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- Reservoir
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- War Eagle

**20. ABSTRACT (CONTINUE ON REVERSE SIDE IF NECESSARY AND IDENTIFY BY BLOCK NUMBER)**
A cultural resources reconnaissance was conducted at selected portions of Beaver Lake in northwest Arkansas. The area examined was primarily shoreland in 65 different parcels. A total of 31 sites were located. Sites examined consisted of bluffshelters, open sites, and scatters of lithic debris along the shoreline.
ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS REPORT NO. 45

Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey at Selected Locations, Beaver Lake Northwest Arkansas

by

W. J. Bennett, Jr.
and
Michael Swanda

Submitted to the Little Rock District Corps of Engineers

DACW03-84-D-0007
Order No. 2

1984
Abstract

A cultural resource reconnaissance was conducted at selected portions of Beaver Lake in northwest Arkansas. The area examined was primarily shoreline in 65 different parcels. A total of 31 sites were located. Sites examined consisted of bluffshelters, open sites, and scatters of lithic debris along the shoreline.
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Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey
at
Selected Locations, Beaver Lake
Northwest Arkansas

INTRODUCTION

Project Authorization

Under the authority of and in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190), the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), Executive Order 11593 (Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment), the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-291) and other authorities the United States Army Engineering District (USAED,LR), is developing a program of cultural resource management for lands under its management. As part of this program a cultural resources reconnaissance survey was initiated for selected locations at Beaver Lake, Arkansas. This work was performed by Archeological Assessments, Inc., Nashville, Arkansas, under Contract No. DACW03-84-D-0007, Order No. 2.

Project Area Location and Description

Beaver Lake was created by the impoundment of the White River near the town of Busch in Carrol County, Arkansas. The reservoir is located in Benton, Carroll, and Washington Counties (Figure 1).

The specific areas investigated included Prairie Creek, Big Clifty, Indian Creek, Lost Bridge and Starkey public use areas (942 acres) and 61 discontinuous parcels selected by the Resident Manager's office (347 acres). Areas examined are shown in Appendix IV.

Factors involved in the selection of particular parcels were the lack of previous cultural resource investigations, probability of adverse impact from wave action, probability of adverse impact by unauthorized collection and excavation (pothunting), and some intuitive judgments regarding the likelihood of site presence. The parcels constitute a nonrandom, nonprobabilistic sampling of Beaver Lake fee land. Given the limited funding available this procedure was chosen in the anticipation that it would result in the maximize areal coverage while locating the maximum number of threatened archeological sites.
Figure 1. Beaver Lake Location Map
Project Goals and Orientation

The goal of this effort was to provide the Little Rock District with an inventory of archeological sites, both historic and prehistoric, in these designated areas. Site investigations were designed to determine areal extent, depth, integrity, and, if possible, cultural affiliation and function. Testing to determine site significance was not authorized as part of this effort.

After the initial field work had been completed a modification to the work order was issued to examine an additional parcel. Because of the time constraints for this examination the results were reported to the Little Rock District in letter form. This letter report is included with this report as Appendix I.
INVESTIGATIONS

Background Studies

Records Check. As part of this investigation a review of the site files of the Arkansas Archeological Survey was conducted to determine if any of the designated areas contained recorded sites. This check was conducted by Michael Swanda. It was determined that previously recorded sites 3BE188, and 3BE382 were in areas to be investigated. No sites within the investigated areas are presently on or nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Literature Review. A review of recent literature regarding the cultural resources of the general Ozarks region was conducted by W. J. Bennett, Jr. This included the report of the previous survey efforts in Beaver Lake (Scholtz 1967; Bennett and Stewart-Abernathy 1981), a cultural resources overview for the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest (Sabo, Waddell and House 1982), a cultural resources overview for the Mark Twain National Forest (Douthit et al 1979), and the Northwest Arkansas portion of the Arkansas State Plan (Raab et al 1982).

Field Investigations

Field investigations were conducted over a 3 month period, September, October, November, 1984. W. J. Bennett, Jr. and Mary Bennett examined all of the public use areas with the exception of a portion of the Lost Bridge Public Use area. The scattered parcels and a portion of Lost Bridge Public Use area were examined by Michael Swanda and Barbara Swanda.

The examination of these scattered parcels turned out to be an extremely time-consuming activity. Many of these could only be reached by boat and weather hampered and delayed access to the parcels. The boundaries of the areas to be examined were not marked on the ground and assistance in locating them was not provided by the Resident Manager's office. In many cases the designated areas consisted of vertical bluffs which took enormous amounts of time and effort to examine. As a result of these difficulties we estimate that the areas examined were several times greater than the estimate of 347 acres.

All areas were examined by pedestrian survey and are described on the individual Survey Unit Forms submitted with this report (Appendix III). In general, shoreline areas were walked using transects spaced no more than 25 m apart. However, because many of the parcels were composed of steep slopes this ideal strategy could not be uniformly applied. In such cases areas were examined by walking all those level or nearly level areas which were thought to be capable of holding cultural materials.
Since most areas were devoid of soil, subsurface tests were not often employed. The areas subjected to shovel testing, usually 30 cm in diameter and 30 cm or less deep, are described on the Survey Unit Forms.

An attempt to assess site integrity was made at all sites visited. In areas where cultural materials were observed on bedrock with no soil matrix the judgment was made that the site lacked the soil matrix necessary for intact deposits. For open sites which still contained some soil matrix shovel testing was undertaken to determine both the depth of the soil matrix and the deposit of cultural materials. Assessing the possible integrity of bluffsites was more problematical since shovel testing in the matrices of such sites is most often extremely difficult and yields such equivocal results. Some assessment of integrity could be made by evidence of prior excavation at the surface.

Laboratory Analyses

All collected artifacts have been identified and analyzed. A full description of all the collected materials is given in Appendix V. Chronologically and functionally diagnostic artifacts are shown in Figures 2 and 3.

The Little Rock District has determined that the artifacts will be placed on deposit with the Office of the State Archeologist.
RESULTS

Archeological Context

There have been numerous archeological investigations conducted within the general Ozarks region and within the Beaver Lake area. Douthit et al. (1981) and Sabo, Waddell, and House (1982) provide excellent discussions of the general archeological context with heavy emphasis on work done in the Missouri Ozarks. Bennett and Stewart-Abernathy (1981: 104-126) provides a comprehensive discussion of work done at sites within the Beaver Lake area. Appendix VI of Bennett and Stewart-Abernathy (1981) summarizes all published accounts of work at individual sites within the Beaver Lake area prior to 1980. The following paragraphs incorporates some new information generated from southwestern Missouri into a summary of the present general consensus regarding the human occupation of the Beaver Lake area.

Previous Investigations. Archeological investigations in the Beaver Lake area can be roughly divided into 2 periods. The first was begun by the work of M. R. Harrington in the early 1920's who first brought the significance of the Ozark Bluffshelters to the attention of the archeological community (Harrington 1920; 1960). Harrington's initial investigations were followed by excavations conducted during the 1930's by the University of Arkansas Museum under the direction of S. C. Dellinger (Dellinger 1932, 1939; Dellinger and Dickinson 1942). These activities were largely confined to the excavation of bluffshelter sites and the initial analyses of what were thought to be the more spectacular items of material culture, primarily organic artifacts and debris.

The second period of investigation dates to the 1960's. Work during this period included the re-examination of a number of bluffshelters, excavations at other bluffshelters as well as a few open sites and a survey of the Beaver Lake area (Scholtz 1967).

Culture-Historical Framework. Harrington originally interpreted the remains recovered from the bluffshelters as belonging to two separate cultural units. The major components were attributed to the Ozark Bluff Dwellers with a minor representation of a later occupation which he called the Top Layer culture. The work of Dellinger did not seriously challenge this bipartite structure.

However, work done in the area in preparation for the creation of Beaver Lake was concerned to refine this sequence. The work of Scholtz (1967) and Thomas (1969) postulated a number of distinct culture-historical periods ranging from late Paleo-Indian through the Mississippian period. Thomas (1969) postulated seven distinct periods, five of which related to the Archaic occupation.
The absence or extreme scarcity of reported sites and materials similar to those found in the neighboring Caddoan and Mississippian cultural areas led to the formation of a widely held judgment that the Ozark highland region constituted a sort of cultural backwater into which the more sophisticated late prehistoric cultures either did not penetrate or take root.

This view has been strongly challenged in a series of recent studies which focus on late prehistoric sites in the Ozark Highland (Fritz 1979; Sabo 1981, 1982; Perttula 1983; Brown 1984). These studies concentrate on sites in the region but outside the project area, particularly the Loftin site in Stone County, Missouri, and the Huntsville Mound Site in Madison County, Arkansas.

It is therefore our judgment that it is appropriate to interpret the prehistoric human occupation of the area using the culture-historical framework now in widespread use throughout the Eastern Woodlands: Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian.

Paleo-Indian. This cultural stage, thought to be characterized by highly nomadic bands whose subsistence focused on large megafauna, is generally recognized by the readily identifiable fluted projectile points. While numerous such artifacts are reported in isolated contexts throughout the region no materials diagnostic of this period have been recovered from the Beaver Lake area.

Transition Paleo-Indian to Archaic: the Dalton Culture. It is widely supposed that the highly nomadic Paleo-Indian lifeways gave way to more regionally restricted hunting and gathering groups and that the transition to this occurred as the Pleistocene environment gave way to the more modern Holocene conditions. Researchers are now often inclined to place the widespread Dalton culture at this transition. The distinctive artifacts which make up the cultural assemblage we call Dalton are found in large numbers in the Ozarks and several have been recovered from the Beaver Lake area. A number of bluffsites have yielded Dalton type dart points.

Archaic. The Archaic period is now thought to have lasted in the region from approximately 8,500 B.C. until around A.D. 500–1,000. Extensive use of the Beaver Lake area is attested by the presence of Archaic types of dart points at almost every site from which chronologically diagnostic tools have been recovered. Attempts have been made to identify various groups, associated with chronological periods, within this large period. As mentioned above Thomas (1969) suggested that there were five different tool assemblages in the Archaic materials from the Breckenridge Shelter. However, excavations at Breckenridge and other shelters have not revealed a clear stratigraphic sequence or absolute dates which could be used to identify such groups within the Beaver Lake area with certainty.
In southwest Missouri three divisions within the Archaic sequence are proposed: the Rice Complex (Early Archaic; Chapman 1975: 129), the White River Complex (Middle Archaic; Chapman 1975: 159, 251), and the James River Complex (Late Archaic; Chapman 1975: 185-186). By and large these distinctions are made on the basis of projectile point forms. As a general rule of thumb it is thought that basal grinding is an early trait while side-notching and basal-notching is a trait of the Middle Archaic. Corner-notched and stemmed points are generally placed in the Late Archaic.

As indicated above until very recently it was widely thought that the social and economic patterns associated with nomadic hunting and gathering bands persisted in the Ozarks long after they had been abandoned elsewhere.

Woodland. The Woodland period is generally associated with the introduction of the bow and arrow, ceramics, and a more sedentary lifeway. While the characteristic grit-tempered plain ceramics are not found in abundance at sites in the Beaver Lake area they are represented in a number of inventories from bluffshelter sites.

Mississippian. This period is defined as a change to a highly stratified social organization with an economic focus on cultivated crops, particularly maize, beans, and squash. Very recent research in the wider region has emphasized the number and importance of sites in the Ozarks associated with this cultural stage. While mound groups are not particularly plentiful in the Ozarks they are, indeed, present. The Huntsville Mound Group is on War Eagle Creek very near the Beaver Lake area. Shell-tempered pottery associated with the Mississippian groups elsewhere is also represented at a few bluff-shelter sites (House 1978; Dellinger and Dickinson 1942). However, pottery is not reported from any of the open sites in the Beaver Lake area. Finally, tropical cultigens including maize have been recovered at several bluffshelter sites.
Areas Examined

A total of 65 separate areas were examined for cultural resources. These included the Prairie Creek, Big Clifty, Lost Bridge, Starkey, and Indian Creek public use areas and 60 other parcels. Since the selection process for these parcels was not made explicit it is not known what factors were involved in their designation. Because of the limited scope of the project it is not possible to specify how these parcels relate either qualitatively or quantitatively to the larger Beaver Lake area.

The location of the designated parcels was shown on maps provided by the Little Rock District. Each of the maps was given a number, 1 - 30, and different parcels on the same map were designated by letters starting with "a." Since map number 1 had three parcels these were designated 1a, 1b, and 1c. As the field work progressed it was determined that some of the sheets had duplicate designations. Since numerous sites and collections had already been recorded using the original system it was decided not to renumber the sequence. Consequently some numbers were assigned but not used, e.g. 16, 19, 22, and 24. Since all Survey Units are mapped individually and all sites will receive state numbers this will not provide any confusion.

The following is a summary list of the 60 separate parcels. More lengthy descriptions of these parcels and the public use areas are given on the Survey Unit Forms (Appendix III).

SURVEY UNIT: 1A
Quadrangle Sheet: Garfield
Terrain: Fairly steep hillslope
Vegetation: Mostly hardwoods with some cedar
Visibility: Good to excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 1B
Quadrangle Sheet: Garfield
Terrain: Fairly steep hillsides with a flat area at end of slough
Vegetation: Brush and weeds
Visibility: Good
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 1C
Quadrangle Sheet: Garfield
Terrain: Hillslopes, some extremely steep, with flat creek bottoms
Vegetation: Hardwood and cedar. Brush along the shoreline
Visibility: Good to poor
Sites Recorded: 0
SURVEY UNIT: 2A

 Quadrangle Sheet: Beaver
 Terrain: Bluff line very steep. Relatively flat on island
 Vegetation: Hardwood and cedar
 Visibility: Good to excellent
 Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 3A

 Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
 Terrain: Moderate hillsides
 Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods away from shoreline
 Visibility: Excellent
 Sites Recorded: 3A-1

SURVEY UNIT: 3B

 Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
 Terrain: Steep hillslope
 Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods away from shoreline
 Visibility: Poor to excellent
 Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 4A

 Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
 Terrain: Steep to vertical slopes. Some more gently sloping hillsides
 Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods, pasture
 Visibility: Poor to excellent
 Sites Recorded: 4A-1, 4A-2, 4A-3

SURVEY UNIT: 4B

 Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
 Terrain: Steep bluff-line and hillslopes
 Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods
 Visibility: Excellent
 Sites Recorded: 4B-1

SURVEY UNIT: 4C

 Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
 Terrain: Top of flat bluff. Slightly sloping hilltop
 Vegetation: Brush and woods
 Visibility: Poor to excellent
 Sites Recorded: 0
SURVEY UNIT: 4D

Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Very steep hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods away from shoreline
Visibility: Poor to excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 4E

Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Fairly flat ridge top. Steep slopes and hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods, Brush and grass
Visibility: Good to Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 5A

Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Gently sloping hillsides
Vegetation: Brush, grass and weeds
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 5A-1

SURVEY UNIT: 5B

Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Relatively flat to gently sloping hillsides
Vegetation: A few mixed hardwoods
Visibility: Good to excellent
Sites Recorded: 5B-1

SURVEY UNIT: 5C

Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Moderate to steep hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods away from the shoreline
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 5D

Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Steep to gently sloping hillsides with small, level creek valley
Vegetation: Brush and scrub
Visibility: Poor to excellent
Sites Recorded: 5D-1, 5D-2
SURVEY UNIT: 5E

Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Steep hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwood and low brush
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 5E-1 (3BE307), 5E-2

SURVEY UNIT: 5F

Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Gentle to steep hillsides. Some flat terraces
Vegetation: Brush and scrub
Visibility: Poor to fair
Sites Recorded: 5F-1

SURVEY UNIT: 6A

Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods away from the shoreline
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 7A

Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods away from shoreline
Visibility: Poor to excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 8A

Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Steep hillsides with some fairly level bench areas
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods and grass
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 8B

Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Steep hillsides
Vegetation: Hardwoods upslope
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0
SURVEY UNIT: 9A

Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Terrain: Hillsides
Vegetation: Scattered hardwoods
Visibility: Poor to good
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 10A

Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Terrain: Level floodplain
Vegetation: Brush and pasture
Visibility: Poor
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 11A

Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Terrain: Steep hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods away from the shoreline
Visibility: Poor to excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 11B

Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Terrain: Gentle hillsides with some level areas
Vegetation: Brush and weeds
Visibility: Poor to excellent
Sites Recorded: 11B-1

SURVEY UNIT: 12A

Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Terrain: Steep banks and gently sloping hillsides
Vegetation: Scrub and weeds
Visibility: Poor to excellent
Sites Recorded: 12A-1

SURVEY UNIT: 12B

Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Terrain: Steep hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods and cedar
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0
SURVEY UNIT: 12C
Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Terrain: Steep hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods away from shoreline
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 13A
Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Steep hillsides and bluffs
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods
Visibility: Poor to excellent
Sites Recorded: 13A-1 (3BE291), 13A-2

SURVEY UNIT: 13B
Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Steep hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods away from shoreline
Visibility: Poor to excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 14A
Quadrangle Sheet: Sandstone Mt. & Beaver
Terrain: Steep hillsides
Vegetation: Brush and grass
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 15A
Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Steep hillsides and level bluff-tops
Vegetation: Hardwoods away from shoreline
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 15B
Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Steep hillsides and bluffs
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0
SURVEY UNIT: 15C

Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Steep to gentle hillsides and vertical bluffs
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods upslope
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 15D

Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Terrain: Steep hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods upslope
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 16

Not Used

SURVEY UNIT: 17A

Quadrangle Sheet: Sandstone Mt.
Terrain: Vertical bluffs
Vegetation: Hardwoods and cedars
Visibility: Fair to Excellent
Sites Recorded: 17A-1, 17A-2, 17A-3

SURVEY UNIT: 17B

Quadrangle Sheet: Sandstone Mt.
Terrain: Gentle to steep hillsides
Vegetation: Hardwoods and cedars
Visibility: Poor
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 17C

Quadrangle Sheet: Sandstone Mt.
Terrain: Steep hillside and bluffs
Vegetation: Hardwoods and cedar
Visibility: Poor
Sites Recorded: 0
SURVEY UNIT: 17D

Quadrangle Sheet: Sandstone Mt.
Terrain: Steep hillsides and bluffs
Vegetation: Hardwood and some cedar
Visibility: Poor
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 18A

Quadrangle Sheet: Sandstone Mt.
Terrain: Steep hillsides and bluffs
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods and cedar
Visibility: Good
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 18B

Quadrangle Sheet: Sandstone Mt.
Terrain: Steep hillsides and bluffs
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods and cedar upslope
Visibility: Good
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 19

Not Used

SURVEY UNIT: 20A

Quadrangle Sheet: Spring Valley
Terrain: Gentle hillsides and level creek bottoms
Vegetation: Pasture
Visibility: Poor
Sites Recorded: 20A-1

SURVEY UNIT: 21A

Quadrangle Sheet: Elkins
Terrain: Level terrace
Vegetation: Pasture
Visibility: Poor
Sites Recorded: 21A-1

SURVEY UNIT: 22

Not Used
SURVEY UNIT: 23A

Quadrangle Sheet: Sonora
Terrain: Steep hillsides with small creek floodplain
Vegetation: Grass and hardwoods
Visibility: Fair
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 23B

Quadrangle Sheet: Sonora
Terrain: Moderate hillsides and fairly level terrace
Vegetation: Pasture, mixed hardwoods and cedar
Visibility: Poor to excellent
Sites Recorded: 23B-1

SURVEY UNIT: 23C

Quadrangle Sheet: Sonora
Terrain: Steep hillsides
Vegetation: Hardwoods and brush
Visibility: Poor
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 23D

Quadrangle Sheet: Spring Valley
Terrain: Steep hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods and cedar
Visibility: Fair
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 24

Not Used

SURVEY UNIT: 25A

Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Terrain: Steep hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods upslope
Visibility: Poor to excellent
Sites Recorded: 0
SURVEY UNIT: 26A

Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Terrain: Steep hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods away from shoreline
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 26B

Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Terrain: Steep hillsides
Vegetation: Hardwoods upslope
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 26B-1

SURVEY UNIT: 27A

Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Terrain: Steep hillsides and bluffs
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods upslope
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 27A-1

SURVEY UNIT: 28A

Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Terrain: Steep hillside
Vegetation: Scrub and weeds
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 28B

Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Terrain: Gentle hillsides
Vegetation: Brush and scrub, hardwoods upslope
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 29A

Quadrangle Sheet: Sonora
Terrain: Flat top bedrock and gentle hillsides
Vegetation: Scrub, some pasture
Visibility: Poor to excellent
Sites Recorded: 29A-1
SURVEY UNIT: 29B

Quadrangle Sheet: Sonora
Terrain: Steep to gentle hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods and cedar
Visibility: Excellent
Sites Recorded: 29B-1

SURVEY UNIT: 29C

Quadrangle Sheet: Sonora
Terrain: Very steep hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwood and pine
Visibility: Poor to excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: 29D

Quadrangle Sheet: Sonora
Terrain: Vertical bluffs and steep hillsides
Vegetation: Hardwoods
Visibility: Fair
Sites Recorded: 29D-1

SURVEY UNIT: 29E

Quadrangle Sheet: Sonora
Terrain: Steep hillsides and level hilltop
Vegetation: Scrub and some pasture
Visibility: Poor to fair
Sites Recorded: 29E-1, 29E-2

SURVEY UNIT: 30A

Quadrangle Sheet: Spring Valley
Terrain: Steep hillsides
Vegetation: Mixed hardwood, pine and cedar
Visibility: Poor to excellent
Sites Recorded: 0

SURVEY UNIT: Lost Bridge Public Use Area

Quadrangle Sheet: Garfield
Terrain: Steep hillsides and hilltops
Vegetation: Mixed hardwoods, pine, cedar
Visibility: Generally very good
Sites Recorded: Lost Bridge # 1 (BL32); Lost Bridge # 2 (3BE417)
SURVEY UNIT: Prairie Creek Park
Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Terrain: level to gently rolling
Vegetation: mixed hardwoods and grass
Visibility: generally poor
Sites Recorded: 0
Remarks: bluffshelters are along nature trail; no cultural materials noted but are strongly suspected

SURVEY UNIT: Big Clifty Park
Quadrangle Sheet: Sandstone Mountain
Terrain: steep hillsides
Vegetation: hardwoods
Visibility: generally poor
Sites Recorded: 0
Remarks: Two areas of bluffshelters were noted; no cultural materials observed but are strongly suspected

SURVEY UNIT: Indian Creek Park
Quadrangle Sheet: Garfield
Terrain: very steep hillsides
Vegetation: hardwoods; grass
Visibility: generally poor
Sites Recorded: 3BE188 is in the area but could not be relocated

SURVEY UNIT: Starkey Park
Quadrangle Sheet: Garfield
Terrain: steep hillsides with some level areas
Vegetation: hardwoods and grass
Visibility: generally poor
Sites Recorded: 0
Remarks: some bluffshelters noted; no cultural materials seen but are strongly suspected
Sites Recorded

A total of 31 sites were visited during this survey. When the site forms were reviewed by the Arkansas Archeological Survey it was determined that some of these sites were sites that had been recorded much earlier but whose exact location had been in doubt. Discussions between Michael Swanda and Jerry Hilliard, Registrar for the Arkansas Archeological Survey, were able to determine the exact locations of these sites.

The following is a brief description of each site. The sites are listed both by assigned state number and by the field designation which is given in parentheses, e.g. 3BE405 (3A-1). Completed Arkansas Archeological Survey site forms for these sites are on file with the office and the Little Rock District. In some instances we recorded bluffs as sites even though no cultural materials were observed at the time of survey. It was felt that this was the best way to call attention to these resources.

The recommendations offered are grouped in three categories. The recommendations "No further investigations" and "Evaluate for National Register eligibility" are self explanatory. The recommendation for further investigations indicates that we do not believe that investigations to date have been sufficient to determine the exact nature of the site. Such investigations would include periodic visits to a site to collect surface materials and/or the placement of shovel tests.

One of the important considerations in the management of particular cultural resources is the presence of intact deposits containing cultural materials. The presence or absence of such deposits determines its integrity. In this effort we attempted to assess the degree to which each site still contained undisturbed deposits which might yield important information about the lifeways of the region's past inhabitants. The presence (and, perhaps, nature) of such deposits can often be determined by examination of the site's surface or by excavating shovel tests to examine the soil profiles at the site. In this effort, judgments about site integrity could often be made by surface examination. For example, if artifacts were observed on deflated gravel surfaces at the shoreline it could be determined that no intact deposits were present at that portion of the site. In these cases attempts were made to locate artifacts upslope where soil erosion and deflation was not as severe. If no materials were discovered upslope it was assumed that the displaced artifacts were all that remained of the site. However, in some instances field conditions did not permit such a determination to the complete confidence of the investigator. In these cases additional investigations were recommended. The determination of integrity of bluffshelter deposits is somewhat more difficult. Surface examination could often determine if prior excavations (or pothunting) had been done at the site but the extent to which such activities had effected the cultural deposits could not be determined through shovel testing. However, wherever possible an estimate regarding prior damage was made.
SITE: 3BE405 (3A-1)
Survey Unit: 3A
Description: Light surface scatter of prehistoric lithic debris as well as historic period materials over an area about 100 x 80 m. No subsurface materials or features observed.
Materials: Chert flakes, poured concrete foundation, ceramic drain pipes, whiteware, and stoneware. The historic period materials are thought to date to the mid-20th century. Prehistoric cultural affiliation is undetermined.
Condition: Totally deflated
Recommendations: No further investigations

SITE: 3BE406 (4A-1)
Survey Unit: 4A
Description: Light surface scatter of prehistoric lithic debris over an area about 140 x 60 m. No subsurface materials or features observed.
Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris.
Condition: The site is presently in pasture with a road through it. Because of this land-use we were not able to conduct the level of subsurface examination appropriate to determine the presence, nature, or condition of the cultural deposit.
Recommendations: Further investigations to determine the depth and nature of the cultural deposit. It is likely that a program of shovel testing would be sufficient to determine if the site should be evaluated formally.
SITE: 3BE407 (4A-2)
Survey Unit: 4A
Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Description: A bluffshelter measuring approximately 15 m in width by 35 m long. The ceiling is about 10 m high. Smaller overhangs are present down the bluff line towards the west.
Materials: No materials observed.
Condition: Apart from occasional use for contemporary camping the site seems to be relatively undisturbed.
Recommendations: Further investigations are recommended including subsurface investigations to establish the presence or absence of cultural materials and deposits.

SITE: 3BE408 (4A-3)
Survey Unit: 4A
Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Description: Light surface scatter of prehistoric lithic debris over an area about 30 x 20 m along a ridge slope. No subsurface materials or features observed.
Materials: Chert flakes, modified fragments, hammerstone, dart point base fragments.
Condition: The site is totally deflated.
Recommendations: No further investigations

SITE: 3BE409 (4B-1)
Survey Unit: 4B
Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Description: A bluffshelter measuring about 40 m long by 12 m wide with a 15 m high ceiling.
Materials: No materials observed.
Condition: Beaver Lake covers the floor of the shelter with 5 feet of water.
Recommendations: Further investigations when dry
SITE: 3BE410 (5A-1)
Survey Unit: 5A
Description: An isolated chert dart point along the eroded shoreline.
Materials: Chert dart point. Cultural affiliation thought to be either Late Archaic or Woodland.
Condition: Shoreline totally deflated here.
Recommendations: No further investigations

SITE: 3BE411 (5B-1)
Survey Unit: 5B
Description: Fairly dense surface scatter of prehistoric lithic debris over an area about 220 x 110 m. No subsurface materials or features observed. It covered a small, low island and parts of the nearby shoreline.
Materials: Chert dart point base fragments, preforms, cores, biface fragments, flakes. Cultural affiliation seems to be Archaic.
Condition: Totally deflated.
Recommendations: Further investigations including systematic surface collections to gather chronological and, possibly, functional indicators

SITE: 3BE412 (5D-1)
Survey Unit: 5D
Description: A small bluff shelter measuring about 5 m x 3 m under a 20 foot high bluff outcrop. Rock overhang covers a small dry area where rocks have been piled for walls. There is a small spring-fed creek about 50 m south of the site.
Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris.
Condition: The site has been vandalized. Potholes and screened back-dirt piles are present.
Recommendations: Further investigations to determine extent of damage
SITE: 3BE413 (5D-2)
Survey Unit: 5D Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Description: This is a house site with spring house. Stone-mortar walls are still standing. This was the Van Winkle home dating to at least the 1890's.
Materials: No materials collected.
Condition: The buildings were demolished.
Recommendations: No further investigations

SITE: 3BE414 (5E-1)
Survey Unit: 5E Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Description: A small bluff shelter measuring about 10 m long x 2 m deep.
Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris.
Condition: The site is usually flooded.
Recommendations: Further investigations

SITE: 3BE415 (5E-2)
Survey Unit: 5E Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Description: A small bluff shelter about 15 m long and 4 m deep. A historic rock wall is present on the western end.
Materials: No materials collected.
Condition: The site is currently flooded.
Recommendations: Further investigations when dry
SITE: 3BE416 (5F-1)
Survey Unit: 5F
Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle
Description: Light surface scatter of prehistoric lithic debris over an area about 20 x 20 m. No subsurface materials or features observed.
Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris.
Condition: The site is totally deflated.
Recommendations: No further investigations

SITE: 3BE418 (11B-1)
Survey Unit: 11B
Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Description: Light surface scatter of prehistoric lithic debris and historic period ceramics over an area about 140 x 120 m. No subsurface materials or features observed.
Materials: Chert biface, dart point fragment, flakes, 2 blue shell-edge fragments. Prehistoric cultural affiliation is thought to be Archaic. Historic period unknown.
Condition: The site is totally deflated.
Recommendations: Further investigations including systematic surface collection

SITE: 3BE421 (12A-1)
Survey Unit: 12A
Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Description: Light surface scatter of prehistoric lithic debris over an area about 250 x 250 m. The material was found along the shoreline and on a low island nearby. No subsurface materials or features observed.
Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris.
Condition: The site is totally deflated and has probably been surface collected previously.
Recommendations: Further investigations with systematic surface collections perhaps during a draw-down
SITE: 3BE291 (13A-1)
Survey Unit: 13A
Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle

Description: A small bluffshelter measuring 35 m long and 7 m deep. Artifacts were observed in the shelter and along the shoreline in front of the shelter.

Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris.

Condition: The site seems to be periodically flooded.

Recommendations: Further investigations when area is dry.

SITE: 3BE11 (13A-2)
Survey Unit: 13A
Quadrangle Sheet: War Eagle

Description: A small bluffshelter measuring about 30 x 4 m at the western end of Red Bluff. This is a part of 3BE11.

Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris.

Condition: The site seems to be in good condition.

Recommendations: Evaluate for National Register eligibility.

SITE: 3BE18 (17A-1)
Survey Unit: 17A
Quadrangle Sheet: Sandstone Mt.

Description: A bluffshelter measuring 30 x 20 m with a 2 m high ceiling. The slope from the bluff top has eroded down onto the shelter floor creating a 3 m high deposit at the front of the shelter. This is a part of 3BE18.

Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris. Some mussel shells were seen.

Condition: Some potholes were observed.

Recommendations: Evaluate for National Register eligibility.
SITE: 3BE18 (17A-2)
Survey Unit: 17A  Quadrangle Sheet: Sandstone Mt.
Description: A series of bluff overhangs covering an area measuring about 200 x 10 m. Several fairly large ditches and potholes are present with wooden shoring held together by wire nails at the base of slope wash. This is a part of 3BE18.
Materials: Historic period structure, post-1900. No prehistoric materials were observed but are suspected.
Condition: Large areas have been excavated from the site.
Recommendations: Evaluate for National Register eligibility.

SITE: 3BE18 (17A-3)
Survey Unit: 17A  Quadrangle Sheet: Sandstone Mt.
Description: A small bluff shelter measuring about 20 m long and 5 m deep. This is a part of 3BE18.
Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes.
Condition: The site seems to be in fairly good condition.
Recommendations: Evaluate for National Register eligibility.

SITE: 3WA602 (20A-1)
Survey Unit: 20A  Quadrangle Sheet: Spring Valley
Description: An extensive lithic scatter measuring about 260 x 160 m along a poorly developed terrace and hillslope next to War Eagle Creek.
Materials: Chert dart point (Dalton), dart point fragments, flakes, biface fragments, and debris. Cultural affiliation seems to be Dalton and Archaic.
Condition: The site is currently in pasture.
Recommendations: Evaluate for National Register eligibility.
SITE: 3WA38 (21A-1)
Survey Unit: 21A
Quadrangle Sheet: Elkins
Description: Light surface scatter of prehistoric lithic debris over an area about 20 x 20 m. This is 3WA38.
Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes.
Condition: The site is currently in pasture and extensive shovel testing was not possible at the time of survey.
Recommendations: Further investigations including shovel testing to determine the extent of cultural deposit.

SITE: 3WA601 (23B-1)
Survey Unit: 23B
Quadrangle Sheet: Sonora
Description: An extensive surface scatter of lithic material over an area of about 300 x 60 m. No subsurface materials or features observed.
Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris.
Condition: The site is currently being eroded by Beaver Lake (White River) during periods of high water.
Recommendations: Further investigations to determine the extent of deposits not yet adversely effected.

SITE: 3BE419 (26B-1)
Survey Unit: 26B
Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers
Description: Light surface scatter of prehistoric lithic debris over an area about 300 x 10 m. No subsurface materials or features observed.
Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris.
Condition: The site has been almost totally deflated.
Recommendations: Further investigations including systematic surface collection.
SITE: 3BE420 (27A-1)

Survey Unit: 27A

Quadrangle Sheet: Rogers

Description: Light surface scatter of prehistoric lithic debris and a small bluff shelter. The shelter measures about 10 m long x 2 m deep. A spring is located in back of the shelter. No artifacts were seen in the shelter.

Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris.

Condition: Shoreline area was totally deflated. The shelter seemed to be in fairly good condition.

Recommendations: Further investigations to determine the presence and nature of cultural deposits in the shelter.

SITE: 3BE404 (29A-1)

Survey Unit: 29A

Quadrangle Sheet: Sonora

Description: Light surface scatter of prehistoric lithic debris over an area about 20 x 20 m. No subsurface materials or features observed.

Materials: One Archaic? period dart point, chert flakes and debris.

Condition: The site is almost totally deflated.

Recommendations: Further investigations including systematic surface collection.

SITE: 3WA605 (29B-1)

Survey Unit: 29B

Quadrangle Sheet: Sonora

Description: A fairly dense surface scatter of lithic debris over an area of about 180 x 20 m. No subsurface materials or features observed.

Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris.

Condition: The site is almost totally deflated.

Recommendations: Further investigations with systematic surface collection.
SITE: 3BE21 (29D-1)
Survey Unit: 29D
Quadrangle Sheet: Sonora
Description: A bluffshelter measuring about 45 m long x 3 m deep. Artifacts were collected in a small (10 x 3 m) area. This is site 3BE21.
Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris. Some mussel shells were also observed.
Condition: The site seemed to be in fairly good condition.
Recommendations: Evaluate for National Register eligibility

SITE: 3WA603 (29E-1)
Survey Unit: 29E
Quadrangle Sheet: Sonora
Description: Light surface scatter of prehistoric lithic debris over an area about 140 x 10 m. No subsurface materials or features observed.
Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris.
Condition: The lower portion of the site is deflated. However, the site may extent upslope into an area covered with pasture.
Recommendations: Further investigations to determine if intact deposits exist upslope.

SITE: 3WA604 (29E-2)
Survey Unit: 29E
Quadrangle Sheet: Sonora
Description: A very light scatter of lithic debris covering an area about 160m x 10m
Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris
Condition: The lower portion of the site is deflated but, the site may extent upslope into an area covered with pasture.
Recommendations: Further investigations to determine if intact deposits exist upslope
SITE: 3BE417 (Lost Bridge # 1)

Survey Unit: Lost Bridge Recreation

Description: A long, linear bluff shelter, over 200 m long x 3 m wide. The cultural deposit is at least 1.5 m deep.

Materials: Undiagnostic chert flakes and debris. Mussell shell and unidentified bone fragments were also observed.

Condition: The site has been vandalized. Numerous pot holes were observed along with piles of back-dirt.

Recommendations: Evaluate for National Register eligibility.
Recovered Materials

Materials were collected from 23 of the sites visited. With the exception of a few pieces of historic period ceramics the inventory consisted of lithic items. These items were classified as either artifacts, flakes, or debris. A full description of all recovered materials is given in Appendix V. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate some of the more morphologically recognizable items.

Items which can be placed within a general time frame include the Frio-like dart point (Figure 3d), two corner-notched dart point fragments (Figure 3e, m), a small side-notched dart point (Figure 2j), and what seems to be a basal fragment of a basal-notched or barbed dart point (Figure 3i), and a likely candidate for a Gary dart point (Figure 3d). All of these items could be comfortably placed in the Archaic sequence with the side-notched point no doubt representing the earliest and the Gary point the latest.

Two items can be considered functionally diagnostic. These are a small drill fragment (Figure 3l) and the small chert hammerstone (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Chert hammerstone, 3BE408
Figure 2. Selected Artifacts (a - point tip, 3BE417; Frio-like point base, 3BE410; c - biface fragment, 3WA605; d - Gary point, 3BE404; e - base, 3BE418; f - biface, 3BE419; g - dart point?, 3WA602; h - point base, 3BE411; i - point base, 3WA602; j - side-notched point, 3BE411; k - biface fragment, 3WA604; l - drill, 3WA602; m - point base, 3BE408; n - biface fragments, 3WA603)
INTERPRETATIONS

Because of the restricted goals and scope of this study it is difficult to extrapolate very far with these data.

Chronologically the materials recovered fit well into the previously constructed culture-historical framework and inventory of recovered materials.

In terms of site distribution this study can add little to the information already gained in the 1981 study (Bennett and Stewart-Abernathy 1981). Our general impression is still that sites are distributed broadly across the landscape and that the bluffshelters offered such advantages that they attracted human occupation and use to certain micro-environments that might not otherwise have been found attractive. Open sites are found on relatively slight hillslopes and in alluvial situations.

The processes which were observed to have severe impact in 1981 seem to be continuing. Vanda'sim seems to continue in the bluffshelters. It is difficult to understand how to stop or control this short of a considerably expanded practice of periodic ranger patrol of these sites. A mitigating alternative of a large scale data recovery program should be given some consideration. However, it is our strong recommendation that this be undertaken only after a very thorough synthesis of the data previously recovered from these sites has been completed.

By and large shoreline sites are completely deflated with artifacts found lying on exposed bedrock. However, there are still some fairly large open sites which have a chance of containing some depth in certain areas of Beaver Lake. These tend to cluster at the upper ends of the tributary creeks and along the southern portions of the White River. We recommend that in the future special attention be paid to the identification of sites in these locales and that strong consideration be given to the initiation of a data recovery program for these sites. These may be the last remaining vestiges of the alluvial valley portions of the settlement systems used by the area's past human populations.
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APPENDIX I

Letter Report
January 7, 1984

CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
Tract Nos. 820 and 1400-2
Beaver Lake, Arkansas

Project Authorization

Under the authority of and in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190), the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), Executive Order 11593 (Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment), the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-291) and other authorities the US Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, contracted with Archeological Assessments, Inc. of Nashville, Arkansas, for the performance of an intensive cultural resources survey to be performed on a portion of Tract Nos. 820 and 1400-2 in the Beaver Lake area.

Work was performed under a modification of Contract No. DACW03-84-D-007, Order No. 0002.

Project Area Location and Description

The project area consisted of a small, .4 acres, tract located in the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 23, Township 19 North, Range 29 West.

Since the exact location of this small tract was not marked on the ground the actual pedestrian survey covered a more extensive area. The area examined consisted of a transect approximately 100 m wide along the shoreline for approximately 500 m as shown in Figure 1.

The terrain in this area is a 20 to 35 degree hillside in mixed hardwoods. At the time of the survey the lake level was near its flood pool elevation. Soil in the project area is very thin and poorly developed.

Records Check

There are no sites on record for this parcel in the cultural resource files of the Little Rock District.
Field Work

Field examination was conducted by Michael Swanda on January 3, 1985. The area examined was a strip approximately 100 m wide along the shoreline. The surface was covered by vegetation and leaf cover and ground visibility was seldom less than 0%. The area was walked in transects spaced at 20 - 25 m intervals with shovel testing done at 25 m intervals. Approximately 100 shovel tests were excavated. The shovel tests did not vary significantly from the standard 30 cm in diameter and 20 cm deep in very thin soil containing gravels and blocky chert.

At the time of survey the lake level was very high and no deflated shoreline was visible.

Terrain in the area consisted of a 20 to 35 degree hillside. The hillside was covered in mixed hardwoods. Shovel tests consistently showed gravels and very little soil. Surface visibility was nearly 0% throughout the area due to leaf cover and vegetation.

Results

No archeological sites were found during this effort.

Recommendations

No further archeological investigations are recommended for this parcel.
Figure 1. Project Area Location. Project Area Outlined in Red. 
(Map Source: USGS topographic map, Beaver Quadrangle) 
Scale 1:24,000
APPENDIX II

Survey Unit Locations
APPENDIX V

Recovered Materials
APPENDIX V

Recovered Materials

Key to abbreviations:

- a = absent
- cht = chert
- frag = fragment
- hf = heat fractured
- hmt = hematite
- mod = modified
- nov = novaculite
- p = present
- shl = shale
- sts = siltstone

The size of all complete or nearly complete flakes is recorded according to the scale illustrated below.

Materials were analysed by Anne Frances Gettys, Laboratory Supervisor, and Leslie Raymer, Laboratory Assistant. Artifact photography was done by David Hughes.
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