

# The Puckett Site (40SW228) A Paleoindian/Early Archaic Occupation on the Cumberland River, Stewart County, Tennessee.

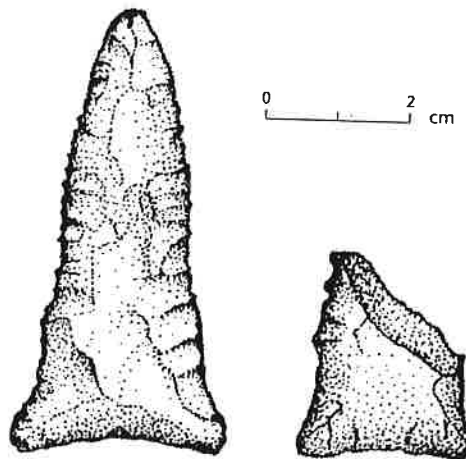
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The Puckett site (40SW228) is located on the banks of Lake Barkley, within the Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge, in Stewart County, Tennessee. This location is within the floodplain of the Cumberland River near the confluence of an unnamed tributary. This portion of the Cumberland River is within the Western Highland Rim physiographic region. An Archaeological Resource Protection Act permit (ARPA No. 02-TN-1-91) was issued to the Tennessee Division of Archaeology by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, to perform limited test excavations at 40SW228.

Two Dalton projectile points (Figure 1) were recovered from an intact cultural midden deposit (2.55 m below surface), varying from 8–16 cm thick within test unit 1. Wood-charcoal flecks recovered from this deposit were radiocarbon dated 9,790 ± 160 yr B.P. (Beta-48045, uncorrected). Modern botanical and synthetic remains were recovered from the upper levels of test unit 1, confirming the reported looting activities within this area.

A second 1-by-1-m test unit was excavated to ascertain the complete cultural occupation of this site. The undisturbed midden deposit was encountered at 1.67 m below surface, which varied from 69–74 cm thick. Four Kirk Corner-notched projectile points were recovered from this deposit, which was

Figure 1. Dalton projectile points recovered from the Puckett site.



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radiocarbon dated at 8,490 ± 180 yr B.P. (TX-7412, uncorrected).

Of the total 4,777 lithic artifacts (n = 2323) and angular debris assemblage. The small number of decortication flakes suggests a locale for biface/projectile point. Kirk points recovered were consistent with the decortication data suggesting a Paleoindian/early Archaic site.

The radiocarbon date for Kirk points is consistent with the radiometric determination for Goodyear's (1982) speculative Paleoindian/early Archaic site.

The radiocarbon date for Kirk points is consistent with the first radiometric determination for a site comparable to the radiocarbon dates in east Tennessee (Chapman 1976).

The Puckett site represents a Paleoindian/early Archaic site. Further work is needed to determine (1) the site's occupation sequence for the site.

We would like to thank Patricia Podrznick and Wildlife Service, for their prompt response.

### References Cited

- Chapman, J. 1976 The Archaic Period in Tennessee. *Tennessee Anthropology* 1:1-10.
- Goodyear, A. III 1982 The Chronology of the Archaic Period in the United States. *American Antiquity* 47:383-390.

## Butler 1991: Excavations at the Butler Site (20GS10) in the Central Great Lakes Region

Donald B. Simons and Henry T. Wright

Excavations at the Gainey site (50GS10) were conducted as part of the work at the Butler Site (20GS10) developed as part of a 344 ha house development. Brian Mansour was very supportive of the project.

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## A Paleoindian/Early Cumberland River,

the banks of Lake Barkley, within the Stewart County, Tennessee. This Cumberland River near the confluence of the Cumberland River is within the region. An Archaeological Resource (1-91) was issued to the Tennessee Department of the Interior, Fish and Game, excavations at 40SW228.

Artifacts were recovered from an intact (biface), varying from 8–16 cm thick. Artifacts recovered from this deposit were radiocarbon dated (TX-48045, uncorrected). Modern artifacts recovered from the upper levels of test pits were dated to activities within this area.

In order to ascertain the complete cultural assemblage, a midden deposit was encountered at 9–74 cm thick. Four Kirk Corner-notched points were recovered from this deposit, which was

radiocarbon dated at  $8,490 \pm 180$  yr B.P. (TX-7413, uncorrected) and  $8,820 \pm 180$  yr B.P. (TX-7412, uncorrected).

Of the total 4,777 lithic artifacts recovered from these excavations, tertiary (n=2323) and angular debris (n=2380) compose the majority of this assemblage. The small number of primary (n=11) and secondary (n=17) decortication flakes suggests that prepared blanks were transported to this locale for biface/projectile point manufacture. The two Daltons and the four Kirk points recovered were considered expended projectiles, which along with the decortication data suggest use of this site as a rearmament locality.

The radiocarbon date for Dalton at the Puckett site represents the first radiometric determination for Dalton in Tennessee. This date falls within Goodyear's (1982) speculative range for Dalton in the southeast.

The radiocarbon date for Kirk Corner-notched at the Puckett site represents the first radiometric determination for Kirk in middle Tennessee. This date is comparable to the radiocarbon dates obtained from the Little Tennessee valley in east Tennessee (Chapman 1976).

The Puckett site represents one of the most extensive and important Paleoindian/early-Archaic sites in middle Tennessee. Additional research is needed to determine (1) the exact size and extent of the intact midden, (2) whether or not the site is single or multifunctional, and (3) the complete occupation sequence for the site area.

We would like to thank Patricia Podrznick and Sara Bridges of the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, for their prompt and courteous processing of the A.R.P.A. permit.

### References Cited

- Chapman, J. 1976 The Archaic Period in the Lower Little Tennessee River Valley: The Radiocarbon Dates. *Tennessee Anthropologist* 1(1):1–12.
- Goodyear, A. III 1982 The Chronological Position of the Dalton Horizon in the Southeastern United States. *American Antiquity* 47:382–395.

## Butler 1991: Excavations at a Fluted Point Site in the Central Great Lakes (20 GS 104)

*Donald B. Simons and Henry T. Wright*

Excavations at the Gainey site (Simons et al. 1984) were interrupted in 1991 to work at the Butler Site (20GS104) in Genesee County, Michigan. Butler will be developed as part of a 344 ha housing complex commencing in 1992. Developer Brian Mansour was very supportive of our excavations for an archaeological

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