

573.526.4778

CALL US

The public serves a critical role in historic preservation, and MoDOT acknowledges that fact by including the public in every phase of work. MoDOT requests input during the planning stages of every project to ensure that all properties important to members of the public are considered. Projects that have special interest, or that resulted in important scientific finds, are shared back with the public through various means such as websites, public presentations, and articles. If you have comments or questions pertaining to a MoDOT archaeological or construction project, please contact the Historic Preservation Section through the information listed below.

Archaeology and the Public



Archaeology in Missouri!



MoDOT's interest in archaeological sites is prompted both by compliance with state and federal laws and the need to address public and tribal concerns for these resources. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federally funded or permitted projects to take into consideration their effects on historic properties, including archaeological sites, and to take steps to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to those properties. So, in advance of transportation projects, MoDOT conducts studies to identify and evaluate the significance of sites that might be affected.

Why is MoDOT concerned about Archaeology?

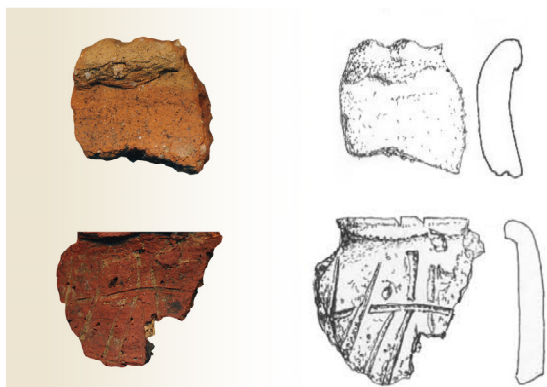
Artifacts recovered from the Three Monkeys Site in Platte County.



Archaeology and Transportation Projects in Missouri

What Is Archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of past human behavior and culture through material remains. The goal of archaeology is to expand our knowledge of history and prehistory by exploring how people adapted to their environment. This includes studying everyday activities (e.g., cooking, hunting, and farming), as well as how people responded to contact with different groups and new ideas. Within archaeology, there are many subdisciplines such as zooarchaeology (i.e. the study of animal remains associated with human activity), geoarchaeology (i.e. the study of soils within archaeological sites), and urban archaeology (i.e. the study of cities).



Examples of prehistoric pottery.



Madam Haycraft Site

Archaeological investigations of French colonial residences in downtown St. Louis.



Site 23GA153

Hand-excavated units exposing a Middle Archaic Period hearth feature in Gasconade County.



Dekyns Bend Site

Archaeologists map features and record soil descriptions in Dunklin County.



Worthy Woman's Site

A circular limestone privy which was modified into a brick water closet.

What Types of Archaeological Sites Are Found in Missouri?

The state of Missouri contains a variety of archaeological sites, ranging in age from scatters of stone tools left by prehistoric hunters to early-twentieth century urban households.

- ⇒ Prehistoric sites include villages and campsites, caves and rock shelters, mounds and cemeteries, petroglyphs (rock art), and specialized resource procurement sites.
- ⇒ Historical sites include homesteads, farmsteads, early roads, trading posts, forts, shipwrecks, early industrial sites (e.g., mills and factories) and historic Indian villages.

Archaeological Investigations

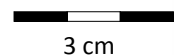
Archaeological testing can include non-destructive methods like ground penetrating radar but more commonly requires sampling through excavation. This type of testing can range from small hand-excavated holes known as 'shovel tests' to larger excavations using machinery such as a backhoe.

When sites are tested, information (such as artifact locations) are carefully recorded using maps, drawings, photographs and descriptive field notes. Excavated materials are then returned to a lab for cleaning, analysis, and permanent storage. The results of these excavations are written up in reports, and the artifacts are made available for future researchers.

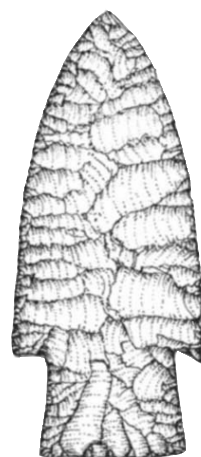
PROJECTILE POINT TYPES OF MISSOURI

Illustrations by: Terrell Martin

Points are reduced to approximately 80% of actual size



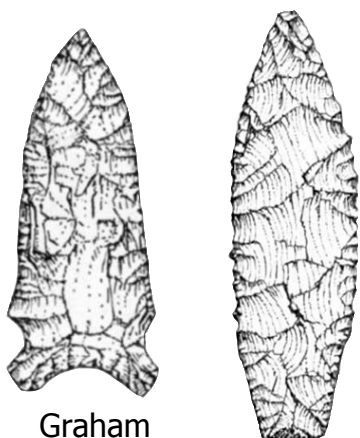
Note: Points may have different names in different parts of the state



Hardin



St. Charles



Graham Cave



Rice Lanceolate (Searcy)



Raddatz



Jakie



Smith Basal-Notched



Etley



Nebo Hill



Table Rock



Williams



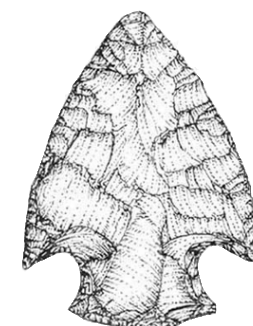
Sedalia



Kramer



Belknap



Snyders



Lowe



Manker



Scallorn



Crisp Ovate



Rice Side-Notched



Reed Side-Notched



Madison



Huffaker

Primary references used for compiling this sequence:

Chapman, Carl H.

1975 *The Archaeology of Missouri, I*. The University of Missouri Press, Columbia.

1980 *The Archaeology of Missouri, II*. The University of Missouri Press, Columbia.

Justice, Noel D.

1987 *Stone Age Spear and Arrow Points of the Midcontinental and Eastern United States*.

Indiana University Press, Bloomington.

O'Brien, Michael J. and W. Raymond Wood

1998 *Prehistory of Missouri*. University of Missouri Press, Columbia.

Ray, Jack H.

2016 *Projectile Point Types in Missouri and Portions of Adjacent States, Missouri*

Archaeological Society Special Publications No. 10. The Missouri Archaeological Society, Missouri State University, Springfield.

9350 B.C. 8500 B.C. 7500 B.C. 5000 B.C. 3000 B.C. 600 B.C. 250 B.C. A.D. 450 A.D. 900 A.D. 1600

Paleo-Indian Dalton Early Archaic Middle Archaic Late Archaic Early Woodland Middle Woodland Late Woodland Mississippian

The Paleo-Indian Period represents the earliest human occupation in North America. Paleo-Indians lived as small bands of nomadic hunters whose quarry included now extinct large game such as mastodons and giant bison. Paleo-Indians followed animal herds, while also collecting nuts, berries and other foodstuffs. During this time period glacial ice covered large portions of the North American continent.

The Dalton Period represents the transition from the Paleo-Indian big game hunting tradition to the broader hunting-gathering tradition of Archaic peoples. During this time period the glaciers retreated, and the hunted megafauna became extinct.

The Early Archaic Period saw a further broadening of the subsistence base as the climate warmed. This increased utilization of fish, shellfish, waterfowl, small game, and wild plants led to diversification of Early Archaic tools. Bands would move as plants and animals became seasonally available.

The Middle Archaic Period is marked by a major climatic drying period throughout most of the central United States. Village sites became more common during this period. The first evidence of fabrics, basketry, and cordage, along with new tool types, appear.

In the Late Archaic Period the earlier climatic drying ends with forested environments returning to areas where prairies had expanded. Year-round villages appear during this period. The earliest pottery in the Midwest appears. Gourd and squash remains from the period are the earliest evidence of Midwestern horticulture. While not widespread, Late Archaic burial mounds are found in some areas of the state.

The Early Woodland Period is not well documented. Evidence of campsites from this period has been found in major river valleys. Increased use of ceramic pots to prepare food characterizes Early Woodland remains.

The Middle Woodland Period remains reflect an increased use of pottery with varied decorative styles. The number of year-round occupied villages and the cultivation of plants increased further. Burial mounds became more numerous.

The Late Woodland Period is characterized by the introduction of the bow and arrow and the widespread cultivation of plants, including maize. Site types include villages along stream valleys with small earthen mounds and stone cairns located on overlooking hills and ridges. Pottery styles become less decorated. Along with population increases and a more settled lifestyle, social organization changes from loosely organized bands to more complex tribal societies. In much of Missouri, Late Woodland culture continued parallel to the develop of Mississippian culture.

During the Mississippian Period a culture develops based on maize agriculture with complex social, political, and economic structures. Cahokia, near the confluences of the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois Rivers, was one of the greatest aboriginal cultural centers in North America. Small notched triangular arrow points and fragments of shell-tempered pottery vessels in a variety of shapes are common at these sites.