

Report on Cultural Resources  
Literature Search  
Arkansas River Corridor  
Tulsa, OK

May 2005

Submitted To:  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Tulsa District



Prepared by:  
The GUERNSEY Team  
5555 N. Grand Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73132  
405.416.8100



## Table of Contents

Section	Page
1.0 Background.....	1
2.0 Summary of Literature Search .....	2
2.1 Prehistoric Era .....	2
2.2 Historic Era .....	3
2.3 Modern Era.....	5
3.0 Listed Cultural Resources Sites .....	7
Table 3.0-1: Listed Cultural Resources Sites in the Project Corridor .....	7
Figure 3.0-1: General Locations of Listed Sites .....	11

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

C.H. Guernsey conducted a cultural resources literature search and site visit as a component of the Phase II Master Plan. A formal cultural resources survey was not conducted, only preliminary research to support the opportunities and constraints analysis of the Phase II Master Plan. This report provides a summary of the information acquired. *This report is not intended for the general public, as it contains specific information on known cultural resources sites.* A great deal of the historical and cultural documentation and research has been compiled and provided by Mr. William M. O'Brien of Jenks, Oklahoma and his work is heavily referenced in this report. Additional information on known/documented cultural resource sites was obtained from the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey.

## 2.0 SUMMARY OF LITERATURE SEARCH

### 2.1 PREHISTORIC ERA

The prehistoric period is commonly understood to include the approximate time that modern man arrived on this continent, circa 12,000 BC, to the time that European explorers permeated the continental interior, approximately 1500 AD.<sup>†</sup>

Currently very little formal dig-based archeological and paleontological research has been carried out in the Arkansas River basin where it passes through Tulsa County. Archeological information from this region is usually derived from a disturbance associated with construction or flooding. Some of the pre-history that has been revealed includes evidence of prehistoric animals in the Tulsa area. The Arkansas River basin is known to contain the fossils of megafauna dating to the time of early humans in the area, approximately 12,000 BC; and, sandstone along the River contains numerous fossilized invertebrates from a much earlier time. The Arkansas River sands have also revealed a variety of vertebrate fossils from the time of the dinosaurs – 300 million years ago to 65 million years ago (O'Brien 2001; Wyckoff & Rippey 1999).

In addition to the evidence of prehistoric creatures in the Arkansas River basin, it is known that early man traveled along and lived near the River near present-day Tulsa. Numerous points or arrowheads from Clovis, Folsom, and Dalton peoples have been and continue to be discovered in the River banks and sediments and whenever construction disturbs the subsurface in the Arkansas River floodplain. These points date back to 12,000 BC (O'Brien 2001; Wyckoff & Rippey 1999).

Additional evidence of early human activity in the Arkansas River comes in the form of inscriptions on rocks believed to be made by Vikings or similar exploratory early Europeans around 1,000 AD (O'Brien 1996).

Such petroglyphs have been found at Turkey Mountain<sup>††</sup> which is adjacent to the Arkansas River in the Middle Reach of the planning area (O'Brien 1996).

Evidence of long-term or seasonal encampments exists in the form of mortar holes, or holes drilled into large boulders or rocky outcrops. The exact use of these holes is unknown; however, one theory suggests that they could have been used to monitor

---

<sup>†</sup> There is a degree of debate in the historical community regarding the date ranges or time frames of the various periods. The purpose of this document is not to present the sides of the debate nor attempt to establish one point of view or the other. Therefore this document uses the somewhat generic terms 'Prehistoric' and 'Historic' and divides them at approximately 1500 AD.

<sup>††</sup> Turkey Mountain is home to several other interesting cultural features such as a primitive constructed cave-like shelter carved from the rock, an old quarry, and a number of so called 'locator rocks'. The historic dates associated with these items are not well understood or researched.

astronomical events – such as those important to seasons like solstices and equinoxes. If that was indeed the purpose of these holes, then it is probable that early humans were living near the Arkansas River in permanent or semi-permanent scenarios (O'Brien 1996).

## 2.2 HISTORIC ERA

The 1500s and 1600s saw a flurry of exploration from the major European powers of the age, namely the Spanish and French. These explorers sought riches, trade, and lands to claim for their kings. This exploration reached the middle of the continental United States and the Tulsa area by the mid-1500s. Engravings attributed to these explorers have been found at Turkey Mountain (O'Brien 1996).

Through the 1700s and early 1800s a variety of Native American peoples moved into the Tulsa area due to either pressure on their lands from Europeans in the east or to forced relocation by the federal government. These people lived and traveled up and down the River leaving evidence of their existence. The cliffs above Shell Creek are painted with images attributed to the Osage people and numerous bone tools, pottery, gun parts, and arrowheads have been found along the River basin (O'Brien 1996; Bailey 1999).

A location at present-day 131<sup>st</sup> and Yale was discovered to be rich in archeology during the construction of the Kimberley-Clark facility in 1988. The Lasley Vore Site, as it became known, was quickly excavated and hundreds of artifacts were discovered. Most of the items date to 350 years before present (BP) (circa 1650 AD) and include stone and bone tools, pottery, gun parts, knife parts, beads, and metal trinkets (Odell 1999; O'Brien 2004).

While the water in the River itself is not suitable for drinking, a number of springs along the River produced plenty of good drinking water. It is likely that these springs attracted travelers, explorers, and traders and evidence of long-term campsites and fords – low water River crossings – have been found associated with the springs (O'Brien 2003).

The Osage, through clever trading and aggressive tactics, became the dominate people in this area by the early 1700s. A primary hunting trail, the Osage High Plains Hunting Trail, passed along the Arkansas River in the Tulsa area. The power of the Osage decreased in the early 1800s allowing more people moving west to come through this area. The area was explored as a possible site for relocating Native Americans from the east, and in the 1830s and 1840s the Creek people were relocated to the Tulsa area. From 1836 to 1840 the Lochapokas and Talasee Creeks settled the community which became present-day Tulsa (O'Brien 2003).

The federal government constructed a military post known as Old Fort Arbuckle in 1834. It was quickly abandoned for unknown reasons, but the site was built overlooking the Osage High Plains Hunting Trail (O'Brien 2003).

The Creeks constructed a variety of buildings near the Arkansas River; most noteworthy included a ceremonial place at the Council Oak and a community center at the mouth of

Euchee Creek near present-day Sand Springs (O'Brien 2003). The Council Oak is now the centerpiece of the Council Oak Park and is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The Lochapokas and other Creeks spread their community out from the town square, especially favoring the rich bottom lands of the Arkansas River basin to the west, toward present-day Sand Springs (O'Brien 2003). The Creek people provided stability in the area and traffic along the river and trails increased as people moved west to Santa Fe and California through the 1850s. Artifacts from this period are routinely discovered on property that adjoins the old trails in the area. Several fords in present-day Tulsa provided passage from one side of the Arkansas River to the other, and in a few locations Native Americans operated ferries to provide crossing for wagons and larger shipments (O'Brien 2003).

It is suspected that activity through the Tulsa area decreased substantially during the Civil War, although not enough to spare the people here from the ravages of war. After federal troops were ordered back east and abandoned their western outposts, a group of Creeks and other Native Americans who wished to protect themselves and remain at peace without choosing sides, built a fortified structure at the location of Old Fort Arbuckle. In 1861 a series of battles drove these Native Americans from their homes and they fled to Kansas. The Battle of Round Mountain and the Battle of Chusto-Talasa were fought between a group of Native Americans and the Confederate army late in 1861 (O'Brien 1997).

After the Civil War, the Creeks reoccupied the area around Tulsa and rebuilt their settlement and the cattle trade returned to the area (O'Brien 2003).

In the 1830s through the 1850s the economics of cattle persuaded ranchers in Texas and Indian Territory to move their stock to markets in the east for sale and to collection points for wagon trains heading west to California. To accomplish this, the cattle were trailed across the land to locales in western Kansas, Kansas City, and St. Louis. Many of these trailways lead across the Creek territory near Tulsa and the Creeks, with a long tradition of ranching cattle and hogs, prospered. The Civil War closed the trails heading north but the demand for cattle in the south redirected the drives across Louisiana to the southeast. Texas soldiers returning from war found their ranches overflowing with cattle ready for market (O'Brien 2003).

The post-Civil War era saw an increase in the cattle trade and Creek lands filled up with Texas Longhorns grazing on the lush prairie grass. The railroad became the new mode of transport for cattle going east and the railheads in Kansas buzzed with the activity of the cattle trade through the 1880s (O'Brien 2003).

Traffic and population in the region increased to the point where the federal government established a post office at the residence of a local cattleman and businessman. In 1879 the Tulsa Creek Nation Indian Territory Tulsa Post Office opened for service (O'Brien 2003). In August 1882 the railroad came to Tulsa allowing the shipment of cattle to the east. Prosperous activities associated with the cattle and railroad businesses included the Creeks

leasing lands to cattlemen, excavation of shallow coal beds, and the timber black market (Goble 1997).

This level of activity trailed off at the end of the nineteenth century as improved transportation methods and demand for higher quality beef reduced the need and demand for the Texas Longhorn to be driven to market (O'Brien 2003).

### 2.3 MODERN ERA

The City of Tulsa was incorporated on January 18, 1898. A survey and plat was created in 1901 using the Frisco Railroad as the base. Lots were created and deeds were transferred mostly from Creeks to whites and many under suspect circumstances and Tulsa, the city, was born (Goble 1997).

In the early 1900s oil was discovered at a variety of locations in and around Tulsa and the city grew up almost overnight. In 1907 the first tank farm for the Glenn Pool oil was constructed just south and west of the Arkansas River. Pipelines and refineries were built and designed to remove, process, and transport as much of the easily extractable oil as possible in the shortest time possible. The Arkansas River, serving as a convenient conduit, assimilated wastewater from as many as 18 refineries constructed on the western bank of the River (Goble 1997).

Affirming Tulsa's place as the center of oil industry many petroleum companies and related businesses began to relocate to Tulsa as early as 1908 when the *Oil and Gas Journal* relocated its publication center from Oil City, Pennsylvania to Tulsa. Also noteworthy was J. D. Rockefeller's relocation of Prairie Oil and Gas' headquarters to Tulsa in 1909 (Goble 1997).

As the oil boom continued, downtown Tulsa was transformed from a cowtown to a boomtown, soon displaying numerous architectural triumphs in the form of hotels, banks, and offices. World War I provided much of the oil revenue used to build and support the thriving neo-metropolis (Goble 1997).

A large and active black community had grown up on the north side of Tulsa by 1921. In that year a riot nearly destroyed their community and racial politics would plague the City for the rest of the century (Goble 1997).

The predatory and 'buccaneer' practices of oilmen in early 20<sup>th</sup> century lead to the near-collapse of the industry as large reserves in Texas and Oklahoma City were tapped in the early 1930s on the heels of the stock market crash in 1929. The result left thousands of Tulsans out of work and millionaires penniless. Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal civil projects brought a level of stability to the area with the construction of schools, sidewalks, stadiums, armories, parks, and so forth (Goble 1997).

Regulation by the federal government eventually saved the oil industry from the oilmen, but by that time, Tulsa had largely moved on to other pursuits (Goble 1997).

The City leaders dedicated themselves to obtaining lucrative federal contracts to support the war effort in the early 1940s. As most of the Tulsa oil had been tapped and used, the Allied forces' demand was largely met by reserves in Texas and California. However, Tulsa successfully landed a contract to build a Douglas Aircraft Company bomber plant in 1941. The building and its support runways were constructed east of the existing municipal airport. Many of the businesses that had supplied material and equipment to the oil industry were able to convert and refit their products to meet the needs of the growing military industrial complex and Tulsa successfully transformed its World War II economy into a Cold War economy (Goble 1997).

In 1943 a major flood on the Arkansas River brought the issue of navigation to the attention of Oklahoma's governor, Robert Kerr. A Tulsa resident and businessman, Newton Graham, had been promoting river navigation for several years and welcomed Governor Kerr as a powerful ally. A series of political posturing caused the navigation of the Arkansas River to be approved in the 1946 Rivers and Harbors Act. The project to connect Tulsa, via waterway, to the Mississippi River was ushered along by Kerr after he was elected to the US Senate in 1948. The project, completed in 1971, ultimately cost \$2 billion and provides immeasurable economic support in the form of raw material delivery and product shipment to and from Tulsa (Goble 1997).

The Arkansas River, so long a resource and motive for the development of the region, is set to undergo yet another historical development with the vision outlined in this Master Plan.



### 3.0 LISTED CULTURAL RESOURCE SITES

Based upon preliminary research conducted at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, there are 47 listed cultural resource sites within the project corridor. These sites include prehistoric and historic sites and are largely located in the undeveloped and more natural areas of the river. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) recommends that future project plans in the corridor address the potential for cultural resources to ensure that known and yet to be discovered sites are not adversely impacted. No undocumented cultural resources were observed during site reconnaissance efforts. Table 3.0-1 provides a summary of the documented sites in the project corridor. Figure 3.0-1 provides an overview of the general locations of these sites.

Table 3.0-1

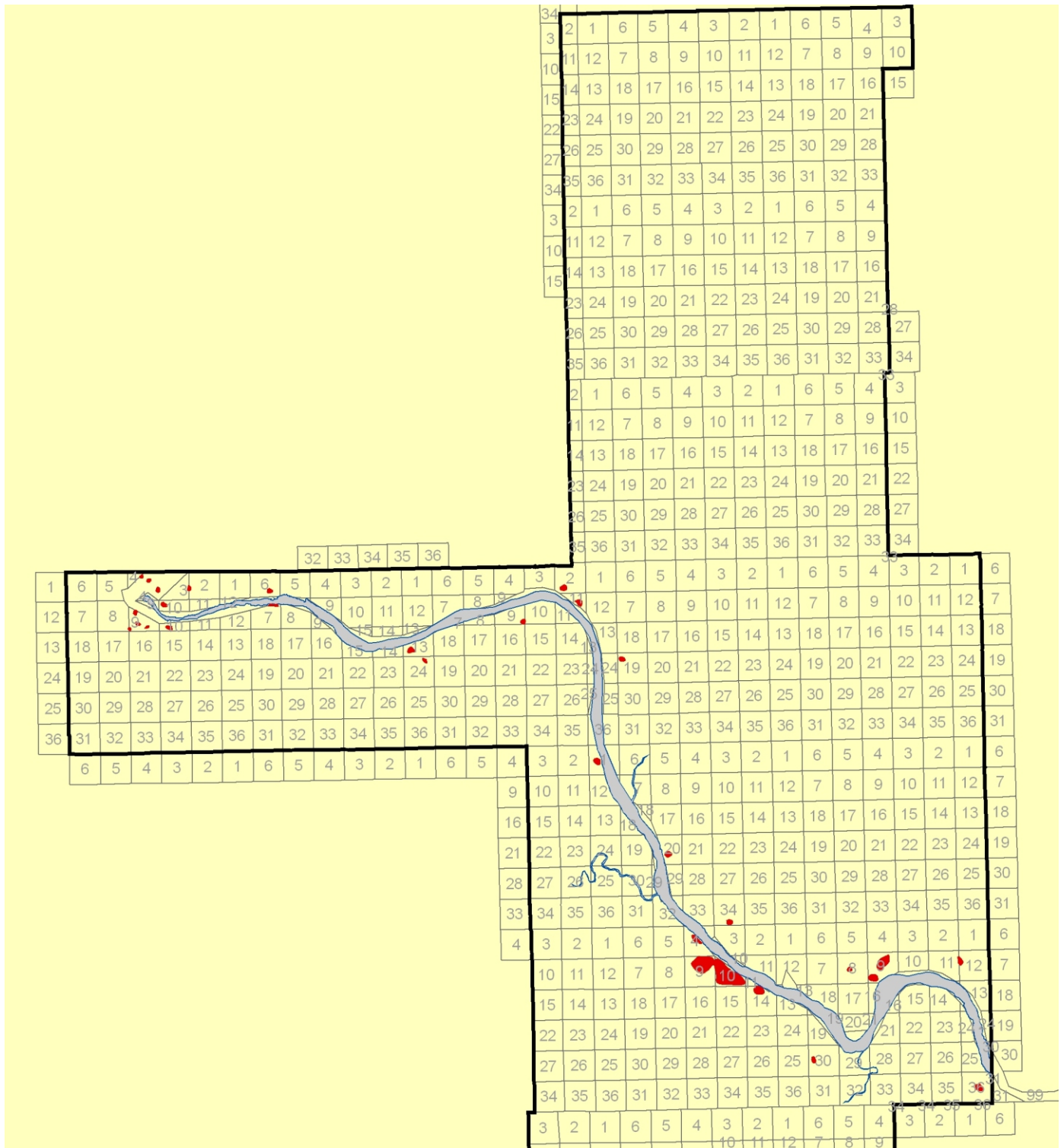
Listed Cultural Resource Sites in the Project Corridor

Site Number	Site Name	USGS Quad	Description
Tu123	NA	Bixby	Unassigned prehistoric/age NA/open habitat without mounds/bifaces, stone/disturbed site
Tu142	NA	Bixby	Unassigned prehistoric, plains village, protohistoric-historic Indian/date NA/site type unknown/prehistoric-one grog-tempored sherd, historic-one whiteware sherd/disturbed (soybean field)/in well known prehistoric area.
Tu143	NA	Bixby	Historic non-indian/1960-pres/railroad gravel, sod farm/railroad gravel, crinoid stems adjacent to railroad berm/condition NA/not a CR - heavily disturbed sod farm.
Tu65	Parkhill	Bixby	Village farming-mississippi/ageNA/open habitation without mounds/ceramics, projectiles, tools, animal remains, glass/<25 disturbed
Tu67	NA	Bixby	Historic non-indian/1890-1929/historic trash dump/historic metal items/disturbed
Tu68	NA	Bixby	Archaic-late/age NA/open habitation without mounds/langtry point, polished and worked hematite/disturbed
Tu69	NA	Bixby	Archaic-late-historic non-Indian/age unknown/open habitation wo mounds/projectile points, tools, glass, ceramics/disturbed
Tu70	NA	Bixby	Historic non-Indian, plains village?, protohistoric-historic Indians?/1890-1929/open habitation without mounds-historic farmstead/projectile points, faunal remains/undisturbed/Potential connection to Tu65 & Tu90, known protohistoric Wichita villages
Tu71	NA	Bixby	Historic non-Indian/1890-1929/historic trash

Site Number	Site Name	USGS Quad	Description
			dump/crock, colored glass, china fragments/<25% disturbed
Tu72	NA	Bixby	Village farming-mississippi/open habitation without mounds/age NA/reed point, scallorn, pelican lake like and Haskell base/disturbed
Tu73	NA	Bixby	Historic non-indian/anglo/1890-1950/hist farmstead/household artifacts/disturbed
Tu74	NA	Bixby	Historic non-indian/anglo/1890-1929/hist trash dump/colored glass, pottery fragments/disturbed
Tu75	NA	Bixby	Unassigned prehistoric-village farming Mississippi/ age NA/open habitation without mounds-specialized activity site?/ceramics, bifaces, unifaces, scrapers, faunal remains/disturbed
Tu76	NA	Bixby	Historic non-Indian/anglo/age unknown/historic farmstead/structural remnants/disturbed
Tu77	NA	Bixby	Historic non-indian/anglo/1920-1950/hist mill-industrial/stone flooring, vertical pipes in ground/disturbed
Tu89	Helen Bolton Site	Bixby	Historic non-indian/anglo/1900-pres/hist trash dump/glass, pottery, metal/76-99% disturbed
Tu90	Hampton Site	Bixby	Protohistoric-historic Indian/pre 1800/open habitat without mounds/Fresno points, shell tempered pottery, beads/disturbed
Tu22	Turkey Mountain	Jenks	Undefined prehistoric/late historic debris throughout park resulting from dumping and homesteads/waste flakes of boone chert, sandstone nutting stone/
Tu4	Warner	Jenks	Late prehistoric?/knife fragment, taper stem point, chips, mano fragment
Tu83	Site D	Jenks	Historic non-indian/1900-pres/hist trash dump/ceramics, historic glass/undisturbed
Tu29	KP 12	Keystone Dam	Linear mound of sandstone blocs/fied edge or quarry site/historic/
Tu30	KP 146	Keystone Dam	Sandstone block and mortar foundation on bedrock, historic artifacts/historic habitation/late 19thC early 20thC/disturbed
Tu31	KP 8	Keystone Dam	Small rectangular pit in slope/small stock tank?/historic/bottle fragment
Tu32	KP 318	Keystone Dam	Concrete slabs/old highway/20th C/only small stretch of road remains
Tu34	KP 5	Keystone Dam	Small mounds of roughly shaped and stacked sandstone blocks/historic quarry site/not disturbed
Tu35	KP 3	Keystone Dam	Flat depression on steep slope/historic habitation/sheet metal/completely destroyed
Tu36	KP 2	Keystone Dam	Three circular depressions appearing to be

Site Number	Site Name	USGS Quad	Description
			dugout houses/ historic habitation/ metal roofing, gas can, brick fragments with inscription/collapsed
Tu12	NA	Leonard	Historic trash site along creek/housing debris, metal, glass, ceramics/share croppers house approx 1910/disturbance unknown/
Tu124	NA	Leonard	Unassigned prehistoric/age NA/open habitat without mounds/biface, boone-like chert/totally destroyed
Tu144	NA	Leonard	Historic non-Indian/late 10 <sup>th</sup> C/1960-pres/landfill trash/brick fragments, clay pipe, asphalt chunks/totally destroyed/material identified likely fill materials for sod farms
Tu146	NA	Leonard	Protohistoric-historic Indian/historic non-Indian/creek or anglo/1830-1929/hist trash dump/cream ware, pearl ware, porcelain, ironstone, colored glass, clear glass, household trash/totally destroyed
Tu148	NA	Leonard	Historic/1800-present/unidentified historic stone structure/disturbed/possible old flood control structure
Tu149	NA	Leonard	Historic-modern/secondary deposition/1900-pres/historic trash dump/limestone rocks, bottle, stoneware fragments, colored glass frags/disturbed
Tu7	NA	Leonard	Archaic-historic Indian/point fragments, mano fragments, flakes/
Tu79	Seely	Sand Springs	Village farming-mississippi/Caddoan 1500-1700? Or earlier/open habitation without mounds/pottery, bone, langtry point base, charcoal, nut fragments/disturbed
Tu60	Shenandoah	Sapulpa North	Historic Non-Indian/1890-1950/hist farmstead/household artifacts/undisturbed
Tu61	Shenandoah #2	Sapulpa North	Hist Non-indian/1890-1950/hist farmstead/misc. household artifacts/undisturbed
Tu62	Lost City	Sapulpa North	Historic non-indian/1890-1929/hist farmstead/household artifacts/totally destroyed
Tu63	Shenandoah #4	Sapulpa North	Historic non-indian/1900-pres/hist farmstead/glass, metal, stone foundations/undisturbed
Tu127	First Cemetery	Tulsa	Protohistoric-historic Indian/historic non-indian/creek/anglo/1890-1929/cemetery/human bone/76-99% disturbed/site of first cemetery for Tulsa. Occupied from 1882-early 1900s. Initially creek, later used for whites. Most graves were relocated for ONG plant; however, a number were missed and exposed by const at later dates.

Site Number	Site Name	USGS Quad	Description
Tu134	McBirney Mansion Spring	Tulsa	On riverside between Houston and Galveston. Protohistoric-historic Indian/historic non-indian/other/anglo/1800-present/spec activity site, historic trash dump/projectile fragments, debitage, Fresno base, historic glass, metals/76-99% disturbed/suspected that more items lie beneath riverside, and surrounding streets-buildings
Tu121	Gravel Bar	Wewika	Unassigned prehistoric-woodland/age NA/open habitat without mounds?/projectile points, debitage/totally destroyed
Tu125	Wilson-Shaeffer	Wewika	Unassigned prehistoric/1860-1889/open habitat without mounds-specialized activity/grind hole/undisturbed
Tu13	Old Fort Arbuckle	Wewika	National register site/glass historic pottery (anglo and Indian), square nails, mortar, stone floor/
Tu38	KP 207	Wewika	Fenced plot with graves/historic Indian cemetery?
Tu39	KP 1	Wewika	Concrete slabs and one pile of rubble/historic habitation/recent historic/superstructures removed
Tu41	NA	Wewika	Tertiary flakes within bluff shelter/limited activity at site/prehistoric/shelter may have been utilized by hunters or wayfarers over many centuries



GENERAL LOCATIONS OF LISTED SITES

FIGURE 3.0-1

