

### **The Berhorst Site (23Le174)**

Excavations at the Berhorst Site (23Le174) revealed two major components: Late Woodland and Middle Archaic. Each of these components was investigated in separate block excavations at the site. Three dates were obtained for the Middle Archaic component and indicate an occupation around 5100 BC. The vast majority of materials from this component were stone tools and the debris from the manufacture of stone tools. Analysis of this component indicates it represents a short-term, residential occupation. Further, it is suggested that this component represents a single occupation and not the accumulation of debris from several separate site visits. The Late Woodland occupation (dated to AD 800) represents a series of short-term occupations, likely a temporary camp. Materials associated with the Late Woodland occupation consisted of ceramics, stone tools, and botanical remains.



### **The Logsdon Fan Site (23Ck59)**

The Logsdon Fan Site (23Ck59) was located on the banks of a prehistoric stream channel where the archaeological deposits have been deeply buried by alluvial processes. This Early Archaic site is composed of several small activity areas that probably represent short-term visits to the site by a small group of people. These activities appear to be centered around hearths and activities focusing on stone tool maintenance and production. One interesting artifact type recovered at the site is a hafted end scraper. These teardrop-shaped scrapers would most likely have been used for hide working. Wood charcoal from one of the hearths was radiocarbon dated to Cal BC 8260 to 7960. Given the extreme age of this camp site, the archaeological data obtained during excavations will provide rare glimpses into the lifeways of early hunters and gatherers.



### **The Summer 2005 Crew of the Avenue of the Saints Archaeological Investigations.**

Federal Highway Administration  
United States Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov>

Missouri Department of Transportation  
1-888-ASK MODOT  
<http://www.modot.org/northeast/>  
Robert Reeder, Historic Preservation Coordinator,  
Design Division



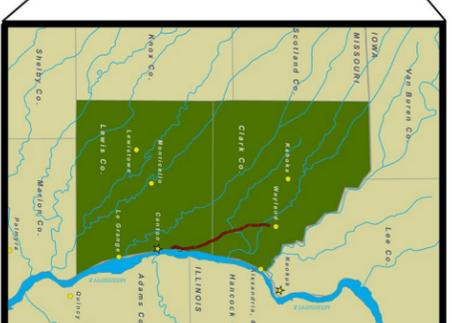
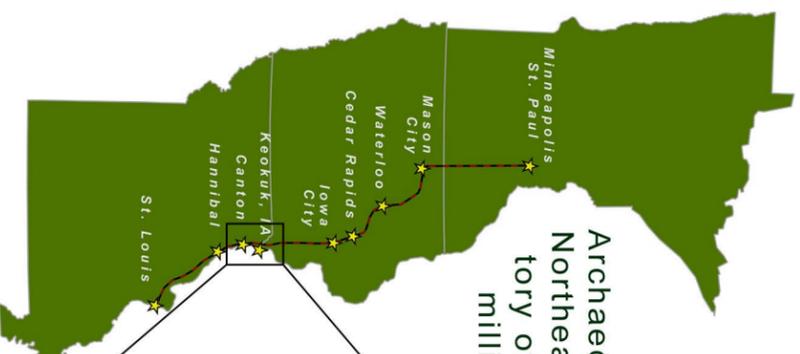
Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.  
Lexington, KY • Hurricane, WV • Longmont, CO  
Mt. Vernon, IL • Berlin Heights, OH  
(859) 252-4737  
<http://www.cra1ky.com>



## **New Frontiers in Missouri's Past**

### **The Avenue of the Saints (US 61) Archaeological Investigations in Northeast Missouri**

Archaeological investigations along the Avenue of the Saints corridor in Northeast Missouri have provided a wealth of information about the history of this part of the state as well as the region. As part of this \$35 million highway expansion, 28 archaeological sites have been investigated in both Lewis and Clark counties.



The level of investigation on these sites ranged from deep trenching and bucket augering to full-scale mitigation, using block and feature excavation on sites with intact cultural deposits. Over 1,000 features were excavated during the course of the project and over 60,000 artifacts were collected. Fieldwork on the project began in November 2004 and was completed in early July 2006.

Guidance from various governmental and tribal organizations has already been and will continue to be an invaluable resource for the successful completion of the Avenue of the Saints project. Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc., would like to thank the following groups for their assistance.

- Federal Highway Administration
- Missouri Department of Transportation
- Missouri State Historic Preservation Office
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
- Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Osage Tribe of Oklahoma
- Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma
- Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa
- Kansas and Nebraska

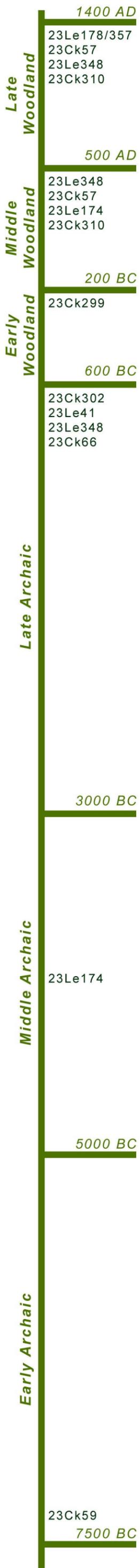


Tribal consultation at the Carskadon Site (23Le348)

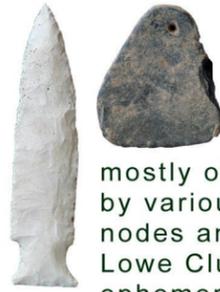
### **Websites of Interest:**

- Missouri Department of Transportation - Avenue of the Saints Information Page  
[http://www.modot.mo.gov/northeast/61\\_27AveofSts.htm](http://www.modot.mo.gov/northeast/61_27AveofSts.htm)
- Missouri Archaeological Society:  
<http://coas.missouri.edu/mas/masarchaeology.html>
- Paleoresearch Institute  
<http://www.paleoresearch.com>

# Cultural Chronology of Northeast Missouri as Seen During AOS Investigations



## The Artesian Branch Site (23Le178/357)



The Artesian Branch Site (23Le178/357) is a multi-component Late Woodland occupation that had over 400 pit features including a number of deep storage pits, earth ovens, hearths, and ephemeral basins with unknown function. The most substantial component at the site relates to the South Branch Phase as defined by Nolan and Green (2000). Pottery from this phase includes net-impressed vessels consisting mostly of jars with rounded bases. Decoration is generally restricted to the rim area and is represented by various doweling or dentate stamping along the interior portion of the lip. Some interior punched nodes and punctations are also present. Hafted bifaces associated with this component are part of the Lowe Cluster. Two radiocarbon dates indicate a time range of Cal AD 600 to about 700. The other more ephemeral component at the site appears to date later in the Late Woodland sequence and consists largely of cordmarked jars in association with Scallorn Cluster bifaces. Decoration is rare but does include some cord-impressed sherds and punctations. One radiocarbon date from this component indicate a time range of Cal AD 700 to 900. The Artesian Branch site likely functioned as a seasonal camp that was routinely occupied on and off over the course of many years.



## The Carskadon Site (23Le348)



The southern portion of the Carskadon Site (23Le348) contained an extensive Middle Woodland occupation. One radiocarbon date (Cal AD 70 to 240) has been obtained for this site so far. Over two hundred pit features (storage pits, hearths, and earth ovens) were defined at the site. In addition, a number of post holes, indicating several structures, were documented at the site. The features contained many pottery fragments, stone tools, animal bone (mostly fish), and plant remains. The site is believed to be a habitation site for several family groups during the Middle Woodland period. A minor Late Woodland component (dated to Cal AD 690 to 900) was also represented at the site. Several pit features that contained Late Woodland ceramics were identified at one end of the site. In addition to the ceramics, stone tools, faunal materials, and botanical remains were recovered from these features. A small activity area was investigated on the north end of 23Le348 that dated to the Late Archaic period. This area is considered Late Archaic because of the presence of diagnostic hafted bifaces (Nebo Hill cluster). A historic component, representing a mid-nineteenth-century farmstead, was present at the site, as well. A house foundation, cellar, fenceline, and a small number of features were documented as part of this historic component.



## The Sugar Creek Site (23Ck57)

The Sugar Creek Site (23Ck57) was located on the stream floodplain from which it takes its name. Over time stream deposition buried much of the site with some of the deposits being more than one meter deep. The location seems to have been heavily occupied or re-occupied as the feature assemblages often represent a mix of various time periods. While the site likely contains multiple prehistoric components, the investigated portion of the site contained Late Woodland period occupations (AD 300 to 900). To date, four absolute dates have been obtained from the radio carbon dating of burnt wood/nutshell fragments. These dates range from (AD 630 to 910). Excavations at the site revealed several residential structures and their associated post holes, storage pits, and refuse pits. In all, more than 150 cultural pit features were located during the investigation. These pits contained stone tools, pottery fragments, and burnt food remains. Most of the pottery fragments were impressed with either fiber cordage or fiber netting during vessel manufacture. A wide variety of decorations are also present on the upper portions of these vessels. While analysis continues on the recovered data, a variety of plant remains have been identified during initial sampling. These include wood and nutshell fragments, tuber fragments, fruit pits, and starchy seeds. Continuing analysis will focus on prehistoric environments, the seasonality of the occupations, exploitation of local resources, and the use of space at the site.

## The Baxter Pond Site (23Le41)



Materials recovered from the excavated portion of Site 23Le41 (Baxter Pond) suggest prehistoric occupation of the site was short in duration. The hand excavation of units in a block area aided in defining several activity areas. Four Hardin Barbed hafted bifaces were recovered from these excavations and indicate an Early Archaic temporal affiliation for the occupations. Of interest at the site were three clearly defined activity areas within the block excavation. Materials recovered from these activity areas consisted of high densities of stone tool production debris, bifacial cores, and bifaces exhibiting production failures. The data suggest that the acquisition and reduction of tool stone was the primary site activity.

## The Big Branch Fan Site (23Ck302)



The Big Branch Fan Site (23Ck302) was identified on a floodplain and alluvial fan of a small tributary stream. The site contained multiple prehistoric occupations, but only two buried occupations remained undisturbed. Investigations focused on those buried deposits, which probably date to the Late Archaic period. Four radiocarbon dates were returned for the site: Cal BC 1400 to 1110, Cal BC 1950 to 1700, Cal BC 1390 to 1120, and Cal BC 810 to 520. Excavations revealed two areas of particular interest. The first is a possible prehistoric knapping area that contained a hammerstone, a broken biface, and numerous waste flakes. The second appeared to be a surface hearth. Taken together, these separate areas represent different site activities affiliated with the same Archaic occupation.



## The Killdeer Site (23Ck310)

The Killdeer Site (23Ck310) was also a multi-component site that was utilized both historically and prehistorically. Most recently, a farmstead was located at the site. Two rectangular features may represent the remains of a residential cellar and an outbuilding, such as a summer kitchen or smokehouse. Recovered historic artifacts (ceramics, bottles, nails, and buttons) and deed records suggest that the historic occupation took place during the late nineteenth century. Additionally, Woodland period (400 BC to AD 900) occupation of the location was documented at the site. Most of the prehistoric occupation occurred between the Early and Middle Woodland sub-periods. Late Woodland artifacts were also recovered, but from within or just beneath the surface layer disturbed by modern agricultural activities. In all, only nine prehistoric features were documented during the investigation. This suggests that these prehistoric occupations/utilizations were less intense, perhaps a short-term usage and/or involving limited activities. This assertion has been further supported by a low magnification micro-wear analysis of the stone tools and sample of the chipping debris. This specialized analysis concluded that stone tools and debris were being used in a fairly narrow range of activities. At this time, the low number of features and available data suggest that the Killdeer Site may have functioned as a processing or staging area for a locally available resource.



Timeline Adapted From:  
Meinkoth, Michael C., Robert J. Hoard, Robert L. Reeder, and Joseph L. Harl  
2000 Late Woodland Archaeology in Missouri. In *Late Woodland Societies: Tradition and Transformation across the Midcontinent.*, edited by Thomas E. Emerson, Dale L. McElrath, and Andrew C. Fortier, pp. 179-185.  
Lincoln, Nebraska.

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