

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A number of people helped to see the archaeological work at the Mitchell Ridge Site, and this report, to completion. Appreciation is extended to personnel of The Woodlands Corporation, without whose interest and cooperation the significant findings at the Mitchell Ridge Site could not have been made. The Woodlands Corporation obtained a permit (No. 17800) for the development of Pirate's Cove, Section 6, the parcel of land on which the site is located, from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District. All indications were that significant archaeological deposits would be found only in the eastern part of the property, along and near the shoreline of Eckert Bayou, so that The Woodlands Corporation was reasonably permitted to construct a set of canals and residential home lots in the western part of the area. Early in 1992, however, excavation of a pilot canal near the western end of the property revealed the presence of aboriginal burials, even though surface indications of prehistoric human occupations were extremely sparse in this area. Personnel of The Woodlands Corporation recognized the significance of the find and immediately halted operations and notified archaeologists with the Galveston District Corps of Engineers of the find. This led to the 1992 testing and excavations described in this report, all of which, along with subsequent analysis and report preparation, were generously funded by The Woodlands Corporation. Throughout the several months of archaeological fieldwork which followed the initial discovery of burials in 1992, personnel of The Woodlands Corporation were most helpful, postponing construction operations for the time required to carry out investigations, as well as providing machinery and skilled operators used to expose significant subsurface cultural features. George Mitchell, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Mitchell Energy and Development Corporation, parent company of The Woodlands Corporation, visited the site during the course of our work, showing interest in the historic significance of the site. Fred Le Blanc, Environmental Manager for The Woodlands Corporation, and Dave Srader, General Manager of their Galveston properties, were consistently responsive to the needs of our archaeological investigation, facilitating access to various areas of the site and providing on-site security for important finds which had to be left exposed in situ so that work could proceed with due attention to detail. Finally, thanks go to The Woodlands Corporation for avoiding construction in the highly productive and significant eastern part of the site. This area was deeded to the City of Galveston, and has been designated as a State Archeological Landmark, through the efforts of James E. Bruseth and Nancy A. Kenmotsu of the Texas Historical Commission.

Gail C. Celmer and Bryan Guevin, archaeologists with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, also deserve special thanks for their genuine concern for the cultural resources at Mitchell Ridge. Gail Celmer's response to the need for a flexible approach to the site, in a situation where important finds were made unexpectedly, in no small measure contributed to the successful completion of the 1992 fieldwork at Mitchell Ridge. Appreciation goes to Bryan Guevin for sharing his knowledge of northern Gulf coastal plain archaeology, and for pointing out certain key reference materials which were helpful in the analysis phase of our work.

A number of individuals are to be thanked for sharing their expertise and thus helping in the interpretation of the finds made at Mitchell Ridge. Robert Neuman of Louisiana State University provided access to that institution's collections from the Louisiana area, for comparative study of shell ornaments, and also shared information concerning a remarkable set of whooping crane bone whistles from Cameron Parish, Louisiana. Stors Olsen, curator at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., identified the bones of which similar whistles from Mitchell Ridge were manufactured. Marvin T. Smith (Valdosta State University) and Martha Sempowski (Rochester Museum and Science Center) helped in the identification of early glass trade beads from Protohistoric burials at Mitchell Ridge. Richard A. Weinstein of Coastal Environments, Inc., Baton Rouge, provided helpful comparative information on the ceramics of southern Louisiana. Thomas R. Hester and A. J. Taylor, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, are thanked for offering information concerning comparative mortuary data and reference materials on shell artifacts.

I would particularly like to thank the individuals whose contributions are included in this report. Joseph F. Powell (Texas A&M University, College Station) has provided an in-depth analysis of the bioarchaeological finds from the Mitchell Ridge burials. The attention to detail in his analyses, and the range of important issues which he addresses-- all carried out within an already demanding schedule-- are most remarkable and sincerely appreciated. Jeffery A. Huebner (University of Texas at Austin) provides

significant insights into native diet at the site, through stable isotope analyses of human bone from selected burials; his findings importantly complement some of the results from Joe Powell's bioarchaeological analyses. Meredith L. Dreiss (Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, UT-Austin) offers a wide-ranging overview of shell ornaments from archaeological contexts, and a most informative examination of the range of relevant shell species, information which provides archaeological and environmental contexts for her study of the many shell beads found at Mitchell Ridge.

Finally, thanks must of course be expressed to the hard-working and capable people who comprised our 1992 field crew: Nancy Beaman, Wayne Chesser, Roman Clem, Susan Cox, Doug Drake, Herb Eling, Lisa Generali, Marina Henderson, Luke Huston, Scott Jones, David McArdle, Gregg Willman, Eric Willman and Eddie Wilson. In the lab, Gregg Willman and Luke Huston cleaned and inventoried the many thousands of artifact and faunal specimens from the site, both from our 1992 investigations and from the excavations carried out in the 1970s, and assisted in the various analyses of these materials.

Appreciation is extended to all these people for their efforts and contributions to this project.

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Corpus Christi  
October, 1994