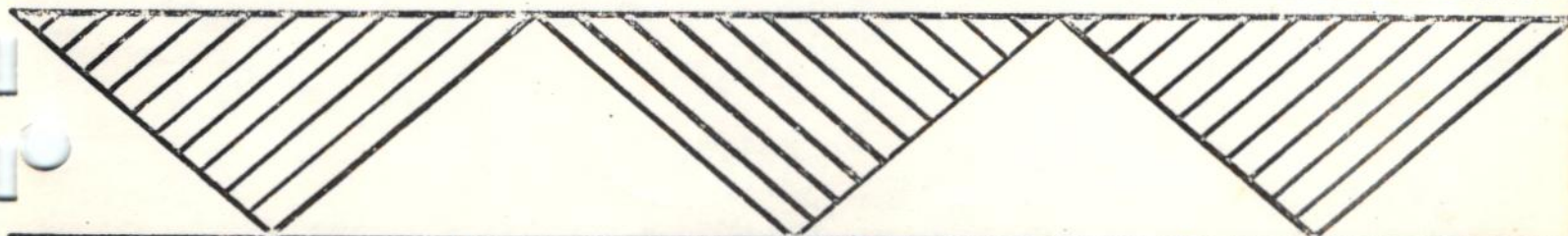


# HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 50

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White Oak Bayou continued

W.L. McClure

NOTE: The HAS library now includes a copy of a report by W.G. Payne; 1973, Upper White Oak Bayou and Cole and Vogel Creeks, Harris County, Texas; Research Report No. 34 of Texas Archeological Survey.

## 41 HR 186

This site was exposed when the new channel cut across a horseshoe bend in the natural channel. The old channel was filled and the area between the channels was subjected to considerable alteration. At least one foot of topsoil was removed and new material was added in places. Two white oak trees on a sandy knoll within the loop of the bayou were saved. Erosion of topsoil after construction exposed scattered artifacts in an area of about 30 feet by 100 feet around the trees. A garden is now located on the southern part of the site.

Below the sandy loam topsoil is light gray soil of unknown depth. About three feet below the previous surface the soil includes many small calcareous nodules. The lower levels of the soil are obscured by concrete channel lining and fill material. Surface elevation is about 71 feet above sea level.

## SHELL:

One unmodified oyster shell, *Crassostrea virginica*, was found as it was exposed by erosion. It was imbedded in the soil in an apparently undisturbed position at least one foot below the previous surface near some of the artifacts.

## CERAMICS:

The assemblage includes 16 sherds of vessels and two pieces of fired clay that are not pottery. Two (12½%) of the sherds are San Jacinto Plain and the rest are Goose Creek Plain.

Goose Creek Plain: (14)

Color, paste and consistency are typical. Thickness varies from 3 to 7 mm. with an average of 4.8 mm. One sherd is a rounded base (Fig. 6, F.) that thickens from 5 to 7 mm. The others are body sherds. One is from near the rim and has no decoration. One vessel had a diameter of about 224 mm. and the other sherds have little curvature. Weight is 90 grams.

San Jacinto Plain: (2)

Exterior colors are light to moderate brown (5YR5/6 to 5YR4/4). Paste is typical crushed fragments of fired clay and quartz grains. Surfaces are gritty and somewhat eroded. Thickness varies from 4 to 6 mm. Both are plain body sherds. Curvature is slight. Weight is 4 grams.

Other Fire-hardened Plastic Material:

Two pieces of fired clay that probably are not parts of vessels were collected. One piece is thin (2mm.) and flat and shows irregular paste color and texture. It may be local silty-clay that had not been kneaded prior to being flattened and fired. The other fragment has uniform fine sandy paste but is irregular in shape.



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

#### HAS Officers - 1975-76

Chairman - Ieland W. Patterson, 418 Wycliffe, Houston, Texas 77024  
468-4464  
Sec.-Treas. - Martha Dyckes, 4361 Fiesta Lane, Houston, Texas 77004  
741-3065  
Directors - John Herbert, Charles Magan, Margaret Norbeck

Our sincere thanks to the retiring officers for a job well done.

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#### HAS Programs - 1975

July - A report on the 1975 TAS Field School, Floydada Country Club Site, was presented by attendees of the School.  
August - Two movies, "Graveyard of the Gulf" and "Snaketown" were shown.  
September- Dr. Frank Hole, Rice University, discussed "Ethno-Archeology of Nomadic Pastoralism".  
October - Three films were shown. "The Dig" - techniques used on a site on the Northwest Coast, "Legend of the Magic Knives" and "The Mayan Mystery".

Pam Wheat has agreed to chair the Program Committee for 1975-76.

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#### Archeological Work at Mitchell Ridge (41GV66)

Work is proceeding again in October on the week ends. Call Barbara Burger at Rice University (528-4141 ext. 1291) for details.

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#### Coming Events

Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, 1975 - Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.  
Dec. 2-6, 1975 - American Anthropological Association 14th Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Calif.  
Jan. 7-10, 1976 - Society for Historical Archeology 9th Annual Meeting (Joint meeting with International Conference on Underwater Archeology, Philadelphia, Pa.

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41 HR 186

LITHICS:

Core: (1)

One flint object is a small 6-sided core fragment. Weight is 2 grams.

Bifaces:

Stage 'A' Bifaces: (1)

One flint Stage 'A' Biface has had flakes removed from each end but otherwise the pebble remains unchanged. Length is 60 mm. Weight is 53 grams.

Projectile Points:

Dart Points:

Yarbrough: (1) (Fig. 12, A.)

Asymmetric. One blade edge is straight and the other is slightly convex and regularly serrated. Shoulders are prominent, not barbed. The stem expands slightly with angular corners. Edges of the stem have been dulled. Base is slightly convex, thinned. A small amount of cortex remains on one face of the blade and on the opposite face of the stem.

Arrow Points:

Cliffton: (1) (Fig. 12, B.)

This small arrow point is as wide as it is long. It was produced by retouching both faces of a thin flat flake. Blade edges are convex, regularly serrated. Shoulders are at right angles to the axis of the point. The stem is short, slightly contracting, convex. Base is not thinned.

Unidentified--Stemmed: (2) (Fig. 12, C.-D.)

These are bifacially worked arrow points. Blade edges are concave, serrated. Distal tip is missing on one. Barbs have been broken on one but both appear to have been slightly barbed. Stem is missing from both.

Unidentified--Blade Tips: (4)

These are the broken distal tips of small arrow points. Three are the same style and material as the Cliffton point and one is the same style and material as the Unidentified-Stemmed point C.

Unidentified--Medial section: (1)

This is the edge of a blade including the barb of a small arrow point. Style and material is the same as the Unidentified-Stemmed point C.

Weight of these 9 projectile points is 11 grams. All are flint.

Biface Fragment:

One small fragment of flint is bifacially shaped. It could be either the base or tip of a projectile point or other tool. Weight is 1 gram.

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Flakes and Chips:

The lithic assemblage includes 297 flakes and chips that weigh 150 grams. Four are silicified wood and the others are flint. Three small flakes are lipped. None can be classed as prismatic blades. Nine are fire fractured. Table 5 has a tabulation of these flakes by physical characteristics. Use scars from cutting are on 108 flakes. Some indication of use is found on 113 (40%) of the 278 that are smaller than 15 mm. Others that have been modified to make specific tools or shapes are included below.

Side Scraper: (1) (Fig. 12, E.)

One side scraper has been made by removal of small flakes from the convex edge of a flint flake. The bit angle is 45°. This tool is almost a mirror image of the scraper in Fig. 10, B. from 41 HR 139 although it is somewhat larger. It is apparently adapted to left handed use.

Shaping Retouch:

Thirteen flakes have been altered by shaping retouch. Three apparently were used as graters, 3 as scrapers, 1 as small notch scraper. The altered edge is convex on 6, concave on 4, straight on 2 and denticulate on one.

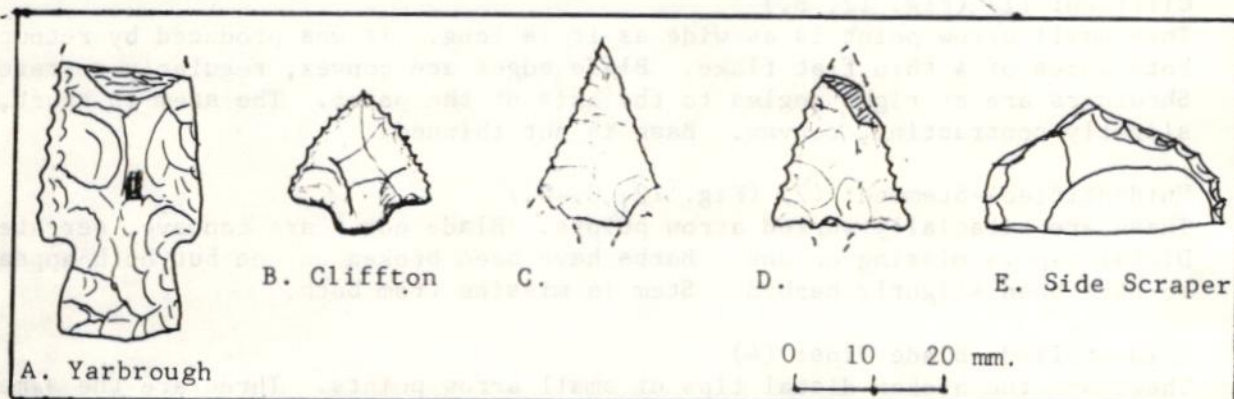


Figure 12.

Size	Material	Utilized				Unutilized				Totals			
		P.	S.	I.	total	P.	S.	I.	total	P.	S.	I.	total
0 to 10mm.	Flint	1	9	54	64	10	25	95	130	11	34	149	194
	Sil.wood							2	2			2	2
	total	1	9	54	64	10	25	97	132	11	34	151	196
10 to 15mm.	Flint	1	14	34	49	7	6	18	31	8	20	52	80
	Sil.wood							2	2			2	2
	total	1	14	34	49	7	6	20	33	8	20	54	82
15 to 20mm.	Flint		4	7	11		1		1		5	7	12
20 to 25mm.	Flint		1	1	2	1	1		2	1	2	1	4
Irr. frags	Flint						2	1	3		2	1	3
Totals		2	28	96	126	18	35	118	171	20	63	214	297

Table 5.



41 HR 186

# DISCUSSION:

On the basis of the Cliffton and other arrow points as well as the Goose Creek Plain and San Jacinto Plain pottery it is apparent that the site was occupied in the Neo-American Period. The Yarbrough dart point may indicate late Archaic culture but there is nothing to indicate earlier occupancy. The flint tools, the fire fractured flakes and the high percentage of distal tips of arrow points and impact fractures on others demonstrates that animals were brought to the site for processing and consumption. The presence of lithic debris confirms that tools were fabricated at the site.

## Comparison with other sites:

The Gus Wortham Site, 41 HR 139, is 5 miles downstream. There are several similarities as well as differences between the two. The lithic industries at the two sites were similar. Evidence of utilization as tools is found on 42 to 44% of the flakes at the sites. Lipped flakes comprise 1% at each. Almost identical side scrapers from each site indicates similar function. Goose Creek Plain pottery comprises 87% of the sherds at each site but the other 13% is totally different. Ceramics represents only 5% of the artifacts at 41 HR 186 and 22% at 41 HR 139. The dart and arrow points are entirely different at the 2 sites. The function would be the same but the styles are distinct.

The two sites were occupied during the same time period but this may not have been contemporaneous. The activities conducted at the site were similar involving both lithic and ceramic components. The distinct differences between the projectile types and the ceramic types suggests that the habitants were not the same people. The major ceramic type and the lithic tools and debris indicate possible contact, however.

The Jamison Site, 41 LB 2, is 43 miles east of this site on the Trinity River system. L.E. Aten discussed it in HAS Report No. 1 in 1967. Analysis Unit III which is the uppermost zone of the Jamison Site has similarities to 41 HR 186. Goose Creek pottery is predominant with San Jacinto Plain being 10%. Arrow points represent 88% of the projectiles with Cliffton the dominant style.

The East Bay Sites are on the north shore of East Bay 40 miles south of the Jamison Site. A.R. Duke discussed them in HAS Newsletter No. 44 in 1974. In this assemblage San Jacinto Plain represents 10% of the ceramics with Goose Creek wares 90%. Arrow points were the only projectiles but the dominant style was not Cliffton.

Any conclusions about these similarities must await further investigation of these and other sites throughout the Galveston Bay region.



Harris County, Texas Site 41HR182 - L. W. Patterson

This report describes a multi-component site, 41HR182, in inland Harris County, of the typical sandy midden stream-side type. It is a fairly concentrated site, in terms of total artifacts found, with artifacts recovered over a surface of approximately 100 by 200 feet. The location is on the bank of a former creek bed, in what was originally wooded land. This is principally an Archaic site, with indications of additional Woodland and minor late prehistoric occupations.

The Archaic period is represented by a number of dart point types typical of this period in this area. The major occupation phase is probably late Archaic. There is some indication (Patterson 1974) that the largest Gary points, with lengths in the range of 70 mm, may be somewhat earlier in the Archaic period. The next time period represented is the Woodland, starting with the beginning of pottery at approximately 200 AD and ending with the start of major use of bifacial arrow points at approximately 600 AD (Aten 1971:fig. 10). This Woodland period is represented diagnostically by small dart points and some pottery on this site. A single Perdiz arrow point indicates minor use of the site in the late prehistoric period, after 600 AD.

Several contracting stem projectile points from 41HR182 have been illustrated in a previous article (Patterson 1973), including 4 Gary, 1 Kent and 1 Perdiz, to demonstrate a possible sequence for the evolution of the Perdiz arrow point from contracting stem dart points. Other dart points from this site are shown in Figure 1.

The total projectile point collection is as follows:

Gary large	2 grey flint
Gary medium	1 white flint
Gary small	1 tan flint
Perdiz	1 grey flint
Wells	1 grey flint
Edgewood	1 brown flint
Kent	3 grey, tan flints, and golden palmwood
Darl	1 tan flint
Catan	1 tan flint
Refugio	1 black flint
Refugio preform	1 tan flint
Yarbrough	2 brown, tan flints
Matamoros (?)	1 brown flint
Straight stem frag.	1 tan flint
dart point tip	1 petrified wood

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The lateral edges on the blades of the Darl and Yarbrough points are strongly beveled, as described by Suhm and Jelks (1962:179,261).

Sixteen Goose Creek Plain sandy paste body sherds were found, above 15 mm square in size, with a few smaller sherds not counted. This gives a rather low sherd to flint flake ratio of 0.031, and is probably another indication that a sizeable percentage of the occupation was preceramic. No rimsherds were found. The sherds have a range of thicknesses of 4 mm to 7 mm.



One small piece of natural asphalt was found. The only other non-lithic artifacts were 3 clayballs and 4 caliche balls, all with the appearance of having been fired, with possible use for cooking. Clayballs are common on other sites in this area (Patterson 1974, 1975) and caliche blobs with possible use for cooking have been noted in Harris County by O'Brien (1974:66). Two polished pebbles found may have been used in pottery manufacture.

A significant quantity of lithic chipping debris was recovered, including 87 thick flint chips and 8 broken flint nodules. Two large whole flint nodules were also found, and 5 smaller whole flint pebbles. The main flint types used were tan, brown, and grey, with some petrified wood. Four battered quartzite hammerstones were recovered. Heat treating of flint was used extensively. The collection described here represents everything found to June 1975.

Miscellaneous lithic artifacts include 2 notched flake tools, 6 flake graters, 4 perforators, 3 small prismatic blade cores, and 2 blade core trim flakes. One large biface and 6 bifacial fragments were found. Some of the lithic artifacts are illustrated in Figure 1.

The general lithic flake collection is as follows:

	No.	%
Irregular Flakes		
15-20 mm square	266	51.8
20-25 mm	79	15.4
25-35 mm	40	7.8
over 35 mm	5	1.0
Prismatic Blades		
5-10 mm wide	41	7.9
10-15 mm	48	9.3
15-20 mm	15	2.9
20-25 mm	1	0.2
Microliths		
endblades	10	1.9
sideblades	9	1.8
Total Flakes	514	100.0

In addition to the above, several hundred smaller flint flakes less than 15 mm square were found, indicating finished lithic tool manufacture on the site. The prismatic blade collection is similar to other sites in the area, with some blades having lateral edge or distal end retouch. Some blade striking platform edges show preparation by grinding.

No unusual artifacts were found on this site, and the collection is felt to represent typical material for the time periods involved. In working with a number of sites in this area, one is impressed by the large variety of dart points used. This could reflect the continual movements of various hunting and gathering nomadic groups.

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Figure 1 - Site 41HR182 Artifacts - All Actual Size

