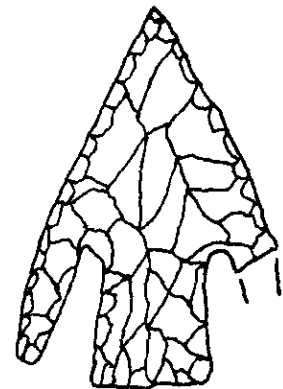
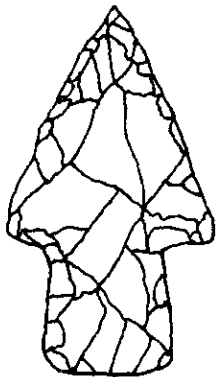
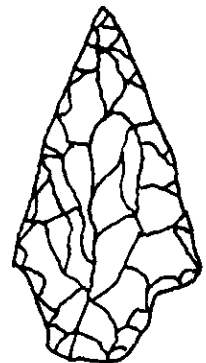
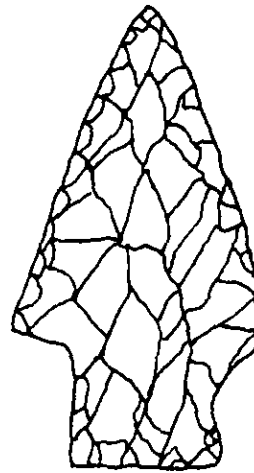
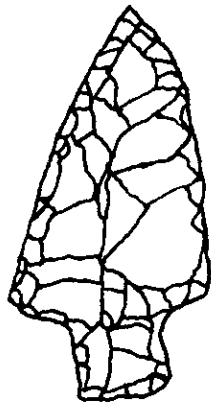
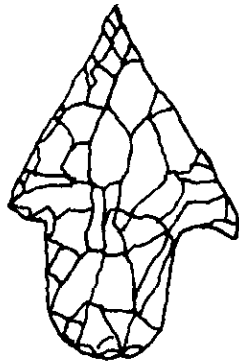




# JOURNAL HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 121

August 1998



Early Archaic Projectile Points from Southeast Texas

# Houston Archeological Society Journal

Number 121, August 1998

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ISSN-8756-8071

# Early Archaic Projectile Points in Southeast Texas

Leland W. Patterson

## Introduction

This article summarizes available data on projectile point types in Southeast Texas during the Early Archaic period (5000-3000 BC). This is the time period widely recognized as the postglacial thermal optimum (Aten 1983:136), which is estimated to be drier and warmer than the present climate. Aten (1983:154) speculated that human use of Southeast Texas was significantly restricted during this time period because of a reduction in natural resources. However, current data on relative population levels of inland Southeast Texas do not show a significant decline in population level during this time period (Patterson 1996: Figure 10).

During the Early Archaic period, there were changes in projectile point types compared to the preceding Late Paleo-Indian period (8000-5000 BC). There was no corresponding change in general lifestyle, however, but rather a continuation of a broad-based nomadic hunter-gatherer pattern. Most data for the Early Archaic period are from multi-component sites (Patterson 1996: Table 19) that show continuity of occupation sequences over long time intervals.

It is difficult to obtain rigorous explanations for prehistoric cultural changes. Changes in projectile point styles in Southeast Texas during the Early Archaic period may have been affected by factors such as hafting technique and cultural preference. In any event, projectile point types are often useful for identifying specific time periods.

Projectile point types discussed here include Early Stemmed, Carrollton, Wells, Bell, and Trinity.

## Type Descriptions

Examples of Early Stemmed points are shown in Figure 1. This category covers a variety of variations for points that have straight stems, and occasionally contracting stems. Stems usually have ground edges. This category follows Shafer's (1977: Figure 4) nomenclature for this point type in eastern Texas. It should be noted that Turner and Hester (1993:106) use the term "Early Stemmed" in a different manner for a variety of Late Paleo-Indian side-notched points.

The Carrollton point type has been described in detail by Suhm and Jelks (1962:171) and Turner and Hester (1993:85). Examples of Carrollton points from Southeast Texas are shown in Figure 2. This point type has a relatively long, straight stem, often with ground stem edges.

The Wells point type has been described by Suhm and Jelks (1962:257) and Turner and Hester (1993:193). Examples of Wells points from Southeast Texas are shown in Figure 2. This point type has a relatively long, contracting stem, often with ground stem edges. In Southeast Texas, there seems to be less frequent grinding of stem edges on Wells points than on Early Stemmed and Carrollton points.

The Bell point is a basally notched type, described in detail by Turner and Hester (1993:80). Larger specimens with long slots are sometimes called Andice points. Studies have shown, however, that the distinction between Bell and Andice points is not meaningful. There is a continuum between the attributes of Bell and Andice points (Weber and Patterson 1985; Weber 1986). Examples of Bell points from Southeast Texas are shown in Figure 2.

The Trinity point type has been described in detail by Suhm and Jelks (1962:253) and Turner and Hester (1993:190). This point type has a triangular blade, and an expanding stem with

shallow, ground side-notches. The stem is sometimes bulbar in shape. Examples of Trinity points from Southeast Texas are shown in Figure 2.

## Chronological Data

The point types discussed here are placed in the Early Archaic period by data from excavated occupation sequences and by a few radiocarbon dates. At the end of the Late Paleo-Indian period, about 5000 BC, there was a rather quick change from Early Notched and lanceolate point types to other point types in Southeast Texas. Straight stem and contracting stem point styles become dominant in the Early Archaic period (5000-3000 BC), including Early Stemmed, Carrollton, and Wells point types. Bell and Trinity points are also occasionally found in the Early Archaic period in this region.

There are no radiocarbon dates for the Early Stemmed point in Southeast Texas. This point type can be placed in the Early Archaic period by excavated sequences at sites 41FB42 (Patterson et al. 1993), 41FB223 (Patterson et al. 1994), 41WH19 (Patterson et al. 1987), and 41WH24 (Patterson et al. 1995). The Early Stemmed point also occurs in the Late Paleo-Indian period as a minor point type, as shown by excavations at sites 41HR315 (Patterson 1980) and 41WH19 (Patterson et al. 1987).

Site 41FB37 is a single-component Early Archaic site in Fort Bend County (Patterson and Hudgins 1987a). This site has radiocarbon dates of  $4740 \pm 120$  BC and  $4540 \pm 120$  BC (Patterson 1988). A Carrollton point is associated with the later date. At site 41HR315 (Patterson 1980) in Harris County, the excavated sequence places the Carrollton point in the early Archaic period, and perhaps also in the early part of the Middle Archaic period (3000-1500 BC).

At site 41FB37, a Wells point is located slightly higher in the excavated sequence than the dated Carrollton point, but still in the Early Archaic period. Turner and Hester (1993:193) place the Wells point in the Early Archaic period in Central Texas. A Wells point at site 41FB42 is located roughly at the stratigraphic boundary between the Early and Middle Archaic periods.

There are no radiocarbon dates for the Bell point in Southeast Texas, because all specimens are surface finds. The Bell point is placed in the Early Archaic period in Southeast Texas on the basis of the same temporal placement in Central Texas (Turner and Hester 1993:80). Bell points found in Southeast Texas are usually made of Central Texas cherts. Bell points in Southeast Texas were probably made in Central Texas, and then entered Southeast Texas as trade items or with hunter-gatherer groups from Central Texas occasionally entering Southeast Texas.

At site 41HR315 (Patterson 1980) in Harris County, Trinity points are found in the Early Archaic portion of the excavation sequence. Turner and Hester (1993:190) place the Trinity point in the Middle Archaic period in North-Central and Northeast Texas.

There is an Early Archaic radiocarbon date of  $4290 \pm 80$  BC at site 41PK69 in Polk County (Ensor and Carlson 1988:60). However, there are problems in relating projectile point types to the stratigraphic sequence at this site (Ensor and Carlson 1988:258-259).

## Geographic Distributions of Point Types

The geographic distributions in Southeast Texas of Early Stemmed, Carrollton, Wells, Bell and Trinity point types are given in Tables 1 to 5 and Figures 3 to 7, respectively.

Early Stemmed points have been identified only in Fort Bend, Harris, and Wharton Counties. This is probably because these are the counties with much more survey work than done in other counties in Southeast Texas. Early Stemmed points should occur throughout Southeast Texas, based on Shafer's (1977) conclusions for eastern Texas. The Early Stemmed point as defined here

has not been recognized in typologies given by Suhm and Jelks (1962) and Turner and Hester (1993). Therefore, many archeologists may not recognize this point type. Another consideration is that Early Stemmed points are difficult to identify in the eastern part of Southeast Texas because in this area a high proportion of projectile points are made of coarse-grain petrified wood (Kindall and Patterson 1986).

Carrollton points are found throughout Southeast Texas. Turner and Hester (1993:85) state that this point type occurs mainly along the terraces of the Trinity River in North-Central Texas. Data given here indicate that the geographic distribution of the Carrollton point should be expanded into Southeast Texas.

Wells points have been found throughout Southeast Texas, but not in large quantities. Turner and Hester (1993:193) show the main distribution of this point type in the central part of East Texas and into Central Texas. The Wells point might be a variant of the Early Stemmed point type.

The Bell point is essentially a Central Texas point type (Turner and Hester 1993:80) that is found occasionally in Southeast Texas. As would be expected, Bell points have been found mainly in the western and central parts of Southeast Texas, closest to Central Texas.

The Trinity point is usually associated with North-Central Texas (Turner and Hester 1993:190). This point type has been found occasionally in Southeast Texas, mainly in Harris County.

## Summary

This article has reviewed the typologies, chronologies, and geographic distributions of projectile point types of the Early Archaic period in Southeast Texas. Early Stemmed and Carrollton points are the most numerous types in Southeast Texas during this time period. Bell points found in Southeast Texas may have been manufactured in Central Texas, because Bell points are usually made of Central Texas cherts, while other point types of this time period in Southeast Texas are made of local cherts or petrified wood. Trinity points in Southeast Texas may represent occasional influences from North-Central Texas. Bell and Trinity points should be regarded as minor types in Southeast Texas.

Changes in projectile point types from the Late Paleo-Indian period to the Early Archaic period are not associated with changes in settlement patterns, subsistence patterns, or climatic change. Stylistic changes in projectile point types seem to be mainly due to technological innovation and perhaps cultural preference.

The significant number of sites in Southeast Texas with Early Archaic components demonstrates that there was no severe impact of a thermal maximum during this time period. The thermal maximum is a general concept that may not apply to the climate of Southeast Texas in a significant manner.

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Table 1. Early Stemmed Points in Southeast Texas

site	county	no. of points	reference
41FB42	Fort Bend	1	Patterson et al. 1993
41FB95	Fort Bend	3	Patterson and Hudgins 1987b
41FB198	Fort Bend	1	Patterson and Hudgins 1991
41FB223	Fort Bend	10	Patterson et al. 1994
41FB249	Fort Bend	46	Patterson 1997
FBSM(A)	Fort Bend	4	Patterson et al. 1995
41HR5	Harris	12	Patterson 1995
41HR182	Harris	2	Patterson 1985, 1990a
41HR184	Harris	4	Patterson 1994
41HR185	Harris	1	Patterson 1982
41HR315	Harris	3	Patterson 1980a
41HR343	Harris	7	Patterson et al. 1992a
41HR354	Harris	4	Patterson et al. 1992b
41HR375	Harris	1	Ensor et al. 1991
41HR641	Harris	1	Patterson 1990b
41HR730	Harris	2	Patterson et al. 1992b
41WH10	Wharton	1	Patterson and Hudgins 1980
41WH19	Wharton	7	Patterson et al. 1987
41WH24	Wharton	1	Patterson et al. 1995
41WH38	Wharton	1	Patterson et al. 1994
total		112	

A - collections from Smithers Lake area



Table 2. Carrollton Points in Southeast Texas

site	county	no. of points	reference
41AU1	Austin	1	Duke 1982
41FB37	Fort Bend	1	Patterson and Hudgins 1987a
41FB95	Fort Bend	2	Patterson and Hudgins 1987b
41FB223	Fort Bend	1	Patterson et al. 1994
41FB249	Fort Bend	3	Patterson 1997
FBSM(A)	Fort Bend	2	Patterson et al. 1995
41GM181	Grimes	1	Rogers 1993
41HR5	Harris	3	Patterson 1995
41HR73	Harris	6	Duke 1971
41HR184	Harris	1	Patterson 1994
41HR206	Harris	1	Patterson 1980b
41HR223	Harris	1	Patterson 1977
41HR233	Harris	1	Patterson and Marshall 1989
41HR244	Harris	1	Patterson 1976, 1979
41HR259	Harris	2	McClure 1976a
41HR283	Harris	2	McClure 1982
41HR290	Harris	1	McClure and Patterson 1988
41HR315	Harris	10	Patterson 1980a
41HR343	Harris	2	Patterson et al. 1992a
41HR354	Harris	5	Patterson et al. 1992b
41HR525	Harris	1	Patterson et al. 1984
41HR571	Harris	1	Patterson 1986
41JF50	Jefferson	12	Turner and Tanner 1994
41LB66	Liberty	4	Kindall and Patterson 1986
41PK186	Polk	1	Kindall and Patterson 1986
41TL31	Tyler	3	Kindall and Patterson 1986
41WH19	Wharton	1	Patterson et al. 1987
41WT5	Washington	1	Kuehn 1996
total		71	

A - collections from Smithers Lake area

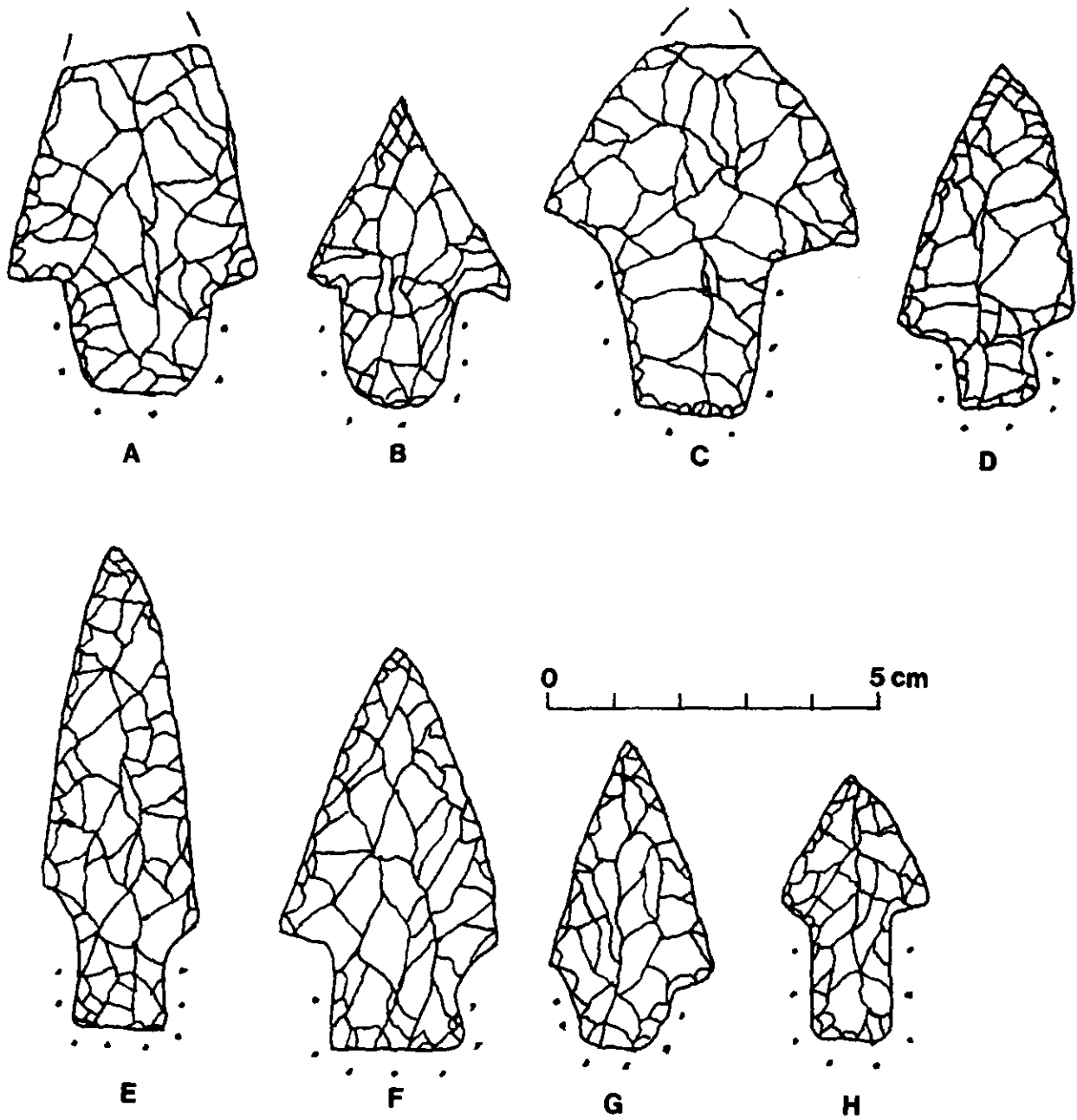
Table 3. Wells Points in Southeast Texas

site	county	no. of points	reference
41AU1	Austin	1	Duke 1982
41AU37	Austin	1	Hall 1981
41FB37	Fort Bend	1	Patterson and Hudgins 1987a
41FB42	Fort Bend	1	Patterson et al. 1993
41FB95	Fort Bend	2	Patterson and Hudgins 1987b
41FB249	Fort Bend	4	Patterson 1997: Table 1
FBSM(A)	Fort Bend	3	Patterson et al. 1995
41HR5	Harris	3	Patterson 1995
41HR89	Harris	1	McClure 1976b
41HR184	Harris	3	Patterson 1994
41HR206	Harris	1	Patterson 1980b
41HR283	Harris	1	McClure 1982
41HR315	Harris	1	Patterson 1980a
41HR343	Harris	1	Patterson et al. 1992a
41HR354	Harris	7	Patterson et al. 1992b
41HR730	Harris	1	Patterson et al. 1992b
41PK8	Polk	3	McClurkan 1968
41SJ19	San Jacinto	2	McClurkan 1968
total		37	

A – collections from Smithers Lake area

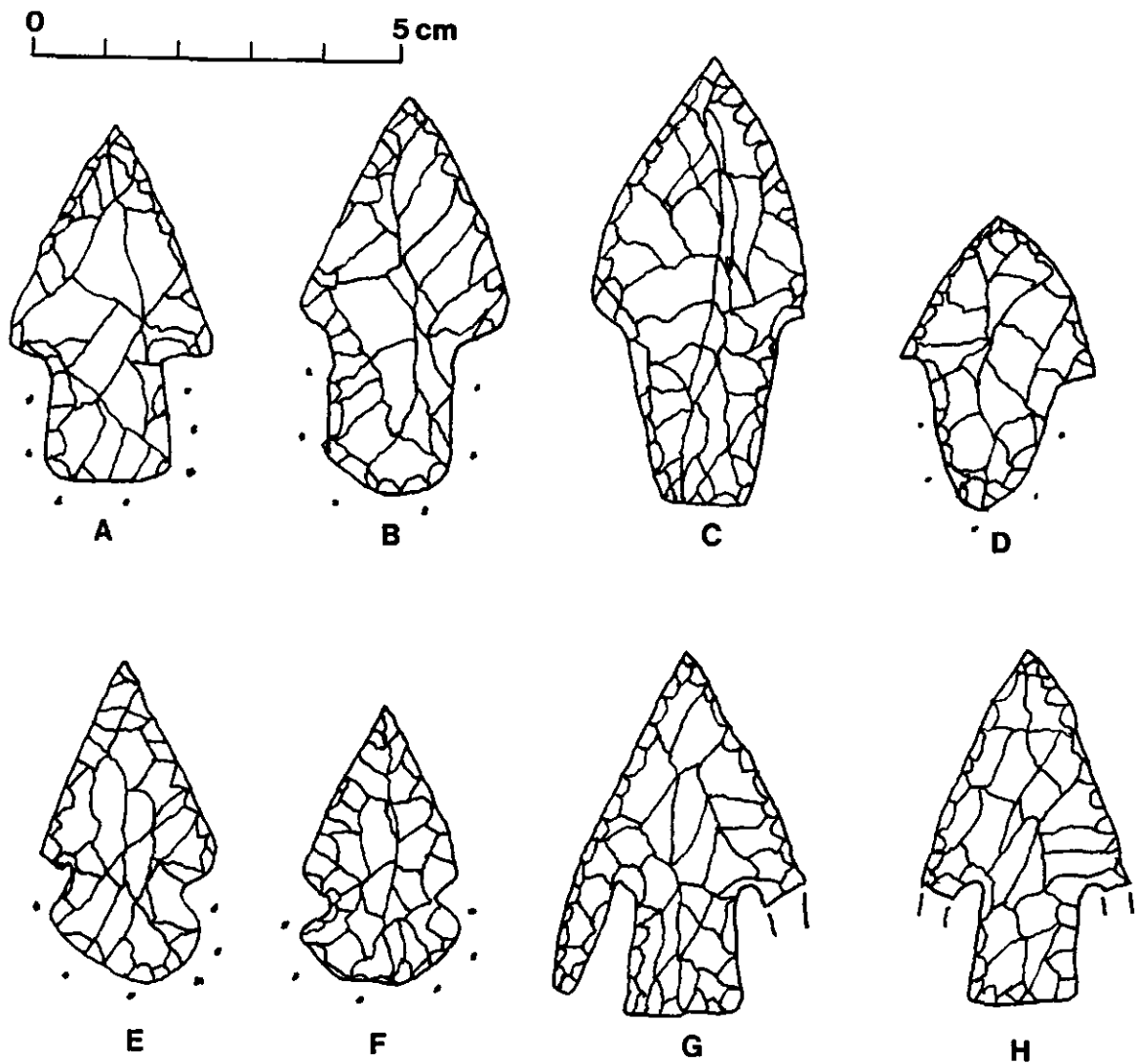
Table 4. Bell Points in Southeast Texas

site	county	no. of points	reference
41AU1	Austin	1	Duke 1982
41FB95	Fort Bend	1	Patterson and Hudgins 1987b
41FB249	Fort Bend	3	Patterson 1997: Table 1
41HR89	Harris	1	McClure 1976b
41HR182	Harris	1	Patterson 1985, 1990b
41HR209	Harris	1	Patterson 1987
41HR233	Harris	1	Patterson and Marshall 1989
41HR259	Harris	1	McClure 1976a
41HR268	Harris	1	McClure 1976c
41HR279	Harris	1	McClure 1979
41HR315	Harris	2	Patterson 1980a
41HR354	Harris	6	Patterson et al 1992b
41HR731	Harris	1	Patterson et al. 1992b
41JF50	Jefferson	1	Turner and Tanner 1994
41WH7	Wharton	1	Patterson and Hudgins 1980b
41WH26	Wharton	1	Patterson and Hudgins 1982
total		24	



A to D - 41WH19, E to H - 41FB223  
 dots show ground edges

Figure 1. Early Stemmed Points



A,B - Carrollton, 41HR315; C - Wells, 41FB42; D - Wells, 41HR206;  
 E,F - Trinity, 41HR315; G - Bell, 41WH26; H - Bell, 41WH7  
 dots show ground edges

Figure 2. Early Archaic Points

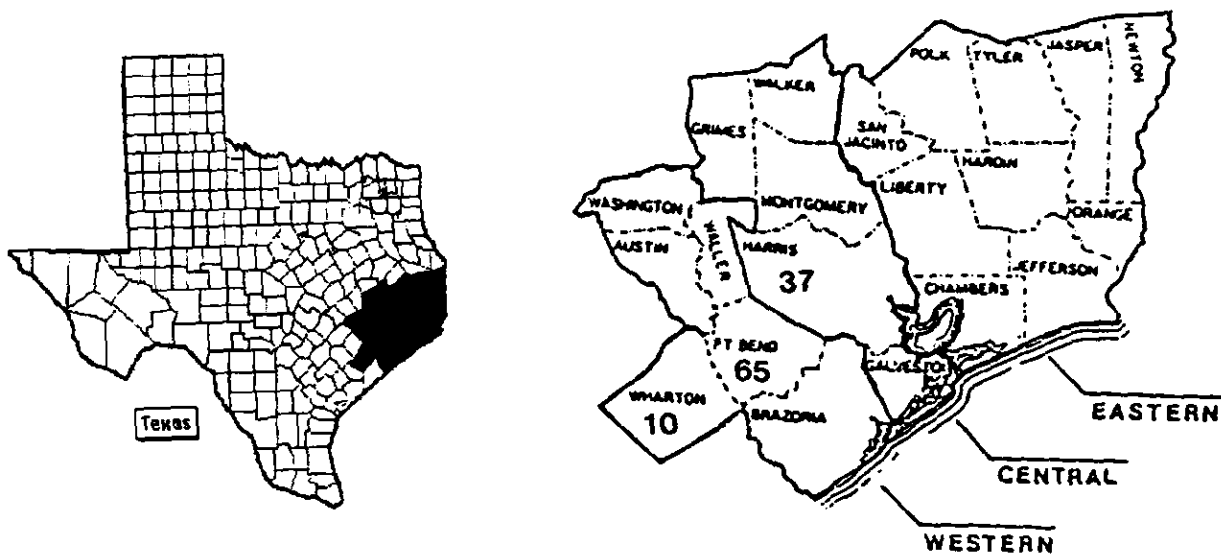


Figure 3. Distribution of Early Stemmed Points

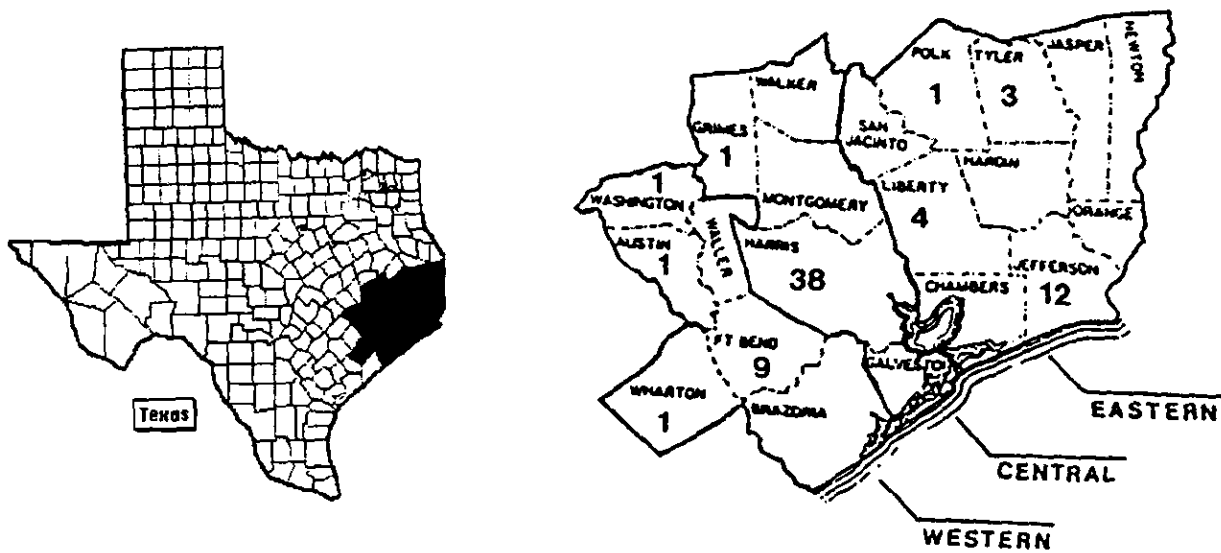


Figure 4. Distribution of Carrollton Points

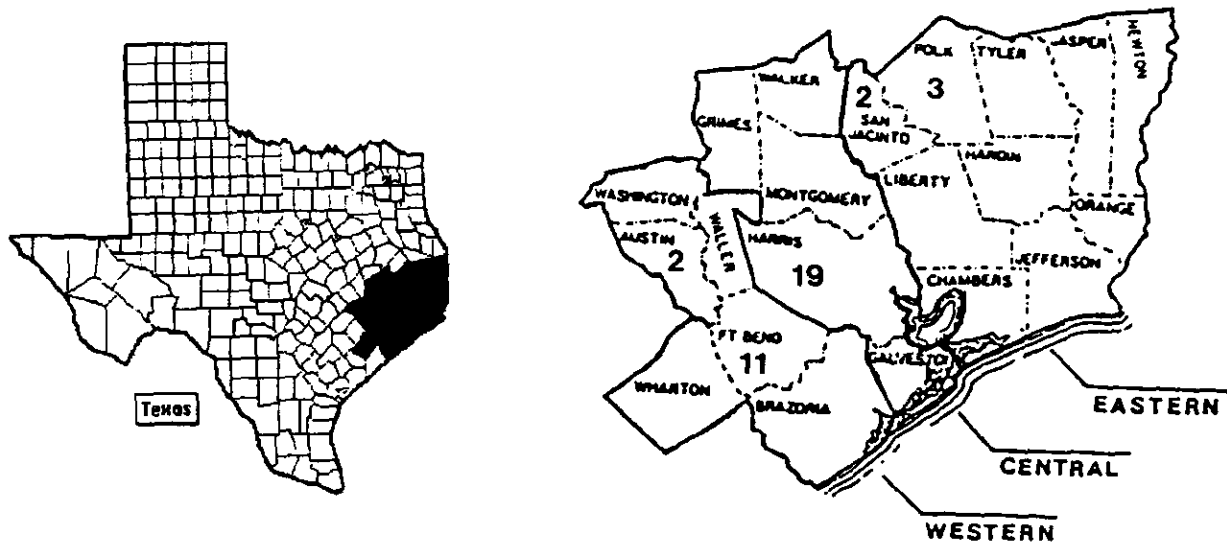


Figure 5. Distribution of Wells Points

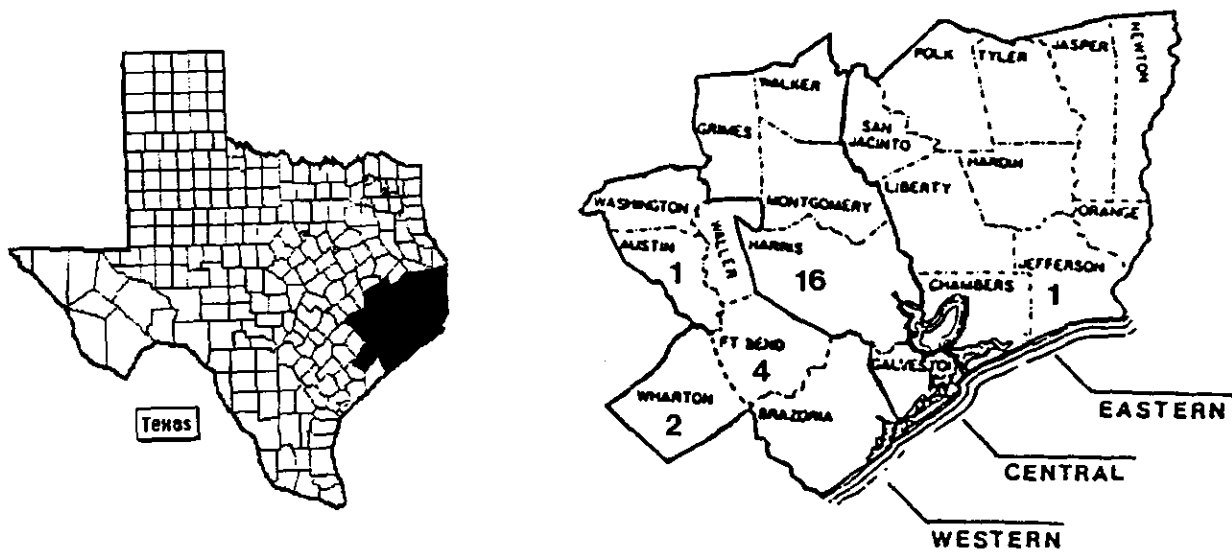


Figure 6. Distribution of Bell Points

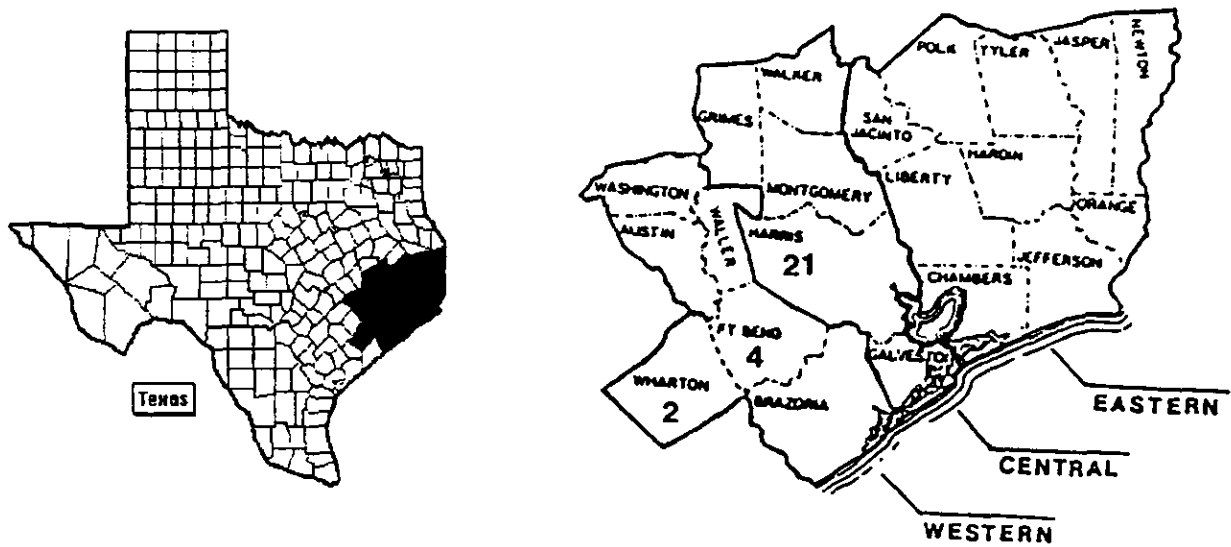


Figure 7. Distribution of Trinity Points

Table 5. Trinity Points in Southeast Texas

site	county	no. of points	reference
41FB71	Fort Bend	1	Ensor 1987
41FB249	Fort Bend	3	Patterson 1997: Table 1
41HR5	Harris	8	Patterson 1995
41HR89	Harris	1	McClure 1976b
41HR250	Harris	1	Patterson 1975
41HR259	Harris	1	McClure 1976a
41HR279	Harris	1	McClure 1979
41HR315	Harris	2	Patterson 1980a
41HR354	Harris	4	Patterson et al. 1992b
41HR525	Harris	1	Patterson et al. 1984
41HR684	Harris	2	Patterson 1991
41WH5	Wharton	2	Patterson and Hudgins 1989
total		27	

# Prismatic Blade Technology in Southeast Texas

Leland W. Patterson

## Introduction

Many prehistoric archeological sites in inland Southeast Texas have been published where there are industries for the manufacture of small prismatic blades. This article summarizes data for this region on prismatic blade technologies and related unifacial arrow points. Early use of the bow and arrow in Southeast Texas has been related to the start of small prismatic blades and concurrent start of unifacial arrow points in the Middle Archaic (3000-1500 BC) period (Patterson 1982, 1992).

This article discusses the manufacture and use of small prismatic blades in Southeast Texas. Regional chronology and geographic distribution of small prismatic blades are also considered. Small prismatic blades are defined here as blades with widths under 18 mm.

Large prismatic blades from the Early (10000-8000 BC) and Late (8000-5000 BC) Paleo-Indian periods are occasionally found in Southeast Texas (McClure and Patterson 1989; Patterson et al. 1992). Large prismatic blades appear to have been imported from Central Texas, because large prismatic blades found in Southeast Texas are usually made of Edwards Plateau cherts.

The manufacture and use of small prismatic blades is an important technological tradition in Southeast Texas. Small prismatic blades are also found in other regions of Texas (Patterson 1974a, 1976f). Prismatic blade technology and the bow and arrow were introduced to the New World from Northeast Asia in the early Holocene period about 8000 BC, and these technologies then diffused southward throughout North America (Patterson 1992).

## Manufacture of Prismatic Blades

A prismatic blade is a special type of lithic flake, defined as a flake with length at least twice the width, having parallel lateral edges, and at least one ridge on the dorsal surface parallel to the lateral edges (Sollberger and Patterson 1976). A blade is made by applying force directly above a ridge on a core face. The fracture plane for flake removal then follows the ridge, with the resulting distinctive attributes of the prismatic blade. Removal of several prismatic blades from a core results in a polyhedral core face with parallel fracture scars. Some prismatic blades and blade cores are shown in Figure 1.

## Identification of Blade Industries

It is important to determine that prismatic blades at an archeological site were purposefully made, because prismatic blades are occasionally produced in a fortuitous manner by other types of lithic manufacturing, such as the manufacture of bifacial projectile points. There are three analytical criteria for the identification of the purposeful manufacture of prismatic blades. One analytical criterion is the occurrence of a large number of blades at a site. In making bifacial projectile points, I will fortuitously produce about one prismatic blade during the removal of about 500 flakes. In this case, the accidental production of prismatic blades is well under 1% of total flakes.

The presence of polyhedral cores with parallel flake scars is the best indication of purposeful manufacture of prismatic blades. However, at archeological sites many blade cores were fully expended by the production of other types of flakes. This results in blade cores being under-represented. In the conversion of a core from the production of blades to the production of other



types of flakes, the first flake removed after production of blades has ended is a facial trim flake with several parallel flake scars on the dorsal surface. Therefore, a flake of this type represents a blade core fragment, usually representing the original presence of a blade core at a site. Some blade core trim flakes are shown in Figure 1.

When there are enough blades in a collection to be statistically significant (well over 30), the frequency of blade widths will form a roughly bell-shaped curve, as can be demonstrated experimentally (Sollberger and Patterson 1976). The highest frequency of blade width represents the ideal blade width desired, with manufacturing variation causing more than one blade width to be produced. Blade width distributions for some sites in Southeast Texas are shown in Table 1. All of the width distributions in Table 1 are bell-shaped curves, with highest width frequencies between 9 and 13 mm. An example blade width distribution curve for site 41HR182 is shown in Figure 2.

### **Small Blade Chronologies in Southeast Texas**

Many collections of small prismatic blades in Southeast Texas are from sites with surface collections, many having artifacts from several time periods. There are some sites, however, where small prismatic blades can be related to definite time periods. At site 41HR315, the stratigraphic sequence of excavations indicates that small blades were produced from the Middle Archaic (3000-1500 BC) through the Late Prehistoric (AD 600-1500) periods (Patterson 1980b).

Site 41FB3 is a Late Archaic (1500 BC-AD 100) site with a significant number (92) of small prismatic blades. This site has nine radiocarbon dates, ranging from 3230  $\pm$ 170 BP, 1510 BC calibrated, to 2075  $\pm$ 115 BP, 60 BC calibrated (Patterson 2000: Tables 2,3).

An unpublished 1997 surface collection from site 41FB90 has 3 small blades, 1 complete blade core, and 2 blade core trim flakes. Previous data indicate that this is a Late Archaic site (Patterson and Black 1991).

At site 41PK88, most of the prismatic blades are from the Late Prehistoric period (McClurkan 1968: Table 35). Site 41HR293 is a Late Prehistoric site with prismatic blade technology (Patterson 1977b). Site 41HR250 is a preceramic site where prismatic blades were produced at least as early as the Late Archaic period (Patterson 1975b). Site 41HR226 is a Late Archaic site with prismatic blade technology (Patterson 1979).

### **Geographic Distribution of Blade Industries**

Sites in Southeast Texas with definite prismatic blade industries are shown in Table 2. These sites have prismatic blades and blade cores or trim flakes. In this analysis, blade cores and core trim flakes are totaled together, because trim flakes represent fragments of blade cores. Sites in Table 2 are in Austin, Fort Bend, Harris, and Wharton Counties.

Additional sites with possible prismatic blade industries are shown in Table 3. These sites have some prismatic blades but no blade cores or trim flakes. Site 41PK88 is a good candidate for a definite prismatic blade industry, because prismatic blades represent several percent of total flakes (McClurkan 1968: Table 35).

It may be seen from Tables 2 and 3 that small prismatic blades have been found in five of 21 counties of Southeast Texas, including Austin, Fort Bend, Harris, Polk, and Wharton Counties. It is not likely that prismatic blade technologies are confined to these five counties in this region, but instead this geographic distribution represents available data on the thorough analysis of lithic flake collections from archeological sites in Southeast Texas. For example, the Andy Kyle collections

(Kindall and Patterson 1986) from many sites in the eastern part of Southeast Texas do not include the collection of lithic flakes.

All sites in Southeast Texas with prismatic blade industries are inland sites. There are no known sites with blade industries on the coastal margin of this region, probably because the coastal margin is a lithic-poor area. Ricklis (1994: Tables 5.5, 6.5) has noted 33 prismatic blades and blade-like flakes at coastal margin site 41GV66 on Galveston Island. However, there is no evidence that prismatic blades were made at this location, especially specimens with widths over 18 mm. It seems likely that much of the lithic material at site 41GV66 was scavenged from sites on the mainland. The blade width distribution for site 41GV66 shown in Figure 3 is very uneven, which is an indication that prismatic blades were not purposefully made at this site.

### **Unifacial Arrow Points**

The start of the bow and arrow in southern North America, including Southeast Texas, has been related to the concurrent introduction of technologies for the production of small prismatic blades and the production of unifacial arrow points (Patterson 1992). Small prismatic blades are especially useful for the manufacture of unifacial arrow points because of the size and shape of small blades. Other types of small flakes can be used to make unifacial arrow points, but the suitable range of shapes is restricted.

In Southeast Texas, there appears to be a good relationship between unifacial arrow points and small prismatic blades. It may be seen in Tables 2 and 3 that 29 sites have both unifacial arrow points and small prismatic blades, but only 4 sites have unifacial arrow points without small blades. Some of the sites with the largest number of small blades also have the largest number of unifacial arrow points.

Analytical criteria for the identification of unifacial arrow points have been published by Patterson (1994a). Some examples of unifacial arrow points made on prismatic blades are shown in Figure 1. The early use of unifacial arrow points at Archaic (preceramic) sites in Southeast Texas is indicated at sites 41HR315 (Patterson 1980), 41FB3 (Patterson et al. 1998), and 41FB223 (Patterson, Hudgins, McClure, et al. 1994).

### **Uses of Small Prismatic Blades**

Besides being made into unifacial arrow points, small prismatic blades in Southeast Texas were used as expedient tools, as scrapers, cutting tools, graters, and perforators (Patterson 1994b). Examples of blades used as tools are shown in Figure 1. Small prismatic blades were also used as expedient tools and unifacial arrow points in other parts of the eastern Woodlands (Patterson 1995a).

Small prismatic blades are good blanks for the manufacture of bifacial arrow points, because of size, shape, thickness, and the presence of ridges on the dorsal surface. A ridge or ridges on the dorsal face of a blade strengthen the blade. There are fewer fracture failures from strong pressure flaking on small prismatic blades than from use of flat, thin flakes as blanks in making bifacial arrow points.

### **Summary**

The manufacture of small prismatic blades is an important technological tradition in Southeast Texas from the Middle Archaic through Late Prehistoric time periods. Prismatic blade technology

is especially important in this region as an indication of early use of the bow and arrow. Prismatic blades in Southeast Texas were used to make unifacial arrow points and were also used as expedient tools in the same manner as other types of lithic flakes.

Prismatic blades have been found in all counties of Southeast Texas where extensive survey and excavation work has been done. Therefore, the presence or absence of prismatic blade technology at prehistoric sites of a county may be a function of the amount of research done.

Prismatic blade technology can be overlooked in lithic flake collections if intensive analysis is not done. Archeologists working in Southeast Texas should look for prismatic blades as part of the analysis of the lithic assemblage from each site.

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Table 1. Blade Width Distributions

blade width, mm	percent of blades						
	HR184	HR315	HR206	HR182	HR245	HR5	FB3
5	2.9		2.0	1.8			
6	7.9	0.4	5.3	3.0	2.4		4.3
7	8.7	4.1	6.2	3.6	6.0	3.6	8.7
8	10.2	8.2	8.3	10.8	3.6	8.3	13.0
9	12.3	13.2	10.0	14.5	12.0	10.7	14.1
10	16.3	15.2	12.4	16.9	15.7	16.7	15.2
11	12.6	15.2	10.9	13.9	17.0	20.2	14.2
12	11.6	14.4	14.2	13.9	19.3	13.1	15.2
13	6.5	9.9	9.7	8.4	10.8	14.3	9.8
14	4.6	8.2	8.0	5.4	7.2	4.8	3.3
15	2.3	6.1	6.2	3.6	1.2	7.1	
16	1.5	2.1	2.4	2.4	4.8	1.2	2.2
17	1.3	2.1	3.2	1.2			
18	1.3	0.8	1.2	0.6			
no. of blades	520	243	339	187	83	84	92

Table 2. Blade Industries in Southeast Texas

site	no. of blades	blade cores + trim flakes	unifacial arrow points	reference
41AU7	4	3	1	Patterson 1976a
41FB3	92	12	18	Patterson et al. 1998
41FB90	3	3		Patterson field notes
41FB245	83	5	7	Patterson et al. 1997
41HR5	84	24	6	Patterson 1995b
41HR6	49	3		Patterson 1981a
41HR182	187	16	2	Patterson 1985
41HR183	16	2	4	Patterson 1977a
41HR184	520	43	64	Patterson 1994b
41HR185	61	8	7	Patterson 1982b
41HR206	339	20	24	Patterson 1980a
41HR207	3	2		Patterson 1978
41HR209	21	3	8	Patterson 1976b
41HR210	45	8	14	Patterson 1975a
41HR213	3	1		Patterson 1977a
41HR217	2	1		Patterson 1974b
41HR226	2	3		Patterson 1979
41HR244	74	8	13	Patterson 1976c
41HR245	21	3	2	Patterson 1976d
41HR248	11	2	3	Patterson 1976e
41HR250	21	4	2	Patterson 1975b
41HR255	18	4	7	Patterson 1976d
41HR293	11	2	3	Patterson 1977b
41HR315	243	30	54	Patterson 1980
41HR525	9	3	1	Patterson et al. 1984
41WH5	7	1		Patterson and Hudgins 1989a
41WH10	7	2		Patterson and Hudgins 1984
41WH37	10	1	1	Patterson and Hudgins 1989b
41WH72	1	1		Patterson, Hudgins, Kindall, et al. 1995a

Table 3. Possible Additional Blade Industries in Southeast Texas

site	no. of blades	unifacial arrow points	reference
41FB99	7		Kelley et al. 1994
41FB223	3	2	Patterson, Hudgins, McClure, et al. 1994
41FB224	1		Patterson, McClure, et al. 1996
41HR139	6		McClure 1975a
41HR208	4	1	Patterson 1978a
41HR214	2		Patterson 1977a
41HR215	5	1	Patterson 1977c
41HR223	24	8	Patterson 1977d
41HR246	3		Patterson 1976d
41HR247	9		Patterson 1976d
41HR249	2		Patterson 1976d
41HR251	1		Patterson 1976d
41HR254	1		Patterson 1976d
41HR256	1		McClure 1975b
41HR257	1		McClure 1977a
41HR259	1		McClure 1976
41HR267	1	1	Patterson 1978b
41HR273		5	Ensor and Carlson 1991
41HR283	6		McClure 1982
41HR285	1		McClure 1977b
41HR632	4		Kuttruff 1993
41HR745	1		Patterson 1993
41PK88	22	7	McClurkan 1968
41WH12		1	Patterson and Hudgins 1989c
41WH19	15	2	Patterson et al. 1987
41WH21		3	Patterson, Hudgins, et al. 1996
41WH24	5	1	Patterson, Hudgins, Kindall, et al. 1995c
41WH25	3		Patterson 1981b
41WH38	1	1	Patterson, Hudgins, Kindall, et al. 1994
41WH73		2	Patterson and Hudgins 1992
41WH77	3	3	Patterson, Hudgins, Kindall, et al. 1995b

A to C – blade cores, D to F – core trim flakes, G to I – unmodified blades, J to O – blades used as tools, P to U – unifacial arrow points on blades

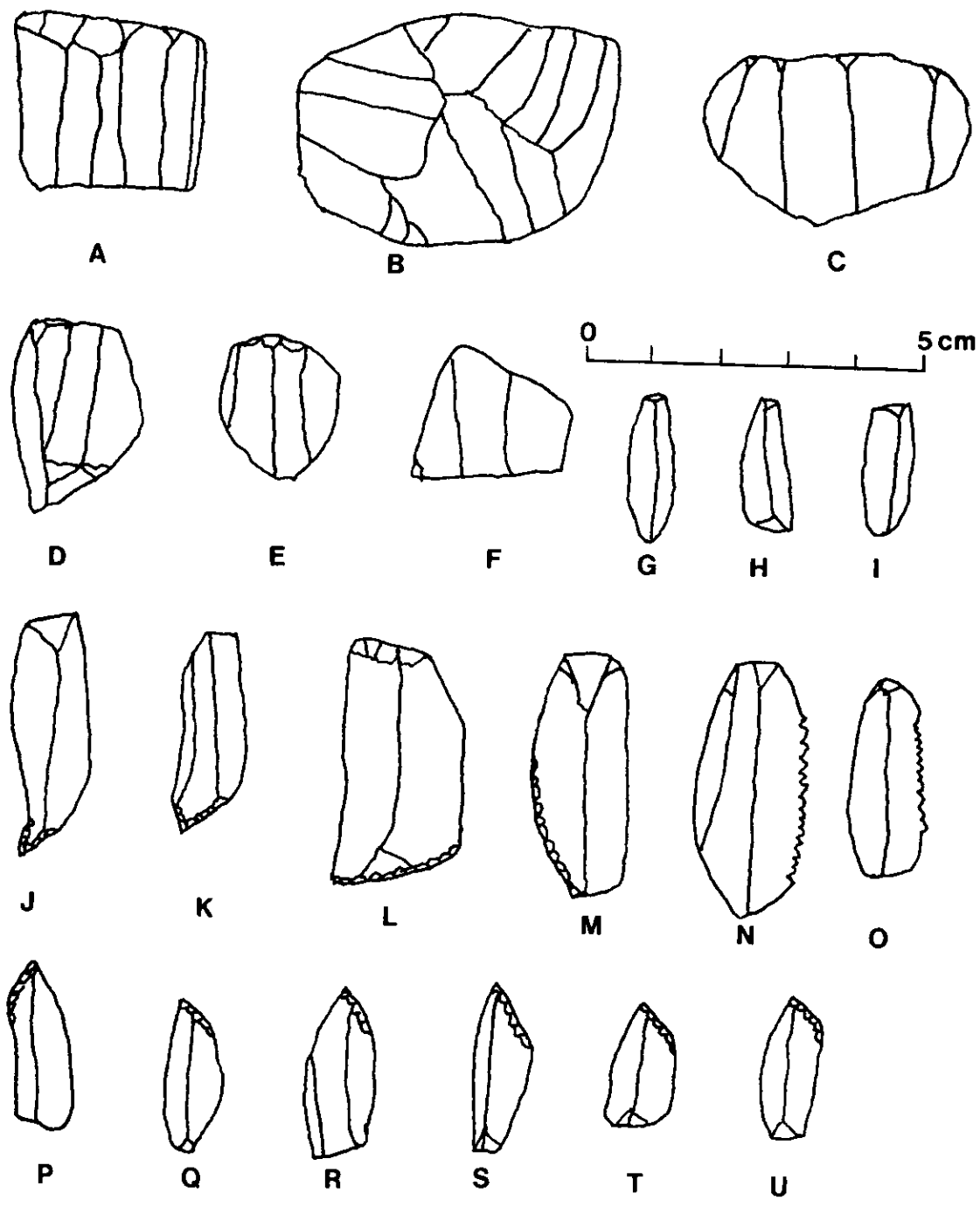


Figure 1. Typical Artifacts from Blade Industries



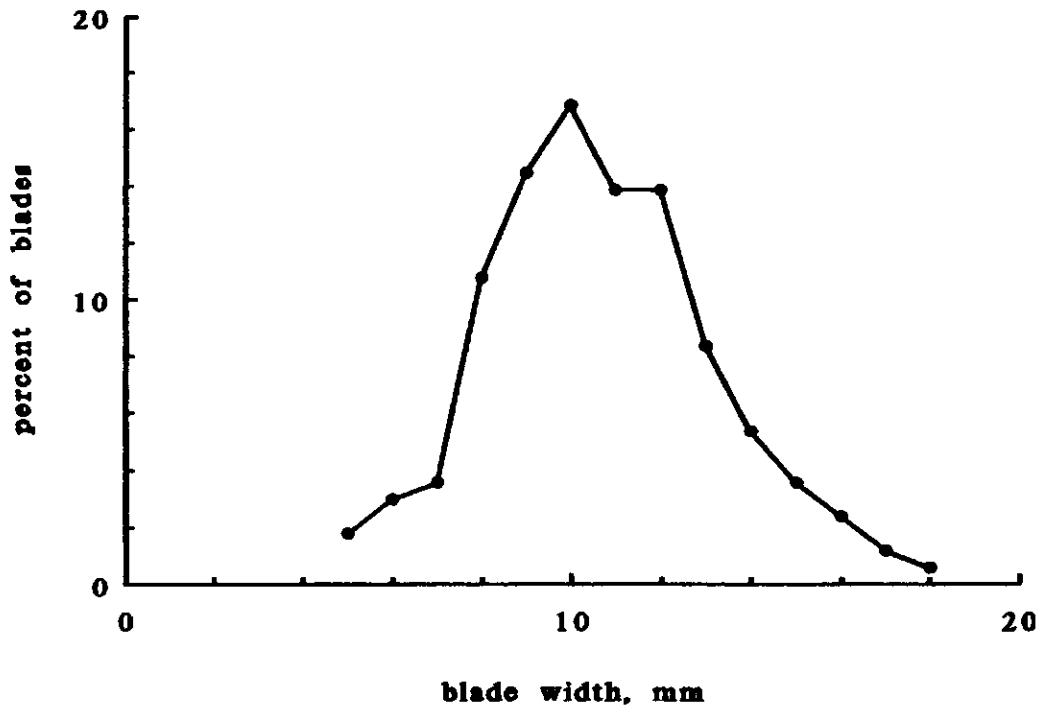


Figure 2 Blade Width Distribution, 41HR182

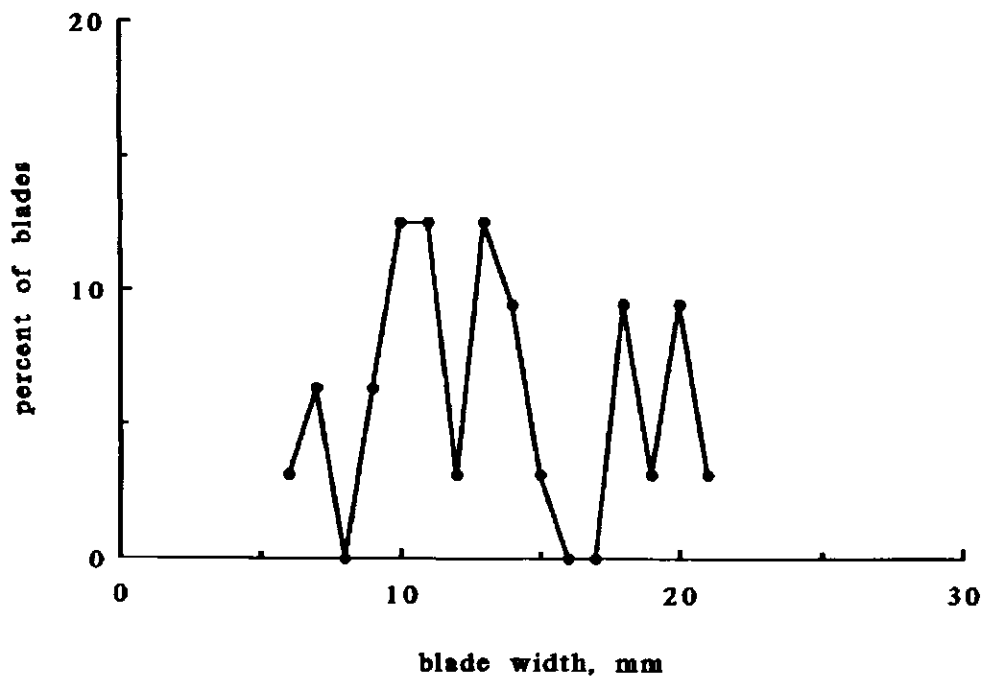


Figure 3 Blade Width Distribution, 41GV66

# Who Was John Andrechyne Laffite?

Jean L. Epperson

John Andrechyne Laffite said he was the great-grandson of the famous corsair/privateer, Jean Laffite. He sold a collection of papers, pictures, letters, bibles, copy books, and a journal written in French to an antiques dealer. The collection was purchased by former Governor of Texas, Price Daniel, Sr., in 1976. These memorabilia are housed and partially displayed in the Sam Houston Regional Library in Liberty, Texas.

The collection has spawned much debate among historians and laymen alike concerning its authenticity. Arguments have arisen about historical facts, French grammar, names, places, etc. There are avid advocates and determined detractors of the papers' authenticity. Numerous articles and some books have been written citing the collection.

Those who came in contact with John during his lifetime agreed that he was a strange and difficult man to understand. At the time of his death in 1970 of emphysema in Columbia, South Carolina, he and his wife of some 20 years were estranged. A writer who tried to collaborate with John on a book about Jean Laffite invited him to her home for a few weeks. She later stated that those were the worst two weeks of her life.<sup>1</sup>

Recently discovered records of the Railroad Retirement Board and United States Census records revealed the facts that John began his life in Omaha, Nebraska, as the son of John and Mary MATE-JKA, Bohemian emigrants. Working for the Missouri Pacific Railroad in 1914, John was using the name NAFSINGER. He later stated this was the name of his step-father. For some mysterious and unknown reason, John filed a delayed birth certificate in April 1947, claiming that his name was JOHN ANDRECHYNE LAFITTE and that his father was Leon Jean Lafitte and his mother was Mary Pauline Fontenelle.<sup>2</sup> In summary, John was not who he said he was, namely, the great-grandson of Jean Laffite. The authenticity of the Jean Laffite Collection is now in serious doubt. Hopefully, renewed interest in the collection will encourage new research and give added knowledge about John and Jean Laffite.

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<sup>1</sup>Jean Lafitte Collection, Letters, Sam Houston Regional Library, Liberty, Texas.

<sup>2</sup>John Nafsinger-Lafitte File, U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, Chicago, Illinois; U.S. Census Records for 1900, 1910, and 1920 of Omaha, Nebraska. Copies of both in files of the author.