

traditionally divided into three major chronological periods: Paleo-Indian, Archaic, and Woodland, with the latter two periods being subdivided into Early, Middle, and Late periods as:

- Paleo-Indian before 13,000 BC– 8,000 BC
- Early Archaic 8,000 BC – 6,500 BC
- Middle Archaic 6,500 BC – 3,000 BC
- Late Archaic 3,000 BC – 1,200 BC
- Early Woodland 1,200 BC – AD 300
- Middle Woodland AD 300 – AD 1,000
- Late Woodland AD 1,000 – AD 1600

These chronological periods are defined by diagnostic material culture recovered from archaeological sites, and broad patterns of settlement, subsistence, technology, and socio-cultural organization that Virginia and the broader mid-Atlantic region research findings assert. Over the long course of central Virginia's Native American occupation, a series of broad developmental trends have been discerned through the analyses of archaeological remains that articulate and give interpretive meaning to this periodization. These broad trends include:

- On-going adaptive response to changing climatic and environmental conditions
- Generalized population growth over the long-term
- Increasing intensification of production
- Progressive exploitation of and settlement within riverine environments
- Increasingly sedentary lifestyles
- Growing organizational complexity
- The development of ceramic technology
- The adoption of horticulture

Individuals with a significant influence on the landscape of this period include the original European settlers of the Virginia Piedmont, as well as the immediate pre-University owners of the land that would incorporate the University of Virginia, including James Monroe and John M. Perry. Although very little is known about early development of the land that would become the University of Virginia under its first European tenants Abraham Lewis and George Nicholas, it is clear that the value of new Albemarle County lands for the cultivation of tobacco led to the establishment of a regional road system and the incorporation of the Virginia Piedmont into the eighteenth century tobacco economy. The first documented development of the land encompassing what is now the University of Virginia occurred during James Monroe's tenure when he established his 'lower plantation,' now Monroe Hill, an 800-acre parcel devoted to agriculture. John M. Perry, a future contractor to the University of Virginia, further developed Monroe Hill and continued to grow crops on the land through 1820. The eighteenth and nineteenth century development of the agricultural lands encompassing what is now the University of Virginia is largely due to the labor of enslaved African Americans.

C. BEFORE 1817, PRE-UNIVERSITY LANDSCAPE HISTORY

C1. Physical Setting

The University of Virginia is located in Albemarle County, a north central county located predominantly within the Piedmont physiographic province, but also containing a narrow portion of the Blue Ridge