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### **United States Department of the Interior**

**National Park Service** 

JAN 12 1988

### **National Register of Historic Places** Registration Form

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 N/A other names/site number 21SL82

2. Location			
street & number Vo	yageurs National Park		x not for publication
	ernational Falls		× vicinity
state Minnesota	code MN co	unty St. Louis code	137 zip code 56649
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Pro	pperty Number of I	Resources within Property
private	building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local	district		buildings
public-State	_x site	_1	sites
public-Federal	structure		structures
	object		1 objects
		1	3Total
Name of related multiple	e property listing:	Number of c	contributing resources previously
N/A		listed in the	National Register <u>N/A</u>
4. State/Federal Age	ency Certification		
Signature of certifying of State or Federal agency	official Paule Serving and bureau	eet the National Register criteria.	Date 19, 19, 87
Minnesota State	Historic Preservation	Office	
State or Federal agency	and bureau		
5. National Park Ser	vice Certification		
, hereby, certify that this	s property is: /	$\gamma$	
entered in the Nation See continuation sh determined eligible fo Register. See cont determined not eligib National Register.	nal Register. neet. or the National inuation sheet.	John J. Knowl	<u> 2/17/88</u> 
removed from the Na	<del>-</del>		
	and the state of t	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)		
Prehistoric and Historic - Aboriginal	LANDSCAPE - National Park		
DOMESTIC	RECREATION - Camping Area		
Camp			
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)		
	foundation N/A		
N/A	walls		
	roof		
	other		

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

#### Summary

Site 21SL82, is in Voyageurs National Park. The site represents a significant multi-component Woodland site in the border lakes region of northern Minnesota. The apparent stratigraphic separation of the Laurel (Initial Woodland) and Blackduck (Terminal Woodland) components is uncommon at other multi-component sites in the region.

#### Resource Count

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

Noncontributing Resource: There are two noncontributing structures (stairways) and one noncontributing object (well) within the site area.

#### Environmental Description

The park is in the extreme north central part of Minnesota where waters of several lakes form the international boundary between Canada and the United States. The area is typical of the uneven topography of a heavily glaciated region. The glacial origin of the topography is reflected in the numerous lakes, rocky islands, bogs, swamps, and rocky knolls found in the area.

shallow nature of soil deposition in the region is also indicative of the recent glacial past. Many areas have bedrock near the surface with little or no soil development. The unevenness of the glacial bedrock surface accounts for the variability noted in soil profile depth at several of the sites Areas of positive relief typically have a thin mantling tested. sandy forest soils derived from glacial outwash while the associated with bogs and depressions are composed of organic materials from the surrounding vegetation and postglacial lacustrine deposits.

8. Statement of Significance	
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property	in relation to other properties: atewide
Applicable National Register Criteria A B C 2	<b>∄</b> D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	D DE DF DG
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  Archeology - Prehistoric  Archeology - Historic (Aboriginal)	Period of Significance Archaic Woodland (Laurel)Initial Woodland (Blackduck)Terminal Historic Cultural Affiliation Archaic Woodland (Initial and Terminal) Historic Chippewa
Significant Person N/A	Architect/Builder N/A
State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria consider	ations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

#### Summary Statement

Site 21SL82 is considered to be a significant intact multicomponent site consisting of distinct Initial Woodland, Woodland occupations. The site is considered significant in the area of prehistoric and historic information the National Register's Criteria Criterion D of under regional approach to archeological Evaluation. Α provides the best means by which specific sites or local projects can be integrated into a larger and more meaningful database. evaluated by the extent it significance is best This intact site contributes to regional research issues. potential related research in studies to environment prehistoric historic subsistence and reconstruction, and settlement patterns, and ceramic typology.

#### Specific Dates

Occupation at site 21SL82 begins with the Archaic and continues through the turn of the twentieth century. The Archaic Old Copper Culture in Minnesota dates from ca. 3000 B.C. to 500 B.C. and is represented at 21SL82 by a copper knife.

Woodland dates at the site are based on diagnostic ceramics and on thermoluminescence dates. The presence of Laurel ceramics indicates an occupation ca. 100 B.C. to 700 A.D. (Lynott et al. 1986). Blackduck ceramics are also represented at the site and all thermoluminescence dates were obtained from Blackduck sherds. One thermoluminescence date, A.D. 1310+/-128 (Alpha-873), was obtained in 1980 and two others, A.D. 830+/-140 (Alpha 3163) and A.D. 1200+/-80 (Alpha 3164), were obtained in 1986. This is

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	See continuation sheet	
revious documentation on file (NPS):		
	Drimon, location of additional data:	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:	
has been requested	State historic preservation office	
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency	
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency	
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government	
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University	
Survey #	Other	
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository:	
Record #	Voyageurs National Park	P.O. Roy 50
	International Falls, MN	
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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The region is heavily forested with a dense tree and underbrush cover that impedes travel and obscures surface Potzer (1946) has described the forests in this visibility. region as part of the Lake Forest Formation indicative of modifying effects which the large bodies of water have on the surrounding forest vegetation. The native forest is of mixed conifer-hardwood composition. Recent paleoenvironmental studies (Swain 1983) involving palynological research in the indicate that there have been no major changes in the pollen profiles during the last 1,000 years. Others contend (Gibbon 1977:15) that the basic ground cover; i.e., the mixed coniferhardwood forest, has remained stable for the last 8,000 years. One variable noted, however, is a successional change to more bog land and less surface water through time (Gibbon 1977:16). may have been an important factor influencing land use settlement patterns as most travel in the region is by water because overland movement is impeded by the dense vegetation.

Floral species important to regional prehistoric and historic period subsistence patterns were the numerous fruits and berries available on a seasonal basis. Ethnohistoric accounts (Hickerson 1967; Densmore 1974) document their value to historically known groups in the area. Wild rice is also present at prehistoric sites (Lynott et al. 1986). Stands of wild rice were of primary importance when common to the area (Dore 1969) prior to the raising of lake levels by dams at Kettle Falls and International Falls in the early twentieth century.

Before the onset of heavy lumbering activities a great variety of game and fur-bearing animals were found in the park area (Thompson 1981:41). These included moose, woodland caribou, beaver, and muskrat as well as several varieties of migratory waterfowl. It was also suggested that fish were an important resource available to prehistoric groups (Cleland 1966; Fitting 1970; Thompson 1981).

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 vary from 4 to 10 feet. Summers are relatively cool and dominated by unpredictable thunderstorms. Winds are predominantly from the west and northwest, although a shift to the southeast occurs in late summer.

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Physical Description

The site

#### Recordation

Site 21SL82 was first recorded in 1976 (Gibbon 1977) during a reconnaissance survey of archeological and historic sites within the boundaries of Voyageurs National Park. Initial assessment of significance at the site in 1977 was based upon a surface collection made from the

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To evaluate tentative conclusions on site size, content, condition, and significance, 221SL82 was re-examined in 1979 and 1980 by personnel from the Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska (Lynott et al. 1986). These studies indicate that the site is undergoing considerable adverse impacts from fluctuating pool level and wave erosion

In 1979, a surface

collection of ceramic sherds and lithic debris was completed

defined by Gibbon (1977).

In 1980, surface collections were again made along the exposed cut bank and in areas of bare ground. These collections

A sparse scatter of ceramic sherds and lithic tools was also recovered although dry and dusty conditions provided less than optimal surface visibility (Lynott et al. 1986).

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Systematic shovel testing was initiated to delimit the site's areal extent. Fifty shovel tests were completed along five systematic transects. Positive shovel tests clustered in three localities approximating the western, central, and eastern portions of the site.

Shovel testing was limited to the area

To determine the cultural content and stratigraphy of the site, five 1x1 m test units were excavated to a maximum depth of 50 cm. The test units recovered additional ceramic, metal, and lithic remains assigned to both the prehistoric and historic assemblages of the site.

The test units reveal great variability in the soil depth from one portion of the site to another. Because of the slow buildup of the sandy loam soil profile, some mixing of the prehistoric ceramic components has taken place. However, it was determined that a fairly distinct horizontal differentiation between various components could be isolated with further study (Lynott et al. 1984:162).

Analyses of the material remains from 1979-1980 projects at 21SL82 indicate the presence of a multi-component site. The prehistoric lithic artifacts are largely undiagnostic, with a biface, an endscraper, and three retouched flakes represented. However, prehistoric ceramic fragments include a variety of Middle and Late Woodland vessels, of which fourteen can be assigned to distinct cultural, temporal components at the site (Lynott et al. 1986:163).

Vessels 6 and 10 from the site exhibit diagnostic characteristics attributed to the Laurel complex (see Stoltman 1973). The Laurel complex is attributed to the Initial Woodland period in the border lakes region (Wright 1981:89-91) beginning between 300 B.C. and A.D. 100 and extending to perhaps A.D. 600 or later. Current understanding of this complex is largely the result of research done by Wilford (1950; 1955)

Voyageurs National Park and is derived from burial mounds and associated occupation loci. The relationship between the type sites and those sites in the park containing Laurel ceramics is unclear, but thermoluminescence (TLM) dates from three Laurel sites 21SL35 (A.D. 580 ± 125); 21SL53, (A.D. 400 ± 210); and 21SL73, (A.D. 190 ± 170) (Lynott et al. 1974:275-276) fit within the middle to terminal Laurel sequence.

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Vessels 1, 2, 7, and 8 from 21SL82 are characteristic of the Blackduck complex (Lugenbeal 1978) which is associated with Terminal Woodland sites in the border lakes region covering a time span from ca. A.D. 620 to A.D. 1560 (Wright 1981:94) and possibly as late as A.D. 1750 (Arthurs 1978:6). One thermoluminescence date was taken in 1980 of a textile impressed body sherd from 21SL82 which provided a date of A.D. 1310+/-128 (Alpha-873). This date falls within the Terminal Woodland Period.

A comparison of the Initial Woodland Laurel ceramic fragments with those of the succeeding Blackduck ceramic fragments shows marked differences. Vessel change from the conical, straight-walled, dentate-stamped vessels of Laurel to the globular, outflaring-rimmed, cordwrapped stick-impressed vessels of Blackduck.

Relatively few historic artifacts collected during 1979/1980 are amenable to precise temporal assignment. The majority of the assemblage is from a turn-of-the-century context (Lynott et al. 1986:162). A 1897 dime in association with "resurgent" flow blue transfer printed whiteware was recovered from test unit 5 at the western end of the site. In addition, an amber bead and copper tinkler were found which related to a historic context.

An unsubstantiated report of two Hudson Bay trade gun parts reportedly found during excavation of a well at the site (Gibbon 1977:36,44) may indicate the presence of a fur trade component. No supporting evidence for this component was found during the 1979 or 1980 field seasons.

Faunal remains are present in small quantities at 21SL82. Elements of turtle, duck, and beaver have been identified (Falk 1982). This small assemblage does not permit an extensive discussion of subsistence patterns but does indicate that the soil conditions are most likely conducive to the preservation of other faunal and floral ecofacts. No subsurface features were identified during site testing. However, the limited amount of site area examined was not sufficient to expose features (Lynott et al. 1986:169).

In the summer of 1986 site 21SL82 was again visited by a Midwest Archeological field crew. Shovel testing was expanded to the east in 5 meter intervals

Fifty two shovel tests were excavated and the test area

The site proved to be larger than was previously thought, extending east

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of the flat zone into a rocky, sloping area. A surface inspection of the eroded cut bank revealed significant erosional damage. A total of 18 artifacts eroding out of the bank were piece plotted. These included ceramic sherds, lithic debitage, and faunal remains. Ceramics are representative of the Laurel, Blackduck, and Sandy Lake time periods.

The recovery of artifacts from the cutbank confirmed the multicomponent nature of the site and necessitated more sampling. Sixteen 1 x 1 m excavation units scattered over a large area of site uncovered intact materials relating to Blackduck, and Sandy Lake occupations. Cultural materials appear to be concentrated in dense clusters along the edge of the site. The test units yielded cultural material of a multicomponent nature with both prehistoric (Laurel, Blackduck, and Sandy Lake) and 19th century remains. Cultural components were often distinct and non mixed in these units. Some units, for example, yielded only Blackduck remains, and Sandy Lake was documented at the site for the first time. Prehistoric artifacts recovered during this season included: lithic tools and ceramics (including rims), copper awl and some worked copper fragments. Faunal elements from fish (northern pike, bass, walleye, and yellow perch), reptiles (painted turtle), birds (loon), and mammals (cottontail rabbit and snowshoe hare, beaver, muskrat, blackbear, marten, white tailed deer, and moose were represented at the site. These constituted a significant part of the recovered material and can add to the understanding of prehistoric subsistence. Numerous lithics (points, scrapers, and other tools) were recovered during this field season in contrast to earlier field seasons.

Recovered historic artifacts included a brass button, trigger guard for a musket or similar weapon, and trade beads (facetted amber, seed and large wound necklace). This confirmed the existence of a mid 19th Century component.

Two thermoluminescence dates were obtained during this field season on Blackduck cord wrapped impressed sherds. The first sample was a Blackduck neck sherd which was dated at 1120+/-140 B.P. (Alpha 3163), or A.D. 830+/-140 (A.D. 690-970) The second date from a Blackduck rim sherd was 750+/-80 B.P. (Alpha 3164), or A.D. 1200+/-80 (A.D. 1120-1280). These dates fall within the Terminal Woodland Period.

Field work continued in 1987. At this time the Midwest Archeological Center conducted ground penetrating radar survey and magnetometer survey. This work focused upon a 20 meter

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square segment where previous testing had revealed multicomponent remains. A metal detector was used to clear the area of (recent) historic remains (tent stakes, nails, pop tops). In addition, 19th century metal artifacts were discovered. These were piece plotted and then recovered by lifting the sod. It was apparent that looting had not taken place because all artifacts were within 5 cm of the sod layer.

Recovered historic artifacts included: 2 iron trade axes (one with J.Johnston maker's mark), a brass bail from a small vessel, the iron trigger from a trade gun, an offset awl, and a clasp knife fragment (French?).

The only prehistoric artifacts recovered during this field season were a small number of artifacts from the eroded bank and a large Archaic copper knife. This was the first solid evidence of archaic use of the area.

#### Area Excavated

The area of 21SL82 is approximately 4905 square meters. A total of 24 square meters was excavated, amounting to less than one percent of the site area.

#### Disturbances

The site has been disturbed by wave action which is responsible for considerable erosion

A plan has been developed to stop this natural erosion through stabilization of the bank by installation of soil fill and geotechnical fabrics. (See Lynott 1984)



plans, the site will be well protected from damage.

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#### Data Limitations

No radiocarbon dates are currently available for this site. Although charcoal occurs in the deposit, it has not been found in appropriate contexts for accurate dating. Faunal remains are abundant at the site and can be used for radiocarbon testing.

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consistent with a date range of 700 A.D. to 1500 A.D. (Lynott et al. 1986) The discovery of portions of a Sandy Lake vessel in 1986 may reflect a late Terminal Woodland occupation.

The historic period of occupancy may date from as early as the early to mid 1700s. The discovery of a French clasp knife suggests such an early date, but it is the only recovered artifact from this period and may represent an heirloom. The possibility of an 18th century occupation must be considered. Only a very small percentage of the site has been investigated and additional testing may reveal more artifacts from this period.

Evidence for a historic occupation of ca. 1800 to 1860 is provided by two trade axes, an offset awl (English?), a brass buttons, trigger guard and trigger from muskets or similar weapons, and several glass trade beads. These artifacts were recovered from the central portion of the site and may not overlap a later historic occupation on the west edge of the site.

A later historic occupation of ca. 1860 to 1900 is reflected in diagnostic artifacts recovered in 1980 at the western end of the site. These items included: flow blue ceramics, an 1897 dime, a copper tinkler, and an amber bead.

### Research Topics and Related Data Categories

Work by the National Park Service in 1979, 1980, and in subsequent years at Voyageurs National Park has been guided by general and regional research goals (cf. Lynott et al. 1984:10-11). There have been three primary goals.

- 1. Prehistoric environmental reconstruction. One goal has been to acquire information to understand and reconstruct the environmental conditions in the Rainy River region during the last 6,000 years. This includes testing the indications of changing climatic conditions recorded elsewhere in northern Minnesota (Craig 1972) and their applicability to the Rainy River region. This is to be accomplished by scientific analysis of data collected from dated archeological contexts and palynological studies in the border lakes area.
- 2. Subsistence. To gather information on subsistence patterns in the lacustrine environments of northern Minnesota, and compare it to data from previously analyzed sites in the riverine environments

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The abundant faunal remains recovered during the 1986 field season indicate that the conditions at the site are favorable for the preservation of faunal remains and possibly floral remains. Sites in the border lakes area do not generally possess conditions favorable for faunal preservation. Future work using controlled excavations at the site, with the express purpose of collecting subsistence data from both the Laurel and Blackduck components, could lead to the analysis of subsistence practices in the area and their temporal variability. The presence of paleoenvironmental data could also aid in understanding questions concerning land use patterns, species exploitation, and seasonality influences during the occupations indicated by the multiple prehistoric components.

3. Settlement patterns. A third goal has been to study the diachronic settlement patterns in the lacustrine environment of the border lakes area. This includes examining its potential for changes due to seasonal variability and to compare identified settlement patterns in the lacustrine environment with that in the riverine environment The recovered and remaining data base of in situ cultural materials at 21SL82 can be used to examine both the settlement and subsistence pattern aspects of the regional research design as well as other research interests. These data include intact subsurface discoveries of faunal remains, floral residue, and features.

Germane to the cultural-temporal questions, which can be addressed with data analysis from 21SL82, is the potential to evaluate current models, hypotheses and theories of subsistence with the "type" localities A comparison of subsistence patterns from temporally known contexts in both the lacustrine and riverine environments would be useful to develop more rigorous models of Woodland adaptive strategies in northern Minnesota and southern Ontario. Site 21SL82 contains data suitable to develop these models.

4. Ceramic typology. The ceramic vessel assemblage present at 21SL82 is significant since it contains quantities of Laurel, Blackduck, and Sandy Lake pottery with horizontal and possibly vertical separation between the three. Other sites in the area with both Laurel and Blackduck pottery have components that cannot be stratigraphically separated. Because the chronological placement and degree of interaction between these cultures is of great interest to area researchers, Site 21SL82 offers the opportunity to explore the temporal relationships between the assemblages through TLM samples taken from distinct contexts.

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Dates from such contexts serve to elucidate problems of cultural continuity and change between the Initial and Terminal Woodland periods of the border lakes region. This would add to a greater understanding of regional chronology.

- 5. Integrity. The significance of 21SL82 is supported by the physical integrity of the site. The data base for potential research in this region has been impacted by fluctuating lake levels which have destroyed or disturbed nearly every site to some degree. While disturbed sites do have the ability to contribute important temporal and settlement information, sites that retain a degree of stratigraphic integrity hold the most promise for future archeological research. Site 21SL82 is one of the few that has incurred shoreline erosional damage while retaining much of its deposit in a primary context.
- 6. Historic component. Artifacts recovered during the 1986 and 1987 field seasons expand the information regarding historic occupation of the site. The historic occupation may range from as early as the mid 1700s to the beginning of the 20th century. Artifacts appear to represent two and possibly three distinct occupations. Evidence for these occupations is provided by beads, metal trade goods, tools, gun parts, brass buttons, and historic ceramics. Since no documentation exists to indicate that white settlers inhabited the area during this period, the presence of these goods strongly suggests a historic Chippewa occupation. Further, the Cree and their allies moved to the west in the mid 1700s. After this time the Chippewa became the resident aboriginal group continuing through the present time.

  Delafield (McElroy and Riggs 1943) reported that Indians

belafield (McElroy and Riggs 1943) reported that Indians were occupying when he visited the area in 1823. He stated that "several Indians from their wigwams on the islands, aroused by the chant of my light hearted crew, gave chase in their little canoes" (McElroy and Riggs 1943:419) E.L. Brown, in his 1892 diary, mentions camping

by Indian camps. The presence of the Chippewa in the area is further verified by the existence of two trading posts in the immediate vicinity. Bourassa's Fur Post was

operated during the early part of the 19th century. Another trading post was

of historic components at the site spanning a century and possibly longer makes 21SL82 highly significant as one of a very few sites in the park with ties to the fur trade and historic Chippewa settlement.

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Additional information regarding historic occupation of 21SL82 was provided by Birk (1972). In his report when discussing the area where the site is located he states, "A large historic period Indian burial grounds (once dotted with spirit houses) is also said to have been located there." (Birk 1972:3) It is therefore likely that historic burials could exist in association with the early nineteenth century component occupation.

#### Additional Significance

The primary data base at 21SL82 needs to be evaluated not only for its ability to answer current research questions but for its ability to contribute to future research concerns not yet formulated. The changing dynamics of significance (Lynott 1980) must be addressed when determining the significance of a particular site. A site, such as 21SL82, which has material in a primary context, is multi-component with an apparent horizontal separation and with a demonstrated presence of ecofacts, holds the potential to contribute to a far wider range of future research interests than a site lacking such qualities.

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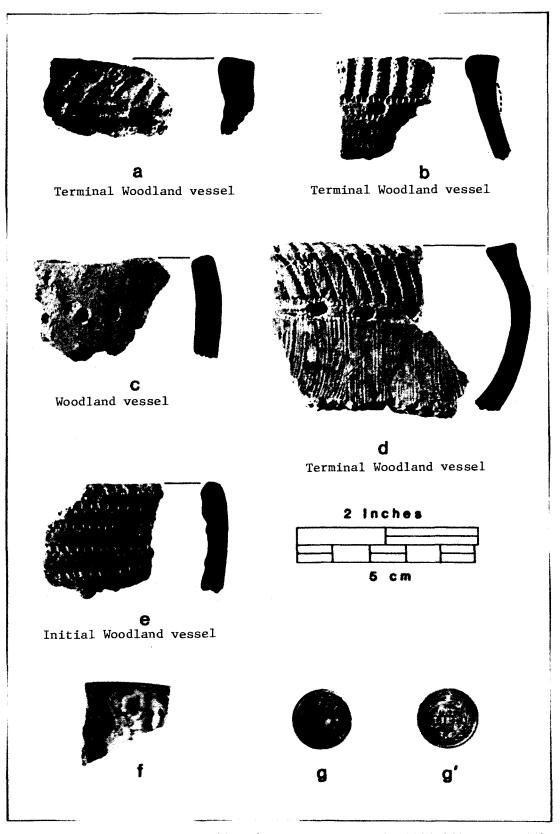
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Selected artifacts from 21SL82. (From Lynott et al. 1986:164 Figure 44)