

44th Annual Flint Hills Archaeological Conference



March 3-4, 2023
Program and Abstracts
Fort Osage National Historic Landmark
105 Osage Street, Sibley, MO 64088

Sponsors:

Fort Osage National Historic Landmark
Kansas City Archaeological Society
R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc.
Professional Archaeologists of Kansas
Nikki Klarmann

Conference Organizers:

Nikki Klarmann
State Archeologist
Kansas Historical Society

Jordan Malhiot
Living History Interpreter
Fort Osage National Historic Landmark

Program

Friday March 3, 2023

12:00 PM Registration Opens

12:30 PM – 4:30 PM Tours of Fort Osage and Networking

Saturday March 4, 2023

8:30 AM Registration and Refreshments
Fort Osage National Historic Landmark, 105 Osage Street, Sibley, MO 64088
Coffee and Refreshments provided by Kansas City Archeological Society

9:00 AM Welcome Remarks by Nikki Klarmann

9:10 AM Mary J. Adair
Middle Woodland Maize Beer?

9:30 AM Jennifer Banks
Small-Scale Flotation Recovery Results from 14CO3

9:50 AM Shelby Beltz
Results of the Excavations at the Haywood Property (14SH118)

10:10 AM – 10:30 AM Break

10:30 AM Bob Blasing
Archeological Collections at the Wabaunsee County Historical Museum

10:50 AM Rob Bozell, Amy Bleier, and Matt Zmijewski
Woodcliff: An 18th Century Multi-Component Pawnee Village and Oto Cemetery Complex Near Omaha

11:10 AM Barbara M. Crable
Harlan's Hill: A Tale of Two Hearths

11:30 AM – 1:10 PM Lunch on your own.

1:10 PM Jim D. Feagins (*presented by Chris Hord*)
Fiber Tempered Pottery (Nebo Hill Phase) from the Bodinson Site (14JO354) – A Little More Evidence of the Earliest Pottery in the Central Plains

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1:30 PM Jack L. Hofman
When Sparks Fly: Lithic Signatures for Strike-A-Light Fire Making at Historic Sites

1:50 PM Nolan Johnson and Makenzie Coufal
Recent Work at 25DW1, The Chadron State Park Site

2:10 PM – 2:30 PM Break

2:30 PM Nikki Klarmann
Before Brown: Investigating the Monroe School Property and Connecting to the People Who Lived and Learned There

2:50 PM Arland L. Wallace and Crystal A. Dozier
Experimental Recreation of a Pumpkin (*Cucurbita spp.*) Leather Mat

3:10 PM Tim Weston
Changes in Site Boundaries and Surface Characteristics: A Cautionary Tale from Jefferson County, Kansas

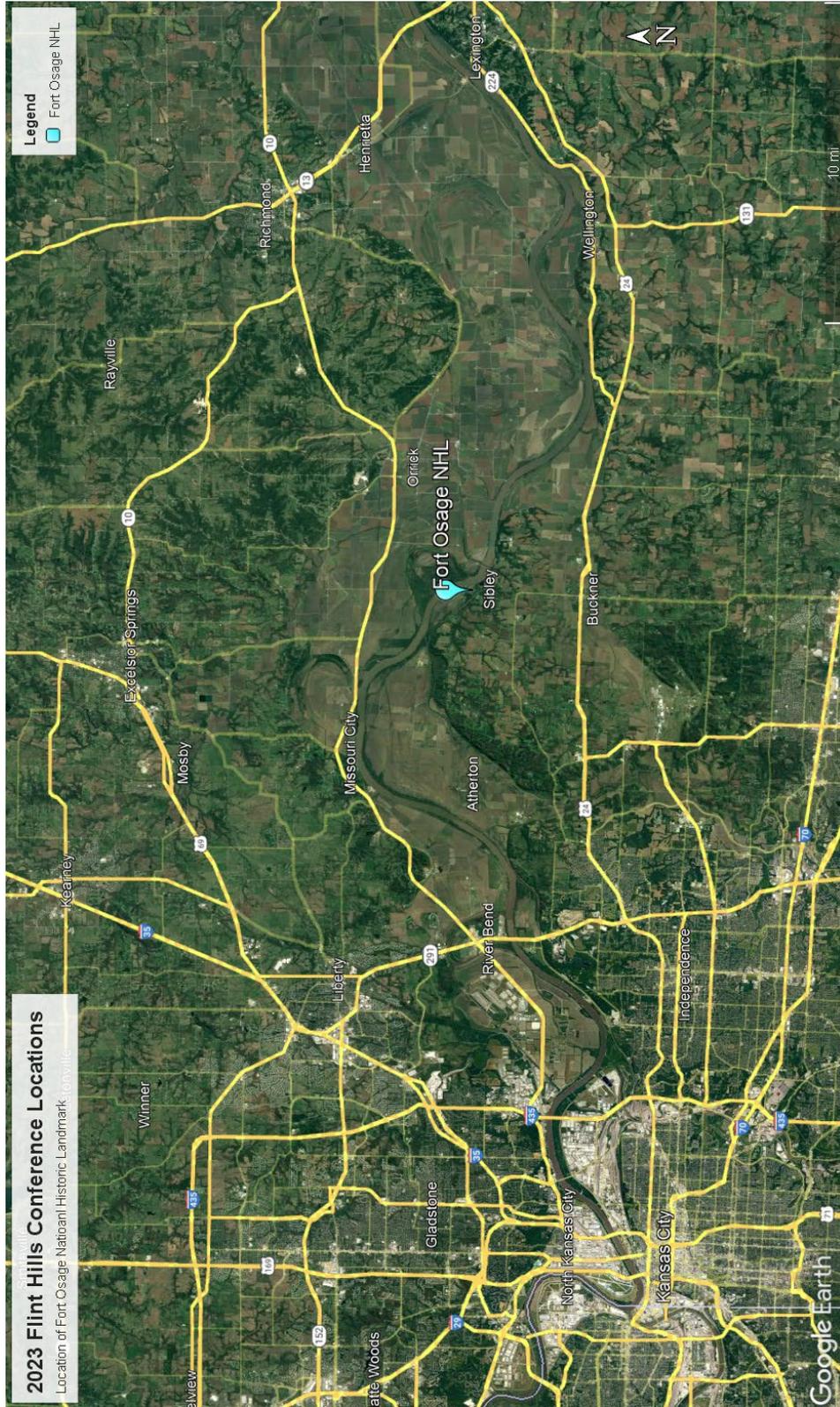
3:30 PM – 3:40 PM Break

3:40 PM Location selection for 2024.

3:50 PM – 4:30 PM *Tentative: Professional Archaeologists of Kansas (PAK) Meeting*

Thanks to all who attended, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Key Locations



Abstracts

Mary J. Adair

Middle Woodland Maize Beer?

Microbotanical remains identified as maize were extracted from visible residue on ceramics, from absorbed residue on ceramics, from chipped and ground stone artifacts, and from dental calculus. Direct AMS dates on many of these artifacts confirm an association with the Middle Woodland period. Visible remains of maize, or macrobotanicals, recovered from Kansas City Hopewell sites have also been direct dated and reveal that these remains are associated with later occupations. The identification of microremains of maize therefore raises the question of how this plant might have been used during the Middle Woodland period, without leaving visible traces. A suggestion is offered that this early maize was used in a ritual capacity, perhaps as a fermented drink. Others have made similar suggestions for the use of maize in North America, which would be consistent with the prehistoric world-wide appearance of alcohol.

Jennifer Banks

Small-Scale Flotation Recovery Results from 14CO3

During the 2021 Wichita State University field school at Etzanoa (14CO3), alternately known as the Arkansas City Country Club site, small samples of feature fill were collected from two identified features: a deep bell shaped-storage pit and a semi-circular soil stain. The samples were transferred to Wichita State University for flotation. Feature fill was processed using a bucket flotation method. This method allowed for the processing of smaller soil samples to recover small artifacts that could have been damaged or lost when using other recovery methods. The methods used had a 96% recovery rate of materials present within the feature fill and included some macrobotanical remains, faunal bone fragments, and micro-debitage. The analysis of the material present is consistent with other similar investigations at Great Bend aspect sites.

Shelby Beltz

Results of the Excavations at the Haywood Property (14SH118)

Originally constructed in 1964, the Polk-Quincy Viaduct on I-70 in downtown Topeka will be reconstructed to lessen the curve and make the highway safer. One archeological site, the Haywood Property (14SH118), is to be destroyed during the reconstruction. The house on the property was built between 1873 and 1880 with the first resident, Charles Wolff, taking occupancy in 1880. The home was then sold to a formerly enslaved man from Missouri, James Haywood. The Haywood family lived in the house until 1954 when it was sold to a Kenneth Miller who later sold the home to Charles G. Carver in 1976, who lived there up until the property was purchased by KDOT. While the building was found ineligible for listing on the National Register, the history of the property was explored further to locate buildings seen on the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps as well as any other features that would pertain to the individuals that occupied the property. The excavation of the property included shovel testing followed by monitored scraping by a skid steer. Multiple features were identified during the scraping, including a brick-lined cistern, foundation walls, a sidewalk, and a bottle cache.

Bob Blasing

Archeological Collections at the Wabaunsee County Historical Museum

Wabaunsee County is on the south side of the Kansas River between Topeka and Manhattan. It originally encompassed most of the Mill and Deep Creek Drainages. The County Museum possesses five large collections of prehistoric stone artifacts. These collections are from J.V. Brower, the County Courthouse, Art McMahan, Otto and Carrie Grunewald, and Lisle Blasing, and include several thousand lithic artifacts. The largest and oldest was collected by Jacob Brower in 1897 thru 1903. The remaining collections all have ties back to Brower's research in the area. The second largest was collected by Otto and Carrie Grunewald in the first half of the 19th century. The Grunewald collection was mostly in decorative display cases, typical of the era. When Carrie Grunewald donated their collection to the Museum in 1972, as her nephew I was asked to keep track of the collection and make sure it was being properly cared for. The goal of the project reported here is to take the artifacts which are displayed in traditional folk art cases or stored in boxes and arrange them in two exhibits. One will be to provide a timeline of the prehistoric period of the County, and the other to display the various use and functions of the many types of artifacts. A short biography of all collectors and previous research in the County is also included. Preliminary analysis indicates that the collections can contribute significant information about the prehistory of the area, even though the provenience of individual artifacts is often only to the level of the drainage they were found in.

Rob Bozell, Amy Bleier, and Matt Zmijewski

Woodcliff: An 18th Century Multi-Component Pawnee Village and Oto Cemetery Complex Near Omaha

In 1969-1970, a series of Indigenous burials associated with a few Native but mostly Euro-American-made funerary objects, was exposed during construction on a high terrace overlooking the lower Platte River valley about 30 mi northwest of Omaha. Over 30 years later, additional construction exposed more graves and numerous storage/refuse pits at the same site. While easy to assume these features reflect a single occupation, careful analysis of trade goods, ceramics, stone tools/ debris, physical anthropology, and calibrated radiocarbon dates, has demonstrated that the village and cemetery features reflect two distinct and unrelated components. The village storage/refuse pits are Pawnee and date to the very early 1700s. The graves are Oto and about 75-100 years later. There is vague ethnohistoric evidence of a mid to late 1700s Oto village near this area, but its location remains a mystery.

Barbara M. Crable

Harlan's Hill: A Tale of Two Hearths

Excavations of two hearths and a bison mandible revealed an assemblage of fire cracked rocks, chipped stone, and charcoal from Harlan's Hilltop (14SN9) in Sherman County in western Kansas. The lithic materials, fire pit features, and the environmental setting provide a background for activity associated with a prehistoric hunting overlook and processing camp. Harlan's Hilltop is located on a short, grass covered hill overlooking the Smoky Hill River, offering a wide view of the valley and region beyond. The site has numerous hearths, of which two were excavated and the documented lithics were collected. Tools include a reamer, chopper, hammer, anvil, and an arrowpoint tip. In addition to the hearths, a lithic assemblage was

collected from the surface in the vicinity of the hearths. One flake was located underneath a bison mandible which exhibits green bone fractures but has not been dated. The site and setting are very similar to the Mount Sunflower site, located approximated 32.5 km to the southwest.

Jim D. Feagins

Fiber Tempered Pottery (Nebo Hill Phase) from the Bodinson Site (14JO354) – A Little More Evidence of the Earliest Pottery in the Central Plains

The Bodinson site (14JO354) is located on a bluff top overlooking the Blue River in southeastern Johnson County, Kansas. The site is within a kilometer of the Kansas/Missouri state line. It was discovered by James E. Roberts, an avocational archaeologist and citizen scientist who has continued to enhance the archaeological community with his efforts. His surface collection from this site also includes a subsurface exposure of materials from a small, house-construction area that had the plow-zone removed by power equipment. Both the lithics and pottery reflected two components—a mid-to-late woodland, and a late archaic—Nebo Hill phase. The collection included a number of broken and complete Nebo Hill points. Roberts (2023;116-117) has recently reported on a groundstone cache which had been exposed by the power equipment. This paper will focus of the single sherd of fiber-tempered pottery found at 14JO354 and compare it with the small amount of pottery found within only three other Nebo Hill sites near Kansas City that also contain this type of temper.

Note--Because of my health issues, I want to thank Chris Hord for agreeing to present this paper in my absence. Reference—Roberts, James E. (2023) The Groundstone Cache at 14JO354. The Kansas City Archaeologist, Special Bulletin No. 4:116-117.

Jack L. Hofman

When Sparks Fly: Lithic Signatures for Strike-A-Light Fire Making at Historic Sites

The use of flint and steel for fire making was a preferred and widespread fire making method in the Americas following European contact and prior to the common availability of sulfur matches during the latter part of the 19th Century. Recognition of flint and steel fire making at early historic archaeological sites has been limited in part because fire steels were highly curated personal items, and the associated flints are often non-descript and do not fit easily within traditional stone tool typologies. This paper explores the distinctive nature of flints (fire cores) and lithic debitage produced during flint and steel fire making based on experimental studies and samples from early historic Pawnee and Kansa sites.

Nolan Johnson and Makenzie Coufal

Recent Work at 25DW1, The Chadron State Park Site

The Chadron State Park site in Dawes County Nebraska was identified in 1940 during excavations to build a recreation hall at Chadron State Park. Work was stopped when a burial was uncovered. A.T. Hill excavated a house pit and parts of an associated midden. The site remained unreported until 2014 when Terry Steinacher, former NSHS Archeologist, published a report based on Hill's filed notes and artifacts housed at the Smithsonian. Sporadic work between 1940 and 2022 was done at the park. The consensus among archeologists was that the site had been destroyed by the work in 1940 and subsequent park construction. History Nebraska was contacted in 2022 by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as they

proposed to place miniature golf courses at the site location. Seventeen shovel tests were excavated in November of 2022. The findings of the 2022 testing are presented here and offer a very different interpretation about the site's reported destruction.

Nikki Klarmann

Before Brown: Investigating the Monroe School Property and Connecting to the People Who Lived and Learned There

This past summer the Kansas Archeology Training Program field school partnered with the National Park Service to investigate the history of Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park, the former site of the Monroe School (built 1874, razed 1927) and the current site of Monroe Elementary School (built 1926), also the interpretive center for the park. In addition to the schools, there were several residences that once stood on the property. For last summer's project, we wanted to use archeological excavations to further document the park's archeological remains and to connect to the people who once lived and learned there. This paper explores those connections we have made and details the next steps in our research.

Arland L. Wallace and Crystal A. Dozier

Experimental Recreation of a Pumpkin (*Cucurbita spp.*) Leather Mat

Experimental production of a pumpkin leather mat was recreated using ethnohistoric data from the Great Plains. Pawnee accounts indicated that during the harvest season, pumpkins (*Cucurbita spp.*) were cut into 1-1 1/2" strips, dried, and woven into mats and stored in pits. It was very likely this type of storage and food preparation occurred over large geographical areas in the American Great Plains, covering extended periods of time, however, the archaeological evidence is limited due to the organic nature of pumpkins. This experiment also produced and used bone and stone tools, roasting techniques, and drying methods indicated by ethnographic reports. Special attention was paid to identify possible residue created during this recreation.

Tim Weston

Changes in Site Boundaries and Surface Characteristics: A Cautionary Tale from Jefferson County, Kansas

Archeological excavations and survey were undertaken in 2017 along the Delaware River in Jefferson County, Kansas, by the Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP). Along with major excavations at the Quixote site (14JF420), a survey class was offered. Its goal was to revisit several sites originally recorded by Milton Reichert in the early 1970s on property owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This was done partly as a teaching exercise, but also with the goal of assessing and documenting current conditions. The sites that Milton had meticulously recorded were all relocated, but their boundaries had changed, in some cases significantly. This suggests that the impacts of modern agriculture may be taking place more quickly than might be expected.