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Clovis Occupation at Kincaid Shelter, Texas

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Kincaid Shelter, part of extensive archeological site 41UV2 in the Sabinal Valley in Uvalde County, Texas, consists of stratified deposits beneath a limestone overhang 10 by 10 m in area. Investigations by the Texas Memorial Museum (TMM) in 1948 and by TMM and the University of Texas (UT) Department of Anthropology in 1953 included complete excavation of the shelter. Some looting preceded these excavations. Excavation records and collections are housed at TMM, the Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory, and the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at UT. Recent study discerned several chert artifacts with Clovis technological affinities associated with extinct fauna and a substantial, artificial stone pavement.

There are six stratigraphic zones in the shelter. The lowest, Zones 1 and 2, are culturally sterile, fluvial deposits. Zone 3 is a pond deposit of travertine, clay and bones of Pleistocene fauna which filled a shallow depression in Zone 2. While highly plastic, Zone 3 was capped with stones. The deepest looters' pit penetrated this stone pavement into Zone 3 in a small area.

The stone pavement covers more than 10 m² and contains more than two metric tons of allochthonous (introduced) boulders and cobbles. Toward the front of the shelter the pavement was disrupted slightly by erosion. Zone 4 rests directly on the stone pavement over most of the extent of the pavement. Zone 4 is gritty clay that is cemented with travertine near the back wall of the shelter. The vertebrate fauna of Zone 4 includes slider turtle (*Pseudemys* sp.), alligator (*Alligator* sp.), armadillo (*Dasyurus novemcinctus*), pocket mouse (*Perognathus hispidus*), badger (*Taxidea taxus*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) all of whose present ranges include or are near the site, a box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) which is not present in or near the area today, and extinct horse (*Equus* sp.) and mammoth (*Mammuthus* sp.).

Holocene midden Zones 5 and 6 complete the sequence. Cessation of travertine formation and some erosion of Zone 4 preceded the deposition of Zone 5. Several lithics with adhering traces of travertine were found in the lower few centimeters of Zone 5 and in looters' backdirt. Adhering travertine indicates the presence of these specimens in the shelter while the spring was still active during Zone 4 deposition.

From Zone 4, on and just above the stone pavement, were recovered flakes, a blade core, two bifaces broken in early, successive stages of reduction (Figure 1a, b),

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a preform broken by the first flute (Figure 1c), both pieces of a preform broken during percussion thinning after successful removal of one flute and partial preparation of the platform for removal of the second flute (Figure 1d), a basal fragment of a lanceolate obsidian point (Figure 1e), and three large, retouched flakes. The obsidian is from a source in central Mexico (Hester et al. 1985). A reworked Clovis point (Figure 1f) and several non-diagnostic pieces with adhering travertine recovered from the looters' backdirt almost certainly belong with the Zone 4 specimens.

The bifacial reduction sequence in local chert suggests a Clovis habitation. The stone floor suggests a group sufficiently large and intending to stay for sufficient time to warrant paving a relatively small part of the total floor space in the shelter.

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References Cited

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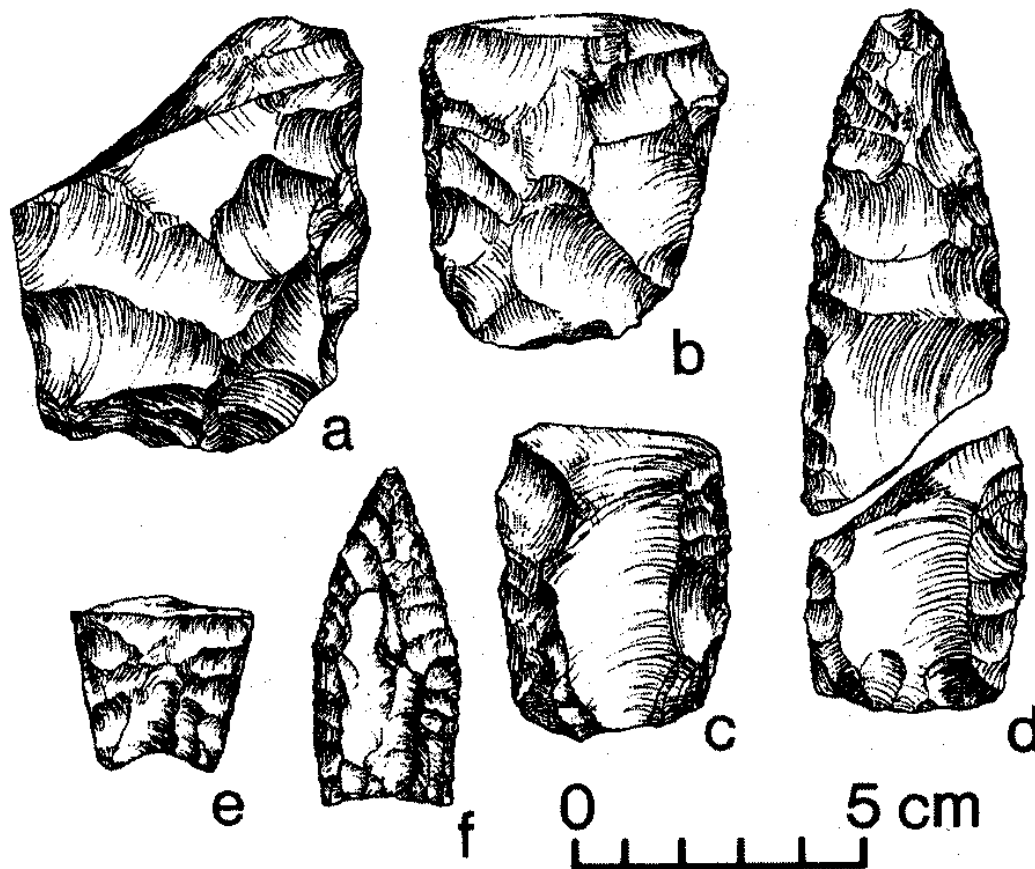


Figure 1. Bifacial artifacts of Clovis affiliation, Kincaid Shelter. a, b, early reductive stage failures; c, fluting failure; d, thinning failure after first fluting; e, obsidian point base; f, resharpened Clovis point.