

# CULTURAL OCCUPATION AT GOODLAND POINT, FLORIDA

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# CULTURAL OCCUPATION AT GOODLAND POINT, FLORIDA

John M. Goggin

In January of 1949 a visit was undertaken to the shell midden at Goodland Point, Key Marco, Florida. From previous experience on the southwestern Florida Gulf Coast, it was anticipated that only a limited conception could be obtained of site details, and no more than a few artifacts collected because of the thick tropical hammock. However, at Goodland Point it was surprising to find that recent clearing and grading had stripped the midden surface leaving it almost completely bare.

Preliminary reconnaissance indicated that large surface areas of almost pure shell were relatively sterile in terms of artifacts, while other exposed areas rich in dark soil and ashes had a high artifact content. The possible information to be derived from controlled sample collecting (Goggin, 1939) was immediately apparent, so collections were made from a number of widely scattered areas, sixteen in all on this day, and two others in the same and following week.<sup>1</sup>

## THE SITE

Goodland Point Midden (Cr 45) forms the point of the same name projecting from the extreme southeastern corner of Key Marco, the largest of the Ten Thousand Islands, on the Gulf Coast in Collier County, Florida.<sup>2</sup> In most physical respects the site is similar to other large ones in the vicinity, a region known as the Calusa subarea of the Glades archeological area (Goggin, 1947). These sites are usually irregular deposits of shell characterized by uneven surface contours resulting from numerous small mound and ridges on the main deposit. Goodland Point differs from others in the region mainly in

1. This paper represents a research project of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Florida, made possible by a grant from The Viking Fund, Inc. The Collier Corporation, owners of the site, and in particular Miles and Sam Collier and the late D. Graham Copeland, the former manager, have been of help in many ways, especially in furnishing a contour map of the site which was used in the field, and permitting its adaptation for use in this paper. Robert Reilly, of Miami, assisted in the field.

In March another visit was made to the site in company with Irving Rouse and D. Graham Copeland. Collections made at this time are in Yale Peabody Museum. They have not been included in this study, because they were collected under somewhat different conditions.

2. This site should not be confused with the "Court of the Pile Dwellers" (Cr 49) on the northern end of Key Marco which is well known because of Frank Cushings' (1897) unusual finds there. (All site numbers used in this paper refer to the statewide University of Florida archeological survey.)

size—it is an unusually large midden, one of the major sites in Florida in this respect.

The midden extends some 1700 feet in an East-West line and measures about 1900 feet on North-South axis. It is difficult to arrive at an average elevation of the site due to the extensive removal of shell in the northern portion and the grading and subsequent smoothing of contours in the western and southern portion. An estimate, based on the Collier Corporation map and personal observation, is that one half of the site was from 2 to 5 feet in elevation, one-third ranged from 5 to 10 feet in elevation, with a few high points perhaps reaching 12 or 15 feet, while the remainder around the edges was from 0 to 2 feet in elevation.

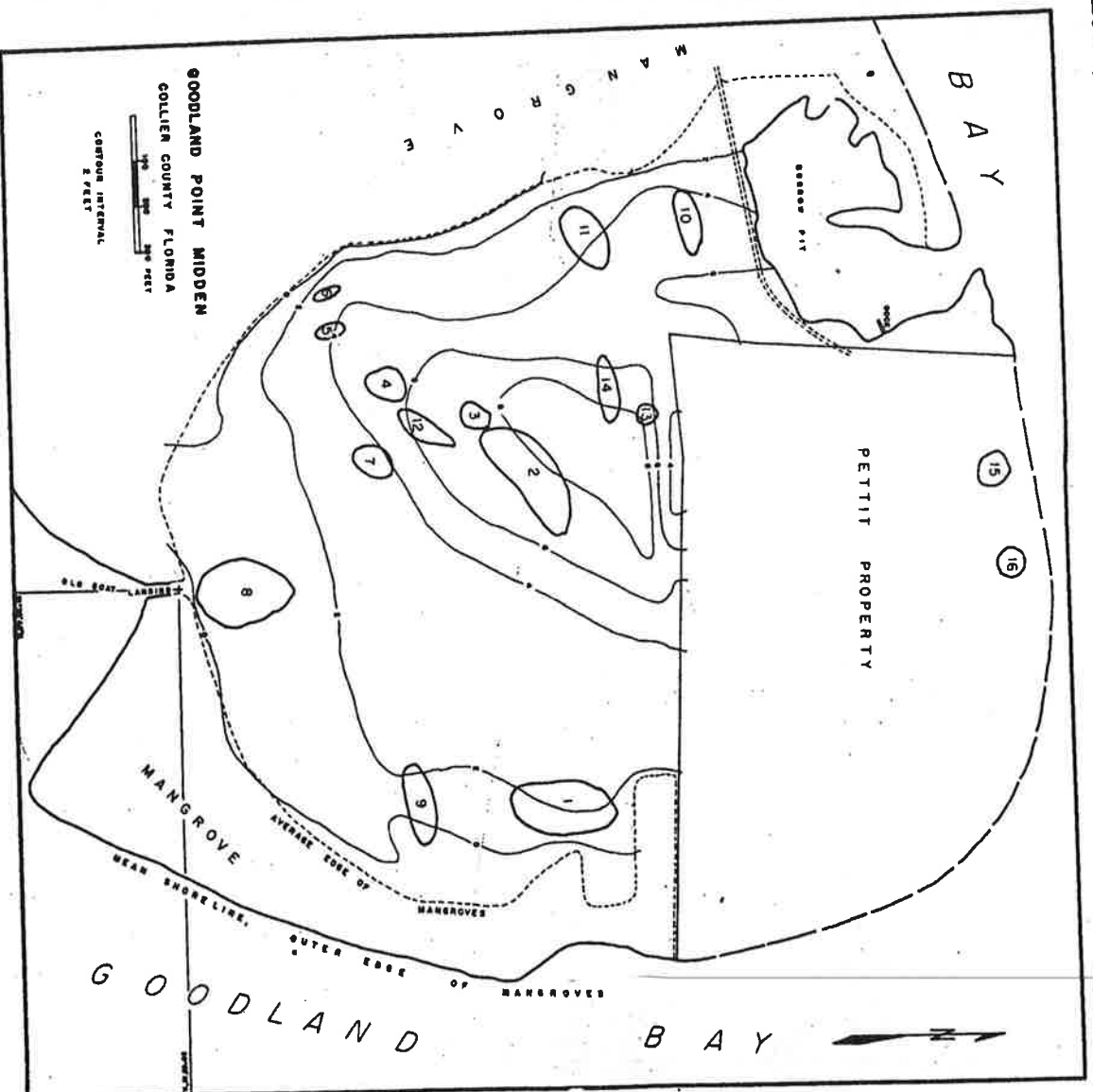


Fig. 18. Map, Goodland Point Midden. Contours are those surveyed after clearing and grading. In most places they approximate the original surface.