

Description of Lithic Artifacts Donated to the Oak Harbor Public Library, Local History and Museum Center, Northwest Ohio

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Abstract

This report describes a collection of lithic artifacts recovered from Northwestern Ohio which were donated to the Oak Harbor Public Library. Here we provide artifact types, chert types, basic measurements, and images. We also identify the time periods these artifacts potentially represent, which spans the entire Holocene, and the chert types these artifacts are produced from, which represent both local and non-local toolstones.

In 2022 Mr. John Sutter donated a collection of 64 lithic artifacts to the Oak Harbor Public Library, Local History and Museum Center. Sutter's father, Peter, collected the specimens in the 1950s. While exact artifact proveniences are unknown, all the specimens were reportedly collected within a three-mile radius of Limestone, Ohio in Benton Township, Ottawa County. In October 2022, Mrs. Kathy Huffman contacted one of us (M.I.E.) to help identify and describe the artifacts. This brief report represents those modest efforts. By publishing this report, we hope to achieve two goals. First, we provide basic data that might be used by others in future meta-analyses. Second, we alert the broader archaeological community, professionals and avocationalists alike, to the existence and location of the artifacts such that they can potentially be further described or analyzed.

We first identified the lithic artifact type (e.g., projectile point, ground stone axe, gorget, etc.). If the specimen was a projectile point, we referred to Justice (1987) to identify it further, acknowledging previously described potential problems with using decades-old references (e.g., see discussion in Maguire et al. 2018). If the specimen was made from flaked crypto-crystalline stone, we referred to DeRegnaucourt and Georgiady (1998) to make a provisional macroscopic identification (quantitative and geochemical analyses are needed for more definitive determinations of chert type, see discussion in Boulanger et al. 2015; Lewis et al. 2022a). We then recorded each specimen's mass in grams (g), and length, width, and thickness in millimeters (mm). Both width and thickness were recorded at 50% of length. Finally, we also provided brief observational notes on each specimen. Appendix A (below) provides all the data. Appendix B provides an image of each specimen.

In sum, the 64 donated lithic artifacts consist of 59 knapped specimens, including projectile points, drills, bifaces, and flakes, three ground stone axes, and two gorgets. The

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collection represents a wide temporal span across the entire Holocene, ranging from the Early Archaic (ca. 9,000-7,000 years ago) to the Late Precontact period (ca. A.D. 1200-1600) (Appendix A). The variety of chert types evident in the collection suggests both local and non-local stone acquisition, either through direct procurement or trade networks (Table 1) (e.g., Lewis et al. 2022b). Overall, these data are consistent with the hypothesis that Northwest Ohio was continuously occupied throughout the Holocene, and that – relative to its archaeological richness – Lake Erie’s western drainage basin is a vastly understudied region in need of more research attention (e.g., Blatt et al. 2011; Eren et al. 2016, 2022; Nolan and Redmond 2015; Perrone et al. 2020; Redmond 2012; Schurr and Redmond 1991; Stothers and Abel 1993; Stothers et al. 1994).

Table 1. The chert types of 56 specimens.

Chert Type	Number of Specimens	General Location of Chert Outcrop (according to DeRegnaucourt and Georgiady (1998))
Upper Mercer	13	Central Ohio
Bloomville	11	Northwest Ohio
Flint Ridge	10	Central Ohio
Delaware	6	Central Ohio
Pipe Creek	6	North-Central Ohio
Cedarville-Guelph	5	West-Central Ohio
Plum Run	2	Eastern Ohio
Harrodsburg	1	Indiana
Attica	1	Indiana
Four-Mile Creek	1	Southwest Ohio

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APPENDIX A

Specimen #1

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Kirk Corner Notched	Early Archaic	Pipe Creek	4	33.62	17.22	6.96

Notes: No visible breaks.

Specimen #2

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Large Side Notched	Early Archaic	Upper Mercer	25	81.64	29.03	9.80

Notes: Part of the base stem has broken off and been glued back on. Several step fractures present. A notch is present near the tip, perhaps caused by a post-depositional event (e.g., trampling, plowing, etc.).

Specimen #3

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Hardin Barbed	Early Archaic	Delaware	16	59.79	29.43	9.83

Notes: Both barbs have been snapped off. The basal edge and stem edges are ground. The blade is bi-beveled.

Specimen #4

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Early Woodland Stemmed	Early Woodland	Upper Mercer	31	94.35	32.32	8.91

Notes: No visible breaks.

Specimen #5

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Lowe	Middle Woodland	Harrodsburg	8	50.57	25.35	6.14

Notes: A few small snaps present. “Retouched” portion on the blade lacking patina may be post-depositional damage.

Specimen #6

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Late Woodland/ Mississippian Triangular	Late Woodland	Bloomville	2	30.7	16.22	3.64

Notes: No visible breaks.

Specimen #7

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Lowe	Middle Woodland	Bloomville	7	38.64	21.70	7.60

Notes: One blade edge is ground smooth. The specimen is highly asymmetrical in profile-view. A step-fracture “stack” is present on one face.

Specimen #8

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	Flint Ridge	72	108.74	54.04	10.38

Notes: This biface exhibits a notch near one end; it is currently unclear as to whether this specimen is some sort of hafted knife (hence the notch) or an unfinished biface. A small bit of cortex is present on one face.

Specimen #9

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	Bloomville	19	49.23	35.11	11.18

Notes: This biface is missing on its proximal end. On one face there is a prominent step fracture near the tip and on the other face a large inclusion.

Specimen #10

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	Bloomville	10	46.54	25.38	7.89

Notes: This specimen appears to be an unfinished biface. There is a prominent “flute” on one face (e.g., Norris et al. 2019) and overface flakes on the opposite face (e.g., Smallwood 2010). On the “fluted” face there is a series of step fractures on the left distal edge.

Specimen #11

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Matanzas	Late Archaic	Bloomville	12	48.14	25.07	9.86

Notes: This specimen exhibits a small break on its base.

Specimen #12

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	Delaware	7	34.16	25.65	6.51

Notes: This small specimen appears to be an unfinished biface, with either cortex or an inclusion present on its base.

Specimen #13

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Late Woodland/ Mississippian Triangular	Late Woodland	Delaware	7	42.41	22.07	10.02

Notes: No visible breaks.

Specimen #14

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	Delaware	4	32.59	17.67	6.40

Notes: This small specimen appears to be an unfinished biface; its size perhaps suggests it was going to be turned into a small triangular point.

Specimen #15

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	Cedarville-Guelph	5	41.89	21.62	4.39

Notes: This specimen appears to be an unfinished biface. Its profile view is convex-concave, due either to a large flake removal, or the shape of the original blank. A large step fracture is present in the proximal half of the specimen.

Specimen #16

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	n/a	228	97.44	43.82	30.96

Notes: This is a ground stone axe or adze head.

Specimen #17

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	Bloomville	5	35.89	22.26	7.39

Notes: This is a flake that coincidentally has the plan-view form of a point.

Specimen #18

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Late Woodland/ Mississippian Triangular	Late Woodland	Delaware	3	31.18	16.65	7.22

Notes: There are numerous step fractures on each face of this specimen.

Specimen #19

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Unnotched Pentagonal	Late Woodland	Attica	5	32.27	22.64	6.91

Notes: No visible breaks.

Specimen #20

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	n/a	521	120.96	54.06	43.72

Notes: This is a ground stone axe or adze head.

Specimen #21

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	n/a	188	89.68	46.00	22.20

Notes: This is a ground stone axe or adze head.

Specimen #22

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Brewerton Corner Notched	Late Archaic	Bloomville	4	30.58	24.77	5.85

Notes: No visible breaks. The basal edge is ground.

Specimen #23

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Kirk Corner Notched	Early Archaic	Unclear	4	40.76	22.04	5.26

Notes: This specimen exhibits a small break on part of the base.

Specimen #24

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Table Rock	Late Archaic	Cedarville-Guelph	6	37.44	23.55	7.64

Notes: This specimen exhibits some small breaks on the base.

Specimen #25

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Kirk Corner Notched	Early Archaic	Upper Mercer	5	40.00	21.58	5.76

Notes: No visible breaks. The basal edge is squared, likely the original morphology of the blank.

Specimen #26

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Scallorn	Late Woodland	Upper Mercer	1	18.72	16.36	5.32

Notes: There is a small snap on the base.

Specimen #27

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
LeCroy	Early Archaic	Upper Mercer	4	29.98	22.63	6.28

Notes: This specimen exhibits a small snap at its tip, and evidence of heat damage (e.g., pot-lidding).

Specimen #28

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Merom	Late Archaic	Bloomville	3	37.37	15.50	5.75

Notes: This specimen exhibits a notch in one blade edge.

Specimen #29

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Thebes	Early Archaic	Delaware	11	48.57	27.48	9.05

Notes: This specimen exhibits a small tip snap and a ground basal edge.

Specimen #30

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Scallorn	Late Woodland	Flint Ridge	1	22.76	17.28	6.2

Notes: No visible breaks. There are step fractures on the basal edge.

Specimen #31

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Lowe	Middle Woodland	Flint Ridge	8	42.06	22.40	8.02

Notes: This specimen may have been trampled or rolled, there is lots of edge crushing and a fresh break.

Specimen #32

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Brewerton Corner Notched	Late Archaic	Flint Ridge	11	53.07	28.78	6.99

Notes: There are two small snaps on the base. The notch near the tip is likely from an “edge-bite” removal.

Specimen #33

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Kirk Corner Notched	Early Archaic	Bloomville	12	67.02	24.35	6.79

Notes: Each lateral section of the base has been snapped off. The basal edge is ground.

Specimen #34

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Early Woodland Stem	Early Woodland	Flint Ridge	23	77.14	29.38	8.32

Notes: No visible breaks.

Specimen #35

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Early Woodland Stem	Early Woodland	Upper Mercer	8	44.73	25.08	7.41

Notes: No visible breaks.

Specimen #36

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Brewerton Corner Notched	Late Archaic	Upper Mercer	12	49.61	31.48	8.85

Notes: No visible breaks. The basal edge is ground.

Specimen #37

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Early Woodland Stem	Early Woodland	Flint Ridge	2	31.54	16.79	5.06

Notes: No visible breaks; there is an inclusion on the base.

Specimen #38

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Matanzas	Late Archaic	Upper Mercer	3	32.83	20.71	7.32

Notes: There is a small snap on the base.

Specimen #39

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	Four Mile Creek	46	86.11	48.95	8.08

Notes: This biface could be a knife, or an early stage preform. Cortex is present on one end.

Specimen #40

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	Upper Mercer	39	90.69	41.51	8.53

Notes: This biface could be a knife, or an early stage preform. Cortex is present on one end. The original stone surface is present in the form of a squared edge on the base. Notching and snaps near the tip could be due to post-depositional events.

Specimen #41

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Eva	Middle Archaic	Flint Ridge	9	45.80	25.94	6.88

Notes: This specimen exhibits a small snap on the base, possible heat damage, and a possible natural cleavage.

Specimen #42

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Dickson	Late Archaic/Early Woodland/Middle Woodland	Cedarville-Guelph	11	51.20	24.67	9.67

Notes: The base may be snapped, or it may be naturally squared from the original stone.

Specimen #43

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Hardin Barbed	Early Archaic	Flint Ridge	10	45.77	27.08	7.23

Notes: No visible breaks. The specimen is bi-beveled.

Specimen #44

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Jacks Reef	Middle Woodland/Late Woodland	Flint Ridge	3	28.64	22.61	6.43

Notes: A very small break is present on the base; otherwise appears to be fully intact.

Specimen #45

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Kirk Corner Notched	Early Archaic	Upper Mercer	3	31.30	25.04	6.59

Notes: The base exhibits two snaps. There is a prominent stack on one face.

Specimen #46

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Merom	Late Archaic	Pipe Creek	2	26.64	17.91	6.82

Notes: There is a notch in the blade that may be from post-depositional processes.

Specimen #47

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Brewerton Corner Notched	Late Archaic	Plum Run	4	34.93	20.05	6.83

Notes: The base on this specimen exhibits either cortex or an inclusion.

Specimen #48

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Scallorn	Late Woodland	Pipe Creek	2	26.21	14.03	5.08

Notes: Other than some evidence of heat damage (i.e., pot-lidding), this specimen exhibits no visible breaks.

Specimen #49

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Lowe	Middle Woodland	Upper Mercer	9	52.66	26.60	6.47

Notes: The base exhibits a small snap.

Specimen #50

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Lowe	Middle Woodland	Unclear	6	39.12	22.56	8.15

Notes: The base exhibits an unusual notch.

Specimen #51

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	Pipe Creek	6	43.17	22.47	5.42

Notes: This specimen may have experienced post-depositional damage, and is too damaged to make a type cluster suggestion.

Specimen #52

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Late Woodland/ Mississippian Triangular	Late Woodland	Cedarville-Guelph	<1	31.16	11.82	3.66

Notes: No visible breaks.

Specimen #53

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Late Woodland/ Mississippian Triangular	Late Woodland	Unclear	2	25.47	15.30	4.52

Notes: This specimen might possess an impact fracture at its tip.

Specimen #54

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Late Woodland/ Mississippian Triangular	Late Woodland	Bloomville	<1	31.16	11.63	3.57

Notes: No visible breaks.

Specimen #55

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Late Woodland/ Mississippian Triangular	Late Woodland	Bloomville	<1	26.38	13.04	2.59

Notes: No visible breaks.

Specimen #56

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Late Woodland/ Mississippian Triangular	Late Woodland	Upper Mercer	<1	23.36	13.37	4.78

Notes: There is a small snap on the base.

Specimen #57

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Genesee	Late Archaic	Pipe Creek	2	24.49	18.49	5.91

Notes: Although we suspect this is Genesee, the strange blade form may be obscuring the important diagnostic criteria. This specimen appears to have been transformed into a drill or spur (needle). Cortex is present on the base.

Specimen #58

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Brewerton Corner Notched	Late Archaic	Pipe Creek	2	20.25	18.99	6.32

Notes: The tip is broken from impact or heat damage.

Specimen #59

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	Plum Run	6	35.66	18.06	7.68

Notes: This specimen appears to be a drill. The tip is snapped, and the base is ground.

Specimen #60

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Meadowood	Early Woodland	Upper Mercer	6	38.53	24.09	6.59

Notes: This specimen appears to be a drill. There is a small snap at the tip.

Specimen #61

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	n/a	84	107.86	44.22	14.37

Notes: This specimen is a gorget.

Specimen #62

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	n/a	34	74.31	38.20	5.38

Notes: This specimen is a gorget. It is snapped in half.

Specimen #63

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	Flint Ridge	16	58.27	28.74	6.97

Notes: This specimen is broken and exhibits several notches; together these features suggest this specimen experienced post-depositional damage.

Specimen #64

Cluster	Time Period	Chert	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
n/a	n/a	Cedarville-Guelph	6	34.39	18.01	8.13

Notes: This biface is either broken or unfinished. No cluster determination could be made.

APPENDIX B



Specimen #2







Specimen #5



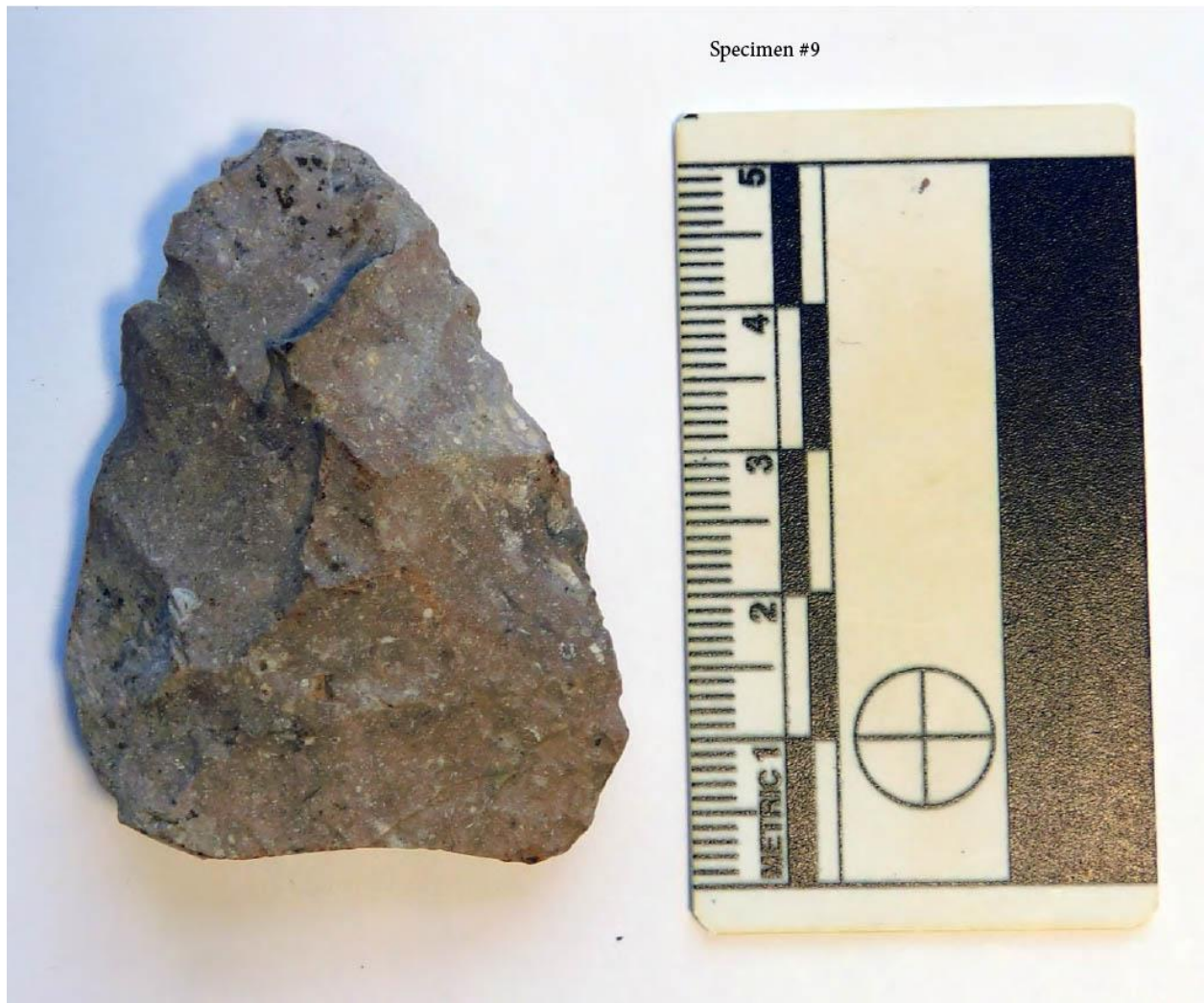
Specimen #6







Specimen #8

















Specimen #17



Specimen #18









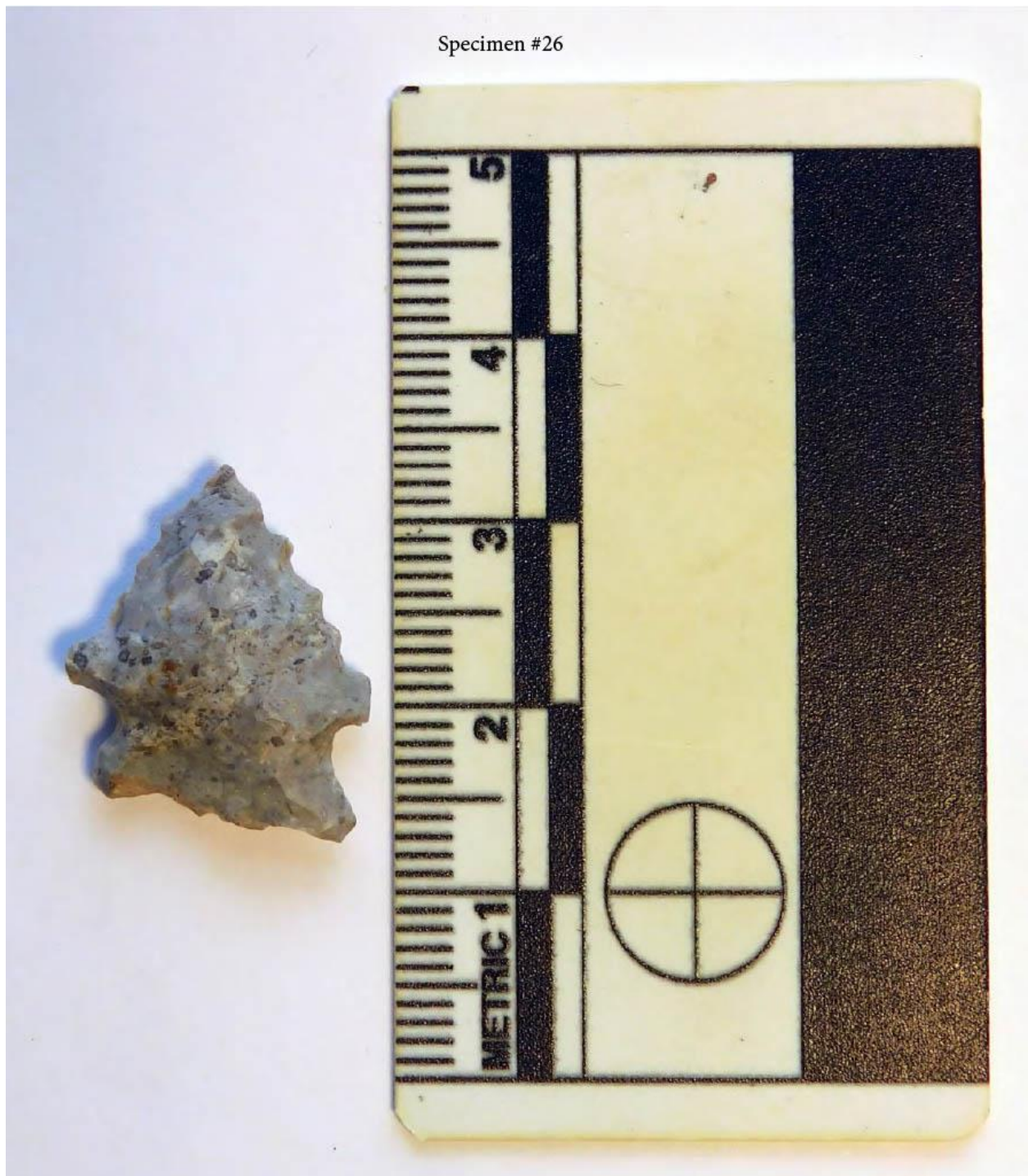
Specimen #22





















Specimen #32







Specimen #34

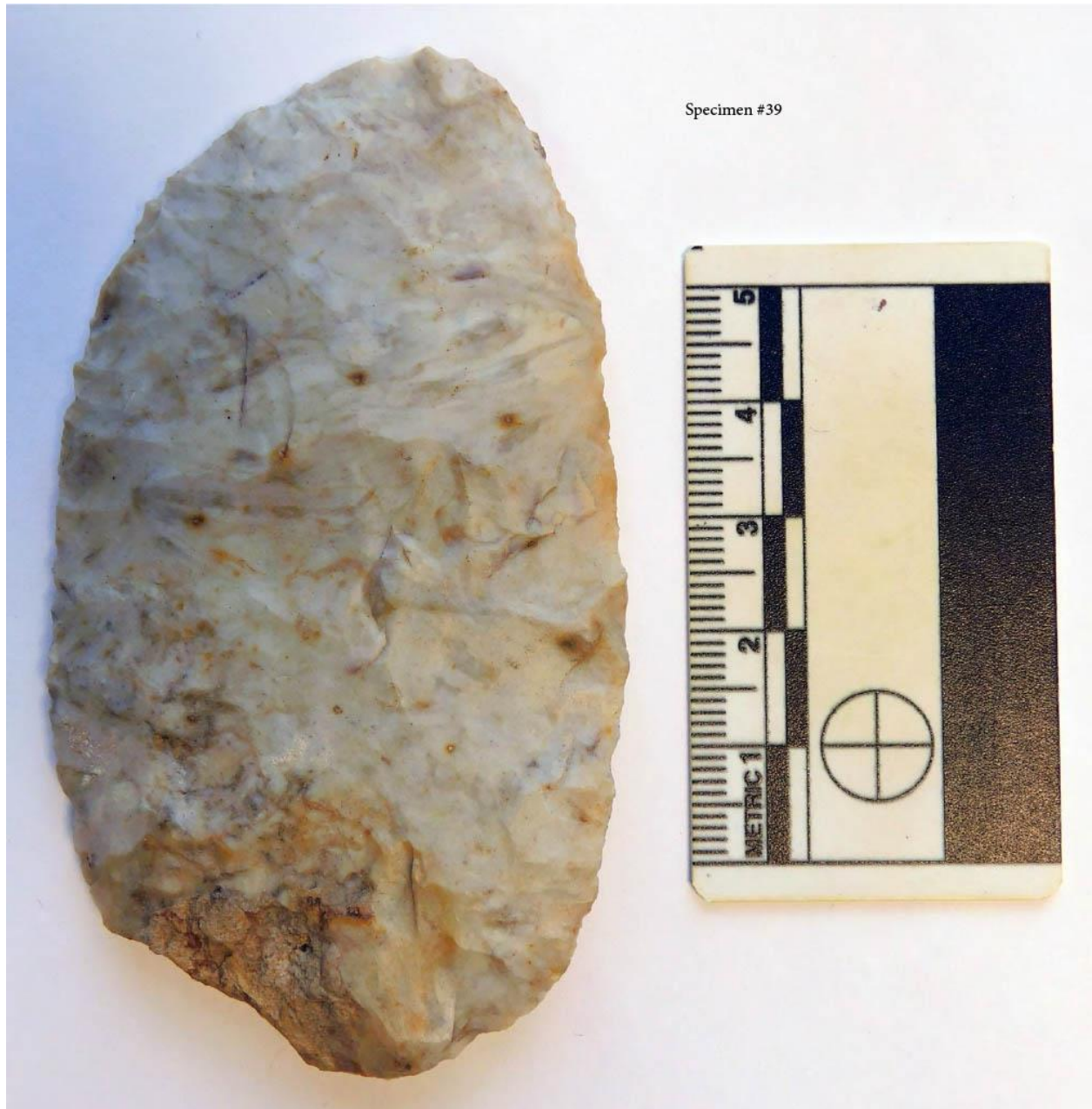




Specimen #37



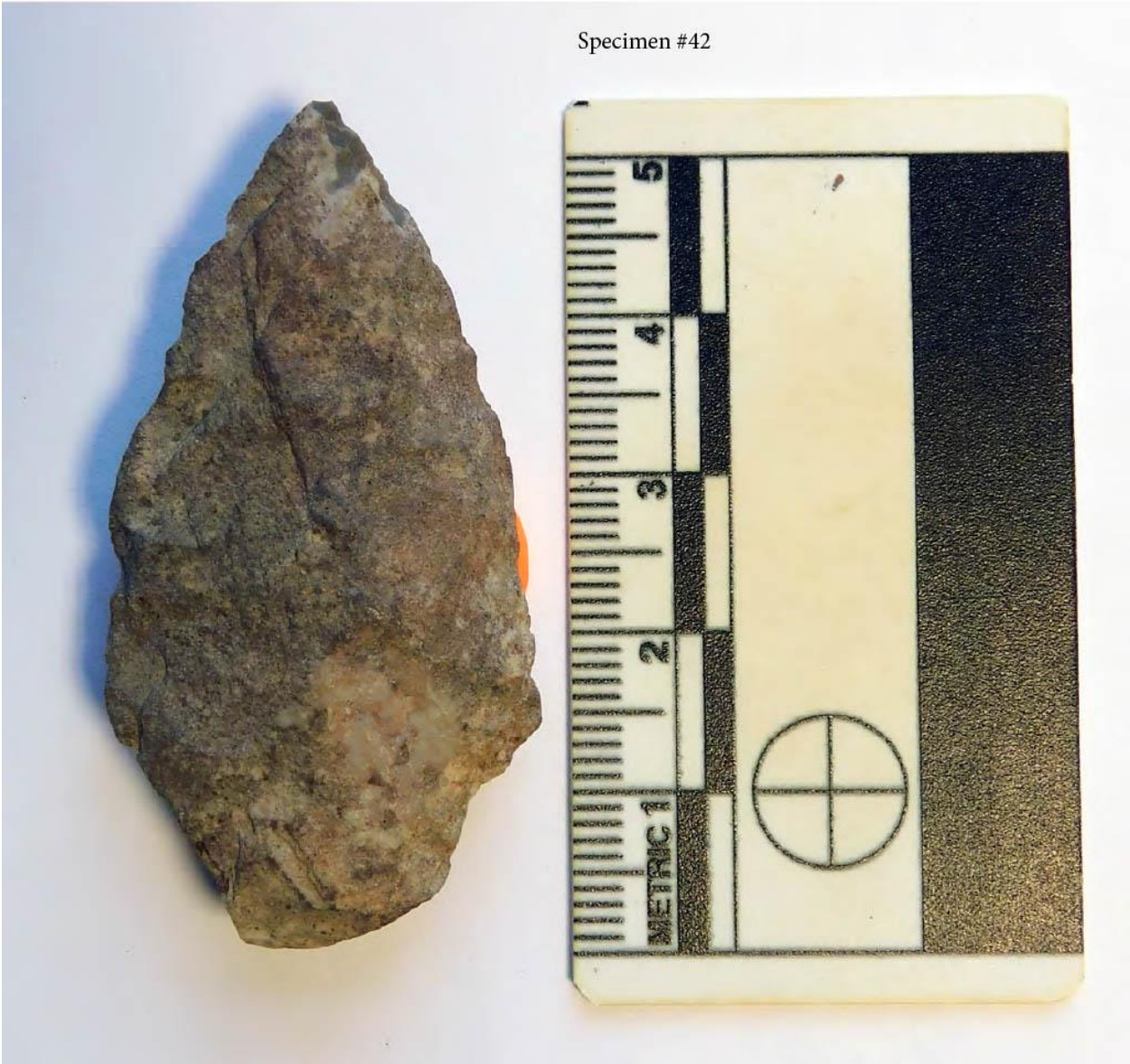








Specimen #42



Specimen #43





Specimen #45





Specimen #47

















Specimen #55



