An Examination of the Temporal Trends and Impacts of Mississippian Expansion on Piedmont Village Tradition Projectile Point Technology

Introduction
The goal of this research is to quantitatively examine Late Woodland projectile point assemblages from two Piedmont villages in the Yadkin River Valley, North Carolina: Redtail (Yuhas 1996; 1997) and Porter (Odell 2018). We focus on the temporal trends and impacts of Mississippian Expansion, which we define as various aspects of Mississippian influence on the Piedmont Villages Tradition (PVT), such as changes in technology and other characteristics such as projectile point styles.

Methods
The Assemblage
Our dataset consists of projectile points recovered during pedestrian survey, shovel testing, and excavation at Redtail and Porter. We only used those which could be typed in our study: 75 from Redtail and 60 from Porter.

Projectile points were identified as; (4) Clarksville, (5) Caraway, and (6) Uwharrie. These results show support for three projectile point types: Clarksville, Caraway, and Uwharrie. In all of the scatterplots our types are actually statistically supported. This results are showing support for all three types at Redtail and Porter and are displaying variation between attributes within types of each site. We believe that these results can benefit future research that examines the technological differences and impacts on the cultural landscape. We think these results could be an important tool for understanding how different groups interact and use the landscape as a result of their cultural transmission.

Discussion
Our results support variation between the projectile point assemblages of Redtail and the projectile point assemblage at Porter. All three point types are present, but the differences are statistically significant. We also found that the Mississippian influence on the PVT was more pronounced at Porter, which is consistent with previous research (Yuhas 1996; 1997). We believe that further research is needed to understand the cultural and environmental factors that influenced these trends.

Conclusions
These results are showing support for all three types at Redtail and Porter and are displaying variation between attributes within types of each site. We believe that these results can benefit future research that examines the technological differences and impacts on the cultural landscape. We think these results could be an important tool for understanding how different groups interact and use the landscape as a result of their cultural transmission. Understanding these differences and similarities can help us better understand the evolution of the PVT and its relationship with the Mississippian culture area.

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