# REPORTS OF THE ARKLA SALVAGE PROJECT

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# THE HODGE SITE, Cu-40:

# A LATE PREHISTORIC SITE ON THE SOUTHERN PLAINS

by

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to present a description and interpretation of archeological materials recovered in 1973 during salvage excavation at the Hodge site, located on the Washita River in Custer County, west-central Oklahoma. The site was excavated by the Oklahoma Archeological Survey under sponsorship of Arkansas-Louisiana Gas Company, with field work under the direction of Ronald C. Corbyn. Seven days were spent at the site, between May 7 and May 14, in an attempt to salvage information from an area directly endangered by the company's scheduled Anadarko Pipeline.

The site was first recorded in 1967 by Dr. Sherman P. Lawton of the University of Oklahoma. During the summer of 1972 a survey sponsored by Arkansas-Louisiana Gas Company was made in order to locate archeological sites in the pathway of the proposed 320 mile Anadarko Pipeline, and the Hodge site was again encountered (Saunders, Hofman, and Wyckoff 1972). At that time limited salvage operations were recommended for the site in areas which would be disturbed by construction activity (Saunders, Hofman and Wyckoff 1972).

Examination of private collections in the area indicated that excavation of the site could add to our knowledge and understanding of the Late Prehistoric period in western Oklahoma. As it turned out, excavations at the site produced a small quantity of cultural materials. The reported sample is limited in part due to intensive surface collections made by local collectors over the past several years. Deficiencies in the reported sample, particularly in the classes of formal artifacts (projectile points, knives, manos) are probably a result of this previous collecting.

## SETTING

The Hodge site is situated on the north side of the Washita River on the first terrace above the stream's bank (see Figure 1). Quartermaster Creek merges with Wild Horse Creek and flows into the Washita just west of the site (see Figure 2). The site is located on the extreme northern end of the highest controlled flood level of Foss Reservoir, and is approximately 4 miles northeast of Hammon, Oklahoma.

The Washita River is a sluggish, wandering stream which is often dry during the summer months in recent years. The Washita has been known for its occasional severe flooding in the past, however. The stream gradient of the Washita is gentle and due to the lack of resistant rock, its valley

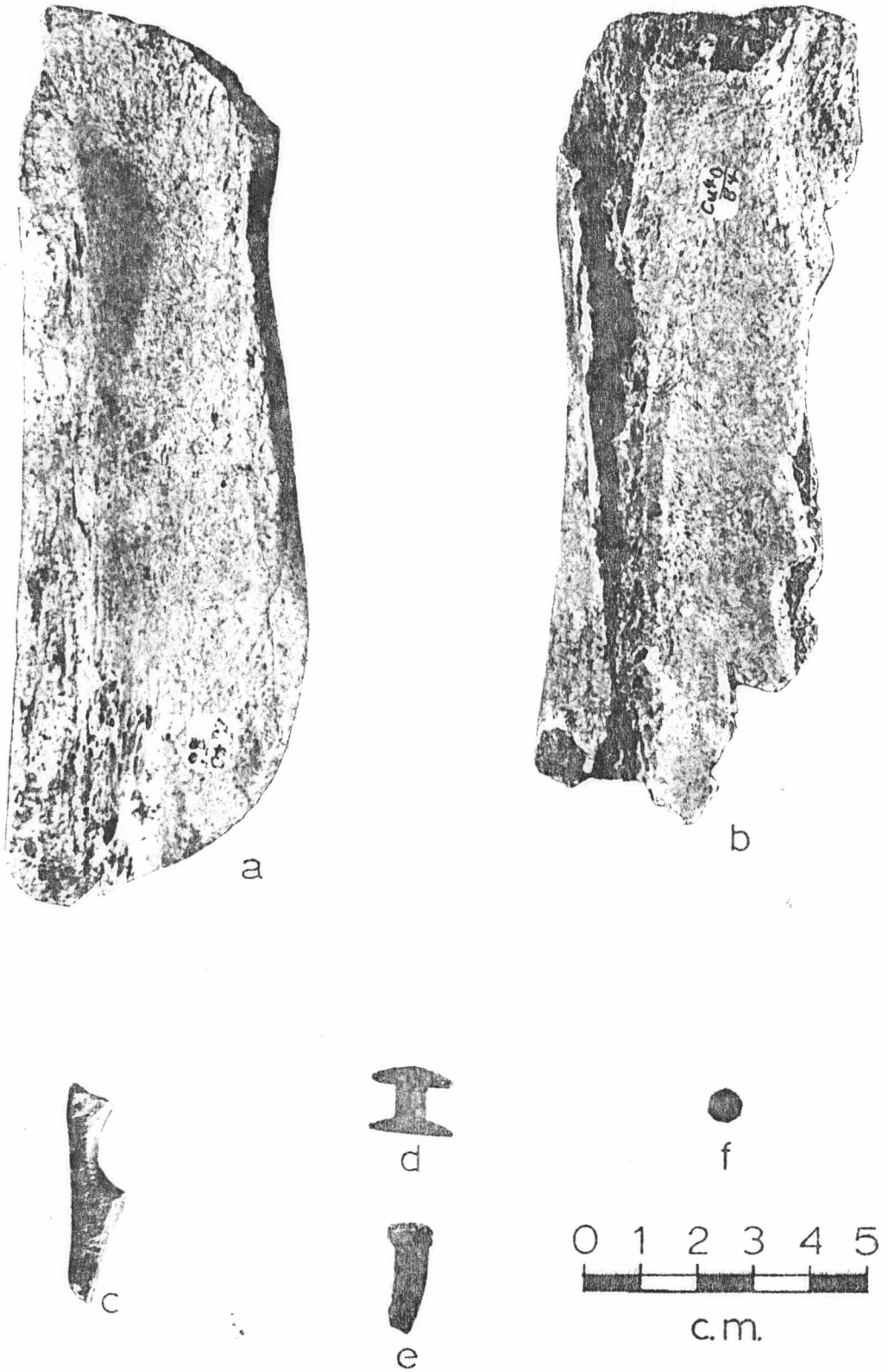


Fig. 8 Hodge Site Bone and Historic Artifacts: a--Bone Artifacts Series II, Digging stick tip fragment; b--Bone Artifacts Series I, Scapula hoe fragment; c--Bone Artifacts Series III, Bone shaft wrench fragment; d--Rivet with Burr; e--Cut square nail; f--Glass bead.

aligned perpendicular to the fragment and run across the larger grooves. These striations are believed to have resulted from passing arrowshafts back and forth through the hole in the bone. Similar items have often been called arrowshaft wrenches or straighteners (see Shaeffer 1965: 124; Richards 1971: 40).
Provenience: Table 2.

Bone Artifacts Series IV (bone bead)
Number of Specimens: 1, complete.
Description: One specimen recovered at the Hodge site represents a probable bone bead. The bead was apparently cut from a bird leg bone, and it exhibits polish on undeteriorated surface areas. Both ends of the item have been sawed partially and then snapped, thus producing fairly irregular edges. The specimen is 18 mm. long and is somewhat flattened in cross section.
Provenience: Table 2.

## COMPARISONS OF THE BONE ARTIFACTS

The bone artifacts from the Hodge site are not particularly useful in attempting to relate occupations of the site to late prehistoric cultural complexes in the area. This is because all bone artifact types from the Hodge site are reported from a number of archeologically defined complexes in the Plains. Scapula hoes, digging stick tips, shaft wrenches, and bird bone beads are all reported from sites of the Washita River focus (see Pillaert 1962 and 1963; Richards 1971), as well as those of the Custer focus (Gallaher 1951; Buck 1959). With the exception of bone shaft wrenches, all of these bone artifact types are also reported for the Panhandle aspect (Suhm, Krieger, and Jelks 1954; Schneider 1969) and the Henrietta focus (Suhm, Krieger, and Jelks 1954; Lorrain 1967).

## HISTORICAL MATERIAL

A very limited sample of historic material was recovered during excavations at the Hodge site, most of which apparently relates to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Glass Bead (Figure 8f)
Number of Specimens: 1
Description: This is a translucent ruby-red, faceted glass bead and fits well with Good's description of bead type 24 from the Guebert site:

> "Somewhat translucent, deep magenta bead of simple construction which is spheroidal in shape and has from 20 to 23 facets. Possibly the facets may be from molding in some manner; however, no two facets are the same size and shape. The perforation is tapered, indicating this is probably a mandrel-wound (wire wound) bead; the end of the bead having the smaller opening is flat to form another side or facet " (Good 1972: 108).

Provenience: Square 4W, Level 2, SE¼.