

REPORTS OF THE ARKLA  
SALVAGE PROJECT

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CONTRACT ARCHAEOLOGY SERIES, NO. 1.

OKLAHOMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY,  
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, NORMAN.

1974

## NATIVE MADE CERAMICS AND HISTORIC ARTIFACTS

## FROM TUCKER'S KNOB

by

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## INDIAN POTTERY

Shell Tempered Plain Ware (Figure 14: N-P)

Number of Specimens: 80 sherds; 3 rim, 77 body.

## Description:

Paste: These sherds have a compact clay paste with crushed shell serving as temper. Shell constitutes from 20 to 50 percent of the paste. Sherds are pitted due to leaching of shell particles.

Method of Manufacture: A number of specimens are broken along coil welds, which are somewhat obscured by the leaching of shell particles. Interior and exterior surfaces have been well smoothed.

Form: The sherds are too small to provide much data on vessel form. A shouldered jar form is apparently represented, however. Lips of the three rim sherds are rounded.

Surface Treatment: All sherds have smooth surfaces and there is no indication of decoration.

Color: Sherds are predominantly brown or orange-brown on their exterior surfaces, although some have a layer of black soot. Sherd cores are darker than exteriors and range from grey to black as do interior surfaces. A few specimens have brown interiors, however.

Dimensions: Range in thickness of the complete sherds is from 5 to 14 mm. The average thickness of the sherds is 7.5 mm., and 7 mm. is the most common thickness.

Affiliations: The smooth surfaced, shell tempered pottery from Lt-35 can be included within the type Woodward Plain (see Hall 1951; Freeman and Buck 1960; Brown 1971). Woodward Plain is best known from late Caddoan sites, in the Arkansas River Valley (circa A.D. 1400, see Baerreis 1960).

Wyckoff (1971: Tables 3 and 4) has summarized the radiocarbon dates from Fort Coffee and Neosho focus sites in eastern Oklahoma, all of which have produced Woodward Plain pottery. This type was intensively used between A.D. 1200 and 1500, but exactly how long Woodward Plain continued to be used is unknown. The plain surfaced, shell tempered ware from Tucker's Knob could relate to limited occupation or utilization of the site during late prehistoric times. The possibility that such ceramics as these could have been manufactured by historic Choctaw in the area should not be overlooked. Until further data is available on how long Woodward Plain continued to be used in the area, it may be more appropriate to consider the plain shell tempered pottery as late prehistoric in age.

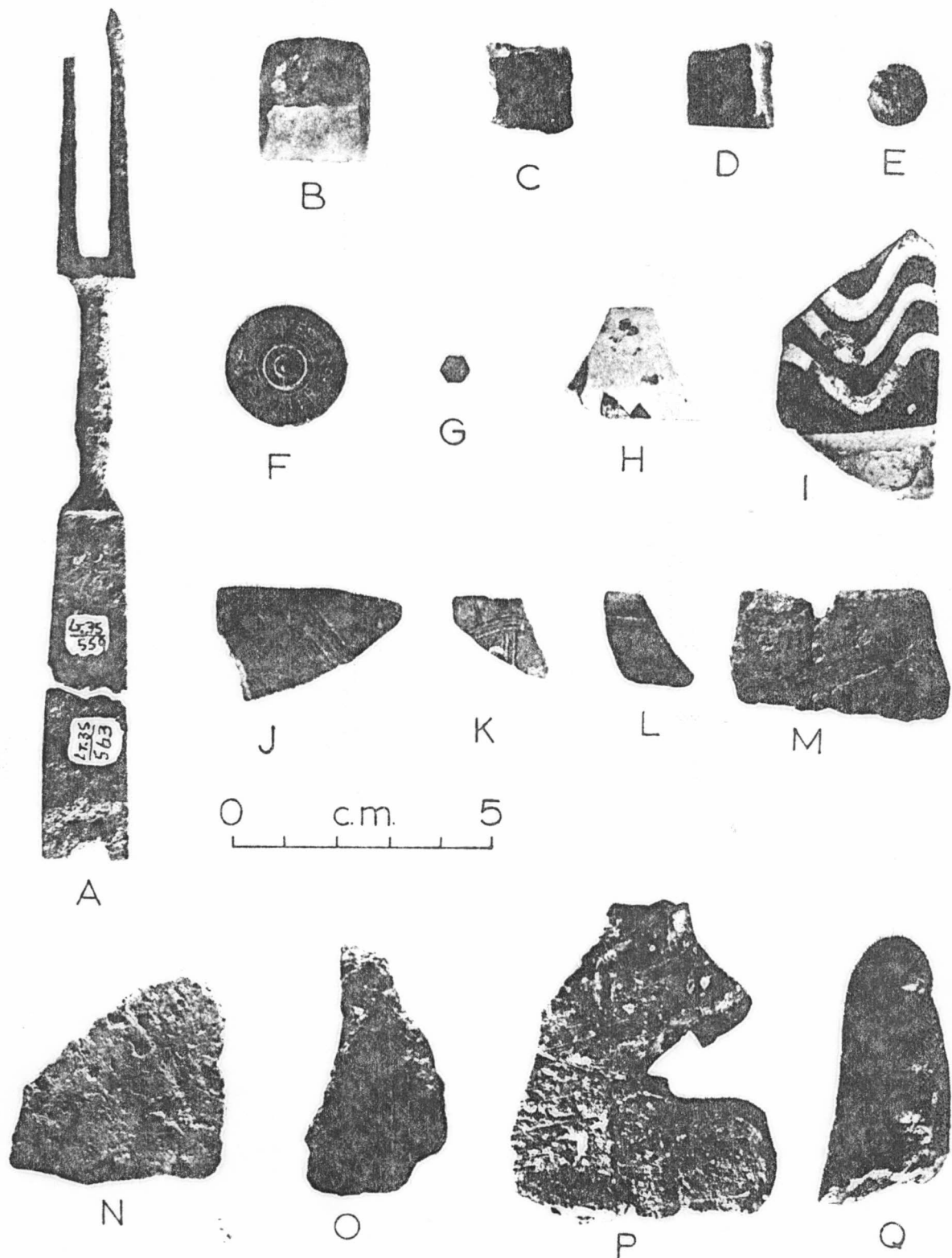


Figure 14 Native Made and Historic Artifacts From Tucker's Knob:  
 a--Metal Fork; b-d--Gun Flints; e--Musket Ball; f--Shotgun  
 Shell Casing; g--Glass Bead; h--Hand Painted Polychrome  
 Ware; i--Mocha Ware; j-m--Choctaw Incised Ware; n-p--Shell  
 Tempered Plain Ware; q--Clay Figurine Fragment (?).

## HISTORIC CERAMICS

Hard Paste Earthenwares

## Mocha Ware (Figure 14i)

Number of Specimens: 1 sherd.

Previous Description: Baugh 1970: 25; Lewis 1972: 46.

Description: The sherd has white wavy bands on a black background. The black area is bordered with a white band which is parallel to a blue band. The sherd is 6 mm. thick. The use of Mocha was reached its height during the 50 year period around 1825, but continued to be manufactured until early in this century (Baugh 1970: 25; Lewis 1972: 46).

Provenience: Level 1 of square 14SE-11NE.

## Hand Painted Polychrome Ware (Figure 14h)

Number of Specimens: 1 sherd.

Description: This sherd represents the rim of a cup or steep sided bowl. The exterior design is floral and consists of a black stem, green leaves, and blue flower. On the interior surface a 2 mm. wide brown band is present just below the round lip. The specimen measures 3 mm. thick.

Provenience: Surface.

## White Porcelain

Number of Specimens: 6 sherds.

Description: These very small sherds exhibit no potter's marks or decorations. Most sherds are split so that thickness cannot be measured.

Provenience: Five specimens are from level 1 and one is from level 2. Level 1 specimens come from squares 1NW-3SW (3), square A, and 15SE-11SW. The level 2 specimen is from square 15SE-4SW.

## Stoneware

Number of Specimens: 1 sherd.

Description: This sherd represents the shoulder of a small vessel (possibly an inkwell) which has a dark reddish-brown glaze on both surfaces. It measures 7 mm. thick.

Provenience: Level 1 of square 3SE-4SW.

Glass

## Bottle Glass

Number of Specimens: 1

Description: One piece of blue green bottle glass has been partially burned and melted. It measures 4 mm. thick.

Provenience: Level 1 of square 3SE-4SW.

## Glass Bead (Figure 14g)

Description: This translucent blue, barrel-shaped bead is of simple construction and has 18 facets. It measures 5.5 mm. in diameter and 5 mm. long.

Provenience: Surface.