
# The Journal

**Houston Archeological Society**

*Cover photos:*
*Top: Archeology 101 registrants and teaching staff at the conclusion of the academy in front of the site museum and visitor center at San Felipe de Austin.*
*Bottom left: A Spanish horseshoe from Charlie Gordy's article.*
*Botton center: The thimble from the Frost Town site that was conserved by Charlie Gordy.*
*Bottom right: The "butted knife" discussed by Mike Woods in his article.*

# The Journal

**Houston Archeological Society**

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Louis F. Aulbach, Editor

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# Foreword

The ***Journal of the Houston Archeological Society*** is a publication of the Society. Our Mission is to foster enthusiastic interest and active participation in the discovery, documentation, and preservation of cultural resources (prehistoric and historic properties) of the city of Houston, the Houston metropolitan area, and the Upper Texas Gulf Coast Region.

The Houston Archeological Society holds monthly membership meetings with invited lecturers who speak on various topics of archeology and history. All meetings are free and open to the public.

Membership is easy! As a nonprofit organization, membership in the Houston Archeological Society is open to all persons who are interested in the diverse cultural history of Houston and surrounding areas, as well as the unique cultural heritage of the Upper Texas Gulf Coast Region. To become a member, you must agree with the mission and ethics set forth by the Society, pay annual dues and sign a Code of Ethics agreement and Release and Waiver of Liability Form.

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# Editor's Message

I am pleased to present Issue Number 144 of *The Journal*, an issue dedicated to archeology in the State of Texas. This issue of *The Journal* highlights the widespread interests of members of the Houston Archeological Society.

A total of six papers are included in this issue covering sites and archeological investigations in Houston and counties in this part of Texas. The first paper, by Charlie Gordy, is an overview of the types of horseshoes that are found in Texas, especially those dating from the nineteenth century. Jon Lohse follows with a report on the investigations of Town Lot 87 at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site. The third paper is an analysis of aboriginal ceramic vessel sherds from the Cotton Field Site in Colorado County. Charlie Gordy follows with two articles. The first is a report on the conservation of a nineteenth century thimble that was recovered from the Frost Town site. The second article is report on Camp Kirby, a little known Civil War camp in Dickinson, Texas. The final paper in this volume is a report on a prehistoric lithic tool known as a "butted knife" from a site in Comal County.

As always, we are very open to receiving any new submission that deals with an archeological subject. Do not worry that your paper may not be "perfect"; your editor is more than willing to work with you to create a publishable result. *The Journal* is the ideal vehicle for young and older authors alike to either begin or expand your published resume. Please send all submissions and inquiries to Louis Aulbach at the following email address: LFA1@att.net

# Contents

# BENEATH THE TEXAS LANDSCAPE: HORSESHOES

*Charlie Gordy*

## Introduction

Sometimes during an archeological investigation or even at random, iron horseshoes are recovered. After the recovery, the common question that comes to mind is “how old is it.” Does it fit the context time period or is it a timeless lone find? The age question is difficult to answer with any degree of accuracy.

Horseshoes have been around for over 2,000 years and the large majority of that time they were hand forged for a purely functional purpose without regards to style. Considering horse hoofs haven't changed, there hasn't been a great need for change in the horseshoe.

Horses (along with horseshoes and nails) were introduced to the Americas in significant numbers in 1519, and were instrumental in the explorations and forays into the newly discovered territory of the new world. That territory was known as New Spain, and then later known as South America, Mexico and Texas.[1]

By the mid to late 1500s, well established trails resulted in the founding of small settlements across the territory. Further expansions reached far and wide eventually resulting in the establishment of Texas missions and their presidios from 1632 to 1793.[2] It stands to reason that during over 200 years of expansion and another 200 plus years to date, there has been countless numbers of horseshoes lost along the trails and vicinities of Texas settlements. Therefore, estimating their age is understandably a challenge. Most everyone will recognize a horseshoe. Broken pieces of horseshoes may take a little more study, but enough of the right pieces can tell a lot. What story might a horseshoe tell? What historical adventure was it a part of? Mysteries of history and adventure are shod locked in the cold steel of horseshoes.

This article can serve as a guide to identify the horseshoes most likely found in Texas. Therefore, there is no need to go back 2,000 years to identify all evolutionary changes. The evolution of horseshoes during the last 500 years has only undergone a small number of modifications and pattern changes that will be discussed herein. Most were for improved efficiency and not a whim of design. Being able to identify the parts and features of the horseshoe (see Figure 1), and the different forms horseshoes have taken through time, can facilitate functional analysis and period-dating of a shoe when enough of the artifact has been recovered.[3] Again, one must be mindful that for centuries they were hand forged and modified by local shoe makers as well as imported. Some of these alterations caused variations in appearance thus can cause confusion in the analysis.

Throughout the centuries of horseshoe evolution, Texas has possibly been exposed to four main generations of horseshoe patterns. Referring again to Figure 1, there is discussion about a feature called the “frog” being the “blank or void” space which is surrounded by the shoe's toe and branches. In the abstract, this space forms an “outline” clue in identifying older time-period shoes (1600s - early 1800s).

After the early 1800s, the shoe pattern has become more consistent due to being machine produced rather than hand forged. Although the basic shoe pattern has not changed since the 1800s, today's shoes are now further sub-classed and defined as "kind" of shoe. The reasoning is due to the change in the horse's use in modem society. During historical times, horses were used as the main mode of personal transportation, for war, field and driving work. Today the horse is used more for pleasure, show, racing or other sports. An example is a race horse or one used in the sport of polo. Such horse will be fitted with a different “kind” of shoe. These “kinds” of shoes have modified features to improve performance to meet special needs.

The following are some horseshoe patterns that may possibly be found beneath historical and present day Texas landscapes:

**Figure 1: Horseshoe Parts and Features**

| Part/ Feature | Time Introduced | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Toe | N/A | Hoof forward. |
| Heel | N/A | Hoof rear. |
| Branches | N/A | Left and right sides of the shoe. |
| Margins | N/A | The thickness of the shoe (subject to wear) |
| Web | N/A | The width (spread) of the branches. |
| Fuller (footnote 4 & 5) | Mid 1600s*; 1800s + | The fuller is the long channel groove along each branch where the nails are placed. The purpose is to protect the nail head from wear. These were hammered into the branches while hot using a fuller tool then the nail holes were punched through. The precusor to the fuller was a large counter-sink indentation (used abt. 1200 AD). *Archeologist reports that a fullered shoe was found in a context no later than 1660. The fuller became more common during the first half of the 1800s. |
| Nails (+holes) (footnote 6) | ca. 500s BC | They appeared together with the counter-sink feature. Nails first began shaped more oblong, then became more square. They are made with different head shapes and lengths depending on the intended use of the horse (riding or draft horse or mule). The number of nails in a shoe can be modified at the whim of the blacksmith by adding holes in the fuller. As an example, a shoe is described as a 4/3 shoe meaning four nails on one branch and three on the other. Same as 4/4,etc. |
| Calkins (Caulkins) (footnote 8) | 1200s-present | The heel of each branch is usually either thickened by folding over by a half inch or is bent down at a ninety degree angle to produce the calkin. The purpose is to allow more traction for the horse. Sometimes they may be found on only one branch or also on the shoe toe. |
| Frog (footnote 7) | N/A | Actually the frog is a part of the horse's hoof located on the underside which normally touches the ground. In the case of the horseshoe, it refers to the open space surrounded by the shoe. During the evolution of the horseshoe, the shape of this space has changed as a result of changes in shoe making. The pattern of this shape is an indicator of time period and names have been assigned to these patterns. For the time period of Texas territory, variations of these patterns have changed about three times from the late 1500s to present day. |
| Toe Clips (footnote 4 & 7) | Early to mid 1800s | This is a small triangular tab of metal on the front surface of the shoe to be seated to the hoof wall. They take the strain off the nails and hold the shoe on the hoof more securely. Used mostly on draft horses and mules. |



**Horseshoe Pattern Characteristics**

**Guildhall shoe**: time period 1300s - early 1600s[6]

The name Guildhall refers to a shoe pattern that was produced from the 1300s to the 1600s. Guilds (which met in buildings called guild halls) were organized groups of merchants who specialized in a particular craft, including horseshoe making. These guilds were in many places in Europe, including the Netherlands, Germany, France, and England.[9]

In tracing the Guildhall evolution, the pattern of the inner arch changed from a pointed arch with broader webs of the 1300s to a tighter curved arch by the later 1500s. This began the transition to the Keyhole pattern (see Figure 2).

- Width of the iron at the toe of the heavy draft shoes can be up to 2 to 2 1/2 inches.
- The long branches have heels that inclined together. Calkins are absent on heavy draft shoes of the later 1500s. Some often have thick turned-down calkins. The lighter saddle horse usually has one calkin.
- Nail holes are square.
- Shoes are flatter and broader than those of earlier periods.
- Draft shoe size is 5 by 4 1/2 inches and weigh 12 to 18 ounces. Saddle horse size is 4 1/2 by 4 1/2 inches and weight 4 to 7 ounces.
- The likeness of this pattern was found in an archeological context in Peru around 1999, when a Spanish horseshoe ca. 1535 AD, was excavated together with metal adornments of a Spanish soldier's uniform or saddle[10] (see Figure 3)
- The end of this time period would have possibly been the earliest this basic pattern could be found in the Americas. This pattern would extend into the early Texas expedition and early settlement period.

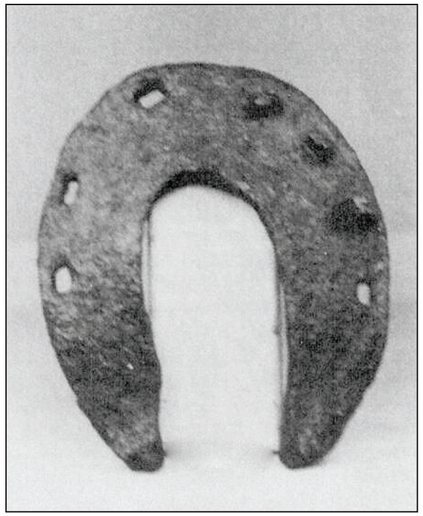

*Figure 2:[6] Guildhall c.1500-1550, no calkins, broad webs, square nail holes; transitioning to Keyhole pattern evidenced by frog out-bow and closer heels.*

*Figure 3:[10] Spanish shoe excavated in 1535 context in Peru. Square 4/4 nail holes, no calkin, transitioning to Keyhole evidenced by frog out-bow and closer heels.*

**Keyhole shoe**: time period (1650 - 1750)[6]

- Shoes during the early 1600s tended to have heels turned inward. The inward turn became so prominent in the late-1600s as to have a frog "keyhole appearance." This shape continued through the early 1700s, but is rarely seen in post-l740 contexts[3] (see Figure 4)

- Shoes of the middle period are fullered only along each nail hole of each branch. This results in a very short fuller groove. On shoes dating between 1700 and late 1700s, the groove is continuous around the shoe.

- Nail holes increased to four in each branch and by 1700 may increase to ten in each shoe for draft horses. By the end of the 1700s, up to 20 holes may be found evenly spaced in a groove all around the shoe. Again this is an indication of draft horse use.

- The nails used were square in section with "**T**" shaped heads which fit snugly in the fuller groove.

- The shoes have a concave surface on the hoof side and a convex surface on the ground side. Something that might not be easily noticed in a badly deteriorated shoe.

- Size varies from 4 7/8 by 4 3/4 inches to 5 7/8 by 5 3/4 inches. Weights vary between 10 and 40 ounces.

- The calkins were made by turning the heels slightly down rather than a 90 degree turn. Heavy shoes often exhibited a square cut heel plan rather than a rounded taper.

- The keyhole shoe was used mainly on draft horses.

- By the late 1700s and early 1800s the heels became much wider apart losing the keyhole effect thus transitioned into a new pattern called "Tongue."[4]

*Figure 4:[6] Keyhole c. 1680, 4/4 square nail holes in, fullered groove. No calkins.*

**Tongue shoe**: time period (1700s-early 1800s)

- As the 1700s progressed into the 1800s, the surfaces became narrower and the shoes thicker. Those features continued into the l800s. The frog space in early 1800 shoes is entirely “U” shaped due to minimum incurve at the heels.[4] Most latter examples are fullered (see Figure 5).

- Normal number of nails is eight (4/4). Heavier shoes for draft horses may have nine or ten.

- Calkins are tapered and turned under.

- Heels became more wider apart compared to the keyhole shoe.

- Weight for the saddle horse was 6-14 ounces. Some heavier draft horseshoes weigh 19 ounces.[6]



*Figure 5:[16] Spanish Tongue shoe in 1836 archeological context; unfullered square 4/4 nail holes; no calkins.*

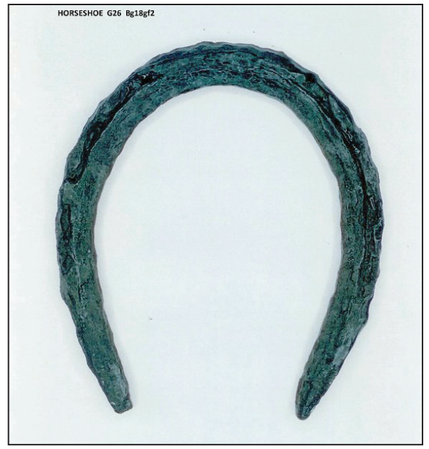


*Figure 6:[12] Very early Keg shoe; 4/4 nail holes with remnants remaining in 6; Fullered; No Calkins. Heels further apart.*

**Keg shoe**: (ca. 1830s to present)

- In 1835, the first U.S. patent for a horseshoe manufacturing machine was issued to Henry Burden (1791-1871) of Troy, New York. Burden's machine made up to 60 horseshoes of this pattern per hour.[11] Manufacturing technology was the start of standardization of this pattern for the purpose of mass production (see Figure 6)

- By the time of the Civil War, machines were capable of making 100 horseshoes per hour.

- In 1864, C. H. Perkins received a patent on a horseshoe machine using a steam hammered process. By 1867, he established the Perkins Horseshoe Company in Rhode Island. They specialized in manufacturing horse, mule shoes, as well as, toe calkins.

- By 1891, the Perkins company was producing 60 tons of shoes per day.[15]

- Shoes were produced in several sizes to fit most saddle and draft horses. In the late 1800s, shoes were sold in 100 pound kegs by mail order and delivered to the user to be altered to fit.[13] The days of the blacksmith's domination of the horseshoe-making trade slowly was ending.

- Keg shoes were referred to as "regular or standard" shoes. The shoes had a fairly consistent dimensioned narrow frame for the branches and toe. Each branch was fullered with a long fuller complete with 4/4 square nail holes.

- Today, in addition to the "regular/standard" shoe, there are about six more "kinds" of shoes to address specialty needs such as racing and to correct medical conditions.[14]

## Conclusions

In summary, there is the possibility that as many as four basic horseshoe patterns can be found beneath the landscapes of Texas. These patterns were slow to change and they span over the first 400 years of Texas history. As should be expected, there was a blend from one pattern to the next resulting in a mix of patterns during the time periods. With that in mind, it is understandable that dating a random found horseshoe closer than a century or so is near impossible without a common context of dateable artifacts. To further complicate the challenge is that shoe patterns and features were often subject to variations and modification by a

local shoemaker or farrier. These alterations depended on the shoemaker's, tools, materials and his skill to tailor the shoe to fit a horse's special needs. Near the end of the first phase of the industrial revolution (1750-1850), a lot changed when the mass production of manufactured horseshoes began. The basic shoe became more standardized with smaller webs, and the more symmetrical curve of both the outer and inner arches of the shape. Due to machine made processes, what was once a blacksmiths demanding skill-trade became mostly obsolete. If needed, the basic manufactured shoe could easily be modified by a farrier. Not only that, but over time the use of the horse has changed from a primary means of a personal and work animal to more of an animal for entertainment, sport or pleasure. But as long as there are horses, it should be safe to say there will always be horseshoes beneath the Texas landscapes.

**Footnotes**

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# RESULTS OF LIMITED ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT TOWN LOT 87 AT SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN, 41AU2, AUSTIN COUNTY, TEXAS TAC PERMIT NO. 8327

***Jon C. Lohse, Ph.D.***

**Abstract**

In March 2018, limited test excavations were conducted at Town Lot 87 of the state historic site of San Felipe de Austin, 41AU2. This State Antiquities Landmark site hosted the weekend-long Archeology 101 Academy, sponsored by the Texas Archeological Society, and this lot was selected as the site for the field investigation portion of the program. On Sunday, March 11, as many as two dozen volunteers were supervised by members of the San Felipe de Austin site staff and experienced members of the Houston Archeological Society as they tested anomalies that had been previously defined by remote sensing techniques, specifically a magnetic gradiometer, or magnetometer. According to archival information, title to the lot was granted by the *Ayuntamiento* to William Williamson in 1831. It was originally purchased by John Montgomery and Patrick Green. The lot was improved prior to 1834, when it was sold along with Lot 112 by the widow of William Green to James B. Miller. The bill of sale for the town lot notes that "on one of which if the house the last residence of the said Williamson." At some point prior to 1836, Miller sold the lots to William P. Huff, for whom the lot is named in anecdotal terms (the Huff Lot). The building history of the lot includes as many as five structures (dwelling house, kitchen, smoke house, stable, and carriage house). Remote sensing work identified several anomalies and possible anomalies, which were thought to potentially represent features or other archeological deposits that may be associated with the construction and occupation history of the lot. A series of one-by-one meter units were set up over several of these anomalies, and academy registrants spent approximately one-half day on March 11 excavating these units to try and identify archeological features or other materials that may be related to the pre-1836 Runaway Scrape abandonment event at the site. Several scattered artifact remains were recovered dating to the period of Colonial (1824-1836) occupation, and at least two units located evidence of previous archeological investigation by Marianne Merek, but no intact features relating to the listed constructions were located. This work was conducted under Antiquities Permit #8327, issued to Dr. Jon C. Lohse, Principal Investigator. All project records and artifact materials will be curated and permanently housed at the curatorial facility of the Texas Historical Commission in accordance with Texas Administrative Code 26.16 and 26.17.

**Acknowledgements**

The successful completion of the TAS 2018 Archeology 101 Academy reflects the dedication and efforts of a number of people. The TAS Academies Committee, including Jimmy Barrera, Ken Lawrence, and Debbie Eller, was very supportive of the idea to hold the event at this important site. The Texas Historical Commission staff of the San Felipe de Austin state historic site were incredibly generous with their time and expertise in hosting this event even though the facility was not quite finished and ready for the public. I am grateful to Bryan McAuley (site manager), Dr. Sarah Chesney (site archeologist), and Eleanor Stoddart (site educator/interpreter) for their support. The Houston Archeological Society provided an outstanding army of volunteers to help corral, supervise, and educate academy enrollees in Texas history and archeology. Liz Coon-Nguyen, Ashley Jones, Don Keyes, Clint Lacy, Sarah Chesney, and Eleanor Stoddart helped supervise unit excavations. Sharon Menegaz assisted with keeping the field records well organized throughout the day. Linda Gorski, Debbi Eller, Sandy Rogers, Sharon Menegaz, Bob Sewell, Liz Coon Nguyen, Beth Kennedy, and Louis Aulbach made up an outstanding and very helpful arrangements committee. I am also extremely grateful to the HAS lab crew including Linda Gorski, Sarah Chesney, Liz Coon, Bob Sewell, Jason Barrett, Frank Kozar, Beth Kennedy, and Louis Aulbach for their knowledge of historic material culture and in helping provide the classifications and descriptions of the artifacts that were recovered. Sarah in particular helped flesh out the classification of materials recovered and fill out the inventory by proveniences that is attached to this report as Appendix A. Sarah and Brett Cruse provided courtesy reviews of the report prior to its submission for review to the Archeology Division. Jenni Kimbell of Terracon Consultants, Inc. helped with the formatting of this report, and by providing feedback about some of the artifacts recovered from this work.

# Table of Contents





# List of Figures

# List of Tables

# Chapter 1
# Introduction and Project Overview

In March 2018, the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) with support from members of the Houston Archeological Society (HAS) hosted the Archeology 101 Academy at the state historic site of San Felipe de Austin, 41AU2. The purpose of the academy is to help provide introductory exposure to people from across Texas who may be interested in learning more about archeology, and who are considering participating in the annual TAS field school. The Archeology 101 Academy typically includes approximately a day and a half of lectures and hands-on exercises with the goal of familiarizing academy registrants with the overall goals and methods of archeology as a field of study, and a half-day of fieldwork that allows them to apply newly learned skills and concepts in an authentic excavation.

The site of San Felipe de Austin is an ideal facility for hosting this event considering that a new on-site museum has recently been completed that contains a suitable classroom facility, and that the site has a permanent staff of professionally trained archeological personnel to assist with the program. An important element of the San Felipe site philosophy and overall program involves public outreach, and the appropriate inclusion of the interested public in ongoing investigations of portions of the site is an ideal complement to this program philosophy. The 2018 Archeology 101 Academy was among the first public outreach programs hosted by this site and its new museum and classroom facility.

Field investigations were carried out in Lot 87 according to the original town plat, which is located immediately east of the new parking facility and south of the museum center (Figure 1, 2). Archival information gathered by Michael Rugeley Moore (2014) has reconstructed the history of the lot (along with nearby Lot 112). In 1831, William Williamson petitioned the *Ayunatamiento* to be granted titles to lot 87, which had originally been purchased by John Montgomery and Patrick Green. The lot was improved prior to 1834, when it was sold along with Lot 112 by the widow of Williamson to James B. Miller. The bill of sale for the two lots notes that "on one of which is the house the last residence of the said Williamson." At some point prior to 1836, Miller sold the lots to William P. Huff. The next historical record comes from 1845, at which point the lots were referred to as "Huff's old residence which he had purchased from Dr. Jas B. Miller." Based on notes and records, the building history of the lots includes the following inventory of built structures on Lot 87:

- Building 87A: Dwelling House, built after 1831
- Building 87B: Kitchen
- Building 87C: Smoke House
- Building 87D: Stable
- Building 87E: Carriage House

This inventory is based on the assumption that William P. Huff lived in the dwelling listed for Lot 87 after he acquired the lots from Miller in about 1834-1835, and that the listed improvements (or many of them) can be ascribed to his ownership and possible residence on the lot.

Previous archeological investigations of Lot 87 were conducted by Marianne Marek (2011). From 2002-2006, she conducted archival research, shovel testing, and more intensive excavations across several of the town lots under sponsorship of a consortium of local organizations including the Fort Bend Museum, the Sealy Chamber of Commerce, the City of San Felipe, San Felipe de Austin Historic Park Association, Austin County, and the Austin County Historical Association (Marek 2011:6). On Lot 87 in particular, Marek and her crews excavated a total of nine shovel test probes; one for the datum, which was placed in the northeast corner of the lot, and eight others spaced evenly in two rows across the lot. She reports a large number of artifacts being recovered from her shovel tests, including fragments of Colonial brick, dark olive-green bottle glass, transfer wares, white wares, burned daub, mortar, slate, animal bones, window glass, a fragment of amethyst embossed bottle base, and numerous fragments of colored glass and pieces of metal. One notable artifact recovered by Marek was a Thumbscrew, recovered from Shovel Test 8 in the very southeastern corner of the lot. Thumbscrews are used as decorative screws to seal coffin lids, which in Colonial times were made by carpenters (Marek 2011:31). The fact that William Williamson identified his trade as carpentry may mean that this thumbscrew is related to the Williamson ownership of the lot.

During its work under contract to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) Historic Sites Division associated with the construction of the new museum and to



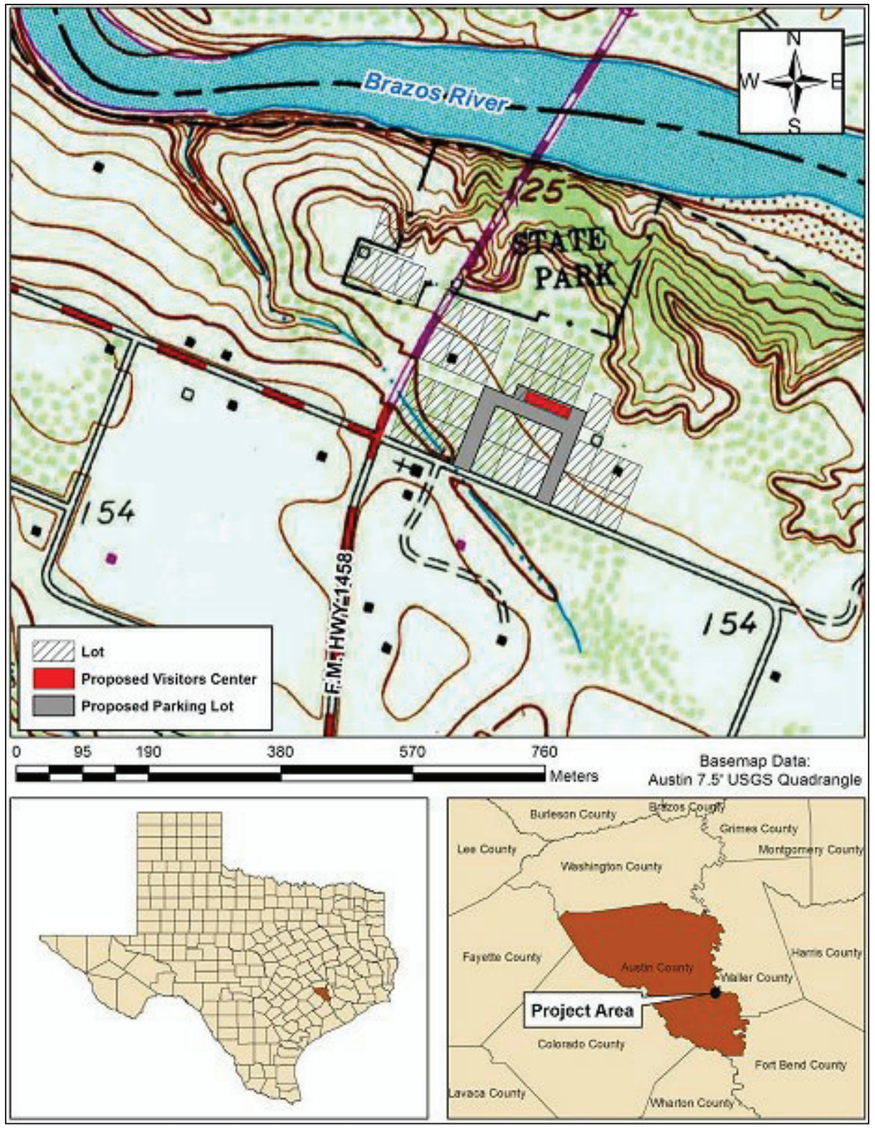


*Figure 1. Location of San Felipe de Austin (41AU2) state historic site on 7.5-minute Austin, Texas topographic sheet, showing proposed location of the Texas Historical Commission's new museum and visitor center.*

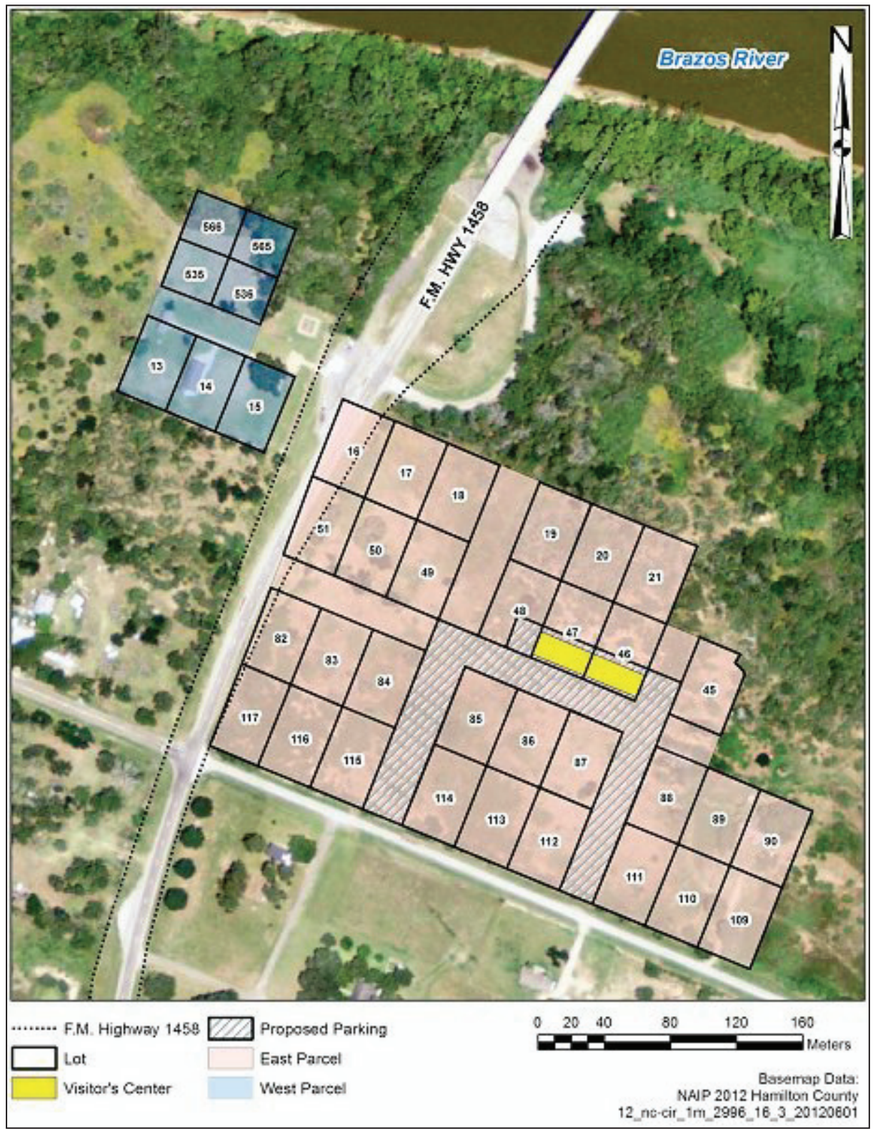


*Figure 2. Town lots of San Felipe de Austin with proposed visitor center and associated parking.*



help guide future investigations across the site, Coastal Environments, Inc. (CEI) conducted remote sensing survey across much of the THC-owned property, including Lot 87. This work was conducted by Bryan Haley of CEI under Antiquities Permit 7218 (Jon Lohse, Principal Investigator) as part of CEI's plan to develop a low-impact approach to inventorying and categorizing potentially intact deposits at the site that could be investigated over time according to the public outreach or ongoing research plans of the THC. Specific remote sensing techniques employed in this work included electrical resistivity and magnetometry, and a number of anomalies were recorded across the site (Figure 3). The area of magnetometer data coverage extended over Lot 87, and a number of anomalies were recorded thought to be of high research potential. Considering that the lot is immediately adjacent to the site visitor center and that it is associated in the archival record with documented improvements and occupation dating to the period between when the town was established and before it was abandoned, Lot 87 was identified as a promising place to conduct the half-day of excavation component of the Archeology 101 Academy.

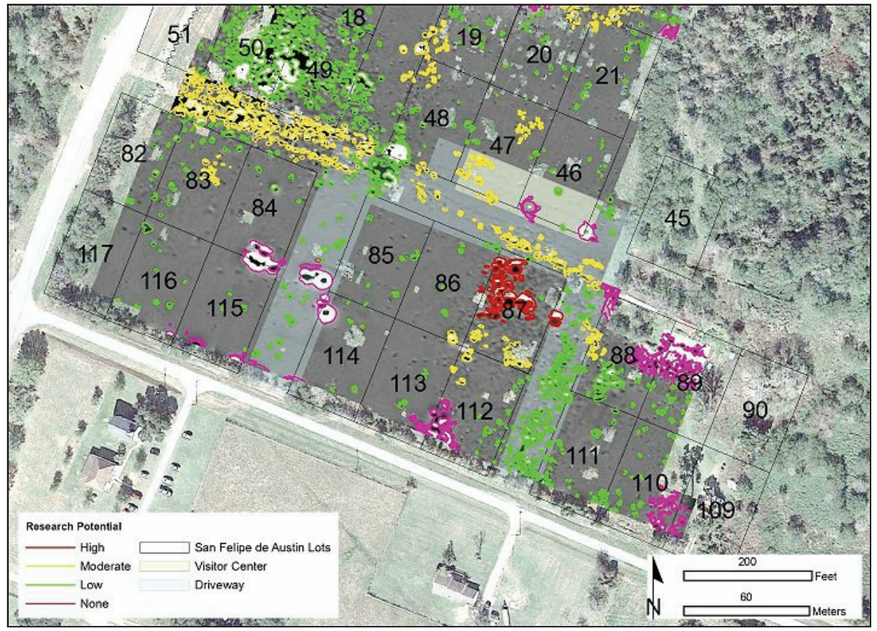


*Figure 3. Remote sensing (magnetometer) data for the eastern part of the San Felipe de Austin state historic site (map by Bryan Haley).*

# Chapter 2
# Environmental and Cultural Context

The site of San Felipe de Austin is located within the floodplains and low terraces subregion of the Western Gulf Coast Plain (Griffith et al. 2004), with elevations ranging between approximately 157 to 160 feet above mean sea level. The town was established on an elevated rise immediately south of the Brazos River in the eastern part of what later became Austin County. The project area is underlain by Pleistocene Lissie Formation (BEG 1979) with surfaces that are fairly flat and featureless except for shallow depression and pimple mounds (USGS 2005). Mapped soils consist of moderately well drained Tabor fine sandy loam on 1 to 5 percent slopes. This soil is composed of Pleistocene age loamy and clayey alluvium derived from mixed sources (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2014) within an area of rolling, eroded uplands.

## Historical Overview

As early as 1819, while Mexico was part of Spain, Moses Austin developed a plan to establish an American colony in Texas. Teaming with Felipe Enrique Neri, Baron de Bastrop, Austin presented his plan to Mexican authorities in 1820. Although he received permission to establish the colony in mid May 1821, Moses Austin died soon after on 10 June 1821. With his death, the colonization plans fell to his son Stephen F. Austin. In search of a place to establish the colony, the younger Austin began exploring southeast Texas in August 1821 (Barker 1925:25-27, 31, 34-35). The following month, however, Mexico gained independence from Spain, stalling Austin's plans.

In August 1823, Stephen F. Austin arrived in Texas from Mexico City with permission to establish a new colony that was to include a town to be named San Felipe de Austin near the center of his new colony. Exploring the area that summer, Austin, in conjunction with Land Commissioner Baron de Bastrop and surveyor Seth Ingram, eventually selected the site of John McFarland's cabin at the Atascosito crossing of the Brazos River for what was to soon become the capital of his colony. Quickly completing his survey, by the end of 1832 Ingram had laid out 582 town lots, four public squares, and a cemetery (Figure 4). As empresario, Austin granted over 22,000 acres to the Town of San Felipe de Austin on 1 July 1824 (Moore 2014:1-2, 5).

In granting the land to the town, Austin reserved the right for himself and the Baron de Bastrop to sell or donate lots as they saw fit prior to September 1, 1824. By then, transfers were to be handled by the *Ayuntamiento*. Due to poor record keeping, some lots were donated or sold more than once, first by Austin and then by the *Ayuntamiento*. After the first lots were sold in 1824, five years passed before the *Ayuntamiento* once again publicly offered lots. In an effort to increase the town's population and to thwart speculators, the *Ayuntamiento* required that purchasers improve their lots within one year. Although a series of similar sales were made in 1830, they dwindled in number after 1831. By then, the town's population had grown to just over 200. It has been estimated that the town's population stood at about 600 by 1835–1836 (Moore 2014:5, 7-8, 10-13, 74).

Based upon his research, Moore (2014:13) determined that most of the town lots sold in 1824 were clustered around Commerce Square (see Figure 4), near the Brazos River and adjacent to Lot 580. Lots sold in 1829–1830 tended to be located north of Third Street and west of Manuel Mier y Teran Street. Moore's (2014) archival research revealed that many, but not all, of those lots were improved. In some cases, available records are unclear. For example, blacksmith William Stafford acquired Lots 83 and 84 in 1824. Records suggest that Stafford maintained his shop on that property (Lots 83 and 84), but it is not clear precisely where. Similarly, there is no available historic documentation of colonial development on Lots 46 and 47, the current location of the site's visitor center.

Though lightly settled, San Felipe was a comparatively large Texian settlement, and was a center for Texian political discourse. As a result, not surprisingly, the conventions of 1832 and 1833 were held there. The town also served as the seat of the provisional government in 1835–1836 (Paddock 1922:41, 122-123, 247). Following the March 1836 fall of the Alamo, General Sam Houston retreated through the town. In the path of the advancing Mexican army, San Felipe was burned to the ground on March 29, 1836 to prevent its capture. This abandonment of the town was one of a series of burnings and rapid abandonments in the area following the fall of the Alamo that have been collectively referred to as the Runaway Scrape. Although some outlying structures survived, the town was largely eradicated. Only the chimneys of about 50 structures survived (Moore 2014:81-83, 87).



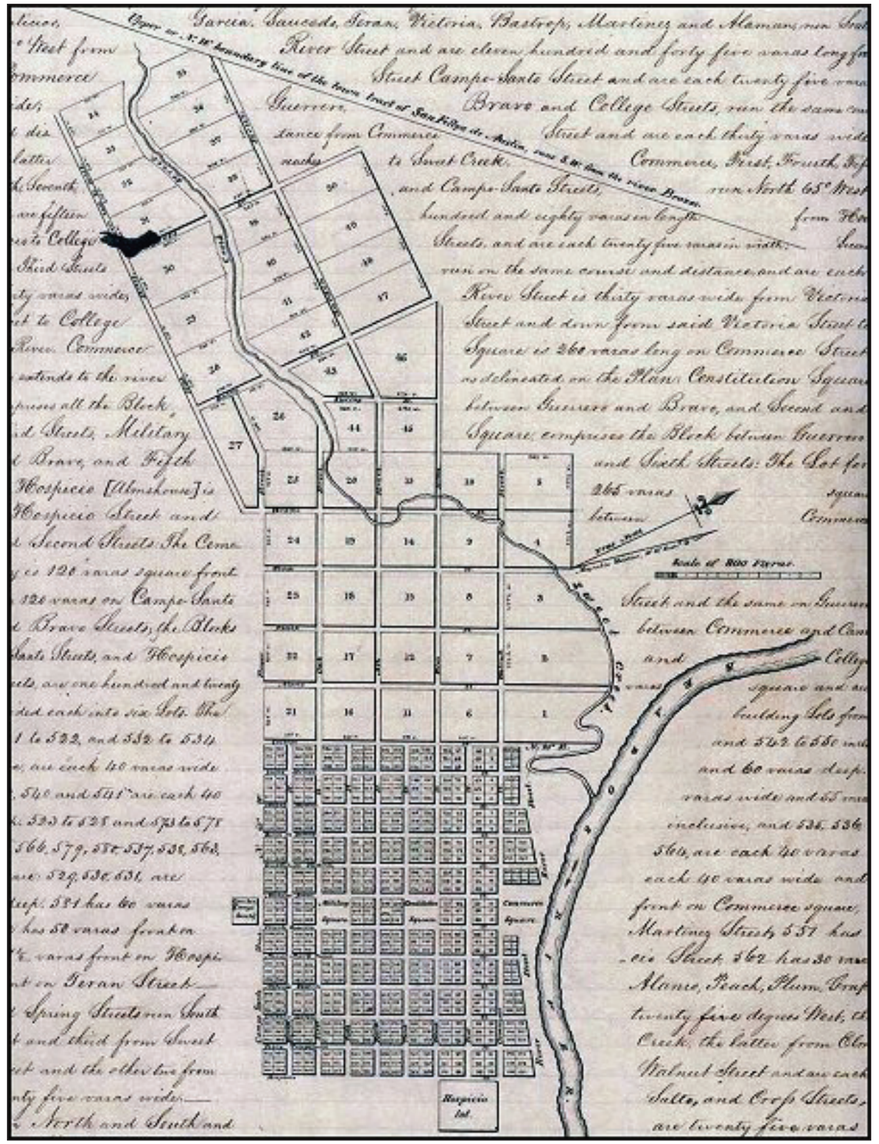


*Figure 4. Seth Ingram map of the original platting of the Colonial town of San Felipe de Austin.*

Abandoning the town, Texans under the command of Moseley Baker entrenched themselves on the north side of the Brazos River. Upon entering the burned town, Mexican troops emplaced two six-pounder cannons behind a bread oven on Lot 579 (near Commerce Square). With only 85 men and facing an army of 1,200, Baker held his position until April 10, 1836 when he retreated to join the remainder of General Houston's army. Rather than pursuing Baker, the Mexican army soon fell back (Moore 2014:84-86).

Only some residents returned to San Felipe following Texas' independence. The town was incorporated in 1837 and became the seat of Austin County (Beers 1979:171). In 1848, the county seat was moved to Bellville (Hardy and Roberts 1910:352). Largely vacant, the area attracted German families during the late antebellum period, and freedmen thereafter (Alford 1994:143; Olmstead 1857:358). Nearby, several Czech families settled Frydek by the turn of the twentieth century (Rechcigl 2013:190). In 1882, the Texas Western Narrow-Gauge Railroad released the contract to build a road between Patterson and Sealy (*Railway World* 1882:801-802), passing immediately south of San Felipe. By 1889, San Felipe's population Felipe was 200 (Department of Agriculture, Insurance, Statistics and History 1891:8). That, however, included an area of over 11,000 acres. By the 1910s, fewer than six buildings remained in the town core, and most residents lived along the former Campo Santo Road that ran along the north side of the cemetery. Even the post office and school were situated there.

In 1928, an obelisk was erected near Commerce Square in honor of Stephen F. Austin. In 1929, a Texas senate bill was introduced to accept the donation of a park to be known as "The Stephen F. Austin Memorial Park," to contain approximately 39.75 acres. Some of the property was then still in private hands, and $7,500 was set aside to buy those lots (O'Neal et al. 1929:1001-1002). It was not until 1940 that the San Felipe de Austin Corporation and the San Felipe Park Association deeded 663.3 acres to the State of Texas. Thirteen of those acres were designated as the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site (*The Dallas Morning News* 1983:73; Danilov 2013:293). A replica of Austin's San Felipe home was constructed in 1935–1936, and a statue of Austin had been placed near the 1928 obelisk in November 1938. The replica home has been replaced three times, most recently in 1976 (Howard et al. 1999:10).

State Highway 249, connecting the park to State Highway 73 to the south, was constructed in 1938 (*The Dallas Morning News* 1938). That year, San Felipe was described as a "shabby, weed-grown community" and "almost a deserted village of dusty, narrow thoroughfares" (WPA 1940:598). Even with its sparse population, however, the town was still connected by ferry to Waller County to the north (WPA 1940:599). By the late 1950s, only a few farms and scattered houses were still present. Connecting the state park to US 90 (formerly Highway 73) was State Route 99; the Brazos River ferry, however, had ceased to operate. In 1972, a bridge was constructed over the Brazos River at San Felipe de Austin. The road leading to the bridge, now FM Highway 1458, closely follows the Nicolas Bravo Street right-of-way. The FM Highway 1458 ROW, however, splits the town site into two parts, and takes in parts of Lots 16, 51, 82 and possibly 117.

### Previous Investigations and Previously Identified Resources

Harold P. Jensen, Jr., completed the first archaeological investigation at San Felipe de Austin in 1964. Recorded as 41AU2, the site then included only a part of the town site east of FM 1458 and that part of the historic park west of the highway. Although Jensen noted three collection areas, no information is available relative to those collections (Fox and Whitsett 1987:9-10).

Two years later, J. Dan Scurlock made a small surface collection in the vicinity of the replica of Austin's cabin (Howard et al. 1999:16). The artifacts collected by Scurlock are consistent with the early occupation of San Felipe. In 1969, Harold P. Jensen, Jr., and Ronald Ralph examined the FM 1458 ROW through San Felipe prior to its construction. That work led to the identification of three archaeological localities, all apparently associated with the site's colonial component (Howard et al. 1999:16).

When the J.J. Josey Store was moved to the historic park in 1970, J. David Ing excavated five shovel tests and made a cursory surface collection of the new building site after the area had already been mechanically leveled. One shovel test in Lot 14 of the original town plat revealed an apparent wall foundation constructed of handmade brick and lime-based mortar. This work is noteworthy because this was the reported location of the small log cabin that Stephen F. Austin owned for a brief period when he actually lived in the town. The store straddled Lots 13 and 14. Together with adjoining Lots 15 and 52-54, these lots form a square that was originally owned by Stephen F. Austin. An historic well excavated in 1835 is still extant on Lot 15.

The 1950s Austin cabin replica was demolished in 1972. During that demolition work, the ground surface between the park's entrance and the building site was heavily disturbed. George Kegley visited the site shortly after and made a small surface collection at the former cabin site. All of the artifacts collected by Kegley were from disturbed contexts (Howard et al. 1999:17).



In recognition of the site's importance, the publicly owned portions of 41AU2 were designated a State Archaeological Landmark in 1983 (Marek 2011:3). Three years later, Daniel Fox and Hayden Whitsett (1987) conducted an archaeological reconnaissance of a proposed sewer system in San Felipe. Fox and Whitsett conducted a windshield survey of the area, augmented by pedestrian survey. Their work was partly guided by archival research conducted by Ganey Bradfield and Margaret Henson that identified probable early settlement localities. Based on their work, Fox and Whitsett expanded the site limits of 41AU2 to include 148 acres of the town site as it existed in 1836. Fox and Whitsett also recommended that site 41AU2 was eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1995, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) conducted a reconnaissance of a small (9.5 acre) part of the 655-acre recreational park and of the 17-acre historic park. In addition to the reconnaissance surveys, shovel testing was conducted within the latter area. Most of the 2,522 artifacts that were recovered were consistent with the circa 1823–1836 site occupation, though some earlier and later artifacts were recovered as well. Shovel testing also suggested that structural remains and activity areas were extant within the limits of the historic park. TPWD developed a comprehensive management plan for archaeological resources within the park (Howard et al. 1999).

As noted above, in 2002 Marianne Marek initiated investigations that included excavating those portions of San Felipe that lay outside of the state park. Marek's initial work included extensive examination of Colonial-period documents in order to identify where early structures once stood. She then had professional surveyors establish the town's original lot lines within her study area. Shovel testing was conducted across the lots in an effort to locate evidence of Colonial occupation. Marek identified several Colonial features and recovered a quantity of period artifacts. That work revealed that portions of the site were actively eroding into the adjacent Brazos River (Marek 2011:I:6).

Upon completing initial examinations, Marek hand excavated several units in 2003–2004, revealing a basement and several trash pits associated with the site's colonial occupation. In addition, a magnetometer survey and conductivity surveys were made of selected lots. The magnetometer survey of Lots 16-18, 49-51, 82-87 and 112-114 revealed an extensive series of anomalies that covered the entirety of Lot 50 as well as adjacent portions of First Street. Additional shovel testing conducted in 2005–2006 revealed yet more Colonial deposits in areas outside of the state park. That season, Marek also conducted extensive excavations on Lots 537 and 564 as both lots were subject to ongoing erosion (Marek 2011:I:6-7, 14). Within the limits of the current property, Marek (2011) shovel tested 44 lots and dug larger excavation units in eight lots between 2002 and 2006. Her work remains the most extensive investigations yet conducted across much of the Colonial town of San Felipe de Austin (Figure 5).

In 2010, the Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS), Texas State University-San Marcos, conducted small-scale hand excavations in the vicinity of the J. J. Josey Store (Leezer 2010:10-14, 16-21). This work consisted of 13 small test units placed around the perimeter of the store and excavation of a shovel test at each of five interpretive sign locations. CAS's units yielded cultural material to depths of up to 90 cmbs, though most artifacts were found between 20 and 70 cmbs. Many of the 242 artifacts recovered by CAS are associated with the site's Colonial occupation, most notably a cut 1/8$^{th}$ eight *reales* coin minted in Mexico City between 1732 and 1771. Though minted much earlier than the site's 1824–1836 Colonial occupation, Mexican coinage circulated throughout the Americas well into the nineteenth century. Other artifacts, however, clearly postdate the site's Colonial-period occupation, most notably shards of clear-purple glass (1880–1915) and wire nails (generally post-1890). Based on their findings, CAS determined that the proposed work on the J.J. Josey store would not impact significant cultural remains. Similarly, CAS determined that the placement of the interpretive signage would not impact significant cultural remains.

Following work by CAS, the THC conducted excavations at the site in conjunction with TAS field schools in and around Columbus in 2014-2016. Supervised by Jeff Durst, excavations by THC staff and others, including the HAS, focused largely on Lot 566 and the probable location of the Farmer's Hotel. Additional units were conducted across Lot 566 to search for what Moore (2014) believed to be a possible location for the town courthouse, and the bake oven that was built and operated by Freedwoman Celia Allen.

Finally, working under contract to the THC, CEI was asked to conduct investigations in advance of the construction of the new visitor center and associated parking (Green, Lohse, and Hahn 2015). This work involved intensive shovel testing in Lots 46, 47, 85, 86, and 113, and recovered very sparse archeological remains, confirming Moore's (2014) archival work indicating that the are was largely unimproved over the life of the early town. CEI's scope of work also included large-scale coverage by remote sensing of most of the THC-owned site area in order to identify possibly intact archeological targets that may represent intact Colonial era deposits (see Figure 3). Some of these anomalies were tested as a way of validating the remote sensing data. CEI also conducted limited excavations at Lot 50, in the suspected location of the William

B. Travis law office in conjunction with an open house event. Finally, extensive excavations were conducted in Lots 566, 535, 565, and 536 in the northwest corner of the THC-owned portion of the site. These CEI investigations were conducted under Antiquities Permit numbers 7218 and 7939, issued to Jon C. Lohse as Principal Investigator. In 2018, Lohse left CEI and those permits were transferred to another investigator.


*Figure 5. Approximate locations of shovel test units excavated by Marianne Marek across the eastern portion of the San Felipe de Austin site. Specific unit locations are based on Marek's report and field notes.*



# Chapter 3
# Excavations

As noted, Town Lot 87 was selected for the excavation portion of the Archeology 101 Academy. Previous investigations by Marek (2011) had recovered artifacts remains dating to the Colonial period of site occupation, and Moore's (2014) archival work had identified architectural improvements here that may be associated with intact features or other deposits. Remote sensing work by Bryan Haley of CEI identified a number of anomalies, especially in the magnetometer data, that were thought to possibly represent architectural features or other intact deposits perhaps dating to the Colonial period of site occupation (1824-1836).

In preparation for the 2018 Archeology 101 Academy, Bryan Haley returned to Lot 87 and relocated eleven anomalies from his previous investigation that appeared to be of possible research interest. A series of one-by-one meter units, designated 87-1 through 87-11, were established over these anomalies (or their approximate locations) (Figure 6). Unit 87-11 is located to the east of the main cluster, and may be in or close to the roadway, Manuel Mier y Teran Street, that runs north-south along the east edge of Lot 87.

Units were laid out as one of the hands-on exercises in the course of the academy (Figure 7), with local unit datums established to help provide vertical control for each unit in centimeters below datum (cmbd). A total of seven out of these 11 units were excavated. Teams of two to four people were assigned to each unit, and a crew chief from the HAS or the San Felipe professional staff was assigned to help supervise one to two units each (Figures 8, 9). Each unit was hand excavated by

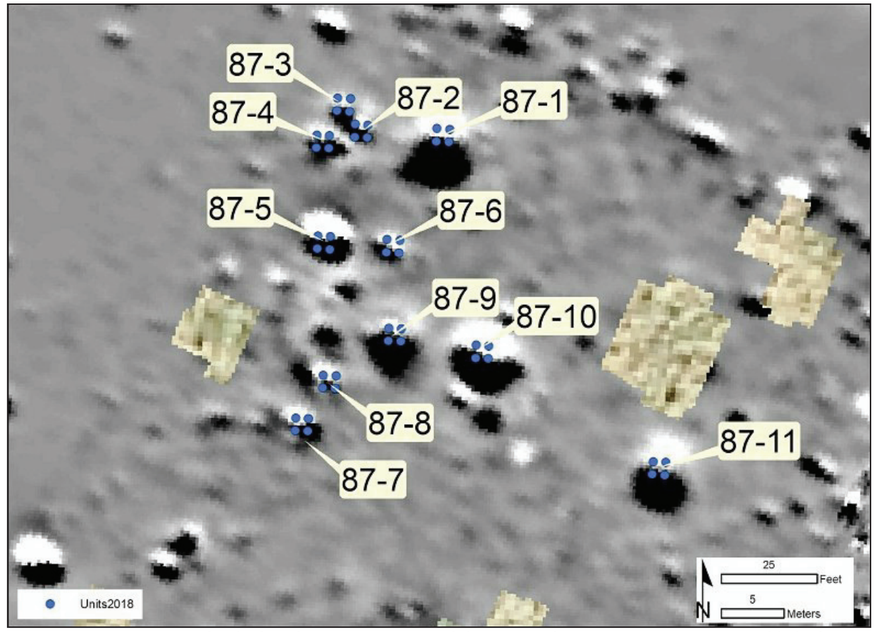


*Figure 6. Magnetometer dipole data for Town Lot 87, with locations of 1x1m excavation units established to test these anomalies (map by Bryan Haley). Each blue dot is a unit corner.*

trowel or shovel skimming, using combinations of arbitrary and cultural levels for vertical control. Level 1, the first level for each unit, was excavated to a reasonable depth to achieve a flat unit floor; given uneven ground surface, the total depth ranges for first levels across all units ranged from between 6 to 17 cm. The objective for levels following Level 1 was for these to extend 10cm unless there was some reason, for example in terms of sediment changes or apparent stratigraphy, to reduce this thickness. Level 2 for Unit 87-8 was 4cm thick; this level was terminated when the project ran out of time allocated for excavation.

*Figure 7. North end of Town Lot 87, looking south across the series of 1x1m units laid out over anomalies.*

*Figure 8. Site Archeologist, Dr. Sarah Chesney (white shirt) helps supervise excavation of Unit 87-5.*



*Figure 9. Site Public Outreach Coordinator Eleanor Stoddart (pink shirt) supervises Unit 87-11.*

All sediments were screened through ¼" mesh, and artifacts were collected by unit-level provenience. Each excavated level across the site was assigned a lot number in a running series starting with 1 and ending with 16. Lot numbers assigned during this excavation are indicated by unit-level provenience and depth below datum in Table 1.

**Table 1. List of excavated proveniences from across the 2018 Town Lot 87 excavation.**

| Unit | Level | Lot Number | Elevation in cmbd |
|---|---|---|---|
| 87-5 | 1 | 5 | 8-14 |
| 87-5 | 2 | 8/9 | 15-20 |
| 87-6 | 1 | 2 | 10-19 |
| 87-6 | 2 | 12 | 19-28 |
| 87-7 | 1 | 7 | 10-20 |
| 87-7 | 2 | 13 | 20-30 |
| 87-8 | 1 | 6 | 5-22 |
| 87-8 | 2 | 16 | 22-26 |
| 87-9 | 1 | 1 | 13-20 |
| 87-9 | 2 | 10 | 20-30 |
| 87-9 | 3 | 15 | 30-40 |
| 87-10 | 1 | 3 | 10-20 |
| 87-10 | 2 | 11 | 20-30 |
| 87-11 | 1 | 4 | 10-20 |
| 87-11 | 2 | 14 | 20-30 |

Generally, excavated sediments were brown to light brown sandy loam, loosely consolidated and with some mottling from subsurface rodent intrusions. These sediments are typical across the San Felipe site, where rodent traffic has caused a significant amount of artifact dislocation and, probably, deterioration. In spite of the use of remote sensing data to pre-examine the area before excavations, no features were encountered or recorded. In Unit 87-5, distinct sediment differences were noted at about 14cmbd, with a southwest-to-northeast contact between light brown compact sandy-clay loam and more loosely consolidated brown sandy loam (Figure 10). Lot 5 was halted at this point and Level 1 was divided into Lots 8 (brown sandy loam) and 9 (light brown sandy-clay loam). Lot 9 proved to be disturbed sediments from modification of this part of the site area, and Lot 8 was identified as remaining native site sediments.

The only other notable intrusion from any of the units included what is believed to be one of Marek's earlier shovel tests, which was encountered in Unit 87-7 (Figure 11). This previous probe is identified as a rectangular patch of heavily mottled sediments comprising both brown sandy loam and light brown clay-loam, which is characteristic of underlying clay-laden strata across the site. This rectangular intrusion measured approximately 30cm per side, a typical range for

*Figure 10. Unit 87-5, bottom of Lot 5 at 14cmbd. Disturbed sediments are clearly visible to left of unit.*

*Figure 11. Unit 87-7, Level 1 (Lot 7), showing an intrusive, backfilled shovel test from Marianne Marek's earlier investigations. Two small artifacts are shown on dirt pedestals.*



controlled shovel tests, and sediments within this area were devoid of artifacts.

It is curious that none of the excavations exposed or appears to have reached the cause(s) or source(s) of the remote sensing anomalies indicated in Figures 3 and 6. It seems unlikely that artifacts recovered from these excavations (see below) can be associated with whatever geophysical properties resulted in the anomalies to be detected by remote sensing data. Moreover, no single item, for example a large plate or other metallic object, was recovered from any of the units that could help explain or account for the geophysical data. Alternative explanations may include that discrete patterns of burned/heated sediments may have been the source of the anomalies, or that instruments were detecting features or disturbances that were not reached in the half-day of excavations that were allocated for this academy. Unfortunately, no meaningful or concrete conclusions can be drawn to help explain what these anomalies actually represent; only future investigations can help address this question. These investigations should continue below depths reached in the 2018 101 Academy and should also consider establishing units immediately adjacent to those established in this 2018 effort in case our unit locations were not centered precisely over the source of the anomaly.

# Chapter 4
# Artifact Analysis

Artifacts were collected from the screen and from point-plotted proveniences in the field. Laboratory analyses were conducted by members of the Houston Archeological Society, the Houston-area avocational group that has supported numerous archeological field and lab-based projects over the past several decades. Members of this organization have extensive experience with historic-period material culture, including from early Colonial periods in Texas, and routinely participate in investigations at San Felipe de Austin.

Artifacts were divided into a series of artifact classes based on material type and technology of manufacture. Artifact classes include Fauna/Shell, Metal/Nails, Glass, Ceramic, Stone (non-chipped stone), Brick/Mortar, Lithic (chipped stone), Charcoal/Botanical, and Unknown. The frequencies of these items and their distribution across Town Lot 87 are indicated in Table 2.

Within this classification system, Fauna/Shell includes the remains of animal bone and a limited number of freshwater shell fragments (mostly umbos) recovered from excavations. Much of the bone shows signs of having been burned (Figure 12A). It is possible that the animal bone remains reflect previously discarded faunal remains from food preparation and consumption at the town of San Felipe de Austin (at least two specimens from Unit 87-9 have cut marks visible; Figure 12B); burning may reflect the abandonment of the town. This material was not further analyzed.

Unknown items include sediment that was collected from the screen; while limited in number, these specimens include items that are hard to identify. Possibilities include weathered bits of mortar or concretized sand.

Stone (non-lithic) includes slate, petrified wood, and sandstone. Slate may have been used in stores or residences. Lithics include small flakes that may have originated with sparse prehistoric occupation across the site and gotten reworked into site deposits over time. This artifact category is not considered significant to the archeological understanding of Town Lot 87.

Charcoal/botanical items largely consist of charcoal fragments collected during excavation and screening. There is a good chance that these specimens reflect wood (either furniture or architectural members) that was burned during the Runaway Scrape event.

The category of brick/mortar can help indicate the presence of former buildings in Town Lot 87 and elsewhere. Recovered items represent pieces of hand fired brick that became common at the site after about 1830, or fragments of preserved mortar that was used to adhere bricks together. Quantifying brick recovery is somewhat arbitrary, since bricks were recovered in a range of sizes from small cobble to less than marble-sized. Smaller pieces were not kept at the screen, and this artifact category, while important for characterizing certain aspects of the site, should only to be used as a general, imprecise indication of former building location. Table 3 presents brick/mortar recovery by weight and count. Considering that brick fragments are susceptible to weathering and recovery bias, patterns in their distribution should be taken with caution. Still, Units 87-9 and 87-10 produced the most brick by weight, with nearby Unit 87-6 also yielding higher-than-average amounts from these excavations.

**Table 2. Artifact recovery by class and unit from the 2018 Town Lot 87 excavation.**

| Unit | Faunal/ Shell | Metal/ Nails | Brick/ Mortar | Glass | Ceramic | Stone | Lithic | Charcoal/ Botanical | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 87-5 | 2 | 50 | 14 | 13 | 12 | | | 1 | 1 | 93 |
| 87-6 | 2 | 105 | 33 | 27 | 23 | 3 | 2 | 4 | | 199 |
| 87-7 | | 74 | 8 | 19 | 10 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 116 |
| 87-8 | 6 | 81 | 3 | 25 | 14 | | | 1 | | 130 |
| 87-9 | 15 | 199 | 58 | 44 | 52 | 9 | | 1 | 3 | 381 |
| 87-10 | 3 | 309 | 134 | 76 | 19 | 1 | | | | 542 |
| 87-11 | 91 | 177 | 171 | 32 | 12 | 4 | | 10 | 1 | 498 |
| Total | 119 | 995 | 421 | 236 | 142 | 19 | 2 | 19 | 6 | 1959 |




*Figure 12. Examples of fauna recovered from Lot 87. A) burned bone recovered from Unit 87-11 (Lot 16). B) cut marks visible on two unburned specimens from Unit 87-9 (Lot 15).*

**Table 3. Brick/mortar recovery by count and weight.**

| Unit | Count | Weight in g |
|---|---|---|
| 87-5 | 2 | 56.2 |
| 87-6 | 33 | 365.2 |
| 87-7 | 10 | 251.4 |
| 87-8 | 3 | 59.6 |
| 87-9* | 58 | 441.3 |
| 87-9 | 2 | 10 |
| 87-10 | 134 | 426.6 |
| 87-11 | 170 | 228.8 |

** indicates that three levels were excavated, partially explaining elevated recovery.*

Other artifact classes (glass, ceramics, metal/nails) are somewhat more inclusive of a broad range of different types of objects. Metal/nails includes nails from architectural constructions as well as furniture tacks. Unfortunately, preservation of this category is extremely poor, and generating even minimum counts of nails recovered is not possible as most pieces recovered from the screen cannot be identified beyond "metal." A possible hinge flange was recovered from Unit 87-7 (level 2), and part of a possible shoe heel that still has remnants of copper tacks embedded in it was recovered from Unit 87-11 (Figure 13). Many objects are simply unidentifiable fragments or iron concretions.

The category of "glass" includes flat glass, perhaps representing window panes, as well as curved clear and colored glass; color categories include aqua, olive, brown, green, amethyst, and clear and treatments include frosted, pressed, flat, curved, patterned, and gilded. This category reflects containers like bottles, vases, and jars (Figure 14); much of the glass recovered from these excavations has been burned or melted from exposure to heat.

Ceramics are perhaps the most diverse artifact category recovered from the Lot 87 excavations. Recognized types include whiteware, transfer wares (purple, black, red (Staffordshire), blue, green), salt glazed stoneware, flow blue, dendritic annular mocha, and creamware (Figures 15-17). Not all recovered ceramics belong to the Colonial period; one Powell and Bishop maker's mark dates to the period from 1867-1876 (Figure 18). Analytical details for the artifact assemblage are included in Appendix A.

Collectively, the artifacts from Town Lot 87 reflect architectural construction (building materials and fasteners), serving and storage containers, and food debris from the town's occupation. Many of the items recovered from these excavations have been discolored or distorted from exposure to heat, and overall the assemblage reflects not only the early occupation of the town but also the nature of its rapid abandonment. Some mixing of temporal components is indicated by the ceramic assemblage, but this appears minimal.

While excavations exposed no features or stratigraphic indications for building footprints (e.g., piers, builder's trenches), some distributional patterns are evident that may help direct future investigations. Unit 87-9, located close to the middle of Lot 87, produced the highest


*Figure 13. Possible shoe heel fragment from Unit 87-11, Level 2 (Lot 14).*


*Figure 14. Examples of patterned glass recovered from excavations in Lot 87. A) Clear glass plate or saucer fragment (Lot 12). B) Pressed clear glass (Lot 12). C) Base of small bottle with "...OCK'S (Lot 14). D) Patterned aqua glass (Lot 8/9).*




*Figure 15. Ceramics recovered from Lot 10-1, Unit 87-9, level 1 (flow blue top left, transfer wares top right, burned sherds bottom right, plain white or cream wares bottom left).*


*Figure 16. Ceramics recovered from Lot 11-3, Unit 87-9, level 2 (transfer wares across the top, cream and white wares bottom right, burned sherds bottom left).*

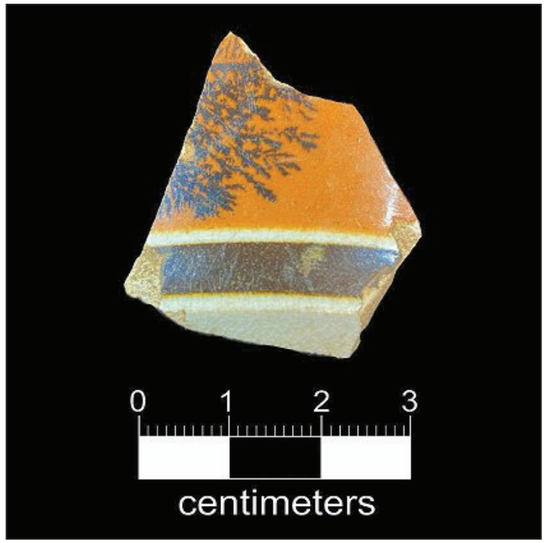


*Figure 17. Dendritic mocha sherd from Lot 5-1, Unit 87-5, level 1.*


*Figure 18. Ceramics recovered from Lot 16-1, Unit 87-8. The Powell and Bishop (whiteware) sherd dates to after the period of Colonial occupation and indicates some mixing of this assemblage (clockwise from top right: dendritic mocha sherd, whiteware, green transfer ware, cream ware).*



count of ceramics (n=52) and the second highest quantity of metal/nails (n=199). This unit is adjacent to Unit 87-10, which produced the highest quantity of metal/nails (n=309) and second highest quantity of bricks/mortar by count (n=134) and weight (see Table 3). Unit 87-11, located on the eastern edge of Lot 87, produced the highest counts for fauna/shell (n=91), which is over six times the next-highest recovery rate (n=15, Unit 87-9). While Unit 87-11 also yielded the highest quantity of bricks/mortar, in terms of weight this unit produced only the fifth-highest frequency across the lot. The unit did produce the third-most metal/nails (n=177). Sparse as they are, these distributional data suggest that structures may have been located in the areas of Units 87-10/87-9 and 87-11; the latter in particular may have been an area that was associated with food production given its extremely high counts for animal remains but relatively low volume of brick/mortar.

# Chapter 5
# Conclusions

In March 2018, the Texas Archeological Society conducted its biannual Archeology 101 Academy at the State Historic Site of San Felipe de Austin. This site represents a historically significant location for early Texas as the territory was first established in 1824 as a northern frontier colony for Mexico and then gained its independence from that nation in 1836. The occupation history of San Felipe de Austin is brief, but intense and complicated, with the dramatic Runaway Scrape abandonment event providing the culminating moment to the previous 12 years of gradual growth, development, and increasing habitation. Many of the town's occupants were present here for only short periods of time before passing through to some other destination, including for many their own land grants issued by Stephen F. Austin or later the *Ayuntamiento*. Following the Runaway Scrape, the town was reoccupied but never achieved status as a major population center for early Texas. Lot 87, where the Academy excavations took place, reflects this attenuated history. Perhaps five buildings were established here; all were built after 1831 and all were apparently burned down in 1836 when the town was rapidly abandoned before the advance of Mexican troops following the Battle of the Alamo. The little complex of structures was likely erected by William Williamson, who's widow sold the improved lot to James B. Miller who in turn sold them to William Huff.

Our Academy investigations were brief, limited to a half-day of excavations focused as much on learning and teaching as they were on the recovery of archeological information. Unfortunately, no features that could be matched with one of more of the previous buildings was located. Whether these in fact are present at the site is probably yet to be determined and will require future investigations. Nevertheless, artifacts recovered are largely reflective of the period of initial occupation and development, and many of these items are burned or otherwise altered from having been exposed to intense heat.

*Figure 19. Archeology 101 academy in the new San Felipe de Austin classroom/meeting facility.*



While the archeological investigations at Town Lot 87 may have only scratched the surface of what could be learned here, the overall experience of the 101 Academy was a resounding success from the perspective of the instruction team and also the enrollees. The historical significance of the site itself contributed to the overall impact of the Academy, and the classroom facility that is part of the on-site museum and visitor center was ideal for this experience (Figure 19). A walking tour of the site was included as part of the weekend-long academy, giving participants a chance to learn first-hand about much of this important site's history (Figure 20). The opportunity to integrate the important Archeology 101 academy with the new, state of the art museum and visitor center at this historically significant site resulted in an outstandingly successful overall experience. Many of the registrants were effusive in their praise and positive feedback about what they learned and took away from this academy (Figure 21). Future Archeology 101 academies would do well to try and replicate at least some aspects of this overall experience.

*Figure 20. A walking tour of the site and its history helped add depth and context to the Archeology 101 academy and its focus on San Felipe de Austin.*


*Figure 21. Archeology 101 registrants and teaching staff at the conclusion of the academy in front of the site museum and visitor center at San Felipe de Austin.*

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# Appendix A
# Artifact Inventory

| Lot | Spec | Unit | Level | Elevation | Artifact Class | Count | Weight(g) | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 87-9 | 1 | 13-20 cm | Ceramic | 11 | 14.36 | whiteware, blue feather edge, purple transferware, green painted glazed, black transferware, colonial unglazed white earthenware with red either sticksponge or handpaint |
| 1 | 2 | 87-9 | 1 | 13-20 cm | Glass | 7 | 6.63 | flat clear, flat aqua, curved olive |
| 1 | 3 | 87-9 | 1 | 13-20 cm | Metal/Nails | 50 | 57.76 | nails, fragments unidentifiable |
| 1 | 4 | '87-9 | 1 | 13-20 cm | Brick/Mortar | 2 | 25 | |
| 2 | 1 | 87-6 | 1 | 10-19 cmbd | Ceramic | 11 | 26 | whiteware, red transferware (Staffordshire), blue transferware, featheredge, modern blue |
| 2 | 2 | 87-6 | 1 | 10-19 cmbd | Glass | 9 | 6.21 | flat clear, curved brown |
| 2 | 3 | 87-6 | 1 | 10-19 cmbd | Brick/Mortar | 4 | 14.73 | brick fragment |
| 2 | 4 | 87-6 | 1 | 10-19 cmbd | Metal/Nails | 19 | 46.26 | barbed wire, nails and nail frags |
| 2 | 5 | 87-6 | 1 | 10-19 cmbd | Charcoal | 4 | 2.38 | |
| 3 | 1 | 87-10 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Ceramic | 2 | 3.51 | white ceramics, (1) rim sherd |
| 3 | 2 | 87-10 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Glass | 11 | 8.47 | flat clear, flat aqua, brown, melted clear |
| 3 | 3 | 87-10 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Metal/Nails | 6 | 43.11 | nail, nail frags, flat unidentifiable frags |
| 3 | 4 | 87-10 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Brick/Mortar | 41 | 37.35 | brick fragment |
| 4 | 1 | 87-11 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Ceramic | 1 | 18.42 | ceramic white handle fragment, utilitarian ware |
| 4 | 2 | 87-11 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Charcoal | 5 | 7.82 | |
| 4 | 3 | 87-11 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Fauna/Shell | 1 | 28.82 | umbo |
| 4 | 4 | 87-11 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Ceramic | 2 | 3.02 | red transferware, blue transferware (lattice pattern, burned) |
| 4 | 5 | 87-11 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Glass | 8 | 5.98 | flat clear, curved clear |
| 4 | 6 | 87-11 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Metal/Nails | 77 | 139.72 | nails, nail frags, unidentifiable frags |
| 4 | 7 | 87-11 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Brick/Mortar | 93 | 105.2 | brick fragment |
| 4 | 8 | 87-11 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Fauna/Shell | 43 | 21.44 | burned and unburned |
| 5 | 1 | 87-5 | 1 | 8-14 cmbd | Ceramic | 1 | 5.8 | dendritic annular mocha sherd |
| 5 | 2 | 87-5 | 1 | 8-14 cmbd | Button | 1 | 0.94 | decorative small adornment/knob |
| 5 | 3 | 87-5 | 1 | 8-14 cmbd | Brick/Mortar | 14 | 53.33 | |
| 5 | 4 | 87-5 | 1 | 8-14 cmbd | Metal/Nails | 16 | 22.76 | nails, nail frags, unidentifiable frags |
| 5 | 5 | 87-5 | 1 | 8-14 cmbd | Glass | 4 | 6.55 | curved brown, curved clear, flat clear |
| 5 | 6 | 87-5 | 1 | 8-14 cmbd | Ceramic | 5 | 11.82 | whiteware, red transferware |



# Appendix A
# Artifact Inventory
# (continued)

| Lot | Spec | Unit | Level | Elevation | Artifact Class | Count | Weight(g) | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 1 | 87-8 | 1 | 5-22 cm | Ceramic | 9 | 18.08 | dendritic annular mocha sherd, whiteware, creamware, blue transferware, black transferware, beaded pearlware rim |
| 6 | 2 | 87-8 | 1 | 5-22 cm | Glass | 20 | 33.32 | curved thick green, flat aqua, clear flat, curved bottle amethyst |
| 6 | 3 | 87-8 | 1 | 5-22 cm | Metal/Nails | 42 | 99.41 | nails and nail frags |
| 6 | 4 | 87-8 | 1 | 5-22 cm | Brick/Mortar | 2 | 29.74 | brick fragment |
| 6 | 5 | 87-8 | 1 | 5-22 cm | Fauna/Shell | 6 | 6.69 | burned bone, tooth frag, rodent mandible frag |
| 7 | 1 | 87-7 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Ceramic | 4 | 4.67 | whiteware, black transferware, red trasferware rim |
| 7 | 2 | 87-7 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Glass | 10 | 11.45 | flat aqua, curved brown, flat clear |
| 7 | 3 | 87-7 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Metal/Nails | 32 | 70.8 | nails, fragments unidentifiable |
| 7 | 4 | 87-7 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Brick/Mortar | 3 | 47.2 | brick fragment |
| 7 | 5 | 87-7 | 1 | 10-20 cm | Stone (Non-Lithic) | 2 | 1.1 | slate |
| 8 | 1 | 87-5 | 1 | 15-20 cmbd | Ceramic | 1 | 1.33 | green transferware gazebo image |
| 8 | 2 | 87-5 | 1 | 15-20 cmbd | Ceramic | 1 | 5.47 | blue transferware both sides |
| 8 | 3 | 87-5 | 1 | 15-20 cmbd | Ceramic | 3 | 2.41 | blue transferware, molded whiteware |
| 8 | 4 | 87-5 | 1 | 15-20 cmbd | Botanical | 1 | 0.4 | seed |
| 8 | 5 | 87-5 | 1 | 15-20 cmbd | Glass | 8 | 9.71 | curved aqua bottle base, curved brown bottle frag, flat clear, flat aqua |
| 8 | 6 | 87-5 | 1 | 15-20 cmbd | Fauna/Shell | 1 | 2.79 | |
| 8 | 7 | 87-5 | 1 | 15-20 cmbd | Metal/Nails | 27 | 40.6 | nails, fragments unidentifiable |
| 8 & 9 | 1 | 87-5 | 1 | 15-20 cmbd | Metal/Nails | 1 | 4.05 | Iron concretion |
| 8 & 9 | 2 | 87-5 | 1 | 15-20 cmbd | Glass | 1 | 1.76 | pattern aqua |
| 8 & 9 | 3 | 87-5 | 1 | 15-20 cmbd | Metal/Nails | 6 | 4.67 | nail, tack, frags |
| 8 & 9 | 4 | 87-5 | 1 | 15-20 cmbd | Fauna/Shell | 1 | 0.31 | burned bone |
| 8 & 9 | 5 | 87-5 | 1 | 15-20 cmbd | Unknown | 1 | 0.16 | sediment |
| 10 | 1 | 87-9 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Ceramic | 23 | 30.67 | whiteware, flow blue, blue featheredge, red transferware, brown transferware, green transferware, brown earthenware |
| 10 | 2 | 87-9 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Stone (Non-Lithic) | 1 | 3.87 | petrified wood |

# Appendix A
# Artifact Inventory
# (continued)

| Lot | Spec | Unit | Level | Elevation | Artifact Class | Count | Weight(g) | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | 3 | 87-9 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Glass | 20 | 30.37 | flat clear, green bottle, brown bottle, frosted, gilded frag, melted clear frag |
| 10 | 4 | 87-9 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Metal/Nails | 103 | 138.37 | nails, fragments unidentifiable |
| 10 | 5 | 87-9 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Metal/Nails | 5 | 9.68 | iron concretion |
| 10 | 6 | 87-9 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Brick/Mortar | 40 | 247.5 | |
| 10 | 7 | 87-9 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Unknown | 2 | 1.46 | sediment |
| 10 | 8 | 87-9 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Unknown | 1 | 1.55 | sediment |
| 10 | 9 | 87-9 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Stone (Non-Lithic) | 1 | 13.85 | sandstone |
| 10 | 10 | 87-9 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Stone (Non-Lithic) | 6 | 10.74 | caliche |
| 10 | 11 | 87-9 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Fauna/Shell | 8 | 3.34 | burned and unburned |
| 10 | 12 | 87-9 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Fauna/Shell | 1 | 3.54 | marine shell |
| 11 | 1 | 87-10 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Glass | 1 | 44.78 | green bottle |
| 11 | 2 | 87-10 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Glass | 1 | 47.97 | green bottle |
| 11 | 3 | 87-10 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Ceramic | 17 | 40.98 | dark green transferware, light green transferware, red striped transferware, gray-black transferware, red fishnet transferware, blue featheredge, scallopededge creamware, purple transferware beaded rim from Job and John Jackson (1831-1835) |
| 11 | 4 | 87-10 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Metal/Nails | 303 | 229.12 | nails, nail frags, unidentifiable frags, various sizes |
| 11 | 5 | 87-10 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Glass | 63 | 117.36 | brown bottle, melted green, flat aqua, flat clear, melted aqua, frosted clear |
| 11 | 6 | 87-10 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Fauna/Shell | 3 | 0.74 | burned bone |
| 11 | 7 | 87-10 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Stone (Non-Lithic) | 1 | 0.38 | slate |
| 11 | 8 | 87-10 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Brick/Mortar | 93 | 380.69 | |
| 12 | 1 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Fauna/Shell | 1 | 30.44 | burned bone, horse tooth |
| 12 | 2 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Ceramic | 1 | 2.65 | green transferware rim both sides belltower motif |
| 12 | 3 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Ceramic | 1 | 8.31 | blue transferware leaf pattern |
| 12 | 4 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Metal/Nails | 2 | 15.24 | nail and wire frags |
| 12 | 5 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Fauna/Shell | 1 | 1.59 | tooth |
| 12 | 6 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Glass | 1 | 8.4 | pattern clear with beaded rim |
| 12 | 7 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Ceramic | 1 | 1.72 | black transferware rim |
| 12 | 8 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Ceramic | 1 | 4.83 | blue transferware rim |



# Appendix A
# Artifact Inventory
# (continued)

| Lot | Spec | Unit | Level | Elevation | Artifact Class | Count | Weight(g) | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | 9 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Glass | 17 | 40.35 | brown bottle, curved green, curved brown, flat aqua, flat clear, banded aqua, curved clear, pressed clear |
| 12 | 10 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Metal/Nails | 80 | 107.77 | nails, fragments unidentifiable |
| 12 | 11 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Ceramic | 8 | 11.2 | flow blue, white ceramic with black annular band rim, red transferware (Job and John Jackson), painted glazed white ceramic with red and black floral pattern rim |
| 12 | 12 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Stone (Non-Lithic) | 1 | 8.65 | sandstone |
| 12 | 13 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Stone (Non-Lithic) | 2 | 48.3 | sandstone |
| 12 | 14 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Lithic | 2 | 6.92 | |
| 12 | 15 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Brick/Mortar | 29 | 342.59 | |
| 12 | 16 | 87-6 | 2 | 19-28 cm | Metal/Nails | 4 | 24.96 | iron concretion |
| 13 | 1 | 87-7 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Ceramic | 6 | 23.7 | flow blue, blue transferware, white ceramic rim, red transferware, salt glazed stoneware |
| 13 | 2 | 87-7 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Glass | 9 | 11.67 | green bottle, flat aqua, flat clear, flat green |
| 13 | 3 | 87-7 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Metal/Nails | 42 | 123.75 | nails, large flat fragments (possible hinge?) |
| 13 | 4 | 87-7 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Brick/Mortar | 5 | 237.09 | |
| 13 | 5 | 87-7 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Charcoal/Botanical | 2 | 0.4 | seeds |
| 13 | 6 | 87-7 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Unknown | 1 | 3.4 | unable to locate bag |
| 14 | 1 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Ceramic | 9 | 12.58 | green transferware both sides rim belltower motif, blue unglazed earthenware, blue transferware rim and no rim, white ceramic with olive green pattern, double banded annular brown rim, salt glazed earthenware, dark brown and white porcelain |
| 14 | 2 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Glass | 24 | 43.8 | small aqua bottle base (...OCK'S), flat clear, curved green, curved aqua |
| 14 | 3 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Charcoal/Botanical | 5 | 4.47 | |
| 14 | 4 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Metal/Nails | 1 | 0.42 | small cap |
| 14 | 5 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Metal/Nails | 1 | 0.34 | iron concretion |
| 14 | 6 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Unknown | 1 | 1.48 | sediment |
| 14 | 7 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Brick/Mortar | 1 | 2.52 | burned mortar |

# Appendix A
# Artifact Inventory
# (continued)

| Lot | Spec | Unit | Level | Elevation | Artifact Class | Count | Weight(g) | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | 8 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Metal/Nails | 95 | 125.95 | nails, fragments unidentifiable |
| 14 | 9 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Fauna/Shell | 46 | 22.42 | burned fragments, bone |
| 14 | 10 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Fauna/Shell | 1 | 0.55 | shell |
| 14 | 11 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Metal/Nails | 2 | 14.38 | ornamental frags, not actually lead (heel of a shoe?) |
| 14 | 12 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Metal/Nails | 1 | 196.85 | large metal plate fragment |
| 14 | 13 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Stone (Non-Lithic) | 3 | 15.92 | sandstone |
| 14 | 14 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Stone (Non-Lithic) | 1 | 16.56 | sandstone |
| 14 | 15 | 87-11 | 2 | 20-30 cm | Brick/Mortar | 77 | 114.6 | |
| 15 | 1 | 87-9 | 3 | 30-40 cm | Ceramic | 18 | 26.99 | blue transferware base, white ceramic rim, blue transferware rim, red transferware, purple transferware, white ceramic with olive green pattern, black transferware, brown annular double banded rim, beaded white ceramic, flow blue, stoneware, annular ridged white ceramic rim, white ceramic base |
| 15 | 2 | 87-9 | 3 | 30-40 cm | Glass | 17 | 14.67 | flat clear, flat green, flat brown, flat aqua, curved clear, gilded |
| 15 | 3 | 87-9 | 3 | 30-40 cm | Stone (Non-Lithic) | 1 | 7.16 | slate |
| 15 | 4 | 87-9 | 3 | 30-40 cm | Metal/Nails | 41 | 99.28 | nails, fragments unidentifiable |
| 15 | 6 | 87-9 | 3 | 30-40 cm | Fauna/Shell | 6 | 24.4 | unburned bone, burned bone (1), cut marks (2) |
| 15 | 5 | 87-9 | 3 | 30-40 cm | Brick/Mortar | 16 | 157.32 | |
| 15 | 7 | 87-9 | 3 | 30-40 cm | Charcoal | 1 | 14.41 | |
| 16 | 1 | 87-8 | 2 | 22-26 cm | Ceramic | 5 | 9.18 | mocha dendritic, glazed stoneware, white porcelain, white ceramic with green pattern, white ceramic with Powell and Bishop mark (1867-1876) |
| 16 | 2 | 87-8 | 2 | 22-26 cm | Glass | 5 | 4.66 | flat clear, flat green, flat brown, curved clear |
| 16 | 3 | 87-8 | 2 | 22-26 cm | Brick/Mortar | 1 | 25.85 | |
| 16 | 4 | 87-8 | 2 | 22-26 cm | Charcoal | 1 | 0.21 | |
| 16 | 5 | 87-8 | 2 | 22-26 cm | Metal/nails | 39 | 66.23 | large square nail, nail frags, unidentifiable frags |



# THE ANALYSIS OF THE ABORIGINAL CERAMIC VESSEL SHERDS FROM THE COTTON FIELD SITE (41CD155), COLORADO COUNTY, TEXAS

*Timothy K. Perttula*

**Abstract**

The excavations at the Cotton Field site by the Texas Archeological Society recovered an intriguing assemblage of aboriginal ceramic vessel sherds from deposits that apparently date around ca. A.D. 1450 according to two calibrated radiocarbon dates on bison bones. There are seven distinct temper-paste groups represented in the assemblage, but three principal temper-paste groups at the site account for 96.1 percent of the 128 sherds from the site. These include sandy paste (both Rockport and Goose Creek wares), bone-tempered sandy paste (Rockport wares), and bone-tempered (Leon Plain or a variety of Rockport ware). Based on differences in temper-paste groups, decorative elements, and vessel body wall thickness, the Rockport wares at the Cotton Field site are most prevalent, accounting for 59 percent of the sherd assemblage; another 26 percent are sandy paste Goose Creek wares; and 12 percent are from bone-tempered wares of uncertain ceramic/cultural affiliation, although they may include both Rockport phase wares and Toyah phase Leon Plain ceramics. The occurrence of these wares by depth at the Cotton Field site indicates that the principal temper-paste groups have the same vertically concentrated distribution, and are co-associated by depth. This strongly suggests that each of the principal temper-paste groups at the site had been contemporaneously broken and discarded in the site's alluvial deposits. At the Cotton Field site, there are ceramic sherds in the same spatial contexts and same vertical depths of deposit that are from at least three different ceramic traditions (Goose Creek, Rockport, and bone-tempered non-sandy paste) with origins among different cultural groups living in the central Texas coast, the upper Texas coast and much of Southeast Texas, and inland areas of East Central and Central Texas, including the Edwards Plateau, Gulf Coast prairies, Blackland Prairie, and parts of South Texas. This co-occurrence suggests both the development of localized ceramic practices over much of the region, particularly in inland settings like that of the Cotton Field site assemblage, as well as broad scale interactions, perhaps through communal bison hunts, with neighboring groups (such as ancestral Karankawa, Upper Texas Coast, and Toyah phase peoples) with different ceramic traditions.

**Introduction**

The Cotton Field site is a Late Prehistoric habitation deposit on the south bank of the Colorado River in Colorado County, Texas. Colorado County straddles the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes as well as a northeast-southwestern strip of Blackland Prairie (Figure 1).

The site was the scene of archeological investigations during the 2014-2016 Texas Archeological Society field schools led by Principal Investigator Dr. Jason Barrett. The site was described by Barrett (2016a:5 and 2016b:6-7; see also Barrett 2014a, 2014b, and 2014c) as a buried and stratified Late Prehistoric archeological deposit with numerous cultural features estimated to date from ca. A.D. 600-1450. Barrett (2016a:5) noted that the site has substantial research value, especially "[f]or its ability to illuminate some of the darker areas of the State's prehistoric heritage, Cotton Field is certain to put Colorado County on the map."

As one aspect of that ability, during the course of the work at the Cotton Field site, aboriginally-manufactured ceramic vessel sherds were recovered from the surface to ca. 70-80 cm below surface (cm bs) at the site, but not in great numbers. Only 128 ceramic vessel sherds greater than 1.5 cm in length and width are in the Cotton Field site assemblage, and they are associated with the latest prehistoric occupation there. Significantly, there are few if any contemporaneous sites known in Colorado County that have prehistoric ceramic vessel sherds in their artifact assemblages.

This article provides a detailed description of the recovered vessel sherds from the site as well as a summary of the occupational history and ceramic traditions of the ancestral settlement based on the ceramic analysis. There are also two radiocarbon dates on bison bones from the upper deposits at the site. These dates are from 50-60 cm bs (98.10-98.0 m below datum [m bd]) and the conventional ages range from 450 $\pm$ 15 B.P. and 465 + 15 B.P. The two sigma calibrated age ranges (using IntCal20 and Calib 8.20) for these dates

are A.D. 1425-1450 (1.00) and A.D. 1431-1456 (1.00) with calibrated mean probabilities of A.D. 1437 and A.D. 1443.

### Analytical Methods

A number of attributes have been employed in the study of the aboriginal ceramic vessel sherds (greater than 1.5 cm in length and width) from the Cotton Field site; sherdlets in the assemblage have not been counted or analyzed for this study. These are attributes commonly employed in the analysis of aboriginal ceramics of prehistoric and historic age in Texas (see Ellis and Perttula 2010):

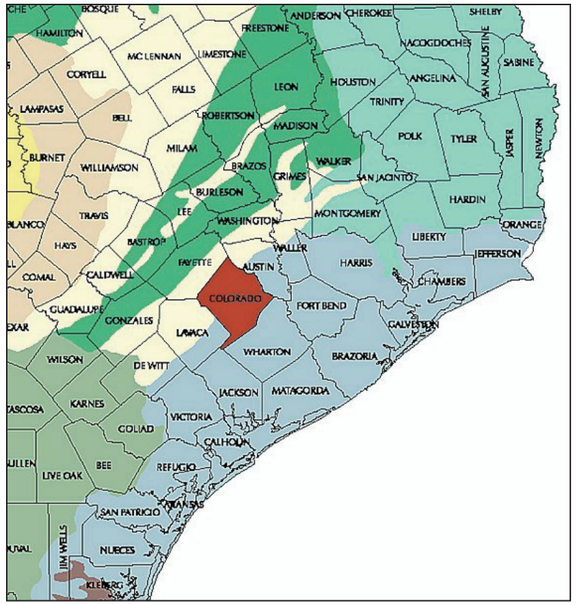


*Figure 1. Location of Colorado County in southeastern Texas.*

Temper inclusions or Non-plastics: Deliberate and indeterminate materials in the paste (Rice 1987:411), including a variety of tempers (grog or crushed sherds, bone, hematite, shell, quartz sands, etc.) and "particulate matter of some size." The grog and bone non-plastics appear to have been deliberately added to the paste as tempers. The bone used for temper by potters has likely been burned and calcined, then crushed, before it was added to the paste. Sherd cross-sections were inspected macroscopically and with a 10X hand lens to determine the character of the paste and its inclusions.

Paste: The paste represents the natural constituents of the clay used, once temper is added (such as bone, grog, or crushed pieces of hematite), by potters to manufacture vessels. The paste may be a homogeneous clay, or have a sandy or silty paste based on texture, along with minerals such as very small pieces of rounded hematite pebbles, chert, and quartz sands, etc., of various sizes and angularity.

Clays used for vessel manufacture were probably gathered from nearby alluvial settings, but almost certainly within a short (1-7 km away, at most) distance from a settlement or a temporary camp (e.g., Arnold 2000:343; Arthur 2006:52), so that an inordinate amount of time and energy was not expended by potters in hauling clay back to the site. Arthur (2006:52) points out that potters would be likely to select lower quality clays for vessel manufacture than high quality clays if the latter were farther away.

Vessel Form: The principal vessel form categories ought to include open containers (bowls) and restricted containers, including jars, ollas, and bottles. As restricted containers, jars allow access by hand, but bottles and ollas do not, and they have a roughened interior surface

Additional form attributes that are recorded on rim sherds include the rim profile (outflaring or everted, vertical or standing, and inverted), lip profile (rolled to the exterior, rounded, flat, or thinned), and base shape (flat or rounded, if determined).

Core Colors: Observations on ceramic sherd cross-section colors permit consideration of oxidation patterns (Teltser 1993:Figure 2a-h; Perttula 2005:Figure 5-30i-l) , and thus the conditions under which the vessel was fired and then cooled after firing (Figure 2). Comments may also be included on the presence and location of sooting or smudging from cooking use (Skibo 1992), and the preservation and location of charred organic remains or residues.

Vessels tend to be fired in a variety of different ways, presumably reflecting personal preferences in



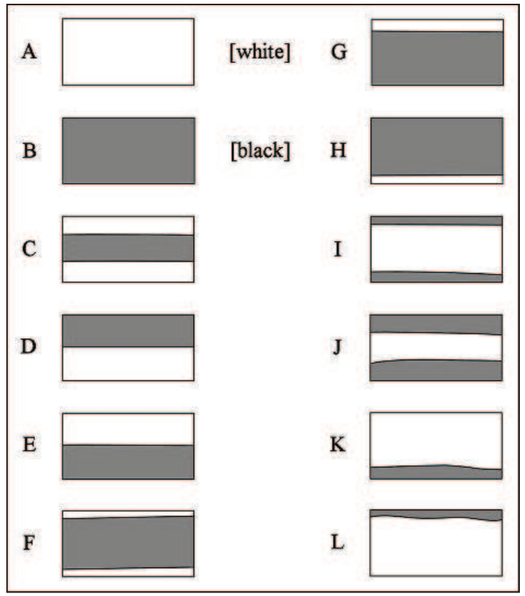


*Figure 2. Firing conditions in sherd cross-sections: a, oxidized; b, reduced; c-e, incompletely oxidized during firing; f-h, fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air: i-l, sooted or smudged; the exterior sherd surface is at the top of each cross-section. Figure prepared by Lance Trask.*

firing, the desired vessel color, the kind of clays and their pastes that were used, and the functional and technological requirements of the kinds of vessel forms that were being manufactured at a specific site. Vessels were likely fired in an open fire, with the vessels either set atop the fire or nestled in the coals and ash.

Wall Thickness: Thickness is recorded in millimeters for each sherd, using a vernier caliper. These variations in vessel wall thickness are likely related to functional and technological decisions made by potters in how these different wares were intended to be used in local encampments or households. The less substantial vessel walls in some of the vessel sherds would be well suited to the cooking and heating of foods and liquids and, because heat would have been conducted efficiently while heating rapidly, would have contributed to their ability to withstand heat-related stresses. Much thicker vessel sherds (greater than 8 mm in thickness) would have created stronger and more stable vessels, and would have been well suited for use as storage containers (Rice 1987:227). Other wares were probably intended for use in the serving of foods and liquids, and thinner and less porous vessel walls would have helped to maintain the temperature of served food and liquids; thinner and lighter vessels would have also contributed to the ease with which serving vessels could be handled, used, and transported.

Interior and Exterior Surface Treatment: The primary methods of finishing the surface of ceramic vessels include smoothing, as well as burnishing and polishing (Rice 1987:138), although polishing is generally rarely seen on vessels or vessel sherds because of site preservation conditions. Smoothing creates "a finer and more regular surface…[and] has a matte rather than a lustrous finish" (Rice 1987:138). Burnishing, on the other hand, creates an irregular lustrous finish marked by parallel facets left by the burnishing tool (perhaps a pebble or bone). A polished surface treatment is marked by a uniform and highly lustrous surface finish, done when the vessel is dry, but without "the pronounced parallel facets produced by burnishing leather-hard clay" (Rice 1987:138).

Decoration: Decorative techniques present in the ceramic vessel sherds from 41CD155 include incised lines, incised-punctated lines and circular punctations, and painted asphaltum bands and zones (a coating) from Goose Creek Incised, Goose Creek Incised-Punctated, and Rockport Black vessels, respectively.

Type: The kinds of named ceramic types follow primarily the work of Suhm and Jelks (1962), Story (1990), Ricklis (2013), Aten (1983), and Weinstein and Hutchins (2002).

### Analysis of the Ceramic Assemblage

The 128 ceramic vessel sherds from the Cotton Field site include sherds from three principal wares: non-tempered sandy paste (n=64, 50.0 percent); bone-tempered-sandy paste (n=43, 33.6 percent), and bone-tempered (n=16, 12.5 percent) (Table 1). Four of the five remaining sherds likely belong to one of the principal wares – and include sherds from vessels with a

**Table 1. Attribute analysis of the Cotton Field site (41CD155) ceramic vessel sherds.**

| Provenience/ Depth | Sherd type | Temper-paste | FC | ST | Th | Decoration/rim and lip form |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Surface, 98.4 | body | SP | A | - | 4.4 | Opposed incised lines |
| | | | | | | |
| 1007-519, | body | SP | F | E SM | 6 | Asphaltum zone |
| 98.25-98.2 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1009-491 | body | bone-SP | G | I SC | 6.3 | Plain |
| 98.0-97.9 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1009-501, | body | SP | A | - | 4.8 | Plain |
| 98.2 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1009-503, | body | SP | G | I SM | 7.1 | Plain |
| 98.32-98.26 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1009-503, | body | SP | A | - | 5.3 | Plain |
| 98.2-98.15 | body | bone-SP | F | - | 7.4 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |
| 1009-503, | body | bone-SP | C | I SC | 5.9 | Narrow asphaltum bands |
| 98.15-98.10 | body | bone-SP | K | - | 5.7 | Plain |
| | body | SP | K | I SM | 6.4 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |
| 1009-503, | body | bone | C | I SM | 6.2 | Asphaltum band |
| 98.05-98.0 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1009-503, | body | bone-SP | F | I SC | 6.3 | Narrow asphaltum band |
| 97.9 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1009-503, | base | bone-SP | B | - | 10.8 | Plain |
| 97.8 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1009-509, | body | SP | F | E SM | 6.3 | Plain |
| 98.35-98.3 | body | bone-SP | F | E SM | 6 | Narrow asphaltum bands |
| | body | SP | F | - | 6.2 | Plain |
| | body | bone-SP | F | E SM | 5.6 | Narrow asphaltum band |
| | body | bone | F | - | 6.1 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |
| 1009-519, | body | SP | C | - | 5.6 | Plain |
| 98.0-97.9 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-491, | body | bone | F | E SM | 5.3 | Plain |
| 98.1-98.0 | body | bone-hematite | G | - | 6.2 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |



**Table 1. Attribute analysis of the Cotton Field site (41CD155) ceramic vessel sherds. (continued)**

| Provenience/ Depth | Sherd type | Temper-paste | FC | ST | Th | Decoration/rim and lip form |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1011-491, | body | bone-SP | D | - | 6.4 | Plain |
| 97.8 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-493, | body | grog | B | I SM | 5.6 | Plain |
| 98.3-98.2 | body | bone | G | I SM | 5.8 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-493, | body | bone | B | - | 5.6 | Plain |
| 98.2-98.1 | body | bone-hematite | E | I SM | 3.3 | Plain |
| | body | bone | B | - | 6.2 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-493, | body | bone | B | E SM/ | 5.4 | Plain |
| 97.7-97.6 | | | | I SC | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-493, | body | SP | L | - | 4.3 | Plain |
| 97.7-97.6 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-493, | body | bone-SP | F | - | 5.6 | Plain |
| 97.6-97.48 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-495, | body | bone-SP | G | - | 4.8 | Plain |
| 98.3-98.2 | body | bone | G | E SM | 4.9 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-497, | body | bone | B | - | 4.8 | Plain |
| 98.4-98.3 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-497, | body | SP | C | - | 6.7 | Plain |
| 97.5-97.45 | body | bone-SP | C | E SM | 7 | Narrow asphaltum bands |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-503, | body | bone-SP | F | - | 5.9 | Asphaltum zone |
| 98.48-98.3 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-503, | body | SP | F | I/E SM | 6.2 | Asphaltum zone |
| 98.4-98.3 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-503, | body | SP | C | E SM | 4.1 | Plain |
| 98.4-98.32 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Feature 8 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-503, | body | bone-SP | F | - | 6.4 | Plain |
| 98.3 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

**Table 1. Attribute analysis of the Cotton Field site (41CD155) ceramic vessel sherds. (continued)**

| Provenience/ Depth | Sherd type | Temper-paste | FC | ST | Th | Decoration/rim and lip form |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1011-503, | rim | SP | H | E OR | 8.4 | Plain; direct rim and rounded lip |
| 98.3-98.2 | body | SP | F | - | 5.4 | Plain |
| | body | bone-SP | F | E B/ I SC | 5.7 | Broad asphaltum zone |
| | body | bone-SP | C | E B | 6.4 | Broad asphaltum zone |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-503, | rim | bone-SP | F | E SM | 7.2 | Vertical asphaltum zones; direct rim and rounded lip |
| 98.2-98.15 | body | bone | F | - | 5.9 | Plain |
| | body | SP | B | I/E SM | 6.5 | Plain |
| | body | SP | G | - | 5.7 | Plain |
| | body | SP | B | - | 7 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-503, | rim | SP | B | - | 7.6 | Plain; direct rim and rounded lip |
| 97.9-97.85 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-503, | body | bone | C | E OR | 5.4 | Plain |
| 97.8 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-505, | body | SP | C | E SM | 6.4 | Asphaltum zone |
| 98.35-98.3 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-505, | body | bone-SP | G | - | 7 | Asphaltum zone |
| 98.31 | body | bone | F | - | 6 | Plain |
| | body | bone-SP | C | E SM/ I SC | 5.9 | Asphaltum zone |
| | body | bone-SP | F | E SM | 6.4 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-505, | body | bone-SP | D | E SM | 5.5 | Curvilinear asphaltum band |
| 98.29 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-505, | body | SP | F | I SC | 5.9 | Straight incised line |
| 98.25-98.2 | body | bone-SP | F | E B | 6.4 | Broad asphaltum zone |
| | body | bone-SP | H | E B | 6.4 | Broad asphaltum zone |
| | body | SP | H | E B | 6.5 | Broad asphaltum zone |
| | body | bone-SP | B | E B | 5.8 | Broad asphaltum zone |
| | body | SP | H | - | 5.8 | Plain |
| | body | SP | G | - | 6.5 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-505, | body | bone-SP | F | E SM/ I SC | 7.7 | Plain |
| 98.2 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-505, | body | bone | F | E SM | 5.6 | Plain |
| 98.2-98.15 | | | | | | |



**Table 1. Attribute analysis of the Cotton Field site (41CD155) ceramic vessel sherds. (continued)**

| Provenience/ Depth | Sherd type | Temper-paste | FC | ST | Th | Decoration/rim and lip form |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1011-505, | body | bone-SP | B | E SM | 6.8 | Narrow asphaltum band |
| 98.2-98.15 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-505, | body | SP | F | - | 5.8 | Asphaltum zone |
| 98.15-98.1 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-505, | body | bone-SP | D | - | 6.5 | Plain |
| 30 cm bs | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-505, | body | SP | F | E SM | 5.5 | Asphaltum zone |
| No depth | body | bone-SP | F | - | 5.7 | Plain |
| | body | bone-SP | F | E SM | 6.7 | Narrow asphaltum bands |
| | | | | | | |
| 1011-509, | body | bone-SP | E | - | 6.7 | Narrow asphaltum zone |
| 98.35-98.3 | body | bone-SP | F | - | 5.9 | Narrow asphaltum zone |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-481, | body | bone-SP | C | I SC | 7.1 | Plain |
| 97.9 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-483, | body | SP | K | - | 6.4 | Plain |
| 98.2-98.1 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-483, | body | SP | K | - | 5.8 | Plain |
| 98.1-98.0, | body | SP | C | - | 6.4 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |
| Feature 6 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-489, | body | SP | A | I SM | 3.7 | Plain |
| 70-80 cm | body | hematite | I | - | 4.3 | Plain |
| | rim | SP | C | - | 5.3 | Vertical incised lines; direct rim and rounded lip |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-491, | body | SP | E | - | 3.4 | Plain |
| 98.2 | body | bone-SP | K | - | 3.6 | Plain |
| | body | SP | K | - | 4.3 | Plain |
| | body | SP | E | E SM | 3.4 | Plain |
| | body | SP | A | - | 4.8 | Plain |
| | body | SP | K | E SM | 3.3 | Plain |
| | body | SP | K | E SM | 3.5 | Straight incised line |
| | | | | | | |

**Table 1. Attribute analysis of the Cotton Field site (41CD155) ceramic vessel sherds. (continued)**

| Provenience/ Depth | Sherd type | Temper-paste | FC | ST | Th | Decoration/rim and lip form |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1013-491, | body | SP | A | - | 4.8 | Parallel incised lines |
| 98.2-98.1 | body | SP | G | I SM | 4.2 | Vertical incised lines above circular punctated row |
| | body | SP | K | - | 4.5 | Plain |
| | body | SP | G | I/E SM | 6.1 | Plain |
| | body | SP | K | E SM | 4.6 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-495, | body | bone-SP | A | I/E SM | 6.4 | Narrow asphaltum bands |
| 98.43-98.3 | body | bone-SP | A | E SM | 7.5 | Plain |
| | body | bone-SP | E | - | 6.9 | Plain |
| | body | SP | D | - | 6.7 | Plain |
| | body | SP | D | E SM | 6.9 | Plain |
| | body | SP | D | E SM | 7.1 | Plain |
| | body | SP | D | E SM/ I SC | 7 | Broad asphaltum zone |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-489, | body | bone | E | - | 3.6 | Plain |
| 98.32-98.2 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-489, | body | SP | B | - | 4.3 | Plain |
| 98.18 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-489 | body | SP | F | I SM | 6.9 | Plain |
| 98.0-97.9 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-491, | rim | SP | G | - | 4 | Vertical incised lines; direct rim and rounded lip |
| 98.2 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-491, | body | SP | K | I SM | 4 | Plain |
| 98.18 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-493, | body | bone | A | - | 4.4 | Plain |
| 98.3-98.2 | body | SP | G | - | 4.9 | Plain |
| | body | SP | K | - | 4.5 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-495, | body | SP | H | - | 4.1 | Straight incised line |
| 98.3-98.2 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-495, | body | SP | C | E SM | 7.2 | Asphaltum bands |
| 98.3-98.2 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1013-495, | body | SP-hematite | L | I/E SM | 4.4 | Plain |
| 98.2-98.1 | | | | | | |



**Table 1. Attribute analysis of the Cotton Field site (41CD155) ceramic vessel sherds. (continued)**

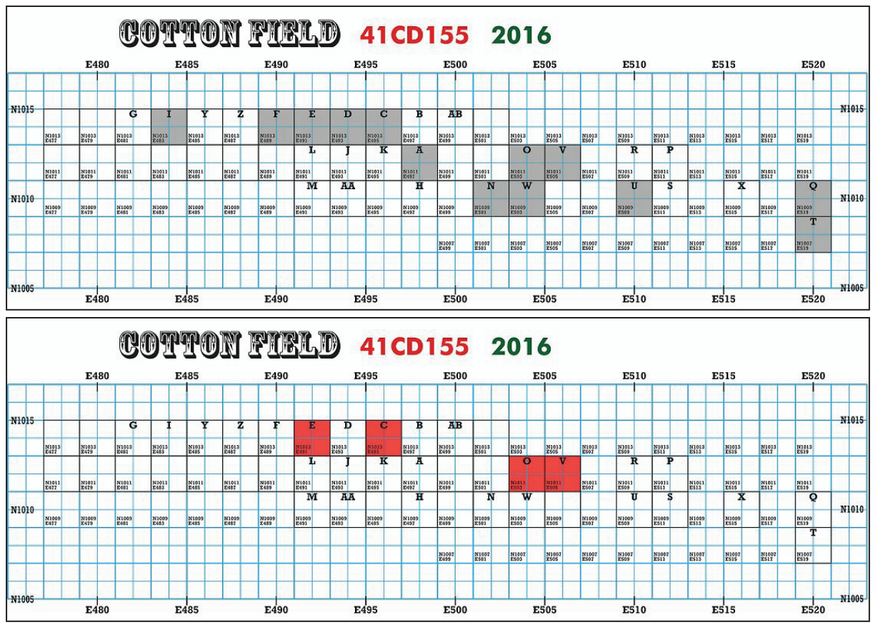
| Provenience/ Depth | Sherd type | Temper-paste | FC | ST | Th | Decoration/rim and lip form |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **F. 12,** | base | bone-SP | A | - | 11.8 | Plain |
| 97.4-97.3 | base | bone-SP | A | - | 10.8 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |
| **Depth only** | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 98.42-98.38 | body | SP | C | - | 6.9 | Plain |
| 98.42-98.38 | body | bone-SP | L | E SM | 7.1 | Plain |
| 98.42-98.38 | body | bone-SP | L | I SC | 6.6 | Parallel asphaltum bands |
| 98.42-98.38 | body | SP | F | I SM | 7.1 | Parallel asphaltum bands |
| 98.42-98.38 | body | SP | L | - | 7.9 | Plain |
| 98.42-98.38 | body | SP | L | - | 8 | Plain |
| 98.42-98.38 | body | SP | A | - | 8.8 | Plain |
| 98.42-98.38 | body | bone-SP | C | E SM | 6.6 | Narrow asphaltum zone |
| 98.35-98.3 | body | bone-SP | F | I SM | 5.4 | Plain |
| 98.2-98.1 | rim | SP | F | - | 7.4 | Plain; direct rim and rounded lip |
| 98.15-98.11 | body | SP | B | - | 6.7 | Plain |
| 96.2-96.0 | body | SP | A | - | 4.3 | Plain |
| | | | | | | |
| **No Provenience or Depth** | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| COF 1 E13 | body | SP | A | - | 5.8 | Plain |
| COF 1 E10 | rim | SP | G | - | 4.4 | Vertical incised lines; direct rim and rounded lip |
| COF 1 VO2 | body | bone | F | - | 6 | Plain |
| 0 | body | bone-SP | C | - | 6.6 | Narrow asphaltum zone |
| | | | | | | |

FC=firing conditions (see Teltser 1993; Perttula 2005) and Figure 2
ST=surface treatment; I=interior; E=exterior; SM=smoothed; B=burnished; I SC=interior scraped
E OR=exterior organic residue
Th=thickness
SP=sandy paste

**Table 2. Sandy paste sherds from the Cotton Field site by ware.**

| Ware | Plain rim | Decorated rim | Plain body | Decorated body | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rockport Plain | 3 | - | 19 | - | 22 |
| Rockport Black | - | - | - | 9 | 9 |
| | | | | | |
| Goose Creek Plain | - | - | 24 | - | 24 |
| Goose Creek Incised | - | 3 | - | 5 | 8 |
| Goose Creek Incised-Punctated | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | | |
| Totals | 3 | 3 | 43 | 15 | 64 |

hematite-tempered-sandy paste (n=1, 0.8 percent), bone-hematite-tempered (n=2, 1.6 percent), and hematite-tempered (n=1, 0.8 percent)—but the one grog-tempered sherd (0.8 percent) is from another ware, likely of upper Texas Coastal origin. There are also three pieces of burned clay from unit N1011-E497, 98.2-98.1 m bd.




*Figures 3a-b. Distribution of sandy paste sherds at the Cotton Field site: a, sandy paste sherds in units across the grid; b, units with the highest densities of sandy paste sherds.*

**Principal Temper-Paste Groups**

**Sandy Paste**

The sandy paste ceramic vessel sherds from the Cotton Field site are from both Goose Creek and Rockport wares. Since both wares are sandy paste, with only subtle differences in paste and compactness, here I relied on both the presence of both asphaltum paint on a number of sherds, vessel wall thickness – as



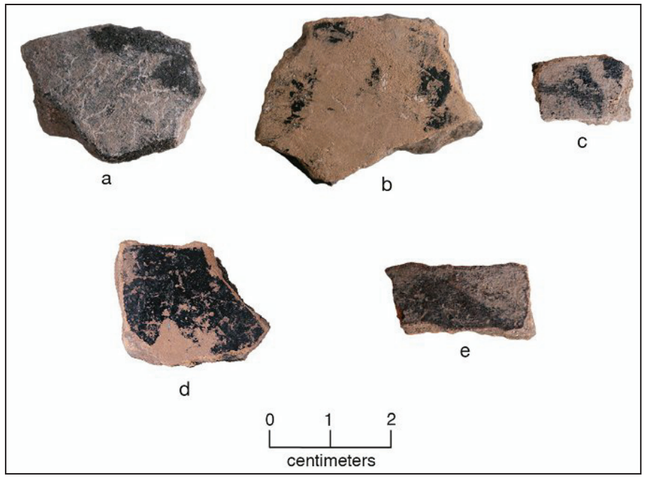



*Figure 4. Rockport Black sandy paste sherds from the Cotton Field site: a, plain portion of Rockport ware rim, N1011-E503, 97.9-98.5 m bd; b, asphaltum bands, N1011-E505, no depth; c, asphaltum bands, N1013 E495, 98.3-98.2 m bd; d, asphaltum zone, N1011 E505, 98.35-98.3 m bd; e, asphaltum zone, N1007 E519, 98.25-98.2 m bd.*

Rockport bone-tempered sandy paste sherds and a considerably number of sandy paste sherds are notably thicker (> 6 mm) than the Goose Creek ceramics (4-5 mm thick), to be discussed below – and incised and incised-punctated Goose Creek Incised and Goose Creek Incised-Punctated sherds to sort the wares (Table 2). Approximately 51.6 percent of the sandy paste sherds are from Goose Creek wares (Table 2), both an inland and Southeast Texas Mossy Grove culture ware first manufactured around ca. 500 B.C. (see Ellis 2013) in the region. The decorated Goose Creek wares include Goose Creek Incised rim and body sherds (n=8) and a Goose Creek Incised-Punctated body sherd (n=1). The remaining 48.4 percent of the sandy paste sherds are from Rockport ware vessels, including sherds from Rockport Plain and Rockport Black vessels.

The plain and decorated sandy paste sherds were recovered from 98.4-97.4 m bd, with the exception of one plain body sherd from 96.2-96.0 m bd, well below the remainder of this assemblage. More than 82 percent of the plain and decorated sherds, including the Rockport Black and Goose Creek Incised and Goose Creek Incised-Punctated sherds, were recovered from only 98.4-98.1 m bd. Another 6.1 percent of the plain sherds came from 98.1-97.9 m bd.

The sandy paste sherds are distributed from N1007 to N1013 and E483 to E519 (Figure 3a). The units with the highest densities of sandy paste sherds are N1013-E491 (n=13), N1011-E503 (n=8), and N1011-E505 (n=8); they are also relatively common in N1013-E495 (n=6) (Figure 3b).

The Rockport Black body sherds in this ware have parallel asphaltum-painted bands (n=2) or zones (n=7) (Figure 4b-e); an undecorated portion of one thick-walled Rockport rim is illustrated in Figure 4a. The Rockport Black sherds are from vessels with an asphaltum coating on the exterior vessel surface.

All three Goose Creek Incised rim sherds at the Cotton Field site have vertical incised lines (Figure 5a), while the body sherds have opposed incised lines (n=1) (Figure 5c), parallel incised lines (n=1) (Figure 5b), or simple straight incised lines (n=3). The incised-punctated body sherd (or lower part of the rim) has vertical incised lines above a row of small circular punctations (Figure 5d). This decorative element is part of the recently named Goose Creek Incised-Punctated type (Perttula 2018; Phillips and Weinstein 2018).

These sandy paste wares are from vessels fired in a number of different ways. Approximately 35 percent of the sherds are from vessels fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air (see Figure 2f-h). Another 10.6 percent are from vessels fired and cooled in a reducing environment (see Figure 2b). Almost 14 percent are from vessels that have been oxidized during firing (see Figure 2a), and 21.2 percent come from vessels incompletely oxidized during the firing (see Figure 2c-e). A significant percentage of the sherds (19.7 percent) are from vessels that have been sooted or smudged during firing (see Figure 2k-l); most of these (69 percent) are from Goose Creek wares.

The sandy paste sherds are commonly (36.3 percent) from vessels with interior smoothed (n=7), exterior smoothed (n=14), and interior/exterior (n=3) smoothed surfaces. Two Rockport ware sherds have

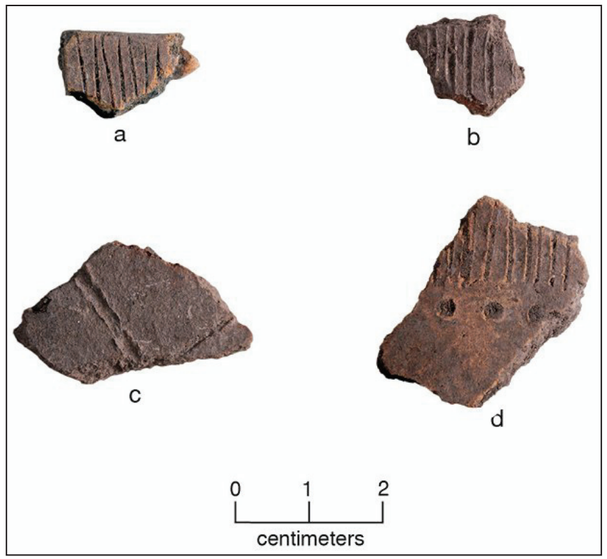



*Figure 5. Goose Creek Incised and Goose Creek Incised-Punctated wares: a, vertical incised rim, no provenience; b, parallel incised, N1013-E491, 98.2-98.1 m bd; c, opposed incised lines, Surface; d, incised-punctated, N1013-E491, 98.2-98.1 m bd.*

interior scored marks, and another Rockport sandy paste sherd has an exterior burnished and asphaltum-painted surface. One sherd has an exterior organic residue from use of the vessel from which it came in an open fire, probably from use in cooking food stuffs.

The plain Rockport ware rim sherds are 7.8 ± 0.4 mm, while the decorated Goose Creek Incised rim sherds are significantly thinner: 4.57 ± 0.44 mm. The same distinction carries over with the Rockport Black body sherds compared to the Goose Creek Incised and Goose Creek Incised-Punctated body sherds: 6.52 ± 0.51 mm for the Rockport Black sherds and 4.48 ± 0.58 mm for the Goose Creek decorated sherds at the Cotton Field site. The plain sandy paste body sherds identified as coming from Rockport Plain vessels have a mean thickness of 6.90 ± 0.47 mm, while the Goose Creek Plain body sherds are 4.68 ± 0.71 mm thick.

**Bone-tempered-Sandy Paste**

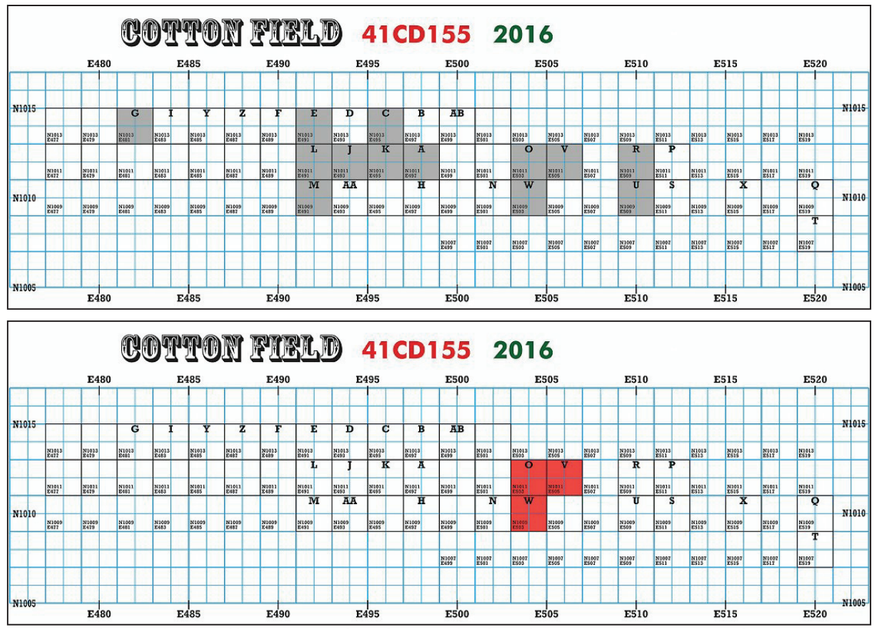
The bone-tempered sandy paste ceramic vessel sherds (n=43) from the Cotton Field site are from Rockport wares likely made on the central coast of Texas by Karankawan peoples (see Ricklis 2013). More than half of these sherds (n=23) have either an asphaltum painted decoration or an exterior asphaltum coating or zone. The plain bone-tempered sandy paste sherds would be classified as Rockport Plain, *var. Guadalupe* if they were from vessels made on the central coast (see Weinstein and Hutchins 2002), and the asphaltum-decorated or coated sherds would be from Rockport Black vessels.

The 43 sherds include one Rockport Black rim, 22 Rockport Black body sherds, and 20 Rockport Plain body (n=17) and base (n=3) sherds. They are from N1009-1013 and E481-509 (Figure 6a), with the highest densities in N1011-E505 (N=12), N1009-E503 (n=5), and N1011-E505 (n=5) (Figure 6b); two sherds were from Feature 12. By depth, these Rockport sherds were recovered from 98.4 m bd to 97.3 m bd, but more than 72 percent of the plain and asphaltum-painted sherds were from 98.4-98.1 m bd; another 11.6 percent are from 98.0-97.8 m bd (n=5). Only 9.3 percent of the sherds came from 97.6-97.3 m bd.

Eleven of the 23 asphaltum-painted bone-tempered sandy paste sherds are decorated with narrow painted bands (n=8), parallel narrow bands (n=1), vertical asphaltum bands (n=1), and curvilinear bands (n=1) (Figure 7e-j). The remaining 12 sherds have an exterior asphaltum coating rather than a painted decoration that covers either narrow (n=4) or broad (n=8) zones on the exterior sherd surface (Figure 7a-d), including a rim sherd with vertical applied zones.

The Rockport ceramic wares from the Cotton Field site are from vessels commonly fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air (48.8 percent, see Figure 2f-h), or incompletely oxidized during firing (25.6 percent, see Figure 2c-e). Only a few sherds are from vessels that were either fired and cooled in an oxidizing (9.3 percent, see Figure 2a) environment or






*Figures 6a-b. Distribution of bone-tempered sandy paste sherds at the Cotton Field site: a, sandy paste sherds in units across the grid; b, units with the highest densities of sandy paste sherds.*


*Figure 7. Rockport Black sherds from the Cotton Field site: a, vertical asphaltum zones on rim sherd, N1011-E503, 98.2-98.15 m bd; b, asphaltum zones, N1011-E505, 98.31 m bd; c, asphaltum zones, N1011-E503, 98.3-98.2 m bd; d, asphaltum zones, N1011-E505, 98.25-98.2 m bd; e, asphaltum bands, N1009-E503, 97.9 m bd; f, asphaltum bands, N1011-E509, 98.35-98.3 m bd; g, asphaltum bands, 98.42-98.38 m bd, no provenience; h, asphaltum bands, N1009-E503, 98.15-98.1 m bd; i, asphaltum bands, N1011-E505, 98.29 m bd; j, asphaltum bands, N1011-E505, 98.31 m bd.*

in a reducing environment (7.0 percent, see Figure 2b). The remainder (9.3 percent) of the sherds are from vessels that were sooted/smudged on either exterior or interior surfaces (see Figure 2k-l).

About 37 percent of these Rockport ware sherds have been smoothed on either the interior (4.7 percent) or exterior (32.6 percent) vessel surfaces. Five, all with asphaltum-painted areas, have been burnished on their exterior surface. Lastly, 18.6 percent of the sherds have interior scoring marks. Scored interior sherds comprise 9.8 percent of a large sample of Rockport wares from the McGloin Bluff site (Ricklis 2013:Table 1).

The one rim sherd is 7.2 mm thick, and the body sherds (both plain and asphaltum-painted) are 6.29 ± 0.57 mm thick (ranging from 3.6-7.7 mm). The base sherds are 11.1 ± 0.4 mm thick, ranging from 10.8-11.8 mm thick.

**Bone-tempered, non-sandy paste**

The 16 bone-tempered body sherds in the Cotton Field site ceramic assemblage are from thin-walled jars with a silty or clayey paste. The bone temper is sparse, accounting for less than 5 percent of the paste. This ware generally resembles Leon Plain, a post-A.D. 1300 utilitarian ware found on Toyah phase sites in Central and South Texas (Kenmotsu and Boyd 2012:Figure 1.6); Colorado County, however, is not included in the Classic Toyah area, but is in the Shared Toyah area.

Kenmotsu and Boyd (2012:12) note that most Leon Plain sherds are from vessels that have "bone temper that is easily seen with the unaided eye or under low magnification, but at times the bone is identifiable only through petrography." An example on the lower Colorado River of a site with a profusely bone-tempered Leon Plain sherd is 41WH108 in Wharton County, Texas, indicating that Leon Plain vessels were in use by aboriginal peoples in this part of the Colorado River basin. The sherd was found there in association with bison bone that dated from ca. A.D. 1690-1730 (Daniel J. Prikryl, July 2019 personal communication).

One complicating issue in identifying these sherds as coming from Leon Plain vessels is the fact that some Rockport Plain vessels also have bone-temper (Ricklis 2013; Weinstein and Hutchins 2002), as discussed above, including some vessels that have a silty paste and not the typical sandy paste (Rich Weinstein, July 2019 personal communication). In a large sample of rim sherds from the Rockport phase component at the McGloin Bluff site (41SP11), only 4.9 percent of the sherds had bone temper in the paste, either sparse (<5 percent of the clay body) or moderate amounts (5-25 percent of the clay body) (Ricklis 2013:Table 1).

One of the bone-tempered sherds from the Cotton Field site (N1009-E503, 98.05-98.0 m bd) has an asphaltum band (Figure 8), indicating that it is from a

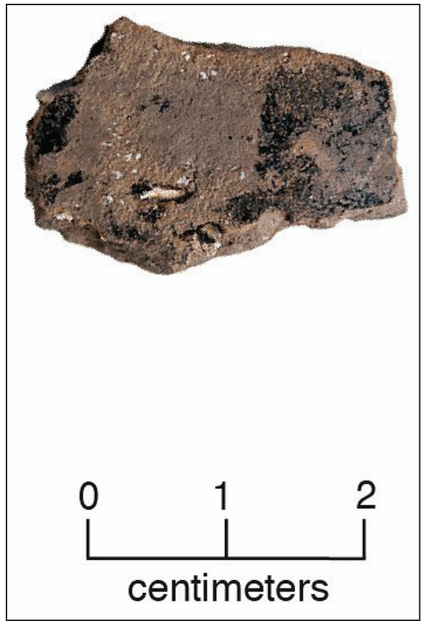


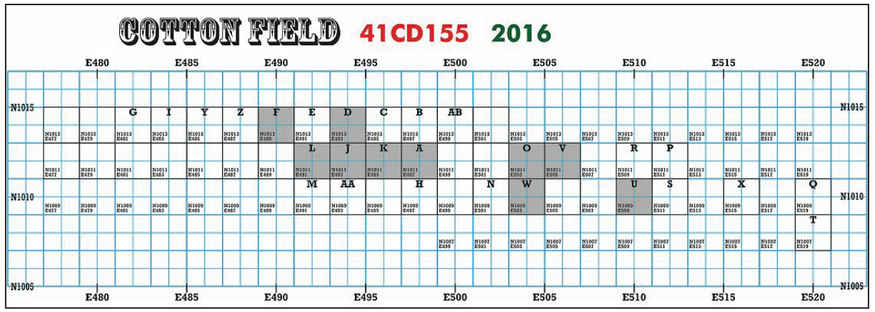

*Figure 8. Bone-tempered asphaltum-painted body sherd from the Cotton Field Site, N1009-E503, 98.05-98.0 m bd.*

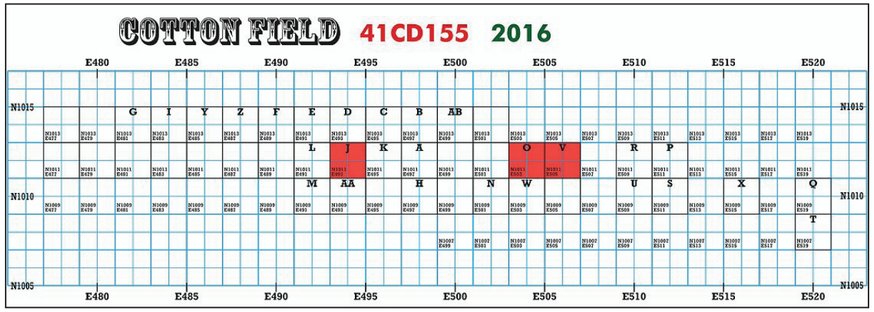
Rockport Black vessel (see Ricklis 2013; Weinstein and Hutchins 2002). This perhaps further suggests that the remainder of the bone-tempered non-sandy paste sherds in the Cotton Field site collection are also from Rockport vessels. Both ceramic petrography and instrumental neutron activation of a sample of the bone-tempered sherds would be warranted to unravel the production locale or locales of this ware.

The bone-tempered sherds are from a variety of units in the excavations, ranging from N1009-1013 and E489-509 (Figure 9a). The highest densities of this ware are in N1011-E493 (n=3), N1011-E505 (n=2), and N1011-E505 (n=2) (Figure 9b). By depth, the bone-tempered sherds were recovered from 98.4-97.6 m bd, but these sherds are concentrated between 98.4-98.0 m bd (81 percent).

The sherds are from vessels fired primarily (75 percent) in a reducing environment: 50 percent have been fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air (see Figure 2f-g) and 25 percent have been fired and cooled in a reducing environment (see Figure 2b). The remainder of the sherds are from vessels that were either incompletely oxidized during firing (18.8






*Figures 9a-b. Distribution of bone-tempered sherds at the Cotton Field site: a, non-sandy paste sherds in units across the grid; b, units with the highest densities of bone-tempered non-sandy paste sherds.*

percent, see Figure 2c, e), or fired and cooled in an oxidizing environment (see Figure 2a).

About 38 percent of the bone-tempered sherds have smoothing on either the interior or exterior vessel surfaces. Another has interior surface scraping or scoring marks, which is a feature of Rockport wares (see Ricklis 2013:Table 1), while interior wiping or "brushing" is more prevalent on Leon Plain vessels.

As mentioned above, the bone-tempered sherds at the Cotton Field site are from thin-walled vessels. The mean thickness of the body sherds is 5.45 ± 0.54 mm, with a range from 3.6-6.2 mm.

**Minor Temper-Paste Groups**

**Hematite-tempered-Sandy Paste**

The one hematite-tempered sandy paste body sherd in the assemblage is from 98.2-98.1 m bd in N1013-E495. It has been sooted/smudged on the exterior vessel surface, a common method of firing in Goose Creek Plain vessels. The sherd has been smoothed on both interior and exterior surfaces, and has thin (4.4 mm) body walls.

**Hematite-tempered**

The use of hematite as a temper has been noted in a number of Mossy Grove Culture ceramic assemblages in Southeast Texas, but it is never common (generally less than 5 percent) (Perttula 2018). At the Cotton Field site, one plain hematite-tempered body sherd was recovered from N1013-E489, 70-80 cm bs. It has been sooted/smudged on both vessel surfaces (see Figure 2i), suggesting it is from a Goose Creek ceramic ware. The body sherd has no surface treatment, and has thin (4.3 mm) vessel walls.

**Bone-hematite-tempered**

Both bone-hematite-tempered body sherds are plain, with thin walls (3.3-6.2 mm). They are from adjoining units (N1011-E491 and E493), and were recovered between 98.2-98.0 m bd. The sherds are from two different vessels, one incompletely oxidized during firing (see Figure 2e) and the other fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air (see Figure 2g). The thinner body sherd has been smoothed on its interior surface.

**Grog-tempered**

The one plain grog-tempered body sherd at the Cotton Field site is from N1011-E493, 98.3-98.2 m bd. The sherd is from a vessel fired and cooled in a reducing environment, and has been smoothed on its interior surface. Vessel walls are 5.6 mm. This sherd is from a Baytown Plain vessel likely made on the upper Texas Coast (Phillips and Weinstein 2018) and the Brazos River Delta area. At the mouth of the Brazos River, the ceramic assemblage at the Jones Lake site (41BO79) in Brazoria County is dominated by grog-tempered (83 percent) vessel sherds (Nash et al. 1996); this area may be the source of the grog-tempered vessel sherd at the Cotton Field site.

## Summary and Conclusions

The excavations at the Cotton Field site by the Texas Archeological Society recovered an intriguing assemblage of aboriginal ceramic vessel sherds from deposits that date around ca. A.D. 1450 according to two calibrated radiocarbon dates on bison bones from 98.1 m bd. There are seven distinct temper-paste groups represented in the assemblage, but the three principal temper-paste groups at the site account for 96.1 percent of the 128 sherds from the site. These include sandy paste (both Rockport and Goose Creek wares), bone-tempered sandy paste (Rockport wares), and bone-tempered (Leon Plain or a variety of Rockport ware) (Table 3). Based on differences in temper-paste groups, decorative elements, and vessel body wall thickness, the Rockport wares at the Cotton Field site are most prevalent, accounting for 59 percent of the sherd assemblage; another 25.8 percent are sandy paste Goose Creek wares; and 11.7 percent are from bone-tempered wares of uncertain ceramic/cultural affiliation, although they may include both Rockport phase wares and Toyah phase Leon Plain ceramics.

The occurrence of these wares by depth at the Cotton Field site (see Table 3) indicates that the principal temper-paste groups have the same vertically concentrated distribution, and are co-associated by depth between 98.4-98.1 m bd; only the sandy paste and bone-tempered sherds occur between 98.1-98.0 m bd. This strongly suggests that each of the principal temper-paste groups at the site had been likely contemporaneously broken and discarded in the site's alluvial deposits. Differences in proportions by depth, although the sample size of sherds is small, of the principal temper-paste groups suggests that the bone-tempered wares were first in use at the site, around ca. A.D. 1400, followed shortly thereafter by the sandy paste wares, and then most common lastly were the Rockport bone-sandy paste wares (see Table 3).

The highest spatial densities of ceramic vessel sherds of the principal temper-paste groups range over an area of only 4 x 14 m in the excavations (Table 4). The different temper-paste groups apparently cluster in space, based on proportions of the different wares, such that the highest numbers of sandy paste sherds are clustered in N1013-E491, bone-tempered sandy paste sherds are clustered in N1011-E505, and the bone-tempered sherds are clustered in N1011-E493 (Figure 10). The spatial clusters are tightly bound, however, suggesting the use of the principal ceramic wares in a common area at the Cotton Field site, almost certainly at the same time (A.D. 1425-1456), but by peoples with different ceramic traditions. .

Ricklis (1996:97-99, 2013:105) describes an analogous situation at the Melon site (41RF21) in Refugio County, Texas, several counties to the southwest of the Cotton Field site, and near the central Texas coast, where both sandy paste and sandy paste-bone-tempered Rockport ceramics and bone-tempered Leon Plain ceramics were present, but in different parts of the site. There, "the site saw contemporaneous occupation by both coastal (Rockport) people and interior (Toyah) folk." It is a more complicated situation at the Cotton Field site, needless to say, because there are ceramic sherds in the same spatial contexts and same vertical depths of deposit that are from at least three different ceramic traditions (with the one grog-tempered sherd likely representing a fourth ceramic tradition) with origins among different cultural groups living in the central Texas coast, the upper Texas coast

**Table 3. Principal ceramic wares by depth at the Cotton Field site.**

| Elevation (m bd) | Sandy Paste | Bone-tempered-sandy paste | Bone-tempered |
|---|---|---|---|
| 98.4-98.3 | 24.2* | 37.2 | 12.5 |
| 98.3-98.2 | 31.8 | 20.9 | 25.0 |
| 98.2-98.1 | 25.8 | 14.0 | 25.0 |
| 98.1-98.0 | 3.0 | - | 18.8 |

*percentage



**Table 4. Principal ceramic wares by density in selected excavation units at the Cotton Field site.**

| Unit | Sandy Paste | Bone-tempered sandy paste | Bone-tempered |
|---|---|---|---|
| N1011-505 (n=22) | 24.2* | ***46.2*** | 22.2 |
| N1011-503 (n=15) | 12.1 | 11.6 | 12.5 |
| N1013-491 (n=13) | ***19.7*** | - | - |
| N1013-495 (n=10) | 9.1 | 7 | 6.3 |
| N1009-503 (n=8) | 9.1 | 15.4 | 11.1 |
| N1011-493 (n=5) | - | 2.3 | ***25.0*** |
| | | | |
| Totals | 33 | 26 | 9 |

*percentage; bold and italics represent highest proportion of temper-paste groups by units with the highest density of sherds.

and much of Southeast Texas (see Ellis 2013:Figure 1), and inland areas of East Central and Central Texas, including the Edwards Plateau, Gulf Coast prairies, Blackland Prairie, and parts of South Texas (Kenmotsu and Boyd 2012:Figure 1.4). Weinstein (July 2019 personal communication) noted that the ceramic assemblage from 41FB2 in Brazos Bend State Park also is represented by the co-association of Rockport and Goose Creek wares.

Rockport phase sites cover the central coast of Texas from Baffin Bay to Matagorda Bay, and they also extend ca. 40 km inland from the Gulf of Mexico (Ricklis 2013:Figure 2). The Karankawa groups responsible for the manufacture of Rockport ceramics lived in this same area in the 17th and 18th centuries; most notably, the Cocos were living then on the lower Colorado River. Their ancestors may be the source of the Rockport wares found in inland areas on the Colorado River such as the Cotton Field site. Hudgins (1986) also reports an 18th to early 19th century Rockport site at the Shanklin site (41WH8) on the lower Colorado River in Wharton County, not far south of the Cotton Field site. The 8,000+ Rockport ceramic sherds here have a sandy paste, and ca. 30 percent have bone temper (Hudgins 1986:35); about 59 percent of the Rockport wares at the Cotton Field site have bone temper. About 40 percent of the sherds at the Shanklin site have straight or wavy black asphaltum-painted lines, and 30 percent have an interior surface asphaltum coating; none of the Cotton Field site Rockport wares have an interior asphaltum coating.

Sandy paste Goose Creek ceramic wares in inland and coastal regions of Texas first began to be made ca. 2500 years ago (Ellis 2013:141 and Figure 1). Decorated sandy paste pottery from inland sites is generally rare (Story 1990:Tables 58 and 64), and likely dates mainly after ca. A.D. 900 on area sites. At 41FB200 in the Brazos River valley in Fort Bend County to the southeast of the Cotton Field site, the ceramic assemblage there is dominated by Goose Creek Plain and Goose Creek Incised sherds: 98.2 percent of the assemblage (Ellis and Ellis 1996). Among the Goose Creek

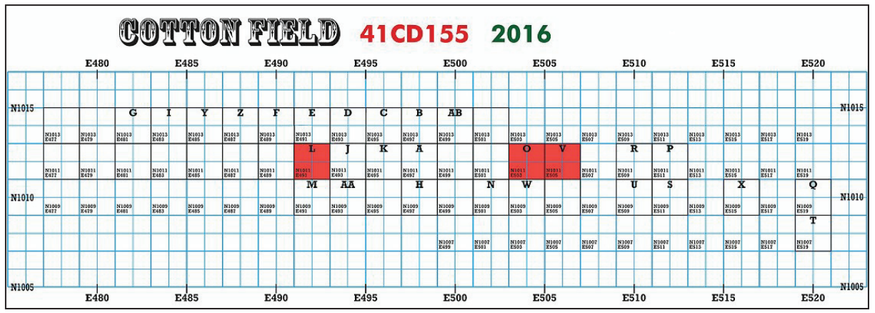



*Figure 10. Highest density clusters of sandy paste, bone-tempered sandy paste, and bone-tempered sherds in the excavations at the Cotton Field site.*

series sherds are two with drilled suspension holes and lip notched rims (Goose Creek Plain, *var. Burris*) (see Perttula 2018). About 36 percent of the sherds have sooted and/or smudged interior surfaces. A few sherds have grog (1.6 percent) or bone temper (0.2 percent), hinting at post-A.D. 1000 use, but the remainder of the assemblage likely predates ca. A.D. 700. At the Allens Creek sites on the Brazos River in Austin County just to the northeast, the earliest assemblage, predating A.D. 700, are almost exclusively sandy paste Goose Creek Plain sherds (94 percent) from the Ernest Witte site (41AU36). Post-A.D. 900-1000 and post-A.D. 1400 Allens Creek sites have considerable numbers of grog- and bone-tempered wares, but sandy paste sherds still comprise between 44.0-65.8 percent of the sherds from these components (Perttula 2020:Table 8).

Plain bone-tempered sandy paste ceramics different than the bone-tempered sandy paste Rockport wares have been recovered in pre-A.D. 400 and ca. A.D. 380-800 contexts in the Trinity and Navasota River basins (Perttula and Ellis 2013:125), while at Boriack Bog in Lee County, plain bone-tempered and bone-tempered sandy paste sherds occur together with brushed as well as red slipped or red-filmed sherds in post-A.D. 1200 contexts. The Cedar Bridge site (41FY74) in Fayette County to the north and northwest of the Cotton Field site, but also in the Colorado River basin, has a ceramic sherd assemblage (n=552) dominated by plain bone-tempered sandy paste wares (89+ percent) (Skelton 1977). Sandy paste Goose Creek Plain sherds comprise only 10 percent of the assemblage, and two plain sherds are from grog-tempered vessels. Perttula and Ellis (2013:128) suggest that the ceramics from the Cedar Bridge site "closely resemble those found in Southeast Texas coast assemblages." Another Fayette County site, the Sandbur site (41FY135) on the Colorado River, has a small sherd assemblage (n=81) from a post-A.D. 1400 component (Kalter et al. 2005). More than 60 percent of the sherds are from bone-tempered vessels, mostly with a sandy paste, along with plain sandy paste sherds. Kalter et al. (2005:219) suggest that the ceramics from the site are "the product of an indigenous population that had developed a tradition influenced by contacts with groups outside the area." Petrographic and instrumental neutron activation analysis of sherds indicate that the ceramics found at the Sandbur site were likely made in the general site vicinity from Colorado River clays. Nothing like this bone-tempered-sandy paste ware occurs at the Cotton Field site.

Ceramic vessels are not common on sites in this part of Texas, and the Cotton Field site assemblage, for example, has only 128 vessel sherds. But within this small assemblage is evidence of the existence of contemporaneous but different manufacturing (and decorative) traditions in the archeological deposits. These traditions – Goose Creek, Rockport, and bone-tempered non-sandy paste – are present in sites in the Brazos and Colorado river basins from inland settings to the upper and central Texas coast. At the Cotton Field site, they occur together in contemporaneous early to mid-15th century A.D. archeological deposits. This co-occurrence suggests both the development of localized ceramic practices over much of the region, particularly in inland settings like that of the Cotton Field site assemblage, as well as broad scale interactions, perhaps through communal bison hunting, with neighboring groups (such as ancestral Karankawa and Upper Texas Coast peoples) with different ceramic traditions (e.g., Perttula and Ellis 2013:130). The detailed analysis of the Cotton Field site ceramic assemblages has contributed to a better understanding of local ceramic traditions in the lower Colorado River basin and surrounding locales in the central coastal region of Texas.

To further explore the cultural affiliation of the principal ceramic wares at the Cotton Field site, it is recommended that petrographic and chemical analyses (instrumental neutron activation analysis) should be completed on a sample of sherds from the three principal wares to clearly establish the manufacturing origin of the ceramic vessel sherds from the site. Additional radiocarbon dates on organic materials from various depths in the archeological deposits would help inestimably in refining the temporal sequence of the different ceramic wares, and when the different wares were made and used at the Cotton Field site.

## Acknowledgments

Thanks for the opportunity to analyze the ceramic vessel sherds from the Cotton Field site provided by Dr. Jason Barrett, Principal Investigator for the 2014-2016 Texas Archeological Society Field Schools held in Colorado County, Texas. He also provided other useful information on the radiocarbon dates from the site and the context of the recovered sherds. Linda Ellis, Erin Phillips, and Richard Weinstein graciously provided very useful information on the identification and classification of ceramics from this region, and provided reference material. Lance Trask and Brian Wootan prepared the figures for this article. Dub Crook provided useful editing comments on the MS.

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# CONSERVATION OF A NINETEENTH CENTURY THIMBLE RECOVERED FROM FROST TOWN

***Charlie Gordy***

ARTIFACT: Thimble SITE: 41HR982
ACCESSION #: CAS 20
PREWITT and ASSOCIATES, Inc. 2018
PROJECT #: 217010
LOT #: 1206.61
PI: Douglas K. Boyd, RPA; Cox / McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.
**Introduction** and **Discovery and Archeological Context** topics furnished and written by Douglas K. Boyd, RPA.

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**RESEARCHERS:** Charlie Gordy and Emma Mattey; Houston Archeological Society
**RESEARCH CONSULTANT:** Sue Gowan, of Red Hill, Queensland, Australia; a collector of more than 2,500 thimbles and author of the book, *Thimbles of Australia*, together with her contributing colleagues from England, Germany and Australia.

## Introduction

This article describes a brass thimble recovered at the historic Frost Town site (41HR982) near downtown Houston in April 2018 during an archeological data recovery investigation sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). This specimen was found in a pit containing numerous early nineteenth-century historic items that were deposited prior to the Civil War. When it was originally found, the surface of the artifact was too corroded/concreted to see any of the important details (see Figure 1). Houston Archeological Society (HAS) member and Texas Historical Commission Archeological Steward, Charlie Gordy (the author) completed conservation of the specimen which was conducted in October and November 2021. This effort removed the corrosion / concretion deposits and revealed the intricate decorative details. The author then conducted archival research that enabled him to identify the manufacturing technique and probable age of this specimen as well as to infer the probable country of origin.

*Figure 1: Thimble found in 1869: feature 1100 at Frost Town in April 2018, before conservation. (Photograph by Douglas Boyd)*

## Discovery and Archeological Context

Archeological data recovery at Frost Town was undertaken by archeologists from Prewitt and Associates, Inc. (now Cox /McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.) during two field seasons in 2016 and 2018. This work was done under contract with the Archeology Studies Program, Environmental Affairs Division, Texas Department of Transportation in conjunction with the Elysain Viaduct Bridge Replacement Project. Within the Frost Town artifact inventory, the thimble was assigned to lot 1206, Specimen 8. It was found inside a pit feature designated 1100.

Feature 1100 is a pit that was found in the southwest corner of Block C during mechanical scraping


*Figure 2: Map of the location of Feature 1100 in Frost Town. This map is a section from the W. E. Wood's "Map of Houston, Harris County."*

(Figure 2). It is an oval pit measured (maximum size 131 cm east-west by 52 cm north-south). Its top was first observed at an elevation of 12.04 m, and its bottom after excavation was at 11.77 m. Thus, the 1100 pit was only 27 cm deep.

This pit had been dug into clay substrate, but the fill inside the pit consisted of sandy loam sediment and densely packed historical artifacts. There was not apparent stratification in the pit fill, and there was relatively little settlement mixed in with the artifacts. Consequently, the pit appears to have been filled rapidly in a single episode (Figure 3).

In 2020 and 2021, members of the Houston Archeological Society were assisting TxDOT and Cox / McLain by reconstructing the many broken ceramics and glass artifacts from feature 1100, and conducting research to identify these artifacts. This work is still underway, but it appears that all the historical items found in this pit were manufactured in common use from the 1820s to 1850s or 1860s. Although this interpretation is preliminary at this point, the filling of this pit appears to have occurred prior to the Civil War, and perhaps in the 1850s.

**Pre-conservation Inspection**

The artifact was received 10/21/21 in washed rough condition with concretion concealing large areas of diagnostic details. It appears to be in solid condition with no dents or shape distortions (Figure 4).

The rolled rim appears to exhibit some feathering deterioration at some points where it curls to the border. The construction material is most likely copper alloy (brass) as it is not of noble metal nor attracted to a magnet. The vast majority of thimbles found in a late historical context are made of this type material. The following information is the physical data of the thimble in its received condition:

Base interior diameter: 14.83 mm.
Base to crown top: 25.69 mm
Base to wall top: 22.25 mm
Crown base diameter: 16 mm
Base diameter at rim: 18.77 mm
Wall dimpling panel: 16.86 mm
Border panel: 4.42 mm
Rolled rim: .97 mm
Weight: 7 gr

Permission was received to perform conservation by use of electrolytic reduction methodology to expose more details.

**Post-Conservation Examination**

*Figure 3: Photograph of the excavation of Feature 1100 of Frost Town. The view is of Archeologist Emory Worrell excavating Feature 1100 with the partially demolished Elysian Viaduct Bridge in the background. (Photograph by Douglas Boyd)*



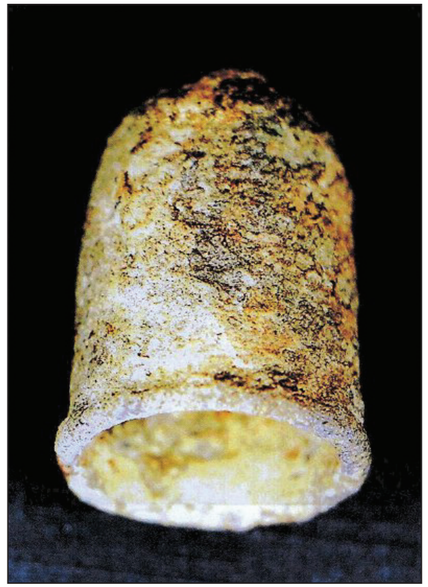


*Figure 4: View of Thimble wall and open base before conservation. (Photograph by Charlie Gordy)*

The conservation process began on October 26, 2021 using the galvanic-wrap electrolysis methodology. The process took 174 hrs 15 mins, not including time for monitoring, hand cleaning, and anode wrap/electrolyte refreshing. Lab photos were taken during the periods of monitoring. It was noticed what appeared to be a design along the border after 95.5 hours. After another 52.5 hours (148.0 hours total), the border design became clearer, exposing what appeared to be a floral scene completely around the thimble border. In addition, a shield design became visible on the wall along the second row of indentions (dimpling) up to the seventh row.

The artifact was again re-wrapped and prepared with new anode and electrolyte solution. Treatment continued for another 26 hrs 15 mins, bringing the total time to 174 hrs 15 mins. A cleaning cycle again was conducted and the artifact was dehydrated. The artifact was carefully examined by digital microscope 75x / 300x magnification along the interior bottom of the cap, along the interior of the border, and the interior of the wall. The dimpling of the interior wall was found to be continuous and complete. The dimpling format was concentric from the border to the very top. There was no design on the top. In review, the type material used in the thimble was again determined to be copper alloy (most likely brass). The artifact's physical data was measured again to get truer dimensions after conservation:

Base interior diameter: 16.0 mm.
Base to crown top: 26.44 mm
Base to wall top: 24.49 mm
Crown base diameter: 13.19 mm
Base diameter at rim: 18.16 mm
Wall dimpling panel: 16.62 mm
Border panel: 6.16 mm
Rolled rim: 1.44 mm
Weight: 5 gr
Reduction: .2857% (most reduction was determined to be concretion material)

**Manufacture Method**

This thimble was manufactured using the deep-draw method. This method was patented in 1769 in England, but was underutilized until the 1800s, most likely because it eliminated a lot of skilled guild brass workers. This method was a vast improvement over the two-piece method of making copper alloy/brass thimbles. It utilized a series of seven dies over which copper discs were drawn. The progression of drawing completed a thimble "blank" with a rolled rim. The blank thimble was then placed on a rotating thimble shaped anvil, held in place by a leather cushion. A rotating thimble die was then pressed against the thimble as it rotated on the anvil. This technique allowed different dies of various patterns of dimples to be indented and could be used for patterns and mottos or other wording and designs. The dimple pattern used on this thimble was a dot indention which is a pattern used for centuries being individually punched or drilled by hand. The border scene was applied with a different die.

Before the introduction of the deep-draw method, copper alloy thimbles were made in two parts then brazed together to make a complete thimble. The deep-draw method made it possible to mass produce thimbles and by the early 1800s, Birmingham, England, produced and exported thimbles by the millions. The primary noticeable characteristic of the deep-drawn method is the rolled rim at the base of the thimble and the lower profile of the cap.

**Markings**

Mass production of brass thimbles made them affordable for the common household. Most were of a plain design or modestly decorated with bands around the border or with mottos. For a brass thimble, the decoration on this thimble is extra ordinary. Very few

*Figure 5: View of thimble wall with shield and decorated floral pattern border. (Photograph by Charlie Gordy)*

of them were marked. The post-conservation examination of this thimble's interior top, wall, rim and border did not disclose any marks or numbers considered as maker marks. A graphic floral scene was revealed along the border exterior. Historically, more elaborate thimbles, produced in England, were decorated with floral scenes. American scenes were commonly that of landscapes and water scenes. It is unknown if any makers patented the artwork of this particular border daisy design, therefore, this design may not be exclusive to any one maker or country. Along the exterior of the wall starting with the second row of dumplings to the seventh row, a four pointed shield containing a pictorial embossed design was revealed. The design has been slightly worn smooth from use and not clear, but may be the image of some human or animal form. A shield represents a primary element of a coat-of-arms which was suspected as possibly a hallmark. It may be a representation of a geographical region or perhaps an element of the coat-of-arms of the surname of the manufacturer's founder. However, it may not be a hallmark at all, but merely decoration (Figure 5). A search revealed the shield element is not one associated with the coat-of-arms of Birmingham, England, which was the major area of brass production in the 1800s. Upon further searching and examining hundreds of thimble collector photographs, it was realized that thimbles that originated from other countries exhibited the same four pointed shield. However, of the ones noted, the shield surface was blank apparently for inscribing initials, and all were found on silver or gold thimbles. No shield examples were found on thimbles of non-noble metals. The shield on this specimen is thought to have been applied by brazing to the wall after dimpling rather than roller die pressed. This opinion is based on the consistent and undisturbed dimples exposed on the thimble's interior.

Not being totally satisfied with our findings thus far, contact was made to an internationally recognized authority on thimbles, Sue Gowan, of Australia. She graciously and enthusiastically accepted the identification challenge and enlisted assistance from colleagues in Australia, England and Germany. Some references they used were: *Metal Sewing Thimbles Found In Britain* by Brian Read (2017); *A History Of Thimbles* by Edwin Holmes (1986): and *Le de a coudre en France (Tome III)* by Michel Painsonneau, pp. 36-37. This last book documents the thimble as a "mid-19th century French Directoire style bronze / brass thimble with a decorative floral / foliage border". And of course, a major contributing reference is the individual years of knowledge and experience in thimbles of Sue Gowan and her team of colleagues. All were in agreement as to the thimble being produced in France, with the time period ranging from late 18th century to mid-19th century.

### Summary of Findings

It is the opinion of the international experts consulted, the country of origin of the Frost Town thimble is France and the probable time period is late 18th century to mid-19th century. This is primarily based on noted references together with the method of construction, shape, and the floral designed border. No marks or numbers of any kind were observed that could be considered as a makers mark nor is the shield a relevant mark. Millions of thimbles were produced and exported, and very few were marked as, laws did not require marks on non-noble metal thimbles. The thimble's maker could not be determined by evidence. As our trusted expert, Sue Gowan, commented, "…. I think the makers are lost in the mist of time."



# CAMP OF THE 3RD CONFEDERATE TEXAS INFANTRY BATTALION: DICKINSON, TEXAS, 1861-1862

*Charlie Gordy*

## Contents



## Appendices



## Figures

## INTRODUCTION

The War of the Rebellion had a notable impact on the Gulf Coast of Texas almost from the beginning in 1861 and until its end in 1865. While no major battles in terms of lives lost were fought on Texas soil, the battles of Galveston, Sabine Pass, and numerous coastal skirmishes have made the history books. However, there have been countless other events and activities contributing to the war along the Texas coast which have slipped from memories or obscurely recorded. One such event is the stationing of several companies of infantry on Dickinson Bayou. This camp would come to be known as Camp Kirby.[1] (See Appendix I)

## TEXANS TO THE RESCUE

Following the blockading of Galveston, the destruction and capture of twelve vessels off Galveston, and the bombardment of Confederate batteries at Galveston in July of 1861 by the *USS South Carolina,* appeals were made to Texans through newspapers calling for the mustering of Texas volunteers for the defense of the Gulf Coast of Texas. The recent appointed General P. O. Hebert, Commander of all Confederate troops in Texas, made public appeals to all Texans through the newspapers. The following is one such appeal:

*To The Men Of Texas:*

*TEXANS: It is more than probable that your State will soon be invaded by the sea-coast. The enemy's resources for such an attack would seem to be formidable. Yours to meet and defeat it lie almost entirely in your own strong arms, brave hearts, and trusty rifles.*

*Our infant Government has achieved wonders; but yet it must largely rely upon the States that created it and which have so gallantly sustained it to strain every nerve for their own individual protection. Look not to Richmond, then, for all your military inspiration and guidance. Remember the days of yore, when your own red right hands achieved your independence; and while some of your hardy sons are prepared to share the glory to be won in Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri, and others to guard the highway to the Pacific which they have won against superior arms and numbers, be it your portion of the duty which you owe to them and yourselves to keep your soil free from the enemy's touch and to preserve unsullied the fame of the Texas ranger. Let every man, then, clean his old musket, shot-gun, or rifle, run his bullets, fill his powder-horn, sharpen his knife, and see that his revolver is ready to his hand, as in the trying but glorious days when Mexico was your foe.*

*Organize at once into companies, if possible into battalions, and report to me promptly at Galveston and San Antonio your locality, your number, your arms, ammunition, and equipments, and your distance by day's travel, by railroad or otherwise, from the principal points on the coast.*

*Be ready to march at a moment's notice, and wait for orders. Rely upon it that I shall not fail to call you when needed; and when I call, I know that you will come. I am too near to San Jacinto's field to doubt for a moment that even against overwhelming numbers you will gladly rally to the defense of your homes, your families, and your liberties.*

*Our enemy may succeed, from his superior armaments, in ravaging your sea coast; but, God willing and you aiding, he will never hold a foot of your soil — never!*[1]

An excerpt from the Houston Telegraph expressed the following:

*"... We call upon Texans to the rescue. Let the cry ring over the hills and valleys of our State and the people rush to arms to repel the invading foe!"*

In part, the Bellville Countryman also had this to say August 1861:

*"... Why stands Austin County idle? Other counties are mustering their forces to the field. Let our young men come forward, enroll their names, and demand that they be fitted out for the war; and if the committee or the county fail to equip them, on them will the blame rest – come forward then. Let there be an outpouring of the masses, and all may you be well."*

During this period, the Austin County Central Executive Committee selected Col. J. E. Kirby (See Appendix II) to began organizing a battalion of infantry in Hempstead to send to the Galveston Coast. His unit was to be known as the 3rd Texas Confederate Infantry Battalion; also referred to as Kirby's battalion.

Normally during the first few weeks, the companies drilled, received new members, and attended an endless round of public ceremonies featuring patriotic addresses by local dignitaries and veterans of the Texas Revolution and Mexican War. Ordinarily the speakers praised the South's determination to resist northern aggression and predicted quick victory for southern arms, but occasionally a more somber note was sounded. Many of the recruits received their military instruction, such as it was, near their local communities in camps of instructions.[2]

The *Bellville Countryman* advertised for a large turn-out of people for such an occasion: *"...The camp of instruction will soon go into operation. Our volunteers are anxious to enlist for the war; they need all aid and assistance. Let the people come together and consult and we may expect something will be done. Speeches will be made upon the occasion."*

On October 2, 1861, the Bellville Countryman printed the following article titled The Defenses Of Galveston:

*"The commanders of the forces on Galveston Island are, momentarily we might say, in expectation of an attack from the enemy. No other vessels have arrived as yet, but they are looked for hourly. The defense of Galveston is of the utmost importance. Should the Federals get possession of the island, they could operate to our great disadvantage and would annoy us beyond measure.*

*We think it important then, that every man who can reasonably leave home, should hasten to assist in the defenses of Galveston; A requisition may be daily looked for. A company has already been enrolled at Hempstead for this special service. Nearly everyone in that vicinity will go in that company, under the leadership of Col. J. E. Kirby. A company should be formed immediately at this place and several others in other parts of the county. We ought at least to furnish a battalion from Austin Co., for this service. They will be received to serve for such time as shall be necessary for the defense of the island. None but infantry will be received. General Hebert has promised to write up to Hempstead today and Col. Kirby and Col. J. G. Boone agreed with us to send an express immediately to Bellville. It would be well, therefore, for as many as are convenient, to attend here on Wednesday evening and hear the news. This force is expected to consist mostly of married men and others, whose family circumstances will not permit them to enter into the service for during the war.*

*We urge most earnestly, our people to prepare for the contest. Unless Galveston is defended, the war may be brought to our own doors and firesides. We would as soon have the Comanche's among us as the invading army of the Lincolnites.*

*Let us meet them at the threshold of Texas soil. Let them never obtain a foothold on Texian ground, and the re-enactment of scenes of Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri will be avoided. It is desirable that every man shall take such arms as he can get, but by all means have a Bowie knife. The latter may be used in the hands of a Texian as offset and reconvention to the Yankee bayonet."*

A picture must come to mind as the recruited soldiers came together to form Kirby's battalion. Like most of the Texas soldiers who marched off to war in 1861, they wore a wide variety of uniforms. In fact they were a motley-looking group in many cases due to the wide assortment of colors and materials represented ranging from gray woolen jeans to plaids. Their hats were generally wide-brimmed felt hats known as "slouch" hats or gray caps with visors.[3] The weapons carried varied even more than their uniforms. Some were armed with squirrel guns, bear guns, sportman's guns, shot guns, Colt revolvers, and of course, knives.[4]

There are several points of interest about Col. Kirby's battalion. As noted in the news article, it consisted "mostly of married men" and others who, for personal reasons, could not enlist for the duration of the war. Another point about the battalion (which will again be noted later) is that a good number of the recruits were apparently well educated in law, medicine, and apparently communication skills. It was not unusual for physicians or lawyers to enlist as private soldiers.[5] Col. Kirby's Battalion had been allowed by General Hebert to muster men for only a six month period. Later, this did not set well with the War Department, C. S. Army in Richmond. Subsequent orders to General Hebert were that he *"……under no circumstances and in no emergency to accept troops into the Confederate service for a less period than three years or the war, and if any such have been accepted at once to disband them."* In that same communication, it was re-emphasized *"….. you will muster no troops whatever into the Confederate service, under any pressure, for less than three years or the war."*[6] Another point to be noted is that since most of the men were married, the six month service obligation was probably most appealing to them. This service term would allow them to serve yet still not ignore too much obligation to their families, farms or businesses. Even so, it will later be noted that a large majority of the battalion re-enlisted for an extended term. The news article also mentions that the men were to report by taking "such arms as he can get" and it emphasizes the possession of a Bowie knife. The possession of the Bowie knife was a trademark of the Texas Confederate soldier during the war.

General Hebert was very concerned about the ability to secure the coast of Texas against attack. He expressed this concern more than once to the Secretary of War, Richmond, Virginia. On September 27, 1861, he wrote *"…… On a coast like this, however, where in calm weather a landing can be effected at any point, and the bays in the rear and flank of Galveston Island reached in that manner or by the pass at the west end, the problem of defense, considering the means available to that effect, is certainly one of very difficult, if not impossible, solution."* He also expressed concern in regards to arms and equipment for his army. In the same letter to the Secretary of War, he stated, *"……..Men are ready to volunteer for defense in companies and regiments; but arms, ammunition, provisions, and equipment are wanting."* Also in the same

communication he states, *".....I may occasionally assume and exercise authority not delegated to me or in strict compliance with the regulations."* This last statement seems to be where General Hebert decided to allow six month service for volunteers for which he was later criticized by the Secretary of War.[7]

However, since there was no conscription law at the time, and General Hebert was responsible for the defense of Galveston and the many hundreds of miles of Texas coast, it seems reasonable he thought that a good, expedient way to attract soldiers was to provide for a short term of service. In answer to the arms and equipment problem, counties would help supply their volunteer troops with donated supplies, clothing and equipment and the troops would report with whatever arms they had, beg or borrow, be it shot guns, muskets, side knives, or whatever they could find.

So, Texans began coming to the rescue. A volunteer of Kirby's battalion writes:

*We have come to the battle field*
*Here to live or die.*
*Battling for our Country*
*Without Murmur or sigh*[8]

## ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENSE

During the first week of October 1861, Col. Kirby formed the first company of his battalion for service along the Galveston coast. This first company was Company "A" commanded by Capt. J. W. McDade, (often simply referred to as McDade's company) with the company being officially mustered into Confederate service in October, 1861. The company's muster roll shows a total of 150 officers and enlisted men, which was a greater number than typical companies. As an interesting side note, among the enlistees was the editor of the *Bellville Countryman*, J. P. Osterhout. (See Appendix II)

The Organization Of Confederate Army In Texas (Figure 1) gives an overview of the command relationships between the various military organizations, together with comments concerning typical troop strength at the different levels of command. In October 1861, Col J. C. Moore was the commander of the Military District Of Galveston.[1] At that time, the brigade did not exist. As more troops entered into the Galveston defense, General Hebert reorganized the defense command and composed the First Brigade Texas Volunteers on November 11, 1861 to facilitate command and control.[2]

The Galveston Defense Command Organizational chart (Figure 2) shows the command relationship of higher headquarters with Col. Kirby's battalion as well as the make-up of the Galveston defense early 1862. Looking at the chain of command, one will notice that Kirby's Battalion was below (hence took orders from) the First Brigade Texas Volunteers. The two regiments shown in Galveston were Nelson's Regiment, and Nichols Regiment. Col. Moore's Regiment was in the process of being transferred to the Military Department Of Texas then soon deployed to Arkansas, therefore it is not shown. At the time of Col. Kirby's assignment to Galveston, Col. Moore was the commander of the Military District of Galveston, and Col. E. B. Nichols was the 9th Texas Confederate Infantry Regiment commander (Nichol's Regiment).[3] By December 7, 1861, Col. E. B. Nichols commanded both the Military District of Galveston and the First Brigade Texas Volunteers. As an interesting side note, Col. E. B. Nichols is the same Ebenezar B. Nichols who had built his summer home on the banks of Dickinson Bayou around 1857.[4] When Col. Kirby's battalion was ordered to Galveston in October 1861, he was under the command of Col. J. C. Moore then shortly afterwards under the command of E. B. Nichols.

The decision to station Kirby's battalion on Dickinson Bayou was made early upon his arrival to the Galveston defense (Figure 3). The battalion would serve as an effective rear guard protection from enemy advance from the bay up the bayou, and it would provide protection to the railroad bridge at Dickinson as well as the rail and telegraph lines in either direction. Col. Parson's 12th Texas Calvary also had orders from General Hebert in October 1861, to establish an encampment somewhere south of Houston with a mission to "stand ready" in the event of enemy landings on the coast. Supplementary orders had emphasized the "absolute necessity of defending the major avenues of communication with Galveston Island." These avenues consisted of the Galveston, Houston, and Henderson Railroad; the Galveston highway, and the telegraph line that linked Galveston Island with the interior. The site selected by Parsons gave him a central position from which to move in any direction in the event of an invasion using the mobility of cavalry. Parsons established his camp adjacent to the GH & H railroad bridge over Sim's Bayou with his chief line of defense along Clear Creek.[5]

Tactically these positions of Parsons' Twelfth Cavalry to the north of Clear Creek, Kirby's Battalion to the south along Dickinson Bayou, and the fortifications established at Virginia Point, would allow good protection to the lines of communication from Galveston Island north to Houston. They would also be in a defensive position to resist any invasion by the enemy towards the rear of Galveston Island through East Bay as well as allow timely reinforcement to the island defenses using the railroad for the transport of troops.



## KIRBY'S 3rd INFANTRY BATTALION DEPLOYS

Capt. McDade's company of Kirby's 3rd Confederate Texas Infantry Battalion was the first company to head from Hempstead to Galveston in October 1861. This first company of the battalion more than likely went direct to Galveston Island to await orders for a more permanent deployment. The *Bellville Countryman* on October 23, 1861, reported that Galveston had a storm on October 16, 1861, and that *"……The men in Kirby's company [sic] were in good health and spirits….There had been a few cases of chills and fever but they yielded readily to quinine, of which there was plenty on hand. They had excellent quarters and room for two or three hundred more, with good cistern water to drink and good chance to fish, etc."*[1] It is unlikely that if they were located on Dickinson Bayou at that early date (without the benefit of good logistical support) they would have "excellent quarters" and plenty of medicine.

However, they were not on Galveston Island long to get too comfortable, for in short time, they moved to establish their camp on Dickinson Bayou. This can be established again by an article from the Ocotber 30, 1861, issue of the *Bellville Countryman* as follows: *"……Capt. Johnson's company did not leave last Monday; they need a few more men. They expect to leave Bellville on Friday next, and take the cars at Hempstead on Saturday for Dickinson's Bayou….."*[2] This was the first time Dickinson's Bayou was ever mentioned. In Capt. Johnson's case, his orders were to proceed direct to Dickinson Bayou (referred to as Dickinson's Bayou) to a camp by then known as Camp Kirby, already established by McDade's company.

By the middle of November, there were two companies of infantry being Capt. McDade's company and Capt. Johnson's company, and one company of Cavalry commanded by Capt. J. W. Whitehead, stationed at Camp Kirby. In addition, three other companies of infantry were being organized at Hempstead and were to join the others by the end of November. Even as late as December 18, 1861, men were still being recruited for Kirby's battalion to bring it up to authorized strength. On December 18, 1861, the *Bellville Countryman* reported *"Our friend J. W. Manning of Capt. McDade's company, Kirby battalion, has been in our midst for the past few days on a recruiting tour. The battalion needs a few more men to fill up two or more skeleton companies that was accepted on the faith of getting them full. We hope he met with success. He reports the prospect of a short service as very favorable, and we would suggest to those who can not leave home but for a short period, and wish to serve their country, in good company, the importance of enlisting in Kirby's battalion. Those who can easily go for the war, not objectionable."*[3]

We can therefore conclude that if the strength of Kirby's battalion was at its authorized minimum of soldiers, there would be close to 400 soldiers stationed at Camp Kirby. If each company was to receive the typical strength level of at least 115 men, then the camp could easily have reached a total of 600+ men during its existence on Dickinson Bayou.[4]

## LIFE OF THE SOLDIER

A letter to the editor of the *Bellville Countryman* dated November 14, 1861, gives a soldiers report as to camp life at Camp Kirby:

*"MR. EDITOR: Having seen no letter from camp published in your valuable paper, I thought that a few lines from us giving you the news, health of the company, &e., Might not be uninteresting to your readers many of whom have friends and relatives among us. We have now been here about a month and are rapidly perfecting ourselves in the drill and the duties of a soldier. We were at first disposed to think that there was no necessity for us being on Dickinson Bayou, as we could not see there was any danger to be apprehended from Uncle Abraham's minions ever paying us a visit. But the taking of the Royal Yacht the other night in Galveston Bay close to the mouth of this bayou has altered our minds and put us more on the alert. We have extended our pickets along and down the bayou and will hardly be taken by surprise.*

*The health of the soldiers is tolerable good, there are always some few sick reported at roll call, but their disease yields readily to medicine when we can get it. And here let me say a word: we are not disposed to complain; although deprived of many articles that we have heretofore looked upon as indispensables. The Government not having a full supply of clothing, blankets and medicine can not furnish us with these articles and many of our men who have joined us lately are suffering for the want of blankets and clothing. We have had to go to bed for the last week at dark, for the want of candles, the Government not being able to furnish them.*

*Our doctor is nearly out of medicines and has had to fall back upon the old women remedies of shuck tea &e., to cure the few cases of chills that are among us. I must confess that our citizens, neighbors and friends have not come up to their promises made to us when we left Hempstead. We thought we could suffer for nothing while in camp, and much to our surprise, find that the little bill of $150 made in Houston for blankets, medicine, &e., and the bill made in Hempstead for cooking utensils &e., are still unpaid.*

*We are however pleased to see that although the absent soldier may be forgotten, that our friends in Hempstead and vicinity do not let us soldiers who are*

*in their midst suffer for anything. If the people here would only follow the example of the citizens of Hempstead, and get up a grand Fandango for our benefit we should certainly take it as a great favor.*

*I must close this rambling letter as I am called to supper."*

*(signed) X*

A soldier signing as J.P.O. (likely the initials of J. P. Osterhout, the enlistee who is the editor of the *Bellville Countryman*) made a suggestion as to another item in short supply as he pointed out: *"....Our boys are in much need of some things that have been overlooked by the friends at home. A contribution of pipes, pipe stems and a barrel or two of tobacco leaves would be most acceptable to some who like the times. The butter and pork that came a few days since could not have reached us at a more acceptable time."*[1]

Another letter written on December 8, 1861, by a soldier signed Amicus, further testifies to the routine of life in camp noting: *"…….the stern duties of complying with the inexorable routine of the soldier's daily life (Sundays excepted) the tap of the drum at daylight, the calling of the roll at six, the breakfast at seven, the drill at nine, with another at three, these dispensed with only by sickness, or fatigue or guard duty."* He goes on to further say *"we have more than an average share of vocal talent here, which being coupled with a brass band instrument (the name of which I can neither spell nor remember) serve very much to while away the sometimes long and lonely hours from twilight until when. Running races is also one of the main expedients which the soldier seeks when in pursuit of something new."*[2]

One of Col. Parsons' soldiers, Henry Orr, wrote in a letter on December 21, 1861, this comment concerning the duty of patrol: *"We are guarding the railroad and telegraph from Houston to sixteen miles below here.* [Sims Bayou to Clear Creek] *The guard goes out every two days; it takes two commissioned officers and about one dozen non-commissioned officers, and 100 privates. The boys had most as soon be out as not. They have been killing a good many chaparral bear [hogs], but they are trying to put a stop to it."*[3] Kirby's battalion would have had a similar mission patrolling the railroad and telegraph lines from Dickinson north to Clear Creek and of posting guards (pickets) along Dickinson Bayou to its mouth.

Still another soldier wrote the *Bellville Countryman* on December 21, 1861, saying this about the men's service in Kirby's battalion: *"Still we will venture the assertion that there are not one hundred and twenty men in Austin County who enjoy themselves, one day with another any better than that number does now in this company. We are all life and hilarity from early dawn till retreat at night."*[4]

A little insight is gained about the caliber of men of Col. Kirby's Battalion when one soldier wrote: *"This battalion is composed of about 320 men,* [at the time, this would have been equal to only about three companies] *rank and file, the best material the country affords. There is as much intelligence in the ranks, I dare say, as is found in our battalion a good many of them being limbs of the law, and no less of the medical profession."*[5]

Two of the preachers that gave services to the camp were Dr. Allen of Hempstead and Rev. B. L. Peel of Houston. The soldier named Amicus, said this in one of his letters concerning a Sunday sermon: *"……Today we have been favored with religious exercises by Dr. Allen of Hempstead who commenced the service by reading the Ten Commandments and to our horror almost, he took the sixth for his text."*[6]

Then too, there were times that were more solemn. Like the notice on December 21, 1861, which tells of the death of James M. Lamb of Washington County. He *"died after a short but severe illness."* Some of his friends in his company took him home to Chappell Hill for burial.[7] This scene would be repeated several times during the stay on Dickinson Bayou as others died of illnesses.

## HOSPITAL ESTABLISHED AT CAMP KIRBY

Sometime near the end of December 1861, or the beginning of January 1862, a hospital was established at Camp Kirby. A soldier wrote this to the *Bellville Countryman* on January 15, 1862: *"We have suffered severely from disease caused, we think by the malaria arising from a beef factory, which is the most villainous compound that ever offended nostril. The health of our company is improving thanks be to God, this we think attributable to the attention of our Dr. Gardiner and Freman who deserve much praise for the manner in which they have furnished and administered medicines to our sick soldiers."*[1] The names on the muster roll of Whitehead's Company "C", show there are two privates listed as B. F. Gardiner and H. W. Freman; apparently physicians in their civilian life.[2]

Local legend has it that what is commonly known as the Nolan home-site, which is located next to the railroad, was converted into use as a hospital somewhere during this period of time (Figure 4).[3] On January 8, 1862, the *Bellville Countryman* published a list of about twenty donors and their "Contributions to Hospital Camp Kirby," (See Appendix IV). There were other lists published at later dates, so this was not just a one-time event. This would suggest that the hospital was certainly one of ample size consisting of more than just a tent and a doctor.

Most major garrisons along the coastal region of the state had hospitals to care for the soldiers assigned to the respective posts. Virginia Point had a General C.S.A. hospital with G. S. Wier, Acting Assistant Surgeon General. Another hospital was located in Houston with W. P. Ridell, Acting Chief Surgeon. These two major hospitals served the Gulf Coast defenses.[4] Apparently the smaller hospital established mid-way between the two general hospitals near the site of Kirby's battalion in Dickinson was staffed with at least two doctors from the battalion. Whether this was officially organized under the direction of one of the General Hospitals or was under the direction of Col. Kirby himself, remains unknown, however, evidence is it did exist.

## CHANGE IN COAST DEFENSE STRATEGY

As the new year of 1862 dawned, the situation in Galveston did not look promising. The frantic sense of insecurity manifested by General Hebert in his earlier reports to Richmond was now shared by the general population. Because they lacked confidence in the military's desire and ability to make an effective defense of the island, civilians continued their exodus to the interior at a rapid pace. Every train and steamboat to Houston was loaded to capacity with citizens and their belongings.[1]

A change in priorities issued by the government of the Confederate States dictated a change in the defenses for the coast of Texas and, in particular, to Galveston Island. In a letter written by J. P. Benjamin, Secretary of War to General Hebert on February 24, 1862, he explains *"the recent disaster in Tennessee has greatly exposed our line of communication with the West, and the importance of this line is so great that it must be held at any sacrifice."* He then instructs General Hebert to send all of the troops in his command to Arkansas except those absolutely necessary to man the batteries. He further emphasizes *"no invasion of Texas is deemed probable, but if any occurs its effects must be hazarded, and our entire forces must be thrown toward the Mississippi."*[2]

Recognizing the increasing weakness of Galveston's defenses as troops and arms were diverted to the interior, the Confederate commander of the island began making contingency plans for its evacuation. During this period, Capt. McDade's and Capt. Finney's infantry companies of Kirby's battalion were relocated to "comfortable" quarters on Galveston Island early in February 1862, leaving Capt. Johnson's infantry company, Capt. Whitehead's cavalry company and two other infantry companies at Camp Kirby.[3]

A letter simply signed "Galveston Citizen" was written to the *Bellville Countryman*, February 22, 1862, which describes the activities in Galveston:

*"Our brave boys in Galveston are hard at work making all things ready to give our enemy a proper reception, should they take a notion to pay us a visit. Let any one who wants to see a clearing sight visit the works now in progress with hundreds of Texian volunteers turning up the ground with a hearty good will, or trudging up a single plank with their wheel-barrow load of dirt gaily singing Dixie by the way. There is no grumbling, no holding back; all are at work with a hearty good will. We saw in a line of wheel-barrow guards the other day, enough talent to make a very respectable government, all trudging along as proud of their load as they ever were of a forensic effort at the bar.*

*We will not give a description of the works being constructed, but we will say that they are of a character to satisfy any body that Galveston isn't to be abandoned just yet, and that they are located at such points as it will be necessary for the enemy to pass, before they can trouble our good friends in the up country by Buffalo Bayou…."*

The taking of Galveston by the Union Navy became increasingly important. On March 12, 1862, shortly after Farragut had reached his newly assigned squadron, he wrote confidently to Captain Eagle of the Santee, assuring him that *"Galveston will be looked to at my earliest convenience"* In the meantime, Farragut said he did not wish Captain Eagle *"to either burn or fire on the town unless they fire on you first, but do not hesitate to return the fire for fear of injuring the town."*[4] From then until early May, the defenses of Galveston were continuing to be improved as best they could. Battery commanders were instructed that if the enemy should try to take the island by force it would probably be necessary for them to spike their guns, blow up their ammunition, set fire to the buildings, and retreat towards the Strand.[5]

## HOME AGAIN

By the middle of April 1862, the six month service obligation agreed to by many of the soldiers in Kirby's battalion was nearing the end. Some would return home having done their duty to their country. Others would remain in service due to volunteering for longer commitments and be integrated into other units to be deployed elsewhere. The editor of the *Bellville Countryman*, J. P. Osterhout, said this about his service:

*"After an absence of several months engaged in an effort with others to defend the coast of Texas from an*

*invasion of the Federals, we find ourselves once more at home engaged at our post as editor of the Countryman. We trust that our readers during our absence have been fully satisfied with the paper, having appreciated the difficulties of its publication during these troublous times. We return to our home duties under circumstances of a depressing character. Our country is on all sides menaced by the enemy. Texas alone has thus far measurable escaped the footprints of the invader. Our fellow citizens of every class are rushing to the field for the assistance of our brethren in other states of the Confederacy. When all the conscripts shall be in the army, in addition to those of ages now in service, there will be few in this portion of the country left to care for the helpless who are left at home.*

*How long we shall remain here is uncertain. While we have so many domestic ties to mind us; while even Paul greets his father's return with so much gladness and joy, and tho' our household responsibilities have multi[lied during our absence, we still can not resist a yarning, once more to take the field; once more to touch elbows with our late comrades and others on fields of glory and renown.*

*We shall however make no rash priorities. While we remain at home we shall endeavor to perform every duty to our country which may devolve upon us. We shall try so far as our limited means will permit to rejuvenate the Countryman so that we may greet our readers weekly, with such information as shall be acceptable to every household."*

On May 24, 1862, the *Bellville Countryman* editor reports that General P. O. Hebert had issued an order, enjoining editors of newspapers from publishing *"any information in regards to the strength, movements and destinations of our troops"* The editor goes on to say: *"Thus our readers must not expect us to state what has become of our boys, every time. The rule is a good one."*[1] And thus the whereabouts of Kirby's 3rd Infantry Battalion becomes a silent subject.

## EPILOGUE

As to when Camp Kirby was abandoned is not exactly certain. Only an assumption can be made based on a review of a few facts. It is known that in early 1862 when the change in coast defense strategy was ordered, many units, such as Parsons 12th Cavalry (on Sims Bayou), were ordered to Arkansas. Capt. McDade's and Capt. Finney's companies of Kirby's battalion were ordered to Galveston Island to help bolster the defense preparation of Galveston Island.[1] It is likely that the rest of the companies remaining at Camp Kirby soon followed ending the occupation in Dickinson and thus existence of Camp Kirby.

Being a six month volunteer battalion, by April to June 1862, Kirby's battalion was mustered out. Records show that nearly all of its members re-enlisted in Waul's Legion which was organized at Brenham, Texas, in the summer of 1862. Many of the men of Kirby's former battalion went with Waul's Legion to see service in Arkansas and Louisiana.[2] Most of the men from Bellville, re-enlisted for the duration of the war with Zimri Hunt's company.[3]

As further confirmation to this, on August 8, 1862, in a letter from General P. O. Hebert to General H. H. Sibley, he includes an enclosure that outlines the disposition of all the troop units under his command by branch and unit. At that time he no longer mentions the existence of Kirby's 3rd Confederate Texas Infantry Battalion. He does mention a unit he identifies as *Major Waller's battalion as now being stationed in New Iberia, Louisiana.*[4] In reference to this, on September 27, 1862, the *Bellville Countryman* published a brief notice as follows: *"Waller's battalion which was surrounded by the Feds in Louisiana had nearly all returned to camp. The number and names of the missing and killed we have not learned. Three Negroes belonging to the members of Capt. McDade's company were taken prisoner."* This most likely is the same Capt. McDade's company that was previously assigned to Kirby's battalion. Most probably this company had several men in it that were from McDade's old company which were assigned to Waller's battalion and sent to Louisiana. The *Countryman* apparently felt that the information was newsworthy to the citizens of Austin County who still had friends and relatives serving in the company, thus printed the news. However, Capt. McDade was no longer the company commander of this company at the time of this event. This is evident by the article written in the Bellville Countryman on June 14, 1862, announcing the appointment of: *"……J. W. McDade Provost Marshall for that part of Austin County east of the Brazos with the rank of major."*

From the foregoing, it should be safe to conclude that by the spring of 1862, Camp Kirby on Dickinson Bayou no longer existed. And certainly by early summer of 1862, Kirby's 3rd Infantry Battalion no longer existed.

Thus, Camp Kirby has disappeared into history. But it was, without a doubt, somewhere along the banks of Dickinson Bayou, Dickinson, Texas.



## POTENTIAL ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION PLANS

At the present time, planning is limited to further research for the exact location of the camp. No official records of the camps location have been discovered. Close examination of correspondence and additional public news articles of the time period have not revealed any clues as to the location. Thus far, further attempts have been limited to confidential map-plotting of some probable locations consistent with the battalions strategic military mission.

## Appendix I

### Kirby's Battalion History / Timeline

BACKGROUND

In early fall of 1861, Dickinson, Texas was occupied by the 3rd Texas Confederate Infantry Battalion. This battalion established an encampment known as Camp Kirby, named after it's commanding officer, Colonel J. E. Kirby. This unit was organized in Hempstead, Texas and consisted of infantry and one company of cavalry. This would have amounted to 400-600 men together with their equipment, supplies, horses and wagons. To accommodate a large force of this size, It is suspected that Camp Kirby would comprise of of several acres. The battalion was part of the First Texas Brigade headquartered in Galveston commanded by E. Z. Nichols. At the time, Colonel Nichols had a retreat home and estate on the banks of Dickinson Bayou. The mission of the battalion was to augment the Galveston defense by protecting against a northern invasion from Galveston Bay up Dickinson Bayou, thereby keeping the GH&H railroad secure and protect Galveston Island from a landward attack from the rear. Records show the following companies were formed and commanders assigned:

Company A: commanded by Captain McDade.
Company B: commanded by Captain Finney
Company C (cavalry): commanded by Captain Whitehead
Company D: commanded by Captain Johnson
Companies E and F: to be formed and commanders assigned

TIMELINE

1. Spring of 1861
   Jared Kirby was selected to help organize public defense as a member of the Austin County Central Executive Committee.

2. October 1861
   After the battalion's formation in Hempstead, Texas, the unit is assigned to the Military District of Galveston and he establishes Camp Kirby on Dickinson Bayou in support of coastal defense.

3. November 1861
   The battalion is placed under the command of the newly organized First Brigade Texas Volunteers commanded by Colonel E. B. Nichols with no change in mission.

4. February 1862
   Due to a change in priorities issued by the government of the Confederate States concerning the defense for the coast of Texas, Captain McDade's and Captain Finney's infantry companies were relocated to Galveston Island.

5. April 1862
   By the end of April, the six-month enlistment obligation of the battalion had expired and the battalion was mustered out of service. However, a large percentage of the men in the battalion re-enlisted by the summer of 1862 into Waul's Legion and in a company organized by Zimri Hunt, a Bellville attorney.



## Appendix II

### Individual Profiles

KIRBY, JARED E. (1809-1865)

Jared E. Kirby, planter, son of Henry and Sarah Kirby, was born in Georgia in 1809 and moved with his parents , his wife, and his daughter from Mississippi to Texas in late 1848 to 1849. The family settled on a quarter-league tract in Hempstead District of Austin County, east of the Brazos River in what is now Waller County. In 1850, county tax rolls described Kirby as the owner of fifty-five slaves and an estate valued at $28,000. He served as a delegate to the state Wig Party convention at Tyler in the spring of 1852 and was chosen an elector in the impending presidential campaign. Kirby was master of Alta Vista plantation, at the site of present Prairie View. By 1860, after a decade of steady accumulation, he had perhaps become Austin County's wealthiest resident. He had owned more than 8,000 acres on both banks of the Brazos, worth $285,000, and $175,000 in personal property, including 139 slaves. After the outbreak of the Civil War in the spring of 1861, Kirby was selected to help organize public defense as a member of the Austin County Central Executive Committee. He appears to have died early in 1865; his estate was probated that year.

NICHOLS, EBENEZAR B. (1815-1872)

Ebenezar B. Nichols, merchant, banker, soldier, and Confederate official, the son of William and Catharine Hamilton (Wood) Nichols, was born on October 12, 1815, in Cooperstown, New York. After attending the Lutheran Academy at Hartwick, New York, and serving as a broker in New York City, he traveled to Texas with a load of lumber in 1838. In Texas, he fought Indians and Mexicans with the Texas Rifles on the frontier and then settled in Houston. With money from speculation in pecans, Nichols entered into partnership with William M. Rice that was known as Rice and Nichols, "dealers in dry goods, groceries, hardware, crockery, etc., at wholesale and retail". Rice and Nichols were among public-spirited citizens who made the plank road from the Brazos to Houston a possibility, and Nichols supported filibustering efforts in Central America. Having acquired interests in Galveston, Nichols moved there in 1850, became an officer in the Galveston Brazos Navigation Company, and gradually withdrew from the Houston scene. In Galveston, E. B. Nichols and Company, cotton factors and commission merchants, which Nichols formed with Julius Federick, took over the Brick Wharf, so called because a brick building walled it on each side. The firm represented the Peirce and Bacon line of vessels, which operated between Galveston and Boston. Like contemporary cotton factors, the firm advanced money, received deposits, and performed other banking services. In 1860, Nichols had real properties, including a country home on Dickinson Bayou, valued at $100,000, personal property valued at $20,000 and six slaves. In 1861, he had twelve slaves and as late as 1870 reported over $100,000. Though he was initially opposed to succession, he changed his mind and served as delegate to the Succession Convention. There he was made state commissioner to raise and distribute funds for the public safety, negotiate the surrender of Fort Brown and other forts, and handle ammunition and stores at Brownsville and Point Isabel. Nichols was a captain in the Galveston Rifles, converted his home on the Galveston Strand into an armory and head quarters for General John B. Magruder, and served on Magruder's staff.

MOORE, JOHN CREED (1824-1910).

John Creed Moore, Confederate general, the son of Cleon and Margaret (Creed) Moore, Was born on February 28, 1824, at Red Bridge, Hawkins County, Tennessee. He attended Emory and Henry College in Virginia for four years and graduated on July I, 1849, from the United States Military Academy at West Point, ranking seventeenth in a class of forty-three. He was brevetted second lieutenant in the Fourth Artillery for service in the Seminole War (1849-50). He was stationed in Santa Fe, New Mexico, from 1852 to 1853, and at Fort Union, Nebraska, from 1853 to 1854. He resigned his United States Army commission in 1855. In 1856 he was employed as a civil engineer in Tennessee and in 1861 as a professor at Shelby College in Kentucky. While stationed at Fort Jackson as a captain in the Louisiana State Militia, Moore was commissioned a captain in the Confederate States Army in April 1861. He was sent to Texas to construct defensive fortifications for Galveston. He raised and trained the Second Texas Infantry there and was promoted to the rank of colonel in September 1861. After citation for gallantry in leading his regiment at Shiloh, Moore was promoted to brigadier general on May 26, 1862. At Corinth, Mississippi, on October 4, 1862, he led the left wing of his brigade over federal entrenchments into the center of the city in hand-to-hand combat. He commanded a brigade at Vicksburg and was captured on July 4, 1863. After an exchange of prisoners, Moore served as a brigade commander in the division of Gen. William Hardee during the battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge (November 24-25, 1863). A dispute between Moore and Hardee

that originated at the battle of Shiloh prompted Moore to seek a transfer from Hardee's division.

President Jefferson Davis denied the transfer, and Moore resigned his command in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States on February 3, 1864. He retained the rank of lieutenant colonel in the regular service and was reassigned as director of the Savannah arsenal in Savannah, Georgia. In September 1864 he was reassigned as director of the Selma arsenal in Selma, Alabama, where he served until the end of the war. After the war Moore returned to Texas and taught mathematics at Coronal Institute in 1869-70. He was afterward superintendent of schools at Mexia and at East Dallas, and he taught school at Galveston, Kerrville, Osage, and Coryell City. He married Augusta E. Clark of Orange County, New York, and they had four children. He was an Episcopalian. He died on December 31, 1910, and is buried at Osage, Coryell County.

MANNING, J. W. (John W., Sgt. McDades Co.)

A farmer turned innkeeper, was born in North Carolina in 1819 and came to Texas in 1840. He and his wife, Martha, who was 24 years old in 1850, built Manning House in Bellville, a hotel which was to be a popular stopping place for several decades. During the 1850's, Manning served as Austin County coroner and in the,1860's as Austin County Treasurer. He was appointed postmaster on February 17, 1858. He was head of the commissary department for the Kirby battalion.

OSTERHOUT, JOHN P.

He was a lawyer from Pennsylvania, was born in 1826 and came to Texas in 1851. Settled in the town of Bellville where he opened a law practice. From 1860 to 1865, Osterhout was editor and publisher of Bellville's first successful newspaper, the *Bellville Countryman*. To help make a living, Osterhout taught a school for 20 pupils at $2.00 per student monthly. By July 5, 1852, he had an appointment as deputy clerk of county court. December 11, 1853 he was getting into the land agency business. In 1866, he was county attorney.

CHEEK, BEN L.

Opened Bellville's first restaurant in 1849. Served in McDade's company. The men in the company called him Uncle Ben. Known to be a good man and as religious and devoted in camp as out of it. He preached considerably to the soldiers while at Dickenson's (sic) Bayou and was attentively listened to by the men. After his six months obligation, he reenlisted in Zimri Hunt's company.

CHESLEY, ALVA

Was 30 years old in 1860. Came from New Hampshire. He was employed as a teacher at the time. While a teacher, he studied and prepared for the law profession. Began practicing law on August 21, 1861, but within two months he announced he was entering the army of the Confederacy. He first served in McDade's company then enlisted for the duration of the war with Zimri Hunts company of infantry. He was to achieve great prominence in the years to come for his contributions to the development and growth of Bellville, particularly in promoting good educational facilities. He reenlisted in Zimri Hunt's company.

KAVANAUGH, CHARLES T.

1860 Census shows him as a 23 year old lawyer from Mississippi. He was living in the Austin County area on January 12, 1859 for on that date he married Sarah F. Chambers. On October 23, 1861, he was elected Junior Second Lt. in Col. J. E. Kirby's battalion. Returned around May 1, 1862, having served his six months with Kirby's battalion. After his return, he re-enlisted again.

GLENN, WILLIAM I.

He was the son of early settler, Alexander Glenn. He studied law under attorneys Hunt and Holland in the 60's, receiving his law license in 1868. During the war, W. I. Glenn, or Billy as he was called, served first with Capt. McDade's company, Col. Kirby's battalion. Later, he joined Zimri Hunts company for the duration of the war.

Source: The preceding was from Frizzell, Isabel: *Bellville: The Founders and Their Legacy*. New Ulm Enterprise. New Ulm, Texas. 1992

HEBERT, PAUL OCTAVE (181&1880)

Paul Octave Hebert, Confederate Army officer, was born in Iberville Parish, Louisiana, on December 12, 1818, the son of Paul and Mary Eugenia (Hamilton) Hebert. He graduated first in his class at Jefferson College in 1836 and first in his class at the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1840, ranking well ahead of classmates William T. Sherman and George H. Thomas. Hebert was commissioned a second lieutenant of engineers and in 1842 returned to West Point as an instructor, but resigned from the army on March 31, 1845, to become chief engineer for Louisiana. In the Mexican War, he returned to the service, accepting a commission as lieutenant colonel of the Third United States Infantry on March 3, 1847. On April 9, 1847, he was transferred to the Fourteenth Infantry. On September 8 of that year he was brevetted to the rank of colonel for his “gallant and meritorious”



conduct at the battle of Molino del Rey. Hebert left the service on July 25, 1848, at the conclusion of the war and returned to Iberville Parish, where he became a successful and wealthy sugar planter. In 1852, he was a delegate to the state constitutional convention, and from 1853 to 1856 was governor of Louisiana, the youngest man to that time to be elected to the office. With Louisiana's secession, Hebert was appointed colonel of the First Louisiana Artillery; on August 17, 1861, he was promoted to brigadier general. Soon thereafter he was appointed to the command of the Department of Texas, superseding Earl Van Dorn and the interim administration of Henry E. McCulloch. Hebert assumed command on September 16, 1861, and established his headquarters at Galveston. Appalled by the state's lack of an adequate coastal defense system, he wrote to Secretary of War Leroy Pope Walker, “*I regret to say that I find this coast in almost a defense*-less state, and in the almost total want of proper works and armaments; the task of defending successfully any point against an attack of any magnitude amounts to a military impossibility.” The general called, therefore, on every Texan to “clean his old musket, shot-gun, or rifle, run his bullets, fill his powder horn sharpen his knife, and see that his revolver is ready to his hand.” If the men responded to his call, he assured them, although the Texas coast might be invaded, the enemy would “never hold a foot of your soil -- never!” Despite such rhetoric, Hebert proved unpopular with Texas troops, who considered him aristocratic and imperious. Further, he did not win the approval of Governor Francis R. Lubbock, who considered him “somewhat bewildered by the magnitude of the task assigned him, and not to have matured … any definite line of policy.” Hebert was replaced, therefore, in 1862, by Gen. John B. Magruder. Thereafter he commanded the subdistrict of North Louisiana, where, in the words of Lt. Col. James Arthur Lyon Fremantle of Her Majesty's Coldstream Guard, he was “shelved at Monroe, where he expects to be taken prisoner any day.” His only combat experience came at the battle of Milliken's Bend, Louisiana, on June 7, 1863. After the war, Hebert once again became Louisiana state engineer and supervised construction of the Mississippi River levees. He was married to Cora Wills Vaughn on August 3, 1842; the couple had five children. After Cora's death, he married Penelope L. Andrews (1861), with whom he had five more children. He was active in Democratic politics until he died of cancer in New Orleans on August 29, 1880. He is buried near Bayou Goula, Louisiana. Hebert was the cousin of Gen. Louis Hebert, who commanded the infantry brigade of Gen. Benjamin McCulloch's Army of the West in Arkansas and Missouri.

Source: The preceding was compiled from *The Handbook of Texas Online*, www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online

## Appendix III

### Chronology of Events Impacting Dickinson's Roll during the Civil War

The following list of events which took place in Texas during the period of 1861 to 1862 serves as a guide to understanding the actions of the public and military leaders of Texas. The events in blue are felt to have had a more direct impact on the Galveston defense and Dickinson's roll.

**1861**

**January**

28 Approval of the State Legislature of a joint resolution authorizing the impending state convention to act for the people of Texas on the question of secession.

Ebenezar B. Nichols, one of Dickinson's earliest homeowners, was a delegate to the Secession Convention.

**February**

1 Approval of an ordinance of secession by the Secession Convention.

2 Committee ofjublic Safety directed to seize all Federal property in Texas.

Ebenezar B. Nichols was made the state commissioner to raise and disburse funds for the public safety, negotiate the surrender of Fort Brown and other forts, and handle ammunition and stores at Brownsville and Point Isabel. He later served on General Magruder's staff and as a financial agent for the Confederacy.

18 Surrender of U. S. Military posts in Texas by General David E. Twiggs.

**March**

4 Votes canvassed on secession ordinance: for secession, 46,129; against, 14,697.

7-31 Abandonment of forts by U. S. troops.

16 Administering the Confederate oath of office to state officials in the

23 Ratification of the permanent Constitution of the Confederate States by the Secession Convention.

**April**

5 A continuation of fort abandonment by the U. S. troops.

9 Adjournment of the called session of the legislature.

12 Fort Sumter fired upon.

21 Assumption of Military Command of Texas by Colonel Earl Van Dorn, C.S.A.

23 U. S. Army officers at San Antonio made prisoners of war; capture of 8th U. S. Infantry near San Antonio.

25 Surrender of U. S. forces at Indianola.



**May**

5-9 Capture of more U. S. troops near San Lucas Springs or Adams Hill, fifteen miles west of San Antonio. Also capture of Fort Arbuckle.

**June**

7 Organization in Virginia of the First Texas Infantry Regiment.

13 Organization of the Third Regiment, Texas Cavalry.

**July**

2 Blockading of Galveston initiated by the *U.S.S. South Carolina.*

4-12 Destruction and capture of twelve vessels off Galveston by the *U.S.S. South Carolina.*

8 Ordering of Brigadier General H. H. Sibley of Texas to expel U. S. troops from New Mexico.

**August**

3 Bombardment of Confederate batteries at Galveston by *U.S.S. South Carolina.*

14 Appointment of General Paul O. Hebert, Commander of all Confederate troops in Texas. He orders the defense of Galveston and the Texas Coast.

Appeals go out by the *Houston Telegraph*, the *Bellville Countryman* as well.

20 Bellville Executive Committee meets to fill vacancies and to conduct the business of mustering forces and securing aid and assistance. for the defense of Texas as well as Galveston.

**September**

6 Mustering of the Sixth Regiment of Texas Cavalry into service at Camp Bartow, Dallas County.

7 Capturing of the *Solidad Cos* off Galveston. Its cargo was coffee.

The Galveston blockaders captured the *Soledo of Tampico*. Crew & passengers were taken prisoners after refusing to take the oath to the U. S.

9 Mustering into service Terry's Texas Rangers at Houston.

18 Transferring the command of Confederate troops in Texas from General Van Dorn to General Hebert.

**October**

2 Col. John C. Moore, First Regiment of Texas Volunteers, C. S. Army is assigned commander of Galveston Island and its defenses.

Galveston Island, Virginia Point, adjacent bay coast, and the peninsula of Bolivar shall constitute one command known as the Military District of Galveston, Department of Texas.

Under the leadership of Col. J. E. Kirby, troops are being organized in Hempstead for the purpose of shoring up the Galveston defenses. The unit being organized will contain men from the surrounding Austin County area.

3 Capturing of the *Reindeer* off San Luis Pass by the *U.S.S. Sam Houston*.

5-8 Evacuation of Galveston during a four-day truce.

9 Col. Kirby's troops leave Hempstead headed towards the Galveston coast. They will establish a camp at Dickinson Bayou. The camp is later known as Camp Kirby. They are part of the First Brigade of Texas Volunteers under the command of Col. E. B. Nichols Regiment.

Their mission is the protection of the GH&H railroad at their location, and to patrol Dickinson Bayou on the alert for enemy intruders.

16 Storm at Galveston affected the health of some of the early arrivals of Col. Kirby's soldiers but not seriously. The camp at Dickinson Bayou is established shortly thereafter.

23 Company A of Col. Kirby's Battalion elects officers, with J. W. McDade chosen as Captain of the company.

27 Capturing of the brig *Delta* off Galveston by the *U.S.S. Santee*.

30 Another Company of Infantry for Col Kirby's Battalion is forming in Hempstead. Capt. Johnson is the commander of this company.

**November**

8 Capture of the Royal Yacht by Federal sailors in Bolivar Channel.

11 The forces stationed in the Military District of Galveston are now officially known as the First Brigade Texas Volunteers, Department of Texas.

12 Organization of the First, Fourth and Fifth Texas Infantry Regiments and the Eighteenth Georgia Regiment into a brigade.

14 Capt. Whitehead's Calvary company heads to Camp Kirby on Dickinson Bayou. Another three companies of Infantry is being readied and should be dispatched in a few days.

Col. Kirby prepares to address the people of Austin County concerning coast defense.

**December**

7 Col. E. B. Nichols is assigned as commander of the First Brigade of Texas Volunteers, replacing Col. John C. Moore.

21 Capt. McDade is authorized by General Hebert to increase his company from one hundred twenty to one hundred and fifty men. Recruits are coming in daily.

**1862**

**January**

6 Legislative appropriation of $5,000 to pay the cost of transporting all clothing or other contributions to Texans in the Confederate Service.

8 Contributions are made by the citizens of Austin County to the Hospital at Camp Kirby.

**February**

8 Capt. McDade's and Capt. Finney's companies are removed to quarters on Galveston Island.



11-13 Policing of Aransas Bay by Federal Navy.

Orders to Gen. Hebert to not accept troops into the Confederate service for less period than three years or the war, and if any such have been accepted at once to disband them.

22 Attack on Aransas Pass by U. S. Navy.

24 Abstract from morning report of the First Brigade of Texas Volunteers commanded by Col. E. B. Nichols, lists Kirby's Battalion Infantry with 250 men. This appears to be the right amount of men in Capt. McDade's and Capt. Finney's companies now on the island.

**April**

Six month enlistment term for many of the first soldiers in Kirby's battalion now nearing the end of their enlistment. Nichols' regiment mustered out of Confederate service on April 17.

**May**

14-15 U. S. Navy demonstrations at Galveston.

General P. O Hebert has issued an order, enjoining editors of newspapers from publishing any information in regards to the strength, movements and destinations of troops.

30 General Hebert declares martial law in Texas.

**July**

7-17 Increased patrol activity by U. S. Navy in San Luis Pass.

**September**

2 Enactment of new Confederate conscription law, raising the age limit to include all males from 18 to 45.

Repeal of martial law in Texas

**October**

5 Capture of Galveston by U. S. forces.

**November**

29 General J. B. Magruder assumes command of District of Texas

**December**

24 Occupation of Galveston by Federal forces.

## Appendix IV

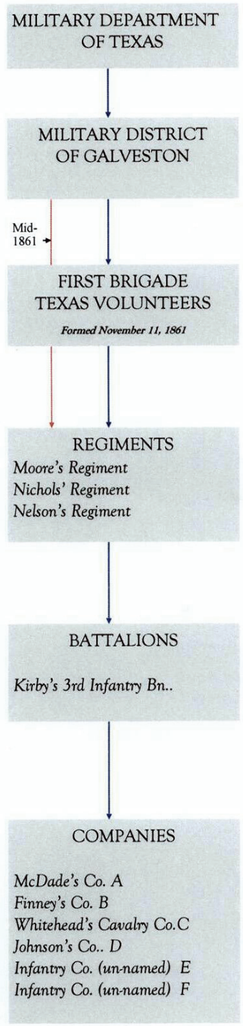
### Contributions to Hospital Camp Kirby

Mrs. S. Brewer — 1 mattress, 2 pillows and slips, 1 sheet, 1 quilt, 1 towel.
Mrs. E. M. Bell — 1 comfort, 1 sheet, 1 pillow and case, 1 pr socks, 1 towel.
Mrs. M. Harvey — 1 quilt
Mrs. S. A. Chappell — 1 mattress, 1 comfort, 1 pillow and case.
J. P. Shelbourn — 40 bushels of meal.
Mrs. M. J. Whittingham — 1 towel, 1 pr. Socks, 1 pr. Pillow cases, 1 sheet
Mrs. E. Bell — 1 quilt
Mrs D. Ward — 1 bolster
Mrs. M. Bell — 1 quilt, 2 pillow cases, 2 towels
Mrs. M. Fleak — 1 comfort, 1 sheet, 1 bolster case, 1 pillow and case.
Mrs. J. B. Minton — 1 quilt, 2 pillows, 2 pillow cases
Mrs. P. Bell — 1 comfort
Miss A. Bell — 1 comfort
Mrs. P. G. Crump — 1 bolster, 1 pr. Pillows, 1 pr. Blankets, 1 comfort
Mrs. E. Oliver — 2 comforts
Mrs. E. Duncan — 2 pr socks
Mrs. M. Oliver — 10 doz. eggs.
Mrs. M. Johnson — 6 pr. Socks, 1 comfort.
Miss. M. Johnson — 1 pr. Socks, 1 comfort.
Mrs. O'Bryant — 4 chickens, 2 dozen eggs.

W. R. Young



## Organization of Confederate Army in Texas Mid 1861-1862




The Confederate States Army was divided into geographic military districts whose boundaries changed and were reorganized as the war progressed. Normally each military district of the CSA maintained a standing army. Galveston Island, Virginia Point, adjacent bay coast, and the peninsula of Bolivar constituted the Military District of Galveston. Col. John C. Moore commanded as of 2 Oct. 1861. Col. E. B. Nichols commanded as of 7 Dec. 1861.

Two to Five regiments formed a brigade which amounted to 2,000 to 5,000 soldiers. The Brigade was not organized until 11 Nov. 1861, commanded by Col. Nichols. Colonel Nichols was both the commander of the 9th Texas Infantry as well as the Brigade at the same time. (also referred to as Nichols' Brigade.)

Usually ten companies (about 1000 soldiers) were formed into a regiment commanded by a colonel. Moore's Regiment was known as the 2nd Texas Confederate Infantry Regiment and reported to Gen. Van Dorn in Arkansas in March, 1862. Nichols' Regiment was known as the 9th Texas Confederate Infantry Regiment. Originally a six month volunteer regiment, it was mustered out of the Confederate service April 17, 1862. Nelson's l0th Texas Confederate Infantry Regiment assigned to Brigade Feb.-Mar 1862.

Composed of two or more (but usually five) companies (200 to 600 soldiers). Battalions are smaller than regiments. Many volunteer forces remained battalions throughout the war and did reach regimental strength. Kirby's Battalion was assigned to the First Brigade. It was mustered into Confederate service around October 1861 and mustered out around April 1862

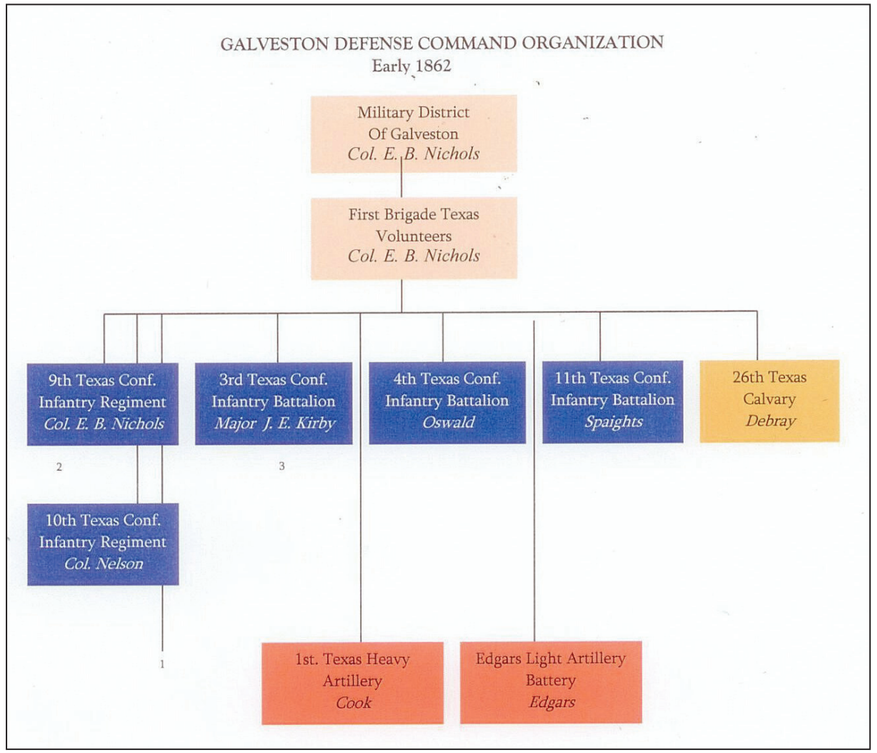
Companies were raised locally and contained about 115 soldiers. (McDade's was authorized 150). They were commanded by a captain. They were distinguished by assigned a single letter designation A thru K Many often also had names based on the location where the unit was formed, a local hero, or named after the commanding officer.

Sources: Simpson, Harold B., and Wright, Marcus J.: Texas In The Wan ed.. Simpson. Hillsboro: Hill Junior College Press. 1965. xviii.

Parks, Michael S. (Department of Decision and Information Services) of the University of Houston; web site: www.cba.uh.edu/parks/tex/texrebl.html.

Figure 1. Organization of Confederate Army in Texas 1861-1862

**Galveston Defense Command Organization**
**Early 1862**




1. Col. J. C. Moore's 2nd Texas Confederate Infantry Regiment was mustered into service July 1861. It is not shown as it was assigned to the Military Department Of Texas February 1862, and deployed to Arkansas March, 1862.

2. Col. Nichols briefly commanded both the 9th Texas Confederate Infantry Regiment and the First Brigade at the same time. This unit was mustered in Aug. 1861 and mustered out April 1862.

3. Major Kirby's 3rd Texas Confederate Infantry Battalion was mustered in October 1861 and mustered out about April 1862.

Figure 2. Organization of Confederate Army in Texas 1861-1862



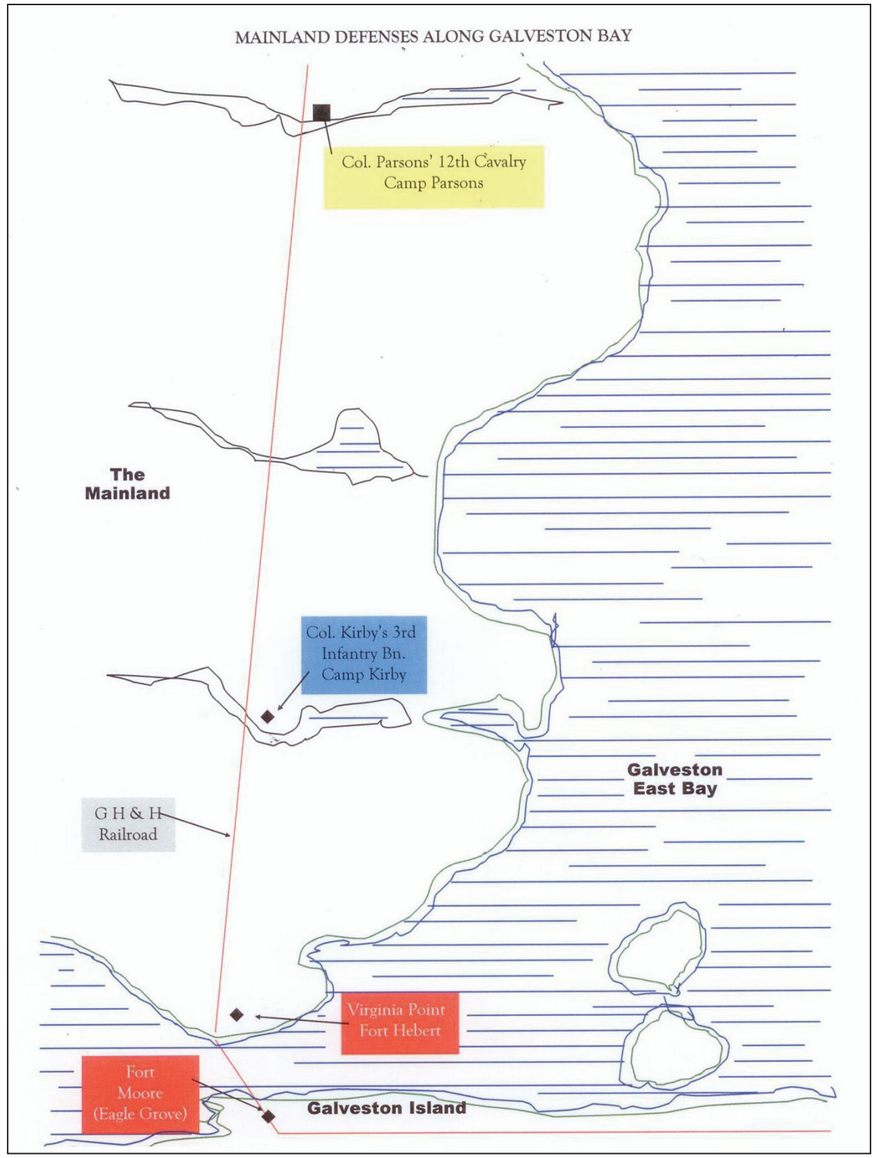



Figure 3. Diagram Mainland Defense Along Galveston Bay

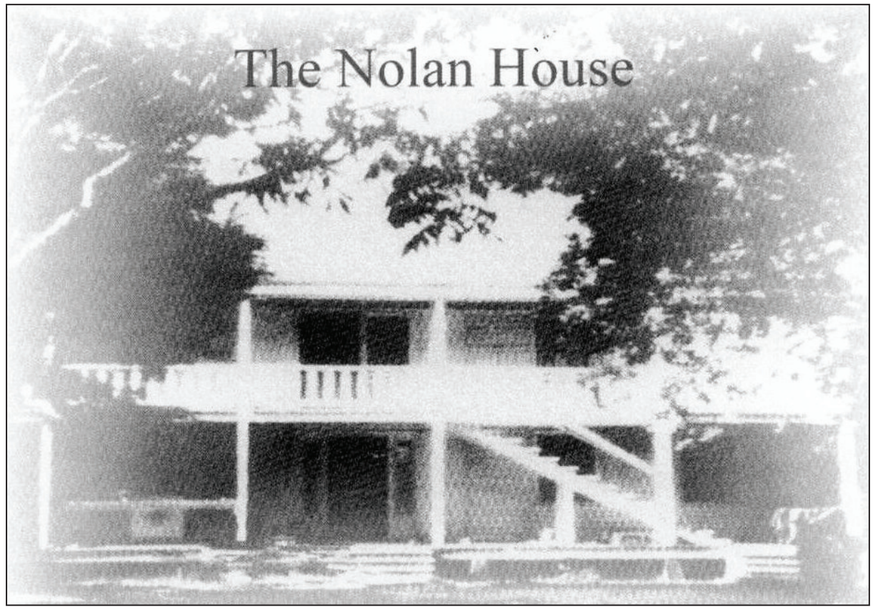



Figure 4. The Nolan House was used as a hospital for Camp Kirby. (Photo: Hudson, Jim. *Dickinson: Taller than the Pines* (Burnet, TX: Nortex Press, 1979)



## Footnotes

INTRODUCTION

[1] U. S. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion, A Compilation of the Official Records of Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Chapter XI*, 225-226.

TEXANS TO THE RESCUE

[1] U. S. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion, A Compilation of the Official Records of Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Military Facilities in Texas 1861-1865*, 23.

[2] Wooster, Ralph A., *Lone Star Blue and Gray. Essays on Texas in the Civil War* (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1995), 49.

[3] Ibid, 50-51.

[4]Ibid, 51.

[5]Ibid, 56.

[6]U.S. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion, A Compilation of the Official Records of Union and Confederate Armies, Series . Chapter XXI*, 699.

[7]Ibid, Chapter XI, 112.

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[1] U. S. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion, A Compilation of the Official Records of Union and Confederate Armies, Series* .

[2]Ibid, 138.

[3]Ibid, 113.

[4]Hudson, Jim. *Dickinson: Taller than the Pines (*Burnet, TX: Nortex Press, 1979), 53.

[5]Anderson, John Q, ed. *Campaigning With Parson's Texas Calvary Brigade, CSA, The War Journals And Letters Of The Four Orr Brothers* (Hillsboro, Texas: The Hill Junior College Press, 1998), 14.

KIRBY'S 3RD INFANTRY BATTALION DEPLOYS

[1]*Bellville Countryman*, October 16, 1861.

[2]Ibid, October 30, 1861.

[3] Ibid, December 18, 1861.

[4]Wright, Marcus J. *Texas In The War 1861-1865.* Harold B. Simpson, ed. (Hillsboro, Texas: Hill Junior College Press, 1965).

LIFE OF THE SOLDIER

[1]Bellville Countryman, January 1, 1865.

[2]Ibid, December 8, 1861.

[3]Anderson, John Q., ed. *Campaigning With Parson's Texas Calvary Brigade, CSA, The War Journals And Letters Of The Four Orr Brothers* (Hillsboro, Texas: The Hill Junior College Press, 1998), 14.

[4]*Bellville Countryman*, December 21, 1861.

[5]Ibid, January 15, 1862.

[6] Ibid, December 8, 1861.

[7]Ibid, December 21, 1861.

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[1]*Bellville Countryman*, January 15, 1862.

[2] Hewett, Janet; Joyce Lawrence. *Texas Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865* (Wilmington N.C.: Broadfoot Publishing Co., 1997).

[3]Hudson, Jim. *Dickinson, Taller Than the Pines* (Burnet, Texas: Nortex Press, 1979), 39.

[4]U. S. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion, A Compilation of the Official Records of Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Military Facilities in Texas 1861-1865*, 45.

CHANGE IN COASTAL DEFENSE STRATEGY

[1]Cotham, Edward T. Jr. *Battle On The Bay: The Civil War Struggle For Galveston* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1998), 53.

[2]U.S. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion, A Compilation of the Official Records of Union and Confederate Armies, Series . Chapter XXI*, 700.

[3]*Bellville Countryman*, February 8, 1862.

[4]U.S. Naval War Records Office. *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, Series I, D. G. F.arragut to Captain H.Eagle, USS Harryford, South West Pass, March 12.* 1862m 18:60.

[5] U. S. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion, A Compilation of the Official Records of Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Chapter XI*, 154.

HOME AGAIN

[1]*Bellville Countryman*, May 14, 1862.



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NEWSPAPERS

*Bellville Countryman*, Bellville, Texas.
*Houston Telegraph,* Houston, Texas.

# A "BUTTED KNIFE" BIFACE FROM SITE 41CM221, COMAL, COUNTY, TEXAS

*Michael S. Woods*

## Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to describe a Butted Knife Biface from site 41CM221, Comal, County, Texas, contribute to the Archeological information of Comal County, and discuss a still disputed point of contention with this lithic artifact class from a potential site-specific activity.

The author would also like to explore the idea of what areas of Texas this artifact was utilized and possibly confined to for some possible reasons and potentially link it with certain site-specific activities.

## Previous Investigations at Site

There seem to be numerous sites recorded around this particular site, 41CM221, (41CM 175, 41CM184, 41CM205, 41CM176, etc.Texas Site Atlas per State archeological steward). To help give some time frame of this particular artifact, the Butted Knife Biface, the age will be based on specific site testing of the site 41CM221 since it is the one most near where the artifact was located on a surface survey.

The testing at this particular site, 41CM221, revealed that the time period represented was from the Early Archaic, the Late Archaic, and finally the Late to Transitional Archaic periods identified by dart point types and other tool types located which per the site report "were identified in good geologic context" (41CM221 Texas Site Atlas per State archeological steward). This particular time period coincides well with the time periods identified by Turner and Hester (1985,1993,1999) as being "late Archaic" for the artifact.

It is interesting to note that none of the previously referenced site reports mentioned locating a Butted Knife Biface from the other adjacent sites previously mentioned. However, not all of the adjacent sites were checked for artifacts found at the remainder of the nearby sites.

## Description of the Artifact

"These generally oblong or pear-shaped artifacts are often called "fist axes" or "carcass cleavers." Specimens have a rounded natural cobble surface on one end (providing the handgrip); the opposite end is pointed, with a worked edge that often exhibits extensive, glossy polish, perhaps from cutting meat or soft plants. They seem ideally fitted for butchering tools; the ends are too thin and delicate for heavy chopping."(Turner and Hester, 1985, 1993,1999). It is interesting to note here that this artifact is not described in one of the early, initial guides to artifact identification, the classic, Handbook of Texas Archeology: Type Descriptions (Suhm and Jelks, 1962).


*Figure 1: Butted Knife Biface, Obverse Face.*


*Figure 2: Reverse Picture of Artifact.*

See Figure 1 and Figure 2 for a picture of the artifact (Figure 1 – Obverse and Figure 2 – Reverse). Also see Table 1 with the measurements of the artifact being described as well. Note that the specific measurement guidelines are those used by Priour (1987) so that this specific tool could be compared to those in the study and survey he performed. The tool stone appears to be that of Edwards chert since under UV light the stone fluoresces a deep orange-yellow color which is typical of Edwards chert.

**Discussion and Observations**

During the author's research about this particular artifact in Texas literature there was a particularly interesting survey paper written in an attempt to define the distribution around Texas and an effort to differentiate what appears to be two different varieties that were being reported in a survey of the artifact type (Priour 1987). The two different varieties that Priour (1987) was reporting were what he classified as "classic or narrow angled" butted biface which was classed as having a "delicate edge" on the distal end, and the "nonclassical or wide angled" butted biface as exhibiting a wide angled bit and wider flaked edge on the distal end of the artifact. Utilizing Priour's definition and classification mentioned, the particular artifact

| **Table 1: Site 41CM221 - Butted Knife Biface Dimensions** | |
|---|---|
| Artifact Length - Total (mm) | 104.1 |
| Width - (At Widest Part of Artifact) (mm) | 68 |
| Blade Length (Obverse Surface) (mm) | 77.5 |
| *(Measured from where cortex stops to distal apex of blade Obverse surface)* | |
| Blade Length (Reverse Surface) (mm) | 84.97 |
| *(Measured from where cortex stops to distal apex of blade Reverse surface)* | |
| Widest Point of Proximal End (mm) | 68 |
| Widest Point of Distal End (mm) | 41.9 |
| Width 3 cm From Distal Apex (mm) | 43.06 |
| Width 6 cm From the Distal Apex (mm) | 54.91 |
| Weight (gm) | 196.6 |
| Blade Angle at Distal Apex | Not Sure |
| Material | Edwards Chert |
| Polish | Yes |
| Specimen Type | Classical - Recurved |
| Association With Burned Rock Midden | Unknown |
| | |
| *Note: Some of the dimensions and other traits noted were from Priour 1987 Survey* | |
| *(See Definition of Dimensions Utilized in Reference by Priour 1987 Survey)* | |



being reported from site 41CM221 would be classified as a "classic" butted biface.

It appears from some of the very initial descriptions of this artifact there was conflict in classification which was based on the potential use of the artifact and it was being named in the literature as "fist axe, hand axe, carcass clever, and Kerrville knife among others (Hester 1985; Pearce and Jackson 1933; Sollberger 1968; Sorrow 1968). Unfortunately, the "classification" of these artifacts based on what their potential functional use actually was, began to be questioned upon further investigations and closer observations with new insights by those like J.B. Sollberger (1968) and Sorrow (1968). Further investigations with the use of experimental Archeology utilizing modern day flint knapped tools used to scrape wet animal hides, dried animal hides, cutting meat, scraping and cutting antler, wood, grasses and other objects were then observed under high magnification and then compared to excavated and curated tools for comparison of the damage to working surfaces (Keeley, 1977, 1980; Keeley and Newcomer 1977; Keeley and Toth 1981). Another, more recent reference for edge wear research is Olausson (1990). This utilization of experimental Archeological methods began to give researchers a much better idea of what the artifact may or may not have actually been utilized for.

The discussion about how the artifact was utilized is still being disputed. In the Priour survey (1987), he was attempting to determine how many of the reported artifacts were associated with burned rock middens which could potentially link them with the activities associated with the procurement and cooking of certain plant materials in the large middens. From his survey 47 of the 60 Butted Knife Bifaces (78.3%) were reported found at sites which a burned rock midden was also present. This high percentage in association with burned rock middens leads to the suggestion that they may have been utilized in conjunction with the cooking activities around those burned rock features. The Priour survey (1987) also reported that on 28 of the 44 (63.6%) artifacts reported on the surveys indicated "polish" present indicating some form of use-wear on the distal end of the "Classical" form versus no polish indicated on the "Nonclassical" form.

In another Archaic site report, the Gatlin Site (Houk 2008), reported a total 14 Butted Knife Bifaces or Backed Bifaces. One of the artifacts "The distal edge is battered with a large (23x28 mm) flake having removed a segment of the bit. The distal edge damage is consistent with impact, suggesting that the tool was used against a hard material (Houk, 2008: 8-5). The second Butted Biface from this particular level had damage and interpretation as follows: "The possible use-wear at the distal end has irregular patterned flake scarring which terminates in shallow hinge terminations that are consistent with impact. Flake scars at the proximal butted end suggest a possible use of the specimen as a wedge, with poll end as the striking surface" (Houk 2008: 8-5). The summary for this artifact at this particular site indicated "Biface production increases from the Early Archaic (OZ1 – Occupation Zone 1) to the Middle/Late Archaic (OZ4 – Occupation Zone 4) in the deposits closest to the midden" (Houk 2008: Appendix C – 67). From this site report it is observed that this artifact type can possibly have multiple uses from a cutting/sawing use to potentially a wedge.

One last example of potential usage of this Butted Knife Biface by association from a site was at the excavation of the Zatopec Site in San Marcos, Texas (Garber1987). During this excavation they were able to define several specific activity areas one of which was a butchering area defined by "some bone material recovered" (Garber 1987:26), and very close to or in the butchering area was found several scrapers and butted knives among other tools use for butchering. However, there was no use-wear studies reported on these artifacts mentioned in this paper. It is of interest to note that there were five burned rock midden features located and excavated at this site as well.

The artifact being reported and examined may have had some evidence of "polish" on one or both surfaces upon initial examination with a handheld magnifying glass (strength unknown). However, the author is no expert on use wear. After inspection of the artifact with a Dino-Lite Digital Microscope (model Pro – AM4111T – 1.3 MP) it was quite obvious that the Butted Knife had use-wear polish on both the obverse and reverse faces in various locations. See Figures 3 through 6 of notable areas as seen by the digital micro-

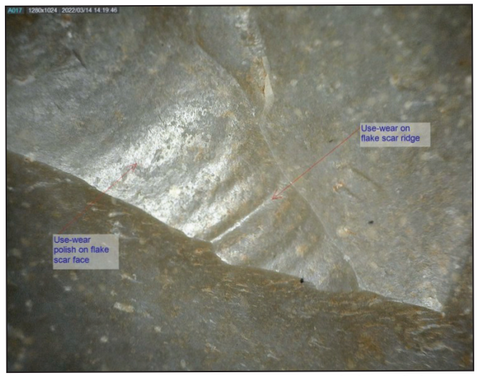


*Figure 3: Obverse Face with use-wear polish on flake scar and use-wear on flake scar ridge.*


*Figure 4: Obverse Face with polish on distal bit end.*

*Figure 5: Reverse Face distal apex of bit showing polish, hinge and step fractures on apex.*

*Figure 6: Reverse Face showing polish on flake scar ridge.*

scope. It cannot be determined what type use-wear this is, but it is very interesting to note that it is present on the artifact.

## Conclusions

Some interesting commonalities with the Butted Knife Biface from site to site and location in Texas counties, which may help in understanding their use or function is that the majority of these artifacts seem to have been located or reported in Priour's survey from sites in the "Central Texas Prehistoric Culture Region" as defined by Prewitt (1981), many of the reported specimens appear in sites with age ranges from Late/Early Archaic through the Late Archaic time frame, and all appear to be associated with burned rock midden sites which may be another indicator for their use.

As one can see, there are problems with naming an artifact with what it appears to be used for versus more of a description of the artifact. Apparent use of the artifact from use-wear appears, at least at this point in time, a much better indicator of what this artifact was actually utilized for. Another way of stating this is "does form follow function" (Olausson 1990:11). The utilization of experimental Archeology in conjunction with some form of experimental reference collection (Olausson 1990:7) will help a great deal in understanding how these and other artifacts were actually utilized.

## Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Louis Aulbach, HAS member, friend, mentor, and Archeological Steward for reviewing this paper for publication. The author will take any suggestions and/or corrections relating to the information contained in the paper. I would also like to thank the Houston Archeological Society for the use of their Dino-Lite Digital Microscope to inspect this artifact for potential use-wear reported in this paper.



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