

Preliminary Analysis of Barker's Landing Materials

During the last three or so weeks, Terrence Pickett and I have attempted a preliminary analysis of the Barker's Landing site (7K-D-13) materials recovered last spring during salvage excavations. This analysis has been expanded to include materials in the S.O.A. collections which have been identified as coming from this site.

During this time, we have attempted to scan the archaeological literature pertaining to Transitional Period sites in the Mid- Atlantic. Unfortunately, the information available in the literature is deficient in certain respects. Some of these deficiencies are as follows:

- 1) There are no other comparable sites from the coastal plain of the Mid-Atlantic region which have been excavated/published. (It appears that Barker's Landing was a coastal-riverine adaptation of a primarily piedmont-riverine Broadspear Tradition (Witthoft, 1971: 165, 175 and 194). *(See attached sheets for morphology of Broadspear Tradition)*
- 2) There has been no detailed lithic analysis conducted/published on argillite materials from Transitional Period sites. (Argillite is the predominant lithic material from Barker's Landing.)

Methodology

After briefly sorting through the Barker's Landing material and consulting with the S.O.A. staff, Terrence and I agreed to attempt a preliminary macroscopic examination of the material. The lithic analysis was based on predominately morphological characteristics. (See attached sheets). We have completed this phase of analysis and plan to follow up on this work at a later date. This follow-up would include: the strict definition of morphological categories, a detailed lithic analysis of all materials available from the Barker's Landing site (this would include an examination and analysis of materials in private collections from this site), experimentation and replication of artifacts with argillite and

finally the preparation of a report on the site. Also, to be included in this report would be the locale of all known Transitional sites in Delaware (and possibly on the Delmarva), an analysis of available materials from these sites, a compilation of ecological data concerning these locales and applications of the subsistence model in order to test its validity for the Transitional.

Robert Asreen-9 September 1975

TERRICEL PICKETT

References

- Witthoft, J. Broad Spearpoints and the Transitional Period Cultures in
1971 FOUNDATIONS OF PENNSYLVANIA PREHISTORY, edited by B.C. Kent,
I.F. Smith, and C. McCann, Anthropological Series of the
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, No. 1, The
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg.

*Tentative Categories of Artifacts Established During the Preliminary Analysis of the Barkers Landing Material.(All others are proposed.)

*FCR	*Ground Stone	*Battered Stone	*Steatite Vessels Surface Rim, base, body Misc.	*Prehistoric Ceramics Paste, surface treatment Rim, base, body.
*Historic Materials Ceramics Brick (glazed, unglazed) Metals (nails, coins, misc.) Glass (bottle, window, misc.)			*Chipped Stone (material, heated, non-heated) * Debitage: all misc. flakes * Unifaces W/: flakes removed from one face exhibiting retouch * Bifaces: flakes removed from two faces *Bifaces W/: same as above with retouch *Cores	

Historic occupation appears to be from mid-19th century to the present. A large cent was found dating 1826.

Crabtree, D.E.

1972 An Introduction to Flintworking. Occasional Papers of the Idaho State University Museum, Number 28. Pocatello, Idaho.

ALL MATERIAL HAS BEEN SORTED AND RETURNED TO FLATS STILL IN THESE SORT BOXES.

Observations:

A good deal of the jasper flakes found at the site appears to have been utilized and also to have been thermally altered. Ground stone tools are scarce while battered stone tools are well represented. Both smooth and roughened exterior steatite sherds are represented; base probably oval - circular with flat bottom. Much of the argillite debitage appears to have been utilized as indicated by size and morphology. This, of course, cannot be ascertained by preliminary analysis.

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Robert Asreen 9 September 1975

Terrence L. Pickett 9/9/75

References:

Witthoft, J.; Broad Spearpoints and the Transitional Period Cultures in Foundations of Pennsylvania Prehistory edited by B.C. Kent, I.F. Smith and C. McCann, 1971, Anthropological Series of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Number 1; The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission: Harrisburg.

