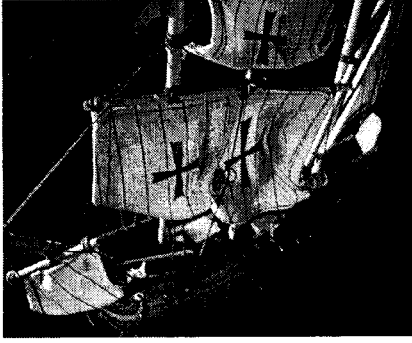


Preface

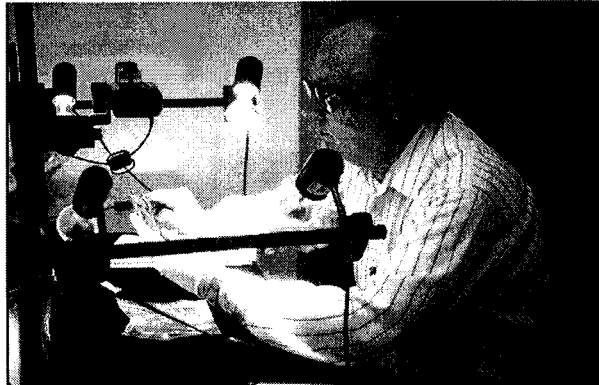


The author back in highschool was fascinated with de Soto's meeting with various southeastern Indians. Later, Catlin's travels sparked the interest of what it must have been like to meet Native Americans before the European invasion that nearly destroyed thousands of cultures. The study of early explorers led to the author's life-time study of prehistory, namely the American Indian's history.

Based on this interest, the following publication is a study of lithic technology as found in the Middle Potomac River Valley (MPRV). The archaeological focus of a single geographical area offers an opportunity to present projectile point typology as a microtechnology even though some of the types have widespread distributions. As for

macrotechnology, the area is an ideal study opportunity for new large tool data because of the lack of published data. The MPRV presents a physical artifact collection for lifeways in a snap-shot view of prehistory. Or, in other words, what technology(s) did the Indians use while living in the valley along the Potomac River's fall line. The Indian's toolkit contained numerous tools, including the projectile point, axe, celt, drill, and knife implements; of which, some are unique; others are Panindian.

Concern with history (past experiences) may be a genetic code in the human race – one that is directly used for survival and is stored in an individual's subconscious memory; all individuals remember their past experiences – their history. It is frequently related to survival. This memory, when shared in a social group or society, is called the collective memory and is often manifested in prehistoric societies as folklore, traditions, ceremonies, etc. Contemporary, as well as nonliterate, societies frequently use the collective memory as *social norms* or acceptable behaviors, or simply justification for the rationale and control of various human activities. Another way of describing a collective memory is history (oral traditions), which is a set of known events in time and space for any given society. Consequences of specific local events are basically irrelevant in the total history of humanity. Of course, some historians would argue consequences cause changes in historical directions for societies, but these are frequently based on subjective appraisals and personal value systems of researchers. For prehistory, we translate the Indians traditional past as uncovered archaeologically. For lithic technology, these traditions and behaviors are manifested in Indian toolkits and the ways they used them.



Wm Jack Hranicky – Measuring Artifacts at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in Calvert County, Maryland. As shown, always wear latex gloves when handling museum specimens.

This publication is the result of the author's work, investigation, artifact recording, and general archaeological research in the Middle Potomac River Valley (MPRV) over the last 30 years. This study of stone tools and implements was performed to:

- Update the current knowledge base of MPRV archaeology
- Provide new data and interpretations on MPRV lithic technology
- Provide a single-source for published MPRV references
- But mainly, provide a study on:
 - History of MPRV archaeology (people and sites)
 - MPRV environmental influences (Indian utilization)
 - Basic MPRV artifacts (classification and typology)
 - Tool usage by Indians (living archaeology).

This publication presents a sample of MPRV artifacts from the arrowhead to the axe. It shows lithic usage for these tools and illustrates how they were used in the Indians' society. These tools are organized chronologically and contrasted to various artifacts and time periods found elsewhere. All of which leave this publication as a humble beginning for the 21st century in Potomac River valley archaeology.

Three principal stones were used in the MPRV, namely quartzite, greenstone, and rhyolite. These materials were tested scientifically in the study with methods that are suggested as making lithic identifications and comparisons easier. They provide the means for standardization in archaeology.



A chronological framework is presented for the MPRV that is based on the Classic Paleoindian – Archaic – Woodland (PAW) model used by eastern archaeologists. The PAW is discussed with technology as its major focus. The framework is also used in the Projectile Point section that incorporates environmental conditions from the MPRV's prehistory.

Example of Potomac River Valley Urbanization. MPRV archaeological site are rapidly disappearing; many of them have had little or no archaeological investigations.

Overall, the classification of points and tools is based on empirical observation from which analyses were subject to the author's experience with the prehistoric cultural framework of the Potomac River valley. Typology is presented as a morphological standard based on a collection of physical attributes that are found on MPRV points.

Prehistorically, the Middle Potomac River valley is disappearing. Housing, shopping malls, colleges, industrial complexes, and numerous other urbanization projects have destroyed, and are continuing to destroy prehistoric sites. Some sites do get excavated, but most never see an archaeologist's trowel.

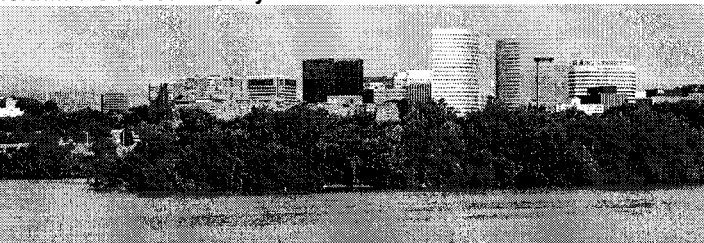
**Claude Moore Colonial Farm Reconstruction
on Turkey Run, Fairfax County, Virginia**



This study captures MPRV archaeology as it existed during the late 20th century. It presents a summary of current archaeological knowledge with the expectation that more work will be done.

While most important, Native American history dates over 10,000 years. They left the area more-or-less as they found it. The Colonial Period sees the beginnings of a super culture, which until recently exploited the earth's resources with little care about the future. The history of the river valley comes from the past and belongs to the future. Hopefully, the landscape can survive humanity.

Potomac View of Rosslyn, Virginia. The modern age, 2000 version, stands on prehistoric sites along the Potomac River – a consequence of history. The 2100 version will stand on these historic sites, a consequence of history and so forth... We are our history.



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