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CERAMIC STRATIGRAPHY AT UPPER MATECUMBE KEY, FLORIDA
by
John M. Goggins

An Essay Presented to the Faculty of the
Graduate School of Yale University in Candidacy for
the Degree of Master of Arts

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REFERENCE

New Haven, Connecticut

1948

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PREFACE

The archeological excavation described in this paper was conducted as part of the Caribbean Program of the Department of Anthropology, Yale University. The program is under the direction of Dr. Cornelius Osgood, to whom the writer is grateful for advice and aid. His interest was greatly encouraging.

The work was under the direct supervision of Dr. Irving Rouse. The author feels deeply obligated to Dr. Rouse for many things, not the least of which is the opportunity to participate in the Florida program. In the field, the laboratory, and in the class room he has always been helpful and stimulating.

The actual excavation was carried out jointly with Mr. Frank Sommer, a fellow student, assisted by Mr. Robert Rand of Washington, D. C. We were extremely fortunate that Mr. and Mrs. Ev Fowler, the owners of the site, were so cooperative. In addition to complete freedom for excavation, they extended us many courtesies which made our stay on Upper Matecumbe Key more pleasant.

Mr. Karl Squires of Miami assisted in many ways, including surveying the site to make the accompanying map. The help of numerous other people is gratefully acknowledged. I wish especially to thank my two colleagues in the field for their participation on their first and sometimes unpleasant field work.

John M. Goggin

April 20, 1946

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INTRODUCTION

Geography

The Upper Matecumbe site occupies a strategic position in North American archeology, for it is situated on the frontier of the South-eastern archeological area. It is the southernmost place of excavation in the United States (Fig. 1).

Upper Matecumbe Key¹ is a small island in the Florida Keys, a chain which extends southwest off the southern tip of Florida peninsula. To the east and south of this chain lies the Straits of Florida, through which the Gulf stream passes from the Caribbean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. Further east across the Straits is the Bahama Bank with its many islands. To the south, the Island of Cuba, also on the other side of the Straits, is only 30 miles from the closest part of the Keys. To the west and north, the Bay of Florida, a shallow basin which gradually deepens toward the Gulf of Mexico to the south and west, separates the Keys from the mainland.

Upper Matecumbe Key is in Monroe County about 75 miles south of Miami. U. S. Highway No. 1, running from that city, bisects the island and continues southwest to Key West, passing from key to key by means of fills and bridges. Upper Matecumbe is about four miles long and less than one-half mile wide. Most of the original hammock vegetation was cut off many years ago when pineapple plantations were flourishing, but now scrubby second growth covers the greater part except where the residents

¹The name Key, meaning an island, is derived from the Spanish word cayo, which in turn was derived from an Arawak Indian word of the same meaning.



Figure 1. Location of Upper Matecumbe Key in Relation to North America and the West Indies