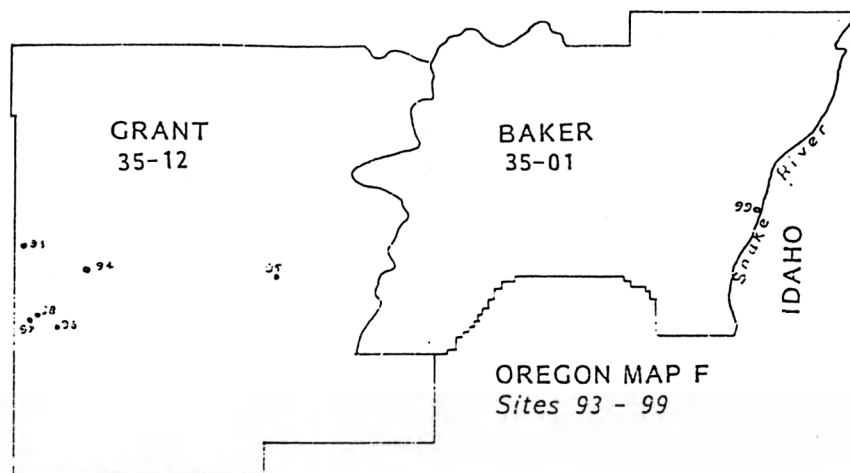




SITE 93

Picture Gorge, Grant County, OR
35-12-P.G.

Site 93 on the John Day River derived its name from the red pictographs on its canyon walls. At the upper end one group of pictographs is down close to the river. The second group (Fig. 123e, f, and g) is about 100 feet northwest, high on the cliff above U.S. 26. The lower groups are 0.3 to 0.4 mile north, on the west side of the highway, extending from ground level to 6 feet above.

All the pictographs are red, some being a darker shade than others. White pigment applied years ago to enhance black and white photographs obscures some of the original red pigment. White alkali covers some of the designs so it is necessary to dampen the rock to see the faded and intricate designs. Recently, at the lower site, the State Highway Department painted over some of the designs with brown paint in an attempt to cover the graffiti, and obliterated some of the pictograph designs which we had recorded in 1964. Fortunately, we had made tracings of these. This is the most extensive group of pictographs in Oregon which is easily accessible to the public. We noted drill holes for dynamite in the cliff. If the highway is scheduled for improvement, the pictographs will probably be destroyed as those at Dayville, Site 94, were in 1964.

One design (Fig. 124f) bears a striking resemblance to designs in Dog Creek Cave, 35-10-D.C., Douglas County, on the North Umpqua River, about 200 miles away, and to those of Devils Lake Pass, Site 81. Another (Fig. 126c) is an elaborate design with many elements similar to the design at Tumalo Creek Trail, Site 79. The pictograph of Figure 125f, which Herman Oliver (1961:222) illustrated, is the most photographed group at the site.

Cressman's Site 20, Figure 15, represents the upper group; his Figure 16 the lower group (1937:22-23). He did not mention Figure 123e and f, across the highway from the upper group, high on the cliff. In 1975 we used an extension ladder to enable us to get close enough to measure and photograph the pictographs.

See Figures 122a-d, 123a-g, 124a-l, 125a-f, and 126a-e

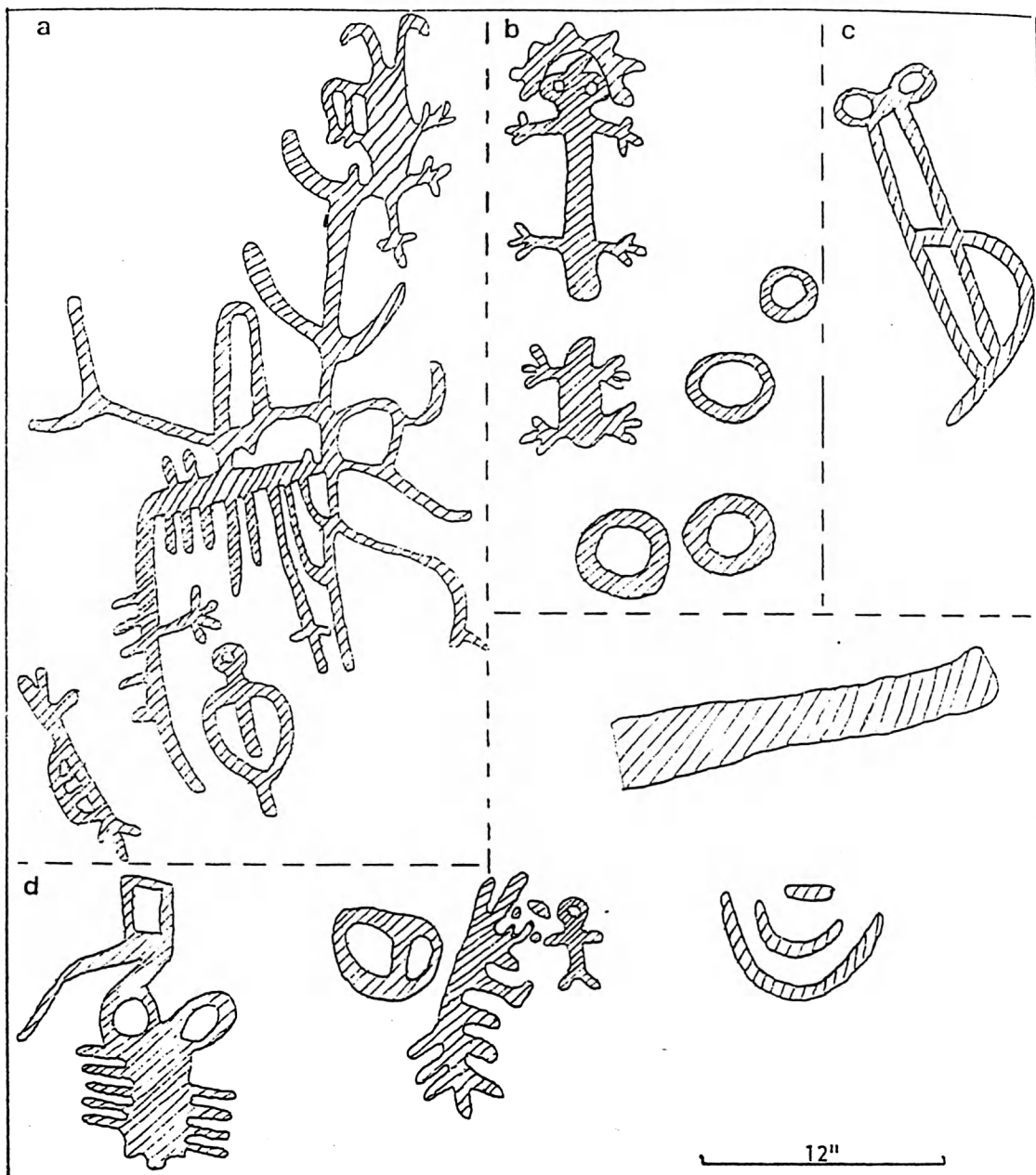


FIGURE 122
Site 93, Picture Gorge

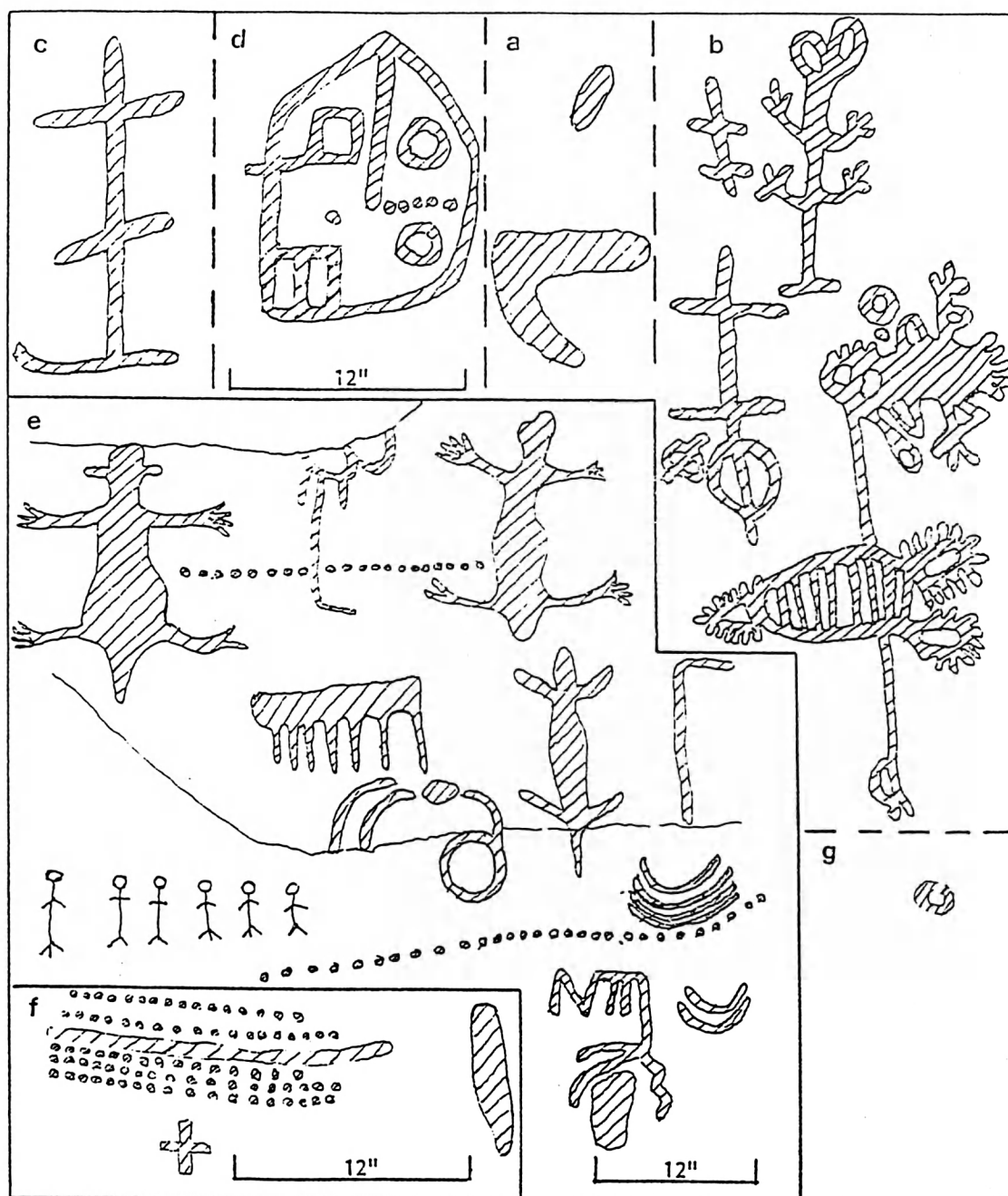


FIGURE 123
Site 93, Picture Gorge

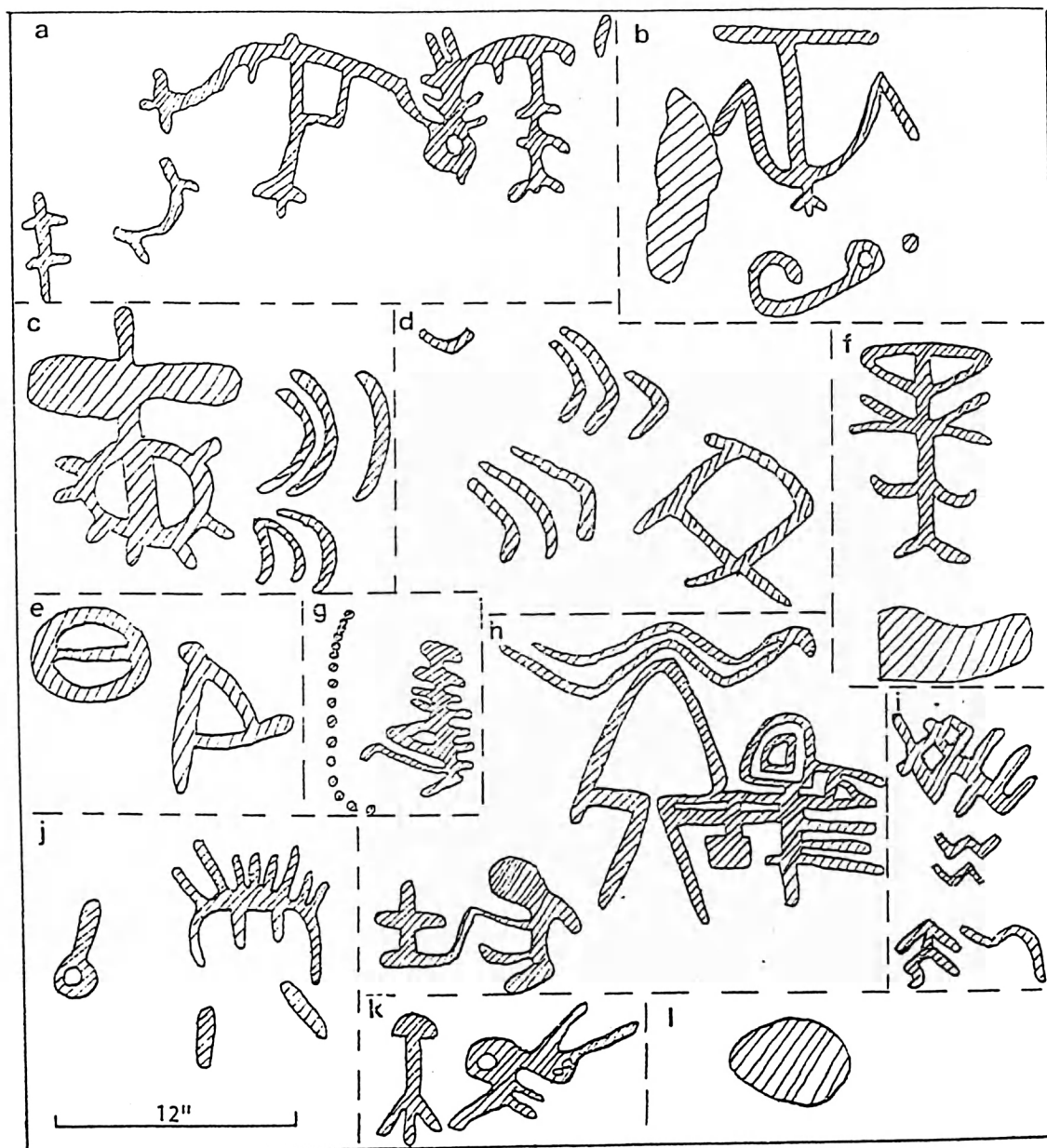


FIGURE 124
Site 93, Picture Gorge

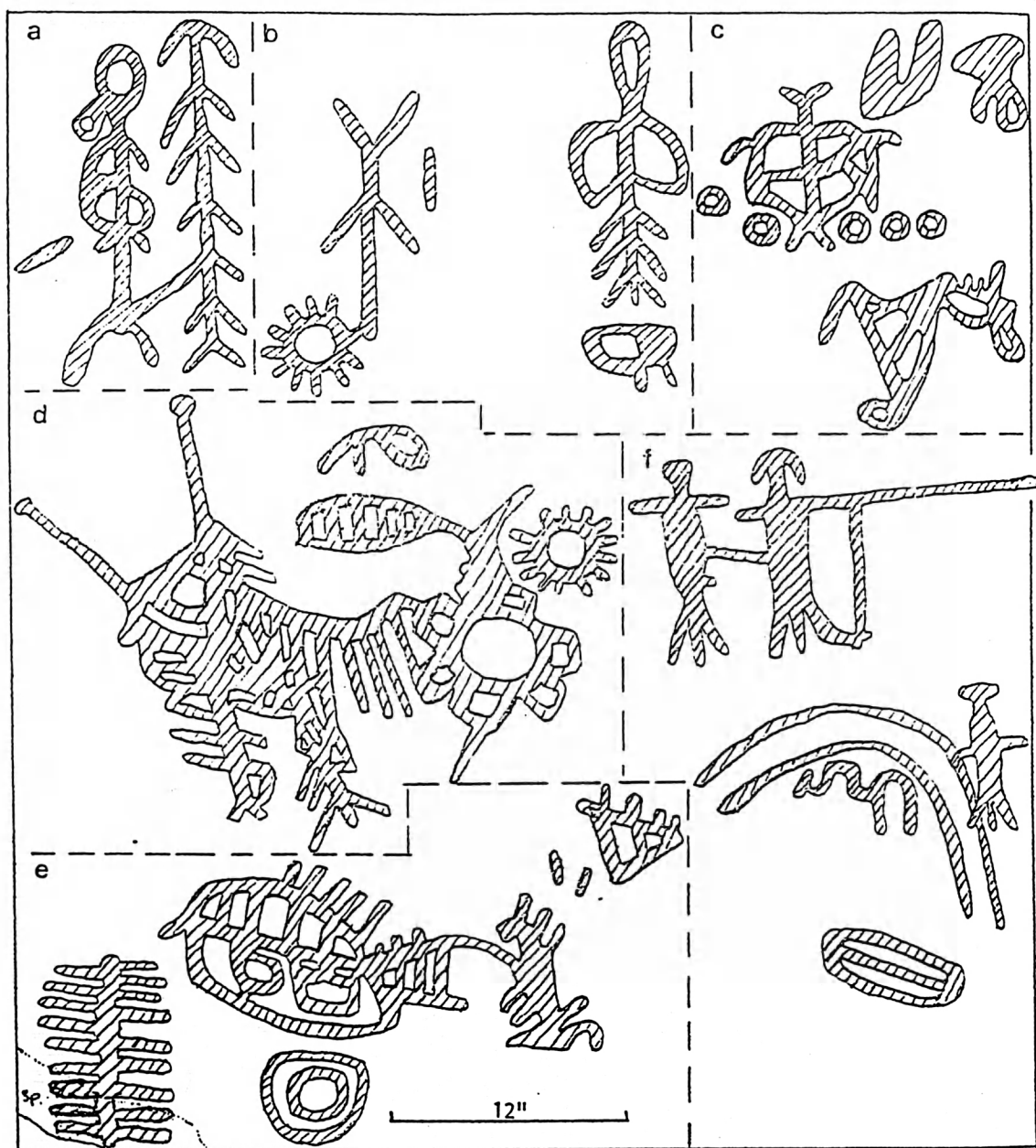


FIGURE 125
Site 93, Picture Gorge

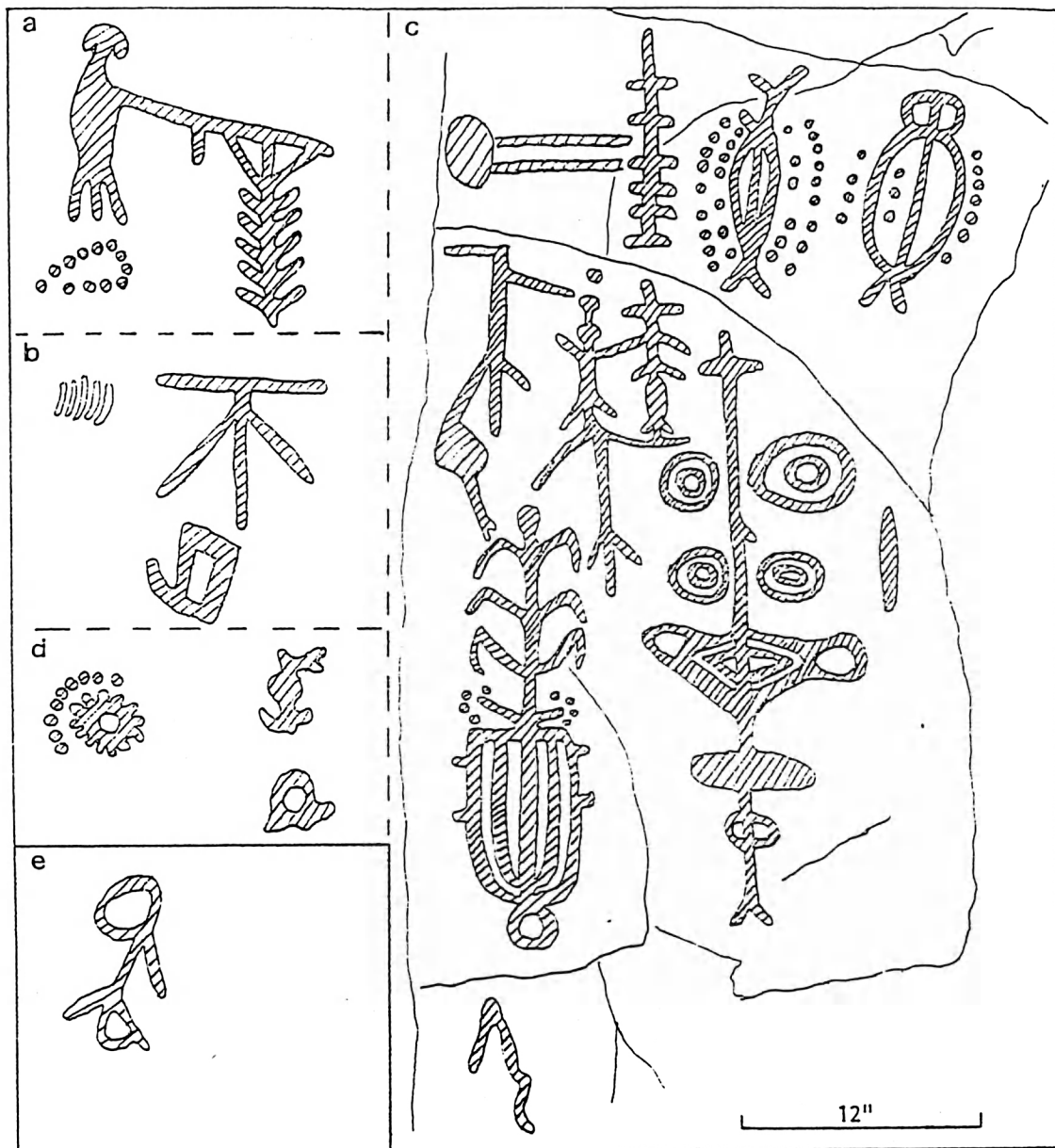


FIGURE 126
Site 93, Picture Gorge