

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.

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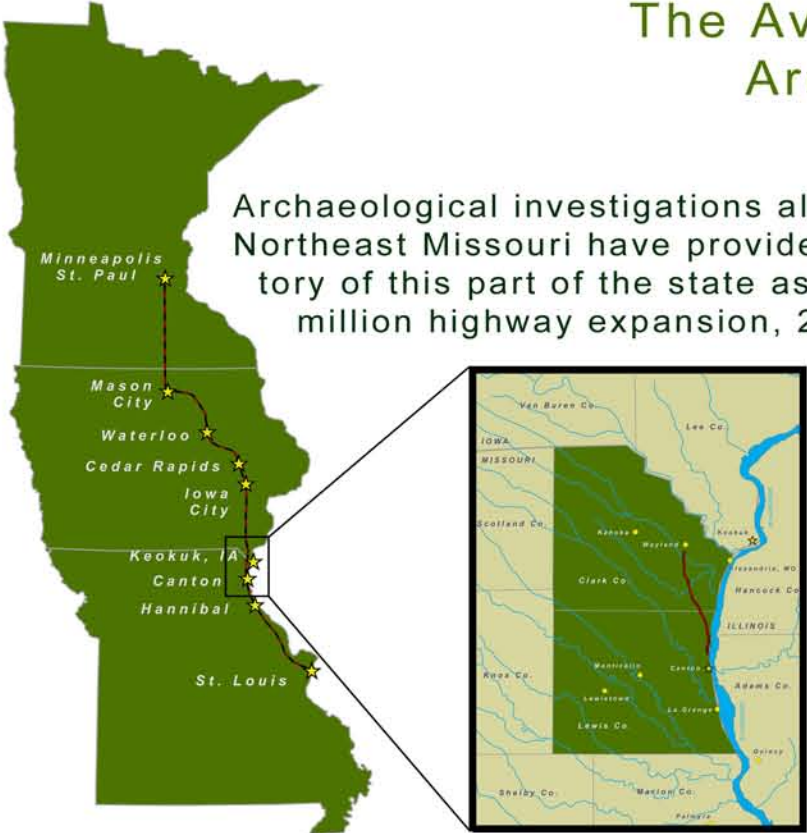


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New Frontiers in Missouri's Past

**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 recently 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
- Sac and Fox Nation of the Missouri in 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
- 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)

A major Late Woodland occupation was documented at the Artesian Branch Site (23Le178/357). Over 400 pit features were defined and excavated at the site. Large storage pits, earth ovens, smaller storage pits, and hearths were represented. Although post holes that would indicate structures were not found, the spatial arrangement of the features indicates a number of open areas (devoid of features) that are roughly 7-9 meters in diameter. These open areas are believed to be the location of structures. Two radiocarbon dates were obtained from the site (Cal AD 600 to 780 and Cal AD 650 to 890). Materials recovered from the features consisted of ceramics, stone tools and manufacturing debris, small amounts of faunal material, pendants, and botanical remains.

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, earth ovens) were defined at the site. In addition, a number of post holes, indicating several structures, were also documented at the site. The features contained many pottery fragments, stone tools, animal bone (mostly fish), and plant remains. The site likely represents 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 also 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 19th-century farmstead, was also present at the site. A house foundation, cellar, fenceline, and a small number of features were documented as part of this historic component.

The Sugar Creek Site (23Ck57)

Site 23Ck57 was located on the stream floodplain from which it takes its name, Sugar Creek. This multi-component prehistoric site contained both Middle and Late Woodland period occupations (200 BC to AD 900). Over time, stream deposition buried much of the site, so during investigation portions of the archaeological deposits were more than one meter deep. Excavations at the site revealed several residential houses that date to the Late Woodland sub-period and their associated storage pits, hearths, and refuse pits. These pits contained stone tools, pottery fragments, and burnt food remains. Analysis of the data obtained during the investigations will provide information that will determine the season(s) of the occupation(s), the use of space within residences, and the prehistoric inhabitants exploration of local resources. The site will also provide additional data regarding regional Woodland period settlement patterns in northeastern Missouri.

23Le41



The materials recovered from the excavated portion of Site 23Le41 suggest prehistoric occupation of the site was short in duration and occurred during the Late Archaic sub-period. Of interest at 23Le41 are three clearly defined activity areas (probable knapping stations) documented in one of the excavated blocks at the site. Materials recovered from these activity areas were predominately stone tool production debris (with numerous cores and stone tools also present), which suggests the acquisition and reduction of tool stone was the primary site activity. Diagnostic artifacts recovered from each of the three defined activity areas included Etley Cluster hafted bifaces suggesting all three activity areas can be attributed to the Late Archaic sub-period.

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 the 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 is also a multi-component site that was occupied both historically and prehistorically. Most recently, a farmstead or portion of a farmstead, was located at the site. Excavations have revealed two large pits that could be related and may represent the remains of an outbuilding (summer kitchen or smokehouse) and its associated refuse pit and artifact scatter. Recovered artifacts (ceramics, bottles, nails, and buttons) and deed records suggest that the historic occupation took place during the late nineteenth century. In addition, Middle and Late Woodland occupations have been documented at the site (250 BC to AD 900). These occupations appear to be smaller than other Woodland sites in the area. The site is functionally different than the larger village sites. A handful of prehistoric pit features were documented at the site, including several post holes and several refuse pits. These features suggest the site may have functioned as a processing or staging area for a locally available resource.

23Le174



Excavations at 23Le174 revealed two major components: Middle Woodland and Middle Archaic. Each of these was investigated in separate block excavations at the site. Two dates (Cal BC 5070 to 4690 and Cal BC 5320 to 5030) were obtained for the Middle Archaic component. The vast majority of the materials from this component were stone tools and the debris from the manufacture of stone tools. This component probably represents a short-term visit by a small group of hunter-gatherers. The Middle Woodland occupation exhibited characteristics of a temporary camp. Materials associated with the Middle Woodland occupation consisted of ceramics, stone tools, a few faunal remains, and botanical remains.

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 Adrew C. Fortier, pp. 179-185. Lincoln, Nebraska.

Continued on Back