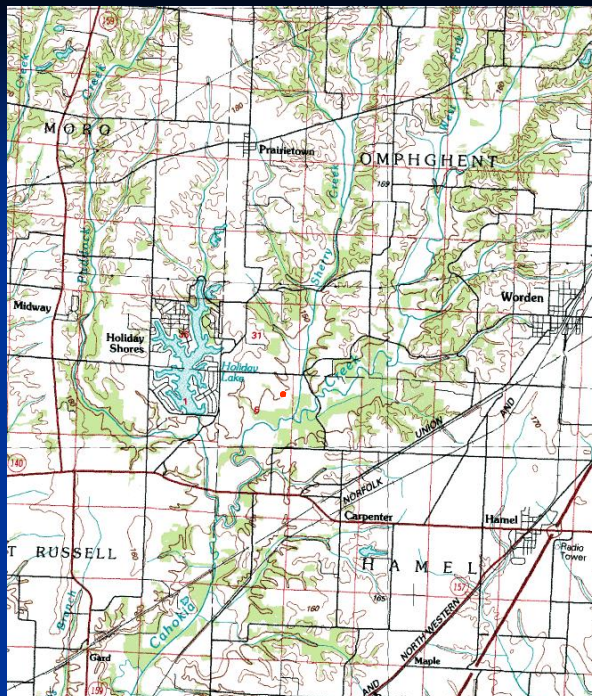


SIUE field school excavations at the D. Hitchins Site (Summer 2006)

The site

The red dot shows the location of the D. Hitchins site (11MS1124). The site was located in the uplands north of the American Bottom, on a bank above Sherry Creek. The canoe ride to Cahokia via Cahokia Creek would have been about 20 miles. Note that Holiday Lake to the west is a modern construction.

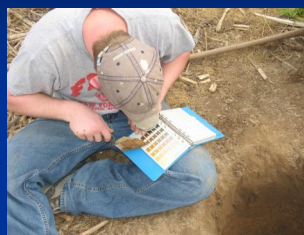


Shovel Testing 11MS1125

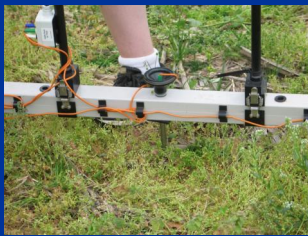


11MS1125 is located on a finger ridge just south of 11MS1124. We recovered a few flakes in our shovel tests, but no diagnostic artifacts.

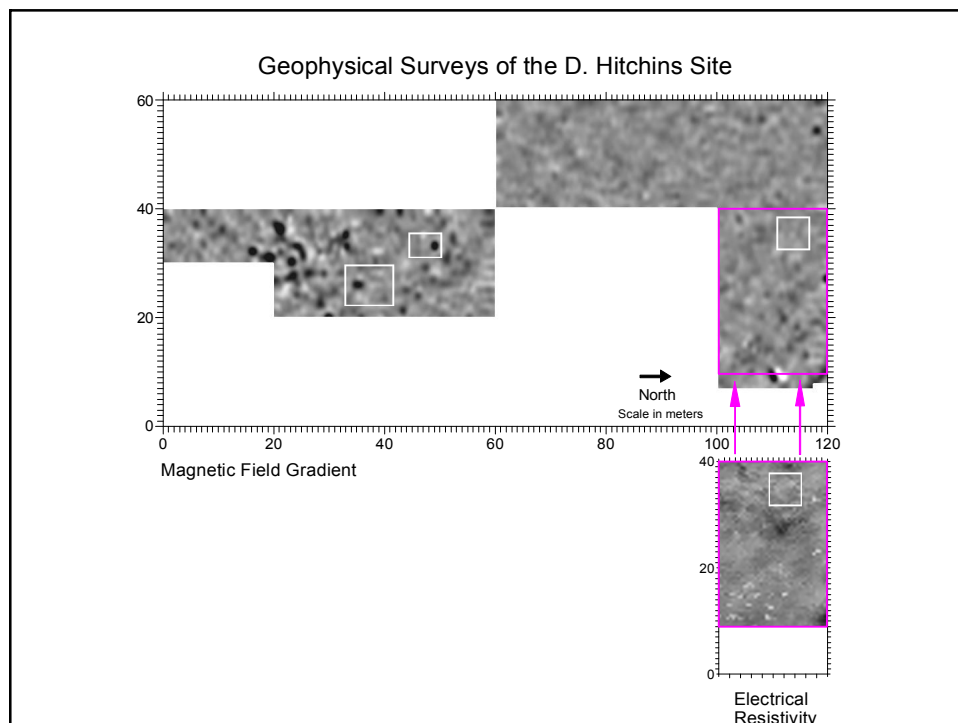
Shovel Testing 11MS1125



Remote Sensing 11MS1124



In April of 2006, 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:



Excavating at 11MS1124 North Block



North block



This shot is facing west. That's a Holiday Shores water tower in the background.

Feature 1



Feature 1 produced no diagnostic artifacts, but appears to be an early Late Woodland pit feature. A Steuben point was found on the surface nearby.



Feature 2



Feature 2 is a pit feature containing early Late Woodland ceramics. It was located approximately one meter from Feature 1 (see the next picture below).



Features 1 & 2



Facing west.

Central block



The central block contained a large concentration of FCR which created a strong anomaly in the magnetometer survey. Most of the FCR was in the plowzone; shown above at left is the undisturbed portion of the feature at the base of the plowzone. Disturbance south of the feature was ultimately determined to be the result of a tree fall.

Opening the south block



The south block began as a 2x2 meter unit to expose an anomaly that was detected in the magnetometer survey. Feature 3 was detected in the northeast corner of the 2x2, so the unit was expanded.

Feature 3



Feature 3 is now at the center of this 4x4 m unit. Several more features were partially uncovered, so the unit was expanded again.

Feature 3 etc.



Feature 3 is a storage pit at center. Feature 9 is a post structure north of Feature 3. Features 8 and 10 are pits located west of the post structure.

Mapping the south block



Excavating the south block



Feature 3

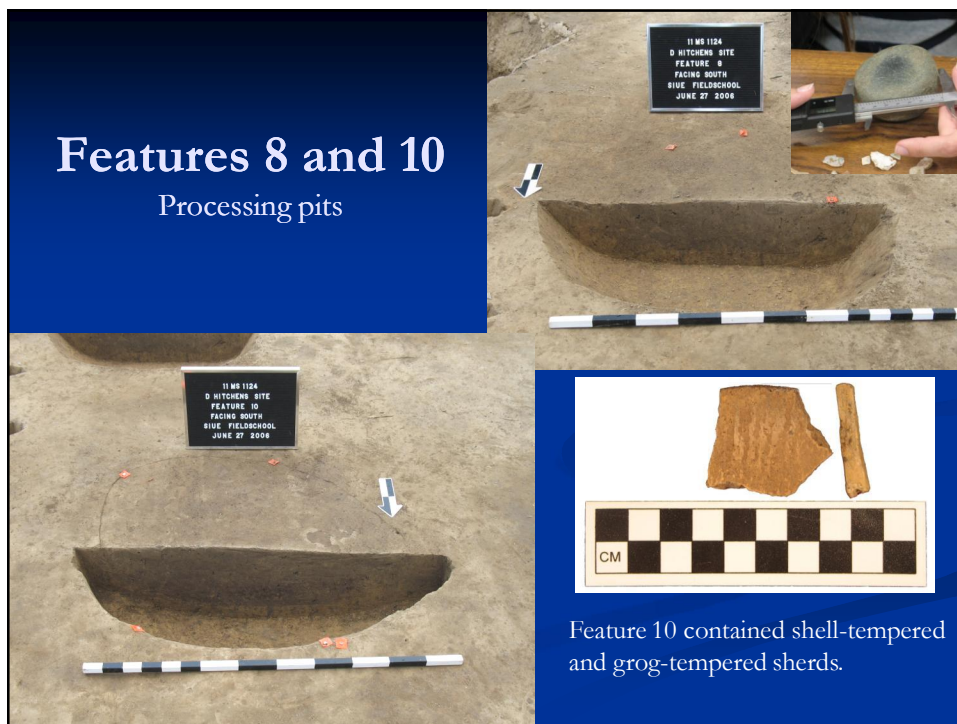


Feature 3 was a storage pit with Mississippian red-slipped shell-tempered sherds at its base.



Features 8 and 10

Processing pits



South block

looking southwest



Postmold, Feature 9



All posts were bisected and shown to be vertical in profile.

Feature 18



Feature 18 was detected in the northeast corner of the south block on the final day of the excavation, so it was not excavated. It was located northeast of post structure Feature 9, and its fill looked similar to the fill in pit Features 8 and 10.

Lab work

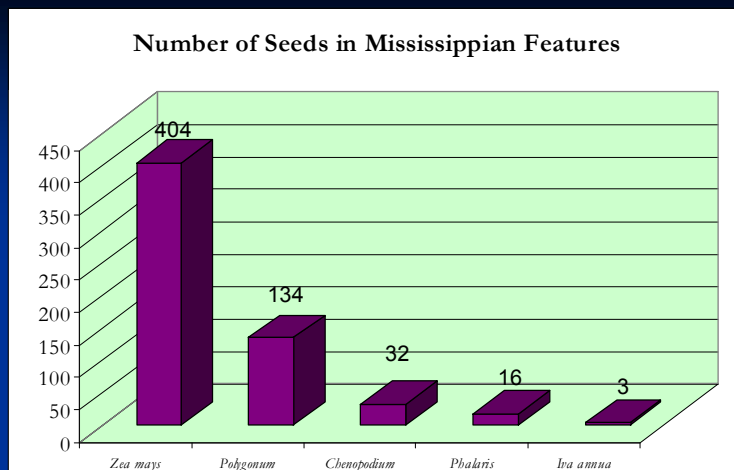


Mississippian hunting and farming

Cahokia points



Hoe flakes



Erin Marks won a URA grant to support her 2007 senior project on the D. Hitchins site. Her grant paid for Marge Schroeder of the ISM to identify the plant remains. Erin made the cool graph above. They were definitely growing maize at the site, but were they shipping it downstream to Cahokia???