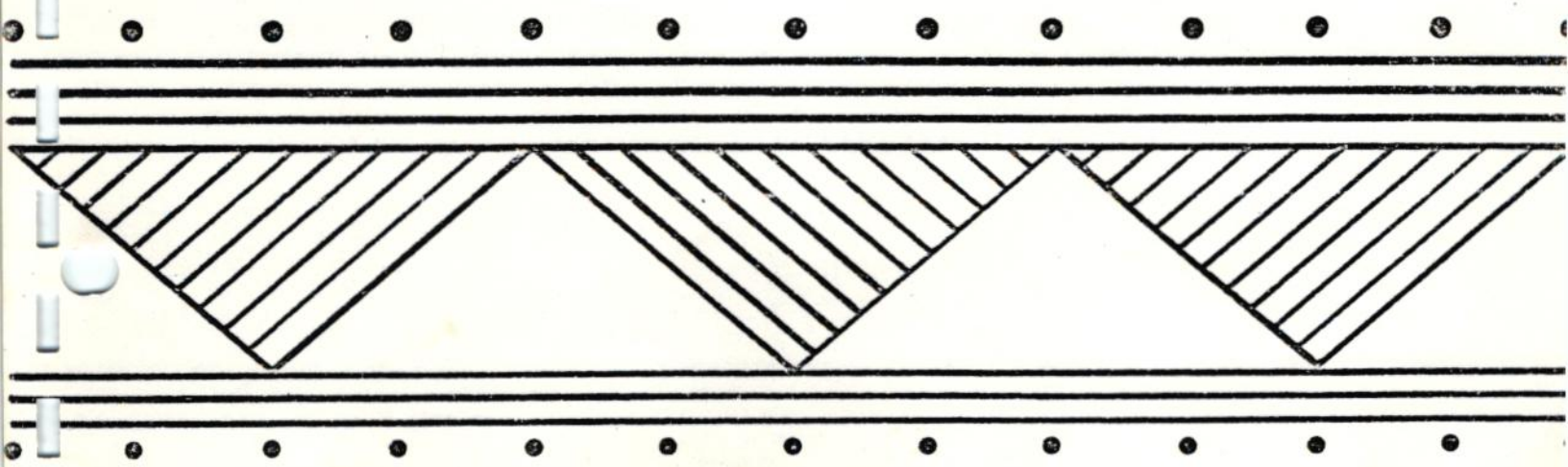


# HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 57

OCTOBER 1977



ASTORIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1



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.

# # # # #

#### New HAS Officers - 1977-78

Chairman - Richard Gregg, 5322 Stillbrooke, Houston, Texas 77096 - 721-4865

Sec.-Treas. - Barbara Neal, 510 Meadowlawn, LaPorte, Texas 77571 - 471-3119

Directors - Margie Fullen, Karen Faggard, Bill McClure

Our thanks to the retiring slate of officers who handled the affairs of the HAS so well during the past year.

# # # # #

#### Activities

• Work continues on 41HR315. 36 - 1 meter squares have been excavated to a depth of about 60 cm. Time is running out however since a road will be cut thru the site in the very near future. The site goes back to at least mid-archaic and Plainview and Angostura points have been found.

Contact Lee Patterson (468-4464) if you are interested in helping out on the final phase of site excavation.

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#### Coming Events

October 28-30, 1977. TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING at Quality Inn Cibola, 1601 East Division, Arlington, Texas.

November 29 - December 4, 1977. American Anthropological Association - 76th Annual Meeting at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Houston, Texas.

January 4-7, 1978, The Society for Historical Archaeology - 11th Annual Conference and 9th Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology at St. Anthony Hotel, San Antonio, Texas.

May 4-7, 1978. Society for American Archaeology - 43rd Annual Meeting, Tucson Marriott Hotel and Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, Arizona.

June, 1978. TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD SCHOOL, Galveston, Texas.

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#### New P.O. Box

H.A.S. business correspondence should be addressed to P. O. Box 6751, William Rice Station, Houston, Texas 77005.

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White Oak Bayou continued from HAS Newsletter No. 56

W.L. McClure

#### 41 HR 257, The Watonga Park Site

A horseshoe bend in the natural channel of White Oak Bayou has been bypassed and filled and is used as a public park. Erosion of part of the original west bank has exposed artifacts at an area that was within a loop of the bayou. Gravel, burned clay, charcoal and other debris from recent construction activity are also present on the surface. The soil below the sandy loam topsoil is a light gray silty sand of unknown depth. Surface elevation is about 70 feet above sea level.

Ceramic and lithic material were exposed about one foot below the surface.

#### CERAMICS:

The assemblage includes 45 sherds of pottery vessels. Two are Goose Creek Incised and others are Goose Creek Plain wares. Weight is 182 grams.

##### Goose Creek Incised: (2) (Fig. 25, A., B.)

Color, paste and consistency are typical except that the larger sherd had a slip applied before incising and firing. The slip is 0.55 mm. thick and is pale yellowish brown (10YR6/2) over a core that is dark yellowish brown (10YR4/2). Part of the incised design has been lost due to flaking away of the slip. The rim sherd is Type 5 with the outward flare only 2 in 85 mm. The lip is missing from the smaller incised sherd. Thickness is 6 mm.

##### Goose Creek Plain: (43)

Color, paste and consistency are typical. Two sherds are rounded bases that vary from 8 to 10 and from 11 to 14 mm. The only rim sherd is Type 3. Thickness varies from 3 to 8 mm. with the average 5.2 mm.

#### LITHICS:

Pebbles and some other lithic material were not collected due to the presence of some of such material that was obviously recent.

##### Projectile Points:

The collection includes a dart point, a fragment of a biface that probably was a dart point and two broken arrow points. Total weight is 12 grams.

##### Kent: (1) (Fig. 25, C.)

The stem of this typical Kent type dart point has asphalt on it that indicates the method of attachment. Material is silicified wood.

##### Unidentified Dart Point: (1)

This fragment of red flint is the proximal end of a contracting stem dart point or it may have been some other type of biface tool.

##### Unidentified--Type A-3: (2) (Fig. 25, D., E.)

The distal tip of each of these tiny arrow points has been broken. Blade edges are straight to slightly recurved. Serrations are present on the blade that is most nearly complete. The barbs are slight and have been squared off as in the Catahoula type. The stems are small, wider than long and have a straight base. Maximum width of both is 13 mm. Stems are 5 mm. wide and 3 to 4 mm. long. The points are bifacially worked and are 3 mm. thick. Both are heat treated flint. Combined weight is less than one gram.



41 HR 257

Perdiz: (1) (Fig. 25, F.)

This arrow point was found on the opposite bank of the present channel so it is not included in the count of projectile points from the site. It is included here due to proximity. It is well made from heat treated flint.

Lithic Tools:

Flaking Tool: (Fig. 25, G.)

A small piece of flint has been used for some purpose such as pressure flaking. It is shaped so that there is a pushing platform for the thumb. The distal end shows much fine battering as though it had been in contact with a hard substance on many occasions.

Flakes and Chips:

The collection includes 170 flakes and chips that weigh 85 grams. Three are quartzite, 14 (8+%) are silicified wood and the rest are flint. Five have fire pops. Three are lipped. One or two are possible prismatic blades. Use scars are on 41 (24%). Three of these are flake scrapers. Six have been retouched with two each having straight, convex and concave edges. The others have been used as cutting instruments.

Size	Material	Utilized				Unutilized				Totals			
		P.	S.	I.	total	P.	S.	I.	total	P.	S.	I.	total
0 to 10mm.	Flint	1	3	13	17	11	20	62	93	12	23	75	110
	Sil.wood			1	1	2	1	6	9	2	1	7	10
	Quartzite							3	3			3	3
	total	1	3	14	18	13	21	71	105	14	24	85	123
10 to 15mm.	Flint		5	14	19	5	6	8	19	5	11	22	38
	Sil.wood		1		1	1		2	3	1	1	2	4
	total		6	14	20	6	6	10	22	6	12	24	42
15 to 20mm.	Flint			1	1	1	1		2	1	1	1	3
20 to 25mm.	Flint		1		1						1		1
25 to 30mm.	Flint	1			1					1			1
Totals		2	10	29	41	20	28	81	129	22	38	110	170

Table 12 Flakes and Chips

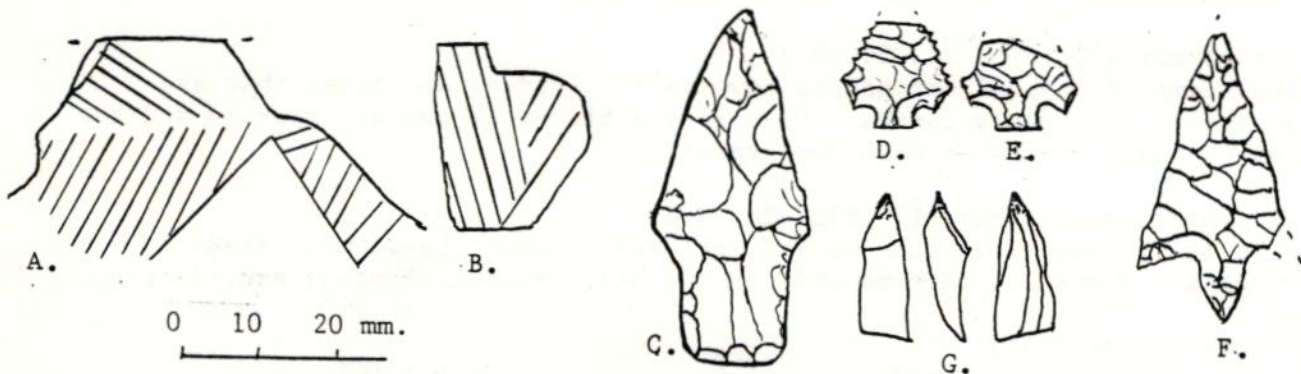


Figure 25

DISCUSSION:

The artifacts indicate that the site was occupied during the Woodland and Late Prehistoric periods.



41 HR 287

About 600 feet upstream of the Watonga Park Site (41 HR 257) is another site. Its position was on the south side of the natural channel on the opposite side of the horseshoe bend from the Watonga Park Site. Artifacts are being exposed by erosion along 200 feet of the new bank. A few items are from the sandy loam topsoil but most appear to be coming from the gray silty sand just above the calcareous layer. Surface elevation is 70 feet above sea level.

#### **SHELL:**

Four fragments of oyster shell, *Crassostrea virginica*, were found. One may have been used for rubbing or smoothing. They may be recent introductions. Weight is 24 grams.

#### **CERAMICS:**

One sherd of sandy paste pottery, probably Goose Creek Plain, was found at the topsoil level. Weight is 6 grams. Two small lumps of fired clay also were collected. Weight is 4 grams.

#### **LITHICS:**

Nearly all of the lithic material has considerable patination of the surface.

#### Unmodified Pebbles:

The collection includes 36 unmodified pebbles weighing 183 grams. Material is flint, quartzite and silicified wood. No indication of use is evident.

#### Modified Pebbles:

The collection includes 27 modified pebbles that weigh 340 grams. Four are heat fractured and the others are broken by impact. Some have been broken recently, perhaps by grass mowers. No indications of use are evident.

#### Bifaces:

The collection includes one fragment of a flint biface tool that probably was not a projectile point. No indication of intended use is apparent.

#### Projectile Points:

The collection includes seven projectile points or fragments thereof. All are dart points. Weight is 44 grams.

#### **Dart Points:**

Palmillas: (1) (Fig. 26, A.)

The distal tip is missing. Silicified wood.

Yarbrough: (3) (Fig. 26, B.C.D.)

The stems of these flint points have parallel edges and bases that are straight to slightly convex. Most of the blades of two are missing and the one complete point has been resharpened.

Unidentified--Barbed: (1) (Fig. 26, E.)

This is the complete blade of a flint dart point. The stem is missing. Barbs are distinct. Workmanship of the heat-treated flint is excellent.

Unidentified--Distal Tip: (1)

The distal tip of a broad dart point was found. Silicified wood.



41 HR 287

Unidentified--Contracting Stem: (1) (Fig. 26, F.)

This is the stem of a large Gary type point or is the proximal end of a Refugio point or a knife. Edges are smoothed. Flint.

Gary: (Fig. 26, G.)

This broken flint point was found about 300 feet upstream of the site and is illustrated here because of proximity.

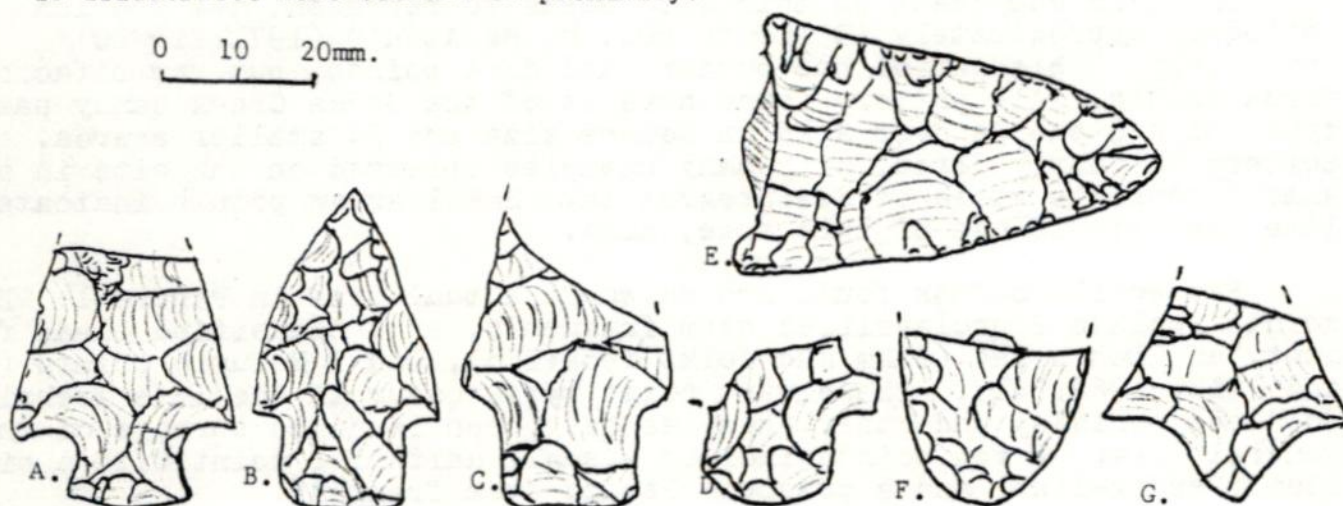


Figure 26

#### Flakes and Chips:

The collection includes 160 flakes and chips that weigh 122 grams. Five are silicified wood (3%) and the rest are flint. Patination has progressed so far that it is not possible to discern use scars on some of the edges. Use scars were observed on 33 (21%). One is a flake scraper and the others were apparently used as cutting instruments. One flake is fire-popped. Eight are lipped and there are no prismatic blades. Two have been retouched to a straight edge.

Size	Material	Utilized				Unutilized				Totals			
		P.	S.	I.	total	P.	S.	I.	total	P.	S.	I.	total
0 to 10mm.	Flint		5	5	10	3	17	70	90	3	22	75	100
	Sil.wood							1	1			1	1
	total		5	5	10	3	17	71	91	3	22	76	101
10 to 15mm.	Flint		2	7	9	3	4	12	19	3	6	19	28
	Sil.wood					1	3		4	1	3		4
	total		2	7	9	4	7	12	23	4	9	19	32
15 to 20mm.	Flint		3	8	11	1	5	2	8	1	8	10	19
20 to 25mm.	Flint		1	1	2	1	1	3	5	1	2	4	7
25 to 30mm.	Flint			1	1							1	1
Totals		0	11	22	33	9	30	88	127	9	41	110	160

Table 13 Flakes and Chips

#### DISCUSSION:

The pot sherd definitely is not contemporaneous with the majority of the material from the site. It may be associated with 41 HR 257 or 41 HR 258 which are nearby. The dart point types indicate that the site was occupied during the middle to late Archaic period. The relatively small percentage of large flakes and silicified wood flakes should be noted.



Woodland-Late Prehistoric Site 41HR215, Harris Co., Texas - L. W. Patterson

Archeological site 41HR215 in inland Harris County, Texas is located in a typical campsite type area, on level sandy soil near a creek bank in a wooded area. Artifacts have been found on the eroded surface, scattered over an area of over 100 feet in diameter. The collection described here was made over several years up to May 1977.

The main component of this site seems to represent the Woodland period of approximately AD 100 to 600, using Aten's (1971:fig 10) chronology. This period has pottery and dart points, but few bifacial arrow points. All pottery found here is of the Goose Creek sandy paste type, with 6 sherds over a 15 mm square size and 34 smaller sherds. The pottery is poorly fired, with many examples observed on the site in an almost complete state of disintegration. Small arrow points indicate some late prehistoric use of this site, also.

Projectile points found are shown as actual size in Figure 1. Dart points include 2 unclassified stem fragments, an unclassified blade fragment, an Elam point (Suhm and Jelks 1962:185), and 2 Refugio points (Suhm and Jelks 1962:241). These dart point types occur in the late Archaic and Woodland periods, and other examples have been found in surveys of this general area. Arrow points include a small unifacial point with a bifacial stem (Perdiz-like) and a possible Perdiz stem fragment.

The Refugio type dart points may show some influence from the lower Texas coast. Corbin (1974:fig 6) seems to imply that unstemmed dart points such as Pandora and Refugio, do not occur north of the Texas coastal bend, but these dart point types are fairly common in Harris County on the upper Texas coast.

Five prismatic blades were collected (widths 7, 13, 14, 14, 15, 15 mm), along with three unifacially retouched blade segments that may have had use as hafted side-blades. One unifacial possible arrow point was also present.

A complete lithic manufacturing industry seems to be present, including the importation of primary raw materials in the form of large flint pebbles. Four large flint pebbles of 30 to 60 mm diameter were found. Flint types include tan, brown and grey colors, and red jasper. Evidence is present of the use of heat treating of flint, in the form of flint flakes with waxey luster and reddish discolorations. There are several thick flint chips, including 12 under 20 mm square, 5 of 20 to 30 mm square, and 1 over 30 mm square. The collection of irregular shaped flint flakes is as follows:

square size, mm	No.	%	weight, grams		
			total	avg	wt. %
25-30	2	0.8	5.3	2.65	5.4
20-25	10	4.2	18.1	1.81	18.4
18-20	16	6.7	20.5	1.28	20.8
16-18	10	4.2	9.2	0.92	9.3
14-16	14	5.9	9.9	0.71	10.2
12-14	21	8.8	8.3	0.40	8.4
10-12	21	8.8	6.5	0.31	6.6
8-10	62	26.1	11.6	0.19	11.8
6-8	82	34.5	7.7	0.09	7.8
under 6	33	---	1.3	0.04	1.3
total	271	---	98.4		100.0
over 6	238	100.0			



While many flakes have edge retouch that may show cutting and scraping activities, there are practically no formal tool types. One flake graver was found.

Fourteen small smooth flint and quartzite pebbles, under 16 mm diameter, were collected that may have had use in rattles (Aten and others 1976:41). Small smooth pebbles are rather common on sites of all ages in Harris County. Five small fired clay balls may indicate cooking activity on this site. Clay balls are common on late Archaic and Woodland sites in this general area (Patterson 1976:183).

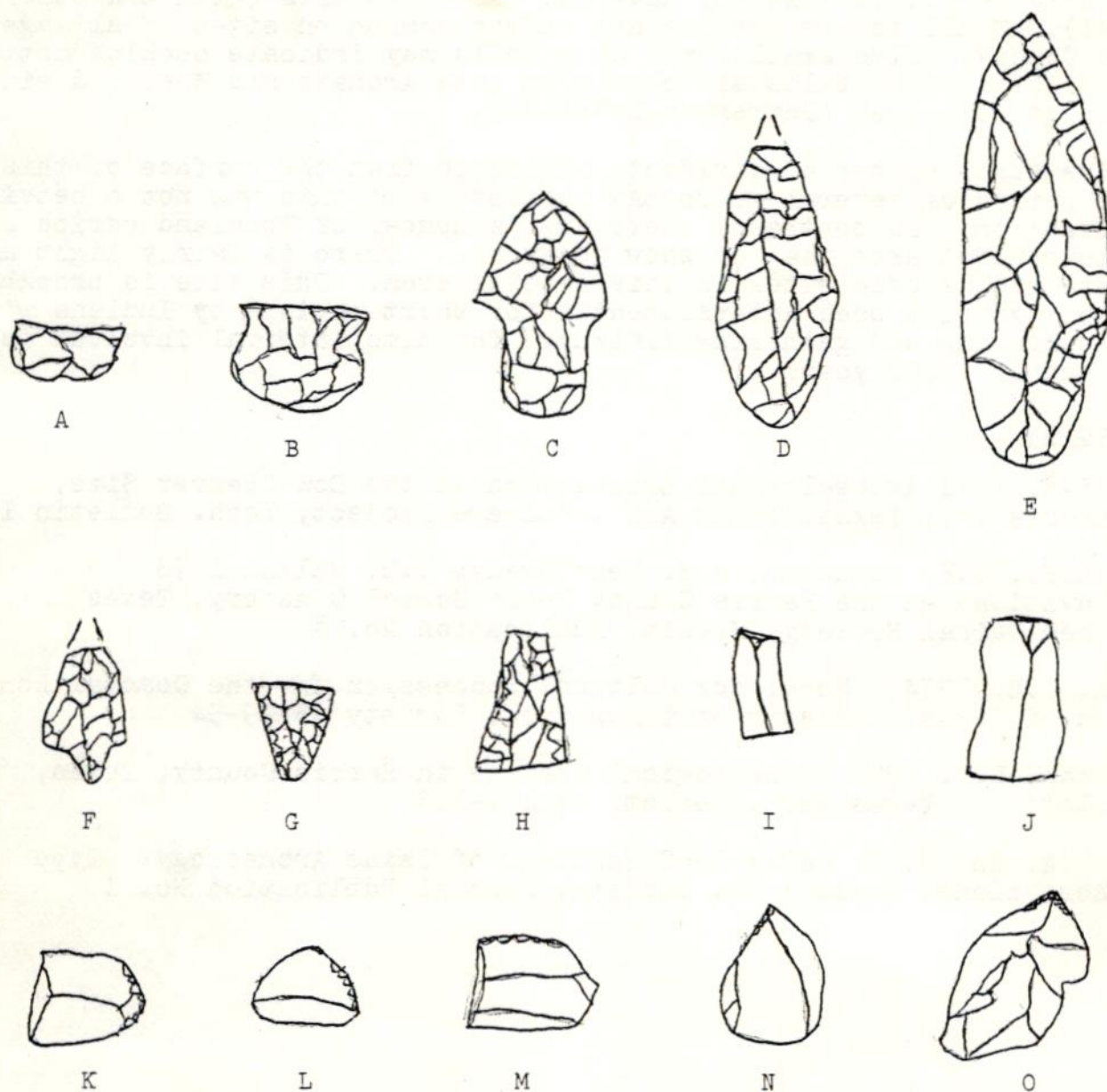
The small number of artifacts collected from the surface of this site over a period of several years may indicate that this was not a heavily used location. In contrast, there are a number of Woodland period sites in this general area that do show heavy use. There is fairly light use of all late prehistoric sites in this general area. This site is probably a seasonal campsite used intermittently for short periods by Indians with a nomadic hunting and gathering lifeway. The time interval involved is perhaps roughly 1,000 years.

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FIGURE I

## SITE 41HR215 LITHIC ARTIFACTS



A, B - Dart Point Stems; C - Elam Point; D, E - Refugio Points; F - Unifacial Arrow Point With Bifacial Stem; G - Perdiz (?) Stem; H - Projectile Point Blade; I, J - Prismatic Blades; K, L, M - Possible Side Blades; N - Possible Unifacial Point; O - Flake Graver