

A PRELIMINARY REPORT OF A
STRATIGRAPHIC EXCAVATION ON
CHOKOLOSKEE ISLAND, FLORIDA

By John G. Beriault and Charles E. Strader

The Southwest Florida Archeological Society

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AT CHOKOLOSKEE ISLAND, FLORIDA
ON APRIL 14 & 15, 1984
BY THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND
THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

SITE LOCATION

The area of excavation lies in the central part on the southern end of Chokoloskee Island. The test pit lies atop a ridge feature running in a North-South direction. The site is a crescent shaped shell midden capped by black dirt midden material. The site links up to a longer ridge feature running into the central portion of the island. West of this ridge feature is a 3-4 m. deep "canal", terminating among several high centrally located shell mounds. The flanking ridge and canal features seem to converge to a central axis, possibly the pond feature near the cemetery. The surface of the test pit is approximately 15 ½ feet or 4.73 meters above mean sea level. The information as to elevation was given by Chris Hancock, owner of the site and was based on elevation of his house there.

SITE EXCAVATING TECHNIQUES

The Test Pit (T.P.) consists of four adjoining quadrants (qd.), each one meter square, making the T.P. two meters on each side. The grid system's lines were laid out in relation to magnetic North-South and East-West directions. The four quadrants were labeled accordingly, resulting in the Southeast quadrant (S.E. qd.), the Southwest quadrant (S.W. qd.), the Northeast quadrant (N.E. qd.), and the Northwest quadrant (N.W. qd.).

The southeast corner of the test pit was designated as the datum point. The S.E. qd. was designated as the control pit with only a 30 cm. square column, located in its N.W. corner, to be excavated. The entire content of this 30 cm. square column sample (C.S.) was retained and bagged separately according to arbitrary 10 cm. levels.