

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE NEW U. S.
19-129 ROUTE BETWEEN ANDREWS
AND MURPHY IN CHEROKEE CO.**

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CHAPEL HILL

An Archaeological Survey of the New U.S. 19-129
Route Between Andrews and Murphy in Cherokee County

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ABSTRACT

A new four-lane highway is being constructed between Andrews and Murphy in Cherokee County. The Research Laboratories of Anthropology surveyed the proposed roadway sporadically from 1971 until 1976. The archaeological research was funded in 1976, facilitating an intensive effort to complete the project prior to maximum impact. A total of 23 sites were discovered and evaluated in terms of their significance and potential in contributing to an understanding of the archaeology of the area.

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INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is in the process of constructing a new highway to replace existing U.S. 19-129 between Andrews and Murphy in Cherokee County. The project will extend from a point one-half mile west of Murphy to the eastern outskirts of Andrews at Worm Creek, approximately 990' northeast of existing route 19-129. The new highway will have four lanes consisting of two 24' wide sections separated by a 40' median. The total corridor acquisition averages roughly 165' in width and a little over 15 miles in length.

The road construction first came to the attention of the Research Laboratories of Anthropology in June 1971. Since our files revealed that archaeological resources were endangered, a memorandum was sent to the, then, Director of the State Department of Archives and History informing him that at least eight known prehistoric sites lay within the path of the proposed highway. Although this warning failed to arouse any official reaction, the Research Laboratories of Anthropology began surveying the corridor, as well as peripheral zones of potential impact whenever the opportunity presented itself.

A total of 23 sites have been recorded that fall partially or wholly within the highway right-of-way. All but one of these sites were located after 1971 as a consequence of the planned construction. As a result of the sporadic nature of the investigations, as mentioned above, it was not possible to formulate an overall research strategy.

Sections of the corridor exhibiting good surface visibility were simply surveyed with whatever time that could be spared after completing the primary research. But during November and December 1976, 25 mandays were devoted specifically to completing the U.S. 19-129 survey. During this period, the entire length of the proposed roadway was investigated or, in many instances, re-investigated to insure that all archaeological resources that might be impacted were at least inventoried. It was also found that three of the sites (Ce^v18, 25, 26) that were initially thought endangered lay just outside the corridor.

Within the past two years, construction has proceeded rapidly. The Andrews by-pass has been graded and ballast has been laid from Andrews west almost to Welch Mill Creek (Plate I). Cutting and grading have been extensive around Tomatla and Murphy, and all bridges and culverts between Andrews and Murphy are in various stages of construction (Plate II). The work between Andrews and Welsh Mill Creek has partially or completely buried at least five sites, while another six between Marble and Murphy have been disturbed to one degree or another.

Unfortunately, some data have been lost because of a lack of cooperation and coordination among the responsible state agencies. If a comprehensive survey and salvage program had been formulated during the early phases of the project, many of the sites adversely impacted could have been systematically investigated and, if warranted, the necessary salvage excavations implemented. However, after the warning issued by the Research Laboratories of Anthropology in 1971, and constantly repeated, no substantial, meaningful efforts were made to secure the funds that the



Plate I
Road Construction Through Wood's Bottoms Near Andrews



Plate II
Construction on the Hiawasse River Bridge
Just Outside Murphy

Department of Transportation had made available for an archaeological research project until 1976. By this time, all the endangered sites in the broad alluvial flood plain west of Andrews had been covered by a mountain of fill, making future investigations impossible unless the road is moved again. Although other sites were recorded that will be disturbed by the road, none were as large or as significant as some of those now twice buried in the bottoms between Andrews and Marble.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The road corridor parallels the Valley River which flows from the northeast to the southwest and joins the Hiwassee just north of Murphy. Within the impact area, the floodplain of the Valley River is the most prominent physiographic feature, approaching a mile in width between Andrews and Marble. This broad expanse of well drained alluvium is known locally as Wood's Bottoms, and today is recognized as one of the most agriculturally productive tracts in Cherokee County (see Plate I). Although still substantial, the floodplain becomes narrower between Marble and Murphy and the river channel begins to snake, creating sweeping U-shaped meanders. Much of this land is planted in permanent pasture and has not been actively cultivated for a number of years. Low, rounded mountains rise gently up along the edges of the flood plain to create a topography of variation and contrast.

The highway corridor stays in the floodplain from Andrews to Marble and then swings across the mountains well north of the river. It drops back into the flood plain on the south side of the river as the channel forms a wide horseshoe bend to the north. As the river turns southward, the right-of-way switches to the rolling bluffs along the edge of the flood plain until another horseshoe-shaped meander carries it onto the south bank and into a broad expanse of ambient bottomland. From here to a point just east of Murphy, the corridor undulates along the gently rolling flanks of the mountains bordering the flood plain. At Murphy it goes over the mountains, crosses the Hiwassee River, and terminates upon intersecting U.S. 64.

Approximately one-half of the Valley River bottoms is under active cultivation; the rich loam is ideally suited to corn production although some soy beans are also grown. Most of the remaining flood plain, as well as the gently rolling mountain flanks are sowed in pasture grass and used for grazing. Second growth pine and mixed hardwoods blanket the steeper slopes whose elevations seldom exceed 2000' above sea level.

Obviously this environment represents a drastic alteration of prehistoric conditions by modern man. Prior to these modifications, areas within the valley floor that were subject to intermittent flooding were most likely ensconced by willows, cottonwoods, sycamores, silver maple, boxelder, and sugarberry. The higher ground along the edges of the floodplain probably contained stands of black walnut, white ash, redbud, bur oak, and southern red oak (Shelford 1974:117-118). Before the onslaught of extensive lumbering and the chestnut blight, the higher elevations were enshrouded by an oak-chestnut forest community dominated by the American chestnut and the chestnut oak. Other upper story species included the sweetgum, red oak, red maple, black locust, and sassafras (Shelford 1974:39)

From ethnohistoric accounts and the archaeological record, it is evident that the animals occupying these habitats were not only plentiful but also varied, including some species that are locally extinct, e.g. elk, wolf, mountain lion, and bison. Other animals that are present today and must have been even more prevalent in the past include black bear, bobcat, gray fox, raccoon, fox squirrel, and beaver (Shelford 1974:23, 40). In addition, the Valley River abounds with several varieties of fish, amphibians, and seasonally available water fowl, all of which were certainly available during the prehistoric period.

This brief environmental sketch is sufficient to point out that there would have been few, if any, severely limiting ecological circumstances facing the various aboriginal cultures recognized in western North Carolina. During the Archaic Period, the variety of ecozones seems ideally suited for the seasonal round of hunting, gathering, and collecting activities which are characteristically described as being paramount in the subsistence systems at this time. These wild plant and animal resources certainly continued to be available after the Archaic while the broad, flat alluvial valley offered fertile, well drained, and friable soils to the incipient and developing horticulturalists of the Woodland Period. Accounts by early explorers e.g. Adair, Bartram, and Timberlake, are replete with glowing descriptions and extended lists of the plentiful natural resources found in the area. Adair was so impressed that he was compelled to declare that, "there is not a more healthful region under the sun, than this country..." (Adair 1940:240). Among the local inhabitants, as well as the many seasonal tourists, this statement would still find wide spread agreement today.

METHODOLOGY

As was mentioned in the introduction, the survey took place over a long period of time and involved several different individuals. The work in Wood's Bottoms was done during 1971, 1972, 1973, and 1974, while other sites were located along the corridor as time and surface conditions permitted. By 1976, 10 sites had been recorded that would be impacted. Because of the rapidity with which the construction was being carried out, it was decided that if any additional information was going to be salvaged, a comprehensive survey plan would have to be implemented. In November and December 1976, the field work phases of this plan were completed by a two-man team which surveyed, and in many instances re-surveyed, the entire length of the corridor between Andrews and Murphy.

By this time, all of the surface that was in pasture or woods had been churned up by clearing operations and the movement of heavy machinery between the various construction sites. Because of these disturbances, ground surface visibility was generally good, thus eliminating the need for extensive sampling or testing. The survey was accomplished by walking parallel transits, spaced 50' apart, along the length of the corridor which was demarcated by fences. All channel changes at culvert and bridge construction sites were carefully inspected for evidence of buried stratigraphy. When a site was located, its dimensions were determined and all material visible on the surface was collected. No efforts were made to sample the sites because their extent, concentration, and disturbed condition had so randomized the

artifact universe that intra-site sampling would have been not only a reflection of methodological naivete but more importantly, a waste of time.

An additional 13 sites were discovered, and whenever possible sites previously recorded were recollected so that as much of the artifact inventories as possible could be saved. In one instance, testing was done to see if intact deposits were extant, but time nor the weather did not allow for a comprehensive testing program. However, all the sites that are present within the limits of the corridor have been recorded, and an artifact collection from each one inventoried so that some reconstruction of the prehistory of the Valley River valley is now possible.

A SUMMARY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA PREHISTORY

The cultural sequence for the Appalachian Summit Region in western North Carolina was worked out by Joffre Coe during the years of the Cherokee project and has been reported in several unpublished manuscripts, theses, and dissertations. Recently, however, some of this research was summarized in two publications, Cherokee Prehistory (Dickens 1976) and Cherokee Archaeology (Keel 1976). The following outline is drawn from all these sources, as well as more recent data which has been gleaned continuously from the area since the early 60's.

Evidence for occupation during the Paleo-Indian period is scant and consists, for the most part, of sporadic surface finds made by local relic collectors. In addition to the typical fluted lanceolate projectile points, there have also been scattered reports of Hardaway-like specimens especially from the eastern mountains. From the limited data, about all that can be stated with certainty is that man was in the area at an early time.

Palmer-like projectile points and tools have been found on the surface of many sites, although their discovery in a stratified column has not yet been documented. Early Archaic occupations are also represented by widely scattered finds of Kirk points, usually on the surface or from disturbed sub-surface contexts. However, a projectile point and several unmodified flakes were recently recovered from the Warren Wilson Site, Bn^v29, stratigraphically below the Middle and Late Archaic zones.

Morrow Mountain and Guilford specimens are also frequently encountered throughout western North Carolina, and remains of the former have been extensively excavated at the Warren Wilson Site. As is true

for the Southeast in general, the Late Archaic Savannah River Period is abundantly represented and several sites in the mountains have been subjected to excavation. At Warren Wilson, Savannah River remains overlay the Morrow Mountain stratum.

The Archaic Period terminates with the introduction of a cord and fabric marked ceramic tradition accompanied by small stemmed and sometimes large triangular projectile points. This Early Woodland manifestation has been termed the Swannanoa Phase and stylistically appears to be related to the early pottery traditions in the Northeast.

A distinctive ceramic style evidencing fluctuations and shifts in the kind and directions of influences is recognized as characteristic of the period following the Swannanoa Phase. This stylistic shift is definitive of the Pigeon Phase and is defined primarily on the basis of the introduction of the manufacture of checked and simple stamped pottery. In contrast to the preceding Swannanoa Phase, the Pigeon Phase seems to have resulted from interaction in the Southeastern carved paddle stamping tradition. Further Southeastern influence can be seen in the addition of tetrapodal vessel supports.

The Connestee Phase follows the Pigeon and again reflects a general participation in the Southeastern ceramic tradition. Simple stamping and check stamping continue as surface finishes although a variety of treatments including brushing, cord marking, and complicated stamped are also present. Tetrapodal supports are again common although their size is significantly diminished from the Pigeon examples. In addition to the above distinctions, perhaps the most important differences between the Connestee Phase and those preceding it are non-ceramic. Small

platform mounds were in use, and a number of exotic Howellian objects have been recovered in a Connestee context (cf. Keel 1976).

The Late Woodland Period is represented by the Pisgah Phase which is characterized by rectilinear complicated stamped pottery with a distinctive collared rim. Platform mounds, palisaded villages, and maize agriculture place the Pisgah Phase in the South Appalachian Mississippian Pattern (cf. Ferguson 1971). Extensive excavations have been carried out by the Research Laboratories of Anthropology at several Pisgah sites including Warren Wilson and Garden Creek Mound No. 1, Hw^o1 (cf. Dickens 1970, 1976). Pisgah materials are widespread and apparently evidence the remains of the prehistoric Cherokee.

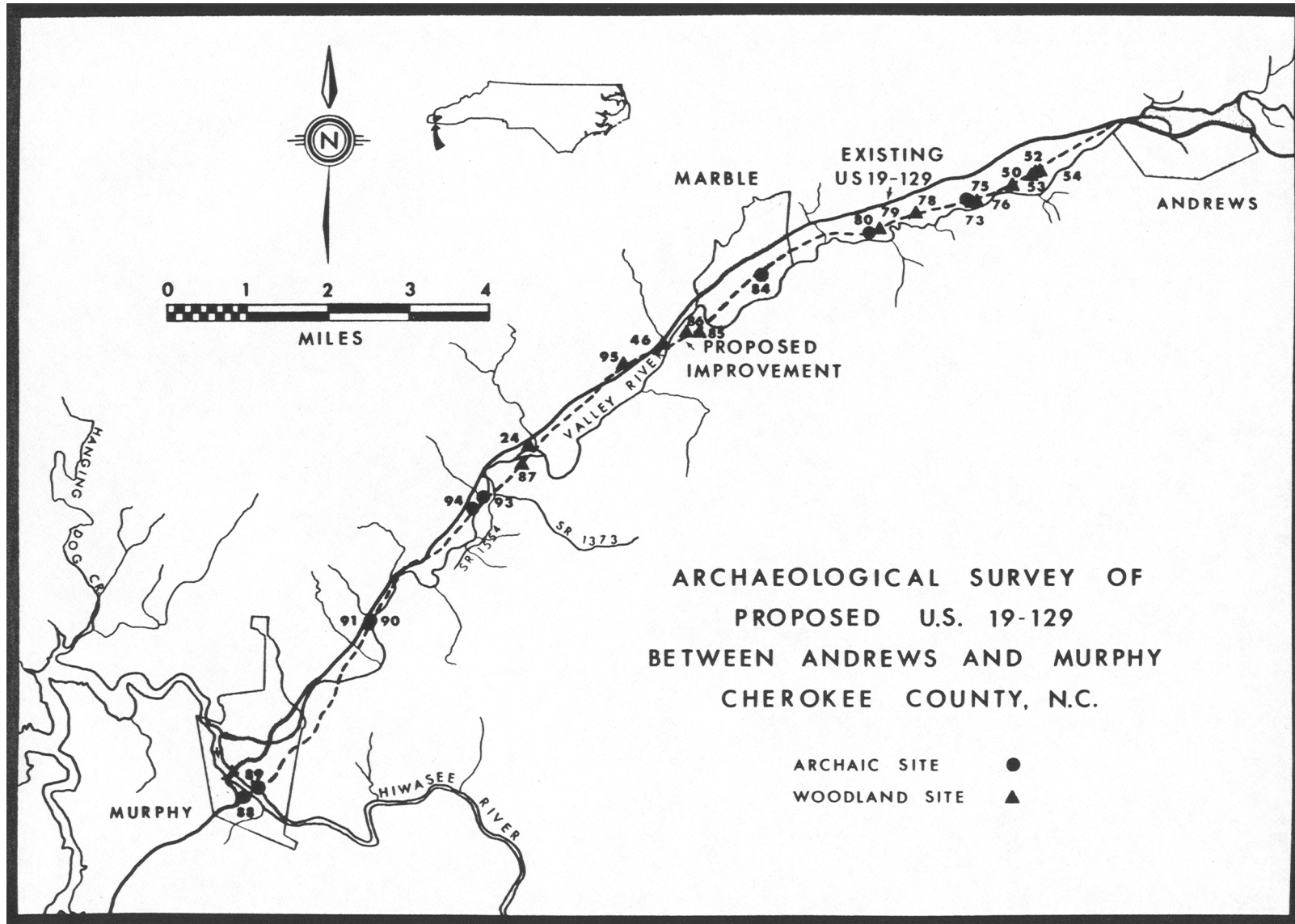
The last phase in the aboriginal history of Western North Carolina is defined by a Lamar-like ceramic tradition known as Qualla (Egloff 1967). Platform mounds, nucleated villages, and a horticultural economy point to a continuum of development and interaction with the Southeast which began as early as Pigeon times. However, the arrival of Europeans and intensive interaction through trade, contract, and finally conquest signaled the end of this aboriginal cultural tradition. By the early nineteenth century, little remained in the material culture other than ceramics that had distinctive prehistoric roots.

SURVEY RESULTS

Sites indicative of almost all the major phases and periods outlined in the previous section were found. Late Woodland period occupations occurred most frequently being represented by 11 sites. Two sites contained Middle Woodland remains, but no Early Woodland materials were found. The Middle and Late Archaic Periods were almost equally represented with four sites producing specimens indicative of the former and five of the latter. Only one site could be assigned an Early Archaic occupation, while no specimens attributable to the Paleo-Indian Tradition were collected. The following is a brief summary of each site within the corridor.

Archaic Sites

- Ce^v75 - Cultural material was collected from a point of land formed by an unnamed branch that flows into Morris Branch approximately 800' north of the Valley River and 1300' south of existing U.S. 19-129. Artifacts were sparsely scattered over an area some 125' in diameter. Diagnostic specimens included one Morrow Mountain II projectile point base of chert. A core fragment and two unused flakes made up the remainder of the collection. Today Ce^v75 lies under several feet of road ballast.
- Ce^v80 - This site was located west of Coalville on the north side of Welsh Mill Creek near its confluence with the Valley River. Site dimensions measured roughly 200' by 50'. A Savannah River point manufactured from chert, a quartzite Morrow Mountain II point, and 10 flakes indicated a Late to Middle Archaic occupation. This site was also buried by fill.
- Ce^v84 - Artifacts were distributed in a roughly circular area approximately 150' in diameter on top of a pronounced bluff overlooking Hyatt Creek. The site was located approximately .5 miles east of SR 1519 and .2 miles south of US 19-129. The specimens were fairly concentrated and included one each Savannah River and Morrow Mountain II projectile points as well as two unidentified



point fragments manufactured from quartzite. In addition, a side scraper, six biface fragments, one retouched flake, one hammerstone and 36 random flakes were collected. At the time the site was collected, it had been severely disturbed by bulldozer clearing operations.

- Ce^v88 - This was perhaps the most prolific Archaic site recorded. It was located on an old river terrace between the Hiwassee River and SR 1556 on the southeastern outskirts of Murphy. The site evidenced a single component of the Late Archaic Savannah River Phase. The collection included eight large Savannah River preforms, three bifacial blades, three fist-sized hammerstones, one side scraper on a blade, seven miscellaneous flake scrapers, and 154 unmodified flakes. This material was picked up from an area measuring no more than 200' by 100'. All the specimens except the hammerstones were made from quartzite. The hammerstones were granitic in nature. This site was destroyed by the construction of the Hiwassee River bridge.
- Ce^v89 - This site was on the opposite bank of the Hiwassee from Ce^v88. No diagnostic specimens were recovered; however, one quartzite notched flake and 10 miscellaneous chips were found in an area roughly 50' in diameter. Ce^v89 was also destroyed by the construction of the Hiwassee River bridge.
- Ce^v90 - This site produced the only definite evidence of Early Archaic habitation. A quartz Palmer projectile point base, a bifacially worked blade fragment and 12 small unmodified flakes were scattered within a 25' radius along an old river terrace approximately 200' north of the Valley River. These artifacts were located just east of Murphy, south of US 19-129, and west of SR 1624. Ce^v90 will be covered by fill.
- Ce^v91 - A small amount of material was discovered west of Ce^v90 and along the same terrace. However, since an unnamed stream separated the two loci, separate numbers were assigned. A possible Morrow Mountain II projectile point fragment and nine miscellaneous flakes were collected within an area a little over 15000 square feet in extent. This site will also be filled.
- Ce^v93 - This site was situated on a natural levy north of and adjacent to the Valley River near the intersection of U.S. 19-129 and SR 1373. Artifacts were scattered along the 25' wide levy for about 100' paralleling the river. Except for the bit end of a Guilford ax, the assemblage was primarily Late Archaic. A Savannah River projectile point, a notched flake, a utilized flake, and 65 unmodified chips completed the collection. With the exception of the utilized flake, which was chert, all the specimens were manufactured from quartzite. This site has been destroyed by the installation of a bridge footing.

Ce^v94 - A small amount of late Archaic Debitage was found along an old fence line on the first terrace of the Valley River south of Tomatla. A Savannah River Projectile point made from quartzite base and seven flakes were thinly scattered over a 100 square foot area.

Woodland Sites

Ce^v24 - This site was located on the north bank of the Valley River, approximately 3.5 miles west of Marble. It was relatively large, stretching for roughly 800' along the river and some 200' in width, although the cultural material was thinly distributed. It extended from west of Colvard Creek to an unnamed branch entering the river from the north. At the western edge of the site, the river forked, and as the main branch turned almost 90 degrees to the south, the smaller fork again joined the main channel creating a relatively large island. Unfortunately, at the time the site was collected, the field was planted in corn which was head-high. Still a moderate number of Qualla sherds (Table I), two small triangular chert projectile points, a European glass trade bead, and 26 random flakes were recovered. Only the northeast tip of this site will be affected by the highway construction and impact should be minimal.

Ce^v46 - In terms of the amount and type of remains, this site was similar to Ce^v24; however, it was considerably smaller measuring only about 300' in diameter. In addition to the Qualla ceramics (Table I), a polished celt fragment and nine unmodified flakes were recovered. The site is located on the west bank of the river on a levee approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Marble. It is south of the confluence of Stillhouse Branch where a bridge for the new road was constructed. It was carefully investigated during the initial grading work, but no subsurface features or other buried occupational evidence was observed.

Ce^v50 - A fairly large amount of Qualla material was discovered along a levee on the north bank of the Valley River, south of Morris Creek, approximately 2.9 miles east of Marble. In addition to the ceramics (Table 1), six small triangular projectile points and 18 pieces of debitage were found within an area approximately 300' by 200'. This site was buried under several feet of road fill by November, 1977.

Table 1

DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMICS BY SITE

	Ce ^v 24	Ce ^v 46	Ce ^v 50	Ce ^v 52	Ce ^v 53	Ce ^v 54	Ce ^v 73	Ce ^v 76	Ce ^v 78	Ce ^v 79	Ce ^v 85	Ce ^v 86	Ce ^v 87	Ce ^v 95
QUALLA SERIES														
Plain	38	18	48	7	42	19	13	20	3	1	17	3	4	7
Comp. Stamped	15	17	59	24	56	26	4	12		2	9	4		
Check Stamped	3	2				3	1				1			
Incised	1		3	1		1		1			1			
Cord Marked					1									
CONNESTEE SERIES														
Plain		2		1			83				1			101
Comp. Stamped														5
Check Stamped			4				45							
PIGEON SERIES														
Plain							13							
Check Stamped							15							
UNIDENTIFIABLE														
		1	5				15	1						2
TOTAL	57	40	119	33	99	49	189	34	3	3	29	7	4	115

- Ce^v52 - This site was represented by a small concentration of Qualla material approximately 50' in diameter situated on a slight knoll in the flood plain (Table 1). In 1972, it was suggested that this site had the same general configuration as Ma^o34, a Cherokee mound just outside of Franklin, N.C. Because the highway construction threatened the site, in 1975 it was subjected to limited testing to determine definitely whether or not it was a mound. These tests revealed that the stratigraphy was natural and not cultural. They further indicated that no intact cultural stratigraphy or subsoil features were present. The site was located north of the Valley River and south of the Andrews Airport. Artifacts included several Qualla sherds (Table 1), two small projectile point blade fragments manufactured from chert, and three waste flakes. This site was also buried by road ballast by November, 1976.
- Ce^v53 - A number of Qualla sherds (Table 1), two small triangular Chert projectile points, an anvil stone, and 16 unused flakes were collected from an area approximately 150' by 75'. The site was situated on a levee on the north side of the valley River .2 miles east of the confluence of Ricket Branch. It was buried by fill before November, 1976.
- Ce^v54 - This Qualla site was similar in size to Ce^v53 but the artifactual material was not as concentrated. It was located on a slight rise in the bottoms approximately .5 miles east-northeast of Ce^v53. The collection was comprised of a moderate number of Qualla sherds (Table 1), a small chert triangular projectile point, two projectile point fragments, one each of chert and quartz, and 12 fragments of miscellaneous debitage. Only the very Southeastern edge of this site was impacted by the road.
- Ce^v73 - This was the only site in the survey that evidenced Pigeon, Connestee, and Qualla components, however, the Connestee Phase occupation was, based on ceramic data, the most intense (Table 1). The area of occupation measured roughly 200' in diameter, and plowing had homogenized the surface sample to the point that the Qualla and Pigeon ceramics were randomly mixed with the Connestee sherds. In addition to the ceramics, only 18 unused flakes were recovered. The site was located on a point of land formed by the confluence of Morris Creek and the Valley River. It was approximately 500' northeast of the intersection of the two streams. Like the other sites in Wood's Bottoms, it was buried by road fill before November, 1976.

- Ce^v76 - A moderate number of Qualla sherds (Table 1) was collected from an area roughly 100' by 50' some 500' east of Ce^v73. Only two unused flakes were found with the ceramics. This site was also buried by November, 1976.
- Ce^v78 - This site was located south - southeast of Coalville, approximately 800' northeast of the confluence of Thrash Creek and the Valley River. A few Qualla sherds (Table 1) and five waste flakes were found within a small area not more than 50' in diameter. Although this site will be impacted, it is felt that its significance is minimal as little additional data could be gleaned by further investigation.
- Ce^v79 - This site was almost identical to Ce^v78 in terms of size and artifact content. A small number of Qualla ceramics along with six unmodified flakes completed the specimen inventory. It was located west of Coalville on the north side of Welch Mill Creek, near its confluence with the Valley River. Although this site will be impacted, it is felt that the amount of additional information that might be obtained is insufficient to warrant additional study.
- Ce^v85 - A thin distribution of Qualla material was spread over a fairly large area 200' by 200'. The site was confined to a slight rise on a river terrace located south of a big bend in the Valley River and approximately 400' east of Magazine Branch. In addition to the ceramics (Table 1), one medium sized triangular projectile point, one retouched chert flake, and six miscellaneous flakes were retrieved. Only the northern section of the site will be impacted by the highway. Due to the sparseness of the material and the extreme likelihood that no intact stratigraphy is preserved, no further mitigation is recommended.
- Ce^v86 - A much smaller Qualla site was discovered on the toe of the same terrace that Ce^v85 was located on. In addition to a few sherds (Table 1) two unused flakes were all that was present on the surface. This sparse amount of material was restricted to a 25' by 50' area some 700' west of Ce^v85, on the opposite side of Magazine Branch. For the reasons stated above no further action is recommended.
- Ce^v87 - Another small Qualla site consisting of four sherds (Table 1) and 3 unused flakes were discovered thinly scattered over an area approximately 100' by 50'. It was located northeast of Tomotla on the south side of an old channel of the river. Additional research is not advised.

Ce^v95 - An almost pure Connestee component was located approximately 2.3 miles southwest of Marble and North of existing U.S. 19. It was the furthestest site away from the Valley River to be discovered during the course of the survey. However, it was only a few hundred feet south of Morgan Creek, a small tributary of the river. A large number of Connestee ceramics along with a few Qualla sherds (Table 1) were collected from an area approximately 300' by 100'. Other artifacts included a small triangular projectile point and a small side notched variety, both manufactured from chert. There were also two quartzite bifaces and 11 miscellaneous chips. Several small random tests indicated that all the cultural material was restricted to the plow zone. Because of the disturbed nature of the site, additional investigations prior to impact are not recommended.

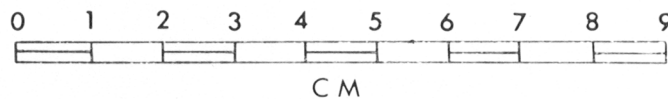
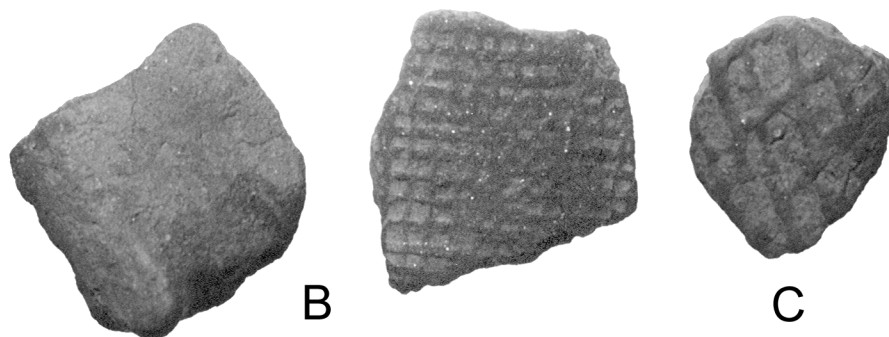
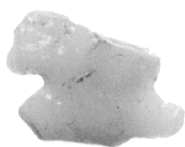


Plate III
Woodland Ceramics; A. Qualla Series,
B. Connestee Series, C. Pigeon Series



A



B



C

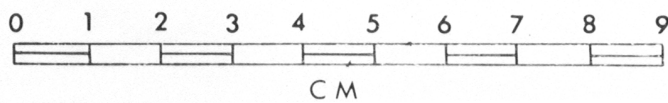


Plate IV
Archaic Lithics; A. Savannah River,
B. Palmer, C. Guilford

DISCUSSION

Except for Ce^v88, all the Archaic sites were indicative of small transient camps. Early Archaic remains were found at only one site; the remainder dated to the Middle and Late Archaic Periods with approximately the same frequency for each. This site frequency pattern was somewhat unexpected as there is generally a dominance of Late Archaic sites recorded by archaeological surveys in North Carolina. However, this anomaly probably is a result of sample size rather than being indicative of a different settlement and population trend in the study area (Table 2).

The fact that the Archaic sites were found on the mountain tops, slopes, as well as in the flood plain is evidence that the total environment was being exploited. Although surface data generally do not produce evidence for seasonality, excavations in North Carolina and surrounding areas have demonstrated that a seasonal round of exploitation was characteristic throughout the Archaic. The sites discovered during the survey, in all likelihood, reflect not only an ecologically diverse subsistence-settlement pattern but also one that was seasonally scheduled.

The size and the concentration of material at Ce^v88 make it unique among the Archaic sites and suggest a functional differentiation as well. The large amount of debitage and the number of preforms in conjunction with the virtual absence of finished tools is indicative of specialized quarrying rather than general subsistence activities. The homogeneity of the raw material, 98 percent quartzite with identical mineralogical characteristics, further supports this assessment.

Table 2

LIST OF SITES AND THEIR MAJOR CULTURAL COMPONENTS

	ARCHAIC			WOODLAND			Indeterminant
	Early	Middle	Late	Early	Middle	Late	
Ce ^V 75		X					
80		X	X				
84		X	X				
88			X				
89							X
90	X						
91		X					
93			X				
94			X				
24						X	
46						X	
50						X	
52						X	
53						X	
54						X	
73					X		
76						X	
78						X	
79						X	
85						X	
86						X	
87						X	
95					X		

The overwhelming majority of the Woodland sites represent small historic or protohistoric Cherokee farmsteads which were scattered along the fertile alluvial bottoms of the Valley River. Middle Woodland

Connestee Phase material dominated the remains at two sites, Ce^v73 and Ce^v95 (Table 2). As evidenced by the amount and area of surface scatter, these were also the largest sites within the highway corridor. However, it should be emphasized that the sites described in this report do not represent the total known sites in the Valley River bottoms. During the years of the Cherokee Project, as well as more recently, many other sites have been recorded. Fortunately, the larger and more important sites, in terms of excavation potential, will not be impacted by the new road.

With the information obtained by the Andrews to Murphy survey and the data collected during previous investigations, some important questions relating to Late Woodland settlement patterns in the area can be approached. It is well beyond the scope and purpose of this report to address these questions in detail, but some general mention of the areas that might be investigated is in order. During the Qualla Phase, there are at least three distinctive types of settlements. The most impressive is the rather large villages arranged around a mound-plaza complex. There are also fairly large villages without the mound-plaza complex as well as the small farmstead sites that were encountered during the highway survey.

A problem that plagues most synchronic settlement pattern studies is establishing contemporaneity of the various archaeological communities. In this specific case, were all the different types of Qualla settlements

occupied at the same time or do they represent adaptive change through time? This determination, based primarily on an analysis of ceramic attribute minutiae as well as the occurrence and frequency of trade goods and other variables is now possible given the current data base. In a synchronic study, the socio-political implications are obvious if all the various types of sites were components of a single cultural system.

If it can be shown that the sites were temporally distinct, a diachronic paradigm would be heuristically important in elucidating the processes of settlement-subsistence change and concomitantly, specific cultural adaptation. For example, if the mound-village sites preceded the small farmsteads, what were the factors responsible for this seeming decline in socio-cultural complexity? Were they intersystemic or intrasystemic, and what was the nature and degree of the impact of European civilization on the aboriginal culture?

There are many other questions, problems, and hypotheses that might be asked, pondered, and tested. Hopefully, with the raw data now in hand, answers and clarifications leading to a fuller understanding of Western North Carolina prehistory will be forthcoming.

CONCLUSIONS

Although the Andrews to Murphy survey was not done under optimum conditions, it did contribute to an understanding of the archaeological resources of the area. The sites discovered after November 1976, all had little potential for containing buried cultural deposits. For this reason, little if any additional data could have been obtained by more intense study. The survey was sufficient for mitigating adverse impact. Given the fact that the road had to be constructed through the Valley River valley, the alternate chosen was probably the best route. As mentioned in the previous section, there are several known large sites with intact stratigraphy that were not impacted.

It is regrettable that at least one site, Ce^v73, was buried under road ballast before funds were made available for the archaeological research. This site was one of only two Connestee occupations in the corridor, and the other, Ce^v95, lacked deposits with contextual integrity. However, looking on the bright side, the site was not destroyed and could even be considered semi-permanently protected. The same is true for many of the sites including Ce^v75, Ce^v50, Ce^v52, Ce^v53, Ce^v73, and Ce^v76. Perhaps future generations of archaeologists might someday be given the opportunity to investigate these sites if it should become necessary to again relocate U.S. 19-129.

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