

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration FormNATIONAL
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 Morty siteother names/site number 47AS40

2. Location

street & number Apostle Islands National Lakeshore☐ not for publicationcity, town Bayfield☒ vicinitystate Wisconsincode WIcounty Ashlandcode 003zip code 54814

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official See next page of return for SHPO Signature

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Edwin C. B. [unclear]Date May 3, 1988State or Federal agency and bureau National Park Service, Dept. of the Interior

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

John J. Krueger6/13/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC-- Prehistoric camp

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE--National Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

The Morty Site, 42AS40 [REDACTED] Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. The Morty site represents a significant intact Late Woodland and/or protohistoric multi-component (Blackduck/Sandy Lake) site. Analysis of the archeological material indicates several artifact categories including: lithics, ceramics, faunal materials, and floral materials.

Resource Count

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

Noncontributing Resources: There are no noncontributing resources at the site.

Environmental Description

The regional geomorphology is largely glacial in origin. The Apostle Islands are "... composed of comparatively weak sandstones and can be considered as representing hilltops between preglacial valleys. Glacial erosion seems to have deepened and widened channels between the islands." (Salzer and Overstreet 1976:7), resulting in the present topography. Both glacial deposits and the subsequent lacustrine deposits associated with glacial Lake Duluth comprise the parent material for area soils. The predominant soil associations result from the extensive distributions of Superior Clays. Minor associations result from the thin mantling of clays with reworked sands, beach sand, and terrace deposits. This is a significant distinction in the Apostle Islands area, for few prehistoric sites have been located in clay derived soils. Site location seems to favor the various sandy soil associations and is probably related to the drainage capability of the particular soil association.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☒ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Archeology--Prehistoric

Period of Significance

Late Woodland to

Protohistoric

Significant Dates

A.D. 800 to

1600

Cultural Affiliation

Blackduck (Late Woodland)

Sandy Lake (Protohistoric)

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary Statement

The Morty site is significant for its potential to yield a wide variety of information important to understanding the archeological record of the region. The site provides data for; understanding subsistence and settlement in an insular setting, clarifying the regional chronological sequence, understanding the local lithic technology, and demonstrating the educational significance of archeology in the Apostle Islands.

Specific Dates

Thermoluminescence dates from a Blackduck Banded sherd (A.D. 900+/210 Alpha 861) and from a Sandy Lake sherd (A.D. 1685+/53 Alpha 860) suggest Late Woodland and protohistoric occupations of the site.

Research Topics and Related Data Categories

Salzer formulated five research objectives that serve as a starting point in developing a regional research design. Those points applicable to the Morty site include reconstruction of former environmental conditions and development of a regional culture history (Salzer 1979:5).

1. Subsistence and settlement patterns. The overwhelming percentage of sites located in the Apostle Islands is comprised of small scatters of lithic debris. These sites present certain limitations for reconstructing subsistence and settlement activities. The Morty site, with artifact classes rarely found in the National Lakeshore (faunal, floral and ceramic remains), offers a significant opportunity to answer research questions

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☒ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository:

Midwest Archeological Center
Lincoln, Nebraska

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property _____

UTM References

A

Zone	Easting	Northing
C		

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

[REDACTED]

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary Justification

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathie Masters/Archeologist
organization Midwest Archeological Center/NPS
street & number 100 Centennial Mall North
city or town Lincoln

date 4/13/88
telephone 402-437-5392
state Nebraska zip code 68508-3873

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Vegetation on the islands has been characterized by coniferous and mixed coniferous forest since shortly after the glacial retreat. Vegetation at 47AS40 is dominated by balsam fir and white birch. Swain (1981) has used pollen and charcoal analysis of bog and lake sediments from several islands and the Bayfield peninsula to reconstruct presettlement forests. His findings indicate a relationship between soil type and vegetation. Fauna on the islands is quite diverse.. Several species of mammals, as well as transient avian populations and aquatic resources, probably provided significant food resources for aboriginal populations.

The present climate of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore region is largely continental although modification by Lake Superior and Chequamegon Bay is a significant tempering influence. Seasonal mean temperatures are: winter, 15.1 degrees F; and summer, 64.2 degrees F. The average frost-free season is 116 days, from May 30 to September 23. Precipitation is substantial with a recorded annual mean of 26.88. (Salzer and Overstreet 1976).

Physical Description

[REDACTED]

Recordation

The Morty site was located in 1975 as part of a survey of [REDACTED] connection with a larger project to initiate an inventory and assessment of prehistoric and historic archeological resources within the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Wisconsin (Salzer and Overstreet 1976). Field notes indicate four 1x1 m test pits were excavated at this time. Material was concentrated in one test pit and included quartz and chert flakes, firecracked rock, grit and shell tempered ceramics, and a considerable amount of burnt faunal material (Salzer 1980:5).

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Further work at the site in 1977 revealed the stratigraphy and integrity of the site.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The soil profile was characterized by a modern humus layer (zone A) and three sand substrata (zones B, C, and D) (Salzer 1980:29-35). Artifacts are concentrated in the upper 10-15 cm of the profile, primarily in zones A and B with a few recovered from the extreme upper portion of zone C. The excavation revealed the artifacts to be in a primary undisturbed context. Six aboriginal features were identified. Four were firecracked rock concentrations with associated lithic, faunal and ceramic debris, one was a basin shaped pit with similar debris, and one was designated a midden. The midden contained ash, bone, firecracked rock, lithics, and ceramic material.

An examination of the lithic inventory allows some general statements concerning lithic utilization at 47AS40. A majority of the assemblage (ca. 55%) is composed of the quartz debitage common to other sites in the National Lakeshore. A significant proportion of the remainder, however, is made up of various hues of chalcedony and chert with a small representation of banded Lake Superior agate. The variety of lithologic material types at Morty is in marked contrast to the predominately quartz composition of assemblages from other sites in the park. Reconstruction of some of the debitage indicates that "fist" size cobbles, similar to those found on the nearby beach, were the source of raw materials used at Morty (Salzer 1980:46). Both quartz and chalcedony cobbles have been observed on the nearby beach. Analysis also indicates the presence of the bipolar lithic technology mentioned by other investigators working in the Upper Great Lakes (Binford and Quimby 1963; MacDonald 1968).

The lithic inventory reveals a broad spectrum of formal tool categories not commonly observed at other sites in APIS. Scrapers, projectile points, perforators, bifaces, hammerstones, and abraders indicate a wide range of activities occurred at 47AS40.

A substantial ceramic sample was collected from the Morty site. This is of considerable interest for very few sites in the Apostle Islands have a ceramic component. Parts of eight separate vessels were recorded. Two forms, Blackduck Banded and Sandy Lake Corded, similar to types described from other areas (MacNeish 1958; Cooper and Johnson 1964) were identified.

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Salzer's (1980) originally interpreted the cultural temporal setting as a Blackduck occupation superimposed over a Sandy Lake occupation at the site based on the relationship between the stratigraphic location of ceramic sherds from the culturally distinct groups. TLM dates of the Sandy Lake sherd (A.D. 1685 + 53) and the Blackduck sherd (A.D. 900 + 210) indicated a Sandy Lake disturbance with a reversal in the stratigraphic location of Blackduck and Sandy Lake sherds.

Evidence for some working of copper was also found at the site. Both modified and unmodified copper fragments were recovered.

Faunal evidence was present at 47AS40. It consisted primarily of badly burned bone fragments. A small amount of poorly preserved unburned bone was also collected. Positive identification of moose and probable identification of deer were made. A bone flaking tool was recovered.

Charred vegetal remains were recognized in macroscopic field analysis but no positive identification was made.

Area Excavated

Disturbances

The site is in good condition and only appears to be disturbed by such natural processes as tree falls.

Data Limitations

The very thin nature of the culture bearing deposit makes stratigraphic interpretations difficult.

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dealing with subsistence and settlement in an insular setting. The presence of floral and faunal remains makes the site significant for possible paleoenvironmental reconstructions of the area by biologists, botanists, and geomorphologists as well as archeologists.

Besides basic subsistence information, questions concerning exploitive patterns and seasonality can also be answered with data from the Morty site. The midden present at 47AS40 contains a microenvironment significantly more likely to preserve fauna and floral remains than sites where only normal soil conditions, typically quite acidic, are present.

The difference in temper between Sandy Lake (shell) and Blackduck (grit) ceramics can also address research questions of a possible shift in subsistence practices (i.e., shellfish procurement) through time by groups in the insular setting. Additional unnamed ceramic types found by Salzer (1980) at Morty supplement the previously described types and taken together comprise the most important ceramic resource recorded to date in the Apostle Islands area.

The lithic sample reveals a wide variety of tools present at the site. Scrapers, projectile points, perforators, bifaces, and abrading stones indicate that a wide range of activities and functions were performed at the site. This is in direct contrast to presumed single activity sites, evidenced by non-diagnostic lithic scatters, typical of the large majority of sites in the park. The Morty site seems to be the only extended occupation or multiple function site thus far located. The opportunity to study a site that was reoccupied several times or served as a camp for an extended period of time makes the Morty site significant with respect to answering questions of cultural change, subsistence, and land use patterns through time.

Features are also present. The firecracked rock concentrations, the storage pit, and the midden are important indicators of social interaction, economic activities and the use of space at the site. These are significant concepts that can be investigated to add to our overall understanding of subsistence and settlement in the Apostle Islands.

2. Regional culture history development. Research questions concerning the chronological sequence of regional prehistory can be answered at 47AS40. The presence of diagnostic ceramics, similar to those found elsewhere in the Upper Great Lakes, when

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compared to the absence of ceramics or other diagnostic artifacts at most other sites, allows information concerning the Morty site to make a significant contribution to the understanding of Middle to Late Woodland occupations in the area. Several vessels identified as Blackduck and Sandy Lake wares were recovered from the midden at 47AS40 (Salzer 1980). There is considerable overlap in the reported spatial and temporal ranges of the wares (Birk 1979; Lugenbeal 1979) but the relationships between the two are not clearly understood. In northern Minnesota's Mississippi Headwaters region, Sandy Lake ware seems to replace an early Blackduck ceramic phase (Cooper and Johnson 1964; Lugenbeal 1979:24; Birk 1979:176) but appears to be contemporaneous with a late Blackduck ceramic phase that flourished through historic times in the Rainy River region of northern Minnesota (Birk 1979:176), 150 miles to the northwest of the Apostle Islands. The midden deposit at Morty, with both ceramic types present, offers the opportunity to explore research questions dealing with this complex Late Woodland and/or protohistoric relationship. TLM dates from ceramics recovered from the site indicates a Blackduck occupation of the site at A.D. 900+/210 (Alpha 861) while the Sandy Lake occupation occurred at a later date of A.D. 1685+/53 (Alpha 860).

Wall profiles taken from field notes indicate a marked thickening of the midden deposit to the southeast of the area tested. The probability exists that a more extensive deposit could further clarify the stratigraphic relationships between the wares and also afford preservation of datable material in a discrete context that would allow the addressing of questions of local and regional chronology.

3. Lithic Technology. The lithic sample also provides a contrast to other sites in the National Lakeshore. As previously mentioned, lithic assemblages throughout the park are dominated by quartz materials. While this is statistically true at Morty, non-quartz materials comprise an unusually high portion of the total sample (45%). Questions concerning land use patterns, intra-site variability, and changes of lithic technology and procurement strategies through time can be addressed at the site.

The Morty site can also contribute data to studies concerning bipolar lithic technology; especially about the somewhat ambiguous "wedges" described in the Upper Great Lakes literature (Binford and Quimby 1963; MacDonald 1968; Mason 1981). Some view wedges as a functional tool class (Birmingham and Salzer 1980) while others see them as an end product of flake

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manufacture (Flenniken 1980, 1981). Flenniken's recent work (1980, 1981) has indicated a connection between wedges and fishing subsistence. Finding wedges in an undisturbed context, such as the Morty site, in association with a wide range of other tool types, may clarify the functional significance of the wedge in the insular subsistence pattern. Fruitful research in this area would have a far reaching impact not only in the park but in the surrounding lakes region. Most sites are composed of quartz debitage (including wedges), firecracked rock, and little else. A demonstrated link between behavior and artifacts would add greatly to subsistence information in the region.

Additional Significance

The Morty site affords the opportunity to demonstrate the educational significance of archaeology in the Apostle Islands. The vast majority of sites in the park consist of small lithic scatters. 47AS40 offers a wide range of artifacts not available at other sites in the park that would give insights into subsistence and temporal considerations. The Morty site is a significant resource for making archeology relevant to the public within the park because of its richness and stratigraphy.

Finally the finite nature of archeological resources and an understanding of the dynamic process involved in determining site significance (Lynott 1980) must be considered. Changes in the resource base as well as changes in research interests determine which sites are significant at any point in time. Once lost, the archeological data base cannot be recovered. The National Park System offers a viable alternative to preserve a wide range of cultural resources that will not be preserved elsewhere (Lynott 1982). Therefore, all due consideration should be afforded significant sites found under federal jurisdiction as a means of preserving the nation's cultural heritage.

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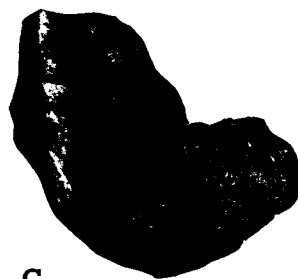
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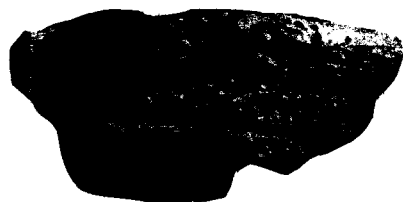
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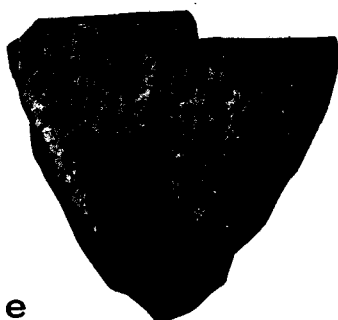
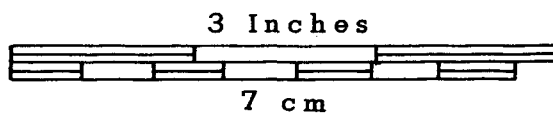
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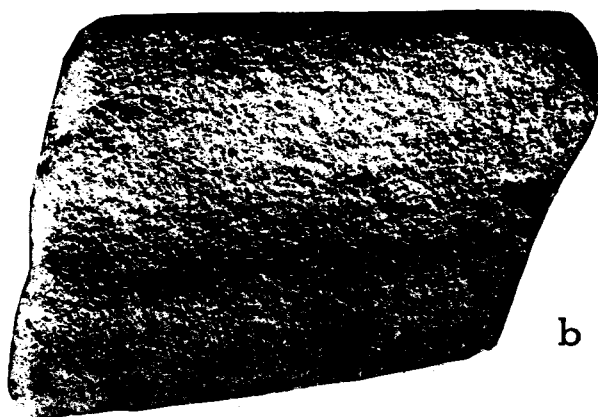


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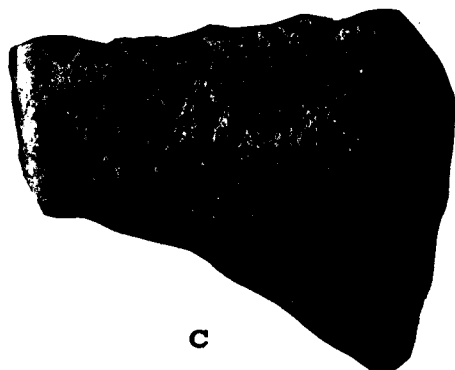
Plate 1. a,b) Vessel #4 Unnamed thread wrapped string impressed, c,d) Vessel #2 Blackduck banded, e,f,g) Vessel #7 Sandy Lake Corded



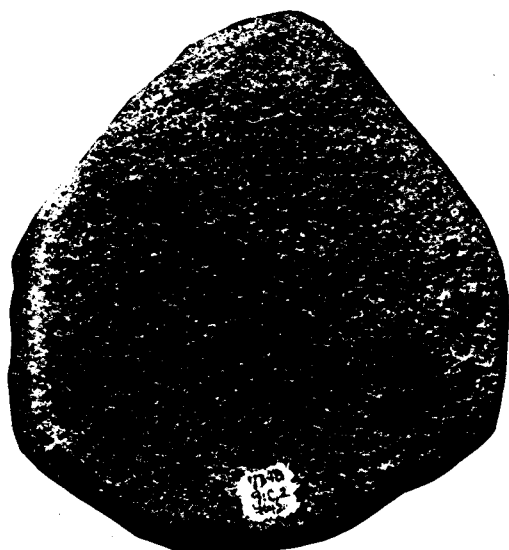
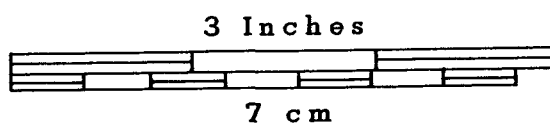
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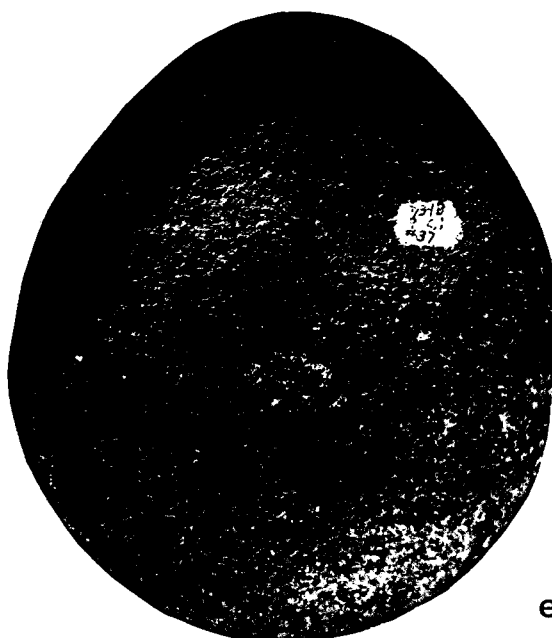
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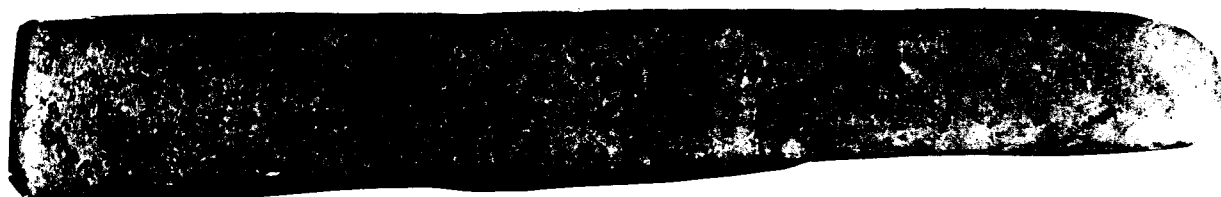
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f

Plate 2. a) bone flaking tool from 47AS40, b,c) abraders d) oval object
e) hammerstone f) flaker

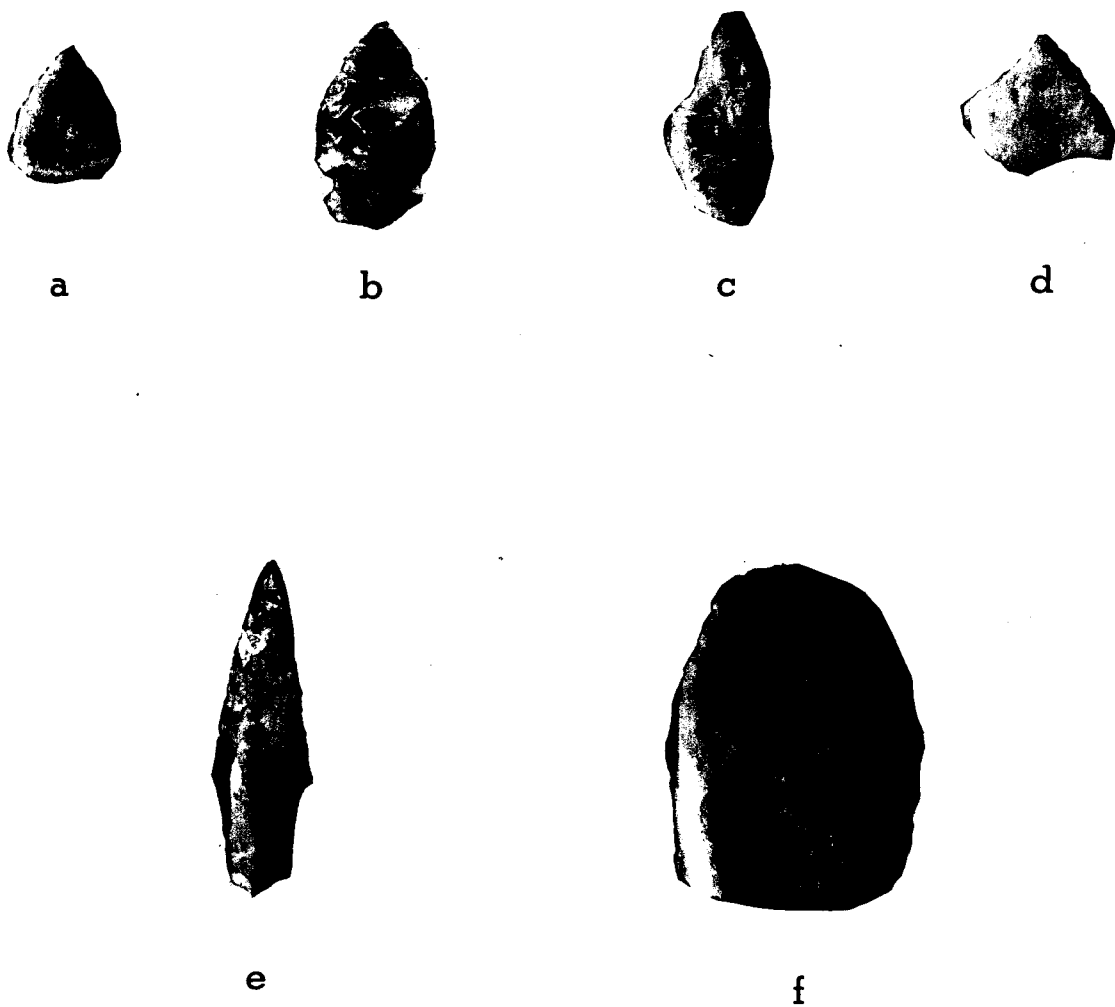


Plate 3. a) projectile point, b) knife, c) perforator, d) scraper
e) knife, f) scraper