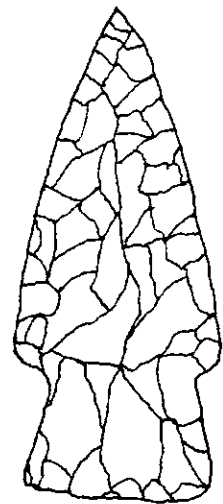
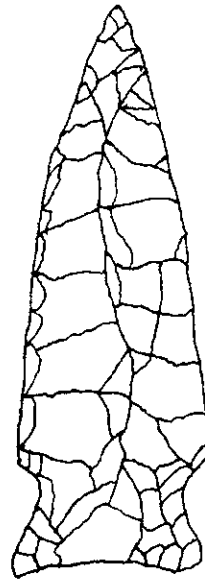
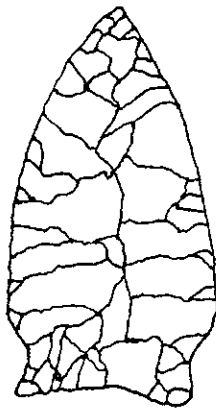
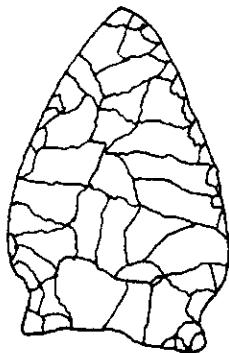
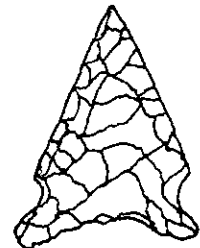
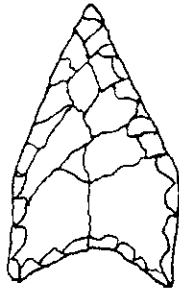
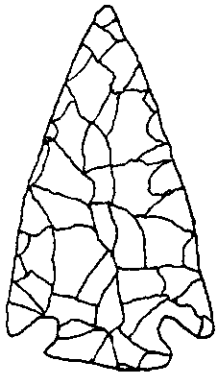




# JOURNAL HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 119

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Paleo-Indian Notched Projectile Points

# Houston Archeological Society Journal

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## Contents

A Note on the Production of the Journal Richard L. Gregg .....	1
Paleo-Indian Notched Projectile Points in Southeast Texas Leland W. Patterson .....	2
Archeological Investigations for the New Post Office in Huntsville, Walker County, Texas Roger Moore and Allan Meyers .....	15
The Vertebrates of 41CH161, Second Season W. L. McClure .....	19

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P.O. Box 6751, Houston, Texas 77265-6751

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## A Note on the Production of the Journal

With this issue, a different way of producing the HAS Journal is initiated. Reasons for the change involve aspects of both cost and quality which we will attempt to explain briefly.

Over the past ten years HAS membership has gradually declined, from approximately 200 to 140, with the associated Journal count dropping from about 250 to 200 (a minimum of 200 is required for bulk mailing). Since 1980 the Journal has been produced by offset printing. The cost structure of this method of printing is such that, with the drop in membership, the resulting per-membership cost of the Journal increased substantially, to over \$13 annually for three issues. So in 1999 the HAS Board voted that a change to a less expensive method of printing was to be made.

The procedure chosen was to do our own printing, via laser printer, while retaining the form of the Journal. Use of printer and other equipment is being donated, with HAS paying for expendables. Extra volunteer time is needed for collation, stapling, and trimming.

Selection of equipment has taken considerable time. In addition, your editor has been struggling with a new computer, new peripherals, and new software. All this has led to a substantial delay in publishing this, the first Journal issue produced via the new system. We hope to sustain an increased rate of publication to reduce and finally eliminate the publication deficit, which now has reached two years. Your participation, in the form of articles submitted for the Journal, is crucial in this regard. As always, comments and suggestions are welcomed.

RLG

# Paleo-Indian Notched Projectile Points in Southeast Texas

Leland W. Patterson

## Introduction

In Southeast Texas, both lanceolate and notched projectile point types occur during the Paleo-Indian time period. In the Early Paleo-Indian period (10,000-8,000 BC), lanceolate point types include Clovis (Patterson 1996), and Folsom and Midland (Patterson 1997b). In the Late Paleo-Indian period (8000-5000 BC), lanceolate point types include Plainview, Angostura, and Scottsbluff (Patterson 1997c). Also, the Dalton lanceolate point is a rare Paleo-Indian type in Southeast Texas which will be discussed here.

The Early Side-Notched point is the main notched point type found in the Early Paleo-Indian period in Southeast Texas after Clovis, with the possibility of San Patrice and Big Sandy side-notched points also starting in this period. In the Late Paleo-Indian period, notched point types in this region include Early Side-Notched, San Patrice, Early Corner-Notched, and a few Big Sandy. This article considers the chronologies and geographic distributions of notched point types during the Early and Late Paleo-Indian periods. The early development of notched point types is discussed, including data from other parts of Texas.

## Earliest Notched Points (9000-8000 BC)

The time interval of 9000-8000 BC is the time range of the Folsom point in Texas (Largent et al. 1991), after the earlier Clovis point. There may be a few hundred years temporal overlap of Clovis and Folsom points. It has been previously noted that side-notched points occur in Texas concurrent with Folsom (Patterson 1989). The earliest example of a notched point type is from the Rex Rogers site (41BI42) in the Texas Panhandle. Three Rogers Side-Hollowed points (Figure 1A,B) were found together with two points that could be classified as Clovis at a single bison kill site (Willey et al. 1978). This possibly places side-notched points at the earliest part of the time interval under consideration, near 9000 BC.

At the Horn Shelter 2 site (41BQ46) in Bosque County, Central Texas, Brazos side-notched points (Figure 1C,D) were found that are similar to the Rogers Side-Hollowed point type (Redder 1985: Figure 2; Johnson 1989: Figures 12,14). Radiocarbon dates on a stratum of Horn Shelter 2 that contain Brazos points range from  $7550 \pm 200$  to  $8360 \pm 150$  BC (Redder 1985:41).

At a site in Bee County, Texas, two Early Side-Notched points were found in excavations about 30 cm lower than a Folsom point (Sellards 1940), which would place the Early Side-Notched point well within the time interval of 9000-8000 BC. The Early Side-Notched points from the Bee County site are similar to two specimens of this type from site 41WH19 in Wharton County (Figure 1E,F).

At site 41WH19 in Wharton County, an Early Side-Notched point (Figure 1E) was found at the same excavation level as a Folsom point, at the end of the time interval under consideration, with a radiocarbon date of  $7970 \pm 530$  BC. Another Early Side-Notched point (Figure 1F) of this variety was found slightly higher in the stratigraphic sequence, at the start of the Late Paleo-Indian period.

In summary, two varieties of Early Side-Notched points have been found in Texas concurrent with the time range of the Folsom point. One variety includes Rogers Side-Hollowed and Brazos points, and the other variety includes similar examples from Bee and Wharton Counties. The Bee County and Wharton County sites are only about 100 miles apart. These two varieties of early side-notched points appear to be at least part of the basis for development of several varieties of notched

points in the Paleo-Indian period in Southeast Texas. There may have also been technological influences from the Southeast Woodlands.

The Early Side-Notched point is likely to have been the main projectile point in use in Southeast Texas from 9000-8000 BC, because only a few Folsom and Midland points have been found in Southeast Texas during this time interval (Patterson 1997b), and because there are many sites in Southeast Texas with Early Side-Notched points.

During the time interval of 9000-8000 BC, there are also examples of side-notched points in the Eastern Woodlands. The Big Sandy point has been dated as early as 8500 BC in northern Alabama (Boyd 1992). Bolen side-notched points were found together with Suwannee lanceolate points at the Harney Flats site in Florida, which may place the Bolen point earlier than 8000 BC (Daniel and Wisenbaker 1987:37). At the Shawnee Minisink site in Pennsylvania, a side-notched Kline point was found in a stratum immediately above a stratum with a Clovis point (McNett 1985:95), which may place the Kline point earlier than 8000 BC. Regardless of where the idea of side-notched points first started, this idea seems to have diffused rapidly throughout the Eastern Woodlands.

### **Early Part of the Late Paleo-Indian Period (8000-7000 BC)**

Stratigraphic sequences from excavations at sites 41WH19 (Patterson et al. 1987) and 41WH38 (Patterson et al. 1994) show a variety of Early Side-Notched points were used in the early part of the Late Paleo-Indian period (Figure 1E to L). An Early Side-Notched point from 41WH38 (Figure 1L) can be classified as the Keithville variety (Turner and Hester 1993:134). This specimen is from a stratum below an adjacent higher stratum with an OCR date of 7099 BC (Patterson et al. 1996:10).

Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic points usually have ground basal edges. The detection of grinding of basal edges is important in the identification of some early projectile point types. For example, some Early Side-Notched points shown in Figure 1 are similar to later Ensor points illustrated by Turner and Hester (1993:114) and Suhm and Jelks (1962:Plate 95), except that Early Side-Notched points have ground basal edges.

The San Patrice side-notched point appears to have been used in the early part of the Late Paleo-Indian period. A San Patrice point from site 41WH19 is in the early part of the Late Paleo-Indian period in the stratigraphic sequence. Story (1990:202) gives a provisional time range of 8300-7300 BC for the San Patrice point. However, the start of the San Patrice point at 8300 BC is based on the similarity of the St. Johns variety of the San Patrice point (Figure 2C,D) to the Brazos point (Figure 1C,D). The Brazos point is not morphologically identical to the St. Johns variety of the San Patrice point, however. It probably took several hundred years to derive the classic forms of the San Patrice point from the Brazos point. Until more radiocarbon dates can be obtained for the San Patrice point, I suggest that a nominal time range of 8000-7000 BC be used for this point type.

I consider the John Pearce site (16CD56) in Louisiana to be the type site for the San Patrice point and related artifact types (Webb et al. 1971). At this site, there are two varieties of this point type, Hope (Figure 2A,B) and St. Johns (Figure 2C,D). There are two varieties of early side-notched points in association with the San Patrice point at this site, variety A (Figures 2E,F) and variety B (Figure 2G,H), which was later named Keithville. Also, the Albany side-notched scraper is associated here with the San Patrice point. It will be shown here that the San Patrice point in Southeast Texas has similar relationships to some varieties of Early Side-Notched points and to the Albany scraper.

Morse and Morse (1983:104) consider the San Patrice point to be derived from the Dalton point. Ensor (1987) considers the San Patrice point to be a variety of the Dalton point on the Gulf coastal plain. Story (1990:197), however, considers the San Patrice point to be derived from Clovis. Story (1990:202) gives the following reasons why San Patrice points differ from Dalton points: (1) they are more often basally fluted (single or multiple flake); (2) they are sometimes obliquely side-notched (St. Johns variety); (3) they are usually made from local raw materials, including small chert pebbles and inferior quality silicified wood; (4) they are infrequently recycled into other tools, although the blade is often reduced by bifacial sharpening; and (5) the blade, which in all but perhaps the earliest stage of use, is wide relative to its length and rarely saw-toothed or steeply beveled.

Several technological influences may have affected the development of the classic San Patrice point, especially the St. Johns variety. Story (1990) notes the similarity of the San Patrice point to notched points of the Early Archaic period of the Eastern Woodlands, which is the same time period as the Late Paleo-Indian period in Texas. This agrees with my observation that several notched point types in Southeast Texas have similar point types throughout the Southeast Woodlands (Patterson 1991b). The Hardaway Side-Notched point of the Southeast Woodlands is the closest look-alike to the San Patrice point, St. Johns variety (Story 1990:202; Justice 1987:44). Justice shows the combined geographic distribution of Hardaway Side-Notched and San Patrice points from East Texas to the Atlantic coast. It can also be noted that the geographic distribution of the Albany scraper is from East Texas to South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida (Patterson 1991a). The Albany scraper is called the Edgefield scraper in the Southeast Woodlands.

The few Big Sandy side-notched points (Turner and Hester 1993:81) found in Southeast Texas may be from the early part of the Late Paleo-Indian period. Justice dates the Big Sandy point in the Southeast Woodlands between 8000-6000 BC. Big Sandy points found in Southeast Texas include 1 from site 41WH19 in Wharton County (Patterson et al. 1987), 2 from site 41HR354 in Harris County (Patterson et al. 1992b), and 1 from site 41FB249 in Fort Bend County (Patterson 1997a).

## **Middle and Late Parts of Late Paleo-Indian Period, 7000-5000 BC**

After about 7000 BC, there was a trend in Southeast Texas from side-notched points to corner-notched points. Early Side-Notched points continued in use, but there was an increasing proportion of Early Corner-Notched points from 7000 BC until the end of the Late Paleo-Indian period at about 5000 BC. This trend from side-notched to corner-notched points also occurred in the Southeast Woodlands (Fagan 1995:352). The trend from side-notched to corner-notched points can be seen in the excavation sequences of sites 41WH19 (Patterson et al. 1987) and 41WH38 (Patterson et al. 1994). Typical Early Corner-Notched points are shown in Figure 3. At site 41WH38, an Early Side-Notched point in the 35-40 cm stratum is associated with an OCR date of 6820 BC, and Early Side-Notched and Early Corner-Notched points in the 30-35 cm stratum are associated with an OCR date of 6140 BC (Patterson et al. 1996).

After the Late Paleo-Indian period, stemmed point types became dominant in the Early Archaic period (5000-3000 BC), including Early Stemmed, Carrollton, and Wells. Some Early Stemmed points were used in the Late Paleo-Indian period as a minor type (Patterson 1980; Patterson et al. 1987), before stemmed point types became dominant in the Early Archaic period.

## Geographic Distributions in Southeast Texas

The geographic distribution of Early Notched points in Southeast Texas is shown in Figure 4. Side-notched and corner-notched forms are not given separately, because of morphological overlaps in these two point types. However, because there are data that indicate that Early Corner-Notched points occur mainly after San Patrice, Early Notched points found with San Patrice are probably of the side-notched type, as is indicated at site 41WH19 (Patterson et al. 1987). The geographic distribution of San Patrice points in this region is shown in Figure 5. Most San Patrice points in Southeast Texas are of the St. Johns variety. A San Patrice, Hope variety point was found at site 41HR315 in Harris County (Patterson 1980). In Figures 4 and 5, the number of points in the eastern part of Southeast Texas is probably understated, because much more survey work has been done in the western and central parts of this region than in the eastern part. There is a trend toward decreasing quantities of San Patrice points from east to west. This same trend is not evident for Early Notched points, probably because of the low amount of survey work in the eastern part of this region. There should not be a decrease in Early Notched point quantities from west to east as shown in Figure 4, because a variety of Early Notched point types occur throughout the Southeast Woodlands to the east of Southeast Texas, but Early Notched points are not common to the west of Southeast Texas. It can also be noted that projectile point types are often difficult to identify in the eastern part of Southeast Texas, where a high proportion of projectile points are made of coarse-grain petrified wood.

Sites in Southeast Texas with both Early Notched and San Patrice points are given in Table 1. Sites with Early Notched but without San Patrice are given in Table 2, and sites with San Patrice but without Early Notched are given in Table 3. Albany scrapers have been included in these tabulations. Significant relationships between Early Side-Notched points, San Patrice points, and Albany scrapers are indicated in Table 1 for Southeast Texas, as found at the John Pearce site in Louisiana (Webb et al. 1971). In Southeast Texas, Albany scrapers occur together with San Patrice and Early Side-Notched points at all but one site. The number of sites with both San Patrice and Early Side-Notched points is about the same as the number of sites with San Patrice but without Early Side-Notched points.

One specimen from site 41JF50 has been reclassified here from "Early Stemmed" to "Early Notched" because the site report follows Turner and Hester's (1993:106) use of the name "Early Stemmed" for a variety of Early Notched point. In Southeast Texas, Patterson uses the name "Early Stemmed" for a straight stemmed point type that occurs in the Late Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic periods, in the same manner as previously used by Shafer (1977: Figure 4) for eastern Texas.

Dalton points found in Southeast Texas are given in Table 4. There are only 21 Dalton points from 5 sites. The rarity of Dalton points and the large quantity of San Patrice points support Story's (1990:202) conclusion that the San Patrice heartland is all of eastern Texas and Louisiana (Story 1990: Figure 28), but that the Dalton point is confined mainly to the northern part of East Texas (Story 1990: Figure 27) and farther north into the Dalton heartland in Arkansas, eastern Oklahoma, and Missouri. Johnson (1989:26) has also noted that the geographic distribution of the San Patrice culture is quite different, in patterning, than that of Dalton. San Patrice and Dalton points appear to be separate technological traditions that both cover about the same time range.

## Summary

This article has given data on Early Notched and San Patrice projectile points in Southeast Texas. Early side-notched point types were first developed during the latter part of the Early Paleo-Indian period (9000-8000 BC) from the Clovis point tradition. During this time interval,

side-notched point types occur from Texas throughout the Eastern Woodlands. Early Side-Notched points continued into the Late Paleo-Indian period (8000-5000 BC) with Early Corner-Notched points developing from the Early Side-Notched tradition in the middle and latter parts of the Late Paleo-Indian period. The San Patrice, St. Johns variety appears to have developed from various early side-notched point types found in Texas and the Southeast Woodlands. The classic San Patrice point has been given a provisional time range of 8000-7000 BC. Various types of Early Notched points have an overall time range of 9000-5000 BC in Southeast Texas.

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