

Culture History of Indiana
by
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The landscape within the geographic boundaries of Indiana represents a broad zone of transition between the Ohio Valley in the south and the Great Lakes in the north; from the prairie on the west to the Eastern Woodland forests on the east. It is reasonable to expect, then, that human populations within Indiana, whether ancient or modern, reflect these transitions in various ways. For archaeological cultures these transitions can be expected to show more dissimilarities on the extremes with those in the middle reflecting influence from all directions.

Several general culture histories have been developed for Indiana (eg. Swartz 1981, Kellar 1983, Hicks 1992, Stafford 1997, Jones and Johnson 2003). These schemes agree on a sequence of human occupation of the Indiana landscape beginning after the Wisconsin glacial maximum and continuing into the present. An outline of the culture history and many of the archaeological subdivisions of Indiana is shown in Table 1. A general discussion is presented below.

Paleoindian is the term given to the earliest known human cultures in Indiana (Tankersley, Smith & Cochran 1990). Earlier sites are not documented in Indiana although a number of sites have been recorded in North America that date prior to 12,000 B.C. (eg. Carlisle and Adovasio 1982). Paleoindian cultures entered Indiana as the Wisconsin glacial advance began retreating to the north, approximately 12,000 to 14,000 years ago. Paleoindians are generally characterized as small family bands wandering over large territories in search of game animals. The hallmark of Paleoindian technology is the fluted spear point. Fluted points are reported from most counties in Indiana although they occur in low densities. No Paleoindian sites with *in situ* deposits have been excavated within the state and our current knowledge of their occupation of Indiana is primarily based on the distribution of fluted points (Tankersley, Smith & Cochran 1990, Cochran, Ritchie & Maust 1990).

As the climate ameliorated following the retreat of the glacial ice, a new adaptation to the Indiana landscape emerged, the Archaic. This term is applied to cultures that existed between 10,000 and 3,000 years ago. The 7,000 years covered by the Archaic is subdivided into Early (10,000-8,000 B.P.), Middle (8,000-5,000 B.P.) and Late (5,000-3,000 B.P.) periods. The earliest Archaic cultures follow the Paleoindians and are adapting to a warming environment. Middle Archaic cultures are associated with a warming and drying period that occurs across the Midwest between 7,000 and 5,000 years ago. By Late Archaic times, the environment of Indiana assumes the form encountered by the earliest European explorers and settlers. In addition to hunting, Archaic people are efficient users of the environment and practice a diffuse economy which includes a wide array of plants, animals, fish, and birds. As a result of the diffuse economy, Archaic sites are widely distributed across the landscape in many environmental zones. Tool changes throughout the Archaic reflect the adaptation to a

more wooded environment with the introduction of chipped and ground stone woodworking tools. Point styles change throughout the Archaic Period and chipped stone technology evolves from a curated technology in the Early Archaic to the more expedient technology of the Late Archaic. Mortuary sites are more frequently found in the Late Archaic although Early Archaic cemeteries are recorded in the state (Tomak 1979, Cochran et al. 1998). Exotic materials placed in mortuary sites include marine shell beads and copper artifacts although the latter are currently known only from Late Archaic sites. These exotic materials are direct evidence for the presence of exchange networks that appear in the Early Archaic and are well developed by the Late Archaic (Kellar 1983, Hicks 1992, Stafford 1997).

About 3,000 years ago, another dramatic shift in human culture is marked by the introduction of pottery and the beginnings of horticulture. The Woodland Period is synonymous with ceramics and most archaeological cultures after the Archaic are ceramic cultures. Regional ceramic styles are developed and serve as both chronology and cultural markers. Woodland peoples continue to depend upon hunting and gathering for subsistence although cultivation of native and exotic plants are a stimulus for culture process during the period. Corn horticulture is introduced into the Midwest by A.D. 900 although it is not practiced equally across the Indiana landscape. More intense horticulture is associated with the broad alluvial valleys of the major rivers and most Woodland sites are, therefore, associated with river valleys. In addition to the introduction of ceramics and exotic cultivated plants, the bow and arrow are introduced about A.D. 700-800. Mortuary ritual assumes new importance during the earlier part of the Woodland Period and a variety of earthworks are constructed. Mounds are widely distributed across Indiana but again with regional differences. The primary influences for mortuary ceremonialism are the Scioto Tradition out of Ohio and the Havana Tradition from Illinois. By A.D. 500, the Early and Middle Woodland mound building traditions are ended, although mound building continues in a reduced form. In addition to the elaborate mortuary ritual expressed in the mounds, these sites have been found to contain a wide array of exotic artifacts and materials demonstrating wide spread exchange networks across eastern North America (Swartz 1981, Kellar 1983, Hicks 1992, Stafford 1997).

In many parts of Indiana, the Woodland Period adaptation continued until European contact while in some parts of the state cultures developed that were adapted to a more focused economy based on corn horticulture. The latter cultures are associated with the Mississippian Period; these cultures are best developed in the southwest corner of the state (Black 1967, Hilgeman 1992, Barth 1991, Munson 1995) along the Ohio River in the southeastern part of the state (Black 1934, Reidhead 1981) near the Falls of the Ohio in Clarke County (Munson and McCullough 2004) and along the south end of Lake Michigan (Faulkner 1972). In general, these Mississippianized cultures lived in villages and hunted and gathered to supplement the intense cultivation of maize, squash and beans. Mounds constructed by Mississippian groups served as platforms for temples as well as for burials. Mississippian ceramics included a wide range of forms and oftentimes elaborate decoration. Social stratification is clearly marked in Mississippian societies. Early European explorers encountered and described some Mississippian

groups in the southeastern United States (Swartz 1981, Kellar 1983, Hicks 1992, Stafford 1997).

At European contact, Indiana was apparently partially vacant of native people. We are currently not able to connect historically recognized groups such as the Miami and the Potawatomi with precontact archaeological cultures throughout most of the state. There are data to indicate that the Historic Shawnee and the protohistoric Ft. Ancient cultures were linked (Pollack & Henderson 1992:281-294) and that the Miami may be linked with Upper Mississippian groups in northern Indiana (Faulkner 1972, Brown & Sasso 2001:205-228). The Protohistoric and Historic Native American archaeology in Indiana is both regionally diverse and specific. There is no doubt that Indiana has much to contribute to the broader synthesis of Protohistoric and Historic Native American archaeology in the Midwest, but too little research has yet been conducted to realize the potential (Swartz 1981, Kellar 1983, Hicks 1992, Stafford 1997).

The historic occupation of Indiana encompasses only about 400 years, but the radical changes in human culture and technology compressed into such a short time frame creates a complex backdrop for historical archaeology. Overall, historical archaeology in Indiana is underrepresented by comparison to prehistoric investigations. But, culture resource management projects and a burgeoning interest in the field are making important contributions. The historic period can be subdivided into four periods (Seiber & Munson 1992:7): (1) Cultures in Transition: Native American (1600-1800), (2) Transplanted Cultures: Pioneer Settlement (1800-1850), (3) Regional Distinctiveness: Tradition and Change (1850-1915), and (4) Twentieth Century Changes (1915-1950). These subdivisions bracket the changes in settlement from European contact through the Korean War. Subdivisions within each period incorporate a variety of topics of interest to Historical Archaeology including the fur trade, settlement patterns, industrial sites, African American studies, urban sites, farmsteads, underwater archaeology, cemetery studies and historic landscapes to name a few (Jones 1997). As with the prehistory of Indiana, the historical occupation is marked by regional diversity associated with the natural environment and the background of the resident populations.

Table 1* Culture History of Indiana				
Chronology	Period	Archaeological Unit	Points	Ceramics
AD 1000 - 1650	Late Prehistory	Caborn-Welborn Oneota Angel Vincennes Prather Western Basin Ft. Ancient Oliver Yankeetown	Triangular Cluster	Caborn-Welborn Fisher-Huber Angel Vincennes Western Basin Ft. Ancient Oliver Yankeetown
AD 600 - 1200	Late Woodland	Albee Newtown Intrusive Mound Allison-LaMotte	Triangular Cluster Jack's Reef Corner-Notched Racoon Side Notched	Langford Western Basin Albee Newtown Jack's Reef Allison-LaMotte
200 BC - AD 600	Middle Woodland	Allison-LaMotte Havanna Scioto Mann Adena	Steuben Chesser Lowe Baker's Creek Snyders Robbins	Allison-LaMotte Havanna Morton Goodall Scioto Mann Late Crab Orchard McGraw Adena Plain New Castle Incised
1,000 - 200 BC	Early Woodland	Crab Orchard Marion	Robbins Adena Cresap Meadowood Kramer Dickson Gary Motley Cypres	Crab Orchard Marion Thick Fayette Thick

Table 1(cont.)
Culture History of Indiana

Chronology	Period	Archaeological Unit	Points	Ceramics
3,000 - 1,000 BC	Late Archaic	Shell mound Riverton Glacial Kame Red Ochre Bluegrass Maple Creek French Lick	Turkey-tail Riverton Brewerton Table Rock Lamoka Karnak McWhinney Late Archaic Stemmed Matanzas	
6,000 - 3,000 BC	Middle Archaic		Matanzas Karnak Stanley Godar Raddatz	
8,000 - 6,000 BC	Early Archaic	Jerger Bifurcate Kirk Thebes	Kanawha LeCroy St. Albans MacCorkle Palmer Kirk Decatur Thebes St. Charles Charleston Lost Lake Big Sandy	
8,000 - 8,500 BC	Late Paleoindian		Dalton Plainview Holcombe Quad Hi-Lo Agate Basin	
10,000 - 8,000 BC	Early Paleoindian	Clovis	Cumberland Clovis	

*Table created in 2001 from the following sources: Jones & Johnson 2003, Lewis 1996, Fagan 1991, Justice 1987, Kellar 1983, and Swartz 1981. The material remains are generalized and vary from region to region within Indiana. Settlement, economic and ideologic systems vary by cultural unit.

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