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Sechin Alto Early Horizon ceramics assemblage

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SECHIN ALTO EARLY HORIZON CERAMICS ASSEMBLAGE

A Thesis

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ABSTRACT

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The focus of this thesis is to elaborate on the Early Horizon (900-200 B.C.) ceramic component at the site of Sechin Alto in the Casma Valley of Peru. The site of Sechin Alto consists of an enormous rectangular platform mound with four rectangular plazas and two circular courts and is considered to be part of the larger Sechin Alto Complex that spans 4 mile area (Fagan 1996:632). Sechin Alto is primarily an Initial Period (2150-1000 B.C.) site with an Early Horizon component superimposed above Initial Period material. This material was excavated in the field and analyzed in the laboratory during the 2000, 2001 and 2002 field seasons. Julio Tello first surveyed the site in 1937. It was subsequently surveyed by Donald Collier and Donald Thompson in 1956 and again in 1968 by Rosa Fung and Carlos Williams. The site has recently been surveyed and excavated by Drs. Shelia Pozorski and Thomas Pozorski along with other colleagues and their students. This study of the Sechin Alto Ceramic assemblage will provide insight into Early Horizon ceramic technology, by presenting data collected from excavations and ceramic analysis.

DEDICATION

The completion of my Masters of Arts studies would not have been possible without the love and support of my family. I would like to thank my mother, Sara Fonseca, my grandmother Rebecca Ambriz, my other half, Jessica A. Villescaz and Cathy Olivarez for their remarkable patience. Additional thanks go to Ramiro "Rod" Rodriguez for aid in creating the illustrations, Dahlia Guzman for her editing efforts and Rachael Freyman Brown for inspiring me to finish this work. This work is dedicated in memory of my late father, Albert D. Fonseca, Jr., whose unwavering support and confidence permitted me this opportunity.

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This study is the culmination of three seasons of lab and fieldwork in the Casma Valley, Peru. During this time, it was the good fortune of the author to be able to work with Drs. Shelia and Thomas Pozorski in their project at the archeological site of Sechin Alto in the Casma Valley. The use of copious excavation and field notes gathered by the Pozorskis from past field seasons, paired with the experience of excavating and analyzing materials, provided a firm basis for continued interest in the story of Sechin Alto. The author's involvement in the larger Sechin Alto project was a direct result of efforts made by everyone at the Psychology and Anthropology Department at The University of Texas-Pan American. Particular thanks go to Drs. Shelia and Thomas Pozorski, Dr. Servando Hinojosa, Bobbie Lovett and finally Dr. Mark Glazer, to all of whom the author owes a debt of gratitude.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Environment and Setting

The Andes Mountain chain runs along the western edge of South America. Mostly due to the Andes, Peru's climate and terrain are divided into zones comprised of mountains, forest, and desert. All terrain east of the Andes receives normal rainfall while land west of the Andes is among the driest in the world. This study concerns a site from the coastal desert area along the Pacific Coast of Peru. The Casma River Valley is approximately 350 km north of Lima, the modern capital of Peru; it is one of several river valleys that run from the Andes to the Pacific Ocean. Since ancient times, these rivers have provided the only reliable source of water in the coastal desert region of Peru. Water from the Casma River, like all other rivers in the region, was and remains today a precious commodity for the people within the river valley.

Generally larger populations based on agriculture appeared along the desert coast only after land adjacent to the floodplain could be irrigated. Despite the level terrain irrigation of desert lowlands was a difficult task. Michael Moseley (1992:126) believes irrigation and settlement originally occurred along the path of least resistance, with most activity occurring well inland of the coast. Moseley describes the difficulty for small populations to create and maintain such a system. Despite limitations for irrigation in the lower altitudes, irrigation was established early on and continues into the present. Large

sites supported by sizable populations emerged within the coastal zone and remained established for centuries in large part due to farming and irrigation.

The site of Sechin Alto (Appendix A; Fig. 1) is adjacent to the Sechin branch of the Casma River and is centrally placed among other Initial Period sites such as Cerro Sechin and Taukachi-Konkan. The earliest known components of the site date to the Initial Period of ceramic use or between 2100 and 1000 B.C. The inhabitants and creators of Sechin Alto were able to sustain order in the valley system for some time. At some point, new Initial Period constructions ceased and evidence at the site indicates an exodus of the inhabitants (Pozorski and Pozorski 2005). The vacated site remained unoccupied for some time after abandonment.

The Early Horizon was the time after the end of the Initial Period, but before the regional florescence of the Early Intermediate Period, which produced later cultures such as the Moche. The Early Horizon (1000-200 B.C.) on the Northern and Central Peruvian Coast encompassed a time when huge coastal centers were no longer being built, and the way of life which had supported these centers changed as well. Much of the earliest prehistory of coastal activity in the Early Horizon is still unknown, and information at Sechin Alto will shed light on occupation of the region for this time period. This study of depositional layers which began immediately after the known Initial Period pause is also informative for the Early Horizon in the whole Casma Valley.

Agriculture and marine resource exploitation were central activities in the lives of prehistoric people along the Peruvian Coast; therefore, any major interruption of subsistence activities such as an El Niño episode could easily have created havoc. Collapsed, the system might have required generations to restore itself properly; by that

time old controls dissolved and new functional relationships evolved for other less organized groups. Such a scenario may have played a part in causing the great changes for the Initial Period people, who originally created Sechin Alto and several other notable sites in the Casma Valley.

In the best of cases, the coastal desert of Peru naturally supports plant growth only nearest rivers. Irrigation could expand the usable area, but expansion requires a larger work force. Therefore, one should expect the largest and most established groups to have access to arable land nearest the river. The Sechin Alto site occupied this most prestigious spot prior to the dissolution of the Initial Period system. The Early Horizon people did not choose this placement; they reoccupied the top of an immense Initial Period mound. The advantages of occupying a large hill-like structure near a river were apparent, and Sechin Alto could have easily been among the first locations to be considered for settlement during the Early Horizon.

Sechin Alto Early Horizon Ceramics

The sherds analyzed for this study were numerous; they provided many diagnostic and chronologically important attributes to study. These features were the key to addressing questions about Sechin Alto's later occupation. The evidence spans an extended time period and provides valuable diachronic data. The specific decorative and diagnostic features of the ceramics, along with their locations within the different contexts and levels, were the primary focus of this study in order to provide evidence of a more detailed timeline.

The author spent his first two seasons in Peru excavating Early Horizon architecture and analyzing material found by others on the main mound at the site of

Sechin Alto. The site's original occupation dates to the Initial Period (2100-1000 B.C.); and there is a clear difference between Initial Period architecture, which features large plazas and finely finished plastered surfaces on most features, and typical Early Horizon architecture, which includes small plazas with small unfinished benches and small adjoining rooms. This less formal type of Early Horizon architecture generally was superimposed upon the earlier, more finely executed, Initial Period architecture.

The ceramic assemblage analyzed in this study was found in deep fill and dump contexts such as stairways, reoccupied earlier architecture, and deep spaces or "rooms." These reoccupied Initial Period areas yielded information about the relative chronology of Early Horizon reshaping at Sechin Alto. This reshaping of the main Sechin Alto mound occurred when the main mound was reoccupied and architecture of earlier constructions was demolished. This occurred during the Early Horizon (1000-200 B.C.). Through comparisons with other Early Horizon assemblages recovered from Casma Valley sites, the author has been able to chronologically place the Early Horizon reoccupation of Sechin Alto relative to other Early Horizon settlements in the Casma Valley.

CHAPTER 2

CERAMIC DESCRIPTIONS

This section describes ceramics analyzed within this study. Establishing sherd type is the first step in understanding the ceramic evidence. Second, information from rims, necks, and other vital vessel parts is utilized in order to deduce the original form of vessels, and, in some cases, estimate size. This chapter describes (1) diagnostic sherd traits, (2) modified ceramic objects or objects reworked after initial use, and (3) surface decoration.

All sherds within this study were initially inspected in order to ascertain whether the sherds are undecorated or plain wares and if they are an obvious portion of a vessel. This initial examination involved the entire collection for each context and allowed further study of diagnostic material.

Determination of sherd type is the first step in classifying the thousands of undifferentiated body sherds, as well as diagnostic ceramics. This criterion was based upon a types listing which designates a number from one to twenty two (Appendix A; Fig. 2 Types Chart) for sherd types found by the Casma Valley project. Type for plain ware sherds was determined by observing type of firing, nature of temper or particle size, thickness, and exterior surface finish. Sherds without surface layers were excluded because the initial criteria for the study requires a definite assessment of surface qualities.

Among the first distinctions made for the sample is whether the sherds were fired in an oxygen-rich environment or an oxygen-starved environment. Oxidation, or the presence of oxygen in the firing of ceramic vessels, results in a red or reddish-brown surface and paste color for sherds initially fired in this manner. Twelve of the 22 types have oxidation as their most basic attribute (Appendix A; Fig.2 Types Chart). Reduced sherds are those sherds that were initially fired in an oxygen-starved environment. As a result of this firing method, the fired fragments have a very dark gray or black appearance. The remaining 10 types are made up exclusively of reduction-fired sherds. Dark spots on oxidized vessels are a result of uneven firing which may occur in a crowded kiln. Uneven finishes that have patches of reduced ceramic on a primarily oxidized vessel of this type are referred to as fire clouding (Donnan 1992:20).

Sherd thickness was determined by measuring sherds on broken edges to get a good representational thickness for the entire sherd. Edges with least wear were used in order to more accurately gauge the thickness of individual sherds as representative for entire vessels. Sherd thickness can be a key factor in distinguishing among types. Sherd thickness is important in the definition of three types.

Temper is the material added to clay in order to avoid accidents during the firing process and for overall strength. Accidents such as bubbling or crackling result from extra moisture escaping rapidly during the firing process and causing a rupture or weak point in the vessel or object. Temper is also added to facilitate the handling of the sticky mixture during the vessel construction phase (Donnan 1992:13). Within this sample, temper consists of fine or large grain sand, small pebbles, and, in rare cases, small pieces

of broken ceramic material. Assessments of temper size range from very fine to very coarse and are a feature in every sherd type determination.

Shine or burnish is a finish that generally covers the entire vessel and is done prior to firing. Burnish is the smoothing or aligning of molecules on the visible surface of vessels with a stone or other hard object, resulting in a surface shine (Donnan 1992:19). It is applied to the surface by the craftsman: first while clay is moist for a dull luster and later during the leathery, semi-dry period if further luster is desired. Burnish or multiple burnishings can be the only finish a vessel receives and therein is a finish for plain ware and can be decorative at once. Presence of burnish and intensity of burnish luster are both determinant factors of ceramic type. Fourteen sherd types on the list of 22 have burnish as a characteristic (Appendix A; Fig. 2).

Paint or paint-like finishes are yet another determinant used to establish sherd types. There are five sherd types with paint or slip as a factor in determining type. Slip, a thin surface finish created by washing a thin solution of clay over a finished vessel, can create a water-tight seal in the same color as the vessel clay or in a different tone, creating a two-toned effect. Paints similar to slip may also help form a more watertight bond inside vessels as well as finishing exterior surfaces. Paint or slip as a finish refers to an action done to all or the majority of the interior or exterior of a vessel. The selective use of paint, on the other hand, is defined as decoration.

Vessel Forms

The vessel forms within this study include neckless ollas, a variety of jars, a quantity of bottles, bowls, panpipes and other ceramic objects. This section also defines other secondary forms that are reworked in a variety of shapes. Vessel forms were

identified and categorized by utilizing analyses from studies by Richard Daggett from the Nepeña Valley (1984), Thomas Pozorski and Shelia Pozorski from the Casma Valley (1987), and Helaine Silverman and Donald Proulx (2002) from the Rio Grande Nazca and the Ica Valley.

Among the diagnostic sherds for this study are recognizable parts of vessels or other ceramic objects. Examples of diagnostic vessel parts are rims, shoulders, necks, and bases. Information about whole vessels can be inferred from diagnostic features such as a rim's diameter or neck height. As large numbers of undifferentiated body sherds were examined, any diagnostic features capable of identifying vessel form or function were recorded along with sherd type and decoration. The group labeled "Shaped sherds and other Objects," is included because it constitutes forms as defined for this study.

Neckless ollas (Appendix B; Fig. 3 A-L) are globular vessels with no neck sections, restricted openings and overall rim diameters between 7 and 26 cm. Wall thickness ranges from 5 mm to 1.5 cm with slight thickening towards the rim. The interior surface for this vessel type was rough with dragging and pitting marks, except for zones 1 to 2 cm from rim areas which could be smoothed. Rim construction techniques varied slightly, ranging from slightly beveled to comma shaped and, rarely, a sharp prepared edge.

Neckless olla with spout (Fig. 3 N) refers to a regular neckless olla with a jar-like spout approximately 3 cm below the rim. Spout diameter is unavailable, but the diameter for the neckless olla portion of this single example is 15 cm. The spout, which protrudes 2 cm above the shoulder section of the sherd, creates a combination jar/olla which, when found separately, could be treated as two separate forms. This form is also present in

assemblages from other Casma Valley sites such as San Diego (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:57).

Short neck jars (Fig. 4 H-K) are globular with short straight neck areas. Rim diameter ranges between 8 and 14 cm while neck height is 10 to 23 mm. The globular body of the jar has a short addition of a low wide opening with a distinctive short and straight or slightly flared neck less than 3 cm in height.

Everted rim jars (Fig. 4 A-G) are a variant of short neck jars with a slightly flared neck rather than a short straight rim. The height of the rim is less than 4 cm. Everted rim jars have rim diameters of 8 to 24 cm. Everted rims are smaller and less horizontal than flaring rims described below.

Tall neck jars (Fig. 5 A-E) are jars whose rounded body meets a neck that angles upwards like a wide-bodied vase or extends straight up with only a slight flare at the lip. Wall thickness at the neck varies between 5 mm and 9 mm. The height of neck sections for this sample is greater than 4 cm and generally between 5 and 7 cm high. The rim diameter of tall neck jars falls between 10 and 17 cm, and the lip area can be slightly rounded or beveled. The neck can be decorated on its thickened exterior surface with incised decoration, circle and dot, or appliqué decoration.

Flaring rim jars (Fig. 6 A-F) have outcurving flanged rims 12 to 21 mm thick. The mouth has a diameter between 18 and 25 cm. The nearly horizontal rim area is between 7 cm and 11 cm long from mouth edge to rim; the outer rims have diameters of 29 to 46 cm. The rim of flaring rim jars curves upward and then outward to form a near 90 degree angle with the mouth of the vessel. The top collar section is smoothed or burnished, with the exterior or bottom surface left unprepared and rough. The lip can be rounded or

beveled. The spittoon-like rim is usually broken from the body at the juncture of the rim and body; thickness at this juncture ranges from 10 to 15 mm.

Bowls (Fig. 7 A-O) were generally shallow and incurving with curved or flat bottoms (Fig. 7 N and O) although a few outcurving and straight-walled versions were also identified. Diameter for this vessel type varies from 8 cm to 20 cm. Wall thickness varies from 5 to 12 mm. The estimated height of some bowls, based on estimating from where bottom curvature starts, is from 4 to 8 cm. Bowls can be straight-sided, nearly straight-sided, or have carination of exterior surfaces (Fig. 7 J). Interior surfaces of these vessels were usually smoothed, slipped or burnished; and one example had some interior paint along the rim (black 5yr /2.5). Lips were finished as a slightly beveled or rounded non-thickened edge. Some vessel bases have flattened bottoms (Fig. 7 N and O). Decoration on bowls include circle and dot, paint (black 5YR 2.5/1), or streaky burnish.

Grater bowl (Fig. 8 A-C) sherds have deep, purposeful texturing on interior surfaces. Texturing incisions can be from 2 to 7 mm deep and from 5 to 7 cm long. A diameter of 33 cm comes from a single thickened rim sherd. Sherd thickness ranges from 8 to 10 mm at the body to 15 to 20 mm at the thickened rim. There is an incised line (Fig. 8 A and B:1) 21 mm below the rim separating textured areas and the rim. Interior folds and peaks have a thick folded appearance with finger-like depressions (Fig. 8 C:1-3).

Plate/tray (Fig. 9 A-D) is used to describe a type of shallow bowl or pedestal tray. Plate/tray sherds were rare, but recognizable as part of a flat or semi-flat vessel with low walls.

Bottles (Fig. 10 A-J) have narrow openings defined by rims measuring from 3 to 6 cm in diameter. Fragment analysis revealed unfinished interiors, suggesting restricted openings that prohibited the interior smoothing present in other forms. Sherd thickness ranges from 3 to 5 mm. Neck height could be from 4 to 8.5 cm tall. Narrow cylindrical necks, both long and short; necks with prominent prepared lips; and others with no formalized lip are present.

Stirrup spout bottles (Fig. 10 A, B and J) are bottles with a distinctive arch and spout that comprise the stirrup form (Donnan 1992:26). The three examples of stirrup spout necks have a rim diameter of 2 to 4 cm; wall thickness at the spout is 4 mm. This form is suggested by the finger modeling on the interior surface of bottle neck sherds (Fig. 10 B and J) and the spout and arch join area (Fig. 10 A).

Panpipes (Fig. 11 A-I) are single, double or multi-chambered musical instruments created by fashioning clay into tubes which were then fastened together. Panpipe fragments included any sherds of material originally part of a complete panpipe or belonging to any sub-part of a panpipe. Included were individual chamber tubes, bits of exterior casing and fragments with multiple or single chambers still embedded within them. No intact panpipes were found during this study although every section of a theorized panpipe was found, thus confirming design canons and variants.

The thickness of exterior panpipe walls varies from instrument to instrument, usually ranging from 5 to 10 mm. The thickness of individual tube walls is 2 to 4 mm and is constant for the entire tube for each chamber of the instrument. Chamber diameter is constant for individual tubes of the same instrument while varying from 1 to 2 mm among different instruments. Semi-complete sections are as long as 6 cm (Fig. 11 A)

with as many as two pipes and as few as one pipe per section. Interior chambers were usually smooth and well rounded, perhaps an indication of slip-casting (Daggett 1984:179-180), and only occasionally rough. Very rough, hand-modeled types exist alongside finer versions. Perhaps finer types were made using dowel-like sticks to create regular, untouched tubes (Daggett 1984:179). Both sub-types are finished in one of two manners. Panpipe tubes were either encased in ceramic outer casings, which also varied in thickness and quality of finish, or they were very finely covered with an even layer of semi-dry clay which was smoothed at the mouthpiece area and made to contour to the outer surface of the musical instrument.

Reworked or Shaped Sherds

Shaped sherds were made by reworking body sherds, therein extending the life of the sherds. This group includes circular-shaped objects, D-shaped, rectangular-shaped, and triangular-shaped sherds. Typically one surface of the shaped sherds has pitting or drag marks indicative of the original vessel's interior while the opposite surface has burnish, burnish stripes or other decoration indicating the initial exterior surface of a vessel (Terada and Onuki 1982:133). Disk and non-disk shaped examples have one or more shaped edges, in some cases with jagged notches on unworn outer edges (Fig. 12 and 13). Shaped and worn or abraded examples have no notching or less evident notching and instead are worn smooth on at least one edge.

Shaped Circular disks (Fig. 12 A-B and G-H) are purposefully shaped sherds with a mostly circular shape. Thickness of sherds ranges from 8 to 15 mm. Shaped disks have a diameter of between 2 and 10 cm. Disks may display obvious signs of additional wear to the outer edges of one-time exterior vessel surfaces although not all sherds have this

wear. Certain examples could have been used as lids while others may have been destined to receive a perforation to be used as spindle whorls. A majority of the sherds are oxidized completely or have some fire clouding on otherwise oxidized exterior surfaces. Disks are made of undecorated and occasionally decorated body sherds (Fig. 40 C).

D-shaped (Fig. 12 C-F and I) sherds are D-shaped with a generally straight edge on an otherwise circular disk. The D-shaped sherds have a thickness from 4 to 10 mm while the diameter of circular edges ranges from 3 to 4 cm. Some circular edges show wear from use, but straight edges show no sign of additional shaping from use aside from the initial break (Fig. 12 C and D). D-shaped sherds appear to be purposefully unworn on the edge that could theoretically be the handle or the place that these sherds are held.

Shaped Rectangular (Fig. 13 A-C) sherds are generally rectangular or square in shape and have one or sometimes two sides shaped and smoothed. The sherd thickness for this group is 5 to 11 mm. Rectangular objects are from 4.5 to 6 cm long and 3 to 5 cm wide. Examples of shaped and shaped and worn rectangular objects are identifiable due to right angles.

Shaped Triangular (Fig. 13 D-F) sherds have at least one purposefully shaped edge. Sherd thickness for this shaped form is 5 to 9 mm. The shaped edge may exhibit additional smoothing, perhaps due to wear from use. Triangular objects come in smaller and larger varieties, with the latter being up to 11 cm long and 8 cm wide. They often have the wear only on the longest edge, maximizing the span of the sherd. The smaller objects range from 5 to7 cm long and may be shaped on all sides. Larger examples are

usually smoothed on one edge, while the remaining edges are irregular and seem to receive no particular treatment.

Shaped Perforated circular disks (Fig. 14 A) are circular shaped sherds with a perforation at or near the middle of the sherd that were possibly intended for use as spindle whorls. The perforated circular disk sherd here received no additional smoothing or wear to the outer edges. Sherd thickness is 8 to12 mm, and the sherd diameter is 5.5 cm. The perforated disk in this study (Fig. 14 A) is generally circular but not as rounded as most unperforated shaped circular disks (Fig. 12 A-B and G-H).

Perforated (Fig. 14 A-D) sherds are body or rim sherds with perforations that are likely repair holes. Perforations are concave to the sherd surface and the actual holes measure 5 to 6 mm in diameter. The bevels found on many sherd perforations have a diameter of 10 to 12 mm, twice the size of the actual aperture. Drilling usually was done from the exterior surface inward.

Perforated body sherds (Fig. 14 C and D) are sherds with a perforation on an otherwise ordinary body sherd. Sherds vary in thickness from 7 to 8 mm. In the case where two perforations are present, the total distance between perforations is 5 cm, and the distance between the edges of the bevels surrounding each perforation is 4 cm. Two perforations in proximity to one another suggest the perforations were utilized to effectively repair an otherwise intact vessel with twine or other vegetative matter. A single example with no bevel around the perforation could have been meant as a sort of rustic spool used for wool or twine (Fig. 14 C).

The perforated rim (Fig. 14 B) sherds each have a perforation 2 to 4 cm below the rim. The sherds are from vessels with rim diameters from 13 to 18 cm and body walls are 5 to 9 mm thick.

Ceramic Decoration

The decorated sherd designation for this study reflects any purposeful change made to the exterior surface of a ceramic vessel, usually prior to initial firing. Techniques include: fabric or net impression on the surface of parts of or entire vessel exteriors as well as incisions, painted designs, patterned burnished, or streaky burnishing on the exterior surfaces of vessels. On occasion, the modeling of an abstract decoration or faunal figure provides a decorative element which is then added to the vessel after initial construction.

Net impressed (Appendix C; Fig. 15 A-C) sherds are decorated by netting being pressed against the exterior surface of the vessel during the semidry phase of vessel construction. The effect intentionally recreates the shapes of the net weave or net section join area. The result of this decoration type is an irregular honeycomb-like pattern. In addition to being a ceramic decoration, net impression provides information regarding textile technology. This decoration type is known from Early Horizon sites such as San Diego (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:59) and Pampa Rosario (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:69).

Fabric impressed sherds (Fig. 15 D-F) were intentionally decorated on their exterior surfaces by fabric pressed against the semi-dry exterior of all or parts of the whole vessel. Like net impressed examples, fabric impressed decorations reveal methods used for creating textiles. This decoration type was also found at the Early Horizon sites

of San Diego and Pampa Rosario in the Casma Valley (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:61, Fig. 38).

Fine line incised (Fig. 16 A-D) sherds received incisions 0.5 mm wide with a sharp instrument when vessels were dry or nearly dry. The cross hatch design is bordered by a horizontal fine line of the same width. The single example in this collection is a type 10 sherd 4.5 to 5 mm thick. This decoration type is a known as an Initial Period decoration type (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:23).

Line incised (Fig. 16 E-L and 17 A-E) sherds exhibit linear incision as lines, arches and cross hatch designs. Incised lines range from 1 to 2 mm deep, 8 to 18 mm long and 1 to 2.5 mm wide. Examples are small. This decoration type is a known from both the Initial Period and Early Horizon where it tends to be found on bowls and bottles (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:23).

Broad line incised (Fig. 17 F and G) sherds have neck or shoulder decoration consisting of a band or group of incised lines from 12 to 22 mm long, placed diagonally next to one another. Incisions are 3.5 to 4 mm wide and are made on shoulders and necks of jars. This decoration type is a known Initial Period decoration type (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:38, 59).

Diagonal linear incised (Fig. 18 A-C) sherds have straight incisions made diagonally in bands or in a zoned cluster that are located on jars just below the rim. Incisions are 2 mm wide and at least 21 mm long. This decoration type is an Early Horizon decoration type found on some tall neck jar neck sections (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:103). Zoned linear incised (Fig. 18 D) sherds have diagonal incised lines in zones, as a decorative cue. Selective placement of decoration, with purposeful

omission or separation with incised lines, creates this decoration. This decoration type is a known Early Horizon decoration found on some tall neck jar neck sections (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:103).

Ovoid gouging or large oval punctations (Fig. 19 A) are football-shaped gouges 5 to 11 mm long and 2 to 5 mm wide. They are made on the broad shoulder of a vessel perhaps with a finger shaped object. This decoration type is a known Initial Period decoration type found on neckless ollas (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:38-39, Fig. 17).

Linear gouging (Fig. 19 B-E) decoration techniques are achieved by using a relatively sharp and flat wedged object to carve lines in semi-dry ceramics. Gouges varied from 10 to 20 mm long and from 2 to 5 mm wide. This decoration is found on shoulders of jars and is not as regular as linear or diagonal linear incisions. This decoration type may be an Initial Period variant on large oval punctations (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:38).

Zoned incised bi-chrome (Fig. 20 A and B) sherds have incised lines in a variety of shapes that outline zoned white (10YR 8/3) painted designs. Incisions are 1 to 2 mm wide. Designs created by incisions are generally angular for this decoration type. This decoration type is a known Early Horizon decoration type (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:59, 61, Fig. 39).

Punctate sherds (Fig. 21 A-F) have decoration in the form of repeated jabbing by a stick or other pointed tool. Rectangular, round, oval, and triangle objects were most often used to create punctations. Large ovoid punctations are 2 to 3 mm wide and 6 to 7 mm long; smaller ovoid punctations are 2 mm wide and 3 to 4 mm long. Large round punctations are 3 mm from edge to edge. Execution of this decoration varies according

to the overall vessel dryness at the time of decoration, number of punctations, and orientation of the instrument used at the time of elaboration (straight or at an angle). This decoration type is a well documented Initial Period decoration type (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:23-24, Fig. 10; Pozorski and Pozorski 2006).

Zoned punctate (Fig. 22 A-C) sherds have round punctates or linear punctate dashes within incised lines. In the examples with dashes, areas outside of incised lines were not decorated (Fig. 22 A and B). The ovoid zoned punctate example has zoning with most punctate found within zoned spaces (Fig. 22 C). This decoration type is a known Initial Period and Early Horizon decoration type (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:23-25, 60, Fig. 10, 37).

Rocker stamping (Fig. 23 A-D) sherds have a distinct zigzag appearance to their decoration. Rocker stamped decorations were created by rocking a sharp-edged object back and forth along the surface of a semi-dry vessel. Rocker stamping, may be confined to zones bordered by incised or double-incised lines and examples in this sample are 1.5 to 3.5 cm wide (Fig. 23 A and C). The design may be further demarcated by the selective application of paint. This decoration type is a known Early Horizon decoration (Fung 1969; Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:25, Fig. 11a).

Circle and dot (Figs. 24 A-C and 25 A-C) sherds have circle shapes stamped on their exterior surface. Circles 8 mm to 1 cm in diameter and 5 to 8 mm apart are made on vessel walls and in double or single rows, perhaps by the impression of a round cane or stick. Wall thickness for ceramics with this decoration type is 4 to 12 mm. Typically dots are present in the centers of the circles. In one example, there is a second smaller, circle inside of which is a single dot as well (Fig. 25 A). Circle and dot decoration in this

group is found on the upper exterior registers of jars and bowls of the carinated, incurved, and straight varieties (Daggett 1984:139, 142, Fig. 5-4).

Circle and dot with comb incision (Fig. 26 A-B) has circle and dot decorations with combing decorations filling intervening spaces. Each circle in one of two rows is 1 cm across, and inner circles are 7 to 8 mm wide. Punctate dots are 2 mm wide and are found in the middle of circle decoration. This type with additional combed incisions resembles examples known to exist much later in Casma and surrounding river valleys, and it is commonly referred to as 'Casma Incised' (Pozorski and Pozorski; 1987:38). This decoration type is a known Late Middle Horizon to Late Intermediate Period decoration (Daggett 1983; Vogel 2003).

Circular punctate band (Fig. 27 A-E) sherds have solid round punctates in a band around the neck or rim area of a vessel. The diameters for punctations are 3 to 4 mm and they occur in double or single rows. Punctations are concave, 2-3 mm deep and, individual punctations are 4 to 5 mm from one another. Circular punctation bands are found on neckless ollas and jars. This decoration is known from early Early Horizon collections at other sites (Burger 1984:57, 348, Fig. 85).

Press molded sherds (Fig. 28 A-D and Fig. 29 A) are decorated by an object or objects pressed against the vessel wall, neck, or other vessel part. The four examples (Fig. 28 A-D) pertain to one vessel decorated around the neck area and are similar to later ceramics discussed by Wilson (1988). This decoration type is a known Middle Horizon trait in neighboring valleys (Wilson 1988:261, Fig. 263).

Post fire scratches (Fig. 29 B) are made on a vessel or sherd after it has been fired. The example from this collection is a crudely executed pattern 5 to 10 mm wide

and 11 mm long. This treatment type has been found in the neighboring Nepeña Valley in late Early Horizon collections (Daggett 1984:321, Fig. 7-6).

Appliqué decoration sherds (Fig. 30 A-D) can have all or part of oblong, appliquéd objects, non-figural representations such as nodules, or tiered and non-tiered lugs, added to their exterior surfaces (Fig. 31 A-E, Fig. 32 A-C and Fig. 33 A and B). Sherds can also have bands of appliqué on neck sections of jars (Fig. 33 C and D). These presumably would be around the entire vessel neck or other feature. Appliqué features are placed on vessels after their initial construction and can be from 1 to 6 cm long and have up to 14 mm of relief. The semi-dry modeled object is cemented down by smoothing bits of clay across the join, creating a bond prior to firing. Oblong appliqués 4 to 5 cm long have slashes horizontally across them and are from 10 to 18 mm long and 2 mm wide. Possible marine life represented in this sample, such as chitons, as well as other possible life are found alongside abstract tiers and appliqué bands (Figs. 30, 33 A-F and 34 A-F). Appliqués are a known decoration type for the Early Horizon (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:59).

Zoned appliqué sherds (Fig. 34 A and B) have appliqué decorations on select portions of a vessel. Decorated and undecorated areas are delineated by incisions or by omitting decoration on areas on the vessel. Clay is applied to objects then poked to create small doughnut-like shapes as well as other shapes 1 to 2 mm in height to give relief to decorated zones. This decoration type is a known Early Horizon decoration (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:88).

Thickened appliqué shoulder with deep incision (Fig. 35 A) is a thick piece of clay added to a vessel shoulder in this case. The appliquéd shoulder is 27 mm wide at the

thickest point and has incisions up to 1 cm deep. This decoration may be a variant on a known Early Intermediate Period decoration (Wilson 1988:530, Fig. 4).

A partially modeled figural (Fig. 35 B) sherd is the sole example for this sample, and has a personage eating corn or other foodstuff modeled onto the jar. The neck and shoulders of the vessel are the stylized face and shoulders of the personage respectively. On opposite shoulders of the vessel are two birds applied to the modeled vessel. The possible corn/comestible and arm holding it have been applied to the vessel to give a three dimensional effect. This decoration type is a Transitional or Late Intermediate Period decoration (Wilson 1988:478, 485).

Painted sherds (Figs. 36, 37, and 38) are selectively elaborated, generally prior to firing, using mineral pigment colors (Donnan 1992:18). An example of paint as decoration in this collection is the utilization of dark grey paint (5YR 3/2) over the majority of a vessel leaving only an undecorated band (Fig. 36 A-D). Another example consists of random geometric designs achieved by using black paint (5YR 2.5/1) in strokes 1 to 2 mm wide and up to 5 cm long (Fig. 37 C and 38 A-C). Lines can intersect or meet to form triangles or groups of parallel lines. Zoning or segregation of the particular vessel part receiving paint is another way to utilize paint for decoration. This was observed when white paint (10YR 8/2-8/3) was used over or inside incised lines (Fig. 20 A-B). Painted sherds in this collection are similar to examples found in other known Early Horizon assemblages (Grieder 1975; Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:25).

Distinctively finished burnished sherds have burnished stripes and/or patterned burnished designs, including cross-hatched burnish (Fig. 39 A-C) or prominent streaky burnish (Fig. 40 A-D) as the primary surface treatment given to an otherwise plain ware

vessel. Some burnished sherds raise the question of whether or not the sherds are truly examples of the use of burnish as decoration. Burnish done to drying leather-hard ceramics will produce a more even shine. Burnishing a less-dry vessel will produce a striped design on the finished vessel. Decorative burnish can be distinctly streaky, striped or patterned according to the nature of the decoration. The following descriptions refer to the most obviously altered examples. This decoration type is a known Early Horizon decoration (Daggett 1984:323, Fig. 7-4, 7-6 a, c and d)

Patterned burnished (Fig. 39 A-C) sherds have interior or exterior surface burnishing which can intersect to create lattice-like patterns. Patterned burnished areas can be bordered by a line of burnish or an incised line to create a frame at the edge of a design that generally covers the entire vessel. Neatly executed burnished stripes, with or without lattice-like patterns, are considered patterned if the design is achieved with some evidence of control as in zebra-like stripes or a burnish-lined rim. This decoration type is a known Early Horizon decoration (Daggett 1984:325).

Striped burnished (Fig. 39 D and E) sherds have clear burnishing stripes at regular intervals separated by untreated areas. Burnished stripes are 2 to 4 mm wide and spaces between stripes measure 8 to 12 mm. Overall, burnished streaks and spaces between burnished lines are more pronounced when compared to irregular burnish; and the overall number of stripes is lower. This type of sherd treatment presents high luster, visible stripes and dividing zones with dull luster. This decoration type is a known Early Horizon decoration (Daggett 1984:325, Fig. 7-6 a).

Prominent irregular burnished streaks (Fig. 40 A-D) on sherds are the least formalized of the decorative burnish types. Streaks of near vertical or diagonal burnish 2

to 4 mm wide alternate with plain areas 1 to 2 cm wide. On these sherds, unburnished areas are narrower, with 2 mm wide burnished and 2-4 mm wide unburnished areas, compared to the striped burnished types. This decoration type is a known Early Horizon decoration (Daggett 1984:325, Fig. 7-4 b).

CHAPTER 3

CERAMIC DATA: SIX UNITS

The data for this study came from six specific areas on the immense Sechin Alto main mound or huaca (Appendix A; Fig. 1, Main Map 1). Three of these areas correspond with former central staircases and the others with additional examples of former architecture, including a room with a mud stucco frieze, low-wall architecture and a lateral staircase. Each area saw a brief Early Horizon occupation followed by dumping of demolished structural material. This fill material was dumped into features including staircases and Initial Period rooms. After the filling episodes, additional cultural material pertaining to Early Horizon occupation after the restructuring of the mound was deposited. Ceramic evidence used for this study elucidates further the character of this Early Horizon reoccupation at the site.

Area A3, Area A5, and Area A10 were designations given to the central staircase segments revealed through excavation to be part of the previous Initial Period phase of the site. Ceramic material from above these staircase segments was collected and analyzed as part of this study. Area A3, the lowermost central staircase at the front of the huaca, led from the lower atrium to the upper atrium. Areas A5 and A10 were part of the same staircase leading from the upper atrium to the mound summit. All three central stairways had been completely covered with demolished building materials taken from

other earlier features on the mound. The debris, rendering the one time formal entrances useless, is what is now referred to as fill and dump contexts which make up part of the larger wall fall assemblage.

Area A4 is a lateral staircase and small landing leading one from the upper atrium to Area A17 just to the north. Area A4 and Area A17 are adjacent to one another. Like the central staircases, Areas A4 and eventually A17 were filled to completely alter the character of previous architecture. Area A17 and Area A4 were excavated during different field seasons and therefore received the two separate designations. Area A4's sample also included a post-Early Horizon occupation represented by looters' holes and late burials, perhaps executed during the Middle Horizon.

Finally, the sample referred to as Area A6 was taken from a zone overlying one end of the site's Initial Period adobe core that was originally adorned with a polychrome frieze. Area A6's polychrome frieze was demolished early in the Early Horizon occupation of Sechin Alto. Colored frieze fragments found in this area can be attributed to this destruction of the area.

For the purpose of this analysis, the ceramic sample from each of the six units is divided into two groups. In the earliest levels studied, a designation of just above previous features, within 10 cm of, or in close proximity to known Initial Period (IP) features established the lower boundary of the sample. Wall fall, fill and dump layers and above late floor designations were all used to determine the division of the upper sample because depth of wall fall could vary greatly according to what earlier feature was covered. The wall fall sample in effect covers all sherds deposited after the restructuring

began, and the within 10 cm and near Initial Period feature designation is for everything prior to the restructuring.

Totals for All Areas within Study

The total number of sherds for all areas and all levels is 16,806. The total body sherds for all levels within 10 cm of and near previous (Initial Period) feature contexts is 2,444 (Appendix D; Table 1 Types within 10 cm) with an additional 119 decorated, of notable treatment or shaped ceramic objects (Appendix D; Tables 3 and 6). The total body sherds from wall fall, dump and fill contexts is 13,993 (Appendix D; Table 2) plus 250 decorated, notably treated, or shaped ceramic objects (Appendix D; Tables 4 and 8).

The total sherd count for all levels of Area A3 is 579 body sherds with an additional 26 total decorated or shaped sherds.

In Area A3 within 10 cm of the floor of steps, there are 45 body sherds and two diagnostic vessel sherds. The undecorated group is comprised of 26 type 4 sherds; nine type 1 sherds; seven type 14 sherds; and one each of types 3, 10, and 20. The diagnostic sherds were from a neckless olla and a bowl.

In Area A3 within 10 cm and near the early stairway, 12 decorated or special surface treatment sherds were found. Eleven of the 12 fragments have prominent burnish streaks on their exterior surfaces. One fabric impressed sherd was found in this level of Area A3.

In Area A3 refuse and wall fall there are 534 sherds, including 28 diagnostic vessel sherds. Area A3 had 388 type 4 sherds, 65 type 1 sherds, 22 type 20 sherds, 16 type 17 sherds, six type 3 sherds, three sherds each of types 14 and 10 and, finally, one

sherd of type 5 ceramics. Forms that could be identified from diagnostic sherds were neckless ollas, jars, bottles, and bowls.

A total of 14 decorated, specially finished, or shaped sherds came from wall fall and fill levels of Area 3. Two sherds are decorated with a double band of circular punctate on the neck area. There are five fabric impressed sherds and one painted sherd. Four shaped sherds were recovered from this area, including one discoid and one rectangular object with wear to outer edges as well as one perforated body sherd and one triangular shaped tool sherd with no wear to its outer edges.

From Area A5 came a total of 1,981 body sherds from all levels. Area A5 also produced a total of 48 decorated, notably finished or shaped sherds.

In Area A5, within 10 cm of the Initial Period steps, floor or bench, there were 195 sherds, including five diagnostic vessel sherds. One hundred fifty-one were of type 4; 21 were type 1; another 14 were type 10; four were type 2; and there were two each of types 14, and 11 and one type 3 sherd as well. Diagnostic sherds representing neckless olla forms and bowls were identified. A total of 20 sherds with prominent burnish streaks came from Area A5 within 10 cm of the steps.

Area A5 wall fall and dump layers yielded a total of 1,786 sherds, including 86 diagnostic vessel sherds. There are 1,167 type 4 sherds, 417 type 1 sherds, and 16 type 14 sherds. The remaining sherds were of type 2 with 13, type 3 with nine, type 18 with four, type 17 with 41, type 10 with 22, and types 23, 19, and 1/4 with one apiece for a total of 1,786. The vessel forms identifiable from diagnostic sherds were neckless ollas, short necked jars, bowls, everted rim jars, bottles, panpipes, and a grater bowl.

There are a total of 14 decorated or specially treated surface sherds that include five fabric impressed sherds and two each with circle and dot and circular punctate bands. There is also one each with figural fragment, streaky burnish decoration and appliqué decoration.

The 14 shaped sherds in Area A5 wall fall are made up of eight shaped sherds with wear to outer edges including four disk-shaped, three semicircular and one rectangular shaped sherd. Another three shaped disks and one discoidal rim sherd, with no apparent wear to their edges, came from Area A5 wall fall. There were another two perforated sherds, one from a vessel body, the other from near the rim area of a vessel.

In Area A10, 3,186 sherds from all levels were recovered. Area A10 produced a total of 43 decorated or otherwise notable sherds.

The sherds for Area A10 within 10 cm of Initial Period steps, landing, or floor totaled 271 of which 23 sherds were diagnostic for vessels. There were 190 type 4 sherds and 75 type 1 sherds. There were also four type 1/4 sherds as well as one each of types 2 and 10. Twelve diagnostic sherds representing neckless ollas were found, as were five bowl sherds and two jar sherds. Three panpipe fragments and one bottle sherd were recovered from this area as well.

A total of 14 decorated or specially treated sherds and shaped sherds were found in Area A10 at within 10 cm of stairway and other earlier levels. Thirteen of the special sherds had prominent burnish streaks, and one was incised with paint.

The sherds for area A10 wall fall and within brown refuse totaled 2,915 of which 198 were diagnostic for vessel. There were 1,932 type 4 sherds and 857 type 1 sherds. The next most numerous type was 14 with 42 sherds. There were 22 type 20 sherds;

while type 10 had 15 sherds and type 1/4, comprised of sherds that exhibit characteristics of types 1 and 4, had 35 sherds. The remaining sherds belonged to types 17 with nine and types 11 and 2 with one each. Forms noted through analysis of diagnostic sherds were neckless olla, jar, flaring rim jar, bottle, bowl and panpipe forms.

Twenty-one decorated or distinctly finished sherds were found within this later level of Area A10. Also found were four painted sherds, three circle and dot, and two each of net impression, incised bichrome, and linear incisions. In Area A10 wall fall, one of each of the following sherds was examined: fabric impressed, incised appliqué band, gouges, circular punctation band, appliqué nub, striped burnished and prominent burnish streaks.

There are nine shaped sherds from Area A10. These include five sherds with perforations, four near the rim and one on a body sherd. Finally, there are four D-shaped sherds with wear.

The total number of body sherds for all levels of Area A6 was 1,847. Area A6 produced 38 decorated or otherwise notable sherds. In the A6 frieze area within 10 cm of floor level and within groove were 519 sherds of which 19 were diagnostic for forms. Four hundred twenty-three sherds were of type 4 and 89 of type 1. Along with these there were three sherds of type 1/4 and one other of type 20/14. Finally, there was one sherd each for types 10, 14 and 2. Forms recognizable from diagnostic features were neckless olla, neckless olla w/spout, panpipe and bottle.

A total of 15 distinctive finish and one shaped sherd was found in Area A6 within 10 cm of floor and within groove. Fifteen sherds had prominent streaky burnish. Finally, there was one D-shaped sherd with wear at this level.

There were a total of 1,328 sherds for Area A6 wall fall, of which 73 are diagnostic for vessel forms. One thousand one hundred eighteen were type 4 sherds. Another 172 were type 1 sherds, 18 sherds were of type 14, 12 were of type 20 and six were of type 10. Finally, there were one each of types 2 and 13. The forms recognizable from diagnostic sherds were neckless olla, jar, panpipe, short necked jar, and neckless olla with spout.

A total of 16 decorated sherds, notably treated and shaped sherds were found in Area A6 wall fall, dumping, and restructuring contexts. There were three sherds with incised gouge decorations and one with appliqué decoration. Finally, there were two sherds with net impression on their outer surfaces.

A total of ten shaped sherds comes from this level: one perforated disk, one perforated rim sherd, two unperforated disk sherds, three semicircular shaped sherds with wear to edges, two unperforated disk sherds and one rectangular shaped sherd with no wear to its edges.

The body sherd total for all levels of Area A4 was 2,570 sherds. There were 75 total decorated, notable finish, or shaped sherds. In Area A4, within 10 cm and near feature, there was a total of 618 body sherds of which 19 are diagnostic. Type 4 represents the most frequently occurring type with 399 sherds while type 1 was represented by 152 sherds. Type 3 was represented by 15 sherds, followed by 14 type 10 sherds and 26 type 14 sherds. Type 2 had four sherds. There were three sherds apiece of types 13 and 17 and one each of types 8 and 5. Vessel forms identifiable from diagnostic sherds included neckless olla, bowl and panpipe.

In Area A4 within 10 cm and nearest early surface, a total of 26 decorated or notably finished sherds was recovered. Of these, 17 have prominent burnish streaks while three others were treated with surface punctation. Another three sherds had patterned or striped burnished finish. Finally, there was one each of the appliqué decoration and circular punctation band. The shaped sherd inventory recovered for this level totaled two shaped sherds with wear to edges, one triangular and the other rectangular.

In Area A4 wall fall level, there was a total 1,952 sherds of which 32 were diagnostic. One thousand two hundred ninety-eight type 4 sherds were excavated along with 489 type 1 sherds. Next were type 1/4 with 59, type 14 with 36, types 20 and 2 with 13 sherds apiece, type 10 with 18, type 3 with 12, type 17 with nine, type 13 with four and type 23 with one. The vessel forms recognizable from diagnostics in Area A4 were neckless olla, decorated and undecorated bowl, short neck jar, tall neck jar, bottle, a strap handled vessel (possible jar), flaring rim jar and panpipe.

In Area A4 wall fall, a total of 12 decorated or distinctly finished sherds were recovered. Of the 12 sherds, two were decorated with a zoned appliqué relief decoration on thin reduced ware with tiny bits of pyrite. Three others had a rope-like appliqué band design. Three sherds with prominent burnish streaks were also found in A4 wall fall. Finally, there was one each of painted design, post fired scratching, appliqué donuts and punctate triangles.

The 34 shaped sherds include 13 disk/discoid, 15 rectangular, one semicircle and four triangular shaped sherds with wear to at least one edge. In addition, one disk shaped

sherd with no wear to outer edges came from this area. Finally, two perforated sherds, one from the body and the other near the rim, were recovered.

Due to time constraints during the third season, which was spent entirely on ceramic analysis in the lab, only approximately three fourths of the Area A17 sample was analyzed. Of the ceramics analyzed, Area A17 produced a total of 6,275 regular and diagnostic sherds from all levels and produced 153 decorated or otherwise notable sherds.

Area A17 within 10 cm produced 796 sherds of which 33 were diagnostic. There were 472 type 4 sherds and 153 type 1 sherds. In much smaller concentrations were type 2 with 60 sherds, type 14 with 44 sherds, and type 10 with 22 sherds. Finally, there were 20 type 3 sherds as well as 25 sherds referred to as type 1/4. The vessel forms identifiable from diagnostic sherds were panpipe, neckless olla, bottle, jar, shaped sherd, bowl, and a tray or plate.

The decoration and distinctively treated sherds for Area A17 near feature and within 10 cm of previous features totaled 33. For Area A17, the most numerous decoration or notable treatment type was punctuation, with 11 punctation decorated sherds. In this case, the punctation marks were made by rounded objects, triangular objects and small rounded objects, respectively. There were seven prominently burnished sherds, three striped burnished sherds, and one each of rectilinear incision, fine incised crosshatch, small incised appliqué, patterned burnished and zoned punctate incision. Two shaped rectangular sherds were found within the Area A17 near floor feature context. Examples are two rectangular shaped ceramic objects with wear to at least one edge.

Area A17 wall fall and later levels produced a total of 5,479 body sherds of which 330 are diagnostic for vessel forms. There were 3,162 type 4 sherds and 1,156 type 1 sherds, followed by type 2 with 490 sherds, type 3 which has 150 sherds, type 14 with 146 sherds, and type 10 with 93 sherds. Another 81 sherds are categorized as type 1/4 or a near split of the two different types. There are 65 type 11 sherds, 54 type 5 sherds, and 53 type 20 sherds. Type 17 also has 13 sherds while type 7 and the "other" category each have eight sherds (Table 2). The forms recognizable from diagnostic sherds were neckless olla, bowl, a decorated bowl, jar, decorated neckless olla, lug handle, strap handle vessel, necked olla, tall neck jar, grater bowl, plate/tray, open (shallow) bowl, bottle, flared rim jar, a neckless olla with lug handle and a stirrup spout bottle.

A total of 107 decorated, special treatment and shaped sherds were found in Area A17 wall fall. There were eight sherds with dark reddish paint (5YR 2.5) as a line decoration, 14 sherds of prominent streaky burnish and 15 appliqué decoration sherds. There are 12 punctate sherds, and seven net and six fabric impressed sherds. Of the five zone decorated sherds, two were punctate dashes, two were linear incision and one was of small donut like appliqués placed in zones. There were also 11 non-zoned linear incision or gouge types, nine striped burnished sherds, and four each of rocker stamped sherds, incised arch sherds and press mold sherds. Three circle and dot with combing sherds were recovered in this area along with one circle and dot sherd. Two sherds with incised crosshatch designs came from this area; one with finely incised 1 mm wide lines and the other with 2 to 3 mm wide incisions. Finally, there was a figural adorned jar surface and a patterned burnished sherd.

Of the 118 diagnostic sherds for Area A17 wall fall, ten are shaped sherds including seven shaped sherds with wear. Five of these worn sherds are rectangular; one is semicircular and the other is a disk. Of the two shaped sherds with no wear, one is rectangular and the other is semicircular. The final reworked sherd is an example of a perforated rim sherd that was a probable repair to the original vessel.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS OF CERAMIC ANALYSIS BY AREA

Sherds found at the lowest levels of the six units made up the earliest inventory of sherds that accumulated on the Initial Period architectural features after the initial abandonment of the site. This initial abandonment is believed to have been followed by a pause in which little or no human activity is noted (Pozorski and Pozorski 2005). Later after a brief initial Early Horizon occupation, boulders, facing stones, mortar, and conical adobes were mined from their respective areas and heaped into staircases and rooms as well as landings and stairways. Most of the Early Horizon occupation of the Sechin Alto main mound occurred after this restructuring episode. The ceramic material found overlying the initial reoccupation and subsequent restructuring at Sechin Alto reflects attributes of early, middle and late Early Horizon types known from other Casma Valley Early Horizon sites as well as neighboring valleys.

The types of deposition varied greatly--from natural deposition of ceramics from everyday use to intentional use of sherds, along with other 'mined' cultural material, to alter an area's look and use. The main Sechin Alto mound eventually suffered many alterations at the hands of the later inhabitants. For instance, Area A6, an area of previous importance, was deliberately stripped of mud friezes and architecture; Area A17 had multiple walls built upon one another in episodic building events of short duration; Lateral stairway A4 became an occupation area altered from once being a corridor,

stairway and landing for A17. The larger central staircase system was completely obscured by dumping and barricading. Conical adobes once found mainly in the oldest central part of the mound were most likely mined and melted for use in rudimentary walls as mortar and plaster. Stones were used to build low walls and to obstruct the huaca's original staircase in Area A3. In Area A4 and Area A17, within the later disturbed layers of the sample, a limited quantity of sherds typical of the Middle Horizon and Late Intermediate Period were found along with later burials associated with these later contexts.

Multiple fine ashy layers along with large amounts of charred sherds point to the eventual utilization of the mound as a domestic site for a small group. Probable domestic areas had hearths, small work areas, and large amounts of sherds in both primary and secondary depositional or collection contexts as is the case where wall building used ceramics as internal wall support. Early Horizon Sechin Alto was particularly interesting in that it could have been effective as a multi-family habitation area. Small informal hearths and irregular agglutinated structures could be indicative of early refuge situations or may be linked to episodic living on the mound.

The breakdown by square for the six areas, for both decorated and plain wares, has been divided into two contexts. Upper later layers are labeled wall fall, restructuring and/or fill levels. Lower, and in most cases, older levels are labeled within 10 and near Initial Period feature; both are presented in Appendix C. Typically, limited initial deposition of sherds was followed by the sudden appearance of near-sterile architectural material; and then large amounts of sherds begin to appear along with ash and debris as

this area took on the character of a domestic midden which contained proportionally larger numbers of sherds.

In Area A3, the excavated square with the greatest sherd total at within 10 cm is Square 2 (Fig. 42). A few prominently streaky burnish sherds were found in near-floor contexts, and one net impressed sherd was recovered (Fig. 41; Sq.8) among the decorated types.

Evidence for purposeful dumping on a larger than household scale was evident after this light earlier Early Horizon deposition, which was followed by a layer where a small amount of foodstuffs and other cultural material was found within levels comprised of boulders and deconstructed plaster. Much of the fill material deposited early on was intentionally mined from other areas of the Initial Period huaca in order to be dumped into the lower portions of the Area A3 staircase. Later, slightly higher up on the huaca, this staircase was blocked by a boulder wall behind which were found the most ceramics for Area A3 wall fall sample (Fig. 44; Sq.3). The rock wall and the fill and refuse deposited behind it effectively barred this area as an entrance.

The wall fall decorated sample (Fig. 43) includes a variety of decorations represented at Sechin Alto by one sherd apiece. A total of six types of decorated and/or diagnostic sherds was found in the latest undisturbed cultural layers: necked olla sherd with solid circular punctate band, fabric impressed body sherd, painted body sherd, perforated body sherd, a shaped sherd with wear and a shaped sherd with no wear. All these are decorative types known from other Early Horizon sites (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:59).

The Area A5 main stairway was the lower formal staircase connecting the upper atrium to the mound summit. If Sechin Alto were used during Early Horizon times as a makeshift fort or siege position a formal access route such as staircase A5 could have been covered earlier on after taking possession of the site. Earlier Early Horizon decorations, such as striped burnished and prominent burnish streaks, appear clustered in the earliest level of Early Horizon material from Area A5. The position of this staircase nearer the top of the mound meant that it would not be as accessible as the lower staircases, but it would represent a definite weakness if the lower 'barricades' and steep incline of Area A3 were breached.

Areas A5 and A10 were part of the same central staircase architectural unit. Both are almost completely covered by debris from demolished Initial Period construction, which effectively created a slight extension of the front of the upper mound. Area A5 is lower in elevation on the huaca, and some ceramics originally deposited above the Area A10 staircase segment may have slid downslope and collected in higher numbers above Area A5. This gravity may have given Area A5 a larger portion of the early sherds dumped into the staircase while Area A10 received more of the later assemblage in squares (Sqs.3-6) located above a landing. In keeping with this, square 16 was the excavated square with the most sherds for Area A5 within 10 cm sample (Fig. 46) with 57. The excavated square with the most body sherds in the Area A5 wall fall sample was square 14 with 197 (Fig. 48). In Area A10, within the near floor sample, the excavated square with the most body sherds was Square 4 with 116. For the wall fall sample in Area A10, square 8 produced the most body sherds.

The decorated sherd samples in the lowest layers of both Area A5 and Area A10 share prominently streaky burnish (Figs. 45 and 49), but Area A5 within 10 is clearly lacking other decorations and notable forms as was the case for the lower Area A3 (Fig. 41) staircase. Area A5, given its location near the staircase bottom, could have been filled considerably earlier. Gravity plus the settling of dirt and other material may have propelled more of the earlier Early Horizon ceramics and fill into the lower Area A5 staircase segment while Area A10, the upper staircase segment, remained uncovered longer, thereby receiving sherds with the later decorative techniques such as round punctates and forms such as panpipes. The presence of streaky irregular burnish only in the earliest parts of Area A5's undisturbed context suggests that this surface finish decorated the earliest types in the area.

After a small amount of early activity, Area A10, like Area A5, was filled with demolished architectural material. Within dumped wall and construction debris there were significantly fewer sherds than appeared in deposits overlying these levels. At some point after plaster and stone debris was dumped into the staircase, many fine lenses of silt and sand mixed with ash appear above the stairway. Multiple fine ashy layers along with large amounts of charred sherds point to the eventual utilization of the area as a domestic dump site for a small group living at the highest point on the huaca. As with later levels of other units, Area A5 and Areas A10 wall fall contexts (Figs.47 and 48 and 51 and 52) have a more varied inventory of ceramic types and decorative types and a far greater number of body sherds than earlier levels. Vessel forms include short neck jar, flaring rim jar, and bowl, and decorative motifs include net impression, fabric impression, linear incision, solid circular punctate, appliqués and circle and dot. Earlier Initial Period

architectural features in this area affect ceramic sherd totals in a logical manner because non-free space will have fewer ceramics than a level area which usually exhibits a larger amount of sherds. The greatest number of sherds for A5 and A10 came from the material dumped onto the flat landing of Area A10.

Area A17 evidences a sustained Early Horizon occupation. Area A17 and adjacent Area A4 were very likely among the first areas on the huaca to be reoccupied during the Early Horizon. Decorative types, such as punctates (Fig. 21), known from earlier Initial Period ceramic inventories are present in early mixed contexts alongside Early Horizon types such as net impressed and striped burnished (Figs. 15 and 39).

Unlike the staircase in Areas A3 and A5, where dumping and filling occurred, Area A17 represents a gradual deposition of ceramics over a fairly wide area. The lower proportion of body sherds for both Area A4 and Area A17 suggests a steady deposition of sherds (Tables 1, 3 and 5 and Figs. 58 and 62). Small-scale late Initial Period architecture in this area was filled in and used by later people as a base to support Early Horizon walls and possibly perishable shelters. Most associated ceramics were probably used in Area A17 and later discarded or used for later inner wall fill material. However, this construction sequence resulted in mixed Initial Period and Early Horizon contexts for the lowest Early Horizon levels.

Patterned striped and streaky decorative burnished appear primarily in the Early Horizon sample nearest the Initial Period features within Area A4 (Fig. 57) and Area A17 (Fig. 61) and continue as the levels progress (Tables 3 and 4). Striped burnished and zoned punctate sherds were found mixed with Initial Period punctate sherds prior to extreme changes. The demolishing of huaca top Initial Period architecture and the

dumping of building debris onto the huaca's North wing where Area A4 and Area A17 are located sealed the earliest Early Horizon ceramic assemblage in roughly one episode. After this fill episode the ceramic decorations from Area A4 and Area A17 includes zoned punctate, zoned appliqué, circle and dot, rocker stamping, painted sherds, appliqué, fabric impression and net impression.

As much as 30% of the regular body sherds sample from Area A17 and Area A4 wall fall were charred on at least one surface, suggesting use of the vessels for cooking and/or the sherds for lining a hearth for insulation. The largest shaped sherd assemblage of this study was found in a Area A4, in overlaying layers of square 5 (Fig. 59); and is likely indicative of a workshop or food prep area nearby. The three fire pits, burned sherds, and food remains point to food preparation and the utilization of tools to aid in food prep, ceramic preparation; and/or plaster melting and mixing. Sherd attributes such as excessive charring, weathering and reuse of ceramic sherds within Area A17 were good indicators of domestic occupation. The sample from this area as a whole seems to be in a primary context and indicative of long-term use of the area during the Early Horizon.

The decorated and special surface treatment sherds for Area A17 wall fall were the most diverse of any area on the mound. This area was likely used longer than most other areas on the mound and may have been occupied continuously through most of the Early Horizon. Area A17 had the largest concentration of sherds, the most sherds and the most reported food byproducts of any area. Along with the largest variety of sherds, this area far and away produced the strongest evidence for domestic life in this study. Aside from a fire pit at the earliest within 10 cm levels, at least two other fire pits were also

found in wall fall and dump layers. The presence of fire pits, shaped sherds, and early decoration types suggests a prolonged use of A17 as a living area.

The distribution of sherds by square in Area A17 wall fall suggests a heavy presence of ceramics in areas near Early Horizon walls such as squares 18, 25 and 15 (Table 7 and Fig. 64). These squares had a section of low walls to create shelters with stones or rubble. Furthermore, sherds were used as construction materials or mortar in some cases as ceramic was as prevalent as stone but perhaps a better value for use as ancient building material. Therefore, an area with large numbers of sherds could be seen as an activity area or simply a gathering or end-point for building material. As growth accelerated, new walls in this area accumulated more waste material. Also in wall fall and later layers of A17 there were multiple hard pack layers or mud floors. Hard pack floors indicate periods of relative openness and perhaps regular use of this area, thus allowing such hard pack floors to form. Eventually deposits of ash and food stuffs may have resulted in a complete covering of this area that leveled off at more or less the height of the landings for Area 17 and Area A4.

The presence of shaped sherds in Area A4 adjacent to A17 may have been related to the cleaning or preparing of foodstuffs, initial preparation of ceramic interiors (elsewhere), or their simple use as utensils. The creation of shaped and smoothed sherds as well as circular ceramic disks seems to have been conducted in Area A4. The practice of reworking sherds was most likely a manifestation of manpower constraints or a convenient time saver. Efforts put towards creating wood or other hand tools easily could have gone towards some other activity. Most shaped objects were made from domestic wares. Scrapers, lids, spindle whorls, or other tools made from sherds were

easily replaced due to the availability of broken vessels. The shaped and smoothed sherds were likely employed either as scrapers or as lids for vessels to cover foodstuffs as has been documented in other areas of the Andes (Burger 1984:134; Daggett 1984:180-182; Terada and Onuki 1982:132).

Use of Area A17 as an Early Horizon habitation area seems to have been long term because later Early Horizon forms and types, such as those known for Chankillo, appear in later wall fall contexts adjacent to and within the area (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:103). Along with neckless ollas, ceramic forms from Area A17 and Area A4 wall fall include short neck jar, tall neck jar, flaring rim jar, bottle, stirrup bottle, panpipe and bowl.

In Areas A17 and A4 there is a small amount of evidence for cultural activity after the end of the Early Horizon. This includes three sherds of Casma Incised ceramics from the Early Intermediate Period (Figs. 26 and 59) and four late period press molded sherds (Tables 2 and 6). On the eastern edge of Area A17 in square 23, near the surface, a figural jar neck (Figs. 35 and 63) was found within a disturbed looters' pit. This ceramic evidence was accompanied by intrusive burials, later hearths, and artificially refilled pits as is illustrated by the mixing of late and early decoration types.

In Area A6, the frieze was drastically altered, probably in one episode, with the friezes being removed (Pozorski and Pozorski 2009 personal communication). Early concentrations of sherds (Fig. 54) including the early appearance of streaky burnished decoration (Fig. 53), make this area much like the staircase contexts of Area A3 and Area A5. These data also indicate at least some early use of the area as a place to prepare or consume foodstuffs without being seen from points off the mound. A concentration of

sherds adjacent to the former position of the colonnades and friezes in this area could indicate a shelter or fill situation. Early Horizon decorations found in wall fall/fill in this area include net impressed and appliqué sherds; forms include panpipe, neckless olla, short neck jar, shaped sherd, shaped disk and perforated disk. In these later wall fall layers, there were four squares with 160 or more sherds (Sqs. 8, 13, 14 and15) and all of these were in the northwest part of area A6 wall fall (Fig. 56). Much like on and above the Initial Period floors of Area A17, in Area A6 loose, silty soil was found along with at least one informal hearth. Apparently Initial Period architecture with prominent features such as benches and low walls was not immediately covered as evidenced by the layer of silty sand on the often incomplete floors of the previous time period. Initial Period walls of Area A6 could have provided some initial protection from the elements.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY:

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION- REGARDING SECHIN ALTO SITE

Each Early Horizon context was situated on top of or directly adjacent to a feature from a previous time period such as a stairway or other preexisting Initial Period architectural feature. Rebuilding on already extant structures is known to have occurred elsewhere in Coastal Peru. Information on earlier features, when available, was used to juxtapose data from the site's later occupation. In addition, the use of observable and familiar features such as low walls or staircases to differentiate the six units in the study was valuable in coordinating ideas relevant to the study.

The availability of six individual units of study pertaining to such dramatic changes in an event of reoccupation provides an opportunity to analyze motivation. Sherds found at the lowest levels of the six units effectively made up the earliest inventory of Early Horizon sherds that accumulated on the features. Subsequently material was gathered and heaped into the stairways and other areas of unnatural deposition such as the landing and stairway in Area A4. Ceramic material found after restructuring at Sechin Alto seems to reflect many of the attributes of later Early Horizon types. The post fill/dumped material from Area A17 near surface areas also indicated a large spike in the number of sherds deposited.

Each of the six ceramic units within this study reflects a departure from the previous Initial Period mindset of open plazas and channeled access to certain public areas. Changes made to the huaca, or large pyramidal platform, modified some of the most formal aspects of the site's original layout. The reoccupation of Initial Period centers by later groups represented a total departure regarding the use of these structures. Not only were tons of material dumped into entrances and architecture, but, for the first time, the huaca was the site of a domestic occupation instead of a place of administration or veneration.

The raw data contained information about other material that, along with ceramic sherds, was deposited, dumped, and moved from other places on the huge structure. Other material found dumped into various features included stone (facing stones and boulders), adobes and dietary related byproducts. While not officially part of the ceramic inventory, the additional material found alongside ceramics provided a context related to the varied uses vessels and sherds may have served.

The types of deposits varied greatly--from natural deposition of ceramics to intentional use of sherds along with other cultural material to alter an area's look and use. For example Area A6 and Area A10, areas of previous importance, were stripped of mud friezes and/or architecture; and Area A17 had multiple low walls built by accretion during the Early Horizon. The new Early Horizon occupants of the earlier site brought their own preferences for architecture and in fact used the site as a quarry. Conical adobes once found in the oldest parts of the mound were mined along with stones for reuse in rudimentary walls and to obstruct entry to the huge huaca's once formal entryways.

The relative association of ceramics with other types of evidence such as charcoal was not always a sure indicator of cooking in that immediate area. In the case of stairways A3, A5 and A10, for example, most fill material came from other points on the mound and was deposited secondarily on the stairways. Material dumped into stairways was initially meant to fill and obstruct the use of the stairways, while later layers revealed dumping done out of convenience of proximity to living spaces. Charcoal and burned ceramic sherds in Area A17, however, were accompanied by at least three informal hearths and large amounts of shell and other food stuffs. Significant clues such as sherd weathering and the presence of floors also indicated a longer duration of use for this area. This evidence documents long-term Early Horizon use of this sector as a habitation area.

The new inhabitants of the huaca brought along a new ceramic inventory. The ceramic assemblage reflected practicality and in all manner utility in form. Most fragments came from domestic forms and exhibited signs of intense use such as charring and repair. It seems likely that neckless ollas served multiple purposes in addition to cooking, such as storage of dry goods and water. Shaped ceramic tools could have been used to smooth the interior of ceramic vessels, or perhaps to scrape fish or meat from skin.

Diagnostic Ceramics Through Time

The earliest levels in all areas within this study yielded ceramics with streaky irregular burnish as a special surface treatment. Area A3 and Area A5 also had one fabric impressed sherd in their respective decorated types. Area A17 appears to have been among the earliest areas of reoccupation at Sechin Alto during the Early Horizon. Decorated types from the Initial Period, such as punctates, appear in mixed contexts

alongside Early Horizon decorations such as circle and dot and fabric/net impression. Streaky irregular burnish did not appear to be as prevalent by the latter part of the Early Horizon. The decorated and special surface treatment sherds for Area A17 wall fall were the most diverse of any area on the mound. In addition, the assemblage for this area was in part comprised of two types and three subtypes found nowhere else on the mound. These decorated types were from earlier contexts that later mixed with Early Horizon decoration types.

Early Horizon decorations known from other Casma Valley sites were found. The most notable among these are the net and fabric impressed sherds which have been found at every Early Horizon site or occupation in the Casma Valley (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:59). Other significant sherd decoration types include circle and dot and appliqué decorated tall neck jar sherds.

Areas that had single or few decoration types early on (i.e. A3, A5 and A10) were likely buried quickly by the dump and fill associated with restructuring. They generally only had the richness in later decoration types within later midden contexts deposited after restructuring contexts. Areas that had multiple types early on, such as Areas A4 and A17, were probably in use relatively early and would have remained uncovered for much of the earlier Early Horizon. Later components of the assemblage in Area A4 and Area A17 also include tall neck jars and net impression. Circle and dot decoration along with other regionally recognized Early Horizon decoration types such as appliqué relief and pigment decoration appear primarily within later wall fall and only after most dump levels.

Early Intermediate Period and Middle Horizon Presence at Sechin Alto

Area A17 and Area A4 suggest the longest duration of use currently known at Early Horizon Sechin Alto, but both indicate a mixed ceramic component. Streaky decorative and streaky irregular burnish, both common Early Horizon decorative surface treatments, are mixed with early and later ceramic assemblages. These include Initial Period punctate sherds and later Early Horizon forms such as decorated tall neck jars and decorations such as circle and dot, confirm mixing of earlier Initial Period assemblages with Early Horizon and later material.

Within these layers and within the near surface sample, examples of Early Intermediate Period and Middle Horizon forms and decoration types such as a modeled figural jar neck (Wilson 1988:438-439), press molded decoration (Wilson 1988:464-467) and Casma incised sherds were found (Wilson 1988:496-498).

CHAPTER 6

DISCUSSION

There are key differences among Casma Valley sites of the Early Horizon. Sites such as Sechin Alto, nearby Cerro Sechin and coastal Las Haldas were reoccupied rather early during the Early Horizon, according to ceramic evidence. Other Early Horizon Casma Valley sites including Pampa Rosario, San Diego and Chankillo were entirely new constructions, with San Diego and Chankillo corresponding to a significantly later portion of the Early Horizon (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:118-119).

Casma Valley Settlements Established During the Early Horizon

Las Haldas (Burger 1992:86; Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:23-25) was initially a preceramic site. Later components include Initial Period as well as Early Horizon occupations. Among sites belonging to the Early Horizon, Las Haldas produced some of the earliest dates. Similar to Early Horizon Sechin Alto, the Las Haldas Early Horizon occupation was largely comprised of low walls and perishable architecture laid out over earlier monumental architecture. Reoccupation of the central mound was also evident from midden found on the stairways. Stairways at Las Haldas were covered with debris and ashy layers confirming a small informal post-primary domestic occupation.

Ceramic evidence at Las Haldas relates well to the other Casma Valley finds of the same approximate antiquity. Sechin Alto's assemblage contained some of the same holdover decorative types such as dentate rocker stamping and punctuations. Las Haldas

has few examples of later decorations. One can tentatively conclude that Las Haldas was reoccupied fairly early in the history of the Early Horizon. The most commonly found diagnostic sherd at Las Haldas was the neckless olla (jar); along with necked jar, bottle and bowl.

Cerro Sechin also underwent changes, although these changes occurred much earlier. In their article "New Evidence on Cerro Sechin, Casma Valley Peru," Samaniego et al. (1985:165) mentions two large passageways filled by a massive stone and clay fill believed to be derived from demolished buildings. This area may have been filled in an attempt to block easy access to and from one of the previously open areas. Although these changes clearly occurred earlier, during the Initial Period, immediately after the filled in areas was a hiatus followed by a thin occupational layer containing Early Horizon ceramics.

Cerro Sechin's Early Horizon assemblage was critical as a comparative assemblage from another reoccupied site in the vicinity of Sechin Alto. Decorative types found in Early Horizon ceramic assemblages at Cerro Sechin contained many later Early Horizon decorative attributes and ceramic objects, leading to a possible connection between Cerro Sechin and Sechin Alto at this later time. The decoration types and objects include circle and dot decoration and panpipe fragments. Early connections were formed by the presence of the decorative types prevalent in the Initial Period, and these may again be due to mixing caused by restructuring episodes during the earliest parts of the Early Horizon. These types included punctate decorations and zoned decorations as well as zoned punctation examples. Some decoration types from both sites, such as circle and dot, were similar to Chavin's Janabarriu phase decorations (Burger 1984:139).

The presence of panpipe fragments from a level above drastic architectural changes at Cerro Sechin corresponded to a similar expansion of the ceramic inventory at Sechin Alto after the structural changes to the top of the huaca. Cerro Sechin, like Sechin Alto, confirms a desire to reestablish a presence at the most visible sites in the Casma Valley. Forms found at Cerro Sechin include neckless olla, panpipe and tall neck jar.

Pampa Rosario, a Casma Valley site pertaining exclusively to the Early Horizon, is primarily residential. Pampa Rosario yielded a variety of vessel forms including neckless olla, short-neck jar, tall-neck jar, bowls, grater bowl, flaring-rim jar, and bottle with thick stirrup spout. Ceramic objects such as shaped circular disk, panpipe and solid figurine were found as well. Decoration types found at Pampa Rosario include incision, zoned and unzoned punctation, circle and dot design, textile and net impressed sherds, zoned white painted designs bordered with incised lines and also appliqués and examples of modeling (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:68-69).

San Diego (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:59-61) is a large residential site attributed to the latter half of the Early Horizon. San Diego was a largely undifferentiated site, with many small and medium rooms interconnected with small plazas and common walls. Decorative types found at San Diego include incised examples, zoned and unzoned punctuation, circle and dot decoration, as well as net and fabric impressed examples. Other sherd types found at San Diego include white painted bordered with incised lines, appliqué knobs and hand modeled features on some vessels. Forms found at San Diego include the short neck jar, tall neck jar, bowl, grater bowl, and jar with thick stirrup spout. Ceramic objects found at San Diego include panpipes and a ceramic club head. Both

perforated and unperforated shaped ceramic disks were found as well. These forms verify a link with ceramics made by people at Pampa Rosario and Sechin Alto.

Chankillo (Fung and Pimentel 1973; Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:103) is a large, mixed fortress and possible habitation site overlooking the Casma Valley. The mixed fortress/ritual site is believed to date to the latter part of the Early Horizon and may have been among the last Casma Valley sites to be occupied during the Early Horizon. Although few ceramics have been found inside Chankillo itself, ceramics from areas adjacent to the fortress sites produced many examples of Early Horizon styles. Ceramic material found near and around Chankillo was very similar to that of San Diego and Pampa Rosario and shared many attributes with the Early Horizon components of Sechin branch sites.

Ceramic decoration types found at Chankillo include circle and dot motifs with no post design polishing or smoothing (Fung and Pineda 1973:77), fabric impressed sherds, and slash punctation sherds. Key forms include the neckless olla, short neck jar and flaring rim jar as well. Notably, Chankillo also yielded a larger sample of decorated tall neck jars than any other site in the Casma Valley for this time period. Ceramic objects included shaped and perforated sherds and panpipe fragments as well (Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:68-69).

Final Considerations

The changes addressed within this study reflect a larger story of abandonment of the large coastal centers of the Initial Period. The people who built these centers abandoned them for some unknown reason. Later, during the Early Horizon, fortress sites increased in number in valleys north of the Casma Valley (Daggett 1984:294, 311).

However, few if any of these defensive sites appeared in Casma until much later in the Early Horizon. Sechin Alto may have initially attracted attention as a defensible position. Such locations may have been desirable for a group fearful of still other ambitious groups trying to wrestle control of a then poorly utilized system. If accustomed to fortress building, foreigners could have realized the potential for limited sanctuary at Sechin Alto. For most areas on the mound, very few sherds appear in the earliest layers of Early Horizon material. This limited material was followed immediately by the deposition of demolished building material. The second transforming stage may have been indicative of a larger group returning to reinforce the existing numbers or of an entirely different group usurping the first and committing the drastic changes immediately after. Limited quantities of sherds were found within the actual demolished material. The bulk of the ceramic evidence came from layers of discarded occupational debris deposited only after the restructuring of the site.

After a time of establishment at Sechin Alto, exploration of other Casma Valley areas could be more easily achieved. The early ceramic assemblage at Sechin Alto seems to confirm that the site was in fact among the first Early Horizon settlements to be established after the Initial Period disruption.

Early decoration types and the extensive variety of sherd types and decorative types corresponding to the later sequence lend credence to the hypothesis that Area A17 was occupied for a large part, if not all, of the Early Horizon at Sechin Alto. It was also subject to extensive remodeling. Types found at both San Diego and Pampa Rosario fit well within the range of Sechin Alto's later Early Horizon assemblage. On the other hand, Area A17's early assemblage shares most attributes with neighboring Nepeña

Valley's Phase 1 or Santa's Caywamarca ceramics phase (Daggett 1984:134-140; Wilson 1988:371-391). Most types of decoration mentioned for Nepeña's ceramic inventory were also found at Sechin Alto. Panpipes, slate blades and textiles further connect the two valleys and appear to confirm the existence of interaction between the two valleys.

In all, ceramics deposited during the reoccupation of Sechin indicate the presence of several agglutinated dwellings for a small group of people. The changes made at Sechin Alto could have been the most economical way to create a mixed refuge/habitation site on a small unnatural ridge near a source of water. The final incarnation, with obstructed entryways paired with the overwhelming size of the site and endless supply of hand missiles, created a decent defensive position on the valley floor. The plateau created by the sheer immensity of the site was suitable living space for a small group of extended families as evidenced by the plentitude of utility ware sherds.

South of Casma at Chimu Capac in the Supe Valley (Valkenier 1995:277), ceramic panpipes like those found at Casma Valley sites were discovered in floor fill and in an adjacent field. Many other aspects of the local assemblage, including circle and dot decoration, were found at Chimu Capac as well. Chimu Capac is suspected to have an Early Horizon component based on the presence of panpipes and circle and dot decorations overlying known Initial Period material and the lack of Middle Horizon material in this part of the site (Valkenier 1995).

Along with the early and continued use of the local assemblage at sites such as Las Haldas and the slightly later San Diego and Pampa Rosario, activity at a variety of Early Horizon sites in the lower Casma could have aided in the continued dispersal of the earlier ceramic traits into neighboring valleys. Some later sites in Nepeña seem to

document this occurrence (Daggett 1984:275-276, 410-404). At some sites, earlier aspects such as patterned burnishing reappeared in more complex versions alongside much later ceramic types such as Casma Incised. Movement back and forth would be possible because the two drainages are in close proximity.

Fortress-like sites such as Chankillo may have been less effective as actual fortress sites and more effective as a symbol of the shared ability to protect an area from outside aggression. Despite posturing, however, many late Early Horizon fortress sites did have parapets and bastions (Daggett 1984:293-294). Fortress sites in neighboring Nepeña and Santa Valleys have constructions that suggest defense of their southern approaches. A continued influence of ideas via the upland Nepeña to mid/lower Casma area and, perhaps more importantly, from valleys to the south, may have created regional ties among these areas despite geographic divisions.

The wide dispersion of simple decorations over time and the absence of extra-area influenced iconography confirm another type of arrangement was in play for the Casma Valley and nearby river valleys during the Early Horizon. The presence of faunal representations in realistic renderings and the absence of supernatural renderings points to a more secular order being held. The widespread presence of similar artifacts over time at Sechin Alto and other Early Horizon sites in the region document unified ideas about eating, working and living while still reflecting a departure from Initial Period splendor.

The neighboring Nepeña Valley has generally been seen as having a cultural link to the population in the Casma Valley during the Early Horizon. Area A17 and adjacent Area A4 were very likely among the first areas to be inhabited for any period of time

during the Early Horizon. Comparisons to nearly identical collections from Early Phases in nearby Nepeña Valley (Daggett 1984:134) seem to confirm that some of A17's early, Early Horizon assemblage could have been precursors to like types in that valley. Habitation and defensive sites in Nepena's mid-valley altitudes were a short day's walk from some Casma Valley locales (Daggett 1987). Groups of people could have created a close association between the two valleys and established a more stationary population at mid-level Nepeña sites. Some evidence for an Initial Period to Early Horizon presence of a very similar assemblage to the one in this study has been documented for Nepeña (Daggett 1987).

The larger regional similarity of this assemblage seems to confirm ties to the larger Patazca grouping (Collier 1962:412; Pozorski and Pozorski 1987:60). The significant ceramic evidence suggests a prolonged Early Horizon occupation in the lower Casma Valley around the time of Pampa Rosario and San Diego. The reoccupation of Sechin Alto and the reutilization of remnants of the Initial Period irrigation system could have given Early Horizon peoples just enough initiative to maintain an outpost of sorts. This arrangement could have led to populations eventually outgrowing Sechin Alto, and surrounding huacas and eventually creating new, or joining with existing sites.

The ceramic material within this study indicates that Early Horizon Sechin Alto relates well to the other Early Horizon sites such as San Diego and Pampa Rosario and to the Early Horizon components of sites such as Cerro Sechin and other areas of Early Horizon occupation at Sechin Alto. Sechin Alto's Early Horizon component, for the most part, is earlier than Chankillo's assemblage but appears to be later than that of Pampa Rosario. Sechin Alto's Early Horizon assemblage shares many affinities with

evidence found at San Diego in particular. Among the similarities are the neckless olla with spout, presence of net/fabric impression, and shaped sherds; as well as many other forms such as the panpipe, tall neck jar and everted rim jar favored during the mid-to-late Early Horizon in the Casma Valley.

Overall, ceramic evidence for post-Initial Period, Early Horizon occupation at Sechin Alto corresponds well with Early Horizon findings at other sites within the Casma Valley. Sechin Alto's Early Horizon assemblage is most like that of San Diego, although with some of the later characteristics from Pampa Rosario as well. In some areas later Early Horizon ceramic forms and decorations, much like those at Chankillo (i.e. tall neck jar and appliqués) appear, but are not prevalent. This places the Early Horizon assemblage at Sechin Alto well within the known Casma Valley Early Horizon history.

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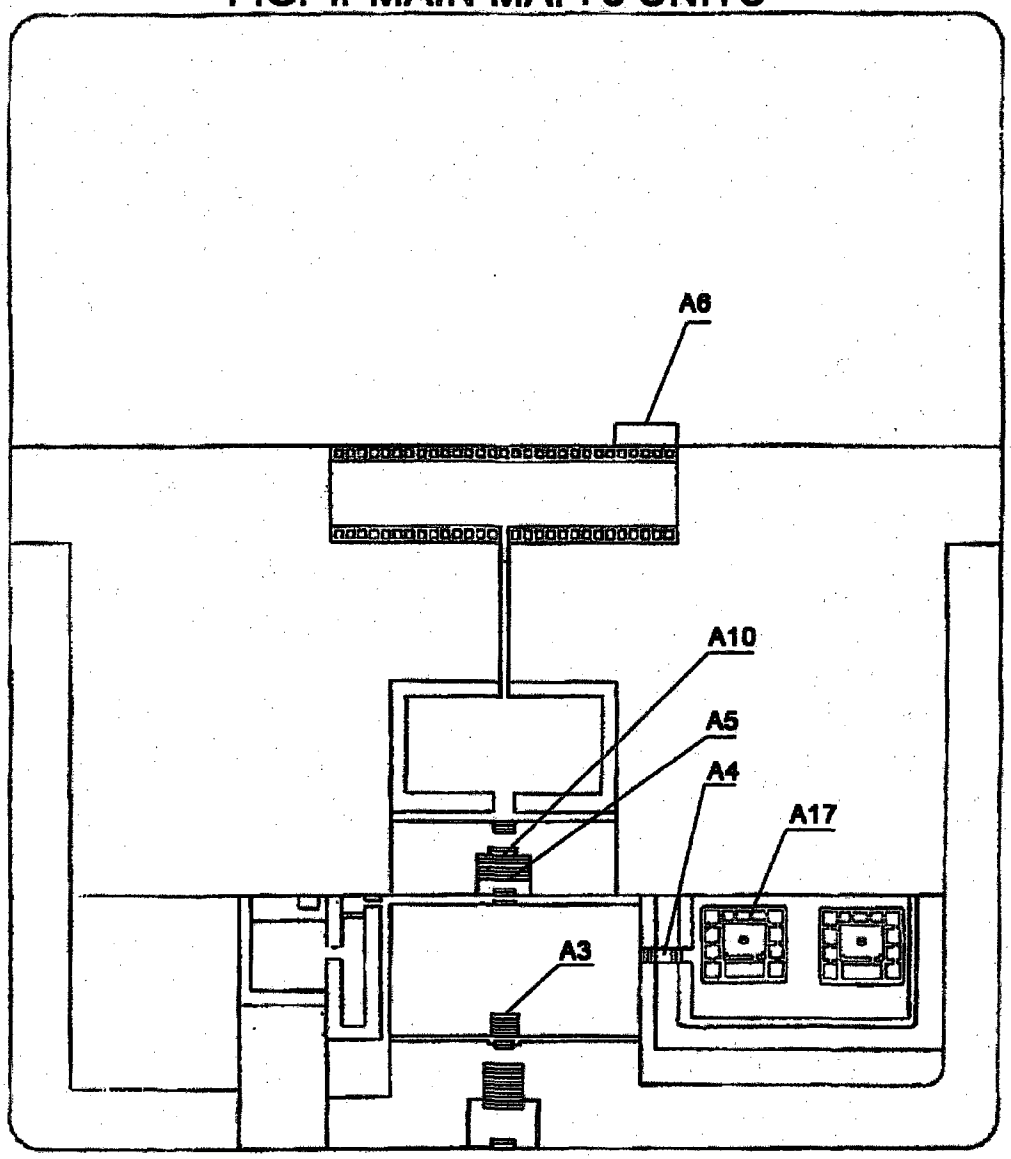
APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

FIG. 1. MAIN MAP: 6 UNITS



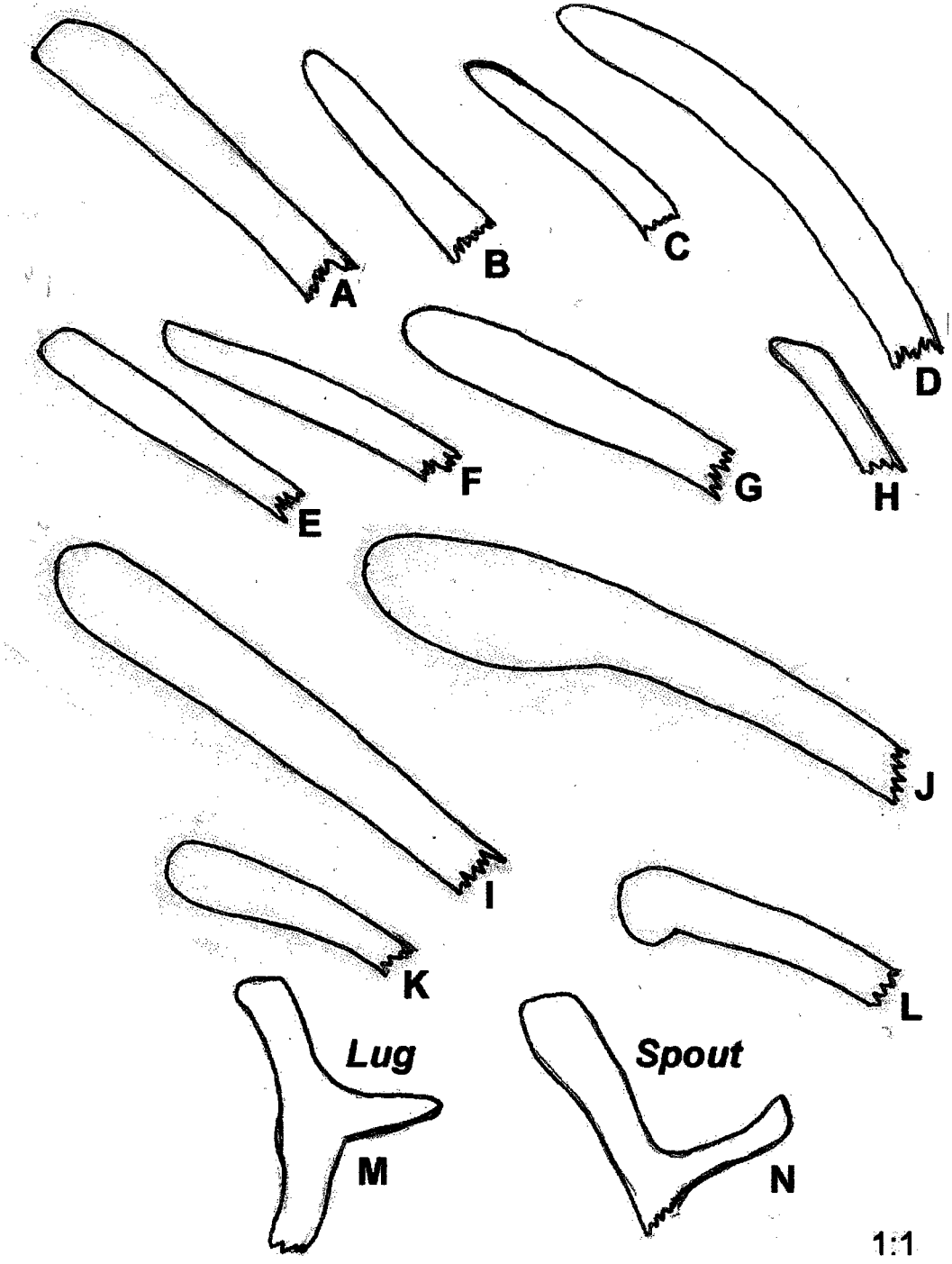
A3
A4
A5
A6
A10
A17

Fig. 2 Types Chart

Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4	Type 5	Type 6	Type 7	Type 8
reduced coarse burnished	oxidized coarse unburnished	reduced coarse unburnished	reduced coarse burnished	oxidized fine unburnished	reduced fine highly burnished	oxidized fine (more particles than no. 5) unburnished	oxidized fine unburnished Moche-like, very red, even firing
Type 9	Type 10	Type 11	Type 12	Type 13	Type 14	Type 15	Type 16
oxidized fine burnished painted, Moche-like, thin thickness	reduced fine burnished	reduced fine unburnished	oxidized fine burnished red & black paint	oxidized fine burnished thick thickness	oxidized fine burnished	reduced fine unburnished thicker than 11	oxidized fine unburnished white paint
Type 17	Type 18	Type 19	Type 20	Type 21	Type 22	Type 23	
reduced very coarse burnished	reduced very coarse unburnished	oxidized very coarse unburnished	oxidized very coarse burnished	oxidized fine burnished with red slip	reduced fine burnished with red slip	reduced coarse burnished with red slip	

APPENDIX B

Fig. 3. Neckless Ollas



A. - L. Neckless olla profiles; M. Olla w/ lug; N. Olla w/ spout.

Fig. 4. Short Neck and Everted Rim Jars

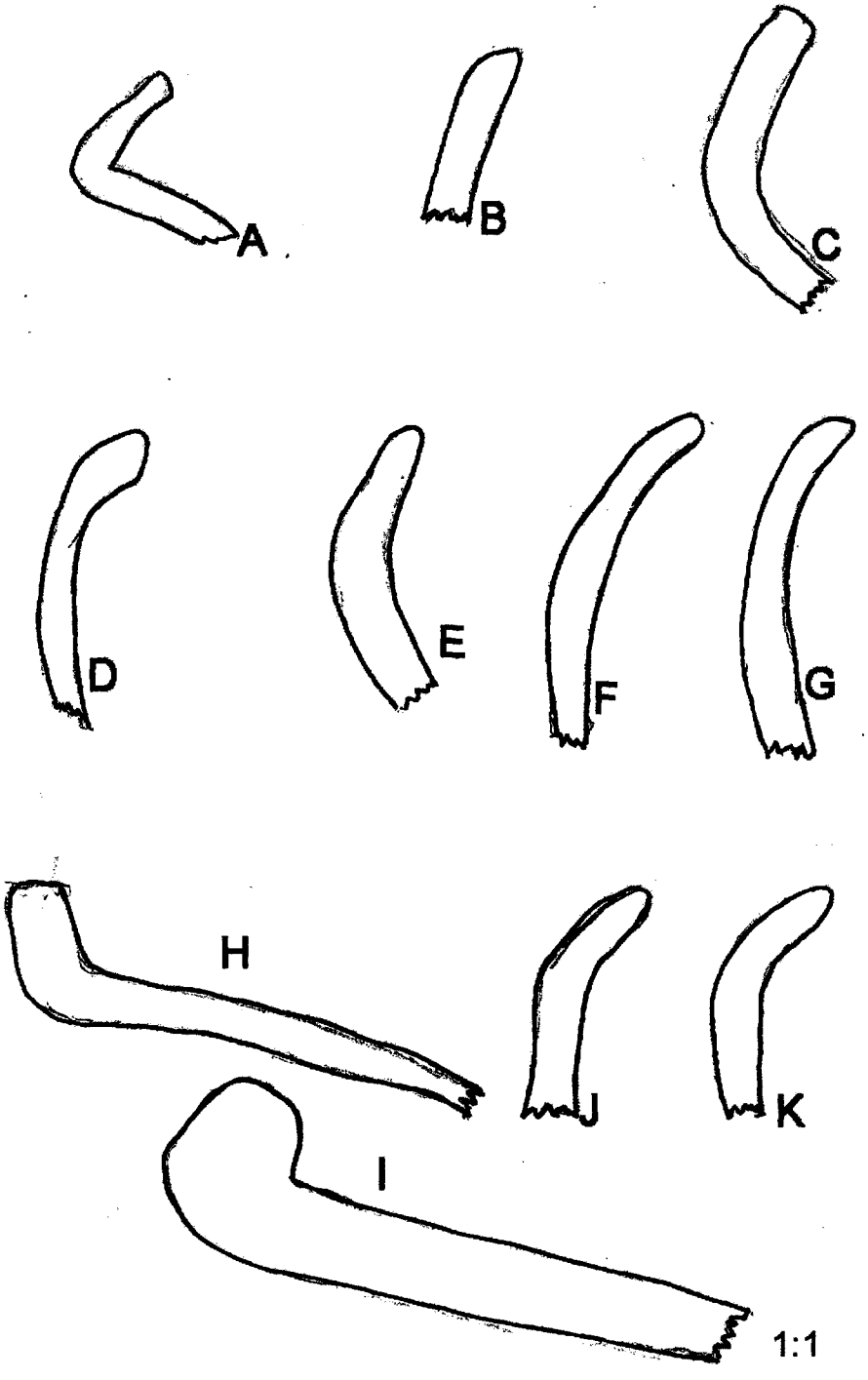


Fig. 5. Tall Neck Jars

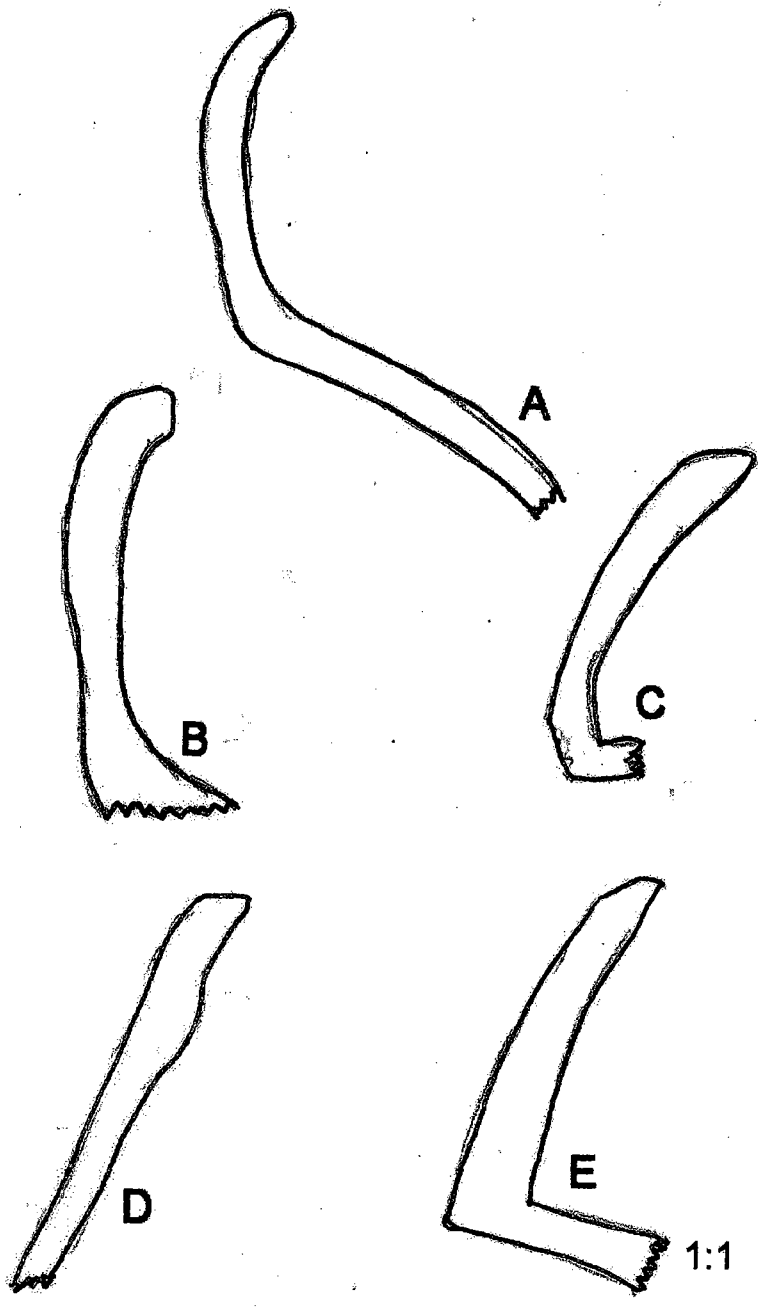
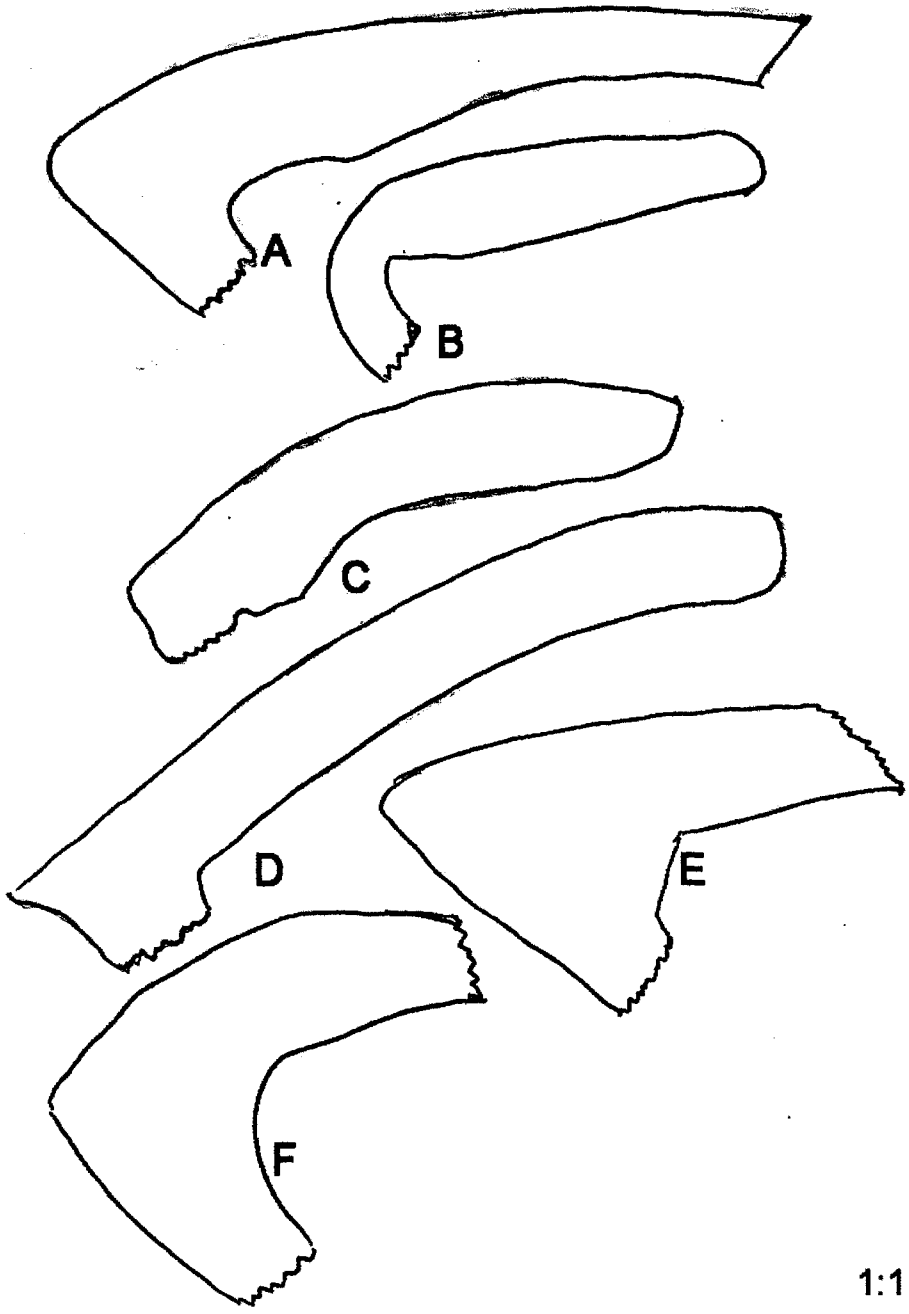


Fig. 6. Flaring Rim Jars



1:1

Fig. 7. Bowls

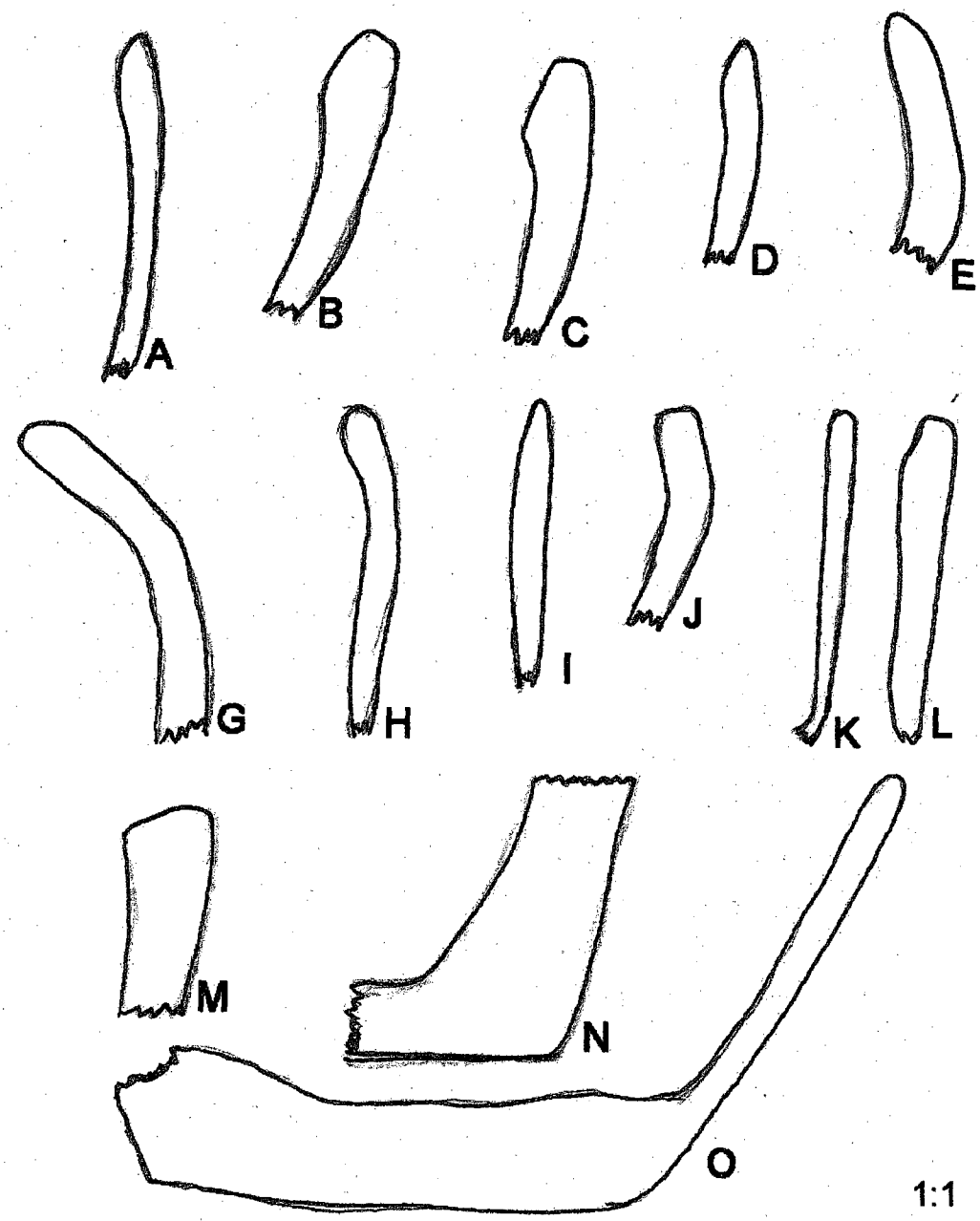
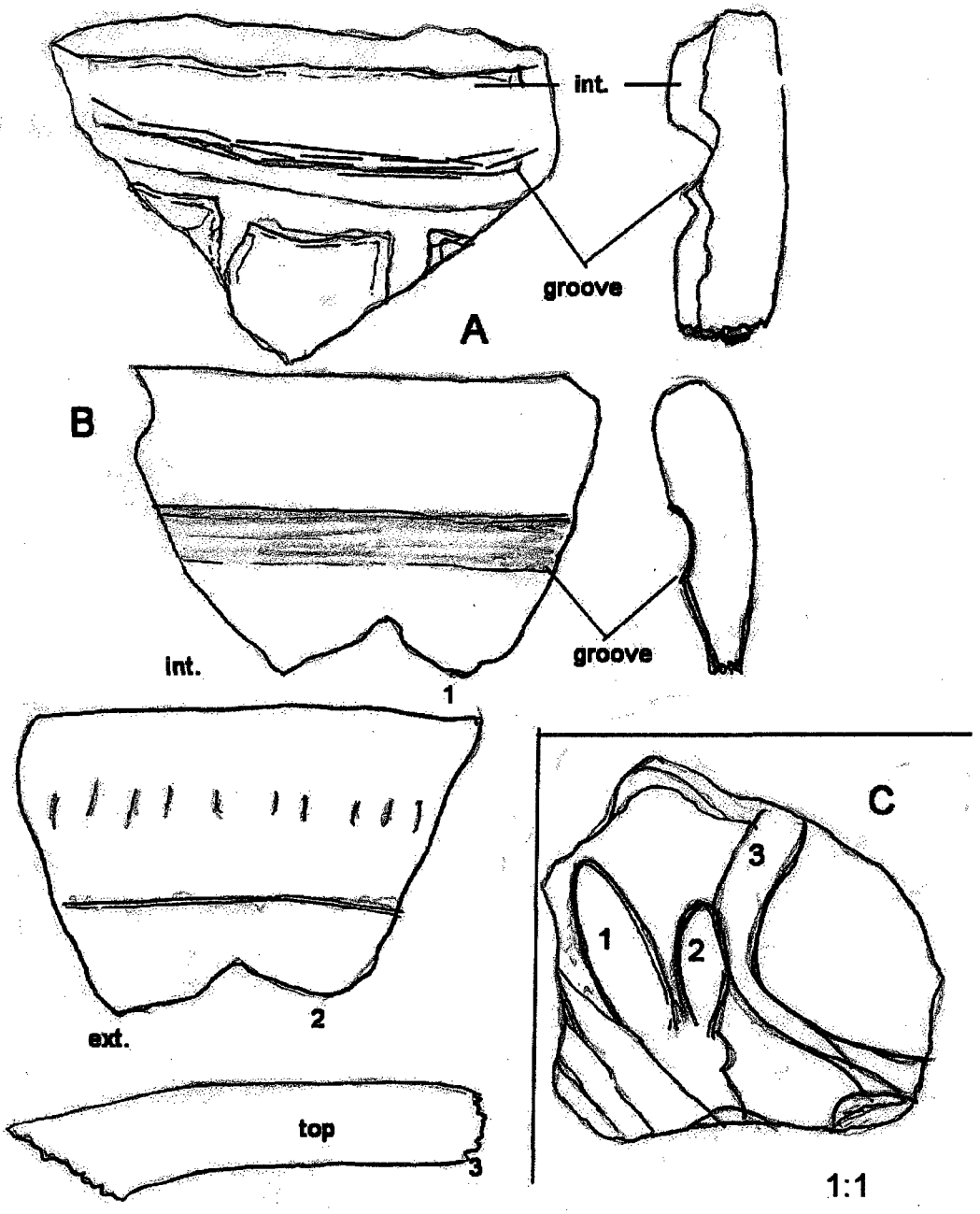


Fig. 8. Grater Bowls



A. Grater: inner groove; B. Grater rim; 1. interior, 2. exterior, 3. top; C. Grater sherd: interior folds (1, 2, & 3)

Fig. 9. Shallow Bowl and Tray Fragment

1:1

Fig. 10. Bottles: Stirrup and Straight Neck

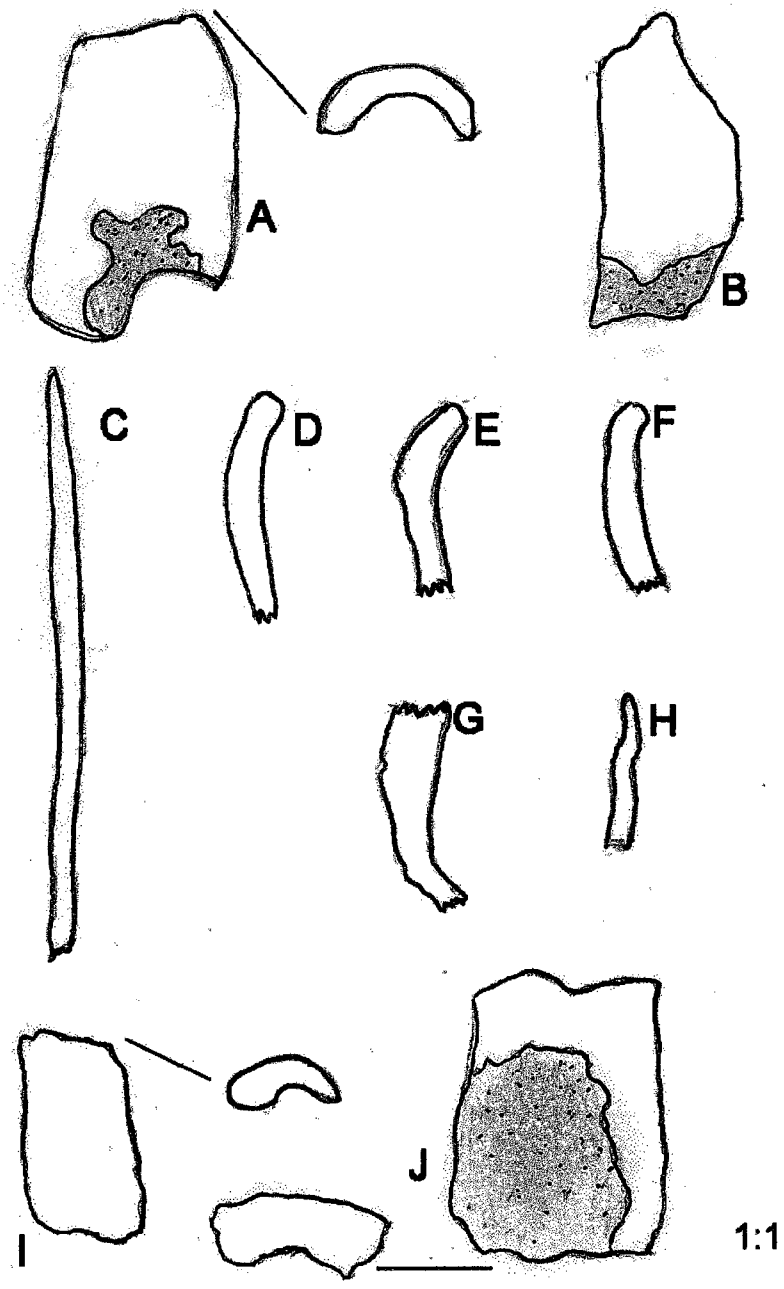


Fig. 11. Panpipes

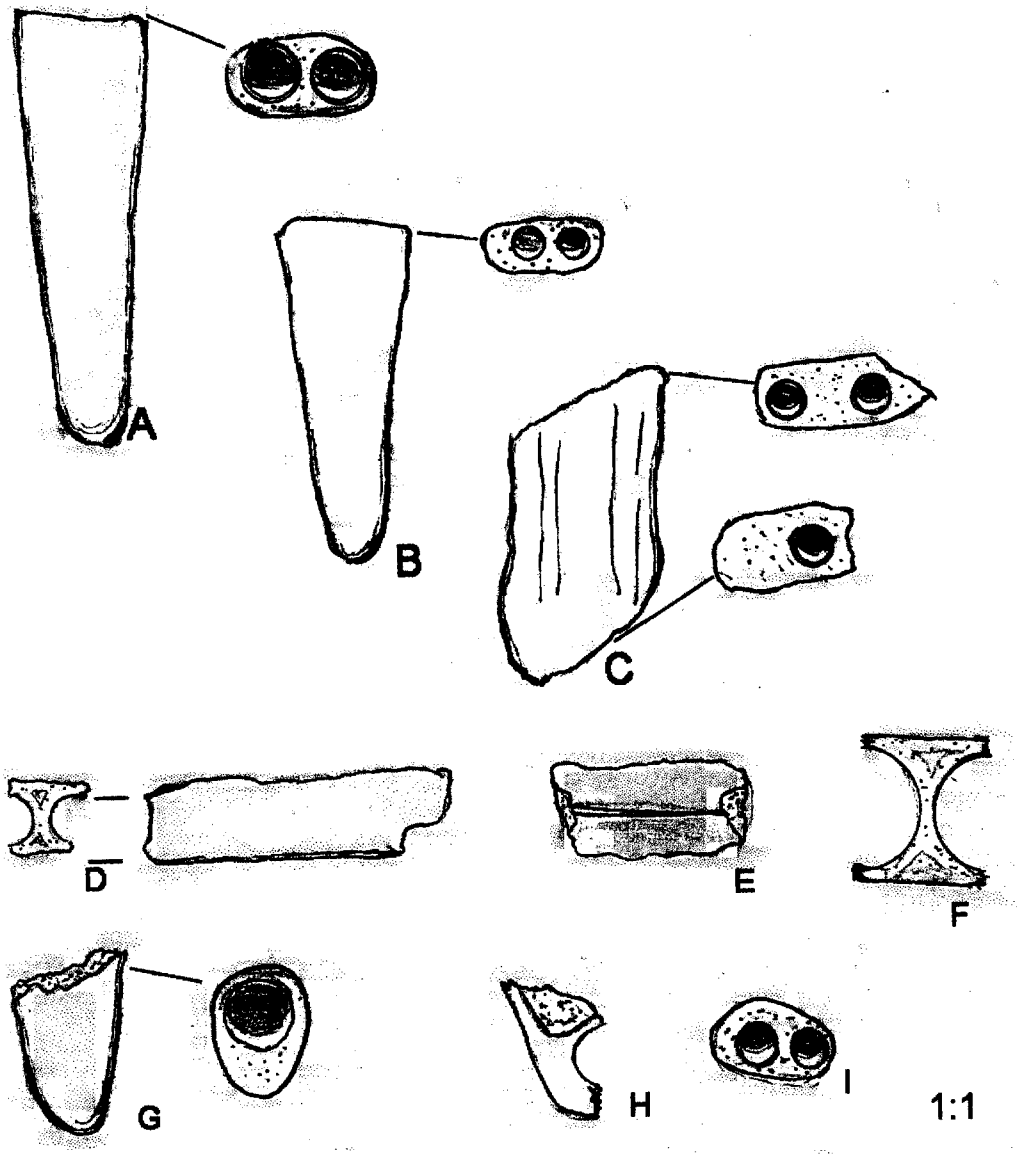


Fig. 12. Shaped Circular Discs and D-Shaped Sherds

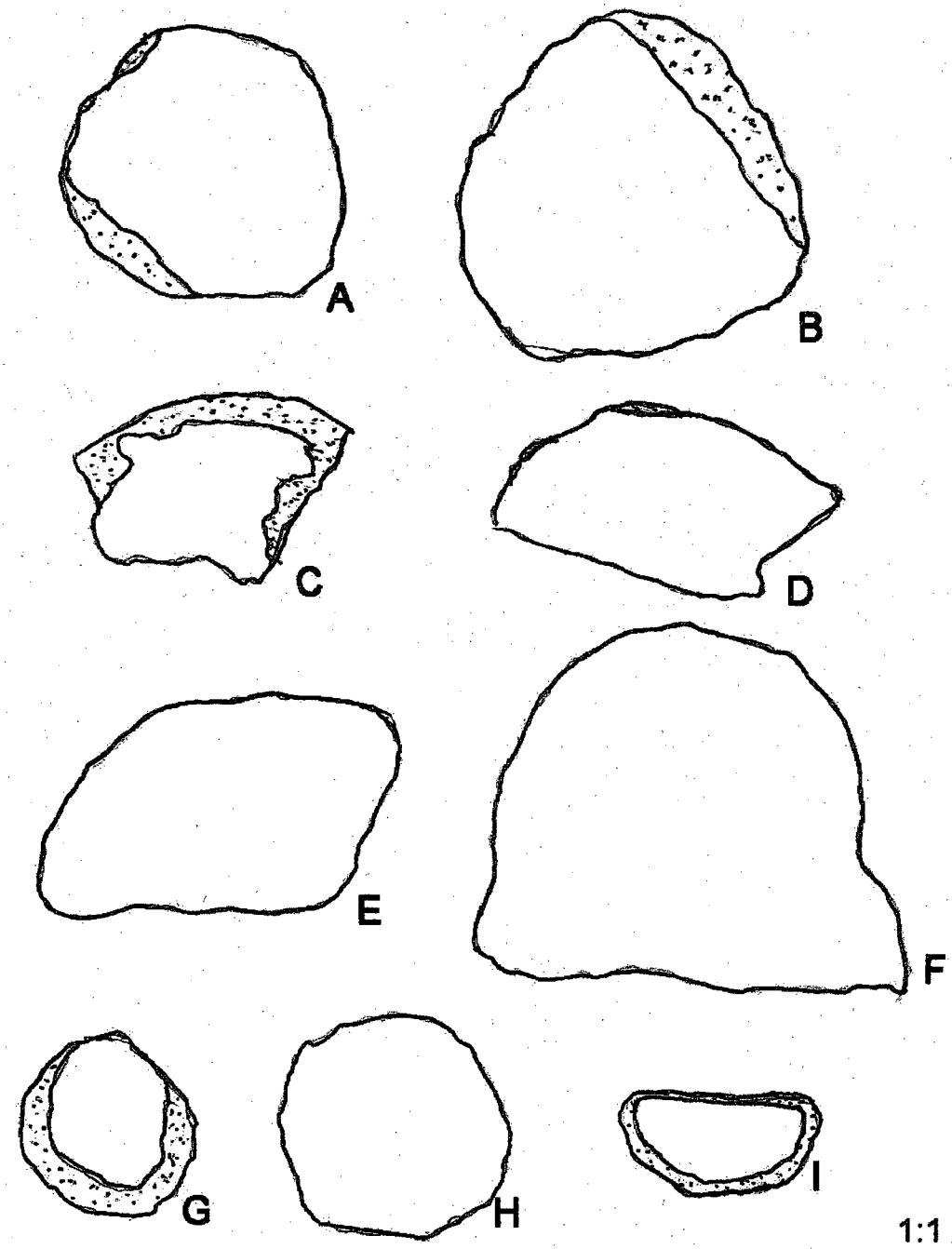


Fig. 13. Shaped: Rectangular and Triangular

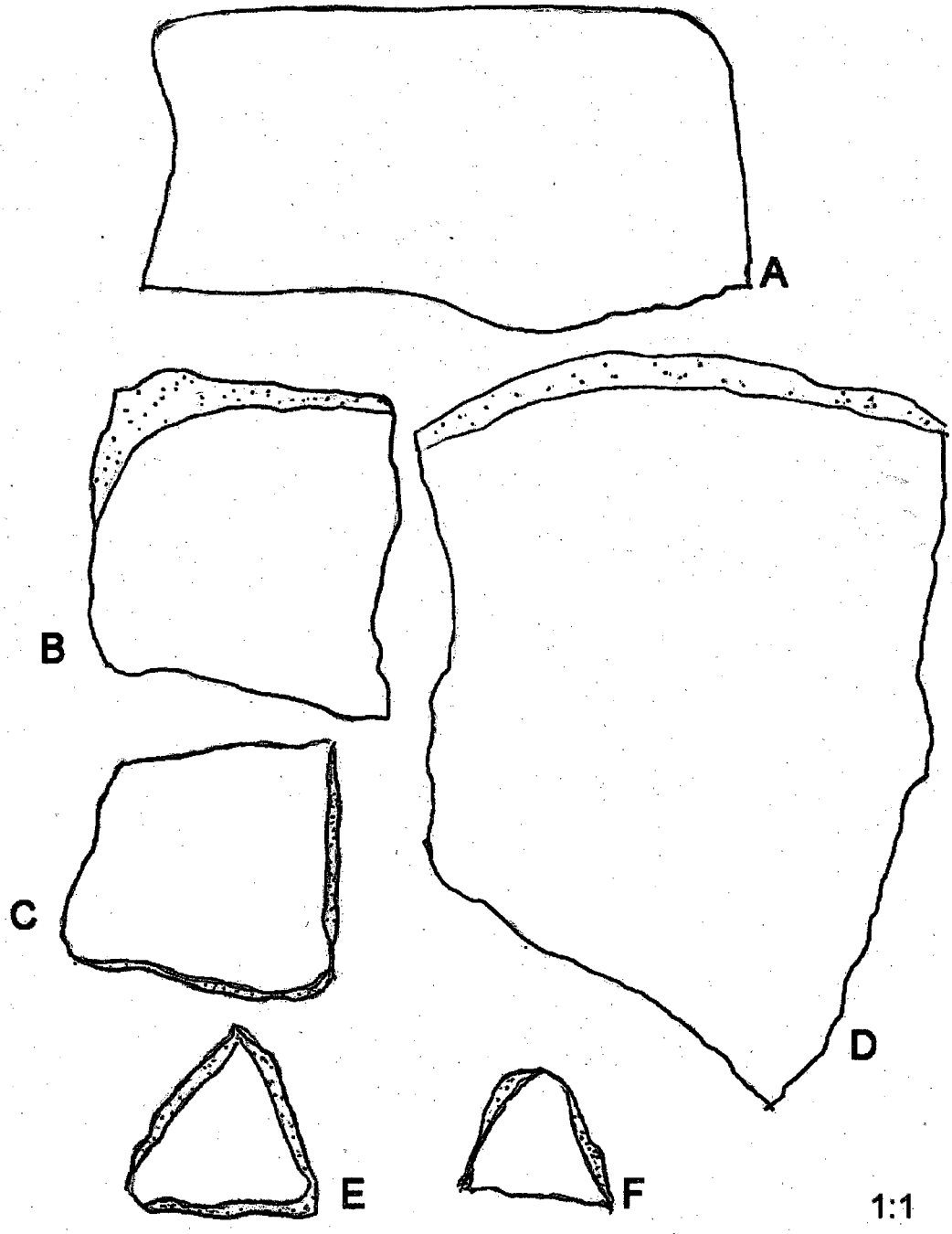


Fig. 14. Perforated Sherds: Disc, Rim and Body

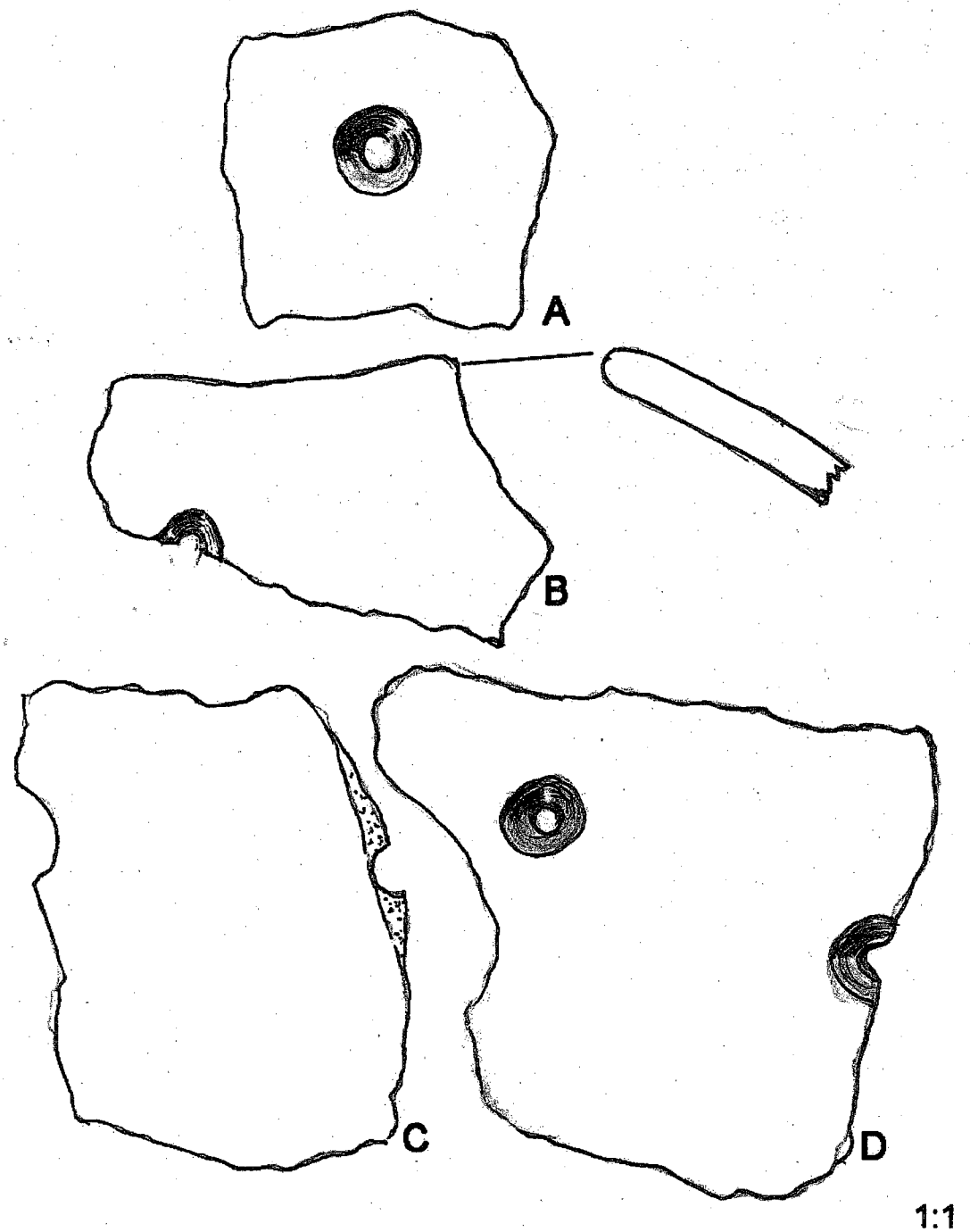
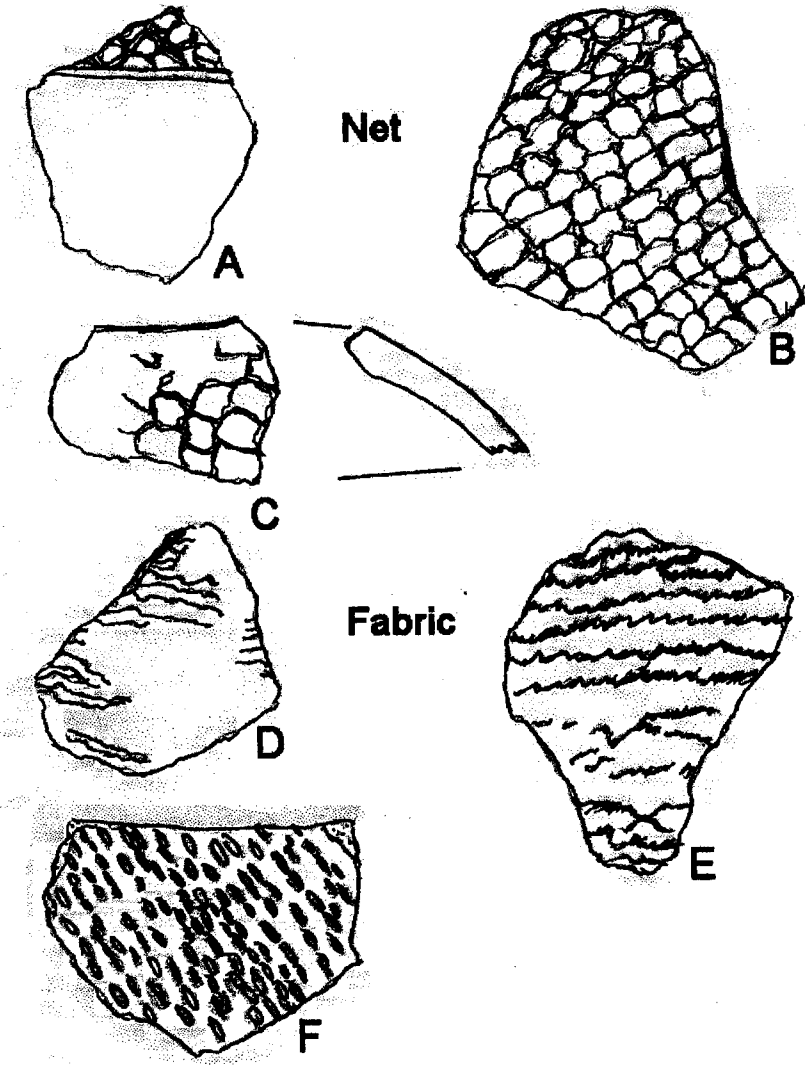
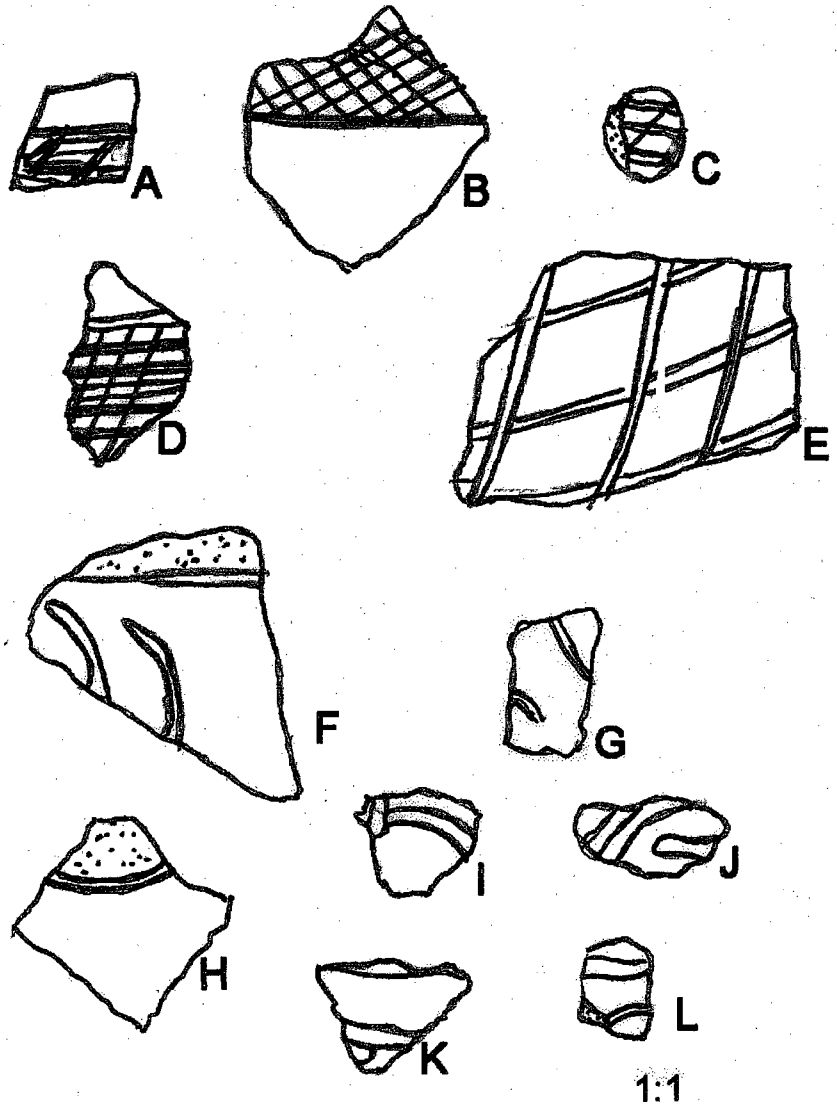


Fig. 15. Net and Fabric Impression Early Horizon



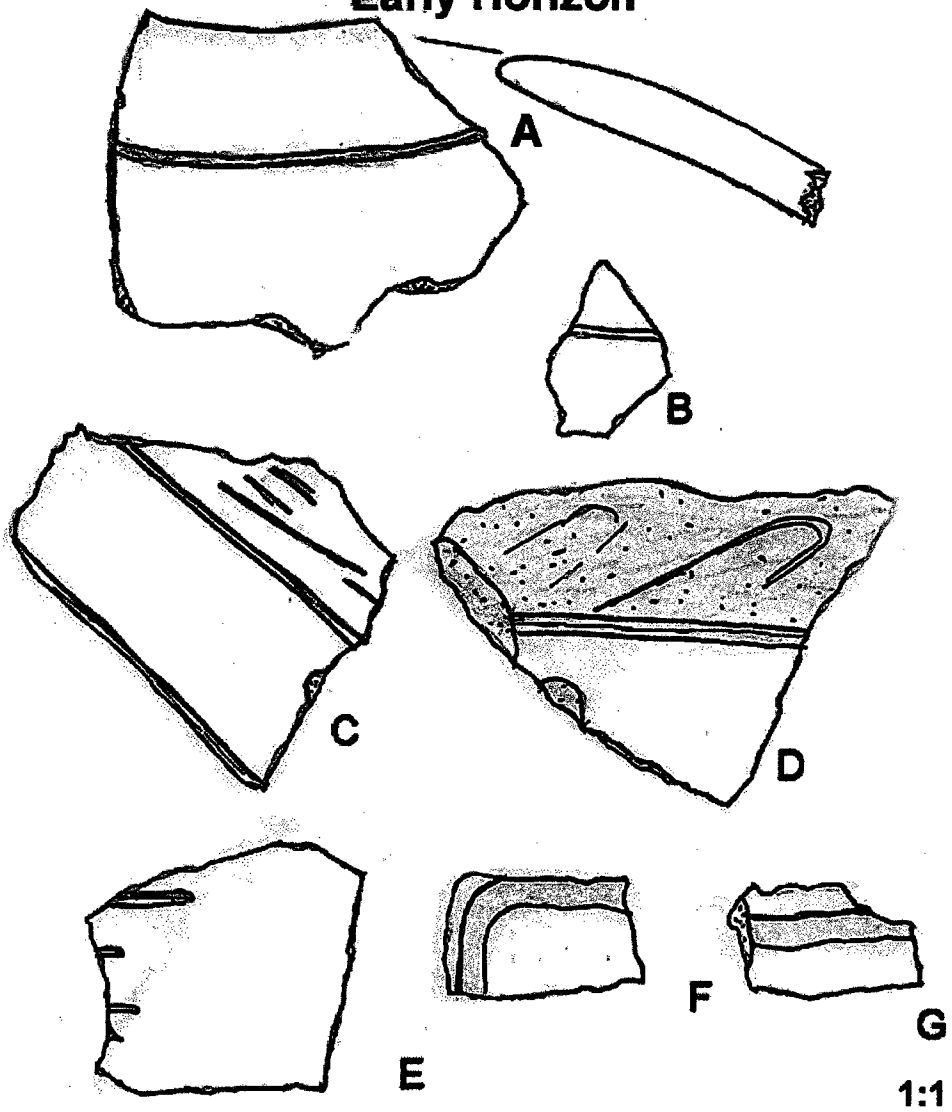
A. Zoned net impression; B. & C. Net impression; D. - F. Fabric impression

Fig. 16. Fine Line Incised Cross Hatch; Incised Arcs Initial Period



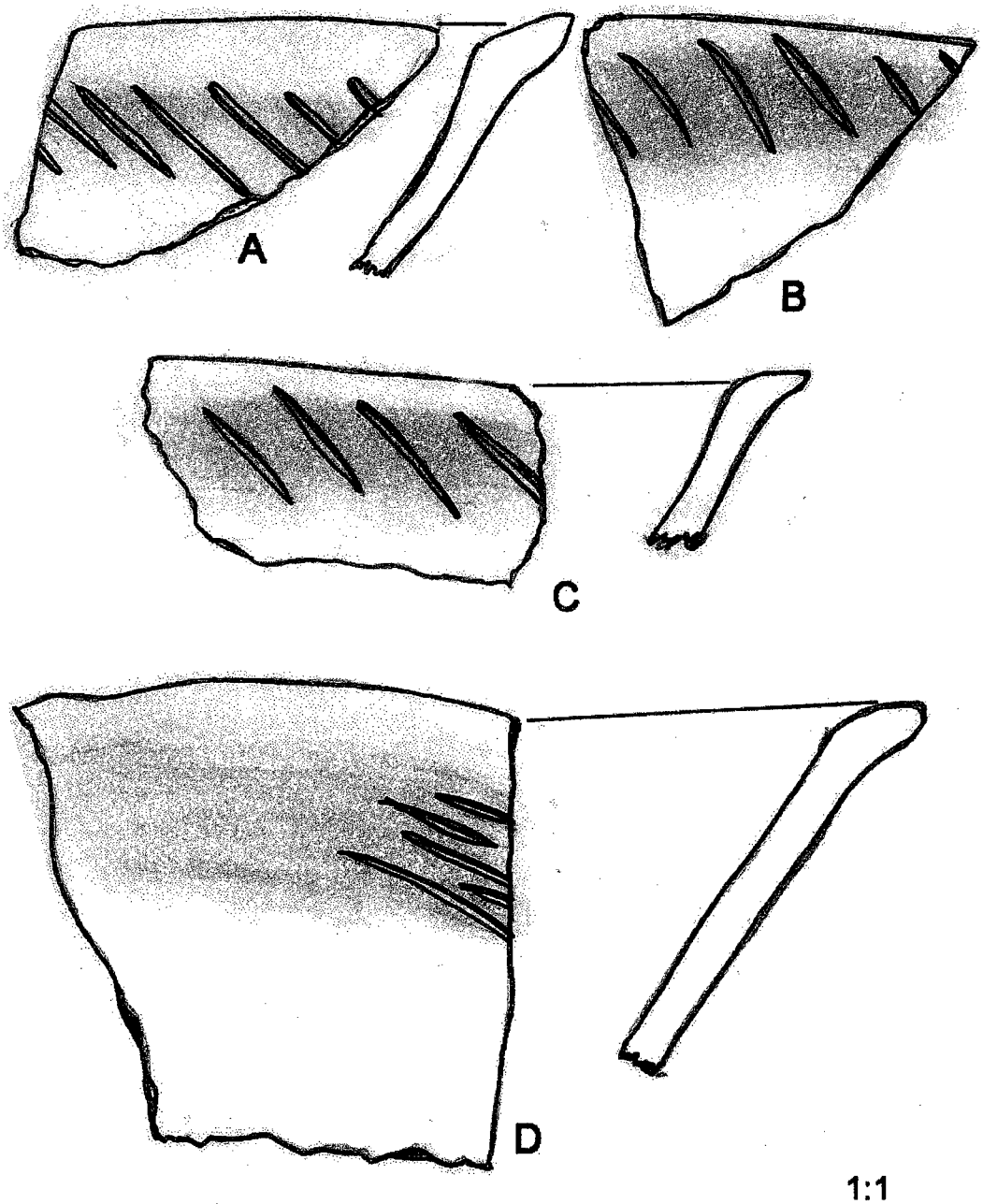
A. - D. Fine line; E. - L. Line, Arc incised

Fig. 17. Linear Incisions 2
Early Horizon



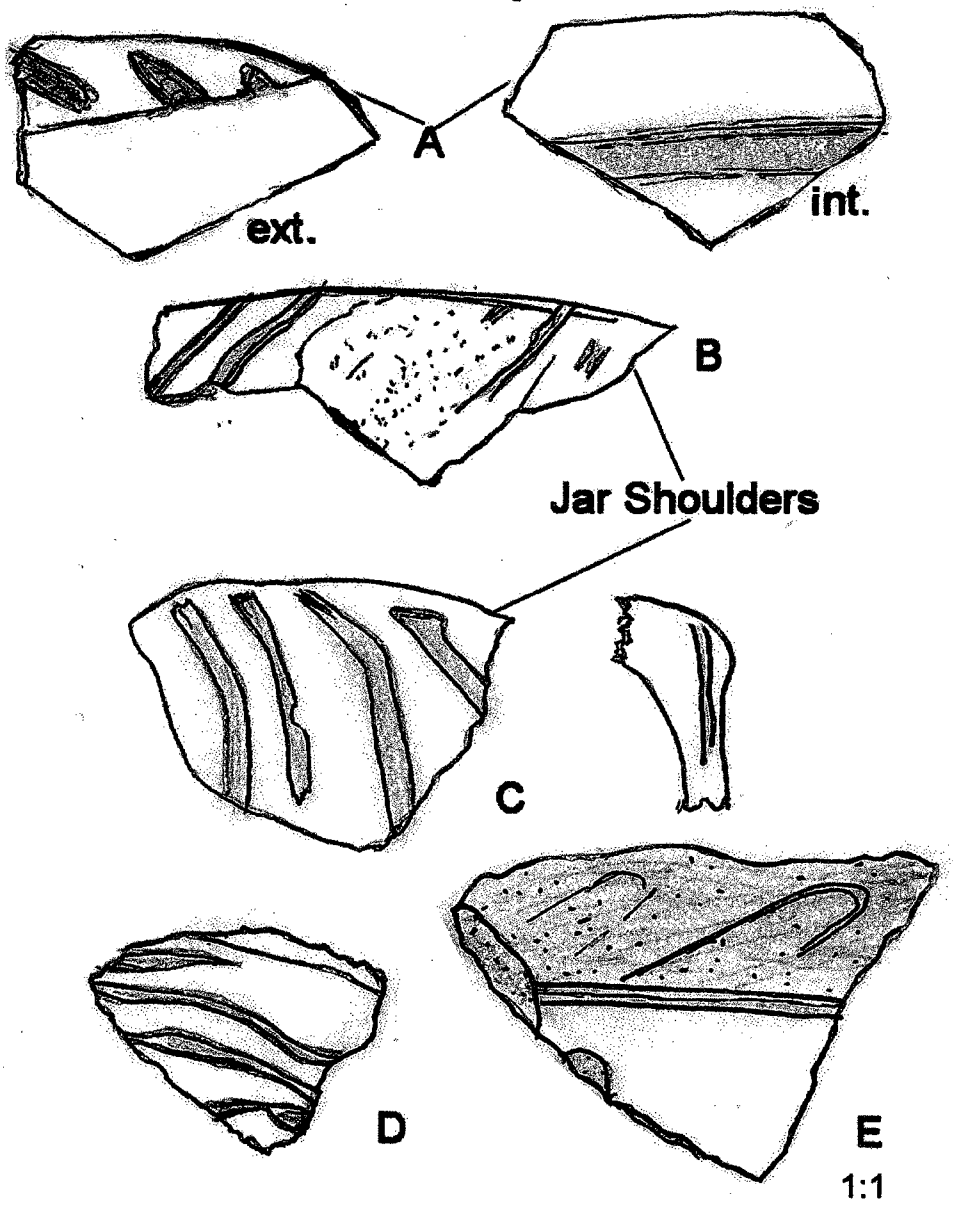
A. - B. Linear incision; C. - D. Zoned linear;
F. & G. Broad linear incision

Fig. 18. Diagonal Incised Lines Early Horizon



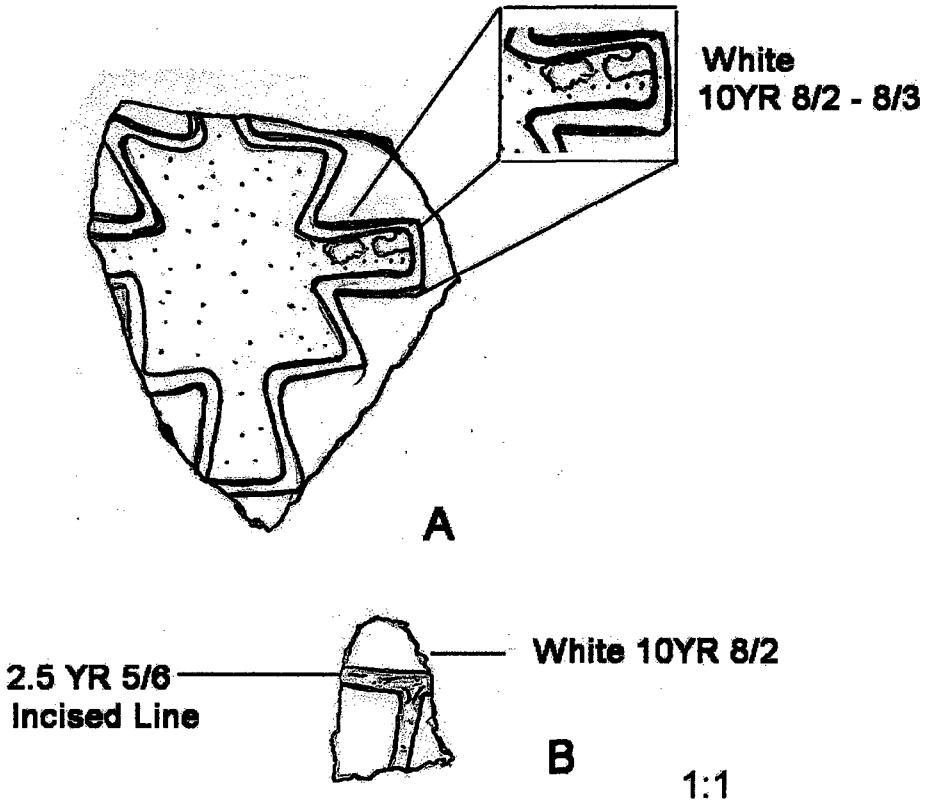
A. - C. Linear incised band; D. Linear incised zoned

Fig. 19. Ovoid Gouge & Linear Gouges
Initial Period & Early Horizon



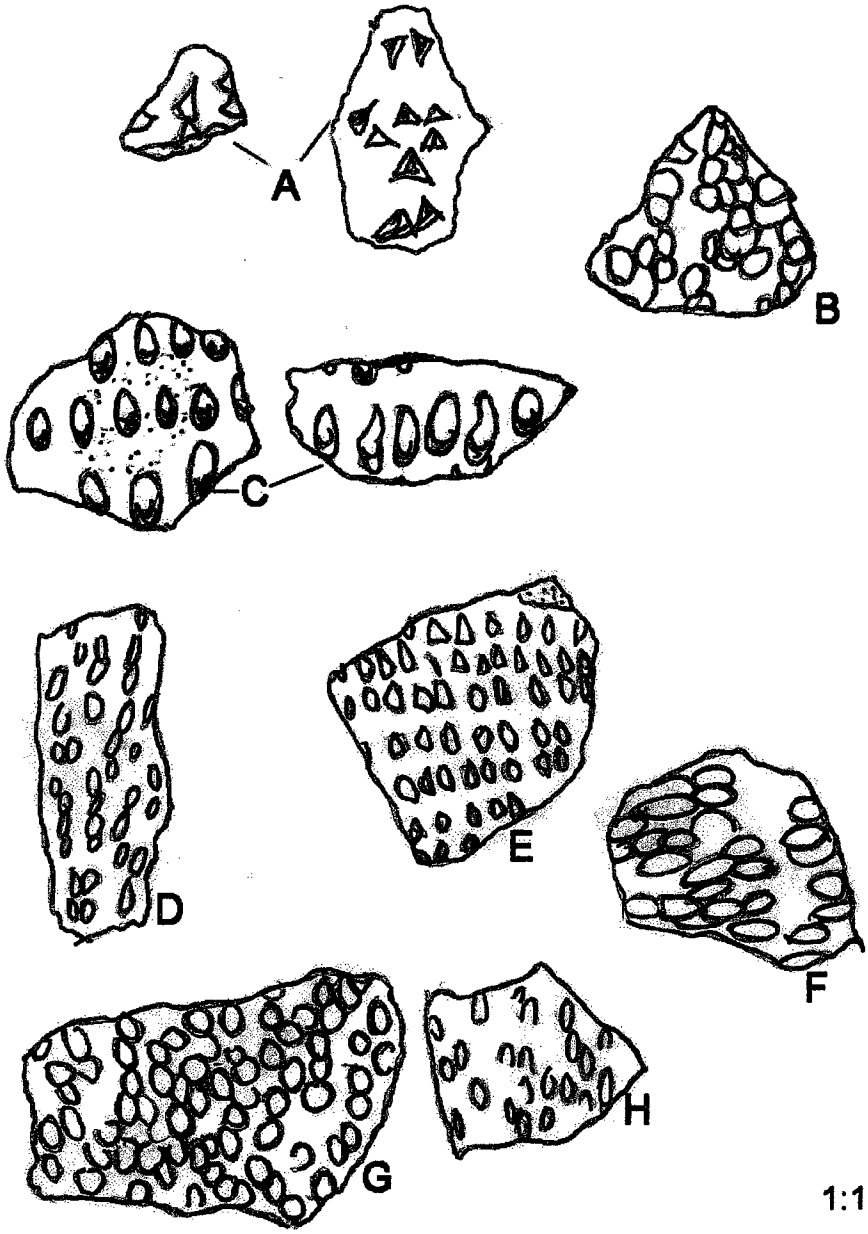
A. Ovoid gouge (near rim); B. & C. Gouges (shoulders); D. & E. Body sherd

Fig. 20 Incised Bi-Chrome
Early Horizon



A. Zoned incised bi-chrome; B. Incised bi-chrome

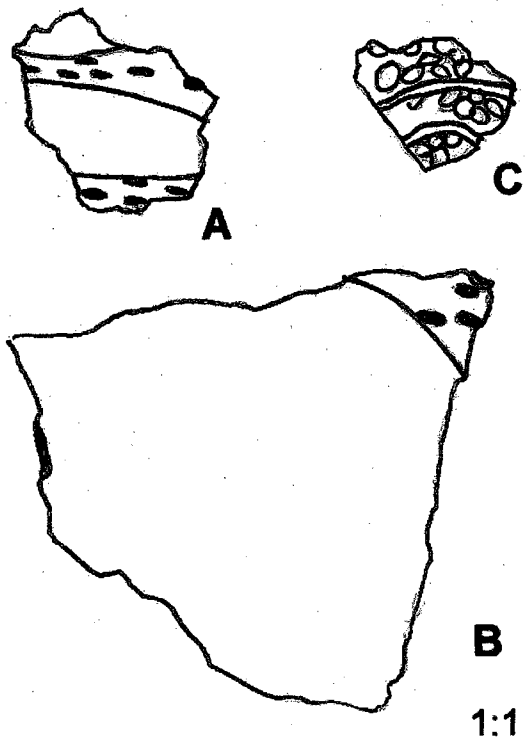
Fig. 21. Punctate Initial Period



1:1

A. Triangular; B. & G. Round; C. Teardrop; D. & H. Sm. ovoid; E. Sm. triangular; F. Ovoid

Fig. 22. Zoned Punctate
Initial Period



A. & B. Zoned dash punctate;
C. Ovoid zoned punctate

Fig. 23. Rocker Stamping
Early Horizon

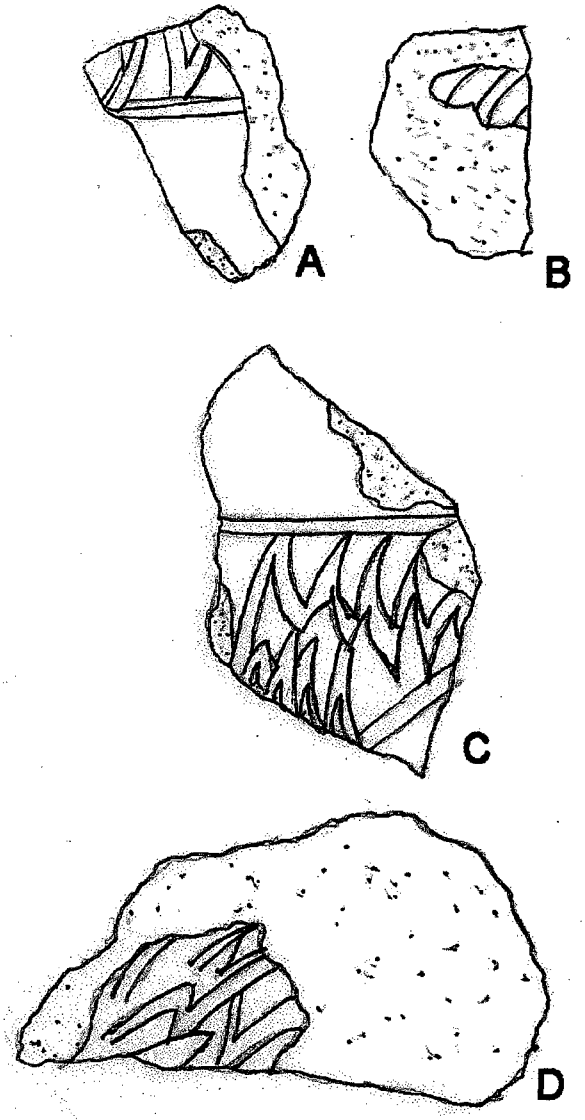


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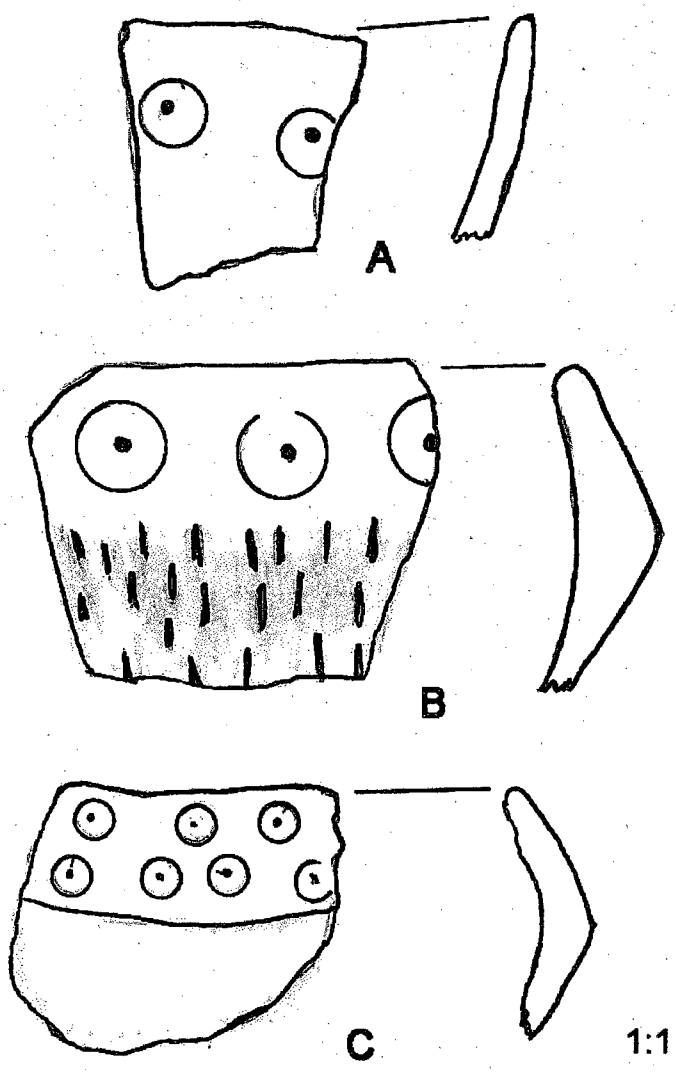
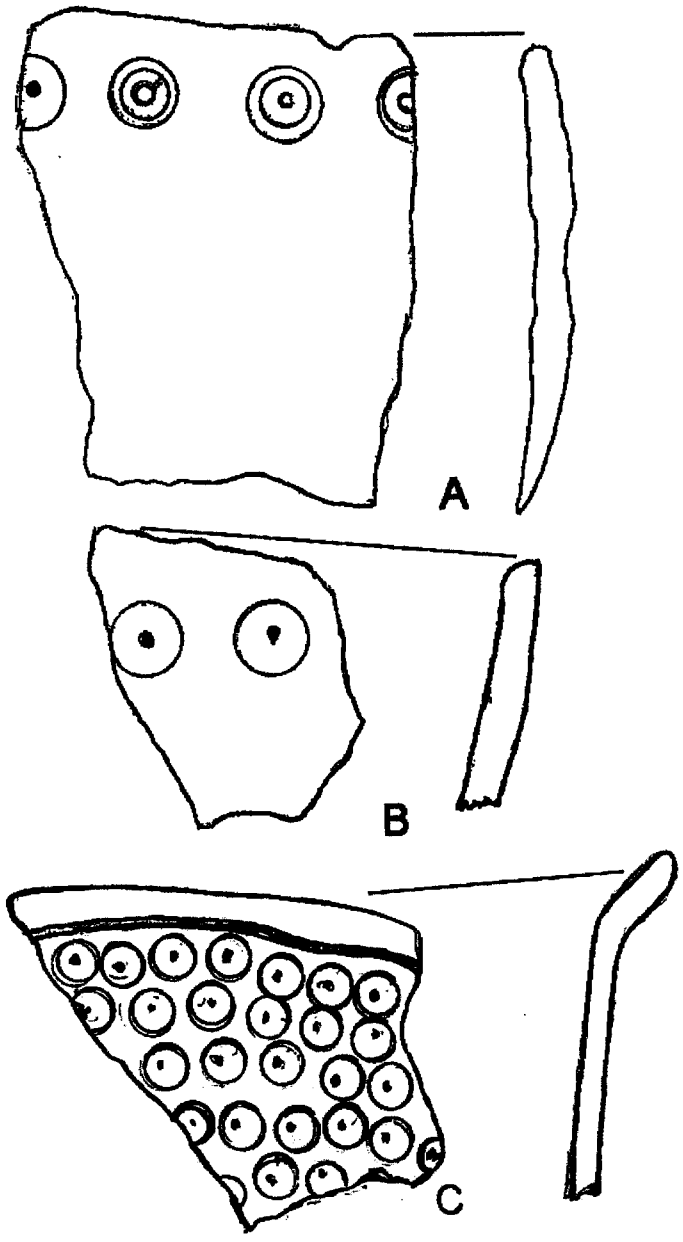
Fig. 24. Circle and Dot
Early Horizon



A. Outcurving bowl; B. & C. Carinated

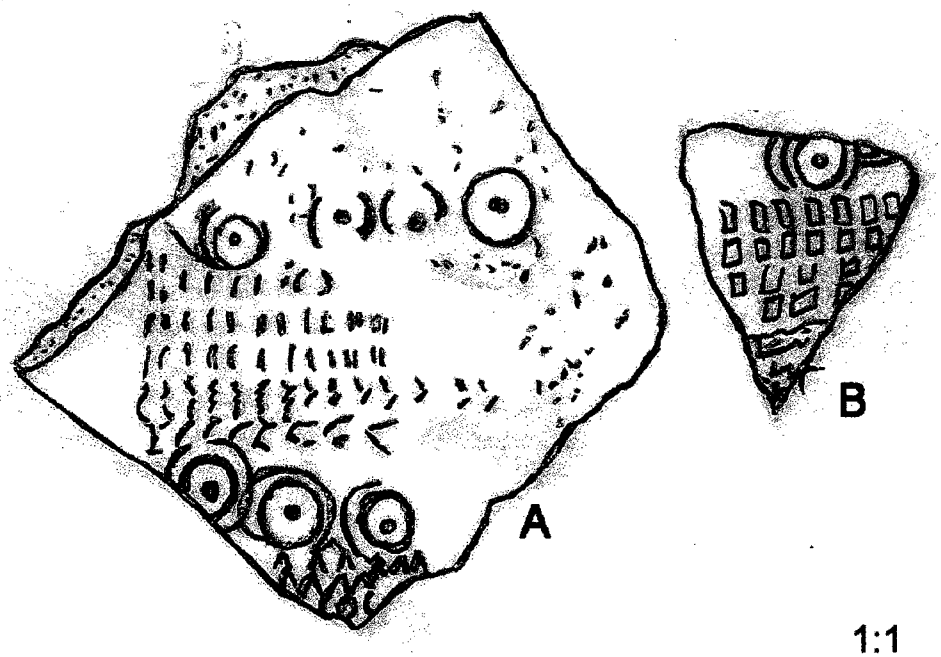
Fig. 25. Circle and Dot 2
Early Horizon



1:1

A. & B. Bowls; C. Jar

Fig. 26. Circle and Dot with Comb Incision or Casma Incised Early Intermediate Period



1:1

Fig. 27. Circular Punctate Band
Early Horizon

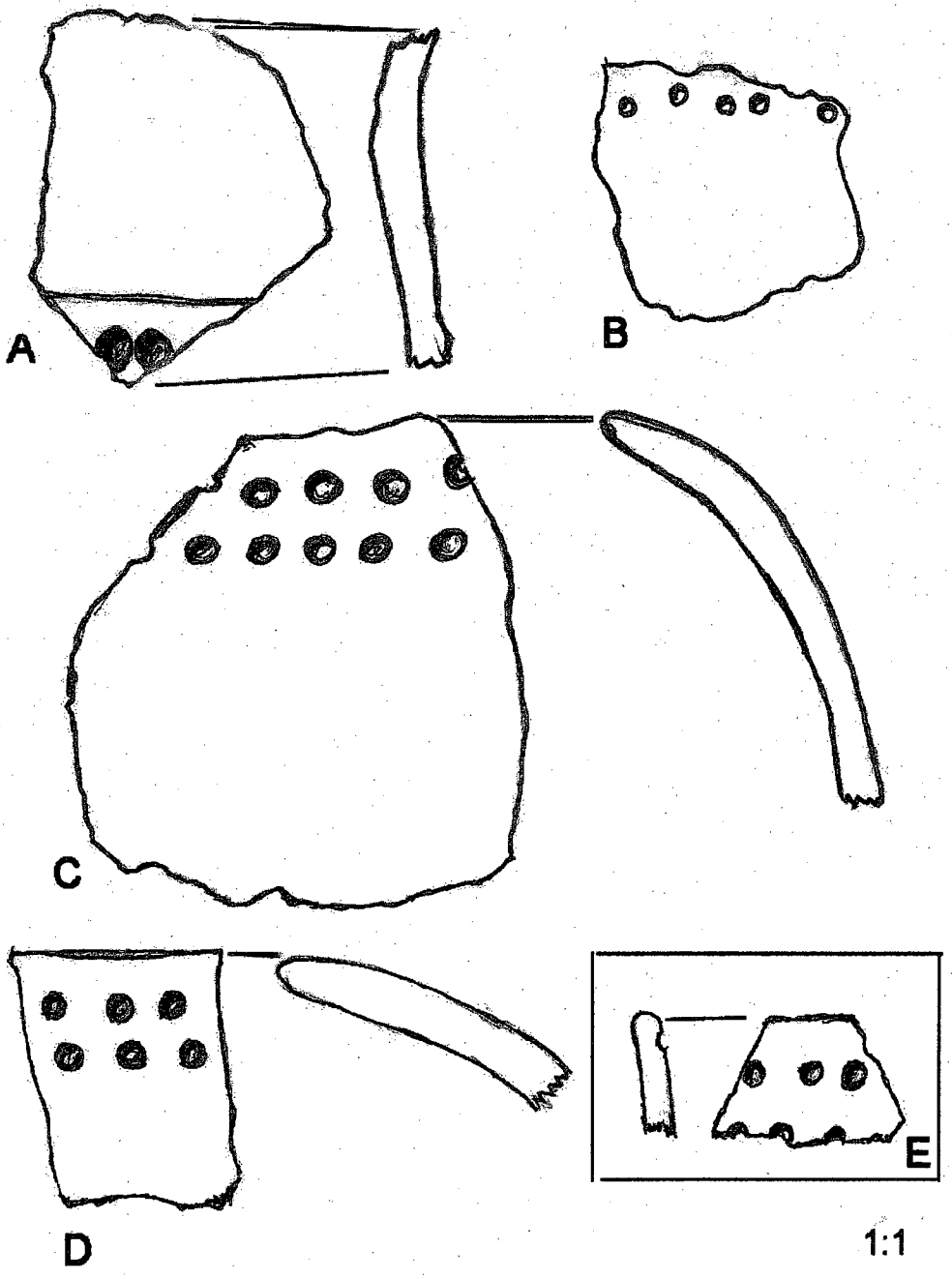


Fig. 28. Press Mold Decoration
Early Intermediate Period

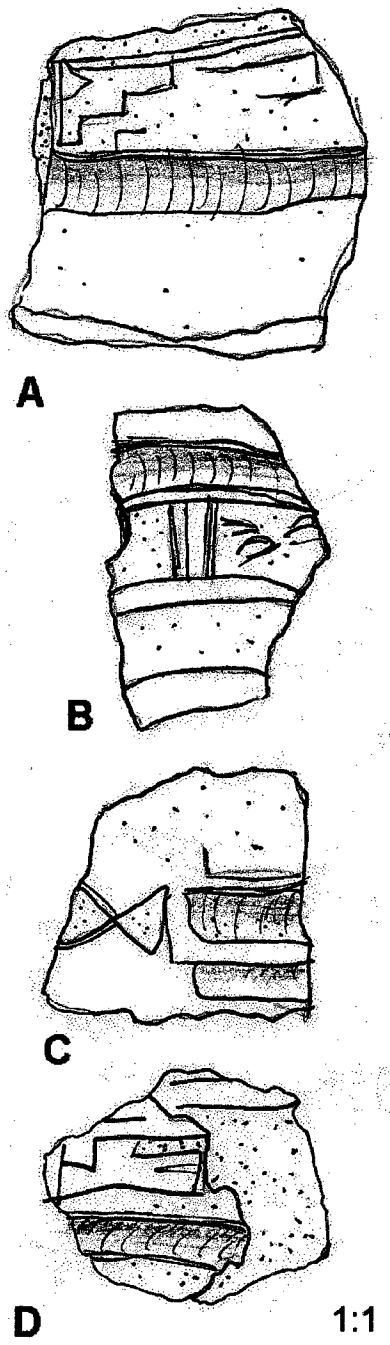
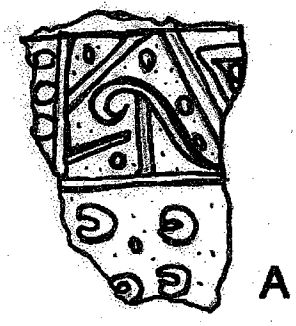
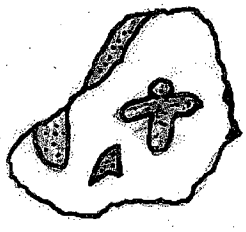


Fig. 29. Other
Early Intermediate Period



A

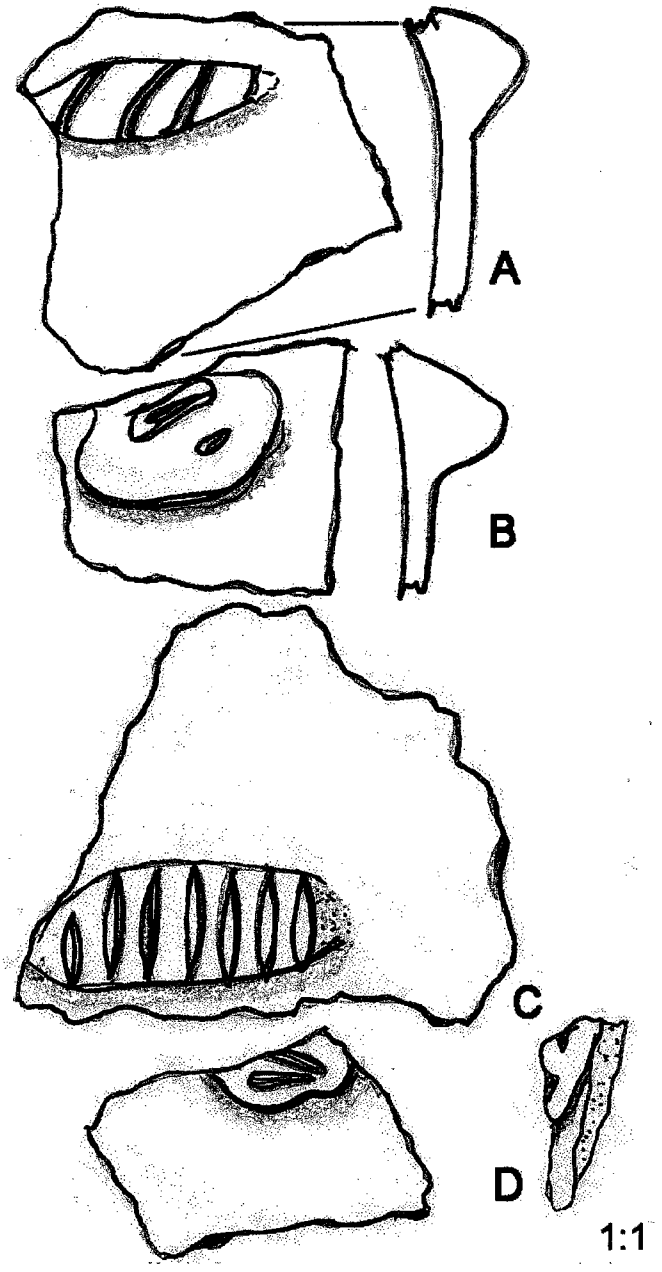


B

1:1

A. Press mold; B. Post fire scratch

Fig. 30. Applique Decorations Early Horizon



A. Appliqued fillet; B. & D. Appliqued punctate oval; C. Appliqued slashed oval

Fig. 31. Applique Lugs & Miscellaneous Early Horizon

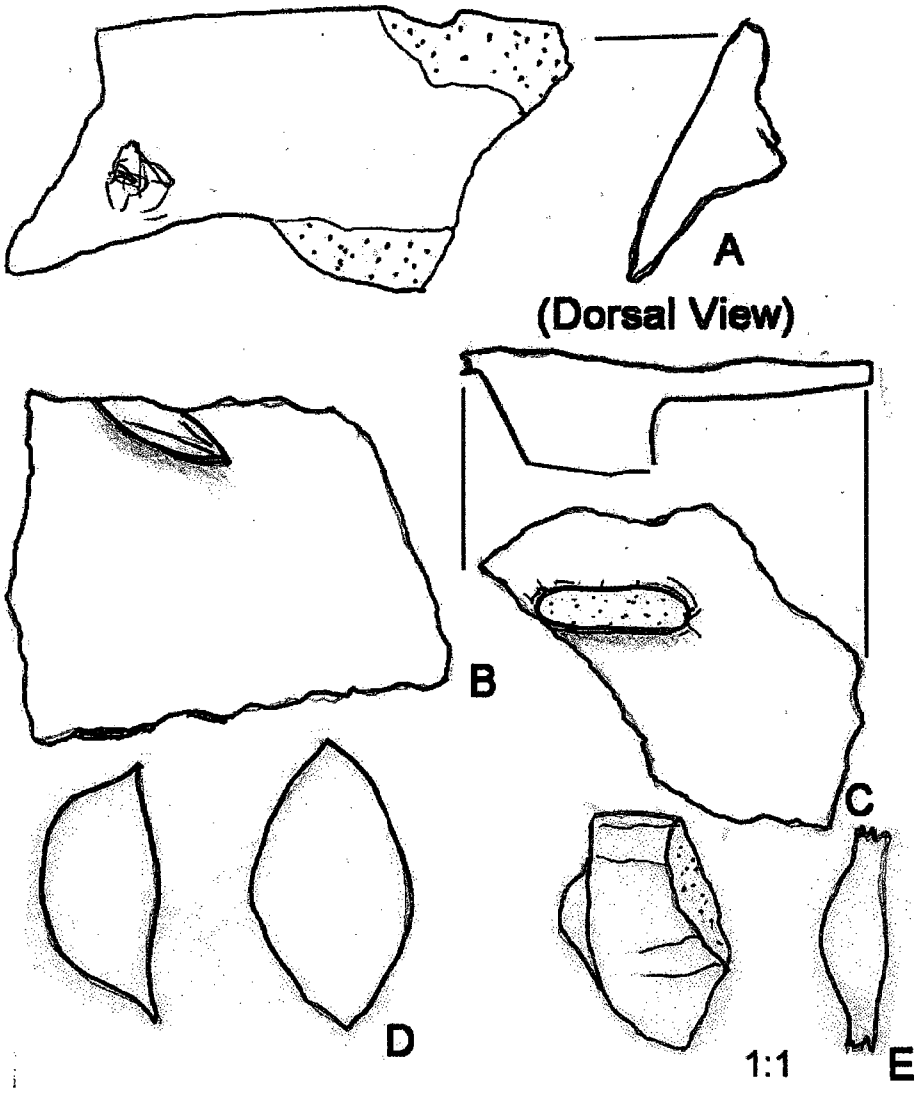
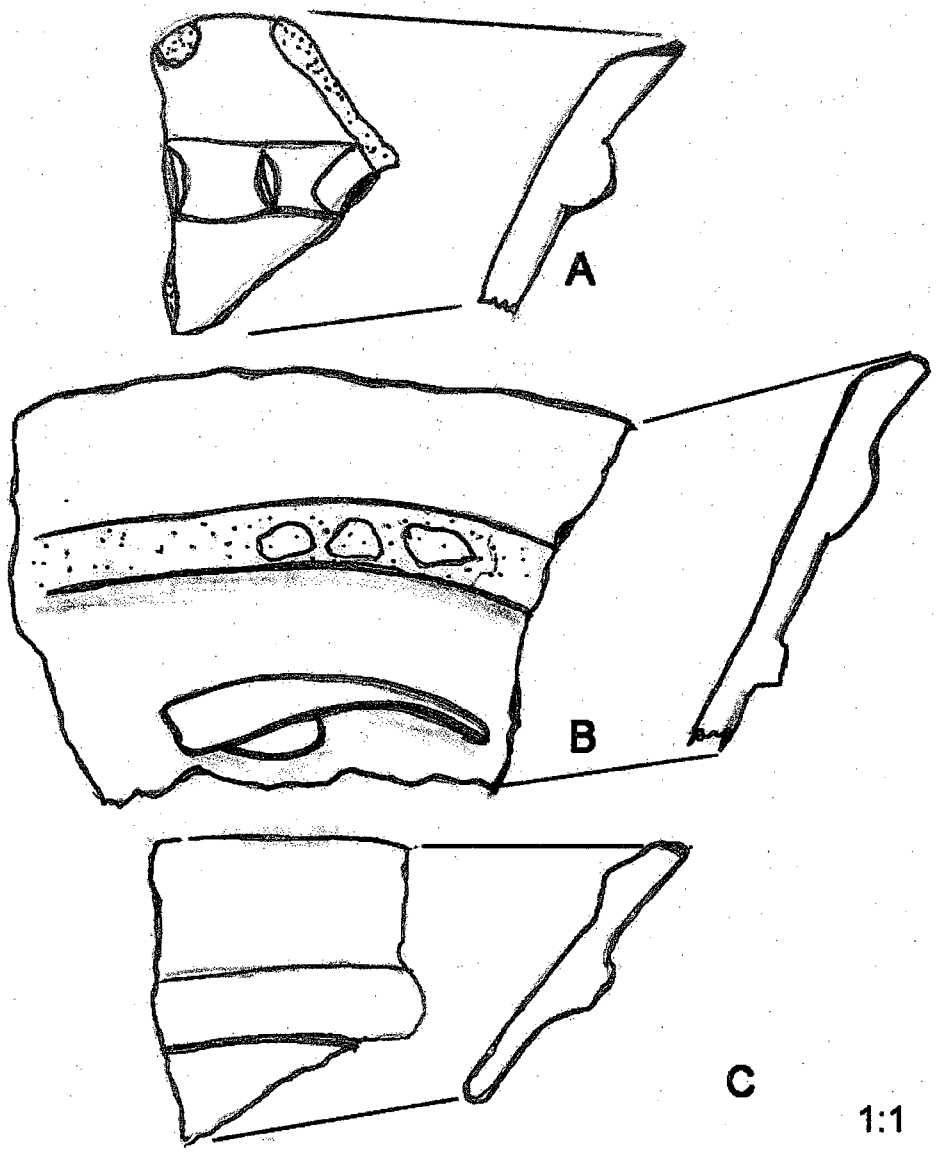
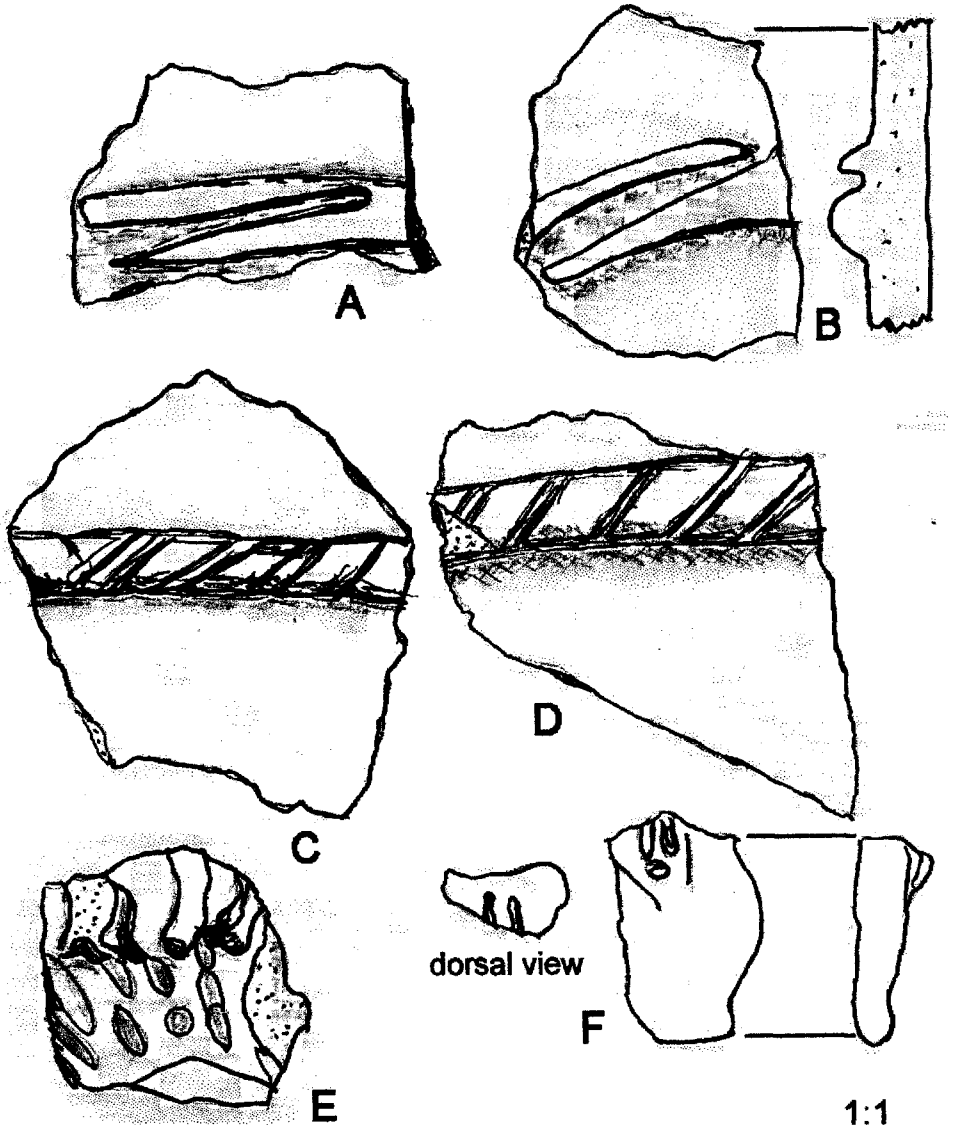


Fig. 32. Applique Band
Early Horizon



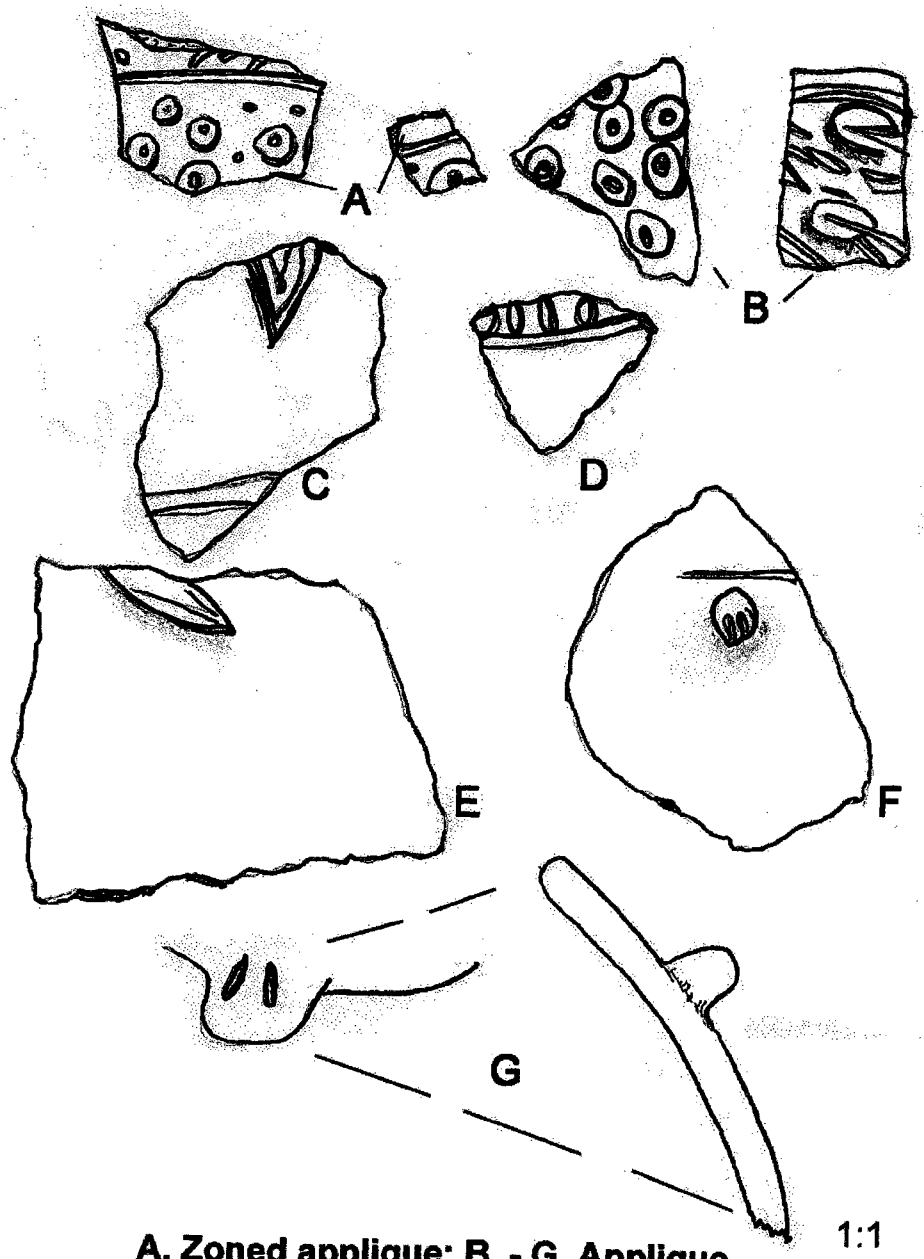
A. & C. Applique band; B. Applique band & Tiered applique

Fig. 33. Applique Tiers, Ropes, Etc. Early Horizon



A. & B. Tiered applique; C. & D. Rope-like applique; E. & F. Misc.

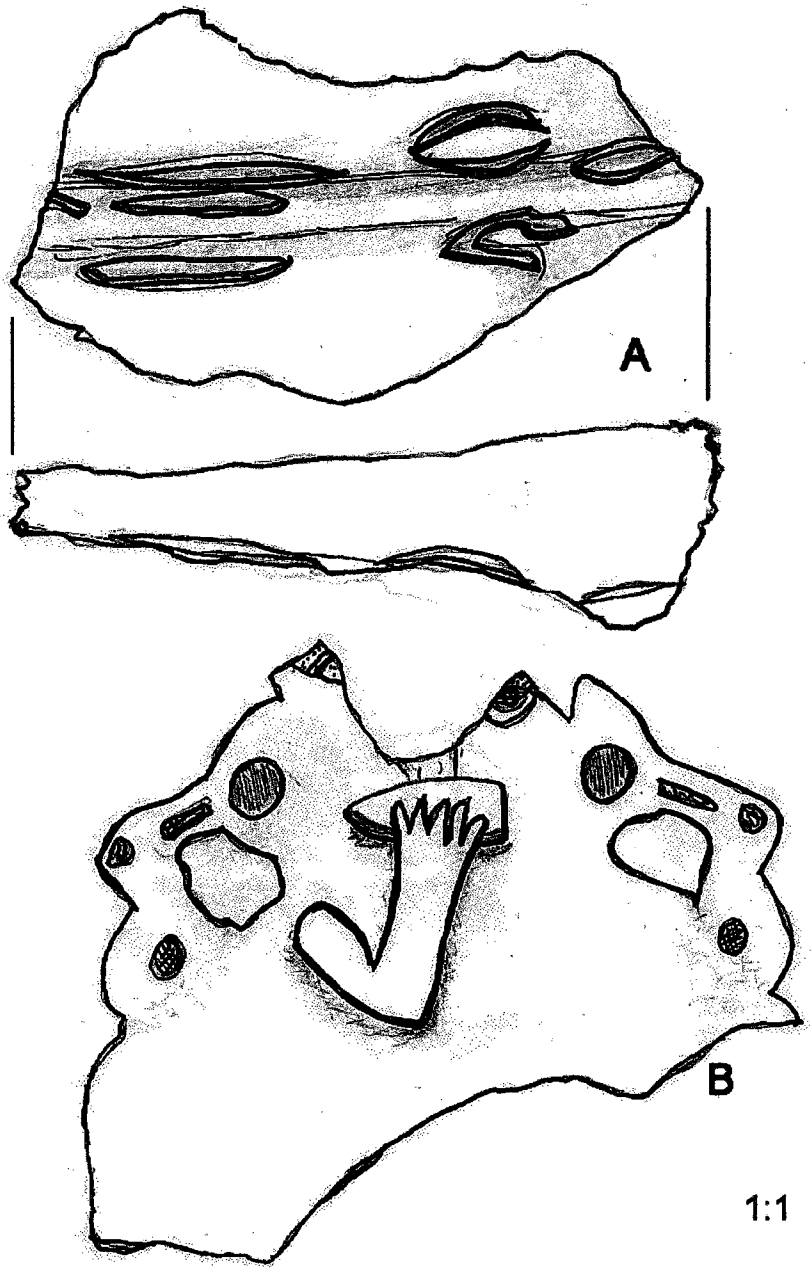
Fig. 34. Zoned Applique & Applique Early Horizon



A. Zoned applique; B. - G. Applique

1:1

Fig. 35. Miscellaneous Applique Early Intemediate Period, Late Intermediate Period



A. Deep incisions applique, thickened rim, E.I.P.;
B. Appliqued / Modeled jar, L.I.P.

Fig. 36. Painted Sherds
Early Horizon

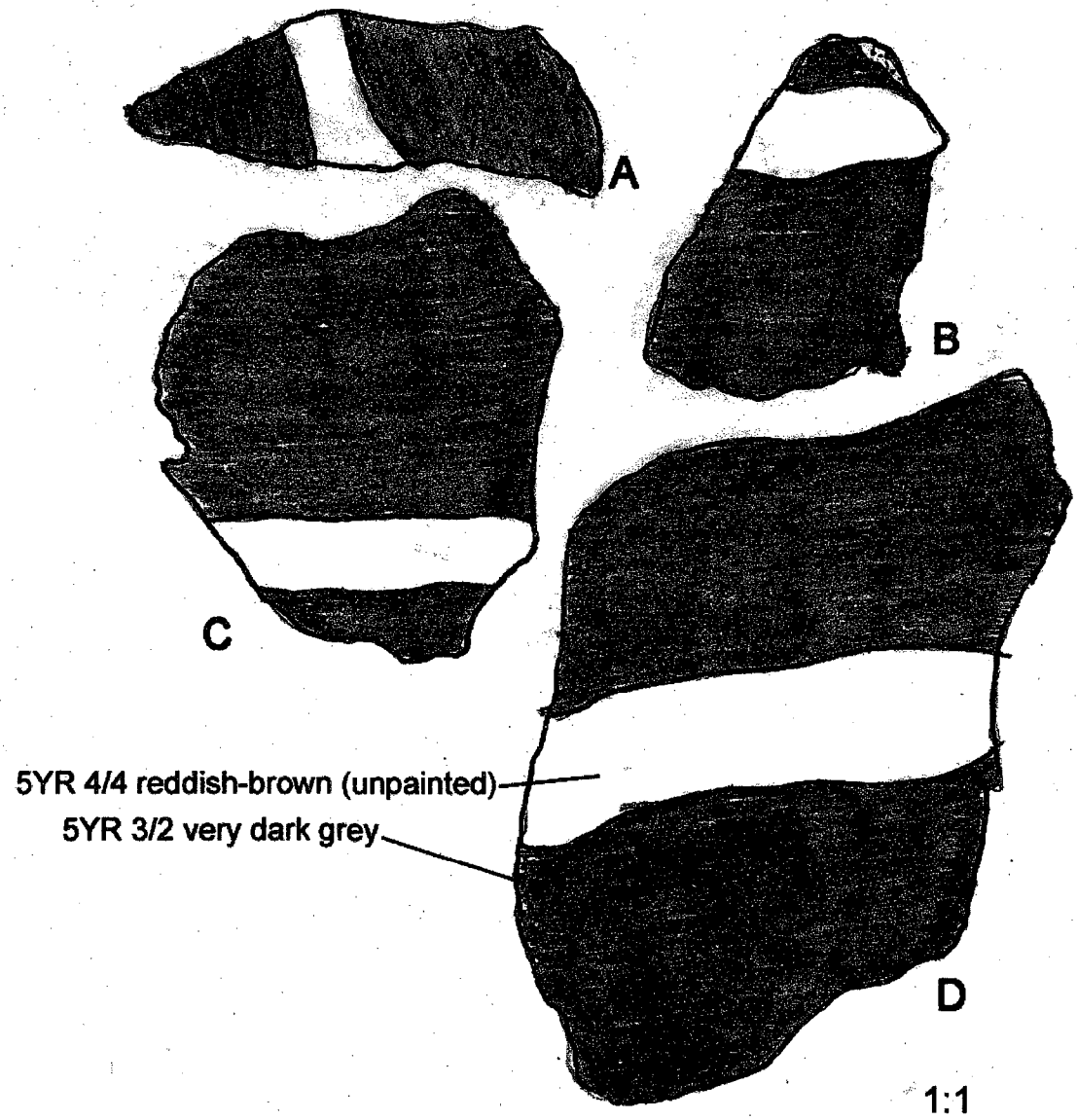


Fig. 37. Painted Stripes
Early Horizon

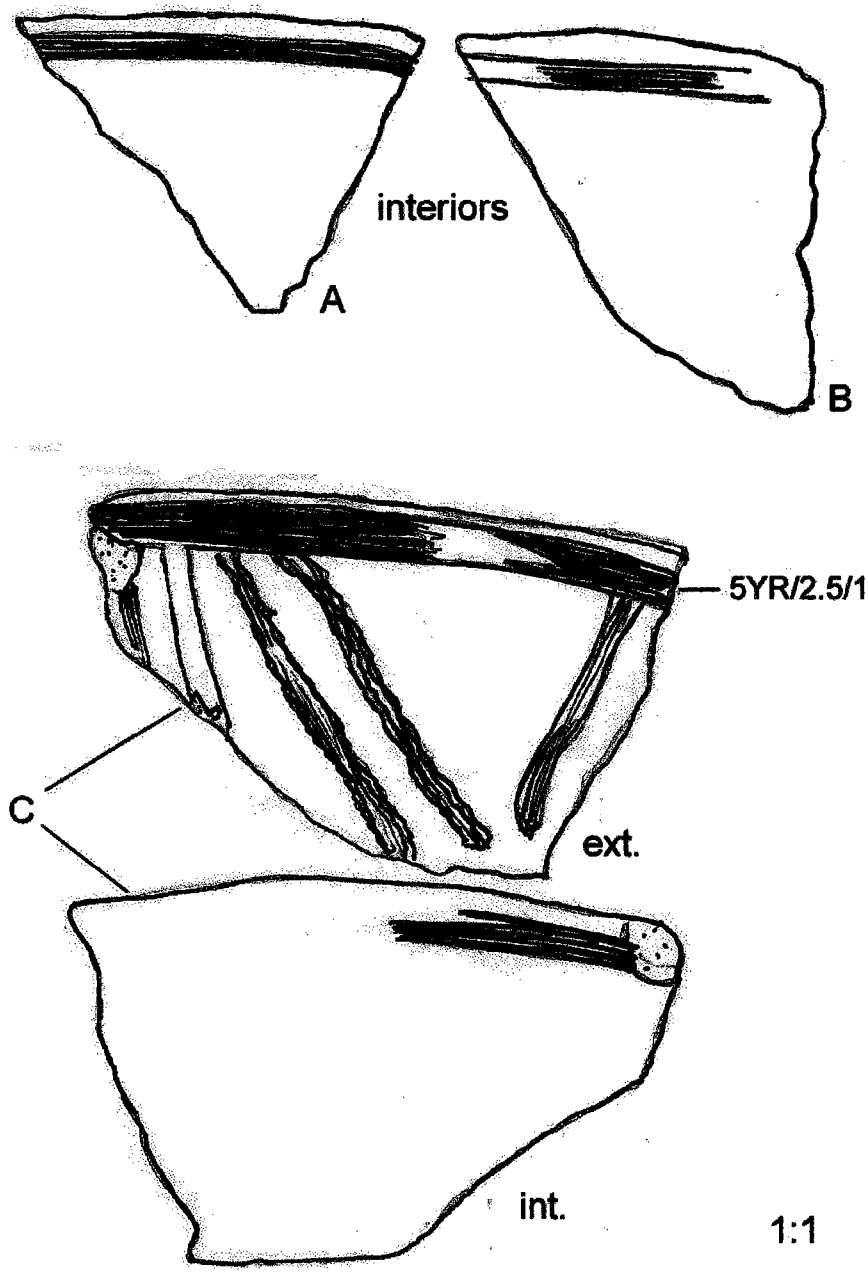
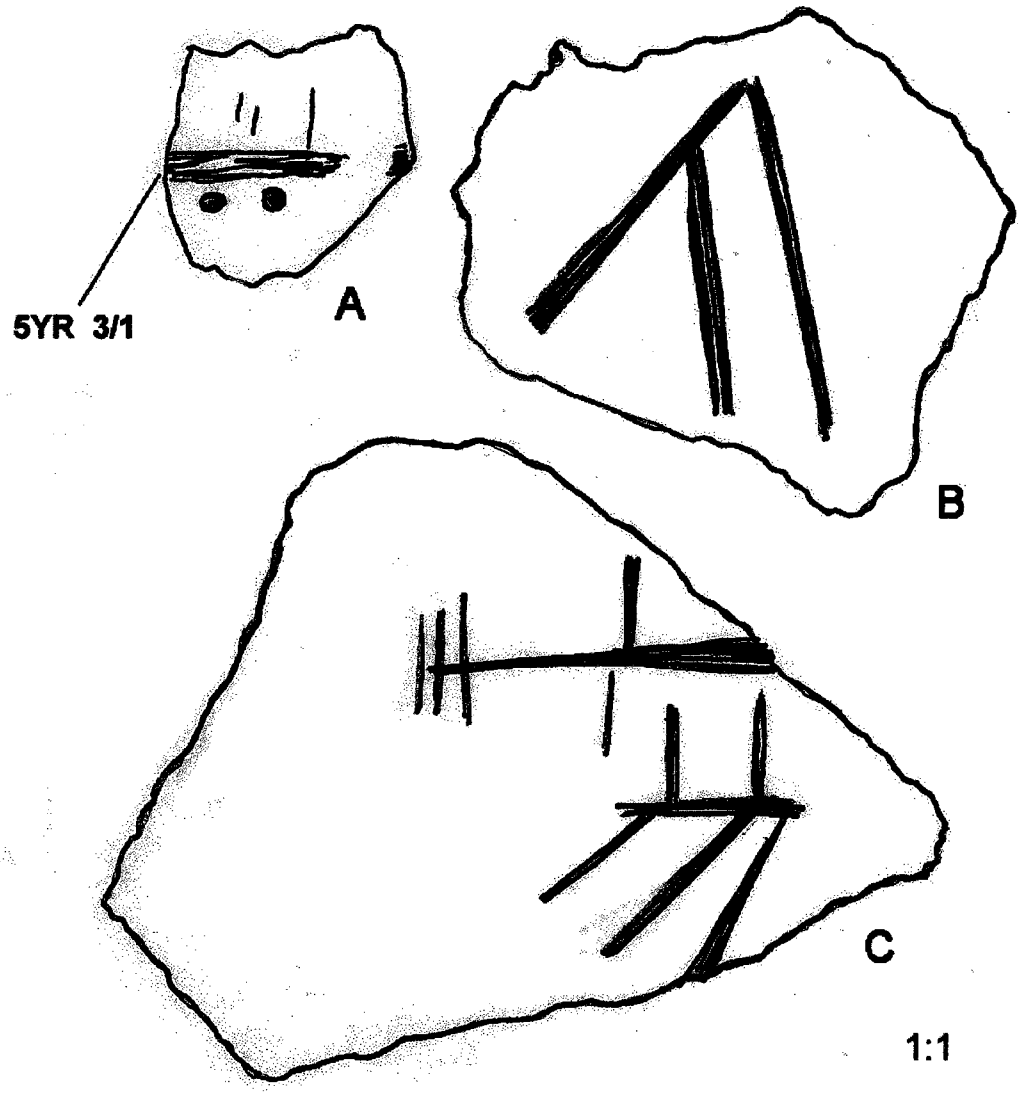
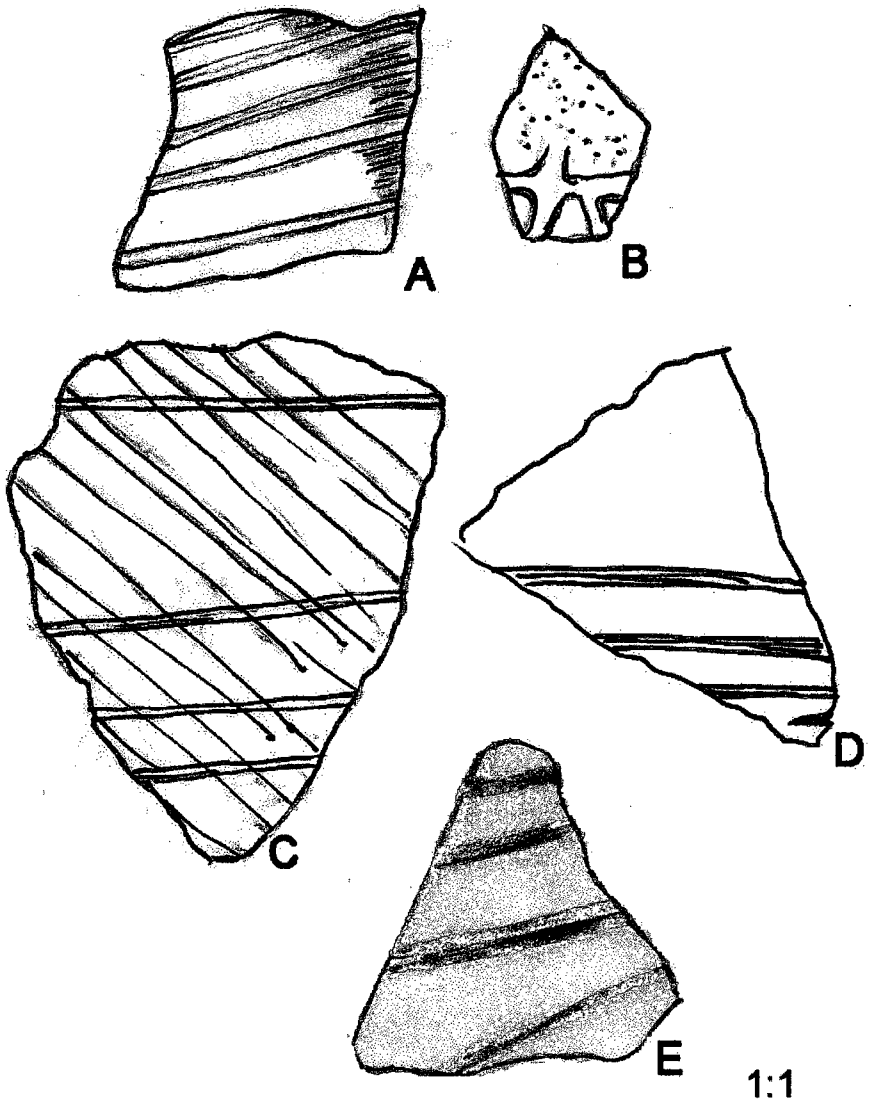


Fig. 38. Black Paint (Geometric) Early Horizon



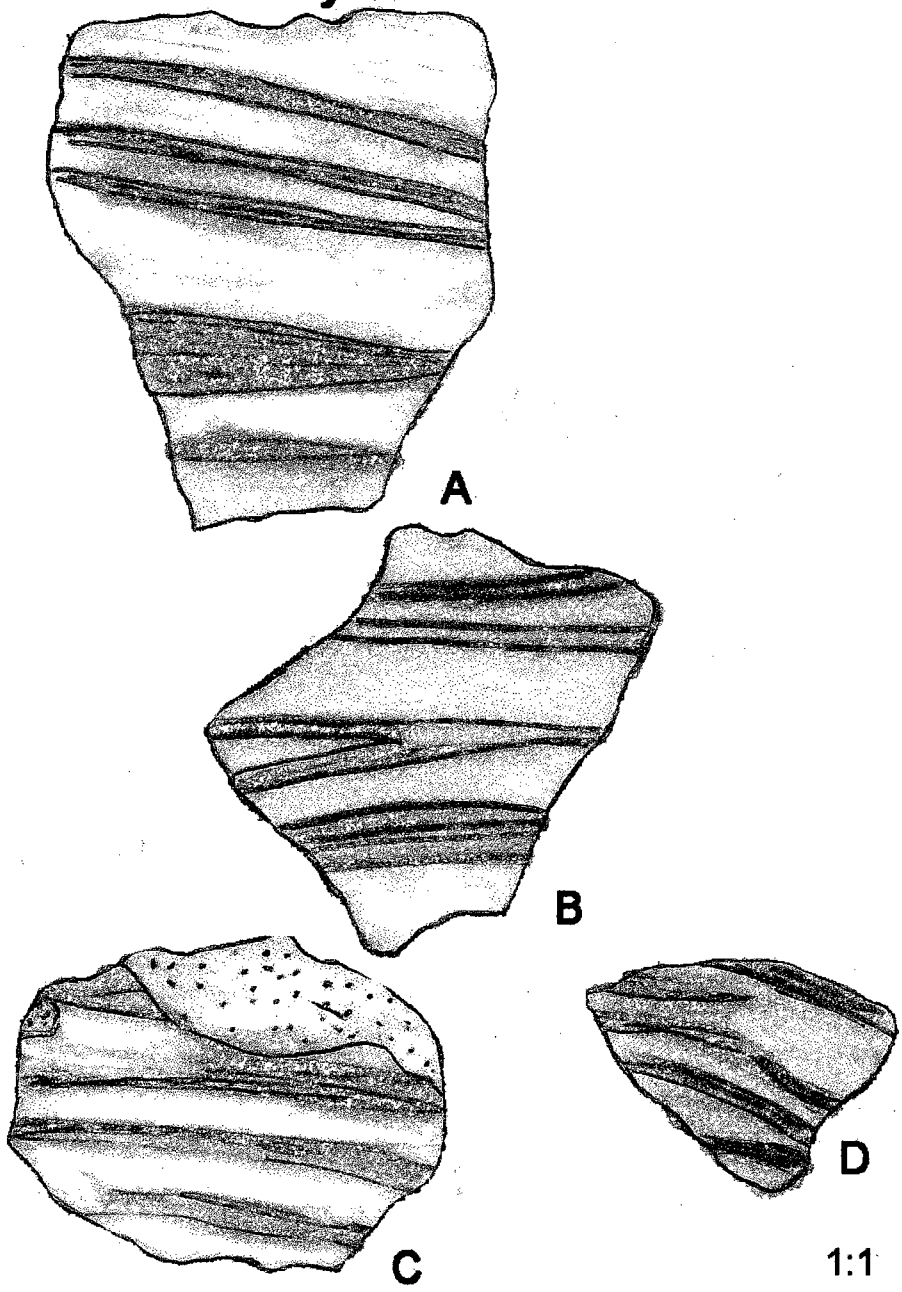
A. Lines and dots (paint); B. Triangular (3 lines) & C. Abstract

Fig. 39. Patterned & Striped Burnish Early Horizon



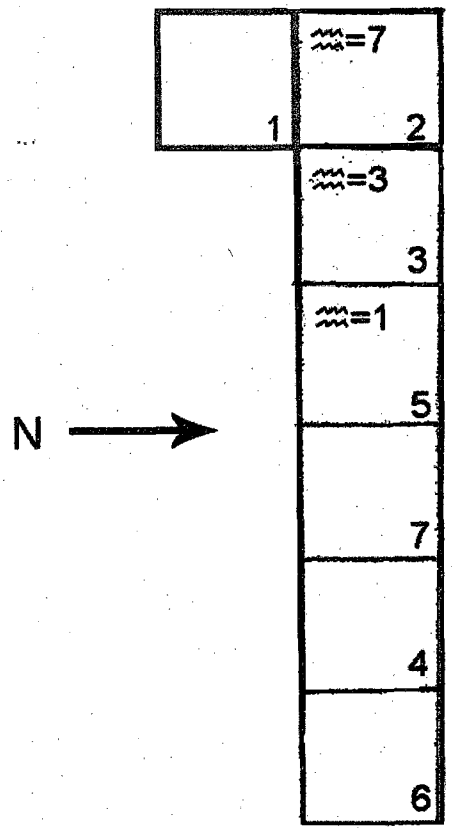
A., B. & C. Patterned; D. & E. Striped.

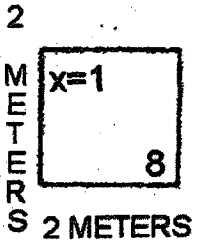
Fig. 40. Prominent Burnish Streaks Early Horizon



APPENDIX C

Figure 41
A3 LOW CENTRAL STAIRCASE
Notable Decoration and Surface Treatment
WITHIN 10 cm OF SURFACE
OR NEAR IP FEATURE

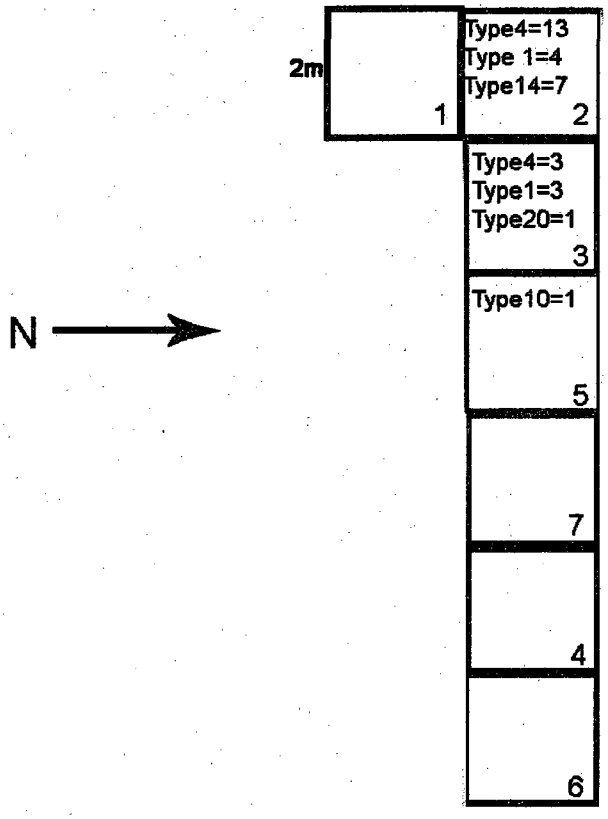


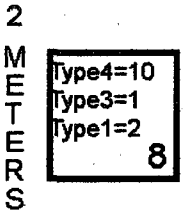


x=Net Impressed

≈=Prominent Streaky Burnish

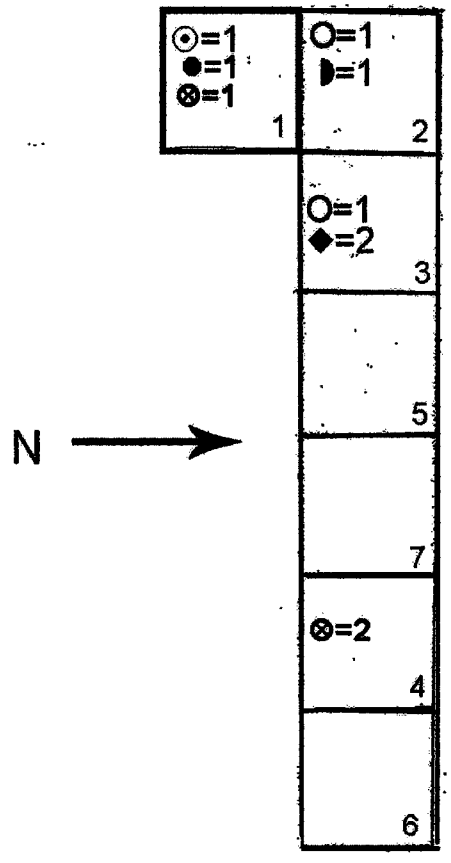
Fig. 42
A3 - LOW CENTRAL STAIRCASE
BY SQUARE DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMIC TYPES
WITHIN 10 cm of EARLIER SURFACE AND NEAR IP FEATURES

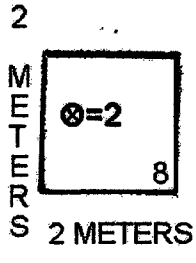




Type4=26
Type1=9
Type14=7
Type3=1
Type10=1
Type20=1
Total=45

Fig.43
A3 Low Central Staircase
Decorations, Notable Tratments,
and Distinct Ceramic Objects
WALL FALL / DUMP AND
RESTRUCTURING CONTEXT





⊙=Perforation
⊗=Fabric Impressed
●=Paint (Only)
◆=Round Punctation Band
O=Shaped/Wear
◗=Shaped/No Wear

Fig. 44
A3 LOW CENTRAL STAIRCASE
BY SQUARE DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMIC TYPES
WALL FALL DUMP AND RESTRUCTURING CONTEXTS

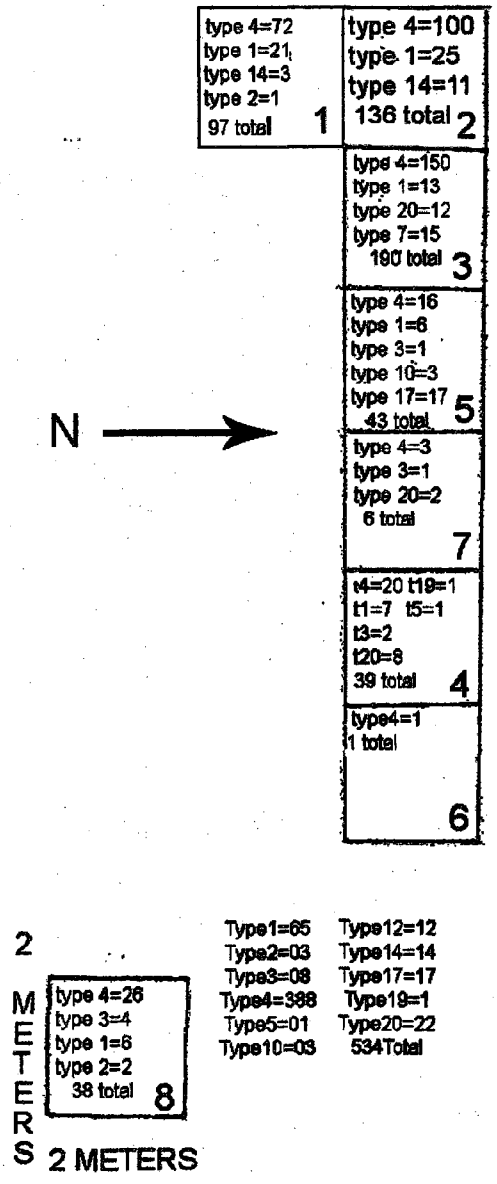


Fig. 45
A5 MAIN STAIRCASE
Notable Finish/Decoration
WITHIN 10 cm OF SURFACE AND NEAR IP FEATURES

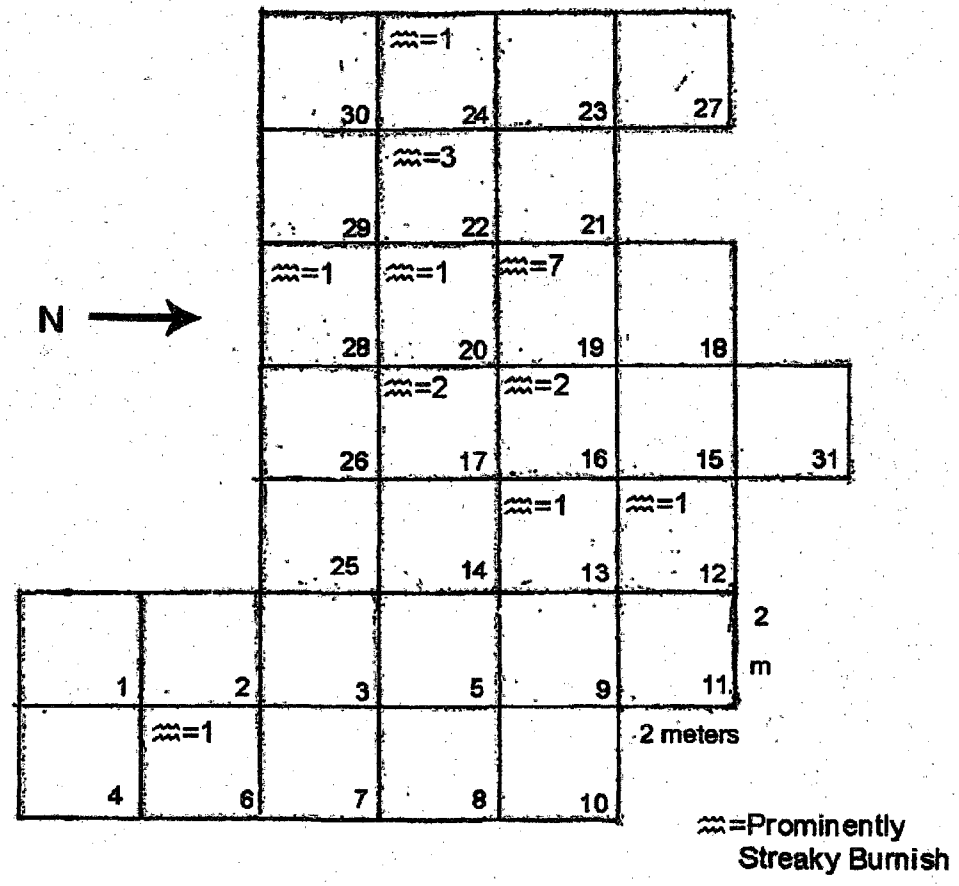


Fig. 46
A5 MAIN STAIRCASE
BY SQUARE DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMIC TYPES
WITHIN 10cm AND NEAR IP FEATURES

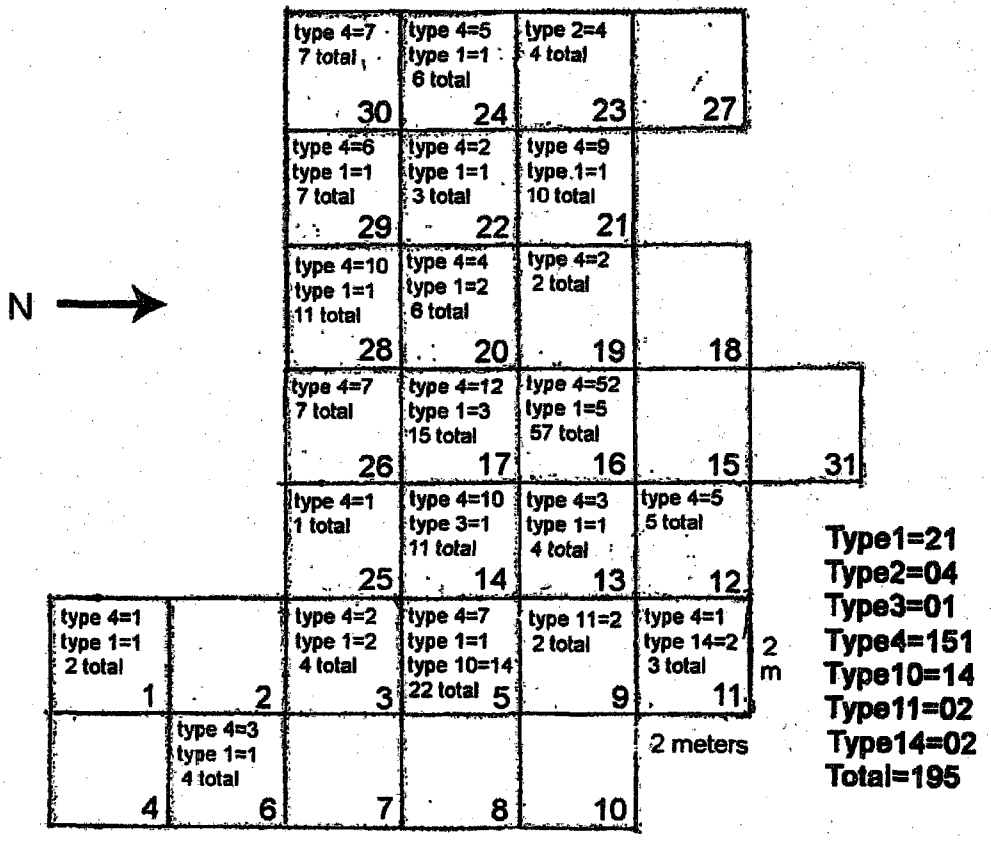


Fig.47
A5 MAIN STAIRCASE
Decorations, NotableTreatments, and Distinct Forms
WALLFALL DUMP RESTRUCTURING CONTEXT

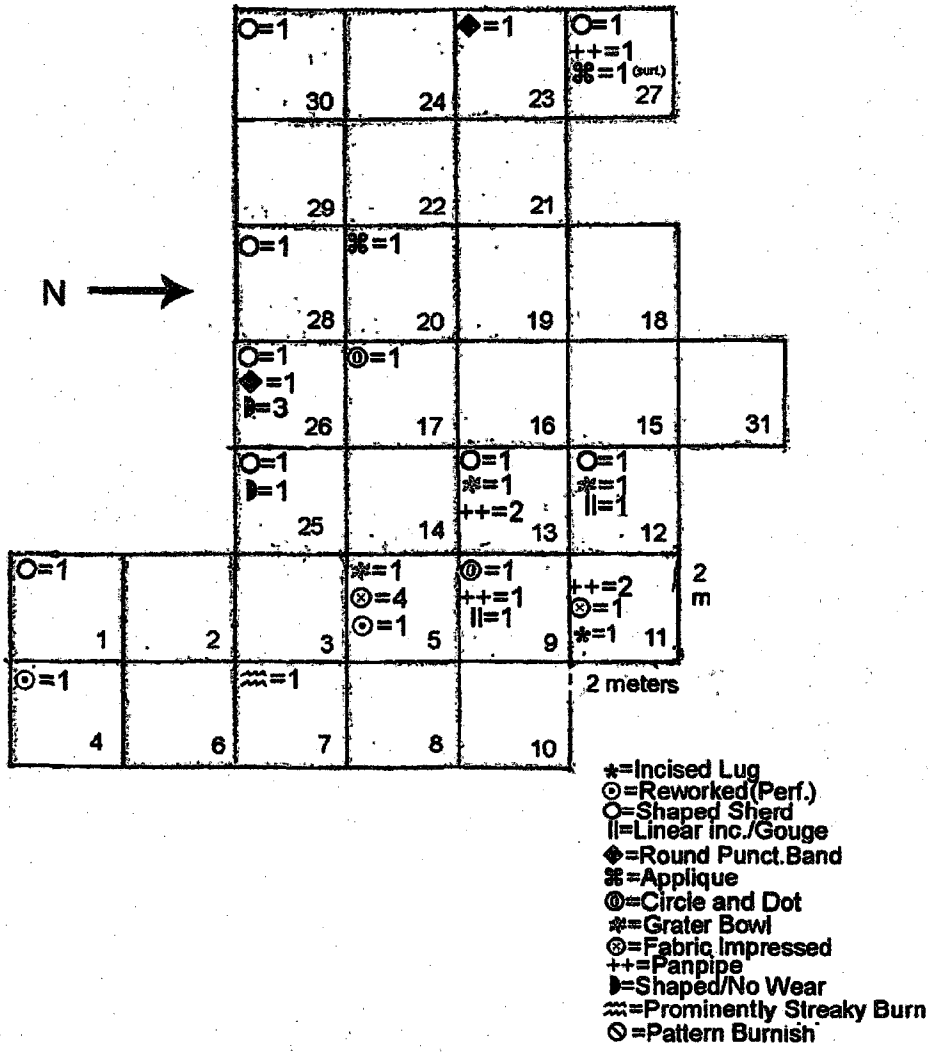


Fig. 48
A5 MAIN STAIRCASE
BY SQUARE DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMIC TYPES
WALLFALL DUMP AND RESTRUCTURING CONTEXTS

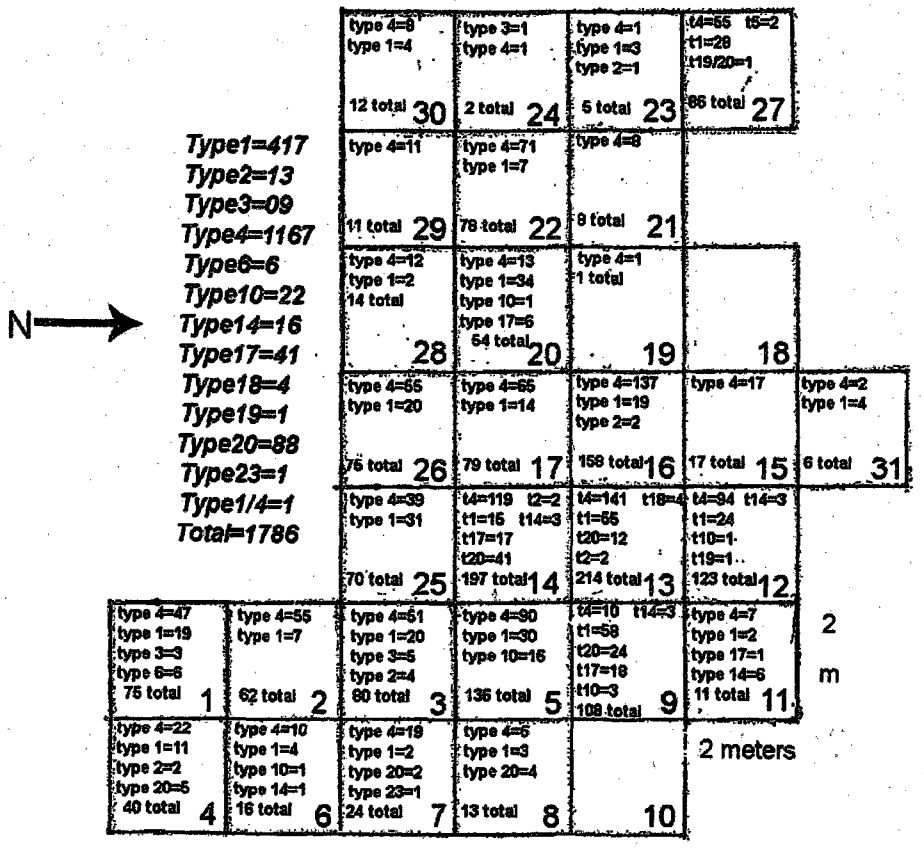


Fig. 49

A10-UPPER MAIN STAIRCASE
Decorations, Notable Treatments, and Distinct Forms
WITHIN 10 cm and NEAR IP FEATURES

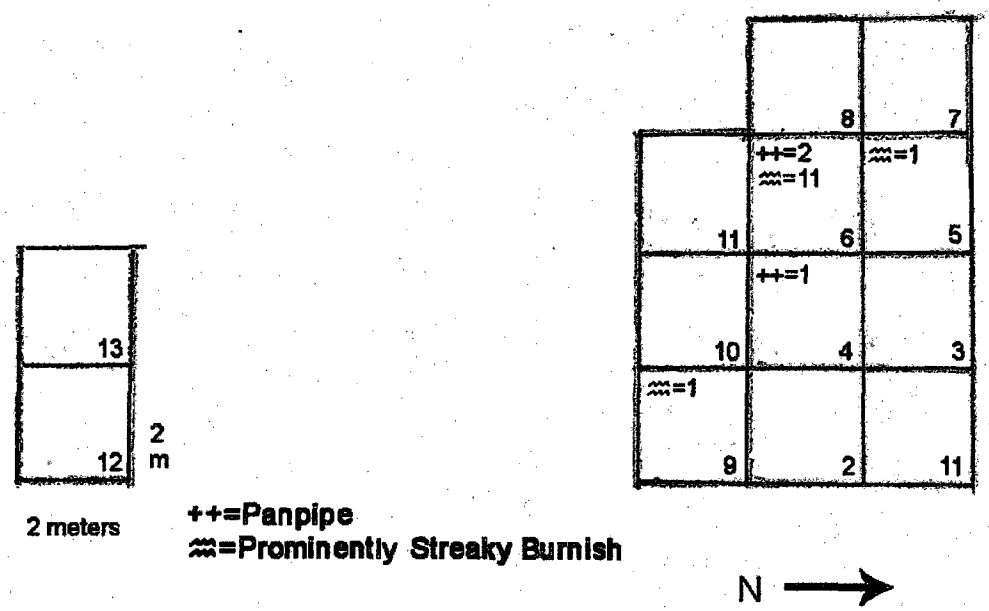
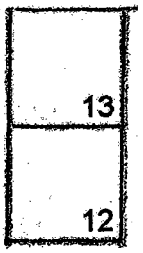


Fig. 50

A10-UPPER MAIN STAIRCASE
BY SQUARE DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMIC TYPES
WITHIN 10 cm and NEAR IP FEATURES



2 m

Type1=75
Type2=01
Type4=190
Type10=01
Type1/4=4
Total=271

	8	7
11	type 4=41 type 1=28 69 total 6	type 4=11 type 1=1 12 total 5
type 4=28 type 1=14 type 2=1 type 1/4=2 45 total 10	type 4=90 type 1=25 type12=1 116 total 4	type 4=6 type 1=1 type 1/4=2 9 total 3
type 4=2 2 total 9	type 4=12 type 1=6 18 total 2	type 4=2 2 total 11

N →

Fig. 51

A10-UPPER MAIN STAIRCASE
Decorations, Notable Treatments, and Distinct Forms
WALLFALL DUMP AND RESTRUCTURING CONTEXTS

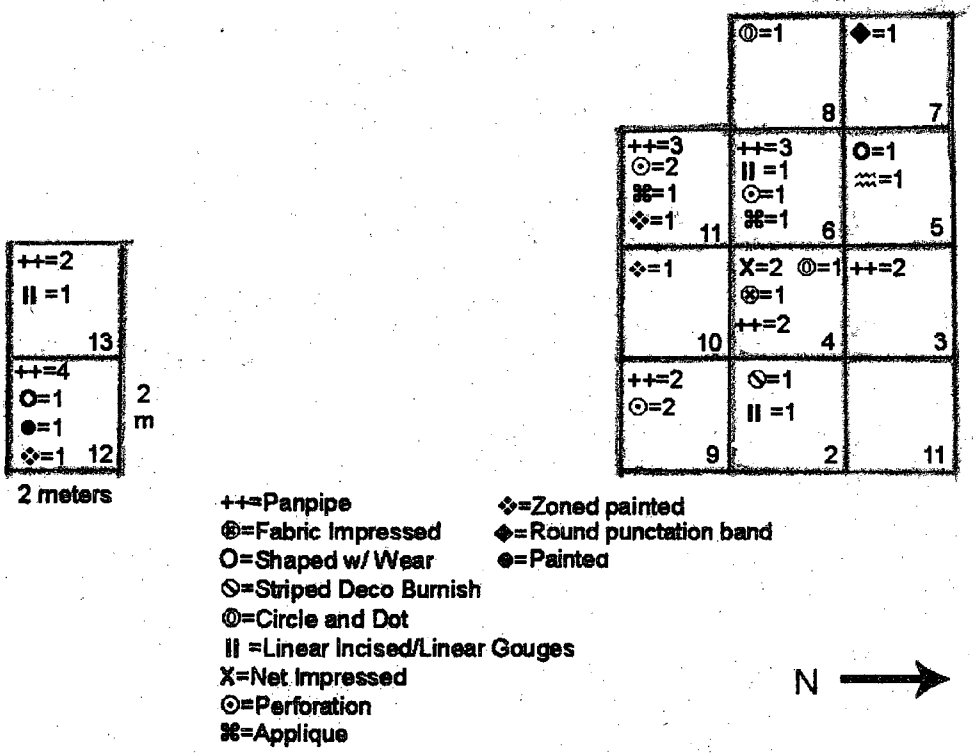


Fig. 52

A10 - UPPER MAIN STAIRCASE
BY SQUARE DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMIC TYPES
WALLFALL DUMP AND RESTRUCTURING CONTEXTS

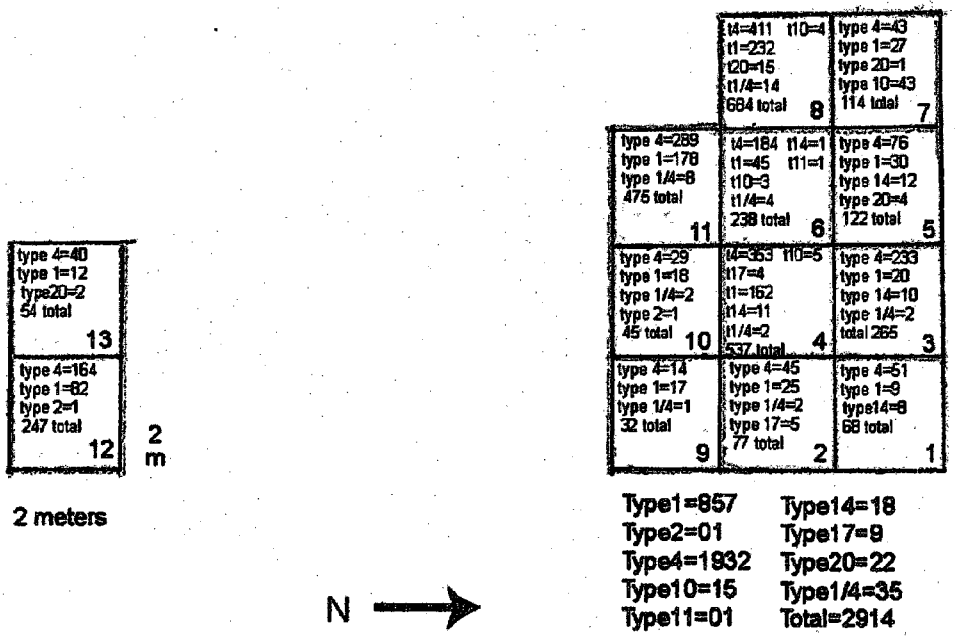


Fig. 53
A6 - FRIEZE AREA
Decorations, Notable Treatments, And Distinct Forms
WITHIN 10cm of SURFACE AND NEAR IP FEATURES

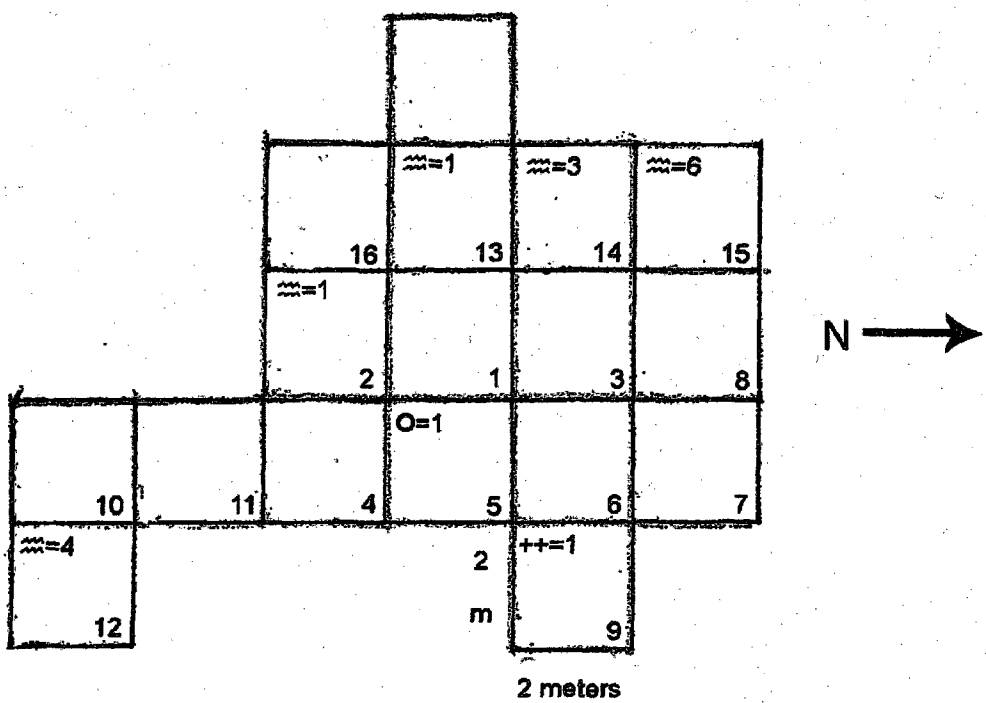


Fig. 54
A6 - FRIEZE AREA
BY SQUARE DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMIC TYPES
WITHIN 10 cm AND NEAR IP SURFACE

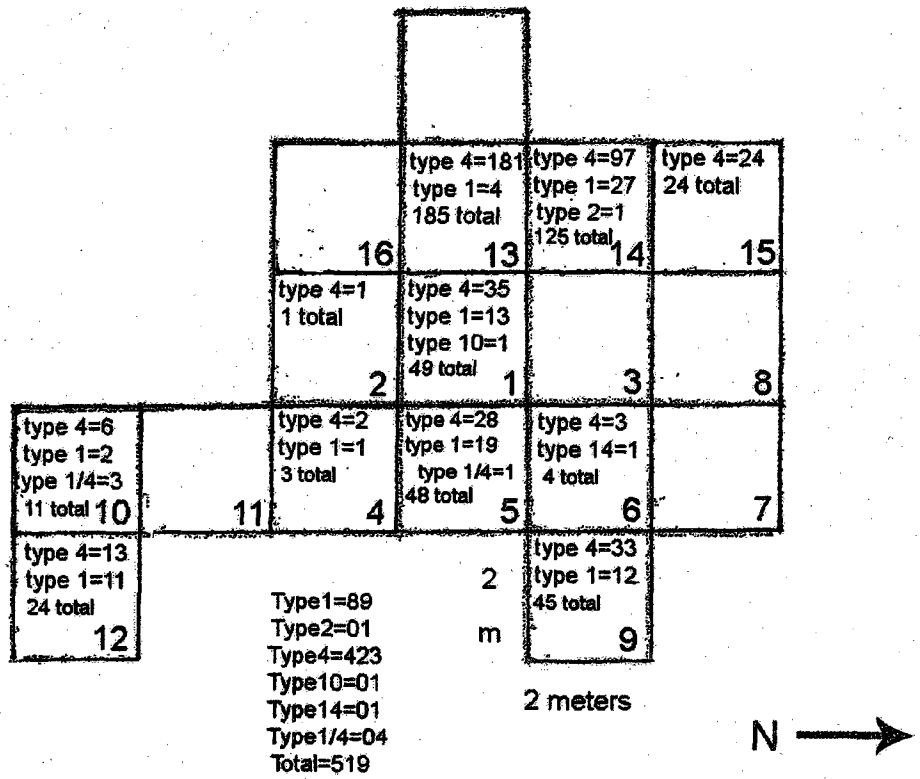
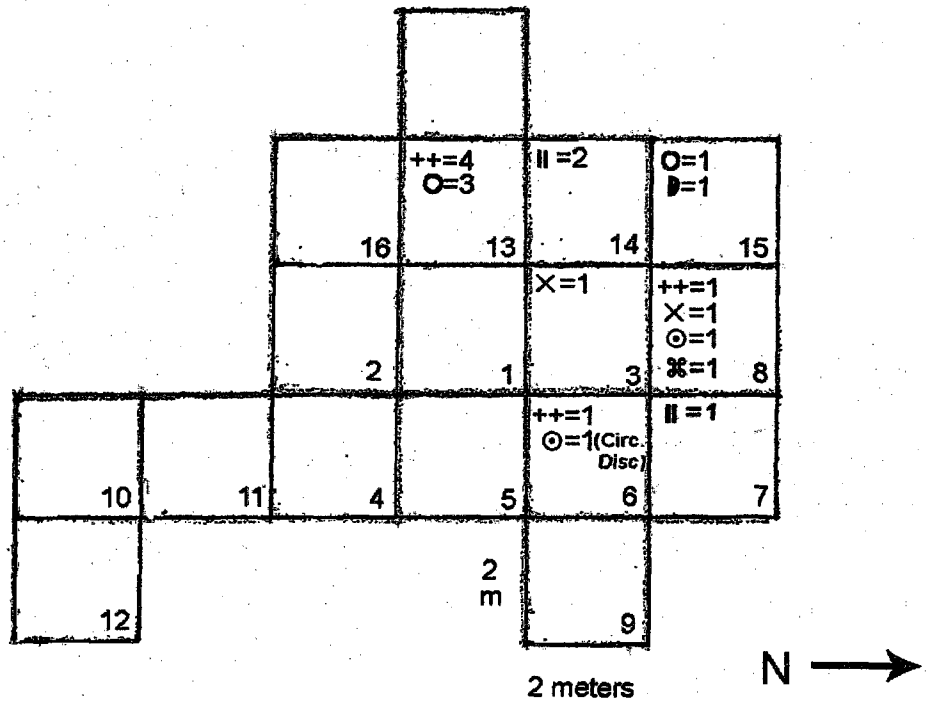


Fig. 55
A6 - FRIEZE AREA
Decorations, Notable Treatments, and Distinct Forms
WALLFALL DUMP AND RESTRUCTURING CONTEXTS



++=Panpipe
II =Linear inc./Gouges
X=Net Impressed
O=Shaped Wear
⊙=Reworked (Perf.)
⌘=Applique
◗=Shaped Wear

Fig. 56
A6 - FRIEZE AREA
BY SQUARE DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMIC TYPES
WALLFALL DUMP AND RESTRUCTURING CONTEXTS

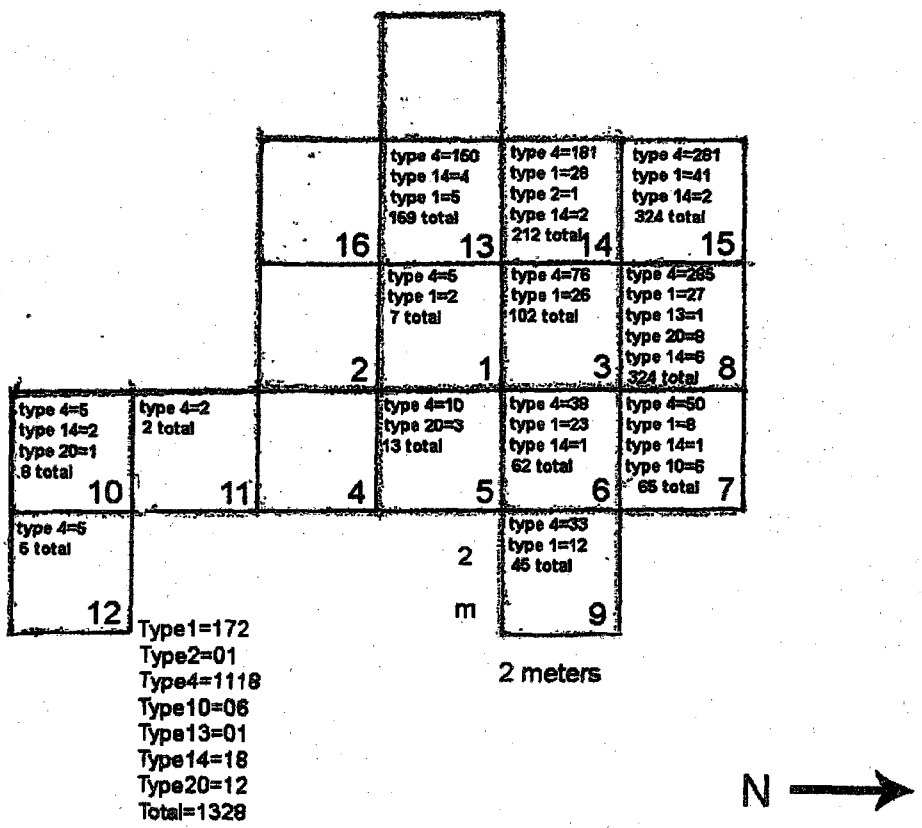
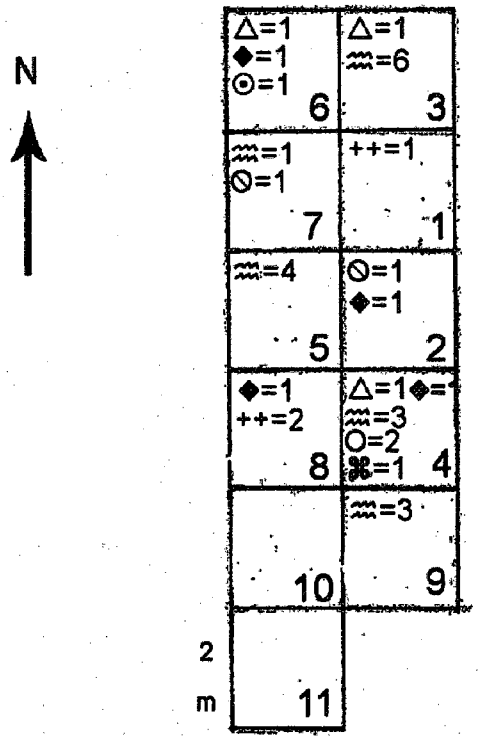


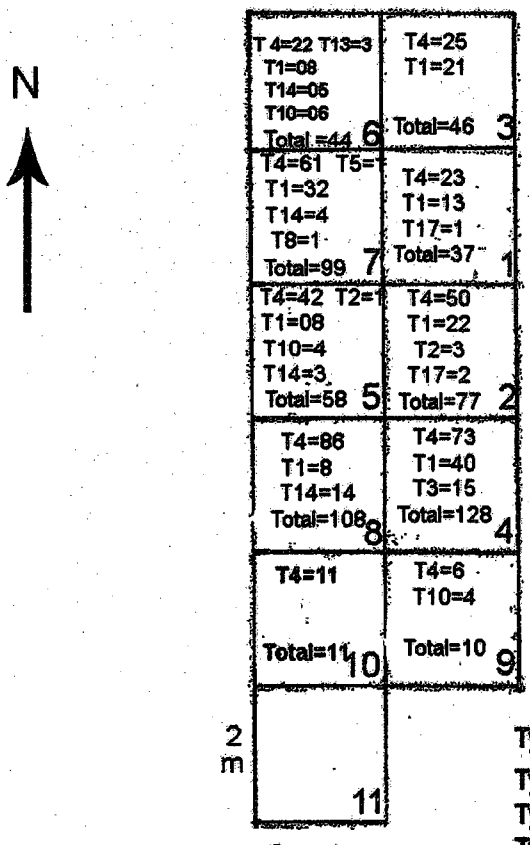
Fig. 57
A4 - NORTHWING STAIRCASE
Decorations, Notable Treatments and Distinct Ceramic Objects
WITHIN 10 cm of SURFACE AND NEAR IP FEATURES



2 meters

◈=Zoned Punctate Dashes
△=Punctate
◆=Round punctation band
⊙=Perforated
≈=Prominent Streaky Burn.
++=Pan Pipes
⊘=Striped Burnish / Pattern
⌘=Applique/Modeled

Fig. 58
A4 - NORTHWING STAIRCASE
BY SQUARE DISTRIBUTION OFCERAMIC TYPES
WITHIN 10 cm AND NEAR IP FEATURES



Types	Totals
Type 4	= 399
Type 1	= 152
Type 10	= 14
Type 14	= 26
Type 2	= 4
Type 17	= 3
Type 13	= 3
Type 3	= 15
Type 8	= 1
Type 5	= 1
Total	= 618

Fig. 59

A4-NORTH WING STAIRCASE

Decorations, Notable Treatments, and Distinct Ceramic Objects/Forms

WALLFALL DUMP AND

RESTRUCTURING CONTEXTS

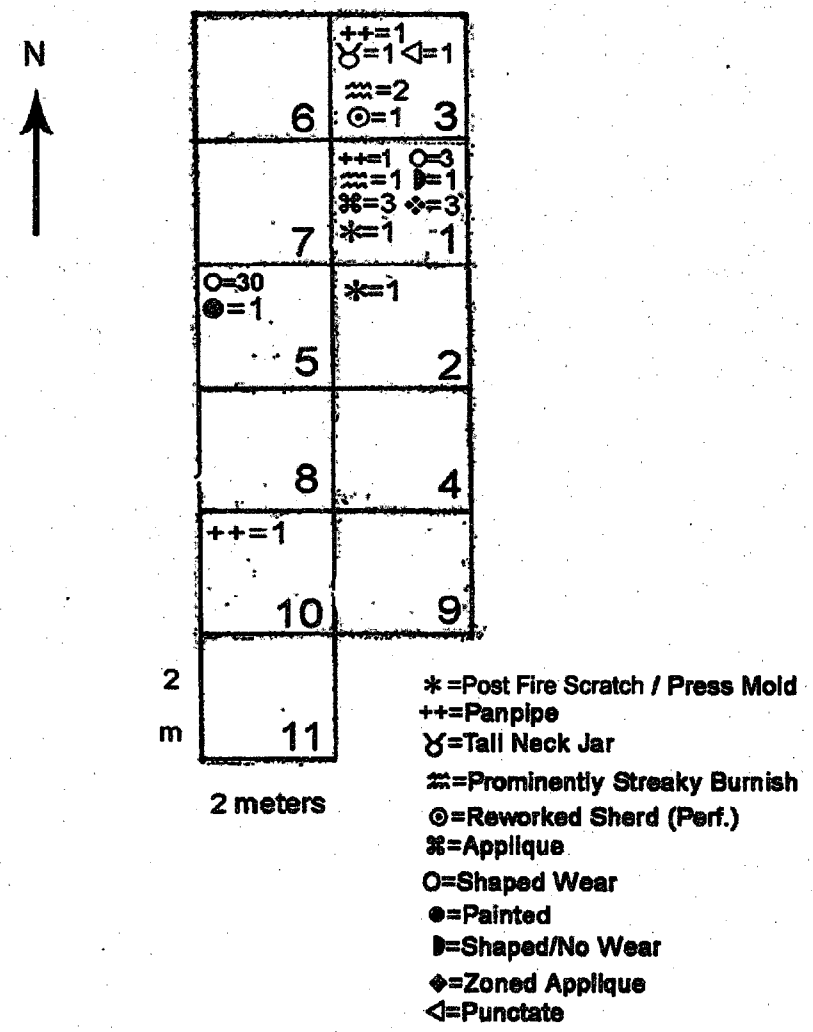
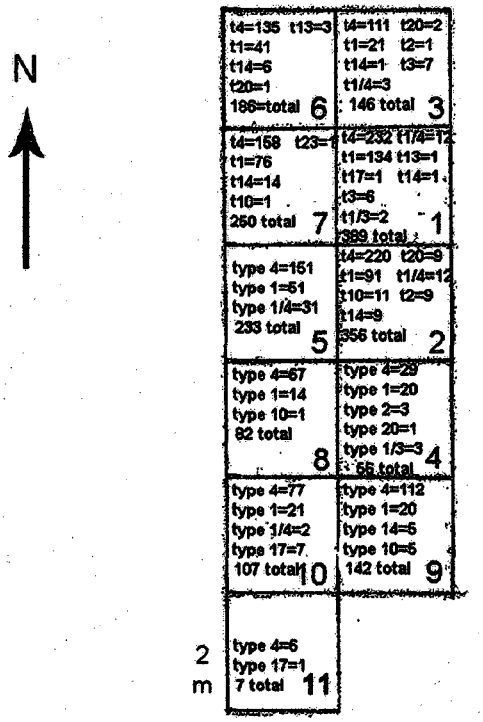


Fig. 60

A4 NORTH WING STAIRCASE
BY SQUARE DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMIC TYPES
WALLFALL /DUMP AND RESTRUCTURING CONTEXTS



Type1=489
Type2=13
Type3=12
Type4=1298
Type10=18
Type13=4
Type14=36
Type417=9
Type20=13
Type23=1
Type1/4=59

1952 total

Fig. 61
A17 - DIFFERENTIATED ARCHITECTURE AREA
Decorations, Notable Treatments, and Distinct Forms
Within 10cm and/or Near Earlier Feature

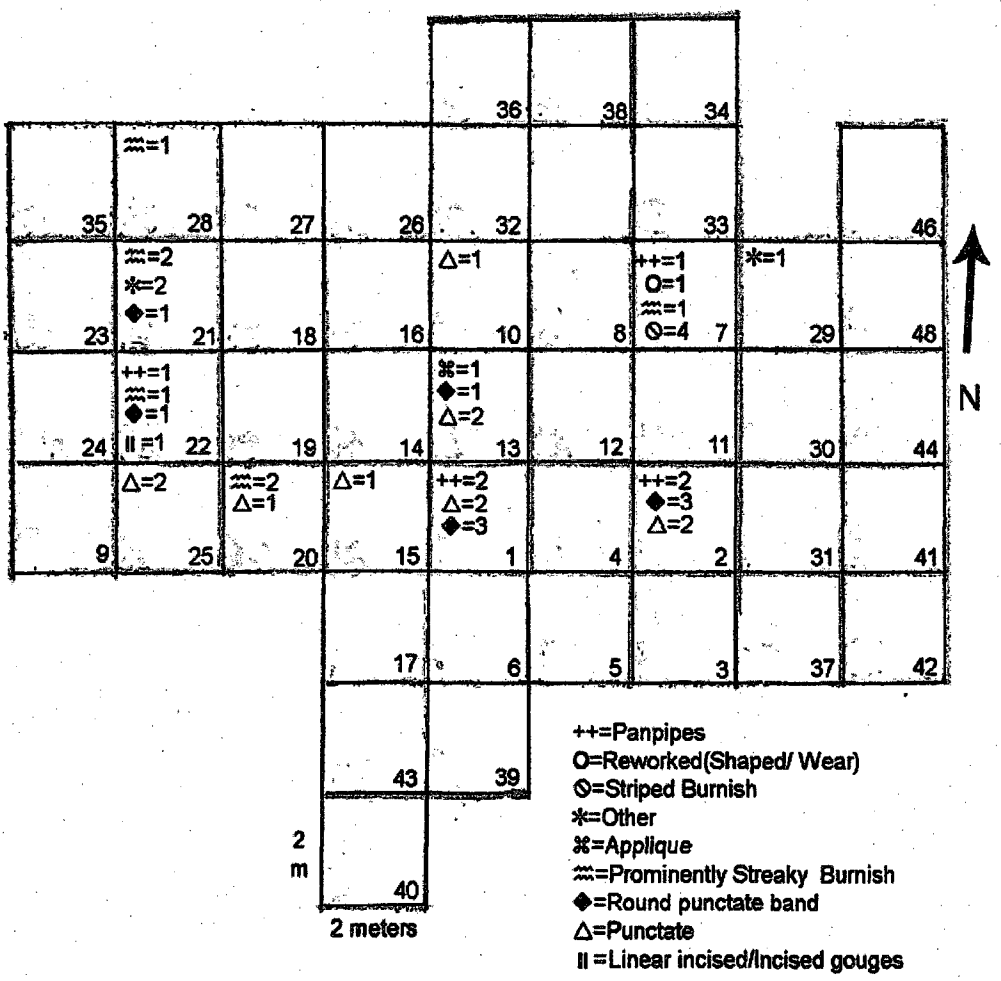


Fig. 62
A17-DIFFERENTIATED ARCHITECTURE AREA
BY SQUARE DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMIC TYPES
WITHIN 10 cm and NEAR IP FEATURES

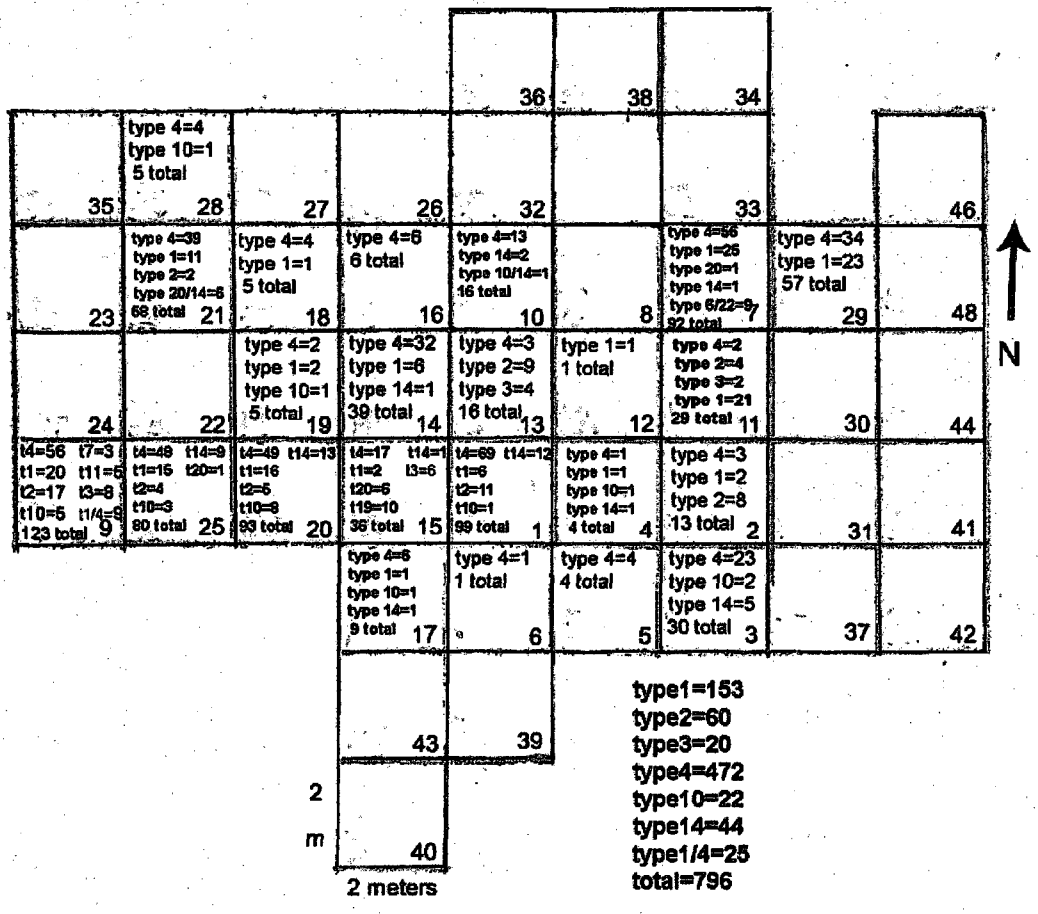


Fig. 63
A17- DIFFERENTIATED ARCHITECTURE AREA
Decorations, Notable Finish, and Distinct Forms
Wallfall Dump and Restructuring Contexts

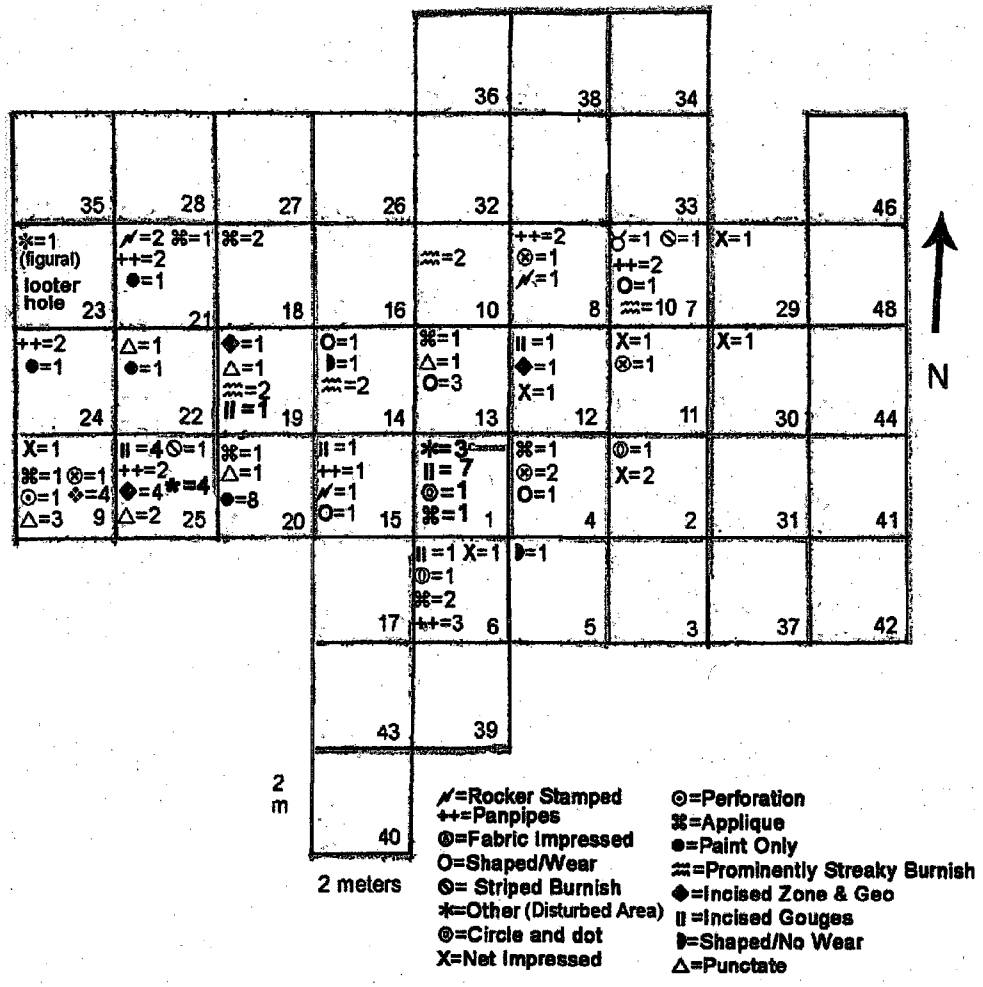
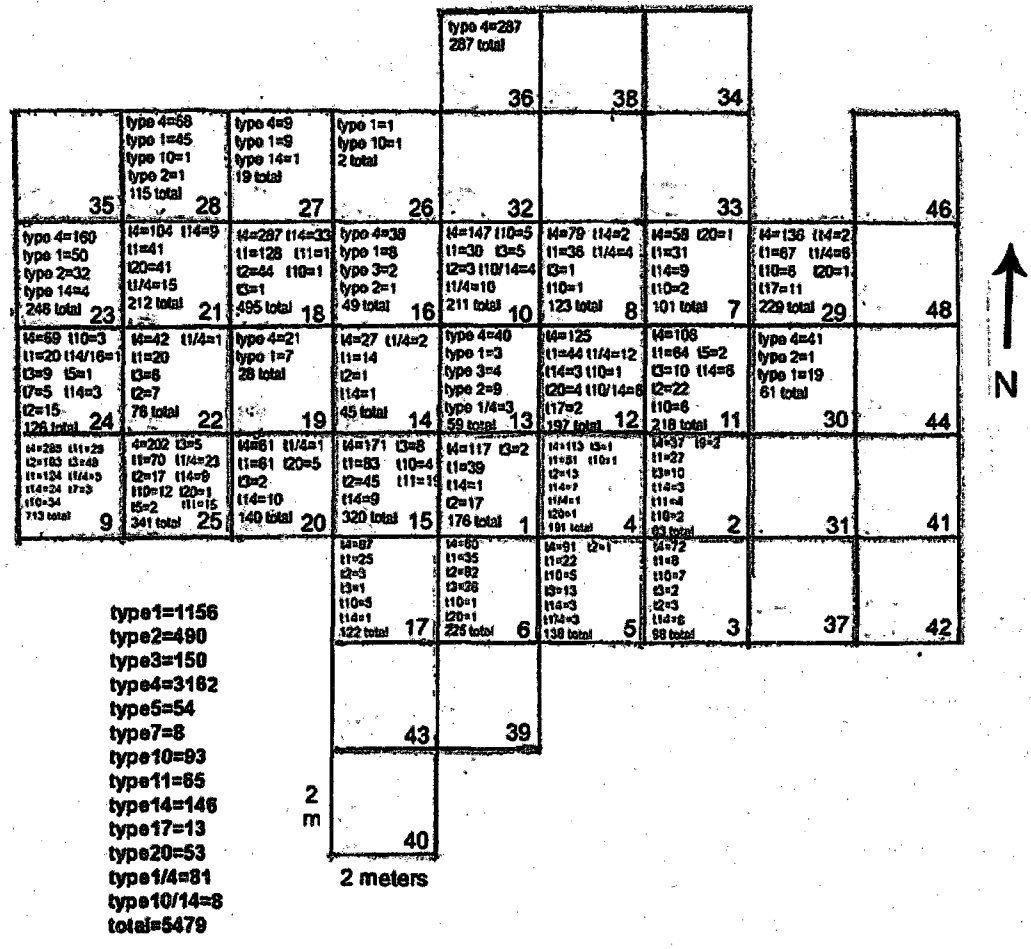


Fig. 64

A17-DIFFERENTIATED ARCHITECTURE AREA BY SQUARED DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMIC TYPES WALLFALL DUMP AND RESTRUCTURING CONTEXTS



APPENDIX D

Sechin Alto Early Horizon Ceramics

Types Totals Within 10cm (all units)

	Area A3	Area A4	Area A5	Area A6	Area A10	Area A17	totals
type1	9	152	21	89	75	153	499
type2		4	4	1	1	60	70
type3	1	15	1			20	37
type4	26	399	151	423	190	472	1661
type5		1					1
type6							0
type7							0
type8		1					1
type9							0
type10	1	14	14	1	1	22	53
type11			2				2
type12							0
type13		3					3
type14	7	26	2	1		44	80
type15							0
type16							0
type17		3					3
type18							0
type19							0
type20	1						1
type21							0
type22							0
type23							0
type1/4				3	4	25	32
other				1			1
totals	45	618	195	519	271	796	2444

Table 1

Sechin Alto Early Horizon Ceramics
Types totals Wall fall

	Area A3	Area A4	Area A5	Area A6	Area A10	Area A17	totals
type1	65	489	417	172	857	1156	3156
type2	3	13	13	1	1	490	521
type3	8	12	9			150	179
type4	388	1298	1167	1118	1932	3162	9065
type5	1					54	55
type6			6				6
type7						8	8
type8					-		0
type9							0
type10	3	18	22	6	15	93	157
type11					1	65	66
type12	12						12
type13		4		1			5
type14	14	36	16	18	42	146	272
type15							0
type16							0
type17	17	9	41		9	13	89
type18			4				4
type19	1		1				2
type20	22	13	88	12	22	53	210
type21							0
type22							0
type23		1	1				2
type1/4		59			35	81	175
other		0	1			8	9
total	534	1952	1786	1328	2914	5479	13993

Table 2

Sechin Alto Early Horizon Ceramics
Decorations and Distinct Finish: Within10cm and/or Near Earliest Feature

Area	A3	A5	A10	A6	A4	A17	Totals
Exterior Net (×) & Fabric Impression (⊗)	1 (compact surface) (fabric)	0	0	0	0	0	1
Zone Punctate, Incision or Appliqué (✥)	0	0	0	0	1 (zonedashes)	1 zone punct.&inc.,	2
Circle and dot (◎)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocker stamping (𝓜)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Punctate (△)	0	0	0	0	3 (2haldasobliqua.)	11 (Las Haldas ovoid/round)	14
Linear incision/Linear Gouges/Broad inc. (ꟾ)	0	0	0	0	0	1 (band)	1
Circular punctate band (Solid)(◈)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other (✻)(inc .crosshatch)	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Appliqué (⌘)	0	0	0	0	1 (fillet/oblong)	1 (small inc. app.)	2
Paint (∘)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Striped burnish/ Patterned burnish (⊘)	0	0	0	0	3 2(semi-reg.body) 1(pattern) bag16	4 1(patterned)(3striped)	7
Prominent burnish streaks (≈)	11	20	13	15	17 1(int.&ext.bowl)	7	83
Total # sherds/ # deco/finish(s)	12 total/ 2 types	20total/ 1 type	13 Total/ 1type	15total/ 1 type	27 total/ 6 types	27 total/ 6 types	Total sherds 114

Table 3

Sechin Alto Early Horizon Ceramics
Decorations and Distinct Finish: Wall fall and Later Levels

Area	A3	A5	A10	A6	A4	A17	Total
Exterior Net (×) & Fabric Impression (⊗)	5(fab.) 5	5(fab) 5	1(fab),2(net.inc.rim) 3	2(net) 2	0	7(net)6(fab) 13	28
Zoned Punctate ❖ Incision or Appliqué	0	0	3 (2inc.bi-chrome)(inc.app. band)	0	3(2 zoned app. small donuts)	5(2dashesw/incis) (2rec tin./zoned inc.) (small donutw/dash)	11
Circle and dot/circle in circle (⊙)	0	2(2bowl)(1circle in circle)	3(2bowl) (jar)	0	0	1(bowl)(bg.1)	6
Rocker stamping(𝍐)	0	0	0	0	0	4 (zoned)	4
Punctate (△)	0	0	0	0	1 (Haldas tri.)	12 9(Haldas ovoid), 1(small round) 2(oblique,tri.,tear.)	13
Linear inc../Linear Gouges/Broad inc. (𝍪)	0	2 2(gouges/shoulder.)	3(2linear inc.) (lin. gouge)	3(incised rim) (ovoid gouge) (incised no.collar)	0	17(4linear inc.) (2linear gouges) (4incised arch.) 2(line/inc.crosshatch)	25
Circular punctate band (solid)(⧫)	2	1	1	0	0	0	4
Other (✻)	0	0	0	0	1 (post fire scratch)	8 (1fig.surface.sq.23) (4pressmoldsq.25) (3EIP combed inc.sq.)	9
Appliqué(faunal, abstract) (⌘)	0	2 (fillet)(nub)	2 (1abstract;1lg.abs. with incisions)	1 (fillet/band)	3(jars) (1bagel/2band)	15(3bagel) (3band plain) (2sm. round),(2lug) (abstract)(4tierectbnd.)	22
Paint (•)	1(2.5yr6/4-6/6)?	0	4 (bowl/dark grey5y3/2)	0	1 (line&dots;black 5YR 3/1)	8(6=1bowl 5YR/2.5/1 black lines) 2(abstract blk.lines color n/a)	14
Striped Burnish/ Pattern burnish(⊘)	0	1 (Striped.disk)	1 (striped)	0	0	10(1 patterned) 9(striped)	12
Prominent burnish streaks (≈)	0	1(body)	1 (body sherd)	0	3(bag125)	14	19
Total # sherds/ # deco./finish(s)	8 total/ 3 diff.	14total/ 7 diff.	20total/ 10diff.	6 total/ 3 diff.	12total/ 6 diff.	107total/ 17 diff.	Total sherds 167

Table 4

Sechin Alto Early Horizon Ceramics
Diagnostic Sherds: Vessel Forms Near Earliest Features (Within10cm, etc.)

Area	A3	A5	A10	A6	A4	A17	Total/form
Neckless olla	1	4	12	14	13	17	61
Short neck jar	0	0	2	0	0	2	4
Tall Neck jar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flaring Rim Jar	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Bottle	0	1	1	1	0	4	7
Stirrup Spout bottle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Panpipe	0	0	3	3	3	6	15
Neckless olla w/spout	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Bowl	1	0	5	0	3	3	12
Grater bowl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spindle whorl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plate/Tray/ Shallow bowl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total/Total # forms per. area	2/2	5/2	23/5	19/4	19/3	33/6	Total Sherds 101

Table 5

Shaped Sherds: W/in 10cm and Near Earliest Feature

Area	A3	A5	A10	A6	A4	A17	Totals
Shaped sherd no wear (◗)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shaped sherd with Wear(○)	0	0	0	1 (semicircle) (bg.31)	2(triangular) (rectangular)	2 (rectangular)	5
Perforated sherd (◉)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**5**

Table 6

Sechin Alto Early Horizon Ceramics
Diagnostic Sherds: Vessel Forms Wall fall, Dump and Fill Contexts

Area	A3	A5	A10	A6	A4	A17	Total/form
Neckless olla	23	31	136	66	20	242	518
Short neck jar	1	28	17	1	2	26	75
Tall Neck jar	0	0	1	0	4	4	9
Flaring Rim Jar	0	3	5	0	1	6	15
Bottle	1	6	2	0	0	$12_{1(bottle5yr\ 4/1dk\ gray)}$	21
Stirrup Spout bottle	0	0	0	0	0	$2_{1(bg.385)}$	2
Panpipe	0	6	18	6	3	14	47
Neckless olla w/spout	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bowl	2	7	19	0	2	24	54
Grater bowl	0	3	0	0	0	1	4
Spoon fragment	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Spindle whorl	$1_{(need\ disc.)}$	1	0	0	0	0	2
Plate/tray/shallow bowl	0	0	0	0	0	$4_{(bg.545)}$	1
Total/Total # forms per area	28/5	86/9	198/7	73/3	32/6	330/9	Total sherds 748

Table 7

Sechin Alto Early Horizon Ceramics
Shaped Sherds: Wall fall and Later Levels

Area	A3	A5	A10	A6	A4	A17	Totals
Shaped sherd no wear (◗)	1 (triangular)	4 (3disk) (1discoid/w rim)	0	3 (2disk) (1rectangular)	1 (disk)	2 (1semicircle/rim) 1(rectangular)	11
Shaped sherd with Wear (O)	2 (1rectangular) (1 disk)	8 (4disk) (3semi-circle) (1rectangular)	4 (4semi.circle)	5 (2disk) (3semicircle)	33 (13disk/ diskoid) (15rectangular) (1semicircle) (4triangular)	7 1(semi circle) 5(rectangular) 1(disk)	59
Perforated sherd (◎)	1 (body)	2 (1 rim) (1body)	5 (4rim) (1body)	2 (1perf.disk) (1rim)	2 (rim) (body)	1 (rim)	12
Totals	**4**	**14**	**9**	**10**	**36**	**10**	**83**

Table 8

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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Education:

University of Texas-Pan American, M.A. Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Anthropology, 2009.

University of Texas-Pan American, B.A. Anthropology, 2001.

Continuing Education:

Voluntariado Internacional Chan Chan, Complejo Arqueologico de Chan Chan-Trujillo, Peru. June 27-July 14, 2005 and August 16-September 3, 2004.

Programa Arqueologico Complejo El Brujo (Convenio Fundacion Wiese/Instituto Nacional de Cultura-La Libertad), Complejo Arqueologico El Brujo-Magdalena de Cao, Peru. Certificate, July 18-August12, 2005 and August 21-September 3, 2004.

Casma Valley/Sechin Alto Archeological Project- Casma, Peru. June-August 2002; June-August 2001 and June-August 2000.

Lower Rio Grande Folklore Archives, University of Texas Pan American, Edinburg, TX. Spring 2000 and Fall 1999.

University of Texas-Pan American Special Collections, University of Texas- Pan American, Edinburg, TX. Spring 2000 and Fall 1999.

Museum of South Texas History (formerly Hidalgo County Historical Museum), Edinburg, TX. Fall 1999 and Spring 1999.

University of Texas-Pan American Primate Behavior Internship, Gladys Porter Zoo-Brownsville, TX. Spring 1999.

Experience:

Anthropology Research Assistant for Dr. Shelia Pozorski, The University of Texas-Pan American. Spring 2002 to Fall 2002

Professional Affiliations and Memberships:

Co-Director of the Biblioteca de la Voz Oral History Project, Instituto Nacional de Cultura-La Libertad, Peru, 2007-Current.

Vice-President, Lambda Alpha- Beta Chapter, Edinburg, TX, 2001-2002.

Treasurer, Lambda Alpha- Beta Chapter, Edinburg, TX, 2000-2001.

Member, Lambda Alpha- Beta Chapter, Edinburg, TX, 1999-Present.

Member, Anthropology Club, University of Texas Pan American-Edinburg, TX, 1998-2007.

Professional Conferences and Workshops:

Presenter, "Los Huicholes y El Tradicion Shamanistico", II Jornada Cultural-Dia Internacional de las Poblaciones Indigenas, August 9, 2006 Trujillo-Peru.

Attendee, "Mesa Redonda-Gallinazo: Una Tradicion Cultural Temprana en la Costa Norte del Peru", July 2-3, 2005 Trujillo-Peru.

Attendee, "New Perspectives on Moche Political Organization", 2004 Dumbarton Oaks Pre-Columbian Studies Symposium, August 6-8, 2004 Lima-Peru.

Attendee, "The Art, the Arts, and the Archaeology of the Moche", Fourth D.J. Sibley Family Conference on World Traditions and Culture-, November 14-17, 2003 University of Texas-Austin.

Awards:

- 2000 International Education Fee Scholarship, June 2000.
- 2001 International Education Fee Scholarship, June 2001.