



The Archeological Campaign of 1937: Heywood Site

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Article Summary: This is one of a series of 1937 archeological site reports that can be accessed individually. The series includes: [Ashland Site](#), [Pawnee Creek Site](#), [Cornish Site](#), [Fontenelle Forest Site](#), [North Plattsmouth Site](#), [Majors Site](#), [Williams Site](#), [Heywood Site](#), [Osborne Site](#), [Whitten Site](#), [Morehead Site](#), [Indian Cave](#), [McKissick Site](#), [Conclusion](#).

Cataloging Information:

Photographs / Images: view of Missouri River

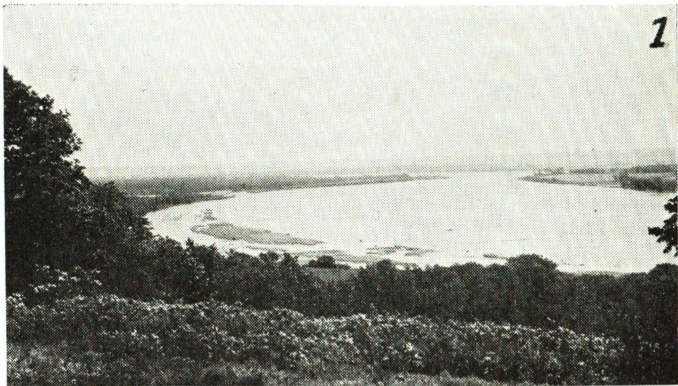


PLATE XX—1

1. View of Missouri River.

HEYWOOD SITE

On a ridge a short distance from the bluff margin two depressions were still visible in a cultivated field farmed by J. F. Heywood, on whose land our camp was located. Owing to the extreme dryness and hardness of the soil, our work here was confined to the excavation of two trenches in one of the depressions, one along the north wall and the other along the south wall of the house pit. As a result of this limited digging, which revealed several charred outer posts, it was determined that the lodge was rectangular, measuring 36 feet be-

tween the north and south walls, and that the floor was at a depth of approximately 42 inches beneath the surface.

The entire collection of artifacts from the excavation consists of 4 rim sherds, 55 body sherds, and a retouched flake. Of the two rim sherds sufficiently large to yield any information as to the form, one is from a hemispherical bowl, the other is a flaring rim attached to a globular body and is extended at one point to form a tab-like lug. The exterior surfaces of the sherds, 36 of which contain shell-tempering occasionally combined with grit, are invariably smoothed with no evidence of cord roughening and, although predominantly grayish-brown, range from gray to a dull orange-red. The only evidence of decoration is the presence of incised lines on two sherds.

If the small sample of sherds recovered is representative, the pottery here is probably identical with that from the Majors Site, although the paucity of the evidence precludes the possibility of a positive statement. Those traits which are present, however, are those which seem basic in the house excavated.

On a point north of the lodge-site and overlooking the bottom lands some group of people had buried its dead. On the flat floor of a rectangular pit approximately 8 feet long by 7 feet wide and 35 inches deep were laid the remains of ten individuals. There is little doubt that the interments were all made at one time, for although some lie partially superimposed over others, there is no intervening fill. Despite the extremely poor condition of the bones, the evidence leaves no doubt that each individual had been placed here in the flesh, for invariably at least some of the small bones were present in articulation and in several instances the complete vertebral columns and the ribs as well as the larger bones were in place. Of the ten skeletons, nine of which are adults and one an infant, all but one lay parallel with the long axis of the pit, their heads toward either end. The single ex-

ception, Number 1, lay across one end. Disposal of the bodies was not consistent; six were fully extended, two were fully flexed except for the arms of one, and the legs of two were semi-flexed.

No imperishable materials had been placed with these people, and all evidence of clothing or other perishable articles had disappeared. The only cultural objects recovered were two or three nondescript sherds and a stemmed and barbed projectile point which occurred in the fill near the surface and whose significance is thus uncertain.
