SIUE field school excavations at the A.E. Harmon Site (Summer 2002)

The AE Harmon site (11MS136) is located on the bluff at the north end of the American Bottom, in modern day Edwardsville, Illinois.
Remote sensing

In April of 2002, Dr. Mike Hargrave of Engineer Research and Development Center/Construction Engineering Research Laboratory conducted a magnetic gradient survey and an electrical resistance survey at the site. This is the map he made, with locations of excavation approximated.
West block: removing plowzone
West block, plowzone removed

Features 101, 104, and 105

West block

Plan view
Feature 101
Late Woodland storage pit

Late Woodland ceramics from Feature 101
Feature 104
Age unknown

Feature 105
Age unknown
Opening the east block

Features 102 & 103

East block

Plan view
Features 103 & 106
Late Woodland structure and storage pit
Features
102, 103, 106
Late Woodland structure and storage pits

Reconstructing Feature 103

For his senior project in 2004, Mat Terry reconstructed Feature 103. Feature 103 on left; Mat's reconstruction on right.
Mat’s reconstruction

Reconstructing Feature 103

For her senior project in 2004, Valerie Starr Eachus did a virtual reconstruction of Feature 103.

Val’s paper was also published in Vol. 19 (2007) of Illinois Archaeology.

Feature 102
Late Woodland storage pit
Feature 106
Late Woodland storage pit

Feature 108
unknown age
Late Woodland Sponemann phase ceramics from Feature 106

Late Woodland Patrick phase sherd from Feature 106
Emergent Mississippian Edelhardt phase ceramics from Feature 103
Edelhardt, Feature 103

Edelhardt, Feature 103
Stumpware, Feature 103

Projectile points
The site location gave access to floodplain, upland, forest, and prairie resources.
The people who lived at AE Harmon ate lots of little bullheads!

They also ate these.
And they ate these.

Canid bones were also identified. It’s not clear if the dog was eaten.
Native cultigens

Chenopodium


They ate these plants.
Toshia also identified maize, squash, and wild beans in Edelhardt phase trash.

Thanks and best wishes to everyone on the 2002 crew!