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HAS Constitution Revisions

The Constitution committee, appointed by Chairman Kremheller at the regular monthly meeting in October 1983, has reviewed the status of the HAS Constitution, last revised in 1974, to determine its adequacy as a current document and as a medium for formalizing and recording past and future policy changes.

It is the opinion of the committee that extensive revisions in content and format are in order if the Society is to have a single document that will reflect current and future goals, procedures and policies.

Both documented and undocumented policies will be considered for inclusion in the revisions. Provisions will be made to insure that future document policy changes are included in the revised document.

We solicit the assistance of the entire membership in this work and suggestions will be welcomed.

The submission to the committee, by knowledgeable members, of undocumented policies and procedures that over the years have become a part of the fabric of the Society will be especially appreciated.

Copies of the current Constitution will be made available to all members at the earliest opportunity so that each member can examine the document and suggest revisions or point out omissions.

Based on the amendment procedure outlined in the existing Constitution, the revised Constitution will be presented to the Society membership for review at least one month before a regular monthly meeting. Provisions will be made to insure that the entire membership will be informed of the revisions so all members will have the opportunity to comment prior to a formal vote on the document.

In the future, all new members will be presented with a copy of the Constitution upon acceptance into the Society.

Alan R. Duke
For the Committee

Original Committee Members

Margie Elliott, Pam Wheat, Thomas Laity,
Roger Moore, Alan Duke

Emergency Advisory Committee Report

Margie Elliott

The Houston Archeological Society Emergency Advisory Committee was formed in April, 1983, as a result of members' concerns over the loss of important information about archeological resources within the Houston area. Fourteen members initially agreed to serve on this committee, and its formation was announced to Houston City Councilmember Eleanor Tinsley, the Houston Police Museum, Harris County Heritage Society, Greater Houston Preservation Alliance, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Texas Historical Commission, Houston Metropolitan Research Center, and the San Jacinto Museum.

The purpose of the Emergency Advisory Committee is to advise property owners, project developers, construction companies, and others about how to deal responsibly with known or potential archeological resources. Comments and recommendations of the committee will depend on the circumstances of each case. For example, recommendations on how to handle the presence of an archeological site within a proposed construction area would differ somewhat from recommendations on how to deal with an area where archeological materials have not been documented but are nevertheless possible. The type of land ownership involved will be a factor in determining how the discovery of a site should be dealt with. Archeological resources on public lands are the responsibilities of state and/or federal agencies that control those lands or that are importantly involved in projects developed on them. Privately owned sites are not similarly protected by laws or ordinances. The preservation of the information contained in sites on private land will, therefore, usually depend on our abilities to develop an agreement with the owner for the protection of the site or for the scientific recovery of information from it.

Whenever a new site is discovered, a site survey form will be completed and submitted to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory to insure that at least a minimum amount of information about the discovery is preserved. If the site is on public land, the appropriate agency(ies) will be notified about the discovery. If the site is located on private land, we will attempt to work with the landowner and the office of the Texas State Archeologist to preserve the site or as much information as possible from it, if it is endangered. The basic function of the committee is to act as an archeological advocate for the cultural resources of our community rather than to conduct last minute salvage projects. However, when a privately owned site is threatened and no other means can be found to preserve it, the committee will work with the HAS Board of Directors and other members in an effort to develop a project to recover and preserve data from the endangered site.

The committee has already acted on several reports of information about the possible discovery of archeological materials. The remainder of this report summarizes the activities of the committee between April and November, 1983.

A visitor to the May meeting of HAS reported that he had found several large bones near Buffalo Bayou in an area under development as a park near downtown Houston. He believed the bones might have been bison remains and thought that archeological materials were possibly endangered by the park project. An EAC member accompanied the informant on a visit to the location of the discovery. The context of the discovery was evaluated to be an old

gully filled with unconsolidated material containing early 20th century trash. The bones were compared to examples in the HAS faunal collection and were determined to be the left metatarsal and the proximal half of the left radius and ulna of a horse. Because of the position of the bones in the soil, they were judged to be remains of a modern horse, *Equus caballus*. A report was filed with the EAC committee chairman but no site survey form was prepared.

In May, a local resident called the HAS chairman to discuss archeological materials that had been discovered approximately 20 years ago in the Spring Branch area. The discovery was reported to have been a human burial associated with beads, pottery, and projectile points, and was said to have been found within or under one of the numerous low mounds that had existed in the area at that time. The area had been developed as a residential neighborhood during the 1960's, at which time most of the mounds were leveled. One small area containing mounds was, however, left undisturbed, and it eventually was developed as a small neighborhood park, now owned by the City of Houston. Two committee members talked with the informant by telephone and subsequently visited the park location. There are a number of mounds still present in this park. Trees, predominately pine, are growing out of the mounds, and playground equipment has been installed on top of several. Fairly heavy use of the park has kept grass and ground cover at a minimum and has contributed to minor erosion of most of the mound features. As a result, ground visibility was quite good, and the entire park area was surveyed on foot for archeological remains. The only object located that might have been an artifact was a fragment of a granite cobble which showed possible evidence of having been shaped intentionally or through use. It could have been a milling stone fragment, although both the material and artifact type would be unusual in this area. The report of archeological materials beneath a prairie mound feature in this area of the inland coastal plain appears consistent with the results of recent archeological research in the Barker-Addicks area of west Harris County. The park is still being monitored for additional evidence of archeological remains.

In September, the demolition of historic structures in the 200 block of Main Street in downtown Houston was protested by local preservation groups, and the controversy was reported in the local news. An EAC committee member investigated the report and learned about plans for the construction of a multi-story parking garage at that location. Construction plans included extensive excavation in an area that until now has supported only above-ground construction. The potential for the presence of extensive archeological remains at this location is considered to be significant. Some of this evidence can reasonably be expected to date to the earliest period of the settlement of Houston. We have been in contact with the project developers at this location to request permission to carry out at least limited archeological investigations prior to construction. Arrangements are pending.

In August, 1983, a resident of the Houston Heights area was referred by Houston Public Library to a committee member with questions about several lithic artifacts found on a residential lot in that area. Three members visited the location and discussed the discovery with the informant. The artifacts show evidence of having been exposed to fire and appear to be types indicative of the Archaic period. The artifacts have been photographed and a site report filed with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory. A proposal for testing the site for in situ deposits and to locate site boundaries has been submitted to the HAS Board of Directors and has been approved. Landowner permission for this testing is pending.

In September, two committee members, in the company of informants living in the area, visited the locations of two possible archeological sites on Cypress Creek. Both locations are archeological sites and site survey forms have been submitted on both.

One of the sites, located on public land, contains a broad range of artifact types, including Archaic Period dart points, Late Prehistoric arrow points, and ceramics. This appears to be a significant site despite some minor disturbance which has resulted from Flood Control District work on Cypress Creek. When a site number has been received from Austin, the appropriate public agencies will be notified about the presence of the site and advised of their responsibilities for preserving it.

The second site on Cypress Creek is located on private land owned by a corporation. The site has been reported to Austin, and the corporation will be contacted for further information after a site number has been assigned.

In October, a representative of the Timbergrove Manor Civic Club contacted a member of the EAC about a proposed development project to be located adjacent to White Oak Bayou. Based on available information about site locations along White Oak Bayou, it was determined that the project location coincided with the location of the Laura Lackner Site, 41 HR 89. Information about the site has appeared in earlier volumes of the HAS Newsletter. The committee chairman contacted the developer, and requested a meeting to discuss project plans and the importance of the site. Two committee members have met with representatives of the developer and have requested permission to conduct test excavations on portions of the site before it is destroyed by development. At this writing, verbal approval has been received and test excavations have been tentatively scheduled. The advice of Texas State Archeologist Robert Mallouf has been incorporated into the objectives of the testing project, and the project proposal has been approved by the HAS Board of Directors. Bill McClure will direct the project.

The most recent activity of the committee has been in response to requests for advice and assistance from members of the Galveston Historic Foundation, who are attempting to launch a project to identify the location of Jean Lafitte's Maison Rouge. Texas State Archeologist Robert Mallouf has been consulted for advice about how to respond to this request. The site under investigation is located on private land and therefore does not fall under the responsibility of any public agency for protection or investigation. An EAC committee member will accompany archeologists from the University of Houston and HAS volunteers to Galveston during November for the purposes of evaluating this site and advising the Galveston Historic Foundation about possible and appropriate archeological goals and procedures.

Editor's Note

Reading through Margie Elliott's account of the activities of the HAS - EAC, the section concerning the mounds in the Spring Branch Park "rang a bell". The following article appeared in HAS Newsletter No. 1 (November 1959), just 24 years ago, and was written in his own inimitable style by our first Newsletter Editor, Hubert Mewhinney, who was also a well known columnist for the Houston Post for many years and a first class flintknapper who exhibited his skill in working flint on several Houston TV programs.

Conclusions reached the second time around seem to agree with the original findings but Hubert, in characteristic humorous fashion, was very positive in his statements that the mounds were not of Indian origin.

Hubert was instrumental in promoting the establishment of the Alibates Flint Quarry as a National Monument.

Doubtful Mounds Reported

Hubert Mewhinney

A story in the Houston Chronicle October 12 disclosed that a city park in Spring Branch may, as the Chronicle phrased it, be spotted with ancient Indian burial mounds.

The editors of this NEWSLETTER investigated briefly. There are numerous mounds in the park but there is no evidence that the Indians made them---whether on purpose or accidentally.

It rather looks as if the mounds were made by white men---perhaps thirty-odd or forty-odd years ago---when the white men hauled in a few hundred yards of dirt---perhaps from a drainage ditch, perhaps from the excavation for an industrial plant---and unceremoniously dumped the dirt.

Of course, there are other theories to account for some of these odd-looking piles of dirt down here on the Gulf Coast. Some theorists think they were piled up by the wind during dry years when there was not enough grass to keep the soil from blowing. Other theorists think they were pushed up by natural gas.

But these particular mounds in the little Spring Branch park bear a remarkable resemblance to the numerous mounds that line the banks of Buffalo Bayou, White Oak Bayou, and the other bayous after flood-control crews have excavated dirt from the channels and dumped it alongside.

Indeed, they have some small resemblance to several mounds on the Memorial Park Golf Course, which were made by white men so that cups could be placed on top and balls knocked into the cups.

The Spring Branch mounds differ from the others in that they have been there long enough for fair-sized loblolly pines (*Pinus taeda*) to grow on top of them. These pines seem to be thirty or forty years old.

There is no virgin timber on the mounds.

The number of the mounds depends on the way you count them. If each slight undulation of the surface constitutes a separate mound, there are thirty-odd. But if a series of continuous undulations constitutes a single mound, there are only sixteen.

One of the editors of the NEWSLETTER, accompanied by a photographer, went out to the park to inspect the mounds.

In a cut into one mound, made for street-building, they found no sign of aboriginal occupation.

Undiscouraged by this lack of evidence, they went to another mound, carrying a sharpshooter shovel, and dug a test pit in the middle of it. This test pit was made like a post hold---only deeper. It was eight inches in diameter and circular in cross-section. It was dug the full depth, or height, of the mound, approximately thirty-seven and three-quarters inches.

The test pit disclosed:

- 1) No bits of bone---whether of *Elephas primigenius*, *Homo sapiens*, *Procyon lotor*, *Canis familiaris*, *Rana catesbiana*, *Ictalurus*

punctatus, or any other vertebrate whatsoever.

- 2) No shells of Mollusca.
- 3) No flint artifacts and no scrap-flakes of flint.
- 4) No artifacts of any other kind.
- 5) No flecks of charcoal.
- 6) No ashes.
- 7) No potsherds.
- 8) No stratigraphy. That is to say, on most land where loblolly pines are the dominant timber, you can dig down a foot or two and strike subsoil. The layer of sand or sandy loam ends, either suddenly or gradually, and you strike clay. If the sand were deeper, say three or four feet, you would not have found loblolly pines but chinquapins (*Castanes pumila*), sandjack oaks (*Quercus cinerea*), or something of the sort. If the land were deep gravel, you would have found blackjack oaks (*Quercus marilandica*) and the like. And so on. Every kind of soil on the Gulf Coast has its characteristic trees. But on this particular mound the topsoil layer of sandy loam was three times as thick as is usual for land overgrown with loblolly pines. Also, the thick layer of topsoil was entirely uniform from top to bottom.

This thick and uniform layer of topsoil---with no trace of any kind of occupation by man---therefore may be tentatively taken to indicate that:

- 1) Those things in the park actually are mounds and not mere irregularities in the land surface---whether made by the wind or made by a man with a dump truck.
- 2) But they were not made by Indians.

Indeed, the professional archaeologists contend--and no doubt correctly---that there are no mounds in this part of the Texas Gulf Coast that were intentionally made by Indians. The things we have here are not mounds but middens: The decayed remains of trash piles left where the aborigines camped from time to time. Often, of course, there are burials on these old camp sites.

Similarly, on the Edwards Plateau there are no true mounds but only burnt-rock middens.

The story about the Spring Branch mounds printed in the Houston Chronicle was written by Mel Young. It said a contractor building a road at the edge of the park had found some bones when his excavation sliced through a mound. Whether these were human bones or Cocker Spaniel bones---or whether the contractor would know the difference---was not explained. No photograph of the bones was printed in the paper.

Instead, there was a photograph of a man's hand, holding two flint dart points, a chunk of flint scrap, and a potsherd. The cutlines accompanying the photograph said these artifacts were found near the mounds.

A telephone call from the NEWSLETTER editors brought forth the information that the hand in the photograph was that of Robert A. Vines, formerly Director of the Houston Museum of Natural History and now natural science director for the Spring Branch school system.

Vines said the artifacts in his hand came, not from any place near the mounds, but from a drainage ditch a mile and a quarter away. Some Boy Scouts found them in the newly cut drainage ditch a year ago. Their connection with the mounds is therefore not immediately apparent.

The park containing the mounds is on the Conrad-Sauer Road, south of Raritan Drive. The City got it from Roy Hofheinz.

Conclusion: It is possible that further test pits will disclose that these mounds contain numerous Indian burials, including those of Powhatan, Tecumseh, and Rain-in-the-Face. But it seems unlikely.

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Suggested Reading

Indians of the Upper Texas Coast - Lawrence Aten. Academic Press, Inc. 111 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Aten's book is the first to be published dealing with the upper Texas coast and as such provides a large volume of valuable material on the area under a single cover.

Aten is a former Chairman of the Houston Archeological Society and many of his references involve HAS projects. This book should be "required" reading for Houston Archeological Society members.

The Professionalism of Amateurs in Archaeology - Wm. A. Turnbaugh, Christian L. Vandebroek and Janet S. Jones. Archaeology - Nov. - Dec. 1983. Vol. 36 No. 6

A survey of the entire range of amateur archaeologists viewpoints and activities by members of the professional archaeology community. Information is provided on factors that attract amateurs to archaeology, the "professionalism" of amateur's attitudes and the amateur's opinion of professionals. Should be read by both amateurs and professionals.

ARD

Chambers County Heritage Society

Members of the Chambers County Heritage Society, P. O. Box 870, Mont Belvieu, Texas 77580 may participate in a training program of volunteer archeology sponsored by the Wallisville Heritage Park, P. O. Box 16, Wallisville, Texas 77597. Training starts on December 10, 1983 at the Wallisville Schoolhouse. Call Kevin Ladd at (409) 389-2252 or Lou Fullen (713) 479-3748 for more details.

Field Activities of the HAS

Sheldon M. Kindall

This information has been compiled specifically to inform those HAS members who do not participate in field activities what has been going on in the field recently and what plans exist for the future. If anybody wishes to participate in the field but feels intimidated by either lack of experience or lack of acquaintanceship with the regular field workers, remember that both of these concerns disappear rapidly. There are more than a few people in Texas who were inexperienced casual bystanders who got drafted into field work because they were standing too close and who are now writing archeological papers. As for acquaintanceship, there is hardly a better way to develop camaraderie than to do something as dumb as to participate in the digging of a square hole in the ground during a Texas summer.

Recent Activities

During the last Winter and on into the Spring, the HAS participated in two main, long-term projects. One was the excavation of a prehistoric Indian site in Wharton County, and the other was the exploratory investigation of a historic site in Jasper County.

The Wharton County site, 41WH19, was found to be a very early but well stratified site. Artifacts from this site extend from the early Paleo Indian period on through the last Prehistoric period. A side notched point was found at the same excavation level as a Folsom Point. Charcoal samples from this site have been sent to the University of Arizona for carbon dating in their atomic accelerator. This site may prove to be one of the most interesting sites in Texas, and it certainly represents a lot of effort on the part of HAS members. It is also the one and only site in Texas to have benefited from the new HAS water pump. Whenever the HAS works in Wharton County, there are many fine local people who work with us. Some are members of HAS, but the only way to meet them is to work in Wharton.

The Jasper County site, known as the Glorianna Homestead, is a 100 acre homestead established before the Civil War and abandoned about 1880. This site has an interesting aspect for a historic site in that although the general location of the main house is known, its exact location and orientation will have to be deciphered by systematic testing and pattern recognition.

In March of this year, the HAS backed into an involvement in a site in downtown Houston. This site, now known as the Trimble site, represented some embarrassment to the HAS in that although there was an early alert to the finding of a cache of cannon balls, there was no organized response until after the location of the cannon balls had been cemented over. We have made some organizational improvements which we hope will prevent us from being so slow to act. On the positive side, we mounted a good archival research effort and actually came up with a believable scenario for how the cannon balls got there. This effort stretched our talents in a direction that we hope to exploit more often in the future.

On April 30, many members of the HAS went down to Lake Jackson to work with the Brazosport Archeological Society on their long-term project to investigate the Bryan home. This partially destroyed home beside the Brazos River is just one of many early settler homes in Brazoria County that need attention before they are bulldozed away.

A call from a rancher in Polk County who had a suspicious looking mound on his land allowed the HAS to visit the site now known as the Clamon site. This mound had been proposed to the TAS as a possible object of study for their annual field school. Our object was to determine whether the mound was natural or not. The mound was spectacular, but natural. Indians had apparently been just as impressed because it was indeed a site and was so reported. This site also contained the only cows known to nibble on automobiles.

On October 15, a small contingent of HAS members responded to a call from the caretaker of Ashton Villa (site of a major Rice University excavation a year ago) to investigate an area exposed when Hurricane Alicia blew down a large magnolia tree. The original front walkway which had been buried by the 1900 land fill was located, recorded, and reburied. Local news stories of this exercise are helping to pave the way for more archeology in Galveston. In fact, it appears that a spinoff of this work will be a coalition between the HAS and the Galveston Historic Foundation to help the University of Houston investigate Jean LaFitte's Maison Rouge.

One of Bill McClure's many sites along White Oak Bayou is, as of this writing, threatened by construction. This site, 41HR89, was selected by the HAS emergency advisory group for emergency investigation. The HAS responded on November 11 for a three day exploratory probe. The site was found to be very large. Both Paleo dart points and pottery were found on the site. There may be sufficient time for the HAS to probe more of this site.

Planned Work

As soon as weather and circumstances permit, work will resume at the Glorianna Homestead site. Also, as soon as conditions permit, work will resume on 41WH19. These two sites can be (and have been) worked simultaneously because they use different components of the HAS. The plan at the Wharton site is to spend more time on the prehistoric strata of 41WH19 in order to search for a correlation with other late prehistoric sites in Wharton County.

The HAS board has selected a site known as the Quezada site for an official HAS project. As of this writing, permission to work on that site had not been received. There will be more information about this site at a later time.

There is no way to predict when sites in need of emergency attention will appear.

The most significant project slated for the near future is the excavation of the Maison Rouge property in Galveston. This will be a project of the University of Houston and is expected to start next Spring. It is hoped that the HAS will be able to collaborate with the city of Galveston to assist the University of Houston with this project.

Invitation

Knowledge and its archival are our only products. Due to the rapid expansion of our part of the world, many sites are being destroyed with no record. The HAS invites all who have any inclination to capture the knowledge of these sites to join us in the field and in the lab.

A Preliminary Summary of Excavations at Site 41WH19, Wharton County, Texas

L. W. Patterson and J. D. Hudgins

Introduction

This paper is a preliminary summary of results of excavations at prehistoric site 41WH19 in Wharton County, Texas, conducted during the first half of 1983 by the Houston Archeological Society. This is a major excavation project, involving many HAS members. Work to date has revealed a well-stratified site with occupation components from the Early Paleoindian period through the Late Prehistoric. It is the first site found in southeast Texas with well-stratified Paleoindian components.

This site was discovered by Joe Hudgins in a highly eroded bank area along the West Bernard River, now called Location "A". Surface collections (Patterson and Hudgins 1981, 1983; Hudgins and Patterson 1983) from Location "A" contain projectile points which indicate occupations from the Late Paleoindian period through the Late Prehistoric. Early point types include Plainview, Scottsbluff, San Patrice, and new types of early side notched points. Extensive tests of Location "A" have failed to locate any significant intact cultural deposits.

Approximately 200 feet downstream of Location "A" a few flint flakes were found on the river bank in an area not currently subject to intense erosion. Tests immediately showed the existence of intact cultural remains in this new Location "B", which is the subject of this paper. The first season of excavations was completed in May 1983, with further work to be done in the next cool weather period.

This site is located on the east bank of the West Bernard River in a zone that forms an ecological boundary between coastal prairie to the east and woodland to the west. A variety of natural plant and animals food resources would have been available for prehistoric foragers. The area is subject to periodic flooding, which seems to have resulted in the well-stratified cultural sequence of this site.

In addition to this summary paper, a detailed report of this work will be published. There are carbon samples available for dating the various strata of this site, and hopefully a funding source can be found so that this can be done.

General Excavation Details

Excavations at Location "B" have extended for a length of 14 meters along the steep river bank and generally to a width of 3 meters into the bank, except for one test pit that was extended for an additional 2 meters into the bank. The full depth of excavation is 2.5 meters, with small variations

between individual test pits. A surface area of approximately 45 square meters has been excavated to-date. Excavation levels have been made to conform to natural strata, where possible. Arbitrary sublevels have been employed within each main stratum. All excavated dirt has been put through 1/4" screens, with the aid of water washing. The amount of dirt handled in this manner has been well over 150 tons so far. Some fine screen tests have been done at all levels of several of the test pits.

Natural stratigraphy can be clearly observed at this site, which is rare in this area. There are no signs of stratigraphic disturbances or deflations. Also, established types of diagnostic artifacts occur in the expected order in the stratigraphic sequence. Details of each excavation level will be further explained.

Stratigraphy and Projectile Point Sequence

Stratum 1B

Stratum 1B is the top level of excavation in the Late Prehistoric. It consists of 35 to 40cm of a uniform brown silty sand that is immediately above the uppermost "A" horizon buried paleosoil that was encountered. Scallorn, Perdiz, and unifacial arrow point types were recovered, as well as an Ensor dart point (Figure 1). As with other inland sites in southeast Texas, the use of the bow and arrow did not completely displace use of the spear at this site. A large corner tang biface was also found at this level which is a rather late occurrence for this type of artifact. Ceramics in this stratum include Goose Creek, Rockport Plain and bone tempered types. No evidence of European contact was found, although future radiocarbon dates for this stratum could possibly indicate historic occupations.

Stratum 1A

Stratum 1A, below 1B, consists of 35 to 40cm of silty sand that includes three separate "A" horizon paleosoils. The depth of this stratum was originally selected to include all visible "A" horizons. Later, when more moisture was present, another "A" horizon became visible below this level in the top portion of Stratum 2. Stratum 1A is the transition between the Early Ceramic and Late Prehistoric periods, with one Scallorn arrow point found in the top half. Dart points recovered include Kent, Yarbrough, and Ellis-like varieties, generally found in Early Ceramic and Late Archaic contexts. A large, well-made bifacial knife was found at this level, (Figure 2). Ceramics include Goose Creek, Rockport Plain and bone tempered types as in Stratum 1B.

Upper Stratum 2

Stratum 2, below 1A, has a similar appearance throughout its 80 to 100cm of depth, with many alternate light and dark brown layers formed by numerous depositional episodes. Stratum 2 contains sandy materials with a higher clay content than other excavation levels. Several arbitrary excavation levels were used within this stratum, because no important natural subdivision were apparent. The upper half of Stratum 2 is 40 to 50cm in depth, which seems to start in the Middle Archaic period and continues up through the start of the

Early Ceramic period. A small amount of Goose Creek ceramics was found in the top 20cm, along with a small Gary dart point. Lower, in the Late Archaic period, Travis and Yarbrough dart points were found (Figure 3). Still lower in upper Stratum 2, Bulverde-like points were found. They have ground basal edges, which indicates some occurrence of this trait as late as the Middle Archaic.

Lower Stratum 2

The lower half of Stratum 2 seems to start in the transitional Late Paleoindian/Early Archaic period and continues to the Middle Archaic. In the upper portion of this level, two large Bulverde-like points were found, along with a very small unclassified point (Figure 4G). Somewhat lower, a Bulverde-like point (Figure 4F) was recovered. Near the bottom of Stratum 2, a lanceolate Angostura-like point and an unclassified long-stemmed point (Figure 4E) were found. Based on estimates by other investigators (Prewitt 1981:Fig. 3), Angostura and Angostura-like points occur in the period of 7,000 to 8,000 years ago. The long-stemmed unclassified point seems to have a reworked blade.

Stratum 3

Stratum 3, below Stratum 2, probably represents most of the Late Paleoindian period at this site. This stratum is 35 to 40cm of white sand, very distinct from the strata above and below. This white sand is well leached of organic material and may represent a different climatic period. A surprising variety of side-notched and corner-notched points were found at this level. Except for San Patrice, these points were not previously known as being from the Late Paleoindian period in southeast Texas. Most of them have well-ground basal edges, as shown in Figure 5. Some, such as Figure 5c, would probably be identified as Late Archaic types if found in surface collections. The side-notched Type 5 points with large bases and side-notched Type 4 points with smaller bases occur at Location "A", also. In the Early Archaic period, notched point types were displaced by straight stem forms.

Stratum 4

The white sand of Stratum 3 changes abruptly into a reddish-brown matrix in the underlying Stratum 4. Stratum 4 generally has a thickness of 35 to 40 cm and overlies sterile red clay of the Pleistocene Beaumont formation. A Plainview point, reworked as a scraper, and two side-notched points (Figures 6J, L) were found just below the top of Stratum 4. The top of Stratum 4 may be the start of the Late Paleoindian period, at perhaps 9,500 to 10,000 years ago. Below this, at depths of 10 to 15cm in Stratum 4, other side-notched and small unclassified lanceolate points were found (Figures 6C, D, G, H). A straight stem from a projectile point and an unclassified point blade fragment were also recovered at this depth (Figures 6E, F). At a depth of 20cm, a Folsom point was found. This point is a manufacturing failure, that broke during removal of the second flute, because pressure was applied too deep into the platform. Because of the presence of a Folsom point, the lower portion of Stratum 4 is judged to be in the Early Paleoindian period. Surprisingly, a large side-notched point (Figure 6A) was found at a depth of 25 cm, somewhat below the Folsom point. This is a well-made point of a local chert type, that has been heat treated, and made with parallel flaking on the blade.

The presence of a side-notched point at essentially the Folsom level is very significant. This may explain why Folsom points have not been previously found on the upper Texas coast, because other point types were being made here instead of Folsom during this time period. All tests below Stratum 4, in the Beaumont clay, have shown only sterile materials.

General Lithic Technology

Some general comments on lithic technology can be made for this site. First of all, the full range of typical Paleoindian lithic technology is not present at this site, as can be found elsewhere in Texas (Patterson 1977, 1981a). Other than projectile point types, only large, thick scrapers and combination scraper/gravers are similar to typical Plains type Paleoindian tool kits. Typical Paleoindian tool types such as large prismatic blades and end scrapers with side-spurs are not found here. This may be explained by adaption to use of local chert raw materials that are generally in the form of small cobbles that are difficult to work. Such can be found within 15 miles of this site.

Heat treating of chert was found at all excavation levels. A plot of flake size distribution against excavation depth shows a smooth trend toward higher percentages of smaller size flakes in later time, based on a total sample of 8,724 flakes. This trend toward production of smaller flake sizes illustrates the general trend toward manufacture of smaller stone tools in later time on the Texas coast. Above the Late Paleoindian level, the principle tool type is the utilized flake, apparently casually taken from bifacial thinning debitage. A few large bifacial knives occur in upper level Strata 1A and 1B, significantly where few large flakes are found in the overall debitage of these levels that could have served as heavy duty tools.

Faunal Materials

Large amounts of faunal materials are preserved only in upper level strata 1A and 1B. Here buffalo, deer, turtle, and alligator remains are most apparent. Deer and turtle remains seem to occur throughout the various excavation levels. An analysis of the entire faunal collection is currently being made by Bill McClure.

Clayballs and Firehearths

Large quantities of burned clayballs with diameters of 15 to 100 mm were recovered at all levels with fewer at the bottom of Stratum 4. Some of these clayballs were found in groups similar to the placement of rocks for firehearths in central Texas. Interior cross-sections show that these clayballs have been subject to rather uniform heating on all surfaces, which may indicate purposeful manufacture. The clayballs are rounded, with no sharp breaks. They sometimes occur mixed with large pieces of iron conglomerates. It is assumed that fired clayballs were associated with cooking functions, and also perhaps with heat treating of chert.

External Relationships

Site 41WH19 appears to be in a geographic zone that is an interface between Plains and Eastern Paleoindian projectile point traditions. The Plains tradition is represented by Folsom, Plainview and Angostura-like points. The Eastern tradition is represented by San Patrice, Big Sandy, and a variety of other side-notched and corner-notched points, all with ground basal edges.

Dalton and San Patrice points are recognized as early notched styles, but these types are possibly part of a larger Paleoindian notched point tradition. For example, a variety of side-notched point types have been found with San Patrice at a site in Louisiana (Webb, et al. 1971), and some of these are similar to early side-notched points from site 41WH19. Early notched points can be found throughout the southeastern U.S. (Goodyear 1982, Coe 1964, Gardner 1974) and on the eastern side of the Great Plains (Agogino and Frankforter 1960), some dating as early as Folsom points in the period of 10,000 to 11,000 years ago.

Some investigators, such as Gardner (1974), refer to early notched point types in the southeastern U.S. as being from the Early Archaic rather than the Late Paleoindian period, because these point styles are different from the Plains Paleoindian tradition. These investigators seem to feel that differences in projectile point styles can be explained by differences in regional environments. It should be noted, however, that technological innovation is not always related to environmental adaptations, as technological change can occur for a variety of reasons.

It should not be completely surprising that a side-notched point has been found at site 41WH19 as early as Folsom. True Folsom points have a limited geographic distribution, and there were certainly concurrent but different point traditions in other regions. Goodyear (1982) has summarized data for a temporal overlap between Dalton and Folsom points.

This is the third site found in Texas with side-notched points earlier than Plainview. Watt (1978:Fig. 7) has shown a San Patrice-like point type earlier than Plainview in the central Brazos River Valley. The Wilson-Leonard site, north of Austin, has a number of side-notched points earlier than Plainview (Frank Weir, personal communication). In addition, the Rex Rogers site in the Texas Panhandle (Hughes and Willey 1978:Fig. 12) has side-notched points at least as old as Plainview, similar to Watt's specimen from central Texas. It should also be noted that there are some sites in Harris County, such as 41HR206 (Patterson 1976:Fig. 1A, B, C), that appear to have early notched point types similar to those from site 41WH19.

Summary

Some of the major reasons for the importance of site 41WH19 are as follows:

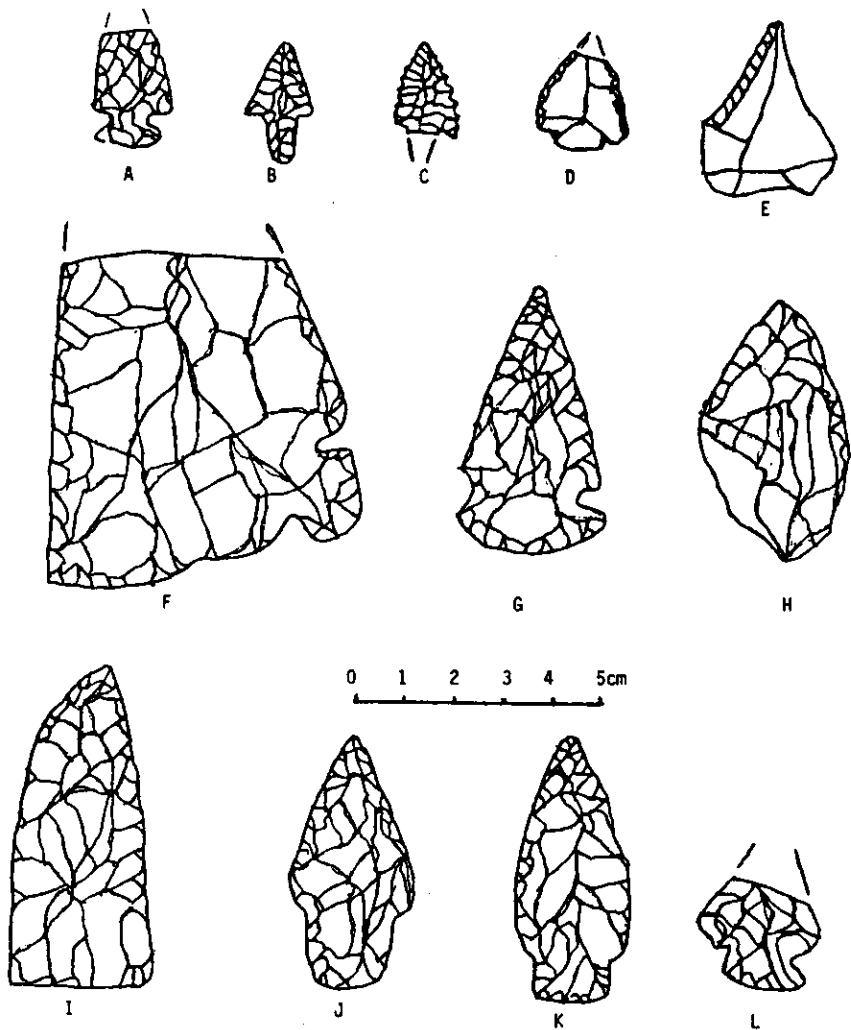
1. This is one more site in southeast Texas with a very long occupation sequence, demonstrating a longtime stable settlement pattern.
2. This is the first excavated site in southeast Texas with well-stratified Paleoindian components.
3. The early notched point types from this site were not previously recognized as being from the Paleoindian period in southeast Texas.
4. Site 41WH19 appears to be an interface between Plains and Eastern Paleoindian projectile point traditions.
5. This is the farthest point to the southeast in Texas where the occurrence of a Folsom point has been verified.
6. Radiocarbon dating of various components of this site may be possible.

7. A better picture of local projectile point sequences is now available.
8. Samples here are large enough to allow good descriptions of lithic technologies that were utilized.
9. If fired clayballs from this site were purposefully manufactured, this represents a very long technological tradition in this region.

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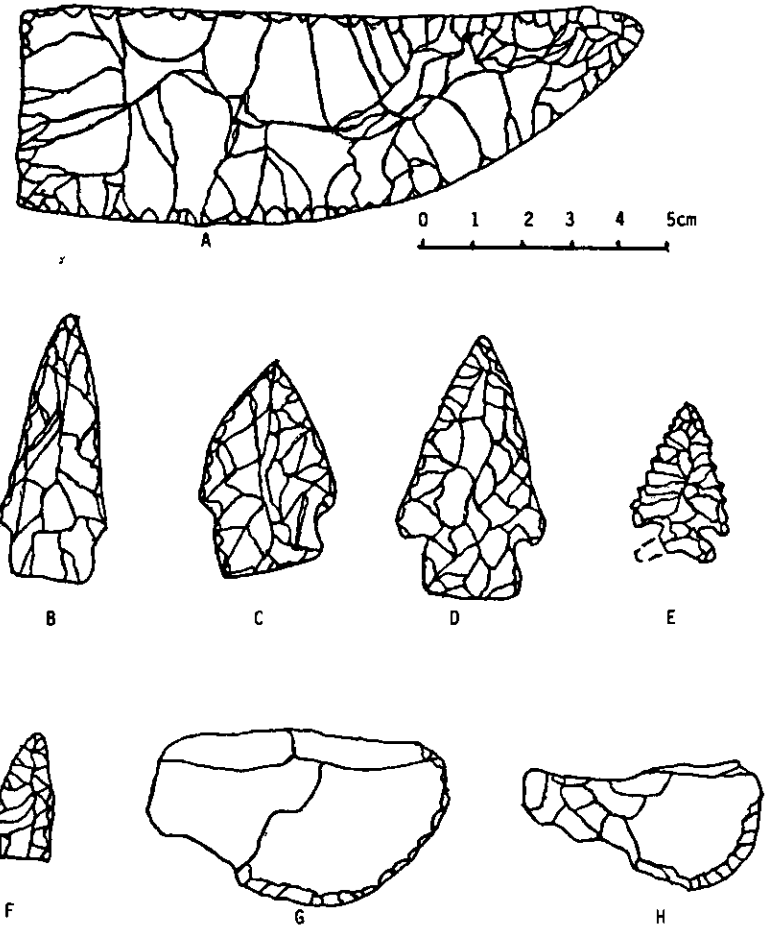
FIGURE 1
STRATUM 1B AND UNPLACED LITHIC ARTIFACTS



STRATUM 1B: A - Scallorn point; B, C - Perdiz points; D - unifacial arrow point; E - perforator; F - Corner tang biface; G - Ensor point; H - fire-popped preform

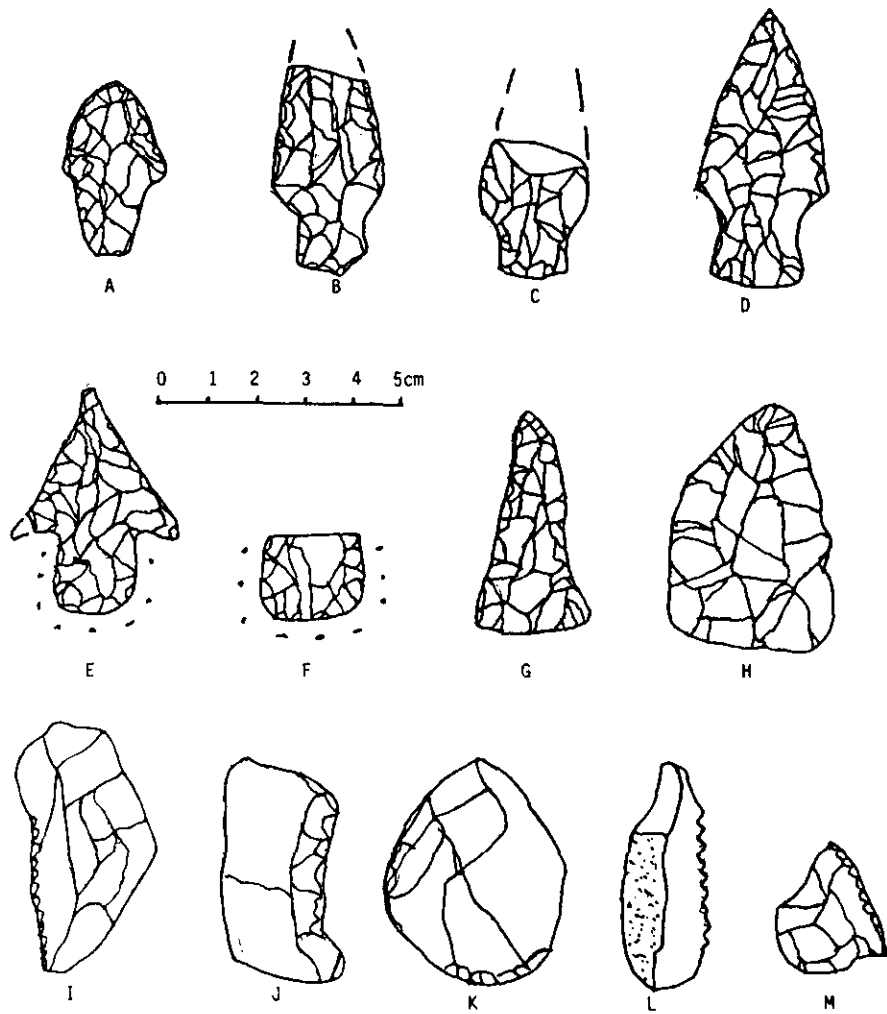
UNPLACED: I - bifacial knife; J - Kent point; K - Travis point; L - unclassified point

FIGURE 2
STRATUM 1A LITHIC ARTIFACTS



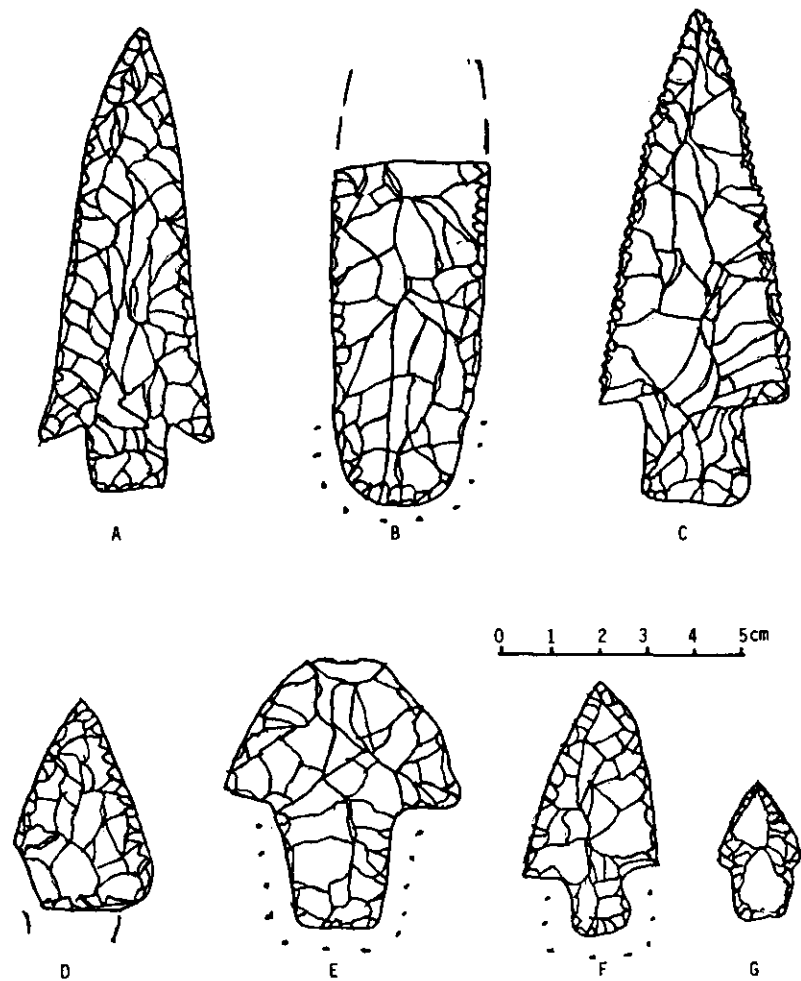
A - bifacial knife, B - Kent point, C - Ellis-like point, D-Yarbrough point, E - Scallorn point, F - drill (?), G - scraper, H - retouched cutting tool

FIGURE 3
UPPER STRATUM 2 LITHIC ARTIFACTS



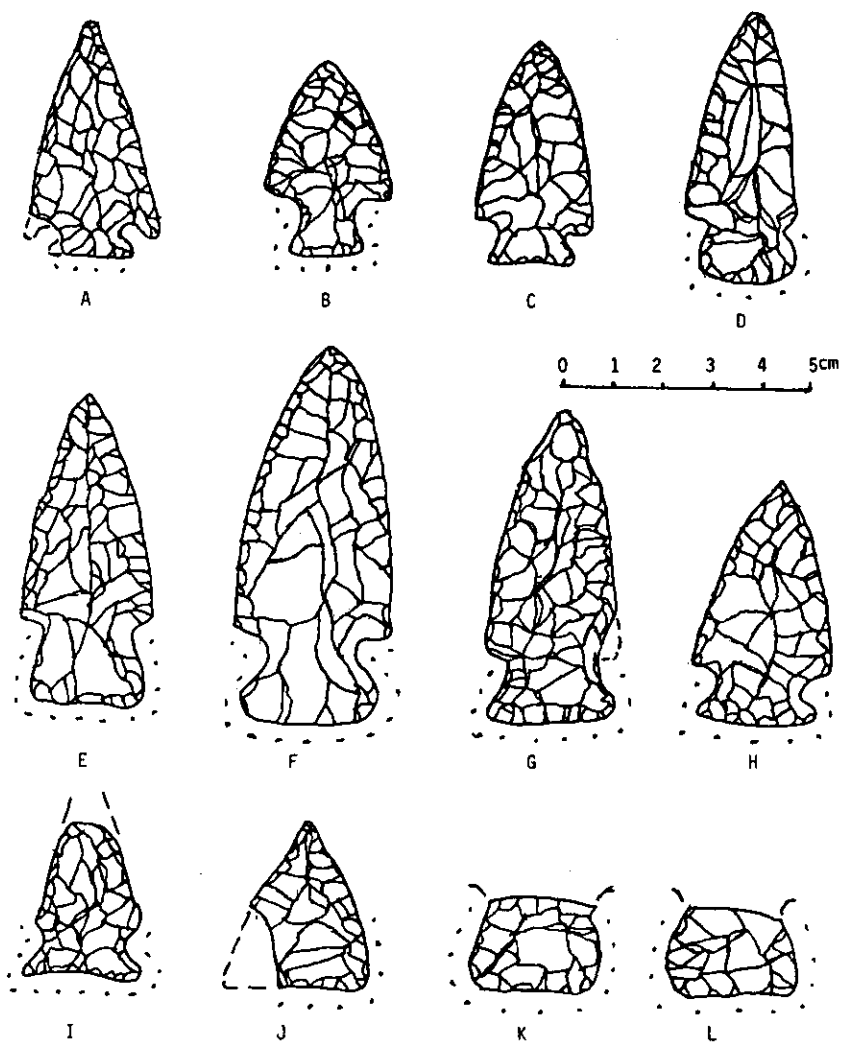
A - Gary point; B, C - Travis point; D - Yarbrough point ; E - Bulverde-like point;
F - Bulverde-like stem; G-bifacial drill; H - preform; I-backed cutting tool;
J, K-scrapers; L-denticulate; M-graver; dots show ground edges

FIGURE 4
LOWER STRATUM 2 PROJECTILE POINTS



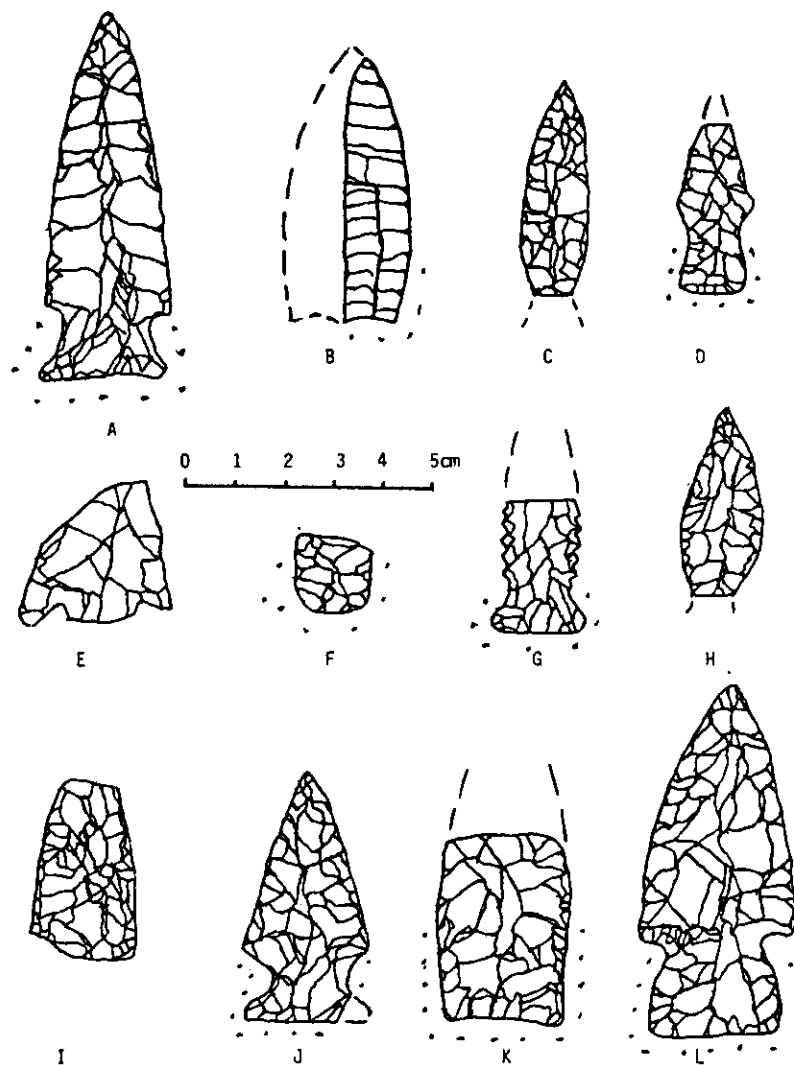
A-Bulverde-like, B-Angostura-like, C-Bulverde-like, D to G-unclassified,
dots show ground edges

FIGURE 5
STRATUM 3 PROJECTILE POINTS



A - Early Corner-Notched 1; B - Early Corner-Notched 2; C - Early Corner-Notched 3;
D - Early Side-Notched 5; E - Early Side-Notched 5; F - Big Sandy; G - Early Side-
Notched 1; H - Early Side-Notched 4; I - San Patrice; J - Early Triangular;
K, L - Early Side-Notched 5; dots show ground edges

FIGURE 6
STRATUM 4 PROJECTILE POINTS



A - Early Side-Notched 1, B - Folsom, C - unclassified 1, D - Early Side-Notched 2,
E - unclassified 2, F - early straight stem, G - Early Side-Notched 3, H - unclassi-
fied 1, I - dart point blade, J - Early Side-Notched 4, K - Plainview, L - Early Side-
Notched 5, dots show ground edges

One half kilogram of bones and bone fragments was recovered during the excavation of 150 tons of soil matrix. This is not a very high rate of recovery, but enough material showed up to help understand something about the animals that were being exploited by the inhabitants.

Preservation of the bones was only fair. Most are quite fragile and some show indications of abrasion or fracture during recovery or transport. However, most pieces were fragmented before excavation and probably before being discarded. Condition of burned bones is better than others. The number of small fragments attests to the value of water screening. Much of the material would not have been recovered if the soil had been screened without water.

Bones were recovered from all levels of the site but not from all levels of each pit. About two thirds of the bones and fragments were recovered from Stratum 1 and the numbers from lower strata decreased with depth.

Animals represented in the assemblage are:

Fresh water clam	Genus unknown
Gar	<u>Lepisosteus</u> sp.
American alligator	<u>Alligator mississippiensis</u>
Mud turtle	<u>Kinosternon</u> sp.
Pond turtle	<u>Chrysemys</u> sp.
Box turtle	<u>Terrapene</u> sp.
Clams pocket gopher	<u>Geomys bursarius</u>
Rabbit	<u>Sylvilagus</u> sp.
Bison	<u>Bison bison</u>
White-tailed deer	<u>Odocoileus virginianus</u>
Unidentified mammals	Genera unknown

Species accounts:

FRESH WATER CLAM, genus unknown.

Several fragments of shells of fresh water clams were recovered in four of the pits in strata 1 and 2. None can be identified. None show any indication of deliberate alteration.

GAR, Lepisosteus sp.

The centrum of a vertebra of a gar was recovered in Stratum 2.

AMERICAN ALLIGATOR, Alligator mississippiensis.

Fragments of three dermal bones of alligator were recovered from two pits in Strata 1A and 1B. These bones are from the hide on the back of animals which would have been at least 2-1/2 meters in length. Probably, at least two individuals are represented.

MUD TURTLE, Kinosternon sp.

Forty-eight small, burned fragments of plastron and carapace of mud turtles were recovered from all strata and from nearly all pits. Many are identifiable to the genus Kinosternon but it is possible that some could be musk turtle, Sternothaerus sp. The musk turtle is much less common in Wharton County than mud turtle and in the absence of any definite bones of musk

turtle, all are assigned to mud turtle.

POND TURTLE, Chrysemys sp.

Seven fragments of carapace and plastron of pond turtles were recovered as well as two fragments from the bridge area of turtles that are probably the same genus. The fragments were from Strata 1 and 4, and are from turtles that would have been at least 25 cm. in length. One is burned.

BOX TURTLE, Terrapene sp.

Two fragments of carapace of box turtle were recovered in Strata 1 and 2 but can not be assigned to species. In addition, 19 burned fragments that probably are of box turtle came from Strata 2, 3, and 4.

PLAINS POCKET GOPHER, Geomys bursarius

The anterior part of the skull with incisors, two mandibles, two humeri, a femur, and a sacrum with 2 innominate fragments of this species were recovered in Stratum 1A. Only one adult individual is represented.

RABBIT, Sylvilagus sp.

One tooth of a rabbit was recovered in Stratum 1B.

BISON, Bison bison.

Teeth, phalanges, and a carpal of this species were recovered from Strata 1A and 1B. It is possible that some of these elements are domestic cow, Bos taurus, but they are assigned to bison because of stratigraphy.

WHITE-TAILED DEER, Odocoileus virginianus.

Teeth, astragali, calcaneum, phalanx, and fragments of tibia and mandibles were recovered from Strata 1 through 3. It is possible that some of this material is domestic goat, Capra hircus, or domestic sheep, Ovis aries, but they are rejected because of stratigraphy. It is also possible that pronghorn, Antilocapra americana, is represented, but none is definitely of that species.

UNIDENTIFIED MAMMALS, genera unknown.

More than 300 small fragments of mammal bones were recovered from all pits and in all strata. These are mostly quite small with the average weight being less than 0.4 grams. Nearly 40% are burned. A few of the fragments are of smaller animals but most are probably white-tailed deer with a few from Stratum 1 that could be bison.

Bone Modification.

A bison carpal bone had been hacked by a tool, probably flint, in an apparent attempt to sever the joint. The tool used had a bit that was crescent shaped, about 18 mm. long, with a bit angle of about 60°. At the fractured end of the bone, there is a similar mark that may be from the stroke that severed the joint. Figure A.

Two fragments of long bone of either deer or bison also have similar chop marks as well as other random marks that may be indications of use as tools or may be from impact while under foot in camp. Figure B, C.

One other long bone fragment has similar marks and appears to have been shaped deliberately. It also has numerous small incised marks that appear to be spaced more regularly than would have been done by a rodent. Figure D.

During excavation, the distal 9 cm. of a deer tibia was given special handling. It was wrapped in foil with some of the adjacent soil. After it was reconstructed as far as possible, there were some fragments left over. One of these fragments has a flint flake imbedded within the bone. The flake is discussed elsewhere in this report. The angle of the flake suggests that it was used to break the bone. The tibia also has numerous marks that may be from rat gnawing. With the tibia there was another bone fragment with several cut marks that had been made by a sharp edged tool, held at an angle. These items came from the bottom of Stratum 2 near the hearth. A deer mandible with teeth in place also came from the hearth.

The identifiable mammal bones consist of teeth, mandibles, foot bones, and the lower part of a tibia. These represent the parts of the animals that have little useful meat or marrow. All other bones apparently were shattered into small pieces during processing. Boiling these fragments for fat and marrow would have left them less dense, as they are, and more susceptible to decomposition by soil chemicals and organisms.

Most of the unidentifiable bone fragments are probably from deer long bones, Stratum 1 yielded 166 and 140 are from lower strata. 23% of the bones from stratum 1 and 60% of the others are burned. This suggests that there has been differential preservation with age. More of the unburned bones are dissipated by soil chemicals and organisms than are the burned bones.

All of the mud turtle and most of the box turtle bones are burned while only one of the pond turtle bones is burned. Perhaps the small turtles were cooked by being placed in an inverted position on hot coals. The carapace would serve as a container and the animal would cook in its own juices.

Discussion:

Lithic debitage does not reveal a marked lessening in numbers with depth in the site as does the faunal material. This is attributed to the loss of bone through decomposition rather than different disposal practices in the various periods of occupation. This is confirmed by the uniformity of the faunal debris through the profile.

The gopher bones from Stratum 1A represent an individual that burrowed into the site and died there. It would not have been associated with the human occupation. However, its presence suggests the possibility that disturbance by gophers could have occurred during any period that the site may have been unoccupied. The excavators reported no indications of such disturbance. The distinct soil differences between strata would have readily indicated intrusions between major depositional periods.

The single bones of rabbit from Stratum 1B and gar from Stratum 2 indicate little more than their presence at the time of occupation. The lack of additional bones of these two species suggests that they were not important items of diet of the inhabitants. Clams were found in small numbers in the upper strata and were absent in the lower strata. It is possible that clams were a minor item of diet during late archaic and late prehistoric times. The few alligator remains from Strata 1B and 1A suggest a similar minor use.

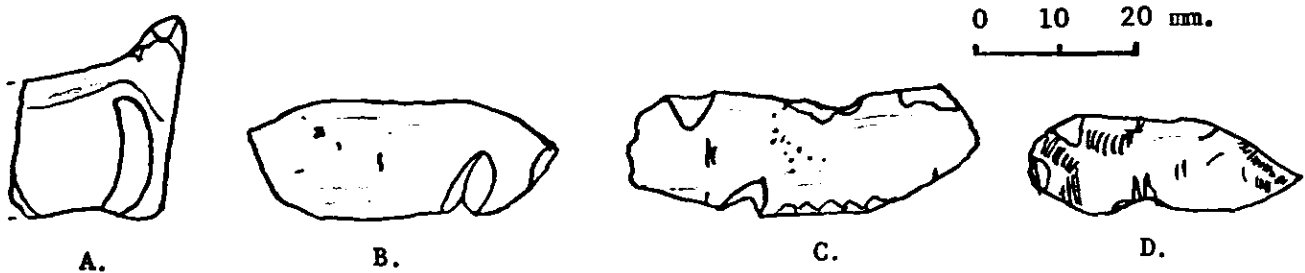
Turtle bones are relatively numerous and were found in all strata. As most are burned, it is probable that turtles were an important, although minor, part of diet during the entire occupation.

Bison remains were present only in Strata 1B and 1A and are represented only by teeth, foot bones, and small fragments. This suggests that the major bones were processed to the point where no substantial fragments remained. Deer bones were found in all but Stratum 4 and fragments that are probably of deer came from all strata. As with bison, the identifiable bones are of the parts of the animal that have little edible meat.

Conclusions:

It appears that the inhabitants of this site were depending on deer and turtles as significant items of diet throughout the entire time of occupation. Use of bison during the later period could reflect the addition of another hunting technique but probably indicates that bison were not available during earlier times. Clams, alligators, gars, and rabbits may have been consumed on infrequent occasions.

Methods of processing animal food items apparently made no appreciable change reflected by the bone refuse during the entire occupation.



Figure

The Trimble Site

Margie Elliot and Pam Wheat

Members of the Houston Archeological Society conducted controlled excavations during March and April, 1983, in a block of downtown Houston where a cache of more than 90 cannonballs and other artillery projectiles had been discovered by a construction crew who were installing a grease trap for a local car rental agency. The munitions were identified as being from the Civil War era. Archival research revealed that the property where they were found had been owned from 1860 until 1866 by a local Houston merchant, Cornelius Ennis, who was connected with blockade running during the Civil War. Excavations have revealed little information or material relevant to the munitions or Civil War period, but have resulted in material and information about one of Houston's residential areas of the 1880's.

The munitions have been secured by the director of the Houston Police Museum. Preservation and identification of the artifacts are in progress.

Underneath It All: An Amateur's Intimate View of Archaeology

Jim O'Dell

From time to time, I have had the opportunity to actively pursue a special interest. One summer I spent a month in an archaeological field school.

The field, in this instance, had all the comforts of the open range. I spent a few days carefully pawing the manure-laden soil for stone chips which some ancient craftsmen had sensibly thrown away. Like most Americans, I wince at taking a short walk to my own garbage can, but will gleefully rummage through someone else's trash for hours. Archaeologists have taken this popular pastime and made a science of it.

By the time I turned in my trowel, I had learned a lot about these people and their work. I learned to dignify everything with a special name, and I do mean everything. With such knowledge, a student may dig all day, find nothing of great consequence, and still file a learned report.

Most of each day was spent hunched over a four-by-four foot square pit, a number of which were sunk into the earth at various locations, as though we were methodically searching for a septic tank. Indeed, the time came when we were sure we had found one.

Archaeologists have their moments, and this was one for the books, although you're not likely to find it recorded in any of them. The story centers on a particular pit that yielded no significant artifacts, but it could hardly be considered a dry hole.

A fortunate few had inched their way down into a bog, managing against all odds to make it deeper than it was before, when the fragrance of a humble substance began to fill the air. The work went on amid protests that whatever was buried down there deserved to remain undisturbed. The archaeologist in charge insisted on further excavation although he sympathized. Glancing at some nearby cows, I thought I detected a look of sympathy there, too.

In the days that followed, my observation was confirmed many times over. It became the first order of human business in the morning to tend to someone else's. Archaeologists normally prefer to keep a low profile and tend to their own business, but an exception had to be made in this case.

Daily strewing his waste among the pits in a most generous fashion, our benefactor hid his identity among the crowd on the hillside. I had to give him credit, though. There was logic in it. After all (he thought), why dig for something when you can pick it right off the ground? Needless to say, this sort of thing does little to dispel the notion that archaeologists are interested in anything as long as it's been thrown away by someone else. I didn't know to expect such wisdom from cows, even though they do seem to ruminate a lot.

Along with the lighter moments, archaeology requires a lot of hard work. As one might expect, it also has its share of tedium. Scattered throughout the slimy soil were hundreds of tiny flakes of stone, adorning every half-inch level like sparkling confetti. After engaging in the task of surgical removal for several hours, one tires of making such a fuss.

I'd say we handled our boredom intelligently, though some might question the proliferation of mudpies. Soil testing is an art and essential to the successful completion of fieldwork. There really is no middle ground when it comes to getting a feel for that sort of thing. Naturally, we rose to the occasion with enthusiasm. The cows loved it. Here at last was a human activity that made sense.

Whenever possible, we took a break from pit duty to fill in our journals. This activity was intended to help us gain insight into the overall meaning of the site we were excavating. As a dedicated student of ancient trash, I learned to be very resourceful in assessing the value of my finds and my work in general. For those of you who think of archaeologists as having less value than earthworms, I have news. They not only aerate the soil; they also

remove 47 times their weight in unsightly waste particles.

There are others who imagine archaeologists are too preoccupied with their work to notice that another world exists above turf level. On the contrary, archaeologists are thoughtful persons with a keen interest in the little things in life. For this reason, students had to record the exact location of everything they found, down to the tiniest of treasures. Most of this information would be used later, following fieldwork, in a laboratory nestled deep in the twining ivy of a university. It is here, and in similar facilities around the world, that the bulk of archaeological work takes place. Here, the identity of each long-neglected object will be confirmed on a multitude of forms with the intensity of a taxpayer facing an audit.

If, in the end, the land has revealed its secrets sparingly, the archaeologist will find comfort in the words "Next year!" And all the students cried, "Mooooo!"

+ Reprinted from Archaeology magazine - Vol. No. 36, No. 6, Archaeological Institute of America. Copyright 1983. Jim O'Dell is a free-lance writer who lives near Blowing Rock, North Carolina. An amateur archaeologist and historian, he holds a degree in anthropology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

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