Piedmont Village Tradition Lithic Economy along the Mississippian Border

Introduction
This research examines relationships between Piedmont Village Tradition (PVT) lithic material and non-Mississippian societies along the Mississippian Border (Figure 1). Our analysis is based on six upper Yadkin River Valley sites: 31Yd173, 31Yd175, 31Yd179, 31Sr50, 31Sr55, and 31Wk26. These sites are located within the Mississippian world, placing them in an important position to better understand the complexity of this oft-neglected region and to use these behaviors to explore potential related social and political interactions. These societies lived on the edge of the Mississippian world, suggesting that they had similar access to unworked material. Her model proposes that differences in rhyolite proportions were a result of these variations in access to rhyolite sources.

Methods
1. If a down-the-line exchange system existed, there should be a gradual decrease in rhyolite proportions as a function of greater distances away from the presumed gateway area. Figure 2 shows a decrease in these measures. Over time instead of how rhyolite was acquired and distributed at any one time. Furthermore, the results from 31Yd175 do not support hypotheses 4, 5, and 6, which relate to the gateway model. There appears to be a significant correlation between the location of the gateway and the distribution of rhyolite.

Results
Hypothesis 2
Figure 3 shows the proportional values of rhyolite across 15 upper great bend sites and the proportional values of rhyolite at the gateway location. These graphs show that 31Wk26 has a higher proportion of rhyolite, which suggests that this site may have been a gateway community. In contrast, 31Yd173 and 31Yd175 have lower proportions of rhyolite, which suggests that these sites may have been downstream of the gateway community.

Discussion
This research examines how Piedmont Village Tradition communities in the upper Yadkin River Valley acquired, passed, and distributed rhyolite material and if these behaviors are indicative of the gateway model. In this case, our data do not support the gateway model, but they do support our findings from previous research. More specifically, our data suggest that 31Wk26 was a gateway community, which has been supported by previous research. This supports our findings that the gateway model can be used to better understand the complexity of this region.

Acknowledgments
Eric E. Jones, Maya Krause, and Caroline Watson were incredibly educational and helpful to this work.

References
See the reference list for the complete list of references.

Figure 1: The location of the upper great bend sites within the Mississippian world. The orange circle represents the study area. The orange arrow indicates the proposed gateway community. The green arrow indicates the proposed direct acquisition community. The red arrow indicates the proposed down-the-line exchange community.

Figure 2: The location of the lithic materials examined within the study area. The orange circle represents the upper great bend area. The orange arrow indicates the proposed gateway community. The green arrow indicates the proposed direct acquisition community. The red arrow indicates the proposed down-the-line exchange community.

Figure 3: The proportional values of rhyolite across 15 upper great bend sites and the proportional values of rhyolite at the gateway location. These graphs show that 31Wk26 has a higher proportion of rhyolite, which suggests that this site may have been a gateway community. In contrast, 31Yd173 and 31Yd175 have lower proportions of rhyolite, which suggests that these sites may have been downstream of the gateway community.

Figure 4: The location of the lithic materials examined within the study area. The orange circle represents the upper great bend area. The orange arrow indicates the proposed gateway community. The green arrow indicates the proposed direct acquisition community. The red arrow indicates the proposed down-the-line exchange community.

Figure 5: The proportional values of rhyolite across 15 upper great bend sites and the proportional values of rhyolite at the gateway location. These graphs show that 31Wk26 has a higher proportion of rhyolite, which suggests that this site may have been a gateway community. In contrast, 31Yd173 and 31Yd175 have lower proportions of rhyolite, which suggests that these sites may have been downstream of the gateway community.