NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

SEP 1 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Akers Ferry Archeological District
other names/site number 23SH21, 23SH22, 23SH23, 23SH65, 23SH106

2. Location

street & number [redacted] [x] not for publication
city, town Ozark National Scenic Riverways [x] vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Shannon code 203 zip code 654466

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
[ ] private	[ ] building(s)		2 buildings
[ ] public-local	[x] district	5	9 sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site		9 structures
[x] public-Federal	[ ] structure		objects
	[ ] object	5	12 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [✓] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [✓] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official — Date 8/30/90

Acting Chief, Historic Resources, National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date 29 June 1990

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[✓] entered in the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet. — John J. Knoerl — 10/25/90
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC--habitation/camp/village site (prehistoric)
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING--~~tool manufacture~~ processing site (prehistoric)
FUNERARY--~~burial sites~~ graves/burials

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION--~~Campground~~ Outdoor recreation
TRANSPORTATION--~~Ferry crossing~~ Water related

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls
roof
other

N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

The Akers Ferry Archeological District is composed of five prehistoric archeological sites [redacted] Shannon County, Missouri (See Figure 1). Two of the sites (23SH21 and 23SH65) are prehistoric mortuary cairns and the remaining three (23SH23, 23SH22, and 23SH106) are prehistoric habitation sites. The sites in the Akers Ferry Archeological District provide evidence of continued occupation from the Early Archaic Dalton Period throughout the Archaic, Woodland, and Emergent Mississippian Periods. While some sites have been partially disturbed , overall site integrity is excellent and deeply stratified deposits and subsurface features are present. Multiple cultural components at these sites represent a variety of site functions and a distinctive pattern of culture change in the lifeways of prehistoric inhabitants of the Eastern Ozark riverways.

Resource Count

Contributing Resources: There are 5 contributing resources: archeological sites 23SH21 [redacted], 23SH22 (the [redacted], 23SH23 [redacted], 23SH65 [redacted], and 23SH106 [redacted]

Noncontributing Resources: There are 12 noncontributing resources: [redacted]

[x] See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☒ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
ARCHEOLOGY--Prehistoric	8500 B.C. to 1300 A.D.	

Cultural Affiliation

Early Archaic (Dalton)
Archaic
Woodland
Emergent Mississippian

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

The sites in the Akers Ferry Archeological District have the potential to yield significant data, both individually and taken together as a district, to the theme of man's use of the Ozark region throughout the prehistoric past. It is significant that these distinctly different types of sites with different functions exist within this small area.

Specific Dates

The National Park Service archeological investigations at Akers Ferry have produced evidence which indicates that the Akers Ferry site (23SH23) contains a stratified record of past cultural activities covering the period from about 8500 B.C. to about A.D. 1250.

Dalton component dates

The earliest occupation of the Akers Ferry area appears to be linked to the Dalton culture. Based upon the distribution of radiocarbon dates from Dalton sites in the southeastern United States, Goodyear (1982) argues that the Dalton culture dates between 8500 B.C. and 7900 B.C. Chapman (1975) estimates the span of the Dalton culture in Missouri at 8000 B.C. to 7000 B.C., while Morse and Morse (1983) estimate the Dalton occupation of the Central Mississippi River Valley at 8500 B.C. to 7500 B.C. No samples suitable for dating the Dalton component at the Akers Ferry site have been recovered as yet, but it is apparent from other Dalton sites and the presence of a diagnostic artifact,

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chapman, Carl H.
1975 The Archaeology of Missouri, I. University of Missouri Press.

Goodyear, Albert C.
1974 The Brand Site: A Technofunctional Study of a Dalton site in Northeast Arkansas. Arkansas Archeological Survey Research Series, No. 7. Fayetteville.

[x] See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
- [ ] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [x] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository: Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 112.5 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	[redacted]		
B	[redacted]		
C	[redacted]		
D	[redacted]		

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description [redacted]

[ ] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification The limits of the district were determined by encompassing known, potentially significant prehistoric sites [redacted] The entire district area has been thoroughly surveyed on numerous occasions by the National Park Service archeologists from the Midwest Archeological Center and James E. Price and Cynthia R. Price of the University of Missouri, American Archaeology Division.

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathie Masters
organization Midwest Archeological Center date 8/13/90
street & number 100 Centennial Mall North telephone 402-437-5392
city or town Lincoln, Nebraska state Nebraska zip code 68508-3873

Environmental Description

This part of the eastern Ozarks is a land of rugged topography with clear streams flowing swiftly through deeply dissected valleys separated by steep and rocky interfluves or divides. Valleys are deep with narrow and continuous ridge systems. Springs are abundant in this part of the Current River Valley.

Present day vegetation consists of oak, hickory, and pine overstory with dogwood and various other small trees and shrubs as the understory. Of the fauna available for exploitation by early occupants, white tailed deer is the single most important resource. Others included raccoon, cottontail, swamp rabbit, squirrel, bear, possum and beaver, turkey, turtles, shellfish, and fish.

The climate of the eastern Ozarks is continental with hot summers and mild winters. Average daily high temperatures are approximately 85 degrees in the summer and 40 degrees in the winter (Sauer 1920). Annual precipitation is about 43-44 inches and falls mainly as rain in the spring and early summer. Fall is usually dry with sleet being common during the winter months. The area enjoys 190-200 frost-free days in an average year.

Soils within the Akers Archeological District range from silty loams, sands, and gravels on the terraces and floodplains to dark red clay and chert outcrops on slopes. Ridge tops are covered with large outcropping slabs and boulders of dolomite. Precipitous rocky bluffs also occur within the district. The stream terraces and more gentle slopes were cultivated in the historic past as were portions of the floodplain. Cultivation of these landforms ceased approximately 20 years ago and undeveloped areas have returned to weeds and thickets of hawthorn, locust and blackberry brambles, sumac, and buckbrush.

Physical Description

The Akers Ferry Archeological District is [redacted]

Cultural Chronology

Archaic

The Archaic period is generally divided into Early, Middle, and Late components. It was a time of climatic and environmental change in the Ozark region, resulting in a shift from big game hunting during the Paleo-Indian Period to a greater dependence on deer and other resources. Numerous and extensive sites on terraces, ridge slopes, and ridge tops reflect population expansion during the Archaic period. Evidence of major occupations and short term camps have been discovered in the region. Some of these short term camps probably represent resource processing or procurement stations.

Population density in [redacted] was relatively low at this time as band groups ranged over a fairly large area of the Eastern Ozarks following a system of seasonal movements, hunting and gathering available resources. The availability of resources probably determined the size of groups at any one time of the year. It has been suggested by some that bands most likely grouped together in larger base camps in protected areas during the winter and spring when deer tend to congregate in sheltered areas. Then, in the summer, when resources are more dispersed, groups separated into smaller units.

The Akers Ferry site was first occupied between 8500 B.C. and 7000 B.C. by people of the Early Archaic Dalton culture. Dalton points, adzes, and scrapers are associated with this culture. Human activities of Dalton people likely varied with individual occupations of the site. Consistently, people cooked

and tended fires, made or repaired stone tools, and processed plant and animal foods. Occupants of the site participated in exploitation of a diverse range of animal and plant resources. These activities and the pattern of occupation described above became established about 8000 B.C. and continued throughout the Archaic stage. Little is known about the Middle Archaic Period in the Ozarks (5,000 B.C. to 3,000 B.C.), but by the Late Archaic (3,000 B.C. to 500 B.C.) projectile point styles had changed, maize had been introduced, a refined ground stone tool industry had emerged, shellfish had been heavily exploited, and quartzite had been added to materials used for stone tools. Despite noticeable changes in Ozark climate and vegetation during the Middle and Late Archaic, there is evidence that the Akers Ferry site continued to be occupied for short periods of time.

Woodland

The Woodland Period (500 B.C. to A.D. 900) is marked by the appearance of pottery, and the use of cultigens such as maize, rock cairn burials, and a more diverse pattern of subsistence, including the use of the bow and arrow. Sand tempered Barnes complex and limestone tempered Meramec Springs Focus ceramics have been associated with the Woodland Period. Early to Middle Woodland occupations in the region are generally relatively dispersed and short term. Middens resulting from these occupations are usually thin and restricted to the plowzone.

Evidence of the Meramec Springs Focus has been found in rock shelters and in large open village sites next to streams. Villages appear to be more permanent than Archaic camps, but dwellings have not yet been identified. Plain or cordmarked ceramics and both small contracting stemmed, stemmed, and shallow side-notched projectile points and larger dart points are represented.

The first substantial occupation of the Akers Ferry site occurred during the Middle Woodland period. People attributed to the Meramec Springs complex were occupying the site by at least A.D. 500, and probably several hundred years earlier. The occupation of the site changed at this time to a permanent village. Upon death, villagers were buried in stone cairns on

[redacted] The village occupants were in communication with neighboring groups, but remained autonomous and independent. The economic pattern established in the Archaic stage continued, but villagers added gardening to their activities. Most horticultural crops at this time were probably native species, rather than tropical cultigens like maize. The Woodland occupants were not dependent upon horticulture for food, but used it to supplement native plant and animal foods. A Woodland midden is present at the site.

Emergent Mississippian

Early Mississippian-like complexes have been recognized in the Eastern Ozark Highlands and are regarded as Emergent Mississippian (Williams 1954). This substage was first radiocarbon dated at the Story Mount 1, Hoecake site (23MI8), Cairo Lowland, where a red filmed, recurved rim of shell tempered pottery was found directly associated with typical Woodland tradition log tomb burials dated at 730 A.D. (Williams 1954). Sites within the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, where Emergent Mississippian components have been documented, include: the Owls Bend site (23SH10), (Lynott et al. 1984), the Mouth of Rocky site (23SH141), (J. Price 1984), the Gooseneck site (23CT54), (Lynott 1982, 1989), the Culpepper site (23SH14/55) (J. Price 1985), the Shawnee Creek site (23SH11) (J. Price 1986), and the Round Spring site (23SH19) (J. Price 1986).

A wide distribution of Emergent Mississippian sites dating from 700 A.D. to 1000 A.D. in Southeast Missouri are marked by the strong presence of shell tempered Varney Red filmed pottery with inverted rims and lacking in decoration and appendages, small, stemmed, corner notched arrow points, evidence of horticulture, and the location of villages or hamlets on river terraces with special activity sites located near resources. Sedentary villages were occupied year round with hunting, gathering, and horticultural activities resulting in the accumulation of large midden areas of refuse material. Recovery of large jars probably indicate food storage of gathered plants or wild cultigens like little barley, goosefoot, sumpweed, or maygrass.

The appearance of shell tempered ceramics marks the beginning of the Emergent Mississippian stage at the Akers Ferry

site, but the nature of the prehistoric occupation of the area did not change much at all. The Akers Ferry site continued to serve as a small village, although it is likely that ridgetop burial cairns were no longer used for mortuary activities. Exploitation of native plants and animals continued to be the basis for subsistence practives, and gardening still played only a limited role in the subsistence program. Sometime after A.D. 1300, the Akers Ferry site was abandoned. This appears to be part of a major depopulation of [redacted]

Recordation

All sites within the district have been known to collectors of prehistoric artifacts for many years. At various times in the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s the sites were reported to the Archaeological Survey of Missouri which assigned official numbers to them. Professional archeological investigations were carried out on habitation sites by archeologists from the National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center in 1975 (Nickel 1975), 1980 (Lynott 1980a, b, c), 1985 (C. Price 1985), and 1987 (Lynott n.d.). James E. Price and Cynthia R. Price of the University of Missouri American Archaeology Division mapped the Akers Cairns site, 23SH21 in August, 1986 (J. Price 1987).

Descriptions of each site and descriptions of archeological investigations on each site within the Akers Ferry Archeological District are presented below:

[redacted]

This site is [redacted] (Figures 1,2a, 2b, and 3). The site, consisting of five prehistoric stone burial cairns, is approximately [redacted]. Each cairn was constructed by piling locally outcropping dolomite and chert rocks into mounds for burial of the dead during the Middle and Late Woodland substages of the prehistoric past, circa A.D. 500-900. All five

of the cairns have been disturbed by vandals in the historic past. A hole penetrates the center of each cairn to the underlying subsoil, but is relatively small at the bottom.

In 1975, Robert K. Nickel of the National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, visited the site, made a sketch map of it, and reported general observations. At that time he recommended that a detailed map be made of the cairns. On August 19, 1986, James E. Price and Cynthia R. Price prepared such a map, employing an alidade and planetable (J. Price 1987). The map (Figure 3) reveals that the cairns lie in a straight line on the ridge crest, but that they are not evenly spaced. Two groups of two cairns each occur on the west end and central portion of the site respectively and a single cairn, Cairn 5, lies on the eastern end, constructed against a large naturally outcropping dolomite boulder. The following is a description of each cairn:

Cairn 1: This is the westernmost cairn. It measures approximately 6 meters in diameter and has the lowest volume of rocks in it compared to the other four cairns. It has been vandalized, but not as extensively as the others.

Cairn 2: This cairn measures approximately 9.5 meters in diameter and appears to have the largest volume of rocks in it compared to the other cairns. It has been vandalized.

Cairn 3: This cairn measures approximately 6.5 meters in diameter and has a large cedar tree at its southern margin. It has slightly less volume than Cairn 2. A large hole in its center reveals the original cairn substrate.

Cairn 4: This cairn measures approximately 7.5 meters in diameter. It has slightly more volume than Cairn 5. It has been vandalized but the disturbance is relatively smaller than that in most of the other cairns.

Cairn 5: This cairn is approximately 5.5 meters in diameter and was built against the western side of a large naturally outcropping dolomite boulder. It has been badly vandalized.

Although each of the cairns has been vandalized, such activities have probably not destroyed their archeological

integrity and data producing potential. Although the holes penetrate the cairns to the original ground surface it is likely that skeletal and cultural materials remain intact under the undisturbed portions of the cairns.

[redacted]

This site was initially reported by Richard Marshall in 1955. 23SH22 represents an extensive scatter of prehistoric cultural materials lying [redacted]

The site may include the area where the historic cemetery is located. In the past workers digging graves reported cultural material in their excavations. Material has also been reported eroding [redacted] in the vicinity of 23SH22.

The site is a multicomponent habitation locus with evidence of Archaic and Woodland occupations. Elevation of the site above mean sea level ranges [redacted] Clayey soil on the site contains an abundance of naturally occuring chert gravel. Most of the area within the bounds of the site is devoid of trees but is overgrown with grass, weeds, and small shrubs.

Area Excavated

There has been no formal excavation at 23SH22.

Disturbances

Disturbances to the site have been in the form of a historic farmstead that was once located there and subsequent development of the area [redacted]

Disturbances appear to have been minimal, however, and the site still maintains archeological integrity and potential to produce data significant to an understanding of prehistoric use of the region.

[redacted], 23SH23:

[redacted]

The area of the site is currently occupied [redacted] For many years prior to its acquisition by the National Park Service the site was an agricultural field. During that time the site yielded an abundance of prehistoric archeological materials to artifact collectors. These specimens indicate the site was extensively occupied from the Early Archaic substage through the Emergent Mississippian Substage.

Archeological investigations have been conducted on the site by professional archeologists on three occasions in the past (1975, 1980, and 1987).

1975 Investigations

In 1975 Robert K. Nickel of the National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska, monitored [redacted] (Nickel 1975). During this investigation a surface survey was conducted and one test unit was excavated. A number of projectile points, stone tools and a single ceramic were collected from construction spoil dirt. It was recommended that a systematic program of site testing be conducted to determine the nature and location of the archeological resources in this area. No further research was conducted at the site until 1979, when the site was revisited as part of a park-wide survey of development areas (Lynott 1981). At that time the presence of a buried midden stratum exposed in the road cut near the ferry crossing was noted. Testing to evaluate the condition and content of the archeological deposits near the ferry was conducted in 1980. In 1987 more extensive testing was conducted in an effort to evaluate the extent and condition of the archeological deposit across the entire T-2 landform.

1980 Investigations

In May and September of 1980, Dr. Mark Lynott and a field crew from the National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center conducted archeological test excavations (Lynott 1980a, b, c) to evaluate the extent, condition, content and potential significance of deposits at 23SH23. Investigations included 106 shovel tests excavated in ten transects throughout the campground area to define the limits of the site, determine the presence or absence of subsurface features and buried archeological deposits, and determine the depth of deposits (See figure 4). The extensive shovel tests of the site and its immediate environs indicated that the midden is limited to the terrace edge, but that a dense scatter of artifacts occurs throughout the extent of the site.

Eight 1 x 1 meter test units were excavated in the [redacted]. This area was selected because it was near the area where the midden was exposed [redacted]. The test units [redacted] generated an abundance of data about the development of the site and the cultural sequence for the region. Several of these were excavated to a depth exceeding 110 cm. below the surface and some were excavated to a depth of 130 cm. Similar stratigraphy was revealed in all of the test units.

Three distinct soil zones occurred in the site. The uppermost or plowzone, extended from the surface to a depth of approximately 28 cm. It produced an abundance of diagnostic cultural materials in the form of shell tempered and limestone tempered ceramics as well as small arrowpoints and a large quantity of debitage.

Lying immediately below the plowzone and measuring vertically 40 cm, a dark organic midden extends to a depth of approximately 75 to 95 cm. indicating intensive occupation. This zone yielded an abundance of both shell and limestone tempered ceramics and small arrowpoints. Apparently, the upper 40 cm. of the site resulted from intensive use of the site during the Late Woodland and Emergent Mississippi substages.

Below the midden and extending to a depth of 130 cm. the soil becomes progressively lighter in color and contains increasing quantities of clay. This zone represents occupation throughout the Archaic stage. At a depth of 1 meter an Early Archaic Dalton projectile point and a Middle Archaic Graham Cave side notched projectile point were discovered.

A single feature was encountered in test units 1 and 4. It consisted of a large sandstone grinding slab lying in a cobble-filled pit (See figure 6). The top of the slab was at a depth of 40 cm below surface and the bottom extended to 70 cm. There was no evidence of fire in the feature and its function remains unknown. It may have served as a storage facility for the grinding slab and cobbles until they were needed.

The midden yielded a quantity of charred ethnobotanical remains but faunal materials were poorly preserved. Ethnobotanical remains occurred in the Archaic zone below the midden but no bones were preserved.

Chronometric dates for the midden were obtained through thermoluminescence analysis of three pottery sherds recovered from that zone. A shell tempered Mississippian sherd yielded a TL date of A.D. 1200 +/-150 (Alpha 876). A limestone tempered Woodland sherd yielded a date of A.D. 810+/-180 (WU-TL-101o) and another limestone tempered sherd yielded a date of A.D. 570+/-330 (WU-TL-101p). These dates indicate that the midden was probably generated throughout the Late Woodland substage and into the Mississippi stage.

1987 Investigations

The 1987 investigations were precipitated by plans [redacted]. The methods used were similar to those in 1980. Archeological investigations were resumed in August 1987 to develop a better understanding of the extent, condition and potential significance of the archeological resources at the Akers Ferry site.

The 1987 investigations included excavation of seven 1 m x 2m test units, numbered nine through fifteen, and distributed across the T-2 landform (See Figure 5). One test unit was located [redacted] to determine the depth of the archeological deposit in this area of the site. Each of the test units was one meter by two meters in size. The matrix was screened and samples were collected for flotation and fine screening.

Features

Although a substantial quantity of artifacts were collected in 1987, relatively few features were recorded. The most noteable feature was a large concentration of fire cracked rock in Test Unit 9. The amorphic concentration of rocks appeared at the base of the midden stratum and measured about 80 cm by 60 cm. Associated artifacts indicate the feature is attributable to the Meramec Springs occupation of the site. It appears to be secondary deposition of rocks used in a hearth.

Two features were recorded in Test Unit 11. The first was a concentration of red ochre. The chunks of ochre, totalling about two cups in volume occurred in an area about 10 cm in diameter, at a depth of about 30 cm below surface. The function of the feature is uncertain, but the ochre appears to have been cached at this location during the Woodland or Emergent Mississippian periods.

The other feature in Unit 11 is a long vertical soil stain in the northwest corner of the test unit. It appeared at 64 cm below surface as a circular to oval soil stain (12 cm in diameter). The stain was vertical in profile and extended to a depth of about 100 cm below surface. The fill of the feature contained abundant small flecks of charred macrobotanical remains. The shape, size, orientation, depth and content of the feature suggest a burned post, but the actual function is not certain. If the feature does represent a burned post, the stratigraphic position of the feature suggests it dates to the Late Archaic or Woodland occupation of the site.

The final feature recorded in 1987 was a small soil anomaly recorded in Test Unit 13. The feature consisted of an area of compact soil which appeared between 20 cm and 27 cm below surface. The feature was measured as 21 cm in width and 40 cm in length, and the matrix in the feature contained a small quantity of burned earth, burned bone, charcoal flecks, fire cracked rock and a single flake.

Artifacts

Fire-cracked rock

Fire-cracked rock is the most abundant type of cultural remains found at the [redacted] (17,942 specimens). Concentrations of fire-cracked rock of chert or quartzite have been identified from the midden [redacted] It is

apparent from the nature and context of the rocks, that they are the remains of hearths.

Stone tools

Artifacts analyzed and reported in this nomination include all those recovered from past excavations. Nondiagnostic shatter is the most abundant class of chipping debris at the site. Chipping debris exhibiting a bulb of percussion and a striking platform is classified as a flake or a proximal flake. There is no evidence of blade production at the site. The dominance of secondary and interior elements suggest that the final stages of chipped stone manufacture and chipped stone tool maintenance were important activities. Local cherts comprise 99.3% and local quartzite the other .7% of the diagnostic lithic debris. A total of 53 chert cores, sorted into six categories, were recovered at the site. Unifacially worked scrapers, retouched flakes, and gravers were also present.

Bifacially manufactured stone tools recovered include drills and bifaces (including roughouts, blanks, and preforms). Projectile points include 45 dart points (Figure 7) and 72 arrow points (Figure 8). Dart points consist of stemmed and notched styles which are usually associated with the Dalton, Archaic, and Woodland time periods in the Eastern Ozarks. The dart points include one Dalton point. A Rice Lobed point, associated with the Early and Middle Archaic was collected by Nickel in 1975. Three side notched dart points have been collected from the site. These are usually classified as either Graham Cave Side Notched or Big Sandy Side Notched and were common in the Middle Archaic period. Dart points with short rectangular stems and Gary or Langtry points with contracting stems have also been recovered, but expanding stem dart points are the most common form at Akers Ferry. Woodland period dart points recovered include Rice Shallow Side Notched and corner notched points.

The arrow points are primarily expanding stem or corner notched forms, but straight and contracting stem types are also present. One of the diagnostic characteristics of the arrow points from the Emergent Mississippian sites [redacted] is the relatively high frequency of specimens which exhibit a plano-convex cross section (Lynott 1988). These sites also exhibit a relatively high frequency of arrow points which have been shaped largely by unifacial retouch. Arrow points at the Akers Ferry site are substantially smaller than the dart

points and smaller than the arrow points from the subsequent Powers phase (Lynott 1988).

Only two ground and pecked stone objects have been identified from the site. One is a large granite slab extensively ground on one surface. Near the center of the ground surface is a circular depression. The other object is a sandstone fragment about the size of a baseball with a small circular depression ground into the grinding facet. These may have been used to process plant food.

Ceramics

The ceramic assemblage from the Akers Ferry site is comprised of two different ceramic wares, Meramec Springs and Emergent Mississippian wares. Ceramics associated with the Meramec Springs complex in the Ozark Highlands are typically limestone tempered, conical vessels with either cordmarked or smooth surface treatments. Emergent Mississippian ceramics in [redacted] are shell tempered, and may be either globular or cannister shaped. Both types of ceramics are present. A total of 37% of the recovered sherds are shell tempered and exhibit plain or smoothed exterior surfaces. The other 63% are limestone tempered with plain or cordmarked surfaces. Only 2% of the sherds are rim fragments. The shell tempered rims are similar to vessels found at the Gooseneck site and other Emergent Mississippian sites in [redacted] The limestone tempered rimsherds appear to be fragments of conical shaped vessels commonly associated with the Meramec Springs Focus.

Area Excavated

The area of the [redacted] is approximately 55,740 square meters or 13.8 acres. Nine 1 x 1 meter units, seven 1 x 2 meter units, and 106 shovel tests were excavated. This amounts to approximately 30 square meters excavated at 23SH23, or an area of less than one percent of the total site area.

Disturbances

Adverse impacts on the site have resulted from the [redacted] was cut into prehistoric midden deposits [redacted].

[redacted] 23SH65:

This site is located on [redacted], 23SH22 (See Figure 1 and 2a). [redacted]. It consists of the disturbed remains of a Woodland burial cairn. Robert K. Nickel visited the site in 1975 (Nickel 1975:4) and observed that the site could have been either a single large cairn or perhaps two smaller structures. Stones in the cairn are dolomite and chert. They cover an area on exposed bedrock approximately 10 meters in diameter. The cairn is only approximately 30 cm. in height at its highest point. The ground surface slopes away from the cairn on the north, east, and south sides. The area adjacent to the site is a series of glades containing seeps with associated mosses and grasses. Cedar trees are abundant in the immediate area of the site. Several large outcrops of sandstone, chert, and dolomite are present east of the site, a likely source of the stones incorporated into the construction of the cairn. Soil surrounding the site is atypical for the region. It consists of a sandy topsoil resulting from the weathering of local gritty dolomite.

The site was revisited on August 19, 1986, by James E. Price and Cynthia R. Price of the University of Missouri American Archaeology Division. At that time it was noted that archeological materials in the form of chert flakes, cores, and biface fragments occurred in an area approximately 20 meters in all directions from the cairn.

Excavated Area

There has been no excavation at 23SH65.

Disturbances

Although the site has been disturbed, it still has the potential to yield data on Woodland mortuary practices in the region. Archeological remains are likely to be present in undisturbed portions of the cairn and in crevices in the bedrock beneath it.

[redacted] 23SH106:

This site was discovered in an area [redacted] 23SH23, during a routine archeological investigation [redacted] Initial surface examination of this area by Dr. Mark Lynott of the National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, revealed the presence of chipped stone debris in areas exposed by erosion (Lynott 1982:83). A line of shovel tests was excavated at five-meter intervals across the site which revealed that prehistoric archeological materials were present in a subsurface context [redacted] which the site occurs.

The site is [redacted]

Archeological testing was initiated on 23SH106 on May 16, 1980 by Dr. Mark Lynott and his research crew (Lynott 1980:5). Two 1 x 1 meter test units were excavated in the area of the [redacted]. Archeological testing was continued on the site in September, 1980 under the direction of Jeffrey Richner of the NPS Midwest Archeological Center (Lynott 1982:85). Two additional test units were excavated at that time. Test units were excavated to a depth of 20-30 cm. below surface, the point at which the deposit was judged to be devoid of any cultural remains. Cultural materials were found only in the upper 20-25 cm. of the site. Vertical profiles of the areas

tested revealed only limited stratigraphic change from the surface to 30 cm. below surface. No visible evidence of a plowzone was detected and the humus zone was limited to the top centimeter of deposit.

The artifactual remains recovered from surface collecting and limited testing at 23SH106 are solely chipped stone tools and debitage. A single projectile point was recovered from the site. It has a straight stem and a concave base and can be assigned to either the Late Archaic substage or Woodland stage (Lynott 1982:87). Numerous biface fragments representing aborted preforms were recovered from the site. Based on the lithic assemblage recovered it appears that the site functioned as a workshop for the production of chipped stone tools during the Archaic and Woodland stages. No ethnobotanical or faunal remains were recovered from the site.

Area Excavated

The area of [redacted] 23SH106, is approximately 2700 square meters, or .7 acres. A total of 5 square meters was excavated. This included four 1 x 1 test units and one transect of shovel tests across the site. This amounts to less than 1% of the site area.

Disturbances

[redacted]

Total Area Excavated

The Akers Ferry Archeological District encompasses 112.5 acres, or 455,287.5 square meters. A total of approximately 35 square meters has been excavated in the nominated Akers Ferry Archeological District. This amounts to a great deal less than 1% of the total site area.

that Akers Ferry was occupied during the period between 8500 B.C. and 7000 B.C. by people associated with the Dalton culture.

Early and Middle Archaic component dates

The next prehistoric occupation of the Akers Ferry site is linked to the Early and Middle Archaic periods. In some stratified sites in Missouri, several different occupations are present between about 7000 B.C. and 3000 B.C. In southeast Missouri, evidence of these Early and Middle Archaic often occur together in mixed contexts. Consequently, it is difficult to identify projectile point forms and other tools which are diagnostic of each of these periods. The presence of the following projectile point forms at the Akers Ferry site indicates the site was occupied during this period: Rice Lobed, Hardin Barbed, Jakie Stemmed and Graham Cave or Big Sandy Side Notched.

Late Archaic component dates

The Late Archaic period in the Eastern Ozarks region is poorly understood at this time. Late Archaic occupation of the Akers Ferry site is indicated by the presence of several large dart points with short rectangular stems. One of the points of this type from the Akers Ferry site is made from white sugar quartzite, which appears to increase in use during the Late Archaic period [redacted] (C Price 1980; J. Price and C. Price 1981).

Woodland component dates

The Woodland occupation at the Akers Ferry site was particularly intensive. It is characterized by the presence of Meramec Springs ceramics, Rice Shallow Side Notched dart points, and a wide range of corner notched dart points. About 500 A.D. small arrow points appear in the archeological record. Two thermoluminescence dates from limestone tempered ceramics have yielded dates of A.D. 570+/-330 (WU-TL-101p) and A.D. 810+/-180 (WU-TL-101o). These dates are consistant with the stratigraphic evidence from Akers Ferry.

Emergent Mississippian component dates

About A.D. 700, or slightly earlier, shell tempered ceramics begin appearing throughout [redacted] Shell tempered ceramics are present in the upper stratigraphic levels of the Akers Ferry site, but generally occur in mixed contexts with limestone tempered ceramics. A thermoluminescence date of A.D. 1200+/-150 (Alpha-876) was obtained from a shell tempered sherd collected from the site in 1980. On the basis of radiocarbon dates from other sites in Ozark National Scenic Riverways, it appears that the Emergent Mississippian phase at Akers Ferry began about A.D. 700 to A.D. 800 and continued until sometime about A.D. 1300.

Significance of Akers Ferry Archeological District

The Akers Ferry Archeological District is significant because prehistoric archeological sites within its bounds have yielded and have additional potential to yield information important in prehistory. Its archeological research potential is significant for the study of aboriginal cultures before the advent of written records. The theme for the district is based upon prehistoric man's changing use of the Ozark landscape through time. The Akers Ferry Archeological District contains five prehistoric archeological sites each having the inherent potential to yield significant data on prehistoric populations and their activities during a broad span of time ranging from ca. 7000 B.C. to A.D. 1250. The district contains a multiplicity of landforms with diverse natural resource areas ranging from [redacted] populations carried out a broad array of subsistence and mortuary activities in the prehistoric past. The district contains, within a relatively small area, sites functionally representative of most of the prehistoric cultures that occupied the Ozark region. Within the site inventory there are loci which were employed as campsites, base camps, limited activity subsistence sites, and mortuary sites. The use of the landforms changed through time as prehistoric cultures changed their subsistence

strategies, settlements patterns, and socio-religious activities.

Significance of individual sites in the district.

Each site within the district is significant in its potential to yield information important in prehistory. Taken as a whole, the sites represent in microcosm the changes in man's use of the environment throughout the prehistoric past for the broader southeastern Ozark Highland region. Each of the sites within the district can substantively contribute to the theme of man's changing use of the Ozark environment. The following is a statement of significance for each site within the district:

[redacted] 23SH21, [redacted] 23SH65:

These burial cairns represent the mortuary practices of Woodland populations in the Ozarks and are culturally similar to stone and earthen mortuary mound building practices throughout the Missouri Ozarks. They were apparently built as charnal chambers or tombs for the dead. The cairns at Akers Ferry are at the extreme southern geographic limits of the Woodland mound building culture area in the Ozarks. Only two other cairns are [redacted] The presence of the cairns at Akers Ferry is indicative of cultural interaction with other Woodland populations in the central Ozarks to the north and west where such cairns are more abundant. The Akers cairns have the potential to yield important mortuary data for comparison with the existing data base on cairn morphology and content elsewhere in the Ozarks. They potentially contain human skeletal materials and artifacts that would contribute significant data on human diet, osteology, and mortuary rituals.

[redacted] 23SH106:

This shallow prehistoric archeological site is significant in that it served as a lithic workshop during the Late Archaic substage or Woodland stage. It supports the theme of man's changing use of the Ozark landscape through time because it was apparently employed as a site for the manufacture of flaked lithic artifacts during a relatively short span of time in the

past when the site's occupants found it advantageous to extract gravels [redacted] and shape them into bifacial artifacts. The site has the potential to yield significant data on chert knapping techniques employed during a definable time in the past.

[redacted] 23SH22:

This site is significant in that it represents an extensive multicomponent artifact scatter [redacted] of the use of such areas by man in the prehistoric past. Such sites are relatively common in the region but poorly understood as to their exact function. [redacted] was probably employed as a series of limited activity extractive loci occupied for the procurement and processing of foodstuffs and raw materials throughout the Archaic and Woodland stages. The site can potentially yield data relevant to understanding the kinds of activities conducted there and the nature and diversity of lithic tools employed in those activities. Such data would contribute significantly to an understanding of man's changing use of the Ozark environment through time.

[redacted] 23SH23:

This large multicomponent site particularly supports the theme of man's changing use of the Ozark environment through time. First, limited test excavations have demonstrated that it contains stratified deposits ranging in age from Early Archaic at to Mississippian. More extensive archeological investigations on this site would without question contribute significantly to refinement of the cultural sequence for the southeastern Ozark region. Within such a stratified context diagnostic artifact styles and assemblages could be better defined for each prehistoric substage. Since ethnobotanical remains are well preserved, the site has the potential to yield data on changing extractive practices and preferences for such materials and foodstuffs throughout the prehistoric past.

Research Topics and Related Data Categories

1. The presence and distribution of a buried Dalton component. In the Mississippi River Valley (Goodyear 1974; Morse and Morse 1983; Schiffer 1975) and along the Ozark Border (Price and Krakker 1975) Dalton sites are relatively abundant, and archeologists have expressed several interpretations of the exploitative strategy reflected in the pattern of site locations. The Akers Ferry site is only one of two sites in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways where a buried Dalton (8500 B.C. to 7000 B.C.) component has been discovered. The other site is the Two Rivers site, presently in the process of being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. It would be helpful if the nature of the Dalton occupation at Akers Ferry could be determined, and the buried nature of the Dalton component makes it likely that the site contains information about this time period. An interpretation of the nature of Dalton occupation at Akers Ferry will make it possible to develop hypotheses about the broader patterns of Dalton adaptation in the Eastern Ozarks.

Evidence of Dalton occupation has been collected from the cluster of test units [redacted] and also from test units 10 and 14. This provides evidence that artifacts relating to the Dalton occupation of the site are present across the entire landform. The specific activities associated with human occupation of the site during the Dalton period likely varied with individual occupations of the site. Consistently, people cooked and tended fires, made or repaired stone tools, and processed plant and animal foods. These activities and pattern of occupation described above became established about 8000 B.C. and continued throughout the Archaic stage. Despite noticeable changes in Ozark climate and vegetation during the Middle and Late Archaic, there is evidence that the Akers Fery site continued to be occupied for short periods of time. There is no evidence that the site was ever occupied on a year round basis at any time during the Dalton and Archaic. However, the site was clearly a favored locality that was visited regularly.

2. Archaic component. The relatively deep stratified deposits which are present at the Akers Ferry site contain evidence of human occupation throughout the Archaic stage. Archaic occupation of the Eastern Ozarks is known primarily from surface

collection, and Akers Ferry is one of the few sites which have produced evidence of Archaic occupation from subsurface contexts. The presence of stratified deposits makes it possible that the Akers Ferry site contains evidence of changes in the style and technology of material culture during the Archaic period. The Akers Ferry site is, therefore, likely to contain evidence which will permit archeologists to identify diagnostic changes in material culture during the Archaic stage. The site also contains evidence of the nature of Archaic occupation through time, making it possible to identify changes in adaptive strategies during the Archaic stage.

3. Buried Woodland midden. This extremely significant component contains an abundance of both ceramic and lithic artifacts. The midden has the potential to yield Woodland artifacts to better define vessel morphology during that prehistoric stage.

During the Woodland stage, the Akers Ferry site was the location of an important village. The midden, which is located along [redacted] appears to be primarily a product of the Woodland stage village. The midden contains refuse from the village occupation, which may be used to interpret changes in adaptive patterns after the Archaic stage. It is also likely that the site contains houses and other features from this village which may be used to better interpret [redacted] activities of the Meramec Spring people who occupied [redacted] The Akers Ferry site also offers the potential to study the relationship of a Meramec Spring habitation site to a Meramec Spring mortuary site (23SH21).

4. Emergent Mississippian component. The final prehistoric occupation of the Akers Ferry site occurred during the Emergent Mississippian substage. The midden continued to accumulate during the Emergent Mississippi substage when shell tempered ceramics were introduced deep within [redacted] in the Ozark Highland. Thus, the site has the potential to yield data significant to an understanding of the origins, evolution, and spread of the Mississippian lifeway.

The testing at Akers Ferry indicates that shell tempered ceramics characteristic of Emergent Mississippian groups occur in mixed contexts with limestone tempered Meramec Spring pottery. The Akers Ferry site offers the opportunity to learn whether both

types of ceramics were made in the Akers Ferry area, or whether the coexistence of these two ceramics is a product of contact between two different populations. The Akers Ferry site also offers the opportunity to study the nature of Emergent Mississippian occupation in [redacted] and interpret the relationship of people at Akers Ferry to other Emergent Mississippian sites downriver.

5. Deeply stratified deposits. The stratified archeological deposits at the Akers Ferry site are rare within Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Although research at the Two Rivers site has documented another well stratified cultural sequence (Klinger and Kandare 1987; Klinger et al. 1989), most sites in this region tend to be shallow, with even Archaic components being found in the plowzone. The Akers Ferry site contains the most complete record of prehistoric culture history of any single location in [redacted] The presence of well preserved subsurface evidence of prehistoric occupation between 8500 B.C. and A.D. 1300 offers tremendous potential for future research. This is especially true in light of the fact that sterile deposits were not reached, even at 160 cm in Unit 9. For this reason it is possible that Paleo-Indian deposits may be present at the site.

Integrity

Integrity within the Akers Archeological District is for the most part good. While some disturbances have occurred to subsurface deposits with building construction, roads, and visitor use, a great deal of the remaining deposit remains intact with subsurface features and cultural material present to a depth of greater than 160 centimeters below surface. Archeological testing and surface survey indicate that each site within the district maintains a degree of integrity with the potential of contributing data to a variety of research questions.

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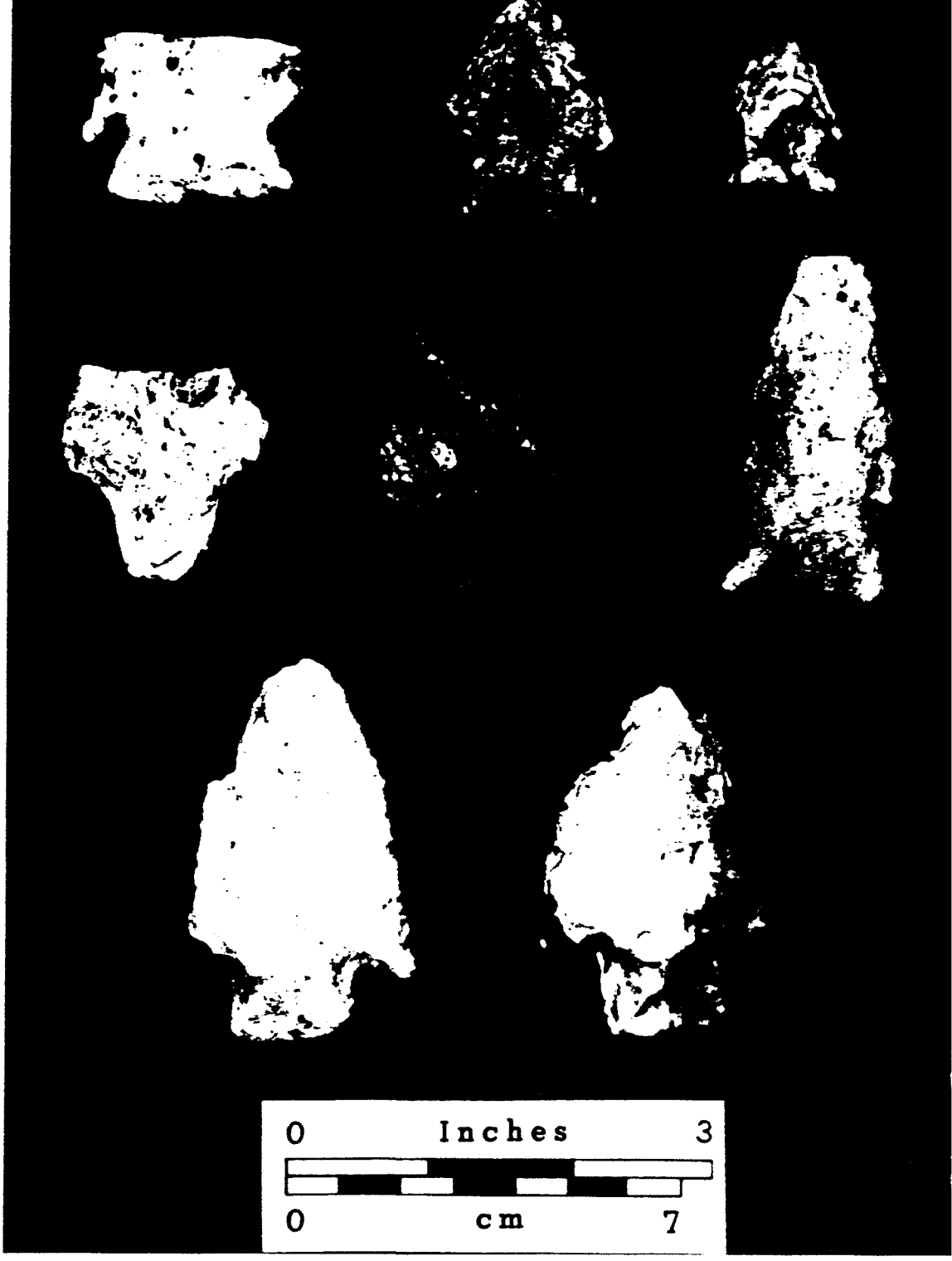

Figure 7. Dart points from 23SH23 (From Lynott 1990)

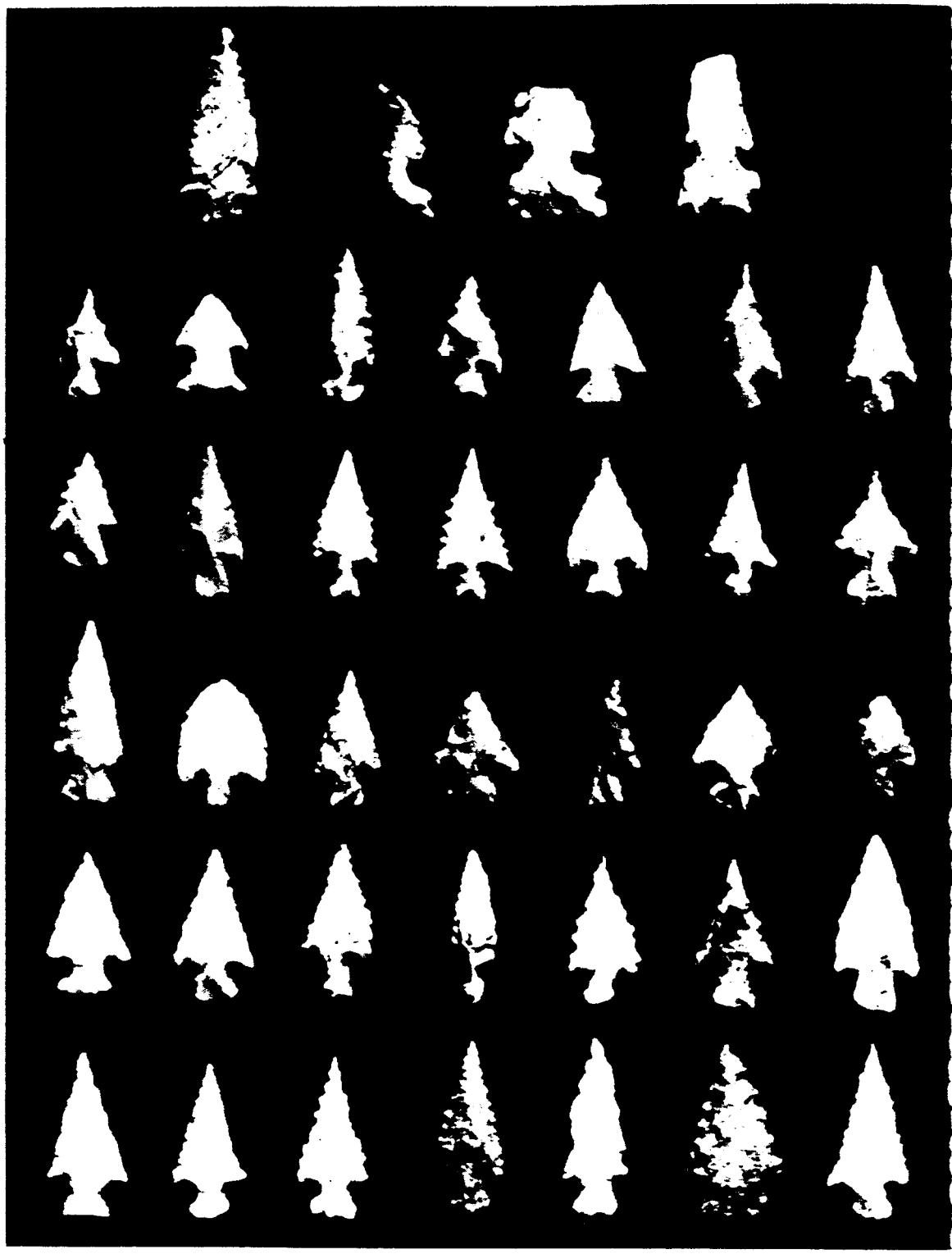

Figure 8. Arrow points from 23SH23 (From Lynott 1990)