

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE --- DENSITY COUNT FORM

SITE: _____ NAME: _____ DATE: _____

NORTH-SOUTH COUNT EAST-WEST COUNT SQUARE AREA _____ COUNT

PREHISTORIC MATERIAL	
FLAKES	
CORES	
FIRE-CRACKED ROCK	
COBBLES	
STONE TOOLS	
POTSHERDS	
BONE	
SHELL	
OTHER	
HISTORIC MATERIAL	
SQUARE NAILS	
WIRE NAILS	
SCREWS & BOLTS	
TIN CAN FRAGMENTS	
OTHER METAL	
STONEWARE	
CERAMIC TABLEWARE	
BOTTLE GLASS	
WINDOW GLASS	
BRICKS AND FRAGS.	
CONCRETE FRAGS.	
OTHER	

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill in site identification.
2. Enter your name.
3. Enter the date.
4. Mark the type of density count being documented by this form. One form can be used for all three counts; however, make certain you divide the form into appropriate columns and identify which column belongs to which count. Also, please note the size of the square count (i.e., square meter, square yard). Please note on the site sketch or U.S.G.S. map of the site the approximate location of the square area count.

NORTH-SOUTH AND EAST-WEST COUNTS: After establishment of site boundaries, walk a north-south and an east-west line that crosses the center of the site. Count all items that fall within the form's artifact class categories that you observe on the lines (an area the approximate width of 2 feet directly in front of you).

SQUARE AREA COUNT: Locate the area of the site that has the highest artifact density and make a count of all items that fall within a square meter or square yard area.

NOTE: Counts that are zero or low are as instructive as counts that are high.

SOME DEFINITIONS

FLAKES	Material removed from chert (and/or flint, chalcedony, obsidian) through the use of pressure or percussion. Irregularly shaped but usually with a length and width exceeding the thickness. A bulb of percussion may be present as well as radiating lines on the bottom side of the flake from the detaching blow.
CORES	Blocky pieces of chert from which one or more flakes have been detached. Cores may be very irregular or have regular patterns that resemble cones, pyramids, or squares.
FIRE-CRACKED ROCK	Rock that has been heated in a fire. Natural rock often breaks up into blocky pieces. The rock will also usually have a pink to red to orange coloring and may have discoloring due to charcoal staining. Most common fire-cracked rock is granite, quartz, and sandstone.
COBBLES	These are large natural occurring rock, fist sized or larger. These may be eroded, stream-polished or uneroded rock.
STONE TOOLS	These are all forms of patterned, chipped, and ground stone tools, such as arrowheads, scrapers, sandstone shaft smoothers, celts, etc.
POTSHERDS	All prehistoric ceramics. This includes body and rim sherd fragments.
BONE	Count all bone fragments whether the bone is a tool or just a piece of scrap unworked bone.
SHELL	Same as bone.
STONEWARE	Type of ceramic found in crocks. Other common forms include jugs and milk bowls. Most have a smooth white exterior surface. Other surface types come in colors of brown, gray, and blue-gray, and with orange-peel-like surface texture.
CERAMIC TABLEWARE	Ceramics used for dishes, cups, serving plates, etc. These ceramics may be plain or decorated.
OTHER	Any item that does not fit into one of the listed categories but which you feel should be noted and counted. Identify the class of the item.