NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME				
HISTORIC				
Sit	e 21SL35			
AND/OR COMMON				
2 LOCATIO	N			
STREET & NUMBER				
			INOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
Voyageurs Nat:	ional Park (VOYA)	VICINITY OF Internatio	DAL FALLS 08	CODE
		CODE 22	St. Louis	137
3 CLASSIFI	LATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT		OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)		XUNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	J.PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
X_SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	N/AN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	N ABEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
	ARTERS: (// applicable) National Park			
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5 LOCATION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS	N OF LEGAL DESCR			
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	Duluth		Minnesota	55802
6 REPRESEN	NTATION IN EXISTI	NG SURVEYS		
TITLE An Arc	heological and Histori al Park, Minnesota; Gi	c Sites Survey of	Voyageurs	
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1977	······································	X FEDERALST	TATECOUNTYLOCAL	·····
	original survey (1977) subsequent surveys (19			
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CON	DITION	CHEGK ONE	CHECK C	DNE
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FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DATE_N/A

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Summary

x.G00D __FAIR

Site 21SL35. The site ìs а significant, intact, single component Initial Woodland (Laurel) sitef

Resource Count

Contributing Resources: There is one contributing resource which is an archeological site with one prehistoric component.

Noncontributing Resource: There are no noncontributing resources at this site.

Environmental Description

The regional landscape is characterized by the uneven topography of a heavily glaciated area. The region consists of hills, glacial lakes, swamps, bogs, and rocky knolls. Lake shores are generally rocky with an occasional sand beach, Lake remnants of the glacial Lake Agassiz. The geology of the area is a result of glacial modification of ancient bedrock. Occupying a transitional zone, the park lies between the granitic and metamorphic rocks of the Vermillion batholith to the south and a complex greenstone belt to the north. During the historic period, precious minerals, such as gold and mica, attracted Euro-Americans to the region; however, in the prehistoric period the paucity of lithic source materials for stone tools must have made a definite impact on adaptive strategies.

The soils in the region are sandy. On the uplands, they tend to be shallow while deep organic soils occupy the lowlands. Two soil types form the predominate soil associations in the The upland soil association is a coarse-to-fine textured area. soil composed of decomposed igneous rock mixed with forest noncalcareous sandy till. reddish-brown The lowland soil association is a coarse-to-fine textured forest/organic soil. The soil is composed of glacially deposited calcareous clays and post-glacial vegetation.

Native vegetation in the region is characterized by a mixed conifer-hardwood forest with a dense stand of underbrush. The forests of the border lakes region are a product of the modifying effects of the large bodies of water they surround. This area has previously been logged and has a subsequent increase of deciduous



PERIOD	AF	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
ERIOD X_PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-	AH -XARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC -ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC -ARCHITECTURE -ARCHITECTURE -ART -COMMERCE -COMMUNICATIONS	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CF COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY	LAND JUSTIFY BELOW LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIEV)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	Initial Woodland	(ca. A.D.BUILDER/ARCHITECT	
	500-750) (Lynott	et al. 1986)	N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Statement

Site 21SL35 is a significant intact single component Initial Woodland (Laurel) site which may represent the earliest documented evidence for wild rice exploitation in Minnesota. Cultural resources at Site 21SL35 can be evaluated for significance in the category of prehistoric archeology under Criterion D of the National Register's Criteria for Evaluation.

Specific Dates

During the 1979 field season at 21SL35, attempts were made collect radiocarbon and thermoluminescence (TLM) samples to for determining the age of the site. The radiocarbon sample was collected from the single feature uncovered during testing. The sample was collected at a depth of approximately 50 cm below the present surface. The sample yielded an uncorrected age of 4410+/-70 B.P.(TX-3617). Using the calibration proposed by Klein et al. (1982), the date fell in the range of 1050 B.C. to 1415 B.C. at the 95% confidence interval. This age was considerably earlier than anticipated, and was not consistent with the TLM date from the ceramic sample taken at the same depth. The TLM date of a plain body sherd from the same feature yielded a date 580+/-125 (WU-TL90b). Other TLM samples from the site of A.D. vielded dates of A.D. 615+/-265 (Alpha-863) and A.D. 750+/-240 (Alpha-864).

The discrepancy between the radiocarbon and TLM dates is not easily explained. The radiocarbon date is considerably older than the estimated dates for the Laurel complex in the region. The lack of tangible evidence for a pre-Laurel occupation at the site seems to indicate the TLM dates are an accurate estimate of the age of the site. The TLM dates do support a Smith Phase Laurel occupation of site 21SL35.

Ceramics from the site are representative of the Initial Woodland temporal horizon and the Laurel culture. The one

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached continuation sheets.

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species over the coniferous species. Several plant communities exist in the region. A variety of flora is contained in these communities. In the open areas of the forest, mixed short grasses cover the ground. The most important fruits for prehistoric and historic human consumption in the Rainy Lake region are the bunchberies, chokecherries, various berries: blueberries, cranberries, dewberries, juneberries, and raspberries. Although rather scarce, sugar maple trees may have also served as important food sources. Several wild vegetables (including arrowhead tubers, wild potatoes, and water lillies) and herbs are found in the region. A major food source in late prehistoric and historic times is wild rice (Zizania aquatica). The historic Chippewa relied on wild rice as one of the main staples in their At one time, the Rainy Lake area was considered a major diet. wild rice producing region. Construction of modern dams has reduced the range of the wild rice in the Rainy Lake region to small patches within the park boundaries.

Fauna in the region was quite diverse before the onset of in extensive logging. Numerous species of mammals were present the region including game and fur bearing animals. These include beaver, black bear, caribou, ermine, gray wolf, moose, squirrel, hare, and white-tailed deer. Both aquatic and ground dwelling avian species inhabited the region including ducks and grouse. Fish may have also served as a major food resource to the human inhabitants of the region.

The climate of the area is characterized by cool summers and severe winters. The mean annual temperature is about 37 degrees F (McAndrew 1966:15). Moisture is distributed fairly evenly throughout the entire year with mean annual precipitation between 27 and 28 inches (NPS 1978:58). Snow accumulations in winter 4 to 10 feet. Summers are relatively cool and vary from by unpredictable thunderstorms. Winds are dominated predominantly from the west and northwest, although a shift to the southeast occurs in late summer.

Physical Description

The site, 21SL35,

were identified by shovel testing and are, by necessity,

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Shovel

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arbitrary.			
Boundary Justification			
The boundaries of	<u>this</u> nominatic	n	
. This prope	erty is locate	d within	the Voyageurs

National Park and is owned by the National Park Service.

Recordation

tests |

Site 21SL35 was first identified the second of during a probability survey of Voyageurs National Park in 1976 (Gibbon 1977). The season (Gibbon 1978). Subsequent investigations located a major intact site (Lynott et al. 1986). The site was assigned to the Laurel culture of the Initial Woodland Period on the basis of ceramic classification.

Evaluative testing was conducted at the site in 1979 (Lynott et al. 1986:101) to identify the site's limits. Examination of revealed the presence of prehistoric artifacts in primary context. A total of 65 shovel tests were conducted at 5 intervals throughout the area Although the m original size of the site cannot be determined because of it is one of the largest prehistoric sites in the Voyageurs National Park. In addition to the shovel tests, seven x 1 m test pits were excavated to determine the content and 1 condition of the site deposit. The test pits provided additional information about the vertical distribution of the cultural material and the research potential of the site.

Three stratigraphic zones were identified. The upper zone was a humus/duff zone two to four centimeters thick. Under this zone was a gray loamy sand horizon which is about six to eight centimeters thick. The third zone consisted of a lighter colored loamy sand horizon. The zones appeared to represent a natural soil profile with a cultural midden. The soils were generally acidic with a soil pH between 4.7 and 6.2. The phosphorous content of the site was very high across most of the site and

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organic matter apparently decreased with depth. Cultural remains were most abundant in the top 20 cm of the site deposit although they extended to approximately 40 cm in some places.

A single feature was exposed during the testing of 21SL35 in test pit 29-30S/41.5-42.5E. The feature first appeared at approximately 20 cm below the ground surface and extended to about 60 cm below the surface. The feature appeared to be a refuse pit with irregular tapering sides and a flat bottom. The feature fill contained mottled sediment and a considerable quantity of charcoal. Other depressions were noted along Clyde Creek. They appeared to represent ricing jigs (Gibbon 1976:6-7) although they were not tested.

Five classes of artifactual material were recovered during the 1984 excavations. Ceramic and lithic categories were the most numerous. Organic categories were less numerous due to the acidic nature of the soil; however, macrobotanical remains, animal bone, and shell were collected. The ceramics further document the presence of the Laurel complex at the site.

A variety of prehistoric artifacts was recovered from the shovel tests, the test pits, and surface survey of the cut banks. Included in the artifact inventory are prehistoric ceramics, chipped stone tools and debitage, fire-cracked rock, and a small quantity of vertebrate faunal remains. The majority of the artifacts are attributed to the prehistoric occupation of the site; however, a few historic artifacts were associated with modern campers and boaters.

Analysis of the ceramics from site 21SL35 (Lynott et al. 1986) indicates the assemblage (46 rim sherds, 131 decorated body sherds, 460 plain body sherds, and 516 sherdlets or sloughed sherds with a minimum of 19 vessels) is representative of the Laurel culture and the Initial Woodland temporal horizon. The ceramic typology provided by Stoltman (1971,1974) provides а relative chronology for dating the ceramic assemblage; however the ceramic distribution is not fully compatible with Stoltman. Ceramics from 21SL35 are generally similar to those described by Stoltman (1973) for the Smith phase. Percentages indicate а relatively high occurrence of Laurel Dentate and varieties of Laurel Oblique which are associated with the Smith phase. Also, the low occurrence of pseudo-scallop shell decoration is indicative of the Smith Phase. At present, it is imprudent to definitively argue that the ceramics from the site representative of the Smith Phase; however, the ceramics are from 21SL35 are from the later Laurel period as defined by Lugenbeal (1976). Variation in ceramic frequencies between

meaningful temporal differences.

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The chipped stone assemblage at 21SL35 includes: end and side scrapers, a biface fragment, a projectile point, retouched flakes, a ground stone object resembling a plummet, and lithic debitage. The projectile point is a small side-notched dart point similar to other points associated with Laurel sites in northern Minnesota (Stoltman 1973:133).

Faunal remains from the site are limited to vertebrate fauna with only two identifiable taxa. Both taxa are believed to be modern and therefore unrelated to the Middle Woodland occupation of the site. The limited number of remains may be the result of sampling error or a reflection of the content of the site. Chemical analysis of the soil indicates a high acidic condition which would not be conducive for faunal preservation.

Phytolith samples were collected at 21SL35 (Lynott et al. 1986:115). Analysis of the samples indicated phytoliths of wild rice in the sample. If the identifications were accurate and wild rice is associated with the Laurel occupation of the site, then this may represent some of the earliest evidence for wild rice exploitation in Minnesota. The limited evidence was not sufficient to alter existing models of Laurel subsistence; however, this approach provides new data for the study of subsistence patterns in this region.

Due to the parkwide problem of shoreline erosion, as evidenced by the extensive bank erosion at the site, a program of annual monitoring was initiated in 1979 (Lynott 1984:4). During the summers of 1980 to 1983, the site was revisited and examined for erosional damage at several reference points established in Substantial erosion occurred between 1981 and 1983. As a 1979. result of this damage, plans were developed to stabilize the at 21SL35 in the early spring of 1984. lakeshore edge Archeological investigations were conducted in association with stabilization work (Lynott 1984). It was necessarv the to excavate between 0.25 and 1.25 meters back from the bank edge to provide an even bank for the stabilization of the site. The grid system from the 1979 field season was re-established and excavations were conducted in arbitrary 10 cm levels. Frost conditions within the site made excavations difficult. A total of units were excavated (representing 10 square meters of the 18 site area).

In late winter of 1985 the Midwest Archeological Center and Voyageurs National Park, in a cooperative effort, carried out stabilization work to correct erosion from the south face of the site. Trees and shrubs were cleared from the eroding south face of the site and dump truck loads of soil were added to the near vertical bank in order to form a gentle slope. The soil was packed using bulldozers. Filter fabric was rolled out and pinned down. Another thin layer of soil was then applied, and a root

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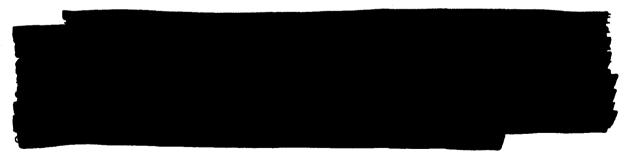
mat laid on top of that. The lower portion of the slope was then topped off with a layer of stones (rip rap) Vegetation (grass) was sown over the root mat. This process was carried out to protect the archeological resources at the site. Monitoring of the site revealed that during the summer the water level reached a point above the rip rap, resulting in undercutting to the slope and slumping

Additional stabilization work was carried out in July of 1985 to correct this problem. The root mat was pulled up and many barge loads of soil were added to the slope and packed down. Rip rap was added to a point approximately 3 feet above the water line and additional soil was added and packed at the top of the slope where the site meets the slope. The endangered south face of the site is now a benign slope instead of a nearly vertical bank. The results of this extensive effort appear promising.

Area Excavated

The area of 21SL35 is 4200 square meters. A total of 65 shovel tests and 25, 1×1 test units have been excavated at the site. The excavated portion amounts to less than one percent of the site area.

Disturbances



Data Limitations

Lack of faunal remains is a limitation because only two identifiable taxa have been recovered from the excavations and both of these are modern.

There is disagreement between radiocarbon and thermoluminescence dates. Using Klein et al. (1982) a corrected radiocarbon date of 1050 B.C. to 1415 B.C. was recorded for a

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sample from the feature. This is considerably earlier than the the thermoluminescence date of A.D. 580+/-125 (WU-TL90b) on a sherd from the same feature.

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projectile point recovered from the site is similar to other small side-notched dart points from Laurel sites in northern Minnesota.

Research Topics and Related Data Categories

Future analysis or preservation of the resource at 21SL35 will have an important bearing on the investigation of the settlement and subsistence patterns of the Laurel culture, regional paleobotanical studies, and technological investigations. In the broader sense, the site has the potential to elucidate aspects of culture change within the Initial Woodland period in Minnesota.

1. Site integrity. The site represents the only known single component site occupied by Laurel culture people in the park area. Even though part of the site has eroded away, the remaining portion is intact.

The Laurel culture and later (post A.D.900) Blackduck culture appear to have similar settlement and subsistence patterns. Consequently, a very high percentage of the remaining Laurel sites are multi-component in nature and are shallow, mixed sites. The singular component nature of this site makes it extremely valuable for the analysis and subsequent interpretation of the Laurel and Initial Woodland subsistence and settlement patterning.

2. Subsistence. The site is the first known Laurel site to contain evidence of wild rice (Zizania aquatica) exploitation in the area.

To date, Laurel culture subsistence patterns have indicated a hunting and gathering economy focusing on the exploitation of fish, moose, caribou, and beaver. Little is currently known about the exploitation of botanical resources by this culture. It is known that the later Blackduck culture extensively exploited Zizania aquatica (Gibbon and Caine 1980). A recent development in the identification of opal phytoliths in an archeological context provides a new analytical technique for paleobotanical remains. This site, in its undisturbed condition, can provide an extensive research tool for identification of botanical resources exploited by the Laurel culture. A recent report, Phytolith Analysis from Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota (Collins et al. 1980), commissioned by the Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service, indicates the occurrence of opal phytoliths of Zizania aquatica at 21SL35.

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Other local multi-component Laurel/Blackduck sites may be inadequate for paleobotanical research into this particular aspect of the Laurel subsistence, because either the phytoliths have been disturbed, allowing for wind drift of recent phytoliths to contaminate the site, or have possibly been mixed with phytoliths from the overlying Blackduck components. Possible contamination of Laurel components in these other sites by more recent cultural deposits might be attributed to the thin, shallow nature of the deposit, the loose sandy soil, the effects of frost action in the soil, faunal activity, and/or soil leaching.

Investigation of potentially different riverine and lacustrine exploitative responses is needed in the region. Thompson (1980) has linked the presence of Laurel sites with associated burial mounds in riverine environments to the seasonal exploitation of sturgeon. The absence of burial mounds suggests a seasonal occupation possibly coalescing for exploitation of select fauna.

3. Settlement patterns. As a lacustrine habitation site, 21SL35 represents a portion of the Laurel settlement system which has been little studied. Previous information concerning the Laurel culture has been primarily derived from sites associated with burial mounds and in riverine environments. The site is significant in its uniqueness for any regional planning design and for testing models of Laurel culture subsistence and settlement patterns in lacustrine environments.

The single component nature of this site also makes it This site represents an adaptation to a lacustrine unique. environmental setting, rather than to the previously described riverine setting of the Laurel culture. The Smith Mounds Site (Stoltman 1973) is considered a typical representative of the Laurel culture, at the juncture of the Rainy and Big Fork Rivers. sites with associated burial mounds occur primarily along Known riverine environments. The absence of burial mounds and the fact that this site and other multi-component sites are located in a lacustrine environment tentatively indicate the site represents a different seasonal or subsistence response. The site apparently represents a small village or hamlet which may equate to a base camp (Lynott et al. 1986:114). The preservation and responsible investigation of the site will allow for the expansion of our knowledge of subsistence and settlement patterns in an environmental framework.

At the present time, there remains in the park vicinity of 21SL35 only ten or twelve partially intact sites of different prehistoric cultural affiliations. Although there are numerous

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multi-component sites in the area, many of these sites represent occupations of uncertain subsistence. The site is extremely important arefer regional research design: investigating the distribution of Laurel sites, the exploitation of botanical resources by the Laurel culture, and the possible change through time of their exploitative strategy.

The placing of this site in the National Register will aid in the regulation of resource consumption, will necessitate that any future research falls within regional research and planning designs, and will insure valid archeological investigation. lana (n. 18-300) dan 18-34

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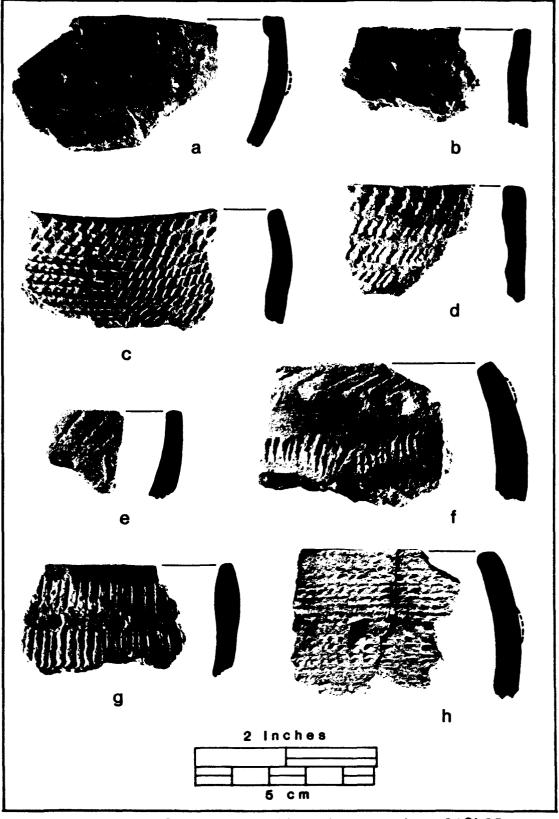
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- Lynott, Mark J., Richner, Jeffrey J., and Thompson, Mona
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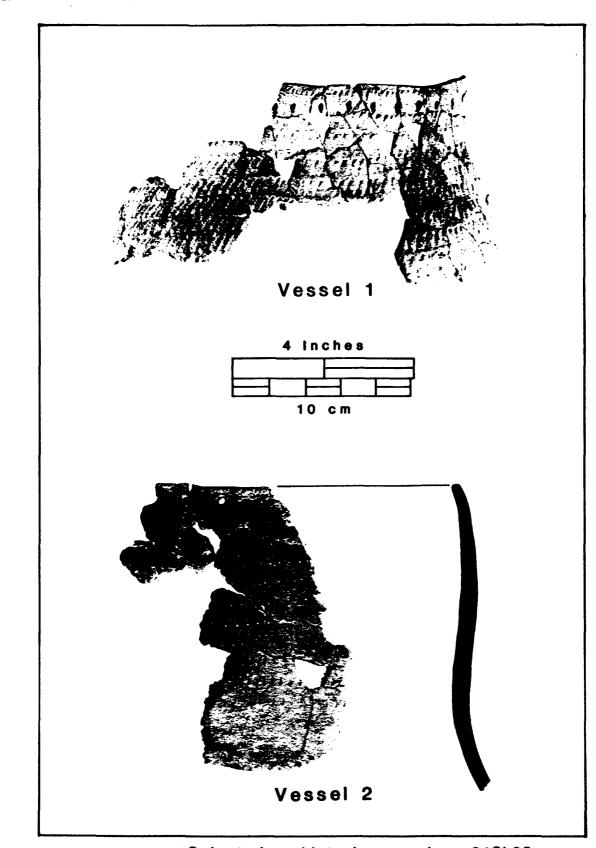
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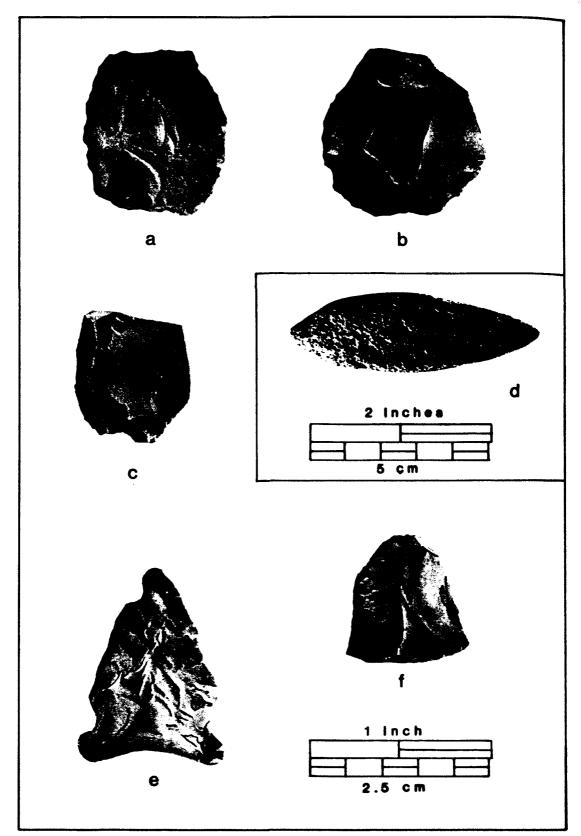
Selected prehistoric ceramics, 21SL35.

(From Lynott et al. 1986:105 Figure 22)



Selected prehistoric ceramics, 218L35.

(From Lynott et al. 1986:104 Figure 21)



Selected lithic artifacts, 218L35. (From Lynott et al. 1986:112 Figure 23)