NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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3 CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICT	Xpublic	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
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6 REPRESENT	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
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	l Investigation at t	he Vaughn Site (33	CU65): J.M. Zales	kv
DATE		Xeepena	TATE COUNTY	
1986		TOLEDEHAL T.	TATECOUNTYLOCAL	·
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS 1	Midwest Archeologica	1 Center		
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Ī	Lincoln		Nebraska	68508

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Summary

The Vaughn site, 33CU65, is a multicomponent prehistoric located archeological site in Cuyahoga County. The site is within the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation area and

This multicomponent Late Woodland site was evaluated in 1984 through archaeological research for a proposed sewage leachfield construction area. When the archeological significance of the site became known, the septic system was designed and relocated. Subsurface testing exposed ten distinct prehistoric features and an extensive midden deposit. extensive disturbance from modern day land use practices, remaining portion of the site exhibits considerable contextural integrity. Location of the site

for educating the public in cultural resource preservation and appreciation.

Resource Count

There is one contributing resource which Contributing Resources: is a multicomponent prehistoric site.

Noncontributing Resources: There noncontributing are two resources which include two structures;

Environmental Description

National Cuvahoga Valley Recreation characterized by a rolling to rough topography, which borders the Cuyahoga River, and which is frequently cut by steep ravines. The area is situated on the western edge of the glaciated Appalachian Plateau, a physiographic province with broad northsouth trending, buried Paleozoic river valleys filled by glacial deposits (Brose 1976:25) in the Paleozoic bedrock. The plateau consists of sandstone and shale bedrock overlain with varying depths of glacial sediments. The present channel of the Cuyahoga River is the result of downcutting through the Wabash end moraine (the final one in the region) which subsequently allowed the Cuyahoga to flow northward into Lake Erie. There is considerable variation in valley morphology within short segments of the

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
XPREHISTORIC	XARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	XSCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIEV)
		_INVENTION		

A.D. 1090-A.D. 1730

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Statement

The Vaughn Site, 33CU65, is a significant prehistoric multicomponent site which contains primarily Late Woodland There is, however, some evidence (several projectile components. points) to indicate a possible Archaic component at the site. One of only a few Late Woodland sites located on the floodplain, the Vaughn site can provide needed data for proposed research designs dealing with subsistence, settlement, and site structure. Of particular significance is the

interpretation of local prehistory and appreciation of cultural resources in general.

Cultural resources can be evaluated for several types significance under criterion D of the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. It is felt that the Vaughn Site can contribute in the areas of scientific and public significance.

Specific Dates

The presence of datable materials at 33CU65 provides placement of the site and its material culture into a larger chronological framework already developed for the region (Brose 1978, 1980). Three radiocarbon dates and two thermoluminescence dates were obtained from the The radiocarbon dates are given as raw dates and as dates adjusted to 95% confidence level and calibrated with dendrochronological data (Klein et al. 1982). TLM dates are given accompanied by a calendrical range adjusted to a 95% confidence level. From these dates the site appears to have had two main occupations. earliest occupation is represented by two radiocarbon dates: +/-50 B.P. (Beta 8957) with an adjusted calendrical range of A.D. 1345, and 410 + /-50 B.P. (Beta 8958) with a date 1235 to A.D. range of A.D. 1405 to A.D. 1605. Dated materials from the later occupation gave the following dates: 190+/-60 B.P. (Beta 8956) with a date range from 1620 to present, and a TLM age of 280+/-30 B.P. (Alpha 959) with an adjusted calendrical range of A.D. 1610 to A.D. 1730. One dated sherd from Feature 4 had some overlap. an age of 680+/-90 B.P. (Alpha 960) with an adjusted calendrical range of A.D. 1090 to A.D. 1450 (Zalesky 1986).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

GEOGRAPHICAL I	DATA			,
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

stream system in this area due to a pattern of intersecting headwaters of multiple stream systems. This, combined with microenvironmental factors of slope aspect, precipitation and altitude resulted in significant variation within localized areas. Highly mosaic ecosystems were created in this portion of the Lake Erie drainage basin which would have provided a wide range of options regarding resource exploitation to prehistoric populations (Brose 1980:4-5).

Vegetation during the period of site occupation can be divided into three basic forest communities within a broader classification of a mixed mesophytic forest (Shelford 1963; Braun 1950). The forest in the highlands to the west of the Cuyahoga valley was composed of Oak-Hickory-Chestnut communities. The greater portion of the eastern highlands and the lower slopes consisted of the Beech-Sugar Maple climax forest. The typical bottomland forest would have been Elm-Ash communities with willows and cottonwoods in the wetter locations. Relic communities of hemlock and pines existed along the cool damp ravines of small streams (Williams 1949).

The park area has had a fairly uniform climate since 1200 A.D. (Gordon 1969:35). The climate would have been generally favorable for prehistoric agriculture with adequate precipitation and frost free days to support maize cultivation as well as native cultigens (Zalesky 1986).

Soils in the area are derived from a variety of sources. The valley floor is composed of reworked stream sediments, loams, and sandy silt loams which are among the more productive agricultural lands in northeast Ohio. These are deep soils formed in alluvium on floodplains and in stratified deposits on low stream terraces. The terrace containing the Vaughn Site is mapped as Tioga Varient loam and Udorthents, loamy (Musgrave and Holloran 1980: Sheet 57).

It is possible from early pioneer journals and autobiographies to enumerate those terrestrial species common within the region where

(Brose et al. 1981; Cleland 1966). These two sources indicate that white tailed deer was probably the most common large mammal. The presence of elk, black bear, rabbit, opossum, beaver, raccoon, and muskrat is also demonstrated. Avian fauna such as wild turkey, bobwhite quail, mallard, and black duck were exploited; as well as several species of fish including fresh water gar, pike, shad, lake sturgeon, catfish, bass, and drum (Zalesky 1986).

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2

Physical Description

The Vaughn Site is located

It has had a varied land use history. At one time a farm with a house and barn was need located on the site. The buildings have been removed. The scope of farming activities is unclear but areas in the were probably cultivated. The terrace surface has been altered by soil stripping activities over its entire surface with the greatest disturbance in the areas

Boundary Justification

The Vaughn site extends

Recordation

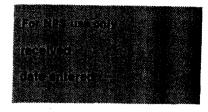
The Vaughn Site (33CU65) has long been known to local amateur archeologists who collected the lowland fields to the.

The removal of a number of prehistoric burials exposed by soil stripping operations (circa 1957 or 1958)

(Figure 1) has been reported (Jesensky 1983). Oral history attributes the burials to the Archaic Glacial Kame culture. However, materials reportedly associated with the burials: pottery pipes, triangular projectile points, grit and shell tempered pottery fragments, a bone comb, charred corn and a copper effigy piece (Jesensky 1983), cast considerable doubt on the Archaic assignment. There is some indication that archeologists from the

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

University of Illinois participated in salvage work at the site. This was suggested by the inscription "Univ. of Ill." found on a photograph taken during the soil stripping operations which exposed the numerous burials. However, a search at the Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois, has failed to uncover any evidence for such work (Charles Bareis, person communication 1984).

The Vaughn site was visited in 1979-1980 by staff from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The site was recorded as being located

(Stephanie Belovich, personal communication 1984). Lithic tools including scrapers, a drill, and triangular projectile points along with prehistoric ceramics and faunal remains were recovered from controlled surface collection and limited shovel testing at the site. Based upon recovered materials, the site was assigned to the Late Woodland period.

The Vaughn site is located

This land form was chosen as the proposed location of a sewage leach field for the sewer system of the new Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area administrative complex. The construction entailed the burial of the distribution system approximately 4 feet deep

The presence of a known archeological site (33CU65) in the immediate vicinity, and the reports of buried archeological where construction was intended, indicated the need for archeological test excavations in the leach field Construction of the leach field would entail ground disturbance at considerable depth below the present surface. was felt that traditional archeological surface survey and shovel testing procedures would not be sufficient to determine potential impacts to archeological resources. Test excavation units were placed directly within the proposed sewer line route. Objectives of the project were to identify and evaluate cultural deposits, determine the significance of the entire remnant terrace area, and increase the data base pertaining to Late Prehistoric settlement patterns in the park. Park officials were also interested in obtaining interpretive data because of the close proximity of the site to park headquarters.

Testing at the Vaughn Site (33CU65) was carried out between October 30 and November 4, 1983, by the staff of the National Park Services's Midwest Archeological Center. Work was begun by placing four (1 x 2m) excavation units at or below the shoulder of the landform. The excavations indicated that a portion of the area had been greatly disturbed but that intact prehistoric deposits

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 4

were present (Figure 3). Results from the initial excavation units revealed that some of the fill was composed of large stones and concrete slabs plus densely packed clay and gravel subsoil. Traditional archeological investigative techniques were not adequate to thoroughly evaluate a site buried by such a fill. This fact, coupled with project time constraints, the potential for archeological remains at considerable depth, and the proposed extent of construction-related ground disturbance; led to a change in field methods. A backhoe was utilized to dig three profile trenches across the arcs of the proposed septic lines (Figure 3). Each trench was approximately 1 meter wide and varied between 0.8 and 1.5 m deep. Several prehistoric features were exposed and a clear picture of site stratigraphy was gained.

The terrace surface has been altered by soil stripping activities, in which topsoil, sand, and pea gravel were removed. This was done over its entire surface with the greatest disturbance in the areas between the previous residence and the railroad tracks and in the area east of the barn. In order to refine the areal extent of the soil stripping activities and the remaining portion of the prehistoric deposit, interval shovel testing was performed over the entire terrace (Figure 4). Shovel test units measured ca 0.3 x 0.3 m and were excavated down to sterile subsoil. Of primary consideration during this portion of the investigation was the presence or absence of an intact soil horizon.

Features

Profiles in backhoe trenches A and B revealed at least nine prehistoric features and a concentration of firecracked rock dug down into the sandy subsoil below the midden deposit (Zalesky. 1984). Feature 1 was uncovered in backhoe trench A and was completely exposed and excavated. Two 1 x 1 m units were placed over the feature and excavated in both natural and arbitrary levels as determined by the structural properties of the feature. The profile of the feature formed a pit with straight sides and with a flat to slightly concave bottom. The pit measured approximately 95 x 94 cm and was 85 cm deep (Figure 5). Contents of the pit included a black loam fill, lithic debris, tools, floral and faunal elements, fire cracked rock, and ceramic vessel fragments. Feature 1B was exposed approximately 10 east of Feature 1 and measured approximately 90 x 50 cm. appeared to be similar in outline to Feature 1. Firecracked rock, and lithic and ceramic artifacts were recovered from the

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7 PAGE 5

immediate area above Feature 1B but no excavation was done in the feature once its outline had been determined.

Feature 2 was exposed in backhoe trench B. The general outline, taken from the north wall, is of a straight sided pit. The pit measures 48 x 40 cm horizontally and is 40 cm deep. It appeared circular in form and the contents included some badly decomposed faunal material, charcoal, and some ceramic vessel fragments exposed during wall cleanup.

Feature 3 was also exposed in the north wall of backhoe trench B. It is a deep basin-shaped pit approximately 85 cm across and 40 cm deep. The feature fill is a dark brown to black loam similar to other features at the site. Other than charcoal flecks, little was noted in the fill.

Feature 4 is located in backhoe trench B approximately 40 cm west of Feature 3. It appears to be a straight sided pit similar to Feature 2. Its dimensions measure 36 cm horizontally and 38 cm vertically below the apparent orifice. Several ceramic body sherds, large amounts of charcoal and bone, some burned earth and a triangular projectile point were found in the feature fill while scraping the wall profile. The fill in the feature is similar to the very dark brown loam found in other features. A thermoluminescence sample was collected. On the floor of the backhoe trench adjacent to the feature was the outline of a circular feature. Its relationship to Feature 4 is unclear due to a rather diffuse area in the corner of the trench where the two pit outlines are tangent to each other.

Features 5 and 5B were located approximately 75 cm west of Feature 4. Feature 5 is a small basin-like feature exposed in the west face of a soil balk left by the backhoe. It measured 28 cm across and 9 cm deep and was composed of lenses of light gray ashy material and charcoal with some red to red/brown burned earth areas. Feature 5B is clearly visible in plan view on the floor of the backhoe trench immediately west of the soil balk. The feature appears semicircular in plan view covering the entire width (58 cm) of the backhoe trench and extending westward (ca. 20 cm) from beneath the balk. Based on the stratigraphic profile, Feature 5 post dates Feature 5B and is probably a small hearth that was dug down into the lower portion of the midden that caps Feature 5B. It also predates the upper portion of the midden that remains in this portion of the site. Feature 5B is probably a storage feature similar to the other features previously described.

Feature 6 was exposed in backhoe trench A and consists of a large, somewhat scattered, concentration of firecracked rock and

April 10 10 100

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

POR MPS USE ONLY	
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DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 6

For purposes of field mapping some charcoal. concentrations were identified as areas 6A, 6B, and 6C. feature lies ca 4 m south of Feature 1 and was exposed approximately 5.8 m along the east wall of backhoe trench A. Area 6A was the most distinct of the three shallow pits with the highest amount of firecracked rock present. It measured ca. 1.2 m across and 40 cm deep to the bottom of the trench. slightly more basin shaped and measured 90 cm across and cm deep to the bottom of the trench. This portion of the feature was also present in the west wall of the backhoe trench. Area 6C was the largest of the concentrations, measuring ca. 2.7 m along the east wall and 30 cm from its apparent orifice to the floor of A portion of this area also extended to the west the trench. wall of the backhoe trench. The features were capped by a layer 12-16 cm thick) of midden overlain by two strata of mixed (ca. The concentrations and midden disturbed soils. approximately 40-45 cm below the present gravel parking lot surface.

Feature 7 was also exposed in backhoe trench A and lies approximately 0.5 m south of Area 6C. The feature outline indicates a fairly large pit with a flat bottom. It measured ca. 1.6 m across and 30 cm in depth. The feature fill is difficult to distinguish from the overlying midden, resembling Feature 1 in this respect. The feature extends to the west and could be observed in the west wall of the backhoe trench. Some firecracked rock was evident in the west wall portion of the feature.

Feature 8 was exposed along the west wall of backhoe trench A. It lies midway between areas 6A and 6B on the opposite side of the trench. The feature is considerably smaller than the other features recorded at 33CU65 measuring 28 cm horizontally and 22 cm deep. The fill is similar to the general midden deposit, a dark brown/black loam, but has a slightly greater concentration of charcoal.

Feature 9 was also exposed in the west wall of backhoe trench A approximately 1 m south of Feature 1. The feature had a very distinct dark boundary, was vertical in profile, and contained fill composed of clay, gravel, sand and dark brown loam. Closer examination revealed it to be historic in nature, most likely a rotten post that clearly crosscuts all but the uppermost portion of the disturbed soil zone.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 7

7

Material Culture

A small sample of historic items was recovered during excavation. The sample is composed of a wide range of categories including architectural (nails, brick, wood, window glass, plaster), hardware (screws, nuts, bolts, wire), domestic (dishware, fruit jars, crock fragments, bottle glass), personal (penny, clay pipe stem), transportation (car part), tools (drill bit), and miscellaneous items (Zalesky 1986). It is surmised from previous land use practices in the region (NPS 1976:13) that the majority of the historic assemblage was deposited at the site in the form of land fill materials. For this reason and the fact that the context of recovery was highly disturbed, no analysis except tabulation of the materials and their provenience was undertaken.

Excavation of the prehistoric component at 33CU65 yielded a total of 447 faunal elements all of which, with the exception of a single fish scale, are mammal. The majority of the material recovered is from a single prehistoric storage pit (Feature 1). In general terms, occupants of the site were utilizing both the woodland resources (deer) and riverine resources (deer, fish, and possibly muskrat). The presence of a deer antler fragment suggests that the animal was taken between late summer and late winter.

Floral materials at 33CU65 total 96 grams of macrobotanical remains and wood charcoal samples. Elements of the morning glory family, wild bean, and maize are present in the feature fill (Voight 1984). The presence of 31 kernels and 10 cupules of maize indicates that horticulture was being practiced at the site. Carbonized hickory nut remains provide evidence for fall/winter exploitation of nut resources by site inhabitants.

Lithic debris consists of 225 flakes, 320 pieces of nondiagnostic shatter, and a single core fragment. The low amount of cortical elements and cortical platforms is some indication that initial procurement and core reduction activities were not very prevalent at 33CU65. In contrast, the high proportion of interior and secondary elements and the relative abundance of facetted and bifacial thinning elements indicates that the later stages of core reduction, biface reduction, tool finishing, and tool sharpening were a common occurrence at the Vaughn Site.

The chipped stone assemblage consists of six projectile points, seven biface fragments, and five retouched/utilized pieces. Four of the six projectile points are the plain triangular form normally associated with Late Prehistoric, Late

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 8

Woodland sites in eastern North America. Two of the points appear similar to the Madison type and two more closely resemble the Levanna type. The distinction made between the two is that the Levanna point is considered earlier and is larger and more equilateral with a concave or straight base while the Madison point is smaller in size and has an isoceles shape (Ritchie 1965:275-276). The other two projectile points have straight to slightly contracting stem forms, suggestive of an Archaic time period.

Seven biface fragments, and five retouched or utilized pieces of chert debitage were recovered from 33CU65. All retouched fragments show unifacial retouch along one or more margins. A single pecked stone tool was recovered. It is a brown fine grained sandstone river cobble that shows deep pock marked areas on both top and bottom surfaces and some shallow pock marked areas on two opposing sides. It is presumed that the tool functioned as an anvil and/or hammerstone.

The ceramic sample collected at the Vaughn Site consists of fragments of prehistoric pottery of which 13 are rim The assemblage represents at least 18 different fragments. Temper consists of a range of treatments involving the vessels. use of shell, grit, or a mixture of the two. Grit tempering varies from medium sized grains to very large coarse grains. Rim vary from slightly incurving, to straight, outflaring. Most of the lips are flattened with some sort of tool impressed decoration. The interior and exterior surfaces of the vessels range from smoothed to cordmarked treatments. Other forms of decoration occasionally found on the lip or body of the trailing, incising, dentate stamping, sherds are: Exterior and interior coloration varies with punctation. different vessels. Tones of brown, gray, yellow brown, buff,. reddish brown, grayish brown, and black are present.

Area Excavated

The area of 33CU65 is approximately .86 acres. A total of approximately 106 square meters was excavated. This amounts to approximately 2.6% of the site area.

Disturbances

Soil stripping activities have removed a large amount of the upper levels of the site. As much as 9.5 feet (3 meters) of soil have been removed from the eastern area (Figure 1), including a

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7 PAGE 9

number of prehistoric burials, during soil stripping operations ca. 1957-1958 (Jesensky 1983). Portions of the site have been completely destroyed by removal of topsoil down to layers of sand and pea gravel which were then quarried. Other portions have been truncated through partial removal of the soil horizon (midden layer). On the knoll where the barn had been, soil was removed to a depth of approximately nine feet. Upper levels of the midden also were removed from other portions of the site. Finally, large amounts of fill (soil, debris, gravel, etc.) were added, and the terrace area was graded. Even though a considerable amount of site area has been removed, some features and midden remain in primary context.

Data Limitations

Only a small portion of the site is still preserved, the other portions of the site having been destroyed by earth moving activity. The area of the site in the gravel parking lot and the locality where the barn once stood have had the upper most portions of the site removed. This would tend to result in a more restricted data base for later (upper) occupations as opposed to earlier (lower) occupations.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

As a whole, ceramic styles and types are associated with the Fairport Phase of the Whittlesey Focus which has a date range of A.D. 1150 to A.D. 1350 (Brose 1980; Brose et.al. 1981). The shell tempered ceramics are from the later phases.

Research Topics and Related Data Categories

Research potential for further study of this site depends on the integrity of the remaining site deposits. Even though there have been radical disturbances from farming, soil stripping, quarrying, land fill, and removal of structures, the Vaughn Site contains many features and an extensive midden deposit in primary context. While a relatively large portion of the site has been removed or altered, the remaining deposits are sealed under fill, and are undisturbed.

Scientific significance deals with the research potential of a particular site and is most easily evaluated against a research design. Brose has developed a research design, in conjunction with extensive work done in the region (Brose 1973, 1978, 1980), to evaluate the archeological resources of the park (Brose et al. 1981). Research areas in which the Vaughn Site can contribute data include subsistence, site structure, settlement patterns, prehistoric chronology, and environmental reconstruction.

- Subsistence patterns and environmental reconstruction. faunal and floral remains were recovered from the single feature These data classes allow a reconstruction of subsistence habits of Late Woodland groups. They also allow the reconstruction of environmental conditions, that influenced and floral populations. faunal Questions concerning seasonality of procurement and settlement can also be answered with this class of data. Relatively few known sites within CUVA preserve these types of ecofacts. The presence of undisturbed subsurface features at 33CU65 greatly enhances this research potential.
- 2. Settlement patterns. The Vaughn Site also contains information for developing a greater understanding of the placement of floodplain localities in the settlement system of Late Woodland groups. Previous research, working under an assumption that extensive modification of large areas of the floodplain had taken place,

Very few intact floodplain sites remain today and while 33CU65 has been greatly modified, the portion

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

remaining is reasonably intact and affords the opportunity to study a very poorly understood portion of the Whittlesey settlement system. As presently understood, horticulture on the Cuyahoga floodplain made up a considerable portion of the Late Whittlesey subsistence system. This makes the few remaining floodplain sites like Vaughn a significant resource in an attempt to understand the role of horticultural/floodplain sites in the subsistence system.

- 3. Prehistoric chronology. The prehistoric components at this site have yielded datable material for radiocarbon and TLM dating. Dating has been done at this site using both of these techniques, and suitable material is present at the site for additional dates. This site is therefore a resource for dating a portion of the local cultural sequence.
- 4. Public education. The location of the Vaughn Site provides an excellent opportunity for public education and awareness of cultural heritage. The Cuyahoga River Valley has a long and varied prehistoric heritage.

would encourage visitation at the site and promote public awareness of the type of archeological resources present in the CUVA.

would also facilitate patrol and protection of the site; as well as provide an excellent opportunity for interpretation by park staff. Its central location on the floodplain would also facilitate a panoramic view that could encompass views of both lowland and bluff top sites and give the visitor a sense of the settlement systems known for prehistoric populations.

Additional Significance

The Vaughn Site provides a unique opportunity for demonstrating the value of disturbed sites to the public. There is a tendency to dismiss partially destroyed sites as having little or no potential for yielding significant archeological information. This encourages an attitude among collectors, park visitors, and interested members of the public that since a site has been disturbed, no further harm can be done by more excavation or collecting. Even with part of the site removed, however, there may still be important intact deposits. This is the case at the Vaughn Site, where the site retains substantial integrity with intact subsurface features, hearths, and a midden

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8 PAGE 3

deposit. The situation here is ideal for making the public aware of National Park Service goals for preserving cultural resources and for understanding how these goals are actually attained. This site demonstrates how successful mediation with park officials can reduce impact from construction and other types of land use on archeological sites. In the case of the Vaughn Site, the proposed leachfield was redesigned and located off the site when the significance of the site became known. It is also beneficial to be able to inform the public of the necessity of protecting and preserving the diminishing number of natural and cultural resources in a constantly expanding industrial society.



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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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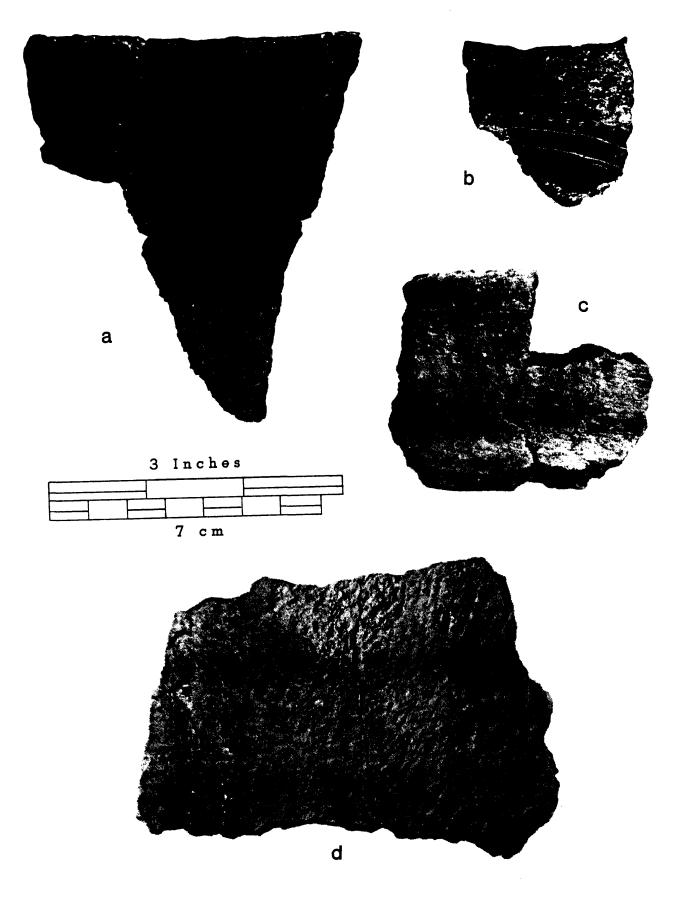
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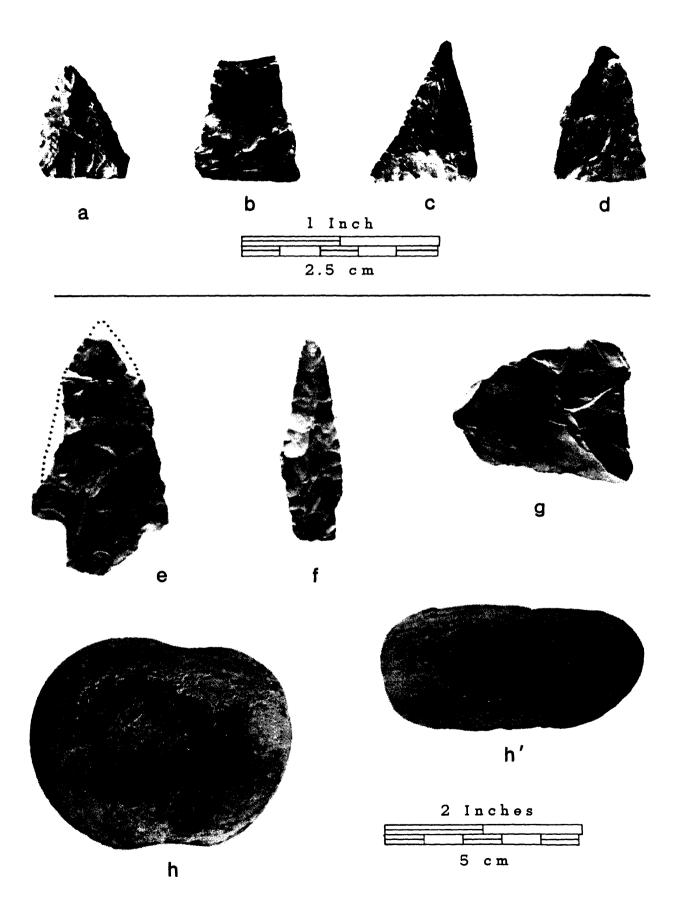
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Prehistoric ceramic vessels from 33CU65. (From Zalesky 1986:66 Figure 26)



Lithic artifacts from 33CU65. (From Zalesky 1986:58 Figure 23)