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The Role of Small Habitation Sites in Monongahela Subsistence-Settlement Patterns

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THE ROLE OF SMALL HABITATION SITES IN MONONGAHELA
SUBSISTENCE-SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

A Thesis

Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies and Research

in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

David James Kroskie

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Indiana University of Pennsylvania
The School of Graduate Studies and Research
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Small habitation sites (also known as hamlets and farmsteads) have been discussed frequently in Monongahela literature. While this site-type is contrasted from villages based on settlement size, architectural elements, and the treatment of space, it has been suggested that they also served a special-purpose function in subsistence-settlement patterns. This study compares archaeological data from the two site-types to explore potential special-purpose functions, as revealing them would not only provide a more nuanced view of Monongahela subsistence-settlement patterns, but would also verify small habitation sites as a distinct site-type. The results not only indicate a lack of evidence for a special-purpose function among the small habitation sites (which may simply represent a continued settlement pattern from earlier periods), but reveal heterogeneity between and among both site-types in terms of resource strategies. Our categorical designations used to define settlements should perhaps be reconsidered, as they do not sufficiently account for such variability.