



Hampson Archeological Museum State Park is located on the north edge of Wilson on U.S. Hwy 61.

HAMPSON ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM STATE PARK

Hampson Archeological Museum State Park houses and exhibits the archeological collection from a Mississippian era ceremonial complex and village known as the Nodena Site, located in Mississippi County, Arkansas. This remarkable collection is accompanied by graphics and written material describing the lifestyles of the artistic people who lived here from 1400 to 1650 A.D.

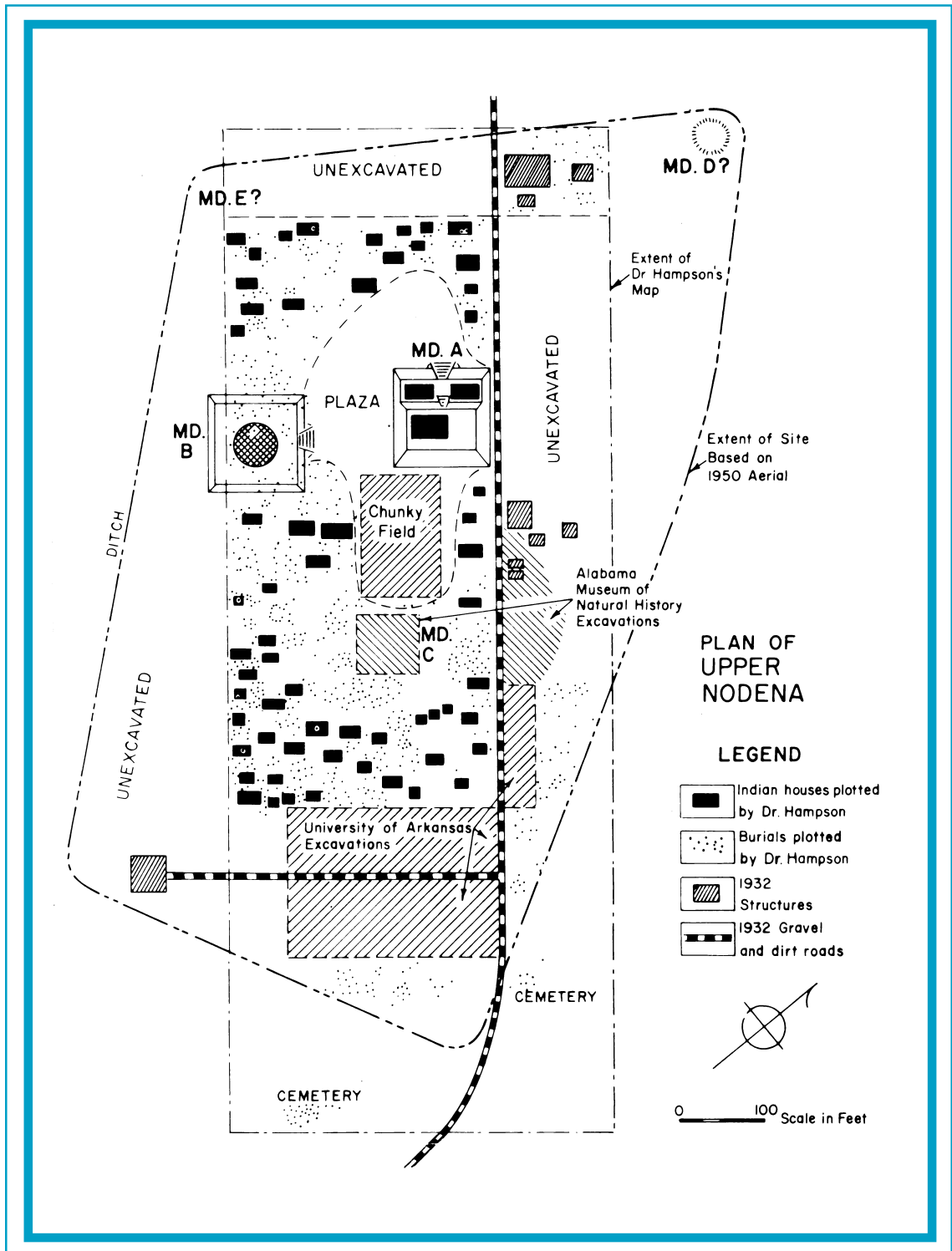
As a boy, Dr. James K. Hampson (1877-1956) was fascinated by arrowheads. His interest in archeology was rekindled in the early 1920's when he returned to the family plantation, Nodena, to set up a successful medical practice. In 1927, he began a painstaking study of the physical remains of the people who inhabited the Nodena site. Dr. Hampson, his wife, and children excavated and carefully documented portions of the Nodena Site. Their well-documented discoveries led to national

recognition for Dr. Hampson and major excavations by the University of Arkansas and the Alabama Museum of Natural History.

At the time of his death, Dr. Hampson's family donated his collection to the State of Arkansas. Land for the museum was donated by R.E.L. Wilson, III.

The Upper Nodena Site, located on a meander bend of the Mississippi River, was a 15-acre palisaded village. A plaza used in ceremonies connected two ceremonial mounds and associated structures. South of the plaza was an area possibly used as a playing field for a game called chunky. Adjacent to and south of the playing field was a third mound. Surrounding this ceremonial area was the village, which included houses and family cemeteries.

The Nodena people cultivated corn, beans, and squash. These foods were supplemented by hunting and fishing. White-tailed deer, raccoon, muskrat, squirrel, and rabbit provided food as well as skins, and bones for tools, jewelry, and gaming dice. Cane was used for thatch roofs, building materials, fishing traps, and arrow shafts, and could be used as fuel for fire. Hardwood (bald cypress, oak, cottonwood) was used for canoes, tools, and larger weapons like knives, spears, atl-atls, and bows.

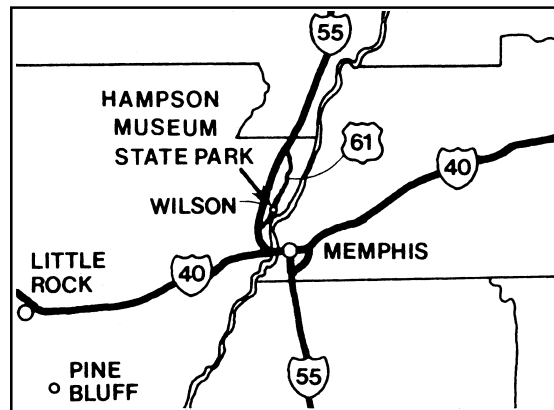


Local backswamp clays were used in the elaborate pottery vessels the Mississippian culture has become known for, including the beautiful type-site pottery – Nodena Red and White (see www.HistoryStateParks.com for photos). Stone for tools and weapons was imported from the north, and the trade network also brought shells from the Gulf of Mexico and salt from Missouri.

FACILITIES

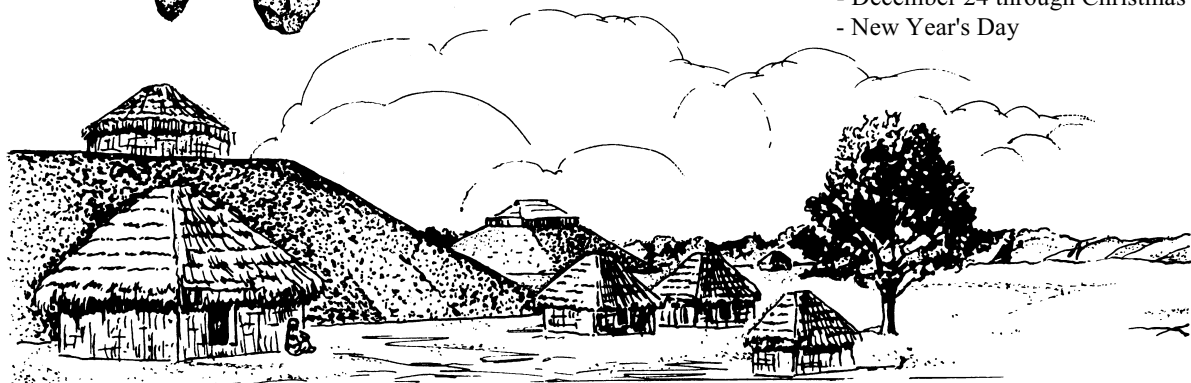
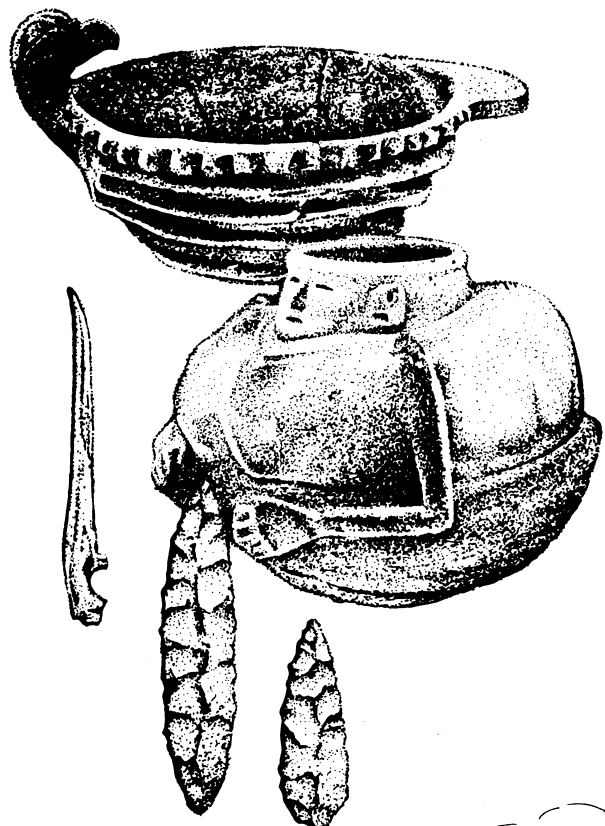
Museum ♦ There is a modest entrance fee. (Organized groups of fifteen or more with advance notice are admitted at a reduced price). A small gift shop with archeological publications and other gift items is located in the museum.

Picnicking ♦ The park grounds include a beautiful, tree-shaded picnic and playground area, which is free.



The park is located on the north edge of Wilson on U.S. Hwy. 61 and Lake Drive.

Hours: Open - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday
 - 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays
 Closed - Mondays (except Monday holidays)
 - Thanksgiving
 - December 24 through Christmas Day
 - New Year's Day



For further information on park services or fees, contact:

Hampson Archeological Museum State Park
 P.O. Box 156
 Wilson, AR 72395
 Telephone: (870) 655-8622
 e-mail: hampsonmuseum@arkansas.com

NOTICE: To preserve scenic beauty and ecology, fences and warning signs have not been installed in some park locations. Caution and supervision of your children are required while visiting these areas.

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For information of Arkansas's other fine state parks, contact:

Arkansas State Parks
 One Capitol Mall, 4A-900
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 (501) 682-1191
www.ArkansasStateParks.com
www.HistoryStateParks.com



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