



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Robert E. Forrester Jr. papers, 1951-1996

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2025 February

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Robert E. Forrester Jr. papers
Date:	1951-1996
Identifier:	NAA.2025-05
Creator:	Forrester, Robert E., Jr. (Robert Early), 1924-1996
Extent:	13.72 Linear feet (25 boxes and 1 map folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Robert E. Forrester Jr. (1924-1996) document his archaeological excavations in central Texas and western New Mexico. The collection contains field notes, data and analyses, manuscript drafts, correspondence, photographs, and illustrations pertaining to his excavations and artifact collection.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These papers were donated with associated artifacts to NMNH's Department of Anthropology by Kelly Hallmark and Kimberly Molidor in 2009. The papers were transferred to the National Anthropological Archives in 2025.

Related Materials

Artifacts and other archaeological materials from Robert E. Forrester's excavations are held in the Anthropology collection of the National Museum of Natural History in accession 2092737.

Archival material from Albert J. Redder's excavation of the south-end of Horn Shelter #2 are held in the National Anthropological Archives in accession NAA.2023-09. Artifacts and other archaeological materials from the excavation are held in Anthropology's accessions 2055811 and 2084039.

Processing Information

Folders were generally organized by subject matter. Original folder titles were retained.

Processed and encoded by Sidney Ascher, February 2025.

Preferred Citation

Robert E. Forrester Jr. papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The Robert E. Forrester Jr. papers is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Robert Early Forrester, Jr. (1924-1996) was a chemist and avocational archaeologist who conducted archaeological field work in western New Mexico and central Texas. He held a wide-ranging collection of archeological specimens from across the United States. He was married to Billie Jean Reynolds and had two daughters.

Forrester was an active member in the Texas Archaeological Society, the Dallas Archaeological Society, the Tarrant County Archaeological Society, the Southern Texas Archaeological Association, the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, the Plains Anthropological Society, and the Archaeological Society of New Mexico. In 1955, Forrester and other members of the Dallas Archaeological Society established the Tarrant County Archaeological Society. He formally published 12 articles in the societies' journals and newsletters and privately printed 18 additional reports.

Between 1961 and 1977, Forrester excavated a series of Pueblo ruins atop the Garcia Mesa in Cibola (previously Valencia) County, New Mexico on behalf of the Kow-Ina Cultural Research Foundation. The foundation dissolved in 1977 and the land was sold to the Pueblo of Acoma in 1979.

In 1968, Forrester joined Albert Redder and Frank Watt in excavating Horn Shelter #2 (41BQ46), an archeological site that showed evidence of occupation from paleo through the Prohibition era, located along the Brazos River in Bosque County, Texas. The site was excavated primarily by Redder, Watt, and Forrester, who found and documented lithics, bone tools, faunal remains, and several burials. 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 excavated by Forrester and starting in 1974, L.T. Francis. Over the course of this excavation, Forrester and L.T. Francis became close friends, with the pair working together on future excavations. At Horn Shelter #2, Forrester documented 29 stratified layers reaching bedrock at points as deep as 22 feet. Forrester excavated the site until approximately 1988.

From 1980 to 1991, Forrester excavated the XSX Ranch site (LA 50702), an occupation site along the East Fork of the Gila River in the Gila National Wilderness Area in Grant County, New Mexico. Forrester excavated 10 pithouses and 32 rooms, containing 91 burials. The ranch was sold in 1989, which led to the destruction of the site by new owners. The property was sold again in 1990 and Forrester was allowed to attempt further excavation but ceased excavating the site in 1991.

Robert Early Forrester, Jr. died on January 20, 1996.

Chronology

<i>28 August 1924</i>	Born in Corsicana, Texas, USA
<i>1939</i>	Joined the Texas Archaeological Society
<i>1943-1946</i>	Served in the Army in World War II
<i>1949</i>	Graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology (TCU, Fordham University, NYU, McMurray College, UT Galveston)
<i>1955</i>	Co-founded the Tarrant County Archaeological Society
<i>1961-1977</i>	Excavated Garcia Mesa area (Los Pilares sites)
<i>1968-1988</i>	Excavated the north end of Horn Shelter #2 (41BQ46)
<i>1980-1991</i>	Excavated XSX Ranch site (LA 50702)
<i>19 January 1982</i>	Retired after 26 years as a chemist at General Dynamics
<i>20 January 1996</i>	Died at the age of 71

Sources Consulted

Forrester, Robert E. "Archaeological Excavations at Sites Near Los Pilares 2:24-D". Unpublished manuscript, 1985.

Forrester, Robert E. "Archeological Excavations at the X-S-X Ranch, Northern Grant County, New Mexico". Unpublished manuscript, 1992.

Forrester, Robert E. "Horn Shelter Number 2: The North End. A Preliminary Report," *Central Texas Archeologist* 10 (1985): 21-35.

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." *Occasional Papers of the Strecker Museum Complex* 3 (1996).

"Pueblo of Acoma Landholdings". Pueblo of Acoma. Accessed 23 January 2025. https://www.puebloofacoma.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Acoma-Landholdings_Final.pdf.

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

Vastine, Paula. Editor. *TCAS Benchmark*, 10 (1995): 2-3.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Robert E. Forrester Jr. document his archaeological investigations and subsequent analyses of various sites in central Texas and western New Mexico, and his private collection of artifacts from across the United States. Notable sites include but are not limited to Horn Shelter #2 (41BQ46), Los Pilares (2:24-D), and XSX Ranch (LA 50702).

The collection contains material relating to his excavations including field notes, photographs, illustrations, and artifact documentation. There are also site reports that Forrester sent to the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory to register sites he surveyed and excavated. Additionally, there are research files, correspondence, and manuscript drafts associated with his publications.

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

This collection is arranged in 3 series: (1) Texas Field Research, 1951-1996; (2) New Mexico Field Research, 1961-1994; (3) Artifact Records, 1988-1994, undated.

Selected Bibliography

1951. "A Series of Eighteen Indian Skeletons Excavated in Shackelford County, Texas." *Texas Archeological and Paleontological Society Bulletin* 22: 132-143.

1957. "Report on an Unknown Type of Implement." *Texas Archeological Society Bulletin* 28 (1957): 122-126.

1959a. "A Method for Making Plastic Replicas of Flint Artifacts." *Tarrant County Archeological Society Newsletter* (1959).

1959b. "Report on Local Distribution of Hiarse Points (Satire)." *Tarrant County Archeological Society Miscellaneous Papers* 1 (1959).

- 1959c. "Fish in the Diet of Prehistoric Indians; Observations from Personal Excavations in the Area of Lake Whitney, North Central Texas." *Tarrant County Archeological Society Miscellaneous Papers 2* (1959).
1964. *The Ham Creek Site, An Edwards Plateau Aspect Site in Johnson County, Texas*. Tarrant County Archeological Society, 1964.
- 1985a. "Horn Shelter Number 2: The North End. A Preliminary Report," *Central Texas Archeologist* 10 (1985): 21-35.
- 1985b. "Archeological Investigations at Sites Near Los Pilaes 2:24-D." Unpublished manuscript, 1985.
1987. "The Moran Point from North-Central Texas." *Oklahoma Anthropological Society Bulletin* 36 (1987): 131-136.
1988. "Analysis of Non-Perishable Remains from Two Adjacent Rock Shelters in Northern Bosque County, Texas." *The Record* 42, no. 3 (1988): 36-53.
1991. "Pestles for Boat-Shaped Mortars in Texas." *Texas Archeological Society Bulletin* 60 (1991): 191-207.
1992. "Archeological Excavations at the X-S-X Ranch, Northern Grant County, New Mexico." Unpublished manuscript, 1992.
1994. "Two Henrietta Focus Sites on the Brazos River in North Central Texas." *Texas Archeological Society Bulletin* 62 (1994): 249-266.
1996. With Calvin B. Smith and Albert J. Redder. "Horn Shelter Number 2, the North End: a Stratified Rock Shelter in Bosque County, Texas." *Occasional Papers of the Strecker Museum Complex* 3 (1996).

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Archaeology
- Archaeology -- Texas
- Archeology -- New Mexico -- Mimbres Valley
- Excavations (Archaeology)
- Lithics -- American Indian
- Mimbres culture
- Mogollon Tradition: Mimbres (archaeological culture)

Cultures:

- Mogollon Tradition: Mimbres (archaeological culture)

Container Listing

Series 1: Texas Field Research, 1951-1996

6.34 Linear feet (8 document boxes, 1 map folder)

Scope and Contents: This series comprises papers associated with Forrester's field work in Texas. Included are artifact records, report drafts, photographs, and wall profile illustrations relating to his excavation of Horn Shelter #2. Also included are site surveys, correspondence, research files, and journal article drafts relating to other excavations he conducted in Texas.

Arrangement: Series 1 is divided into 2 sub-series: (1.1) Horn Shelter #2 (41BQ46), 1965-1996; and (1.2) Texas Field Research, 1951-1995.

Subseries 1.1: Horn Shelter #2 (41BQ46), 1965-1996

Box 1	Lizard Effigies, 1972
Box 1	Hao Ben Xing, Mai Ying-hao, Zhu Jie Yuan, 1981
Box 1	Horn #2: Obsidian, 1983
Box 1	Miscellaneous - Horn #2, 1985-1991
Box 1	Horn #2: Computer, 1987, 1991
Box 1	Formats, 1990-1991
Box 1	AMN. Zephyr Darts, 1990-1991
Box 1	Pedernales only: Site AMN, 1991
Box 1	Blades and Blade Bases: Site AMN, 1991
Box 1	AMN. Grids Facing East, undated
Box 1	AMN. Grids Facing South, undated
Box 1	AMN Logs 1, 2, 3, 4 Fleet Filer, 1991
Box 1	AMN - Arrows Fleet Filer, 1991
Box 1	AMN. All records, by levels. Fleet Filer, 1991
Box 1	All arrowpoints; by levels. Site AMN. Fleet Filer, 1991
Box 1	All darts; by levels. Site AMN. Fleet Filer, 1991

Box 1	Dart statistics - raw data, 1991
Box 1	AMN Arrows DM-128, 1991
Box 1	Re-fitted artifacts: Site AMN, undated
Box 1	AMN. Hide-outs (DM-128), 1991
Box 1	AMN. Hide-outs (Fleet Filer), undated
Box 2	Horn 2 Square Records. Log 1 + 2, 1991
Box 2	Horn Shelter #2 Analyses, Letters, 1965-1987
Box 2	Horn Shelter #2 Artifacts, undated 2 Folders
Box 2	Horn #2: The Written part, undated
Box 2	Horn 2: Figures, undated
Box 2	Horn Shelter #2: Report in Work, 1977
Box 2	Horn Shelter #2: Al Redder's Manuscript, undated
Box 2	Horn Shelter #2: North End (Revision as sent to Al Redder), 1979
Box 2	Preliminary Report: Horn Shelter #2, 1979
Box 2	Horn Shelter #2: Synthesis: Redder + Forrester: July '83, 1983
Box 2	Calvin Smith correspondence concerning Horn Shelter book, 1990-1996
Box 3	Horn Shelter No. 2 Final Report, 1995
Box 3	Horn #2 Extra Pages, undated
Box 16	Horn Shelter #2 Photographic prints and Negatives, 1968-1983 4 Folders
Box 16	Horn Shelter #2 Extra Photos, 1991
Box 17	Horn Shelter - Artifact Photos, 1974
Box 17	Horn Shelter Figures Photographic prints and Negatives, 1991

Map-folder 1	Wall Profile Illustrations, undated
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Subseries 1.2: Texas Field Research, 1951-1995

Box 3	Bell County, 1994
Box 3	Bosque County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1993
Box 3	Bosque County - Not Yet Assigned, 1994
Box 3	Brown County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1994
Box 3	Callahan County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1993
Box 3	Callahan County - Not Yet Assigned, 1994
Box 3	Coryell County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1993
Box 3	Coryell County - Not Yet Assigned, 1994
Box 3	Eastland County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1993-1994
Box 3	Hill County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1993-1994
Box 3	Hood County, 1994
Box 3	Johnson County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1994
Box 3	Jones County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1994
Box 3	Lampasas County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1994
Box 4	McCulloch County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1994
Box 4	Mills County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1994
Box 4	Parker County, 1994
Box 4	Palo Pinto County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1994
Box 4	Shackelford County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1989-1995
Box 4	Somervell County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1994
Box 4	Stephens County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1993

Box 4	Stephens County - Not Yet Assigned, 1994
Box 4	Tarrant County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1994
Box 4	Taylor County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1994
Box 4	Throckmorton County - Nos. Already Assigned, 1994
Box 4	Williamson County - Not Yet Assigned, 1994
Box 4	Site Reports: Maps, In Work, undated
Box 4	Site Reports: Completed (copies), 1993
Box 4	Spock, Carolyn TARL records, 1987-1995
Box 4	TARL Correspondence, 1987-1995
Box 4	Salt Prong of Hubbard Creek, Shackelford Co., Tex. (Burial Site), 1948-1949
Box 4	Miscell. Archeology, 1956-1970
Box 4	Mussel Openers, 1958-1974
Box 5	Tarrant Co. Arch. Society publications, 1959
Box 5	Fall Creek Site, 1959
Box 5	Bee Mountain: Sites AFJ + AGW, 1963-1986
Box 5	Sites F-O + F-R - Synthesis and Report: Clear Fork, 1965-1994
Box 5	Clear Fork Gouges, 1994
Box 5	Ham Creek Report: Data for filing, no further use in report, 1959-1966
Box 5	Ham Creek Site, 1964, 1992
Box 5	Ham Creek: post-publication, 1964-1965
Box 5	Site AJW, 1964-1965
Box 5	Vinson Site (41-LT-1), 1964
Box 5	Godley klondike, 1967-1968
Box 5	Pestles for Boat-Shaped Mortars, 1972-1994

Box 6	Site S-Y, 1988-1991
Box 6	Plainview/Golondrina Survey (Tom Kelly), 1983-1988
Box 6	S. T. A. A. Soc., 1984-1995
Box 6	Moran point, 1986-1987
Box 6	Moran points, undated
Box 6	Jimmy Mitchell, Editor, T. A. S. Bulletin, 1987-1994
Box 6	Site Records: TX Fleet Filer, 1989-1991
Box 6	Prentice Brown, 1991
Box 6	Pancake Mound, 1992
Box 6	Bob Arnold Mound, 1992
Box 6	"Paint Rock", 1993
Box 6	N. M. Arch. Soc. Conference, 1994
Box 6	Texas Site Trinomials, 1994-1995
Box 6	Books: Archeological Library Only, 1994
Box 6	Bibliography: R.E.F., 1995
Box 6	Caches, 1995
Box 6	"Grave-Protector" Round Flat Stones, undated
Box 6	Okla. Projectiles/Pertho [sic] Tools, Vol. 1, Vol. 2, undated
Box 6	Dates: Texas Projectile Points, undated
Box 17	Miscellaneous Archeology Photos, 1951-1976 2 Folders
Box 17	Texas Prints and Negatives, 1956-1969 2 Folders
	Film , undated

1 Film reel (8mm)

Notes: Site# AFJ; site# AFK, site #AJQ.

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Series 2: New Mexico Field Research, 1961-1994

2.92 Linear feet (7 document boxes)

Scope and Contents: This series comprises field notes, research material, correspondence, photographs, and report drafts relating to Forrester's excavations in western New Mexico. Forrester's excavations in New Mexico include but are not limited to the XSX Ranch Site (LA 50702), Los Pilares site (2:24-D), and LA 6921.

Arrangement: Series 2 is divided into 2 sub-series: (2.1) XSX Ranch (LA 50702), 1971-1993; and (2.2) New Mexico Field Research, 1961-1994.

Subseries 2.1: XSX Ranch (LA 50702), 1971-1993

Box 7	Field Notes for the XSX Site No. 1, 1980-1992
Box 7	XSX, 1982-1989
Box 7	X-S-X-1 (CAT, CAT A, CAT B), 1989
Box 7	Stewart Peckham et al, 1971-1992
Box 7	Masters: BE-004 Extension and Permit for Mechanical Earth Moving, 1991
Box 7	Copies: BE-004 and Permit for Mechanical Earth-Moving, 1991
Box 7	New Mexico Law, 1989-1990
Box 7	X-S-X-1: 1988, 1988
Box 7	X-S-X-2: 1990, 1990
Box 7	X-S-X-1: WR-128, 1989
Box 7	X-S-X-1: DM-128, 1989
Box 7	Swarts: Flare-Rim, 1992
Box 7	Cameron Creek: Flare-Rim, 1992
Box 7	Galaz: Flare-Rim, 1992
Box 7	X-S-X-1: Flare-Rim, 1992
Box 7	XSX: Asa Barnes, M.D., 1990-1993
Box 8	Compiled X-S-X-1 Reports, 1992

3 Folders

Box 8	XSX Ranch 1980 through 1982 Master Copy, 1982
Box 8	XSX Ranch 1980 through 1982 "True Copy", 1982
Box 9	XSX Ranch 1982 Master Copy, 1983
Box 9	XSX Ranch 1983 Master Copy, 1984
Box 9	XSX Ranch 1984 Master Copy, 1985
Box 9	XSX Ranch 1985 Master Copy, 1986
Box 9	XSX Ranch 1986 Master Copy, 1987
Box 9	XSX Ranch 1987 Master Copy, 1988
Box 9	XSX Ranch 1988 Master Copy, 1989
Box 9	XSX Ranch 1989 through 1992 Master Copy, 1992
Box 18	XSX-1 Photos, 1980-1992 4 Folders
Box 18	XSX-1 Color Film Negatives, 1989
Box 19	X-S-X-1 B/W Film Negatives, 1982-1988
Map-folder 1	XSX map, undated

Subseries 2.2: New Mexico Field Research, 1961-1994

Box 10	Site Records: NM Fleet Filer, 1987
Box 10	LA 6921-4 (Pithouse #2), 1976
Box 10	LA 6921-7 (Pithouse #3), 1978
Box 10	LA 6921-8 (Pithouse #4), 1977
Box 10	Kow-Ina Foundation, 1977
Box 10	Bibo Ruin, 1962-1964
Box 10	Cebolla, 1994

Box 10	Los Pilares, undated
Box 10	Kow-Ina, circa 1994
Box 10	All Kow-Ina Foundation Reports - New, circa 1994 2 Folders
Box 11	All Kow-Ina Foundation Reports, 1962-1985 4 Folders
Box 19	New Mexico photos, 1961-1970
Box 19	LA 6921-3, 1968
Box 19	New Mexico Prints and Negatives, 1964-1970 2 Folders

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Series 3: Artifact Records, 1988-1994, undated

4.46 Linear feet (3 document boxes and 7 notecard boxes)

Scope and Contents: This series comprises database files and cataloging files referring to Forrester's personal artifact collection. Also included are data cards for individual artifacts and sites. For files related to Forrester's research on artifact types, see (1.2) Texas Field Research.

Box 12	Dart Studies, undated
Box 12	Studies: Bulverde, undated
Box 12	Studies: Carrollton, undated
Box 12	Studies: Castroville, undated
Box 12	Studies: Darl, undated
Box 12	Studies: Edgewood, undated
Box 12	Studies: Ellis, undated
Box 12	Studies: Ensor, undated
Box 12	Studies: Gary, undated
Box 12	Studies: Godley, undated
Box 12	Studies: Godley Kimball, undated
Box 12	Studies: Godley Klondike, undated
Box 12	Studies: Lange, undated
Box 12	Studies: Marcos, undated
Box 12	Studies: Marshall, undated
Box 12	Studies: Montell, undated
Box 13	Studies: Palmillas, undated
Box 13	Studies: Pedernales, undated
Box 13	Studies: Travis, undated
Box 13	Studies: Williams, undated

Box 13	Studies: Yarbrough, undated
Box 13	Studies: Zephyr, undated
Box 13	Zephyr Points, 1988
Box 13	Dart Comparisons, Various Sites, 1992
Box 13	John Wells Mound, circa 1992
Box 13	Station Creek, 1992
Box 13	Owl Creek, circa 1993
Box 13	Caddo Trading Company, 1989-1992
Box 13	Frames - 4 Home Counties, 1993
Box 13	Etc., Lance, Pot, Shelf, circa 1993
Box 13	Arrowpoints in Frames, Baskets, Case, circa 1993
Box 13	All Arrowpoints in Collection, circa 1993
Box 14	Cigar box storage, All dartpoints in collection, circa 1993
Box 14	All Dart Points in Frames, circa 1993
Box 14	Strecker Museum, circa 1994
Box 14	Burials, All, undated
Box 14	Entire Relic Collection, 1993 2 Folders
Box 14	Entire Relic Collection - New, 1993
Box 14	Relic Catalog: Fleet Filer, Selected Types, 1992
Box 14	Floppy diskettes (5.25"), Undated 33 Floppy discs
Box 15	Site information cards, undated
Box 20; Box 21	Dart point data cards, Undated

Box 22	Arrow point data cards, Undated
Box 23; Box 24; Box 25	Horn Shelter #2 (41BQ46) artifact data cards, Undated

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