

GLOSSARY

Anthropology

The scientific study of human cultures and physical traits; includes ethnology, linguistics, archaeology, biological anthropology, and other sub-disciplines.

Archaeology

The scientific study of past cultures through their material remains. Archaeology seeks to describe and explain the nature and evolution of cultural systems.

Artifact

Any product of human cultural activity; more specifically, any tools, artwork, or objects found in an archaeological context.

Atlatl

An Aztec term for spear-thrower; a wooden device with a handle at one end and at the other a hook or spear that fits into a concavity at one end of the spear shaft. Atlatls were replaced circa 1500 B.P. by the bow and arrow.

Biface

Any stone artifact worked on both obverse and reverse faces.

B.P.

Before Present, by convention, before A.D. 1950.

Burial

Human remains disposed of by interment. Burials may be simple (containing the remains of one person) or complex (two or more individuals), primary (including the remains as originally interred) or secondary (where a reinterment follows a temporary disposal elsewhere).

Cairn

A pile of rocks, milling stones, or other materials. Sometimes these are used to cover a burial to protect valuables.



Clovis point

A concave-base projectile point 4-12 cm long, with characteristic bifacial fluting extending approximately half the length of the artifact; most are around 12,000 to 11,000 years old.



Cremation

Disposal of the dead by burning; a feature consisting of ash and small pieces of burned human bones and teeth.

Data Recovery

The systematic removal of the scientific, prehistoric, historic, and archaeological data that provide an historic property with its research value.

Datum point

A reference point on an archaeological site from which measurements are taken and to which all finds are related by way of horizontal and vertical mapping.

Debitage

Stone debris produced during flaked-stone tool manufacture.

Desert pavement

A layer of cobbles and pebbles, often darkly varnished, that forms on the ground surface in some desert areas, concealing the underlying soil.

**Effect**

Any change or damage to a historic property including any activity which could alter the setting or environment surrounding a historic property, if that setting might be a factor.

Environmental Assessment (EA)

The document used under NEPA to determine if an EIR is needed.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

A detailed statement setting forth the environmental effects of a project and the considerations of how these impacts will be lessened according to state guidelines, as described in CEQA.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

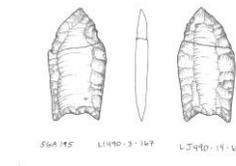
An environmental impact report that contains a detailed statement describing the environmental effects of a project and the considerations of how these impacts will be lessened according to federal guidelines, as stated in NEPA.

Feature

A large, complex artifact or part of a site such as a hearth, cairn, housepit, rock alignment, or activity area.

Folsom point

A concave-base projectile point, 2-7 cm long with broad flutes extending nearly the full length on both faces. Folsom points appear to be 10,000-11,000 years old.

**Hammerstone**

Usually hard, tough, fist-sized rock used as a hammer to work chert and other stone materials or to break bones, shells, or other materials. They tend to be shaped through use and show battered edges.

Historic

The historic period refers to human activities associated with the advent of written records.

Historic archaeology

The study of the material remains of cultures with a written record.

Holocene

The post-Pleistocene geologic epoch characterized by fluctuating but generally moderate climates and modern fauna assemblages; from about 11,000 B.P. to the present.

In situ

(Latin) In place, applied to archaeological remains found in their original, undisturbed location or position.

Integrity

The authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic or prehistoric period. If a property retains the physical characteristics it possessed in the past, it has the capacity to convey association with historical patterns or persons, architectural or engineering design and technology, or information about a culture or people.

Integrity is a quality that applies to resources in specific ways: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. For sites significant for their information potential, integrity requires the presence of those parts of the property that contain important data which survive in a condition capable of yielding such information.

An archaeological site important for its information potential may have some disturbance to its deposits yet still retain the significant data and spatial relationships or contextual associations between data to address the important research questions.

- location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the prehistoric event occurred;
- setting is the physical environment;
- design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a site;
- materials are the physical artifacts or elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern to form the site;
- workmanship is the physical evidence of the tools or crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period of history or prehistory;
- feeling is a site's expression of the historic period of time represented;
- association is the direct link between an important historic period or person and a historic property (site).

Knapping

Manufacturing of stone tools through the controlled removal of stone flakes.

Mano

A hand-held stone or roller primarily used for grinding corn, grains, or other plant materials on a metate.

Metate

A stone block with a shallow concave surface, mainly used with a mano for grinding corn, grains or other plant materials.

**Midden**

A deposit marking a former habitation site and containing such materials as discarded artifacts, bone and shell, food refuse, charcoal, ash, rock, human remains, structural remains.

National Register of Historic Places

A published list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of national, state and local significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture that is expanded and maintained by the Keeper of the National Register in the Department of Interior.

Percussion flaking

Precise stone tool manufacturing with the blows struck by a stone, antler, or bone hammer. Often used during the initial stages of stone tool production.

Petroglyph

A design or motif pecked or scratched into a rock surface; usually unpainted rock art.

Pictograph

A design or motif painted on a rock surface; painted rock art.

**Pressure flaking**

The manufacturing of stone tools by the removal of stone flakes with pressure applied with a bone or metal knapping tool. Usually, the final stage in shaping a projectile point and other tools.

**Retouch**

Resharpener a stone tool by removing small flakes from the working edge.

Rock alignments

A figure, or design, made by arranging cobbles and boulders on top of the ground surface.

Sherd

A broken piece of pottery; a potsherd.

**Site**

The location of past cultural activity; a defined space with mainly continuous archaeological evidence.

Sterile

Devoid of any archaeological evidence; non-cultural; no evidence of past human use.

Stone Circle

Rocks and boulders placed in a circular or oval design on top of the ground surface. Such features may have been used for supporting Native American tipis or other structures, and also for ceremonial purposes. Stone circle diameters can range from 1 meter to over 20 meters.

Traditional Cultural Property (TCP)

A geographic area or historic resource that embodies important cultural values. IT is a place associated with cultural practices or beliefs that are rooted in the history of a living community. This place is important in maintaining the cultural identity of the community. Examples include cemeteries, sacred places, gathering sites, and places of tradition.

Trails

Linear ground features developed from human foot traffic and average 25 cm wide.

UTM

Universal Transverse Mercator, a set of metric coordinates, easting and northing, which indicate a unique location on a grid. The United States Geological Survey maps (topos) use UTM.

References

Reprints: "Guardians of the Past," by Brendan Doherty.