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## **A SURVEY OF YANKEETOWN PHASE SITES IN SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA**

From May through July of 1986, a reconnaissance survey of Yankeetown phase sites was conducted in southwestern Indiana. The eight week survey was the core of a multiphase study of Yankeetown phase settlement patterns in the lower Ohio and Wabash river valleys. Phase I of the study involved an extensive examination of site records, collector interviews, ceramic collections, and published and unpublished survey and excavation reports. The research project was funded by a 1985 Survey and Planning Grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.

The Yankeetown phase was a discrete prehistoric cultural manifestation characterized archaeologically by distinctive incised, bar-stamped, filleted, plain, and cordmarked grog-tempered ceramics. Other diagnostic elements include pottery discs, human female effigy figurines, triangular points, stone discoidals, welts, and bone awls and needles. Subsistence was based primarily on the hunting of deer, the gathering of wild plant foods, and, to a lesser extent, maize agriculture. Several tenth and eleventh century radiocarbon determinations from Yankeetown sites in the study area and two recently acquired dates of A.D. 750±110 (Beta-17320) and A.D. 790±120 (Beta-17321) from the Yankeetown type site place the Yankeetown phase in the time interval between A.D. 700 and A.D. 1100.

The primary objective of the field survey (Phase II) was the identification of the size of individual Yankeetown phase components through the measurement of the surface distribution of cultural material. In most cases, site survey consisted of visual inspection of ground surfaces using pedestrian traverses with an average interval of 15 feet. Artifacts and other cultural material were marked with colored survey flags, and the size of the flagged Yankeetown surface scatter was measured.

At the completion of Phases I and II a total of 56 Yankeetown phase components had been identified in southwestern Indiana. Information on the size ranges and environmental relationships of these sites has suggested that Yankeetown populations preferred to occupy alluvial floodplains and terraces. Settlements were situated on the most fertile and easily tilled silt loams of the region with elevations over 350 feet. Site types included large sedentary villages (1.0-2.0 ha) located along main river channels, hamlets (.25-1.0 ha) situated away from the main rivers near backwater swamps and sloughs, and small, special purpose, extractive camps (under .25 ha) found in floodplain, terrace, and upland environmental zones of the region.

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