

The Davistown Museum

Native American Artifacts: Special Collections

In addition to the numerous Native American artifacts collected by The Davistown Museum during the last three decades, the museum has also been able to purchase three intact collections of Native American artifacts. The first collection is the Cohasset Hoard of artifacts purchased in the early 1990s. Because the artifacts in this collection come from many different locations in New England as well as from other locations, the Cohasset Hoard is not listed specifically as a separate collection, but is included in our general inventory of Native American artifacts. Because the other two collections, the Coffin Stream Assemblage and the Wapanucket 8 Hoard were collected in a specific location, by a specific person or persons, they are listed separately as special collections.

Wapanucket 8 Hoard

The Wapanucket 8 Hoard (WAP 8) consists of a large number of projectile points and other artifacts recovered by the archaeologist John Davis at the Middleborough, Massachusetts site known as Wapanucket. John Davis worked under the archaeologist Maurice Robbins. The Wapanucket recovery effort took place over a period of at least 30 years. Maurice Robbins published a complete description of his work at the Wapanucket site, "Wapanucket: An Archaeological Report", a copy of which will be available to museum visitors after the WAP 8 collection is installed during March of 2004. This is one of the more important archaeological sites in New England and may be the largest Native American crematory in the United States and possibly the only crematory documented in New England. The following artifacts were obtained from a collector in southeastern Massachusetts who was a friend of John Davis and came into possession of these artifacts.

The extensive use of red ochre at this site over a period of thousands of years is an important fact that helps put the so called Red Paint people of Maine in their proper context. The Red Paint excavations by Warren Moorehead in eastern Maine document a community that appears to have flourished for only a few hundred years. Once believed to have been an isolated community with little or no connections with other Native American communities due to the extensive use of red ochre in the main burial sites, the later excavations at Wapanucket and other New England locations proved that the use of red ochre in burial and crematory ceremonies was much more extensive by New England's Native American communities than previously thought in the era of Moorehead's discoveries (1920s). The use of red ochre at Wapanucket appears to have gone on for thousands of years; many other examples of the use of red ochre in burials have been discovered in New England since Moorehead did his first excavations in eastern Maine. The Wapanucket hoard therefore, helps illustrate the long duration and ceremonial complexity of the burial rituals of southern New England Native American communities and their close connection with the so-called Red Paint people of eastern Maine.

Status Location

Native American Artifacts I - Archaic Period

Red Paint

011304NA10 **Red Paint cup and scrapers (4)**

DTM

Quartz and other stone, 3 1/4" long paint cup, 1 3/8" to 1 1/4" long points, case marked "BS"2 - 1971 M39-81", cup marked "B-5012-2" scrapers marked "B-5013-2; B-5014-2; B-5015-2".

This paint cup would be used with the scrapers and the Red Paint pestles (ID# 011304NA1) to create red paint powder.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na10.jpg>

011304NA1 **Red Paint globules (6)**

DTM

Stone (red ochre), 1 1/4", 1", 1", 3/4", 3/4", 5/8", .

Red paint was traditionally made of ochre, a reddish mineral obtained from natural deposits of oxidized iron (hematite). These specimens are ready for grinding into red ochre powder in a paint cup (see ID# 011304NA10). These have a Taunton Mass. area provenance.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na1.jpg>

Stone Tools

011304NA35 **Adz**

DTM

Stone, 4 5/8" long, 1 7/8" wide at tapered end, 1" thick, unmarked.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na35.jpg>

011304NA48 **Adz**

DTM

Stone, 4" long, 1 1/4" wide, 5/8" thick, unmarked.

This adz has a nicely worked cutting edge.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na48.jpg>

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Wapanucket 8 Hoard

011304NA36 Ax head

Granite, 4" long, 3 1/2" wide, 1 1/4" thick, unmarked.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na36.jpg>

Status Location
DTM

011304NA37 Ax head

Granite, 5" long, 3 3/4" wide, 1 1/2" thick, unmarked.

This ax shows signs of lots of wear on the pointed end.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na37.jpg>

DTM

011304NA39 Crude scraper

Stone, 3 3/4" long, 2 5/8" wide, 1/2" thick, marked "8-4757" and "Crude Scraper".

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na39.jpg>

DTM

011304NA41 Game ball

Granite, 2 5/8" long, 2" wide, 1 3/4" thick, marked "B4617-2" and "Game Gall WAP8".

This stone has a nicely rounded oval shape typical of a cobble found on the Maine coast.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na41.jpg>

DTM

011304NA42 Game ball

Granite, 1 3/4" diameter, marked "MAS 3970" and in red "B12 WAYLAND".

This stone has a nicely rounded shape typical of a cobble found on the Maine coast.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na42.jpg>

DTM

011304NA24 Hammer and scrapers (2)

Stone, 3 3/4" to 2" long, case marked "WAP8-1971", stones marked "8-6129; 8-6103; 8-6322".

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na24.jpg>

DTM

011304NA21 Hammer stone and flakes

Stone, 2" long, 1" wide, 1" thick, case marked "WAP-8 1973 Flakes & Hammer Stone", hammer stone marked "8-7003".

Note in the photograph that the hammer stone and the flakes outside the box appear lighter in color than the other flakes only because they are closer to the light source.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na21.jpg>

DTM

011304NA49 Obsidian stone

Obsidian, 4 3/4" long, 2" wide, 1 1/4" thick, unmarked.

It is unknown what this piece of obsidian was used for.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na49.jpg>

DTM

011304NA33 Pestle

Stone, 10" long, 2 3/4" wide at center, 1 1/4" thick, marked "8-6156" and "8-6161".

This item was found in two parts that are now glued together.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na33.jpg>

DTM

011304NA32 Pestle

Stone, 11 1/2" long, 2" diameter at center, .

One end has been chipped. There is slight evidence of a band mark on one side 2/5ths down from the chipped end.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na32.jpg>

DTM

011304NA51 Pestles (4)

Dark colored stone, 1 3/4", 1 1/2", 1 1/4", 3/4", marked "8-4817"; "8-4664", other two unmarked.

These stones are soft and the color rubs off easily onto another object.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na51.jpg>

DTM

011304NA34 Plummet

Stone, 2 1/2" long, 1 3/4" wide, 5/8" at rounded top, unmarked.

This would be used as a weight when fishing.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na34.jpg>

DTM

011304NA55 Plummetts (3)

Stone, 2 3/4", 2 1/4", 1 7/8", 1 3/4", unmarked.

These are used as fishing weights.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na55.jpg>

DTM

Davistown Museum Native American Artifacts

Wapanucket 8 Hoard

	Status	Location
011304NA50 Projectile point Stone, 3 3/4" long, 1 1/8" wide, unmarked. http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na50.jpg		DTM
011304NA17 Projectile points (11) Quartz and other stone, 1 3/8" to 3/4" long, marked "8-6417; 8-6254; 8-6418; 8-6241; 8-6383; 8-6384; 8-6160", 4 are unmarked. http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na17.jpg		DTM
011304NA16 Projectile points (13) Quartz, 2" to 15/16" long, case marked "WAP8-1971", points marked "8-6414; 8-6170; 8-6134; 8-6104; 8-6205; 8-6260; 8-6205; 8-2605; 8-6158; 8-6221; 8-6416; 8-6264; 8-6362". Note that a glue mark indicates that a 14th point is missing. http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na16.jpg		DTM
011304NA53 Projectile points (2) Stone, 3", 2 1/2", unmarked. http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na53.jpg		DTM
011304NA56 Projectile points (2) Stone, 2 1/2", 2 1/4", unmarked. http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na56.jpg		DTM
011304NA28 Projectile points (3) Stone, 2 1/2" to 2" long, case marked "WAP-8 1973", points marked "8-6904; 8-6791", third is unmarked. http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na28.jpg		DTM
011304NA11 Projectile points (3) Quartz and other stone, 2" to 1 3/8" long points, case marked "1972" points marked "8-6135; 8-6025; 8-4691". http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na11.jpg		DTM
011304NA18 Projectile points (3) Stone, 2 7/16" to 2 1/8" long, case marked "WAP8 1969", points marked "8-4793; 8-4794; 8-4809". http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na18.jpg		DTM
011304NA54 Projectile points (3) Stone, 2 3/4", 2 1/4", 2 1/8", unmarked. http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na54.jpg		DTM
011304NA27 Projectile points (3) Quartz and other stone, 2 1/8" to 1 5/8" long, case marked "WAP8 1971", points marked "8-6415; 8-6133; 8-6273; 8-6342". Two pieces have been glued to form one nice point. http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na27.jpg		DTM
011304NA29 Projectile points (4) Quartz and other stone, 2 7/8" to 2 1/8" long, case marked "WAP 8 - 1970", points marked "8-4841; 8-5034; 8-4531", fourth is unmarked. http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na29.jpg		DTM
011304NA5 Projectile points (4) Quartz or other stone, case marked "WAP-8 1969"; points marked "8-4856; 8-5011; 8-4861; 8-4859; 8-4851". http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na5.jpg		DTM
011304NA58 Projectile points (4) Stone, 2 1/2" to 5/8", unmarked. http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na58.jpg		DTM
011304NA19 Projectile points (5) Stone, 2 3/4" to 1 1/4" long, case marked "WAP8 1969", points marked "8-4601; 8-4767; 8-4808; 8-4700; 8-4456". http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na19.jpg		DTM
011304NA52 Projectile points (5) Quartz and other stone, 2 3/4" to 1 1/4" long, unmarked. http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na52.jpg		DTM

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Wapanucket 8 Hoard

Status Location

011304NA14 Projectile points (6)

DTM

Quartz or other stone, 2 1/4" long (may be 2 glued pieces) to 1 1/8" long, marked "8-7005; 8-7000; 8-7002; 8-6064; 8-7004; 8-7006".

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na14.jpg>

011304NA6 Projectile points (7)

DTM

Quartz, 1 1/2" to 7/8" long, case marked "WAP-8 1968"; points marked "8-4754; 8-4603; 8-6616; 8-4442; 8-4706; 8-4472; 8-4422".

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na6.jpg>

011304NA57 Projectile points (8)

DTM

Quartz and other stone, 1 3/8" to 1 1/16", unmarked.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na57.jpg>

011304NA3 Projectile points (8)

DTM

Quartz or other stone, 2" to 1" long, case marked "WAP-8 1970"; points marked "8-5055; 8-8028; 8-6006; 8-5072; 8-6024; 8-4996; 8-5095; 8-6029".

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na3.jpg>

011304NA4 Projectile points (8)

DTM

Quartz or other stone, 2 1/2" to 15/16" long, case marked "WAP-8 1970"; points marked "8-9888; 8-5011; 8-5031; 8-5023; 8-4863; 8-4829; 8-4864", one is unmarked.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na4.jpg>

011304NA23 Projectile points (9)

DTM

Quartz and other stone, 2 5/8" to 3/4" long, case marked "1972", points marked "8-6744; 8-6478; 8-6630; 8-6455; 8-6533; 8-6557; 8-6713; 8-6569; 8-6498".

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na23.jpg>

011304NA22 Projectile points (9)

DTM

Quartz and other stone, 1 3/4" to 1" long, marked "8-6891; 8-6965; 8-6834; 8-6921; 8-6955; 8-6932; 8-6933; 8-6806", one is unmarked.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na22.jpg>

011304NA30 Projectile points (9)

DTM

Quartz, 1 3/16" to 1" long, case marked "WAP8 1968", points marked "8-4360; 8-4893; 8-4259; 8-4360; 8-4438; 8-4481; 8-4311; 8-4460; 8-4692".

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na30.jpg>

011304NA15 Projectile points and scrapers (4)

DTM

Quartz or other stone, 2 3/4" to 7/8" long, case marked "WAP8 1973", points marked "8-6892; 8-6913; 8-6893; 8-6931".

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na15.jpg>

011304NA8 Projectile points and scrapers (8)

DTM

Quartz and other stone, 2" to 3/4" long, points marked "8-6702; 8-6647; 8-6628; 8-6328; 8-6714; 8-6593; 8-6617; 8-6627".

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na8.jpg>

011304NA7 Projectile points and scrapers (8)

DTM

Quartz and other stone, 3 5/8" to 7/8" long, case marked "1972 WAP-8"; points marked "8-6629; 8-6684; 8-6454; 8-6686", three are unmarked.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na7.jpg>

011304NA12 Round ended broken pestles (2)

DTM

Stone, 1 3/8" long and 1 1/4" long, marked "8-4379" on one, the other unmarked.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na12.jpg>

011304NA38 Scraper

DTM

Stone, 4 3/4" long, 3" wide, 1" thick, unmarked.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na38.jpg>

011304NA9 Scraper

DTM

Stone, 2 1/2" long, 1 3/4" wide, 3/4" thick, marked "8-4804".

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na9.jpg>

011304NA46 Scraper

DTM

Stone, 2 1/4" long, 1 3/8" wide, unmarked.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na46.jpg>

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Wapanucket 8 Hoard

011304NA25 Scraper and projectile points (2)

Stone, 3 5/8" to 1 1/2" long, marked "8-4690; 8-5102; 8-4846".

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na25.jpg>

Status Location

DTM

011304NA31 Scrapers (2)

Stone, 2 7/8" long, 1 3/4" wide and 2" long, 1 1/4" wide, case marked "JOHN DAVIS - GREEN HILL 50 R/2", scrapers marked "GH-201-Z; GH-200-Z".

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na31.jpg>

DTM

011304NA20 Scrapers (3)

Stone, 3" to 2" long, case marked "WAP-8 1973", scrapers marked "8-6998; 8-6999", third unmarked.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na20.jpg>

DTM

011304NA26 Scrapers (4)

Quartz and other stone, 2 1/8" to 1 3/4" long, case marked "WAP-8 1973", stones marked "8-6704; 8-6807", other 2 unmarked.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na26.jpg>

DTM

011304NA44 Stone

Stone, 2 3/4" long, 2 1/4" wide, 1 1/2" thick, unmarked.

This stone has a smoothed shape typical of a cobble found on the Maine coast. It is unknown what it might have been used for.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na44.jpg>

DTM

011304NA47 Stone

Stone, 3 7/8" long, 1 1/2" wide, 1 1/4" thick, unmarked.

This stone has a smoothed shape typical of a cobble found on the Maine coast. It is unknown what it might have been used for.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na47.jpg>

DTM

011304NA43 Stone

Stone, 4" long, 2 1/2" wide, unmarked.

This stone has a smoothed shape typical of a cobble found on the Maine coast. It is unknown what it might have been used for.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na43.jpg>

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na43_p2.jpg

DTM

011304NA45 Stone

Stone, 2 3/4" long, 1 7/8" wide, 1" thick, unmarked.

This stone has a smoothed shape typical of a cobble found on the Maine coast. It is unknown what it might have been used for.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na45.jpg>

DTM

011304NA13 Stone pieces (3)

Stone, 4 3/8" long, case marked "WAP-8 1971", pieces marked "8-5045; 8-5035; 8-5046".

Three broken pieces have been glued together. The stone colors and markings are not an exact match.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na13.jpg>

DTM

011304NA40 Stone tool

Stone, 3 5/8" long, 2 1/8" wide, 1 1/2" thick, unmarked.

This tool is flat on one side and a nicely rounded oval on the other.

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na40.jpg>

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na40_p2.jpg

DTM

Native American Artifacts II - Ceramic Period

Baskets

011304NA2 Basket fragments

Basket remains, 1 1/2" long or less, case marked "Fa417-WAP-8-1974 Basket Fragments - Skin CA. 5000 BP".

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/011304na2.jpg>

DTM