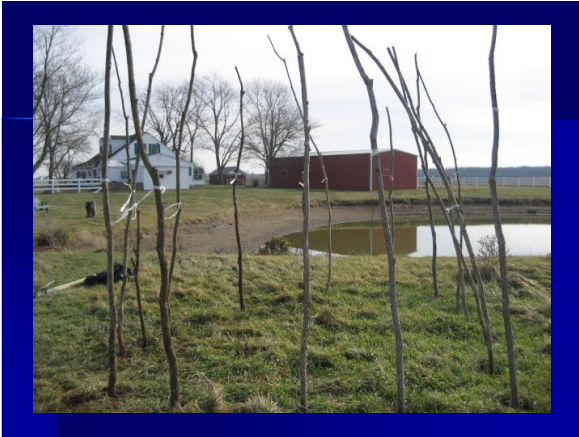


Examining Other Structures

- Circular Post Structures
 - Wall trench structures
 - Temporary Post-Structure
 - Wigwam: Similar/Different
 - Granary
 - Sweat Lodge
 - Menstrual Hut

Building the Structure

- Harvest
 - Young saplings (modern tools)
- Setting the Posts
 - Recreated to original specifications
 - Posthole digger, compass
- 35cm average
 - Posthole depth + plow zone



Thatching

■ Prairie Grass

- First round collected
 - 80 centimeters tall on average
 - Bundled into 15 centimeter in diameter bundles
 - Too small, broken by intense rain and wind
- Second Round



Future of the Roof

- Bringing it lower
- Gabled, Mississippian style
 - Failures of circular opening
 - Need to cut wood in spring



What it may be

- Main possibilities
 - Temporary post-structure, granary
- Others
 - Sweat Lodge
 - Menstrual Hut

Future Study

- Other forms of Thatching
- Building with Freshly cut Posts from Spring
- Roof Designs

Acknowledgments

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