HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter is published four times per year by the Houston Archeological Society. Contributions of news items, short articles and information of archeological significance should be sent to the Editor - Alan R. Duke, 1706 Oaks Drive, Pasadena, Texas 77502.

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HAS Officers - 1978-79

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Activities - 1979

- Jan. 19-21 - Louisiana Archeological Society, Lake Charles, La.
- Jan. 25, 30, 31 - Public Lectures, "Pompeii" University of Texas at Austin.
- Feb. 17, 23, 24 - Archeology Workshops and Tour. University of Texas at Austin.
  - 2/17/79 - Archeology in the Texas Area (Workshop)
  - 2/23/79 - Pompeii Exhibit, Conference and Tour University of Texas at Austin, Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas, Texas.
  - 2/24/79 - Archeology in the Texas Area (Workshop)
- March 8-9 - Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas. Joint session with Texas Archeological Society planned.
- March 22-24 - Cibola Anthropological Association, Brownsville, Texas.
- March 28-31 - Central States Anthropological Society, Milwaukee, Wis.
- March 29-31 - Southwestern Anthropological Assn., Santa Barbara, Calif.
- April 23-25 - Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

In Memorium

John Fullen, son of Margie and Lou Fullen and Houston Archeological Society member, died recently from injuries suffered in an automobile accident. John was a familiar and popular figure at many HAS functions and at TAS field schools and meetings. His knowledge of archeology, despite his youth, was a tribute to John as well as a reflection of the dedication and training provided by Margie and Lou.

A Memorial Fund has been established and those desiring to contribute may do so by writing to the following address: Various Donors Fund, Division of Neurosurgery, University of Texas Medical School, Houston, Texas 77030.

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Late Archaic Site 41HR226, Harris Co., Texas - L. W. Patterson

Introduction

This report describes surface collections from a Late Archaic period site, 41HR226, in inland Harris County. The last undisturbed ground on this site has recently been destroyed by construction activities. Because of the rate of destruction of archeological sites by urban construction activities, it is essential that all data on sites be recorded as it becomes available.

This site is located on level ground at the edge of a former creek stream bed, now changed by land development. The environment is typical of sites located along creeks in this area. This is generally mixed deciduous and coniferous wooded areas, with a variety of floral and faunal resources. Throughout prehistory in this region, subsistence was on a nomadic hunting and gathering basis. A number of general conclusions have been previously presented on this (Patterson 1976).

Previous Work

A number of years ago, a surface survey was made of the general location of this site, which indicated a preceramic Late Archaic occupation. One Bulverde-like (Suhm and Jelks 1962:169) and two Palmillas (Suhm and Jelks 1962:229) projectile points were found. Other lithics included scrapers, retouched flakes, and miscellaneous bifaces, which probably represent knives and/or projectile point preforms. Burned clay lumps were also found, which indicate cooking and perhaps flint heat treating activities.

Present Survey

A new survey of this site location has been made over the past few years, as additional surface erosion occured. There still have not been any ceramics found. A typical medium size Gary dart point (Suhm and Jelks 1962:197) was found, made of brown flint with some cortex remaining on one face. A Yarbrough dart point (Suhm and Jelks 1962:261) was collected, made of light tan flint, and with heavily ground stem edges as has been known to occur on this type of point. Thicknesses are 7.7 and 7.4 mm, respectively. These points as shown in Figure 1.

Other lithic artifacts include 27 thick flint chips and 6 miscellaneous flint cores. Two quartzite cobbles found may have had use as hammerstones, although not much wear is visible. One small biface fragment was collected. There are some indications of an industry to manufacture microblades (under 11 mm wide) and other small blades. Two microblade fragments and one blade core trim flake were found. Four possible blade core fragments, having parallel flake scars, were also collected. Some of the flint at this site has been heat treated.

Ten burned clay lumps were found, with sizes of roughly 15 to 35 mm diameters.

A summary of irregular shaped flint flakes found at this site is as follows, including a breakdown of primary, secondary and interior type cortex flakes:

Flake Size, sq. side, mm	Number P	S	I	total	Total %
30 to 35	1	2	1	4	3.9
25 to 30	0	1	3	4	3.9
20 to 25	2	5	5	12	11.8
18 to 20	0	4	6	10	9.8
16 to 18	3	3	10	16	15.8
14 to 16	1	3	6	10	9.8
12 to 14	1	2	7	10	9.8
10 to 12	1	2	11	14	13.7
8 to 10	0	5	13	18	17.6
6 to 8	0	0	4	4	3.9
total	9	27	66	102	100.0
percent	8.8	26.5	64.7	100.0	

Chronology and Summary

Artifacts collected on this site appear to be completely from the Late Archaic time period of approximately 2,000 BC to AD 100. No ceramics were found to show any later Woodland period occupation, which starts with the introduction of ceramics at about AD 100 (Aten and others 1976:fig 16). All projectile points are typical of the Late Archaic period. The flake size distribution is also fairly consistent with the Late Archaic (Patterson 1976:fig 5), when comparisons are made of only flakes larger than 15 mm square.

It is concluded that these collections are typical of the time period involved for this region. No archeological features were found on this site, although the burned clay lumps indicate that there probably were five hearths. It is important to record as many sites as possible from each time period to aid in future settlement pattern studies.

References

Aten, L.E.; C.K.Chandler; A.B. Wesolowsky and R.M. Maline 1976 Excavations at the Harris County Boys' School Cemetery, Texas Archeological Society, Special Publication No. 3

Patterson, L.W. 1976 Technological Changes in Harris County, Texas, Bulletin of Texas Archeological Society 47:171-188

Suhm, D.A. a nd E.B. Jelks 1962 Handbook of Texas Archeology: Type Descriptions, Texas Archeological Society, Special Publication No. 1

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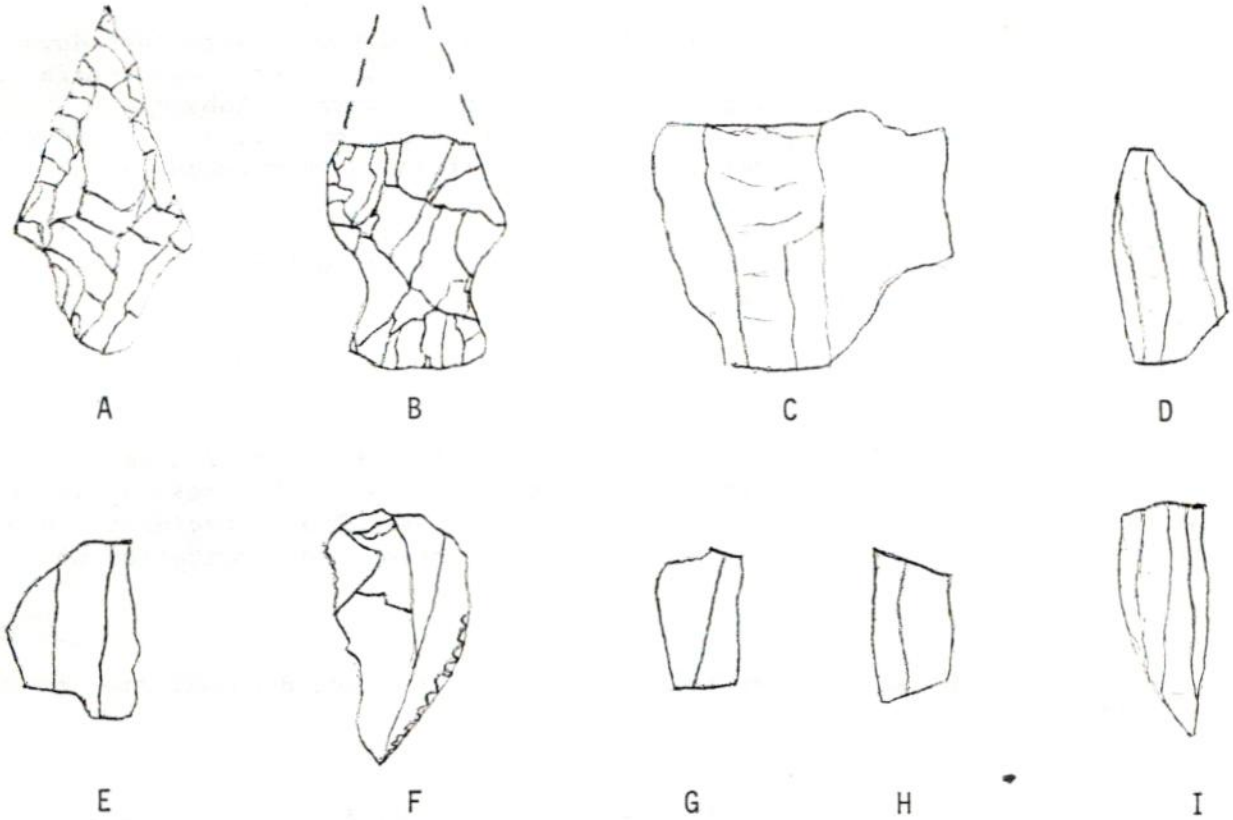
FIGURE I
SITE 41HR226 LITHIC ARTIFACTS
(actual size)



A-Gary point; B-Yarbrough point; C,D-possible blade core fragments; I-end view of D; E-blade core trim flake; F-retouched flake; G,H-small blade fragments

41 HR 298
This site is on the north bank of White Oak Bayou a few hundred feet downstream from 41 HR 273. Channel improvement had exposed bones and artifacts within the natural fill of a former channel of the bayou. Subsequent erosion and later covering with soil by maintenance activities have obscured the site and introduced gravel and modern artifacts. Only undoubted prehistoric material will be discussed herein.

Artifacts were exposed along about 50 feet of the bayou bank. Surface elevation is about 80 feet above sea level.

BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL:
Mollusca:
Gastropods:
Several tests of snails of the families Bulimulidae and Planorbidae were within the old channel fill and apparently associated with bones and artifacts. Calcium carbonate deposits are on surfaces. These specimens are large enough to have served as food items but there is no indication of such use.

Pelecypods:
A few tests of fresh water mussels were found. Caliche deposits are on the surfaces.

Reptilia:
A fragment of bone from the carapace of a small, unidentifiable, turtle was found.

Mammalia:
Bones of the whitetail deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) are scattered throughout the old channel fill. Most of these bones have caliche deposits on surfaces and a few have been burned. All parts of the animal are represented. At least two individuals are included. There are antlers from two different age deer and both appear to have been shed. The brow tine of the larger antler was broken away before the caliche deposits appeared. A few of the leg bone fragments appear to have been broken deliberately. One has small dark spots that may be asphalt. One tool (Fig. 33, B.-B'.) was made from the proximal end of a metatarsal. It has been notched and all edges are smoothed.

CERAMICS:
The collection includes 38 sherds of pottery vessels. All are Goose Creek Plain wares. Total weight is 360 grams.

Goose Creek Plain: (38)
Color, paste and consistency are typical. There are 11 rim sherds, one base, and 26 body sherds.
Three Type 1 rim sherds are 5 to 6 mm. thick. The sherds are straight-sided with the radius of curvature being 75 mm. at the lip. One has a radius of 60 mm. at a point 55 mm. below the rim. The presumed vessel shape is shown in Figure 33, A. at half scale.

41 HR 298

Four Type 2 rim sherds are 5 to 6 mm. thick. All are straight-sided. The radius at the rim is 75 mm. on one and is 50 mm. on the others. Vessel shape would be as shown in Figure 33, A. except that three would be smaller. A sherd of one of the smaller vessels has lip notches that are about one mm. wide and deep, spaced irregularly around the rim. There are eight notches in 38 mm. The notches are visible on the exterior and slope to the inside. This sherd also has caliche deposit on the surface. Three Type 3 rim sherds fit together. Thickness is 5 mm. The sides are curved with a radius of about 400 mm. The radius is 55 mm. at the rim and is 45 mm. at a point 55 mm. lower. This would be a shallow bowl, smaller that that shown.
One Type 4 rim sherd is 4 mm. thick. It has a radius of 75 mm. and is too small to determine vertical curvature.
The base is rounded with the interior curvature being 40 mm. radius. Thickness varies from 6 to 9 mm.
The body sherds vary from 3 to 7 mm. in thickness with the average being 5.5 mm. One has a drilled hole that is 8 mm. on the exterior and 5 mm. on the interior. Horizontal curvature on those that are large enough to measure is about 70 mm. or less. Half are straight in the vertical aspect and half are curved at about 400 mm. radius.

Although there are several different vessels represented, all of the sherds would fit the shape that is shown in Figure 33, A. or one that is smaller and shallower.

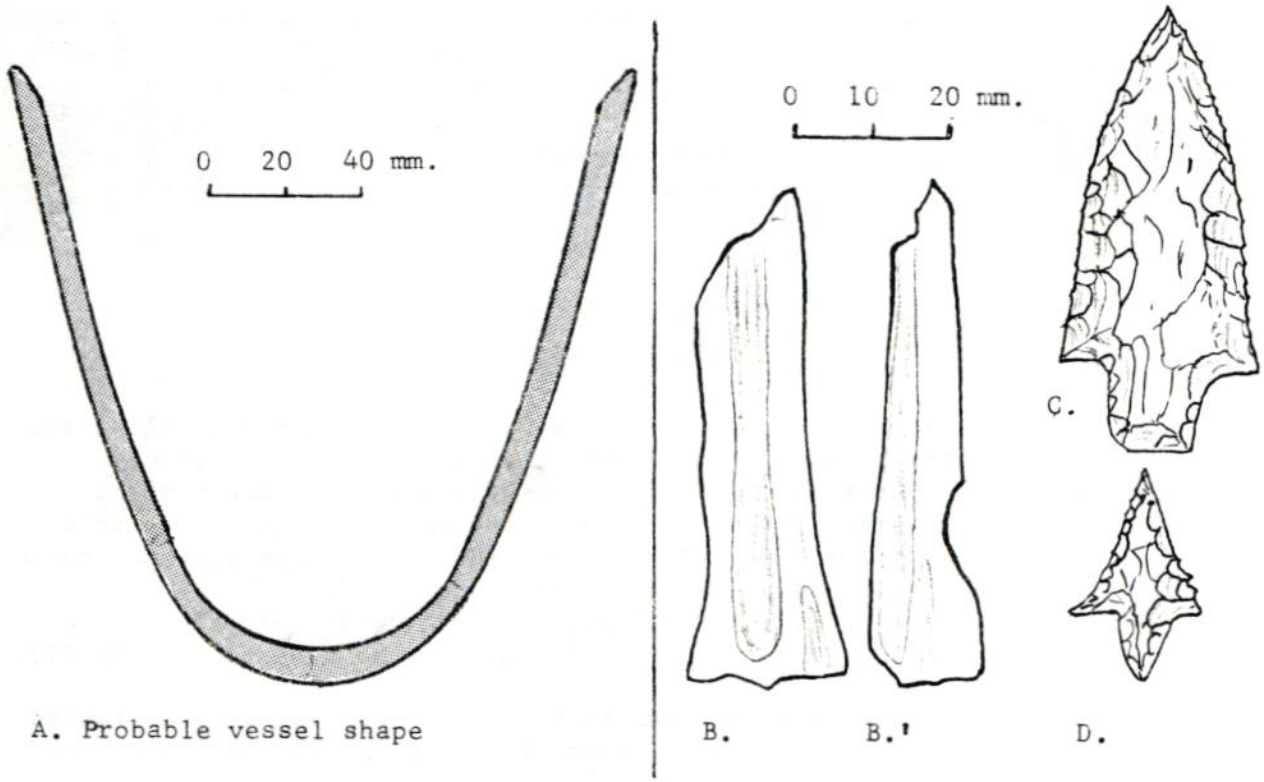


Figure 33

41 HR 298

LITHICS:

Projectile Points:
Only two projectile points were recovered. One is a dart point and one is an arrow point.

Kent: (1) (Fig. 33, C.)
This dart point is made of a good quality of silicified wood. Edges are finely serrated. Caliche deposits in small spots are on one face. Weight is 11 grams.

Perdiz: (1) (Fig. 33, D.)
This well made point is silicified wood. Blade edges are serrated. Weight is 0.8 grams.

Flakes and Chips:
Only 14 small flakes and chips were found. Size is from 4 to 13 mm. Flint and silicified wood are represented. One flake has been retouched with a convex edge. Weight is 13 grams.

		Utilized				Unutilized				Totals			
Size	Material	P.	S.	I.	total	P.	S.	I.	total	P.	S.	I.	total
0 to 10mm.	Flint						1		1		1		1
	Sil.wood						2	2	4		2	2	4
	total						3	2	5		3	2	5
10 to 15mm.	Flint			2	2	1	2	1	4	1	2	3	6
	Sil.wood						1	2	3		1	2	3
	total			2	2	1	3	3	7	1	3	5	9
Totals				2	2	1	6	5	12	1	6	7	14

Table 17 Flakes and Chips

DISCUSSION:
The artifacts indicate that this site was in use during the Woodland and the Late Prehistoric periods. However, the heavy deposit of calcium carbonate on the bones and on the dart point and some of the pottery suggests that the site predates the nearby 41 HR 273 where the caliche stratum underlies the midden. If this conclusion is correct, then the arrow point would have been a later addition to the deposit.
The same type of ceramics but with vessels of different shapes may indicate a different activity at this site than at the midden of 41 HR 273.

The above demonstrates the problems inherent with working with disturbed sites. It would have been neater if the Perdiz point had not been found.