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Recent Work at 34PA341 in the Brushy-Peaceable Watershed

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RECENT WORK AT 34PA341 IN THE BRUSHY-PEACEABLE WATERSHED

Don R. Dickson

In October 1993, Historic Preservation Associates (HPA) conducted Phase II assessments at several sites in SCS Impoundments 26 and 29 in the Brushy-Peaceable watershed, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma. Timothy C. Klinger acted as principal investigator; field director was Don R. Dickson. Most sites had been seriously disturbed by rodent activity and recent erosion. 34PS341, however, was located on a high terrace of Gardner Creek, did not seem to be as disturbed, and appeared to possibly represent a single Caddoan occupation.

In April 1994, the HPA team excavated an additional 14 1x1 m units in the northeastern part of the site, an area that had yielded several culturally and functionally diagnostic artifacts (see below) in three 1x1 m units excavated in October. Three features were exposed during this work, as well as additional diagnostic artifacts. Feature 1 was a concentration of sandstone rock which did not seem fire-cracked. Feature 2 was a pit (storage?) which had been dug into sterile subsoil. Although pit the contents were water-screened, nothing was found in the matrix that would suggest the pit use. Feature 3, only partially excavated at this time because most of it lay outside the 14-unit area (the team was excavating the last unit at that time), was a pit containing a substantial hearth in its upper margins. Charcoal from this hearth produced a ^{13}C adjusted age of 1180 ± 70 B.P. (Beta-72083). This date indicated probable site use during the Terminal Late Woodland; a Haskell point recovered in Level 1 suggested Late Caddoan times.

Due to the potential importance of deposits at 34PS341, a Phase III program including the excavation of 60 m² was conducted by the HPA team in August 1994. Feature 3 was excavated completely as was the entire area around the

previous excavation. Two large sandstone slabs, used as anvils, and a double-bitted axe chipped from very hard sandstone were recovered from Feature 3. Six corner notched arrowpoints of Scallorn varieties and one crudely made arrowpoint with shallow side notches were recovered during Phase III work along with four large and two small preforms, several utilized flakes, and one mano fragment.

Diagnostic artifacts recovered during Phase II efforts included one Cupp point featuring use polish and microbreakage suggesting butchering use, several Gary points (one with impact fractures), a Gary preform, a Haskell arrowpoint, and several utilized flakes (apparently used as woodworking tools).

A provisional interpretation of 34PS341 is that this terrace was used by hunting-foraging groups between A.D. 750 and 850, and again by more recent Caddoan groups, probably between A.D. 1000 and 1400. Because no pottery or evidence of permanent structures was found at 34PS341, it seems unlikely that family groups used this location appreciably. There may have been multiple short term occupations. Evidence strongly suggests that much of the site has been eroded away by Gardner Creek, which is currently cutting into the northern margin of the site. All recovered artifacts are currently undergoing analysis and reports on Phase II and III efforts are being prepared by the HPA.