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). The total 4,777 lithic artifacts (n = 2,923) and angular debitage assemblage. The small number of deorsification flakes suggests a single, intrusive locale for biface/projectile points.

Kirk points recovered were consistent with the decorative data suggesting.

The radiocarbon date for Kirk points suggests the radiometric determination for Goodyear's (1982) speculative.

The radiocarbon date for Kirk points suggests the first radiometric determinations comparable to the radiocarbon dates in east Tennessee (Chapman 1982).

The Puckett site represents a Paleoindian/early-Archaic site and needed to determine (1) the site's age, (2) whether or not the site is single occupation sequence for the site.

We would like to thank Patricia Podrzman at the USFWS and Wildlife Service, for their prompt.

References Cited


Donald B. Simons and Henry T. Wright

Excavations at the Gainey site (58GS10) and work at the Butler Site (20GS10) were developed as part of a 344 ha study. Brian Mansour was very support.

Donald B. Simons, Michigan Archaeological Society
A Paleoindian/Early Cumberland River, the banks of Lake Barkley, within the Stewart County, Tennessee. This Cumberland River near the confluence he Cumberland River is within the cion. An Archaeological Resource 1-91) was issued to the Tennessee arment of the Interior, Fish and excations at 40SW228. 

were recovered from an intact face), varying from 8–16 cm thick recovered from this deposit were eta-48045, uncorrected). Modern vered from the upper levels of test nities within this area. 
to ascertain the complete cultural hidden deposit was encountered at 9–74 cm thick. Four Kirk Corners d from this deposit, which was radiocarbon dated at 8,490 ± 180 yr B.P. (TX-7413, uncorrected) and 8,820 ± 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


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 1999. Developer Brian Mansour was very supportive of our excavations for an archaeological

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