



The Bryan Site: Uncovering Clues to its Spanish Past through Wattle & Daub Analysis

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Introduction

- During the early colonial period, the Spanish established mission sites across La Florida.
- Spanish structures in La Florida often had clay walls called “daub” that were burned onto a wood framework called “wattle” (Pastor Quiles, 2022).
- During the Apalachee Revolt of 1647, a group of Apalachee burned down Mission San Antonio de Bacuqua. Daub with wattle impressions came to be found at the Bryan Site (8LE6256).
- Aim: I am looking at the recovery of wattle & daub from a potential Spanish mission site in Tallahassee, Florida. I argue that analyzing wattle & daub could support the identification a Spanish structure at the Bryan Site, potentially Mission San Antonio de Bacuqua.

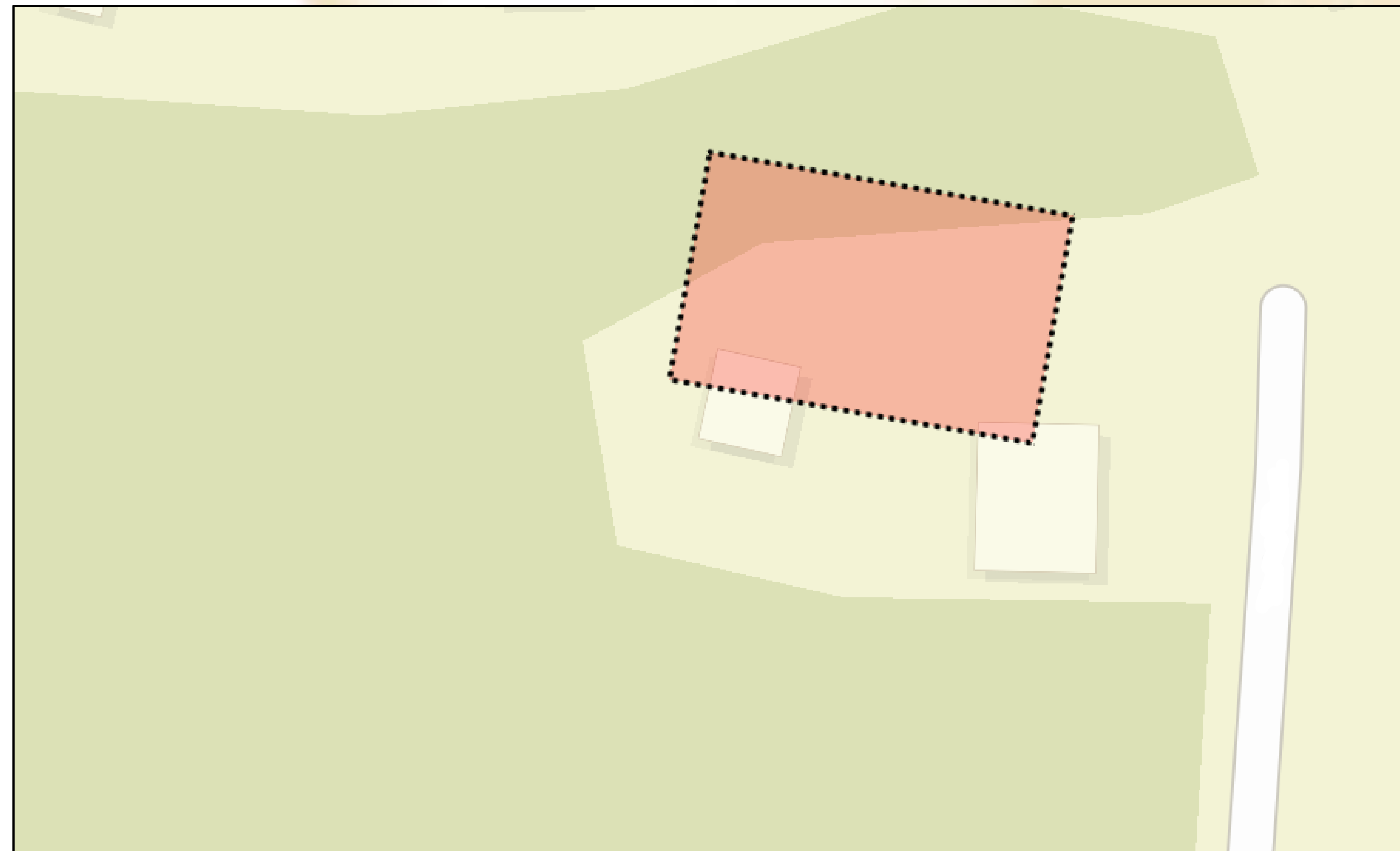


Figure 2, Birds-eye view of the Bryan Site (8LE6256) with estimated structure in red.



Figure 6, Daub with positive reed impressions with technical illustration

Discussion & Conclusion

- Impressions mostly derive from reeds. However, evidence exists for stone and plant material.
- Locations of daub found at the Bryan Site indicate there was once a structure present.
- Although wattle & daub techniques could have been used by the Apalachee (Marrinan & Peres, 2021), the pattern these artifacts were found in indicate a rectangular shaped structure; meaning we are likely looking at a Spanish site.
- The Bryan Site had a Spanish past, but wattle & daub alone cannot confirm it to be San Antonio de Bacuqua.
- Future excavations should continue trying to identify a church structure in order to confirm the Bryan site as San Antonio de Bacuqua.

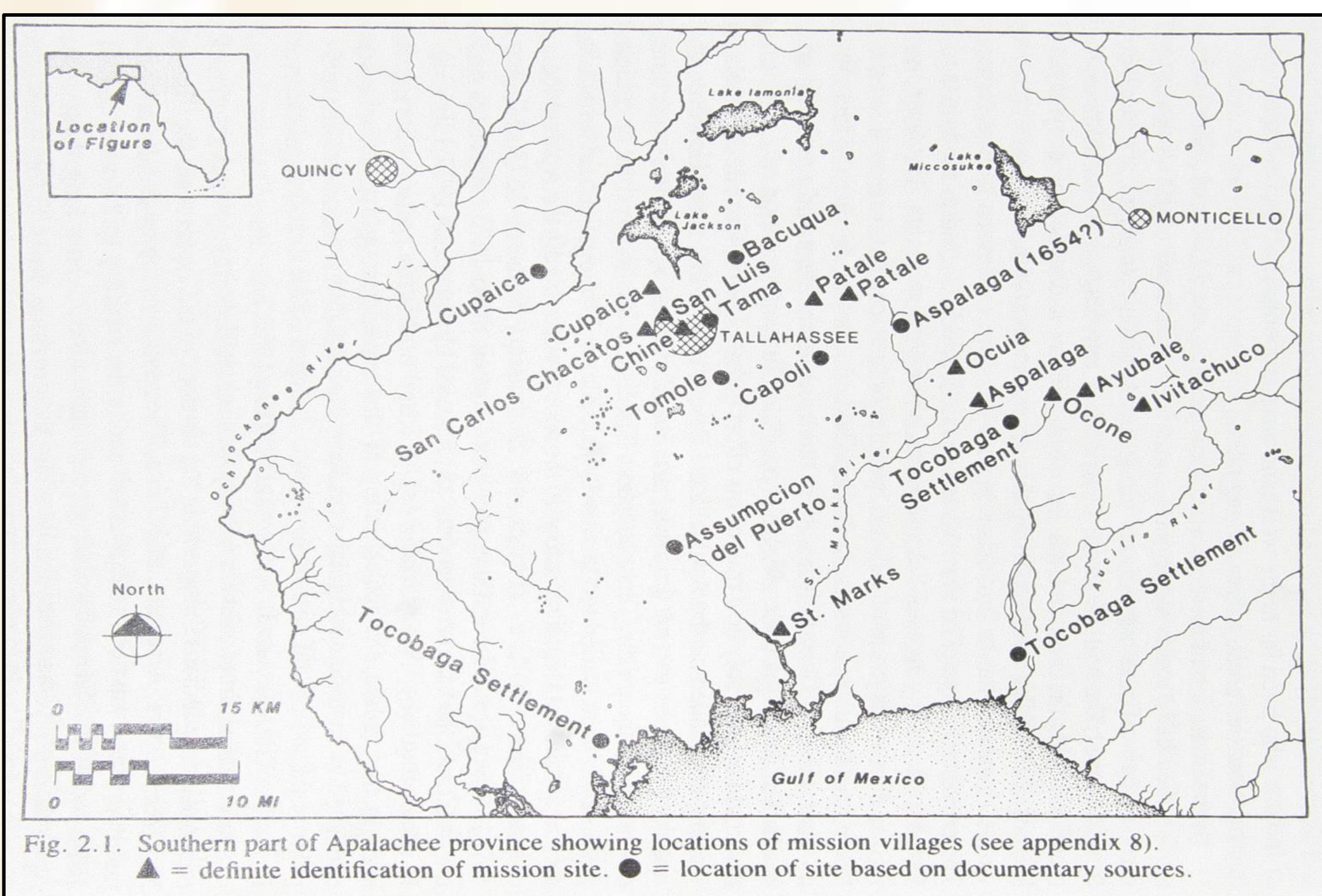


Figure 1, Locations of Spanish Missions in NW Florida (Hann, 1998)

Methods

- Sort bags of artifacts into different artifact types.
- Catalog artifacts based on class and characteristics and input data into Excel.
- Identify daub with wattle impressions.
- Analyze daub with wattle impressions based on location and impression morphology.
- Identify a pattern of artifact recovery from the excavation in search of a contiguous structure.
- Compare wattle & daub recovery at the Bryan Site to similar Spanish Mission sites.

Results

- As of March 6th, 2023, daub with wattle impressions has been documented in 3 different field specimen bags.
- These artifacts were in area A3 and area E at the Bryan site.
- 7 macroscopic pieces of daub were identified to have wattle impressions.
- Daub was composed of clay material
- Impressions resembled imprints of reeds, stone, and plant material.

Impression Morphology	
Reeds – Negative Imprint	1
Reeds- Positive Imprint	2
Stone	1
Plant Material	3

- No impressions from worked wood.
- The general areas of daub recovery at the Bryan site followed a rectangular structure (see: Figure 1).



Figure 3, Daub with negative stone wattle impressions



Figure 4, Daub with negative plant material impressions



Figure 5, Daub with negative reed impressions

Acknowledgements

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References

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