

province where its northwest boundary abuts the eastern flank of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Both provinces extend in a northeast to southwest direction through the county. The physical setting of this land is the foundation the Academical Village is built upon and therefore underlies the landscape character that became the University.

The Piedmont physiographic province is defined by the fall line on the east and the eastern edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains on the west. The Blue Ridge physiographic province is defined by the Piedmont province on its east and the Valley and Ridge province on its west.

Because of the distinct differences within the Piedmont and Blue Ridge physiographic provinces, the topography of Albemarle County is varied. Within Albemarle County, the Blue Ridge physiographic province is characterized by broad mountains, steep slopes and narrow ridges, and rapidly flowing streams that combine to form rivers. The Piedmont physiographic province is characterized by low rolling hills and valleys that contain numerous small streams and several rivers including the Hardware, the Moorman's, the Rockfish, and the Rivanna rivers. Most of the watersheds within Albemarle County gather runoff into rivers that tend to flow east and southeast.<sup>1</sup>

## **C2. Paleo-Indian Period Land Use, prior to ca. 8,000 BC**

The earliest Native inhabitants of Virginia are referred to as Paleo-Indians. Paleo-Indians occupied Virginia during the end of the Pleistocene epoch, a period defined by glacial retreat, a moist and cold environment, with a predominant boreal forest. Paleo-Indians practiced a highly mobile, subsistence-based economy focused on the hunting of large mammals including deer, elk, bear and moose, and supplemented by small game hunting and generalized foraging. Throughout Virginia, Paleo-Indians utilized the landscape's natural resources, regularly visiting lithic quarries, and establishing lithic reduction stations, base camps near food and water, and outlying hunting sites.<sup>2</sup> Lithic artifacts of the Paleo-Indian period, in particular the characteristic Clovis or lanceolate projectile point, invariably are made of high quality cherts and jaspers and Paleo-Indian sites in Virginia tend to be located near natural sources of these cryptocrystalline rocks.<sup>3</sup> Only five Clovis points, all surface finds, have been recorded for all of Albemarle County, indicating only a minor presence of Native people during this period.<sup>4</sup>

## **C3. Archaic Period Land Use, ca. 8,000 to 1,200 BC**

The onset of the Archaic period is associated with the initiation of the Holocene, generally a warmer and drier climate than the preceding Pleistocene. Climatic changes during the Holocene resulted in rise of sea level and a progression from boreal woodland environments dominated by native spruce (*Picea*) and pine (*Pinus* species) to a mixed deciduous and coniferous forest resembling more modern climatic and environmental regimes.<sup>5</sup>

Over the course of the Archaic period native peoples readily adapted to their changing environment. Changes in tool technology including the spear thrower (atlatl) and later stemmed projectile points document a transition to the hunting of smaller mammals including deer, bear and turkey.<sup>6</sup> Other tools present at Archaic sites including mortar and pestles and axes indicate the processing of gathered flora and harvesting of wood for shelter and fuel, as well as clearing woodland areas to encourage the presence of grazing fauna.

Natural resources utilized during the Archaic period include cryptocrystalline resources as well as more widely distributed and locally available lithics including quartz and quartzite.<sup>7</sup> Soapstone, available