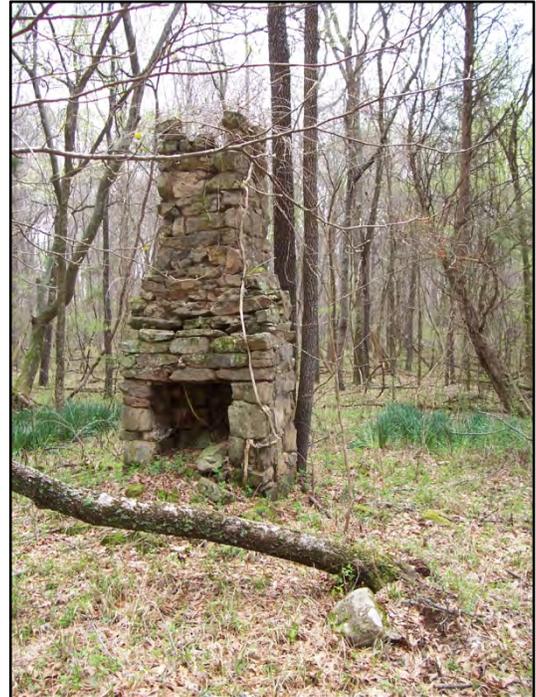


REDSTONE ARSENAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRAM

Redstone Arsenal is located in an area with a high density of prehistoric archaeological sites. Also, when the Army acquired the land in the early 1940's, around 550 families were living on the land in several small rural communities. When these people were displaced and their old plantations, small yeoman farms, tenant farms, share cropper houses, churches, and schools were dismantled, what remained were hundreds of what today are classified as historic archaeological sites.

The purpose of the Redstone Arsenal archaeology program is to locate all these sites and determine whether they meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). If they are considered eligible for listing on the NRHP, Redstone Arsenal manages the sites with the goal of preservation for future generations of researchers.



**Remains of a historic tenant house
on Redstone Arsenal**

Archaeological Sites: 959 to Date

PREHISTORIC

NRHP Eligible	214
Not Eligible	291

HISTORIC

NRHP Eligible	136
Not Eligible	159

BOTH PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC COMPONENTS

NRHP Eligible	63
Not Eligible	96

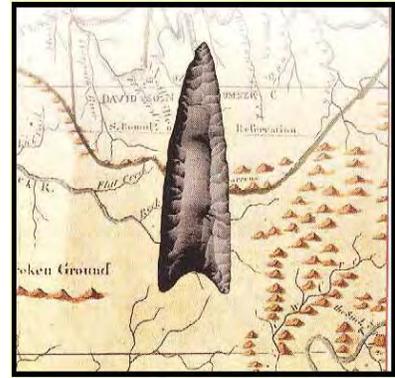


**Archaeologists excavate a prehistoric camp on
Redstone Arsenal to assess its National Register
eligibility**

Prehistoric Era

(ca. 11,300 B.C. – A.D. 1700)

The prehistoric sites on Redstone Arsenal date from the earliest time of human occupation in the area, the Paleoindian period (ca. 11,300 to 9000 B.C.) to the late prehistoric Mississippian period (A.D. 900-1700). The Redstone Paleoindian projectile point type was named after Redstone Arsenal where it was first identified.



**Redstone point type
specimen found on
Redstone Arsenal**

Historic Era

(ca. A.D. 1700 – A.D. 1941)

Historically, the area of north Alabama that is bounded by the Tennessee River was claimed by Spain, France, then England until the American Revolution. Native American tribes including the Chickasaw and Cherokee also claimed this land. However, with the organization of the Alabama Territory in 1817, Euro-American settlement increased. The area was included in the newly established State of Alabama in 1819. Throughout the nineteenth century, cotton was the primary vehicle of growth in north Alabama and the most profitable crop in the southern United States. The manpower required to operate this commerce was provided primarily by slaves. During the Civil War, Huntsville functioned as a supply depot, making it a prime target for the Union troops, with the railroad as the main objective. After the Civil War, agriculture in the South assumed a new form. Instead of huge plantations, small farmsteads dotted the landscape. By the end of the nineteenth century, textile mills began to make their mark across northern Alabama. Most of these mills were self-contained villages. In 1941, the Army announced that Huntsville had been chosen as the site for a new ordnance plant to support the mobilization leading up to World War II. The Army slowly purchased land throughout 1941 and 1942, and the installation eventually became known as Redstone Arsenal.



**Archaeologists conduct a large data recovery
excavation to clear a 1700-year-old village site
for improvements on installation infrastructure**

Ethnoarchaeology

As part of the archaeology program, Redstone Arsenal has undertaken an ethnoarchaeological study designed to gain a holistic understanding of the historic cultural footprint on the landscape. This multidisciplinary approach utilized the data collected from archaeological surveys, historic documents, and oral histories. The result has enabled a far deeper understanding of the significance of the historic archaeological sites than is provided by archaeological survey alone. Incorporation of the archival and ethnographic data with archaeological data from numerous sites can be used to construct not only the portrait of a specific site, but the cultural landscape for the entire community or region. Finally, the construction of site-type models from archaeological, ethnohistorical, and archival data allows sites to be grouped by type. Grouping sites by applying carefully constructed site-type models will allow the Cultural Resources Program to determine the historic archaeological sites of each type that are the most worthy of further archaeological testing (Phase II testing) and preservation.

Redstone Arsenal is working closely with the Alabama Historical Commission to apply the ethnoarchaeological data to an informed reevaluation study of the historic archaeological sites. It is hoped that this study will allow the Redstone Cultural Resource Program to focus its funding on preserving the sites on the installation with the most potential to yield valuable information, while simultaneously clearing other sites from further research requirements and costly testing. This will: (1) free restrictions on many buildable and mission essential areas on the installation; (2) eliminate the long response time for Phase II testing; and (3) be completed at a fraction of the cost required for numerous Phase II investigations.

Please be advised that archaeological sites on Redstone Arsenal, both prehistoric and historic, are protected properties. Collecting material without a permit, vandalism, or looting of these protected properties are felonies and are punishable by fines, imprisonment, and confiscation of property.