

Appendix D7

Cultural Resources



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D7.1 Cultural Resources

The following culture history summary has been abstracted from the TVA Technical Report, *Archaeological Data Analysis of the Tennessee River Valley Associated with the Tennessee Valley Authority's Reservoir Operations Study* (Ahlman et. al. 2003).

D7.1.1 Paleoindian Period (10,000-8000 BC)

The Paleoindian period is the earliest known era of human occupation in North America. A small number of Paleoindian sites with intact stratigraphy and extensive cultural material assemblages have been excavated in the TVA region, primarily in the Highland Rim region.

Paleoindian populations are characterized as small nomadic or semi-nomadic bands with settlement and subsistence strategies based on hunting and collecting wild foods. The principal subsistence appears to have been herd animals, such as caribou, although solitary animals, such as elk and moose, were hunted also.

D7.1.2 Archaic Period (8000-1000 BC)

The Paleoindian period was followed by the Archaic period that has three divisions: Early (8000-6000 BC), Middle (6000-3000 BC), and Late (3000-1000 BC). As the climate moderated from glacial conditions into temperate ranges, people diversified their subsistence economy and focused on seasonal hunting, fishing, and collecting wild plant foods. Increased efficiency resulted in more complex societies, regional variability, trade and exchange networks, and population growth.

The Early Archaic period is marked by adaptations to a changing environment and increased use of smaller species of fauna. Settlements consisted of a main residential base camp located on alluvial terraces with smaller specialized hunting and gathering camps located in the uplands.

The Middle Archaic period is associated with a warmer and drier climate and a decrease in the number of sites recorded in the upper Tennessee River Valley. In general, however, populations and territories gradually increased with a significant population increase in the Highland Rim, Coastal Plain, and Nashville Basin regions.

The Late Archaic marks an increase in population, which has been attributed to improved adaptive strategies for extracting food from the local environments. Evidence from the Watts Bar Reservoir indicates a fourfold increase in the number of sites with Late Archaic components relative to the Middle Archaic. Late Archaic sites are situated in a variety of environmental settings, but upland locations are typically small, diffuse, lithic scatters reflective of short-term extraction sites. Riverine sites are larger in size and artifact density.

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D7.1.3 Gulf Formational Period (1200-600 BC)

The Gulf Formational period replaces Late Archaic and Early Woodland periods in the Cumberland Plateau and Coastal Plain regions. Subsistence during this period involved hunting and gathering with increased reliance on cultivated plants. Few Gulf Formational sites have been found within the Tennessee River Valley; most are in the western end of Wheeler Reservoir. Limited excavations of Gulf Formational and Early Woodland period components in the southern Cumberland Plateau and Coastal Plain regions have revealed a continuation of settlement from the Late Archaic with large multi-seasonal base camps and smaller base camps.

D7.1.4 Woodland Period (1000 BC-AD 900)

The Woodland period has three subperiods: Early (1000 BC-AD 100), Middle (AD 100-600), and Late (AD 600-900). Some regional variation exists, for example, in the Coastal Plain dates for the three subperiods: Early (600-200 BC); Middle (200 BC-AD 700); and Late (AD 700-900). In the southern Cumberland Plateau region, there are two, rather than three, subperiods: Middle (300 BC-AD 600) and Late (AD 600-900).

In general, shifts in settlement and subsistence patterns, as well as changes in social organization, characterize the Woodland period. Pottery and structural remains suggest a less nomadic lifestyle. Limited excavations of Early Woodland period components in the Little Tennessee River Valley revealed large multi-seasonal base camps and smaller base camps with small logistical camps located on the first, second, and older river terraces. Little is known about the Early Woodland in the Highland Rim, Coastal Plain, and Nashville Basin regions.

The Pee Dee culture, a localized manifestation of the South Appalachian Mississippian tradition, debuts in the Early Woodland in the southern Blue Ridge and Piedmont. The Pee Dee culture had palisaded villages that encompassed a habitation area, a central plaza, and a temple mound. A significant change was the introduction of maize agriculture.

Settlement and subsistence of the Middle Woodland in the Highland Rim region is fairly well known, as a result of excavated sites at Normandy Reservoir. These sites include earth ovens, large cylindrical storage pits, and summer/winter structures that indicate long-term, multi-season occupation.

The Late Woodland period is less well-known. It marks the end of the construction of burial mounds, elaborate mortuary treatments, and long-distance trade of exotic goods. Late Woodland period sites have not been widely examined. Burial mounds have been the main focus of archaeological investigation.

Late Woodland groups in North Carolina followed different trajectories. In some areas, Middle Woodland continued until the Mississippian period, while in other areas, Late Woodland developed complex social systems and agricultural economies. In some areas, Late Woodland persisted to European contact in the sixteenth century and continued through the eighteenth

century, while in other areas Late Woodland was subsumed into the South Appalachian Mississippian tradition.

D7.1.5 Mississippian Period (AD 900-1600)

The Mississippian period is well known, except for the Highland Rim region. It is divided into three subperiods: Early (AD 900-1000), Middle (AD 1000-1300), and Late (AD 1300-1600). The Mississippian period marks profound changes in prehistoric settlement and subsistence patterns that reflect an increase in social complexity, the rise of chiefdoms, a reliance on maize agriculture, and an increase in population. The subperiods are characterized by changing material culture, especially pottery and personal artifacts.

This period is characterized by large village sites located on floodplains, as well as by earthen mounds, settlement hierarchy, social stratification, and agricultural economy. In addition to large villages, the Mississippian period had specialized procurement or hunting locations. In the Appalachian Summit, Mississippian sites range from small farmsteads to large palisaded villages, often with small nearby sites. Palisaded villages were located along major streams and in the tributary valleys, on or adjacent to fertile bottomland soils with houses in a circular or oval pattern around a central plaza.

The Early Mississippian is characterized by large permanent settlements situated along first terraces, square or rectangular wall-trench houses with central hearths, and occasionally platform mounds.

During the Middle Mississippian, settlements were located on high ground away from river bottoms. Houses were circular or rectangular wall-trench structures.

The peak in prehistoric social complexity and organization is represented by the Late Mississippian period. Settlements were located primarily on second terraces, and varied in size from small hamlets to large towns. During the Late Mississippian, houses were often located around a central plaza with a platform mound, and defensive palisades surrounding towns.

The Pisgah phase represents the local manifestation of the South Appalachian Mississippian tradition, and characterizes the climax of Mississippian influence in the Appalachian Summit. Pisgah phase habitation sites consist of small farmsteads and relatively large village/mound complexes, usually located on floodplains.

The localized and later Qualla phase (after AD 1300) in the Appalachian Summit is the expression of the Lamar culture, which occurs in the northern half of Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, eastern Tennessee, and western North Carolina. In North Carolina, Qualla sites are located in the Little Tennessee and Hiwassee drainages and Pisgah sites are east of the Tuckasegee drainage.

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D7.1.6 Historic Period

The historic period began with Hernando de Soto's explorations in the mid-sixteenth century. De Soto visited several Native American villages within the Tennessee River Valley watershed in western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, and northern Georgia. Many of these villages were inundated by Fontana, Tellico, Douglas, Chickamauga, and Guntersville reservoirs. There was little European contact with Native American tribes following de Soto's journey until the early eighteenth century.

Extensive European, Euro-American, and African-American settlement in the Tennessee River Valley followed the Revolutionary War when the area was formally opened for Euro-American settlement. By this time, the Native American populations had dwindled as a result of diseases introduced by contact with Europeans. Continued Euro-American expansion in the early nineteenth century led to the forced removal of Native American groups (i.e., Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Creek).

The nineteenth century saw a division in the land-use and agricultural system between the lower and upper Tennessee River Valley. During the Antebellum period land use and agriculture in the lower valley focused on large cotton plantations. In the postbellum period many large plantations were fragmented into smaller sharecropper farms. In the upper valley, where there were few large plantations, the agricultural system was mainly small to large farmsteads with a diversified agricultural system.

The predominant agricultural economy that ruled the valley throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was replaced with an industrialized economy by the mid-twentieth century. Industrialization was quickened by the creation of TVA, the promise of cheap hydroelectric power, and a relatively cheap labor force coming out of a post-Depression era economy.

This change has replaced the historic rural agrarian culture, particularly in the area of the eastern reservoirs. The historic populations of rural, agricultural economic livelihoods are being replaced by commuting and retiree developments. Rural and agricultural landscapes are being lost to residential development, lakefront development and marina development.

Table D7-01 Chronological Sequence Summary by Physiographic Region

Broad Period	Physiographic Region					
	Blue Ridge	Valley and Ridge	Cumberland Plateau	Highland Rim	Nashville Basin	Coastal Plain
Historic	AD 1600 +	AD 1600 +	AD 1600 +	AD 1600 +	AD 1600 +	AD 1600 +
Late Mississippian	AD 1600 Qualla	AD 1600 Mouse Creek Dallas	AD 1600 Henry Island Hobbs Island Kogers Island AD 1300	AD 1600	AD 1600	AD 1600 Walls
Middle Mississippian	AD 1300	AD 1300 Hiwassee Island AD 1000	AD 1300	AD 1300	AD 1200	AD 1200
Early Mississippian	Pisgah AD 900	AD 1000 Martin Farm AD 900	Langston AD 900	Mason AD 900	AD 1050 AD 1050 Spencer AD 900	AD 900
Late Woodland	AD 900 Pee Dee/ AD 700	AD 900 Hamilton AD 700	AD 1100 Flint River AD 700	AD 900 Mason AD 600	AD 900 Mason AD 700	AD 1000 McKelvey AD 500
Middle Woodland	AD 700 Connestee 100 BC	AD 700 Candy Creek 100 BC	AD 500 Copena Colbert 300 BC	AD 600 Owl Hollow McFarland AD 100	AD 700 Owl Hollow McFarland AD 100	AD 500 Copena Colbert 300 BC
Early Woodland	100 BC Swannanoa 1000 BC	100 BC Long Branch Watts Bar 1000 BC		AD 100 Long Branch Watts Bar 1100 BC	AD 100 Wade 700 BC	300 BC Long Branch Watts Bar 1100 BC
Gulf Formational			300 BC Alexander Bluff Creek 1200 BC			300 BC Hardin Bluff Creek Perry 2000 BC

Table D7-01 Chronological Sequence Summary by Physiographic Region (continued)

Broad Period	Physiographic Region					
	Blue Ridge	Valley and Ridge	Cumberland Plateau	Highland Rim	Nashville Basin	Coastal Plain
Late Archaic	1000 BC	1000 BC	1200 BC	1100 BC	700 BC Wade Little Bear Creek Ledbetter 3000 BC	1000 BC Wade Ledbetter Benton 3000 BC
Middle Archaic	3000 BC 3000 BC Bifurcate Tradition Kirk 6000 BC	3000 BC 3000 BC Bifurcate Tradition Kirk 6000 BC	3000 BC 3000 BC Bifurcate Tradition Kirk 6000 BC	3000 BC 3000 BC Bifurcate Tradition Kirk 6000 BC	3000 BC 3000 BC Bifurcate Tradition Kirk 6000 BC	3000 BC 3000 BC Bifurcate Tradition Kirk 6000 BC
Early Archaic	6000 BC Kirk Dalton 8000 BC	6000 BC Kirk Dalton 8000 BC	6000 BC Kirk Dalton 8000 BC	6000 BC Kirk Dalton 8000 BC	6000 BC Kirk Dalton 8000 BC	6000 BC Kirk Dalton 8000 BC
Paleoindian	8000 BC Dalton Clovis 10,000 BC	8000 BC Dalton Clovis 10,000 BC	8000 BC Dalton Clovis 10,000 BC	8000 BC Dalton Clovis 10,000 BC	8000 BC Dalton Clovis 10,000 BC	8000 BC Dalton Clovis 10,000 BC