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National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Albert J. Redder papers, 1957-2008

Sidney Ascher

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Albert J. Redder papers
Date:	1957-2008
Identifier:	NAA.2023-09
Creator:	Redder, Albert J. (Albert Joseph), 1922- Watt, Frank H. (Frank Hedden), 1889-1981
Extent:	6 Linear feet (6 document boxes, 1 map folder, and 2 slide boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Albert J. Redder (1957-2008) primarily document his and Frank H. Watt's archaeological excavations of the Horn Shelter sites Horn Shelter #1 and Horn Shelter #2, but also includes Redder's field notes and research materials relating to other central Texas archaeological sites and correspondence he recieved during his time with the Central Texas Archaeological Society. The collection contains both Redder's and Watt's field notes, data and analyses, manuscript drafts, correspondence, photographs, and illustrations.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These papers were donated with associated artifacts to NMNH's Department of Anthropology by Albert J. Redder in 2009. The papers were transfered to the National Anthropological Archives in 2023.

Related Materials

Artifacts and other archaeological materials from Albert J. Redder's and Frank H. Watt's excavation of Horn Shelter #1 and the south-end of Horn Shelter #2 are held in the Anthropology collections of the National Museum of Natural History in accessions 2055811 and 2084039. Artifacts from Redder's excavations of the Warner Site (41ML46) and various Knox County (41KX) sites are in accession 2055811 but are not yet processed.

Artifacts and other archaeological materials from Robert E. Forrester's excavation of the north-end of Horn Shelter #2 can be found in accession 2092737.

A selection of artifacts and soil samples from the south-end of Horn Shelter #2 are located at Baylor University's Mayborn Museum Complex.

Baylor University holds more of Frank Watt's papers in the Frank Heddon Watt collection.

Processing Information

Folder titles were retained unless no folder title existed in which case a general title describing the contents was created.

Processed and encoded by Sidney Ascher, June 2023

Preferred Citation

Albert J. Redder papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The Albert J. Redder papers is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Albert J. Redder (b. 1922) is an avocational archaeologist who conducted archaeological field work in central Texas. His friend and colleague Frank H. Watt (1889-1981) was a lithographic artist and avocational archaeologist who also conducted archaeological field work in central Texas. The two worked closely together on multiple projects, including excavating Horn Shelter #1 (41BQ47) from 1960 to 1964 and Horn Shelter #2 (41BQ46) from 1966 to 1990, although Watt ceased excavating circa 1975.

Albert Joseph Redder was born on August 21, 1922 in Munday, Texas. As a child and young adult, Redder was interested in archaeology and collecting arrowpoints but it wasn't until the 1950s when he joined the Texas Archaeological Society. With his membership, he attended meetings and fieldschools, learning excavation techniques and how to document his findings. Redder would later join and actively participate in the Central Texas Archaeological Society, founded by Frank H. Watt and friends. During his time in the Central Texas Archaeological Society, Redder held the positions of president, field coordinator, and outreach speaker. In 1988, the Texas Archaeological Society awarded Redder with a Fellow membership to the organization, a lifetime honor "for meritorious contribution to Texas archeology and the Society," due to his contribution to the field with his work at Horn Shelter.

Frank Hedden Watt was born on January 15, 1889 near Lynnville, Indiana, though he lived in Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Kansas throughout the 1910s working as a lithographic artist. Following his service in World War I, Watt moved to Waco in 1920 where he continued his professional career as a lithographic artist. In 1934 he developed an interest in archaeology and formed the Central Texas Archaeological Society with some of his friends and fellow avocational archaeologists. Watt was passionate about preserving artifacts' context and provenience in his effort to outline Texas's prehistory. In addition to excavation, Watt also published and edited volumes of the Bulletin of the Central Texas Archaeological Society and wrote for and published the Society's Newsletter. Watt's final excavation was Horn Shelter #2 when he was in his mid-80's, although he continued to publish writings after. In 1976 he was awarded a Fellow membership to the Texas Archaeological Society. Watt passed away in 1981 at the age of 92.

In the 1960s and 1970s Albert J. Redder and Frank H. Watt surveyed several archaeological sites on the Herman Horn property in Bosque County along the Brazos River. In 1960 they began excavating Horn Shelter #1, a rock shelter that showed evidence of paleo, archaic, and neo-American occupation. At Horn Shelter #1, Redder and Watt uncovered pottery, bone artifacts, lithic tools, faunal remains, and several burials. In 1967 the pair began excavating Horn Shelter #2, another rock shelter a mere 75 steps north of Horn Shelter #1. Horn Shelter #2 showed evidence of occupation from paleo through the Prohibition era. The site was excavated primarily by Redder, Watt, and Robert E. Forrester who found and documented lithics, bone tools, and faunal remains. The site was split along a balcony ledge that had created a natural divide in the rock shelter: the south-end was excavated by Redder and Watt while the north-end was later excavated by Robert E. Forrester starting in 1968. Redder and Watt meticulously documented and excavated the south-end's 27 stratified layers reaching bedrock at points as deep as 20 feet. In 1970, Redder and Watt uncovered a double burial with a cache of artifacts in a paleo level. Due to the Horn property being a long commute for both Redder and Watt, the two would take over 20 years to excavate this complex site. It was the last site that Watt would participate in excavating before stopping around 1975; Redder excavated the site until 1990.

Chronology of the Life of Albert J. Redder

21 August 1922	Born in Munday, Texas, USA
circa 1942-1945	Served in the Army in World War II
circa 1950	Joined the Texas Archaeological Society
1961-1964	Excavated Horn Shelter #1 with Frank H. Watt
1966-1990	Excavated the south-end of Horn Shelter #2 with Frank H. Watt
August 1970	Uncovered the paleo-level double burial at Horn Shelter #2
1985	Authored Horn Shelter Number 2: The South End, A Preliminary Report
1988	Recognized as a Fellow of the Texas Archaeological Society
	Coauthored Excavation and Positioning of the Horn Shelter's Burial and Grave Goods with John W. Fox

Chronology of the Life of Frank H. Watt

15 January 1889	Born near Lynnville, Indiana
circa 1917	Served in World War I as an aircraft mechanic at Ellington Field
1920	Moved to Waco, Texas
1934	Founded the Central Texas Archaeological Society
1937-1969	Edited and published the Bulletin of the Central Texas Archaeological Society
1938	Joined the Texas Archaeological Society
1966-circa 1975	Excavated the south-end of Horn Shelter #2 with Albert J. Redder
1967	Became President Emeritus of the Central Texas Archaeological Society
1976	Recognized as a Fellow of the Texas Archaeological Society
1978	Authored Radiocarbon Chronology of Sites in the Central Brazos Valley
9 October 1981	Died at the age of 92

Sources Consulted

Bischof, Robin E. "Boxes and Boxes, Missing Context and an Avocational Archaeologist: Making Sense of the Frank Watt Collection at the Mayborn Museum Complex." Master's thesis, Baylor University, 2011.

Lawrence, T. G. Jr. and Albert J. Redder. "Frank H. Watt, The Central Texas Archaeologist." *Central Texas Archaeologist, Journal of the Central Texas Archaeological Society* 10 (1985): 7-11.

Mott Davis, E. "Watt, Frank Hedden." *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed June 14, 2023, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/watt-frank-hedden>.

Smith, Heather. "Horn Shelter." *Texas Beyond History*, December 2010. <https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/horn/index.html>.

Redder, Albert J. "Horn Shelter Number 2: The South End, A Preliminary Report." *Central Texas Archeologist, Journal of the Central Texas Archeological Society* 10 (1985): 37-65.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Albert J. Redder document his archaeological excavations and subsequent analysis of various sites across central Texas including the Horn Shelter sites (Horn Shelter #1 and Horn Shelter #2), the Warner Site, and

smaller sites in Knox County. The papers reflect his work as an avocational archaeologist and active member of the Central Texas Archaeological Society. Also included are the papers of Frank H. Watt, who excavated and analyzed the Horn Shelter sites alongside Redder. These papers relate to his excavation of and research on the Horn Shelter sites and were given to Redder following Watt's death in 1981.

The collection contains Redder's extensive field notes, photographs, artifact and section illustrations, and research files relating to Horn Shelter #1 and Horn Shelter #2. Additionally there are field notes and surveys from various sites in Knox County, Texas and the Warner Site (41ML46). The papers contain logs of visitors that Redder hosted at the Horn Shelter sites and other central Texas archaeological sites, and correspondence directed to Redder and the Central Texas Archaeological Society, for which Redder was president, field coordinator, and outreach speaker.

Watt's materials consist of field notes, photographs, artifact and site illustrations, and research files relating to Horn Shelter #1 and Horn Shelter #2, and drafts he wrote for the Bulletin of the Texas Archaeological Society. He conducted pollen analysis and radiocarbon dating for the sites, and researched their artifacts which include beamers and the Brazos Fishtail point he would later propose as a type point in 1978.

Please note that the collection contains images of human remains.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Arrangement

The Albert J. Redder papers are divided into 4 series:

Series 1: Horn Shelter #1, 1961-1981 (bulk: 1962-1964)

Series 2: Horn Shelter #2, 1957-1989

Series 3: Texas Archaeology Field Notes, 1970-2002, undated

Series 4: Visitor Logs and Correspondence, 1975-2008

Selected Bibliography

1996. Forrester, Robert E., Calvin B. Smith, and Albert J. Redder. *Horn Shelter Number 2, the North End : a Stratified Rock Shelter in Bosque County, Texas*. Waco, TX: Strecker Museum Complex, Baylor University, 1996.

1988. Fox, John W. and Albert J Redder. "Excavation and Positioning of the Horn Shelter's Burial and Grave Goods." *Central Texas Archeologist, Journal of the Central Texas Archeological Society* 11 (1988): 1-12.

1985. Lawrence, T. G. Jr. and Albert J. Redder. "Frank H. Watt, The Central Texas Archaeologist." *Central Texas Archaeologist, Journal of the Central Texas Archaeological Society* 10 (1985): 7-11.

1985. Redder, Albert J. "Horn Shelter Number 2: The South End, A Preliminary Report." *Central Texas Archeologist, Journal of the Central Texas Archeological Society* 10 (1985): 37-65.

1978. Watt, Frank H. "Radiocarbon Chronology of Sites in the Central Brazos Valley." *Bulletin of the Texas Archaeological Society*, 49 (1978): 111-138.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Archaeology
Archaeology -- Texas
Archaeology -- United States
Early Man -- Paleo-Indian
Excavations (Archaeology)
Lithics -- American Indian

Cultures:

Early Man -- Paleo-Indian

Container Listing

Series 1: Horn Shelter #1, 1961-1981 (bulk 1962-1964)

0.42 Linear feet (1 document box)

- Scope and Contents:** This series comprises material relating to Albert J. Redder and Frank H. Watt's excavation at Horn Shelter #1 from 1961 to 1964. Research files relating to the excavation date between 1964 and 1981. Included are field notes, artifact data cards, artifact illustrations, and site surveys by Albert J. Redder of Horn Shelter #1. Also included are field notes, section and artifact illustrations, research files, correspondence, drafts, and photographs by Frank H. Watt of Horn Shelter #1.
- Arrangement:** Series 1 is divided into 2 sub-series: (1.1) Albert J. Redder Field Research, 1962-1981; and (1.2) Frank H. Watt Field Research, 1961-before 1981.

Subseries 1.1: Albert J. Redder Field Research, 1962-1981 (bulk 1962-1964)

Box 1	Horn Shelter #1 Field Notes and Artifact Tracings, 1962-1964, 1981
Box 1	Horn Shelter #1 Artifact Notecards, 1962-1964
Box 1	Horn Shelter #1 Artifact Tracing Cards, 1962-1964
Box 1	Horn Shelter #1 Artifact Tracings, 1962-1964
Box 1	Horn Shelter #1 Photographs, 1962-1964
Box 1	Horn Sites Survey Sheets, 1972-1973

Subseries 1.2: Frank H. Watt Field Research, 1961-before 1981

Box 1	Detail Records from Horn Shelter #1, 1962-1964
Box 1	Horn Shelter #1 Research, 1962-1974
Box 1	Horn Shelter #1 Burials, 1961-1967
Box 1	Beamers, 1961-1974
Box 1	Horn Shelter #1 Radiocarbon Dating, 1964-1978
Box 1	Potsherd photographs, before 1981

Box 1

Paleoindian Station Drafts, before 1981

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Series 2: Horn Shelter #2, 1957-1989

3.75 Linear feet (3 document boxes and 1 map folder)

Scope and Contents: This series comprises material relating to Albert J. Redder's and Frank H. Watt's excavation of the Horn Shelter #2 site from 1966 to 1990. Research files relating to the excavation date between 1957 and 1989. Redder's and Watt's materials particularly focus on what was named the "south-end" of the site. Horn Shelter #2 was split down a median line following a natural divide within the shelter from a balcony ledge. Robert. E Forrester lead excavation of the "north-end" of the site while Redder and Watt excavated the south-end, with the intention of the findings from both sites eventually being reunited for research and analysis.

Included are Albert J. Redder's extensive field notes containing daily excavation notes, artifact and section illustrations, a glossary of archaeological terminology, and newspaper clippings about Horn Shelter #2. Also included are Frank H. Watt's field notes, section illustrations, pollen analysis, documentation of the burials, research of brazos fishtail points, radiocarbon dating of the site, and manuscripts. Within Watt's materials are photocopies of a portion of Robert E. Forrester's notes and research of the north-end of the site.

Arrangement: Series 2 is divided into 2 sub-series: (2.1) Albert J. Redder Field Notes, 1966-1989; and (2.2) Frank H. Watt Field Research, 1957-1981.

Subseries 2.1: Albert J. Redder Field Notes, 1966-2001 (bulk 1966-1989)

Box 2	Field Notes Book 1, 1966-1989 Notes: Field Notes Book 1 contains outline tracings of artifacts, maps of the shelter showing the excavated areas, and daily excavation notes.
Box 2	Field Notes Book 2, 1966-1989 Notes: Field Notes Book 2 contains daily excavation notes and section drawings.
Box 2	Field Notes Book 3, 1969-1989 Notes: Field Notes Book 3 contains feature reports, artifact tracings organized by catalog number, and descriptions of the stratigraphic levels.
Box 2	Field Notes Book 4, 1966-2001 (bulk 1966-1989) Notes: Field Notes Book 4 contains descriptions of slides, wall profile drawings, the catalog of artifacts, and narratives about site visits with Shane Prochnow.
Box 2	Field Notes Book 5, 1966-1989 Notes: Field Notes Book 5 contains section drawings and feature reports.
Box 3	Field Notes Book 6, 1996-1989 Notes: Book 6 contains stratigraphic layer descriptions, artifact illustrations, burial notes, and flake and artifact catalogs.
Box 3	Field Notes Book 7, 1966-1989

	Notes:	Book 7 contains feature reports, artifact illustrations, and section drawings.
Box 3		Newspaper Clippings, 1983
Box 3		Archaeology Terms Glossary, undated
Map-folder 1	Section Illustrations, 1966-1989	Notes: Nineteen (19) large illustrations of wall profiles and sections.

Subseries 2.2: Frank H. Watt Field Research, 1957-1975

Box 3		Horn Shelter #2 Field Notes, 1966-1974
Box 3		Section Drawings and Field Notes, 1962-1975
Box 3		Horn Shelter #2 Burials, 1966-1975
Box 3		Brazos Fishtail Research, 1972-1974
Box 3		Pollen, 1974-1975
Box 3		University of Texas C14 Reports, 1957, 1962-1974
Box 4		Dee Ann Story C14 Reports, 1970-1975
Box 4		Radiocarbon Chronology Drafts, 1975, 1978
Box 4		Radiocarbon Chronology Manuscript, 1979
Box 4		Drafts and Correspondence, 1960-1978
Box 4		Robert E. Forrester Horn Shelter #2 Scans, 1974

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Series 3: Texas Archaeology Field Notes, 1970-2002, undated

1.42 Linear feet (1 document box and 2 slide boxes)

Scope and Contents: Series 3 comprises slides, survey forms, and field notes for various archaeology sites in Central Texas that Albert J. Redder excavated, focusing in Knox County (41KX) and the Warner Site (41ML46).

Box 4 Warner Site 41ML46, 1970-1973

Box 4 Knox County, Texas Site Surveys, 1971-2002

Box 4 Knox County Sites 41KX, 1968-1982

Box 4 Slide Index, undated

Box 4 Horn Rock Shelter project, 41BQ45, 2002

Slidebox 7; Slides, 1970-1991, 1999-2006

Slidebox 8

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Series 4: Visitor Logs and Correspondence, 1975-2008

.83 Linear feet (2 document boxes)

Scope and Contents: Series 4 comprises narratives written by Albert J. Redder about tours he conducted for visitors at the various sites he had excavated and correspondence he received regarding his work and on behalf of the Central Texas Archaeological Society.

Correspondents represented in this series include students, researchers, colleagues, and friends that Redder worked with, as well as members of the general public requesting information from the Central Texas Archaeological Society.

Arrangement: Series 4 is arranged by type and the correspondence is further arranged alphabetically.

Box 5	Visitor Log 1, 1975-1994
Box 5	Visitor Log 2, 1995-1998
Box 5	Visitor Log 3, 1999-2003
Box 6	Letters, 1962-2000
Box 6	Correspondence: A-C, 1976-2005
Box 6	Correspondence: D-L, 1974-2008
Box 6	Correspondence: M-S, 1974-2006
Box 6	Correspondence: T-Z, 1980-2005

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