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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT 9PM260

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT 9PM260

by

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WALLACE RESERVOIR PROJECT CONTRIBUTION NUMBER 16

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

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PREFACE

This report represents the final report for site 9PM260, the excavation of which was provided for (in exchange for PM228) in Appendix 6 of the Archaeological Salvage Agreement between the University of Georgia and the Georgia Power Company.

David J. Hally

Principal Investigator

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INTRODUCTION

Site 9PM260 is located in the lower portion of the Wallace Reservoir (Figure 1) in eastern Putnam County. Universal Transverse Mercator grid coordinates are N 369336 E 297744. Located 2.2 km upstream from the dam axis, the site is 131 m above sea level on a ridge top overlooking the Oconee River. The river lies east of the site and 24 m below it (Figure 2).

PM260 was discovered by a Wallace Reservoir Mitigation Survey field party in August, 1977. Three collection areas were distinguished by the survey party at this time:

Area A. This area consisted of a surface artifact scatter covering the northwest portion of the ridge crest (Figure 2). Systematic and density surface collections yielded Lamar pottery and lithic material of unidentified cultural affiliation.

Area B. This area consisted of surface artifacts scattered over the middle portion of the ridge crest. A rock shelter, formed by large boulders, was located along the northern edge of the surface artifact scatter. Historic, Lamar and unidentified ceramics and unidentified lithic artifacts were recovered in systematic and density surface collections from this area. A sub-surface test within the shelter yielded animal bone and shell as well as aboriginal pottery and lithics.

Area C. This area consisted of surface artifacts scattered over an area on the southeast slope of the ridge. A small shelter, formed by a single large boulder, was located on the northern border of the artifact scatter. Systematic and density surface collections yielded historic, Lamar and Stallings Island ceramics and lithic artifacts of unidentified cultural affiliation.

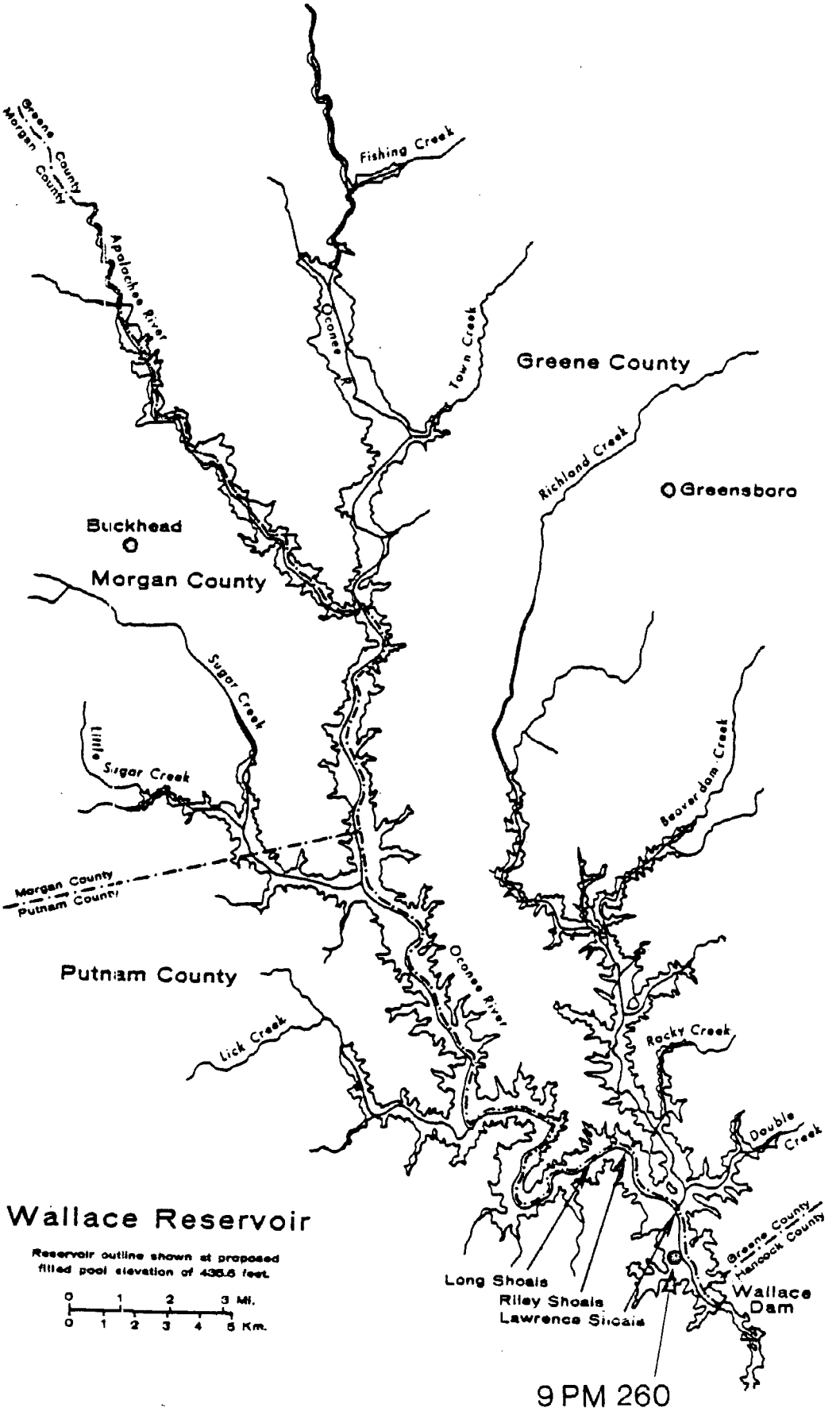

Figure 1. Location of PM260 within the Wallace Reservoir.

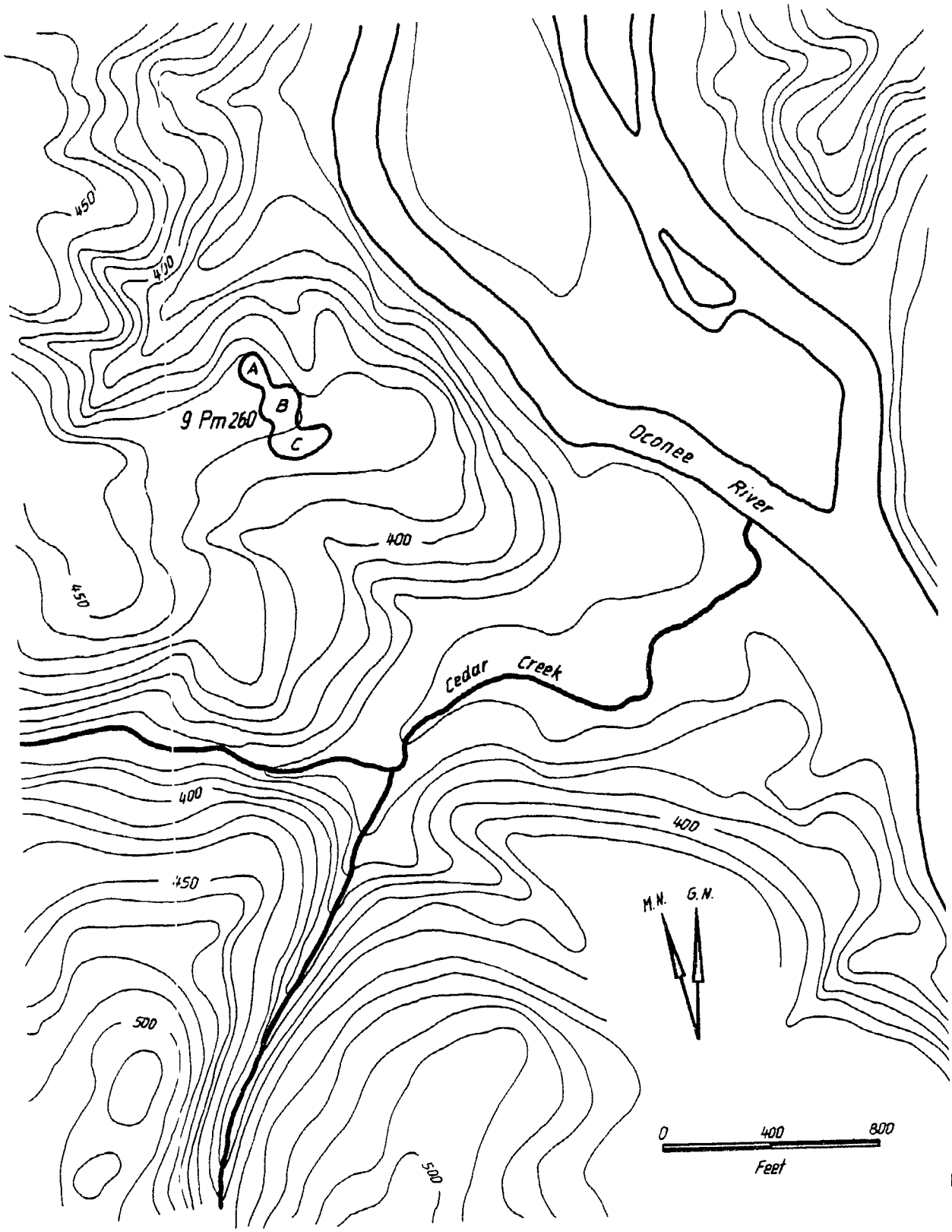

Figure 2. Contour map showing location of PM260 and the three collection areas.

The ground surface across the entire site had been disturbed by the clearing contractors at the time initial site investigation occurred. The area within the larger shelter (Area B), however, had not been disturbed. The 20 cm square test excavated by the survey crew indicated that between 10 and 20 cm of Lamar midden was present within the shelter and that animal bone preservation was good in this stratum. Because of the presence of intact midden and normally perishable cultural remains, the rock shelter was judged worthy of additional investigation. Because of its small size, approximately 17 m^2, and relatively shallow cultural deposits, full excavation of the shelter was considered possible with a minimum of time and labor. Accordingly, the Project petitioned the Georgia Power Company for permission to exchange field time originally allocated to mitigation of site PM228 for a similar amount of field time at PM260. The Georgia Power Company permitted the exchange, and ultimately 94 man-days were devoted to excavation of the rock shelter.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

9PM260 is situated within the Piedmont physiographic province, an upland area which slopes from the Appalachian Mountains to the Coastal Plain (Fenneman 1938:123,131). This province is characterized by rolling topography. Valleys may possess relatively steep slopes and be up to 100 m deep, but the general lay of the land is gently sloping with relief of only about 20 m (Fenneman 1938:131).

Within the Piedmont province, PM260 is located in the Washington Plateau district (LaForge et al. 1925:61). The Washington Plateau, like the Piedmont in general, is largely an even, rolling area. It is at an

altitude of eight hundred feet above sea level at its northwestern edge, from which it descends primarily southeastward to five hundred feet at its border with the Coastal Plain (LaForge et al. 1925:62,84). Four principal river systems, the Savannah, the Ogeechee, the Oconee, and the Ocmulgee, drain the Washington Plateau as they flow toward the Atlantic Ocean (LaForge et al. 1925:58,61,63,85). Near the valleys of these main rivers the land surface tends to be somewhat deeply dissected (LaForge et al. 1925:62). In general, the waterways become more deeply entrenched as they progress southeastward across the Washington Plateau and approach the Coastal Plain. Thus, by comparison with the northwestern section of the Plateau, the southeastern margin is quite strongly dissected near principal stream valleys. But the upland surface on the main divides throughout the district is only slightly dissected, providing large expanses of even, rolling land surface (LaForge et al. 1925:62,85). PM260 is in the southeastern half of the Washington Plateau. Although not located in the extreme southeastern section where valleys are deeply cut and steep-walled, PM260 is nevertheless located at a point along the Oconee River where the valley walls have become steeper and the floodplain narrower (DePratter 1976:4).

The rocks forming the Piedmont province are generally strongly deformed igneous and metamorphic types (Fenneman 1938:122-123). Varieties of granite, gneiss, and schist are included in a rock belt approximately fifteen miles wide which crosses the Oconee River from northeast to southwest at the latitude of PM260. A series of meanders in the Oconee River is due to the presence of this belt as are a number of shoals and islands (Payne 1976:67; DePratter 1976:4).

Present soil conditions around PM260 have been affected by erosion, making a reconstruction of aboroginal soil conditions difficult. Soil types found on ridge tops and side slopes in the vicinity of the site include Pacolet sandy loam, Vance sandy loam, Cecil cobbly sandy loam, and Cecil sandy clay loam. All of these soils have been eroded to some extent. In some cases most of the original topsoil has been washed away, leaving a surface soil which is relatively high in clay content. Fertility is low, and acidity is from medium to high (Payne 1976:11-13,23,24,26,27). The ridges in the vicinity of the site extend practically to the banks of the Oconee River and the flood plain is narrow. There are no significant areas of flood plain soil along the river immediately below the rock shelter. Those flood plain soils that do occur in the area occur as narrow elongated strips and are not extensively developed (Payne 1976: Sheet 16).

PM260 is situated within the Oak-Pine Forest zone that is characteristic of the southern Piedmont (Braun 1947:213). Oaks and hickories are prevalent in this forest, with white oak being the most common species.

Pines were also widespread in this zone and were prominent in the aboriginal forest. Today, however, they represent a climax community only in poorer soils and drier areas (Braun 1950:36,259). The earliest records for an area (Morgan County) near the site indicate that an oak-pine-hickory forest was present (Plummer 1975: 9, Table 1). According to Payne (1976:68), the native forest of Baldwin, Jones, and Putnam counties consisted primarily of pine and oak in the uplands and sweetgum, poplar, and water-tolerant oaks in low ground. In addition to white oak, trees common in the present Oak-Pine Forest include black, post, southern

red, and red oaks, loblolly and yellow pines, and white and pignut hickories. Sourwood and sweet gum trees occur with the oaks and hickories (Braun 1950:36,259).

The climate of the Wallace Reservoir area "is characterized by warm to hot summers and by moderately cold, but highly variable winter weather. The precipitation pattern shows a maximum early in spring, a minimum in fall and fairly even distribution for the rest of the year" (Soil Conservation Service 1965:2). Rainfall averages about 47.5 inches per year. The frostfree growing season averages 255 days from late March to early November.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Large granite boulders are scattered across the ridge upon which PM260 is located. These boulders or corestones represent unweathered remnants of granite bedrock that are "floating" in saprolite and have been exposed by erosion (Brook 1981:49). The rock shelter consists of three large boulders that lie against one another and form the east and west walls and roof of the structure (Figure 3, Plates 1-3). The area covered by these boulders is roughly rectangular in shape and measures approximately 17 meters square. Maximum head room in the center of the shelter is 2.15 m.

Although not completely dry, the interior of the shelter is fairly well protected from the weather. One end of the shelter is oriented almost directly northward. Located at the crest of the ridge, it faces up the river. This end of the shelter is partially closed by a low boulder extending out from the eastern wall. A one meter wide gap between

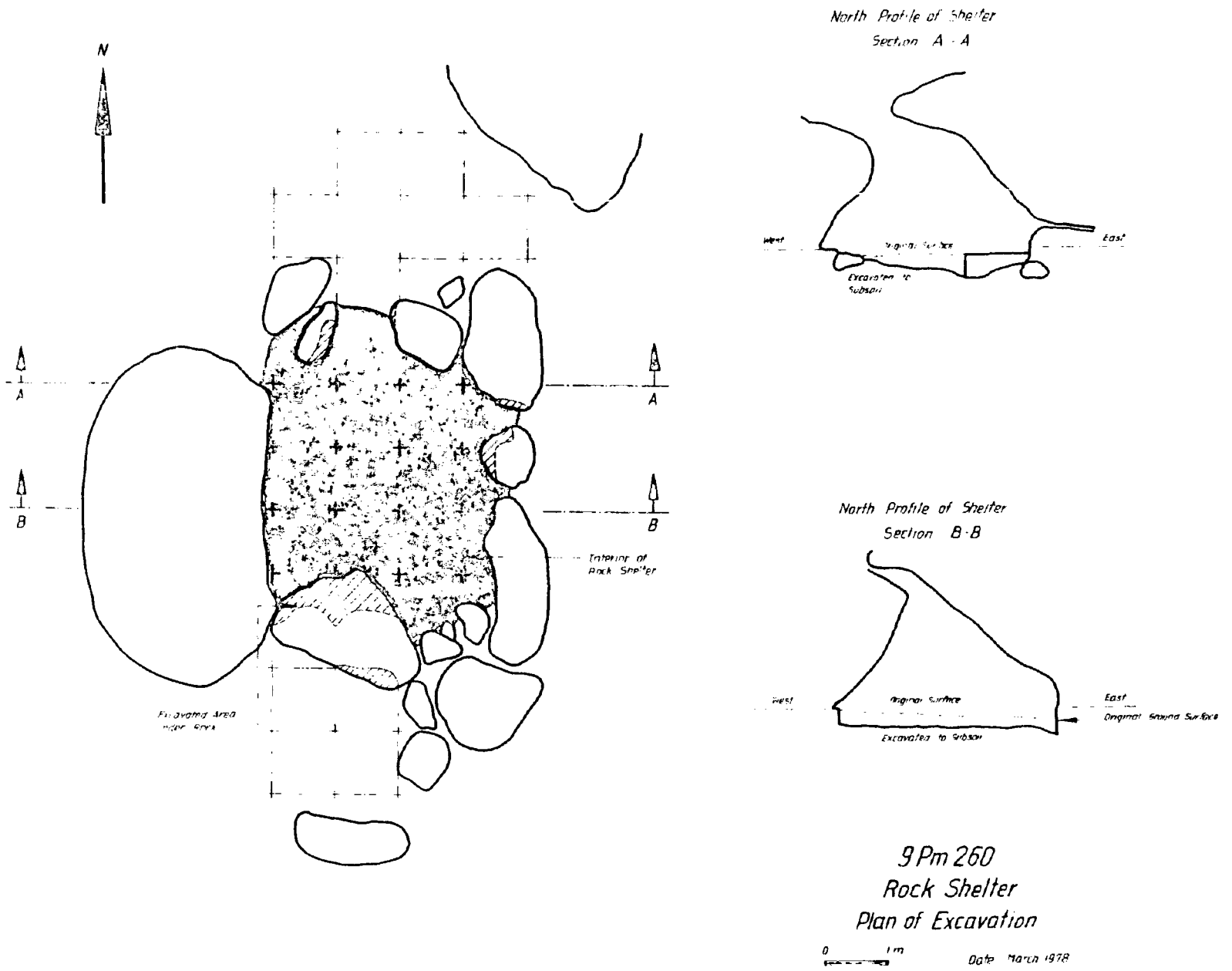

Figure 3. Map of rock shelter and excavated areas.

this boulder and the western wall of the shelter provides easy access to the shelter interior (Figure 3, Plates 2 and 3). The southern end of the shelter is partially closed by a series of boulders one meter or more in height that extend from the eastern wall to the western wall (Figure 3, Plates 2 and 4).

Ground surface north and east of the shelter slopes downhill. A large boulder located just north of the shelter would have acted as a barrier against which cultural material could accumulate. Ground surface west and south of the shelter is relatively flat. Cultural material was scattered across the ground surface adjacent to the shelter on the north, south and west.

Ground surface within the shelter was highest in the southwest corner (113 cm below datum) and sloped down to the north and east. Ground surface near the northern entrance was approximately 125 cm below datum. Ground surface outside this entrance slopes down from this elevation to approximately 170 cm below datum at the northern end of the excavations. Ground surface outside the southern end of the rock-shelter is flat, but lies approximately 50 cm (66 cm below datum) above the floor of the shelter (Plate 4).

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design formulated prior to the commencement of field investigations called for the total excavation of the interior of the shelter and for the excavation of areas immediately adjacent to its northern and southern entrances. Data collected in the field would be used to interpret site function and Lamar subsistence patterns. The

site would eventually be integrated into a model of Lamar settlement for the entire reservoir. Careful excavation of the floor debris was expected to yield data for the interpretation of activity areas within the shelter. Refuse disposal patterns would be investigated by comparing material recovered from areas adjacent to the shelter with that from within it.

SITE EXCAVATION

The shelter interior and the areas immediately outside the northern and southern entrances were excavated. A one-meter square grid system was established within the shelter oriented with the long, straight western wall of the shelter. Nineteen squares were laid out within the shelter, while an additional four squares and eight squares were laid out at the southern and northern entrances respectively (Figures 3 and 4, Plate 5). Only one of the 31 squares (Square 20) was not excavated. Due to the configuration of the rock shelter, however, several squares did not cover a full square meter area.

A nail was driven into a large rock at the southern end of the shelter to serve as a datum point. Vertical levels for excavation were arbitrary and were expressed as centimeters below the datum point. All material was dry screened through one-fourth inch hardward cloth. Since the site was excavated in the winter, it was sometimes necessary to thaw out the soil over a fire before screening. Flotation samples were collected from each level within alternating squares as well as from some of the features. A large number of pebbles were found at the site; most small ones were thrown away although large ones were saved. Granite

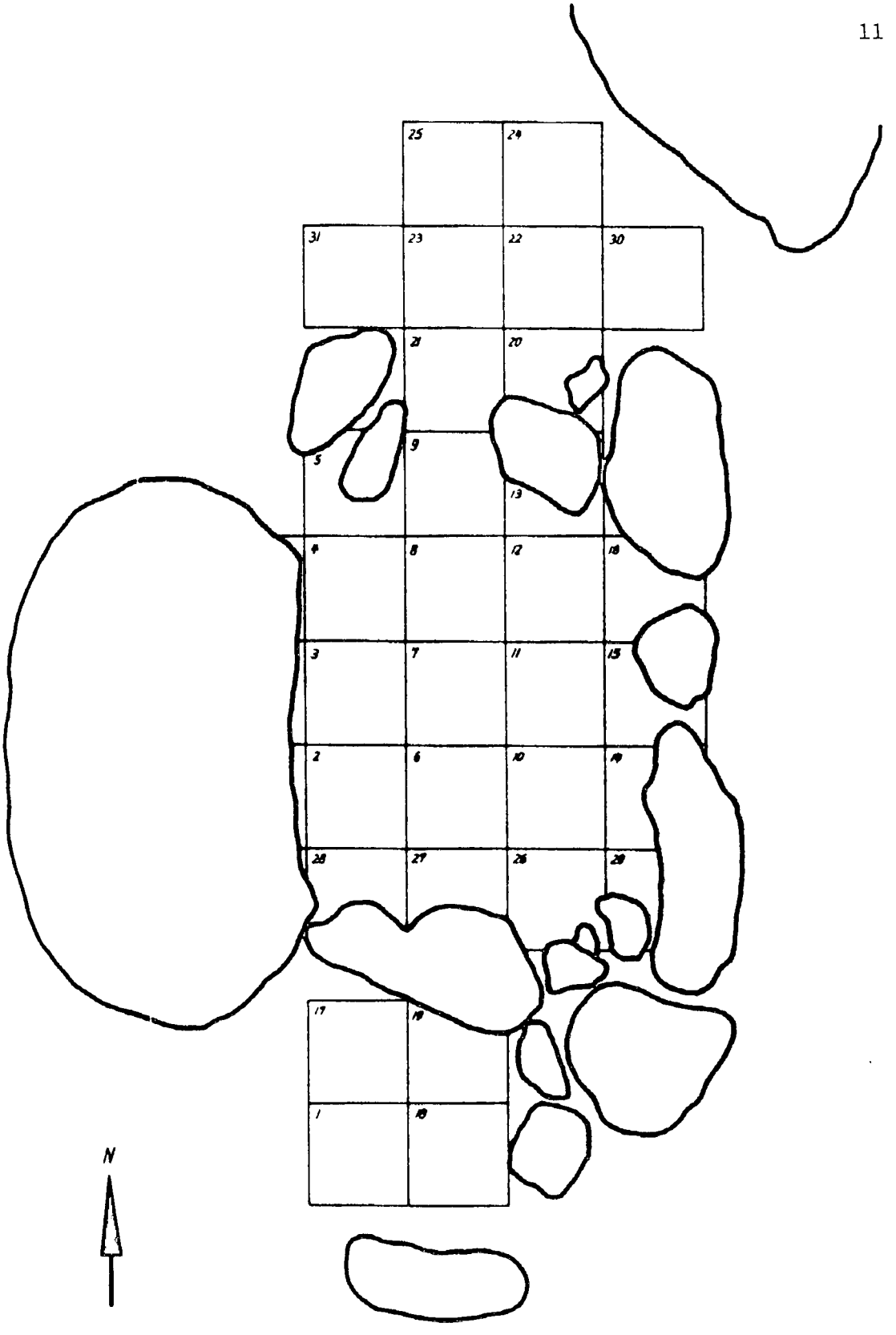

Figure 4. Excavated squares.

spalls from the shelter's boulders were discarded. However, rocks bearing indications of fire were retained.

SITE STRATIFICATION

Because stratigraphy was not apparent within the midden soil, the one-meter squares were generally excavated in arbitrary ten-centimeter levels to subsoil. The only distinguishable strata at the site were midden and subsoil. The midden soil was a sandy loam which was darkly stained by organic material. Beneath it lay either granite boulders or hard, orange sandy clay subsoil.

Ground surface within the shelter was irregular. The floor in the southwest corner of the shelter interior was 10-20 cm higher than the remainder of the shelter floor. The lowest part of the floor was in the east central section of the rock shelter. The midden also became deeper toward the northern end of the shelter. The deepest deposits at the site were found outside the northern entrance, where the surface sloped steeply downward to the north.

The irregular and sloping nature of the midden surface made it impossible to maintain excavation levels at constant elevations and thicknesses. In squares where ground surface was higher, a first level of more than ten centimeters was removed in order to make these squares level with the ground surface of the lowest part of the shelter. In other squares an unusually thick first level was necessary because of the sloping or irregular surface of the square itself. As a result, the thickness of Level 1 in the various squares ranged from five centimeters to twenty-one centimeters. The greatest thickness for Level 1 occurred

in Units 27, 28, and 29, located along the southern margin of the shelter interior. These units were removed in only one level since time was running out, and it had become apparent to the excavators that the midden was not clearly stratified.

Following the removal of Level 1, excavation generally continued in ten-centimeter levels until subsoil was reached. Subsoil might be reached in one section of a square, such as the high part of a sloping unit, while the rest of the unit still contained midden soil. In some squares excavation was halted when subsoil was discovered, even if the level had not been dug a complete ten centimeters. But sometimes after reaching subsoil, excavation continued until the level had been taken down the full ten centimeters. As a precaution, many units were excavated well into the subsoil. Although the elevation of the bottom of the midden was not always recorded; profiles drawn across the shelter show that the midden varied in thickness from 12.5 cm to 37.5 cm. Most of the squares of the shelter interior were removed in two levels, while all of the squares outside the shelter had at least three levels.

FEATURES

Nineteen features were recognized in the field and assigned feature numbers. All but three were located within the shelter (Figure 5). Most features (Features 3-13, 17 and 19) were not recognized until sterile subsoil was reached (Plate 6). Many were difficult to delineate accurately in plan and in profile. As is evident in Figure 5, features occurring in two different squares were often not recognized in both squares.

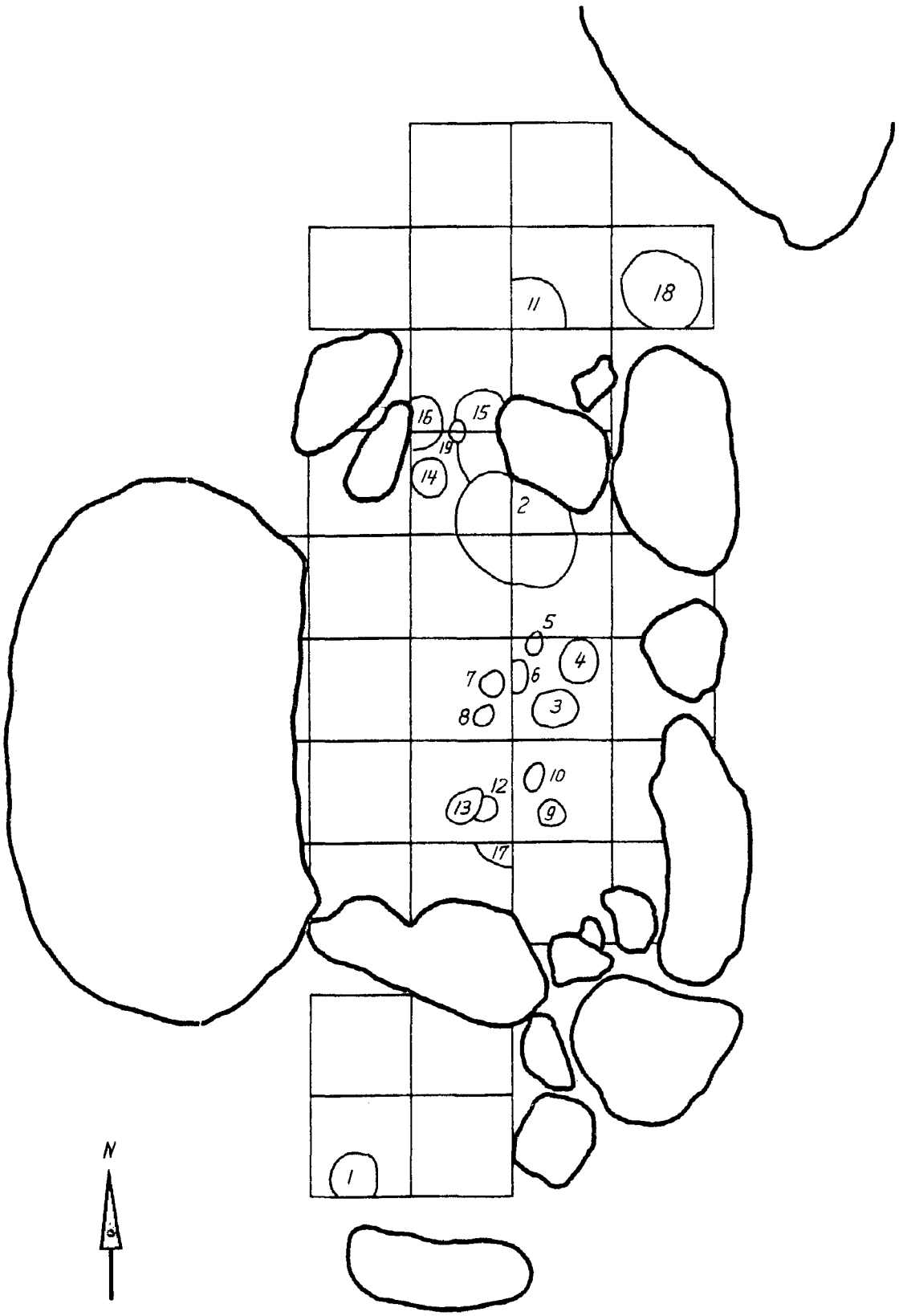

Figure 5. Distribution of features within the excavated area.

Features at 9PM260 may be divided into groups in terms of their cultural significance. Based on formal characteristics, Features 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 19 are included in the first group. These features are all small stains containing usually dark brown or brownish-grey fill. All were first discovered when subsoil was encountered. They range from 7 centimeters to 35 centimeters in width, while length varies from 10 to 46 centimeters. Ordinarily rougly circular in outline, they are usually less than ten centimeters deep. Although artifacts may be present in the fill of those features, they do not occur in quantities sufficiently great to set them off from the general midden stratum. The features may have been made by man, but they cannot be identified with any particular human activity.

Features in the second group--Features 2, 11, 15 and 16--are larger but are also difficult to connect to any specific human activity. They are stains containing various shades of brown and black fill. Their widths and lengths are usually between 50 and 71.5 centimeters; depth ranges from 24 to 42 centimeters. These features have irregular outlines. At times the size of a feature was unclear, and some features may intrude on others. Although a variety of artifacts were present in the features, none of the artifact classes occurred in any notably greater concentrations than in the nearby areas of the excavation. Artifacts were not helpful in determining the types of activities associated with the features. In the field these features were called pits or possible pits, although there was a question about the validity of Feature 2 as an aboriginal feature.

Features 14 and 17 are similar because they have some formal resemblance to hearths but cannot be shown to have functioned as hearths. Both were concentrations of fire-cracked rock with brown or brownish black clay loam.

Although Feature 14 was 69 centimeters long and 61.5 centimeters wide, Feature 17 (37 X 22 cm) did not appear large enough to be a hearth. The fire-cracked rock in the two features was the only artifact class that was significantly more concentrated in the features than in the surrounding area. There was no direct association of large quantities of wood charcoal or burned bone. Nor was there any ash or discolored, fired soil. Thus there is no evidence that the features were fired, that the rocks were used in place as the basis of a hearth or as stones employed for cooking on a hearth. Therefore a cultural activity in which these features were involved cannot be identified.

Feature 7 was an oval shaped depression in sterile subsoil, measuring 27 cm by 19 cm by 6 cm deep. It is distinctive in that fill appeared to be ash and a fairly large amount of turtle bone (38 fragments) was included. There was no indication of in situ burning around the edges of the feature.

Feature 18 is definitely an intentionally excavated pit, although no particular cultural activity can be tied directly to it. Feature 18 was a large, circular pit, 103 centimeters deep. Of particular interest was one-half of a Lamar Plain jar which was found in the feature.

ARTIFACTS

Five classes of artifacts were recovered in excavations at PM260; pottery, flaked stone, non-flaked stone, animal bone and plant remains. Pottery was analyzed by the author. Flaked stone and non-flaked stone were analyzed by the Wallace Dam Project Laboratory staff. Faunal material was identified in the Department of Anthropology's Zooarchaeological

Laboratory by Barbara Ruff. Dr. Elizabeth Sheldon of Auburn University, Montgomery, identified the floral remains.

Pottery

Simple Stamped/Brushed

Sample Size: 569 sherds.

Description. Paste ranges from fine to coarse texture. Temper is coarse sand or grit. Vessel shapes include jars and hemispherical bowls. The former have cylindrical bodies with either straight vertical sides or slightly constricted necks. Rims are straight or slightly outflaring. Lips are invariably rounded, although two sherds with small rounded folds are present in the collection. There are two tetrapods (Plate 7d) in the collection, but they are probably numerically overshadowed by rounded bases.

Bowls have rounded bases and straight or slightly incurving rims. Lips are invariably rounded.

Surface decoration is best described as simple stamped/brushed. There are examples which are definitely brushed (Plate 7a), and sherds which are definitely stamped (Plate 7b and c). However, there are many cases that are intermediate between these two extremes so that it is difficult to assign some sherds to one or the other category. Since the two surface treatments could not be separated consistently, the term "simple stamped/brushed" (Chapman 1973:48) was employed for these ceramics at PM260.

Simple stamped/brushed ceramics from PM260 exhibit a range of variation from brushing at one extreme to simple stamping at the other. Brushing may be very delicate scratches which are difficult to see (Plate 8d).

Spacing tends to be irregular. The markings are relatively narrow and close together compared to simple stamping. On the other hand, simple stamped sherds may have wide lands and grooves (Plate 8c). The spacing of the surface decoration is quite regular. On sherds where the simple stamping overlaps, there is relatively little dragging of the previous stamping marks by later overstamping. But overbrushing has had a greater tendency to drag and pull the ridges in the direction of the later brush stroke, creating a relatively sloppy appearance.

Stamped and brushed decorations are invariably applied as bands of long parallel lines set at a slight angle to the vertical axis of the vessel. There is only one exception to this pattern; a rounded bown with blocks of short parallel lines set at angles to one another much like Etowah Lineblock Stamped (Plate 7d).

Decoration extends to the rim on bowls and some jars. There is a tendency to break up the decorative field on jars at a point 5-10 cm below the vessel rim. Four vessels in the PM260 collection have plain surfaces above this point and stamping/brushing below (Plate 8a-c). In one of these, a row of rectangular punctations separates the plain and decorated zones (Plate 8a). Another variation consists of all over stamping/brushing with a horizontal incised line encircling the vessel at a point 5-10 cm below the rim (Plate 8b).

Cultural Relationships. Chapman (1973: Plate XIVc) illustrates brushed and simple stamped sherds in the Connestee series that show plain neck areas above stamping. Punctations occur at the junction of the stamped and plain surfaces, but are generally absent. Similar ceramics are reported for the Appalachian Summit area of North Carolina by Keel

(1976). Most sherds in this latter area are not embellished with punctations. When punctations are present, they are either circular or rectangular (Keel 1976:109,247,252, Plate 16b-e). Rectangular punctations illustrated by Keel resemble those at PM260.

Additional punctated sherds pictured by Keel (Plate 181) are considered trade ceramics and are classified as Turner Simple Stamped-B. Classification of some sherds into this latter type as opposed to Connestee Simple Stamped was apparently an arbitrary decision. Referring to material from the Garden Creek sites, Keel noted that some sherds classed as Turner Simple Stamped should possibly have been included with Connestee, whereas, some Connestee Simple Stamped ceramics could be assigned to Turner Simple Stamped (Keel 1976:110,120).

Ties between the punctated ceramics and Turner Simple Stamped-B provide a temporal marker for part of the remains at 9PM260. Turner Simple Stamped-B is a pottery type that occurs throughout the Hopewellian Phase in southern Ohio, although Prufer does not consider it to be indigenous to that state (Prufer 1968:9). In fact, Keel thinks that some of the sherds of this type found in western North Carolina may have been made from local materials (Keel 1976:157). Decoration of Turner vessels includes the separation of a plain neck from the decorated body by a series of angular or hemiconical punctations (Prufer 1968:9). This fact and the tendency in many cases for the stamping to resemble brushing relate this type to the pottery from PM260. The punctated vessel from PM260 is very similar to a Turner Simple Stamped-B vessel illustrated by Prufer (1968:Plate 11b).

The distinction between simple stamping and brushing has also been difficult to make for the Connestee pottery in Tennessee and North Carolina. Keel found that it was not easy to separate Connestee Simple Stamped from Conestee Brushed without a great deal of experience in working with the ceramics. The subtle differences between the two types were less distinct in reality than they appeared in description (Keel 1976:48). Brushing and simple stamping were sometimes hard to tell apart among the Icehouse Bottom ceramics. Chapman observed that the grooves on brushed sherds were "smaller, frequently deeper, more irregular, and where visible, seemed to feather out from a scraping motion." (Chapman 1973:48). He felt that "simple stamped/brushed" rather than a "brushed" category would better describe these Connestee ceramics. Sherds with "pronounced lands and grooves" were classed as simple stamped (Chapman 1973:48). However, Keel's range of variation for depth of Connestee Simple Stamped grooves overlapped with that for Connestee Brushed (Keel 1976:247,252).

The simple stamped/brushed pottery from PM260 is very similar to Cartersville Simple Stamped ceramics described by Joseph Caldwell (n.d.). Similarities include color, temper, and pattern of decoration. Differences include the tendency for PM260 sherds to have irregularly spaced lands and grooves, frequently lacking the sharp, distinct pattern and uniformity of the Cartersville stamping.

Chapman (1973) has suggested the existence of an interaction sphere including the Connestee phase, the Forsyth/Cartersville phases and the Candy Creek/Hamilton foci. According to Chapman, the punctated shoulder decoration is characteristic of the interaction sphere ceramics. Other

characteristics of pottery elements are tetrapods, surface finishes such as the "brushed-like simple stamped," and small amounts of complicated stamped pottery. These features are all found in the PM260 collection. Chapman (1973:137-138) proposes that all phases comprising the interaction sphere were involved in trade with Ohio Hopewell.

Swift Creek Complicated Stamped.

Sample Size: 15 sherds.

Description: These sherds resemble the type Swift Creek Complicated Stamped as described by Jennings and Fairbanks (1939). Paste ranges from fine and compact to medium and even coarse. Sand and grit tempers are employed. No rims are present in the collection, but there is one tetrapod (Plate 7f). Decoration consists of complex curvilinear designs executed with broad line stamps (Plate 7e-f).

Lamar Incised

Sample Size: 91 sherds.

Description: This pottery resembles the type Lamar Bold Incised, described by Jennings and Fairbanks (1939). Although 9PM260 paste is sometimes coarse, it is usually fine and compact. There is some grit temper and some sand temper as well. Vessel shapes includes the cazuela bowl form and the plate, or recurved rim bowl form. There are 22 incised rim sherds.

Decoration is placed on the upper part of the exterior surface of cazuela bowls. There is usually a narrow plain strip between the decoration and the lip. Bowls with recurved rims have incised decoration on the rim interior (Plate 9c). Incising occurs in varying widths; some

of the sherds have broad lines (Plate 9b), others have quite fine lines (Plate 9a), and others bear lines of medium width.

Several Lamar Incised vessels could be partially reconstructed. Vessel 5 was a cazuela bowl with a recurved rim (Plate form). It is represented by 37 sherds, over half of which could be mended (Plate 9c). Vessel 6 is represented by 5 sherds. This vessel is a thick, walled cazuela bowl with bold incising. The finest lines are found on Vessel 7 (Plate 9a). Most of the sherds belonging to this bowl could be put together to restore one fragment of the vessel.

Rectilinear Complicated Stamped

Sample Size: 11 sherds.

Description: Most of these sherds cannot be definitely assigned to a particular type. The size of the sherds and the lack of clarity of the stamping contribute to this difficulty. Paste may be fine or medium in texture. Sand and grit are used as tempers. Three rims were present. One is straight, and two are slightly outflaring, folded and pinched (Plate 9e). The latter can be identified as Lamar Complicated Stamped and are from a globular bodied jar. On these sherds the rectilinear stamping extended up to the folded rim.

Curvilinear Complicated Stamped

Sample Size: 15 sherds.

Description: Most sherds are difficult to identify as belonging to a particular pottery type. Several may be Swift Creek Complicated Stamped. One sherd is definitely Lamar Complicated Stamped. Paste ranges from fine and compact to rather coarse. Sand and grit tempers are employed. There

is only one slightly incurvate rim. Decoration on this sherd extends to the rim. A bowl form may be represented. The decoration incorporates generally broad line elements.

Plain

Sample Size: 2106 sherds.

Description: Most plain sherds can not be assigned to a specific pottery type or component. Paste varies from fine and compact to coarse textured. Tempering includes sand, grit and mica.

Diagnostic vessel shape modes include 9 folded and pinched rims of Lamar type (Plate 9f), 9 noded rims of Lamar type (Plate 9e) and one Woodland tetrapod. Many of the 227 rims in the collection probably derive from brushed/simple stamped vessels with plain neck-rim zones.

A large portion of one Lamar Plain jar could be reconstructed and has been designated Vessel 4. It has paired nodes on the outflaring rim. Another interesting specimen is a tiny folded and pinched rim sherd, apparently from a miniature vessel.

Burnished Plain

Sample Size: 73 sherds.

Description: Paste ranges from fine to coarse, and sand and grit are utilized as tempers. The surface is smooth. There are four rims, including one which is folded and pinched.

Rough Plain

Sample Size: 32 sherds.

Description: Paste varies from medium to coarse texture. Sand and grit tempers are included. Only one plain straight rim is present.

Unidentified

An additional 150 sherds have been classified as unidentified due to the existance of unidentifiable decoration, or weathered surfaces.

Flaked Stone

The flaked stone assemblage contains a large number of tools and points (Table 1). There are 27 unifacial tools and 4 bifacial tools. Only one of these artifacts was made from a material other than quartz. There were a large number (57) of broken bifaces. Fifteen complete bifaces were hafted, and 28 were without hafts. Quartz is the predominate material in every case.

Twelve Mississippian triangular projectile points occur in the collection and can be assigned to the Lamar component (Plate 10a-g). Other bifaces from the site are from earlier components. A large, stemmed rhyolite biface is identifiable as a Savannah River Stemmed point (Plate 10l). Another hafted biface is a Kirk point made of a mottled chert (Plate 10h). Morrow Mountain points may be represented by rhyolite and quartz specimens (Plate 10i-j). And two points may be best categorized as late Archaic, stemmed, quartz projectile points (Plate 10k). A number of the bifaces have a rather amorphous shape and have been identified by form only (Plate 10m-n). One interesting specimen is a rhyolite biface which is actually a small chipped celt (Plate 10o).

Lithic debitage recovered from PM260 has been classified into the following categories: cores, percussion flakes, thinning/retouch flakes and unidentifiable debris (Table 1). Quartz is by far the most common material among all debitage classes (Table 1). Only 26 pieces of debitage had cortex as opposed to 1430 pieces without cortex. This suggests that

Table 1

Flaked Stone Artifacts From PM266

	Quartz	Light Chert	Dark Chert	Rhyolite	Total
Complete biface with haft	10	4		1	15
Complete biface without haft					
cordiform	1				1
discoid	1				1
lanceolate	10	1		2	14
triangular	7	4	1		12
other	1				1
Broken biface					
haft	5	3			8
end	11	1			12
tip	14	3	1		18
other	17			2	19
Bifacial tool	4				4
Unifacial tool	26	1			27
Core	2				2
Percussion flake	33	4		1	38
Thinning/retouch flake	138	66	2	1	207
Unident. debris	1211	71	1	5	1288

tool maintenance was a more important activity than tool manufacturing at the site. The low frequency of cores and percussion flakes supports this conclusion.

Non-flaked Stone

Two non-flaked stone tools were recovered in excavations at PM260. One of these is a small cobble measuring 5.8 X 5.8 X 8.3 cm identifiable as a probable hammerstone. It was recovered from Feature 18, outside the northern end of the shelter.

The second tool is a large quartzite slab measuring 26 X 24 X 7 cm and possessing evidence of use on both flat faces. One face bears a well defined concavity measuring approximately 12 cm in diameter and having a smooth surface. This surface has undoubtedly been used in grinding operations. The other surface bears a worked area measuring 10 cm by 12 cm. This area is flat but somewhat irregular. It appears to be lightly pitted. Near one edge, there is a small (2 cm diameter) rounded pit that was probably intentionally made (Plate 11). This side of the slab may have been used as a nutting stone.

Fire-cracked rock, pebbles and other miscellaneous stone occurred in great quantities at PM260. Procedures for their recovery have already been discussed. These lithic materials were weighed and discarded.

Floral Remains

Floral remains recovered in 1/4 inch screened and flotation lots include charred hickory shells, acorn shells and seeds and wood charcoal (Table 2). Hickory shell is represented in considerably greater quantity than acorn, and, except for peach pit, is the only identifiable plant

TABLE 2

FLORAL REMAINS FROM PM260

	1/4 inch screened samples	flotation samples
NUTS		
Carya sp. (hickory)	47.15 g	5.55 g
Quercus sp. (acorn)	.8 g	.35 g
SEEDS		
Prunus persica (peach)	14	
Phytolacca sp. (pokeweed)		2
Passiflora sp. (passion flower)		1
Poaceae (grasses)		3
unidentified seeds		2
WOOD		
pine	137.60 g	23.75 g
cedar	49.25 g	
elm	21.05 g	
oak	13.15 g	

part that occurs with any frequency to speak of. This situation is typical of most sites in the Wallace Reservoir that have yielded carbonized plant material. Seeds of only three species--peach, pokeweek and passion flower--known to have had economic value to aboriginal populations in the southeastern United States are represented in the collection. Of these, only peach pit fragments occur in sufficient quantity to suggest that they may actually have been discarded by the human occupants of the shelter.

The occurrence of peach pit indicates that at least some of the recovered plant material was deposited during the European contact period. Whether they can be attributed to the Lamar component or to a later Euro-american use of the shelter cannot be determined with certainty. As will be described in a later section, however, some of the Lamar pottery is suggestive of the early historic Bell phase defined by Williams (1982) at MG28. Several features at this later 17th century aboriginal site yielded peach pits.

The large quantity of recovered hickory nut shell and the presence of a probable nutting stone suggest that hickory nuts were processed and consumed by at least some of the site's occupants. Given the fact that hickory nuts can be stored for some time, occupation could have occurred many months after the harvest period--November--for this resource. The quantity of shell recovered, however, indicates that large quantities of nuts were being processed, and this argues for an occupancy during or shortly after the harvest (Hally 1981).

The peach pits would seem to be an even more accurate indicator of seasonality. If they are aboriginal in age, they would argue for at least some of the Lamar occupations occurring in mid-summer. Pokeweek and passion flower seeds are also available in the summer and, at least in the latter case, are unlikely to have been stored very long before use. These plant parts are so infrequent, however, that they could have been brought to the shelter and discarded by rodents or other animals.

Faunal Remains

A large quantity of animal bone was recovered in 1/4 inch screened and flotation lots (Table 3). Most bone consisted of very small fragments

Table 3

Faunal Remains From PM260

	1/4 inch screened samples	flotation samples
Helicidae (land snail)	3	
TOTAL IDENTIFIED MOLLUSK	3	
Ictalurus sp. (catfish)		2
TOTAL IDENTIFIED FISH		2
Salientia (frogs and toads)	1	
Bufo sp. (toads)	1	
TOTAL IDENTIFIED AMPHIBIAN	2	
Emydidae (aquatic turtles)	7	
Kinosternidae (mud and musk turtles)	3	1
Terrapene carolina (box turtle)	11	
Trionyx sp. (soft-shelled turtle)	1	
TOTAL IDENTIFIED TURTLE	22	1
Rodentia	1	
Sciurus carolinensis (gray squirrel)	1	
Canis familianis (domestic dog)	1	
Sylvilagus floridana (cottontail rabbit)	1	
Odocoileus virginianus (white-tailed deer)	21	2
Cathartes sura (turkey buzzard)	1	
TOTAL IDENTIFIED MAMMAL	26	2
TOTAL IDENTIFIED BONE	53	5
unidentified mollusks	18	2
fish scales		many
unidentified fish	2	23
unidentified turtle	558	139
unidentified snake	12	3
unidentified bird	2	
unidentified mammal	520	44
unidentified large mammal	18	
unidentified bone fragments	724	514

and could not be identified even to the class level. Soil acidity in and around the shelter may be partly responsible for the poor state of preservation.

In examining the bone, a number of burned fragments were discovered as well as some covered with a hard, gritty encrustation. Size differences were also noted in studying the faunal remains. Finally, the bones were identified to the most specific taxon possible.

Of all the animals represented at the site, mammals and turtles were the most common. White-tailed deer was most common among the mammals, which also included the gray squirrel and eastern cottontail rabbit. Turtles present include the box turtle, mud turtle, and soft-shelled turtle. There were some fish remains present at the site, but only three bird bones. Mollusk shell did not occur in large quantity.

These faunal remains suggest exploitation of two environments at the site. The fish, soft-shelled turtles, and mud turtles live in an aquatic environment. On the other hand, the box turtle seldom enters the water. Along with the deer, rabbit, and squirrel, it suggests a terrestrial environment with thickets and trees. If the inhabitants of the shelter were responsible for the presence of these remains, then they not only hunted in the wooded upland, but also exploited the resources of the nearby river.

Faunal remains suggest that PM260 was utilized during two seasons of the year. White-tailed deer can be hunted throughout the year, but are optimally hunted in the late fall and early winter (Smith 1978). The abundance of this species and hickory shell together suggest that PM260 was occupied at least in part for the purpose of exploiting nuts and deer in the late fall and early winter.

Riverine fish, mollusks and aquatic turtles are generally considered to be optimally exploited during the spring and early summer (Smith 1978). This is, of course, approximately the time of year suggested by the peach pits. Why the shelter would have been occupied at this time of year is not known.

THE WOODLAND COMPONENT CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGE

The simple stamped/brushed pottery and Swift Creek Complicated stamped pottery recovered in excavations at PM260 can be assigned to a single Woodland component. Some of the sherds assigned to the categories curvilinear complicated stamped, rectilinear complicated stamped and plain undoubtedly also belong to this component. Unfortunately, temper, vessel form, paste and decoration are not always reliable aids in sorting these sherds by components. As a result it is not possible to accurately determine the amount of such pottery that belongs to the Woodland as opposed to the Lamar component.

The Woodland component may be more precisely dated. The similarity of simple stamped/brushed sherds to Cartersville (Caldwell n.d.) and Connestee Simple Stamped and Connestee Brushed pottery (Keel 1976) indicates the component dates to the Middle Woodland period--roughly A.D. 200-600. Most of the Swift Creek Complicated Stamped sherds in the collection belong to a single vessel. The tetrapodal support on this vessel identifies it as early Swift Creek (Wauchope 1966:55). This identification also argues for a Middle Woodland date for the PM260 occupation.

The frequency of pottery types at several Middle Woodland sites in northern Georgia (PM260, PM209 and Tunacunnhee), eastern Tennessee

(Icehouse Bottom) and western North Carolina (Garden Creek and Warren Wilson) is presented in Table 4. These percentages are based on sherd counts published in Wood (1979:Tables 1 and 2), Jefferies (1976:Table 3), Chapman (1973:Tables 1 and 2) and Keel (1976:Tables 16 and 17).

The figures in Table 4 indicate that plain pottery is considerably more common at PM260 and PM209 than at the other sites. Wood (1979:28) reports that many of the plain sherds in the major Woodland stratum (Level III) at PM209 could derive from a later Lamar component. A similar situation exists at PM260. It is probable than that the frequency of plain pottery in these two Woodland components is actually not too different from what it is at the other sites.

PM260 has the least ceramic diversity, as measured by number of pottery types represented in the sherd collection, of any of the sites compared. Tunacunnhee also has a small number of pottery types represented. This collection, however, has received only preliminary analysis (Jefferies 1976:31) and may actually contain additional types beyond those listed in Table 4. Two factors may account for the lack of ceramic diversity at PM260: the age of the site and the functional nature of the site.

There is evidence that ceramic diversity is decreasing during the Middle Woodland period in the southern piedmont and Appalachian region. Two stratigraphically superimposed Middle Woodland components have been reported for PM209 in the Wallace Reservoir. Both are characterized by simple stamped/brushed, check stamped and fabric marked pottery. The latter two types, however, decline significantly in frequency from the earlier to the later components (Wood 1979:28-29). Of the three Tennessee and North Carolina sites, Icehouse Bottom has the lowest frequency of

Table 4

Ceramic Frequencies for Middle Woodland Sites in the Southern Piedmont and Appalachian Region

	PM209 Prov. 3 and 6 Level III	Warren Wilson-Connestee Series	Garden Creek Md. 2	Icehouse Bottom-Connestee and Limestone Tempered	Tunacunnhee Village Features	PM260
simple stamped and brushed	15.0	21.3	42.4	54.9	19	20.9
complicated stamped				6.9		1.5
check stamped	13.5	24.4	13.4	0.2		
fabric marked	3.0	1.3	1.5	0.5		
cordmarked		26.2	20.5	7.3	28.0	
plain	60.9	26.9	22.2	35.0	53.0[1]	77.5

[1]Includes undecorated and weathered sherds.

check stamped, cordmarked and fabric marked pottery. Although absolute dates are unavailable for the Connestee components at Warren Wilson and Garden Creek, radiocarbon dates of A.D. 585 and 605 for Icehouse Bottom (Chapman 1973:131) suggest that the site may well postdate the two North Carolina sites. If pottery types such as check stamped, fabric marked and cordmarked are declining in frequency throughout the Middle Woodland period, the limited variety of pottery types at PM260 could well be due to a later temporal position for the site.

On the other hand, the simple stamped/brushed pottery at PM260 is similar in many details--range of surface roughening techniques employed, frequent restriction of decoration to lower part of vessel surface, use of punctations to separate decorated and undecorated zones and use of large tetrapodal supports--to the simple stamped and brushed pottery at the North Carolina and Tennessee sites. This strongly suggests that all the sites are roughly contemporary.

Is is also possible that the limited variety of pottery types at PM260 reflects site function. All sites listed in Table 4 except PM260 have yielded evidence of mounds and/or structures and apparently represent fairly intensive occupations at least on a seasonal basis. PM260, by contrast is a small rockshelter with a limited occupation area and low artifact yield. It can be reasonably argued, given these characteristics, that this site was occupied by small groups of people for only brief periods of time. If the variety of human activities carried out at the site was limited, it is possible that the variety of vessel forms and pottery types used or broken at the site would also have been limited.

In the absence of radiocarbon dates for PM260, it is not possible to confidently attribute the distinctive nature of the ceramic assemblage

at PM260 to one factor or the other. The available evidence, however, is probably stronger in favor of differences in site function.

A minimum number of vessels analysis was undertaken for simple stamped/brushed and Swift Creek Complicated Stamped sherds. All sherds from each type were compared in terms of similarity of decoration, thickness, temper, spacing and width of lines, and surface color. Although not all of these criteria were adhered to as strongly as others, sherds which differed in any of these attributes were assigned to different vessels. A large number of sherds whose distinctiveness was questionable were put in a residual category. Thirty-four simple stamped/brushed vessels and three Swift Creek Complicated Stamped vessels were identified in this manner.

THE LAMAR COMPONENT CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGE

Three types of pottery can be assigned to the Lamar component with confidence: Lamar Incised, burnished plain and coarse plain. Most of the burnished plain sherds probably derive from the lower portion of Lamar Incised vessels. Coarse plain pottery is characteristic of Lamar pottery assemblages reported elsewhere in the Wallace Reservoir (Smith 1981). Pinched rims associated with sherds classified as plain and rectilinear complicated stamped indicate that at least some of the pottery in these categories is also Lamar in age.

No pottery types or vessel shape modes diagnostic of the early Lamar Duvall phase (Smith 1981) occur in the PM260 collection. Some Lamar Incised and folded and pinched rim sherds (Plate 9b,d,e) in the collection have characteristics typical of Dyar phase (ibid) while others (Plate 9a,f)

have characteristics typical of the later Bell phase (Williams 1982). Given the small size of the collection, it is not possible to identify with certainty which phase is represented. It is certainly possible, of course, that the shelter was visited by people during both phases.

Minimum vessel number analysis has resulted in the identification of 11 different Lamar vessels.

CULTURAL STRATIGRAPHY

Although there were localized exceptions--for example, Squares 27-29 at the southern end of the shelter--the midden within the rock shelter averaged approximately 20 cm thick. With so little depth, the question arises as to whether there is any stratigraphic separation of the two major components. Table 5 lists the frequency of the chronologically diagnostic pottery types, Lamar Incised and simple stamped/brushed excavation by level. Both types are most common in Level 1 lots, although the proportion of Lamar Incised in that level is higher than the Woodland type. It is apparent from these figures that the midden within the rock shelter is rather thoroughly mixed or that the arbitrary excavation levels have failed to separate the two components.

Midden accumulation in the excavated area immediately north of the shelter approaches 40 cm. Sherd distribution here indicates a greater degree of stratigraphic separation for the two components (Table 5). Evidently midden accumulated more rapidly in this area than within the shelter. It is possible that this is due to a higher rate of intentional refuse discard here during site utilization.

TABLE 5

Frequency of simple stamped/brushed and Lamar Incised pottery by excavation level

		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
simple stamped/ brushed	north of shelter	199	87	35	5
	shelter interior	90	60	6	
	south of shelter	21	16	4	
Lamar Incised	north of shelter	16	4	1	
	shelter interior	50	13		
	south of shelter	3	3		

Midden accumulation immediately south of the rockshelter amounts to approximately 30 cm. Both pottery types are rather evenly distributed between Levels 1 and 2 here, indicating less stratigraphic separation of components than exists within the shelter.

Only a few classes of artifacts recovered from PM260 are chronologically diagnostic. These include the Archaic point types, the small triangular points and pottery of the types simple stamped/brushed, Swift Creek Complicated Stamped, Lamar Incised, burnished plain, and coarse plain. In the absence of clear stratigraphic separation, it is not possible to assign the remaining non-diagnostic artifact classes to a specific component.

Bone preservation can be expected to be better for the Lamar Component. In the absence of independent evidence concerning differential bone preservation, however, it is not possible to assign any specific faunal material to one component or the other. The situation is much the same with respect to carbonized plant remains. In fact, there is no reason to expect significantly better preservation for Lamar age botanical material given the stability of charcoal and the relatively protected environment offered by the rock shelter.

ARTIFACT DISTRIBUTIONS

There was no evidence of recent disturbances in the rock shelter and in the excavated area immediately outside it at the time fieldwork was undertaken. Prehistoric human activity in and around the shelter undoubtedly disturbed cultural material left by earlier occupants on or immediately below the ground surface. There is, however, little evidence of extensive

aboriginal subsurface disturbance. Since it seems likely, furthermore, that the site was utilized for only brief periods of time and for only a restricted range of activities, it is probable that the occupants would have made little effort to clean up the shelter prior to each occupation episode.

Given the likelihood of these conditions, it is assumed that aboriginal cultural material has been displaced relatively little in the horizontal plan since deposition. If this assumption is correct, the horizontal distribution of artifacts should reflect one or more of the following situations: it should reflect where artifacts were lost during manufacture, use or storage; where they were discarded; or where they were abandoned when the site was abandoned.

Given the size of the shelter and the limited area excavated outside, it is unlikely that areas where specific activities were undertaken and the resulting byproducts were lost or discarded can be isolated and identified. It may be possible, however, to distinguish artifact distributions that are the result of general patterns of space utilization and refuse discard. With the belief that some culturally meaningful and interpretable distribution patterns might be found, the distribution of most artifact classes have been plotted on site maps and compared.

The area protected by roof overhang within the shelter (shaded area in Figure 3) is a physically bounded space. It is enclosed by the shelter walls on the east and west and by low boulders on the north and south. The latter do not prevent human movement into and out of the shelter, but they do break up what would otherwise be a single continuous floor area. Thus it is more likely than not that activities occurring on one side of

the boulders will differ from those occurring on the other. With this possibility in mind, the artifact distribution analysis focused on contrasting the cultural content of the three site subareas: shelter interior, area north of shelter and area south of shelter.

Two chronologically diagnostic pottery types--simple stamped/brushed and Lamar Incised--were recovered with sufficient frequency to merit plotting. Their distribution across the site may provide some insight into the nature of site utilization during the two components. The distribution of simple stamped/brushed pottery is plotted in Figure 6. Sherd density is approximately the same inside the shelter (8.2 sherds/square) and south of it (10.2 sherds/square), but is approximately twice as great north of the shelter (17.5 sherds per square). Figure 6 demonstrates that the heaviest concentration of sherds lies in a relatively small area encompassing the northwest corner of the shelter, the adjacent entrance passage and the shelter exterior northwest of the entrance passage.

The distribution of simple stamped/brushed sherd cross-mends is portrayed in Figure 7. As is to be expected, the frequency of cross-mends varies with sherd density. Interesting however, several cross-mends span the distance between the interior of the shelter and the area beyond the entrance.

The distribution of Lamar Incised sherds is plotted in Figure 8. Sherd density in the three site sub-areas are as follows: north of shelter, 2.5 sherds/square; shelter interior, 4.0 sherds/square; south of shelter, 1.5 sherds/square. Lamar Incised sherds show a slight tendency to concentrate in the northwest corner of the shelter. Unlike the simple stamped/brushed pottery, however, the density of sherds here is not that much

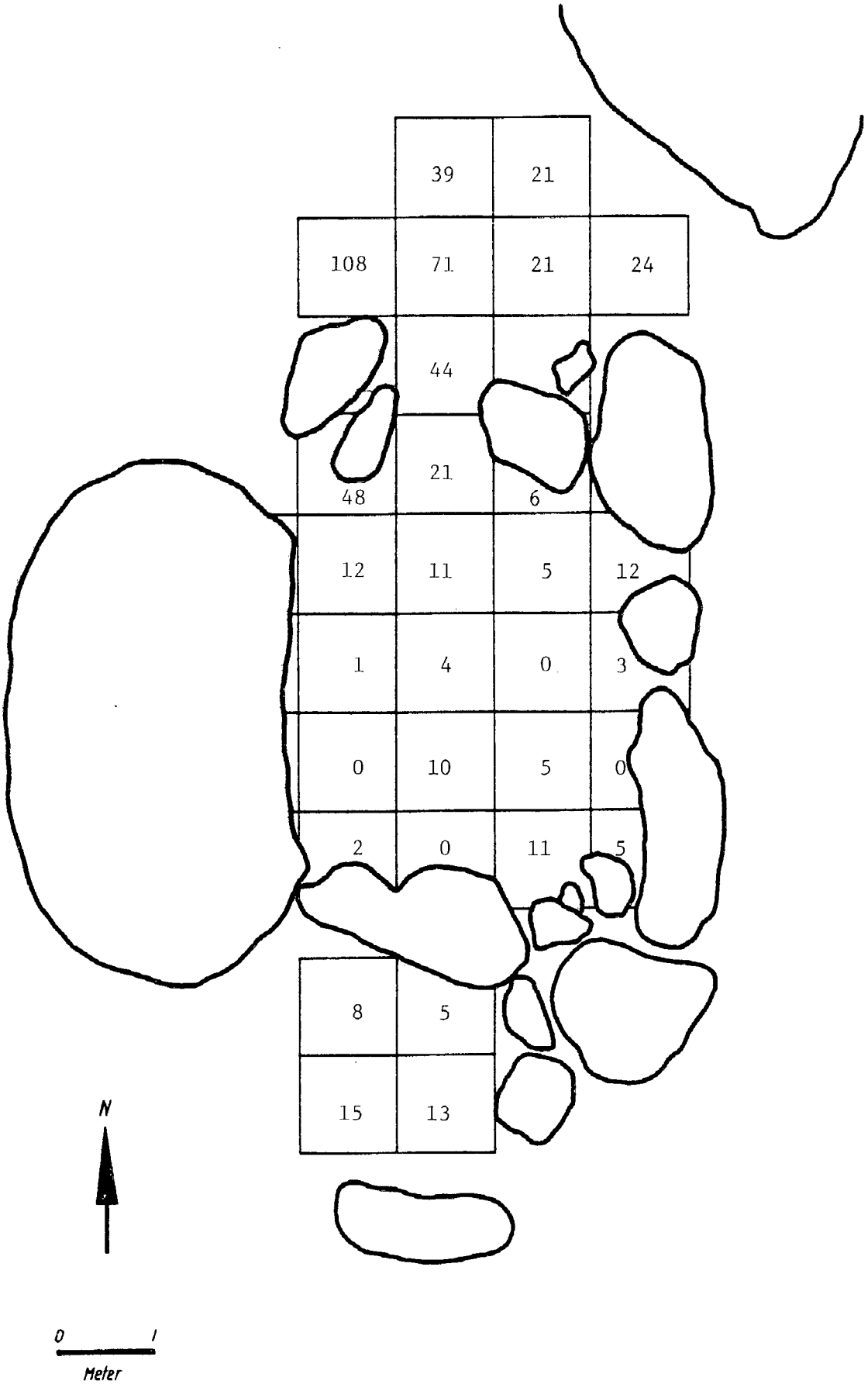

Figure 6. Distribution of simple stamped/brushed pottery within the excavated site (feature material not included).

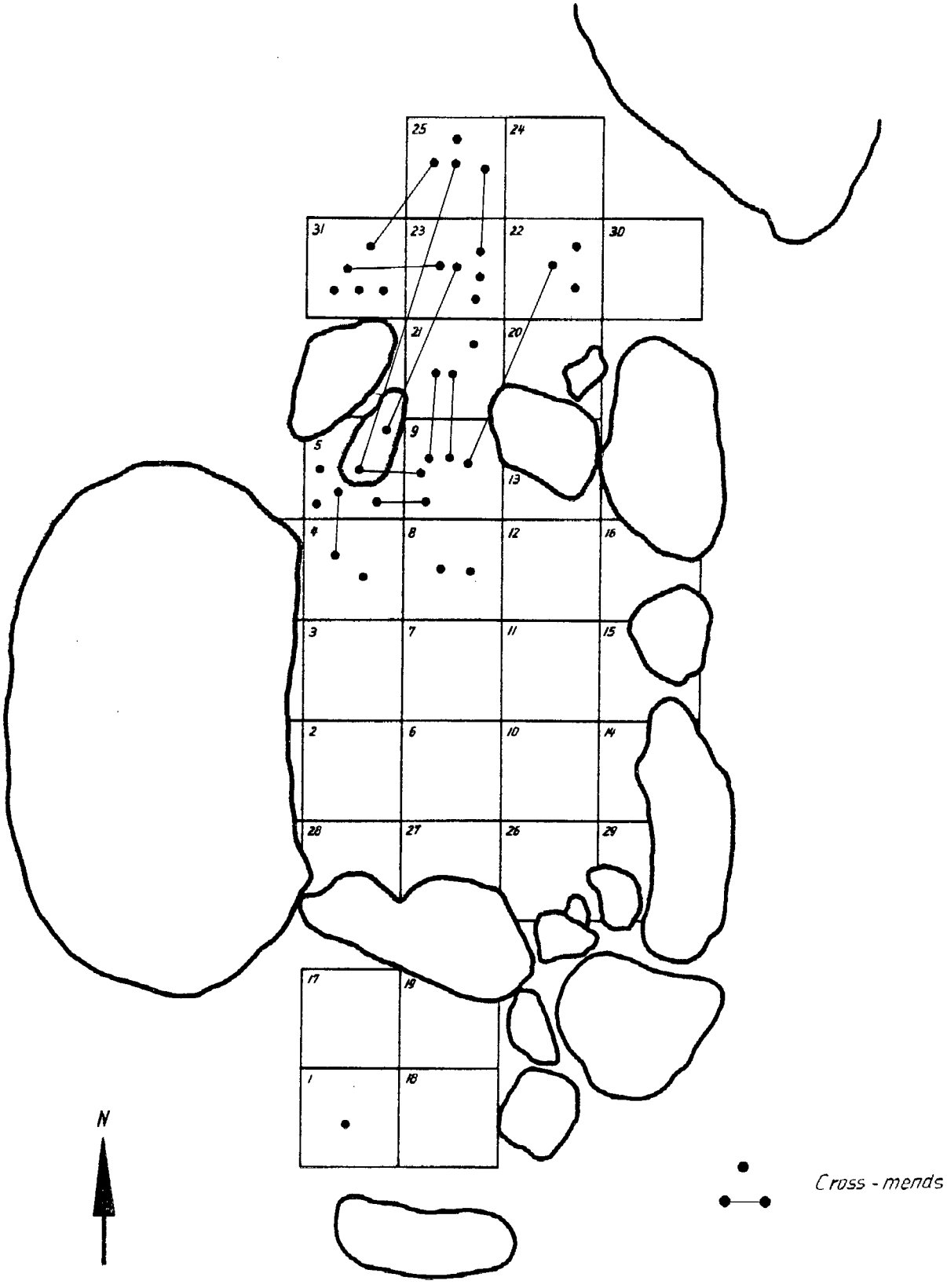

Figure 7. Distribution of simple stamped/brushed cross-mends.

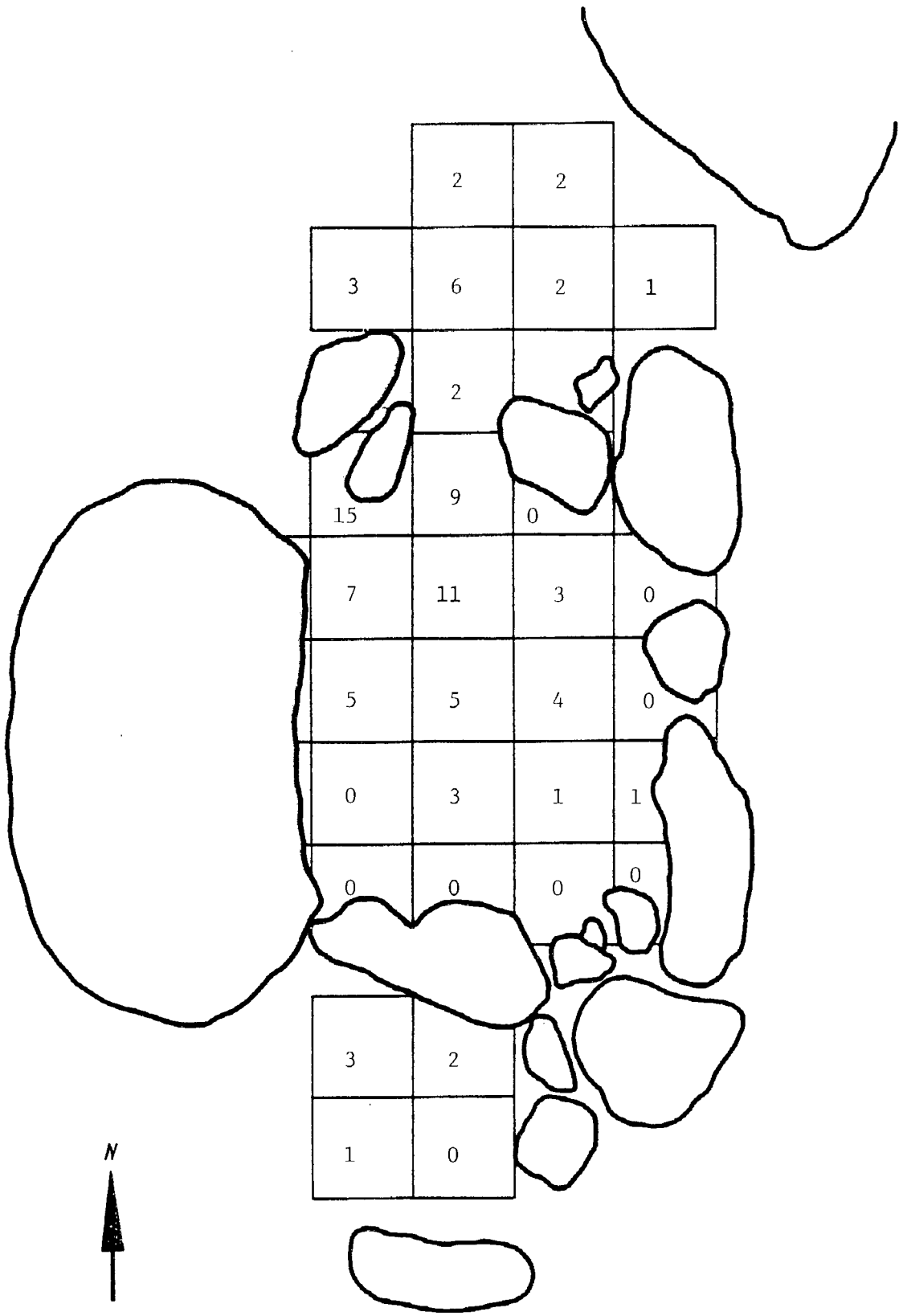

Figure 8. Distribution of Lamar Incised pottery within the excavated site (feature material not included).

greater than elsewhere in the excavated area, and there is no real concentration of sherds north of the shelter.

Lamar Incised sherd cross-mends are plotted in Figure 9. Most cross-mends occur in the squares with the greatest sherd density. Several cross-mends, however, span the northern wall of the shelter as was the case with simple stamped/brushed pottery.

It is clear from the foregoing, that sherd density during both components was greatest in and around the northern end of the shelter. Lamar sherds are more evenly distributed throughout the excavated area than are the Woodland sherds. This suggests that the Woodland occupants used the northern end of the site more intensively as a dump or activity area than did the later Lamar occupants.

The existance of cross-mends spanning the northern wall of the shelter indicates that vessel fragments were being moved from one sub-area to the other. Whether this movement was from south to north or north to south cannot be determined with certainty although the latter seems more probable.

It is not possible to assign specific pieces of flaked stone debitage to any one specific component at the site. Site utilization during the Early and Middle Archaic does not seem to have been as intense as it was during the Woodland and Lamar periods. It seems safe, therefore, to attribute most of the debitage to these two later components. In the following discussion, debitage will be considered to derive from both the Lamar and the Woodland components.

Table 6 lists the density of debitage for each of the three sub-areas of the site. With the exception of percussion flakes, which are very

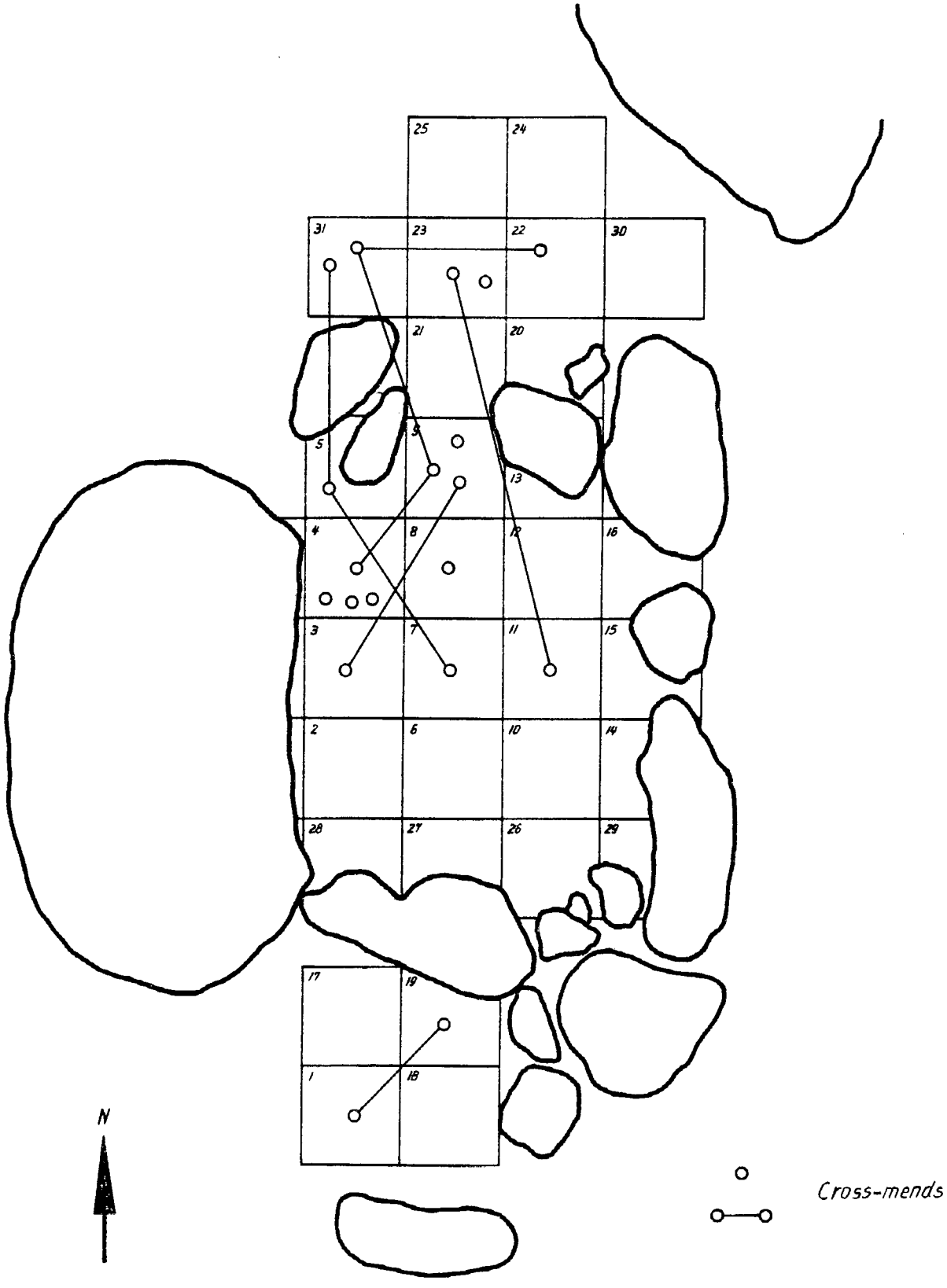

Figure 9. Distribution of Lamar Incised sherd cross-mends.

TABLE 6

Frequency of Flaked Stone Debitage per Square

	northern exterior	shelter interior	southern exterior
percussion flakes	1.6	0.9	1.2
thinning/retouch flakes	10.7	6.6	3.8
unidentified debris	79.5	25.7	13.8

uncommon, debitage has its greatest density in the area north of the rock shelter and its lowest density south of the shelter.

The distribution of percussion flakes, thinning/retouch flakes and unidentified debris are illustrated in Figures 10-12. It is evident from these maps that all three types of debitage have approximately the same distribution. They are concentrated in the northeast corner of the rock shelter, in the entrance passage and north of the shelter.

The two cores have approximately the same distribution as the other classes of debitage (Figure 13). One is located at the northern end of the shelter, and the other is located north of the shelter.

The twelve Mississippian triangular points which can be assigned to the Lamar occupation have a somewhat different distribution from that of the flaked stone debitage. Only one point was found north of the shelter, and it was located in the entrance passage. The remaining points tend to cluster in the northern end of the shelter much like the debitage (Figure 14).

The remaining classes of flaked stone--complete bifaces, broken bifaces, bifacial tools, and unifacial tools--are, with the exception of

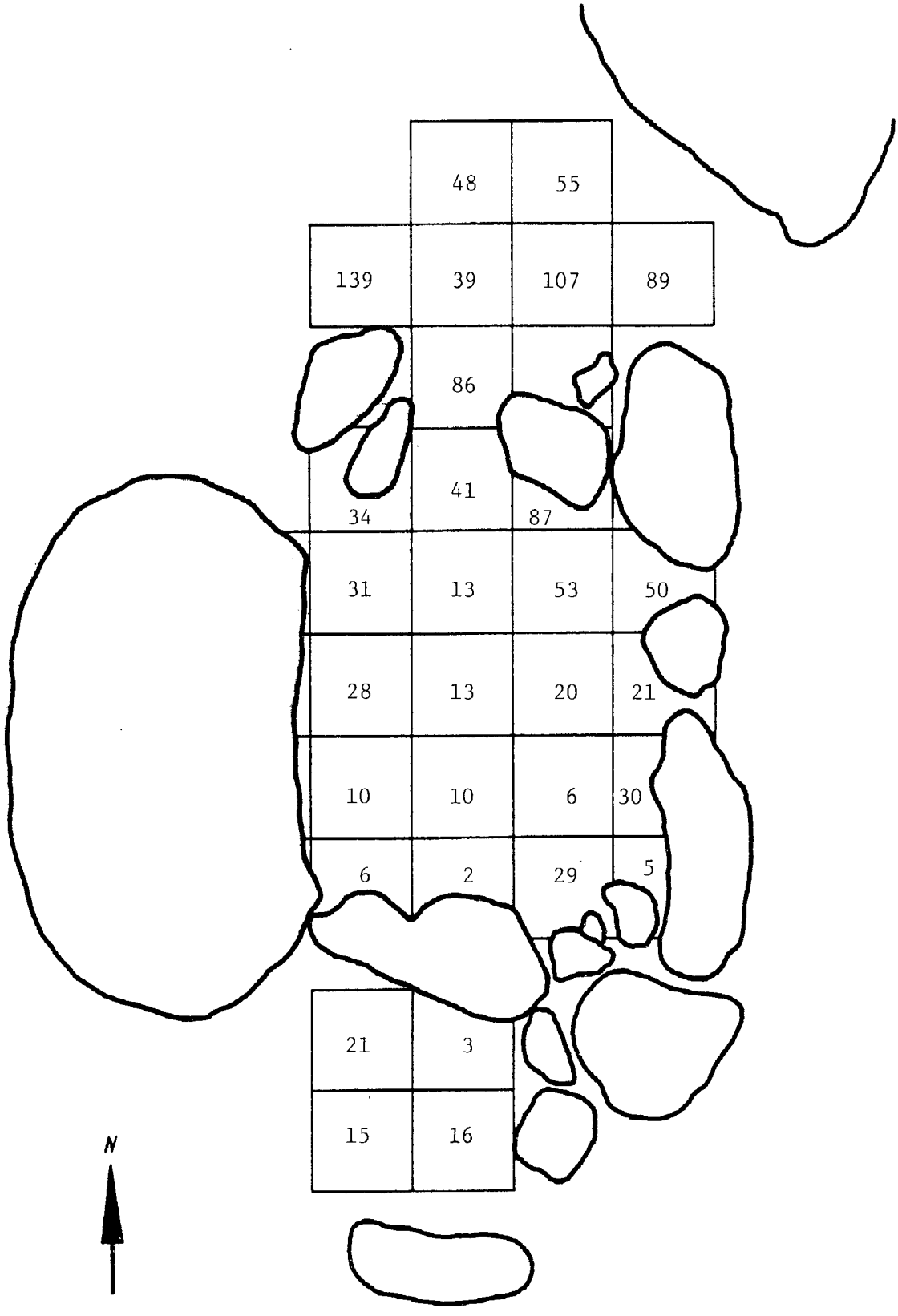

Figure 10. Distribution of unidentified debris within the excavated site (feature material not included).

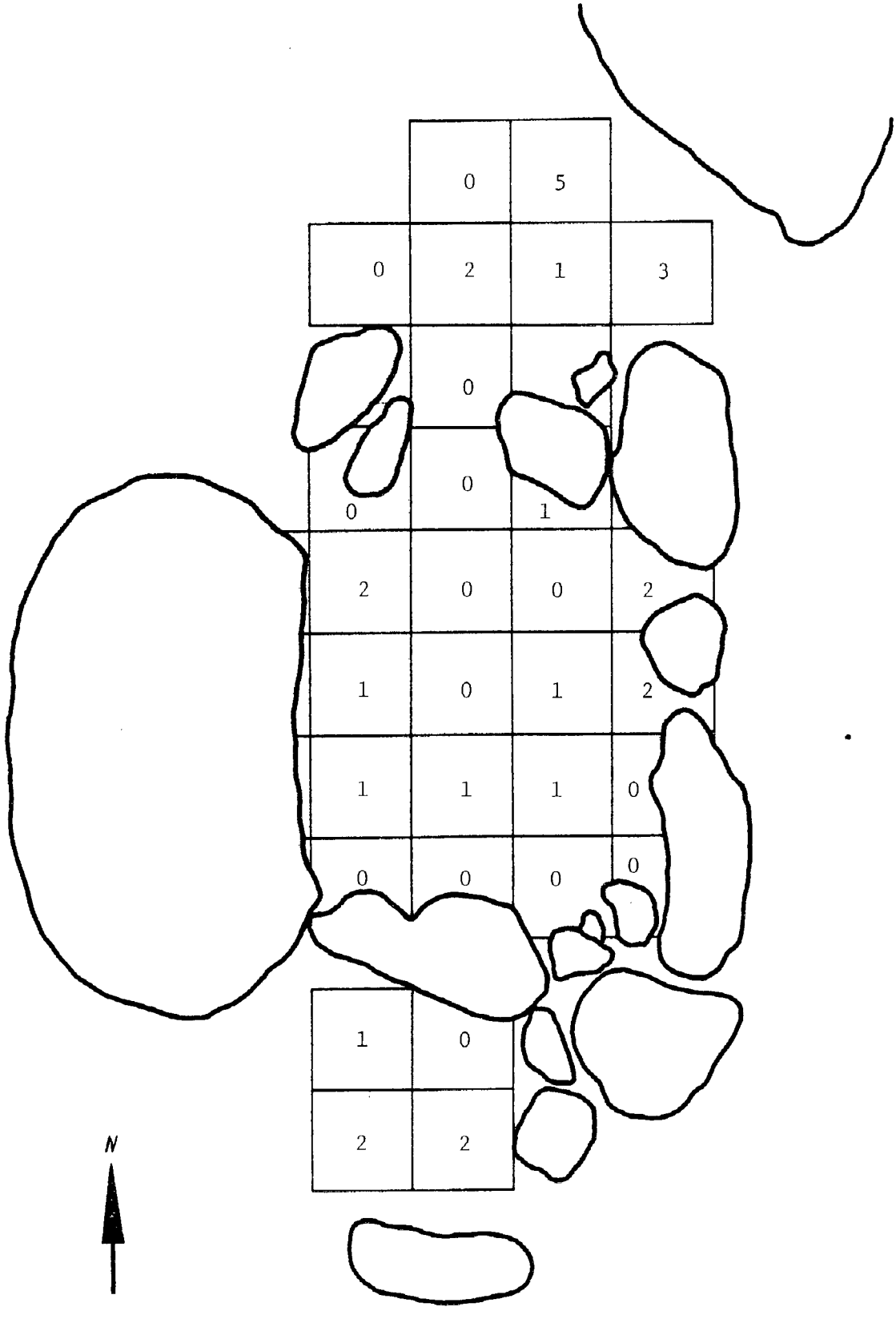

Figure 11. Distribution of precussion flakes within excavated site (feature material not included).

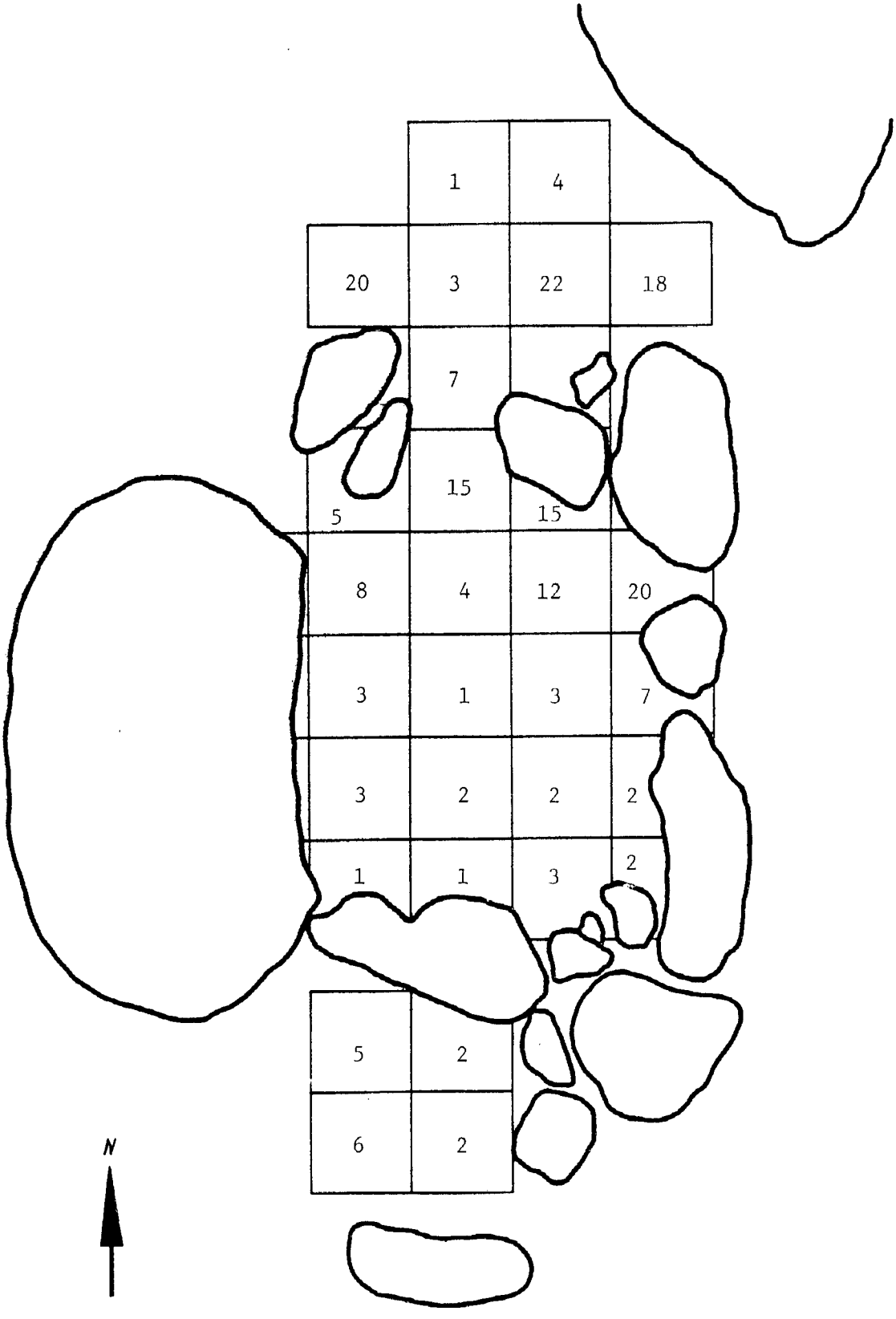

Figure 12. Distribution of thinning/retouch flakes withing the excavated site (feature material not included).

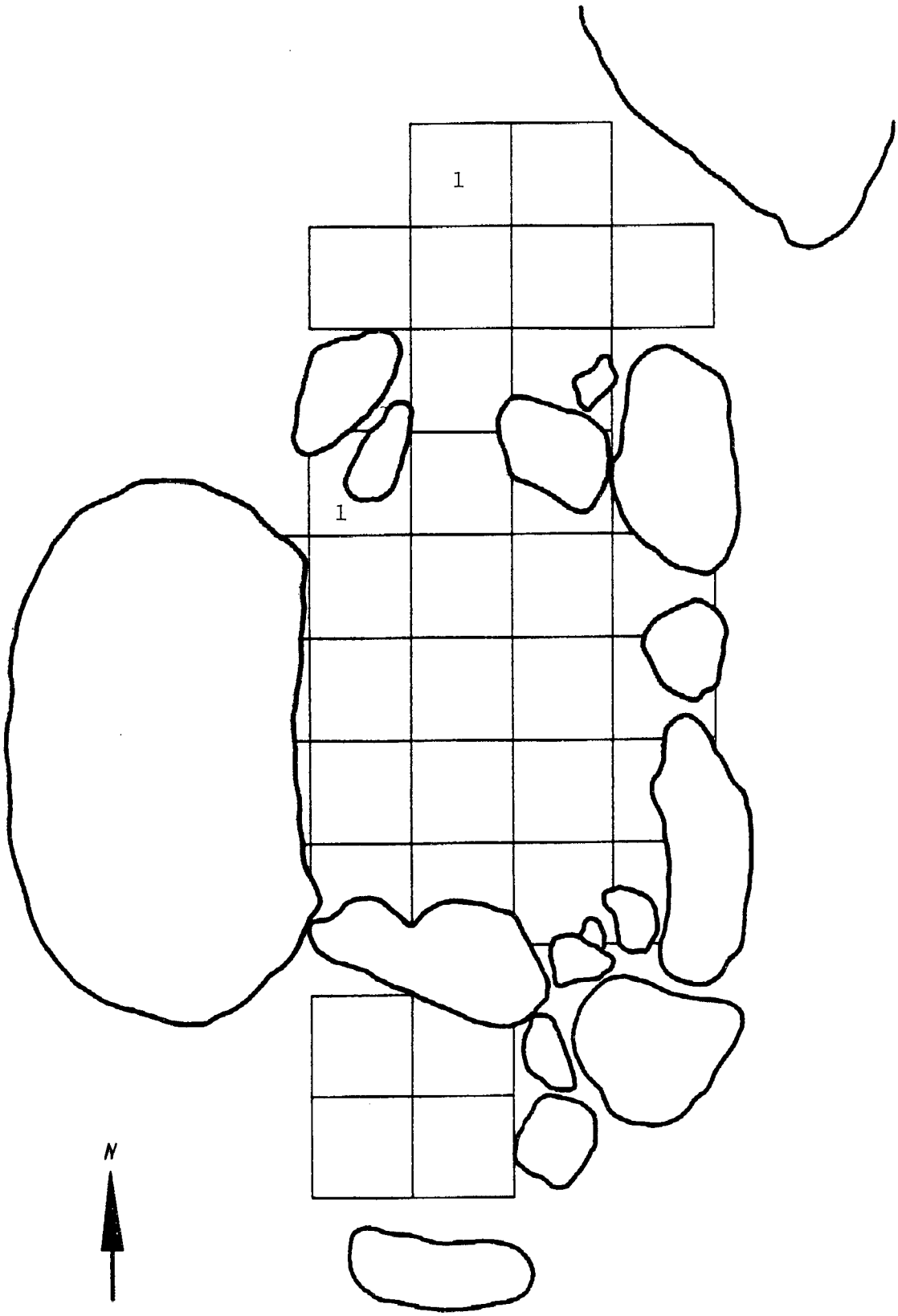

Figure 13. Distribution of cores within the excavated site (feature material included).

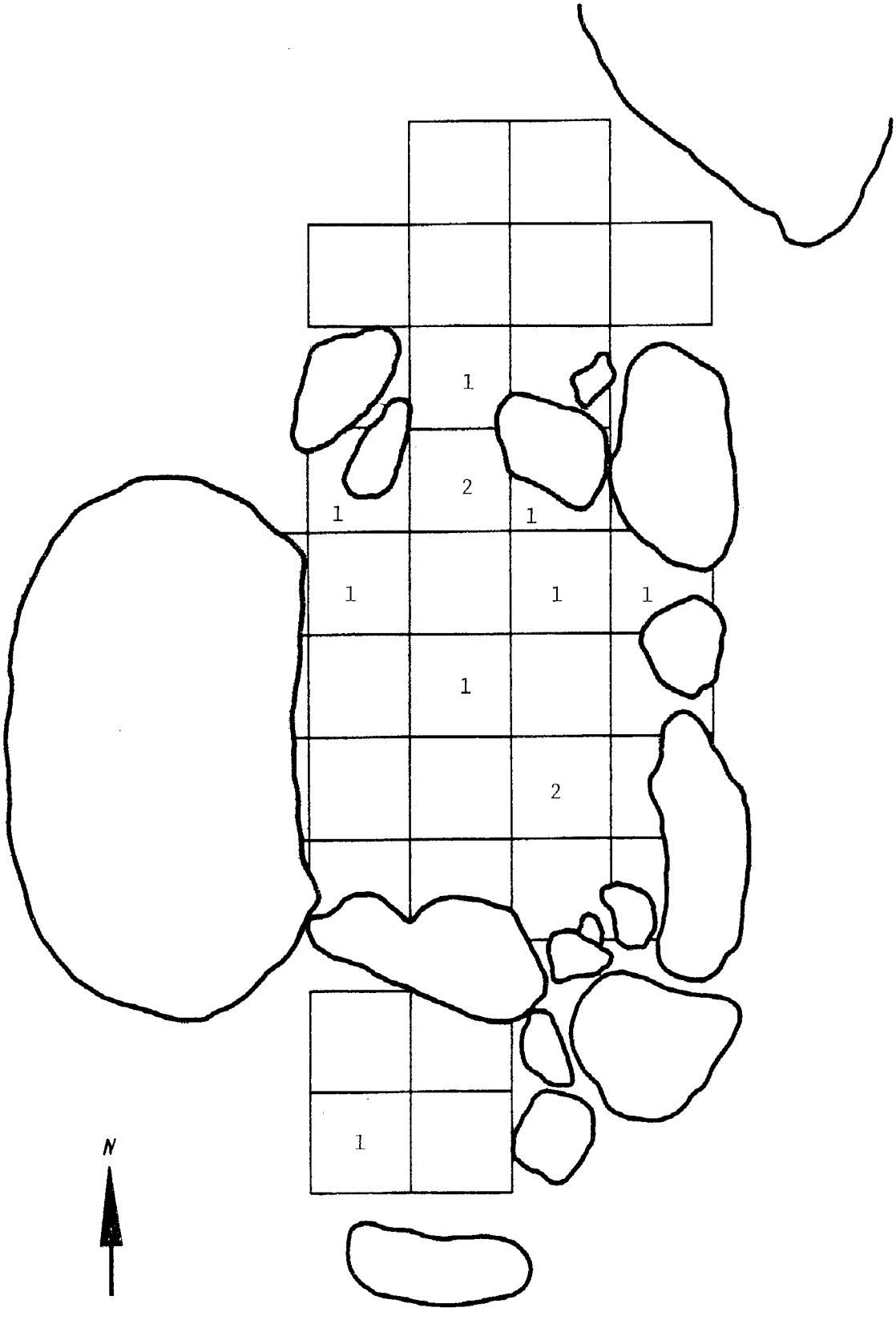

Figure 14. Distribution of Mississippian triangular points within the excavated site (feature material included).

unifacial tools, most heavily concentrated north of the shelter and in the northern end of the shelter (Figures 15-18). Several of these items can be assigned to Early and Middle Archaic components. Some undoubtedly date to the Lamar and Woodland component, but which ones these are can not be determined.

The two non-flaked stone tools recovered in excavations--a grinding/nutting stone and a possible hammerstone--cannot be assigned to a specific component. Indeed, artifacts similar to the grinding/nutting stone have been found in archaeological contexts ranging in age from Early Archaic to Lamar. Both items are located north of the rock shelter (Figure 19). Both items are in servicable conditions, and therefore probably do not represent discards.

Animal bones and carbonized plant remains recovered from PM260 almost certainly date to either the Woodland or the Lamar component. Beyond this, it is not possible to assign these materials to a specific occupation with any confidence. Animal bone is plotted by frequency in Figure 20. The greatest density of faunal material occurs in the northeast corner of the rock shelter and in the entrance passage. Square 12, in the northeast corner of the shelter (Figure 4), yielded a total of 592 bone elements in screened and floated lots. This is three times more bone than was recovered in any other square. Much of this bone consisted of very small fragments.

Hickory shell is the only identifiable plant material that occurs with any frequency at the site. Its distribution is plotted by weight in grams in Figure 21. Like faunal remains, Hickory shell is most concentrated in the northeast corner of the rock shelter and in the

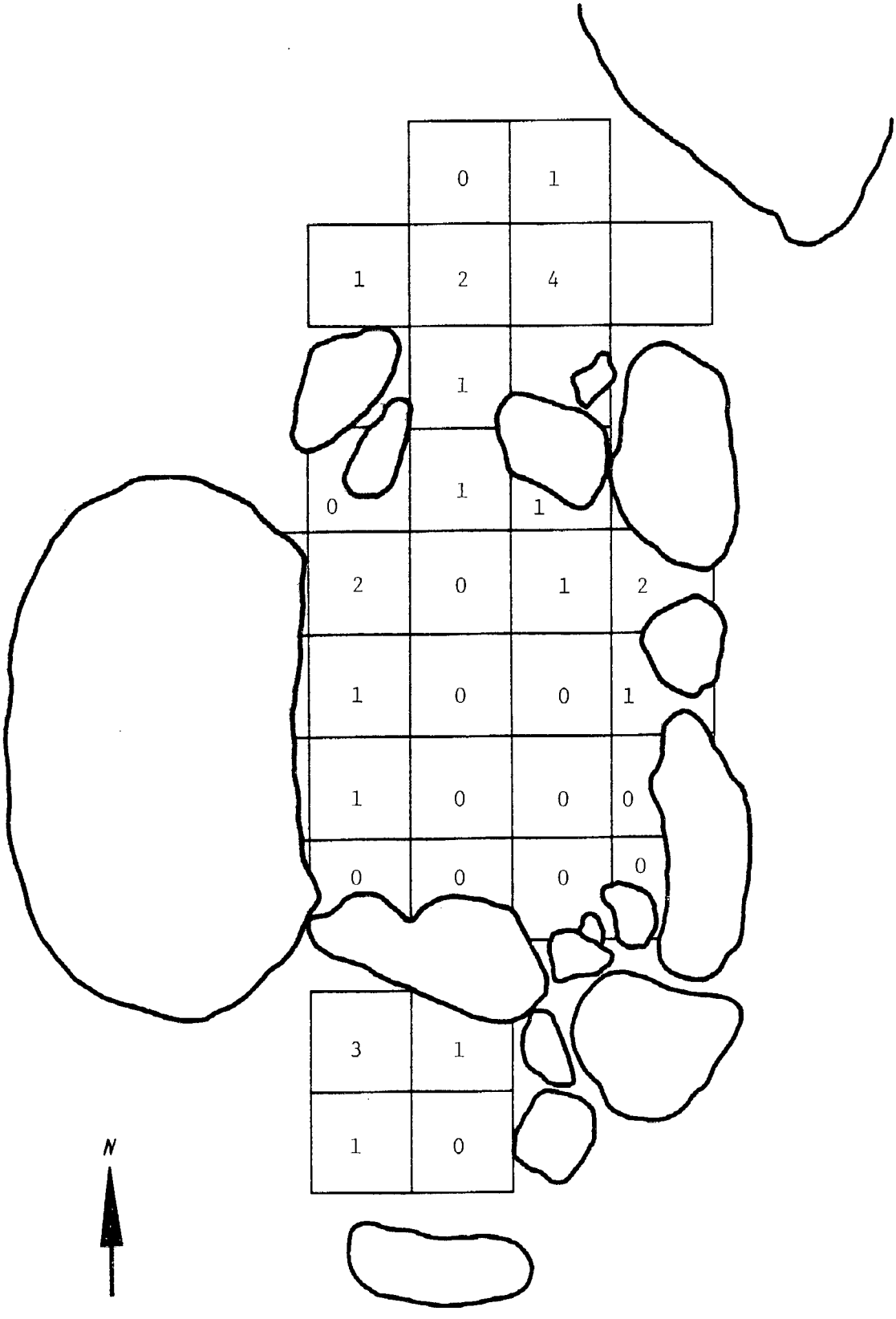

Figure 15. Distribution of complete bifaces within the excavated site (feature material included).

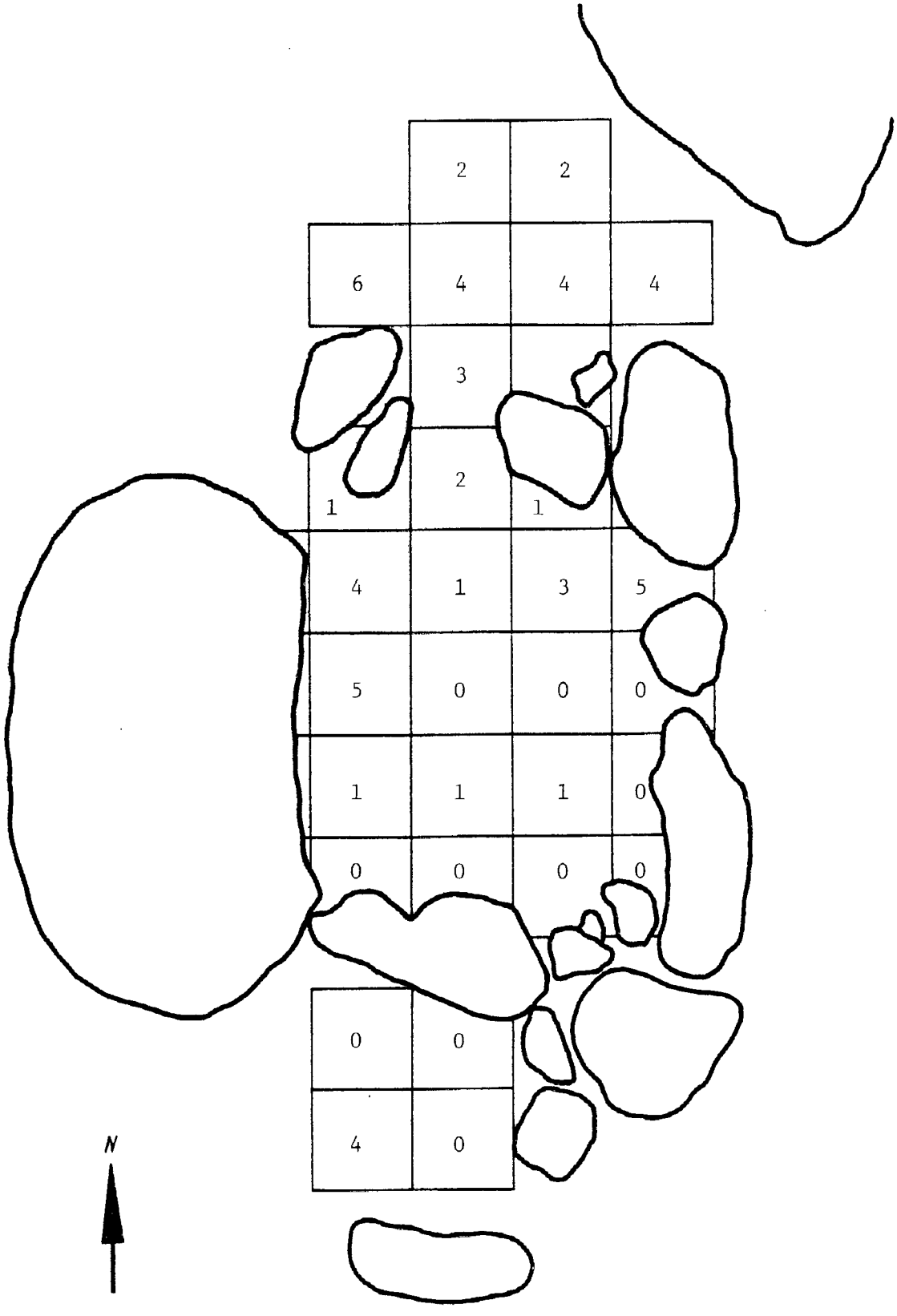

Figure 16. Distribution of broken bifaces within the excavated site (feature material included).

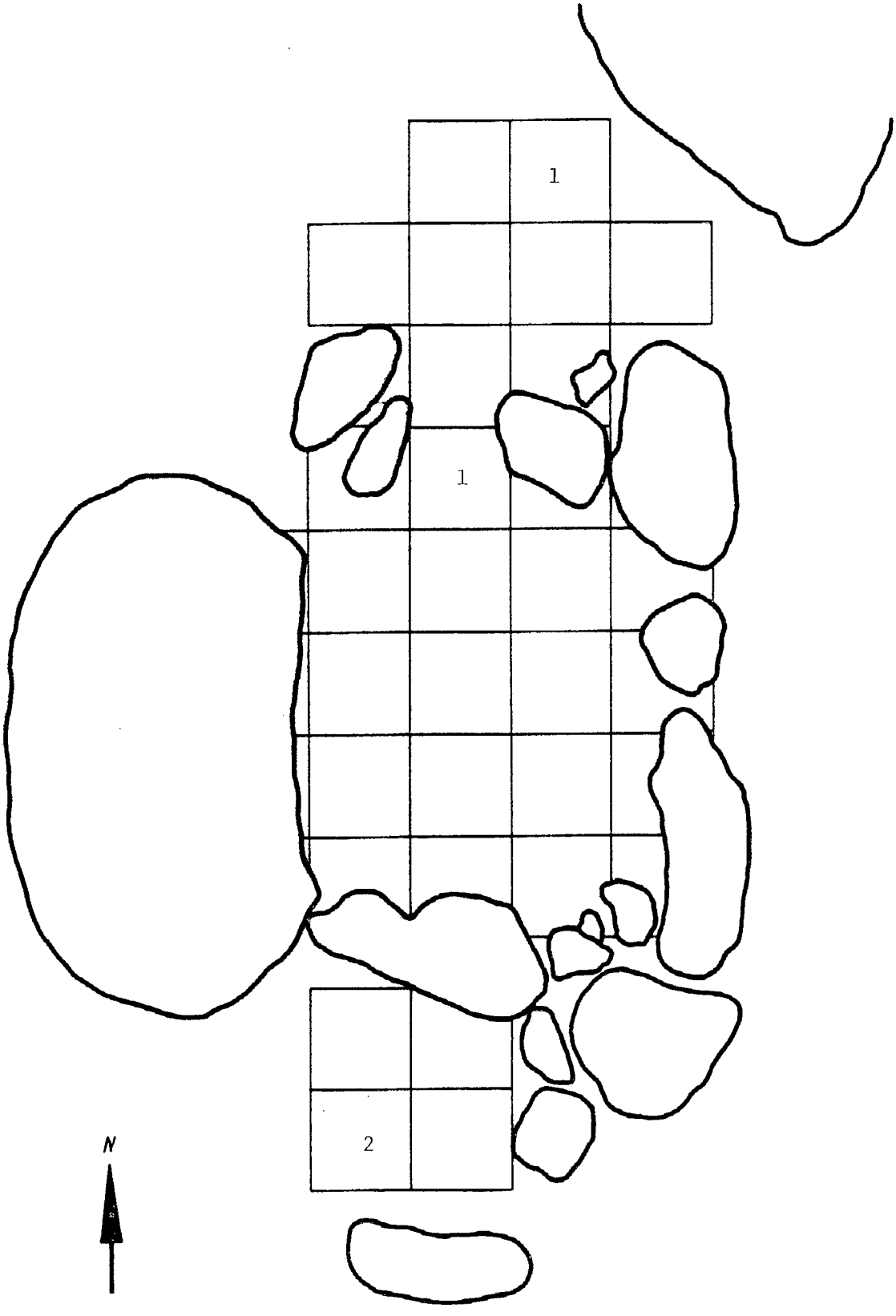

Figure 17. Distribution of bifacial tools within the excavated site (feature material included).

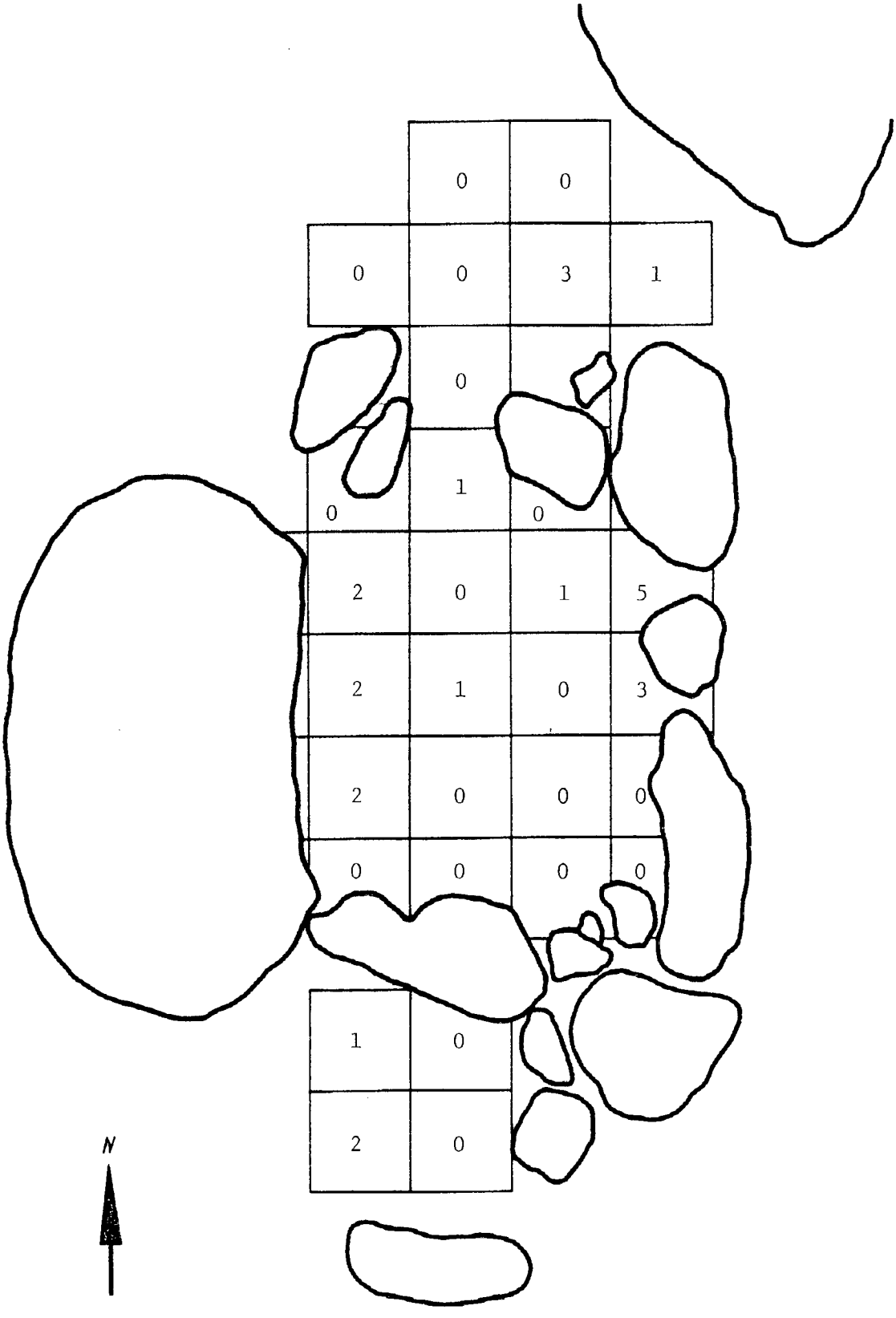

Figure 18. Distribution of unifacial tools within the excavated site (feature material included).

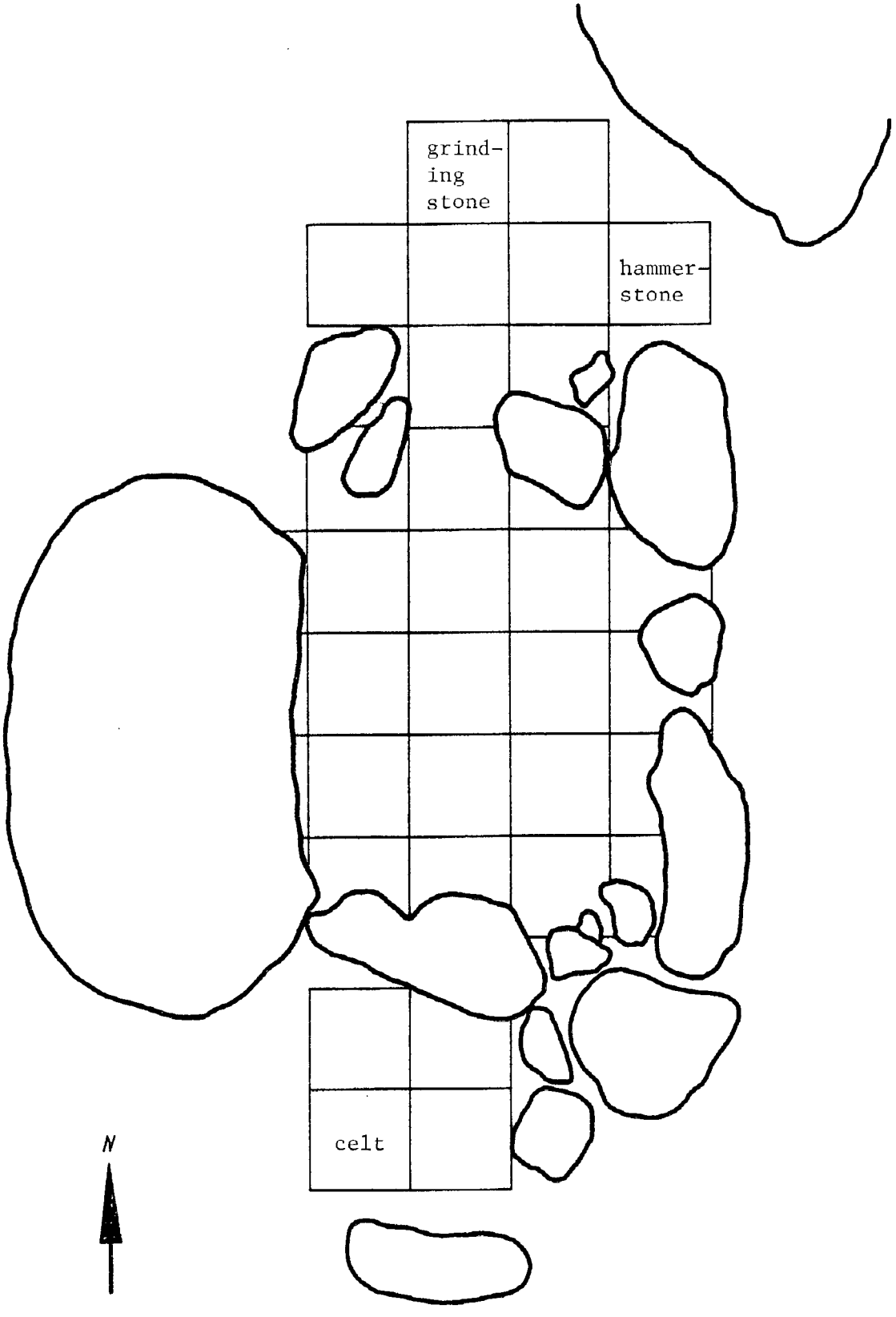

Figure 19. Distribution of miscellaneous flaked and non-flaked stone tools within the excavated site (feature material included).

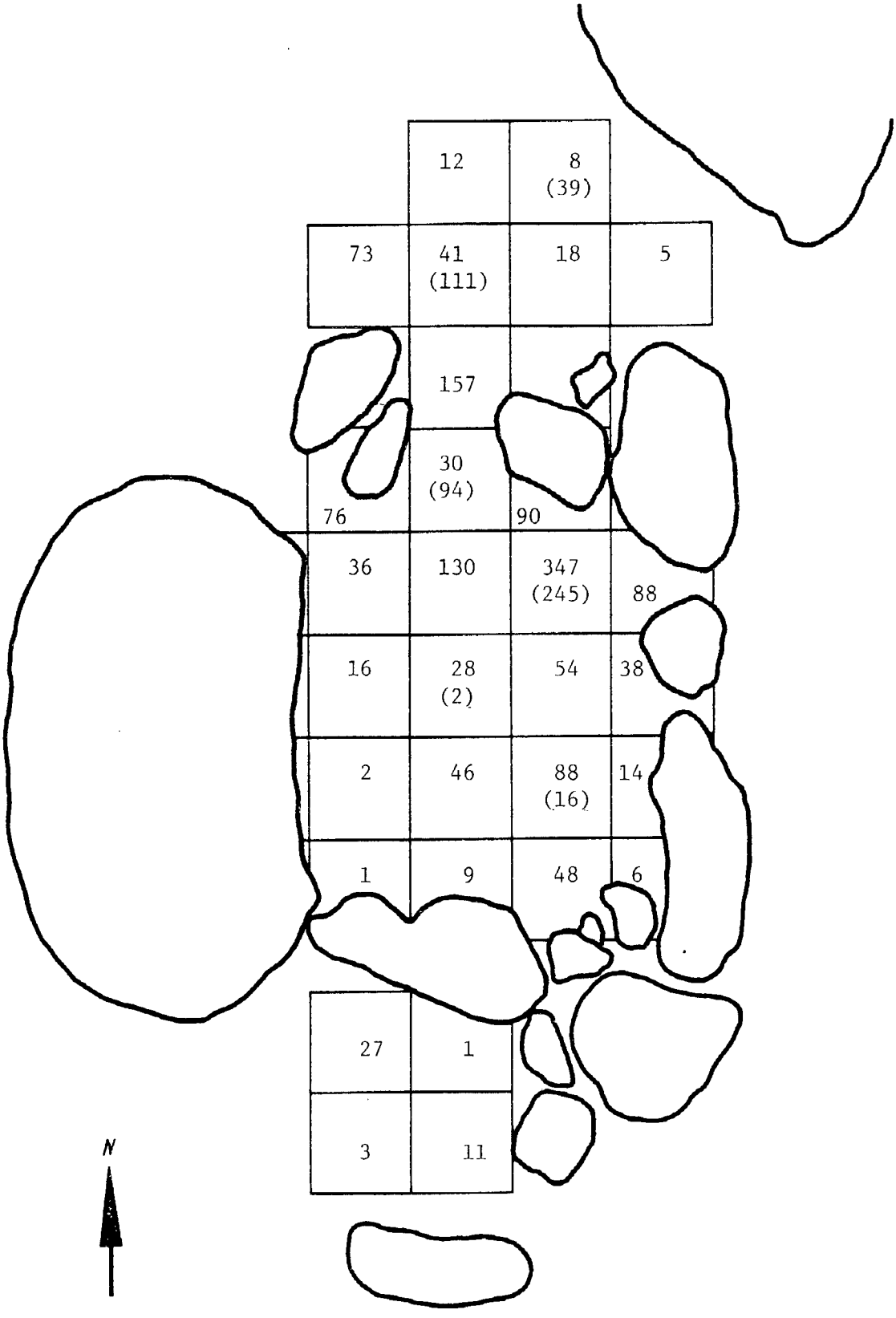

Figure 20. Distribution of animal bone within the excavated site (feature material not included). Figures in parentheses are from floated lots.

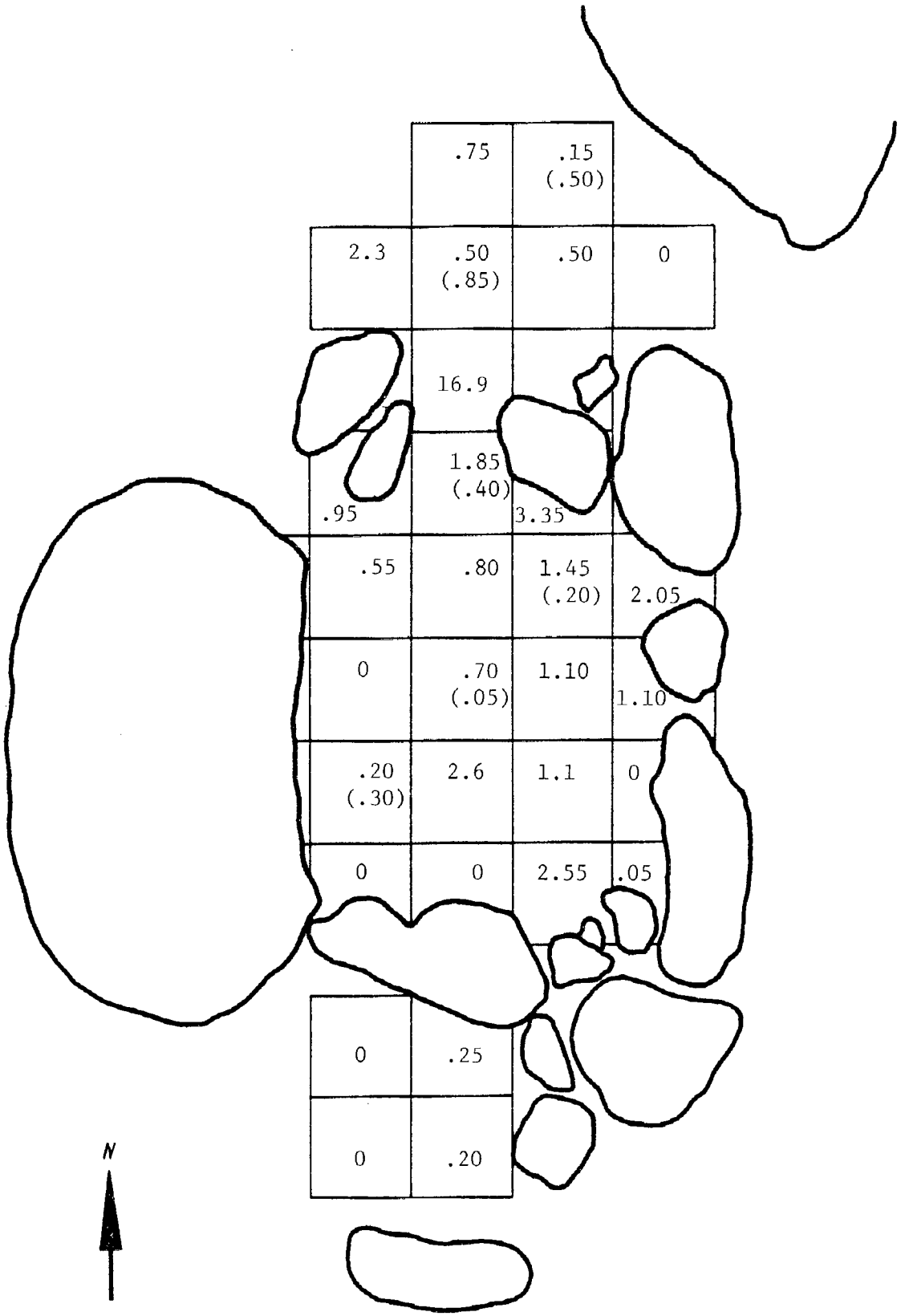

Figure 21. Distribution of charred hickory shell within the excavated site (feature material not included). Figures in parentheses are from flotation lots.

entrance passage. Square 21 located in the entrance passage, yielded six times more hickory shell than any other square.

All classes of artifacts that have been plotted, have generally similar distributions: they are most heavily concentrated in the vicinity of the northern end of the rock shelter. There are, however important differences in many of the distributions. Simple stamped/brushed sherds, most flaked stone debitage classes and most biface classes are concentrated in both the northern subarea and the northern end of the rock shelter but are most heavily concentrated north of the shelter. Lamar Incised sherds are rather evenly distributed, although they are most heavily represented in the northwest corner of the shelter. Faunal and floral remains are most heavily concentrated in the northeast corner of the shelter and in the entrance passage. Mississippian triangular points are restricted almost entirely to the shelter interior and there are fairly evenly distributed.

The important question to consider is whether these uneven and differing distributions represent actual activity and discard patterns of the aboriginal inhabitants of the shelter or whether they represent post depositional disturbances of various kinds. The absence of any real sign of extensive sub-surface disturbances and the existence of different distribution patterns suggests that post-depositional processes are not the major cause of artifact distributions.

If we assume that artifact distributions largely reflect past human activities, it becomes necessary to answer another important question: which if any artifact locations reflect in situ loss or discard--primary refuse in Schiffer's (1972) terminology--accompanying human domestic

activities and which represent intentional refuse dumping--secondary refuse (ibid)--in locations other than those where the refuse itself was produced.

At least two kinds of artifacts are likely to have been discarded in locations apart from where they were used: pottery and animal bone.

Fragmentary pottery vessels are often recycled as tools or containers (Hally 1980). Fragments that are not recycled are often large sized and irregularly shaped and may constitute a nuisance when underfoot. Even in an impermanently occupied site such as PM260 must have been, we can expect at least some intentional removal of pottery fragments from heavily utilized areas. This would seem to be the case with the simple stamped/brushed pottery and to a lesser extent with the Lamar Incised pottery. In the former case, sherds are most heavily concentrated both north and south of the northern rock shelter wall, and several sherd cross-mends span these two areas. Lamar Incised sherd concentrations are not as marked, but the same cross-mend pattern exists.

It is proposed that at least some pottery fragments resulting from vessel use and breakage within the shelter were being discarded beyond the shelter's northern wall. It is, of course, possible that some of the sherds found north of the shelter represent primary refuse resulting from pottery use and breakage in that location.

Large animal bone may also have been a nuisance under foot and may have been discarded in special dump areas. Unfortunately this possibility can not be pursued further without a more detailed analysis of animal bone distributions. The occurrence of large quantities of small bone fragments in Square 12 does indicate that at least some processing of animal food

(marrow extraction?) did take place within the shelter proper.

Several artifact classes--mississippian triangular points, flaked stone debitage and charred hickory nut shell--are unlikely to have been subjected to secondary refuse deposition. Five of the 12 Mississippian triangular points recovered from the site are complete and in good shape. Six others are missing only the tip and could have been reworked for additional use. The condition of these points suggests that they were not discards, but rather were servicable items that were lost. Their distribution then may be considered to reflect where they were used (e.g., for cutting), stored between uses or reworked preparatory to future use. The probability that these points were not intentionally discarded and their absence from the area north of the rock shelter suggests that few activities involving the use of triangular points occurred in the northern sub-area of the site.

It seems unlikely that the people flaking stone at the site picked up the small waste flakes they produced and discarded them is special dump locations. The distribution of flaked stone debitage, therefore, probably reflects the location of knapping activities rather than secondary dumping. This being the case, we must conclude that knapping occurred primarily outside the northern end of the shelter and secondarily in the northeast corner of the shelter.

The hickory nut shell recovered from PM260 had to be carbonized in order to be preserved until the present day. There are only two mechanisms whereby large amounts of shell are likely to have been carbonized (Hally 1981); incomplete combustion as fuel and the production of hickory milk. The heavy concentration of shell in Square 21 at the northern entrance

to the shelter is suggestive of the former. However, no hearth was found within the excavated portions of the site. In the absence of hearths, the wide distribution of shell fragments in the shelter and north of it becomes significant. It is hypothesized that the shell recovered from the site is the result of the production and consumption of hickory milk. Nuts were parched outside the shelter and beyond the excavated areas. Shells were then cracked and separated from nut meat in the vicinity of the northern entrance to the shelter where shell density is very great. The ethnographically documented practice of expectorating small shell fragments during hickory milk consumption may account for the occurrence of fragments elsewhere in the shelter.

Whether or not the preceding observations are correct, it is possible to draw some more general conclusions about the nature of site utilization from the artifact distributions. Theoretically, the shelter could have been entered from both the northern and southern ends. The low frequency of all artifact classes in the southern end of the shelter and beyond in the southern sub-area, indicates that this end of the shelter was little used as an entrance. Since access to the shelter from the south is not impeded by natural barriers, it is possible that temporary walls were frequently erected across this end of the shelter. The heavy concentration of artifacts in Squares 9 and 21 and beyond in the northern sub-area indicate that the major entrance to the shelter was at its northern end.

Several kinds of human activity that produce non-perishable debris--pottery use, stone tool manufacture, maintenance and use, and plant food preparation--seem to have been concentrated in the northern end of the shelter and beyond in the northern sub-area. The low frequency of such material in the southern end of the shelter suggests either that it was

little used or that the type of human activities occurring there left few visible traces. The latter seems more likely. It is possible, for example, that the southern end of the shelter was used primarily for rest and sleep.

Finally, the area beyond the northern entrance to the shelter seems to have been the scene of some, but not all types of activities that occurred at the site. Stone knapping and refuse dumping are likely to have occurred here.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Site PM260 was utilized by people during the Early, Middle and Late Archaic, Middle Woodland and Late Mississippian periods. Utilization was apparently heaviest during the latter two periods. Woodland pottery is several times more common than Lamar pottery indicating that the earlier component was more intense or of longer duration than the later component.

The size of the rockshelter and its location on top of a ridge suggests that it was utilized by relatively small groups of people, probably for relatively brief periods of time and for rather specific and limited purposes. Faunal and floral remains indicate site utilization occurred during at least the late fall and summer if not at other times as well. These remains also indicate that nut harvesting and deer hunting may have been two important activities conducted by shelter occupants. The abundance of Mississippian points support this contention. Very few triangular points have been recovered at other excavated Lamar sites in the reservoir (Smith 1981; Smith and Hally 1981; Shapiro 1981). Relative to the amount of excavation, the frequency of such points at PM260 is several times

greater than that at any other Lamar site in the reservoir (Smith 1981; Smith and Hally 1981; Shapiro 1981). It is not unreasonable in light of this fact to propose that PM260 may have served as a Lamar deer hunting camp.

In light of the abundance of Mississippian triangular points, the absence of diagnostic Middle Woodland projectile points is striking. It suggests that the Woodland occupants were not actively engaged in deer hunting when they visited the site.

The abundance of hickory nut shell and the presence of a probable nutting stone also suggest that nut gathering was an important activity conducted by site occupants. This activity can not be assigned to either Woodland or Lamar components with certainty. Nut gathering and deer hunting are both optimally conducted in the late fall. Both activities could have been carried out by a single group of occupants during one seasonal visit to the site each year. Alternatively, such activities could have been conducted by separate groups visiting the site at intervals throughout the fall and winter.

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Plate 1. PM260 rock shelter from the north.

Plate 2. Interior of the rock shelter looking south. Entrance passage is in right foreground.

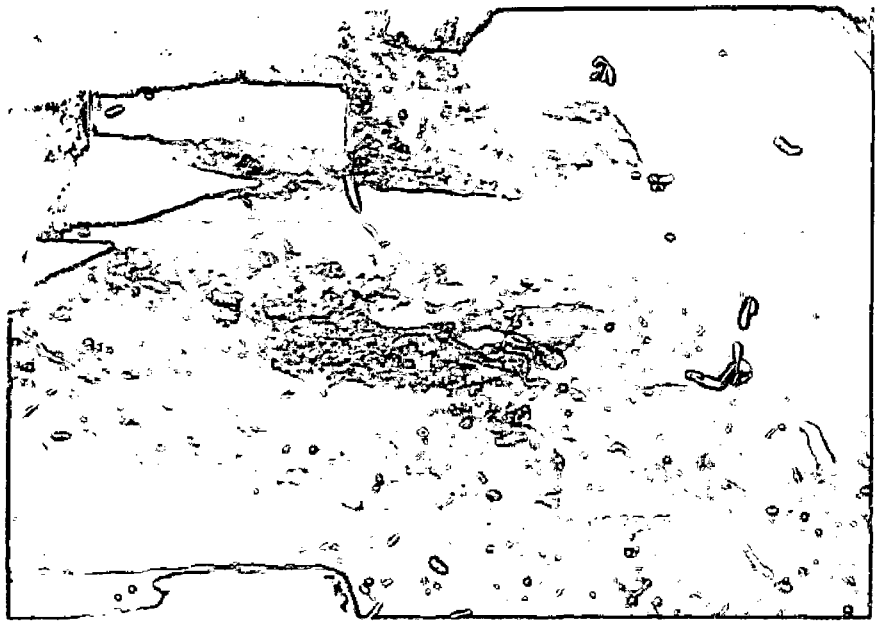

Plate 5. Excavation of one meter squares within rock shelter.

Plate 6. Features 3, 4 and 5 visible in subsoil of Unit 11.

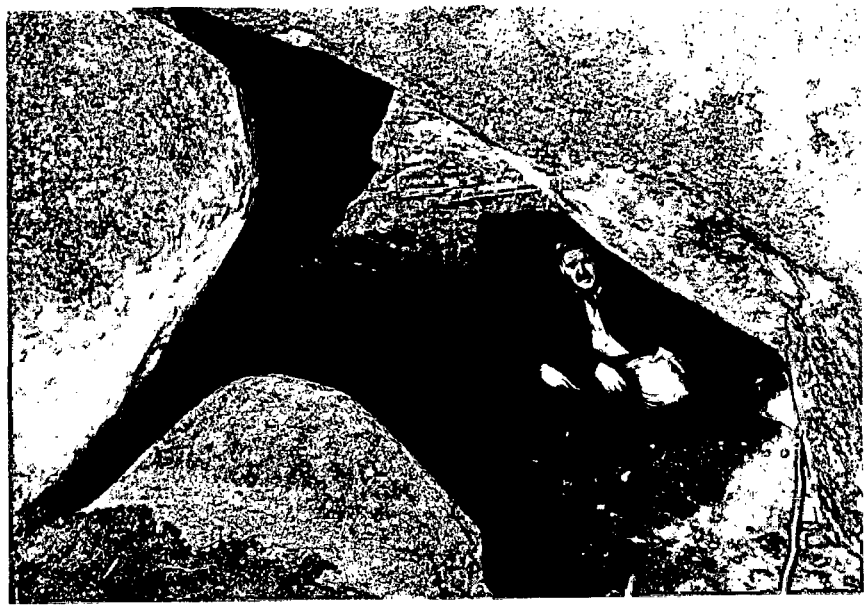

Plate 3. Interior of rock shelter looking north. Entrance passage is behind and to the left of the crouching figure.

Plate 4. Southern end of rock shelter with Squares 1 and 17 completed. River is in right background.

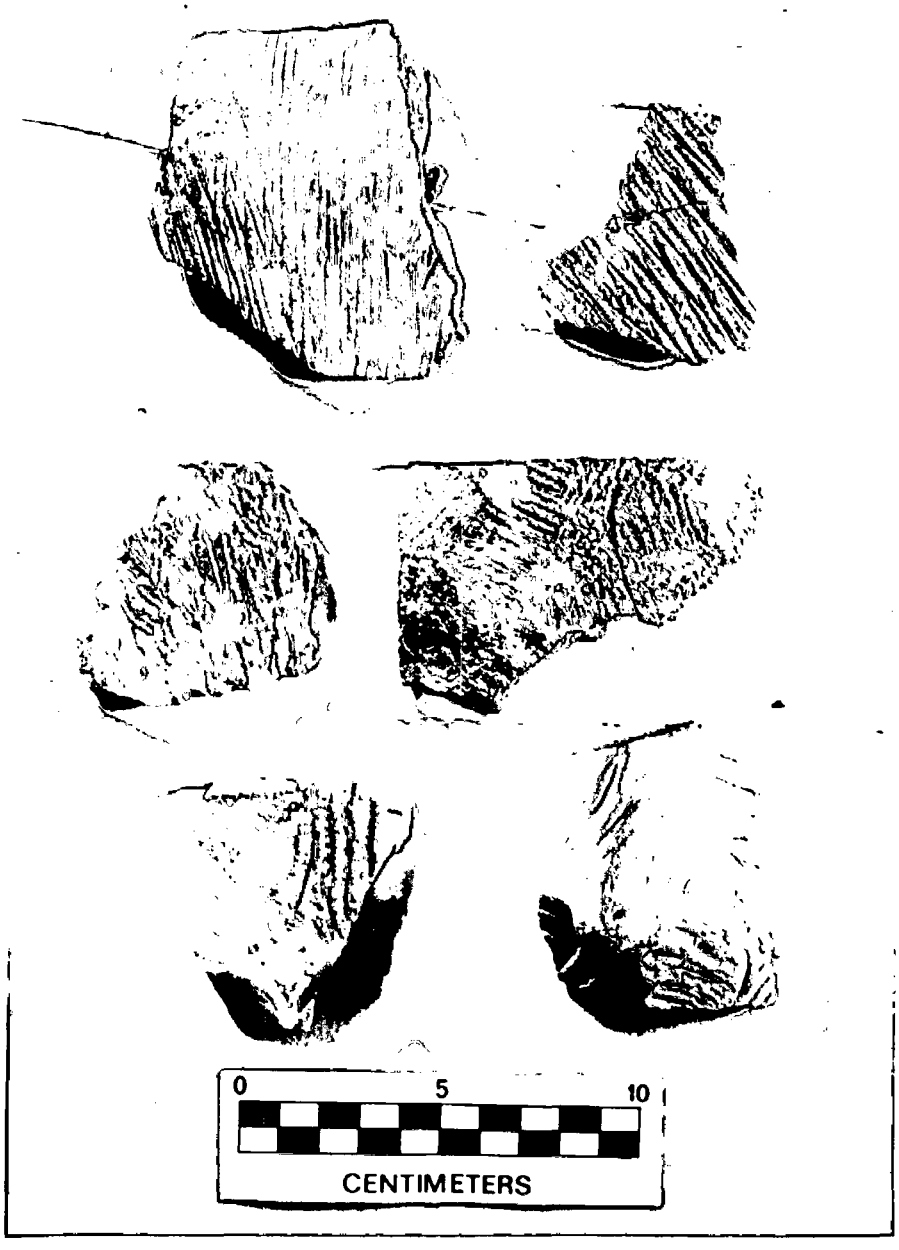

Plate 7. Simple stamped/brushed and Swift Creek Complicated Stamped pottery. a, lightly stamped or brushed decoration; b and c, stamped sherds; d, bowl with block stamping design; e-f, Swift Creek Complicated Stamped pottery.

Plate 8. Simple stamped/brushed pottery. a, jar with plain rim and neck and punctation bordering decorated zone; b, jar neck with horizontal impressed line; c, jar fragment with plain neck; d, jar fragment with tetrapodal support.

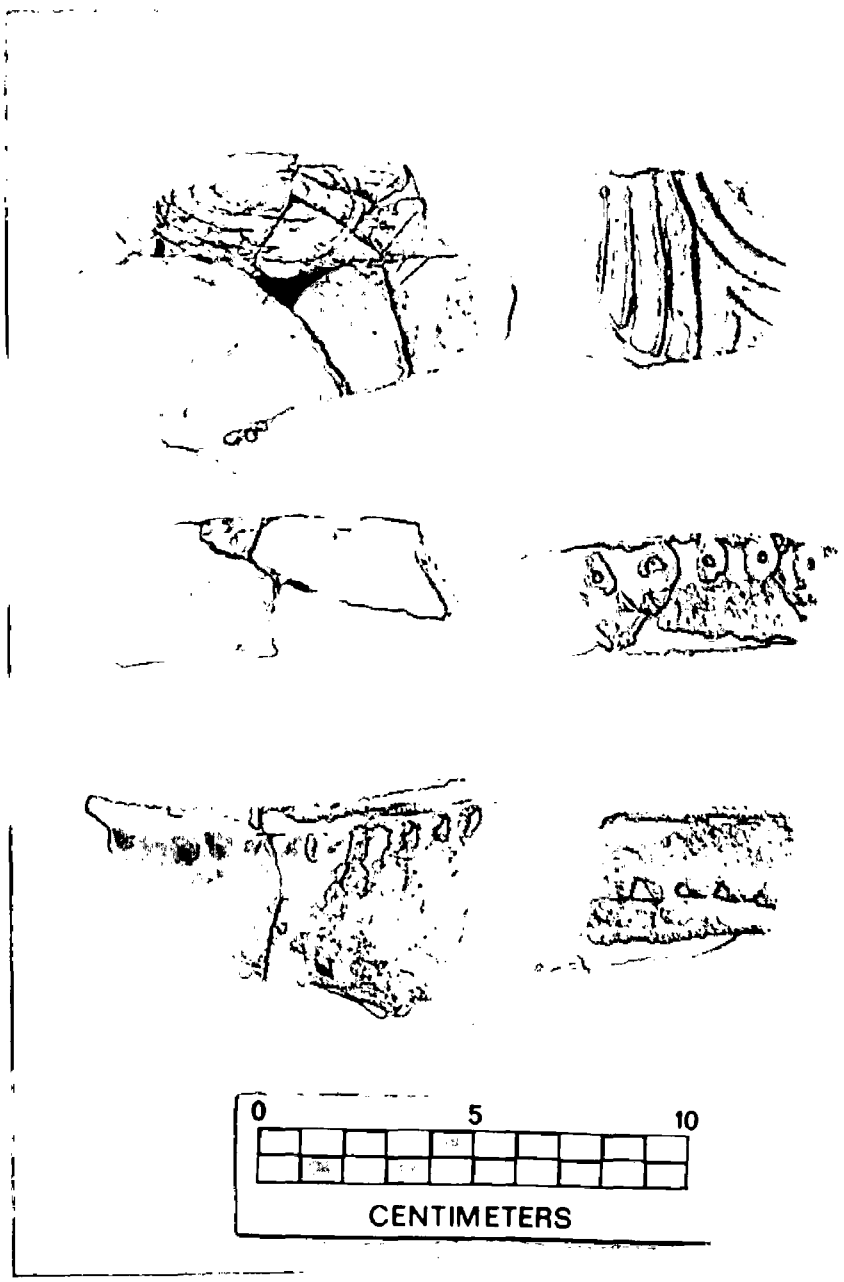

Plate 9. Lamar pottery. a-c, Lamar Incised; d, jar rim with punctated nodes; e-f folded and pinched rims.

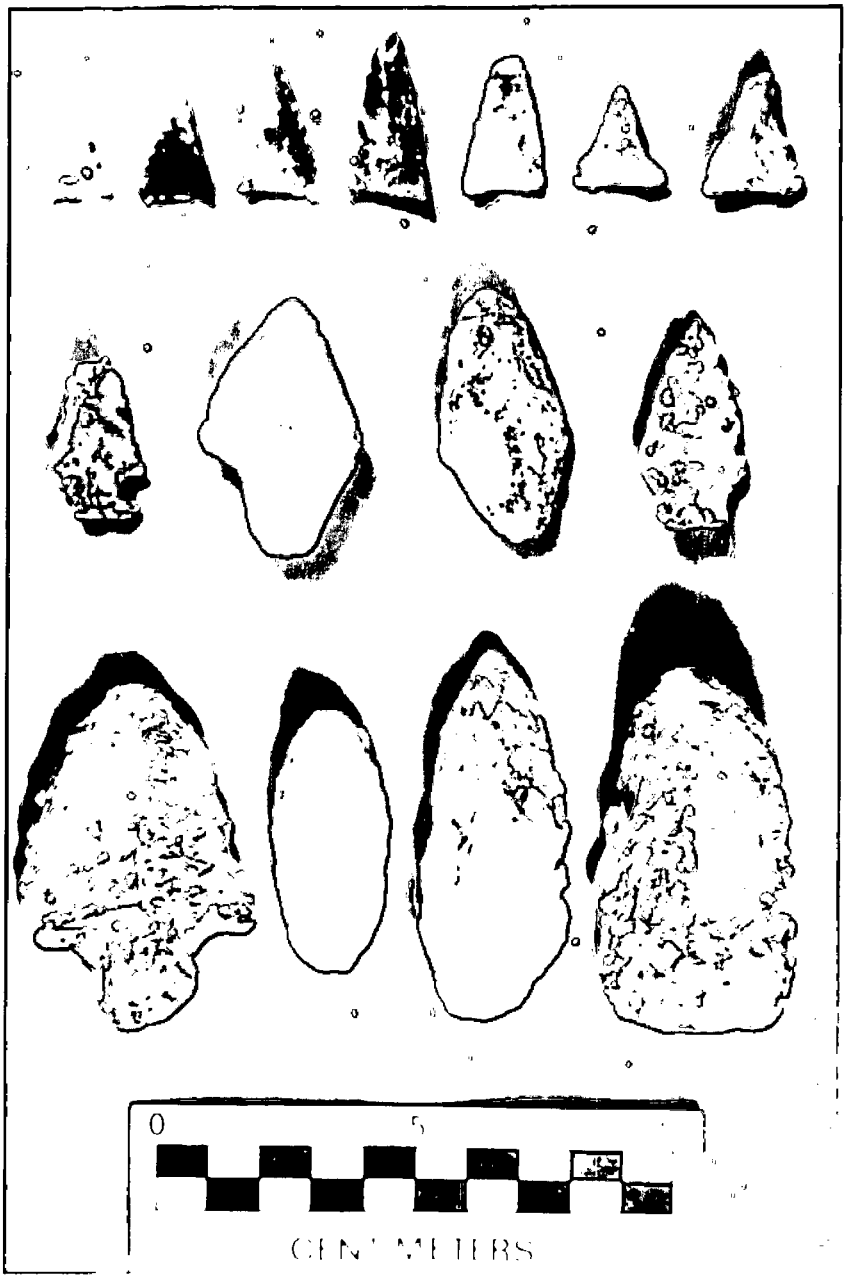

Plate 10. Lithic artifacts. a-g, Mississippian triangular points; h, Kirk Stemmed points; i-j, Morrow Mountain Stemmed points; k, unidentified Late Archaic stemmed point; m-n, ovate bifaces; o, flaked stone celt.

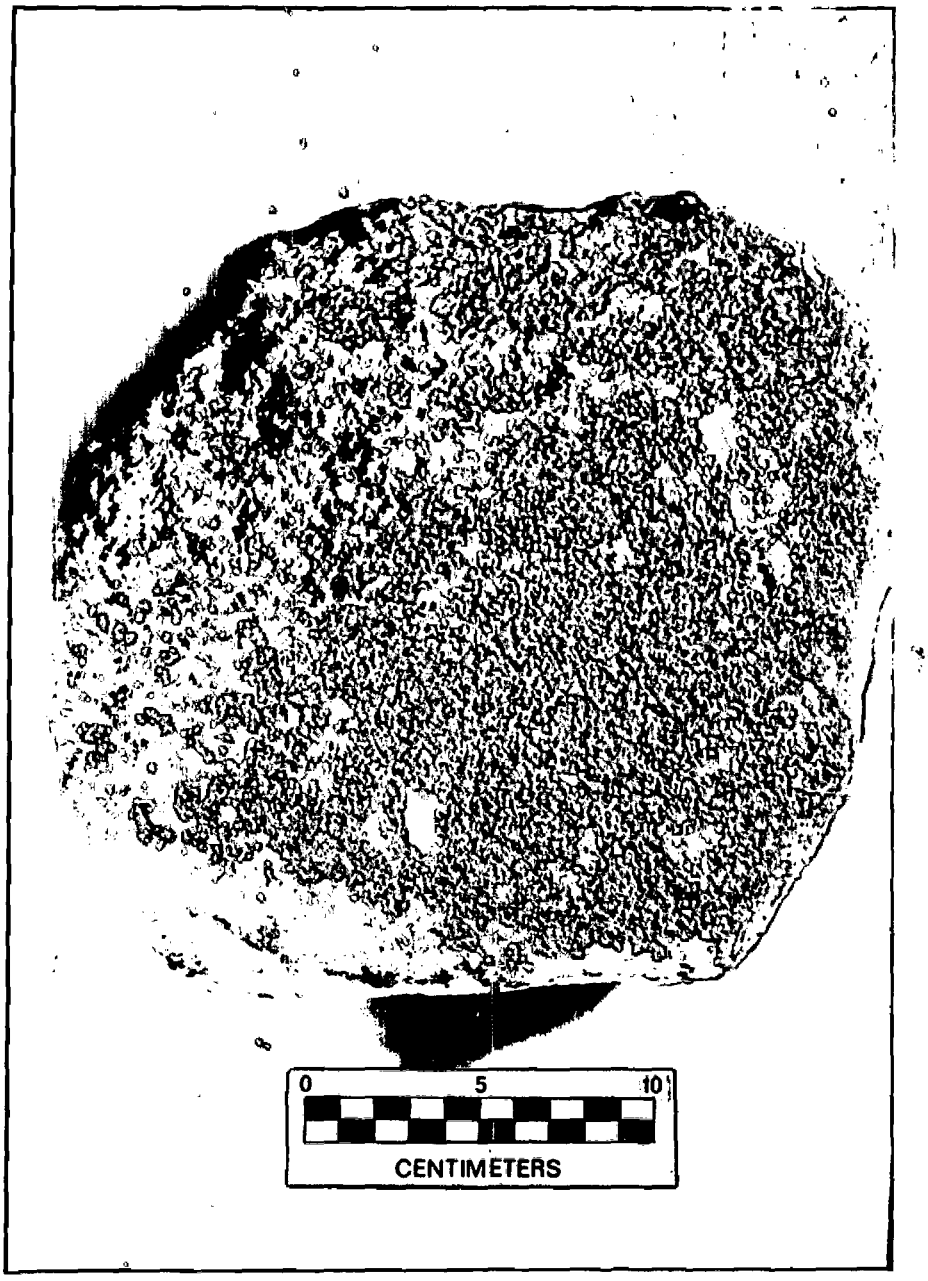

Plate 11. Quartzite slab with worked surface and pit.