An Analysis of Housefloor Dimensions in the Late Woodland Upper Yadkin River Valley

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Introduction
The dimensions of housefloors are critical to the understanding of domestic architecture, hearth size, and community organization in the Late Woodland Upper Yadkin River Valley (UYRV). Given that the dimensions of housefloors have not been measured in the UYRV, it is unknown whether the housefloors were larger than contemporaneous sites in the Piedmont. This study aims to address this gap.

Background
In the late Woodland period (400 BCE to 1600 CE), the piedmont region was inhabited by various indigenous communities, including the PVT (Piedmont Village Tradition). The Redtail site (31Yd173), a fourteenth-century settlement, is located in the upper Yadkin River Valley (UYRV). This site is significant because it provides evidence of the domestic architecture and activities of the PVT people.

Methods
Forbush Creek was chosen as it is the closest site to the Redtail site. The study of housefloor dimensions is important because it can reveal information about household size, domestic activities, and social organization. In this study, we used a systematic and random sample of 84 excavated units to measure the dimensions of the housefloors.

Results
The results of the study show that the housefloors in the Redtail site are larger than contemporaneous sites in the Piedmont. The housefloor area, activity area, and living surface are all larger than previously measured in other sites. This suggests that the PVT people had larger households and more complex domestic activities than previously thought.

Discussion
The findings of this study indicate that the PVT people had larger households and more complex domestic activities than previously thought. This is important because it provides evidence of the social organization and cultural dynamics of the PVT people in the late Woodland period.

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References

Figure 1: Redtail site location and other 800-1600 CE sites in the Upper Yadkin River Valley.