

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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DEC 21 1987

DATE ENTERED

FEB 9 1988

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Phillips Bay Mill, 23CT235

AND/OR COMMON

Kelley and Dearing Mill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

☒ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Eastwood☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Missouri

029

Carter

035

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☒ SITE
☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☒ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

Ozark National Scenic Riverways,

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 63989

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren, Missouri 63989

STATE

Missouri 63989

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Survey of Archeological Sites in Ozark National Scenic Riverways

DATE

1980

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSNational Park Service/Midwest Archeological Center
Federal Building, Room 474

CITY, TOWN

100 Centennial Mall, North
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873

STATE

Missouri

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☒ ALTERED	☐ MOVED
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		DATE 02/26/87

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Summary

The Phillips Bay Mill Site is a multicomponent site located

[REDACTED]

Scenic Riverways. The site represents a significant multicomponent site which contains intact archeological cultural remains of an early to mid-nineteenth century sawmill and an associated habitation area, as well as a prehistoric component of undetermined extent which is believed to be Late Archaic or Woodland.

Resource Count

Contributing Resources: There are 5 contributing resources including: an archeological site with prehistoric and historic (mill site) components, and 4 contributing structures (dug mill race, a mill dam, a pit, and a log pond).

Noncontributing Resources: There is one noncontributing resource [REDACTED].

Environmental Description

This part of the Eastern Ozarks is a land of rugged topography with streams flowing swiftly through deeply dissected valleys separated by steep and rocky divides. Present day vegetation consists principally of small trees and saplings with a dense undergrowth.

The climate of the eastern Ozarks is continental with hot summers and mild winters. Average daily high temperatures are about 85 degrees in the summer and 40 degrees in the winter (Sauer 1920). Most storms come from the northwest, particularly in winter. The Ozarks area is frequently subject to cyclones and anticyclones moving southeast across the Central Plains from the Rocky Mountains (Sauer 1920). Annual precipitation is about 43-44 inches and falls mainly as rain in spring and early summer. Fall is usually dry, with sleet being common during the winter months. The area enjoys 190-200 frost free days in an average year.

Soils at 23CT234 are clayey in texture. The soils of the upper terrace are even more clayey. The higher terrace was cultivated in the past, as was the floodplain (old slough area) below the site. Cultivation of these landforms ceased approximately 10 to 15 years ago, and they are presently overgrown in thickets of hawthorn, locust, blackberry brambles, and buck brush. [REDACTED]

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☒ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☒ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1899	☐ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☒ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1830's to 1860's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Phillips Bay Mill Site is a significant multicomponent site. It contains the undisturbed archeological remains of an early to mid-nineteenth century sawmill complex and habitation area, as well as a prehistoric Archaic/Woodland component. The cultural resources can be evaluated for significance in the area of exploration and settlement under Criterion D of the National Register's Criteria for Evaluation. The site is highly significant in its potential for providing information about the structural and technical aspects of the little known sawmill industry in the region. Cultural remains from the habitation area, taken along with historic documentation will be valuable in providing evidence of socio-economic status of the owners. If the documentation proves accurate, the site could not only provide evidence of socio-economic status of the owners; but it could also provide the only evidence of the presence and lifeways of black slaves in this area. The Phillips Bay Mill site is important to studies of frontier economic organization by examining population composition in this region through analysis of economic pursuit and status. Data on subsistence and access to trade goods will also be beneficial to an understanding of frontier adaptation.

Specific Dates

Artifacts recovered from the prehistoric component are consistent with a Late Archaic/Woodland occupation probably dating between 2000 B.C. and A.D. 600. The historic component dates between ca. 1830 and 1860.

Research Topics and Related Data Categories

1. Economic data. There was an early sawmill industry in this part of the Eastern Ozarks during the early to mid-nineteenth century which is not widely reported in the historical literature. There were at least 5 to 7 separate sawmills that have been identified to date along the Current River. They date between ca. 1830 to 1860. Pine lumber was the principal product, and it was sold locally and rafted downstream to markets in Arkansas (Sauer 1920:153; Orchard and Orchard 1977:88; Ripley

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 9.09 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A [REDACTED]
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C [REDACTED]

B [REDACTED]
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D [REDACTED]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[REDACTED]

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cathie Masters

ORGANIZATION Midwest Archeological Center
National Park Service

DATE

2/26/87

STREET & NUMBER Federal Building, Room 474
100 Centennial Mall, North

TELEPHONE

(402) 471-5392

CITY OR TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska 68508-3873

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☒

NO ☐

NONE ☐

Anthony E. Gross

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ☐ National ☐ State ☒ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE John J. Fowles

TITLE

Chief Historian

DATE

Sept. 15, 1987

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2/3/88

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Physical Description

The Phillips Bay Mill Site is [REDACTED]

A small family cemetery, 23CT234, [REDACTED] and may be associated with the historic occupation. During the mid-nineteenth century, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (General Land Office survey plat; registered in 1853). By 1890 (Taber and Frank 1890), the river had changed course, and the area occupied by the slough was shown as an agricultural field.

Boundary Justification

The limits of the site were determined by observing surface debris, the distribution of surface features, and by shovel testing. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This property is located within the Ozark National Scenic Riverway and is owned by the National Park Service.

Recordation

The site was known to collectors of prehistoric artifacts in the area for many years. The historic component was not reported until 1983. Professional archeological investigations were carried out in 1983 at the site by James E. Price and Cynthia R. Price of Southwest Missouri State University with funding from the National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center (C. Price 1985b; J. Price 1985). At this time a map was made of visible features and landforms. Shovel testing was done on the upper terrace in an attempt to delineate site boundaries and assess occupation dates. During shovel testing, what appeared to be a

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cultural feature with sub-plowzone deposits was found. Further investigations at the site were carried on by the Prices in 1984. The area near the feature was cleared of brush, as well as areas to the west and south of the feature. No clearing was done on [REDACTED]

Excavation units of 1/2 meters were used to locate sub-plowzone features and refuse deposits. The excavations were expanded into a block around the feature. Sixteen 1/2-meter units, two 1-meter units, and one 1/4-meter unit were excavated. One unit was in the mill complex and the other units were [REDACTED]

A part of a sub-plowzone feature, Feature 1, was excavated. In addition to the feature, a sheet midden deposit was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Cultural features at the site include: a dug mill race, mill dam, pit, log pond, and mill site. A sheet midden deposit and pit (feature 1) [REDACTED]

The mill race extends from the mill dam at the spring to [REDACTED] The race averages approximately five to seven meters in width and 2 meters in depth. A stone structure is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] complex and habitation area. Stones are visible in the branch, but little of the dam structure remains intact.

[REDACTED], several pine logs are lying on the bank [REDACTED]. They are sawed on both ends. The possibility exists that they may be saw-logs from the early milling operation, which washed out of the bank.

A large pit, approximately 10 meters across, with standing water in it, is between the race [REDACTED] A small outlet-inlet ditch connects the feature [REDACTED] A scatter of large stones, of undetermined function, is on the eastern edge of the pond. Local informants stated that the pond was full of sunken logs.

The actual locus of the mill structure has not been positively identified. However, a "platform" has been located that is roughly square and is a projection of the upper terrace into the race. Large stones are visible on the surface. This might be the locus of the mill structure.

Only one test unit, 1/2 by 1-meter, [REDACTED] excavated in the mill complex. [REDACTED]

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the projection thought to be the mill structure locus. The unit was excavated to a depth of 10 cm. There was no plowzone, and the soil appeared sterile. One nail was recovered.

The historic sheet midden deposit was located near the edge [redacted] possible mill structure site (Figure 2). The midden soil is much darker and the cultural density higher than anywhere else at the site. The cultural deposit extended to a depth of 26 cm. and included faunal remains and general domestic refuse. Despite the nearness to the mill complex, artifacts definitely associated with the mill were not found.

Feature 1 is [redacted]

[redacted] The large subsurface feature was first indicated by a slightly darker soil stain and a concentration of large pieces of daub at the base of the plowzone. The feature boundaries were defined through excavation. The feature measures 2.5 meters across. It appears to approximate a square oriented at an angle to the cardinal directions. Excavations stopped at 84 cm. below the surface with the bottom of the fill and base of the feature not reached. There are five distinct cultural strata in the pit fill. The stones and objects in level IV appear to have been deliberately arranged. Wood was found in level V and appears to be thin planking. Excavations were stopped at level V and the feature stabilized and backfilled. Abundant cultural materials were recovered from Feature 1. The cultural material included metal objects, wooden objects, paper objects, ceramic objects, and faunal material. All the datable material found in the fill post-dates the 1830s. The analysis of the distribution of the artifact classes gave information on structure loci, location of refuse deposits, and of activity areas in general, including a blacksmithing locus.

Prehistoric lithic debitage blanketed [redacted]

[redacted] that was being tested for historic remains. The spacial limits of the prehistoric component enclose a larger area than the historic site. The prehistoric material appears to be shallow and limited to the plowzone. Sub-plowzone features may exist, but none have been encountered. None of the artifacts are extremely diagnostic, but could be of Late Archaic or Woodland age. The evidence seems to indicate an Archaic association because of an absence of ceramics. The site activities appear to include preform finishing and biface margin rejuvenation rather than primary production of stone tools.

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Area Excavated

The area of 23CT234 is approximately 36,787 square meters (approximately 9.09 acres). A total of 6.06 square meters have been excavated. This amounts to less than 1% of the site.

Disturbances

Disturbance of the site has been mainly from plowing on the higher terrace. Some surface collecting by amateurs has occurred.

Data Limitations

The prehistoric component lacks absolute dates and fauna. Pictures of the historic structures are lacking.

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County Deed Records Book A:36; Snider and Co. Account Books; Federal Census, Products of Industry and Population Schedules, Ripley County 1850, 1860, Carter County 1860, Shannon County 1850 and 1860). The mills were generally operated by individuals or families who were engaged in a variety of enterprises such as commercial agriculture, distilling, smithing, and merchant retailing. The sawmill industry was an integral part of frontier settlement in the area. The documentary data on the enterprise are scant in this area, so the archeological data will be of importance in fully understanding this frontier industry.

The sawmill at the site was owned by James Dearing and by several members of the Kelley family, the last owner being Charles L. Kelley. The sawmill probably began operation sometime ca. 1830s and ran until ca. 1860s (Ripley County Deed Records, Book of Patents, Book A and D: 319-320; Book D:41-42,46-48,90-92). The mill is listed as the Kelley and Dearing Mill and as the Charles L. Kelley Mill in the Federal Census, Products of Industry Schedules, Ripley County, 1850, and Carter County, 1860, respectively. According to the census records, the mill was water powered, had one saw, and employed an average of three male hands, and produced 100,000 board feet of pine lumber in 1850 and 50,000 in 1860. Both James Dearing and the Kelley family were well-to-do early settlers [REDACTED] Both families were engaged not only in sawmilling, but in a variety of enterprises including commercial agriculture and possibly merchant retailing. Both families owned slaves (see Federal Census, Population Schedules, Ripley County 1840, 1850, 1860, Carter County 1860; Agricultural Schedules, Ripley County 1850 and 1860, Carter County 1860; C. Price 1981 and 1985a).

2. A technological data source. The relatively well preserved nature of the mill complex at the Phillips Bay Mill site is expected to produce data on the layout and operation of the mill. Excavations in the complex should provide at least some information on mill construction. There is virtually no data on the technical aspects of sawmilling during this period in the area.

3. Frontier settlement and adaptive patterns. The data from the site, particularly from the habitation area, will be relevant to research on frontier settlement and adaptation in general. For example, studies are in progress on the economic organization in

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[REDACTED] during the frontier period. The study focuses on the differences in the population composition by economic pursuit and status in the upper and lower parts of the valley (C. Price 1985a). Because the families involved in the milling enterprise were relatively wealthy entrepreneurs, the archeological data should provide information on subsistence patterns and access to goods for this segment of the population. The data will be of importance in relation to comparative studies using not only the upper classes, but the small family farmers who were most numerous in the area.

4. Ethnic History. There is some evidence that part of the occupation at the site may have been by black slaves (C. Price 1985b). Further work will be necessary to confirm the suggestion. If at least some of the occupants were black; this is the first identified black habitation area in the region. The presence of slaves here is documented, but there is no information on black lifeways in the Eastern Ozarks. The archeological data will be one of the best sources of information on the black presence here (Otto 1984).

5. Prehistoric lithic technology. The prehistoric component can yield information relevant to lithic technology. Lithic material is abundant throughout the site. The possibility of undisturbed features below the plowzone exists at this site. This suggests the site has the potential for yielding undisturbed data relevant to the Late Archaic/Woodland lithic technology of this area.

Archeological testing at the site indicates that data on subsistence, the material culture assemblage, and site patterning are present (C. Price 1985b). Documentary data are also available on the mill owners to aid in assessing archeologically acquired data on economic status (Denman 1978).

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Federal Census Records

Federal Census, Products of Industry Schedules, Ripley County 1850 and 1860, Carter County 1860, Shannon County 1850 and 1860, on file with the State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri; Population Schedules, Ripley County 1850 and 1860, Carter County 1860, Shannon County 1850 and 1860, on file with the National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Orchard, Charles L. and Marjory Orchard

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Price, Cynthia R.

- 1981 Report of initial investigations at the Isaac Kelley Site, 23CT111, in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Carter County, Missouri: 1980-1981. Report to the National Park Service, Midwest Archaeological Center. Southwest Missouri State University.

- 1985a Frontier Settlement in the Current River Drainage: Variation in Organizational Patterning. Paper submitted for presentation at the meetings of the Southern Anthropological Society, April, 1985.

- 1985b Excavations at Historic Period Sites. In Archaeological Investigations in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, 1983-1984, by James E. Price, Cynthia R. Price, and Roger Saucier. Report submitted to the National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center.

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Ripley County Deed Records

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Sauer, Carl O.

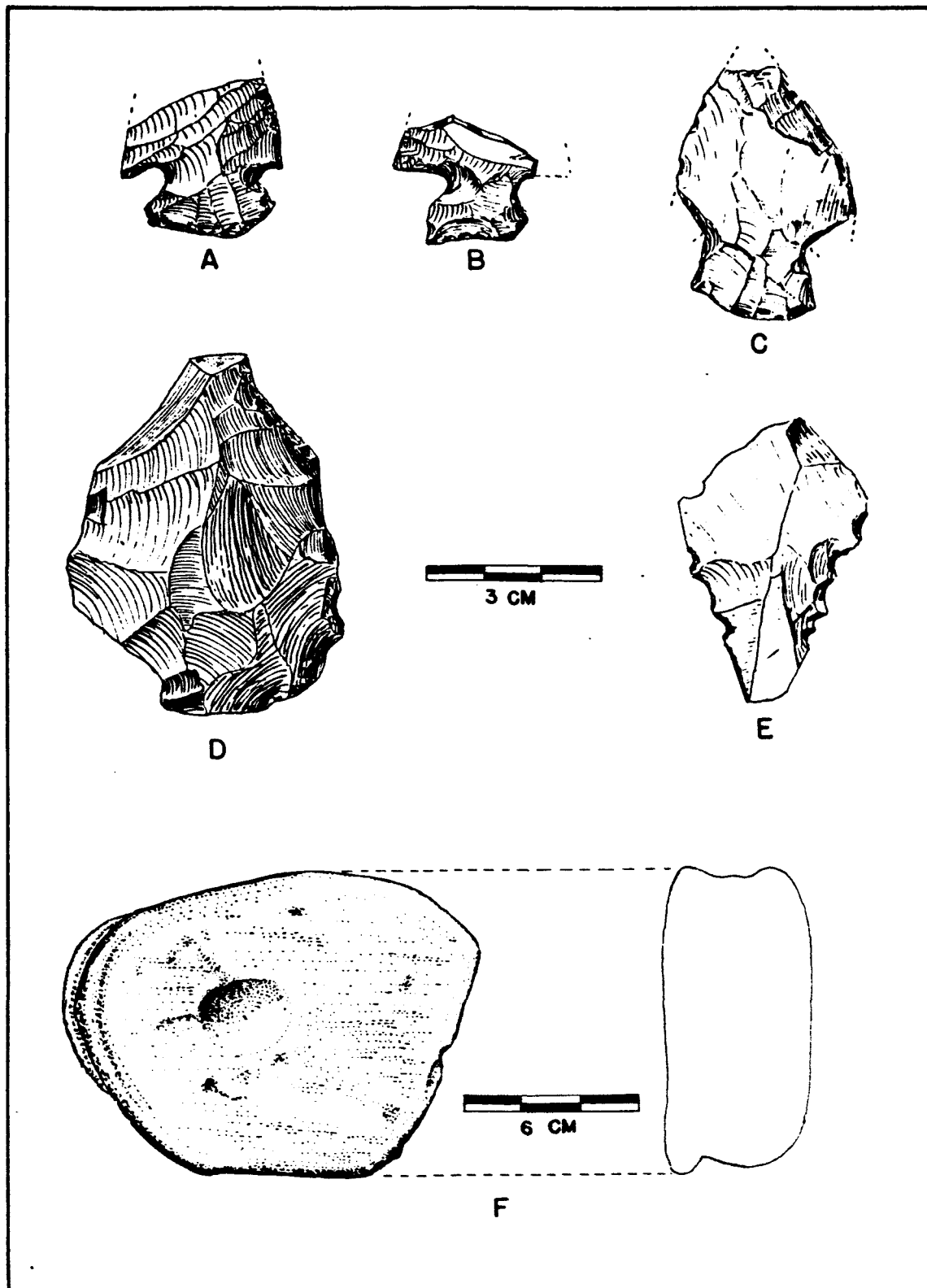
- 1920 The Geography of the Ozark Highland of Missouri.
University of Chicago Press.

Snider, L.A. and Co.

L.A. Snider and Co. Account Books, Pike Creek, Missouri 1832-1870. F.B. Green Collection, Joint Manuscripts Collection, State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.

Taber, H.S. and J.R. Frank

- 1890 Preliminary map of Current River from Van Buren to the mouth where it empties into Black River near Pocahontas, Arkansas. Compiled from the reconnaissance estimate... with the government land plots. U.S. Corps of Engineers, Little Rock, Arkansas, scale 1 inch equals 2 miles. On file with Missouri Historical Society manuscript collections, Jefferson Memorial, St. Louis.



Prehistoric artifacts from the Phillips Bay Mill site,
23CT-235. (From Price et al. 1985:172 Figure 2-9)