

INVESTIGATIONS AT TWO ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES NEAR
AKERS FERRY, OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS,
SHANNON COUNTY, MISSOURI

By

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ABSTRACT

Archeological investigations were carried out at two multicomponent archeological sites in the vicinity of Akers Ferry in Shannon County, Missouri, in September 1991. This work was conducted under a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the University of Missouri-Columbia and consisted of subsurface testing of previously recorded archeological sites in areas where planned developments in Ozark National Scenic Riverways would adversely impact their archeological integrity if there were significant cultural deposits present on them. The investigations reported herein were conducted at two sites.

The first, the Akers Pass site (23SH22), was determined to consist of a multicomponent prehistoric site yielding cultural materials from the Late Archaic substage to the Emergent Mississippi substage. Also discovered on the site were the significant remains of a circa 1830-1860 Euroamerican habitation which yielded abundant archeological materials.

The second site, the Dances with Grasshoppers site (23SH177), consisted of widely scattered remains of prehistoric occupations on a series of undulating landforms in Gladden Creek valley. It was a multicomponent site with evidence of habitation from the Early Archaic substage to the Emergent Mississippi substage. Subsurface testing revealed that prehistoric features exist below the plow zone.

Analysis of data and cultural materials from the two sites indicates that both are significant and have the potential to yield information on lifeways associated with past occupations of the Current River valley. It is recommended that if the sites cannot be avoided during planned construction activities, sufficient excavations be conducted on them to mitigate, through data recovery, any adverse impacts that might result from subsurface disturbance.

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INTRODUCTION

The field investigations that generated the data for this report were conducted under a cooperative agreement between the University of Missouri-Columbia and the National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska. The University of Missouri, American Archaeology Division, has long maintained an active research interest in the southeastern Ozarks. The author, an archeologist at the University of Missouri and co-principal investigator on the project, has 30 years experience in archeological research in the region and a professional career which has focused on long-term research goals in southeastern Missouri. It is in the interest of both the National Park Service, whose charge is the protection and enhancement of cultural resources under its stewardship, and the University of Missouri, whose personnel have a dedicated and active research interest in the region, to accomplish these investigations jointly and add significant new information to a growing database for Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

The research reported herein involved subsurface testing of two archeological sites in the vicinity of Akers Ferry on the upper Current River in Shannon County, Missouri. Although the project was site-specific in nature, the research strategies that guided it were based on a long-term regional commitment to understanding both the prehistoric and historic past in that region of the southeastern Ozark Highland of Missouri drained by the Current River and its major tributary, the Jacks Fork.

During the past twelve years, considerable effort has been devoted to inventorying the large number of cultural resources within the boundaries of Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Test excavations have been conducted at numerous sites in the region in order to determine the cultural sequence in the past. These excavations have been done on sites ranging from early prehistoric sites to historic sites of the nineteenth century that were occupied when the region was first settled by Euroamerican peoples. All research has been directed toward an explanation of man's changing use of the natural environment of the southeastern Ozark Highland throughout the human experience there. Work has been directed toward studies of the natural environment that focus on geomorphology and stream dynamics, zooarcheology, ethnobotany, and palynology, so that a reconstruction of the natural environment and its resources can be accomplished for various periods in the past. Archeological research has focused on determination of settlement patterns and settlement systems that help explain how human populations selectively occupied the environment and how they optimized the capture of energy through the use of various foodstuffs and materials from the rugged environment of the Current River and Jacks Fork drainages.

The project at Akers Ferry was another opportunity to document various past occupations, the material culture of these peoples, and the landforms they selected for various activities. A single such project as part of a long-term regional research design adds significant new information to a growing database that in time, through analysis, will lead to a better understanding of past lifeways in the Ozarks.

Project Location and Description

The project area lies in the southwest 1/4 of Section 13 and in the southeast 1/4 of Section 14, Township 31 North, Range 6W. The landscape is quite rugged in this region in the upper Current River valley where there is as much as 365 feet in relief between valley floors and ridge crests. The project area is associated with a rather unique landform in the region, a ridge remnant that is surrounded almost totally by a stream valley except for a small saddle which connected it to another ridge (Figure 1). Over vast periods of time Gladden Creek, which drains southward from Dent County, has downcut in a massive westward bend and thereby created steep bluffs on the west and south and a remnant ridge within the bow of its course. The Akers Pass site, 23SH22, lies on the saddle that connects this ridge with the more massive ridges to the east. Archeological materials on this site are rather sparse on the saddle crest but more densely concentrated on the southern slope of the saddle. Soils on the saddle crest are residual clays containing angular fragments of angular chert. The Dances with Grasshoppers site, 23SH177, lies on a series of undulating landforms south of the ridge and between it and Gladden Creek. The landform on which the site lies appears to be a dissected ancient terrace of Gladden Creek, since it has a southern scarp. The northern portion of the site lies on rocky soils that apparently washed down from the southern face of the ridge.

The archeological investigations on both sites consisted of subsurface testing, first by the placement of shovel tests along a grid to generate samples of archeological cultural materials and to determine site limits as well as where potential concentrations of archeological deposits and possible activity areas might exist. Analysis of materials yielded by shovel tests was then done in the field to determine where more extensive test excavations would be placed to potentially yield the most information about past use of the sites.

Environmental Setting

The study area is situated in the eastern Ozark Highland, a region characterized by rugged topography that includes both areas of narrow valleys and areas of rolling hills. Clear streams, including the Current River and its major tributary, the Jacks Fork, are typical of major tributaries in the area.

The region was formerly covered with a variety of vegetational communities, some dominated by oak-hickory forests on ridge slopes and lower ridgetops, some by mixed oak-pine or pure pine stands on higher elevations, and some by oak or scrub oak barrens and possibly prairies on some ridgetop locales. Valleys were dominated principally by floodplain, hardwood forests. Mast and other wild plant food resources were locally available, as was a variety of large and small game animals, fish, and mussels. Fertile, easily tilled soils are limited to the terraces, levees, and floodplains of the larger stream valleys. Local lithic raw material resources include cherts, quartzite, sandstone, limestone, dolomite, galena, and hematite. The climate is continental, with a mean annual growing season of about 190 days and an annual precipitation of between 45 and 50 inches. Because of the extensive subsurface drainage in the region, permanent sources of

water are largely confined to the major stream valleys, although some springs and sinkholes provided water sources in uplands away from such valleys. The region is characterized by seasonal and zonal variability of resources. However, most resources present would have been available to human populations within a range of a few miles. Perhaps those resources presenting the greatest influence over settlement would be sources of fresh water and agriculturally suitable soils, both occurring principally in the larger valleys.

Thus the major river valleys have long been the focus of human populations occupying the region. The rivers were probably fairly stable from the beginning of the Holocene until the coming of Euroamerican populations to exploit the timber resources in the late nineteenth century, with the exception of a drier period during the hypsithermal when streams were somewhat smaller. For detailed information on geomorphic history of the Current River as well as its dynamics the reader should consult Saucier (1982, 1983).

Previous Research at the Akers Ferry Locale

Archeological research has been conducted sporadically in the vicinity of Akers Ferry for several decades. Even before 1965 when the tract came under the ownership of the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, the tract had been a popular area for people seeking access to the Current River. Arable soils in the vicinity were plowed for agricultural crops, exposing archeological materials which were then collected by various individuals. Thus, it has long been common knowledge that the area was relatively rich in archeological resources. Sites at Akers Ferry were reported to the Archaeological Survey of Missouri by Dr. B.L. Ray of Salem, Missouri. The area was visited by Richard A Marshall of the University of Missouri in 1955 and by Marvin Tong in 1960 (Lynott 1989a:6). In 1975 Robert K. Nickel of the National Park Service conducted a preconstruction survey on site 23SH23 (Nickel 1975).

No additional work was done at Akers Ferry until 1979 when additional survey and some test excavating were conducted on 23SH23 (Lynott 1981). In the course of this research it was discovered that stratified archeological deposits were present. Subsequent testing was conducted in 1980 and 1987 under the direction of Mark Lynott. Between these dates — in 1985 — Cynthia R. Price conducted a survey and monitored backhoe soil tests in various areas in the vicinity of Akers Ferry (C. Price 1985). With the exception of Lynott's 1987 excavations at 23SH23 (Lynott 1989a), the present project represents the most extensive archeological research yet conducted in the Akers vicinity. To date, work on sites in this area has demonstrated past human occupation from the Early Archaic stage, represented by Dalton materials, to early nineteenth century Euroamerican habitation. Thus, the area offers a wide variety of archeological resources spanning approximately 10,000 years.

THE AKERS PASS SITE

Although the existence of the Akers Pass site (23SH22) has been known for many decades, no thorough definition of the site through subsurface excavations had been attempted there prior to the current project. The site lies on the crest and on the southern slope of a low swale across a major ridge. As presently defined, the site is bounded on the east by Highway KK, on the south by a small spring branch that flows into Gladden Creek, on the west by the edge of the presently cleared field, and on the north by the ridge scarp which steeply descends into Gladden Creek valley (Figure 2). It is quite possible that the site extends eastward across Highway KK into a Euroamerican cemetery. Exact boundaries on the west have not been fully delineated, but it probably does not extend a great distance in that direction, since the ridge slope becomes rather rugged with outcropping bedrock in that area. Prehistoric archeological materials on the site are rather sparse on the ridge crest in the swale but become more numerous down the slope in the central part of the site above the spring branch. The historic component, circa 1830-1860, is much more concentrated and can be fully defined. It occupies the southern slope of the ridge and is concentrated in an area where a dwelling of that period apparently stood. This area is approximately 55 meters east-west by 30 meters north-south.

The extreme eastern portion of the historic component may have been truncated by the scarp resulting from the construction of Highway KK. Other adverse impacts to both the prehistoric and historic components have resulted from the use of the ridge as the locus for a commercial structure with subsurface foundations, the excavation of a sewer drain line down the slope associated with that structure, the installation of concrete parking barriers that were secured in place by iron rods driven into the ground, and use of the area on the ridge crest as a parking lot.

Both prehistoric and historic peoples were probably attracted to this location by the presence of a spring which issues from the base of the ridge. Soils on the site vary considerably, from clay filled with angular residual chert fragments on the ridge crest to fine loams with only moderate amounts of naturally occurring stones down the southern ridge slope. It is this relatively small patch of loam soils that received the most occupation in both prehistoric and historic times. A wide variety of natural resources were available to occupants of this site during both prehistoric and historic times, since it is situated at the margin of the Current River floodplain, yet above flood level.

Description of Excavations

Shovel Tests

The research strategy on the Akers Pass site consisted first of extensive shovel testing on a grid across the site. A total of 38 such shovel tests were excavated at 10-meter intervals (Figure 2). Each test measured approximately 30 x 30 x 30 centimeters. Soil removed from each shovel test was screened through 1/4-inch mesh. All observed cultural material was collected and placed

The archeological materials recovered from each shovel test unit were initially analyzed in the field to guide the placement of larger test units and optimize the amount of data that could be generated by the fieldwork. This preliminary analysis indicated where the prehistoric occupation was concentrated and detected and defined the early nineteenth century historic Euroamerican component.

Test Units

A total of six 1-x-2-meter subsurface test units were excavated on the site (Figure 2). These were placed in the area where prior shovel testing had indicated that prehistoric and historic materials were concentrated. These are described in the following sections.

Test Unit 19-20W, 48-50S. This was the easternmost test unit excavated. It was located only approximately two meters from the edge of the scarp created by construction of Highway KK. This unit was excavated to a depth of 32 cm (at its deepest point) below surface. The top 25 cm of this unit consisted of a light brown silty loam. This probably represents an old plow zone, since it is likely that the area was once cultivated. Below this stratum the soil immediately turned to a red-brown sandy silt, an apparently undisturbed subsoil. The unit produced both prehistoric and historic cultural materials.

Test Unit 30-31W, 40-42S. This unit was located in the central portion of the historic component. Soil in this excavation was a rocky, dense loam. It was excavated to a depth of 29 centimeters below surface. At this depth a lighter subsoil was encountered. In the southwestern corner of the unit a disturbance caused by late historic drainfield construction was noted. The disturbance consisted of a red clay which had come from a deeper excavation. This unit produced more prehistoric materials than any of the units excavated. Also, a variety of historic materials were recovered from this unit.

Test Unit 30-31W, 48-50S. This unit was down the slope from the above-described unit. It was excavated to a depth of 25 cm below surface. The old plow zone consisted of a brown compact loam with some gravel content. Below this, the subsoil turned a much lighter brown in color. It yielded prehistoric materials, but in lesser quantities than the unit upslope from it. A large quantity of window glass and square cut nails were recovered from this unit, which indicates the early nineteenth century historic structure must have stood on or very near to this spot.

Test Unit 34-35W, 48-50S. This unit was low on the hillslope and 10 meters west of the above-described unit. The plow zone was only 20 cm deep in this unit and was a brown silty loam. At this 20-cm depth a light brown compact subsoil was encountered and the excavation was discontinued. The unit produced the base of a prehistoric projectile point and other lithic materials. The historic component was also well represented in this unit.

Test Unit 40-41W, 40-42S. This unit, located in the northwestern portion of the historic component, was excavated to a depth of 23 cm below surface. This stratum was a tan silty loam

which gave way to an even lighter soil at its base. A variety of prehistoric materials came from this unit, but it did not contain nearly as many historic specimens as the other units. No nails came from this locus, so apparently it was outside the area where the structure stood.

Test Unit 40-41W, 48-50S. This unit was the southwesternmost unit excavated on the site. Excavation ceased on this unit at a depth of 30 centimeters below surface. This stratum consisted of a light brown silt with some clay content and is heavily laden with gravel and natural angular chert fragments. Soil at the base of this stratum was a light reddish brown sandy silt. The unit yielded both prehistoric artifacts, which included two projectile point bases, and a variety of historic cultural materials.

Observations Concerning the Site Subsurface

The stratigraphy on the site proved to be quite simple in all test units. The top stratum is apparently an old plow zone that varies in depth from 20-30 cm and overlies an undisturbed subsoil which is lighter in color but much the same soil type. Rock and gravel inclusions in the soil are more abundant up the slope and to the west. Both prehistoric and historic artifacts are intermixed in the plow zone. A representative soil profile, from Test Unit 30-31W, 48-50S, is illustrated in Figure 3.

ARCHEOLOGICAL MATERIALS FROM THE AKERS PASS SITE

Prehistoric Materials

A complete inventory of all prehistoric archeological materials recovered from both the shovel tests and the test excavation units on the Akers Pass site is presented in Appendix A. These were itemized by number of specimens in each analytical category on a special form designed for archeological investigations in the southeastern Ozark Highland. All archeological specimens recovered from the site are lithic; no faunal remains or ceramics were recovered, and no wood charcoal or other floral materials were noted. The assemblage of prehistoric artifacts and debitage represents a rather long span of time, indicating that the site had been intermittently occupied by various cultural groups over several millennia, undoubtedly attracted to the area by the adjacent spring.

Unlike the historic assemblage recovered from the site, elements of the prehistoric assemblage do not appear to cluster in any definitive manner. There seems to be a scatter of prehistoric cultural materials dispersed on the hillslope, and all test units excavated were within the apparent limits of the site, since none failed to produce a quantity of prehistoric cultural materials.

Bifacial Tools

Archeological specimens recovered from shovel tests contained few diagnostic bifacial specimens, and those that were recovered were mostly fragmentary. Results of the shovel tests did effectively indicate the area of the site in which prehistoric materials are concentrated. Test units produced a sufficient number of diagnostic specimens to determine at least some of the prehistoric cultural groups that occupied the site.

Projectile Points or Hafted Cutting Tools. Twenty-one bifacially flaked specimens have some physical provision for hafting onto a shaft or handle. Presumably they were used to tip atlatl darts and arrowshafts. Some probably served as knives, saws, and scrapers. All specimens of this tool type recovered from the site are fragmentary (Figure 4a-d). This factor makes it virtually impossible to assign them to specific cultural stages in the prehistoric past. One fragment (Figure 4a) is from a well-made projectile point or knife that has the shape and some of the attributes of Hardin Barbed points (Chapman 1975:249). These occur in Early Archaic contexts in the subject region. This specimen lacks any evidence of basal grinding and may date from the Middle or Late Archaic substages. Most projectile point knives recovered from the site, based on the fragments, are corner-notched. Two such specimens are illustrated in Figure 4b, c. These are generally associated with the Late Archaic and Early Woodland substages. One small arrowpoint (Figure 4d) was recovered from Test Unit 40-41W, 48-50S. This specimen is fully diagnostic of the Emergent Mississippi substage in the southeastern Ozark drainages. It is bifacially flaked, unlike the earliest arrowpoints in the region, and probably dates after A.D. 1000. Arrowpoints such as this specimen have been excavated in the primary context of a

burned structure and refuse pits on the Shawnee Creek site, 23SH11, on the Current River (J. Price 1986a:36; Lynott and Price 1989:22). Such points have been recovered from caves and rockshelters in the region (J. Price 1986b) and represent the last major occupation of the southeastern Ozark Highland before it was virtually abandoned sometime in the twelfth century A.D. Local amateur archeologists' collections contain many such specimens of arrowpoints (Banks 1978:26-27), testifying to the overwhelming past presence of Emergent Mississippian peoples in the Current and Jacks Fork drainages. Distribution of the twenty projectile point or knife specimens of this category that were recovered from the test units on the Akers Pass site is shown in Table 1 and Appendix A.

Biface Tips. Such specimens are thinned, bifacially-flaked distal fragments of tools. Most of them exhibit marginal retouch flaking and are probably the tips of projectile points/knives which were broken in use and discarded. Only one specimen of this category was recovered from the site (Table 1, Appendix A).

Thin Bifaces. These seven specimens appear to be bifaces that were nearly finished in preparation for final marginal retouch and notching to produce projectile points or knives. An exemplary specimen is illustrated in Figure 4e. Most of them are broken, probably gaining that status through final percussion flaking. Like the thick bifaces, they probably entered the archeological context by discard. Four of the six excavation units yielded thin bifaces (Table 1, Appendix A).

Thick Bifaces. These twenty-two thick bifacially-flaked specimens appear to be aborted preforms. An example of this type of artifact is illustrated in Figure 4f. Several of them exhibit step fractures and other problems that were encountered in an attempt to produce a thin biface by percussion flaking. Many of them are quite crude and probably entered the archeological context as rejected preforms for thinned bifacial tools. Thick bifaces occurred in all but one excavation unit (Table 1, Appendix A).

Steeply Retouched Unifaces. These examples of steeply retouched unifaces (Table 1, Appendix A) undoubtedly served as scrapers. A specimen, one of the two recovered, of this type of tool is illustrated in Figure 4g. Most are made from large elongated flakes which were subjected to pressure flaking on the end opposite the bulb of percussion to produce a scraping tool that presumably was used on animal skins and wood. None of the specimens exhibit the sophistication in scraper production associated with the Dalton inhabitants of the region in the late Paleoindian substage.

Cores. Cores are exhausted sources of flakes which entered the archeological context through discard. Eleven specimens were recovered. They are rather numerous on the site, indicating that flake production was important to the prehistoric occupants. Most of these specimens exhibit battering and step fracturing resulting from futile attempts to remove flakes. Four of the six excavation units produced cores (Table 1, Appendix A).

Debitage

Decortication Flakes. These flakes are easily defined, since one surface of each specimen exhibits residual cortex of the parent cobble or nodule from which it was struck. This surface is often a thin rind — a darker oxidized, weatherworn, or waterworn exterior. The parent materials are chert and quartzite in the form of cobbles or natural angular fragments. Four hundred and forty-nine of these specimens were recovered. The abundance of decortication flakes at the site indicates that primary cobble reduction took place there. Natural local chert and quartzite cobbles were presumably extracted from gravel bars of the Current River or from outcrops on ridges, brought to the site, and reduced through percussion and pressure flaking to bifacial tools. The distribution of those flakes recovered from the test units is presented in Table 1 and Appendix A.

Non-decortication Flakes. These are flakes or flake fragments (removed in the manufacture of flaked stone tools) that exhibit no residual cortex from the parent chert or quartzite pebble or nodule. The number of them recovered from both the shovel tests and test units is 1,752. They represent secondary stages in the manufacturing or maintenance flaking of stone tools. The test unit distribution of such flakes is presented in Table 1 and Appendix A.

Biface Thinning Flakes. These are chert and quartzite flakes that were removed by percussion flaking techniques that retain at the bulb of percussion the remnant margin of the bifacial artifact from which it was removed. Often this margin exhibits grinding in preparation of a striking platform to prevent shattering of the edge when struck with a hammerstone or baton. Thirty-eight specimens were recovered from the site. The presence of biface thinning flakes on the Akers Pass site indicates that bifacial tools were made and/or rejuvenated there. There was a rather random distribution of biface thinning flakes in the test units (Table 1, Appendix A).

Modified Angular Fragments. In any substantial assemblage of prehistoric archeological materials from the Ozark Highland there is a substantial quantity of angular fragments of chert and quartzite that can not be classified as flakes since they lack a bulb of percussion. They are pieces of shattered silicious stone apparently fragmented by human action. Modified angular fragments are those that exhibit the crushing effect of a hammerstone or other evidence that they were produced by man. Since so much natural chert occurs on the site, quantification of this category of materials is virtually impossible; so the numbers provided in Appendix A are perhaps not accurate.

Unmodified Angular Fragments. These are angular fragments of chert or quartzite that merely hint at having been fragmented by human action. On a site such as the Akers Pass site where natural angular chert fragments occur in the soil, it is most difficult if not impossible to determine if they resulted from nature or man.

Burned and Fire-Cracked Rocks. These are pieces of sandstone and chert which have been subjected to heat and subsequently fragmented. One-hundred sixty-three specimens were recovered from the site. They may have been used in stone boiling or as heat retainers in fireless

baking. Some probably resulted simply from stones placed around campfires. The distribution of this class of archeological materials recovered from the test units is presented in Table 1 and Appendix A.

Ground- and Pecked-Stone Tools

Pitted Cobble. A single pitted cobble was recovered from the site. It is a natural creek or river cobble which has a slight depression in the center of one side. The depression is smoother than if it had resulted from the cobble having been used as an anvil stone. It was probably used to grind some substance. The stone does not exhibit the additional battering or grinding which often occurs on pitted cobbles.

Miscellaneous Materials

Sandstone. Sandstone does not occur naturally on the site, so these specimens were apparently introduced there by man. None of the specimens exhibit any grinding, pitting, burning, or other modification. No period is indicated by this material.

Cotton Rock or Tripoli. One specimen of this material was recovered. It results from decay of one form of chert in the region. It occurs on both prehistoric and historic sites and was sometimes made into such things as full-grooved axes.

Stalactite or Stalagmite. A small cave formation was recovered. It was removed from one of the many caves in the region and brought to the site by man in either the prehistoric or historic past.

Composition of the Prehistoric Assemblage

When the presence and relative frequencies of the various categories of prehistoric archeological specimens are considered as a unit compared with assemblages on other sites in the region, the function of the site in the prehistoric past can be ascertained to a great extent. The site compares to many other sites of similar composition in the Current River and Jacks Fork drainages.

Only a limited number of tool and debitage classes are demonstrated to be present on the site. The assemblage of prehistoric cultural materials recovered from the Akers Pass site is rather limited in the amount of certain archeological materials that occur more frequently on more permanently occupied base camps in the region. Although they are considered as miscellaneous materials in this report, it should be kept in mind that they often occur in more significant frequencies. The most common lithic artifacts on the site are chert and quartzite flakes resulting from the manufacture or maintenance of bifacial tools. Since there is a considerable quantity of decortication flakes in the assemblage, it can be stated that primary cobble reduction took place on the site. Non-decortication (or interior) flakes, as well as biface-thinning flakes, that were

removed by both percussion and pressure techniques, demonstrate that biface preparation and thinning took place there. Resultant thick and thin preforms also are testimony that tool manufacturing occurred on the site. The presence of cores is verification that flakes were also generated on the site, probably to serve as knives. Oddly, given the number of flakes, preforms, finished bifacial artifacts, and cores on the site, one would anticipate the recovery of attendant hammerstones employed in flake removal. Yet the excavations failed to yield a single such specimen.

Also absent from the assemblage are carefully prepared endscrapers, spokeshaves, and perforators. Lacking too are graters, adzes, anvil stones, ground cobbles, shaped cobbles, mortars, grooved axes, and other artifacts that are associated with more permanently occupied base camps, such as the Akers site in the nearby campground.

Noticeably lacking in the assemblage recovered from the site are prehistoric ceramics. Although Late Woodland or Emergent Mississippian peoples apparently utilized this locus, based on the small arrowpoint discovered, the occupation must have been quite ephemeral and lacked the employment of pottery vessels.

Based on the composition of the prehistoric assemblage, it can be unequivocally stated that the site was occupied intermittently over several millennia and that only a limited number of activities were performed there.

Historic Materials

Immediately after shovel testing was initiated on the site, it became evident that the site had a major historic component dating prior to the Civil War. English ceramics, glass flask sherds, and square nails were the first diagnostic specimens recovered that indicated the presence of this significant component. While the prehistoric component on the site was deemed significant, placement of the test units was effected based on the distribution of historic materials recovered from shovel tests as well as the nature and frequency of artifacts recovered from the first units excavated. A complete inventory of all historic materials recovered from both the shovel tests as well as from the test unit excavations is presented in Appendix B.

Domestic Utilitarian Artifacts: Ceramics

Decorated Whiteware. A summary of all the decorated whiteware recovered from the Akers Gap site is presented in Appendix B. This class of artifacts contains those sherds of imported English whiteware, a soft paste, glazed earthenware that exfoliates easily, that exhibit some form of surface decoration. The decorated whiteware assemblage from the site appears to be rather typical of that reported on other sites of the region dating to the first half of the nineteenth century. Blue shell-edge (C. Price 1982:17) plate and platter sherds are well represented on the site. Spongeware (C. Price 1982:19) sherds from cups and saucers in yellow and blue also occur. Transfer-decorated (C. Price 1982:19) sherds were recovered in a variety of colors including light

blue, black dendritic, black, and red. These came primarily from plates, cups, and saucers with light blue transfer being the most common. Flow blue (C. Price 1982:21) ceramics are well represented on the site. All sherds of this type that were identifiable as to vessel shape came from plates. Handpainted polychrome floral (C. Price 1982:20) sherds exhibiting the brighter colors rather than muted earthen colors are also well represented. Most came from cups and saucers. A minority of this type from the site is executed in fine "sprig" decorations. Red stick-stamped (C. Price 1982:20) sherds, mostly from saucers, are commonly represented on the site. Several sherds from mocha (C. Price 1982:18) mugs were recovered. These exhibit the characteristic dendritic or frond motif. The decorated whiteware assemblage represents plates, platters, cups, and saucers typical of other assemblages from sites of the same period in Ozark National Scenic Riverways and the Ozark Border region of Missouri (C. Price 1982:40).

Decorated whiteware sherds occurred in their greatest frequency in the area where the historic structure once stood. Distribution of decorated whiteware sherds in the six test units excavated is presented in Table 2 and Appendix B.

Undecorated Whiteware. This category of historic artifact recovered from the site consists of sherds of whiteware vessels that exhibit no evidence of decoration. Most of them probably came from vessels such as plates, cups, and saucers that were only decorated in selected areas such as the central portion of a plate or on the rims of vessels. As one might anticipate, the distribution of these ceramics within the excavations parallels closely the distribution of the decorated whiteware sherds. The distribution of undecorated sherds is presented in Table 2 and Appendix B.

White Ironstone. White ironstone sherds are not numerous in the ceramic assemblage recovered from the site. These sherds tend to be thicker than the whiteware sherds, and they exhibit no exfoliation due to a harder, vitrified paste. Most of the sherds identifiable by form came from plates and cups. The distribution of white ironstone sherds is presented in Table 2 and Appendix B.

Coarse Earthenware. This category of ceramics is represented by sherds of domestic, rather than imported, vessels of strictly utilitarian function. Most appear to have come from jugs and crocks. Brown-glazed redware sherds are well represented, as are gray salt-glazed sherds. One class of these sherds, all from the same vessel, are quite unique to the region and have never been observed in an archeological ceramic assemblage. They came from a glazed green-paneled pitcher which was well made and exhibits a very hard paste. The distribution of coarse earthenware ceramics is presented in Table 2 and Appendix B.

Domestic Utilitarian Artifacts: Glass

Plain and Pressed Glass. Plain, clear-glass water tumbler sherds are represented on the site, apparently from several different vessels (Appendix B). Only three sherds of clear pressed glass were recovered. They apparently came from salt cellars or sugar bowls. The distribution of these clear tumbler and pressed glass sherds is presented in Table 2 and Appendix B.

Bottle and Flask Glass. A relatively large quantity of glass bottle and flask sherds was generated by the excavations (Table 2, Appendix B). The bottle glass occurs in clear, light green, and dark green colors. The clear and light green sherds appear to have come from smaller corked bottles and probably contained medicinal compounds. The dark green sherds came from larger spirits bottles. The sherds from flasks are light green in color and quite thin compared to the bottle glass. These sherds came from whiskey flasks that had ribbed and swirled motifs. Flask sherds such as these are commonly found on archeological sites dating to the first half of the nineteenth century in the southeastern Missouri Ozarks.

Small Personal and Utilitarian Artifacts

Gunflint, Rifle Balls, and Buckshot. These artifacts are firearm-related specimens. A single gunflint was recovered from the site, which indicates that at least one flintlock firearm was used by the occupants of the site. It is a prismatic, dark honey-colored flint typical of those imported from England (Figure 5a). The lead rifle balls (Figure 5b,c) recovered are somewhat flattened, but judging by their size and weight they are between 35 and 40 caliber projectiles. Flattening appears to have come from the balls having been fired. They were probably removed from wild game or a range hog and discarded on the site. The lead buckshot appears to have never been fired since it still remains quite globular and bears no evidence of dents or flattening.

Buttons and Comb Tooth. Three "rough-back" porcelain buttons, each bearing four holes, were recovered. The roughness of the back resulted from a parting compound that was used when they were fired to keep them from sticking to kiln furniture. An example is illustrated in Figure 5d) They are typical of such buttons found on sites of the first half of the nineteenth century in the region. Noteworthy is that no brass "coin" buttons that have a eyelet attached with solder were discovered. These are commonly found on such sites. A single tooth from a black hard-rubber hair comb (Figure 5e) was also found. Distribution of buttons and the comb tooth is presented in Table 3 and Appendix B.

Slate and Slate Pencil. Occupants of the site were in possession of a small slate and an accompanying slate pencil (Table 3 and Appendix B). A single fragment of the slate (Figure 5f) was discovered, and the basal portion of a slate pencil (Figure 5g) also came from the excavations. The latter has a groove around its circumference, presumably for attachment of a string to secure it to the slate.

Short-Stemmed Clay Pipes. Five sherds from short-stemmed clay pipes were recovered. These are typical of other specimens found in the region that originated in pipe kilns in southern Ohio. When such pipes were in use, they were fitted with a hollow cane or reed stem. Two of these fragments are illustrated in Figure 5h,i) One of the specimens is anthropomorphic, bearing an effigy of a human face (Figure 5j). Distribution of pipe bowl sherds is presented in Table 3 and Appendix B.

Tack. A single ferrous tack came from the excavations (Table 3, Appendix B). It probably came from a piece of upholstered furniture or a leather-covered trunk.

Miscellaneous Metal Artifacts

Nearly two hundred metal items were recovered; most of these were square cut nails. Only a few metal items have been selected for description and illustration in this section. The items discussed below, as well as a hinge, an iron buckle, and four sheet iron fragments, are summarized in Table 3 and Appendix B. Complete lists by test unit of these items and the other metal artifacts from the site are presented in Appendix B.

Horseshoe Nail. A single used horseshoe nail was recovered from Test Unit 40-41W, 40-42S.

Chain Link. A broken link from a wrought-iron chain was also recovered from the above-referenced unit. It probably came from horse harness.

Iron Buckle. An iron buckle minus its toggle (Figure 5k) was recovered. It, too, probably served as part of harness (Test Unit 19-20W, 48-50S).

Mill Crank Fragment. This artifact is a small portion of the handle of a cast-iron hand mill (Figure 5l) in which coffee was probably ground. The fragment discovered is the portion that fits on the central shaft on top of the mill above the burrs (Test Unit 40-41W, 40-42S).

Barrel Band Fragments. Two fragments of iron strap were recovered, pieces of bands which surrounded and captured the staves of a coopered barrel or bucket.

Iron Strap. A single fragment of a crude iron strap was recovered from Test Unit 30-31W, 40-42S. It has four holes in it which appear to have been punched. From its appearance it must have served as a fastener for wood or as a plate made to repair a wood object.

Iron Wire. A single piece of bent iron wire was recovered. It may be a fragment of a light bucket bail. (Test Unit 34-35W, 48-50S).

Sheet Brass. Two pieces of sheet brass were recovered, one from Test Unit 34-35W, 48-50S and the other from Test Unit 30-31W, 48-50S. One of these is illustrated in Figure 5m. These appear to be waste cut from sections of brass buckets or other sheet-brass vessels.

Woodscrew. One blunt-tipped woodscrew was recovered (Test Unit 30-31W, 48-50S). It is of a type that is commonly found on sites of the first half of the nineteenth century, and which predates pointed screws. It probably came from a piece of furniture or household accessory.

Rosehead Nail. A large hand-forged rosehead nail came from the excavations, Test Unit 19-20W, 48-50S. It bears the typical head facets associated with hand-forged wrought-iron nails. It probably came from a large piece of furniture such as a cupboard or something similar.

Cast-Iron Vessel Sherds. Only one cast-iron vessel sherd was recovered from the site (30-31W, 40-42S). It is too small to determine the kind of vessel from which it originated. Sherds of globular kettles, spiders, and Dutch ovens are rather common on sites of this period.

Knife Handle. The proximal end of a table knife handle was also recovered (Figure 5n). It retains the rivets which held two bone or wood plates to either side. Such knives were imported from Sheffield and Birmingham, England, and are rather common on archeological sites of this period. See Test Unit 30-31W, 48-50S summary in Appendix B.

Architectural Artifacts

Window Glass. Sherds of pale green window glass were found in abundance on the site. Some are quite thin and probably date earlier than thicker specimens found in the same context. The occurrence of window glass on the site is somewhat anomalous compared to other nuclear family farmstead habitation sites excavated in the region that date from the first half of the nineteenth century. Window glass is seldom found on sites of this period, with the exception of the courthouse excavated at the town of Old Eminence. It was a public building, where such windows might be expected to occur. Presence of window glass on the Akers Pass site may indicate a higher socio-economic class for its occupants than those who occupied other nuclear family farmstead sites in the region. The distribution of window glass on the Akers Pass site is certainly nonrandom (Table 3, Appendix B). A majority of the sherds recovered came from the two southern central excavations, providing evidence that this is on or very near where the structure once stood during site occupation.

Square Cut Nails. The distribution of square cut nails on the site is essentially the same as that noted above for window glass, providing additional evidence for the location of the structure (Table 3, Appendix B). These nails are machine-made square cut nails typical of those recovered from other sites in the southeastern Ozarks dating prior to circa 1880. Some of the nails are burned, bearing evidence of a heat scale.

Cast-Iron Hinge Fragment. Part of one leaf of a cast-iron hinge was recovered (Table 3, Appendix B, Figure 5o). It has two countersunk holes in it to accommodate screws, and a portion of one of the pins remains in it.

Faunal and Food Remains

Hog Teeth. Eleven hog teeth were recovered (Table 3, Appendix B). Four of these specimens are the large tusks from feral hogs. A hog incisor and several other fragments of apparent hog teeth were recovered. In the Ozark Highland, hogs were allowed to run on open range feeding off the mast and were hunted like wild animals, a very efficient strategy for storing protein on the hoof until needed.

Bone Fragments. Although bone preservation is rather good on the site, only a few specimens were found (Table 3, Appendix B). Most of those recovered are small splinters, unidentifiable as to species. It is likely that most of this fragmentary unidentifiable bone came from hogs.

Mussel Shell Fragments. Other faunal remains recovered from the site are portions of the valves of river mussels (Table 3, Appendix B). It is unlikely that these bivalves were eaten, since they are not part of the traditional foodway of the region.

Dating the Historic Component of the Akers Pass Site

Certain archeological materials recovered from the Akers Pass site are chronologically sensitive indicators that provide evidence concerning when the site was occupied. The most sensitive indicators are sherds of refined earthenware.

The non-ironstone, refined earthenware sherds recovered from the site are all whiteware. This provides significant evidence concerning when the site was initially inhabited by Euroamericans. Since the site yielded no pearlware sherds it was probably first occupied by these people after the mid to late 1820s. Another site, the Fanchier site in the middle Current River valley near Owls Bend, provides a data set (C. Price 1986:27) against which refined ceramic sherds from the Akers Pass site can be compared. It produced a quantity of pearlware sherds and was assessed by Cynthia R. Price as having been occupied circa 1810-1820s. Since no pearlware sherds came from the subject site, it must date later than sometime in the 1820s when pearlware ceramics were replaced by whiteware.

Decorated whiteware ceramics provide important clues to dating the occupation span of the historic component of the Akers Pass site. The variety of colors represented by the transfer-printed wares occurs in the region after circa 1830 and generally before the Civil War. Spongewares also share a similar timespan in the region, as do the Mocha sherds. Since no pearlware ceramics were recovered and very little plain ironstone, markers of the early and late nineteenth century respectively, the assemblage appears to be one that dates circa 1830 to the early or mid 1860s. It is highly likely that the site was abandoned during the Civil War. Had it been occupied into the 1870s, considerably more ironstone ceramics would have entered the archeological context on the site.

Identity of the Euroamerican Occupants

A major attempt was made to specifically determine who lived on the site and created the historic assemblage that was discovered there. Nineteenth-century General Land Office survey plats were examined, but no evidence was found of an improvement at the locus of the site. Local legend recorded in the files of Ozark National Scenic Riverways headquarters indicates the land was long owned by a family with the surname of Smith. Of the original settlers by that name in the region, the most likely occupant of the site during the first half of the nineteenth

century might be Charles H. Smith who was born in 1829 in Overton County, Tennessee. He and his wife Tamar came to the region in 1846 and settled near Gladden (MacDonald 1986:191). The creek that flows near the site is Gladden Creek and this may be where the Smiths settled, but that cannot be confirmed at the present time. It is highly likely that the cemetery located across KK Highway to the east was started by the original occupants of the site, since many early sites in the region have family burial plots associated with them (C. Price 1987:91).

THE DANCES WITH GRASSHOPPERS SITE

The Dances with Grasshoppers site, 23SH177, is located on a slope and undulating stream terrace remnants in the Gladden Creek valley (Figures 6 and 7). A series of swales and knolls make up the area on which there is evidence of prehistoric human occupation. It had been known for several years that the site existed, but until the inception of the present project its content and depth of deposits were unknown. At the time of the investigation, the site was covered in the dense fescue grass that is harvested annually as a hay crop. Ground-surface visibility was very low, with only dispersed small patches of exposed surface between clumps of grass. Limits of the entire site were not determined, since the site is extremely large and extends well beyond the project area where potentially adverse impacts related to the proposed sewage treatment facility installation would occur. It was traced westward to an old fence row, to the northeast to the base of the ridge, and to the south to the base of the scarp which defines the old dissected terrace on which the site lies. Although prehistoric cultural materials are scattered over a rather large area, within this scatter are areas of concentration of artifacts. No middens or dark organic stains resulting from prehistoric occupation are present on the area of the site investigated.

Soils on the site are quite varied. Those near the base of the ridge to the north are extremely rocky and have a high clay content. These soils originated on the ridge and were subsequently eroded and deposited on the valley floor at the base of the ridge. This area contains rocks ranging from cobbles down to small fragments of angular chert. The composition of the soils along the edge of the old terrace and northward toward the ridge are alluvial in nature and consist of fine silty and sandy loams which contain some small waterworn gravels. The terrace was formed in the ancient past by down-valley deposits of materials carried by the stream which created the valley. The stream then entrenched or cut downward, creating a scarp in these deposits that forms the southern limits of the site today.

The setting of this site is repeated hundreds of times in the Current River and Jacks Fork drainages. In the primary valleys as well as secondary and tertiary valleys of these drainages terraces were formed, and in almost all instances they exhibit evidence of prehistoric human occupation. Such locales apparently served well the optimal habitation requirements of hunter and gatherer societies. Most are above the levels of average floods, yet close to water and its associated aquatic fauna. Such terraces lack large rocks and are composed of reasonably well drained soils. Terrace locales long served as focal points of various subsistence-habitation activities and continue to be favored today as optimal locations for recreational campgrounds associated with tourism.

Description of Excavations

Investigatory strategy employed on the site involved two kinds of subsurface testing. The first tests were shovel tests, excavated over a wide area of the landform in order to generate data for primary assessment of site limits and differential artifact density. Then, based on the findings

of this part of the project, 1-x-2-m test units were excavated to sterile subsoil to determine the stratigraphy and search for the presence of subsurface features.

Shovel Tests

Archeological research conducted on the site consisted of systematically shovel testing at ten-meter intervals an area 140 meters in extent on an east-west axis and 180 meters on a north-south axis. This was the principal part of an investigative strategy directed toward establishing the boundaries of the site as well as sampling its subsurface cultural content over a large district. A total of 150 shovel tests were excavated in the tract defined by the direct impact zone of the proposed construction project (Figures 6 and 7). Each shovel test was approximately 30 cm on each side and 30 cm in depth. All soil removed from each shovel test was passed through a sifter with 1/4-inch mesh. Cultural materials observed were collected and containerized in specimen bags labeled with the number of the shovel test from which they were derived. This strategy revealed a concentration of prehistoric cultural materials on a knoll in the west-central portion of the tract. Shovel tests were placed at five-meter intervals in the center of this concentration to better define it and to recover a larger sample of artifacts.

Test Units

Based on the findings of the shovel testing program on the site, six 1-x-2-m and one 1-x-1-m excavation units were placed in the area on the knoll where cultural materials appeared to be concentrated (Figures 6 and 7). Each unit was excavated by hand using shovels and trowels, and all soil removed was passed through a screen with 1/4-inch mesh. The plow zone, that zone below the surface and above soil undisturbed by historical agricultural activity, was considered as one level, and all cultural materials recovered from this zone were containerized in appropriately labeled bags as a single collective and analytical unit. Excavations that penetrated the subsoil below the plow zone were excavated in 10-cm levels; although most units were not excavated below the base of the plow zone, since they did not yield any evidence of undisturbed subsurface deposits. Two features, described below, were discovered in one unit, and these were cross-sectioned and the cultural materials recovered from their fill were containerized by segment. The seven test excavation units are described in the following sections.

Test Unit 30-31S, 78-80W. Soil in this unit was extremely dry at the time the field investigations were conducted. It was excavated to depths that varied from 20 to 30 cm below surface, since the plow zone was not of a uniform thickness in this area of the site. Soil in the unit was a light brown silty loam which contained prehistoric cultural materials. Cleaning of the horizontal profile at the base of this unit failed to reveal any evidence of prehistoric features.

Test Unit 30-32S, 54-55W. This unit was excavated to a depth of 20 cm below surface. It was noted in the field that the unit produced a large quantity of debitage and a side-notched Middle Archaic projectile point/knife base. Soil in the unit was a compact tan loam with small chert gravel inclusions.

Test Unit 30-32S, 60-61W. Excavation ceased on this unit at a depth of 24 cm below surface. It was excavated on or very near the highest point on the knoll. The sandy loam soil removed from the unit yielded bifaces, abundant flakes, and other cultural materials.

Test Unit 40-41S, 68-70W. A depth of 20 cm below surface was reached in this unit. It was excavated in an area where shovel tests had indicated the presence of a concentration of prehistoric cultural materials. Soil in the unit was a sandy, silty loam. Red clay was encountered at the base of the plow zone. Abundant prehistoric cultural materials were recovered from this unit, including a perforator, a projectile point/knife base, cores, and flakes.

Test Unit 50-52S, 59-60W and 49-50S, 59-60W. This excavation unit totalling 3 m² consisted of two adjacent units excavated to better define subsurface features encountered at the base of the plow zone. The plow zone consisted of a silty, sandy loam which contained a moderate to large quantity of lithic cultural materials. At the base of the plow zone in the north-central portion of Test Unit 50-52S/59-60W, charcoal flecks, suspected to represent a feature, were noted in a defined area. Upon excavation below the base of the plow zone, additional charcoal, darker soil, and stones were discovered in the northwestern corner of the unit. This was designated as Feature 1. The initially discovered area of charcoal became much better defined and was determined to be a subsurface pit. It was designated as Feature 2. Descriptions of these features are provided below.

Test Unit 59-60S, 68-70W. The plow zone was only a few centimeters thick in this unit. It contained abundant flakes and other cultural materials. This unit was in one of the heaviest used areas of the site. Soils in the unit were a reddish brown silty, sandy loam. Cultural materials occurred below the plow zone in an undisturbed context in this unit; so another 10-cm level was excavated. Excavation of this level witnessed a major decrease in the frequency of cultural materials. Several larger non-cultural rocks were found in this level, at the base of which a yellow-tan silty clay was encountered.

Features 1 and 2

As noted above, two prehistoric subsurface archeological features were discovered in the course of the excavations. Both were in the northern end of Test Unit 59-60W, 50-52S and the southern end of 59-60W, 49-50S (Figure 8). These features, both discovered at the base of the plow zone or slightly below this level, were subjected to systematic excavation with hand tools. Soil color differences and location of stones were carefully noted. Each feature was excavated in such a manner as to yield a vertical cross-section profile. Discovery of these features on the site is significant, since they demonstrate that intact archeological materials exist below the plow zone in a context undisturbed by past historic agricultural activities. Additional excavations conducted on the site are likely to discover numerous subsurface features on the knoll where archeological materials are most concentrated.

Feature 1. This feature was discovered in the north-central portion of the excavation unit (Figure 8). Soil within the feature fill was much darker than the surrounding undisturbed subsoil

matrix in which it had been excavated by prehistoric peoples. Charcoal flecks occurred throughout the fill, and numerous smooth creek cobbles and rough slabs of sandstone were uncovered and mapped in place. The bottom of the feature revealed a thin stratum of dark sand which must have been in place before the balance of the fill of a slightly lighter color was introduced to the pit.

The function of this feature is unknown. It apparently did not serve as a primary fire basin, since no fire-reddened earth was present. Also since only a portion of it was uncovered and excavated, the size and configuration of the complete pit is unknown. Although it contained considerable quantities of debitage, it probably cannot be considered to have originally served as a refuse pit. Future excavations on the site should be directed toward further definition of this feature and its contents.

Feature 2. Soil in this feature was not as dark as that in Feature 1, but its fill differed sufficiently from the surrounding matrix to easily define and excavate its contents. It contained numerous charcoal flecks and debitage but little else. In cross section it exhibited much steeper basin sides than did Feature 1 (Figure 8). Function of the feature is unknown. Like Feature 1, although it contained wood charcoal there was no evidence of fire having been in contact with the soil.

Observations Concerning the Site Subsurface

Both shovel testing and the systematic excavation of 1-x-2-m units yielded information on site depth and the presence of subsurface cultural features. Based on these investigations it can be stated that the site is quite shallow, with the bulk of the cultural material limited to the plow zone. Tests yielded evidence that at least two subsurface features are present on the site, and it can be predicted that several others exist in unexcavated areas.

ARCHEOLOGICAL MATERIALS FROM THE DANCES WITH GRASSHOPPERS SITE

Prehistoric Materials

Various kinds of tools and waste materials resulting from prehistoric occupation of the site were recovered. These are succinctly described below by taxonomic category. Quantification of each taxon is presented in a comprehensive inventory of prehistoric cultural materials from the site in Appendix C.

Bifacial Tools

Projectile Points/Hafted Cutting Tools. A total of thirteen specimens of this type of tool were recovered from the Dances with Grasshoppers site. Most of these are quite fragmentary and cannot be assigned to other than very general prehistoric cultural stages. Those that are considered diagnostic are illustrated in Figure 9a-e. The earliest such specimen recovered from the site is a Graham Cave Side-notched point (Figure 9a; Chapman 1975:248), which is well made and exhibits basal grinding. Such points are generally associated with the Early Archaic substage. Another point (Figure 9b) is a corner-notched specimen which evidences extensive resharpening on the blade. It is extremely well executed and may date from the Middle Archaic substage. A large square-stemmed projectile point or knife (Figure 9c) was recovered from the site. Points of this type are Late Archaic in origin. A Late Archaic or Early Woodland corner-notched projectile point or knife (Figure 9d) was recovered. Although fragmentary, a sufficient amount of it remains to demonstrate its original configuration. Like the Akers Pass site described above, the Dances with Grasshoppers site (23SH177) produced a single small arrowpoint (Figure 9e) indicating that Emergent Mississippian peoples used the site, albeit on a limited basis. In the discussion above relative to the specimen recovered from the Akers Pass site, the ubiquity of such specimens in the region was noted. Few excavations are conducted in Ozark National Scenic Riverways which do not produce one or more of such Emergent Mississippian arrowpoints. Two Emergent Mississippian village sites, Owls Bend and Gooseneck, both of which have received rather extensive subsurface investigations, demonstrate the full range of tool types associated with this cultural substage (Lynott 1989b). Distribution of projectile points/knives from test units on 23SH177 is presented in Table 4 and Appendix C.

Thick Bifaces. A total of four thick bifaces or aborted preforms were recovered from this site. Examples are illustrated in Figure 10c,d. Their distribution in the test units is presented in Table 4. These, in addition to the debitage recovered, are indicative of flaked-stone tool manufacture on the site.

Thin Bifaces. Thirteen thin bifaces were retrieved from the shovel tests and test units. Two specimens are illustrated in Figure 10e,f. Distribution of the specimens recovered from test units is presented in Table 4 and Appendix C.

Perforator. A tip of a bifacially-flaked drill or perforator was recovered (Figure 9f). It shows evidence of use modification on its lateral edges resulting from abrasion in use.

Cores. The site yielded three cores. Three came from test units (Table 4), while one came from Shovel Test 30S 50W (Appendix C). These specimens represent what remains after a piece of chert raw material has been exhausted as a result of flake removal. One specimen, Figure 10b, appears have resulted from Emergent Mississippian occupation of the site, since its configuration has been demonstrated to be affiliated with that substage.

Unifacial Tools

Steeply Retouched Unifaces. A single, steeply retouched uniface was recovered from the site (Table 4, Appendix C). It probably served as a scraping tool. Since its configuration is so general in nature, it cannot be assigned to any particular prehistoric stage.

Debitage

Decortication Flakes. The site produced a total of 341 decortication flakes which resulted from removal of the cortex from chert nodules and stream cobbles in the manufacture of flaked stone tools. Distribution in the test units of this class of debitage is presented in Table 4 and Appendix C.

Non-decortication Flakes. A total of 1,890 non-decortication flakes was recovered from the site. Such specimens represent flakes removed in the reduction of bifaces during the manufacture of tools. They far outnumber the quantity of decortication flakes on the site, which probably indicates that preforms were brought to the site, and additional flaking was done on them to shape them into bifacial tools. The distribution of non-decortication flakes in the test units is presented in Table 4 and Appendix C.

Biface Thinning Flakes. Sixty-five biface thinning flakes were recovered (Appendix C), 32 of which are from test units (Table 4, Appendix C). These retain the edge of a bifacial tool on the striking platform and represent shaping or resharpening of bifacial tools.

Utilized Flakes. Only three utilized flakes were recovered from the site. One of the specimens is illustrated in Figure 10a.

Modified Angular Fragments. Even though some of this type of specimens were sorted, it was impossible to quantify them accurately since there was so much naturally occurring angular chert in the site.

Unmodified Angular Fragments. This category was essentially impossible to quantify due to the preponderance of natural angular chert in the soil of the site.

Burned and Fire-Cracked Rock. A total of 184 fragments of burned and fire-cracked rock were recovered. Their distribution in the test units is presented in Table 4 and Appendix C. Unlike many sites in the region where large quantities of burned sandstone and/or rhyolite occurs, this site produced mostly small pieces of burned and fire-cracked chert. These probably resulted from prehistoric inhabitants throwing pieces of chert in fires or building fires on chert gravels or cobbles.

Ground- and Pecked-Stone Tools

Pitted Cobbles. Two pitted cobbles came from the site. These appear not to be anvil stones resulting from bipolar percussion but rather flat cobbles with small depressions pecked into one surface.

Miscellaneous Materials

Sandstone. Fifteen pieces of sandstone were recovered. These do not exhibit any past contact with fire but appear to have been transported to the site by its prehistoric inhabitants.

Composition of the Prehistoric Assemblage

The assemblage of prehistoric materials recovered from the Dances with Grasshoppers site provides important evidence concerning the nature of activities carried out on that locus by its past occupants. First, it is evident that the site is multicomponent, since diagnostic artifacts from the Early Archaic to the Emergent Mississippi substages are represented there. This particular landform and its associated resources attracted human populations for a period of over five millennia. Also evident from the distribution of the assemblage across the landform is that different parts of the landform were probably used by various prehistoric groups. Intensity of use varied considerably on the site. The most extensively occupied locus on the site, based on data generated by this investigation, appears to have been in the vicinity of Test Unit 30-32S, 54-55W. Examination of the maps, presented above, exhibiting distribution of various classes of prehistoric cultural materials reveals that this area yielded the greatest quantity of specimens per unit volume of soil excavated and sifted.

Examination of the inventory of prehistoric cultural materials from 23SH177 presented in Appendix C reveals that there is a rather limited range of artifact types on the site. Most of the materials recovered appear to have resulted from tool exhaustion and discard, the limited manufacture of bifacially-flaked chert tools from preforms which were probably shaped elsewhere, and maintenance of bifacial tools resulting in biface-thinning flakes.

Not only are the classes of artifacts present on the site significant in understanding past activities there, classes of artifacts not recovered from the site are also significant. No ground-stone tools such as axes, manos, or mortars were found. No hammerstones or anvilstones were recovered.

Based on the presence of certain classes of materials and the absence of other classes, a general image of past activities that took place there emerges. The site appears to have functioned as a limited-activity site occupied over a long span of time by relatively small groups of people who performed only a few of the total range of tasks normally a part of the seasonal routines of the groups. It is likely that various areas of the site were only occupied for short durations of time, which resulted in a pattern of dispersed cultural material across the landform.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Archeological investigations were conducted on two sites in the Akers Ferry locale in the upper Current River drainage in Shannon County. The first locus investigated, the Akers Pass site, 23SH22, was subjected to both shovel testing and excavation of test units. These yielded evidence of both prehistoric and historic components. Prehistoric cultural materials generated by the excavations indicate the site was occupied intermittently over several millennia by peoples from perhaps as early as the Middle Archaic substage to as late as the Late Woodland or Emergent Mississippi substage, with the most evidence from the Late Archaic substage. Prehistoric cultural materials appear to be limited to the plow zone on the site; no prehistoric subsurface features were encountered.

The historic component on the Akers Pass site yielded a large quantity of domestic nuclear family household artifacts. The assemblage dates from circa 1830 to 1860. The historic Euroamerican occupation on the site may have been truncated by the Civil War. Distributions of artifacts plotted on a map by test unit provenience made it possible to determine where the dwelling once stood.

The second locus investigated in the Akers Ferry locale, the Dances with Grasshoppers site, 23SH177, was also subjected to subsurface exploration through shovel testing and the excavation of test units. The site was determined to be dispersed over a series of undulating landforms in the Gladden Creek valley with the most evidence for dense occupation on a high knoll. Most prehistoric materials from the site were recovered from the plow zone. Two subsurface prehistoric features were encountered. These contained dark soil and rocks, but no diagnostic artifacts were recovered from them.

Prehistoric cultural materials recovered from the site indicate the site was occupied at least as early as the Early Archaic substage and as late as the Late Woodland or Emergent Mississippi substage.

Although archeological investigations carried out on these sites were conducted for compliance of legal mandates for the protection of cultural resources, the work was also guided by long-term regional research goals directed toward a better understanding of past man's use of the landscape and the natural resources offered by the region. Research on the two sites yielded significant new information on the use of landforms both above a secondary stream valley and on low terraces in the valley. The sites appear to have been occupied intermittently over long periods of time. It is highly likely that neither served as a major prehistoric base camp but rather as campsites and specialized activity areas. Both sites have contributed significant new data on the nature of both prehistoric and historic settlement strategies in that area of the Ozark Highland now encompassed by Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Both the Akers Pass site and the Dances with Grasshoppers site should be considered potentially eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Test excavations on these sites documented when they were occupied and the general nature of the occupations. Both sites have the potential to produce significant new data and should receive the protection they warrant as property of the National Park Service. Any anticipated projects which might adversely impact these resources should be carefully planned to avoid them if possible. If they cannot be avoided, adverse impacts should be mitigated through full-scale excavation by professional archeologists employing currently accepted field and laboratory methods. . . .

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Table 1. Prehistoric lithic artifact counts and distributions, Akers Pass site.

Artifact Category	40-41W 40-42S	30-31W 40-42S	40-41W 48-50S	34-35W 48-50S	30-31W 48-50S	19-20W 48-50S	Total
Flaked Stone Tools							
Cores	1	-	1	-	4	1	7
Thick Bifaces	1	6	4	1	2	5	19
Thin Bifaces	-	1	-	1	3	2	7
Projectile Points	-	5	2	4	4	5	20
Biface Tips	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Steeply Retouched Uniface	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Decortication Flakes	74	69	38	40	52	39	312
Non-decortication Flakes	246	286	182	226	358	230	1528
Biface Thinning Flakes	5	7	7	6	4	9	38
Fire-cracked Rock	47	31	8	32	27	8	153
Total	375	405	239	310	455	299	2087

Table 2. Historic sherd counts and distributions, Akers Pass site.

Artifact Category	40-41W 40-42S	30-31W 40-42S	40-41W 48-50S	34-35W 48-50S	30-31W 48-50S	19-20W 48-50S	Total
Decorated Softpaste							
Earthenware							
Blue Shelledge	1	1	-	6	1	2	11
Spongeware	1	2	-	-	2	-	5
Light Blue Transfer	-	1	2	4	3	8	18
Mocha	-	1	-	3	2	-	6
Stickstamped	-	-	-	7	1	2	10
Handpainted Polychrome Floral	-	1	-	2	3	6	12
Flow Blue	-	2	-	-	2	1	5
Black Dendridic Transfer	-	1	-	-	2	2	5
Red Transfer	-	-	-	1	3	1	5
Undecorated Softpaste							
Earthenware	3	30	7	25	45	44	154
White Ironstone	-	-	-	7	1	6	14
Coarse Earthenware	2	-	5	-	3	6	16
Tumbler Sherds	-	4	-	9	4	4	21
Pressed Glass Sherds	-	-	-	2	-	1	3
Glass Bottle/Flask Sherds	-	5	3	18	38	16	80
Total	7	47	17	84	110	99	364

Table 3. Historic artifact and faunal counts and distributions, Akers Pass site.

Artifact Category	40-41W 40-42S	30-31W 40-42S	40-41W 48-50S	34-35W 48-50S	30-31W 48-50S	19-20W 48-50S	Total
Miscellaneous Small							
Gunflint	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Porcelain Button	1	-	-	2	-	-	3
Clay Pipe Fragment	-	-	-	1	2	2	5
Slate Fragment	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Tack	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Slate Pencil	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Comb Tooth	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Rifle Ball	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Buckshot	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Miscellaneous Metal*	3	5	-	4	5	5	22
Window Glass	5	2	7	16	31	9	70
Square Cut Nails	-	21	1	38	57	42	159
Faunal Materials							
Hog Tooth	3	4	-	-	2	2	11
Unidentified Bone Fragment	1	5	-	1	6	3	16
Mussell Shell Fragment	-	-	-	-	3	3	6
Total	14	37	8	64	109	67	299

* See Appendix B for descriptions and counts of specific items.

Table 4. Distribution of selected prehistoric lithic artifacts, Dances With Grasshoppers site (plow zone levels only).

Artifact Category	30-31S 78-80W	30-32S 60-61W	30-32S 54-55W	40-41S 68-70W	49-50S 59-60W	50-52S 59-60W	59-60S 68-70W	Total
Cores	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	3
Thick Bifaces	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	4
Thin Bifaces	2	1	3	1	-	2	-	9
Projectile Points	-	1	4	1	-	-	-	6
Steeply Retouched Uniface	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Decortication Flakes	52	43	130	40	5	21	49	340
Non-decortication Flakes	273	337	524	164	78	172	342	1890
Biface Thinning Flakes	6	-	18	-	2	3	3	32
Fire-cracked Rock	31	25	58	21	9	4	35	183
Total	365	408	739	228	94	204	430	2468

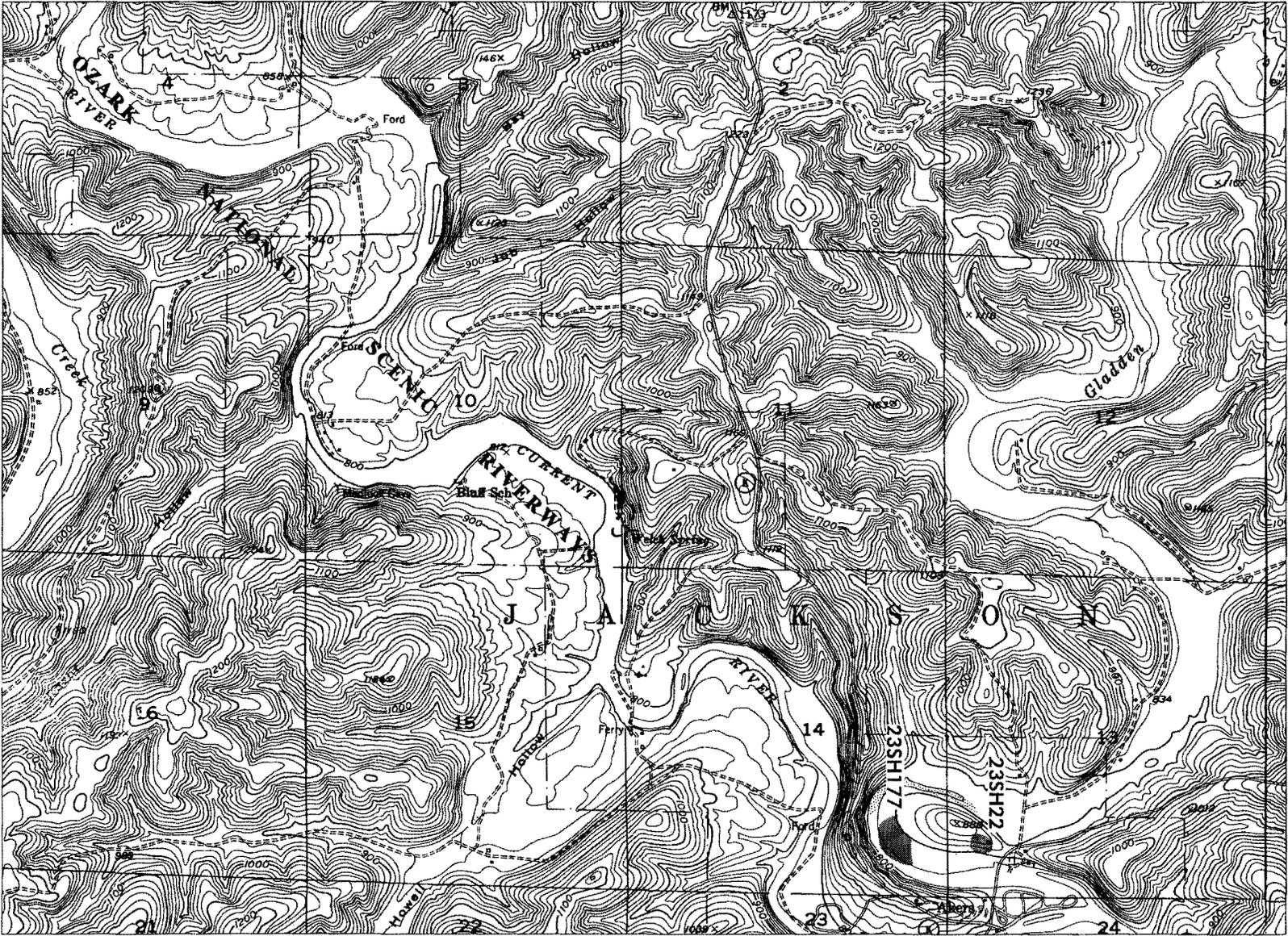


Figure 1. Map of the Project Area illustrating the locations of the Akers Pass site, 23SH22, and the Dances with Grasshoppers site, 23SD177.

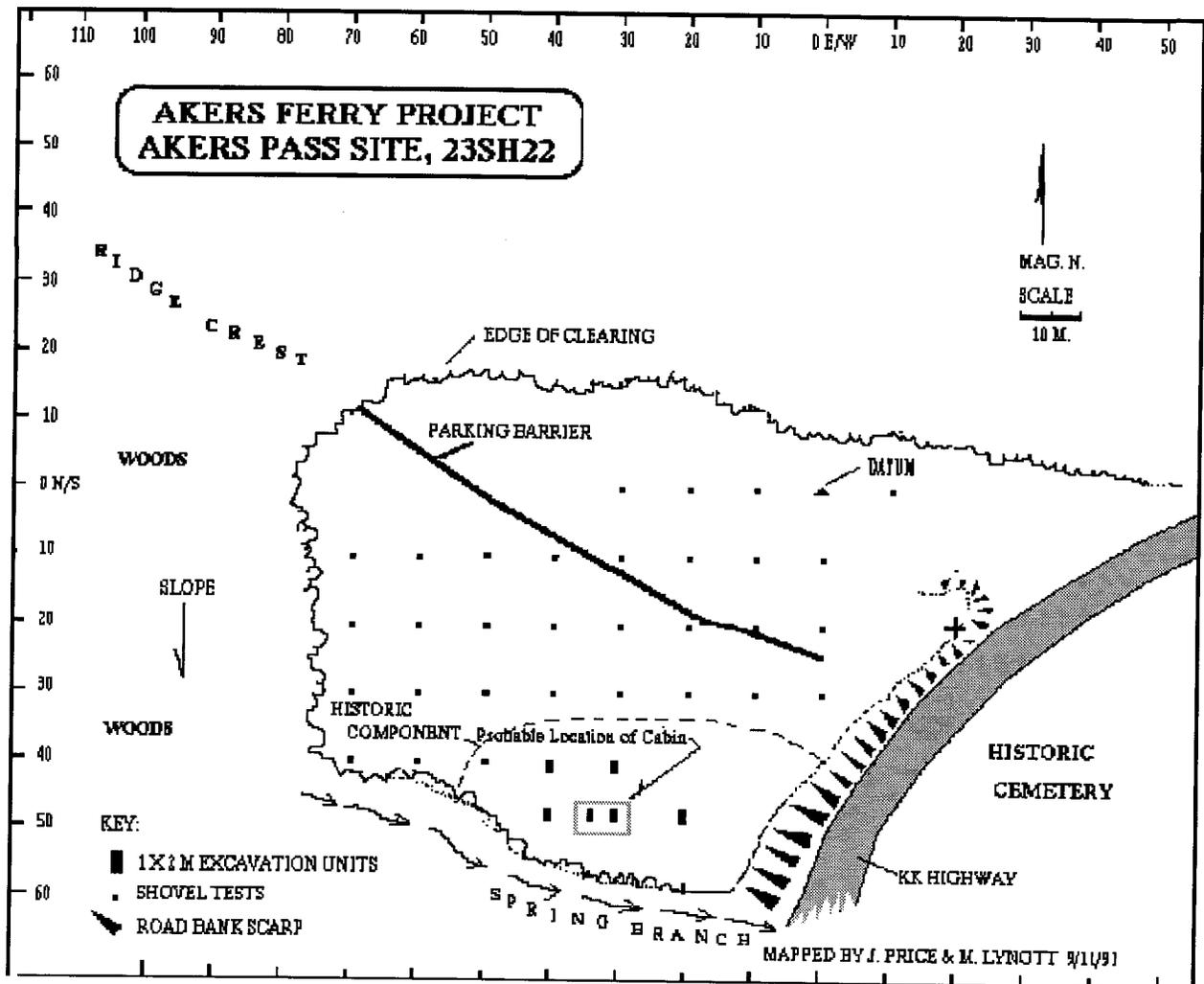
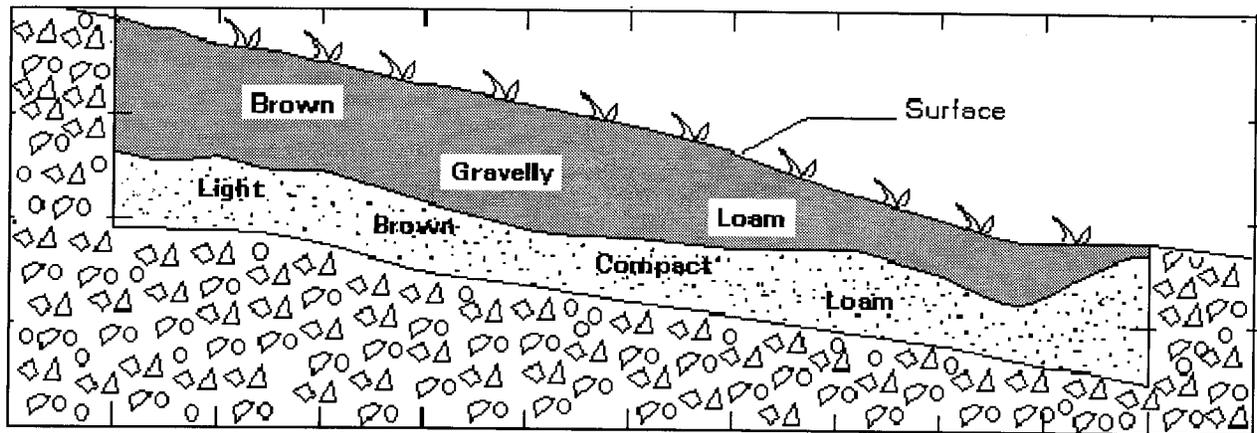


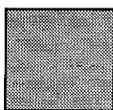
Figure 2. Map of the Akers Pass site, 23SH22, with locations of shovel tests and excavation units.

AKERS PASS SITE, 23SH22

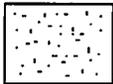
EAST WALL PROFILE, TEST UNIT 30-31 WEST/ 48-50 SOUTH



KEY



PLOWZONE

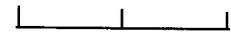


UNDISTURBED SUBSOIL



UNEXCAVATED

SCALE



20 CM.

Drawn by J. Price 11/16/92

Figure 3. Profile of the east wall of Test Unit 30-31W, 48-50S, Akers Pass site.

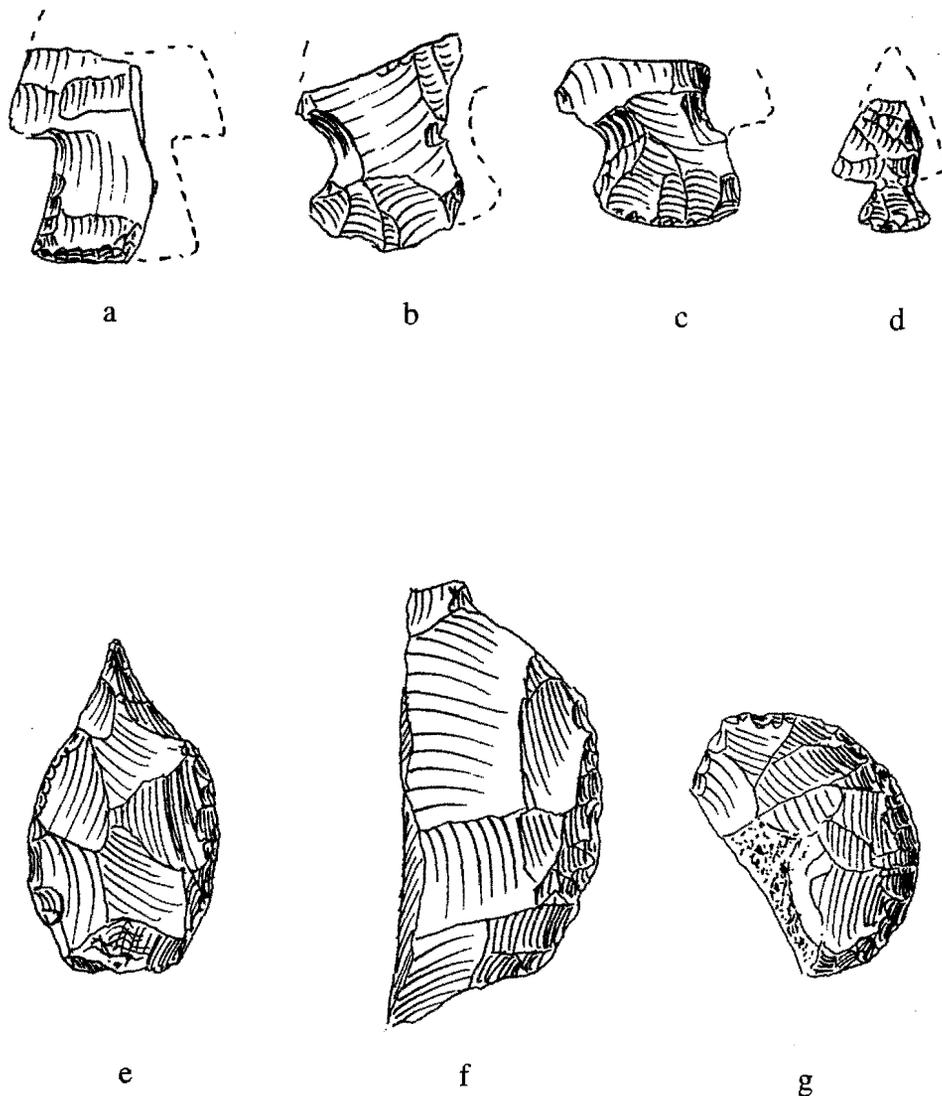


Figure 4. Prehistoric artifacts from the Akers Pass site: (a) expanding-stem projectile point or knife of white chert, Test Unit 34-35W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (b) corner-notched projectile point or knife of white chert, Test Unit 30-31W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (c) corner-notched projectile point or knife of gray, pink, and white banded chert, Test Unit 40-41W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (d) small arrowpoint of white chert, Test Unit 40-41W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (e) thin biface of white chert, Test Unit 30-31W, 40-42S, Plowzone; (f) thick biface of tan chert, Test Unit 19-20W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (g) steeply retouched uniface of white chert, Test Unit 40-41W, 40-42S, Plowzone.

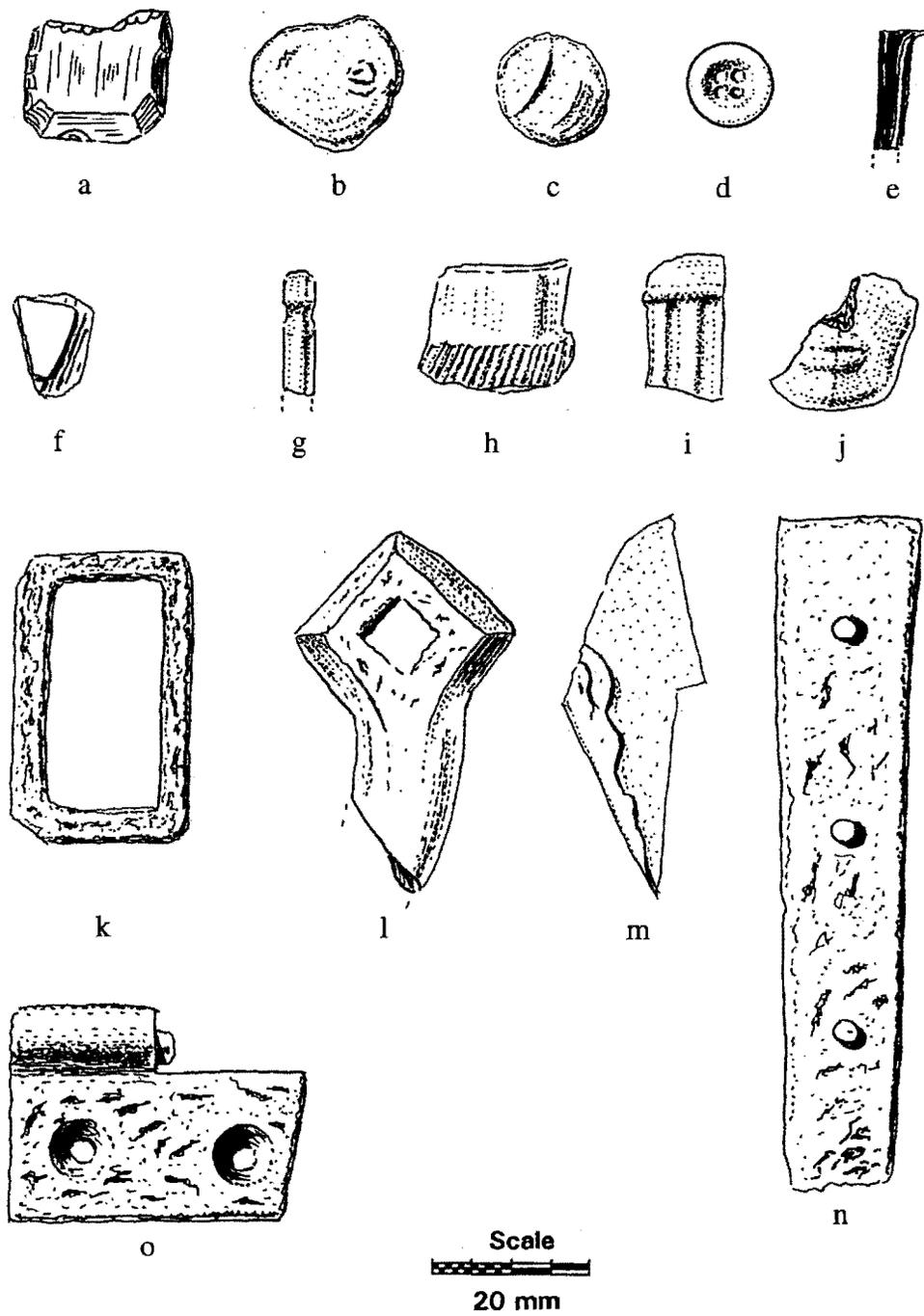


Figure 5. Historic cultural materials from the Akers Pass site: (a) black English gunflint, Test Unit 30-31W, 40-42S, Plowzone; (b) flattened lead rifle ball, Test Unit 30-31W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (c) flattened lead rifle ball, Test Unit 40-41W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (d) rough-back four-hole porcelain button, Test Unit 30-31W, 40-42S, Plowzone; (e) black hard rubber comb tooth, Test Unit 30-31W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (f) Fragment of slate, Test Unit 34-35W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (g) slate pencil fragment, Test Unit 30-31W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (h) White kaolin clay pipe bowl fragment, Test Unit 30-31W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (i) brown-glazed clay pipe bowl fragment, Test Unit 30-31W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (j) brown anthropomorphic clay pipe bowl fragment, Test Unit 34-35W, 48-50W, Plowzone; (k) iron buckle, Test Unit 19-20W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (l) cast iron coffee mill handle fragment, Test Unit 40-41W, 40-42S, Plowzone; (m) piece of cut-and-folded sheet brass, Test Unit 34-35W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (n) steel table knife handle, Test Unit 30-31W, 48-50S, Plowzone; (o) cast-iron hinge fragment, Test Unit 19-20W, 48-50S, Plowzone.

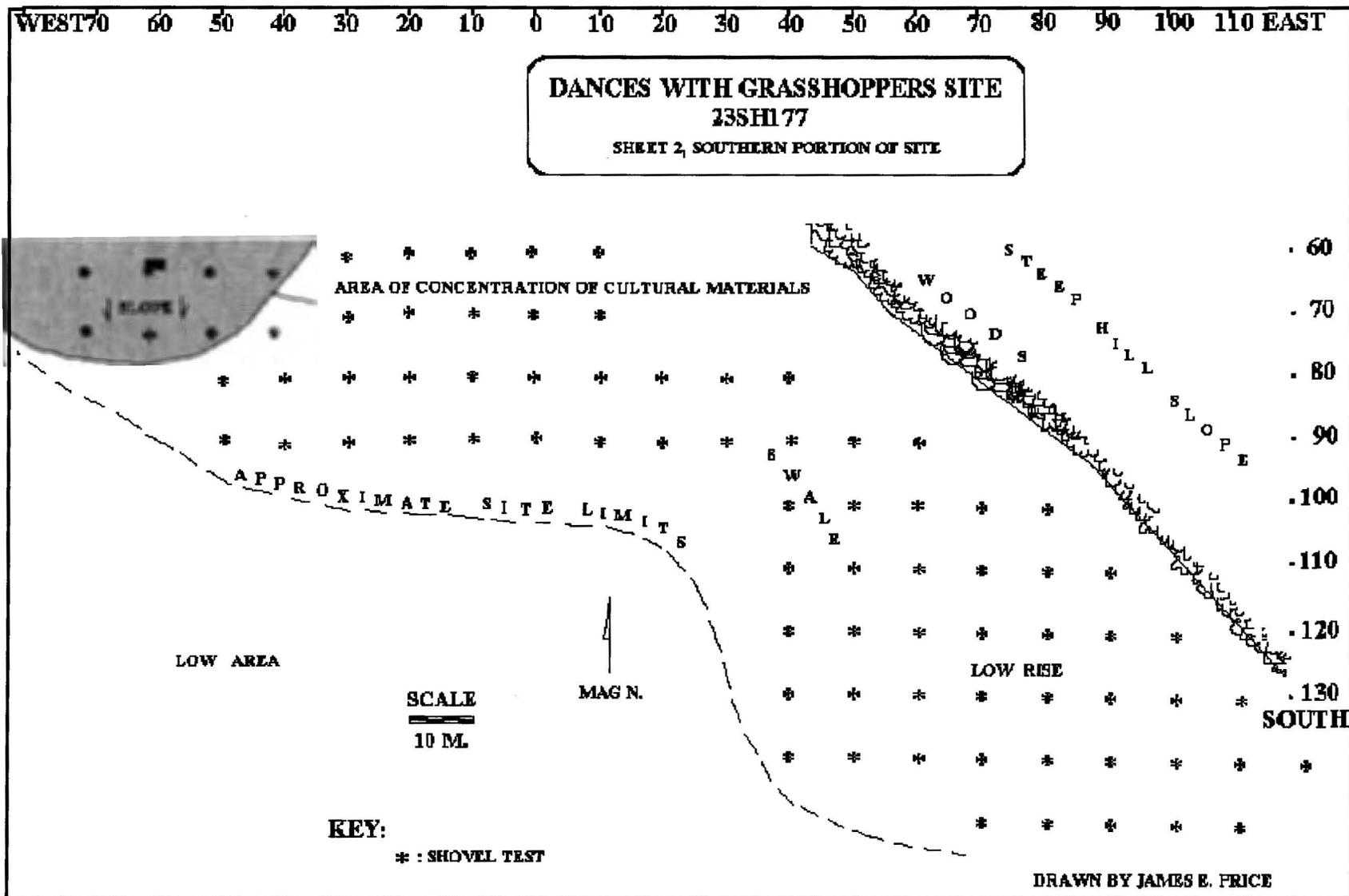
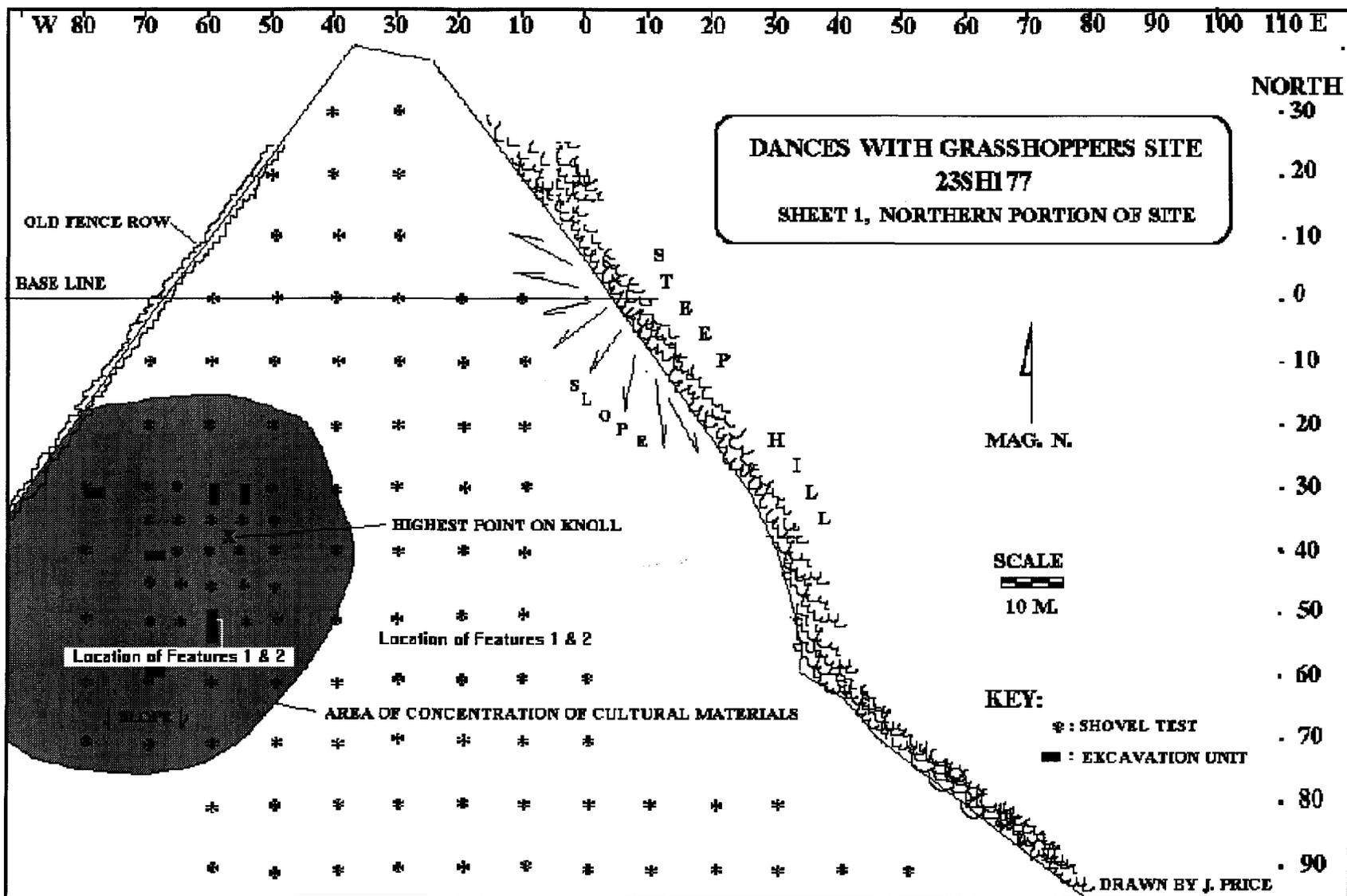


Figure 6. Map of the northern part of the Dances with Grasshoppers site.



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Figure 7. Map of the southern part of the Dances with Grasshoppers site.

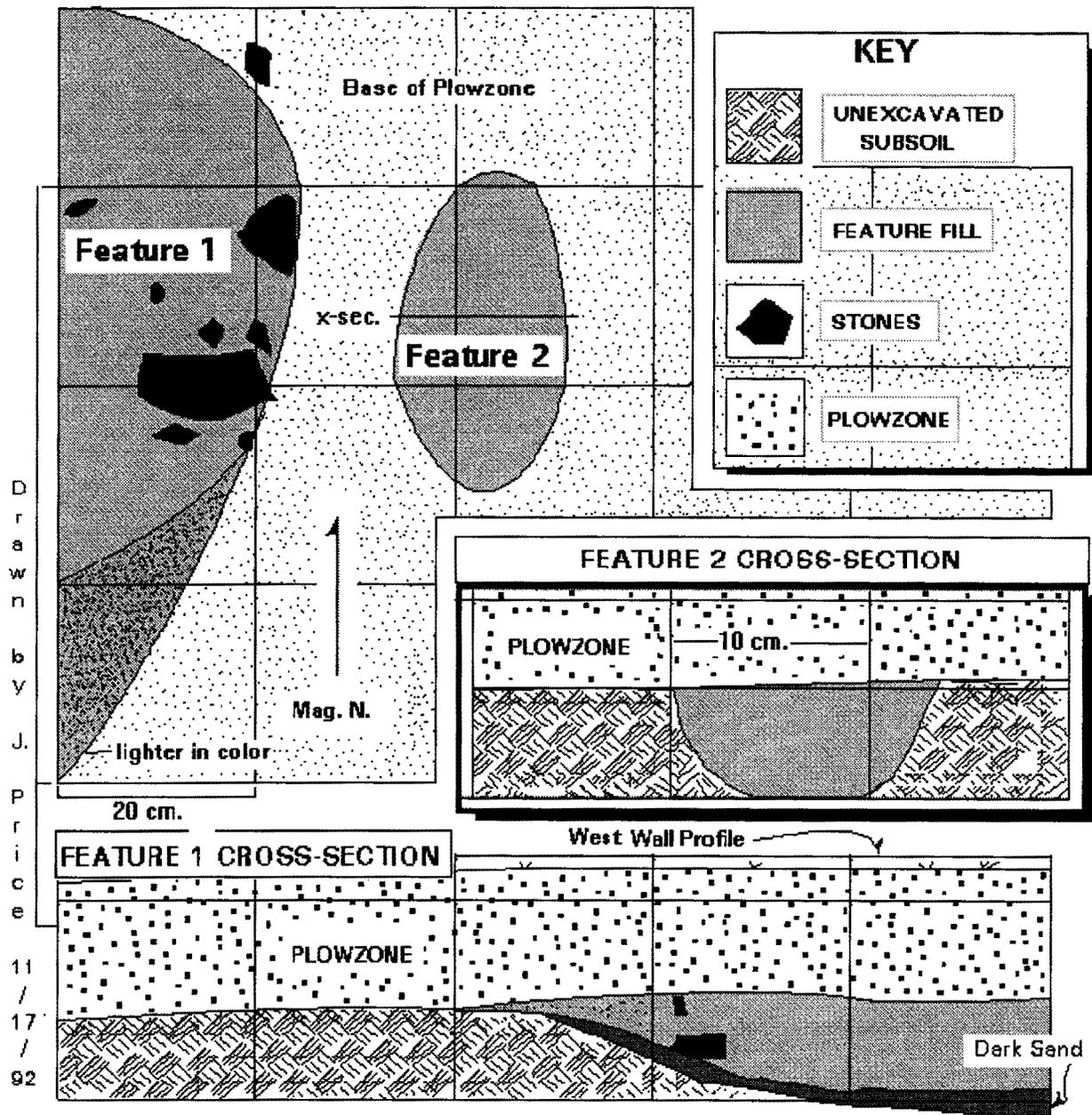


Figure 8. Plan views and cross sections of Features 1 and 2, Dances with Grasshoppers site.

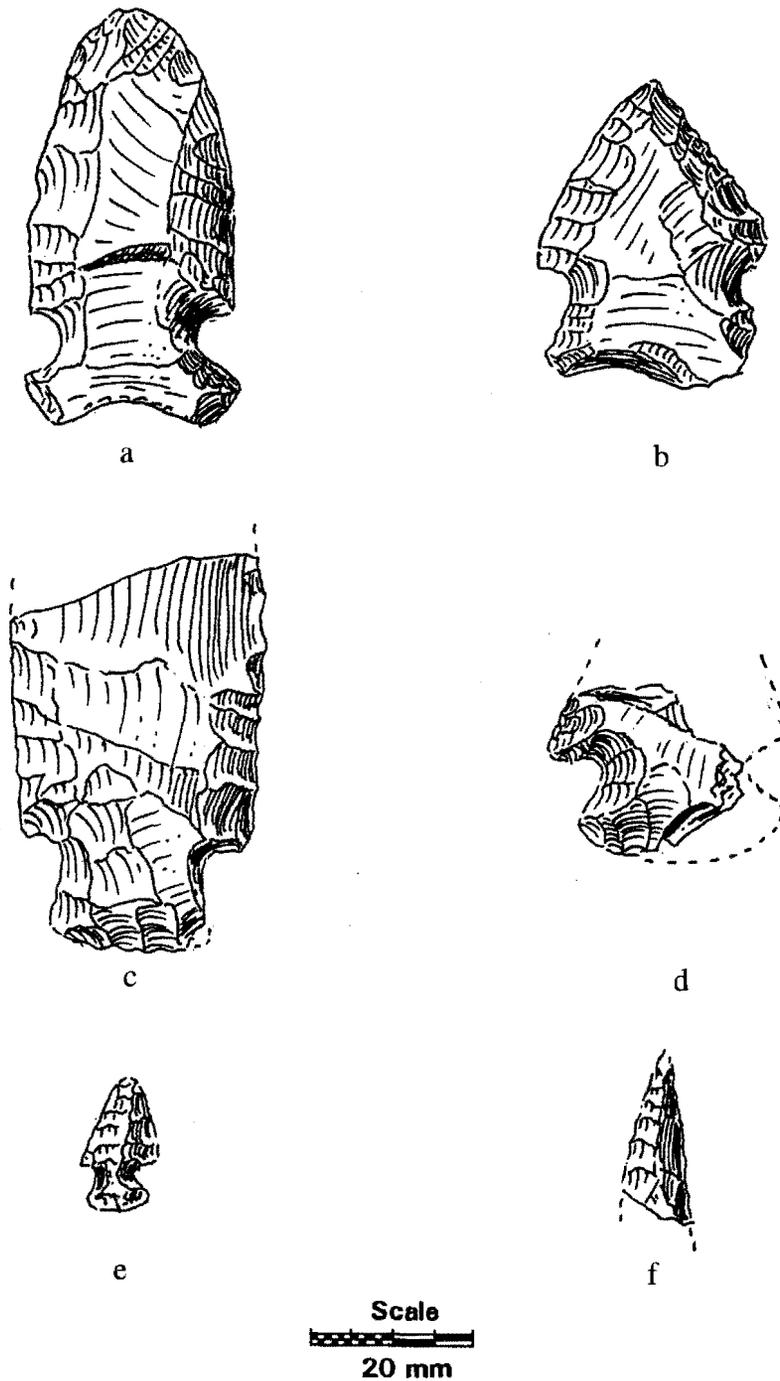


Figure 9. Prehistoric bifacial artifacts from the Dances with Grasshoppers site: (a) Graham Cave side-notched projectile point or knife of coarse pink chert, Test Unit 30-32S, 54-55W, Plowzone; (b) corner-notched steeply retouched projectile point or knife of banded pink and gray chert, Shovel Test 140S 60E, Plowzone; (c) stemmed projectile point or knife of gray and tan chert, Test Unit 40-41S, 68-70W, Plowzone; (d) corner-notched projectile point or knife of white chert, Test Unit 30-32S, 54-55W, Plowzone; (e) small bifacially-flaked arrowpoint of red chert, Shovel Test 30S 80W, Plowzone; (f) perforator tip of pink chert, Test Unit 40-41S, 68-70W, Plowzone.

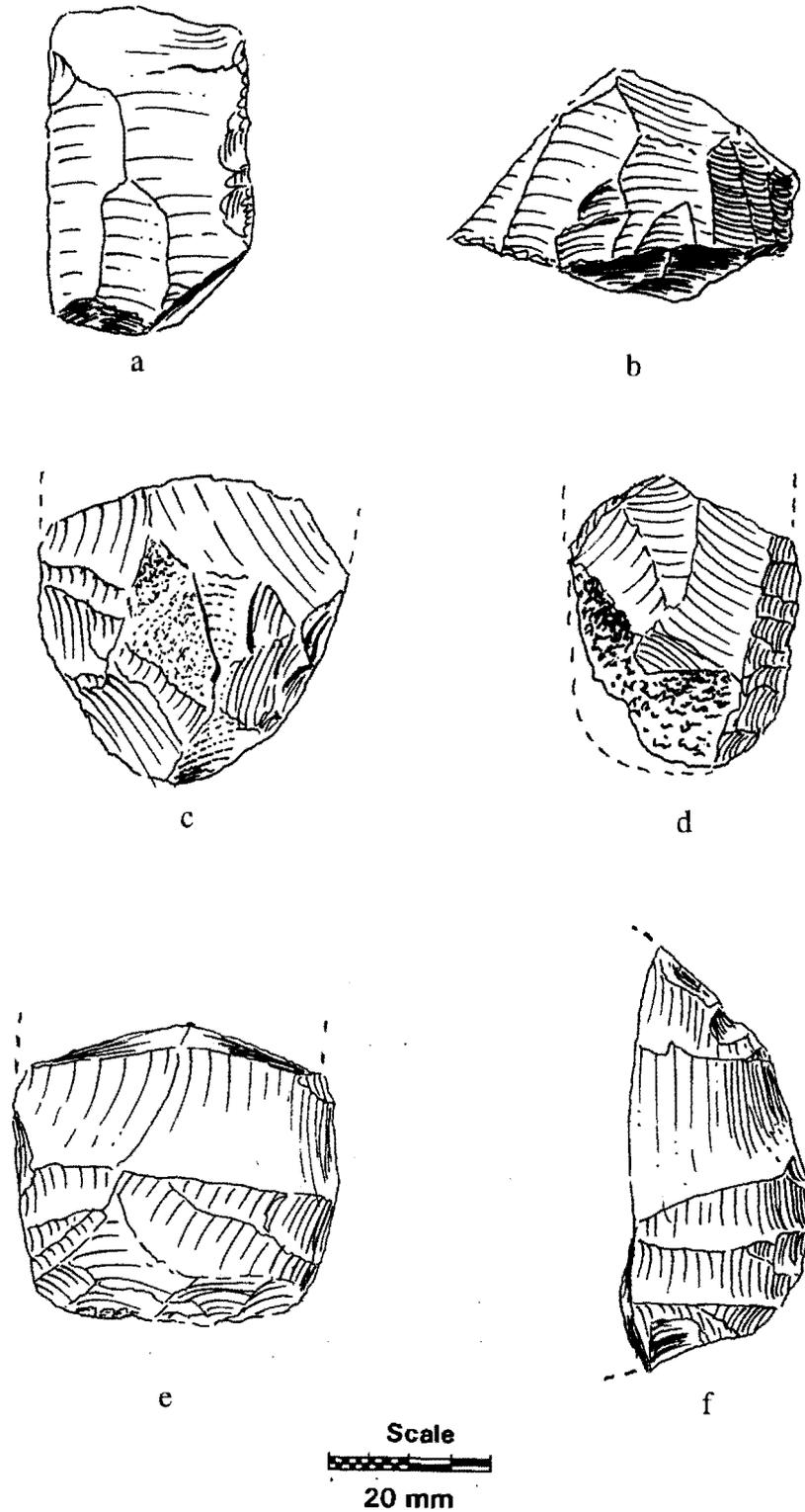


Figure 10. Prehistoric artifacts from the Dances with Grasshoppers site: (a) utilized flake of tan and gray chert, Test Unit 30-32S, 60-61W, Plowzone; (b) core of white chert, Test Unit 30-32S, 54-55W, Plowzone; (c) thick biface or aborted preform of brown and tan granular chert, Test Unit 50-52S, 59-60W, Plowzone; (d) thick biface or aborted preform of pink chert, badly fragmented by kettle fractures from heat, Shovel Test 30S 50W, Plowzone; (e) thin biface of banded tan and gray chert, Shovel Test 60S 50W; (f) thin biface of pink chert, Shovel Test 90S 20E, Plowzone.

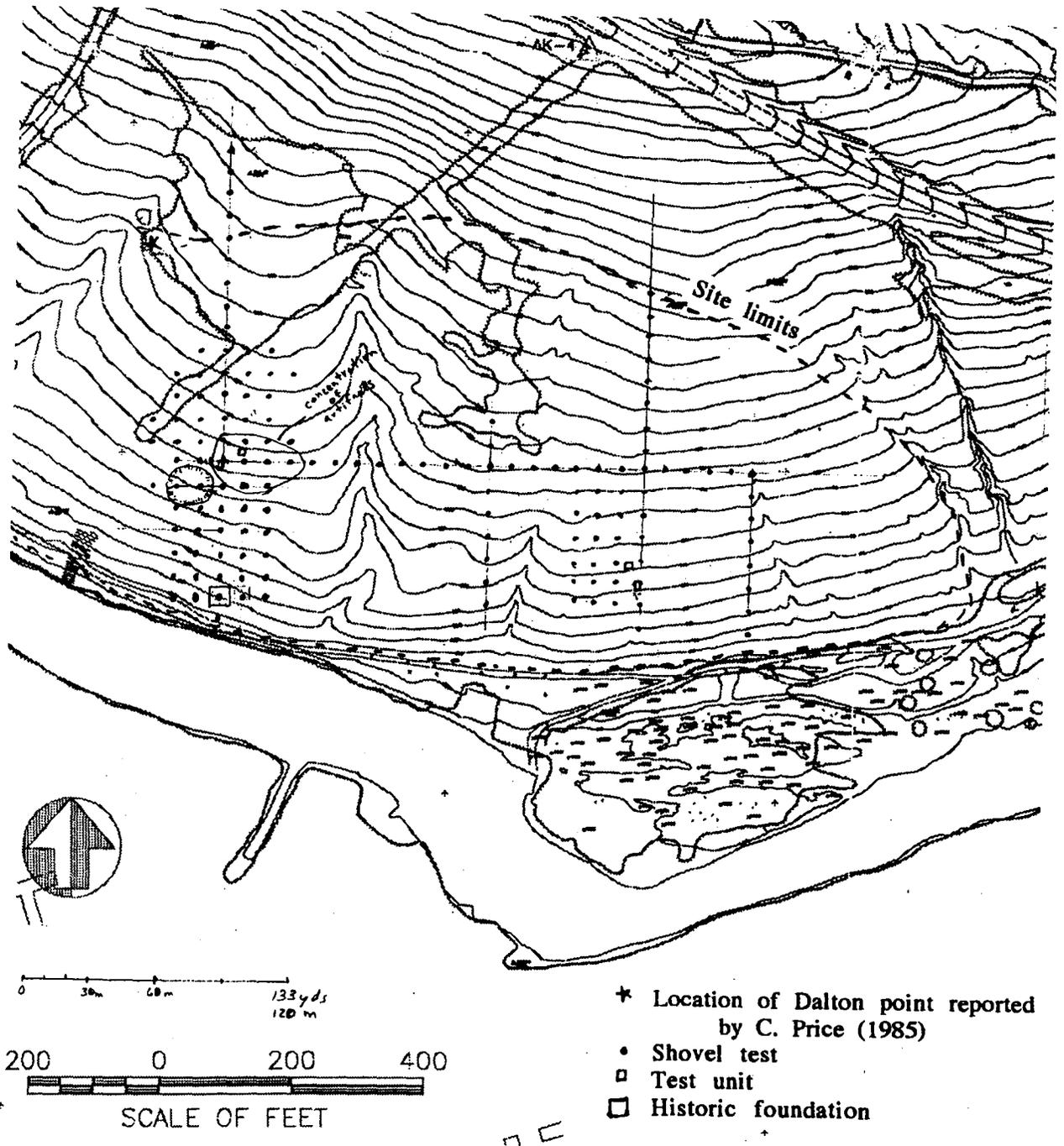


Figure D1. Topographic map of shovel tests and test units, 23SH230.



REPORT CERTIFICATION

I certify that "Investigations at Two Archeological Sites Near Akers Ferry,
Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Shannon County, Missouri" by James E. Price,
Technical Report No. 37.

has been reviewed against the criteria contained in 43CFR Part 7 (a)(1) and upon recom-
mendation of the Regional Archeologist has been classified as
Available.

William W. Schenk
Regional Director

12-6-95
Date

Classification Key Words:

“Available”-Making the report available to the public meets the criteria of 43CFR 7.18 (a) (1).

“Available (deletions)”-Making the report available with selected information on site locations and/or site characteristics deleted meets the criteria of 43CFR 7.18 (a)(1). A list of pages, maps, paragraphs, etc. that must be deleted for each report in this category is attached.

“Not Available”-Making the report available does not meet the criteria of 43CFR (a)(1).



APPENDIX A

Inventory of Prehistoric Materials from the Akers Pass Site

23SH22	Tested Cobbles	Dec. Flake	Non- dec. Flake	Biface Thinning Flake	Cores	Th.bi & ab. pre.	Thin Bifaces	Pp/hct and Frag.	Biface Tips	Other Steep ret.uni.	Pitted Cobbles	Mod. ang. Frag.	Unmod. ang. Frag.	Burned and fc. Rock	Sand- stone	Other
Test Units																
30-31W 48-50S		52	358	4	4	2	3	4	1					27	3	1*
19-20W 48-50S		39	230	9	1	5	2	5						8	1	
30-31W 40-42S		69	286	7		6	1	5						31		
40-41W 48-50S		38	182	7	1	4		2						8		
34-35W 48-50S		40	226	6		1	1	4		1				32		
40-41W 40-42S		74	246	5	1	1				1				47		
Test Unit Subtotals		312	1528	38	7	19	7	20	1	2				153	4	1
Shovel Tests																
70W-10S			3									5				
70W-20S		1	9		1							2	1			
70W-30S		8	7										4			
70W-40S			3										3			
60W-10S		2	2										1			
60W-20S			1										2			
60W-30S		7	4		1								1			
60W-40S		6	13											2		
60W-50S		1	6													

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23SH22	Tested Cobbles	Dec. Flake	Non- dec. Flake	Biface Thinning Flake	Cores	Th.bi & ab. pre.	Thin Bifaces	Pp/hct and Frgs.	Biface Tips	Other Steep ret.uni.	Pitted Cobbles	Mod. ang. Frgs.	Unmod. ang. Frgs.	Burned and fc. Rock	Sand- stone	Other
Shovel Tests																
10W-10S	2	5														
10W-20S		4														
10W-30S		9														
10W-40S	4	12														
10W-40S	4	12														
0E-10N		17											1			
0E-10S	1	11												1		
0W-20S	1															
52 0W-30S		8											2			
10E/0S		1														
Shovel Test Unit Subtotals	10	288		4	3		1		1	8	23	10	4	1		
Grand Total All Units	10	600	1752	38	11	22	7	21	1	2	1	8	23	163	8	2

Abbreviations used in column headings: Dec. Flake = Decortication Flake; Non-dec. Flake = Non-decortication Flakes; Th.bi. & ab. pre. = Thick Bifaces and Aborted Preforms; Pp/hct and Frags = Projectile Points, Hafted Cutting Tools, and Fragments; Other steep. ret.uni. = Ot Steeply Retouched Unifaces; Mod. ang. Frags. = Modified Angular Fragments; Unmod. ang. Frags. = Unmodified Angular Fragments; Burned and fc rock = Burned and Fire-cracked Rock

APPENDIX B

INVENTORY OF HISTORIC MATERIALS
FROM THE AKERS PASS SITE

Test Unit 40-41W, 40-42S

Refined Earthenware

- 1 blue shell-edge plate rimsherd
- 1 yellow spongeware bodysherd
- 1 plain white plate flange sherd
- 3 plain white bodysherds

Glass

- 5 thin window glass sherds
- 3 pieces of melted green glass

Metal

- 1 horseshoe nail
- 1 end of coffee mill crank
- 1 piece of lap weld from chain

Fauna

- 1 hog molar
- 2 hog teeth fragments
- 1 piece unidentified animal bone

Test Unit 40-41W, 48-50S

Refined Earthenware

- 1 light blue transfer plate rimsherd
- 1 light blue transfer bodysherd
- 1 plain white plate flange sherd
- 7 plain white bodysherds

Coarse Earthenware

- 1 brown glazed redware basal sherd
- 1 gray salt-glazed bodysherd

Glass

- 1 clear glass bottle bodysherd
- 1 light green glass bottle bodysherd
- 1 green glass flask bodysherd
- 2 thin window glass sherds

Metal

- 1 rusty square cut nail

Test Unit 30-31W, 40-42S

Refined Earthenware

- 1 blue shell-edge plate rimsherd
- 1 light blue transfer bodysherd
- 1 black dendritic transfer rimsherd
- 1 flow blue bodysherd
- 1 flow blue plate foot ring sherd
- 2 blue spongeware rimsherds
- 1 handpainted polychrome floral sprig saucer bodysherd
- 1 green mocha mug rimsherd
- 1 plain white saucer rimsherd
- 2 plain white plate rimsherds
- 3 plain white plate foot ring sherds
- 24 plain white body sherds, mostly from plates

Coarse Earthenware

- 1 brown-glazed redware bodysherd
- 3 gray salt-glazed bodysherds
- 1 green-glazed pitcher bodysherd

Miscellaneous Small Artifacts

- 1 rough-back white porcelain button with four holes
- 1 dark honey-colored translucent gunflint

Glass

- 1 light green bottle bodysherd
- 1 light green flask bodysherd
- 1 cobalt blue flask bodysherd
- 2 dark green bottle bodysherds
- 2 thin window glass sherds
- 1 thick, flat purpled glass sherd
- 4 clear tumbler bodysherds

Metal

- 18 rusty square cut nails
- 3 burned square cut nails with heat scale
- 2 fragments of iron barrel bands
- 1 cast iron vessel sherd
- 1 piece of thin sheet iron
- 1 wrought-iron strap with four holes and overlapped end

Mortar

- 1 sample of burned lime and sand mortar

Fauna

- 1 hog molar
- 1 hog incisor
- 2 fragments of hog tusks
- 1 mammalian rib bone fragment
- 4 unidentified bone fragments

Flora

- 1 charcoal sample

Test Unit 34-35W, 48-50S

Refined Earthenware

- 6 blue shell-edge plate rimsherds
- 1 red transfer bodysherd
- 1 light blue transfer plate rimsherd
- 1 light blue transfer plate flange sherd

Refined Earthenware, continued.

- 2 light blue transfer bodysherds
- 1 handpainted polychrome floral sprig bodysherd
- 1 handpainted polychrome floral saucer rimsherd with blue band
- 6 red and/or green stick-stamped bodysherds
- 1 red stick-stamped saucer rimsherd with black band
- 3 brown, green, & black mocha mug bodysherds
- 4 plain white plate or saucer rimsherds
- 1 plain white plate flange sherd
- 3 plain white plate foot ring sherds
- 17 plain white bodysherds
- 1 white ironstone fluted plate flange
- 1 white ironstone fluted plate rimsherd
- 1 white ironstone plate rimsherd
- 1 white ironstone cup rimsherd
- 1 white ironstone plate foot ring
- 1 white ironstone cup basal sherd
- 1 white ironstone bodysherd

Miscellaneous Small Artifacts

- 1 gray clay human effigy pipe bowl fragment, lips and chin portion
- 2 rough-base white porcelain four-hole buttons
- 1 piece chalkboard slate
- 1 iron tack with globular sheet-iron head

Glass

- 1 clear glass bottle rimsherd
- 2 clear glass bottle bodysherds
- 11 light green glass bottle bodysherds
- 5 dark green glass bottle bodysherds
- 8 thin window glass sherds
- 8 medium thick window glass sherds
- 2 clear glass tumbler rimsherds
- 1 clear glass tumbler basal sherd
- 6 clear glass tumbler bodysherds
- 2 clear pressed glass bodysherds

Metal

- 27 rusty square cut nails
- 11 burned square cut nails
- 1 piece iron wire
- 1 broken link from light chain
- 1 piece sheet iron
- 1 piece cut silver-plated sheet brass

Faunal

- 1 unidentified bone fragment

Test Unit 30-31W, 48-50S

Refined Earthenware

- 1 blue shell-edge plate rimsherd
- 3 red transfer bodysherds, one from plate
- 2 light blue transfer bodysherds
- 1 light blue transfer plate rimsherd
- 2 black dendritic transfer bodysherds
- 2 flow blue sherds, one a plate foot ring
- 2 blue spongeware bodysherds
- 1 handpainted polychrome floral sprig, saucer bodysherd
- 1 red stick-stamped plate rimsherd
- 1 brown and green mocha bodysherd
- 1 brown mocha mug base edge
- 2 handpainted bodysherds with blue annular rings
- 1 plain cup shoulder
- 1 plain white saucer rimsherd
- 3 plain white plate foot ring sherds
- 3 plain white plate flange sherds
- 2 plain white cup shoulder sherds
- 35 plain white bodysherds
- 1 plain white ironstone foot ring sherd

Coarse Earthenware

- 1 brown-glazed redware bodysherd
- 1 gray salt-glazed bodysherd
- 1 green-glazed pitcher basal sherd

Miscellaneous Small Artifacts

- 1 white kaolin pipe bowl rimsherd with decorative band
- 1 brown clay pipe bowl rimsherd with flutes
- 1 proximal end of a slate pencil
- 1 black hard rubber comb tooth
- 1 flattened lead rifle ball

Glass

- 15 clear glass bottle sherds
- 2 amber bottle sherds
- 5 light green bottle sherds
- 4 light green flask bodysherds
- 1 cobalt blue flask bodysherd
- 1 cobalt blue bottle bodysherd
- 9 dark green bottle bodysherds
- 1 dark green bottle basal sherd
- 14 thin window glass sherds
- 8 medium thick window glass sherds
- 2 thick window glass sherds
- 1 clear glass tumbler rimsherd
- 2 clear glass tumbler basal sherds
- 1 clear glass tumbler bodysherds

Metal

- 52 rusty square cut nails
- 3 burned square cut nails with heat scale
- 1 piece burned #9 size wire
- 1 fragment of thin sheet iron disc
- 1 handle from wood or bone handled table knife
- 1 piece of silver-plated brass
- 1 blunt-tipped woodscrew
- 1 section cutter from mowing machine sickle bar

Faunal

- 2 hog molars
- 1 piece calcined bone
- 3 small unidentified bone fragments
- 3 pieces of river mussel shells

Test Unit 19-20W, 48-50S

Refined Earthenware

- 2 blue shell-edge plate rimsherds
- 1 red transfer bodysherd
- 8 light blue transfer bodysherds
- 1 black dendritic transfer cup rimsherd
- 1 black dendritic transfer bodysherd
- 1 black transfer bodysherd
- 1 flow blue plate foot ring sherd
- 5 handpainted polychrome floral bodysherds
- 1 handpainted polychrome floral cup bodysherd
- 1 red stick-stamped plate rimsherd with annular blue rim band
- 1 red stick-stamped bodysherd
- 3 plain white plate foot ring sherds
- 2 plain white plate flange sherds
- 39 plain white bodysherds, mostly from plates
- 1 white ironstone fluted plate rimsherd
- 1 white ironstone cup rimsherds
- 2 white ironstone saucer rimsherds
- 2 white ironstone bodysherds

Coarse Earthenware

- 1 gray-glazed redware bodysherd with blue painted motif
- 1 gray-glazed bodysherd
- 1 brown-glazed ink bottle basal sherd
- 1 brown-glazed ink bottle bodysherd
- 2 green-glazed pitcher bodysherds

Glass

- 4 clear glass bottle bodysherds
- 4 light green bottle bodysherds
- 1 light green flask rimsherd
- 2 light green flask bodysherds
- 1 light green flask basal sherd
- 2 light green thick bottle basal sherds
- 1 dark green bottle basal sherd
- 1 dark green bottle bodysherd
- 5 thin window glass sherds
- 4 medium thick window glass sherds
- 1 clear glass tumbler rimsherd

Glass, continued.

- 3 clear glass tumbler bodysherds
- 1 clear pressed glass bodysherd
- 1 blob molten glass

Miscellaneous Small Artifacts

- 1 white kaolin pipestem fragment
- 1 brown-glazed fluted pipe bowl fragment
- 1 flattened lead buckshot

Metal

- 1 burned modern wire nail
- 39 rusty square cut nails
- 3 burned square cut nails with heat scale
- 1 handforged rosehead nail
- 1 wrought-iron buckle
- 1 cast-iron butt hinge fragment
- 2 pieces thin sheet iron

Fauna

- 2 hog tusk fragments
- 3 unidentified bone fragments
- 3 river mussel shell fragments

APPENDIX C

Inventory of Prehistoric Materials from
the Dances with Grasshoppers Site

23SH177	Unmod. cobb.	Tested cobbles	Dec. flake	Non-Dec. flake	True blades	Biface Thin flake	Ut. fl. & blades	Cores	Th.bi. & ab. pre.	Thin bifaces	Pp/hct and frags	Other steep ret.uni.	Perfor. & drills	Pitted cobbles	Burned and fc. rock	Hematite and limonite	Sand-ston	Other
Test Units																		
30-31 S 78-80 W Plz.	3		52	273		6			1	2					31			
30-31-S 78-80 W L.2			7	60											6			
30-32 S 54-55 W Plz.	3		130	524		18	1	1	1	3	4				58			
30-32N 60-61 W Plz.	1	2	43	337			1		1	1	1				25		3	
30-32S 60-61 W L.2			2	23											1			
40-41 S 68-70 W Plz	4	5	40	164			1	1		1	1		1		21	1	2	
49-50 S 59-60 W Plz.	1	5	78		2										9		2	
50-52 S 59-60 W Plz.		1	21	172		3			1	2		1			4		2	
50-52S 59-60 W L.2			1	1														
59-60 S 68-70 W Plz.	2	2	49	342		3		1						2	35			
59-60 S 68-70 W L.2			5	47											1			
Test Unit Subtotals																		
Plowzone	14	15	413	1812	2	30	3	3	4	9	6	1	1	2	182	1	9	
Level 2	-	-	15	131	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	
Subtotal	14	15	428	1943	2	30	3	3	4	9	6	1	1	2	190	1	9	

23SH177	Unmod. cobb.	Tested cobbles	Dec. flake	Non-Dec. flake	True blades	Biface Thin flake	Ut. fl. & blades	Cores	Th.bi. & ab. pre.	Thin bifaces	Pp/nct and frags	Other steep ret.uni.	Perfor. & drills	Pitted cobbles	Burned and fc. rock	Hematite and limonite	Sand-ston	Other
Shovel Tests																		
130S-10E			1	1														
130S-20E				2														
130S-30E			1	1														
130-40E			1	1														
130-50E				1						1					1			
130S-60E				6											1			
130S-70E			1															
130S-80E				1														
20S-10W				3														
20S-20W																		
20S-30W				1														
20S-40W			1	2														
20S-50W				8											1			
20S-60W	1	1	2	10														
20S-70W			1	16											1			
20S-80W			9	19											2			
0S-10W																		
0S-20W																		
0S-30W				1														
0S-40W				1														
0S-50W																		
0S-60W			2	2														
10S-10W			1	1														

23SH177	Unmod. cobb.	Tested cobble	Dec. flake	Non- Dec. flake	True blades	Biface Thin flake	Ut. fl. & blades	Cores	Th.bi. & ab. pre.	Thin bifaces	Pp/hct and frags	Other steep ret.uni.	Perfor. & drills	Pitted cobble	Burned and fc. rock	Hematite and limonite	Sand- ston	Other
Test Units																		
10S-20W																		
10S-30W			1	1														
10S-40				1														
10S-50W			1	3														
10S-60W			1	5		1												
10S-70W			1	5		1												
30S-10W																		
30S-20W																		
30S-30W																		
30S-40W			2	5														
30S-55W			2	15		1											1	
30S-65W			2	10											1			
30S-50W			6	22				1							5			
30S-60W			10	20		7									1			
30S-70W			4	7											3			
30S-80W				2		1					1						1	
35S-50W			2	13											1		2	
35S-55W			3	33											7		1	
35S-60W			4	3														
35S-65W				9		1									1			
35S-70W			1	7											1			

23SH177	Unmod. cobb.	Tested cobbles	Dec. flake	Non-Dec. flake	True blades	Biface Thin flake	Ut. fl. & blades	Cores	Th.bi. & ab. pre.	Thin bifaces	Pp/hct and frags	Other steep ret.uni.	Perfor. & drills	Pitted cobbles	Burned and fc. rock	Hematite and limonite	Sand-ston	Other
Test Units																		
40S-0W				2														
40S-10W				2														
40S-20W				2														
40S-30W				2														
40S-40W				13							1							
40S-50W			2	14											1			
40S-55W			4	11		3												
40S-60W	1		2	28														
40S-65W			1	6											1			
40S-70W				16											1			
40S-80W			3	20														
45S-50W			4	18		2												
45S-55W			1	20											2			
45S-60W		1		10		2												
45S-65W			2	8														
45S-70W				3											1			
50S-0W																		
50S-10W			1	4		1												
50S-20W				3														
50S-30W			2															
50S-40W			2	1		1												
50S-50W			5	17											1			
50S-60W																		

23SH177	Unmod. cobb.	Tested cobbles	Dec. flake	Non-Dec. flake	True blades	Biface Thin flake	Ut. fl. & blades	Cores	Th.bi. & ab. pre.	Thin bifaces	Pp/hct and frags	Other steep ret.uni.	Perfor. & drills	Pitted cobbles	Burned and fc. rock	Hematite and limonite	Sand-ston	Other
Test Units																		
50S-55W			3	1											1			
50-65W			2	5														
50S-70W			2	17		1									1			
50S-80W			1	5											1		1	
60S-0W				5							1				1			
60S-10W				8											2			
60S-20W				1														
60S-30W				5														
60S-40W				7		1									1			
60S-50W				12						1								
60S-60W			2	15		3												Rusty nut
60S-70W			4	24							1							
60S-80W			2	9														
70S-0W				4														
70S-10W				5														
70S-20W			1	6														
70S-30W				1														
70S-40W			3	6						1								
70S-50W			1	18											2			
70S-60W			2	21		1									4			
70S-70W			8	11											2			
70S-80W				7		1												

23SH177	Unmod. cobb.	Tested cobbles	Dec. flake	Non-Dec. flake	True blades	Biface Thin flake	Ut. fl. & blades	Cores	Th.bi. & ab. pre.	Thin bifaces	Pp/hct and frags	Other steep ret.uni.	Perfor. & drills	Pitted cobbles	Burned and fc. rock	Hematite and limonite	Sandston	Other
Test Units																		
80S-0W			3			2												
80S-10W			3	7		1												
80S-20W				1											1			
80S-30W				3		1												
80S-40W			1	1											1			
80S-50W				7		1												
80S-10E			2	3														
80S-20E			2	2														
80S-30E																		
90S-0W																		
90S-10W				3						1								
90S-20W			5	7											1			
90S-30W			1	1											3			
90S-40W				5						1					2			
90S-50W			6	14											1			
90S-10E			1	3														
90S-20E				5														
90S-30E				1														
90S-40E			1	2														
90S-50E															1			
100S-10E	1			9														
100S-20E				4														

23SH177	Unmod. cobb.	Tested cobbles	Dec. flake	Non-Dec. flake	True blades	Biface Thin flake	Ut. fl. & blades	Cores	Th.bi. & ab. pre.	Thin bifaces	Pp/nct and frags	Other steep ret.uni.	Perfor. & drills	Pitted cobbles	Burned and fc. rock	Hematite and limonite	Sand-ston	Other
Tests Units																		
100S-30E			1	1														
100S-40E			3															
100S-50E			2	2														
100S-60E			1												1			
110S-10E				6		2												
110S-20E				4														
110S-30E			1	2														
110S-40E			2	5														
110S-50E																		
110S-60E				7														
110S-70E																		
120S-20E				1														
120S-30E				5												1		
120S-40E															2			
120S-50E				4														
120S-60E																		
120S-70E			2	1											2			
120S-80E																		
140S-40E			2	2														
140S-50E			1	3														

23SH177	Unmod. cobb.	Tested cobbles	Dec. flake	Non-Dec. flake	True blades	Biface Thin flake	Ut. fl. & blades	Cores	Th.bi. & ab. pre.	Thin bifaces	Pp/hct and frags	Other steep ret.uni.	Perfor. & drills	Pitted cobbles	Burned and fc. rock	Hematite and limonite	Sand-ston	Other
140S-60E			1	4							1							
140-70E			1	1											1			
140S-80E				1														
Subtotals	3	2	162	758	-	35	-	1	-	5	5	-	-	-	64	1	6	1
Totals	17	17	590	2701	2	65	3	4	4	14	11	1	1	2	255	2	15	1

Abbreviations used in column headings: Dec. Flake = Decortication flake; Ut. fl. & blades = Utilized Flakes and Blades; Th.bi. & ab. pre. = Thick Bifaces and Aborted Preforms; Pp/hct and frags = Projectile Points, Hafted Cutting Tools, and Fragments; Other steep ret.uni. = Other Steeply Retouched Unifaces; Perfor. & drills = Perforators and Drills; Burned and fc. rock = Burned and Fire-cracked Rock.

APPENDIX D

AN ARCHEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF SITE 23SH230

Mark J. Lynott

INTRODUCTION

Site 23SH230 is near Akers Ferry, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Missouri. It is located on the north side of the Current River between the existing Group Campground and Akers Ferry, and it is on a south-facing hillside that slopes noticeably from Highway K to the Current River. The hillside is dissected by a series of gullies that are the product of natural erosion. A wildlife foodplot is present to the east of the road which connects the group campground to Highway K. The wildlife foodplot is clear of vegetation and offers the best surface visibility on the hillside. This area had been previously surveyed by James and Cynthia Price during a parkwide survey of wildlife foodplots. No archeological remains were observed at that time. Cedar glades are present on the upper half of the hillside, and remains of an old fence cross the site near the point where the cedar glade grades into a hardwood forest. The mature hardwood forest extends down the hill to the riverbank.

Site 23SH230 was recorded by Cynthia R. Price (1985). Artifacts were observed when five backhoe trenches were excavated by National Park Service planners to examine soil structure and determine the suitability of the area for possible construction of a sewage treatment lagoon. Prehistoric materials were collected from two trenches along the lower slope of the hillside and one on the upper slope. Artifacts were also observed on the surface in exposed areas along the lower slope. No evidence of a plow zone was observed in any of the backhoe trenches. Cultural remains observed in 1985 included decortication and non-decortication flakes, cores, shatter, and fire-cracked rocks. A Dalton point was collected from one of the backhoe trenches.

Description of Excavations at Site 23SH230

The 1991 investigations at 23SH230 incorporated two types of excavation techniques. Due to the relatively dense vegetative cover, shovel tests were used to better define the extent of the site. A limited number of one-meter-by-two-meter test units were then excavated to more carefully examine the content and condition of the site deposit.

The testing phase was initiated by establishing a grid across the site. The datum point was established in the woods at the north edge of the wildlife foodplot. A transit was used to set stakes in a north-south line down the hill to bank of the Current River. The transit was used to extend the grid system eastward from the original north-south datum line.

Shovel Tests

Archeological excavations at the site included 168 shovel tests. Each shovel test consisted of a round hole approximately 30 cm in diameter. Shovel tests were excavated to approximately 30 cm below surface. All soil matrix from the shovel tests was screened through 1/4-inch-mesh hardware cloth. Artifacts collected from individual shovel tests were collected and placed in specimen bags labeled with the grid coordinates of the shovel test from which they were derived.

Shovel tests were excavated at ten-meter intervals along eleven north-south transects and a single east-west transect. The location of the shovel tests is shown in Figure D1. Results from the shovel tests combined with examination of exposed surfaces along erosional gullies indicate that site 23SH230 extends from the bank of the Current River uphill 180 meters. The eastern edge of the site is marked by a major gully that separates the site from 23SH106, located at the campground amphitheater. The western edge of the site is less well defined. Artifacts have been observed in the current group campground, but examination of the group campground road failed to produce evidence that site 23SH230 extends that far to the west.

Shovel testing data indicates that cultural remains are concentrated on the lower half of the hillslope. Vegetation in this area generally consists of a mature hardwood forest. The shovel testing data indicate that higher artifact concentrations correspond with a deeper mantle of soil in this area of the site. Artifacts are limited to the upper 10 cm of soil in the cedar glade at the top of the hill, but extend to more than 30 cm in places near the base of the hill.

Test Units

Three one-meter-by-two-meter test units were excavated. All three of the test units were excavated in arbitrary 10-cm levels. Soil matrix from the test units was removed with hand shovels and trowels, and screened through 1/4-inch-mesh hardware cloth.

Two of the test units were placed in an area where artifacts are visible on the surface, and where shovel tests indicated that subsurface archeological deposits may be present. Test unit 190-192S/189-190E is located toward the southeast edge of the site. Test units 180-181S/185-187E is located about 10 meters northwest of 190-192S/189-190E. No evidence of a plow zone was identified, and artifacts extended to about 25 cm below surface. Excavation revealed a brown sandy loam extending to about 16 cm below surface, where a reddish-brown clay loam becomes visible. Test excavations indicate that the majority of artifacts are limited to the brown sandy loam, with only a few flakes extending into the reddish-brown clay loam. Artifacts from these units include biface and core fragments, and considerable lithic debris.

The third test unit was located immediately south of the former wildlife foodplot in an area of older-growth hardwood trees. Test Unit 136-137S/8-10E was excavated in the same manner as the other test units. The uppermost stratum was a relatively thick leaf litter that extends to about 8 cm below surface. Below this is a rich dark brown humic zone that extends

to 20 to 25 cm below surface. The lowermost stratum is a light brown loam. The test unit was excavated to 50 cm below surface. Artifacts are most numerous in the upper 30 cm, but extend to about 45 cm below surface. An archaic projectile point, bifaces, core fragments, and considerable lithic debris were collected.

Although only three test units were excavated, they provide good evidence that intact subsurface archeological deposits are present. Largely due to the limited nature of the testing campaign, no subsurface features were identified. However, the relatively dense concentrations of artifacts that were observed during field investigations suggest that pits and hearths from short-term camps may be present. Despite the paucity of temporally diagnostic artifacts, the limited number of projectile points found at the site suggest the occupation occurred largely during the Archaic stage.

Artifact Descriptions

Although it is visually obvious that agricultural activities have affected the landscape on which this site is located, very little archeological evidence of historic activity was encountered. Wire nails, amber bottle glass, and clear flat glass were collected from shovel tests along the southern margin of the site near the location of a former vacation cabin. A single shot-gun shell was collected near the center of the site.

Prehistoric artifacts, which included fire-cracked rock, lithic debris, cores, hematite, bifaces, unifaces and a hammerstone, were collected over the entire site. These materials appear to be made of local raw materials. Burlington chert cobbles seem to be the source of both lithic debris and finished tools. The fire-cracked rock consists of sandstone, limestone, and cherts.

Cores and Cobbles

Seven cores and six tested cobbles were collected during the 1991 excavations. Six of the cores are fragments or simple, single-platform forms. The seventh core is a small multi-platform specimen. The tested cobbles are local stream cobbles that range in size from slightly larger than a golf ball to about the size of a softball. Four cores and one tested cobble were collected from test unit 180-181S/185-187E, and two cores were collected from 136-137S/8-10E. The remaining core and tested cobbles were collected from shovel tests.

Lithic Debris

Lithic debris is composed of flakes, proximal flakes and nondiagnostic shatter, which are the by-products of stone tool manufacture, repair, and maintenance. Lithic debris is the most common artifact class at site 23SH230, and is found across the entire extent of the site. Flakes and proximal flakes (n=952) are dominated by interior and secondary elements. Observation of platform preparation indicated that faceted platforms are present in significant frequencies. These observations, combined with an average flake length of only 1.5 cm suggest that lithic reduction

activities tended to be focused on the later stages of tool manufacture and maintenance. Observation of raw material indicated that all of the lithic debris was produced from locally available cherts. The provenience of the lithic debris is presented in Table D1.

Bifaces

Bifacially chipped objects are the most common type of stone tools found at 23SH230. Forty bifaces were collected from test units and shovel tests. Most of the bifaces are fragments, making it difficult to classify them into a precise stage in the reduction sequence. Visual examination of these pieces indicates that the full reduction sequence is represented in the collection. However, rough and thick bifaces from the middle of the reduction sequence are considerably more common than thin, preform type bifaces. Twenty of the bifaces were collected from shovel tests, with the remainder being collected from test excavations. The provenience of these specimens is presented in Table D1.

Projectile Points

Only six projectile points were collected during the 1991 excavations. Five of these are large, stemmed or corner-notched forms that are characteristic of the Archaic stage. The sixth specimen is a basal fragment that cannot be classified.

A Jakie point made from white chert was collected during shovel testing. The tip of the point is missing and may represent an impact fracture. The piece has a pink tint that may indicate the point was subjected to heat treating in manufacture.

Two large corner-notched projectile point fragments were collected. One was collected from the southeast edge of the site, and the other was collected from 136-137S/8-10E. Both are made from local chert. The fragmentary nature of these points makes it difficult to attribute them to a particular temporal stage, because they resemble both Woodland and Archaic stage forms.

A square-stemmed projectile point with a slightly expanding base was collected from 180-181S/185-187E. The piece is made from local chert, and may represent a Hardin point that has been resharpened.

A large, crude projectile point fragment was collected from 136-137S/8-10E. It has a small square-stem that expands slightly. The tip of the blade is missing, perhaps from an impact fracture. Point forms like this are frequently found in Late Archaic contexts in the Eastern Ozarks.

Unifaces

Unifacially chipped stone tools are comprised of two scrapers, a graver, and 31 retouched pieces. The scrapers include a flake with steep retouch on one lateral margin and an end scraper.

The graver is a flake that has been chipped to form a beaked working tip. The retouched pieces include flakes and pieces of non-diagnostic shatter that are unifacially chipped on dorsal or ventral surfaces. The provenience of these pieces are presented in Table D1.

Hematite

Ten pieces of hematite were collected during the 1991 excavations. These pieces are generally small, ranging from the size of a pea to slightly larger than a marble. None of these have been heavily modified, but it is likely that these pieces were brought to the site by humans. Seven of the hematite pieces were collected from shovel tests and three were from test unit 136-137S/8-10E. The presence of hematite on this site is noteworthy, because hematite is not common on sites in the Akers Ferry area.

Hammerstone

A single hammerstone was collected during shovel testing. The specimen is a river cobble that was battered on one end. It probably represents a local cobble that was used to hammer something and then discarded. There is no evidence that the shape of the cobble was modified.

Fire-Cracked Rock

Compared to other sites in the upper Current River valley, very little fire-cracked rock was collected from 23SH230. A total of eight pieces of fire-cracked rock were collected from the three test units. Six pieces of fire-cracked rock were collected from shovel tests. Fire-cracked rock is abundant at the nearby Akers Ferry site, 23SH23 (Lynott 1989). Since the Akers Ferry site is clearly a base camp-type settlement, the low relative density of fire-cracked rock at 23SH230 is probably a function of short-term prehistoric occupations at that site. It is likely that hearths were small and informally constructed, and consequently left little fire-cracked rock.

Discussion of the Artifact Assemblage

The 1991 investigations at 23SH230 produced only a limited number of temporally diagnostic artifacts. These are predominantly projectile points, which are similar to forms that have been associated with the Archaic state in other areas of Ozark plateau. It is possible that the corner-notched projectile points may represent a Woodland occupation, but the absence of ceramics would seem to indicate that the site was occupied primarily during the Archaic state.

Lithic debris is the most abundant artifact class collected at 23SH230. The rocky hillside on which the site is located may have been the source for some of the chert cobbles used to produce the lithic debris, but the Current River channel with its abundant river cobbles is also nearby. However, despite the close proximity of lithic raw material, evidence for primary lithic procurement is limited. Only 3.6 percent of the flakes exhibit 50 percent or more cortex on their dorsal surface, and only seven cores were collected during the 1991 investigations. Overall, it

would appear that the middle stages of biface reduction and tool manufacture produced the majority of lithic debris at 23SH230.

Most of the stone tools collected at 23SH230 are biface fragments. As noted above, these appear to be primarily from the middle stages of biface reduction. Rough forms from the initial stage, and preforms for the final stage of biface reduction are rare.

Unifacial stone tools are dominated by retouched pieces. These are flakes or pieces of nondiagnostic shatter that have received limited marginal retouch. The other unifacial stone tools include two scrapers and a graver. These tool forms are most often associated with either Early and Middle Archaic, or the Emergent Mississippian lithic assemblages in the Eastern Ozarks. Since no evidence of Emergent Mississippian occupation has been collected from this site, it is likely that this is further evidence for Archaic occupation.

The overall character of the artifact assemblage, combined with the nature and location of site 23SH230, seems to indicate a series of temporary occupations. While it is possible that the site served as a base camp at some time during the Archaic stage, current evidence points to a series of temporary camps. This is further supported by a comparison to 23SH23, the Akers Ferry site. These sites are only separated by slightly more than 300 meters. The Akers Ferry site is located on a flat T-2 landform at the confluence of Gladden Creek and the Current River, while 23SH230 is on a gently sloping hillside. Testing at 23SH23 has yielded evidence of features and intensive occupation debris across most of the site. At 23SH230, dense concentrations of occupation debris occur as small pockets within the larger site scatter.

Recommendations

The 1991 investigations produced evidence that intact, subsurface archeological deposits are present at 23SH230. The site appears to have been occupied during the Archaic stage, and has the potential to yield important evidence about Archaic-stage lifeways in the Upper Current River valley. It is likely that this site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

As noted earlier, the 1991 investigations showed that evidence of Archaic occupation is not distributed evenly across the site. The most significant archeological deposits are located in the hardwood forest area in the southern half of the site. This area has a relatively deep soil mantle, and there is a good likelihood that subsurface features are present. Further, there is little evidence that this area has been heavily disturbed by historic agriculture or timbering practices. Consequently, if possible, campground designers should attempt to avoid the southern half of 23SH230 and focus campsite development in the cedar glade area in the northern half of the site. If this is not possible, then data recovery excavations should be conducted in advance of construction.

REFERENCES CITED

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Table D1. Prehistoric artifacts collected from test units, 23SH230.

Unit and Level	Flakes	NDS	FCR	Cores	Biface	Unifaces
136-137S/8-10E						
0-10 cm	57	11	0	0	3	1
10-20 cm	95	177	1	1	6	1
20-30 cm	56	125	2	0	3	2
30-40 cm	21	35	0	0	0	0
40-50 cm	0	4	0	1	0	0
180-181S/185-187E						
0-10 cm	119	145	4	3	8	0
10-20 cm	64	86	0	1	3	0
190-192S/189-190E						
0-10 cm	46	59	1	0	4	1
10-20 cm	55	60	0	0	0	0
Shovel Tests	413	724	9	1	22	24
Totals	952	1436	17	7	48	29

Abbreviations used in column headings: NDS = Non-diagnostic shatter; FCR = Fire-cracked rock