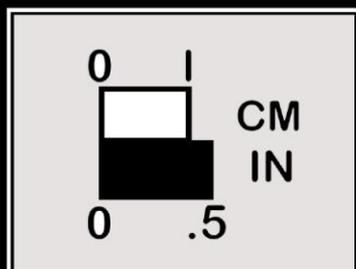


Maryland Archeology Month
April 2013

*Points in Time:
Formal Biface Typology in Maryland*



www.marylandarcheology.org

Maryland Formal Biface Typology: An Introduction and Key

Charles L. Hall, Maryland Historical Trust

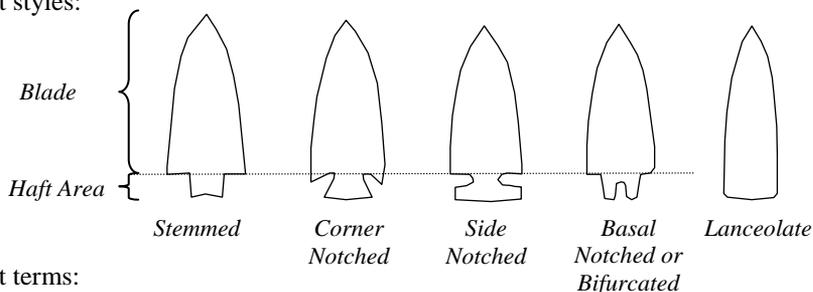
The utility of certain projectile point styles as chronological markers has led to the definition of many point types. A type is here taken to be a combination of attributes that together produce a characteristic pattern. The most important attributes for typological classification of projectile points relate to their shape. One way of understanding the relationship between certain types and constrained temporal periods is to assume that the person producing the artifact had in mind a picture of the ideal shape for a projectile point, and that shape was held as ideal by all the makers of points who shared in the tradition. The ability of an individual to impose their will on a piece of stone to create that ideal point, however, was hampered by many factors, among them their flint knapping skill and the characteristics of the raw material they were using. Add to those deviation-producing vectors the effects of use-damage and recycling, and you have the perfect storm of variability surrounding the ideal. As a result it is possible, even likely, that the vast majority of projectile points will not perfectly exhibit all of the attributes of any defined type, and that the ideal will rarely be seen (have you ever found a Kirk Corner Notched point that looked like that illustrated on the cover of this booklet?). This leads to disagreement and debate regarding the type any particular artifact represents. Such disagreements are one of the favorite pastimes of all archeologists. As you attempt to find the perfect fit between an actual artifact and the defined types presented on the following pages or on the diagnostic website, don't despair when you find yourself scratching your head in quizzical consternation: you are among good company!

The diagnostic website describes forty-three projectile point types. The descriptions include a data-rich narrative prominently covering the Defining Attributes and Chronology of each type. An extensive Discussion addresses such topics as the distribution of the type, evolution in the definition through time, and similar types. Importantly, the descriptions also include the source where the type was Defined in Literature, as well as other important references. Photographs of examples, many from identified excavated contexts, are provided. Only a fraction of the information available on the website is replicated here, and the severe editing required for the booklet can obscure important nuances in the definitions. In the pages that follow, a sample of 30 of these types are briefly presented. The selection process utilized the Maryland Historical Trust's Archeology Synthesis Project database, which was queried for the most commonly referenced reported types from test and data recovery excavations in Maryland. This Synthesis Ranking is reported with each type.

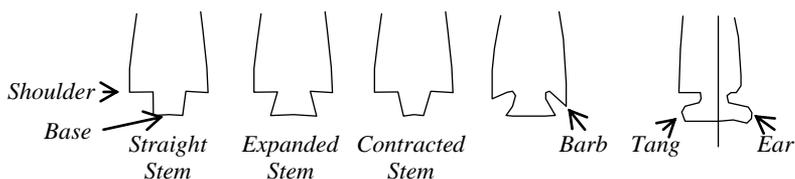
Following is a dichotomous key, such as is commonly used in biological identification. The principle attributes used in the key are those associated with the shape of the haft element. This reflects the fact that the haft area of a projectile point exhibits the greatest variability in general, and the reality that for any given projectile point the blade is the most likely to change throughout its useful life through breakage and reworking/recycling. The following line drawings

illustrate the common haft styles, and some of the referenced haft terms used in the key.

Haft styles:



Haft terms:



At each numbered step in the key the user will either accept the statement (“yes”) or reject it (“no”). If the answer is “yes”, then the user will proceed to the indicated step, or to a type. If “no”, the user will proceed to the next statement, until a type is indicated. Use this key to narrow down the possibilities only, and do not confine your identification process to this booklet; do more research – consult the defining reference – debate!

The following references are cited in the type descriptions.

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The Key

1. a. No distinction of haft and blade. 2
b. Haft distinct from blade. 5
2. a. Biface Lanceolate. 3
b. Biface triangular. 4
c. Biface pentagonal. **Jack's Reef Pentagonal.**
3. a. Biface with both faces fluted from base. **Clovis.**
b. Thin and short biface with pronounced flutes both faces. **Middle Paleo.**
c. Sharply pointed biface with deeply concave base and either outward flaring or downward pointing ears. **Hardaway-Dalton.**
d. Long narrow biface with rounded base. **Guilford.**
e. Broad, lanceolate blade with weak shoulders, square stem or no stem. **Selby Bay/Fox Creek.**

4. a. Triangular biface with small ears at the ends of the base. **Brewerton Eared Triangle.**
 b. Large (3 to 4 cm) equilateral triangular biface. **Levanna.**
 c. Small isosceles triangular – longer than wide - biface. **Madison.**
 d. Small (< 2.5 cm) equilateral triangular biface. **Potomac.**
5. a. Haft area notched. 6
 b. Haft area stemmed. 12
6. a. Haft area with single basal notch. 7
 b. Haft area with side notches. 8
 c. Haft area with corner notches. 11
7. a. Serrated blade with wide straight shoulders, expanded stem and shallow basal notch. **Kanawha Stemmed.**
 b. Small, often stubby, serrated blade, and deep basal notch. **LeCroy.**
 c. Serrated blade, corner notched, lobed/eared stem, and shallow basal notch. **MacCorkle.**
 d. Long, narrow, serrated blade, weakly shouldered, and deep basal notch. **St. Albans.**
 e. Broad triangular blade, weakly serrated, with square stem and shallow basal notch. **Stanly.**
8. a. Side notches shallow and broad (diffused). 9
 b. Side notches distinct. 10
9. a. Concave or straight base ends in well made ears. **Brewerton Eared Notched.**
 b. Wide base little narrower than slender blade. **Halifax.**
 c. Small, narrow, thick blade, with slightly modified base appearing “unfinished.” **Lamoka.**
 d. Very slight side notches, wide and shallow, on ovate or lanceolate blade. **Selby Bay/Fox Creek**
10. a. Well-made side notches above an expanded base appearing eared. **Brewerton Side Notched.**
 b. Deep narrow side notches and deeply concave base (often appearing basally notched). **Hardaway Side Notched.**
 c. Narrow side notches neatly made low on the point. **Meadowood.**
 d. Narrow blade with deep and wide well-made side notches. **Normanskill.**
 e. Square tangs below well-made side notches. **Otter Creek.**
11. a. Broad and thick point with medium-to-large corner notches and distinct barbs. **Brewerton Corner Notched.**
 b. Thin point with narrow and deep corner notches and thin sharp barbs. **Jack’s Reef Corner Notched.**

- c. Large serrated blade over narrow corner notches forming downward projecting barbs, and unground base. **Kirk Corner Notched.**
 - d. Serrated blade, lobed/eared stem, and shallow basal notch. **MacCorkle.**
 - e. Small serrated blade over narrow corner notches forming downward projecting barbs, and ground base. **Palmer.**
12. a. Stem contracting toward base. 13
- b. Stem with parallel sides (straight). 14
 - c. Stem expanding toward base. 15
13. a. Large ovate to lanceolate blade with distinct shoulders and short stem with excurvate base. **Lehigh/Koens-Crispin.**
- b. Broad blade with distinct shoulders and a short tapered stem. **Morrow Mountain I.**
 - c. Narrow blade with distinct shoulders and a long tapered stem. **Morrow Mountain II.**
 - d. Small teardrop shaped point with contracting and rounded stem under weak shoulders. **Piscataway.**
 - e. Slender blade, rounded shoulders, and long tapering stem. **Poplar Island.**
 - f. Medium lozenge-shaped point with rounded weak shoulders and contracting and rounded stem. **Rossville.**
14. a. Large ovate blade, square shoulders, and square to rounded stem. **Adena.**
- b. Slender blade, square shoulders, square stem and straight base. **Bare Island.**
 - c. Short, thick, wide point, rudimentary shoulders, stem wider than long. **Calvert.**
 - d. Long narrow deeply serrated blade with broad square stem. **Kirk Serrated.**
 - e. Large broad blade with broad square stem. **Savannah River.**
15. a. Long narrow thick blade, pronounced shoulders, expanding stem with wide base. **Clagett.**
- b. Narrow lanceolate blade with sloping shoulders and flared stem. **Fishtail Types.**
 - c. Wide base little narrower than slender blade. **Halifax.**
 - d. Long narrow serrated blade with slightly expanded stem. **Kirk Stemmed.**
 - e. Small, narrow, thick blade, with slightly modified base appearing “unfinished.” **Lamoka.**
 - f. Broad and thin asymmetrical blade, sloping shoulders. **Perkiomen.**
 - g. Broad blade with sharp shoulders and concave base. **Susquehanna Broadspear.**
 - h. Short, wide, thick blade and pronounced shoulders. **Vernon.**

Adena

Synthesis Ranking: 17

Defining Attributes

A large, finely-flaked point, normally made from chert, with a broad, triangular/ovate blade and terminates with a medium-to-long, narrow-to-broad, square or rounded, “beaver tail” stem.

Chronology

This is the characteristic point style of the Adena culture, 800 BC to 200 AD. Most radiocarbon dates from Adena sites in Maryland and Delaware between 2445 and 1960 BP.

Description

Blade: The blade is generally ovoid to lanceolate. Shoulders are weak-to-moderate in development, and never barbed.

Haft Element: The stem is broad, long, contracted, lobate or “beaver tail,” or square in outline. Bases can be ground.

Defined in Literature

The point was first described and named by William C. Mills in 1902.



Bare Island

Synthesis Ranking: 2

Defining Attributes

The Bare Island is a medium-to-large, symmetrical point, moderately-well to finely flaked, with a slender isosceles triangle blade and a straight base. The stem is generally straight.

Chronology

Generally Late Archaic, but with a suggested date range anywhere from 5000 BC to 1000 AD.

Description

Blade: The blade is symmetrical, with an elongated isosceles triangle shape. Shoulders are usually small and at an obtuse angle to the stem.

Haft Element: The base is usually straight, but may be convex or concave. The stem is always narrower than the blade and squarish or rectangular in shape.

Defined in Literature

Kinsey originally defined this type in 1959. His description was re-published by Ritchie in 1961 (revised 1971).



Brewerton Eared Notched

Synthesis Ranking: 26

Defining Attributes

The Brewerton Eared Notched is a small-to-medium, broad and thick point, with weak side notching and small ears on the base.

Chronology

Part of the Brewerton Complex, which began during the late Middle Archaic period and continued into the Late Archaic (5670 – 3770 BP).

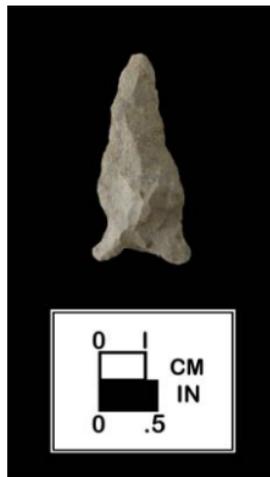
Description

Blade: The blade is triangular or ovoid in shape, and biconvex in cross section. Edges are slightly excurvate, and are occasionally serrated.

Haft Element: The broad stem has small, shallow, often v-shaped side notches. The base is expanded, ending in small, well-made, rounded or sharp ears. It is usually concave, but can be straight.

Defined in Literature

Ritchie first described this type in 1940, and published a formal definition in 1961 (revised 1971).



Brewerton Side Notched

Synthesis Ranking: 18

Defining Attributes

The Brewerton Side Notched is a medium-sized, broad and thick point, with an expanded base and side notching.

Chronology

Part of the Brewerton Complex, which began during the late Middle Archaic period and continued into the Late Archaic (5630 – 4150 BP).

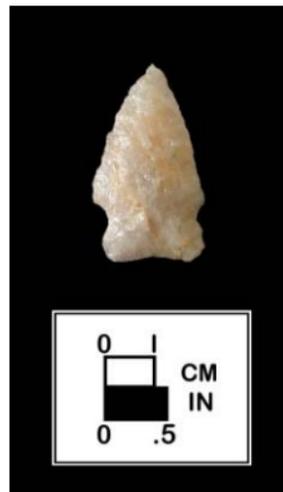
Description

Blade: The blade is triangular in shape, and biconvex in cross section. Edges are generally slightly excurvate or straight. Faint serrations may be present.

Haft Element: The stem is side notched. The notches are medium-sized and well-formed. The base is expanded, which sometimes gives it an eared appearance. The base is usually straight or slightly convex.

Defined in Literature

Ritchie first described this type in 1940, and published a formal definition in 1961 (revised 1971).



Calvert

Synthesis Ranking: 1

Defining Attributes

The Calvert is a short, thick, wide point with rudimentary shoulders, a parallel sided or slightly contracting stem, and a straight base. The stem often comprises 30 to 50 percent of the total point length.

Chronology

The Calvert point dates to the Early Woodland period (2750 - 1750 BP).

Description

Blade: The blade, thick and irregular in cross section, forms a short and stubby triangle. Slight but abrupt shoulders separate the blade and the stem.

Haft Element: Thinner than the blade, the stem is straight or slightly contracting, and is usually wider than it is long.

Defined in Literature

This type was originally defined by Stephenson and Ferguson (1963).



Clagett

Synthesis Ranking: 19

Defining Attributes

The Clagett point is long and narrow, and is thick in cross section. It has pronounced shoulders and an expanded stem. The base is usually straight or slightly concave.

Chronology

The Clagett point has not been well-dated, and has been variously assigned to the Middle and Late Archaic periods.

Description

Blade: The blade, which is sometimes slightly beveled, is typically an elongated triangle with straight or slightly excurvate edges, prominent shoulders, a sharp tip, and a thick, lenticular cross section.

Haft Element: The base is straight or slightly concave, although a few are slightly convex. The stem constricts sharply from the shoulders to the midpoint of the stem, and then expands to a wide base. The stem is wider than it is long, and comprises 15% to 20% of the point's total length.

Defined in Literature

This type was originally defined by Stephenson and Ferguson (1963).



Fishtail Types

Synthesis Ranking: 9

Defining Attributes

The Fishtail points are slender and medium sized, with a narrow, lanceolate blade that merges into a flaring stem shaped like a fishtail. They are sometimes separated into Orient and Dry Brook types, based on the angle of the shoulders.

Chronology

The Fishtail points date to the transition period between the Late Archaic and Early Woodland (3450 to 2700 BP).

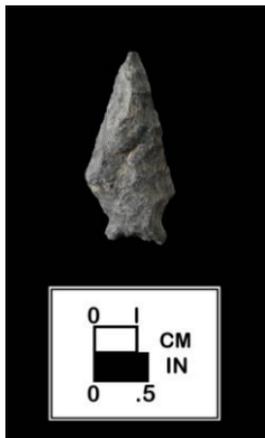
Description

Blade: The blade is narrow and lanceolate with excurvate edges, and often asymmetrical as a result of resharpening. The shoulders are weak and sloping on Orient types, but are sharply defined on Dry Brooks.

Haft Element: The blade merges into a stem that is expanded, sometimes giving it the appearance of shallow, poorly-defined side notches. The base is most often concave, but can be straight. The stem and base can be ground.

Defined in Literature

This type was originally described by Witthoft (1953).



Guilford

Synthesis Ranking: 20

Defining Attributes

The Guilford point is characterized by a long, narrow, thick blade with a straight, rounded, or concave base.

Chronology

The Guilford point dates to the latter part of the Middle Archaic period, but there is not a lot of supporting data (6200 to 5000 BP).

Description

Blade: The blade is long and narrow, with slightly rounded and smoothly contoured sides. It is usually thick, but symmetrically and carefully chipped.

Haft Element: Most examples have a precisely-shaped concave or rounded base; straight bases are rare. Slight shoulders sometimes occur.

Defined in Literature

Coe first described the Guilford type in 1952, with expansion in 1964.



Halifax

Synthesis Ranking: 14

Defining Attributes

The Halifax point has a slender blade and a broad base, with wide, shallow side notches.

Chronology

The Halifax point dates to the Middle and Late Archaic periods (5500 to 4850 BP).

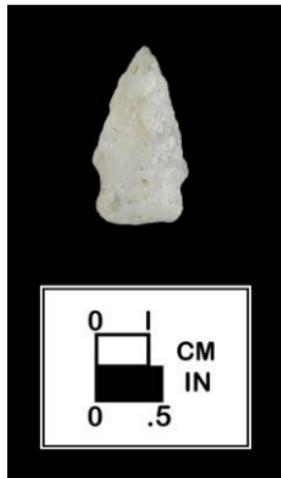
Description

Blade: The blade is long and narrow, with slightly convex sides. The maximum width frequently occurs two-thirds down the length of the blade, from the tip.

Haft Element: The base is typically ground. It is usually straight or slightly concave, and is a little narrower than the maximum width of the blade. The broad and shallow side notches are also frequently ground. Notches begin at the point of maximum width and continue to the base. In some examples, the point seems more stemmed than notched.

Defined in Literature

Halifax points were originally defined by Coe (1964).



Jack's Reef Corner Notched

Synthesis Ranking: 32

Defining Attributes

The Jack's Reef Corner Notched is a medium-sized corner notched point, broad and thin, often with angular edges.

Chronology

The Jack's Reef Corner Notched point dates to the Middle and Late Woodland periods (1640 to 995 BP).

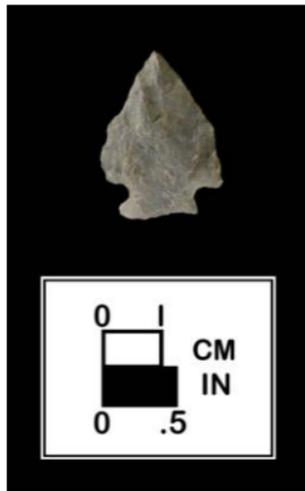
Description

Blade: The blade is flat, thin, and broad, with excruciate or angular edges. It generally has a pentagonal or ovoid shape.

Haft Element: The base is flared and straight. The stem is corner notched, and the notches are typically narrow and deep. Barbs are small to large, and thin and sharp

Defined in Literature

This type was originally defined by Ritchie (1961, revised 1971).



Jack's Reef Pentagonal

Synthesis Ranking: 27

Defining Attributes

The Jack's Reef Pentagonal is a broad, thin, stemless pentagonal point.

Chronology

The Jack's Reef Pentagonal point dates to the Middle and Late Woodland periods (1640 to 995 BP).

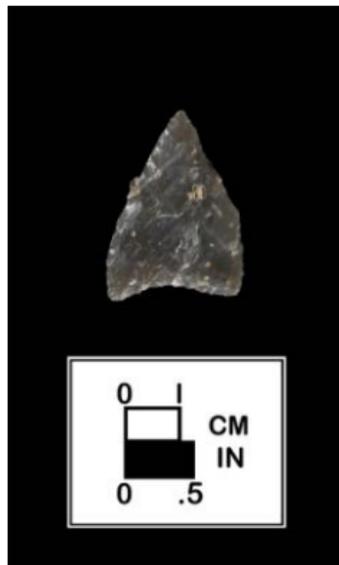
Description

Blade: Pentagonal in form, with straight sides (sometimes slightly contracting), usually asymmetrical.

Haft Element: The base is usually straight, but can be concave.

Defined in Literature

Halifax points were originally defined by Coe (1964).



Kirk Corner Notched

Synthesis Ranking: 23

Defining Attributes

The Kirk Corner Notched point has a large triangular blade with bifacially serrated edges, corner notches, and a straight base.

Chronology

The Kirk Corner Notched point dates to the Early Archaic period (9500 to 8500 BP).

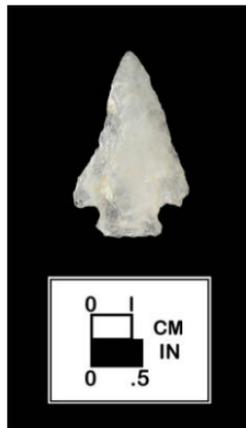
Description

Blade: The blade is triangular, with straight or excurvate edges. The edges are serrated (sometimes deeply) and occasionally beveled, which would suggest re-sharpening.

Haft Element: Bases may be as wide as—or wider—than the blade and are generally straight or slightly rounded, and can be ground. Kirk Corner Notched points have well-defined shoulders; many are straight, but most have barbs projecting toward the base, forming a notch 10 to 14 mm wide.

Defined in Literature

Coe (1964) originally defined the type from examples recovered at the Hardaway site in North Carolina.



Kirk Stemmed

Synthesis Ranking: 29

Defining Attributes

The Kirk Stemmed point has a long blade with deep serrations and a broad, weakly-notched stem.

Chronology

The Kirk Stemmed point dates to the Early Archaic period (8900 - 8000 BP).

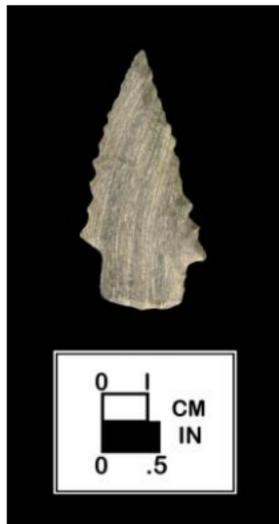
Description

Blade: The blade is long, narrow, and thick, with straight or incurvate edges. Usually the edges are concave toward the base, then re-curve toward the tip. Serrations are deep.

Haft Element: The base is straight or slightly rounded, or occasionally slightly concave. Broad, shallow notches produce a stem that expands slightly toward the base, and shoulders that project slightly backward.

Defined in Literature

Coe (1964) originally defined the type.



Lamoka

Synthesis Ranking: 13

Defining Attributes

The Lamoka point is small, narrow, and thick. It has either weak-to-moderately pronounced side notches, or a straight stem with slight shoulders that usually slope. The base is unfinished, and commonly retains cortex.

Chronology

The Lamoka point dates to the Late Archaic period (4500 - 3600 BP).

Description

Blade: The blade is elongated and triangular, and thick. In cross section it is biconvex or median ridged. The edges are straight or slightly excurvate.

Haft Element: The base may be straight, oblique, or slightly convex-to-bulbous. It is usually un-worked and as thick as the blade, often exhibiting a broad, slightly modified or unmodified surface of the original bulb of percussion. The stem may be straight or slightly side notched.

Defined in Literature

This type was originally defined by Ritchie (1961, revised 1971).



LeCroy

Synthesis Ranking: 12

Defining Attributes

The LeCroy point is small, thin, and often serrated, with a deeply bifurcated base.

Chronology

The LeCroy point dates to the Early Archaic period (8500 to 7800 BP).

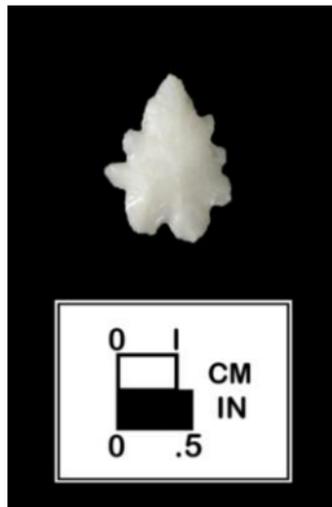
Description

Blade: The blade is triangular and often appears stubby. Edges are most commonly straight, and are often serrated. Shoulders on exhausted specimens are often flared.

Haft Element: The base is deeply notched and bifurcated. The tangs are more pointed than rounded. The stem, which is straight in most examples, is finely chipped along the edges. Shoulders are straight and at right angles to the stem. In a few examples, the shoulder is absent.

Defined in Literature

The LeCroy point was originally identified by Lewis and Kneberg (1955).



Lehigh/Koens Crispin

Synthesis Ranking: 21

Defining Attributes

The Lehigh/Koens-Crispin point is large and well-made, with a broad blade and short, contracting stem.

Chronology

The Lehigh/Koens-Crispin point dates to the Late Archaic period (3900 - 3600 BP).

Description

Blade: The blade can range from a long, narrow, lanceolate form to larger and broader ovate forms, and is often asymmetric. The blade is well-made and rather thin for its width.

Haft Element: The stem is short in relation to the blade length. Distinct shoulders separate the blade and stem. Most examples have contracting stems, although straight or expanding stems occur. The base is mostly excurvate or straight and thinned.

Defined in Literature

The Koens-Crispin point was defined by Cross (1941), while Witthoft (1953) identified the Lehigh point. Kinsey (1972) combined the Lehigh and Koens-Crispin points into a single type.



Levanna

Synthesis Ranking: 3

Defining Attributes

The Levanna is a large, well-made, equilateral triangular point.

Chronology

The Levanna point dates to the late Middle Woodland and Late Woodland periods (1250 to 400 BP).

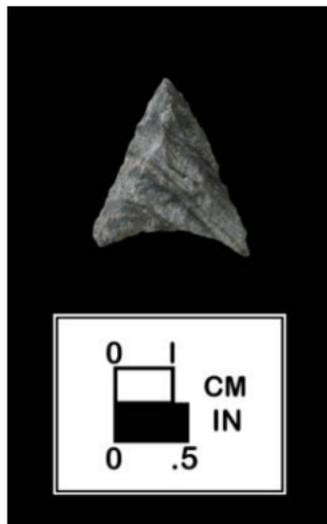
Description

Blade: The blade is triangular and broad. Most of the points are nearly equilateral, but some are isosceles. The edges are usually straight, but can be incurvate or excurvate.

Haft Element: The base is usually concave, in some examples deeply so, but straight bases do occur. Basal grinding is sometimes present.

Defined in Literature

This type was originally defined by Ritchie (1961, revised 1971).



Madison

Synthesis Ranking: 5

Defining Attributes

The Madison is a small, thin, triangular point with a straight or slightly concave base.

Chronology

The Madison point dates to the Late Woodland period (700 to 500 BP).

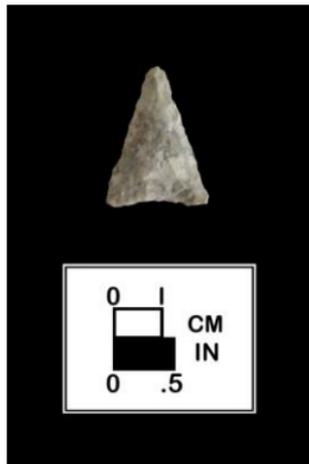
Description

Blade: The blade is most commonly an isosceles triangle, although some are equilateral. It is usually thin and fairly flat in cross section. The edges are generally straight, but slightly excurvate or incurvate examples occur.

Haft Element: The base is either straight or slightly concave, or very rarely convex. Basal grinding sometimes is present.

Defined in Literature

The Madison point was named by Edward G. Scully in 1951.



Morrow Mountain

Synthesis Ranking: 16

Defining Attributes

The Morrow Mountain I variety has a broad, triangular blade with a short, tapering stem. The Morrow Mountain II variety has a narrow blade with a long, tapering stem.

Chronology

The Morrow Mountain point dates to the Middle Archaic period (7100 to 6200 BP).

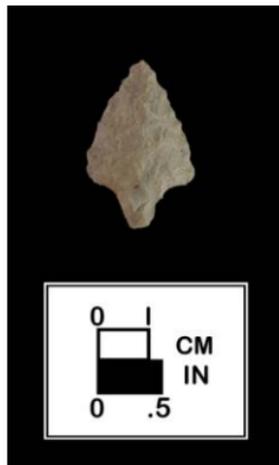
Description

Blade -- Morrow Mountain I: The blade is broad and triangular, with a flat to oval cross section. Sides are slightly excurvate. Morrow Mountain II: The blade is long and narrow, with straight or slightly excurvate sides.

Haft Element: The stem is contracting and the base is pointed. The shoulder of the Morrow Mountain II is more defined than on the Morrow Mountain I, and the stem of the former is longer than on the latter.

Defined in Literature

Although others had described the Morrow Mountain point, Coe (1964) was the first to separate and define the two varieties.



Normanskill

Synthesis Ranking: 30

Defining Attributes

The medium-sized Normanskill point is well-made, narrow and thick, and has wide, pronounced side notches.

Chronology

The Normanskill has been placed in the Middle and Late Archaic periods, although radiocarbon dating supports the latter age (3850 to 2550 BP).

Description

Blade: The blade is narrow and triangular, with straight to slightly excurvate edges and a biconvex cross section. Asymmetry of the shoulders sometimes occurs.

Haft Element: The stem has wide, deep, sometimes squarish side notches, and is slightly thinned by coarse flaking from the base. The base is expanded, and is generally straight.

Defined in Literature

The Normanskill point was defined by Ritchie (1961, with revisions 1971).



Otter Creek

Synthesis Ranking: 15

Defining Attributes

A medium to large, thick, narrow to medium-wide, side notched point with well-formed tangs and a concave base.

Chronology

The Otter Creek point is variously placed in the Middle and Late Archaic periods (6000 to 5000 BP).

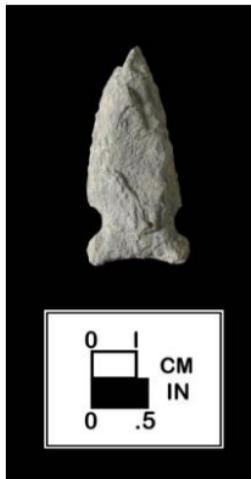
Description

Blade: The blade is ovoid or lanceolate, with edges that are usually excurvate, but sometimes straight. Shoulders are usually the same width as -- or narrower than -- the basal tangs, but can be wider.

Haft Element: The stem is side notched; notching seems to have been a final operation, usually resulting in well-defined square tangs, but some examples have rounded tangs. The base is usually concave, but can be straight. Usually the base, tang edges, and notches were ground.

Defined in Literature

This type was originally defined by Ritchie (1961, revised 1971).



Palmer

Synthesis Ranking: 24

Defining Attributes

The Palmer is a small (28 to 60 mm, with an average of 35 mm), thin, corner-notched point with pronounced serrations and a straight or slightly convex ground base.

Chronology

The Palmer Corner Notched point dates to the Early Archaic period (10,000 to 9,300 BP).

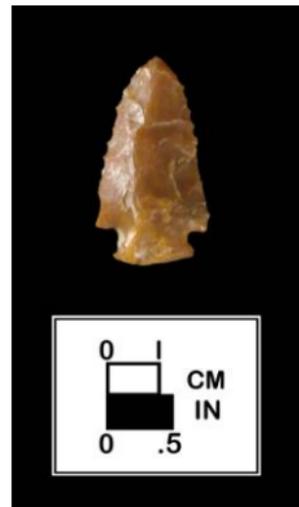
Description

Blade: The blade is small and triangular. The sides are usually straight, but occasionally rounded or concave. Most specimens are serrated, some quite deeply.

Haft Element: The base is straight and usually exhibits grinding.

Defined in Literature

Coe (1964) originally defined the type.



Piscataway

Synthesis Ranking: 7

Defining Attributes

The Piscataway is a small (29 to 49 mm, with an average of 37 mm), narrow, teardrop-shaped point.

Chronology

The chronological placement of the Piscataway point is controversial. It has been recovered in contexts interpreted as Late Archaic through Early Woodland (6000 to 2000 BP).

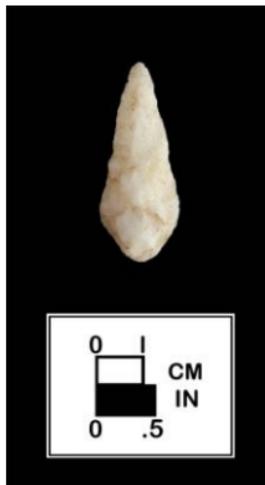
Description

Blade: The blade is a long and slender triangle with straight or convex edges and a lenticular, often thick, cross section. The edges are occasionally beveled.

Haft Element: The base is rounded or pointed. The stem is small and contracting, with an oval cross section. Very weak shoulders separate it from the blade.

Defined in Literature

The Piscataway type was defined by Stephenson and Ferguson (1963).



Potomac

Synthesis Ranking: 22

Defining Attributes

The Potomac point is equilateral in shape. It is the smallest of the triangular points (16 to 26 mm in length), and is usually made from quartz.

Chronology

The Potomac point dates to the Late Woodland period (750 to 250 BP).

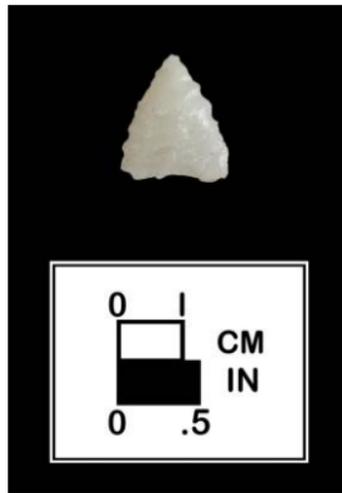
Description

Blade: The blade is a small equilateral triangle, although isosceles points represent a minor variant. It typically has straight sides, but some can be slightly incurvate or excurvate. The tip is sharp, and the blade is thin and lenticular.

Haft Element: The base is straight or concave.

Defined in Literature

The Potomac type was defined by Stephenson and Ferguson (1963).



Rossville

Synthesis Ranking: 10

Defining Attributes

The Rossville is a medium-sized (24 to 61 mm), lozenge-shaped point with somewhat weak shoulders, a contracting stem, and a rounded or pointed base.

Chronology

The Rossville point is placed variously in the Early and Middle Woodland periods (2680 to 1310 BP).

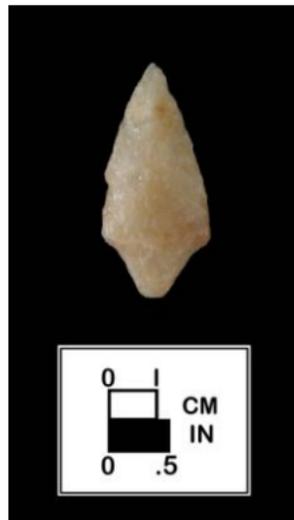
Description

Blade: The blade edges are excurvate. The cross section is lenticular to biconvex. The shoulders range from non-existent to 25-30% wider than the stem, and are most often rounded.

Haft Element: The stem is contracting, and has straight or convex edges. The base is rounded to pointed. Light basal grinding occasionally occurs.

Defined in Literature

This type was first named and described by Ritchie (1961, revised 1971).



Savannah River

Synthesis Ranking: 6

Defining Attributes

The Savannah River point has a large, triangular blade with a broad, square, straight stem.

Chronology

The Savannah River point dates to the Late Archaic period (4865 - 3260 BP).

Description

Blade: The blade is large, broad, and triangular, with excurvate or straight sides. On some specimens the sides of the lower 1/3 to 1/2 of the blade are parallel, then curve towards the tip. The shoulders can range from pronounced and at a right angle to the stem, to weak and obtuse-angled. The blade is relatively thin, with an average thickness to width ratio of 1:10, and can be biconvex or flat in cross section.

Haft Element: The stem is usually square and its sides are typically straight, although expanding and contracting varieties do occur. The base is usually concave, but can be straight.

Defined in Literature

Claflin (1931) published the first detailed description of this type.



Selby Bay/Fox Creek

Synthesis Ranking: 4

Defining Attributes

The Selby Bay/Fox Creek point has a broad, lanceolate blade with weak shoulders, a square stem or no stem at all, and a concave base.

Chronology

The Selby Bay/Fox Creek point dates to the Middle Woodland period (1750 to 1050 BP).

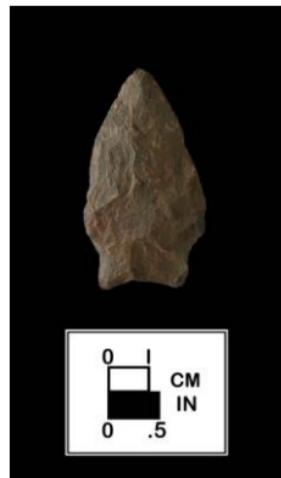
Description

Blade: The Selby Bay/Fox Creek lanceolate variant has parallel sides that taper from the midpoint to the tip, or a triangular blade with straight edges. The stemmed variant have an ovate or triangular blade with straight or excurvate edges.

Haft Element: The base is straight to slightly concave. The stemmed variety has a wide stem, with small, right angle or sloping shoulders. The shoulders may be non-existent, thus the stemmed type blends into the lanceolate type.

Defined in Literature

This type was first named and described by Ritchie (1961, revised 1971).



St. Albans

Synthesis Ranking: 25

Defining Attributes

The St. Albans point is long, narrow, and nearly shoulderless, with shallow side notches and a bifurcate base.

Chronology

The St. Albans point dates to the Early Archaic period (9000 to 8500 BP).

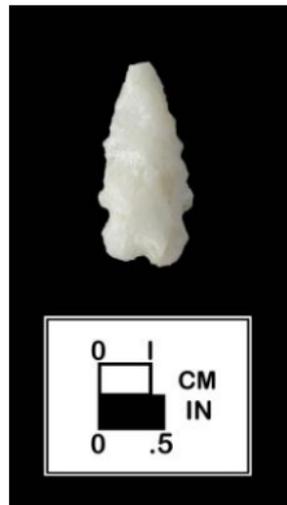
Description

Blade: The blade is an elongated triangle with very weak shoulders, straight or excurvate sides, and with slight serrations. Re-sharpening can affect blade length, but the shoulder width appears to be maintained.

Haft Element: The removal of two or three large flakes leaves the base notched, sometimes very deeply. The base may be as wide as the shoulder. Side notches are long and shallow, and shoulders slope toward the tip.

Defined in Literature

Broyles (1966; 1971) originally defined this type.



Susquehanna Broadspear

Synthesis Ranking: 11

Defining Attributes

The Susquehanna Broadspear is a wide point with a relatively thin triangular blade, sharply angled shoulders, an expanding stem, and a base that is usually concave. It is often asymmetrical.

Chronology

The Susquehanna Broadspear point dates to the Late Archaic and Transitional periods (4865 - 3260 BP).

Description

Blade: The blade is large, broad, and triangular, with excurvate or straight sides. The shoulders can range from pronounced and at a right angle to the stem, to weak and obtuse-angled. The blade is relatively thin, with an average thickness to width ratio of 1:10, and can be biconvex or flat in cross section.

Haft Element: The stem is usually square and its sides are typically straight, although expanding and contracting varieties do occur. The base is usually concave, but can be straight.

Defined in Literature

This type was defined by Witthoft (1953).



Vernon

Synthesis Ranking: 8

Defining Attributes

The Vernon is a short, wide, thick point with pronounced shoulders, an expanded stem, and a straight base.

Chronology

The Vernon point dates to the Late Archaic period (5500 to 4000 BP), and perhaps the Early Woodland.

Description

Blade: The blade is a wide, squat triangle with convex edges. The shoulders are prominent, and at an obtuse angle to the stem.

Haft Element: The stem constitutes 30 to 40 per cent of the total point length. It constricts from the shoulders to the midpoint of the stem, and then expands to a wide base. The base is straight.

Defined in Literature

This type was originally defined by Stephenson and Ferguson (1963).

