Nearly one hundred years after the Reeve site was first examined by the Western Reserve Historical Society, this famous collecting spot is finally being destroyed by construction of an apartment complex. Like most prolific archeological sites in Ohio, Reeve has not been treated kindly by time or man. Only two controlled excavations of the site were conducted, that of Greenman in 1929 for the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society and that sponsored by the Cleveland Natural Science Museum in 1968 (not 1967 as reported in Brose 1973). The site is currently meeting its end in an orgy of wholesale looting by area residents.

Colonel Charles Whittlesey's brief description of the site (1888:36-37) as it appeared in 1877 remains the most accurate. The site lies 1/2 mile south of Lake Erie on the east side (southern bluff) of the Chagrin River, north of present Lake Shore Boulevard. The bluff is a blunt point of land, composed of drift hard pan, about thirty-five feet high, at the base of which the river is rapidly wearing the materials, which slide down in narrow benches. At the upper side is a ripple, and in front of it, on the other bank low flooded land, with sluggish bayous extending to the lake. What are called the walls of the fort, are about forty rods long across the base of the point, but nearly obliterated. The soil is yellow clay, extending nearly level with the work to the east, and has long been under cultivation. An old orchard occupies most of the enclosed space, which is about five acres.

Within the old lines there is a heavy accumulation of black soil, filled with kitchen refuse, one to three feet deep. Messrs. Joseph and James Worden remember when the embankment was double, or in two lines—the two crests about a rod apart, with a ditch between about two and a half feet deep.

All trace of the semicircular earthworks disappeared long ago, but the location was clearly marked by the abrupt contrast in color of the dark midden soil on the interior of the works and the yellow clay soil on the outside. This contrast was particularly evident during the initial period of recent construction at the site. Two manuscript maps in the Western Reserve Historical Society collections show the outline of the earthen walls. Both maps were apparently drawn by Joseph Worden, whose name appears on one map; the date, June 1893, occurs on the other. Unfortunately, no datum points are given. The course of the nearby highway does not correspond with that of present-day Lake Shore Boulevard, nor does the course of the Chagrin River match that of the present. A copy of one of Worden's maps is reproduced (Fig. 1), for it appears to give the exact dimensions of the enclosed area, presumably from actual surveying.

During the 1968 Museum excavations, no charcoal suitable for radiocarbon dating was found in unquestionable association with diagnostic artifact material. Therefore, when it became evident last spring that the Reeve site was slated for destruction, the author undertook limited excavations in a final attempt to secure an adequate charcoal sample from a meaningful archeological context. Kurt Reich, Cleveland, Ohio, assisted in the excavation. We were fortunate in uncovering a considerable amount of charcoal in direct association with rim sherds of Reeve Horizontal and Fairport Plain ceramics. The fact that several of the Reeve Horizontal sherds were from the same vessel seemed sufficient indication that the immediate area of the charcoal sample had not suffered from post-aboriginal disturbance. The sample was obtained at a depth of 16 inches, near the northeastern perimeter of the site.

The charcoal sample was submitted to the Radioisotopes Laboratory, Department of Geology, Case Western Reserve University, for radiocarbon dating. The results (A. J. Su-modi, personal communication) indicate a date of 580 B.P. ± 130 years, or A.D. 1370 (Sample No. CWRU-71).

This date accords very well with my original "guess-date" of 1300-1400 for Reeve Horizontal ceramics (Murphy 1971a:298). It also serves to establish the age of the major oc-
ocupation at the Reeve site, though there are also traces of a minor Whittlesey Phase occupation (1500-1600), earlier Late Woodland occupation circa A.D. 1100-1200, and an Early Woodland component.

Brose's (1973) preliminary report on his excavations at South Park indicates recovery of part of a rather strong Reeve-like component, but his report is somewhat confusing. No examples of Reeve Horizontal or Reeve Filleted occur in the illustrated material from Brose's "earliest cultural level" at South Park, yet he states that 11% of the vessels from his early phase represent "Feurt Incised or Reeve Horizontal." This early phase is dated at A.D. 1000-1300 (Brose 1973:38), but apparently without radiocarbon dates. Aside from the inexplicable confusion of Feurt Incised (which is characterized by opposed incising motifs) with Reeve Horizontal (with horizontal incising), it seems unlikely that true Reeve Horizontal and Reeve Filleted are quite this early. Brose also seems to be applying a rather broad definition of Fairport Plain, as none of his illustrated sherds from this component really resemble Fairport Plain sherds from the Fairport Harbor and Reeve sites.

Unquestionable sherds of Reeve Horizontal and Reeve Filleted do occur at South Park, but they certainly were not common during the 1968 excavations (Murphy 1972). Brose (1973:33) illustrates both types from his "intermediate component," but makes no mention of these types in his discussion of the "intermediate occupation." Three radiocarbon dates ranging from A.D. 1430 to 1470 are cited for features associated with this intermediate occupation, which is in fair agreement with the Reeve site radiocarbon date, though it is unclear from Brose's article whether any of the Reeve sherds from South Park are actually from any of these three radiocarbon-dated features. It is noteworthy that Fairport Plain sherds are also illustrated from the "intermediate component" at South Park, though, again, it is unclear whether any of these were found in direct association with Reeve Horizontal or Reeve Filleted sherds.

The A.D. 1370 radiocarbon date on Reeve Horizontal and Fairport Plain ceramics confirms the temporal equivalency of the major components at the Reeve and Fairport Harbor sites with Wright's (1966) Middle Ontario Iroquois Stage and White's (1961) "Early Period," a suggestion originally made several years ago (Murphy 1971b).


