continued to grow in scale throughout the Late Archaic. Diagnostic projectile point types include Savannah River Stemmed, Paris Island, Benton, Pickwick, and Ledbetter (Elliott and Sassaman 1995). Fiber-tempered pottery in much of the Southeastern United States is generally considered under the rubric of Stallings Island, Orange, Wheeler, and Norwood Series, and it is thought to mark the transition between the Late Archaic and Early Woodland periods (i.e., Terminal Archaic). In the Okefenokee Basin, earliest human occupations documented thus far, such as at the Martha Dowling North site (9CR34), are associated with Late Archaic occupations with fiber-tempered pottery found within live oak hammocks around the edge of the swamp and on interior islands. The majority of this pottery is St. Simons, a thick, plain variety common along the Georgia coast (Kirkland and Cook 2007:16).

By the end of the Late Archaic (ca. 4450-3200 B.P.) wild plant foods were collected in such frequency that morphological changes characteristic of domestication appear in several local species such as goosefoot, sumpweed, sunflower, and gourds (Smith 1992; Anderson et al. 2007). Archaeological evidence indicates that people grew small amounts of squash, sunflowers, and other seed-bearing plants in simple gardens to supplement their hunting and gathering diets (Sassaman and Anderson 2004:105).

Woodland

Southeastern archaeologists in the U.S. generally distinguish the beginning of the Woodland period (ca. 3,200 to 1,050 B.P.) by the introduction and regular use of stamped pottery and increased investment in ceremonial ritual events and mortuary practices. During the Woodland period, the intensification of horticulture, construction of earthworks, and elaboration of artistic expression and burial ritual are all thought to be related to a reorganization of social structure. The advent of horticulture would have meant that, at least for part of the year, groups would have had to remain sedentary in order to plant, tend, and harvest crops. The Woodland period is further subdivided into three subperiods: Early, Middle, and Late.

Although many technologies used during the Woodland period were actually developed during the earlier Archaic periods, it was during the Woodland stage that changes in social organization and economy from small dispersed bands of hunter-gatherers to large, semi-permanent settlements began to take place. A much heavier reliance on horticulture followed and these changes are evidenced in the archaeological record.

The first use of sand-tempered pottery appears in the Early Woodland period (Ledbetter et al. 2009). The Early Woodland Deptford ceramics were developed in Georgia around 2,800 B.P. out of the Early Woodland Refuge phase and spread north into the Carolinas and south into Florida. Early Woodland ceramic types common within the Okefenokee Basin include Satilla Plain and Satilla Simple Stamped, which are found primarily in the Satilla River drainage and headwaters of the Alapaha River, along the lower Satilla River and south to the St. Marys River estuary. Check-stamped Satilla phase pottery (Willacoochee Check-Stamped), however, is not currently known from sites in the Okefenokee Basin as this type may be restricted to the north and west of the interior Coastal Plain (Kirkland and Cook 2007:16).

The Middle Woodland period is marked by the popularity of check-stamped ceramics, represented in the Deptford and Cartersville series, and complicated-stamped ceramics with complex, curvilinear patterns known as Swift Creek. Deptford series pottery, dominated by simple stamped with some check-stamped, is found throughout the Okefenokee Basin but in low quantities and associated with sparse chert flakes. This suggests Deptford peoples had limited seasonal use of the area. More permanent occupations are known from large shell middens and a house at Cumberland Island on the lower Georgia Coast (Kirkland and Cook 2007:16). This period also features elaborate burial ceremonialism and artistic expression that is thought to be related to the "Hopewellian Interaction Sphere" (Caldwell 1964), which developed throughout the