

## A 272: THE FOX POND SITE

M. I. Symes and M. E. Stephens

### Abstract

The Fox Pond Site is a Spanish contact site of the early Seventeenth century with ceramic materials of the Potano period. The site encompasses four possible house sites discovered in the excavation with others likely. There is some indication that it is related to the mission of San Francisco.

The Fox Pond Site, which has been designated A 272, is an extensive Spanish contact site located in Alachua County, Florida on the University of Florida Horticultural Experimental Station, 8 miles NW of Gainesville.

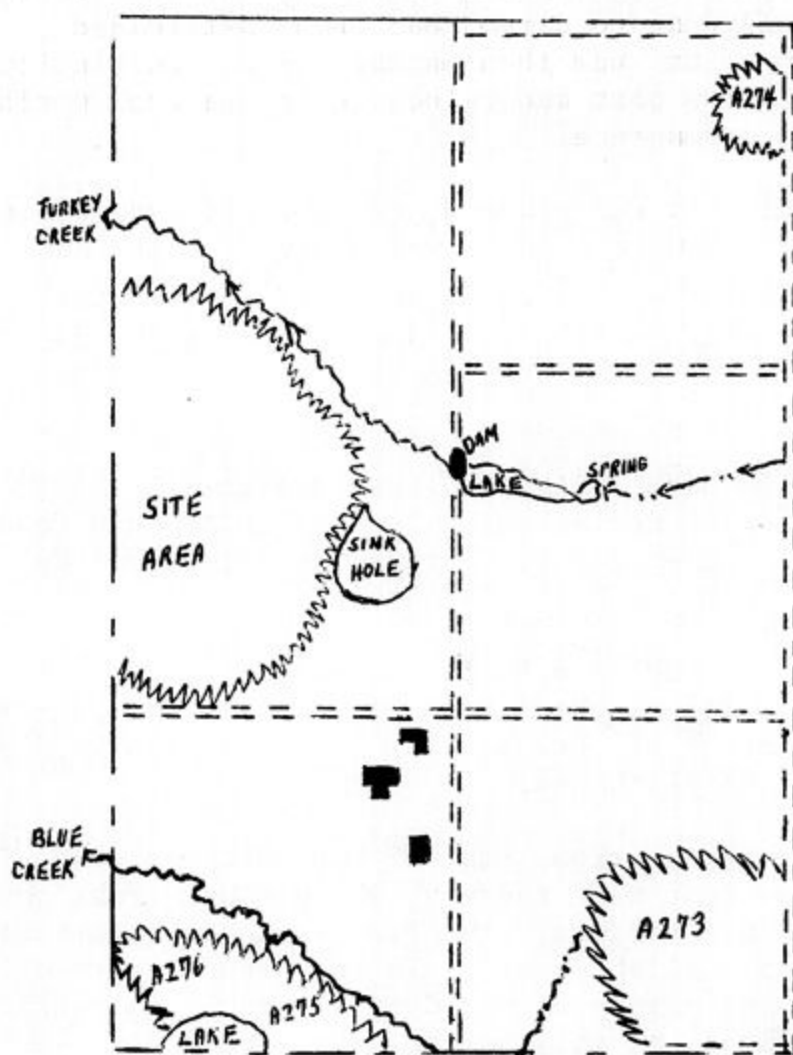
Excavation of the Fox Pond Site was carried out by the Anthropology 500 Field School from April 27 to May 28, 1964, under the direction of Dr. William H. Sears (until May 8) and Dr. Charles H. Fairbanks.

During this excavation, most of the work was done along the twenty five foot wide roadway which has a grass cover. To the east of this roadway, the land is under cultivation, at that time in English peas. To the west is pre-climax hammock consisting mainly of mixed hardwoods. There is water on three sides of this site; two sink holes, Turkey Creek, and Blue Creek. The soil is Arredondo fine sand with about a six inch layer of humus covering a yellowish-brown deposition layer of varying depths. The undisturbed soil is mainly a very yellow sand beginning about 1.5 feet below datum.

The topography of this area is typical Karst topography as is evidenced by the sink holes present. The site itself lies on the 190 foot terrace. There is very little variation in ground level over the site, however, there is a circle of high land beginning about 480 R5 and running over toward the sink hole which is depressed.

The site was surveyed in and a skeleton University of Chicago grid system laid during the first day on the site. The main vertical axis was made to conform with the edge of the hammock, giving a N20W magnetic reading. Stakes were laid every 100 feet with some R25 stakes laid parallel to the R0 line. The temporary datum point, however, was later

# General Location of Experiment Station Sites



0 1320 feet

scale

KEY

Property line

Field road

Permanent stream

Intermittent stream

Site boundary

destroyed by a mower mowing down the two aluminum stakes used to mark this spot and level control had to be re-established through backsights on a blaze in the hammock whose height with reference to datum had been determined. The temporary datum point was then marked on an Horticultural Experimental Station post and relocated in the real world in order to insure permanence.

In general, it was planned to restrict excavation to the roadway area. However, as it was observed that there was a ridge of high ground beginning on the 480 R5 line, it was decided to try one test pit within the field area to determine the yield. Thus, a test pit was surveyed in. It was also decided to place some test pits within the hammock in order to determine the westward limits of the site. A line was cut into the hammock along the 422 line and test areas were set up.

Excavation was carried out by the use of the arbitrary level of 0.5 feet per level. In cases of pits and post holes the area was pedestaled and trowled to undisturbed soil.

The yield of the site is heavy with the bulk of the material being Spanish contact materials of the Potano and Spanish Indian periods. This generally agrees with the results of earlier excavation done May 12 and 13, 1956 under the supervision of Dr. John M. Goggin.

#### History of the site

In the fall term of 1956, site number A 272 was entered in the site files of the University of Florida Anthropology Laboratory. It was surface collected and recorded by the Anthropology 501 Principles of Archeology class under the direction of John M. Goggin. This group also examined and recorded a more selective surface collection belonging to Jerry Evans, a local resident.

Fox Pond was first excavated on the weekend of May 12 and 13, 1956 by a field crew of departmental students.

From the data collected by these earlier workers and that of the recently completed excavation, the following facts may reasonably be concluded. The Fox Pond Site was a Spanish Mission Indian village of the Potano Period. It was inhabited in the first half of the seventeenth century.

The Potano Period is a more specific sub-division of the Mission Indian Period referring to the Western Timucua of the Alachua Plains area (Swanton, 1922). The contemporary Eastern Timucua culture is the St. Augustine; and the

Apalachee culture, which has a later beginning, is the Leon-Jefferson (Smith, 1948a). Due to the geographical proximity, elements of St. Augustine and Leon-Jefferson are found in the Potano Period. The St. Johns and Jefferson Ware ceramics found at Fox Pond illustrate this point.

It is possible that an association exists between A 272 and the mission of San Francisco de Potano. This mission was founded in 1606 by the Franciscans and was destroyed during the Timucua revolt of 1656. It was ordered rebuilt in 1659 (Swanton, 1922). The new mission remained in operation until early in the 1700's (U.F.A.L. records).

The dates of 1606-1700 do not agree with Goggin's majolica seriation dates, ca. 1630-1650. There are many possible explanations for this discrepancy: (1) majolica may not have been imported to the area prior to 1630; (2) the mission may have been relocated both in 1630 and after the Timucua uprising; (3) A 272 could have been a satellite village established after the main mission; (4) the majolica seriation date could be incorrect.

Local tradition refers to the Fox Pond Site as the mission of San Felsasco, a nomenclature derived from the proximity of a San Felsasco Hammock to the site. There is little evidence to support this theory, however, since there is neither a mission of San Felsasco recorded in the area (Swanton, 1922), nor a Saint Felsasco. The actual word Felasco, however, could conceivably be the result of repeated mispronunciation of Francisco by the Indians and later settlers. Evidence of this can be seen in the way in which the original Indian word Cimarrones was changed. This process is as follows:

Cimarrones - Semalones - seminole

The r's were changed to l's first, then the syllables were switched to get the final pronunciation of Seminole. The same can be demonstrated for the Francisco:

Francisco - Flancisco - Felsasco (Fairbanks)

Actually, there is not yet sufficient evidence of mission-like or European structures in the Fox Pond area. A 272 appears to be a village site and the materials found indicate that it was probably not occupied after the Timucua uprising.

#### Cultural Material

A full account of the cultural material found in this excavation is contained in the tables. Materials gleaned from surface collections and from the features corresponded

TABLE 1\*

A272

Pottery Types	Level#1	Level#2	Level#3	Level#4	Level#5	
Miller Plain	65.9%	24.7%	9.5%			1037
Alachua Cob	54.6%	32.3%	10.8%			128
St. Johns Check	73.6%	14.1%	12.9%			163
St. Johns Plain	69.4%	21.3%	9.3%			108
Jeff. Paste	74.2%	22.2%	3.4%			117
Jeff. comp. stmp.	70.6%	24.1%	4.1%	0.8%	0.4%	245
Olive jar	68.0%	21.5%	10.4%			144
Sherd temp. Plain		5	100.0%			1
West Fla. cord	92.3%	7.7%				13
Pasco Plain	71.4%	28.6%				14
Prairie Cord	25.0%	25.0%	50.0%			4
LakeJackson Plain	62.5%	25.0%	12.5%			16
Limestone temp.		100.0%				1
Shell temp.	75.0%	10.0%	15.0%			20
Mission red flmd.	50.0%	38.8%	11.1%			18
Aucilla incised	75.0%	25.0%				4
Unid. Majolica	50.0%	45.8%	4.2%			24
Semi-porcelain	100.0%					2
Lochloosa punc.	54.6%	36.3%	9.1%			22
Sherd temp. cob			100.0%			1
Itch. B/w		100.0%				1
San Luis B/W	75.0%	25.0%				4
Tallahassee B/W	33.3%	566.6%				3
Bold Incised		100.0%				1
Columbia Plain		100.0%				2
Weeden Is. res. plain		50.0%	50.0%			4
Puray Poly.	100.0%					1
Blee Majolica	100.0%					1
20th Cent. stone.	100.0%					2

2141 sherds dis-  
carded as too small  
to classify.

\*Percentage of Type per Level

TABLE 2\*\*

	Level#1	Level#2	Level#3	Level#5
Unworked flint	661	337	125	2
Worked flint	136	24	20	0
Bone, teeth	74	38	15	0
Nails	9	5	0	0
Shot	0	2	0	0
Beads	2	4	0	0
Glass	3	1	0	0
Other	4 (ramrod tip, rapier blade, buckle, whetstone)			

\*\*Cultural Material other than pottery per level

	199	299	422 L180	422 L255	450	470	470 R5, R10	480 R5, R10	483 R54, R59	490	495	490 R5	790	TOTALS
Miller Plain	2.9	3.9	14.8	2.8	1.8	4.4	16.7	22.2	9.9	9.0		9.9	1.7	1037
Jefferson Comp. St.		1.2	4.5	0.4	0.4	8.2	22.5	36.8	13.9	3.7	1.2	5.7		245
Lake Jackson Plain	25.0		12.5			6.3	37.4	12.5				6.3		16
Mission Red Filmed	11.1	5.5	22.2			5.5	44.4	11.1						18
Aucilla Incised							50.0	25.0		25.0				4
Jefferson Paste	1.7	0.8	6.0	1.7	0.8	4.3	14.5	40.2	10.3	8.5		11.1		117
Alachua Cob Marked	10.9	5.5	30.5	1.6		3.1	8.6	23.4	6.2	7.8		1.6	0.8	128
Prairie Cord Marked			50.0		25.0								25.0	4
Lochloosa Punctate	4.6	18.1	31.8	4.6		13.6	4.6			9.1		13.6		22
St. Johns Ck. St.	1.2	1.2	16.5	6.1	1.2	2.5	12.3	40.5	10.4	2.5		4.3	1.2	163
St. Johns Plain	5.5	0.9	21.3	5.5		2.8	7.4	34.3	7.4	2.8		12.2		108
West Fla. Cord Marked			7.7				7.7	15.4		38.4		23.0		13
Pasco Plain			21.4							14.6		64.2		14
Sherd Temp. Plain												100		1
Sherd Temp. Cob Mkd.							100							1
Limestone Temp. Plain						100								1
Shell Temp. Plain			10.0				15.0	10.0	15.0			50.0		20
Bold Incised									100					1
Weeden Is. Residual Pl.										100				1
Olive Jar	0.1	1.4	13.2	4.8	3.5	4.1	17.3	32.6	13.2	4.8		3.5	0.1	144
Unidentified Majolica			4.2	4.2			16.6	33.3	12.5	20.8		8.3		24
Itchitucknee B-on-W							100							1
San Luis B-on-W			50.0					25.0					25.0	4
Tallahassee B-on-W								66.6				33.3		3
Columbia Plain			50.0						50.0					2
Puray Polychrome											100			1
Blue Majolica							100							1
Semi-porcelain	50.0						50.0							2
20th Cent. Stoneware		100												2
TOTALS	64	55	2148	59	29	93	334	574	205	153	3	186	24	

Percentage of Pottery Types/Section

Unworked Flint	22	8	16	15	14	20	97	311	398	83	2	135	3	1125
Worked Flint	3		2	1			36	88	35	4		10	1	180
Bone, teeth	1	5	40	16		4	13	43	6	1				127
Nails			1	1		1	5	3	2	1				14
Shot			1(1.25cm)									1(1.01cm)		2
Beads							1	2	3					6
Glass								2	1			1		4
Other								3				1		4

Number of Non-ceramic Artifacts/Section



with the material recorded.

After discussion with Dr. Fairbanks, it was decided that all plain sand tempered sherds would be classified as Miller Plain rather than attempting to make the arbitrary decision on the intermediate pieces. The choice of Miller Plain over Alachua was made due to the presence of ring bases, strap handles and a portion of a pitcher spout. According to Willey (1949), these forms are frequent on Miller, while Goggin (1948) states that these forms are usually not found on Alachua Plain. Unusual temper was found in several of the sherds classified as Miller Plain - some having a black quartz and several others having a very large white quartz temper.

Point types included Tampa (8), Pinellas (8), and Newnan's Lake (1) (Clausen unpb. MA)

Of the Pinellas points, 2 were extremely small (Fig. 1). Otherwise, the points conformed to type except for being generally rather crudely made. The Newnan's Lake was a very poor example, being extremely thick compared to those found at A 356, for which the type was named (Clausen, MA). Fig. 3

The gun flint (Fig. 2) was of a shape and material to suggest that it might have been Indian-made rather than Spanish (re Goggin classification).

Nails found were, in general, those normally to be found in this period of contact sites. They averaged approximately 5 cm long with a round head of approximately 1.5 cm. Several had been mutilated in some manner. There were also some railroad spikes found, but these were discarded as intrusive objects.

Beads from the site included:

- 1 "Gooseberry" bead (DeJarnette and Hansen 1960)
- 2 white translucent oval beads
- 8 Itchitucknee Blue beads (oval)
- 1 green wire wound bead
- 1 translucent seed bead
- 2 blue seed beads

The shot found measured 1.25 cm which equals approximately 50 caliber shot, the other 1.01 cm, or approximately 40 caliber shot. The actual calibers are not possible to discern since casting was not always perfect.

The olive jar is to be classified as middle style by the various pieces of ring neck and by the general descrip-

tion given in Goggin (1960). There are several pieces of green glazed, mostly glazed on both sides. Goggin felt that this glazing did not represent any significant time difference from the unglazed variety, thus the glazing is of interest only in that it agrees with the Goggin findings from this site.

The sherds classified as Jefferson Complicated Paste were similar to Jefferson Complicated Stamped in all ways except for the stamping, thus it was decided to name them in this manner.

#### Correlations

Perusal of the material indicates that those sherds appearing in all three levels generally tend to decrease rapidly in number from level # 1 to level # 3. There are, however, exceptions to this. Sherd tempered, cob marked and plain; Prairie Cord marked; Weeden Island residual Plain; Tallahassee Blue-on-White majolica, all either increase or remain constant from level # 1 to level # 3. This would tend to indicate that these sherds are most common in the earlier years of the occupation. Certainly this would seem to be true of the sherd tempered sherds which appear in no other level but level #3. The Prairie Cord Marked and Weeden Island residual plain would seem to also belong to the earlier stages but both types may be portions of the same pots which have been disturbed by ploughing or other means of disturbance.

Heaviest sherd concentrations are to be found in three general areas with the other areas having significantly fewer sherds.

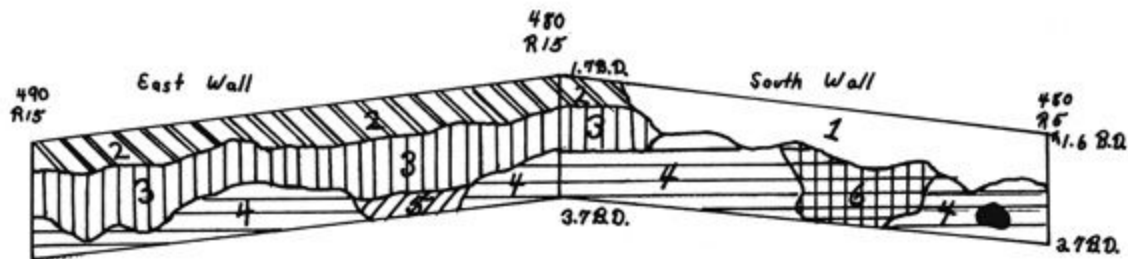
As a rule, the non-ceramic artifacts follow the same lines of concentration as the ceramics.

It is of interest and note that the only sherds to go beyond level # 3 in the test pit dug were Jefferson Complicated Stamped sherds which were among the lowest yield in level # 3. Even taking the Jefferson paste sherds into account, the only sherds having less percentage yield in level # 3 were the obviously more modern ceramics of majolica, semi-porcelain, etc.

#### Conclusions

From the depth of the material and the sudden dropping-off of cultural remains in the third level, it would seem that, in the earlier days of the site there were relatively few people living in the area excavated. The gradual increase in yield would indicate that the population did ex-





Disturbed



Plow Zone



Midden



Undisturbed



Tree Stump



Pit Feature



Rodent Burrow

pand, however, to a large number as time passed. The great profusion of surface materials as evidenced by the surface collections of a local amateur Jerry Evans (UFAL), by the materials collected by the 1956 excavation, and by the recent excavation crew (UFAL), certainly shows that there is a great deal of material to be found on or near the surface; particularly material which has been mechanically disturbed in the 0.5 foot plow zone. There is, of course, the possibility that the first two levels represent the occupation level with the level # 3 sherds being due to mechanical or natural disturbance. The latter explanation, however, does not seem as likely, as the concentrations, although comparatively small, were still rather too large for this to be likely.

The concentration of cultural material in three areas indicated a need for closer inspection of these areas. The indications are that these are possibly four house sites; one in the field, 2 in the roadway area, and one in the hammock. Perusal of the cultural materials shows that, within these areas were found most of the nails, the gun flint, the glass, and beads. The platts also showed pits in association with these areas from which were gathered the majority of the sherds, the whetstone, rapier piece, and ramrod tip, plus the areas of bone. The pit in association with the hammock excavation contained both deer and turtle bones along with turtle carapace, and was, incidently, where the Newnan's Lake point was found. Consideration was made as to the possible recentness of a buckle found, however in conjunction with the other evidence, there is a great possibility that it is related to the rest of this material.

Pottery found in these areas consisted of the greater portion of the majolica, olive jar, and mission red filmed, the usual pottery types found around a Spanish Indian house.

The extreme quantity of flint chips found in the same area of the roadway and the field house sites suggests that this could have been a flint chipping station. This would seem to bear out as it would seem logical to chip one's flint outside the house. This area needs further investigation to determine the extent of this proliferation of flint.

Concerning the extent of the site, the actual limits were not reached, as cultural material was discovered in every area dug. However, as previously mentioned, the material was somewhat concentrated and thinned rapidly at the extremes. The yield is not so small, however, as to suggest that the material had been moved to these areas from the areas of concentration. Although this could be within the

realm of possibility in the case of the roadway material, the one pit in the woods would most likely not have been subjected to the mechanical disturbance found in the roadway. It is also to be noted that, even within the areas of concentration the material from the test pits outside the possible house sites is significantly less. Thus, it is possible that these fringe pits are simply areas between house sites. As further indication of extended size, the other sites in the area elicit the suspicion that they may all have been connected in some way and that this site is really quite extensive. Certainly the artifacts from the excavation of A 273 (also carried out that summer) would seem to indicate that there are at least enough similarities in Indian materials to suggest some connection between the two areas. It has been postulated by William Sears that A 273 was possibly the site of the original village from which the Mission Indians came.

Certainly all indications show that this is an extensive, rich site from which a great deal could be learned. This is a site which should be extensively dug, particularly in light of the findings of this excavation.

#### Bibliography

Clausen, Carl Jon

unpub. The A-356 Site and the Florida Archaic. Unpublished M.A. Thesis, University of Florida.

DeJarnette, David and Ansaël T. Hansen

1960 The Archeology of the Childersburg Site, Alabama. Notes in Anthropology, No. 6, Florida State University, Tallahassee.

Fairbanks, Charles H.

Personal Communication.

Goggin, John Mann

1948 Some Pottery Types from Central Florida. The Florida Anthropological Society, Bulletin No. 1, Jan. Gainesville. pp. 1-14. (Mimeographed)

1949 Cultural Traditions in Florida Prehistory. In the Florida Indian and his Neighbors, John W. Griffin, ed. pp. 13-44. Winter Park, Fla.

1950 Florida Archeology -- 1950. The Florida Anthropologist, Vol. III, Nos. 1-2, May. Gainesville. pp. 9-20.

1952 Space and Time Perspective in Northern St. Johns

Archeology, Florida. Yale University Press, Yale Publications in Anthropology No. 47. 147 pp.

1960 The Spanish Olive Jar - a preliminary study. Yale University Press, Yale Publications in Anthropology No. 67. 37 pp.

1964 Indian and Spanish Selected Writings. (Ed. by C. H. Fairbanks, Irving Rouse, and W. C. Sturtevant). University of Miami Press, Coral Gables. 336 pp.

Seaberg, Lillian M.

1955 The Zetrouer Site: Indian and Spaniard in Central Florida. Unpublished M.A. Thesis, University of Florida.

Smith, Hale G.

1948a Two Historical Archaeological Periods in Florida. American Antiquity, Vol. 13, No. 4, April.

1948b Results of an Archaeological Investigation of a Spanish Mission Site in Jefferson County, Florida. The Florida Anthropologist, Vol. 1, Nos. 1-2, May.

1956 The European and the Indian. Florida Anthropological Society Publication No. 4, Gainesville.

Swanton, John R.

1922 Early History of the Creek Indians and Their Neighbors. Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin # 73. Washington.

University of Florida Anthropology Lab  
Spanish Mission and Town Surveys.

Various site reports on file.

Willey, Gordon

1949 Archeology of the Florida Gulf Coast. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Vol. 113(whole volume), Washington, D.C. pp. 488-495.

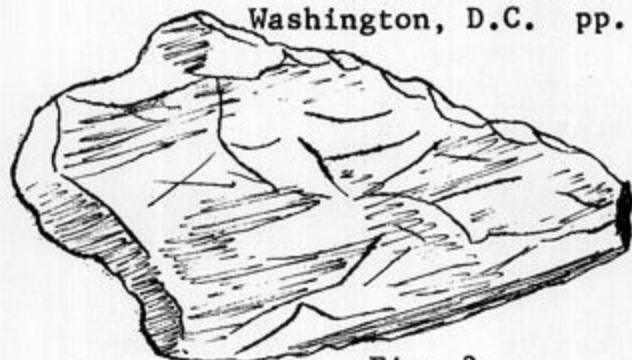


Fig. 3



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida