

Richard Cook Collection-Fluted Points

By Jack Cresson

During the recent analysis and assessment of the Richard Cook artifact collection from Lower Township, Cape May, Co. several examples of Paleoindian artifacts (fluted bifaces or points) were identified. It is presently unknown if these specimens were logged in the earlier efforts to record NJ Paleoindian fluted points, eg. either the Mason, Kraft or Marshall surveys, but the effort in this report is to provide a follow up record and more detailed analysis of the artifacts in question.

The two specimens were found mounted adjacent to one another within the same display frame or panel labeled No. 13. These along with the majority of the artifact recoveries that comprise the Cook Collection (see ASNJ Newsletter, No. 256, May, 2017) were found along the Delaware Bay beaches of Lower Township, Cape May County.

The western margin of the Cape May peninsula lies adjacent to the ancient estuary of Dennis and Cedar Swamp creek and the southeastern 'gut' of the Delaware Bay: from Reeds Beach south to Cape May Point, beaches along these tidal waterways have long been known to reveal prehistoric artifacts washed up from submerged or inundated 'sites'; or washed out of sites still extant.

The two artifacts are similar in style and type and both exhibit technological attributes that betray origins to the Middle Paleoindian episode in prehistory, observations reveal typical but unusual characteristics of certain lithic materials (silicates) to exhibit surface

alterations or transformations through long term immersion and chemical reactions in saltwater environs.

Thus each of these specimens have been deduced to be varieties of 'brown or yellow' jasper; both show the perplexing shift in color from the original yellow brown, to black and darker greyish brown and green colors with telltale remnant patches and swirls of the original colorations. It is not known for certain, whether these jasper materials are local or non local but given the period and technological patterns of tool production in the Paleoindian episodes it is most likely that the materials are indeed primary source jaspers from the Reading Prong, Pa.

SPECIMEN NO. 1

This biface is multiply fluted on both faces and reflects a sub lanceolate shape that exhibits an irregular margin, the result of retooling and use wear. The lower basal edges show light abrasion and dulling but this attribute is not apparent on the base. This biface appears well used and likely was left as a discard after its last functional use. There was no evidence of catalog numbering on this specimen. The biface measures 41.6 mm in length, 21.3 mm in width, and 5 mm thick. The basal indentation measures 1.5 mm long. It weighs 5 grams. The largest primary flute length and width are 34 mm and 10 mm respectively. The fluting channel scar thickness is 3 mm. The obverse face shows three channel flake scars; one is a primary detachment, with two overlapping secondary flute flake removals, detached sequentially right to left. The reverse face exhibits two fluting flake removals; a primary flake aligned centrally and a secondary removal aligned on the right, to widen the basal channel area. This face exhibits the longest fluting flake at 34mm. Marginal retouch is present on the right side. The remnant evidence of the manufacturing techniques show a range of both pressure and likely indirect percussion or pressure to prepare faces, edges and detach channel flakes. Clearly the type, style and manufacturing techniques are of the Middle Paleoindian Period. Ca. 8500 -8000 BC.

SPECIMEN NO. 2

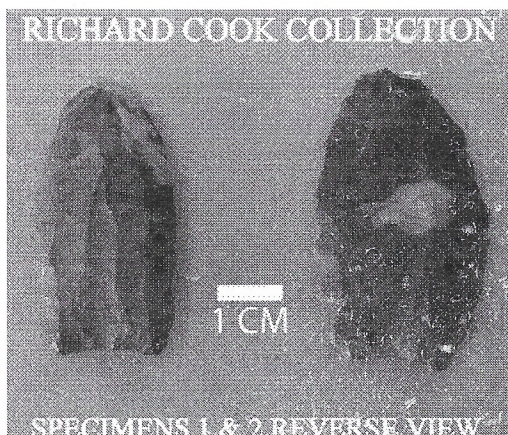
This bifaces is singly fluted on both faces and is more robust than Specimen NO. 1. It's shape is of sub oval configuration that reflects severe use wear and distal damage from projectile impact stresses.

Continued on page 3



Apply for the Sean Bratton Memorial Research Fund

The Sean Bratton Memorial Research Fund celebrates the life and contributions of Sean Bratton, an outstanding field archaeologist and mentor, who enjoyed hearing about regional research and applying insights from new research to his own work. The fund will provide up to two (2) yearly research grants/scholarships to students or working professional archaeologists who are conducting original archaeological research on New Jersey topics. Assuming sufficient funds are available and if there are appropriate applications, one grant will be awarded for research based in prehistoric archaeology and one grant will be awarded for research based in historic archaeology. Applicants should be ASNJ members in good standing on the student or individual level. Each grant will consist of \$400.00 to support original research, publication of the results of research in the ASNJ bulletin, presentation to the ASNJ within a year of the award, and presentation to a regional conference as applicable. The grant will be awarded annually at the society's October meeting and formally presented in January and will be announced in the newsletter and social media. The grant committee will solicit applications from undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals employed in the region. The application will include a brief cover letter summarizing the proposed research, a CV, and at least one letter of recommendation from a professor, supervisor, or associate. Grant applications will be due via email to ilenebailey36@gmail.com by 5/21/18 and will be awarded by the following October. Grantees will present their research to a meeting of the ASNJ by the following January or when scheduled by the program chair.



ASNJ Bulletin Update

By Richard Viet, Ph D.

The 2012-2015 (Vols. 68-70) edition of the Bulletin is at the printer and should be mailed soon. This is a special edition on the archaeology of the Abbott Farm National Historic Landmark. It includes articles by Stewart and Obermeyer, as well as Greg Lattanzi, Robert Grumet, and Andrew Martin. It weighs in at 225 pages and will be the largest Bulletin in recent memory. We hope to have it to you before the January meeting.

The Abbott Farm volume will be followed by a general issue, also sizeable, with articles on topics ranging from Paleo-Indian projectile points to 17th-century town planning. Authors include: Marshall Becker, Matthew Boulanger, Jack Cresson, Michael Gall, Chris Hummer, George Leader, Greg Lattanzi, Alan Mounier, and Drew Stanzeski. Based on the amount of material, this will likely be a double issue (2016-2017), which will get us almost caught up.

Next on the docket is a volume focused on Archaic triangle points edited by R. Michael Stewart. It will be a major contribution. We are also looking at publishing Dick Regensburg's Savich Farm monograph.

We are always looking for good copy for future Bulletins so please consider submitting an article for consideration. Site reports, synthetic pieces, case studies, and artifact articles are all welcome. The review process is straightforward. Our goal is to share the latest scholarship on New Jersey's archaeological heritage with the broadest possible readership. Articles for consideration should be submitted electronically as Word documents with minimal formatting. Please send articles as Word documents with accompanying image files to [Richard Viet](mailto:rviet@monmouth.edu) rviet@monmouth.edu; Dept. of History and Anthropology, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ 07764-1898; Phone: 732-263-5699

Continued from Page 1

Like Specimen No. 1 this biface appears well used and left as a discard after its last functioning use. In this instance, clearly as a projectile, ostensibly in hunting pursuits. The lateral lower biface margins and base reveal moderate dulling. Also and unlike Specimen No.1 there is a remnant catalog number, 949 written in black ink on the reverse face. It is unfortunate the Cook Collection catalog was not found among the bequeathed materials to the Greater Cape May County Historical Society and Nature Center.

The biface measures 43.3 mm in length, 26.4 mm in width and 5 mm thick. The basal indentation measures 2 mm long. It weighs 7 grams. The largest primary flute length is 31mm, the width is 10.5 mm. The fluting channel scar thickness is 2.8 mm. The obverse face shows a single 'fluting' flake scar that extends 31mm long. The lower portion of the channel flake at the base exhibits lateral 'finishing' or channel widening thinning flakes. The reverse face is markedly 'impact fractured' on the distal portion. This face also exhibits a singly detached flute flake that extends 28 mm and at least three laterally invasive thinning flake removals that extend into the flute channel. Clearly this is evidence of bifacial thinning episodes after channel flake removal.