

To the Point

St. Charles and Hardin

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This is a modified version of the discussion in Sandstrom and Ray (2004:24, 50); drawings prepared by Del Thompson.

St. Charles (Plevna)

Description: Commonly referred to as Dovetail points, this is a large point with narrow, deep corner notches. The base is convex and always ground. A small dimple or notch may occur in the middle of the convex base. Resharpended points may exhibit a beveled blade.

Although most collectors are familiar with the classic form of St. Charles points, resharpening and other modifications require close study of the suite of attributes used to define this type. The point shown in Figure 1 has many

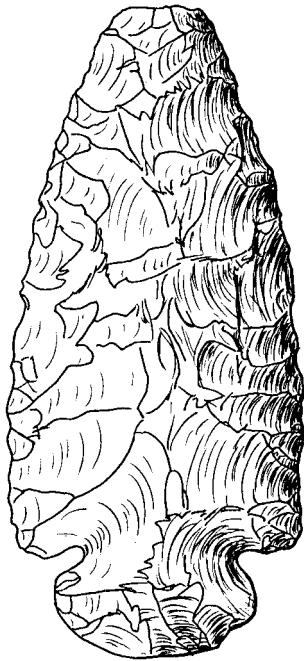


Figure 1. St. Charles point found in Sac River gravel below 23CE238 and 23CE239.

Comments: Referred to as Plevna in the southeast (e.g., Cambron and Hulse 1975:106), St. Charles or St. Charles-like points have been found geographically from the southern Great Lakes, to west Virginia and western North Carolina, down to central Florida, and as far west as northern Mississippi. St. Charles points were found in association with Thebes points at the Twin Ditch site. Thebes-like

of the classic attributes, whereas the points shown in Figure 2 illustrate the range of variation in stem and blade forms. Some variation can be attributed simply to resharpening.

Age: This is another well-crafted, relatively early Early Archaic point type, often placed in the so-called Thebes Cluster. St. Charles points were associated with a horizon dated ca. 9400–9100 B.P. (7450–7150 B.C.) at the Twin Ditch site in western Illinois (Morrow 1996:347).

Distribution: Generally uncommon to rare; more common in eastern Missouri and areas east of the Mississippi River; extremely rare in western Missouri.



Figure 2. St. Charles points from the Twin Ditch site. Photo courtesy of Julie Morrow.

points classified as Charleston Corner Notched were found at the St. Albans site in West Virginia in deposits dating to around 7900 B.C. (Broyles 1971:56-57).

Hardin

Description: This medium-to-large point exhibits an expanding stem and typically, a straight base. Stem margins are ground. The blade is usually moderately thick, exhibits short barbs, and may be beveled due to unifacial resharpening. Resharpended blades are also commonly serrated. A characteristic V-shaped notch is usually present at the juncture of the stem and blade.

Age: According to O'Brien and Wood (1998:128), Hardin points were probably manufactured sometime between 9750–8950 B.P. (7800–7000 B.C.). However, Hardin points have never been recovered from well-dated contexts with good integrity.

Distribution: As for St. Charles points, Hardin points are uncommon to rare and also more

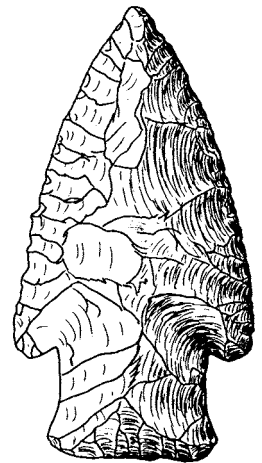


Figure 3. Hardin point from 23WB405.

common along the Mississippi River (including the extreme lower Missouri River) and rare in western Missouri. They are most concentrated in the northeast part of Missouri.

Comments: This type is often referred to as Hardin Barbed. Morphological similarities to Scottsbluff have been recognized (e.g., Luchterhand 1970:27) and Munson (1967:18) has suggested that Hardin was an eastern derivation of Scottsbluff.

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Figure 4. Hardin points from the Bass site, Grant County, Wisconsin, from the Gary Schneider Collection. Photo courtesy of Jeff Behm.



Figure 5. Hardin points from the Bass site, Grant County, Wisconsin. Photo courtesy of Jeff Behm.