



**A STEWARD'S ILLUSTRATED KEY  
TO  
HISTORIC CERAMICS**

**REVISED EDITION, 2006\***

\*This guide is a revision of "A Steward's Key to Historic Ceramics," prepared by Dan Potter, Roland Pantermuehl and Anne Fox, in support of the 1997 Texas Archeological Stewardship Network workshop training segment entitled "Understanding Historic Period Artifact Assemblages," conducted by Anne Fox, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio

**Unnamed Early 19th century Majolicas**

(Mexico/New Spain origin) Age Range: 1790 - 1830

**Guanajuato Polychrome** Age Range: 1830+

The colors are the key, especially the orange

**San Augustine Blue-on-white**

Age Range: 1700 - 1730

Has pale blue loops on the reverse side.

**Tumacacori II Polychrome** Age Range: 1810 - 1840**Tumacacori III Polychrome** Age Range: 1830 - 1860**Monterey Polychrome**

Age Range: 1790 - 1830

Occurs late at the San Antonio missions





**Faience Ware** (French origin)

Age Range: 18th century

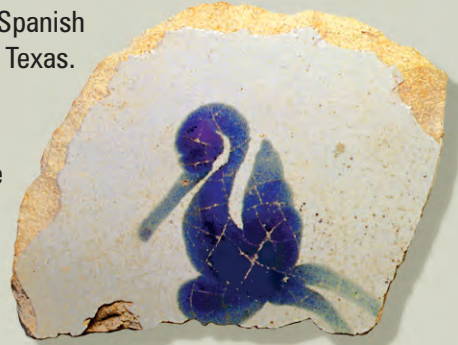


**Puebla Blue-on-White** (Mexico/New Spain origin)

Age Range: 1675 - 1800;

Most common Spanish Colonial type in Texas.

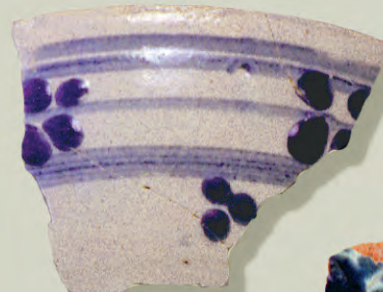
Puebla  
Blue-on-White  
Early 18th  
century



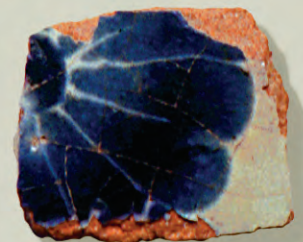
Huejotzingo  
18th century



Puebla Blue  
White-cup  
Early  
18th century



Puebla Blue-on-White II  
Late 18th century



Puebla Blue-on-White  
Early 18th century  
(possible Mexico  
City origin)

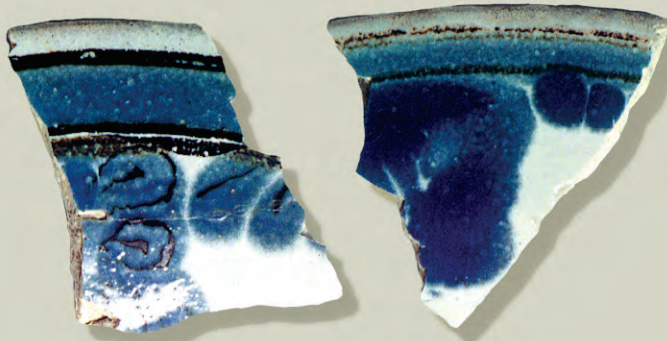


Puebla Blue-on-White  
Early 18th century

**San Elizario** (Mexico/New Spain origin)

Age Range: 1750 - 1800

Brown/black accents on Puebla Blue-on-White



**San Luis  
Polychrome**

Age Range:  
1666 - 1720



**Puebla  
Polychrome**

Age Range:  
1675 - 1725





**Red Pattern-Burnished Ware**

Age Range: 18th century



Also occasionally in black



**Unglazed Wheel-thrown Ware**

Age Range: 18th century

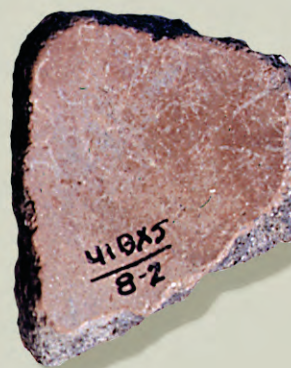
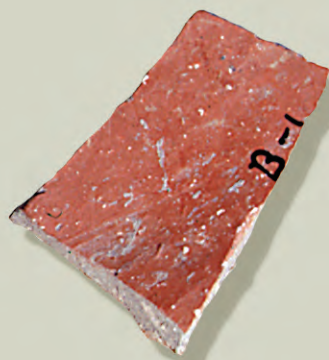


Large water jars,  
painted design



**Goliad Ware** Age Range: 18th century

Bone-tempered, 18th century equivalent of Leon Plain



**Guadalajara/Tonalá Burnished** Age Range: 1650 - present (still made today)

Plain red slip or red, yellow, and black painted designs





**Lead Glaze Ware** (Spanish/Mexican origin)

Age Range: 18th century - present



Guadalajara  
with Red body



Lead/clear glaze  
brown/yellow  
body  
(possibly El Morro type)

**Galera Polychrome**

Age Range: 1722+

Clear glaze on orange body; brown, green, cream decoration



**Olive Jar** (Spanish origin)

Age Range: 15th - 19th century

Green glaze on the interior, white slip on the exterior



**Asian Porcelain**

Age Range: 1600s to 18th century



Imported to Acapulco via Manila galleons

**Hand-painted Whiteware (Decorated Overglaze)**

English origin

Age Range: East Texas, 1820+; South Texas, 1830+



Sprig ware

**Sponge Ware**

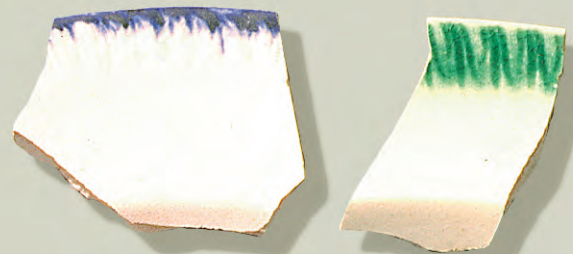
Age Range: 1800 - 1860



Sponge stamped ware, post-Civil War

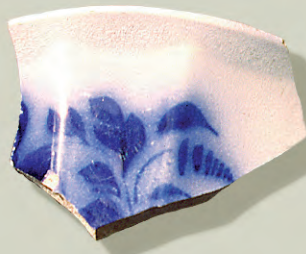
**Edged Ware**

Age Range: 1780 - 1850



**"Flow Blue"**

Age Range: 1835 - 1900



**Decal Ware or "Decalcomania"**

Age Range: 1900+ in Texas

Decorated over glaze.



**"Solid Color"/Fiesta Ware**

Age Range: 1920s

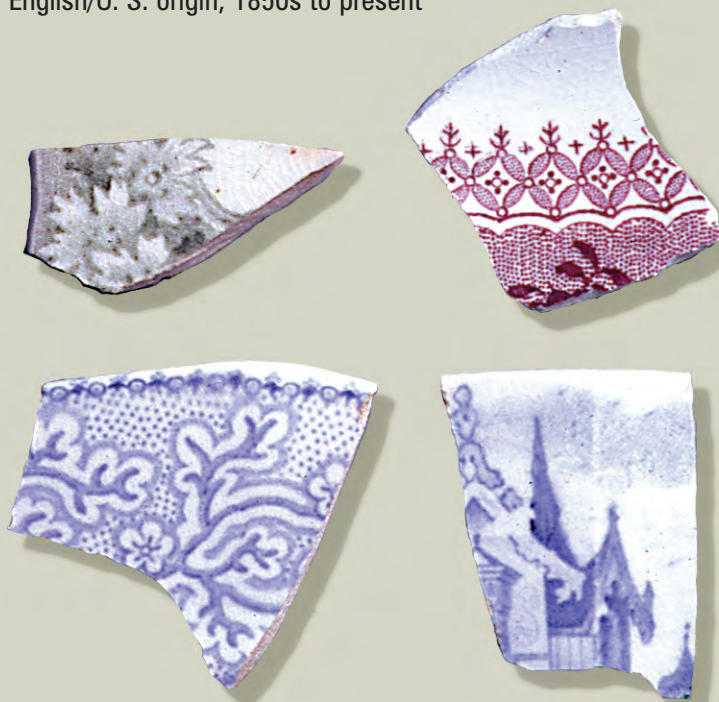
Same color on both sides; multiple colors





## Transfer Print

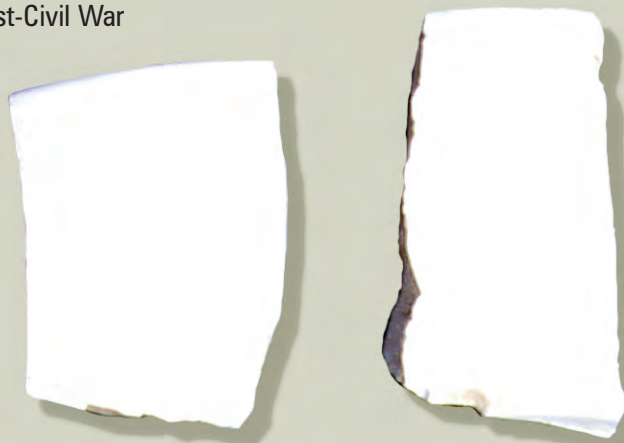
Age Range: English origin, early 19th century to ca. 1850;  
English/U. S. origin, 1850s to present



## Undecorated White Ware/Ironstone (English/ U. S. origin)

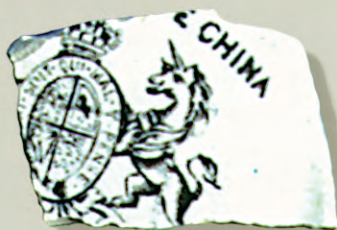
Age Range: 19th century

Sites containing only white ware (predominantly ironstone) are  
post-Civil War



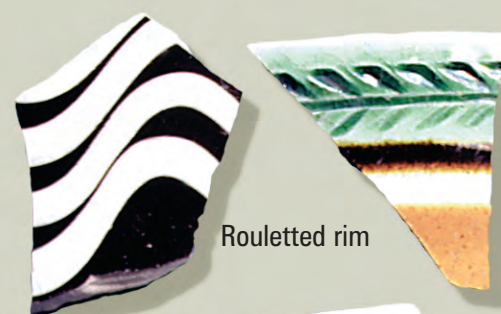
Thinner sherds are usually "white ware," thicker sherds are  
probably "ironstone" and date to 1840s - 1930s (still made today)

Maker's mark sometimes  
can be identified and dated.



## Banded Slip Ware

Age Range: 1800 - 1850



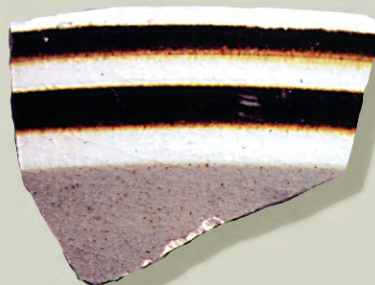
Rouletted rim



Mocha decoration



This pattern continues to appear  
into the late 19th century





## Rockingham/Bennington Glaze

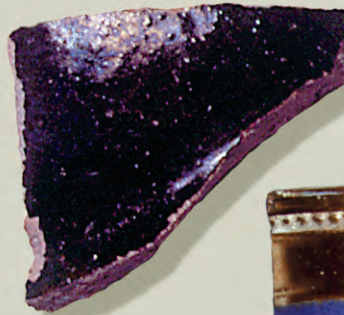
(English and U.S. origin)

Age Range: late 19th century



## Luster Ware

Age Range: 18th century



Black luster  
(Mexico;  
18th century)  
gray/tan paste



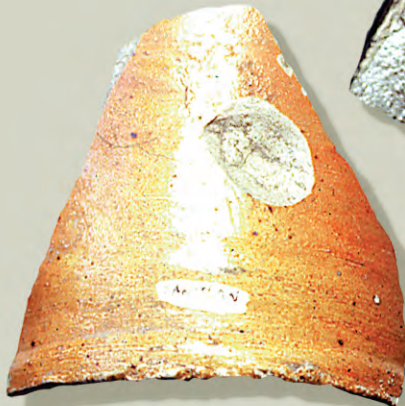
Black luster  
(England;  
18th century)  
hard, red  
paste



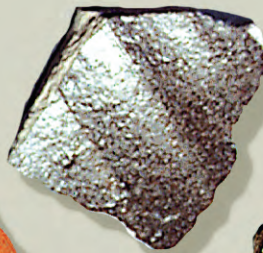
Copper luster  
(England;  
19th century)  
hard, red paste

## Stoneware (European and U.S. origin, including Texas)

Age Range: 1850 to present



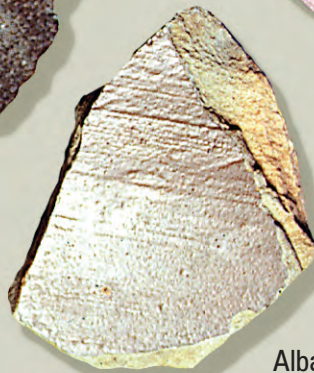
"Ginger beer"  
(European origin,  
possibly Scotland)  
1850 to 1900



Salt glaze  
1850 to 1900



Albany slip  
1850 to 1900



Albany slip



Alkaline glaze  
1850 to 1870



Storage jar  
(U. S., East Coast)



Storage jar  
(Texas origin)



Stoneware bottle  
(German origin)



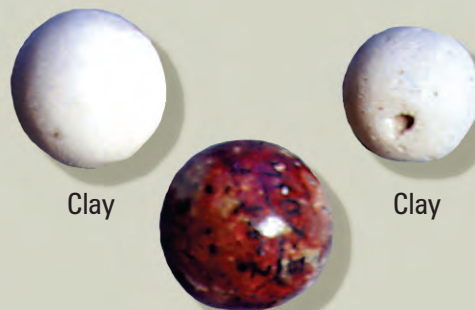
**Pipes** (European/U.S. origin)

Age Range: 17th-19th century

Same patterns made throughout the U.S.

**Children's Ceramic Assemblage**

Age Range: 19th century



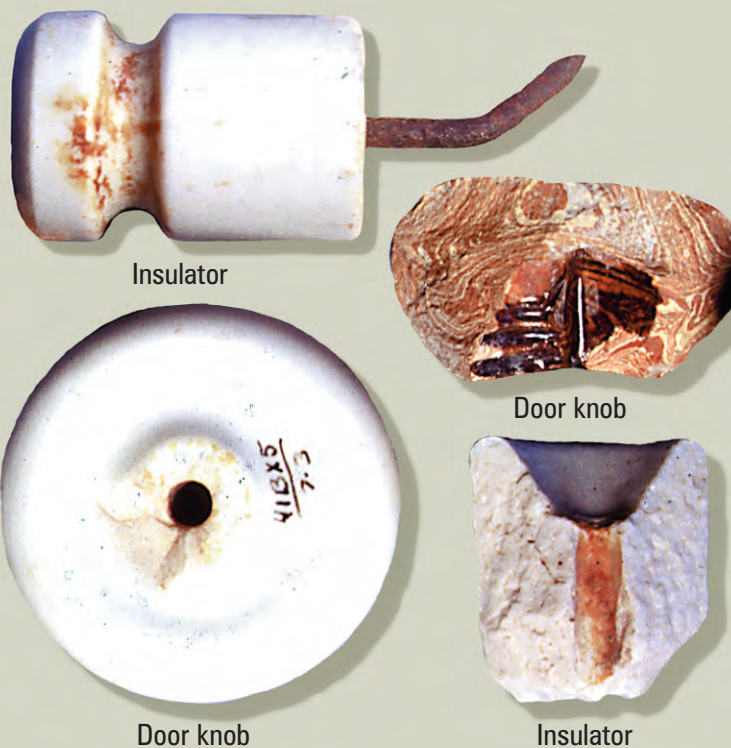
Bennington Brown glaze on Stoneware

"Cobalt" Bennington  
Blue on stoneware,  
unglazed

Stoneware

Doll parts (arms and legs attached to  
cloth or leather body)**Household Items**

Age Range: Late 19th century into 20th century



Insulator

Door knob

Door knob

Insulator



Slate pencil

Writing slate-used by all ages from school  
children to merchants



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

---

P.O. BOX 12276 • AUSTIN, TX 78711-2276  
PHONE 512/463-6100 • FAX 512/475-4872  
[www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)