

APPS # _____

ALABAMA PALEOINDIAN POINT SURVEY
POINT RECORDING FORM

Owner _____ Type _____

Location of Find _____ Catalog # _____

Photos _____ Recorder _____ Date _____

Nonmetric Data

Condition _____

Raw Material _____

Color _____ Patination _____

Basal Grinding _____ Reworking _____

Contact again? _____

Metric Data (mm)

Maximum Length: _____ Estimated Complete Length: _____

Maximum Width: _____ Maximum Thickness: _____

Basal Width: _____ Depth of Basal Concavity: _____

Length of Fluting or Thinning:

Face 1: _____ Face 2: _____

Length of Edge Grinding:

Face 1: _____ Face 2: _____

Comments, Notes, Other Description may be added on the back.

Please provide the best illustration you can: Photographs, tracings, sketch, outline drawing, scanned image, etc. Please show both sides and include a scale. Digital photos or scans may be sent by email to the APPS c/o efutato@bama.ua.edu

Send completed forms to APPS, 13075 Mound State Parkway, Moundville, AL 35474

ALABAMA PALEOINDIAN POINT SURVEY
POINT REPORTING FORM
GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETION

Introduction

The Alabama Paleoindian Point Survey (APPS) is conducted under the joint sponsorship of the Alabama Archaeological Society and the Office of Archaeological Research, University of Alabama Museums. The purpose of the survey is to collect basic information on the number, form, and distribution of Paleoindian projectile points from Alabama. Alabama was the last state in the region to establish such a survey and the APPS recording form is based on the one used in several surrounding states so that we may contribute to a regional database.

The survey was established to meet several needs. The primary reason is to support research on Paleoindians. Alabama has likely produced more Paleoindian points than any other state in the country, but almost nothing is known about these artifacts. The artifact totals can provide information on the distribution and intensity of Paleoindian occupations within and around the Alabama. Counts by type or by time period can suggest when different areas were settled and how the use of different areas changed through time. Information of point styles can suggest degrees of relationship among different areas or groups. Identifying the raw materials from which the points were made and the potential sources of these raw materials can suggest the range of group movements and indicate the presence of contact with groups from other areas.

Another purpose of the survey is to provide an opportunity for active involvement of amateur archaeologists in archaeological research. The survey can provide a topic or activity for chapter meetings and state meetings. We hope the survey will provide additional opportunities for amateurs and professionals to interact and work together. Finally, we hope that through this interaction, professionals, amateurs, and collectors, will develop a better spirit of cooperation among diverse groups which share an interest in these artifacts.

The following guidelines include a fair bit of explanation. We want and need to involve all interested people in the project. There are literally thousands of artifacts which could be recorded, spread from one end of the state to the other, and beyond. This is a volunteer effort and we need the help of everyone, regardless of their level of knowledge and experience.

Copies of the forms and instructions may be requested from the APPS at 13075 Mound State Parkway, Moundville AL, 35474. Individuals can complete these to the best of their ability. When possible, we can arrange a follow-up visit, or you can let us know that you have points to record and we will try to arrange from someone in your area to assist you.

Instructions

APPS #. This number will be assigned when the form is recorded and the number will be reported to the owner or recorder.

Owner. Provide the name of the owner. The owner does not wish to be known, put "Anonymous".

Type. Provide the artifact type name. The survey is attempting to collect information on all types older than Dalton. Most chronological systems now consider Dalton to be Paleoindian, but we fear there are simply too many Dalton points to attempt recording them. But there is a lot of overlap between Dalton and Quad and among other types. If you are not sure of the type you can record the point and put a ? after the type name.

Location of Find. We recognize that many people are reluctant to divulge the locations of their finds. However, the purpose of this survey is to provide information on the distribution of points and their various characteristics. So a location at least to county must be provided. The more specific you can be, the better. You can give a locality such as "near so and so". You can also give your site name or number, even without more information or location. That will allow the survey to recognize points from the same site. The best information is an Alabama State Site number and people are always encouraged to record their sites. All site location information other than county is confidential.

Cat. #. This line is for any catalog number or other identification used by the owner or recorder.

Photos. This is probably the single most important part of the form. It is very important to have the best illustration you can provide. A lot of additional information can be obtained from the study of good photographs and a photograph is the easiest way to document the point being recorded. Good quality scanned images work well, too. Include both sides and please include a scale. Digital photographs be sent by email to the APPS c/o efutato@bama.ua.edu.

Recorder. The name of the person(s) completing the form.

Date. The date the artifact was recorded.

Condition. All Paleoindian points are important to the survey. Even small fragments can provide important information. The portion of the artifact is described as follows. "Complete" means that the artifact is intact or missing only small portions that do not interfere with observation or measurements. "Distal" means that the artifact is missing the base. "Proximal" means that the artifact is missing the tip. "Medial" means both the tip and base are missing, but parts of both edges are present. "Lateral" fragments are missing the tip, the base, and one edge. If no edges are present, the piece is a "Central" fragment.

Raw Material. Alabama possesses a great variety of raw materials for making chipped stone artifacts. There are perhaps 25-30 varieties of chert from which Alabama Paleoindian points are made, plus quartz and other materials. Be as specific as your knowledge permits: "Blue Gray Fort Payne chert", "Fort Payne chert", or just "chert".

Color. Describe the color of the artifact: gray, white with black specks, bluish gray with brown streaks, or whatever.

Patination. Describe the relative degree of patination, "None", "Slight", "Moderate", or "Heavy".

Basal Grinding. Note the presence and degree of any grinding on the base, "None", "Slight", "Moderate", or "Heavy".

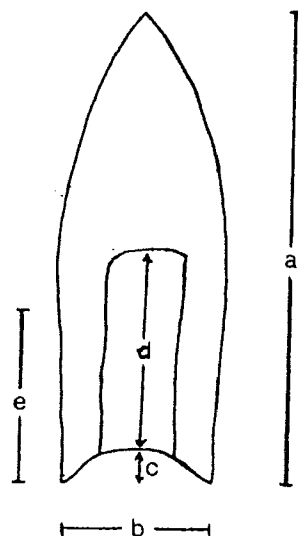
Reworking. Note if the artifact appears to have been resharpened or reworked into another tool such as a drill or a scraper.

Contact Again? Indicate if the owner would like to be contacted by future researchers in the area.

Metric data. Please take measurements in millimeters. How to take the measurements in shown in the illustration below.

Comments, etc. Please provide any additional information you desire. Additional sheets can be attached.

Figure source:
Anderson et al. 1990.



METRIC ATTRIBUTES

- a. Maximum Length (mm)
- b. Basal Width (mm)
- c. Depth of Basal Concavity (mm)
- d. Length of Fluting or Basal Thinning (mm)
- e. Length of Edge Grinding (mm)

Record Maximum Width and Maximum Thickness at greatest point (mm).

If broken, estimate probable intact length, if possible (mm).