

THREE FLUTED POINTS FROM THE HARDAWAY SITE, NORTH CAROLINA

by
I. Randolph Daniel, Jr.

Abstract

Over forty years ago three fluted points were recovered from surface contexts at the Hardaway site; however, these artifacts were never fully described. The three fluted points, classified as either Clovis or Redstone, are described here. Implications for understanding Paleoindian point typology, site locations, and settlement mobility in North Carolina are also briefly explored with regard to other known fluted points in North Carolina.

In his summary of *Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont*, Joffre Coe (1964:120) makes a passing reference to the surface recovery of “three reasonably good Clovis-like points” from the Hardaway site. Beyond noting some technological similarities between those artifacts and Hardaway-Dalton points, no further mention of the fluted specimens is made. Indeed, the presence of fluted points at Hardaway has largely been forgotten or ignored as virtually no reference to their recovery has been made in subsequent discussions in the archaeological literature. This is perhaps understandable since no further description of those artifacts was ever reported. Recently, however, three Clovis-like points were identified in the Herbert Doerschuk collection (Ward and Davis 1999:38–39) in the Research Laboratories of Archaeology at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill that presumably represent the three points referred to by Coe in *Formative Cultures*. Thus, the purpose of this paper is to describe the three artifacts and discuss their significance with respect to Paleoindian archaeology in North Carolina.

The Points

The three specimens include two mostly complete points and one point tip (Table 1). The first nearly whole point is made of a plagioclase-porphyrific rhyolite and has a broken tip and ear (Figure 1a–b). It appears reworked with an excurvate blade and a concave base. Light grinding is present along both lateral edges of the base. Two relatively

Table 1. Metric Data (in millimeters) for Fluted Points from the Hardaway Site.

Measurement	Point 1	Point 2	Point 3
Maximum length	50.0	54.6	-
Maximum width	24.6	24.1	-
Maximum thickness	5.2	4.6	-
Basal concavity depth	2.2	4.3	-
Maximum flute length (obverse)	14.9	14.1	-
Maximum channel width (obverse)	15.6	13.2	-
Maximum flute length (reverse)	-	13.2	-
Maximum channel width (reverse)	-	7.6	-

Note: Point dimensions could not be measured for Point 3 due to its broken condition.

narrow and shallow flutes extend about one-third the length of the obverse face. Fluting is difficult to detect on the reverse face; it may be more basally thinned than fluted. Otherwise, the point exhibits an irregular flaking pattern.

The second complete artifact is similar in size to the first (Figure 1c–d). It, too, appears reworked and is made of a highly siliceous stone that appears to be a chert that is greenish-gray in color. Blade edges are more triangular than the first specimen. It exhibits parallel-sided basal edges with a few relatively large irregular flakes along one basal edge. It is unclear if this represents haft-damage or an attempt to rework the base. Basal grinding is difficult to detect. Fluting is apparent on both faces. A single, relatively wide shallow flute extends about one-third the length of the obverse face. At least one flute extends a similar distance on the reverse face. In fact, this fluting may be a composite of two overlapping flake removals, but the shallow nature of the flaking makes this determination difficult. The basal concavity of this specimen is somewhat unusual since the concavity is more pronounced than typically present in most fluted points. Indeed, it gives the impression of an eared-like base akin to Hardaway points; however, the ears are not as well-developed as on Hardaway-Dalton points.

The third specimen consists primarily of a point blade that is made of a mottled yellowish-brown chert (Figure 1e–f). Although point tips are usually not typologically diagnostic, the full facial fluting on both

FLUTED POINTS FROM HARDAWAY

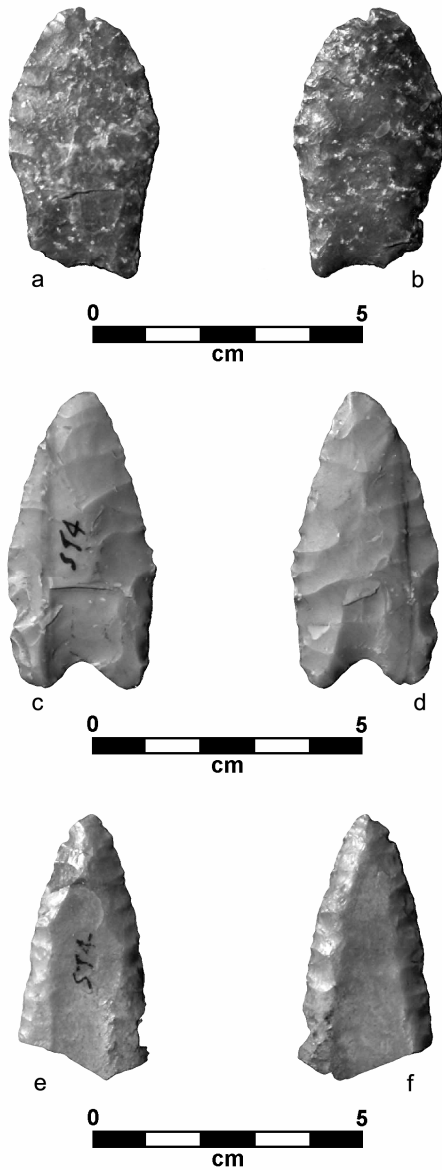


Figure 1. Fluted points from the Hardaway site: (a) Fluted point 1, obverse; (b) Fluted point 1, reverse; (c) Fluted point 2, obverse; (d) Fluted point 2, reverse; (e) Fluted point 3, obverse; and (f) Fluted point 3, reverse.

faces of this specimen is unmistakable. In the southeastern United States, full facial fluting is an attribute associated primarily with Redstone or Cumberland points which are recognized as being post-Clovis in age (e.g., Goodyear 1999, in press). The triangular blade shape of the specimen here suggests a Redstone classification. Despite being broken, the specimen appears to be a nearly complete blade. A shoulder remnant is present along one edge of the artifact as indicated by a few millimeters of basal grinding.

Discussion

These three artifacts are significant because they document a Paleoindian component at Hardaway. What is more, these artifacts have implications for understanding Paleoindian point typology, site locations, and settlement mobility. I explore these issues below with regard to a database of some 250 other known fluted points in North Carolina as well as fluted points outside the state (Daniel 2000, 2005).

Typological definitions for fluted points in North Carolina remain unrefined, as they do elsewhere in the Southeast (e.g., Goodyear 1999:435–441). In the absence of the recovery of fluted points from stratigraphic or radiometrically dated deposits, cultural-historical sequences exist largely based on comparisons with typologically similar forms outside the region. Certainly, fluted points virtually identical to the classic Clovis point, as found in southwestern United States, do exist in North Carolina. However, just as many fluted points, if not more, fall slightly outside a strictly southwest United States-derived typological definition of Clovis. Of course, the significance (if any) of such a distinction is debatable and can't be resolved here. Suffice it to say that the morphology of the three points described here falls within the range of variation known for North Carolina fluted points (Daniel 2000; Daniel and Goodyear, in press). As such, I am tentatively identifying the two nearly whole specimens as Clovis or Clovis-like on the basis of their lanceolate shape and fluted bases. Of course, it can't be known yet whether these points are temporally coeval with southwestern Clovis points; however, from a typological perspective most North Carolina points fall within the range of variation that is recognizable continentally as Clovis (e.g., Haynes 2002:81–95). The fluted point identified here as Redstone, however, is an exception. North Carolina Redstones (Daniel and Goodyear, in press) exhibit the distinctive full facial fluting, relatively deep basal concavity, and a triangular form similar to what is called Redstone in the mid-South (Cambron and Hulse 1964). Its

FLUTED POINTS FROM HARDAWAY

emphasis on full facial fluting is suggestive of the southwestern Folsom point that, of course, post dates Clovis. Based on typological grounds, Redstone points presumably represent a post-Clovis manifestation in North Carolina. Recognizing Clovis and Redstone forms (at least tentatively) as cultural-historical types allows us to start creating temporal markers for the Paleoindian period in the state. I say more on this matter below. In any event, if these typological classifications are accurate, we can surmise that Hardaway was visited at least sporadically throughout the Paleoindian period in North Carolina.

The discovery of three fluted points from a single site is also significant. While surface recovery is the common context in which fluted points are found in the state, the presence of more than a single fluted point from a location is rare. Indeed, isolated surface finds are the norm for fluted point contexts in the Southeast. Given this pattern, some scholars suggest that groups who made fluted points only rarely conducted the types of activities that produced “sites” in the Southeast (Meltzer 1988). As highly mobile hunter-gatherers, Paleoindian groups seldom used the same localities repeatedly, nor did they frequently occupy a location intensely enough to produce a visible archaeological record (i.e., an artifact assemblage). Thus, the presence of multiple fluted points at Hardaway is contrary to the norm and is likely accounted for by the attraction of nearby knappable stone sources. Hardaway, of course, is situated amid numerous metavolcanic stone quarries (Daniel and Butler 1996; Steponaitis et al. 2006). As an abundant and predictable raw material source, the Uwharrie Mountains were repeatedly visited throughout prehistory. A quarry-related function has been proposed for the Hardaway site during the Archaic (Daniel 1998), and it is reasonable to postulate this function began even earlier. That Uwharrie rhyolite was used to make fluted points is certain (Daniel 2000, 2005), and the apparent presence of the porphyritic specimen here is consistent with that conclusion.

That the two remaining points are made of different cherts is also interesting from a settlement perspective. Approximately 30% of North Carolina fluted points are made of some type of chert (Daniel 2000, 2005). The origins of these raw materials are difficult to pinpoint other than they almost certainly originated from outside North Carolina. Use of exotic tool-stone is a continent-wide pattern among fluted points (Goodyear 1989), and identifying raw material sources in stone tool assemblages has provided important information concerning the scale of Paleoindian mobility (e.g., Meltzer 1984, 1988, 1989). Since most eastern Paleoindian assemblages are dominated by a single stone type

that appears to have been acquired directly from its geological source, the distance between the natural and archaeological occurrences of this stone are often used as a rough measure of prehistoric mobility. Accordingly, distances up to 300 km are commonly cited in the literature regarding the transport of Paleoindian tool-stone (Meltzer 1993:304–305, 1988:26–28). Given this fact, it is tempting to speculate that the two chert points traveled to Hardaway as part of a wide-ranging annual settlement round. That is, the groups that eventually discarded the chert points at Hardaway also quarried that stone from some distant sources. The broken or exhausted state of these points is consistent with the notion that they were at the end of their use-lives and were discarded at Hardaway for the purpose of being replaced.

Of course, it is equally plausible that the artifacts discarded at Hardaway were acquired indirectly via exchange. For example, the exotic stone might have been acquired by some donor group who never visited Hardaway, but supplied the exotic stone (either in unmodified or finished form) to a group that did visit Hardaway. In this case, the presence of chert points might tell us less about settlement mobility *per se* than prehistoric social relations. But regardless of the mechanism of transport, the presence of exotic stone at Hardaway does have implications for identifying the geographic range of interaction for Paleoindian groups in North Carolina. Additional efforts to identify the stone source(s) of these two points seem warranted.

Conclusion

Three fluted points from the Hardaway site have been described both for simple documentary purposes and to draw archaeological implications with regards to other known fluted points in the state. Traditionally, all fluted points in North Carolina are often lumped typologically as Clovis. However, it is likely that this lumping masks cultural or chronological significance. The Clovis and Redstone classifications assigned to the three points here are based on a proposed three-stage sequence for North Carolina fluted points that parallels the Early, Middle, and Late Paleoindian periods generally proposed for the Southeast and applied to North Carolina (Goodyear 1999:435–441; Ward and Davis 1999:29–32). In turn, these three periods would be represented in the Piedmont by Clovis, Redstone, and Hardaway-Dalton points, respectively (cf. Ward and Davis 1999:29–46). Of course, this cultural-historical classification does not account for all the variability in North Carolina fluted points. For example, given the relative rarity of

FLUTED POINTS FROM HARDAWAY

Redstone as opposed to Cumberland points in the Mountains, the latter type may represent the Middle Paleoindian Period (or phase) in the Mountain region (Daniel 2000, 2005).

Finally, the presence of fluted points at Hardaway raises the possibility that other Paleoindian artifacts remain unrecognized in the assemblage. Of course, distinguishing those remains amid the thousands of other artifacts in the collection is problematic to say the least — particularly given the widely acknowledged similarity between well-made unifacial tools in both Paleoindian and Early Archaic assemblages. Complicating this issue even further is the fact that much of the Hardaway collection is from surface collected or disturbed contexts. Thus, artifact provenience is of little help in identifying other potential Paleoindian artifacts. Nevertheless, one approach might be to examine the Hardaway assemblage for other chert artifacts that are similar to the two chert types represented in the two exotic fluted points. North American fluted point assemblages are often dominated by a single exotic stone type (Goodyear 1989; Meltzer 1984, 1988); thus, it is not unreasonable to suggest that other Paleoindian artifacts — made from the same exotic stone as the two fluted points described above — might exist in the Hardaway assemblage. In fact, chert artifacts other than points do exist in the assemblage, and they are readily distinguished from the rhyolite that dominates the raw materials (Daniel 1998:46–47). While finding other artifacts made of the same chert used to make either or the two fluted points would not be conclusive evidence that they were Paleoindian in age, it would certainly be provocative, particularly if several artifact classes were represented in the exotic stone.

The importance of the Hardaway site to North Carolina can hardly be over emphasized. In conjunction with the excavation of other sites along the Yadkin River, Coe (1964) essentially defined a series of Archaic complexes that were virtually unknown elsewhere in the Southeast. A few decades later, data from the Hardaway site again were examined from an Early Archaic settlement perspective (Daniel 1998). More recently, the identification of the three fluted points described here suggests that the Hardaway collection will continue to remain an important data source for North Carolina archaeology.

Notes

Acknowledgments. I would like to thank the Research Laboratories of Archaeology for the opportunity to examine the three artifacts described here and to Steve Davis for his editorial assistance with this manuscript.

References Cited

- Cambron, James W., and David C. Hulse
1964 *Handbook of Alabama Archaeology, Point Types Part I*. The Archaeological Research Association of Alabama Inc.
- Coe, Joffre L.
1964 *The Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont*. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society 54, Part 5. Philadelphia.
- Daniel, I. Randolph, Jr.
1998 *Hardaway Revisited: Early Archaic Settlement in the Southeast*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

2000 Paleoindian Points in North Carolina. *Current Research in the Pleistocene* 17:15–16.

2005 Paleoindian Research in North Carolina. Paper presented at the Clovis in the Southeast Conference, Columbia, South Carolina.
- Daniel, I. Randolph, Jr., and J. Robert Butler.
1996 Archaeological Survey And Petrographic Description Of Rhyolite Sources in the Uwharrie Mountains, North Carolina. *Southern Indian Studies* 45:1–37.
- Daniel, I. Randolph, Jr., and Albert C. Goodyear
in press An Update on the North Carolina Fluted Point Survey. *Current Research in the Pleistocene*.
- Goodyear, Albert C.
1989 A Hypothesis for the Use Of Cryptocrystalline Raw Materials Among Paleo-Indian Groups of North America. In *Eastern Paleoindian Lithic Resource Use*, edited by C. J. Ellis and J. C. Lothrop, pp.1–9. Westview Press, Boulder.

1999 The Early Holocene Occupation of the Southeastern United States: A Geoarchaeological Summary. In *Ice Age People of North America: Environments, Origins, and Adaptations*, edited by Robson Bonnicksen and Karen L. Turnmire, pp. 432–481. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis.

in press Recognition of the Redstone Fluted Point in the South Carolina Paleoindian Point Data Base. *Current Research in the Pleistocene*.
- Haynes, Gary
2002 *The Early Settlement of North America: The Clovis Era*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Meltzer, David J.
1984 On Stone Procurement and Settlement Mobility in Eastern Fluted Point Groups. *North American Archaeologist* 6:1–24.

FLUTED POINTS FROM HARDAWAY

- 1988 Late Pleistocene Human Adaptations in Eastern North America. *Journal of World Prehistory* 2:1–52.
- 1989 Was Stone Exchanged Among Eastern North American Paleoindians? In *Eastern Paleoindian Lithic Resource Use*, edited by C. J. Ellis and J. C. Lothrop, pp. 11–40. Westview Press, Boulder.
- 1993 Is There a Clovis Adaptation? In *From Kostenki to Clovis: Upper Paleolithic-Paleo-Indian Adaptations*, edited by Olga Soffer and N. D. Preslov, pp. 293–310. Kluwer Academic Press, New York.
- Steponaitis, Vincas P., Jeffrey D. Irwin, Theresa E. McReynolds, and Christopher Moore
2006 *Stone Quarries and Sourcing in the Carolina Slate Belt*. Research Laboratories of Archaeology, Research Report No. 25. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- Ward, H. Trawick, and R. P. Stephen Davis, Jr.
1999 *Time Before History: The Archaeology of North Carolina Archaeology*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.