

## CULTURAL SEQUENCE IN FULTON COUNTY

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## ABSTRACT

Two seasons (1930 and 1931) of archaeological exploration by the Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago, of aboriginal sites in Fulton County, Illinois, has resulted in the delineation of a number of components (unit of culture found at a *pure* site) belonging to one or the other of two *basic cultures*, the Woodland and the Mississippi.

"Cultural stratification" or superposition of these components indicated in several cases a relative chronology.

One of the "stratified" sites, a mound (F<sup>o</sup>77) near Liverpool on the Illinois River proved to have Hopewell-like traits and artifacts. It was built on an older cemetery in the "black sand" containing burials and a few artifacts. Both cultures are Woodland but the physical type and culture of the cemetery seem more ancient than those of the group building the mound. Here, then, we have the Hopewell-like phase overlying and later than that of the Black Sand component.

A village site (F<sup>v</sup>49) on the Chester Whitnah farms yielded evidence of cultural superposition. A Hopewell-like component, much like that found at Liverpool, was found beneath shell-tempered sherds, and artifacts similar to those found in the Dickson site (F<sup>c</sup>34) near Lewistown and considered to belong to the Middle Mississippi phase. This site indicated the priority of the Hopewell-like phase to the Middle Mississippi.

A third site, a mound (F<sup>o</sup>14) on the Joy Morton estates, gave evidence that at different times three cultural groups had used a prominent point of a ridge as a cemetery. The earliest occupation was called the F<sup>o</sup>11 component because a nearby site, in which numerous flexed burials in red ochre were found, together with caches of implements and ornaments, gave a fuller definition of characteristic traits. Above the burials of the F<sup>o</sup>11 component lay other flexed skeletons, probably much later in time, that were seldom accompanied by cultural objects and were known as the F<sup>o</sup>7 component from another mound of the same chain where only this simple complex of traits occurs. The latest burials in the tumulus, of the same culture and physical type as those found in the Dickson site (F<sup>c</sup>34), were inhumed at various depths, occasionally disturbing burials of the two earlier types. The sequence derived from F<sup>o</sup>14 is: earliest, the F<sup>o</sup>11 component (Red Ochre Phase of Woodland), next the F<sup>o</sup>7 component (Woodland), and latest the F<sup>o</sup>14 component of Middle Mississippi.

The Fouts village site (F<sup>v</sup>664) contained fifteen or more house pits which yielded the remains of rectangular houses, shell-tempered sherds, and artifacts belonging to the Middle Mississippi (probably identical with the Dickson component).

Near Maples Mills on the Robert Gooden farm occurs the Gooden component (Woodland), characterized by thin grit-tempered pottery with corded or stroke-decorated designs and raised rims, and flexed burials occasionally accompanied with a pot or a small number of projectile points.

<sup>1</sup> Yellowish sand containing a considerable amount of organic material.

To summarize: No stratigraphic evidence was encountered in the case of the Gooden component but it appears to be more recent than most of the others mentioned, on account of the excellent state of preservation of the bones and indications from more distant sites of a similar nature. The Black Sand component was found in association with the Hopewell-like phase only, but seems to be one of the oldest found, judging by physical type and evidence from other sites in Illinois and elsewhere. Based on stratigraphy and other evidence, the relative sequence of cultural elements in Fulton County seems to be, putting the oldest lowest in the table:

	<i>Component</i>	<i>Basic Culture</i>
	Gooden	Woodland
	Dickson (Middle Phase)	Mississippi
	F <sup>7</sup>	Woodland
	Hopewell-like	Woodland
	F <sup>11</sup> (Red Ochre Phase)	Woodland
	Black Sand	Woodland