

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Shaw's Point Archeological District

other names/site number DeSoto National Memorial

2. Location

street & number [redacted] ☒ not for publication

city or town Bradenton ☐ vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Manatee code 081 zip code 34280

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Matthew M. Murn 2-26-01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

National Park Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Janet Snyder Hattburg 2/15/2001
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Erika Martin Seibert

4/06/01

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ buildings
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

0	2	buildings
3	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	3	objects
3	5	total

Name of related multiple property listings

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Village Site

Domestic: Camp

Subsistence: Processing

Industry/Processing/Extraction: Processing Site

Subsistence: Fishing Site

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape: Park

Recreation: Outdoor Recreation

Culture: Museum

Culture: Monument/Marker

Landscape: Natural Feature

Landscape: Conservation Area

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

n/a

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation n/a

walls

roof

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution road patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction of represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

(Enter categories from instructions)

Archeology/PrehistoricArcheology/Historic-- Non-Aboriginal**Period of Significance**365 B.C. - A.D. 1395A.D. 1843 - 1856**Significant Dates**n/a**Significant Person**n/a**Cultural Affiliation**Deptford (500 B.C. - A.D. 200)Manasota (500 B.C. - A.D. 900)Safety-Harbor (A.D. 900 - 1500)American (A.D. 1821 -)**Architect/Builder**n/a**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of Repository



NPS-SOUTHEAST ARCHEOLOGICAL CENTER

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 37 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1 
Zone Easting Northing
2 

3 
Zone Easting Northing
4 

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margo Schwadron/SEAC Archeologist & Barbara E. Mattick/Deputy SHPO for Survey & Registration

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date February 2001

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (850) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Various

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Shaw's Point Archeological District
Manatee County, FL**

Summary

The Shaw's Point site represents one of the Florida gulf coast's most significant prehistoric sites. Historic documents describe the site as an extensive complex, consisting of a massive shell mound (30 feet in height, 600 feet long); shell ridges; shell middens; ramps and walkways; burial mounds; and a cemetery. Many of the archeological components of the Shaw's Point site were severely impacted or destroyed by development and shell mining activities during the early 20th century, to the extent that some even considered the site to have been completely destroyed. However, recent systematic archeological investigations have determined the contrary—the Shaw's Point Archeological District still contains significant, intact and well-preserved archeological resources. The extensive archeological investigation of the district, including 20 radiocarbon dates, determined that the Shaw's Point Archeological District was a large prehistoric village site occupied from as early as 365 B.C. to A.D. 1395 by peoples of the Deptford, Manasota, and the Safety Harbor periods (Schwadron 1997, 2000). Through an occupation probably extending over the course of 1800-1900 years, the prehistoric village site consisted of at least several very large shell middens, shell mounds, linear shell ridge middens, walkways, a cemetery, and several burial mounds (Schwadron 1997, 1998). Part of this village site was located in what is now De Soto National Memorial [REDACTED] and fortunately, because most of the land has been preserved as a National Park or was never developed, a good portion of this prehistoric village site remains intact. The cemetery and burial mounds have not been relocated, however, and are therefore not included in this nomination. The Shaw's Point Archeological District also contains a significant historic period archeological site, known as the tabby ruin site, dating to the American period (1821 --), specifically 1843-1856 A.D.

Environmental Setting

The Shaw's Point Archeological District is located in Manatee County, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The district encompasses the entire De Soto National Memorial (26.4 acres), [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and Estevez 1988:1). It is surrounded by a rich and productive estuarine environment that provided the sustenance and resources for prehistoric and historic populations who inhabited the area.

The ecologically diverse district is situated within both the Coastal sector (with beach strand and lagoon/marsh habitats) and the South Florida sector (tropical and subtropical habitats). The Coastal sector consists of beaches, lagoons, marshes, swamps, and drained lands, which are mainly influenced by daily tides (Larson 1980). The South Florida sector extends directly south from Tampa Bay (Larson 1980:23). The district

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contains three major vegetation zones: flatwoods, bottomlands and coastal mangrove. These zones are differentiated on the basis of soil characteristics, water availability, and faunal and botanical communities. The natural vegetation of the flatwoods zone is comprised of stands of longleaf and slash pine, with an understory of saw palmetto and gallberry. The bottomlands are also referred to as wetlands, wet prairies, grassland prairies and cypress heads. Natural vegetation of bottomlands consists of hydric hardwoods, cypress, bay, and many understory ferns and berries. Coastal mangrove zones are situated in estuarine or coastal areas, and consist of stands of mangrove trees. Mangroves thrive in semitropical coastal environments, due to their unique root systems and ability to exist in salt-water.

Description

The Shaw's Point Archeological District contains three previously recorded archeological sites listed in the Florida State Master Site File: 8Ma7 (the Shaw's Point site); 8Ma28 (no name); and 8Ma981 (Riverview Point). 8Ma7, the Shaw's Point site, contains most of the archeological components in this district, including shell mounds, shell ridges, shell middens, and a historic tabby ruin site dating to approximately 1843-1856 (Schwadron 1997, 1998, 2000). 8Ma28 is reported to be a small portion of a shell midden ridge that extends westward along the north shoreline of De Soto National Memorial. 8Ma981, located in the Riverview Point property, also contains shell ridges and a shell mound (Janus 1996). Together, these significant archeological resources compose the Shaw's Point Archeological District, all related archeological components which represent the remaining vestiges of a once substantial prehistoric village site.

Previous National Register Listing

8Ma101 was listed on the National Register as De Soto National Memorial in 1966 (and revised in 1975). The De Soto National Memorial National Register Nomination is a general nomination that includes the entire boundary of De Soto National Memorial, which was listed as a nationally significant historic monument in its entirety, and which briefly mentions two archeological resources (the tabby ruin site and the possibility of prehistoric shell middens in the park). Because the Shaw's Point Archeological District represents newly identified archeological resources from this important prehistoric village site, and it includes resources on property extending outside and adjacent to the boundary of De Soto National Memorial, it was decided to create a new archeological district nomination. The Shaw's Point Archeological District Nomination does not replace, nor does it update the 8Ma101 National Register site.

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Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

Contributing Resource Name	FL State Site Number	Archeological Site Type	Site Integrity
Marker Mound	8Ma7	Shell Mound	Excellent
Remnant Mound	8Ma7	Shell Mound	Excellent
Egret Mound and Shell Ramp	8Ma7	Shell Mound and Shell Ramp/Walkway	Excellent
Shell Ridge Middens	8Ma7	Shell Ridge Midden	Excellent
Miscellaneous Shell Middens	8Ma7	Shell Midden	Good
Tabby Ruins Site	8Ma7	Historic House Site	Good
8Ma28 (No Name)	8Ma28	Shell Midden	Good
Riverview Point Midden	8Ma981	Shell Ridge Midden and Shell Mound	Excellent

Non-Contributing Resource Name	Resource Type	Reason For Non-Contributing
De Soto National Memorial Visitor Center and Museum	Building	No Relationship to Archeological District
De Soto National Memorial Maintenance Facility	Building	No Relationship to Archeological District
Commemorative Hernando De Soto Marker	Object	No Relationship to Archeological District
De Soto National Memorial Interpretive Displays	Object	No Relationship to Archeological District
Catholic Church Cross	Object	No Relationship to Archeological District

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Shaw's Point Archeological District
Manatee County, FL

Physical Characteristics – Historical Descriptions

Historically, the name Shaw's Point has meant several things. Shaw's Point is an historic place name for the [REDACTED] It was named after William Shaw, one of the first settlers of Manatee County. After Shaw settled [REDACTED] in 1843, it became known historically as Shaw's Point. Shaw's Point is also known as a significant prehistoric archeological site. Many early researchers visited Shaw's Point to examine a series of massive shell mounds that lined the shoreline of Shaw's Point. These large shell mounds became known as the Shaw's Point site, and later, became officially known named the Shaw's Point site (8Ma7). In order to preserve the historic and archeological associations of the district, it was decided that the most appropriate name for the district is The Shaw's Point Archeological District.

The earliest published reference to the significant archeological sites located at Shaw's Point was by Daniel G. Brinton in 1859. Brinton's (1859:180) reference to a shell mound [REDACTED] describes it as "twenty feet in height composed largely of a species of *Pyrula*,...numerous fragments of course, ill marked pottery...mixed with charcoal, ashes and dirt, and never more than three feet below the surface." In the Smithsonian Institution Annual Report for 1866, Brinton described the shell mounds located at Shaw's Point as "ancient graves, containing bones, charcoal, and unbroken utensils" (Brinton 1867:357).

Although Brinton (1859), and later Wyman (1875) had visited Shaw's Point earlier, the first published reference to the site using the name Shaw's Point was by Sylvanus T. Walker. He places the site [REDACTED] at the area now known as Shaw's Point:

The shell heaps or mounds at this place extend along the shore 564 feet, and are from 15 to 20 feet in altitude at the highest points. The encroachment of the sea upon the northern front has cut away the slope and left a perpendicular wall 15 feet high, presenting a perfect section of the mound through its greater diameter, and affording a better view of its internal structure than could possibly be obtained by anything short of many months' labor and the expenditure of many hundreds of dollars (Walker 1880b:416).

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Shaw's Point Archeological District
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Walker included with his report several drawings of the large Shaw's Point shell mound, including a section drawing (Figure 1), and a ground plan (Figure 2).

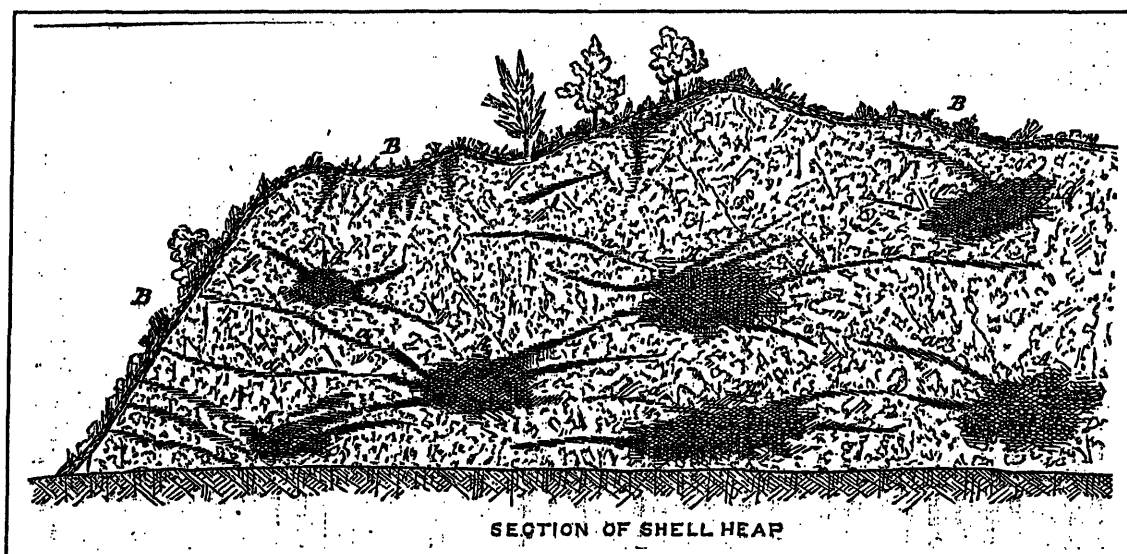


Figure 1. Section Drawing of the Shaw's Point shell mound (from Walker 1880b).

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Walker is credited as being one of the first researchers to recognize stratigraphy in mounds. He described the strata of the Shaw's Point shell mound as having consisted of a series of fire camps, thin stratas of soil with scattered faunal remains interspersed with larger shell deposits, and a surface layer. Walker noted that "Whenever a fire-place was abandoned for any considerable time, a thin stratum of soil accumulated, in which we find occasional bones, shell, [etc.]." Walker did not excavate at the site, nor did he collect any material from the site that we know of.

Between approximately 1902 and up to the 1920s, the Shaw's Point shell mound was mined for road fill. The great shell mound that once lined the north-shore of the beach was so extensive that locals reported that the shell mined from it was enough to line the roads in the cities of Bradenton, Cortez and Palma Sola. Several photographs of the Shaw's Point site dating to the early 1900s are archived with the Manatee County Historical Society, depicting the enormity of the mound (Figure 3).

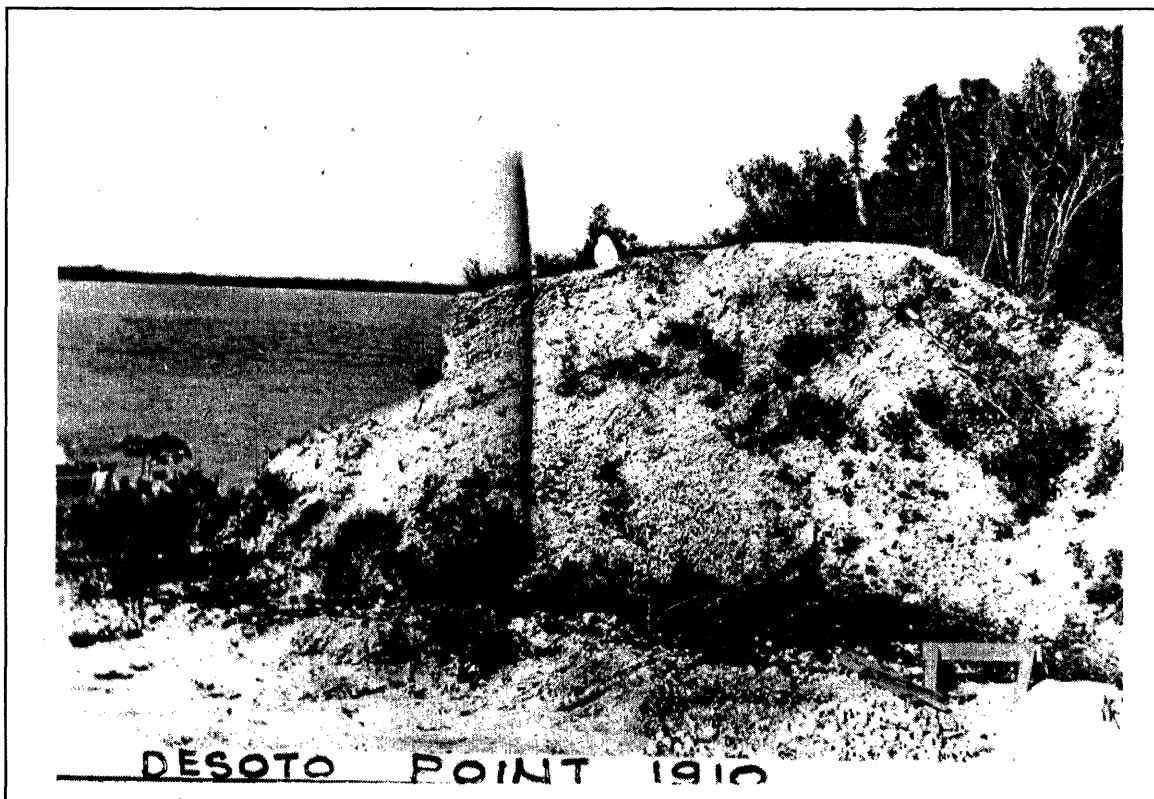


Figure 3. Shaw's Point shell mound, 1910 (Manatee County Historical Society).

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Shaw's Point Archeological District
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Sometime during the 1920s - 1930s, local Manatee County amateur archeologist Montague Tallant visited and recorded the Shaw's Point site. He described the site as a:

Large shell kitchen midden, some places reached a height of 15' and covered about 5 acres of ground, many relics of shell, stone and bone, have been found here. One of the most important rites [sites] on the west coast. Five burial mounds and one cemetery. [REDACTED]
Shaw's Point (Tallant and Griffin n.d.).

Tallant's field notes provide more detail on the extent of the Shaw's Point site complex [excerpts]:

Our next and very important site is at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]...The shell midden was very large here covering some five or six acres and was ten or more feet high in places. Much of this was used for roads in the Palma Sola section. It commanded a wonderful view of Tampa Bay and is one of the very few salt water villages that could boast of a fine fresh water spring. There were six different burial sites for Shaws Point village (Tallant n.d.).

Asa Pillsbury, a member of one of the early families settling in Manatee County, was born in 1877 and in 1881 settled on his family's land, one-half mile west of Shaw's Point. Mr. Pillsbury appears to have been a staunch preservationist, for he actively protected the sand mounds on his property, and only in one instance granted permission for a professional archeologist (Ripley Bullen) to examine the mound.

In 1963, Manatee County Historian Carl King conducted an interview with Asa Pillsbury. In this interview, Mr. Pillsbury describes the Shaw's Point site as it had looked in the late 19th century [excerpts]:

Carl King- You said something a little time ago, that when they were clear digging over there, they found a lot of ashes over there. Tell us about that.

Asa Pillsbury- Yea. That was between the two mounds - the shell mounds, where they camped....The two mounds over to Shaws Point. The big one and the other small one. And that ash pit was close up to the big mound. It was about 20 feet across. Ashes themselves was about five feet deep in there. And all along that place was bones. All kinds fish, birds and gators. It was a kitchen. They would cook their stuff and eat it right there. They kept that fire going all the time. They just let the ashes stay. I don't know how they ever started a fire, but they had some way of starting it. The mound over on Sneads Island was just like this one was.

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Carl King- Do you remember when that old mound was there before they took it away (Shaws Point).

Asa Pillsbury- Sure.

Carl King- How tall was it?

Asa Pillsbury- About 20 feet. About the same height as this. But you see, they had cut on that middles, it had washed away. About half of it was gone. From the looks of everything then (King 1963).

While many researchers who visited Shaw's Point described the enormous shell mound that lined the north-shore beach, several also noted the curious occurrence of "shell ridges" located within the mangrove swamp. Because the shell ridges did not appear to fit known archeological site patterns in the region, the presence of the ridges was thought to be the results of dredge spoil piles (Fischer 1976, Wild 1991), or from storm surges (Gannon 1965), and not prehistoric cultural features.

The first researcher to examine the shell ridges with an archeological perspective was Charles T. Earle, a local Bradenton, Florida resident. In a c.1920 correspondence with the Smithsonian Institution, Earle described the Shaw's Point site as a large shell mound along the north-shore of the beach, and the entire inland area as "muck beds lying between low shell ridges." He explains that during the preparation for real estate development, the swamp was cleared of vegetation, and that the shell ridges, "being cleared of all growth, are easy to examine and dig in."

Earle's correspondence further described the dredging of a ten-foot drainage canal through the swamp, which took a total of two months to dig. While conducting the dredging operation, Earle noted:

The digging proved the shell ridges or benches enclosed water-courts like Mr. Cushing described, as the muck averaged two to three feet deep, covering a deposit of shell of various depths mostly running deeper than the ditch (five feet). This shell was not a natural oyster bar- it was evidently deposited by the aborigines as [it] is exactly like the shell in the mound, that is, the refuse from meals containing broken bones, fragments of pottery, etc. One burial was encountered, a badly decayed skeleton lying full length on top of the shell strata, covered by two feet of topsoil (sand and mud mixed). I did not see it in position but the workmen's detailed accounts were descriptive. The bones crumbled away and the teeth were carried off by the men (Earle, October 9, 1920).

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Earle's correspondence with the Smithsonian includes a map of the Shaw's Point site depicting the shell ridges (Figure 4). Earle's placement of the shell ridges corresponds very accurately with the position of the ridges today.

Figure 4. Sketch map of the Shaw's Point site by Charles T. Earle, c. 1920.

Historical accounts, therefore, describe the Shaw's Point site as an extensive, significant prehistoric shell mound complex, containing shell mounds, middens, burial mounds, a cemetery, shell ridges, and an elevated shell causeway or walkway leading to the nearby Pillsbury Mound (8Ma31). Together, these archeological resources are components of the once extensive Shaw's Point village site, and therefore, are contributing resources to the Shaw's Point Archeological District. Note, however, that the burial mounds and cemetery have not been located in the most recent investigations of the area.

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Shaw's Point Archeological District
Manatee County, FL

Present Description, Condition, and Physical Characteristics

The Shaw's Point Archeological District contains three archeological sites that are contributing resources to the district: 8Ma7 (Shaw's Point); 8Ma28 (no name); and 8Ma981 (Riverview Point). Recent systematic archeological investigations have provided valuable new data on the nature, extent and condition of these sites. The physical characteristics and archeological components of each site are described below.

8Ma7 (Shaw's Point) (Includes: Remnant Mound; Marker Mound; Egret Mound; Shell Ridge Middens 1-7; and Tabby Ruin Site)

In January of 1997, the National Park Service's Regionwide Archeological Survey Program conducted a three week systematic archeological investigation to locate, identify and evaluate archeological resources within the De Soto National Memorial. Previous to this investigation, no systematic archeological investigation had been conducted within the park or on the Shaw's Point site (8Ma7) (Schwadron 1998).

The three week investigation was designed to achieve several cultural resource management goals, including: 1) determining site types and limits for both historic and prehistoric components within the park; 2) evaluating the integrity of the archeological resources encountered during the field work, including assessing their eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places; and 3) recommending appropriate strategies for conserving, managing, and interpreting those resources (Schwadron 1997).

The project was conducted in four investigation phases, including: 1) transit and global positioning system (GPS) mapping of the park to produce an archeological base map and to collect data for a Geographic Information System GIS; 2) subsurface testing with judgmentally placed shovel tests in the shell ridges and middens; 3) excavation of test units placed in two possible mounds (Remnant and Marker) and the collection of column samples for specialized studies; and 4) systematic shovel test excavation for historic sites and features in the area around the tabby ruins (Schwadron 1997).

The investigation determined that the Shaw's Point site (8Ma7) consists of several distinct archeological components, including three shell mounds (Marker Mound, Remnant Mound and Egret Mound), a shell walkway or ramp (connected to Egret Mound), and a series of shell midden ridges. These archeological components were the subject of extensive archeological testing. Results of the archeological investigations show that these are intact, well preserved and significant archeological resources (Schwadron 2000).

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Shaw's Point Archeological District
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Remnant Mound

The Remnant Mound is a large, intact shell mound that represents a small remaining portion of the once massive Shaw's Point shell mound. Excavation of one 1 x 2 m excavation unit in the Remnant Mound revealed four distinct stratigraphic midden zones, reaching to a depth of 170 cm.

Six radiocarbon dates were obtained from the Remnant Mound excavation unit. Two radiocarbon samples taken from the very lowest level of the mound (Zone D), resulted in calibrated dates of 45 B.C. – A.D. 250 (Table 1). The top zone of the mound (Zone A), produced two calibrated radiocarbon dates of A.D. 410 to 895. The suite of dates from Remnant Mound suggest that accumulation of the mound occurred over an approximately 950 year period.

The top zone, Zone A, consisted of a predominately oyster shell midden mixed with a light gray to black silty sand, and also containing whelks, scallop, crown conch, strombus, and rarely, clams. Two radiocarbon samples (one carbonized remain and one shell) submitted from this zone resulted in dates of A.D. 410 to 895.

Zone B of Remnant Mound consisted of a predominately oyster shell midden mixed with black and white sand, and containing a larger amount of tulip whelks, and other shells, including whelks, scallop, crown conch, strombus, and clams. One shell radiocarbon sample resulted in a date of A.D. 313 to 635.

Zone C consisted of very dense but loosely packed oyster shell midden with black sand, also containing whelk, conch, strombus, scallop and clams. It was noted that patches of the zone contained very black, "greasy" soil. At 140 cm, a fire pit feature was encountered. The feature consisted of gray and white ash and sand with highly burned shell and faunal material, with some pottery and worked bone fragments. The pit measured 20 cm in thickness, and was completely enclosed within zone C, which is radiocarbon dated from A.D. 120 to 410.

Zone D consisted of oyster shell and other shells mixed with damp, black "greasy" dirt gradually turning into a water saturated muck. Water was encountered at 155 cm, where the black shell midden soil became saturated muck, and a sump pump was used to excavate below the present water table. Excavation below the water table revealed that the saturated muck was mixed with large amounts of shell, often with very large whelk and horse conch shells, and still containing cultural material (ceramics, shell tools, etc.). Two radiocarbon samples were submitted from Zone D, resulting in dates of 45 B.C. to A.D. 230 and 70 B.C. to A.D. 250.

The base of the mound was encountered below Zone D, at a depth of 170 cmbs, and was situated on top of a peat and muck zone with the possible remnants of mangrove prop roots. The presence of peat and the two radiocarbon dates from the base of the mound suggest that the first level of the mound may have been built in a wet, mangrove environment during the early Manasota period, around 45 B.C. to A.D. 250.

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Preservation was excellent within the mound, and many artifacts and faunal remains were recovered, including a drilled shell bead, and worked bone implements. Most prevalent throughout all zones of the mound were shell tools, including many small fighting conch hammers. Columella hammers were another common tool type, and some columella fragments from cutting-edged tools, possibly used for wood-working, were also present. Hundreds of sand-tempered plain pottery sherds were recovered throughout the Remnant Mound, along with one limestone tempered and one Dunns Creek Red sherd.

Table 1. Radiocarbon Results from the Remnant Mound.

Sample No.	Provenience	Material	Conventional C-14 Age	Calibrated Date Range	Calibrated Mean Date
Beta-103935	Zone A, Level 4, 34 cmbd	Charcoal	1560 \pm 50 BP	A.D. 410 - 620	A.D. 535
Beta-103936	Zone A, Level 4, 36-40 cmbd	Lightning Whelk	1630 \pm 60 BP	A.D. 660 - 895	A.D. 760
Beta-103948	Zone B, Level 7, 60-70 cmbd	Oyster	1930 \pm 70 BP	A.D. 310 - 635	A.D. 465
Beta-103949	Zone C, Level 11, 102-110 cmbd	Oyster	2110 \pm 60 BP	A.D. 120 - 410	A.D. 260
Beta-103950	Zone D, Level 15, 140-150 cmbd	Oyster	2260 \pm 70 BP	70 B.C. - A.D. 250	A.D. 90
Beta-103951	Zone D, Level 16, 150-164 cmbd	Oyster	2260 \pm 60 BP	45 B.C. - A.D. 230	A.D. 90

Marker Mound

The Marker Mound is a small mound [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The mound measures approximately 75' x 70' x 4', and today is covered with St. Augustine grass and surrounded by Gumbo-Limbo (wild-rubber) and Buttonwood trees. Before the 1997 investigation, the mound had never been examined archeologically. It had been suggested that the Marker Mound was not a prehistoric structure, but in fact a modern artificial mound created out of spoil piles or material borrowed from nearby midden sites in 1939, [REDACTED] Many National Park Service documents questioned the authenticity of the mound, yet no documentation existed which would determine its origin. Early black and white photographs of the area before it became a National Park Service Memorial depict a flat beach area void

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of any mounds or middens, except for a small round hill overgrown with tall grass. Another photograph dated 1938, one year before the placement of the commemorative marker, shows the knoll with mature trees. These photographs suggest that there was some original elevation there before placement of the marker.

One 1 by 1.5 meter unit was placed on the southern slope of the Marker Mound, and was excavated following both natural and arbitrary levels. The unit was excavated by hand, using trowels. All soil was removed and water screened through a one-eighth inch hardware mesh screen. Results of the excavation confirm that the mound contains primary, intact archeological deposits representing the base of the Shaw's Point Mound.

Excavation of the Marker Mound excavation unit revealed that the upper levels of the mound showed evidence of having been mined, and later, a fill containing disturbed archeological shell midden (from an unknown source) was deposited on top to add height to the mound. Underneath the modern fill zones, starting at approximately 80 cm below the present ground surface were primary, intact strata, approximately one meter thick. At 160 cmbs, the base of the mound was reached, situated on a sterile zone composed of finely crushed shell fragments and coarse beach sand. Three shell radiocarbon samples were taken from the lowest three zones of the mound. Together, they indicate that the base of the Marker Mound is the base of a portion of the original Shaw's Point Mound, with construction beginning during the Early Manasota Period around A.D. 15 – 345.

Examination of the cultural material recovered from some of the lower, intact cultural zones of the mound indicate that they contain a high amount of worked bone and bone implements, including three finished bone points, and two worked deer long bones. This suggests that this particular area of the site may have served as a specialized activity area, used in the manufacturing of tools (bone implements, fishing nets) or in food processing. The profile of the south wall of the Marker Mound showed evidence of a pit feature within a lower zone. The pit feature is completely contained within the zone, and extends into the south wall of the excavation unit, and is intrusive to the zone below it. A very large, sand-tempered plain pottery rim sherd and several pieces of the same pot were recovered from within the pit feature. The sherds are from a very thick (1.2 cm) incurvate rim vessel, with a rounded lip. It is estimated that the pottery sherds represent approximately 30% of the pot, allowing an estimated rim diameter to be calculated, equaling 30 cm.

At approximately 160 cmbs, the base of the mound was reached, situated on a sterile, finely crushed shell and beach sand zone. Preservation of the midden material was excellent, and many artifacts were recovered, including prehistoric pottery, shell tools, lithics and faunal remains.

Three radiocarbon samples were submitted for dating from the Marker Mound (Table 2). The bottom of Zone I produced a date of A.D. 15 – 345, and the next Zone above it, H, was dated to 155 B.C. – A.D. 175. Although

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these two dates do not appear in perfect chronological order, there is an overlap between them (from A.D. 15 – A.D. 175), suggesting that this could merely reflect the vagaries of C-14 dating and possibly a relatively short duration between the deposition of both zones. The next Zone, G, was dated to A.D. 205 – A.D. 475. No samples were submitted for zones higher up in the Marker Mound due to poor confidence in the samples (as they are believed to be disturbed or represent modern filling activities).

Table 2. Radiocarbon Results from the Marker Mound.

Sample No.	Provenience	Material	Conventional C-14 Age	Calibrated Date Range	Calibrated Mean Date
Beta-103943	Zone G	Oyster	2040 \pm 60 BP	A.D. 205-475	A.D. 355
Beta-103944	Zone H, Level 14, 125-135 cmbd	Oyster	2320 \pm 70 BP	155 B.C. - A.D. 175	A.D. 25
Beta-103945	Zone I, Level 17, 155-165 cmbd	Oyster	2190 \pm 70 BP	A.D. 15 - 345	A.D. 160

Egret Mound

Egret Mound was discovered while mapping the shell ridge features located within the mangrove swamp. The mound dimensions are approximately 13.5 meters in diameter, with a height of 70 cm above the current mangrove swamp ground level. A shell walkway or ramp gradually increasing in width and height, leads up the mound. The mound mainly consists of oyster, clam, whelk and lightning whelk shells. The surface of Egret Mound was covered with many shell tools (mostly finished), including many types of hafted and unhafted hammers, cutting-edged tools, anvils, choppers, columella hammers, an adze/celt, net weights, and shell blanks and debitage. A Safety Harbor Incised pottery sherd and a St. Johns Check Stamped sherd were also recovered from the surface (Table 3).

One 50 by 50 cm shovel test was placed towards the center of the mound, and excavated in 10 cm levels. The soil removed was water screened through a one-quarter inch hardware mesh screen. The test revealed three strata: from 0-50 cmbs, the matrix consisted of shell midden with an estimated 90% oyster, 5% lightning whelk, and other midden material mixed with black silty sand. It was noted that pottery was present throughout the first three levels, and ended around 30 cmbs. From 50-86 cmbs, the midden matrix was the same as above, but the shells in the midden showed an orange "varnish," perhaps a tannic stain from organic leaching from the mangrove swamp due to a fluctuating water table. The last stratum, from 86-90 cmbs was similar to the above midden matrix, but shells were much more crushed and infrequently whole. Water inundated the test at 90 cmbs.

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One interesting observation was that the shovel test in the mound contained much fewer vertebrate faunal remains than many other tests. Two radiocarbon dates were obtained from the shovel test, one on shell and the other on charcoal, resulting in dates of A.D. 265 – 290/A.D. 320 – 615, (carbon) and A.D. 595 – 800 (shell). Given the presence of Safety Harbor and St. Johns ceramics, the later end of the date range appears to be a likely age for the mound.

Table 3. Artifacts Recovered from Egret Mound.

Artifact Type	Object	St 31	Surface Collection	Grand Total
Fossil	Fossil		1	1
Lithic	Manuport, Limestone		1	1
	Manuport, Rock	1		1
	Manuport, Sandstone	1	3	4
Natural	Coral Fragment, Non-Cultural	1		1
Ceramic	Safety Harbor Incised		1	1
	Sand and Clay Tempered	2		2
	Sand and Sponge Spicule Tempered, Indeterminate Surface Treatment	3		3
	Sand Tempered Plain	11	5	16
	St. Johns Check Stamped		1	1
Shell Tool	Adze/Celt, Busycon sinistrum		1	1
	Anvil/Chopper, Mercenaria campechiensis, Left Valve		2	2
	Blank, Busycon sinistrum		3	3
	Blank, Strombus alatus		1	1
	Chopper, Mercenaria campechiensis, Left Valve		1	1
	Columella Hammer, Busycon sinistrum		1	1
	Columella Hammer, Pleuroploca gigantea		2	2
	Columella Plane		1	1
	Cutting-Edge, Haft Indeterminate, Busycon sinistrum		1	1
	Cutting-Edge, Hafted, Type A, Busycon sinistrum		2	2
	Hammer, Haft Indeterminate, Pleuroploca gigantea		2	2
	Hammer, Haft Indeterminate, Strombus alatus	1		1
	Hammer, Type A, Busycon sinistrum		3	3
	Hammer, Type B, Busycon sinistrum		2	2
	Hammer, Type C, Busycon sinistrum		4	4
	Hammer, Type D, Busycon sinistrum		1	1

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Artifact Type	Object	St 31	Surface Collection	Grand Total
	Hammer, Type F, Busycon sinistrum		1	1
	Hammer, Type G, Busycon sinistrum		1	1
	Hammer, Type G, Melongena corona		2	2
	Hammer, Type G, Strombus alatus	1	33	34
	Net Weight, Noetia ponderosa	1	2	3
	Shell Debitage, Body Whorl, Busycon sinistrum		7	7
	Shell Item, Modified, Pleuroploca gigantea		2	2
	Shell Tool, Hafted, Busycon sinistrum		2	2
	Shell Tool, Hafted, Modified, Partial, Busycon sinistrum		1	1
	Shell Tool, Modified, Partial, Busycon sinistrum		3	3
	Grand Total	22	93	115

Shell Ridge Middens 1-7

Another type of archeological site feature of the Shaw's Point Archeological District are a series of linear shell ridge middens [REDACTED] often with dense scatters of very large Lightning Whelk (*Busycon*) shells (including food remains and shells utilized as tools), scattered along the tops and sides of the ridges. The shell ridges also contain small shell midden piles that are located on, along and in-between the shell ridges within the mangrove swamp.

The shell ridge middens were mapped by walking along the visible edges of the ridges and recording points with a Trimble Global Positioning System (GPS) unit, later producing a GIS plan view map depicting the ridges and their spatial relationships (Figure 5). Shovel test locations were then placed judgmentally within the shell ridges, and excavated at various points along the shell ridges. While conducting the survey and mapping of features in the mangrove swamp, a total of seven major ridge components were located. Other mapped features include four small circular shell middens. The seven major ridge components were identified and mapped in the field. It is believed that several of the seven ridge components were originally one ridge, making a total of four primary ridges.

Shovel testing was conducted along the shell ridges and on several midden features. The shovel test locations were selected based on visible features and placed judgmentally in order to sample a variety of features in different areas of the mangrove swamp. A total of 23 shovel tests were excavated in the mangrove swamp area of De Soto National Memorial. Each shovel test was screened through a one-quarter inch hardware mesh shaker screen, but the screening method used varied according to the test location and soil conditions. When

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the tests were mucky or wet, water screening was employed. All tests were excavated to the deepest levels possible (i.e., until they were inundated with water) or reached culturally sterile subsoil. The average depth excavated for the shovel tests in the mangrove swamp area was 66 cmbs (centimeters below surface).

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The results of archeological testing determined that the shell ridges are primary, intact prehistoric cultural middens dating from of the Manasota through Safety Harbor periods. Testing of the shell ridges demonstrated that the ridges contain intact prehistoric midden deposits, and not simply re-deposited or natural beach ridge material. Beach ridges contain a random assortment of shells that include many different types of edible and non-edible shell species, with a range of sizes and ages, along with crushed shell and sand. The shell material within the ridges contains a non-random assortment of shell, containing large adult species of edible shellfish -- mainly oyster, clam, lightning whelks, conchs and scallops, along with a plentitude of anthropogenic material. This type of shell matrix is clearly a shell midden.

While stratigraphy is often difficult to detect in a shell midden, evidence of intact strata was apparent in all of the shell ridge tests, indicating distinct episodes of human occupation. It is evident that the strata of the ridges are cultural from the preponderance of anthropogenic material (pottery sherds, chert flakes, shell tools, terrestrial animal remains, etc.).

Of the twenty radiocarbon dates obtained from the Shaw's Point site, eleven were from the shell ridges and one from a small shell midden located in the mangrove swamp (Figure 6, Table 4). The results of the radiocarbon dates suggest that the shell ridges are chronologically ordered. The most inland shell ridge, Ridge 7, was dated with two samples from two different tests, resulting in calibrated dates of 365 – 55 B.C., and 175 B.C. – A.D. 110. The second farthest inland shell ridge, Ridge 6, also was dated by two samples from two separate tests. Both of these calibrated dates are A.D. 15 – 280. All the other dates are chronologically ordered moving eastward towards the cove. The last set of dates, two from two separate tests on Ridge 3 resulted in calibrated dates of A.D. 1050 – 1295 and A.D. 1200 – 1395, and also contained Safety Harbor period pottery dating to that time period. This suggests that the ridges were occupied at distinct and different periods through time in a chronologically ordered sequence, over a period of approximately 1800 years.

Only one sample provided a date out of sequence. This was from a midden in between Ridges 6 and 7. Two dates were obtained from the same test, one on wood and one from shell. The shell sample provided a calibrated date (A.D. 0 – 33) that fits well between those obtained from Ridges 6 and 7. The date from the wood sample resulted in a calibrated date of A.D. 1670 – 1950, and suggests that the wood is more recent, possibly the remains of a historic fence post. In addition to the very late date for the sample, the wood itself was very well preserved, showing little signs of decay. This was originally thought to be the result of excellent preservation due to anaerobic conditions of the muck from which it came; however, it now appears much more likely that its excellent condition is due to its recent origins.

Pages 7-19, 7-25, 7-26, 10-1, and 10-2 contain restricted information and are not included in this document.

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Examination of the artifacts and faunal remains from the radiocarbon dated ridges demonstrates that temporal, spatial and chronological patterns are present throughout the ridges. The pottery analysis suggests that changes in ceramic technical and formal variability occurred following consistent and previously recognized evolutionary trends over time, and that there is a good temporal correlation between the radiocarbon dated ridges and established ceramic chronologies. Shell tool artifacts recovered from the ridges also provide spatial, temporal and chronological patterns which correlate well with established shell tool typologies from other southwest Florida sites.

The faunal analysis from the ridges suggests a pattern of resource utilization that changed over time. Large numbers of a variety of animal remains are present in the ridges, including terrestrial species (reptiles, mammals and birds) and marine species (sharks, fishes, turtles, bivalves and gastropods). Some faunal material showed evidence of burning, and others were cut and worked. The faunal assemblage suggests that animals were hunted and collected in several different habitats, including forested uplands, freshwater areas and estuarine waters. The food was brought to the ridges, where processing and cooking was conducted and the remains discarded.

The stratigraphy of the ridges, the ordered sequence of the radiocarbon dates and the prevalence and non-random association of anthropogenic materials demonstrates that the shell ridge middens are cultural formations and not natural features. They are the result of prehistoric human behavior. On further examination, the shape of the ridges, together with the sequentially ordered and dated positions suggests that although the shell ridges are cultural formations, their arrangements may mark the positions of former shorelines—and are paleo-environmental markers which demonstrate how dynamic coastal environments may have affected site settlement patterns.

Tabby Ruins Historic Site

The Shaw's Point Archeological District also contains a significant historic site: the William Shaw Tabby Ruins. This site consists of a tabby structure that has fallen into disrepair. There are no standing walls remaining to the structure, though pieces of the walls are visibly present around the ruin. According to Lloyd Pierson, who investigated the site in 1964, the structure was approximately 16 feet square (Pierson 1965).

Limited investigation by Pierson in 1964 indicated that the tabby structure was constructed with a tabby mixture consisting of lime, sand and shell. The foundation and floors were poured and set with tabby, and then the walls were built course by course using a system of reusable form boards, supported by pegs. The walls averaged 14 inches thick, and showed evidence of having been smoothed. The walls and or ceiling probably had plaster applied to them.

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Table 4. Radiocarbon Results from the Shell Ridges and Middens.

Sample No.	Provenience	Material	Conventional C-14 Age	Calibrated Date Range	Calibrated Mean Date
Beta-103939	Ridge 3, ST 23, 40-45 cmbs	Oyster	1220 \pm 60 BP	A.D. 1050 - 1295	A.D. 1200
Beta-103938	Ridge 3, ST 25, 40-45 cmbs	Oyster	1100 \pm 60 BP	A.D. 1200 - 1395	A.D. 1295
Beta-103937	Egret Mound, ST 31, 32 cmbs	Charcoal	1610 \pm 70 BP	A.D. 265- 290 and A.D. 320 -615	A.D. 435
Beta-103940	Egret Mound, ST 31, 46-56 cmbs	Oyster	1710 \pm 60 BP	A.D. 595 - 800	A.D. 685
Beta-103941	Ridge 6 ST 33	Oyster	2210 \pm 60 BP	A.D. 15 - 280	A.D. 140
Beta-103942	Ridge 6 ST 33, 90-100 cmbs	Oyster	2210 \pm 60 BP	A.D. 15 - 280	A.D. 140
Beta-103946	Ridge 7, ST 36, 85-90 cmbs	Oyster	2360 \pm 60 BP	175 B.C. - A.D. 110	20 B.C.
Beta-103947	Ridge 7, ST 37, 40-50 cmbs	Fl. Fighting Conch	2510 \pm 60 BP	365 B.C. -. 55 B.C.	200 B.C.
Beta-103933	Midden 18, 60 cmbs	Wood	110 \pm 50 BP	A.D. 1670 - 1950	multiple
Beta-103934	Midden 18, 60 cmbs	Oyster	2200 \pm 70 BP	A.D. 0 - 330	A.D. 150
Beta-103932	Midden 26, 40 cmbs	Lightning Whelk	1790 \pm 70 BP	A.D. 465 - 730	A.D. 635

Cursory archeological investigations of the tabby ruins in 1965 by Lloyd Pierson led to his conclusion that they were the remains of William H. Shaw's 1850 homestead, but to date, there is no evidence known for any other structures that historically have been associated with the William H. Shaw homestead, or for the reputed fishing ranchos, Civil War outpost, tavern, post office, quarantine station, yellow fever cemetery or other historic period activity or settlement that supposedly took place within the park (Schwadron 1998). Historical sources suggest that the tabby ruins may even predate William H. Shaw's occupation (Schwadron 1996, 1998). Identification of other extant archeological features, foundations and outbuildings would provide information that would aid in interpreting the William Shaw settlement and the other historic components of De Soto National Memorial.

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In 1997, the National Park Service conducted systematic archeological testing of the historic Tabby Ruins area in hope of answering some remaining questions about the site, such as site function and temporal association. Systematic shovel testing of the Tabby Ruins area was conducted on a 10 meter interval grid, with a total of 25 50-by-50 cm shovel tests excavated. Each shovel test was 50 cm in diameter, and was excavated to sterile soil or until water inundated the bottom of the test hole. Of the 25 shovel tests excavated, all were positive tests. Only four of the tests were negative for historic material, and all tests contained prehistoric material.

Testing resulted in the recovery of many historic artifacts, including historic ceramics, glass, a bottle, a bone toothbrush, pipe stem fragments, a button and machine-cut nails (See Table 14. Historic Ceramic Types from Testing in the Tabby Ruins Area). No features or evidence of other structures were encountered, and the artifact assemblage is typical of and indicates a domestic occupation, though the historic materials suggests that the occupation of the area may slightly predate the William Shaw occupation of the site (1843-1856).

Three stratigraphic zones characterize the strata in the area, including an upper humic zone that contained historic deposits, and a buried, intact prehistoric midden zone that extends below the present water table. A total of 665 objects (artifacts and ecofacts) were recovered from the 25 tests. Historic artifact materials include ceramics, glass, metal, plastic, slag, bone and wood. Prehistoric artifacts include ceramics, lithics, worked coral, shell tools, and food remains. The analysis of the historic artifact assemblage indicates a domestic occupation, with common household, kitchen, architectural and personal related artifacts (ceramics, container glass, flat glass, nails, pipe stems, a button and toothbrush). While the sample size should be considered small, the historic ceramics may indicate an earlier occupation, perhaps from one of the earlier fishing ranchos. It is also a strong possibility that the tabby ruin structure was built and occupied by Shaw on land that had already been cleared and occupied by prior residents of the property, and that his refuse was deposited in another location, such as a refuse pit or a privy.

Testing also revealed the presence of a buried prehistoric midden zone that is intact, primary midden strata, and extends far below the present water table (at least 50 cm). This zone contained whole oyster shells, prehistoric pottery (including a diagnostic Deptford period sherd), shell tools and faunal remains. Other prehistoric material was noted from the higher up zones, often these artifacts are waterworn and broken, suggesting that they are disturbed and re-deposited, probably by wave action and/or modern human activities. Other objects recovered include faunal remains (bone, shell, coral), ceramics (sand tempered plain and one Deptford Check Stamped), a clay ball, lithics, worked coral, shell tools, and a coral hammer/pounder.

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Willey (1949a:342) recognized a Deptford component at Shaw's Point, and the only other Deptford pottery sherd recovered during controlled archeological testing in the park was also found in this area (Horvath 1988, 1989b). Though more testing would be needed to confirm the hypothesis, it is probable that this prehistoric midden is a Deptford period deposit.

Another indication that the midden may be Deptford period in age is the fact that it is now submerged. Milanich (1994:115) points out that

Along the Gulf coast there is also evidence for Deptford sites being drowned or eroded. The weight of the sediments deposited by rivers flowing into the Gulf are causing the land level to fall....Thus, from A.D. 1 to 1990, the Gulf has risen roughly 80 inches relative to the land. Although such data are, of course, not uniform for the entire Gulf coast, archaeological evidence supports a rise in sea level relative to land since the time of the Deptford culture.

While testing in the Tabby Ruins area was designed to answer questions about its temporal occupation and were hoped to alleviate any doubt that the site is unequivocally associated with William Shaw's occupation, the results have produced additional questions. It is therefore recommended that further testing (with excavation units) be conducted in the area to determine better temporal and chronological understanding of both the historic and prehistoric components of the site.

8Ma28

Site 8Ma28 contributes to the district, and is also included in this nomination (Figure 7). Tallant described this site as "shell and sand in layers. Use unknown, 75' wide, 125' long, 10' high. Gold seekers have dug in top exposing construction - no burials have been uncovered." (Tallant and Griffin n.d.).

This site was also visited and recorded for the Florida Park Service in September 1953 by W. Plowden, following Montague Tallant's notes. He described the site as a 125' x 75' x 10' sand and shell ridge. It was noted on a 1953 Florida Park Service archaeological site survey form that the site had been "pitted (gold seekers have dug in top layer)." An archaeological site data supplement form on file at the Florida State Bureau of Archaeological Research states that the exact location of 8Ma28 is not known, and the site was plotted on the state's archeological base map along with site 8Ma27.

Vincent Gannon (1965) analyzed various aerial photographs and found that a 1940 aerial photo showed an elevated walkway or ridge of shell situated generally along the shoreline between Shaw's Point and the nearby Pillsbury Mound site (8Ma31), connecting "all parts of the [Shaw's Point] complex." This is also 8Ma28.

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Today, there remains a small, visible portion of the ridge. Though it was not archeologically tested during the 1997 National Park Service Investigation, it is considered to be well documented, and a significant contributing resource to the Shaw's Point Archeological District.

Riverview Point (8Ma981)

In 1982, archeological consultant William Burger conducted a cursory walkover of a parcel of undeveloped land then owned by the National Development Corporation of Florida. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Burger 1982b). [REDACTED] is now owned by Manatee County and through a cooperative agreement, managed by the National Park Service. This land was once owned by the Catholic Dioceses of Venice, Florida, and was frequently used by the YMCA.

About one-third of the eight and a half acres lies in a high area with sand and pines. The other portion of the property is lower in elevation, and is covered in oak and palm. The area of the property [REDACTED]

In a one day survey of the property, Burger identified several previously unrecorded prehistoric deposits. The first deposit he recorded is a dense shell midden, with a small shell mound situated amongst the midden. It was noted that the shell mound had been heavily vandalized. The second site deposit was a thinly scattered shell midden.

Another possible archeological deposit mentioned by Burger is located in a low area that previously had been heavily vegetated with oaks and palms. Burger postulated that the location was previously a larger shell midden that may have been historically shell-mined, like many of the other shell middens and mounds around Shaw's Point. Burger concluded that the property contained significant archeological resources, and recommended preservation, or impact mitigation.

Located near the center of the property is a circular area, 10-12 feet in diameter, 2-3 feet below the ground level, which was a fresh water spring. This spring was also mentioned by Tallant (Tallant n.d.).

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In 1996, the property changed hands and became known as Riverview Point. The property was planned for development, and in 1996, archeological consultants from Janus Research conducted a ten day archeological investigation of the property (Janus 1996). The Janus investigation resulted in the examination, testing and verification of the midden complex, consisting of a preceramic subsurface lithic scatter, various shell midden ridges, and a shell mound. A total of 90 shovel tests and a single one meter square excavation unit were excavated. Results of the investigation indicate that most of the complex contains intact, undisturbed prehistoric deposits. The Janus investigation also noted the "curvilinear" nature of the midden ridges that run from the Riverview Point property northward into De Soto National Memorial (Figure 11). Janus concluded that the Riverview Point Midden site represents a portion of a larger prehistoric complex, the majority of which extended beyond the project property, and which included a village area, extensive shell middens, a temple mound and at least one sand burial mound (Janus 1996:50).

A new state site number was assigned to the complex (8Ma981), and it was concluded that the Riverview Point Midden site is a significant cultural resource that is eligible for listing in the National Register (Janus 1996:50).

Appearance of Archeological District During Occupation and Use

Recent archeological investigations, along with specialized zooarchaeological and archaeobotanical studies of samples taken from the Remnant Mound suggests that the environment of the Shaw's Point Archeological District may have changed though time, though probably not substantially. Archeological deposits from the site suggest that the site inhabitants were gathering food resources from what was probably the immediate environment: shallow sea grass beds, mangrove fringed shorelines and oyster beds. The surrounding environment was probably almost identical to that of today: primarily a mangrove community, with tidal marsh, coastal dune and strand communities. Vegetation primarily consists of mangroves and halophytic (salt-tolerant) plants.

Archeological excavation of the Remnant Mound determined that the base of the mound contained saturated muck and peat deposits with possible mangrove prop roots, suggesting that the beginning level of the mound may have been built in a wet, mangrove environment, much like the present-day environment of the site, around 45 B.C.

Archeological investigations of the shell ridge middens and mounds in De Soto National Memorial and the Riverview Point property suggest that site may have undergone dynamic geomorphological changes over the past several millennia. Investigations determined that the shell ridges are not only prehistoric cultural accumulations—but that they are also paleoenvironmental markers which mark former shorelines. The linear shell ridges are chronologically ordered coastal midden accumulations that were deposited along remnant

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shorelines through time. As shorelines changed, old midden areas were abandoned and new site areas were chosen along the new shorelines. Several geomorphological processes, such as progradation (filling in with sediments) or sea level fluctuations, may eventually explain the process or combination of processes that were the impetus for the changing shorelines.

Previous Investigations, Current and Past Impacts at Shaw's Point

Prior to the 1997 National Park Service investigation of De Soto National Memorial, and the 1996 Janus investigation of Riverview Point, very little archeological investigation of the Shaw's Point site had been conducted. Most of the previous archeological work consisted of surface collecting artifacts, and documenting the site with photographs and sketch maps. The following is a brief summary of the previous archeological investigations.

Jeffries Wyman visited the Shaw's Point site in the 1870s, collecting 34 sherds of sand-tempered plain pottery, 25 sherds of St. Johns Plain, four Wakulla Check-Stamped, two St. Johns Check-Stamped, and one Perico Plain sherd from the site (Mitchem 1989:158-159). He also briefly mentions the Shaw's Point mound in his report, *Fresh Water Shell Mounds of the St. John's River, Florida* (Wyman 1875:40). The Wyman collection from the Shaw's Point site is curated at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University (accession number 74-26, catalog numbers 12522-12525).

During the 1920s, Charles T. Earle, a Bradenton local, collected many artifacts from the Shaw's Point site, donating them to the Smithsonian (Willey 1949a:341), and providing the largest existing archeological collection from the site. Along with the collection of artifacts from Shaw's Point, Earle corresponded extensively with J. W. Fewkes (then Chief) of the Bureau of American Ethnology, leaving an extraordinary, detailed and lengthy narrative illustrating the Shaw's Point site during this time.

Earle donated the collection of material from Shaw's Point to the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, and is presently curated under accession numbers 67258, 90813, and 102768 (catalog numbers 317078-317432, 329771-329774, 341237-341244). Artifacts include items of shell (drinking vessels, miscellaneous worked shell, knives, scrapers, punches, disks, beads, hoes, gouges, adzes, hammers and a shell "spoon"), items of bone (miscellaneous worked bone, plates, awls, tubular bone beads), a fossil shark tooth pendant, a cylinder of coral, coral sinkers, other faunal remains, items of stone (stone sinkers and pendants, hammers, plugs, celts, plummets, balls, abraders, discoidal stone beads, polished pebbles, stone sinkers or pendants, chipped drills, broken blades, knife flakes, worked flakes, chipped celts, and chipped blades) and a rectangular European gun flint.

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A total of 132 pottery sherds dating from the Safety Harbor, Weeden Island, Santa-Rosa-Swift Creek, Deptford and Glades periods are also included in the collection (Willey 1949a:342). Projectile points in the collection include large and medium-sized stemmed projectile points and unstemmed projectile points.

The Smithsonian Institution conducted many archeological projects in Florida during the 1930s as part of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration's Civil Works Administration. Under the direction of Matthew Stirling, field supervisor Dr. M.T. Newman "conducted a hurried survey of aboriginal sites in Manatee County" (Willey 1949a:173). The purpose of the survey was simply to locate sites and record them, and no excavations or collections were made. A total of fifty-one sites were recorded.

Newman's field notes give interesting generalizations about site types and environmental settings (Willey 1949a:173). Newman was specifically interested in the Shaw's Point site, stating that:

Large shell habitation mounds, such as the Shaws Point mound and the large Perico Island habitation mound, are characteristic of the coastal region. Very often there is a sand or shell burial mound in connection with the habitation mound. [Willey 1949a:173]

Records at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History show that accession 134994 was collected from Shaw's Point during the Civil Works Administration investigations at nearby Perico Island (8Ma6) in or about 1934. Artifacts in the collection include pottery sherds, columella objects, shell pendants, shell spoons, shell hoe or picks, worked bone, a stone "plumb bob", and a quartzite pecking stone.

Montague Tallant, an advocational archeologist, was considered to be the foremost local archeologist of Manatee County during the 1920s-1930s. Not much is known about his background, other than he visited, collected and recorded at least 92 mound sites throughout Manatee County, many before they were looted and destroyed. Unfortunately, not much of Tallant's site documentation is known to exist. Fortunately, through the conscientious efforts of William Burger, Consulting Archeologist for Manatee and Sarasota Counties, some of Tallant's field notes were located with his family.

Tallant numbered the mounds of Manatee County that he visited, and he recorded, and collected from many mounds in the Shaw's Point area. He described the Shaw's Point site as a village site of five or six acres, containing five distinct burial mounds and a cemetery. Glass and silver beads, a limestone spear, shell and stone tools, and pottery were collected. The collections that Tallant made from Shaw's Point are now curated at both the Museum of South Florida and the National Museum of the American Indian.

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The Montague Tallant collection from Shaw's Point in the Museum of South Florida (Accession #400-471) includes shell tools (hoes, chisels, hammer stones, fish hooks, celts, cups, clubs, gouges, nose plug), shell pendants, shell and bone beads, faunal material, lithic tools (hammer stones, rubbing stones, spear points, arrow heads, celts), stone pendants, ceremonial stones, wood pestles, and glass trade beads. Unfortunately, the glass beads from Tallant's collection became mixed with material from other sites, and the ability to separate them out from the other artifacts is now lost.

In 1964, Mrs. Louise Tallant donated material collected from Shaw's Point by Montague Tallant to the National Museum of the American Indian in New York. Included in the collection are shell artifacts (a chisel, celt, plummets, pendants, and miscellaneous worked shell implements), stone artifacts (a knife, projectile point, plummet, ball, slate pendant and miscellaneous worked stone), and bone artifacts (awls, needles, point, and miscellaneous bone implements). Catalog numbers for this collection are 233600, 233619-233642, and 237986.

William Plowden was an amateur archeologist who visited and collected from many sites in Florida. During the 1950s, Plowden visited many sites in the Manatee River area, recording site descriptions and making collections. According to site forms on file at the Florida State Bureau of Archaeological Research, Plowden collected material from Shaw's Point, submitting the site descriptions and artifacts to the Florida Park Service. The Florida Park Service collections were transferred in 1954 to the Florida State Museum, including two accessions for collections from Shaw's Point. Accession 4113, catalog number 99466 contains 19 aboriginal pottery sherds, including Sand-Tempered Plain, Belle Glade Plain, Pasco Plain, St. Johns Plain and Pinellas Plain pottery, as well as two *Busycon* shell picks.

During the 1944 Yale-Florida Expedition Survey of the Glades area in southern Florida, John Goggin collected 189 Glades Plain pottery sherds from the surface of the Shaw's Point Midden (8Ma7). The collection is currently curated at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History under accession YPM 05632.

Ripley P. Bullen conducted numerous archeological investigations in the Tampa Bay region during the 1940s-1950s, including the Safety Harbor, Terra Ceia, and Pillsbury Mound sites. Bullen surveyed the Manatee River area for sites, and in 1963, he made a surface collection of Sand-Tempered Plain sherds from the Shaw's Point site. That same year, Bullen excavated Pillsbury Mound (8Ma31). Bullen's surface collection of Sand-Tempered Plain sherds are curated at the Florida Museum of Natural History under accession #98049. Other collections from Shaw's Point at the Florida Museum include collections transferred from the National Museum of Natural History (FMNH #82129 and 82130) and the University of Florida (FMNH #A-2601) (Mitchem 1989:160). These collections include Pinellas Plain, Belle Glade Plain, St. Johns Plain, Perico Plain, and Sand-Tempered Plain pottery, as well as shell tools. Accession 3551 (catalog numbers 82119-82145) contains 293

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artifacts. These include aboriginal pottery sherds, shell and bone implements and ornaments collected from Shaw's Point.

As a result of the recent investigation, many newly discovered archeological resources were identified (prehistoric shell ridges, shell middens and shell mounds). Analysis of data from the site includes a suite of 20 radiocarbon dates, specialized zooarchaeological and archaeobotanical studies of faunal and floral remains, and material culture analyses (ceramics, shell tools, lithics, bone implements), providing significant cultural, temporal, chronological, and paleoenvironmental baseline data on the Shaw's Point Archeological District.

Recent investigations of the Shaw's Point Archeological District demonstrate that the district possesses excellent integrity. Archeological investigations of the shell mounds, ridges and middens determined that substantial, intact, and undisturbed primary strata exists which has provided significant data on the Shaw's Point site inhabitants. Subsurface and above ground archeological deposits are substantial, and preservation of these deposits and of artifacts and ecofacts contained therein are excellent. The excellent preservation of archeological deposits, together with the large spatial extent of the various archeological resources (shell mounds, shell ridges, and shell middens) as an archeological district, makes this district a rare and significant resource that should be protected and preserved.

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Statement of Significance

The Shaw's Point Archeological District is significant under criterion D on the local and state level, because it has yielded and is likely to yield more information important to prehistory and history. The Shaw's Point Archeological District contains very significant, well-preserved archeological remains of an extensive prehistoric village site, including the remains of several large shell mounds, linear shell ridges, shell middens, and a shell ramp or walkway. Systematic archeological investigations of the village site indicate that it was occupied from the Deptford, through the Manasota, and the Safety Harbor periods, over the course of over 1,800 years, from approximately 365 B.C. to 1400 A.D. In addition, the district contains the historic tabby ruins associated with the William Shaw homestead site, a significant historic archeological resource that has provided archeological data on the early settler life in coastal Florida during the period from 1843 – 1856.

As a result of investigations in the district, new interpretations about the Deptford, Manasota and Safety Harbor peoples of the Tampa Bay Region and the Florida Gulf Coast have emerged. The site has also provided considerable paleoenvironmental data to interpret changes in the environment that may have occurred during and after the site's occupation. The integrity of undisturbed, intact archeological deposits, the variety of site components (shell mounds, shell ridges, shell middens, walkways, etc.), and the extensive length of occupation at the site provides much potential for yielding information important to the understanding of the prehistory of the Tampa Bay Region, the Florida Gulf Coast, and of Southeastern Prehistory. The district possesses cultural resources of local and state significance, in the areas of prehistoric archeology and historic non-aboriginal archeology.

Cultural Affiliations and Contexts

Deptford Period Culture (500 B.C. to A.D. 200)

The Deptford culture developed along the Gulf coast of Florida, northeast Florida, and the Atlantic Coast of South Carolina and Georgia, around 500 B.C., and lasted to about A.D. 200 (Almy 1982). Deptford pottery was tempered with quartz sand particles and occasionally clay lumps, and was frequently decorated by stamping the vessel surface with carved wooden paddles. The decorative technique is called stamping or grooved-stamping, and includes simple-stamping, check-stamping and linear check-stamping carved designs (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980). Other decorative techniques included cord-marking and fabric impressing. Shell was extensively used for tools; both bone and stone tools are rare at Deptford sites (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980).

Deptford people were coastal-dwellers whose subsistence centered on the exploitation of coastal resources, such as shellfish, fish, deer, plants and other wild foods (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980). Coastal villages were nearly always located in live oak-magnolia hammocks adjacent to salt marshes, on the Atlantic offshore barrier

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islands, the Gulf keys and the mainland of Florida. Coastal and inland Deptford sites are known in the vicinity of Tampa Bay, and this area marks the approximate southern limit of the Gulf Deptford culture (Milanich 1994).

Archeological testing of the Shaw's Point site determined that a deeply buried, intact prehistoric deposit containing Deptford period pottery is situated along the northern tip of Shaw's Point, close to the beach. The Deptford period is thought to have occurred from 500 B.C. to approximately A.D. 200, and occurs largely during the Sanibel I sea level low stand. Many submerged and eroded Deptford period sites are known around the Florida gulf coast, caused by a post-occupational sea level rise (Milanich 1994:115). The Deptford period deposit at Shaw's Point was covered by a washover beach deposit containing finely crushed shell and beach sand, as well as broken and waterworn prehistoric artifacts. This indicates a post-occupational sea level rise, probably correlating with the subsequent Wulfert high sea level stand that immediately followed the Sanibel I low stand.

Manasota Period Culture (500 B.C. – A.D. 900)

The Manasota culture derives its name from Manatee and Sarasota counties, where it was first recognized. This culture area, or culture region, is located within the Central Peninsular Gulf Coast of Florida. The Manasota period was first proposed by Luer and Almy (1979, 1982) to replace the previously defined Perico Island period (Willey 1949a:361-366) in the Manatee region. The Perico Island period was concluded to be an invalid cultural concept, since culture traits from both the Florida Transitional and post-Transitional periods were used to define the culture period. Consequently, Luer and Almy designated their newly defined Manasota period as representing the post-Transitional culture occupying the Manatee region from Tampa Bay south to Charlotte Harbor, ranging from 500 B.C. to A.D. 800. The Manasota culture can be sub-divided into Early (500 B.C. to A.D. 400) and Late (A.D. 400 to 800) periods (Mitchem 1992), based on changes in secular ceramics and on the presence of Weeden Island pottery in Late Manasota mounds (Milanich 1992:224).

A number of radiocarbon dates have been secured from Manasota sites (Bullen 1971; Bullen and Bullen 1976; Luer 1977b; Luer and Almy 1980, Sears 1971; Austin and Russo 1989). Those dates, coupled with dates from the post-Manasota period Safety Harbor culture (Luer and Almy 1982) date the early development of Manasota (500 B.C.) and its evolution into late Weeden Island (A.D. 700) and Safety Harbor periods (A.D. 900) (Milanich 1992).

The ceramics associated with Manasota sites are largely undecorated wares with quartz sand inclusions, making the separation of this ceramic assemblage from earlier and later plain ceramic assemblages difficult. Luer and Almy (1979:41-42) use a pattern of ceramic and non-ceramic traits to define the Manasota culture to distinguish

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it from the earlier Archaic culture(s) and the later Safety Harbor culture in the Central Peninsular Gulf Coast region:

. . . Manasota culture is characterized by . . . sites which yield evidence of an economy based on fishing, hunting, and shellfish-gathering. The sites yield evidence of burial practices involving primary, flexed burials . . . Ceramic manufacture was limited to sand-tempered, undecorated . . . pottery such as . . . flattened-globular bowls and pots with a converged orifice. Many shell tools were used . . . including fighting conch shell hammers, left-handed whelk shell "spokeshaves" . . . columellae, and hammers. . . . There was little use of stone tools. . . . Bone tools include barbs and simple points made from longbones (Luer and Almy 1979:41-42).

Luer and Almy conducted an attribute analysis on temporally sensitive plain ceramic rim and vessel forms from Manasota period sites, and the results have suggested a possible ceramic form evolution. Their data suggests that flattened globular shaped bowls with inward-curving rims and chamfered (beveled) lips are associated with the early Manasota period, 500 B.C.-A.D. 400 (Luer and Almy 1980, 1982). After A.D. 400, globular shaped bowls are replaced by pot-shaped vessels with straight rims and rounded lips. Another early Manasota vessel form is a pot with a slightly incurving rim and rounded lip with a slightly converged orifice, dating from ca. 200 B.C.-A.D. 700. Simple bowls with outward-curving rims and flattened lips occur very late within the Manasota period. The early forms tend to be relatively thick, often more than 1.0 cm. After A.D. 400 the pottery vessels are thinner, a trend that continues up to the Safety Harbor period (Milanich 1992:224).

Shell and bone tool assemblages from Manasota village sites have been well studied (Luer and Almy 1982). Heavy and durable marine shell provided the raw material for a variety of tools, some that were hafted in wood. Tools include Strombus two-holed hammers; Busycon spoons, pounders, celts, columella tools, columella barbs, cutting-edge tools and hammers; Pleuroploca and Fasciolaria columella "planes," Noetia net weights; and Mercenaria anvils, choppers, hammers, scrapers, and digging implements. Busycon shells were also fashioned into gorgets, and beads were manufactured from Oliva shells. Shark vertebrae were drilled for use as beads, and bone was also used to make projectile points, barbs, and awls. Stingray spine points and sharks' teeth tools (scrapers and knives) have also been identified (Milanich 1992:226).

The largest number of Manasota sites have been found adjacent to the waters of the region's narrow bays and Tampa Bay, where they provided easy access to fish and shellfish (Luer and Almy 1982). Such coastal sites include large and small shell middens, village locations, and sand burial mounds. Large shell middens are typically linear deposits, some forming ridges, paralleling the shoreline (Milanich 1992:225). At some, shell refuse was used to construct ramps leading to the tops of the middens. Milanich (1992:225) considers these site

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types to be similar to those found on the southwest Florida coast. Smaller middens are also found on the coast. While the exploitation of marine resources was clearly emphasized by their inhabitants, coastal sites also provided immediate access to the resources of the pine flatwoods and their freshwater habitats.

Recent systematic archeological investigation of the Shaw's Point site indicate that the radiocarbon data, along with the artifact assemblage, confirms a major Manasota period occupation. While the shell ridge features at the site may appear to be unusual prehistoric features, Luer and Almy, who defined the Manasota culture, characterized Manasota period shoreside sites as:

spread linearly and parallel with the shoreline...Many of these shell middens form a well-defined elevated ridge paralleling the shore...At several of these village sites, shell midden material was used to construct what appear to be ramps that lead to the elevated ridge from the surrounding terrain (Luer and Almy 1982:39).

Similarly, Milanich characterizes Manasota sites as:

coastal shell middens, usually linear deposits parallel to the shorelines, sometimes form undulating ridges, and several have shell ramps constructed to provide access to the tops of middens. These middens, with shell mounds and ramps, are like those found on the south west Florida coast (Milanich 1994:225).

Evidence suggests that the shell midden ridges at Shaw's Point are Manasota period middens. The midden accumulations appear to follow what are now former shorelines. The middens may also have been purposely spread in a linear fashion, like other similar Manasota period sites. It remains unclear whether these linear ridges represent some form of Manasota cultural settlement pattern (such as living in linear settlements that paralleled the shoreline), or if the linear ridges were other planned, functional formations, such as walkways or ramps that led to other areas of the village site.

Many shell ridges and shell work sites have been recorded in coastal Florida, and were abundant in the Central Gulf Coast, especially in southwest Florida. Many of these sites share common attributes, such as location in wet, marshy, and often mangrove swamp environments. Many appear to have been occupied during the Manasota, Caloosahatchee, Weeden Island and Safety Harbor periods (500 B.C. – 1750 A.D., inclusive), and many show similar site patterns of ridges and ramps. As a whole, these site types are poorly understood, though patterns are emerging. As in the case of the Shaw's Point site, many combinations of cultural and environmental influences need to be explored when examining these site types.

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Knowledge of Manasota subsistence is based largely on excavations conducted at the Old Oak (8So51) and Roberts Bay (8So56) sites near Sarasota (Luer 1977a, 1977b), and zooarcheological analysis of faunal remains from the Venice Beach (8So26) (Fraser 1980) and Catfish Creek sites (Austin and Russo 1989). Recently, systematic investigations at the Shaw's Point site, including zooarchaeological analysis, have provided substantial new data to interpret Manasota subsistence and paleoenvironment (Schwadron 1997; 2000). Fishing appears to have been the most important subsistence activity (Luer and Almy 1982), with the netting of small fishes among the most common food procurement techniques.

Shellfish were also an important resource within the Manasota diet. Fifteen species of shellfish, collected from a variety of habitats, including barrier island beaches, turtle grass tidal flats, and mangrove forests, have been identified at Manasota sites (Luer and Almy 1982). Some middens contain primarily either oysters or clams, suggesting specialized collecting from specific habitats. At the Shaw's Point site, oyster was the most frequently collected shellfish, followed by gastropods and other bivalves (clams).

Safety-Harbor Period Culture (A.D. 900-1500)

The Safety Harbor culture encompasses the final aboriginal cultural manifestation in the Central Peninsular Gulf Coast region (Willey 1949a), developing out of the Late Weeden Island period-cultures after A.D. 900 (Milanich 1994). Probably due to growing populations requiring more social controls, the exchange of ideas from the Fort Walton region to the north, and the propitious environment of the Tampa Bay region, the Indians of the Central Peninsular Gulf Coast region developed a unique complex culture (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980). Named for the site on Tampa Bay (8Pi2), Safety Harbor sites extend from the mouth of the Withlacoochee River, southward to Charlotte Harbor.

Four phases and four regional variants for the Safety Harbor culture have recently been identified, all of which are considered tentative until further refinement (Mitchem 1989a, Milanich 1994). The four phases are Englewood (A.D. 900-1100), Pinellas (A.D. 1100-1500), Tatham (A.D. 1500-1567), and Bayview (A.D. 1567-1725) (Mitchem 1989a). The four regional variants, defined on the basis of artifact types and settlement pattern differences, include the Northern, Circum-Tampa Bay, South-Central, and the Inland regions (Milanich 1994).

The Circum-Tampa Bay Safety Harbor variant, considered to be the heartland of the culture, includes southern Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, and northern Manatee counties, encompassing Tampa Bay (Milanich 1994). Some of the earliest work in the Circum-Tampa Bay area was in fact the mapping and collections made at the Shaw's Point site (8Ma7), a multi-component complex of shell works (Mitchem 1989a; Walker 1880b) located in De Soto National Memorial. The extent of Safety Harbor occupation at the site has not been exactly determined.

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Excavations of Safety Harbor mound-village complexes reveal town plans with truncated pyramidal mounds adjacent to plazas, surrounded by village middens, often with burial mounds (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980). At the Safety Harbor site, the temple mound was situated on a point of land extending out into the bay with a ramp pointing inwards toward the plaza (Griffin and Bullen 1950).

Archeological investigations suggest that each Safety Harbor town had a single, large flat-topped temple mound, which was periodically rebuilt. The mound served as a base for a wooden and thatched structure, probably serving as the chief's residence. A ramp extended down from the mound to the plaza. The plaza, situated between the mound and the villager's residences, was kept clean of occupational debris, with the village living area appearing as a linear shell midden paralleling the Gulf of Mexico or Tampa Bay (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980).

The densest distribution of Safety Harbor sites occurs around Tampa Bay, with most of the sites (shell middens and shell and/or earth mounds) located along the coast (Milanich 1994). Small sites have also been located inland away from the coast, including villages, camps and mounds. Evidence suggests that sites occupied by small groups were dispersed throughout western peninsular Florida, and that these people were the subjects of caciques (chiefs) who controlled larger areas. Scattered small settlements are prevalent in most inland areas.

Ceramic vessels were manufactured by the Safety Harbor peoples for two major purposes. Domestic, or utilitarian vessels were used for daily subsistence activities, while other vessels were reserved for special, ceremonial uses. At least 95 percent of the village pottery is undecorated, and tempered with sand or grit (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980). The most common vessel type is the bowl, sometimes made with strap handles. Plain wares are usually recovered from domestic sites. There is clear regional variation in plain wares; north of Tampa Bay, Pasco Plain is the predominant utilitarian ware. In the Circum-Tampa Bay region, Pinellas Plain is most common. South of the Tampa Bay area, Sand-Tempered Plain and Belle Glade Plain predominate in domestic contexts (Mitchem 1992).

The Safety Harbor ceramic ceremonial forms include open, cazuela and globular bowls; beakers; jars; and bottles. Some jars and bowls have two or four loop or strap handles, and some vessels have adornos of crude or stylized animal effigies on rims (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980). Decorative techniques include incised parallel lines in curvilinear and rectilinear motifs, and incised and punctated scrolls and guilloches. The most common decorated pottery types found on Safety Harbor sites are Englewood Incised, Sarasota Incised, Safety Harbor Incised, Point Washington Incised, and Pinellas Incised. Most of these decorated types appear to have been produced primarily for use in mortuary contexts. They are rarely recovered from domestic contexts, but this may be at least partly due to a past bias favoring the excavation of mortuary sites (Mitchem 1992).

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Shell tools and artifacts are very common at Safety Harbor sites as most Safety Harbor sites are concentrated along the Gulf coast. Busycon shell cups are a common item in Safety Harbor mortuary sites, reflecting the popularity of the black drink ceremony among Safety Harbor groups (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980). Shell beads have also been found in large quantities in mortuary contexts (Mitchem 1992). Other shell tools, including celts, pick-like objects, and hafted shells (often referred to as hammers), have been recovered from sites, especially in southern Florida, but until recently little more than a basic typology has been used to classify and interpret these objects (Goggin n.d.a).

Ethnohistorical descriptions and the presence of temple mounds and other distinctive archeological attributes suggest that the Safety Harbor groups in the Tampa Bay area were organized as chiefdoms (Milanich 1993:122). These highly structured Native American societies posed formidable adversaries when they were encountered by the first Europeans to arrive in southern Florida.

The Shaw's Point site contains evidence of a Safety Harbor period occupation. Systematic archeological testing and radiocarbon dating of the shell ridges determined that the most recently deposited shell ridges (Ridges 1,2, 3 and 4) contain Safety Harbor pottery. The radiocarbon dating places the occupation of these ridges at A.D. 1050 to 1395, during the early phases of the Safety Harbor period. The ridges also correspond with the La Costa high sea level stand (A.D. 850 to 1450). It is hypothesized that the same scenario as the earlier ridges occurred during the formation of this ridge set: During the La Costa high sea level stand, sea level rose above present sea level (but not nearly as much as during the Wulfert high), creating a new shoreline. Occupants of the Shaw's Point site at this time abandoned older, now remnant shorelines and moved closer to the new shoreline, and collected, processed and discarded marine resources along this new shoreline. It is possible that the ridges were occupied with semi-permanent or permanent home sites during their accumulation, or that the ridges were designated linear refuse areas. It is also possible that the linear nature of this shell ridge not only followed the present shoreline, but may have also led to the top of the Shaw's Point Mound.

Additionally, since the most recent ridge dates to the Pinellas phase of the Safety Harbor period and artifacts to support this occupation are present, it is possible that evidence will support a theory of a cultural continuum from late Manasota into the Safety Harbor period. As such, the shell ridges represent a unique, well preserved archeological time capsule of human interactions within a coastal environment over many centuries.

The surface of Egret Mound was covered with shell tools (mostly finished), including many types of hafted and unhafted hammers, cutting-edged tools, anvils, choppers, columella hammers, an adze/celt, net weights, and shell blanks and debitage. A Safety Harbor Incised pottery sherd and a St. Johns Check Stamped sherd were also recovered from the surface. Two radiocarbon dates place the approximate construction of the mound

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between A.D. 265 to 800. Given the presence of Safety Harbor and St. Johns ceramics, the later end of the date range appears to be a likely age for the mound.

The high amount and variety of shell tool types recovered from the surface of the mound suggests that the area may have served as a specialized activity location. It could also be argued that the Egret Mound represents a post A.D. 800 house site with the tool assemblage reflective of all of the basic domestic activities performed by a household group, perhaps by the Safety Harbor culture. Based on the shell tool types, possible activities may have included woodworking, fishing-net and weight manufacturing, food processing, and the manufacturing of shell tools. It is also possible that the assemblage from Egret Mound suggests a primary refuse area (Schiffer 1987), an area where the tools were both used and discarded. It is also possible that the Egret Mound was abandoned as an activity or living area, leaving the high amount of surface cultural material as *De Facto* refuse (Schiffer 1987).

American Period (1821 -): The Antebellum Period in Florida (A.D. 1821 TO 1861)

The Antebellum period in the Southeast is characterized by Indian Removal, Euro-American westward expansion, the widespread adoption of the plantation system, and the establishment of large ports and towns. With La Florida's annexation to the United States in 1821, the new territorial economy flourished until the mid-1830s, when the Seminole War broke out. The new territorial banking system collapsed after the Panic of 1837, resulting in the destruction of the sugar industry.

One of the first settlers in Manatee was William H. Shaw, who had earlier moved from Point Comfort, Virginia, to Key West to become a ship chandler. In Key West, Shaw supplied imported salt, "segars," coffee, and claret. In 1843, William H. Shaw filed for a homestead on 165 acres of land at the mouth of the Manatee River, which included a distinct point of land which became known after him as "Shaw's Point." After Shaw established his claim, he became involved with transporting government provisions from Pensacola and New Orleans to Tampa Bay and other ports aboard his sixty-nine ton schooner, the *Mary Washington*. After violent Indian uprisings in 1856, the Shaw family "took up bed and baggage" and moved to Key West (McDuffee 1961:101). Later, Shaw returned to Shaw's Point and dismantled his residence, rafting it to Key West. Archeological testing of the historic Tabby Ruins area was conducted in hope of answering some remaining questions about the site, such as site function and temporal association. cursory archeological investigations of the tabby ruins in 1965 by Lloyd Pierson led to his conclusion that they were the remains of William H. Shaw's 1850 homestead, but to date, there is no evidence known for any other structures associated with the William H. Shaw homestead, or for any other historic period activity or settlement that supposedly took place within the park (Schwadron 1998).

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Summary

The Shaw's Point Site was a large village occupied from as early as 365 B.C. to A.D. 1395 by peoples of the Deptford, Manasota, and later of the Safety Harbor cultures. Through time, the village site consisted of at least several very large midden-mounds, smaller mounds, linear shell ridge middens paralleling the shorelines, possible walkways, isolated middens, and, according to historical descriptions (Brinton 1867:357; Tallant n.d.; Earle 1920), a cemetery, and several burial mounds. The cemetery and burials mounds, however, have not been relocated during the recent investigations. Due to the encroachment of modern development, much of the village site has been destroyed, and components of it are now separated into different private and political land ownerships. It appears that the main part of the village was located in what is now De Soto National Memorial and Riverview Point, and because most of the land has never been fully developed, portions of the Shaw's Point village remain intact and undisturbed. Significant historic archeological remains of the William Shaw homestead are also included within this district. Together, these significant archeological resources contribute to the Shaw's Point Archeological District.

The prehistoric peoples of the Shaw's Point site can be characterized as a maritime culture that was highly adapted to the local estuarine environment. Most of the food and other raw materials was obtained from the surrounding estuary, a rich ecosystem that was probably very much like it is today. Evidence from the Shaw's Point site indicates that it was occupied for approximately 1800 years, and changes through time in pottery and shell tool traditions are evident throughout the site. Changes in food resources and diet also occurred, which may be the results of environmental changes, overexploitation of resources, or from changes in cultural preferences, food procurement techniques or cooking methods. The Shaw's Point Archeological District is a significant archeological resource which has provided an exceptional opportunity to answer questions about prehistoric settlement patterns, subsistence, shell tool technology and pottery traditions. As such, the Shaw's Point Archeological District holds immense potential for providing significant information on the prehistory of the Shaw's Point site and the Tampa Bay region, and can provide much data for answering further research questions about the Deptford, Manasota and Safety Harbor cultures.

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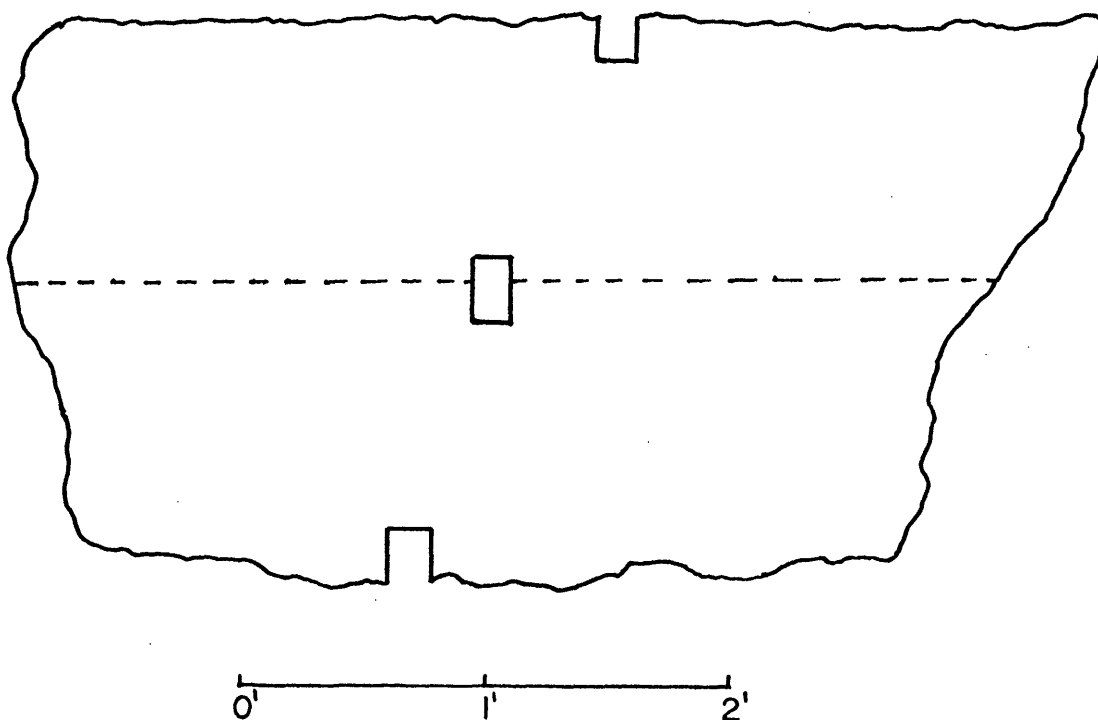
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Table 14. Historic ceramic types (with manufacturing starting, ending and mean dates) recovered from testing in the Tabby Ruins area.

FS Number	Count	Wgt (gr)	Ceramic Type	Start Date	End Date	Mean Date
12.00002	1	0.7	Brown Transfer Printed Pearlware.	AD 1809	AD 1825	1817
12.00003	1	2.3	Yellow Ware.	AD 1830	AD 1940	1885
12.00004	1	5	Rockingham.	AD 1780	AD 1940	1860
12.00005	1	23.5	Pearlware.	AD 1780	AD 1830	1805
15.00002	1	3.6	Pearlware.	AD 1780	AD 1830	1805
16.00004	1	3.3	Pearlware.	AD 1780	AD 1830	1805
18.00005	1	1.5	Cobalt Blue Transfer Printed Pearlware.	AD 1820	AD 1840	1830
19.00003	2	17.5	Pearlware.	AD 1780	AD 1830	1805
19.00006	1	1.4	Pearlware.	AD 1780	AD 1830	1805
22.00008	1	6.6	Earthenware, Coarse.			
23.00004	1	7.9	Porcelain.	AD 1492	Present	-----
23.00005	1	7.5	Porcelain.	AD 1492	Present	-----
27.00003	2	0.8	Pearlware.	AD 1780	AD 1830	1805
31.00004	1	4.6	Black Transfer Printed Whiteware.	AD 1820	Present	-----
32.00006	1	2.1	Polychrome Pearlware. Hand Painted.	AD 1795	AD 1820	1807.5
32.00007	1	1.1	Blue Shell Edged Pearlware.	AD 1780	AD 1830	1805
32.00008	1	0.3	Polychrome Pearlware. Hand Painted.	AD 1795	AD 1820	1807.5
32.00009	1	0.5	Polychrome Pearlware. Hand Painted.	AD 1795	AD 1820	1807.5
32.00010	1	1.5	Pearlware.	AD 1780	AD 1830	1805
33.00002	2	2.2	Pearlware.	AD 1780	AD 1830	1805



BLOCK OF TABBY WITH TWO COURSES AND FORM
TIE HOLES

Figure 1.

(From Pierson 1965)

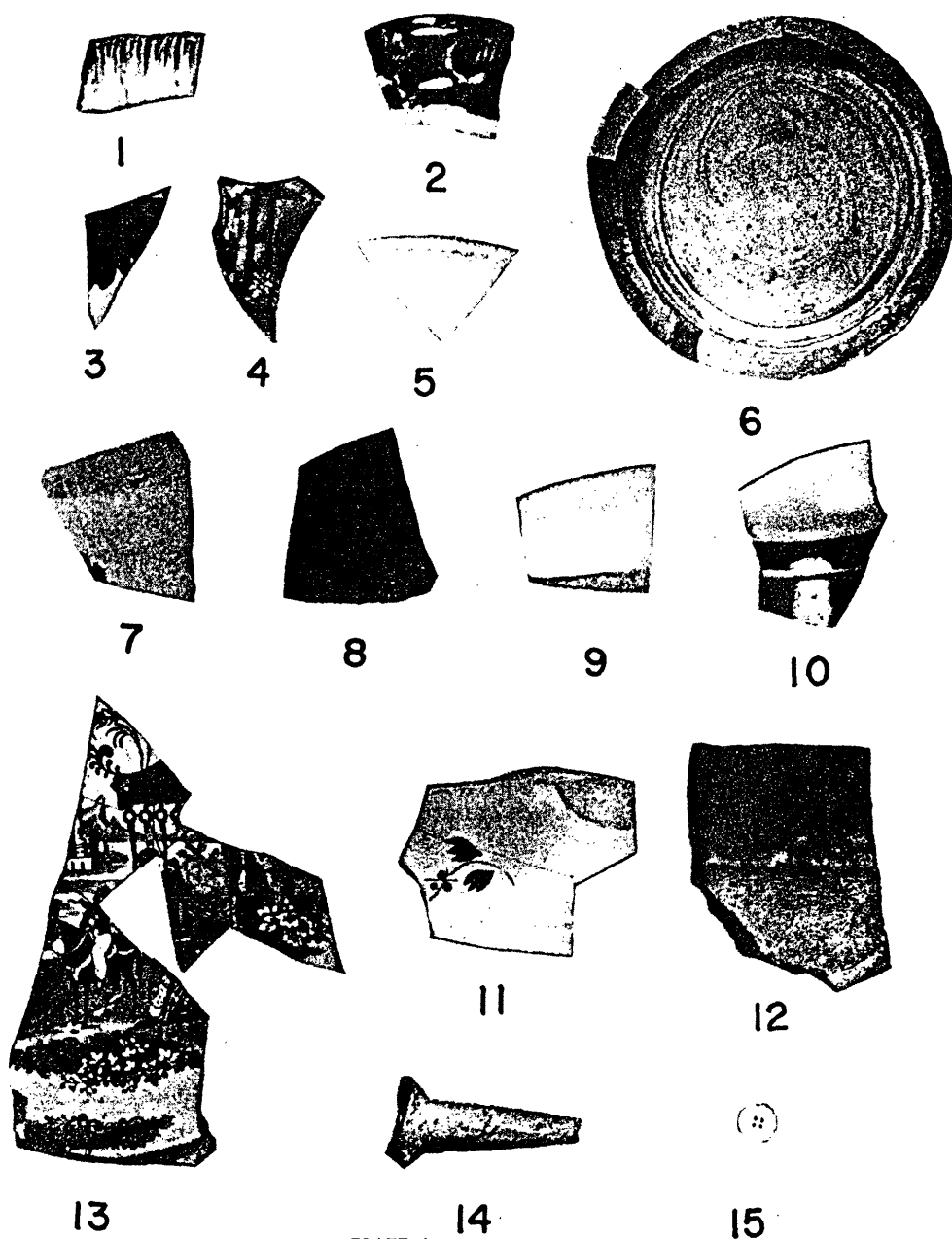


PLATE A.

1. Featheredge Ware. 2. Dark Blue Staffordshire. 3. Blue and Vitreous Mustard on White. 4. Pictorial Transferware in Blue. 5. Porcelain. 6. Ginger Beer Bottle. 7. Tan Glazed. 8. Lead Gray Glazed. 9. Ironstone Ware. 10. Brown, Gray and White Striped. 11. Green Leaves, Blue Dots and Red and Black Lines. 12. Bulbous Edged Plain. 13. "Hindustani" Sepia Transferware. 14. Clay Pipe. 15. Pearl Button. Scale: 2/3 Natural.

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(From Pierson 1965)