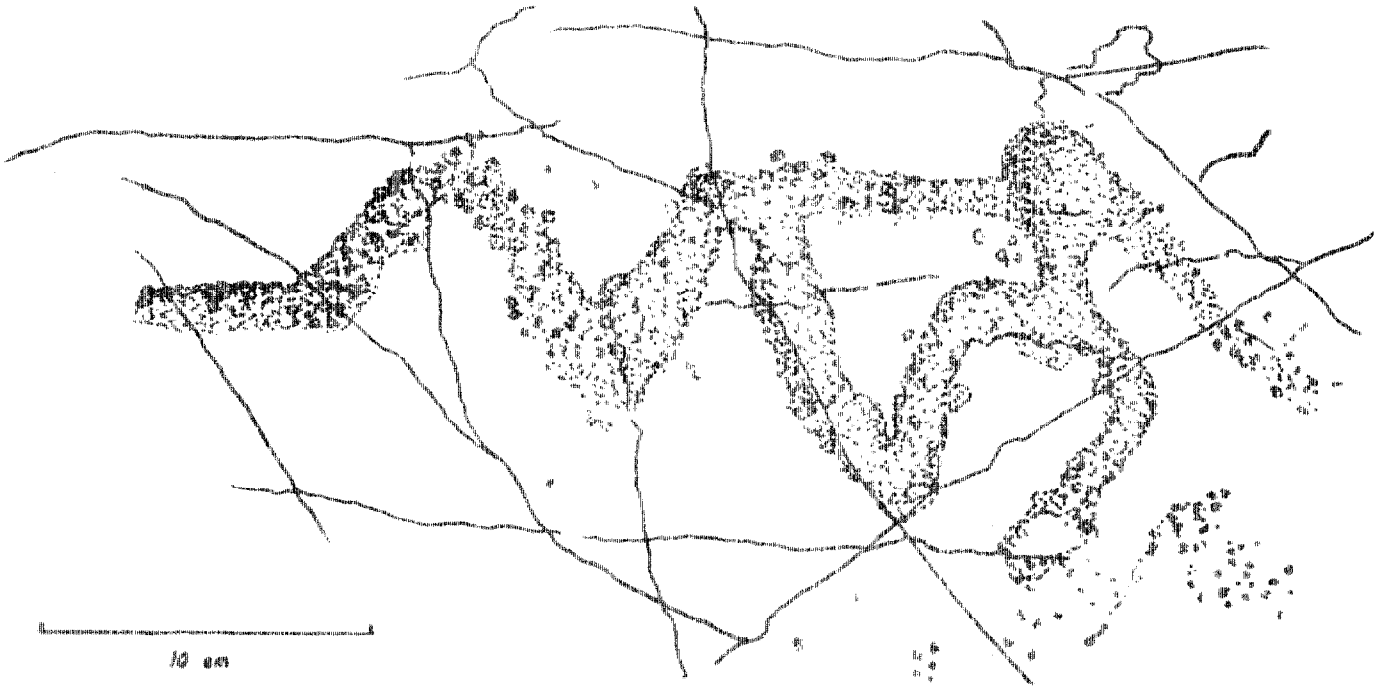
THE MAINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC. BULLETIN



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MAINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC. BULLETIN
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Maine is a state rich in archaeological sites. This summer, crews have been busy from Chesuncook Lake to the Saco River, unlocking our cultural past. Currently, there are about 5000 inventoried archaeological sites in Maine. Many of these sites are extremely valuable and must be preserved. There are between 200 and 400 new sites being discovered each year. We need to protect these sites so that their materials can be recorded and preserved. There are federal and state laws protecting our archaeological finds, but we need to become stronger at our own local levels.

In 1988, a new Growth Management law was passed. It states that Maine towns must start protecting their local historic and archaeological resources, among other things, by the mid-1990's. I feel that the MAS members are the most informed members of their communities. They can identify a site, be aware of the threats that can damage a site, and determine the best use of a site. They can also evaluate whether scientific excavation may be worthwhile in the future. Members can check with their town officials and ask about the status of protection for their archaeological resources. Members could also volunteer or ask to be appointed to the Planning Commission in their town, using their archaeological interest and knowledge.

By working with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, professional archaeologists, and our town managers, we can be instrumental in seeing that what is "ours" is protected for generations to come.

Bunny Doyle
President
Maine Archaeological Society

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT MACKAY

In the summer of 1973 two things occurred that were to have a profound effect on my life. First, I began dating the woman who was to become my wife, and second I met Bob MacKay. In neither case did I realize the ramifications of these relationships.

Pursuing a long-term interest, I enrolled in an archaeological fieldschool sponsored by the University of Maine. To my good fortune, the instructor of that school was Bob MacKay, assisted by his lovely wife, Jean. They brought a sense of excitement, enthusiasm, and professionalism to the school that was contagious for the students. In my own case a potential "pot-hunter" was converted into an avocational archaeologist. One of the qualities of a fine teacher is patience, another is understanding. Bob had these qualitites in spades. The number of times he was asked whether a bit of shale was a flake would have tried the patience of Job. Teaching a fieldschool is not like teaching a class. In the latter you see your students for a few brief minutes once a day; in the former you live with them, in this case for six weeks!

Sometime during that six week period Bob mentioned the Maine Archaeological Society, "our little society" he termed it, and the benefits for people interested in Maine archaeology. He also mentioned the need for close cooperation between the professional and amateur community and the opportunities the Society presented for this to develop. Shortly thereafter he collected my dues, thus beginning a very enjoyable association for me, and many others who were similarly recruited. I feel that Bob was the catalyst for the close cooperation that has developed within the Society and the state between amateurs and professionals. He retired from the Society after many years as an officer and I believe he was pleased with the direction the Society took at the hands of some of his recruits.

As a high school social studies teacher I am also deeply indebted to Bob. On several occasions he graciously hosted groups of my students at the University of Maine archaeology lab and on visits to the Hirundo site. Never did the students leave without a profound sense of respect for the gentleman who had so patiently answered their questions and explained the methods of archaeological research. I am most deeply indebted, however, for the encouragement and advice he gave when I suggested the possibility of involving high school

students in archaeological fieldwork. The idea had been greeted with much skepticism by a number of others at the time, and I was about to abandon the idea. Thanks to Bob, I did not, and the program has developed very successfully. I suspect that Bob ran some interference for me with the professional community and paved the way for an excellent working relationship. Bob introduced me to Art Spiess who has been very supportive of my program.

Above all Bob MacKay was a friend. He gave freely of his time, knowledge, hospitality, and even jars of "stinkberry" (highbush cranberry) relish. All of us who knew him have been enriched and his passing leaves a tremendous void.

Eric Lahti

Bob McKay was my colleague before he retired from the University, and he had been my friend since my first days as a Maine archaeologist. In many ways he was a most important mentor in the first year of my work in Maine, and much of the direction that I have attempted to impart to Maine archaeology came from ideas that we hatched mutually in those early days.

Modern Archaeology is a cumulative science where major projects last for decades. The State-level archaeological survey may, hopefully, last for centuries. For this slow and cumulative gathering of data, continuity of personnel and an oral literature (in the anthropological sense) of unpublished anecdotes about digs and diggers is a necessity for making critical judgements of evidence credibility. Bob provided critical continuity among professional archaeologists in the early modern years in Maine archaeology. He also had the widest ranging geographic knowledge of site locations in Maine during his working years. In fact, Bob worked for Dean Snow in the late '60s at Orono and accomplished much of the field survey for Dean Snow's 1969 first compilation of Maine archaeological sites, which included about 350 sites. Bob inventoried many of these sites by talking to major collectors, and his work took him from at least as far east as Machias to as far west as the New Hampshire border. When Dave Sanger replaced Dean Snow, Bob provided a critical bridge of knowledge of collectors, site locations, and University collections.

Bob did exactly the same thing for me when I began working for the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. I began work on Monday, July 3, 1978 as I recall, and before the week was out I was off talking to McKay. Bob's strategy was to take me to some of the better known sites in the state, and while we were driving along to talk and proceed to fill my head with a myriad of details that he had collected over the years. My journal entries do not do justice to the detail, but they provide some evidence for the scope of what we saw and covered.

7/6/78	Talking with MacKay and Bonnichsen at Orono, and then on to the Hirundo site.
7/11/78	To Orono to pick up MacKay, then on to Dexter, Madison, and Norridgewock to check various projects (proposed construction projects). All negative except for a conversation with Eric Lahti about a site at Norridgewock opposite the mouth of the Sandy River.
7/21/78	To Orono to get MacKay to check a project in Howland, stopped at the Hathaway site. (The Hathaway site is in Passadumkeag, and it had been excavated most recently by Dean Snow. It was the last major Red Paint cemetery to be excavated in Maine.)
8/30-31/78	Bob MacKay and I did a tour of Great Northern Paper land north of Millinocket. Stayed overnight at Pray's camp, Ripogenus Dam. Checked on bridges at Umbazooksos and Caucomogomoc Lakes, and dams at Loon and Penobscot Lakes. Drove very far and learned a lot about paper company operations. Tears the hell out of the land.
10/3-6/78	Trip Down East. Orono, then to Cutler and East Machias. Two days at Orono reviewing archaeological records with MacKay.

There is much that my journal does not say, obviously: such things as the fact that Bob was a nice guy, a darned good woodsman (he knew the area north of Millinocket like the back of his hand), and an effective teacher from the school where one presents his experiences and expects the listener to be smart enough to pick out the meaning for himself. He was also "wicked" good telling stories about the last of the log-driving days, and how he had been in charge of picking the logs out of a mammoth log jam that stretched for miles along a tributary stream when the timing for a water release got fouled up.

Another thing that does not appear in my journals was all the scuttlebutt from the early days of Maine archaeology: what was good about certain digs, and what was not, and where mistakes had been made, time wasted, and data possibly questionable, and where there were major successes. I heard a lot about Doug Byers, Wendell Hadlock, prominent early members of the Maine Archaeological Society such as Jerry Dunn, and others. All of it was passed along in the spirit of providing helpful experiences to me that I couldn't possibly hope to have in less than a decade of work.

Bob and Jean McKay acted as informal fieldcrew chiefs on a small dig at Mattawamkeag that first summer. We didn't find a lot, except poison ivy. Even so, Bob was full of helpful advice (fels naptha soap and gloves).

I have one final point. Sometime, on one of our long drives together, Bob MacKay mentioned that the Maine Archaeological Society was a good organization with a lot of folks that worked hard and meant well. Perhaps it was after my initial visit with Eric Lahti. Some way or another Bob pointed out that the Maine Archaeological Society lacked a close working relationship with professional archaeology in Maine, but that there was great potential in such a relationship. He got my promise to work hard for the MAS. I do hope Bob MacKay was pleased with how things were going in Maine archaeology into this year of his death, and in particular, the outcome of what he started with the Maine Archaeological Society. I do believe so.

Arthur Spiess

Anthropomorphic/Snake Image at Birch Point
Comment on the Cover

Mark H. Hedden

The multiple image in the cover drawing represents one example of a feature often encountered in native American petroglyphs. The glyph maker, using the simplest of design elements, suggests a fluent ambiguity of spirit entities. The meander or snakelike image is the most easterly of 3 broadly dinted versions recorded on the main ledge at Birch Point, Machiasport. All 3 are located in close proximity near the center of the main ledge on surfaces usually inundated by present-day high tides. The curvilinear form, broad dinting, evidence of erosion and easterly position on the utilized surface all point to a middle range date (ca. 1000 years B.P.) for this figure (See Hedden 1988 for a more detailed discussion of the basis of Machias Bay petroglyph chronology). The snakelike meander, 37 cm long, has 3 broad loops, beginning on the west with a flattened "tail", moving eastward with 2 almost angular zigzags and ending with an "n" shape which is slightly expanded at the top. A solidly dinted out oval "head" is connected to the broadened "n" loop and a more lightly dinted line extends obliquely downward from each side of the "head".

In Algonkian iconography (Cf. Schoolcraft 1851-57), straight lines out from the sides of the head indicate the power of a spirit or spirit-assisted shaman to hear things going on at great distances.

What we have here is an image which does not settle into either an anthropomorph or snake but ambiguously shifts between the natural forms of both, a succinct visual expression of Algonkian concepts of spiritual metamorphosis.

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The McLaughlin Site: A Susquehanna and Woodland Occupation on the St. George River

Arthur Spiess, Joan Robertson, and Mark Hedden

INTRODUCTION

Recently a private collection of more than 3000 pieces from twenty-eight sites became available to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) through the generosity of Archie McLaughlin of Rockland, Maine. Mr. McLaughlin had been collecting his pieces since 1946. Recently he realized the research value of his collection in light of today's growing awareness of and interest in Maine's prehistory. At their winter 1988 meeting the Maine Archaeological Society directors voted to fund the cataloguing of the entire collection. Subsequently, Archie McLaughlin has donated the collection to the State of Maine. As of this writing, except for a few small sites, the collection has been photographed and catalogued.

This article focuses on the portion of McLaughlin's collection that comes from a site (or closely spaced group of sites) not previously listed in the State's site inventory. For the present, we have designated the site as number 28.46, and named it the "McLaughlin Site". The site is located along the bank of the St. George River, upstream from Warren, in the vicinity of the Hart's Falls Red Paint cemetery (Moorehead 1922:86). However, as we shall demonstrate below, this site was utilized for only 1500 to 2000 years during the terminal Archaic and Early to Middle Woodland.

Archie McLaughlin's collection is dominated by material from the St. George River Valley. Site 28.46 is the primary interior site in the collection from the interior; however, in addition there are large collections from several shell middens on the estuary. A striking similarity with the Kidder Point collection (Spiess and Hedden 1982), has focussed our attention on 28.46 for our first report on the McLaughlin collection.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The exact locus from which Archie made his collection has not yet been relocated. However, the general area is known. The St. George River upstream from Warren is a small river, generally 5 to 10 meters in width. There are frequent shallow rapids separating short stretches of quiet flatwater. In places the immediate riverbank is flanked by extensive tall grass marshes, and bedrock controlled shoreline is rare. Low hills rise from the shore or from the inland margins of the marshes to elevations of 50 to 100 feet or more. Well drained sediments (silty sand) can be found on gently sloping spurs of these low hills. It is from one or more of these spurs that the collection was made, according to Mr. McLaughlin.

MCLAUGHLIN SITE COLLECTION

The lithic artifacts from the McLaughlin Site (Figures 1- 21) were gathered over a period of thirty or more years. There are a total of 444 pieces, including flakes

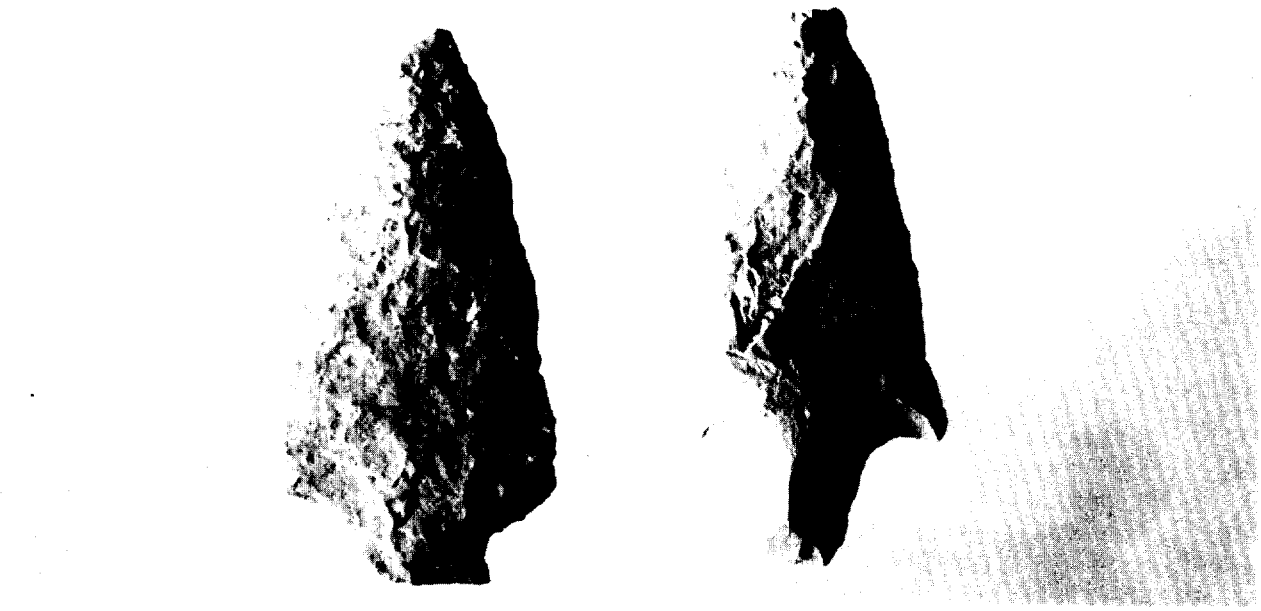


Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

and potsherds. Of 29 points, 22 may be considered diagnostic and 30 ceramic sherds can be identified as belonging to 15 vessels. This collection also includes 8 complete but non-diagnostic points. There are 34 non-diagnostic biface fragments or preforms. In addition, there are 23 biface fragments attributed to the Susquehanna Tradition, and 12 biface preforms also thought to belong to this tradition. Fourteen biface fragments and 2 biface preforms are assigned to the Meadowood type of the Early Woodland.

Considered non-diagnostic are 5 felsite cobble hammerstones, a quartzite whetstone, and 5 pieces, in varying shapes and sizes, of sandstone which show wear on edges or ventral surfaces indicating use as abraders or smoothing stones. There is also a black chert core and 2 flakes which appear to be of the same material. There are 125 flakes of varying materials. Of these, 73 are felsite, 25 Vinalhaven striped rhyolite, 5 clear quartz crystal, 8 white opaque quartz, 8 chert, 4 quartzite, and 2 of siltstone.

There are five untyped pieces (#001, 136, 192, 226, 245) counted as nondiagnostic which are probably naturally occurring pebbles or cobbles. Only one (#001), a bell-shaped piece of marblized igneous rock, shows wear on three sides.

MCLAUGHLIN SITE LITHICS

Susquehanna Component

The earliest certain occupation of the site was by people of the Susquehanna Tradition (circa 4000-3000 BP). There are 4 complete points representing this tradition. One felsite contracting stem point (#015) (Fig. 1, left) is similar to what are called Snook Kill in New York. Another felsite contracting stem biface (#398) (Fig. 2, left) resembles one taken from the Young Site in Alton, Maine (Borstel, 1982). This point carries a broken tip as does the Young Site point. A felsite biface with a broken tip (#130) (Fig. 1, right) is similar to an Atlantic implement blade found at the Neville Site, although it is smaller in size (Dincauze, 1976). Finally, there is a felsite biface of Dincauze's Watertown variety of a Wayland notched point (#366) (Fig. 1, right and Fig. 3, left) (Dincauze 1968). This specimen is made of felsite and either burned or heavily weathered. Another biface basal fragment with a tapered stem and acute shoulder angles (#369) (Fig. 4, left) could be the proximal two-thirds of what Dincauze calls large-stemmed points. It, too, is of felsite, heavily weathered.

Five biface basal fragments are like Borstel's contracting stem broadspears (Borstel, 1982). Two are made of flow-banded felsite (#370,368) (Fig. 5, right; Fig. 6, middle), one of Vinalhaven striped rhyolite (#237) (Fig. 5, middle), and two of what we call "felsite, blue variety" (#367,371) (Fig. 6, left; Fig. 5, left).

One biface fragment (#241) (Fig. 7, left) of Vinalhaven striped rhyolite

Figure 4

Figure 5

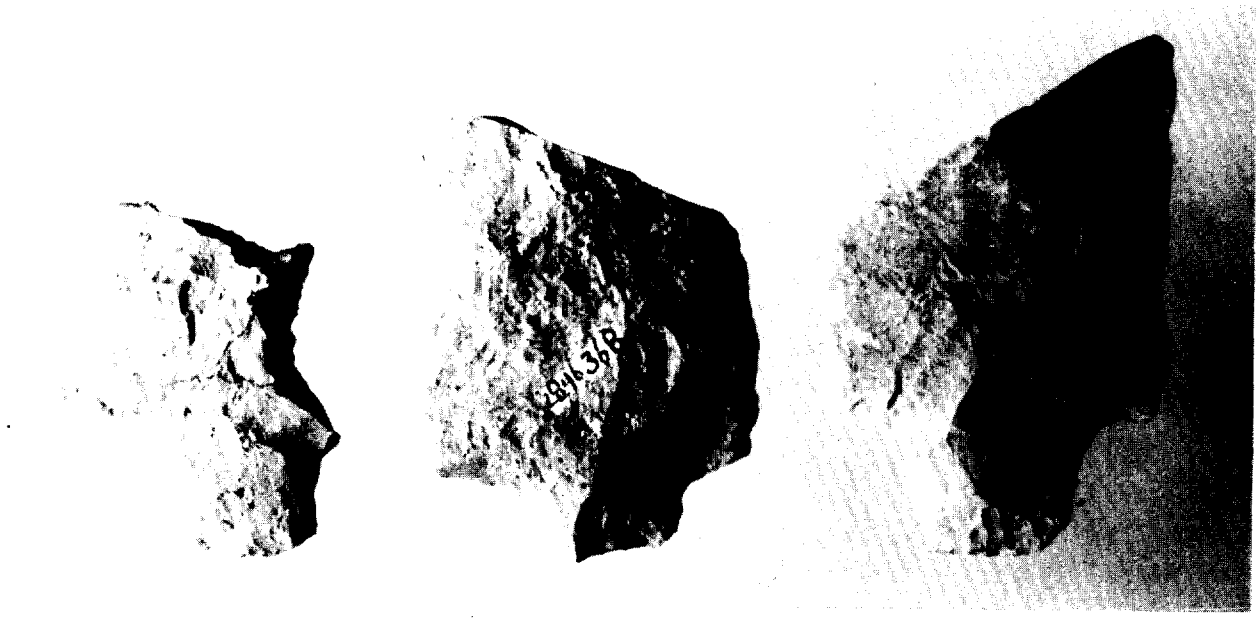


Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 10

(Bourque, Doyle and White 1984) could be considered a "boats blade" basal fragment based on size and shape. (Note: Bourque, Doyle and White use "banded spherulitic rhyolite" or BSR to refer to this material. Many collectors in Maine use "Vinalhaven striped rhyolite." In our view, the terms are synonymous.) Another Vinalhaven striped rhyolite biface fragment (#236) (Fig. 4, right) is probably the basal fragment of a broad contracting stemmed point.

There are five biface point tips (#014,129,153,257,364) which, because of their flaking scars, size or shape, may be considered Susquehanna-like. Four are of felsite and one of Vinalhaven striped rhyolite. One nonstemmed biface fragment (#232) (Fig. 7, right) has been broken longitudinally but still resembles a Dudley variety Mansion Inn blade. It is made of striped rhyolite. All of the 8 remaining biface fragments are of felsite.

Two early stage preforms are considered probable Susquehanna pieces, because they are made of Vinalhaven striped rhyolite. A striped rhyolite biface preform (#234) (Fig. 8, left) (in shape and size a Kidder Point "trimmed cores", Spiess and Hedden 1983) shows cobble cortex present on its proximal surface. This piece thus indicates use of a cobble source for at least some of the Vinalhaven striped rhyolite in the assemblage. Another striped rhyolite biface (#246) (Fig. 8, right) could be categorized as a Kidder Point-like trimmed core. Its morphology is suggestive of a large endscraper in that its distal end has broken off the core at a steep angle leaving an endscraper-like edge. There are two scalar (use-wear?) flake scars along this edge.

Susquehanna drills are well represented in this collection, based on Bourque's description of Susquehanna Tradition drills from the Turner Farm Site on North Haven Island, Maine, being "long bifacially chipped" (Bourque 1975) and Dincauze's description of those from Massachusetts as having "long, narrow pointed shafts above a broader base" (Dincauze 1968). One drill base (#235) (Fig. 9, left) is similar to one from the Hirundo Site in Alton, Maine (Sanger, 1975). It (specimen 235) is made of a dark blue/grey volcanic rock and has been broken transversely above the ears. A second drill base (#020) (Fig. 9, middle) is made of rhyolite and has been broken obliquely midpoint on the shaft. A complete drill (#386) (Fig. 9, 2nd in on right) of blue/grey chert shows little use. A biface tip fragment (#011) is probably a drill tip. It is made of rhyolite and shows use on its distal end.

Five less "typical" drills also meet the above criteria. One (#385) (Fig. 9, right) of very weathered felsite appears to be made by retouching a broad contracting stemmed biface. Its distal tip is worn flat or broken off. Two (#058,155) (Fig. 9, 2nd in on left; #155 not shown) are also of very weathered felsite and are less clearly retouched points, although the distal tip of one (#155) is obviously well used and reworked. A large felsite flake (#194) has been worked into a drill-like implement - or is on its way toward being one - and has been worked in the same fashion as #155. An interesting drill-like object (#387) of felsite appears to be an extreme example of a reworked stemmed point, meeting the above criteria for a Susquehanna Tradition drill.

Figure 8

Figure 9

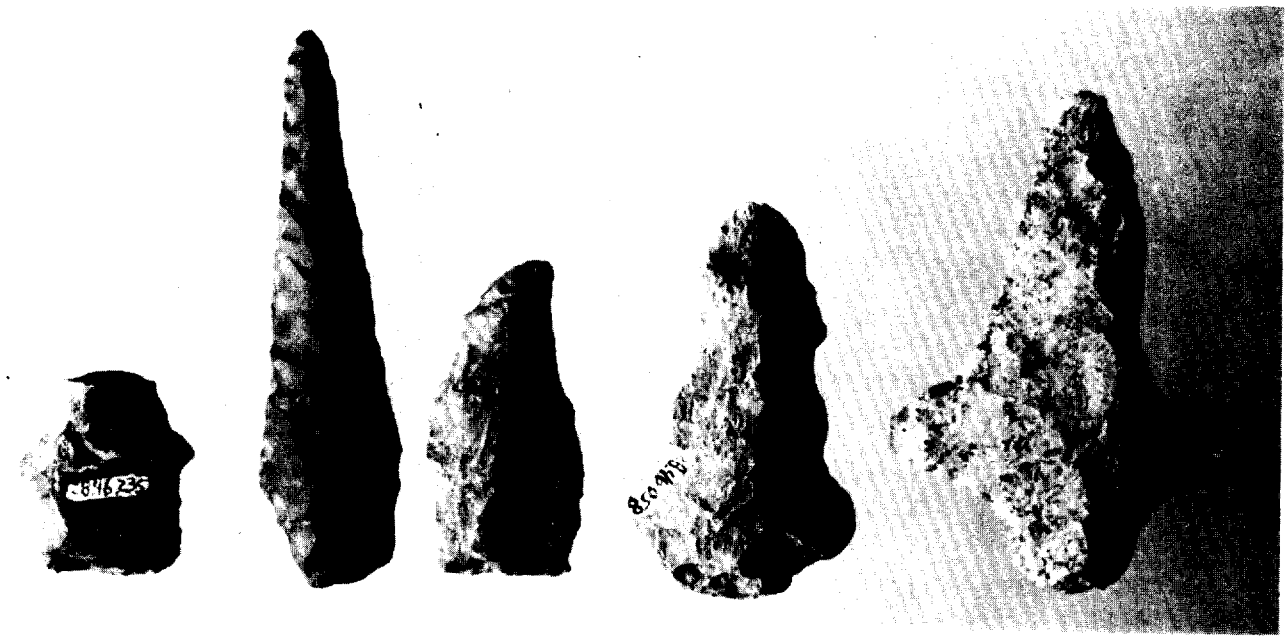


Figure 11

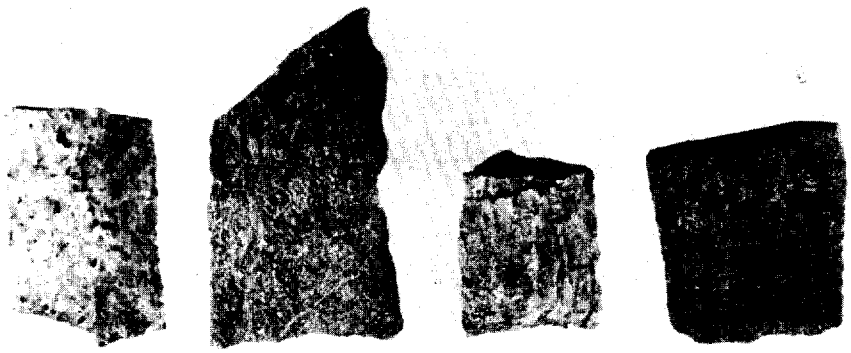


Figure 12

It has been utilized and reworked to the point where each shoulder has also become a drill tip. Another artifact made of felsite, blue variety, (#433) is probably a Susquehanna drill preform. One corner of its base has broken off as well as its tip. It is chunky and may have been broken during the process of manufacture.

One piece of graphite (#159) may or may not belong to this component. It is mentioned here because a similar piece was also mentioned in Dincauze's report on the Mansion Inn Site in Massachusetts (Dincauze 1968). Its lateral surfaces are smooth and shiny as if much handled, and its distal end is pointed and smooth.

A Moorehead Phase (?) plummet (#064) (Fig. 10), broken longitudinally below the knob, is the only piece in this collection representing a time antedating the Susquehanna Tradition. Possibly Susquehanna Tradition people, visiting the nearby Hart's Falls Cemetery or another Moorehead Phase site, picked the plummet up and carried it back with them as a "souvenir".

Woodland Period Lithics

After identifying the Susquehanna artifacts, we are left with what is ample evidence for an Early and/or Middle Woodland Period use of the McLaughlin Site (circa 3000-1800 BP). Included in these pieces are eighteen diagnostic biface points, 2 biface preforms and 14 biface fragments.

Two small triangular points of quartzite (#065,411) (Fig. 3, left; #411 not shown) are the same size and similar shape as those found at Kidder Point (Spiess and Hedden 1983:62, Plate 4-4). Eight bifaces or basal fragments thereof (#010,055,181,182,381,382,430,431) (Figs. 11 and 12) show basal thinning by removal of one or more flakes, and square straight sided bases. The major difference between these specimens and Meadowood points is that the side-notching of Meadowood points is lacking. One (#055) is made of a semitranslucent, fine-grained quartzite (?Canadian Shield, not Ramah chert), two (#430,181) are of felsite, one (#182) of felsite, blue variety, three of Vinalhaven striped rhyolite (#010,382,431) and one (#381) of argillite/-mudstone.

Seven long-stemmed points (#373, #374, #388, #399, #400, #401, #404) (Fig. 13, left; Fig. 14, left; Fig. 14, right; Fig. 13, middle; Fig. 13, right; Fig. 13, 2nd from right; Fig. 13, 2nd from left) demonstrate a range of shape and sizes similar to the range in the Kidder Point collection. Four (#388,399,400,404) are of felsite, two of Vinalhaven striped rhyolite (#374,401), and one of slate.

A side-notched point from Kidder Point also is made of Vinalhaven striped rhyolite. With the addition of the Meadowood point base of the same material, the evidence indicates substantial use of Vinalhaven striped rhyolite after the close of the Susquehanna Tradition. Two biface basal fragments (#103,408) (Fig. 15, 2nd in on right; Fig. 15, middle) are classified as Meadowood. One (#408) is a red-brown/-grey striped chert, the other (#103) Vinalhaven striped rhyolite. A complete Meadowood point (#229) is made of a blue-white/tan swirled chert. Four other complete points (#054,067,402,403) (Fig. 15, right; #067 not pictured; Fig. 15, 2nd in on left; Fig. 15, left) also are considered Meadowood-related based on their narrow side notching. #054 is made of quartzite and shows heavy iron oxidation. #067 is made of heavily weathered felsite, #403 is made of a olive green, black streaked chert and #402 is of Vinalhaven striped rhyolite.

A Meadowood basal fragment of felsite (#407) (Fig. 16) has had an extra notch worked into its base and looks as if it were intended to be used as a graver.

A banded slate gorget (#012) (Fig. 17), broken in half longitudinally, has one hole extant and shows the beginning of a second, probably a misstart, close to it. This artifact type appears in Early Woodland contexts in the Northeast.

There are four microblades present in the collection (#082,115,157,161) (Fig. 18 left, right, middle; #161 not pictured) smaller than those blades found at Kidder

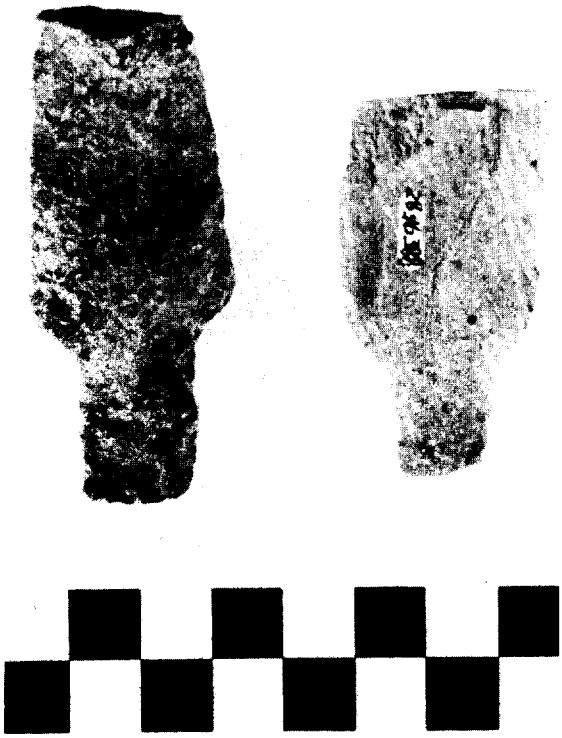


Figure 14

Point (Spiess and Hedden 1983:63, Plate 4-7; 64, Plate 4-8). These pieces show a striking platform, a dorsal ridge, and are three to four times as long as they are wide when unbroken. One microblade (Figure 18 right) shows evidence of multiple previous blade removals, suggesting knowledge of core preparation techniques allowing sequential blade removal. One (#082) is made of quartzite, one (#115) of a grey, brown streaked chert, and two (#157,161) of felsite, blue variety.

Grouped with the artifacts from the Woodland component is a small adze of serpentinite (#224). It shows slight waisting at the proximal end and asymmetric breakage on its bit end.

Formed unifaces/endscrapers are the most numerous single item in the Woodland component. There are 4 large snubnosed endscrapers (#021,196,406,425) (Fig. 19, right; Fig. 19, 2nd in on right; Fig. 19, left; Fig. 19, 2nd in on left), one of crystal quartz, one of felsite, one of black chert, and one of siltstone. In addition, there are 18 small formed unifaces having one convex edge. (These are shown in Figs. 20 and 21) More than half of these are chert, one a white opaque quartz, the rest being felsite, rhyolite, quartzite or mudstone.

MCLAUGHLIN SITE CERAMICS

Based on a vessel lot analysis done by Mark Hedden (Table I), 15 vessel lots were identified. These include 4 dentate rocker stamped vessels (Vessel Lots #1,2,3,6) (Figs. 22,23,24.25) 3 dentate stamped vessels (Vessel Lots #4,5,7) (Figs. 26,27; Vessel Lot #7 not shown), and 5 vessels showing fiber/fabric impressions on exterior surfaces (Vessel Lots #8,9,10,11,12) (Vessel Lot #8 not shown; Fig. 28; Vessel Lots #10,11,12 not shown). One of these fiber/fabric impressed vessels has a ragged obliquely twisted Z twisted fabric, 2 show possible grass fiber impressions with no twist evident. Vessel Lot #9 has fiber impressions on its interior surface, and although it is a thin, fairly well consolidated sherd, it is considered an anomalous piece probably belonging to the Vinette I category. Vessel Lot #12 may belong to this category as well. Its interior has spalled off, but its exterior has been impressed with an S twisted fiber and has the characteristic coarse texture of this type. Vessel lots #13, 14, and 15 have been identified as possibly belonging to the Vinette I category also.

Not counting the anomalous sherds of Vessel Lots #9 and #12, of the 20 potsherds possibly identifiable as Vinette I, 16 proved on close examination to be fiber-impressed on the interior and, wholly or partially, on the exterior surfaces. Four other sherds had scraped or other marks on their surfaces that indicate perhaps a Middle Ceramic Period designation is more appropriate.

The general characteristics of the 16 sherds attributed to Vinette I include coil manufacture and Z twist cordage, usually 1 mm in diameter, most often obliquely twined but with at least 2 examples of

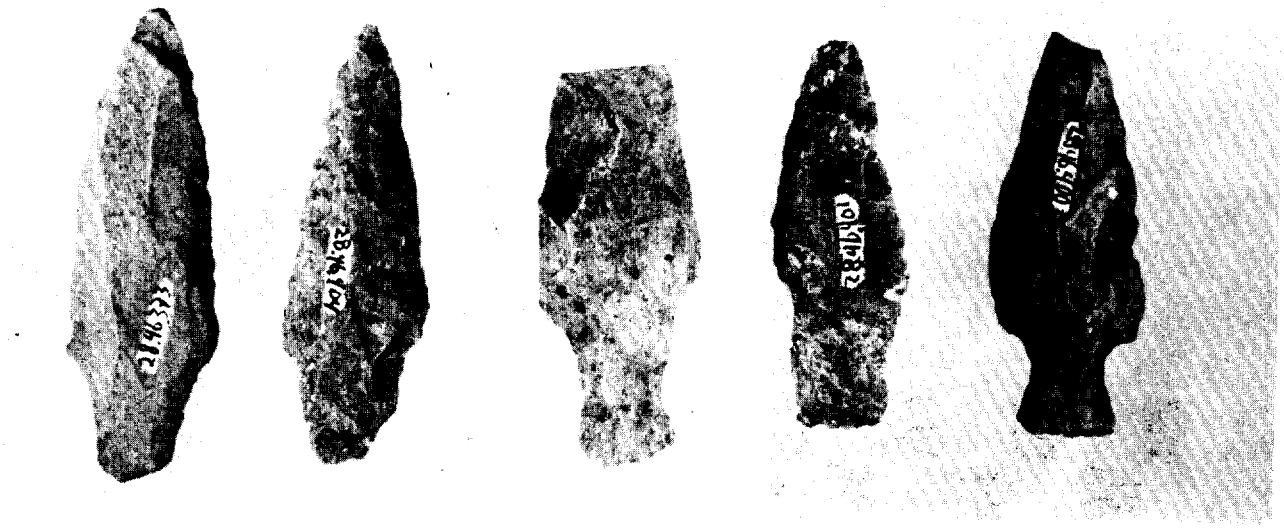


Figure 13

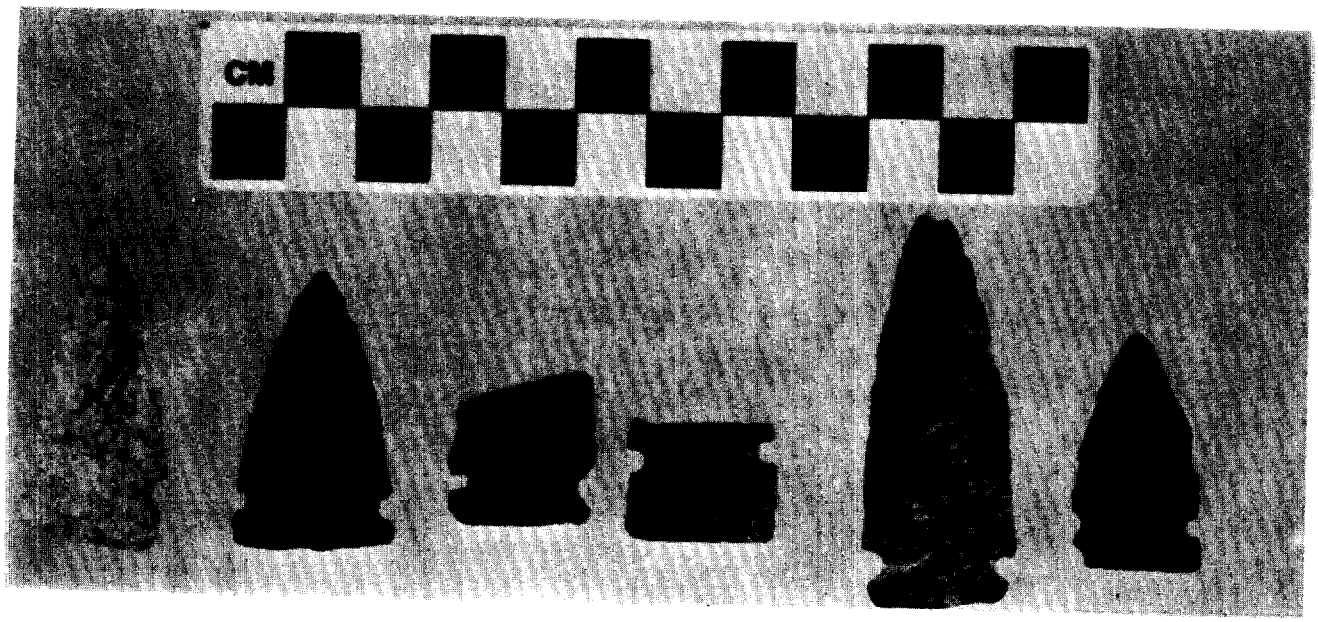
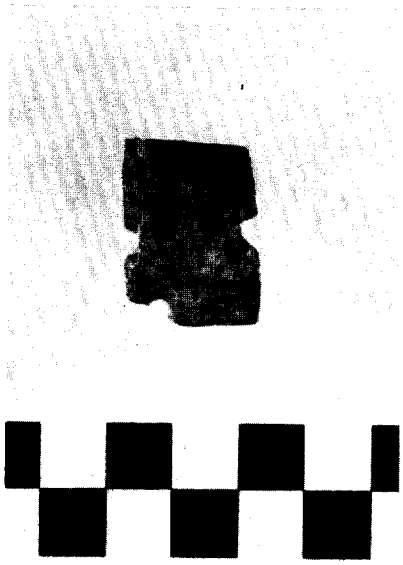


Figure 15



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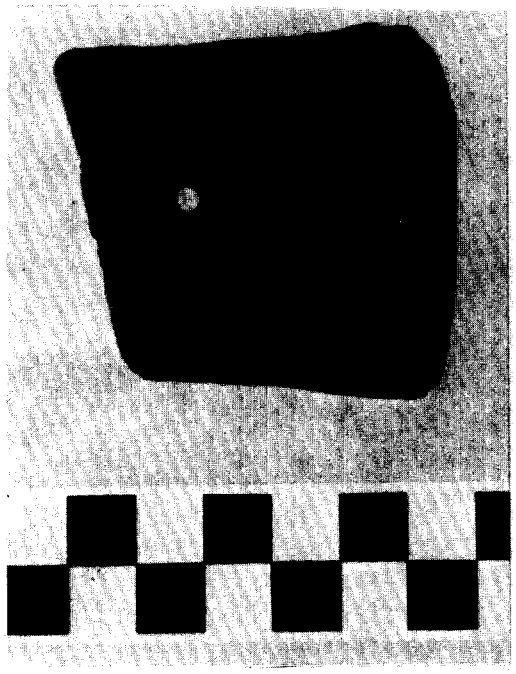


Figure 17

Figure 18

Figure 19

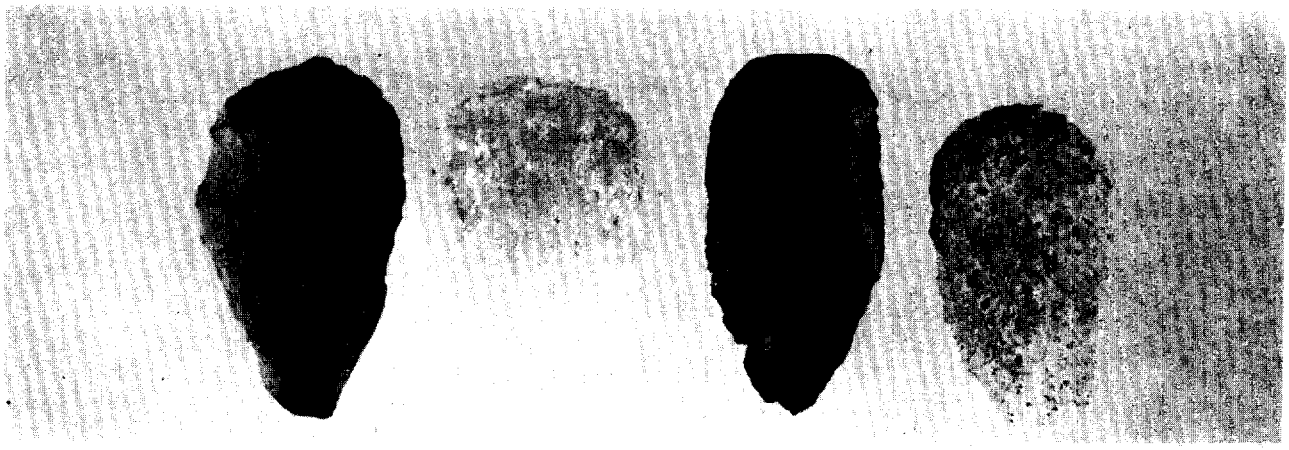


Figure 20

Figure 21

Figure 23

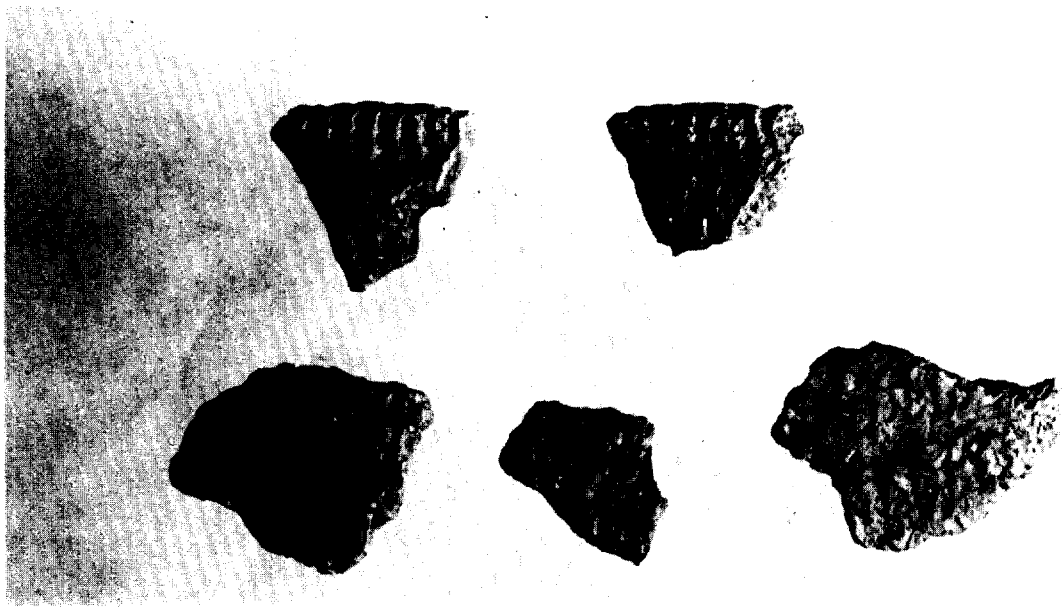


Figure 22

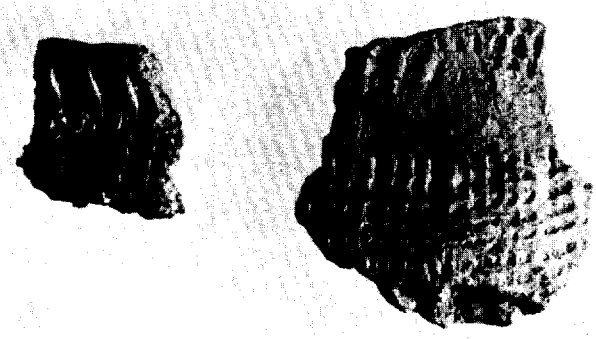


Figure 24

Figure 25

Table 1. Ceramic vessel lots from the Archie McLaughlin Site. Catalogue number and vessel lot number is followed by a description.

AMcL 048 Vessel Lot #1
Fine textured body sherd. Interior spalled. Sparse amount of fine quartz/mica tempered ceramic with dentate rocker stamping with a fine tool having 5 rounded sub-rectangular teeth per cm.

AMcL 170 Vessel Lot #1
Fine textured rim sherd. Interior mostly spalled off. Medium amount of fine quartz/mica grit tempering. Decoration on neck irregularly spaced oblique rows of dentate rocker stamping with tool 1.9 cm long having 9 rounded teeth. Below neck dentate rocker stamping with same tool in horizontal rows. Lip of rim is castellated every cm with a sub-triangular oval tool, probably bone. Rim profile is expanding-contracting.

AMcL 044,045,280 Vessel Lot #2
Three fine textured rim sherds. Medium- sparse amount of fine quartz grit temper. Method of decoration is dentate rocker stamping across vessel lip and down perpendicularly on exterior with a 2.2 cm long triangular toothed tool having 5 teeth per cm. Interior is stamped with same tool from edge of lip into interior approximately half the length of the tool. Lip profile is flat and body has an expanding profile. Neck width is 7.0 mm.

AMcL 268,270 Vessel Lot #2
Two body sherds with interiors spalled off. Medium amount of fine-medium sized quartz grit temper. Dentate rocker stamping on exterior applied on a wet surface.

AMcL 264 Vessel Lot #3
Fine textured, well consolidated body sherd, medium amount of quartz/mica grit tempering. Exterior decorated with a combination of dentate rocker stamping and trailing of stamp with a tool having irregularly shaped and spaced teeth. Body thickness is 6.2 mm.

AMcL 444 Vessel Lot #3
Fine textured, well consolidated rim sherd with sparse amount of quartz/mica grit tempering. Lip has been obliquely dentate stamped, neck obliquely slashed using the same tool. Profile of sherd shows walls curving out at neck. Thickness of lip is 6.45 mm and neck is 6.25 mm.

AMcL 262 Vessel Lot #4
Rim sherd of fine texture with a sparse amount of coarse quartz grit temper. Interior and exterior have been scraped and lip dentate stamped obliquely, both using same tool with teeth 3 mm apart. Below lip, vessel is stamped perpendicular to lip with a tool having teeth 8-9 mm apart. Lip thickness is 13 mm, neck and body 9 mm.

Table 1 continued.

AMcL 167 Vessel Lot #5
Rim sherd with moderate amount of fine quartz grit temper. Interior has been scraped horizontally to lip probably using a dentate stamp. Lip has been stamped and lip to collar and below collar drag-stamped while wet perpendicular to lip. Dentate tool is about 1.9 cm long and 2.8 mm wide. Lip profile is expanding-contracting and neck wall curves out. Lip is 3.5mm thick, neck 10.5 mm and body 11.7mm thick.

AMcL 294,296,321,324,352, 359 Vessel Lot #6
Six body sherds, five with some or total interior spalling. Fairly well consolidated otherwise with moderate-dense amounts of fine-moderate sized crushed quartz grit temper. Interiors where visible have been smoothed. Exterior of vessel body has been dentate rocker stamped using a rectangular toothed tool 2.2 cm long and 1.5 mm wide with at least 20 teeth along its length. Body thickness is 7.0 mm.

AMcL 139 Vessel Lot #6
One rim sherd with some spalling of interior. Moderate amount of fine quartz grit temper. Interior is smoothed, lip punctated with a trapezoidal ended tool. Collar has been obliquely drag stamped with a fine toothed stamp. Profile is expanding-contracting and lip is squared.

AMcL 346 Vessel Lot #7
Rim sherd with interior spalled off. Sparse amount of fine crushed angular quartz/mica grit temper. Exterior surface shows fine striations suggesting it was smoothed using a leather pad. Lip has been obliquely impressed with a dentate tool 1-1.75 mm in diameter. Below lip these impressions run obliquely left to right and show broadening as they reach the lip.

AMcL 143 Vessel Lot #8
Small, well consolidated rim sherd with a sparse amount of finely crushed quartz/mica grit tempering. A horizontal coil break is evident. Exterior from lip down the neck has been obliquely impressed with a ragged obliquely twined fabric having a Z twist. Fibers 0.6-0.9mm in diameter. Lip is plain and slightly rounded.

AMcL 351 Vessel Lot #9
Rim sherd with a dense amount of fine crushed quartz grit temper. Surface of sherd is lumpy, possibly due to shaping by fingers during coil-building process. Exterior and interior have been impressed with very fine fibers 0.5-0.9 mm in diameter showing a S twist. Uneven surface indicates fibers were probably wrapped around a hand versus a paddle. Impressions are oblique, right to left, on both surfaces. Lip has been smoothed and pinched. Treated as an anomalous Vinette-I sherd.

Table 1 continued.

AMcL 325 Vessel Lot #10
Rim sherd with uneven surface. Dense fine crushed quartz grit temper, bluish to transparent in color. Vessel appears to have been coiled, smoothed and pinched with fingers. Uneven surface obscures decoration - possibly grass fibers, some horizontal impressions on exterior. Profile is expanding-contracting with a rounded lip.

AMcL 142 Vessel Lot #11
Poorly consolidated body sherd, interior has spalled off. Exterior has been impressed in right angular overlays of roughly parallel fibers with no discernable twist - possibly grass fibers.

AMcL 318 Vessel Lot #12
Coarse textured rim sherd with interior spalled off. Dense quartz/mica grit tempering. Exterior has been impressed with parallel strands of S twisted fibers. Warp fibers are 1.5 mm in diameter. Treated as a Vinette I sherd.

AMcL 302,304 Vessel Lot #13
Two body sherds with dense quartz/mica grit 1-3.2 mm in size. Fiber impressed inside and out. Z twisted cordage 1 mm thick running in parallel rows, spaced 2-3 mm apart. Body wall thickness 8-8.8 mm. Possibly Vinette I.

AMcL 043,319 Vessel Lot #14
Two body sherds with sparse amount of quartz grit tempering 1-2 mm in size. Fiber impressed inside and out. Z twisted cordage 1 mm, obliquely twined, laid in perpendicular rows to coil. Body wall thickness is 7-8.9 mm. Possibly Vinette I.

AMcL 038 Vessel Lot #15
Body sherd having sparse amount of white quart grit, 1-2 mm in size. Fiber impressed inside and out. Twist on exterior obscure, appears obliquely twined. Cord diameter is 1 mm. Interior cordage Z twisted, also obliquely twined, very tightly. Cord diameter 0.9-1.2 mm. Cordage laid parallel to coil on exterior and interior. Body wall diameter ranges from 7.6-8 mm. Possibly Vinette I.

AMcL 353 Vessel Lot #15
Body sherd with dense amount of quartz grit tempering, 1-2.4 mm in size. Sherd impressed inside and out. Cordage is Z twisted, loose oblique twining on exterior, tight oblique twining on interior. Diameter of cordage is 1.0 mm. Cord laid parallel with coil on both surfaces. Body wall thickness ranges from 8.6-9.2 mm. Possibly Vinette I.

basketweave. The cordage was usually laid parallel with the lip or with coil fracture lines; but 3 sherds show cords laid perpendicular to coil fracture lines (see below). The cordage is generally fine. Temper is normally coarse quartz.

Attribute analysis conducted by Hedden established that 6 sherds could be paired into 3 vessel lots (#13,14,15). The remaining 10 sherds, including 2 rim sherds, represent single vessel lots or are indeterminate. Table II summarizes a superficial attribute analysis of these 10 sherds. Several of these sherds could belong to Vessel Lots #13, 14, or 15 but the inherently muddied appearance of Vinette I sherds makes unequivocal "fits" difficult. For the time being we leave them in an indeterminate category.

Two significant attributes in this Vinette I sample should be discussed further. In Vessel Lot #14 the cordage impressions, inside and out, are perpendicular to the coil fractures. This feature is unique to these two sherds in the sample described here (although specimen #242 has perpendicular cord marks on the exterior only) and it suggests that the cords had been wrapped around a paddle or a hand before being applied. In Vessel Lot #15, a very tight oblique twining on the interior walls contrasts with a spaced (or loose) oblique twining on the exterior. The tightly woven interior impressions suggest a basket of some kind. Petersen (Personal Communication 7/31/88) passed on suggestions made by other investigators that a basket could have been used as means of starting or shaping the coils in certain Vinette I vessels.

In addition to the 30 ceramic sherds grouped into vessel lots, there were 48 body sherds which were considered non-diagnostic, being either plain on exterior (23), having spalled exteriors (20), or were small or had a blurred surface (5).

Thirty-one body sherds not put into vessel lots have dentate rocker stamped exteriors. Interior surfaces are either scraped or smoothed. In addition, there are 5 body sherds considered anomalous fiber/grass impressed. One has been impressed on its exterior surface in a herringbone-like design, its interior has spalled off. The interiors of three of these sherds have either been wiped or scraped. One (#140) may belong to the Vinette I time period based on its thickness and the coarseness of its quartz grit. This sherd has been fiber impressed and smoothed on its exterior.

In sum, discounting the sherds with plain, spalled or blurred exteriors (48) and the indeterminate sherds (10), there are 70 "diagnostic" sherds. Of these 9 (13%) are Vinette I-like, and 50 (71%) are dentate stamped or dentate rocker stamped. If the fabric/grass impressed sherds are grouped together (7), they represent (10%) of the 70 total number of sherds considered diagnostic. The 4 scraped interior or exterior sherds represent 6% of the diagnostic sherds.

The vast majority (84%) of identified sherds belong to types that are traditionally identified as Early Woodland or early Middle Woodland in the broad Northeast. The grass/fiber impressed sherds (7) are not traditionally included in the range of Early Woodland/early Middle Woodland ceramic designs. There is no hint of typically diagnostic late Middle Woodland or Late Woodland lithic items in the assemblage, which makes the case difficult for placing these 7 sherds in the later time periods.

DISCUSSION

Evidently, the locus or loci we have designated the McLaughlin site (site 28.46) was attractive as a habitation for a limited span of prehistory: perhaps 4000 B.P. to roughly 2000 B.P. Perhaps the character of canoe-borne access to the riverbank changed to make this area favorable and then changed again to cut it off from further habitation. We suspect that the formation and destruction of broad, grassy mudflats is a dynamic process, and may have been a controlling factor.

Susquehanna Tradition material from

Table 2. Description of Vinette I sherds not given vessel lot numbers.

Type of Sherd	Cat. #	Body Diam.	Grit	Cordage	Relation to lip or Coil	Twist	Fabric
R	349	10.5	1-2 mm	1.8mm	parallel	Z	?
R	348	7.9	1-2.1mm	2 mm	parallel	none	?
B	141	8.8	1-3 mm	?	parallel	none	basketwv
B	276	7.6-8.8	1-2 mm	1.7mm	parallel	Z	oblique
B	144	11.2	1-2 mm	1 mm	parallel	Z	?
B	300	11.2	<1-1 mm	0.8-1.9	?	Z	oblique
B	292	7-8	<1-1.4 mm	0.8-1.4	?	Z?	oblique
B	345	7.5-8	2-4.4 mm	1 mm	?	Z	obl.bskt
B	242	11.8	<1-1.5 mm	0.8-1 mm	ext. perp.	?	tight
					int. par.	Z	loose obl.
B	354	>6.4 (ext.eroded)	<1-2 mm	1.6 mm	?	Z	oblique

R = rimsherd
B = body sherd

28.46 includes a variety of broadspear types from the early half of what Snow (1980: 235ff) calls the Terminal Archaic. There are no obvious examples of Susquehanna Broad, Perkiomen, or Orient Fishtail types, from the latter half of the Terminal Archaic.

Vinalhaven striped rhyolite (BSR: Bourque, Doyle and White 1984) forms a significant proportion of lithics used by this early Susquehanna Tradition occupation. This evidence supports Bourque, Doyle and White's hypothesis of Susquehanna contacts and raw material distribution patterns westward from the Fox Islands in Penobscot Bay. Now we can state that the St. George River above its head of tide was included in this (economic, settlement, or redistribution?) system, and that is was not just confined to the coast and estuarine water.

The Woodland material from the McLaughlin site seems limited to Early and early Middle Woodland temporal periods. Meadowood points and narrow-side-notched variants are the most common recognizable point type. Lobate base and long-stemmed forms comprise the remainder.

The use of Vinalhaven striped rhyolite from the Woodland component documents continuing ties with Penobscot Bay. The impression of continuing close ties to Penobscot Bay is reinforced by a number of striking parallels with the Kidder Point collection (Spiess and Hedden 1983). Lobate, long stemmed, and narrow side-notched points (which we may term Meadowood variant) appear in both assemblages, as do square- based bifaces (compare Figure 13 herein with Spiess and Hedden 1983:71). Also present in both collections are some sort of blade technology and several identical but rare raw materials. In fact, the Kidder Point report has stirred debate (Spiess 1988 with references) about the nature of shell midden components and the Early-Middle Woodland transition in central coastal Maine. We note that (ignoring the Susquehanna component) the McLaughlin site collection adds two diagnostic artifact types

to a base collection very similar to Assemblage K at Kidder Point: they are classic Meadowood points (eg. Figure 16, middle specimens) and Vinette I ceramics. In the McLaughlin collection, about 15% of the ceramic sherds are Vinette I, while 70% or more of the sherds can be placed in various "Middle Woodland"-related designs. There are 7 (50%) Meadowood and Meadowood-variant (narrow side notched) and 7 (50%) stemmed or lobate based points. Based on the McLaughlin evidence alone, we cannot assume that stemmed points are early Middle Woodland and narrow-side-notched points (Meadowood related) are Early Woodland, and that ceramic and point production rates were the same for both time periods. The lack of Vinette I ceramics from Kidder Point is also strong evidence against a unique association between narrow-side-notched points similar to "Meadowood" and Vinette I ceramics.

Our current working hypothesis is that the style of Ceramic manufacture switched from Vinette I to early Middle Woodland styles during the time that narrow-side-notched points were still being produced, among a variety of point styles. Perhaps, although it seems too simple, only the "classic" Meadowood point is associated with Vinette I ceramics, and the Meadowood variants represent a later development associated with early Middle Woodland ceramic styles. At least McLaughlin's collection demonstrates a close cultural connection between Kidder point (upper Penobscot Bay) and the interior St. George valley during some portion(s) of the Early and/or early Middle Woodland.

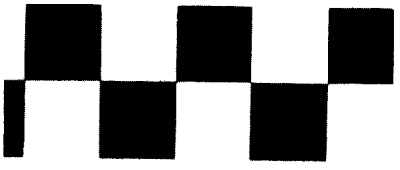
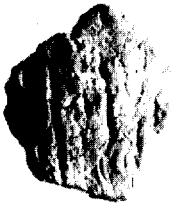


Figure 26



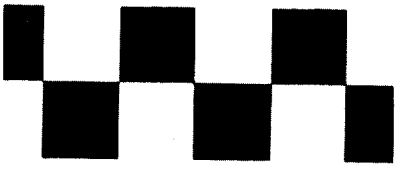
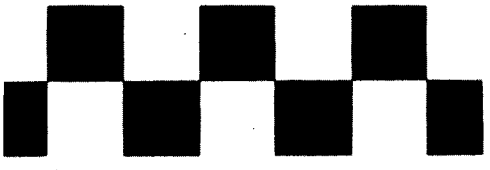


Figure 28

Figure 27



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