



Caloosahatchee Area from A.D. 650-1350 (Cordell, 1992), the dominance of this type in Boca Raton during part of this same period (Furey, 1972) and the construction of large linear earthworks in the Lake Okeechobee Area also during this period (Sears, 1982; Carr *et al.*, 1995; Griffin, 1988) provide evidence for these hypotheses.

It is also suggested here that the colonization of the Atlantic coast by Lake Okeechobee peoples was directed towards only one area, the region of present-day Boca Raton. Evidence for this hypothesis is provided in part by the presence of the Boynton Mound Complex (8PB56), about 11 miles to the northwest of Boca Raton, in what was once the eastern Everglades. This site contains several associated mounds and earthworks and is quite similar to sites farther north and west in the Lake Okeechobee Area. No other site like this has been identified in eastern Martin, Palm Beach, Broward or Dade counties. Because of this fact and its close proximity and similarities to the Spanish River Complex, it is probable that the people living at the Boynton Mounds were Lake Okeechobean peoples who, like the Spanish River residents, migrated to the southeast at some point. The Boynton Mounds may represent the initial colony and/or a group of Spanish River residents who split from the main group on the coast. The Boynton residents probably served as intermediaries between the Lake Okeechobee Area heartland and the Spanish River colony.

These hypotheses certainly need further testing before they can be fully accepted, but they do seem to explain a good deal of information. With this in mind, a new, although tentative, definition of the East Okeechobee Area can be given.

Decorated ceramics are absent in this area until the appearance of St. Johns Check Stamped pottery. The numerous incised sand-tempered types, which are used so successfully in the Everglades Area for relative dating of sites, are almost completely absent from the East Okeechobee Area, especially as one moves further north in the area. Sand-tempered Plain is the dominant type, except in and around Boca Raton, which, as discussed, seems to be an eastern outpost for a Lake Okeechobee proto-chieftom. Thus, sites closest to Boca Raton are expected to have a greater proportion of Belle Glade Plain pottery than sites farther to the north in this area. The types Belle Glade Plain, Sand-tempered Plain, St. Johns Plain, and St. Johns Check-stamped make up the bulk of all ceramic artifacts found here. Other types, such as Savannah Fine Cord-marked, Surfside Incised, Engelwood Incised, Opa Locka Incised, Dunn's Creek Red, Carrabelle Punctated, Little Manatee Zoned Shell Stamped, St. Johns Simple Stamped, Weeden Island Incised, and Sarasota Incised have been recovered in very small amounts in the area and probably represent trade wares.

Non-ceramic artifacts that distinguish the East Okeechobee Area are *Busycyon* adzes and picks typical of the Indian River and St. John's Areas. Rare trade items typical of these areas include greenstone artifacts like celts and plummet. Bone artifacts, such as points and hair pins, are not uncommon and a few have been recovered which display incised decorations (Wheeler, 1992b; Kennedy *et al.*, 1993).

Burials that have been encountered and reported demonstrate several mortuary practices, such as primary burial, extended burial, and bundle burial. Isolated burials have even been noted in village midden contexts (Kennedy *et al.*, 1993; DuBois, 1994). However, it is