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LITHIC ANALYSIS OF SITE 41CD70, COLORADO COUNTY, TEXAS

L. W. Patterson

INTRODUCTION

Archeological site 41CD70 in Colorado County, Texas was found during survey work by the Houston Archeological Society. The field team that surveyed this site consisted of Texas Anderson, Dave Atherton, Bernard Naman and the author. The importance of this site is in the lithic materials found on the eroded surface, which demonstrate areas of quarrying and biface manufacturing activities. Data obtained from this site are typical of these types of activities, and the types of analytical methods presented here are generally useful for lithic manufacturing activity analysis on archeological sites.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Site 41CD70 is located on a high terrace overlooking a tributary of the Colorado River, in a generally wooded area. The location would have been an ideal one for a hunting and gathering type campsite. Artifacts found on the surface of this site appear to be from the preceramic Archaic period. The only artifact found with possible diagnostic value for chronology was a dart point stem, similar to the Godley Type.

This survey did not define the entire area of this site, but two separate lithic manufacturing activity areas were located in eroded areas. The land is presently in use as a cattle ranch. Lithic raw materials occur here naturally, in the form of chert cobbles.

Continued on page 2

LITHIC ANALYSIS

Location "A" on this site is approximately 50 feet in diameter, and contains lithic materials indicative of the manufacture of bifacial dart points. Lithic materials found here included: 73 chert flakes, 1 biface fragment, 1 expanding dart point stem, 1 dart point bifacial preform, 3 split cobbles, 4 miscellaneous cores, 22 broken chert pieces and 1 denticulate flake tool. There was evidence of heat treating in the form of potlid fractures on some chert flakes.

Figure 1 gives a graph of flake size distribution for Location "A". The curve is an exponential form, skewed toward higher percentages of smaller size flakes. It can be demonstrated experimentally (Patterson 1977, Patterson and Sollberger 1978) that this flake size distribution pattern is typical of bifacial reduction activities. This is consistent with the general nature of lithic materials found here, such as unfinished bifaces. This analytical technique is useful to demonstrate biface manufacturing activities on a site, especially when biface specimens have not been found.

Location "B" on this site is somewhat over 100 feet in diameter and contains a large number of naturally occuring chert cobbles. Chipped stone materials at this location are indicative of lithic quarrying activities. Materials found here included: 7 miscellaneous cores, 28 chert flakes, 4 split cobbles, 7 broken chert pieces, 1 quartzite hammerstone, 1 denticulate flake tool and 1 utilized flake. Figure 1 also shows a graph of flake size distribution for Location "B". This curve has a random flake size distribution pattern typical of primary quarry operations, before patterned manufacturing activities. All of the lithic materials found at this location are typical of what would be expected in a primary quarry area, including a high percentage of fairly large flakes.

The utilized flake tools found in both Locations "A" and "B" possibly indicate that these areas were also used for other activities, perhaps woodworking in the case of the denticulate tools.

SUMMARY

This site is probably a hunting and gathering type campsite used during the Archaic period by nomadic Indians. This is additional data for the overall archeological survey of this region. Materials found here have been particularly useful in demonstrating specific types of lithic manufacturing activities. It is not common for archeologists to analyze flake size distribution patterns, and it is hoped that this important analytical method will be used more in the future.

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Patterson, L.W.
1977 Comments on Bifacial Flaking Debitage. Texas Archeology, 21(3):10-12

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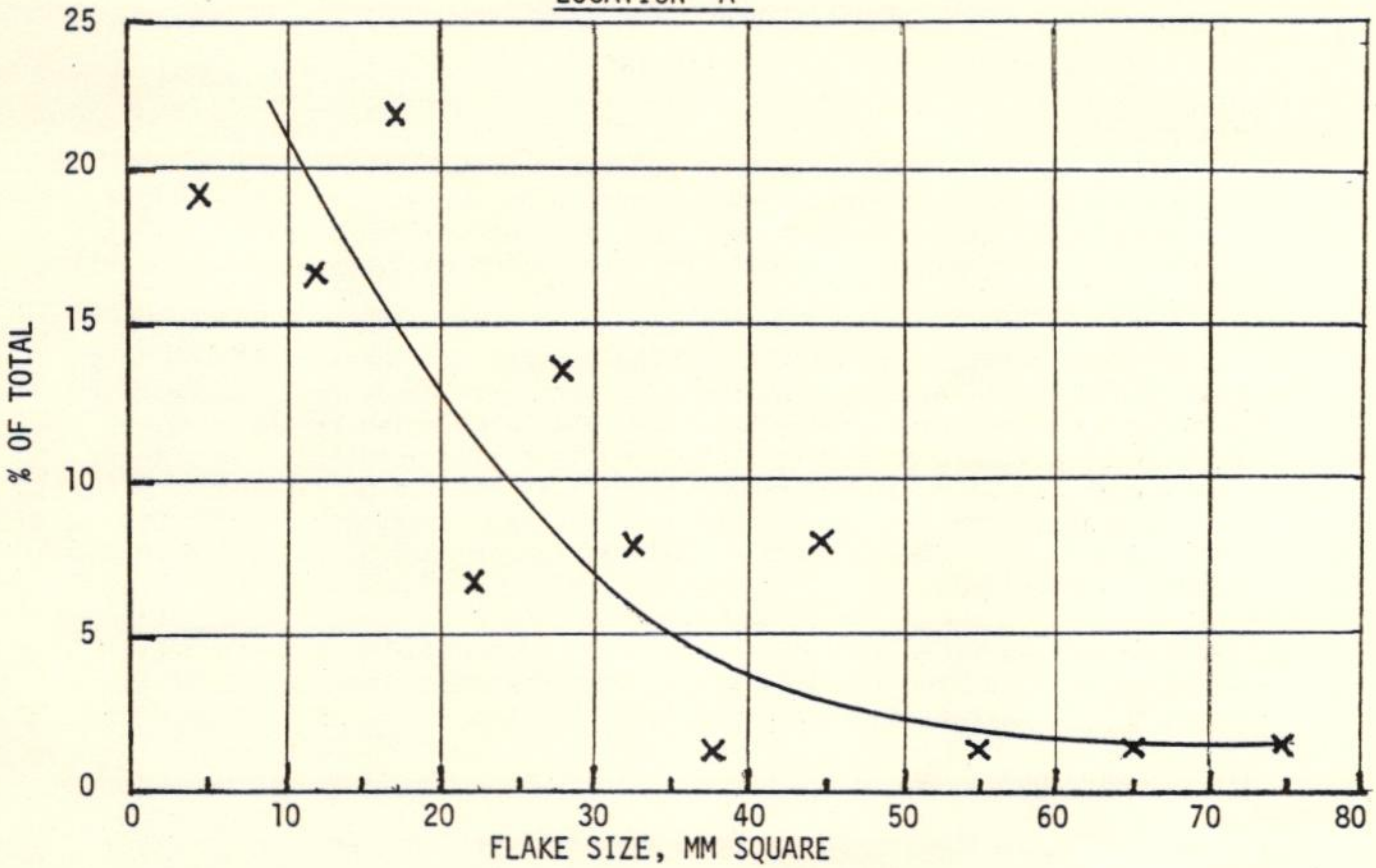
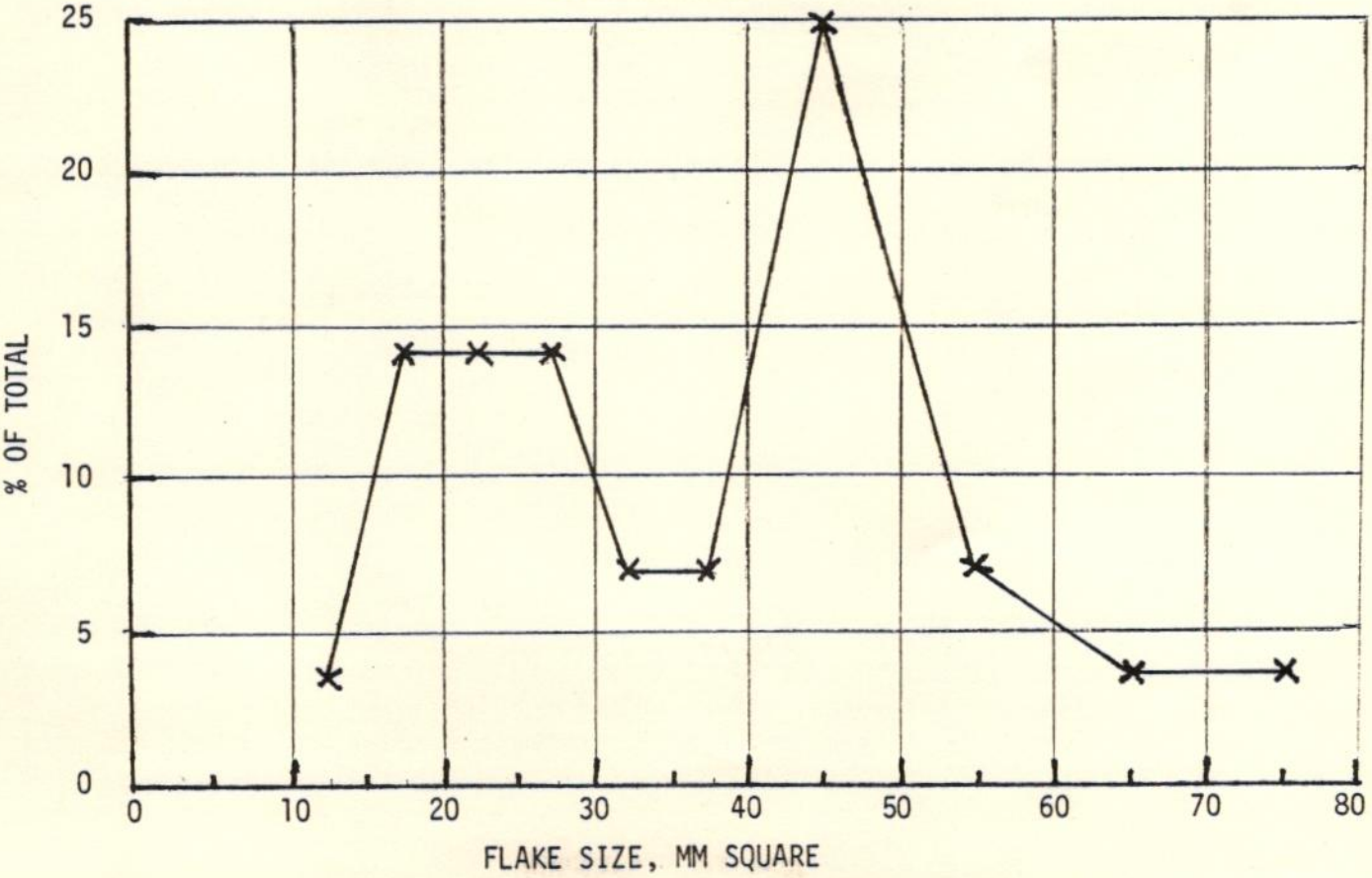
1978 Replication and Classification of Small Size Lithic Debitage. Plains Anthropologist, 23(80):103-112

FIGURE I
FLAKE SIZE DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS, 41CD70

LOCATION "A"



LOCATION "B"



SITE 41WH19, A LONG OCCUPATION PERIOD IN WHARTON CO., TEXAS

L. W. Patterson and Joe Hudgins

INTRODUCTION

In making archeological surveys of Wharton County, Texas, Joe Hudgins discovered and reported site 41WH19. Additional surface surveys and test excavations were then done by members of the Houston Archeological Society in 1980. This article is a summary of information obtained to-date on this site.

This is a significant prehistoric archeological site because of the long occupation sequence indicated by types of artifacts recovered. Occupations at this site span a time period from the Late Paleoindian to the Late Prehistoric, possibly greater than a 7,000 year time interval. The amount of data that can be recovered from this site is limited because much of this site has eroded into an adjacent stream. However, analysis of artifacts recovered has still given important information on chronology and occupation patterns in this area.

Participants in field work here have been: Joe Hudgins, Bill Hudgins, Lee Patterson, Sheldon Kindall, Dick Gregg, Dave Atherton, Jean Clark, Terri Alford, Mike Johnston, and Suzanne Wilson.

SITE DESCRIPTION

This site is located on a high bank above the West Bernard River. Many archeological sites in this area are located on high ground, which would have been a definite advantage in this flood prone area. This is a generally wooded area, with adjacent open prairie to the east, forming a local change in ecological zones. This site is located on a scouring bank of the river, and much of the site is completely eroded. Few artifacts have been recovered from test pits on the remaining undisturbed high ground. The original site area appears to have been well over 200 feet in diameter.

The undistrubed portion of this site is on a deep sand fill with an underlying clay/sand stratum. The deep sand surface may be indicative of heavy flooding episodes in later prehistoric time.

Site 41WH19 appears to be a seasonal hunting and gathering type campsite, consistent with other prehistoric sites in this area. The long occupation sequence shown by this individual site is consistent with a number of other sites on the upper Texas coastal plain, such as 41HR315 in Harris County (Patterson 1980). No complete explanation is available on why such sites having fairly limited areas would have been reused for very long time periods.

PROJECTILE POINT CHRONOLOGY

An overall description of the chronology of this site can be given, based on the diagnostic values of projectile point types and ceramics. The earliest artifacts are three Plainview projectile points (Figs. 1-A,B,C) with well ground basal edges. These are Late Paleoindian points (Suhm and Jelks 1962:239) from a time period of approximately 8,000 to 5,000 BC

(Johnson and Holliday 1980), although not precisely dated on the Texas coast. The next time period indicated is the Early Archaic of roughly 5,000 to 3,000 BC (Patterson 1979). This period is represented by San Patrice points (Figs. 1-E to H) of the st. johns and goodwin varieties (Webb, et. al. 1971).

The Middle Archaic period of approximately 3,000 to 1,500 BC is possibly represented here by various projectile point types, such as Bulverde, Nolan, Travis, Williams, Pedernales, and large size Gary. Some of these point types probably continue into the Late Archaic period of approximately 1,500 BC to AD 100, based on data from the upper Texas coast (Patterson 1979) and other adjacent regions. Projectile points at this site typical of the Late Archaic include Fairland, Darl, Gary, Palmillas, and Kent. All point types discussed here have been described by Suhm and Jelks (1962). The next time period is the Woodland, from approximately AD 100 to 600, with the use of pottery being introduced at the start of this period (Aten, et. al.:Fig. 16). Projectile point types are similar in this period to the preceding Late Archaic period.

All of the projectile point types discussed above are spear points. Small standardized bifacial arrow points become predominant with the start of the Late Prehistoric at approximately AD 600 (Aten 1971:Fig. 10). This site has Perdiz and Scallorn arrow point types (Figure 3). Two unifacial points (Fig. 5-L,M) may represent earlier use of the bow and arrow, as has been shown in Harris County (Patterson 1980). The bow and arrow probably did not totally replace use of spears here, based on data from Harris County.

CERAMICS

Several types of pottery are found in the surface collection from this site. See Suhm and Jelks (1962) and Aten, et. al. (1976) for more complete descriptions of these pottery types. Goose Creek Plain sandy paste pottery constitutes the largest portion of the collection, with 83 body sherds, 3 plain rim sherds, and 1 rim sherd with small notches. Thicknesses ranged from 5 to 9 mm. This pottery type was used throughout the Woodland and Late Prehistoric periods. Ten body sherds of Conway type pottery were found, with very coarse sand temper, and thicknesses of 5 to 7 mm. This is possibly an early ceramic type here (Aten, et. al. 1976). Five body sherds of bone tempered pottery were also found, with thicknesses of 5 to 7 mm.

Rockport type pottery was also found on this site. This is a Late Prehistoric type pottery, with possible connections with the historic Karankawa Indians. This pottery is better fired, harder, thinner and smoother than other pottery types found on this site. Cores are usually darker than the surfaces. Eleven body sherds of Rockport Plain were found, with thicknesses of 3 to 5 mm. There are 8 body sherds of Rockport Black on Grey asphalt decorated pottery. Seven of these sherds are exterior decorated with straight bands, splotches and zigzag lines of asphalt. One sherd is interior lined with asphalt.

TEST EXCAVATIONS

A total of three test excavation pits were dug on the high undisturbed terrace of ths site. Two of these pits were abandoned as unproductive. Test Pit 3 was carried to a depth of 240 cm (7.9 feet). An unproductive sandy fill was encountered to a depth of 90 cm. Table 1 summarizes

materials recovered from 90 to 240 cm excavation levels. Pottery was recovered to a depth of 140 cm. A geological change to a hard red sand stratum was encountered at 226 cm. It appears that there is a 90 cm deposit of fairly modern sandy fill, with 50 cm depth of ceramic period archeological materials under this, and at least 100 cm of preceramic levels further below. The test pits on the undisturbed upper terrace possibly demonstrate that most of this site has already been eroded into the adjacent stream.

Two other test pits were dug vertically into the steep bank of this site to test for artifact content at a level of approximately 90 to 100 cm. Only a few chert flakes, fired clay balls and 1 Goose Creek Plain potsherd were recovered.

GENERAL LITHIC TECHNOLOGY

Table 2 is a summary of miscellaneous lithic artifacts recovered in surface collecting. The snub nosed end scrapers may relate to the Late Paleoindian component of this site, as this is a typical Paleoindian type of artifact. The stemmed scrapers are similar to those illustrated by Webb, et. al. (1971, Fig. 10d) for a San Patrice site in Louisiana. There is a large variety of bifacial preforms for manufacturing projectile points, which was a major activity at this site. Some lithic artifacts are shown in Figures 3 to 5.

A total of 20 prismatic blades were found, in two width groups. Fifteen small blades had a width range of 10 to 15 mm, and could be associated with a small blade manufacturing industry such as is commonly found on the upper Texas coast. Five other blades had widths of 18 to 25 mm and are probably fortuitous occurences.

A total of 473 miscellaneous chert flakes were recovered, as shown in Table 3. This flake size distribution is biased towards large size flakes, because of the difficulties in recovering small size flakes at this site. Many flakes have indications of heat treating, in the form of "potlid" surface fractures and reddish discolorations. There were 6% primary flakes (covered with cortex), 31% secondary flakes (partially covered with cortex), and 63% interior flakes (no remaining cortex). The low percentage of primary flakes may indicate that much of the lithic raw materials were brought to this site in a prepared state.

Other indications of lithic manufacturing here include 56 miscellaneous chert cores and 3 discoidal bifacial cores. Chert types are mainly those common to the Colorado River area. Two large chert cobbles and one large quartzite cobble were also found.

OTHER MATERIALS

The surface collection includes 44 fired clayballs of 20 to 50 mm diameters, possibly connected with cooking activities. Eleven large fired clay pieces of 50 to 100 mm diameters were also found. Three of these pieces have round impressions, possibly from wood poles, but no exact explanation can be made for this.

Some faunal materials were found by surface collection, and have been identified by Bill McClure as a mixture of fossilized and modern bone.

SUMMARY

Site 41WH19 represents a prehistoric campsite with a long occupation sequenece, with both preceramic and post-ceramic periods being well represented. It should be noted that surveys by Hudgins have now recovered significant amounts of materials from the Late Paleoindian and Early Archaic periods in Wharton County.

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1976 Excavations at the Harris County Boys-School Cemetery. Texas Archeological Society Special Publication No. 3

Johnson, E. and V.T. Holliday
1980 A Plainview Kill/Butchering Locale on the Llano Estacado - The Lubbock Lake Site. Plains Anthropologist 25(88):89-111

Patterson, L.W.
1979 A Review of the Prehistory of the Upper Texas Coast. Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society 50:103-123
1980 The Owen Site, 41HR315: A Long Occupation Sequence in Harris County, Texas. Houston Archeological Society Report No. 3

Suhm, D.A. and E.B. Jelks
1962 Handbook of Texas Archeology: Type Descriptions. Texas Archeological Society Special Publication No. 1

Webb, C.H., et. al.
1971 The John Pearce Site (16CD56): A San Patrice Site in Caddo Parish, Louisiana. Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society 42:1-49

TABLE I
TEST PIT 3 SUMMARY

EXCAVATION LEVEL, CM	POTSHERDS GOOSE CREEK	POTSHERDS CONWAY	FIRED CLAY BALLS	CHERT PEBBLES	CHERT FLAKES
90 to 100	1	-	2	-	6
100 to 110	-	-	-	-	1
110 to 120	6	1	5	-	12
120 to 140	3	-	8	-	6
140 to 160	-	-	7	-	4
160 to 180	-	-	7	-	5
180 to 200	-	-	-	13	3
200 to 220	-	-	17	57	4
200 to 240	-	-	-	23	8

TABLE 2
MISCELLANEOUS LITHIC ARTIFACTS

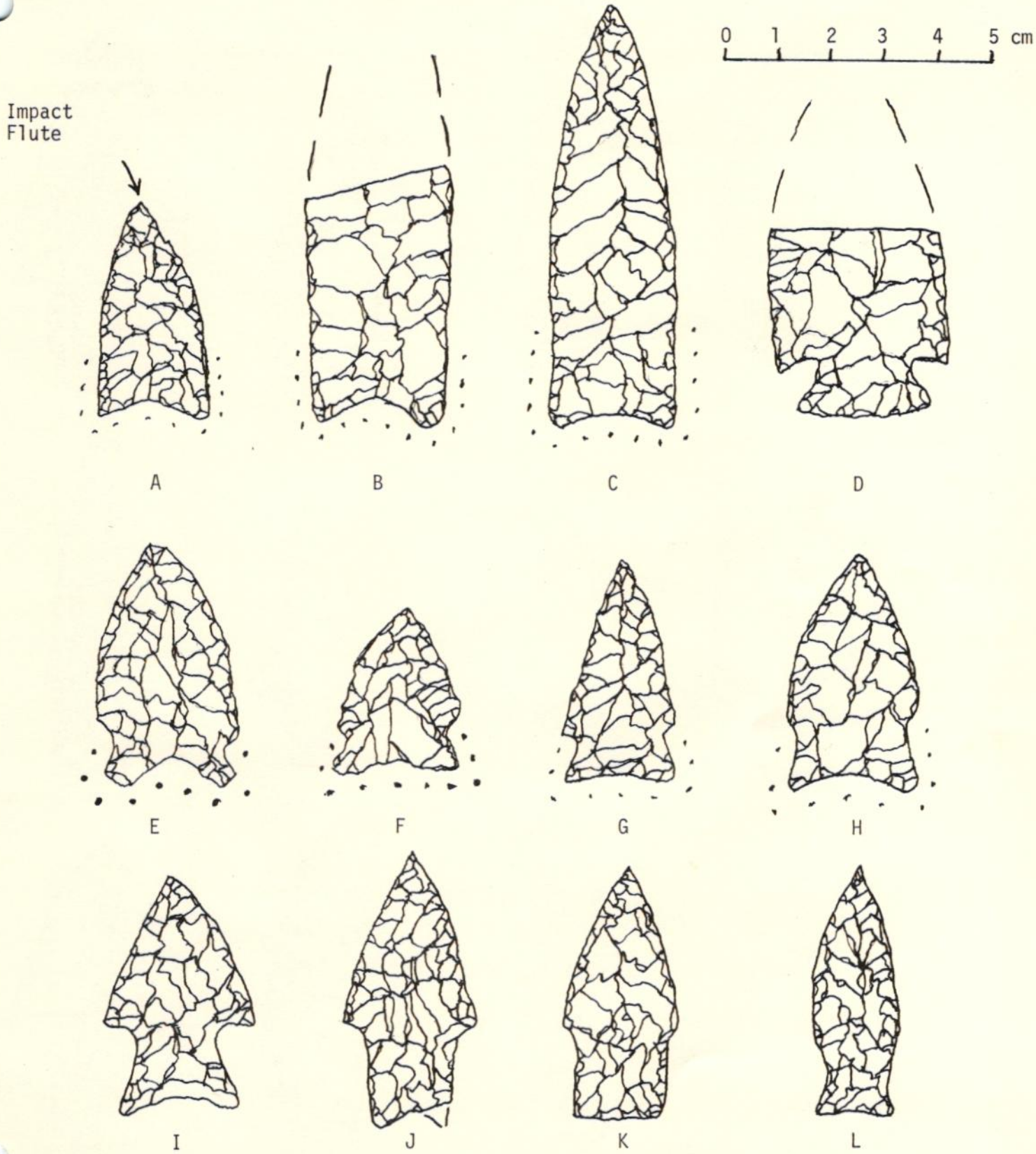
Side scrapers	6
Combination side scraper/graver	1
Combination perforator/side scraper	1
Denticulate tool	1
Gravers	4
Small bifacial tool	1
Stub nosed end scrapers	5
Perforator	1
Stemmed prismatic blade	1
Bifacial drills	2
Misc. bifaces	4
Stemmed scrapers	2
Bifacial preform	31

TABLE 3
FLAKE SIZE DISTRIBUTION

Size, mm square	No.	%
10 to 15	11	2.3
15 to 20	62	13.1
20 to 25	100	21.1
25 to 30	90	19.1
30 to 35	137	29.0
35 to 40	38	8.0
40 to 50	34	7.2
50 to 60	0	0
60 to 70	1	0.2
	473	100.0

FIGURE 1

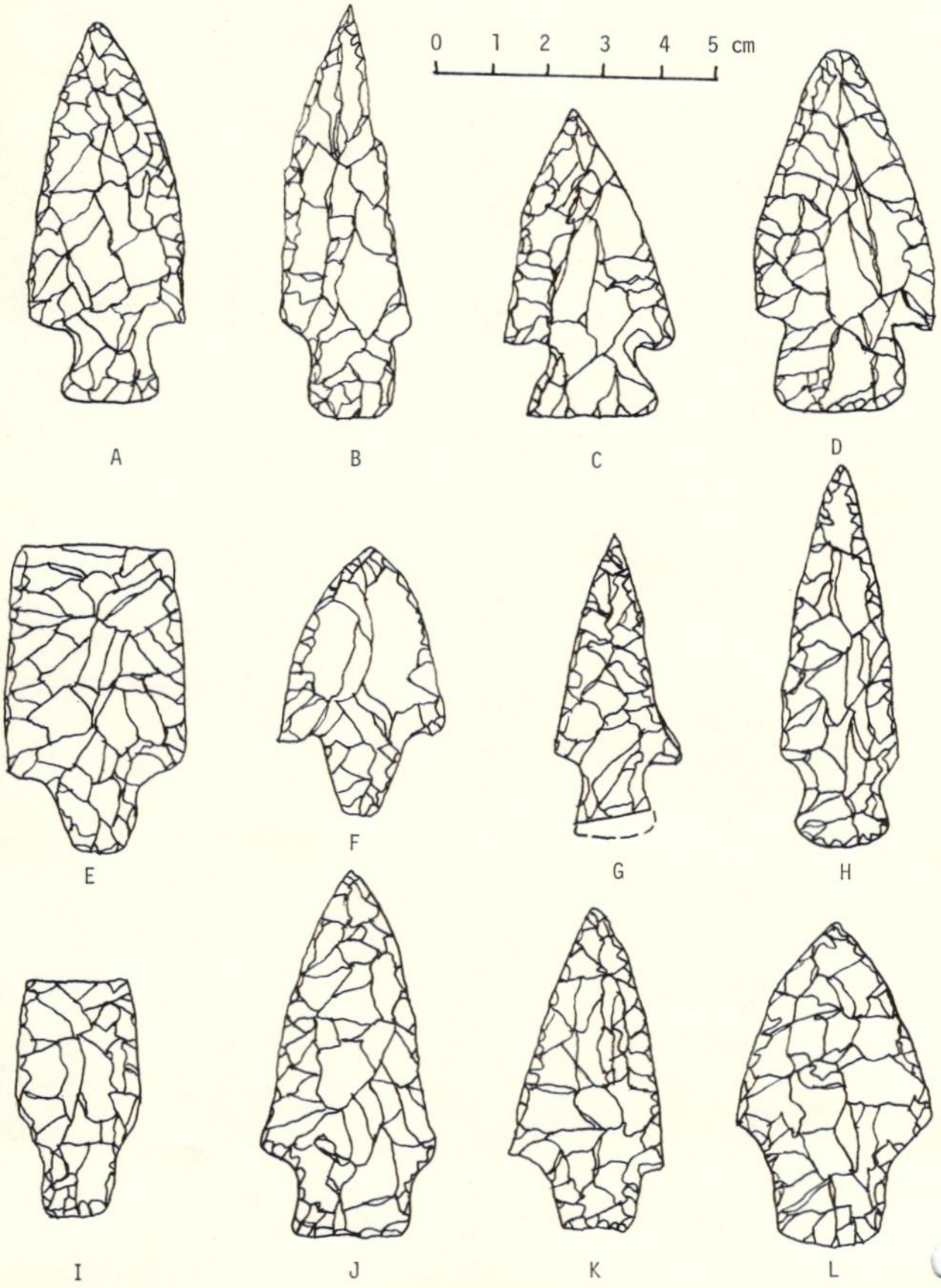
SITE 41WH19 PROJECTILE POINTS



A,B,C: Plainview; D:Marcos; E,F,G:San Patrice st. johns; H:San Patrice goodwin; I:Fairland; J:Pedernales; K:Travis; L:Darl; (dots show ground edges)

FIGURE 2

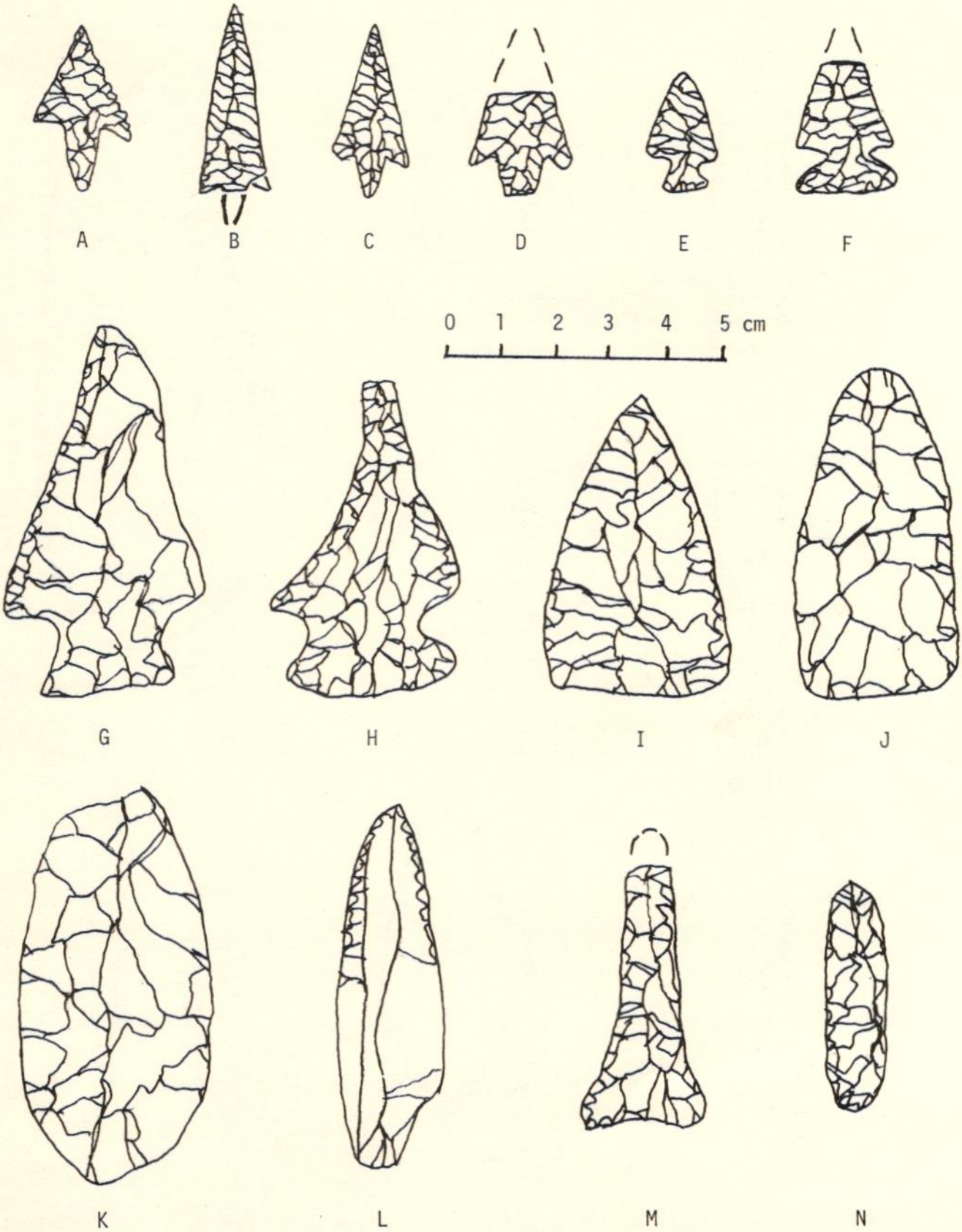
SITE 41WH19 PROJECTILE POINTS



A,B:Nolan; C,D:Williams; E,F:Gary; G,H:Palmillas; I:Kent; J,K,L:Bulverde

FIGURE 3

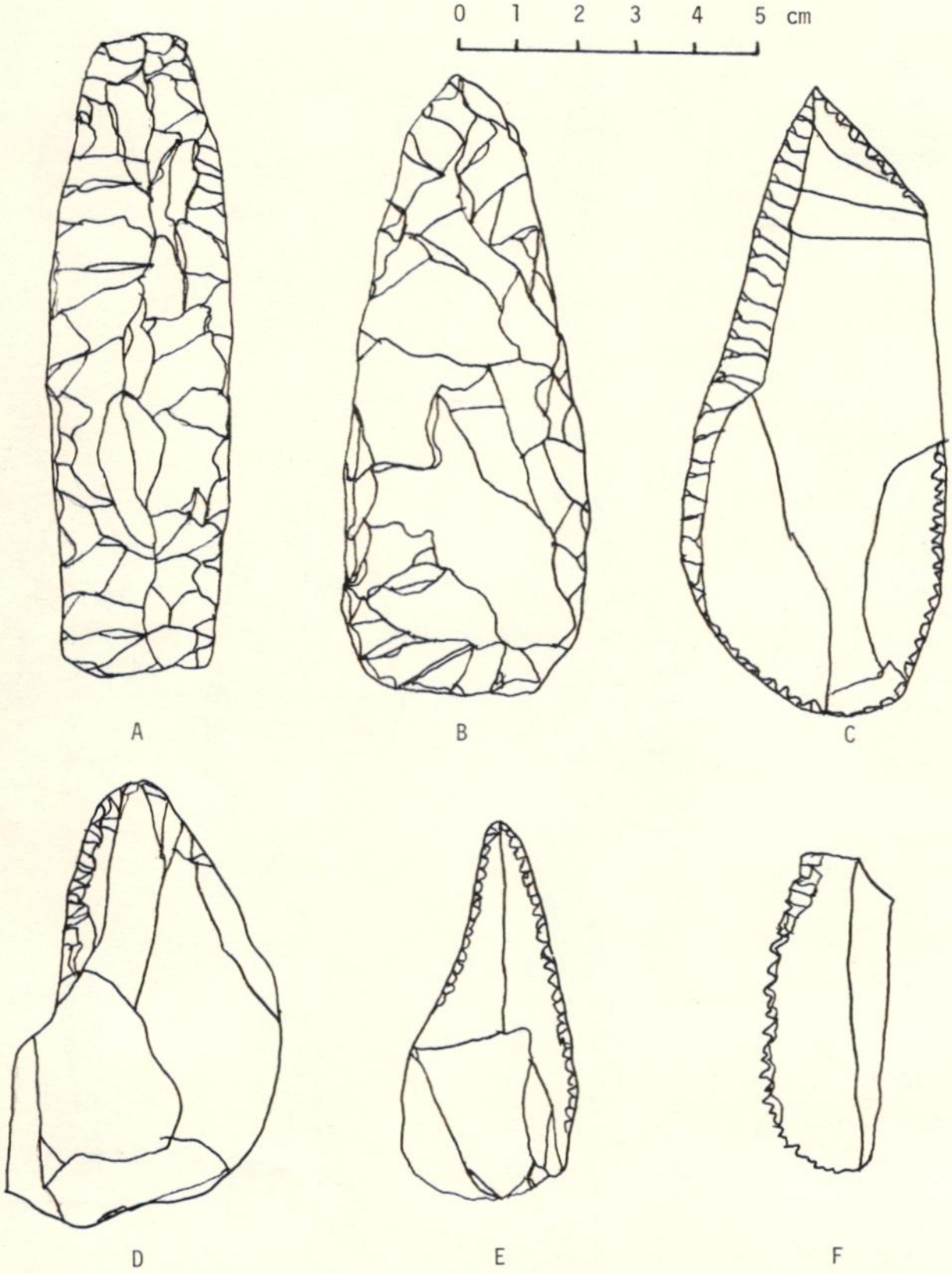
SITE 41WH19 LITHIC ARTIFACTS



A to D:Perdiz arrow points; E,F:Scallorn arrow points; G,H:stemmed scrapers; I,J,K:preforms; L:stemmed prismatic blade; M,N:bifacial drills

FIGURE 4

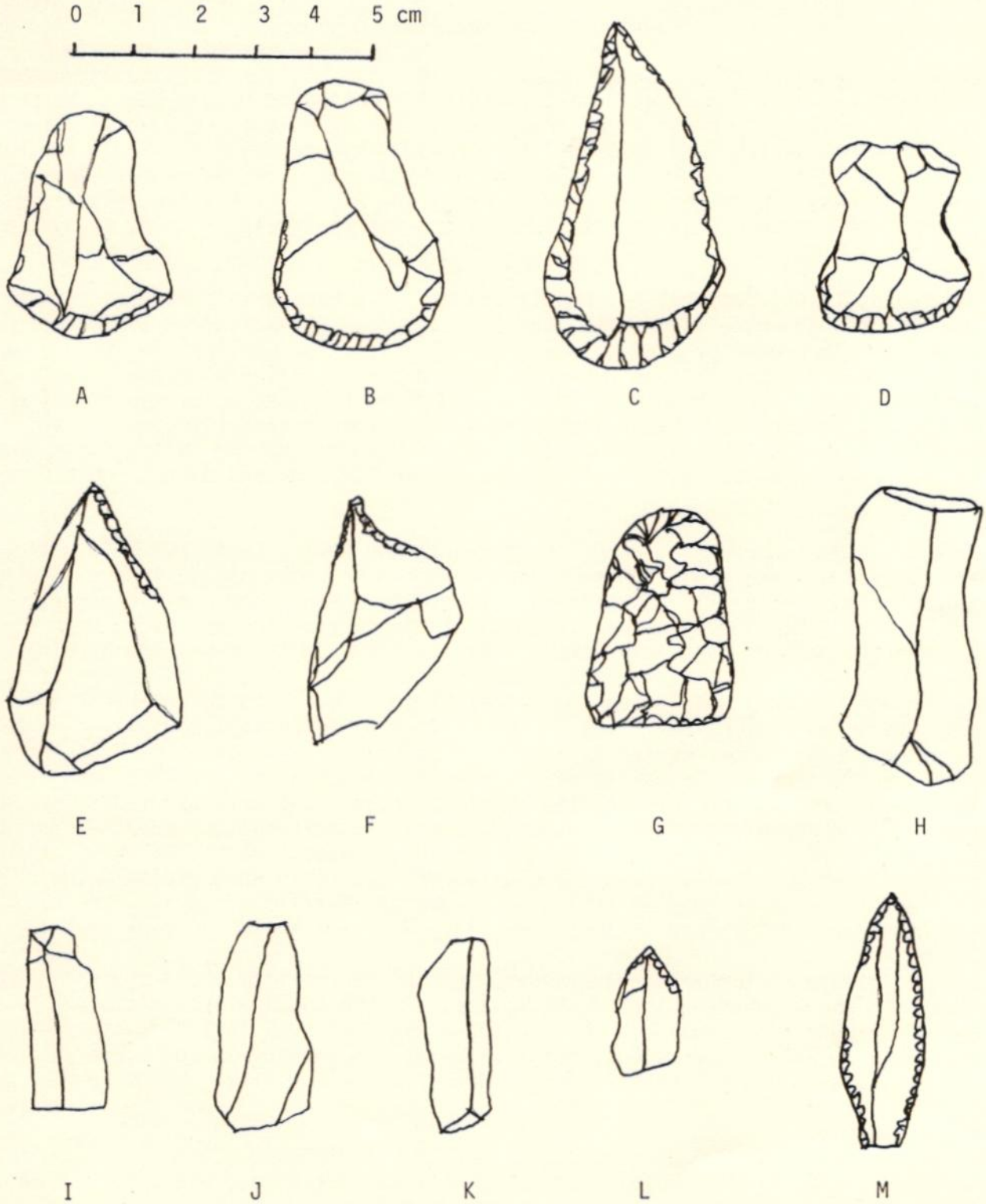
SITE 41WH19 LITHIC ARTIFACTS



A,B:preforms; C:scraper-graver; D:scraper; E:scraper-perforator; F:denticulate tool

FIGURE 5

SITE 41WH19 LITHIC ARTIFACTS



A to D:stub nosed scrapers; E,F:Gravers; G:small bifacial tool; H to K:prismatic blades; L,M:unifacial points

THE WILLIAM DOBIE SURVEY, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Part 1. History and Genealogy by Richard L. Gregg

(Continued from May 1981, p.9)

Later Owners of the William Dobie Survey. In 1877 the William Dobie Survey was divided into ten very narrow east-west lots, all fronting on Middle Bayou, as shown in Figure 4. Apparently by an unrecorded agreement, the Robert Dobie heirs were given lot 9, 130 acres, which they sold in 1881 for $133. Between 1877 and 1887, the other William Dobie heirs sold lots 1-8, also for about $1 per acre. Major purchasers were Thomas J. Markey, who bought five lots (3,6-9), and P. C. Markey, two lots (4,5). Lot 10 was the one-labor (177-acre) parcel which had been sold in 1838, as discussed earlier.[86]

Further subdivisions, as well as consolidations, of these parcels were made, and some of the land changed ownership quite rapidly. In the seven years from 1887 through 1893, for example, there were 17 land transactions. By 1915, the earliest year of extant county tax records, the William Dobie Survey had twelve different owners, with parcels of land ranging in size from 10 to 205 acres. Land was valued about $15 per acre.[87] In Appendix B is detailed the available archival evidence concerning the location of buildings, roads and other structures on the Dobie Survey during this period, and their implications as to possible locations of the Sterling and Robert Dobie homesteads.

In 1927, J. N. West purchased about one-third of the Dobie tract from five different owners for approximately $17.50 per acre. He soon owned most of it. Around 1940 he sold out to the Humble Oil and Refining Company. As Exxon, they now own almost the entire William Dobie Survey as well as much of the surrounding property. Most of the Dobie tract is part of the Clear Lake Oil Field. The land is leased for grazing.[88]

Acknowledgments. Many people and organizations contributed to this portion (Part 1. History and Genealogy) of the study of the William Dobie Survey. Lou Fullen suggested and encouraged the study. He and Bill McClure led the archeological part of the project, and both contributed historical material as well. Jean McGinty supplied many references; it was she who discovered the hint that William Dobie might have used an alias. Gary M. Williams, Clerk of Courts of Sussex County, Virginia, searched and supplied copies of often obscure, unindexed records over the course of several years. In the County Surveyor's notes he finally found the elusive William Dobie handwriting which proved Dobie's use of an alias. Dudley Dobie, Jr. supplied a wealth of family records. Other contributors were Villamae Williams, John Clay, Margaret Henson and Joe Wheat.

As a brief glance at the references shows, much of the William Dobie story is based on documents in the Rosenberg Library, Galveston, and the Barker Texas History Library, Austin. Other material came from the Houston Public Library, including its genealogical branch, Clayton Library; Rice University Library; San Jacinto Museum Library; Sam Houston Regional Library, Liberty; Harris County Clerk's Office; Harris County

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[86] Harris Co. Deeds 16:379, 17:463, 22:465, 22:688, 26:485, 38:511

[87] William Dobie Abstract No. 16, records of American Title Co., Houston; 1915 Harris Co. Tax Records, Tax Assessor and Collector's Office

[88] 1927 and other Harris Co. Tax Records; various Harris Co. Deeds;League City, Texas, Quadrangle, USGS topographic map, 1955. The first mention of oil is in a 1917 lease to the Middle Bayou Oil Co., Harris Co. Leases 50:609

Commissioners' Office; Harris County District Court Clerk's Office; Harris County Tax Assessor and Collector's Office; Austin County Clerk's Office, Bellville; the General Land Office, Austin; and the American Title Company, Houston. The help and cooperation of staff members of each of these organizations is sincerely appreciated.

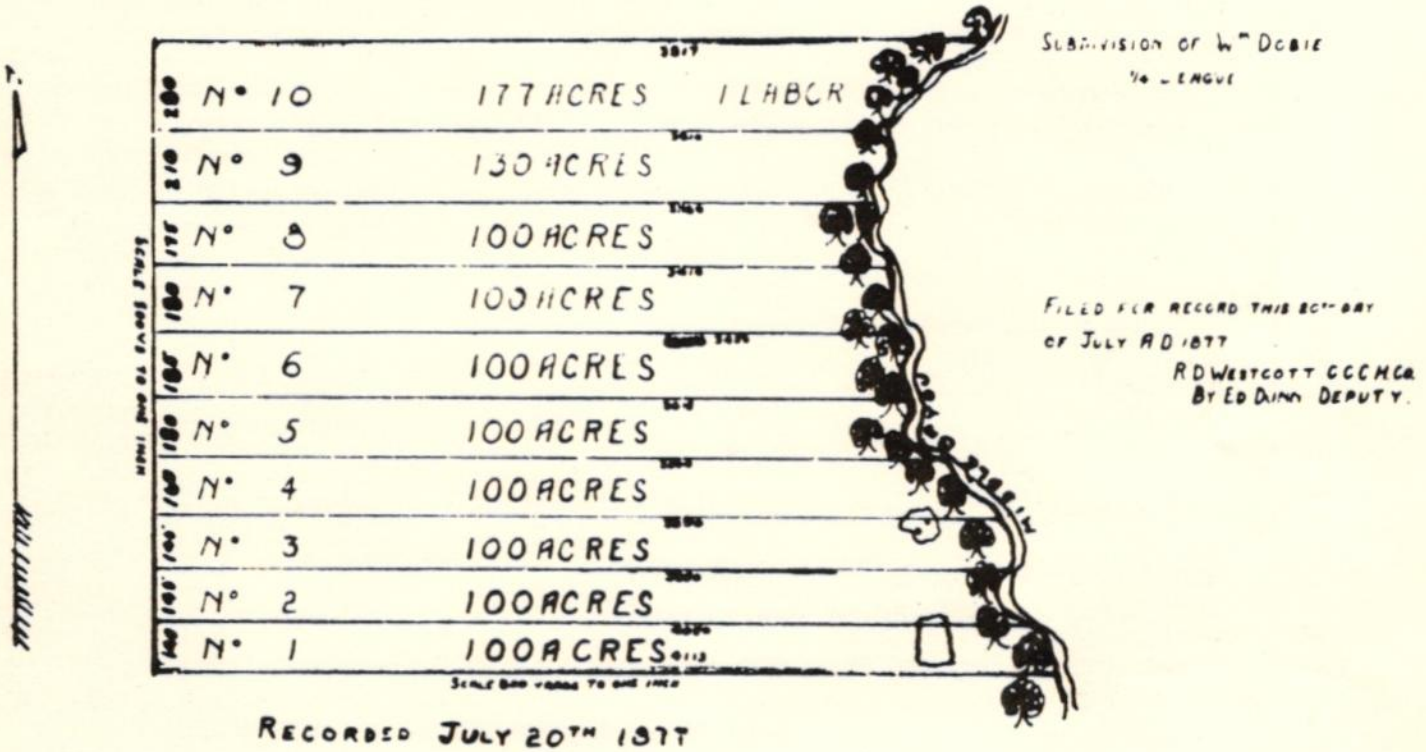

Fig. 4. Map of the William Dobie Survey, 1877. Note that in this plot vertical distances are exaggerated by a factor of 1.6 times horizontal distances.

APPENDIX A

Outline of the Dobie Family of Virginia and Texas

The following outline of the Dobie family, down to the grandchildren of William Dobie, was assembled mainly from the sources given in previous footnotes; additional references are given below.[89] The emphasis of our study was on the Dobies in Harris County, Texas, 1828-1875, so records from Virginia (pre-1800) and Live Oak County, Texas, were only superficially searched. It is hoped that someone will expand on this material to produce a full genealogy.

A1. John Dobe of Surry (later Sussex) Co., Va. In Surry Co. by 1709, perhaps emigrated 1691; m Elizabeth ___. Will dated March 19,1716/17; proved Aug 13,1722. Inventory £80.18.10. Children:
1. John Jr., had son John
2. Robert (d1760), see below

Also mentioned in will: granddaughter Mary Vinson and her son Thomas

B2. Robert Dobie of Sussex Co., Va. Will Jan 15,1760; proved Feb 15,1760. Children:
1. John, had daus Phebe and Elizabeth
2. Robert
3. Mary
4. Eleanor, m ___ Darby
5. Kezia, m ___ Tatum
6. Elizabeth
7. Frances (dau)
8. Nathaniel (d 1790-93), see below

C8. Nathaniel Dobie of Sussex Co., Va. Will July 23,1790; proved Dec 5,1793; m Sarah ___ . Children:
1. Nathaniel (b1753, d 1823-25), see below

Also mentioned in will: niece Becca Cocks

D1. Nathaniel Dobie of Sussex Co., Va. Born Nov 19,1753. Will Oct 15,1823; proved Apr 7,1825. Inventory $14814.91, including 465 acres called The Old Place and 636 acres called the Copperhonk Tract, 45 slaves. Children:
1. William (ca1777-1835), see below
2. Claramond d 1825, m Feb 4,1802, Littleberry Chappell
3. Nathaniel d 1825 unm, estate $8239 given mainly to brother and sisters
4. Polly Chappell
5. Patsy (Martha) m ___ Cocks. Ch: Linda Ann Rebecca, Jesse Wilkins, Martha Adaline

E1. William Dobie (b ca1777, d July or Aug 1835, both in Sussex Co., Va.) m 1st Apr 21, 1803 Polly Chappell, dau James and Sally Chappell; m 2nd July 17,1805 Dolly Neblett (b 1784-90, d 1840-48, Sussex Co., Va.), dau Sterling Neblett (d1832) and granddaughter of Francis (d1777-78) and Elizabeth Neblett of Lunenberg Co., Va. Left his family and lived in Texas 1828-35 under the alias William Dobie Dunlap. Children:
1. William E. b 1803-05; will Sept 3,1832, proved Mar 2,1837; m Rebecca ___. Ch: Henrietta V. (prob d young); Lucinda W., m 1st ___ Holliman, m 2nd ___ Parmers
2. Caroline (b 1805-10, d bef 1838) m ___ Briggs. Ch: Henry C.
3. John S. (1809-ca1877) Will proved 1877 Sussex Co., Va.; m Mary F. ___. Ch: John b 1835; Joseph 1837; Almont F. 1838; Rosa A. 1840, m ___ Magel; Addis E. (1847-1909); Andrew 1849; Lucian J. 1851; Richard Mason 1854; Samuel D. 1856; Meda B. 1859, m ___ Davis.

4. Nathaniel James (b 1811/12 Sussex Co., Va., d Apr 17,1838,in Houston, Texas) unm
5. Sterling Neblett (1816-1880) see below
6. Robert Neville (1818-1857) see below
7. Richard Latimer (ca1820-ca1904) Sussex Co., Va.; m Anne L. (Cotton) Parran. Ch: Lewis F.; R.A. b 1847, m 1873 Margaret Kearns (their ch: Mary Louisa b 1875 m 1898 James Iredell Jenkins; Richard Latimer b 1877 m 1909 Sally Magruder Gibson, issue Emily Magruder b 1911, Magruder b 1913; Henry Ashton b 1879 unm; Armistead Mason b 1881 unm; Alexander Carson 1883-1909.)
8. Virginia A. R., m Charles G. Potts. Ch: Alpheus W.

F5. Sterling Neblett Dobie (b Nov 1?,1816 Sussex Co., Va, d Nov 4,1880 Live Oak Co., Texas) m May 15,1850 in Harris Co., Texas, Mary J. Morriss (b 1833, d Oct 21, 1863 of typhoid fever), dau of Col. Ritson Morriss (1798-1849) and Minerva Edwards (1808-1886). Children:
1. Dolly (d Nov 8,1882) m George W. Frazer. Ch: George C., J. Sterling, J.F. and Edward J. Frazer
2. Minerva (living 1900) m W.F. Alexander
3. James Robert (Jan 14,1853 - Jan 8,1855)
4. Sterling Neblett, Jr. (1855 - Aug 15,1895) unm
5. Mary R. (1860 - Jan 20,1896) m James R. Chandler. Dau: Ezza
6. Richard (Latimer?) (1863 - living 1900) m Mittie Cordelia Moorman. Ch: Edward C., Tot, Mittie, John, Edith,Oscie, Sterling Morris, Susie, Dick

F6. Robert Neville Dobie (b Sept 18,1818 in Sussex Co., Va., drowned Aug 3,1857 in Middle Bayou, Harris Co., Texas) m Dec 3,1851 in Harris Co., Texas, Amanda Maria Hill (b 1834 Wilcox Co.?, Ala.; d 1881-1902 prob Live Oak Co., Texas) dau of Jonathan More Hill and Lucinda Bond. Amanda m 2nd Dec 29,1863 in Harris Co. Abel H. White (b 1801 Ga, d 1872 Harris Co., Texas). Children:
1. Robert Sterling (b 1853) m Laura Church. Ch: William, Velma, Eva, May, Pearl
2. William Neville (June 18,1854 - Apr 14,1932) m Mary Edna Mills (Mar 4,1874 - Oct 29,1931). Ch: Julia, Sterling Neville, William Augustus, Myrtle Rhydonia, James Stanley, Dudley Richard, Pauline Amanda, Olive
3. James Mayes (Jan 13,1856 - May 21,1929) m 1905 Ida Mae Taylor
4. Jonathan Richard (R.J.) (Jan 17,1858 - June 1920) m 1887 Ella Jane Byler. Ch: James Frank (Sept 26,1888 - Sept 18,1964), the famous author; Fannie; Elrich Hill; Richard Lee; Henry; Martha Amanda

(To be continued)

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89 Gary M. Williams, "A Brief History of the Coppahaunk Spring near Waverly" [Sussex Co., Va.] (1979), unpublished paper furnished by the author; Dr. and Mrs. Carter Stubbs, *Descendents of Mordecai Cook . . . and Thomas Booth . . .* (1923), p.53; John McGill, *The Beverly Family of Virginia* (1956), p.916; Lagarto, Live Oak Co., Texas, Cemetery inscriptions; genealogical worksheets of V. Neville Dobie, furnished by Dudley R. Dobie, Jr.

41HR74 - A Harris County Shell Site on Lower San Jacinto Bay

Alan R. Duke

Introduction

The preliminary report covering 41HR74 (Muller site) appeared in HAS Newsletter Number 68 (Dec. 1980) and a progress report followed in Newsletter Number 69 (May 1981). The purpose of this latest report is to document survey and test work by members of the Houston Archeological Society and to present the information gleaned from the testing and from the artifacts found at the site.

Test pits were dug on both prehistoric and historic locations. This report will deal with the analysis of prehistoric material.

A separate report will be written to cover the historic aspects of the site.

Survey

HAS members surveyed the two properties adjacent to 41HR74 (Black and Florence) extending south along the shoreline. One small shell site was located on the Florence property along the lower bay banks. Potsherds, including one incised Goose Creek sherd, were found on the beach below the thin shell lens in the bank. This site has been reported and will be assigned a site number. Further work is not indicated since the main portion of the site has eroded into the bay.

Some historic material was found on the surface during the survey. It appears to be of recent origin though some of the bottle glass is late 19th century or early 20th century material. Some testing for historic material on the Black property, which adjoins the Muller site, may be in order. The Florence property, next to the Black property, is now a container yard so currently further work here is not possible.

Flora and Fauna

Flora - The biotic zone in which 41HR74 lies is part of the Upper Gulf Coast Prairie. However, many of the shrub and tree species are indigenous to the Big Thicket. The southern end of this forested area follows along the edges of the many bayous and rivers which cut thru the coastal prairie, thus creating corridors for the southward extension of these species. (Vines, R.A. Trees of East Texas).

Wooded areas, associated with San Jacinto Bay in Harris County, have been reduced since prehistoric times to small pockets clinging to the edges of the bay. Most of this reduction has been due to industrial development. The Muller property, along with adjoining properties, constitutes one of the few remaining forest parcels. Trees dating back 150 years were still standing when the test work on 41HR74 was carried out this year. Every effort should be made to preserve these trees and associated flora.

The following plant species were identified during a recent survey of the area:

Alabama Supplejack (Rattan-vine)
Aloe Yucca
American Hornbeam
American Elm
Bottom Land Post Oak
Box-elder Maple
Camphor-tree
Cedar Elm
China-berry
Chinese Tallow-tree
Drummond Rattlebox
Eastern Baccharis
Gum Bumelia
Japanese Honeysuckle
Osage-Orange
Overcup Oak
Pecan
Red Mulberry
Sassafras
Saw Greenbriar
Southern Dewberry
Southern Magnolia
Southern Red-cedar
Sugar Hackberry
Vernal Witch Hazel
Water Oak
Willow Oak
Wiregrass
Yaupon

Fauna - Skeletal remains of animals, birds, fish, shell fish and reptiles were found in the test pits and confirmed that in prehistoric times, the local inhabitants consumed essentially the same wild game eaten by early settlers and currently observed even today despite the influx of civilization. The following list shows the fauna observed during the work on 41HR74:

Mockingbird
Mourning Dove
Robin
Great Blue Heron
White Pelican
Coot
Rabbit
Fox Squirrel
Alligator Gar

Deer, alligator gar, alligators, turtle and other small animals, birds and fish were part of the Indian's diet. His heavy consumption of shell fish, both clams and oysters, is evident from the shell mounds. Venison appears to have been a staple of his diet and the large number of deer bones found in the pits supports this observation. Gar scales, alligator teeth, turtle shell and fish and bird bones found in the excavations are also strong evidence of the nature of his diet.

Insects also may have provided food for the early inhabitants of the site. Two large bee nests hanging from the limbs of "bee trees" were observed in the area. These hives were somewhat unique since they were located on the outside of the trees and hung in large festooned masses from major tree limbs.

Excavations - (See Map - Figure 5 for pit locations) (Coordinates for all pits are shown on the Land Title Survey Map (Nov. 1, 1980 - J. C. Counts).

Pits were located where features indicated possible prehistoric and and historic occupation and where information was available on the approximate location of known sites. A probe test was made to determine the extent of shell deposits on both upper and lower terraces. The result of this test is shown on Figure 5 also.

Pit A

This location was chosen because a low mound exists (26 cm. above ground level). A one meter square pit was excavated at the high point down thru a medium brown clay-silt to clay at 42-43 cm. Excavation to 50 cm. did not reveal artifacts or evidence of occupation.

HR 74

Pits D1, D2, D3

This location was selected because it is the "high ground" above the bay (25 feet) and because Frank Muller, property owner, stated that a tree nearby, when removed due to storm damage, revealed clam shells and potsherds in its roots. The decision to test here was rewarding as evidenced by the large amount of material recovered which included many sherds from the same pot. Partial restoration of the pot made it possible to obtain accurate measurements of the vessel (See Figure 1). Tables 1, 2, 3 show the distribution of artifacts by levels.

Table 1 — 41HR74 Artifacts - Pit D1

Artifact Type	Excavation Level, Cm. 0-5 (grass)	5-15	15-25	25-35
Lithic				
Pebbles		1		
Petrified Wood				1
Faunal				
Deer Bone		5	21	39
Deer Teeth		2	3	2
Turtle Shell (Frags.)				1
Misc. Bone			30	
Gar Scales			2	
Fish Bone			1	2
Bird Bone				3
Oyster Shell			present	present
Ceramic				
Pot Sherds		1	2	165*
Misc.				
Square Iron Nails		2	1	

* Enough sherds available to permit partial pot reconstruction.

Table 2 — 41HR74 Artifacts - Pit D2

Artifact Type	Excavation Level, Cm. 0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40
Lithic	-	-	-	-
Faunal				
Deer Bone	1	10	40	56
Deer Teeth		6	8*	
Fish Bone			4	5
Gar Scales			3	
Misc. Bone Frags.			60	38
Snail Shell			2	
Oyster Shell (Perforated)			2	1
Bird Bone			4	
Ceramics				
Pot Sherds		1	17	27
Misc.				
Square Nails	1			
Glass Jar	1			
Sterile soil from 34-50 cm.				

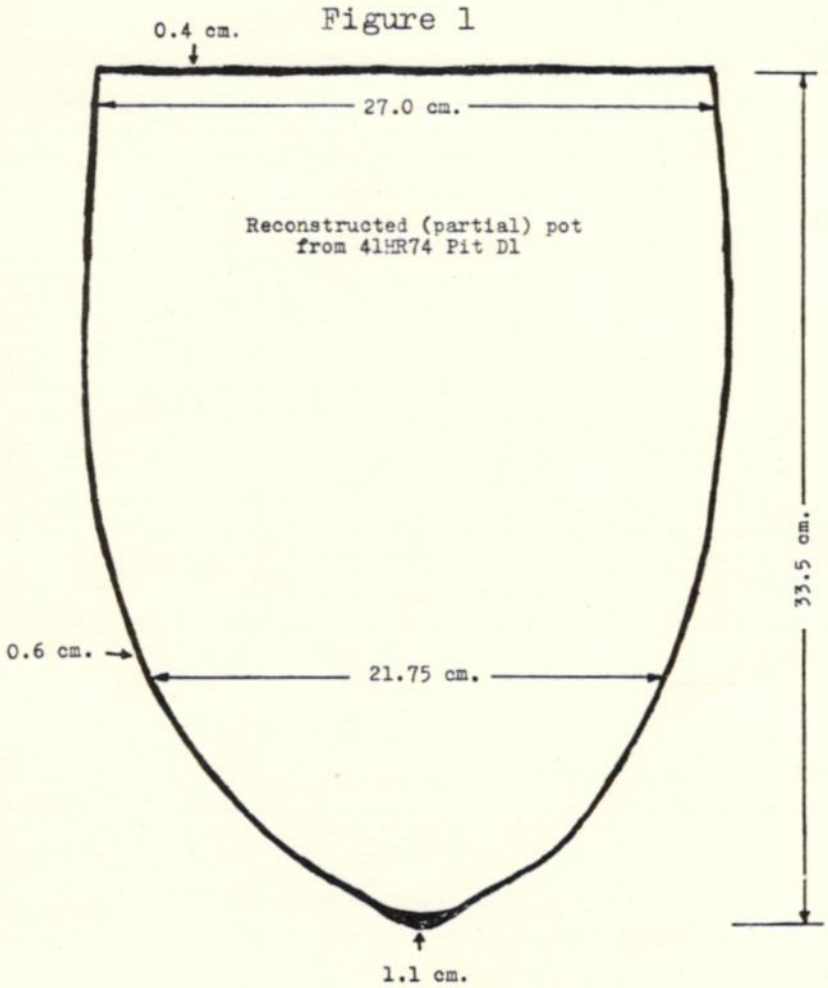
* In jawbones (6)

Table 3 — 41HR74 Artifacts - Pit D3

Artifact Type	Excavation Level, Cm. 0-10 *	10-20 *	20-30	30-40	40-50
Lithic	-	-	-	-	-
Faunal					
Deer Bone			34	36	24
Deer Teeth			1	2	
Antler Tine				1	
Gar Scales			1	36	12
Bird Bone			2	9	5
Fish Bone				5	1
Turtle Shell				16 **	
Snail Shell				1	2
Misc. Bone			3	166 ***	28
Oyster Shell				2	1 (Perf.)
Ceramics					
Potsherds		1	14	5	7
Fired Clayballs				1	
Misc.					
Glass Sherds		1	1		
Iron Vessel Leg		1			
Charcoal				4	

* Soil above shell.
** In addition to one essentially complete reconstruction of box turtle shell. Shell may have been used as rattle. Inside of shell shows damage - possibly from pebble.
*** Mostly fragmented.

Figure 1



Pit F

This location was chosen to determine whether the shell midden extended south on the high bank. A 1 meter pit was dug to a depth of 20 cm. Miscellaneous iron nails, glass sherds, clay balls, brick fragments and one flint flake were found but the shell layer was not evident and sterile soil was reached so work was terminated on this pit.

Pit H

This pit was excavated to confirm occupation of the lower terrace just above the bay and to obtain a profile of the stratigraphy of the shell deposits. A cross section of the deposits indicates disturbed areas. Some of the potsherds recovered from the pit are water worn and have smooth edges as compared to the sharp, clean edges normally seen in an undisturbed area. Disturbance and deposits by wave action would normally be expected on this low terrace.

The pit was excavated to a depth of 80 cm. and artifacts were found down to this depth. Soil was sterile below 80 cm. Stratigraphy of the terrace is shown in Figures 2,3,and 4.

41HR74 - Pit H Profile

Figure 2

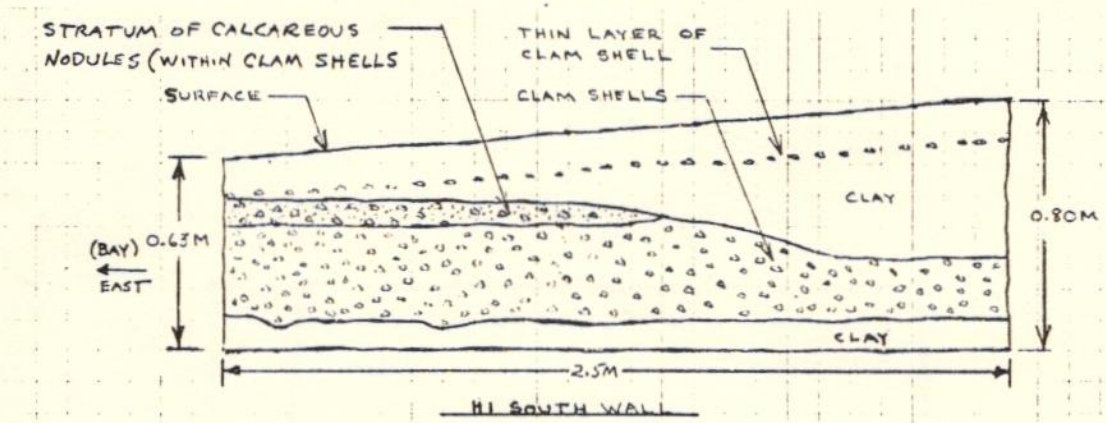


Figure 3

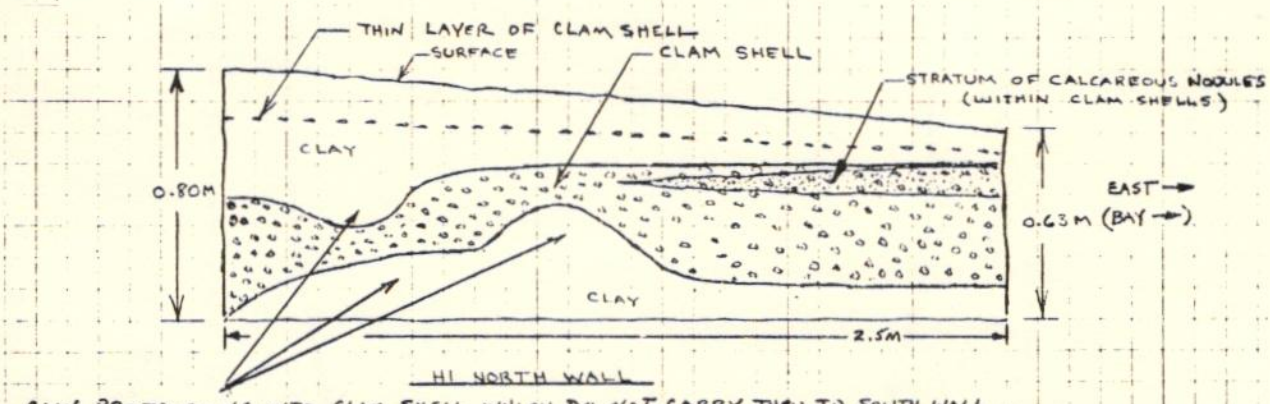
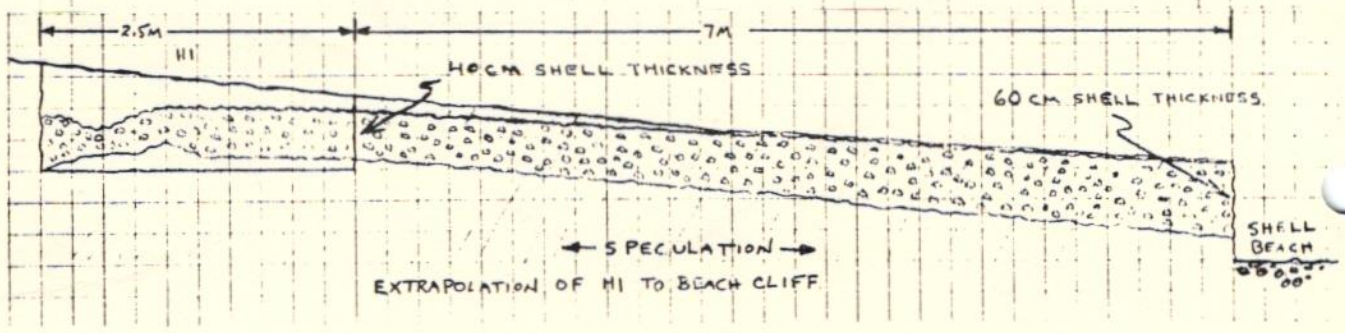


Figure 4



The following Table 4 shows the provenience of the artifacts found in Pit H.

Table 4

41HR74 Artifacts - Pit H

Artifact Type	Excavation Level, Cm. 0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80
Lithic								
Flint Flakes				2				
Sandstone					1	2	2	
Faunal								
Snail	2							
Oyster Shell					1	4		
Bone Frags.		1	7	10	16		3	2
Deer Teeth				1				
Ceramics								
Potsherds			5	10	7	1	2	1
Misc.								
Glass Sherds	1							
Charcoal	2			1				
Iron Nails	2	5*	4*					
Red Ochre						1		

* Square

Pit J

This location was selected to provide additional information about the low terrace close to the bay. The shell layer was reached at 40 cm. and ended at 50 cm. The level between 30-40 cm. was sterile. The shell layer stopped 25 meters west of the pit.

Table 5

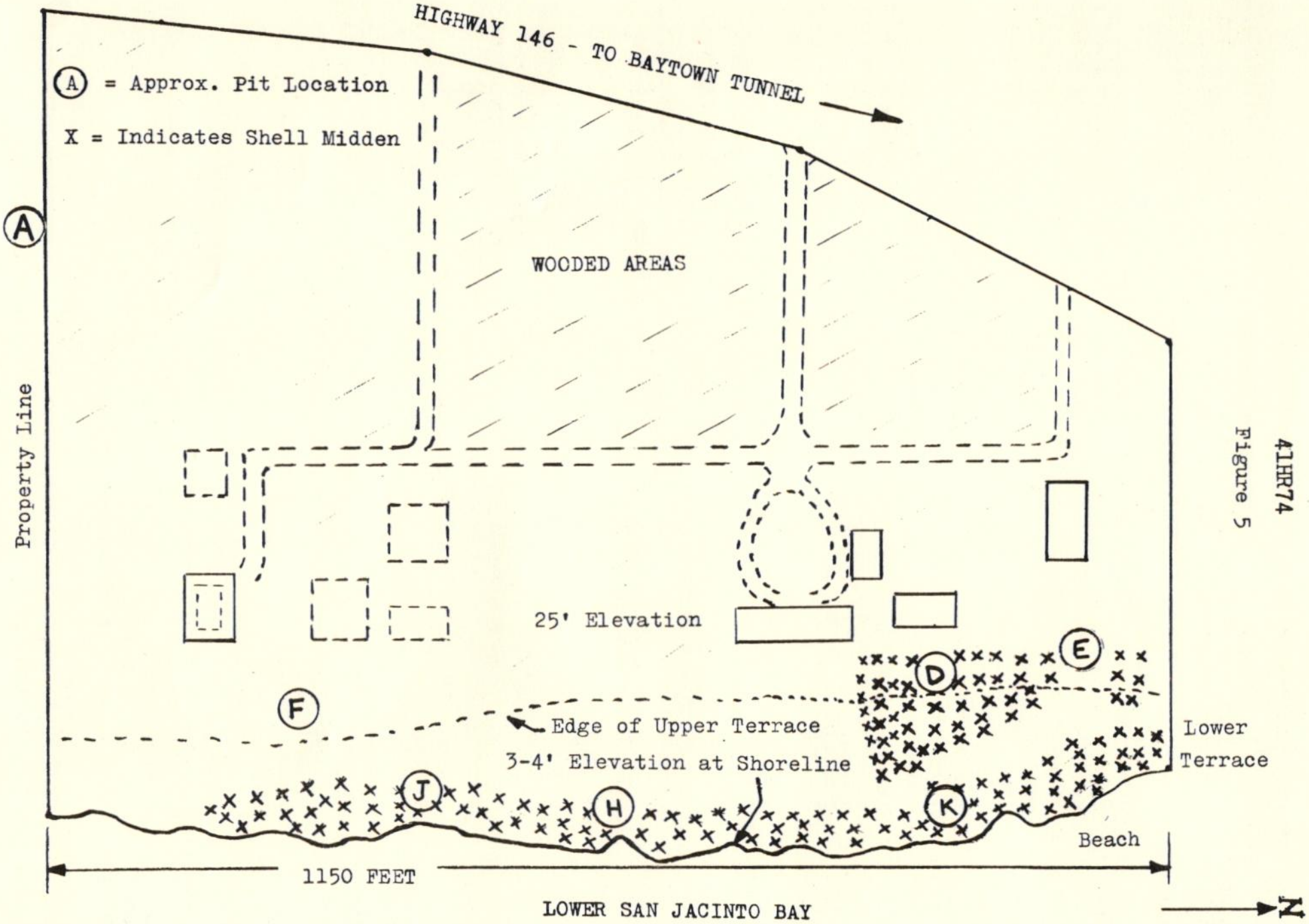
41HR74 Artifacts - Pit J

Artifact Type	Excavation Level, Cm. 0-20	20-30	30-40	40-50*
Lithic				
Sandstone				1
Faunal			S	
			T	
Clam Shell		3	E	
Deer Bone Frags.			R	3
Deer Teeth		2	I	
Bird Bone		1	L	
Horse Tooth		1	E	
Ceramic				
Potsherds				3
Misc.				
Iron Spike	1			
Glass Sherds	4			
Brick Frags.	1	1		
Charcoal		1		

* Shell layer starts at 40 cm.

41HR74

Figure 5



Artifacts - Beach Collection

A study of the material picked up on the beach, which is the eastern boundary of 41HR74, by the Muller family over a period of 44 years and by HAS members during the recent work on the site provides much information on the pottery types, and lithics that is not available from the limited testing done on the site.

A total of 1582 beach sherds were available for study as compared to only 245 sherds from the pits. The presence of rim sherds, bottom sherds, patch hole and incised sherds in the beach collection made it possible to determine pot sizes and shapes used by the resident Indians. The amount of lithic material from the excavations was extremely small so the points, scrapers, and worked flakes from the beach provide a more concise picture of the overall use of lithic materials at the site.

Fire Pit - Lower Terrace

Prior to the start of testing, wave action uncovered a fire pit at the edge of the lower terrace. The hearth was removed as a separate unit to prevent its destruction. The pit started about 10 cm. from the surface to about 35 cm. and was approximately 30 cm. wide. The pit contained 317 fragments of burned bone, 13 gar scales, 1 rodent tooth and burned Rangia clam shell.

Ceramics

A total of 1827 sherds (245 from test pits and 1582 from the beach) were examined. The following table shows a break down of sherd characteristics:

Total Sherds	Rim Sherds	Flat Bottom	Bottom Nodes	Punctated Incised	Lip Notched	Patch Holes
1827	79	1	18	8	4	9

Rim sherds were of two types - flared (out) and straight, with the flared rim predominating in a 2:1 ratio. (See Figure 6) Only one sherd indicating a flat bottom pot was found. All other bottom sherds were from conical pots with the node at the bottom which are more typical of pots found at other sites on San Jacinto Bay.

Less than 1% of the sherds were decorated in any way. This percentage is very low as compared to other shell sites in the area.

Sherds with patch holes were found. Holes were drilled from both sides on some sherds while some were drilled from one side only. Diameter of holes varies in size from 0.3 to 0.6 cm.

Thickness of the sherds varied from 0.2 cm. to 0.8 cm. indicating the existence of both small fragile vessels and large massive pots.

It was possible, by using Lee Patterson's method for measuring sherd curvature (HAS Newsletter No. 67, August 1980) to determine the diameter of 11 pots. Pot diameters ranged from 9 cm. to 38 cm. The diameter of six of the pots were in the 25-35 cm. range. Accuracy of the method was confirmed by actual measurements of the reconstructed pot found in Pit D at the 25-35 cm. level. (See Figure 1)

Better than 99% of the sherds are a sandy paste and fall in the Goose Creek and San Jacinto types. No attempt was made to break the classification down further into the somewhat controversial sub-types or

varieties suggested in the literature. Less than 1% of the sherds are bone tempered which checks well with material from other shell sites in the area.

One grooved piece of fired clay was found on the beach and fired clay balls were also present both in the pits and on the beach.

Lithics

Lithic materials are scarce on the site. A total of 61 flint flakes have been found and only 11 finished flint artifacts have been located on the beach over a period of 44 years. Finished flint artifacts were not present in the excavated pits.

Total Flakes	Worked Flakes	Points	Scrapers	Knives	Gravers	Pebbles
61	18	8	1	1	1	12

Finished flint artifacts are shown in Figure 8.

The limited quantity of flint is in sharp contrast to the amount of flint found on nearby sites (41HR71, 41HR72 and 41HR73) where arrow, dart points and flint flakes were found in profusion. Bone projectile points, found on other San Jacinto Bay sites, were absent.

Summary

The limited excavation, survey and beach collection provided enough information to determine that 41HR74 may date back to 600-700 A.D. and was occupied up to about 1300-1400 A.D. It is a ceramic-bearing shell midden and using the ceramic chronology based on radiocarbon dates from other ceramic-bearing sites in the Galveston Bay area the age of the site can be estimated. A radiocarbon date on material from the site would be desirable, however.

There was no indication of 41HR74 being a "contact" site.

The search for historic material and "early settler" features associated with the site will be covered in a separate report.

Credits

The list of HAS participants in the "dig" was published in HAS Newsletter No. 69, May 1981. The assistance of all these people is appreciated greatly. Special acknowledgement is in order, however, for the following individuals:

Frank Muller for recognizing the need for obtaining information on the site prior to commercialization and for his gracious hospitality. Jim Counts for providing survey information on the site, pertinent maps and pit coordinates. Dick Gregg for providing photographic records, "crew chief" guidance and faunal reconstruction. Lee Patterson for providing photographic records, "crew chief" guidance and excellent suggestions contributing to the success of the endeavor. Bruce Duke for providing a comprehensive survey of the flora and fauna of the site and surrounding areas. Sheldon Kindall for his excellent pit profile sketches, "crew chief" assistance and for making necessary equipment available. Dave Atherton for his assistance in profiling the lower terrace, his sketches of the "dry hole" and his "crew chiefing".

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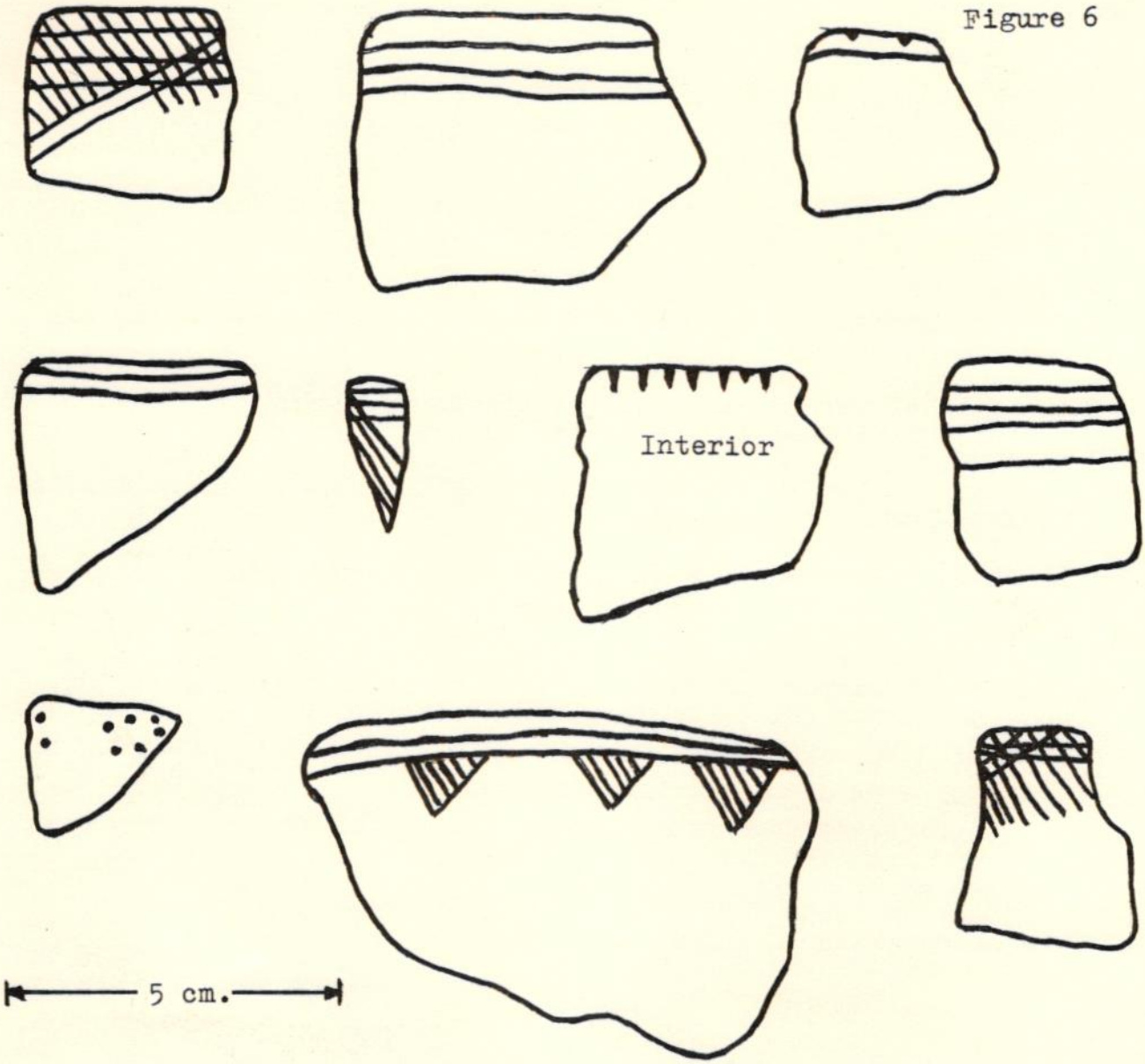
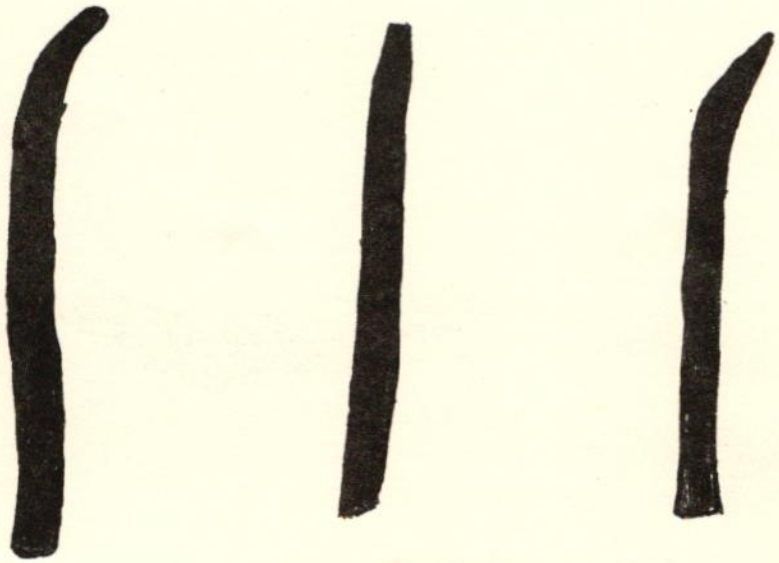
Incised and Lip Notched
Rim Sherds

41HR74

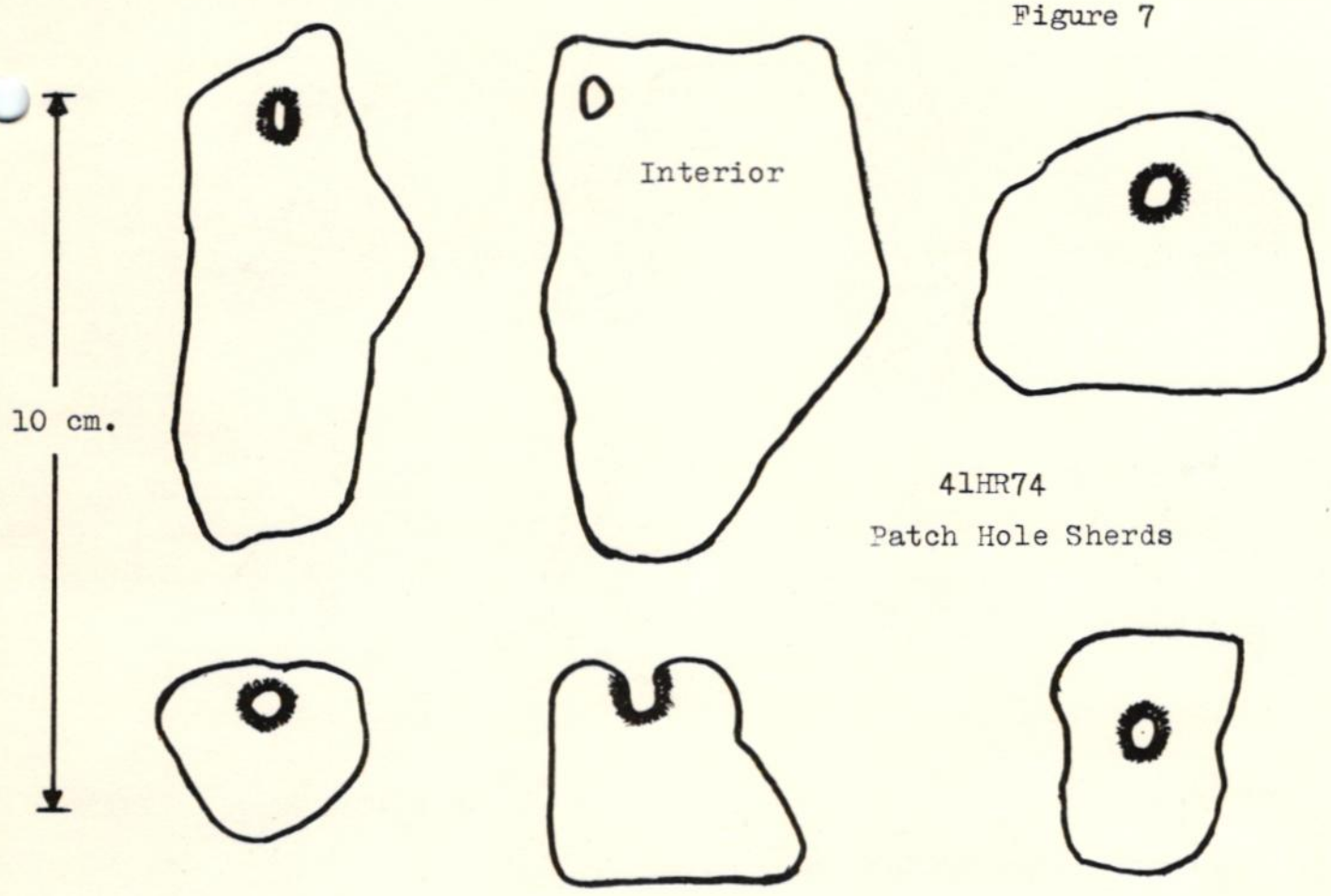
Figure 6





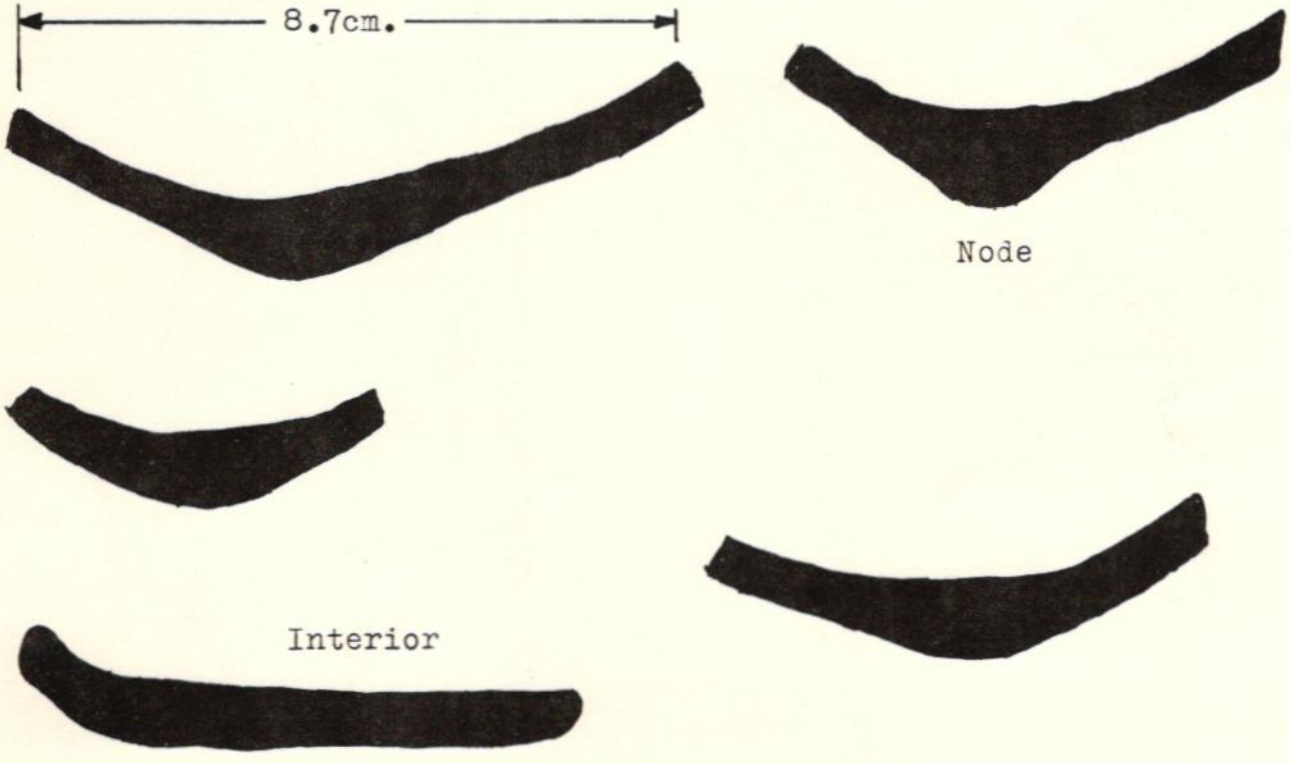
Cross-sections of Typical
Rimsherds - 41HR74

Figure 7



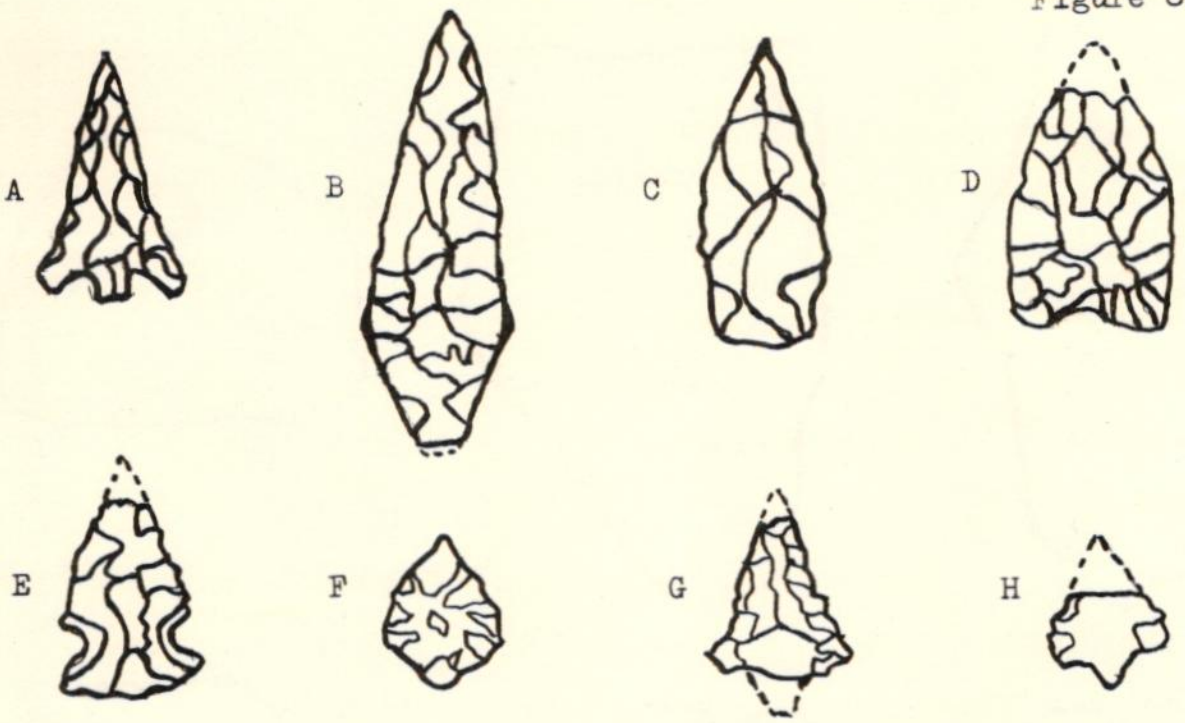
41HR74
Patch Hole Sherds

Bottom Sherds - 41HR74



Sherd from Flat Bottom Pot

Figure 8

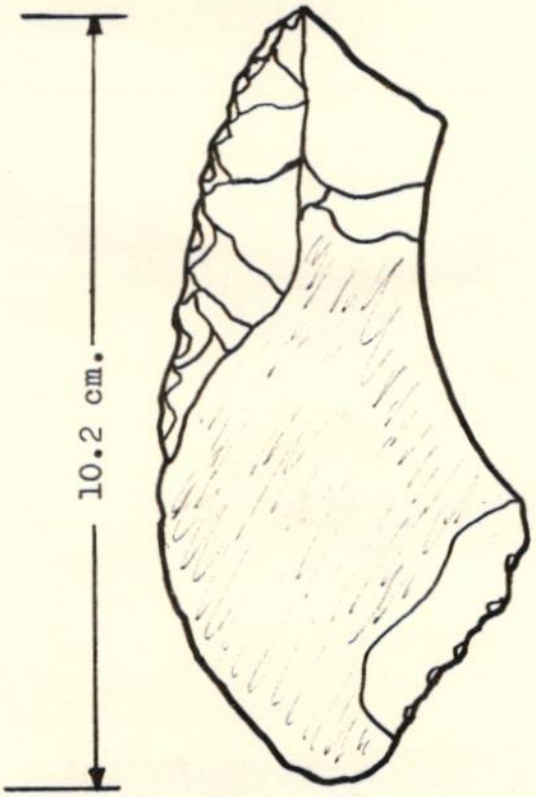


A, F, G, H, - Perdiz
B - Gary
C - Yarbrough
D - ?
E - Ensor

Lithic Artifacts - 41HR74

Scraper

Graver



Knife

White Oak Bayou Sites

W. L. McClure

41 HR 269 and 41 HR 301

41 HR 269 Addendum

HAS Newsletter No. 59, April 1978, carried the account of this site. The Caskey collection at TARL was omitted from the discussion. In that collection, there are three Gary dart points. These are shown in Figure 49, A., B., C. All are flint. Weights are 8.7, 3.6, and 2.7 grams.
These points are indicative of the Woodlands period.

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41 HR 301

This site was located by Caskey in 1960. The artifacts that he collected are at TARL and are described herein. Subsequent visits to the site in 1973 by Payne and 1975 by McClure failed to reveal any indication of the site. Soil in the area of the site has about 2 feet of tan sand over yellowish silt. Surface elevation is about 105 feet above sea level.

CERAMICS:
The collection includes 7 sherds of pottery vessels. Five of these are Goose Creek Plain and 2 are San Jacinto Incised.

Goose Creek Plain: (5)
One Type 5 rim sherd without notches is 5 mm. thick. Four body sherds of medium sized pots have thicknesses of 3, 6, 7, and 9 mm.

San Jacinto Incised: (1)
Two body sherds of different vessels have incised, parallel lines, Fig. 49, D. and E. Horizontal and vertical curvatures have radii of about 150 mm. Thickness is 6 mm.

LITHICS:
The collection includes an arrow point and a flint core that may be road gravel.

Catahoula: (1) (Fig. 49, F.)
The distal tip of the flint arrow point is missing. Weight is 2.3 grams.

DISCUSSION:
The few artifacts from this site suggest that occupation was during the Late Prehistoric period.

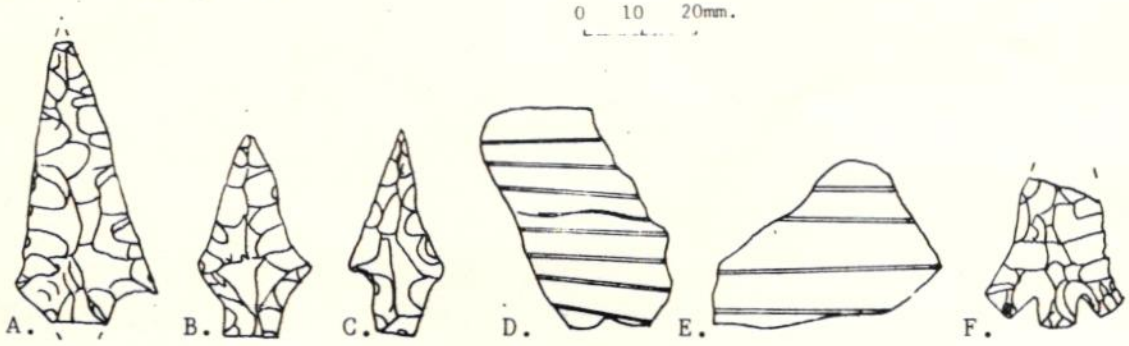

Figure 49 Sketches by P. Wolf

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