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The musket lock plate and hammer shown above is from the Post West Bernard site. In this issue, Joe Hudgins reports on work conducted to date on this important early Texas Army site.

Post West Bernard 1837 - 1839

Joe D. Hudgins

The existence of Post West Bernard is best described by Gerald S. Pierce in his book Texas Under Arms. His research concluded:

> Post West Bernard was established soon after the mass furlough of the troops at Camp Bowie in May and June 1837. Much of the army's artillery, ordnance stores and heavy camp equipage was apparently transferred to the post in the summer of 1837. Commanded by Lieutenant H. L. Gush in 1838 and 1839, this minor post was probably garrisoned by fewer than two dozen men. As late as January, 1839, sheds were erected for the protection of the artillery pieces at the post. Even as this work was being done, however, Lieutenant Gush was under orders to discharge the Permanent Volunteers which made up the garrison at Post West Bernard as soon as they could be replaced by troops of the new First Infantry. Captain Martin K. Snell took command of the Post in February and probably discharged the last of the Permanent Volunteers there. A few regulars may have been assigned to guard the artillery and stores there for an additional month or two. The last document found naming the Post is dated February 20, 1839.

The location of Post West Bernard was discovered several years ago by Joe D. Hudgins while conducting archeological surveys for aboriginal sites along the West Bernard River about four miles west of Hungerford, Texas. On one of the surveys, an aboriginal site was located in an area free from flooding and near a spring about 75 yards west of the present channel of the West Bernard River. This site was recorded with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, Texas, and given the state number 41WH16.

The site has been farmed for a number of years, exposing Indian artifacts on the furrows. Continued survey revealed iron artifacts exposed on the surface and concentrated in an area about 50 yards west of the spring. A few of these iron artifacts were taken to a Houston Archeological Society meeting, where they were identified as musket parts. Surface collecting of exposed artifacts continued for about a year noting the areas of heaviest concentration. Shortly thereafter, the Texas Historical Commission was consulted by Hudgins, for advice on further investigation. This agency suggested contacting Alton Briggs, professional archeologist, with the Lone Star Archeological Service in Georgetown, Texas, to review the data which had been gathered, to examine the artifacts and to pursue limited research concerning the area and the artifacts recovered.

Briggs' research and resulting paper Cultural Property Assessment of West San Bernard Station, an Ordnance Depot of the Army of the Republic of Texas, Wharton County, Texas, concluded the discovery of Post West Bernard and recommended a great deal of further investigation. Briggs also recommended immediate attention be given to the collection of metal artifacts to prevent further deterioration.

All metal artifacts collected on the surface by Hudgins were sent to the Department of Nautical Archeological Research at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. Vernon Williams, a graduate student studying under Dr. Don Hamilton and working on a doctoral degree in Military History, became interested in the artifacts from the site, which resulted in his paper titled, Post West Bernard Station, Republic of Texas Armory and Frontier Outpost.

Post West Bernard has also been called West San Bernard Station and

Post West Bernard Station, and should not be confused with the near-by Post Bernard, believed to be about six or seven miles to the east.

Concern for the protection of the sites' location and artifacts remaining on the site prompted Briggs to seek funding. Several months passed without results and in the meantime some looting of artifacts had taken place. At this time Hudgins and Briggs agreed that the Houston Archeological Society should be responsible for further investigation of the site.

Using stakes and string, a grid was set up covering the entire site. The area containing artifacts was rectangular in shape and covered approximately two acres. The grid consisted of units, each measuring five meters square. Using metal detectors, a systematic search for metal artifacts began. Small red flags were placed on the surface above the location of each artifact. Non-metal artifacts, such as fragments of glass, ceramics, and gun flints were marked with yellow flags. Each artifact was measured as to its location within each unit, recorded and bagged. Each artifact was bagged separately with the unit number and measurements labeled on each bag. Using these methods, an accurate map could be made showing the distribution of artifacts throughout the site. With the use of a transit, elevations of the site were also recorded.

Vertical measurements of the artifacts were not taken as all were found in the disturbed plow zone. The result of the effort yielded over a thousand artifacts. To determine if the artifacts were confined to the plow zone the Houston Archeological Society excavated several 1 x 2 meter units, selected at random over the site. The preliminary plan was to screen, through 1/4" screen, the plow zone as one level, and excavate and screen the area below the plow zone in 5 cm. levels, until the sterile layer of clay was reached. However, immediately below the plow zone, appeared an undisturbed archaic Indian component in all of the units. Plans were then changed to excavate only through the plow zone. Observation of the area under the plow zone in each unit did not give any evidence of disturbance indicating deeper deposits of historic artifacts or signs of possible structures.

As mentioned, earlier Indian artifacts were found on the surface of the site. This surfact collection, together with artifacts found in an initial test pit, will be reported in another article.

All metal artifacts found at this site by the Houston Archeological Society will be sent to the Department of Nautical Archeology at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, where they will be treated by electrolysis and submerged into boiling wax to prevent any further oxidation. These artifacts will eventually be on display at the Wharton County Historical Museum and in the J. M. Hodges Learning Center library building on the Wharton County Junior College campus, Wharton, Texas.

The members of the Houston Archeological Society, the Brazosport Archeological Society, and faculty members and students from the North Harris County Community College and the people interested in archeology who helped in the field work for Post West Bernard were: Sheldon Kindall, David Atherton, Dick Gregg, Tom Nuckles, Bernard Naman, Gary Duke, Stan Perkins, Alan Duke, Bruce Duke, Mike Sheets, Johnny Pollan, Gerald Slagle, James Smith, Troy Herndon, Marene Maness, Edgar Ash, Mike Woods, C. R. Ebersole, Gregg Dommick, Cassy Gaddy, Anne Sullivan, Raymond McCausland, Vernon Williams, Debbie Leffler, Ron and Suzanne Murk, Craig, Eric and Kevin Murk, Rebekah Jaap, Drusilla Singleton, Mike Johnston, Stephanie Horne, Marybeth Howard, and Joe D. Hudgins.

A partial inventory of the metal artifacts found at the site were identified as: 5 brass butt plates, 1 iron butt plate, 20 iron sling swivels, 21 brass trigger guards, 7 iron triggers, 26 iron frizzens, 21 iron hammers, 18 frizzen springs, main springs and sear springs, 4 sears, 2 bridles, 21 brass rampipes, 13 brass side plates, 6 iron ramrod fragments, 4 bayonet fragments, 6 copper shot (various sizes), 30 lead shot (various sizes), 8 iron shot (various sizes), 1 brass spur, 7 brass buttons, 2 brass thumb tacks, 1 iron lead dipper, 1 4" long rifle muzzle, 4 iron files, 1 pair of iron tongs, 1 small pair of pliers, numerous square nails, 15 iron spikes (various sizes), 14 lock screws, 30 musket locks, 3 pistol locks, 2 shotgun locks, 2 iron keys, 2 padlocks, 4 breech plugs, 12 English gun flints and numerous unidentified artifacts.

Glass artifacts have also been gathered from the surface. Most of this sample consists of dark green glass. More than 100 sherds have been collected. Briggs states in his paper that all of the ceramics in this collection appear to be of the Regency period (1810-1830) and none appears to be of the post 1837 Victorian area.

Table I shows the different parts of a flint lock musket. Table II shows the musket lock and all of its parts. All of the musket locks found on site represent different stages of assembly and it appears the cannibalization of musketswas taking place at the site. Only one lock seems to be complete, except for the lock screws that attaches the lock to the stock. Some of the locks have been completely stripped of all parts, while others have frizzens attached. Springs appear on some, but not others. Some have hammers and others have only frizzens attached (Table III). The 4" rifle muzzle mentioned in the inventory, had been removed by sawing. Briggs states in his paper that the front loading of rifles wore away the bands of the rifling and "freshing" a rifle frequently included this removal of a short piece at the end of the barrel.

Vernon Williams research and resulting paper found information in After San Jacinto by Joseph Milton Nance, indicating there were six hundred and fifty three muskets located at Post West Bernard and four hundred and forty muskets needing repairs and one hundred and twenty nine muskets damaged and unfit for service. Gunsmith work on these damaged muskets and rifles on the site is evident by the many gun parts collected along with tools mentioned in the inventory. Another report concerning the types of muskets represented at the site as well as a complete inventory of the artifacts will be published later.

Living conditions must have been harsh for the few men stationed at the Post. Tents probably served as living quarters and the mosquitoes had to have been fierce during certain times of the year as they are today. Alton Briggs provides an insight into the living conditions at Post West Bernard in a letter found in the Barker Texas History Center. It is a letter from Thomas P. Anderson, who was the medical officer assigned to Post West Bernard Station. In the letter, living conditions are clarified:

West Bernard Station
June 12, 1838

To Ashbel Smith, M.D.
Surgeon Genl. T.A.
My Dear Sir,

You will no doubt be somewhat surprised to receive my letter of resignation so soon after my arrival at this Post. I assure you sir it is with no small degree of reluctance that I solicit

its acceptance. It has never been my wish to leave the service nor would I do so, could I remain with the slightest comfort to myself or without doing very great violence to my feelings. Our Station is in a perfect wilderness, some five or six miles from any human habitation, we have but five men and they are all on duty, consequently I forced to bring my own wood and water, make my own fire and cook my own meals in the hot sun without a shelter to protect me from the weather and no place to sleep but in the open air, we are eight miles from a post office and thus I am cut off from all communications with my friends here or in the U.S. All this I could bear had I books to read but there is not one I presume within twenty miles of us.

I dislike very much sir, to admit the foregoing reasons as the cause of my desire to leave the service, a soldier should never complain of such things and did I conceive that there was the slightest necessity for it, I would remain without a murmur.

Could I be removed to any other station, I would still be pleased to retain my commission, or should this station be removed to any other point, I will have no objection to remain, but under existing circumstances, I hope sir that you will relieve me.

Most Respectfully your friend,
(signed) Ths. P. Anderson

A historical marker for this site has been applied for from the Texas Historical Commission through the Wharton County Historical Commission. Special recognition should be given to the land owner, Mrs. Will Merriweather and to the farmer, Mr. Carl Reynolds, Jr. for allowing access to the property.

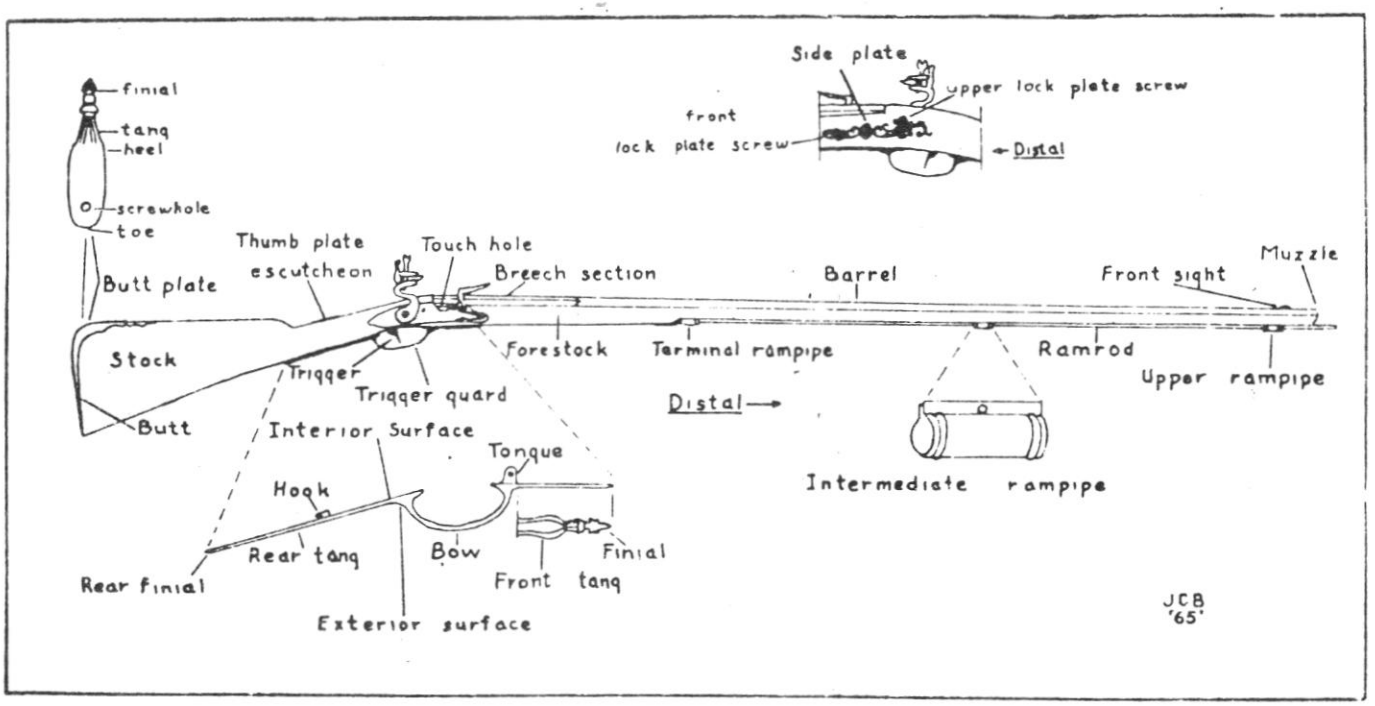
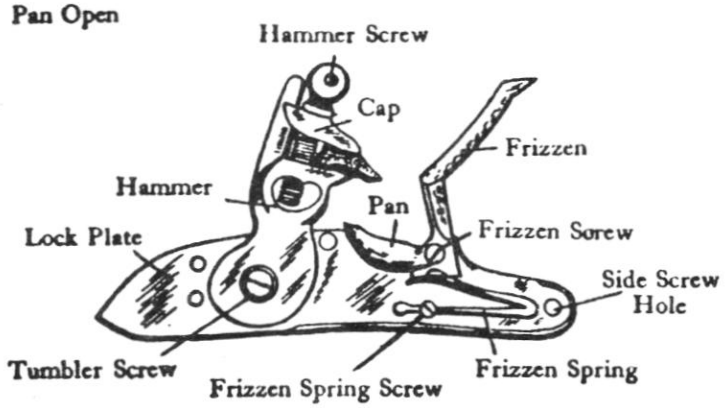


TABLE I

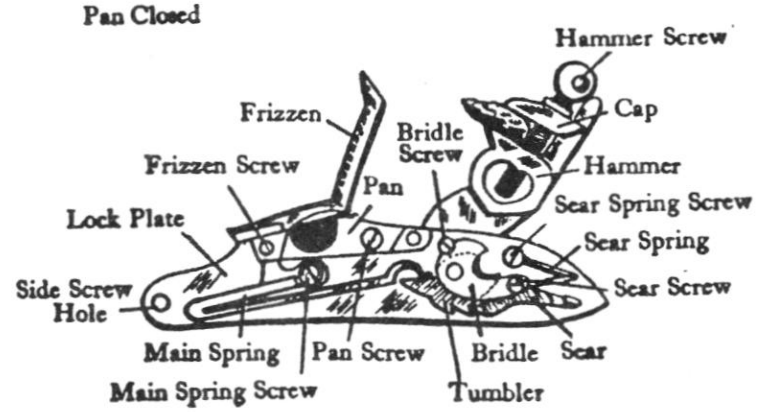
Front View

Pan Open



Interior View at Full Cock

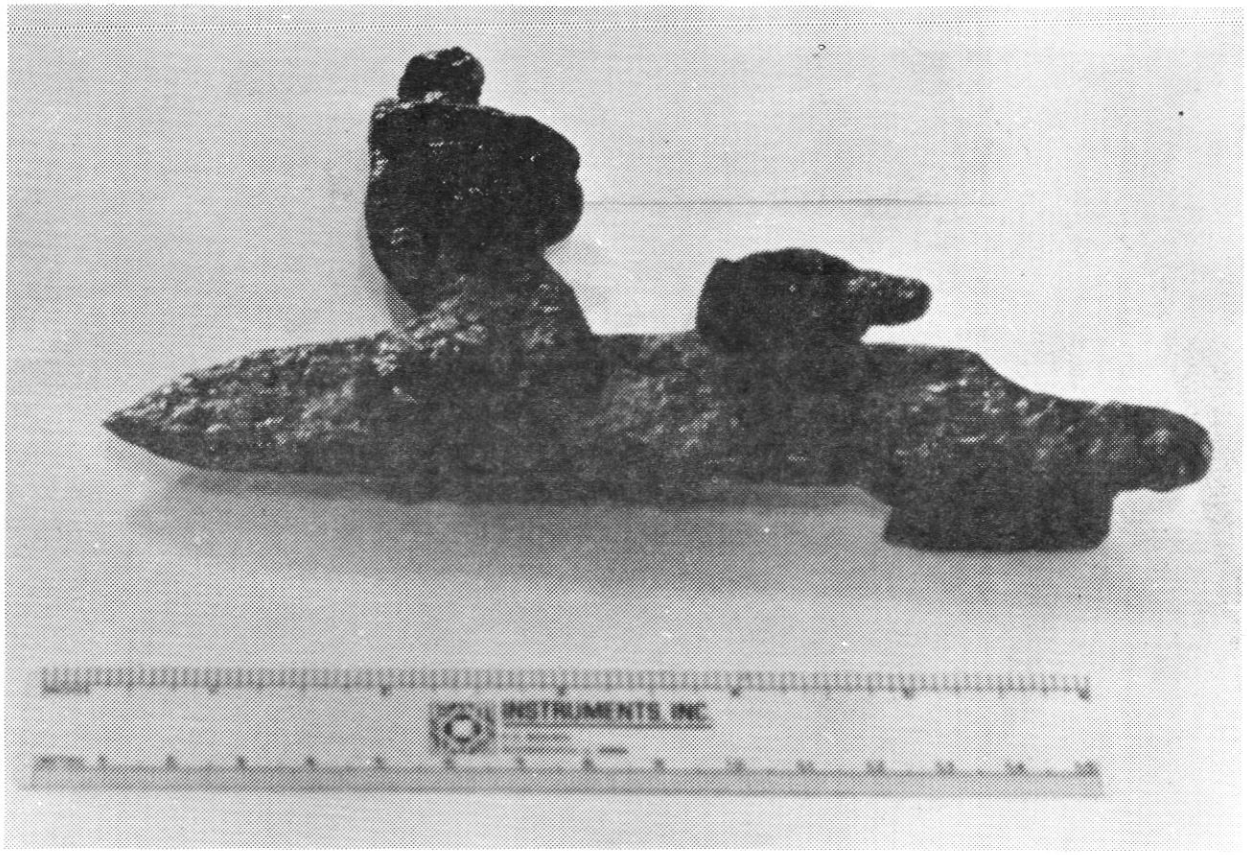
Pan Closed



Mechanism of the Revolutionary Musket

From *United States Martial Pistols and Revolvers*, by Maj. Arcadi Gluckman, United States Army.

TABLE II



41WH16

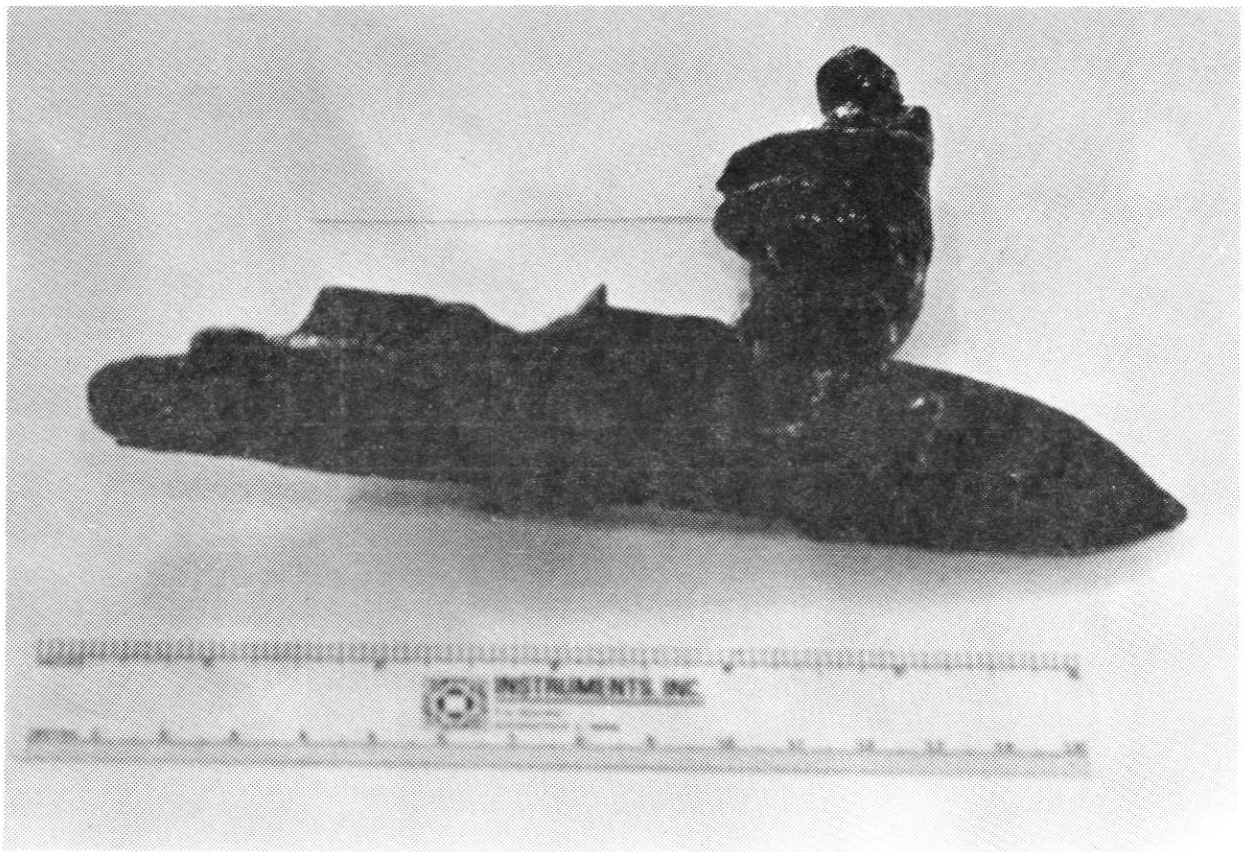
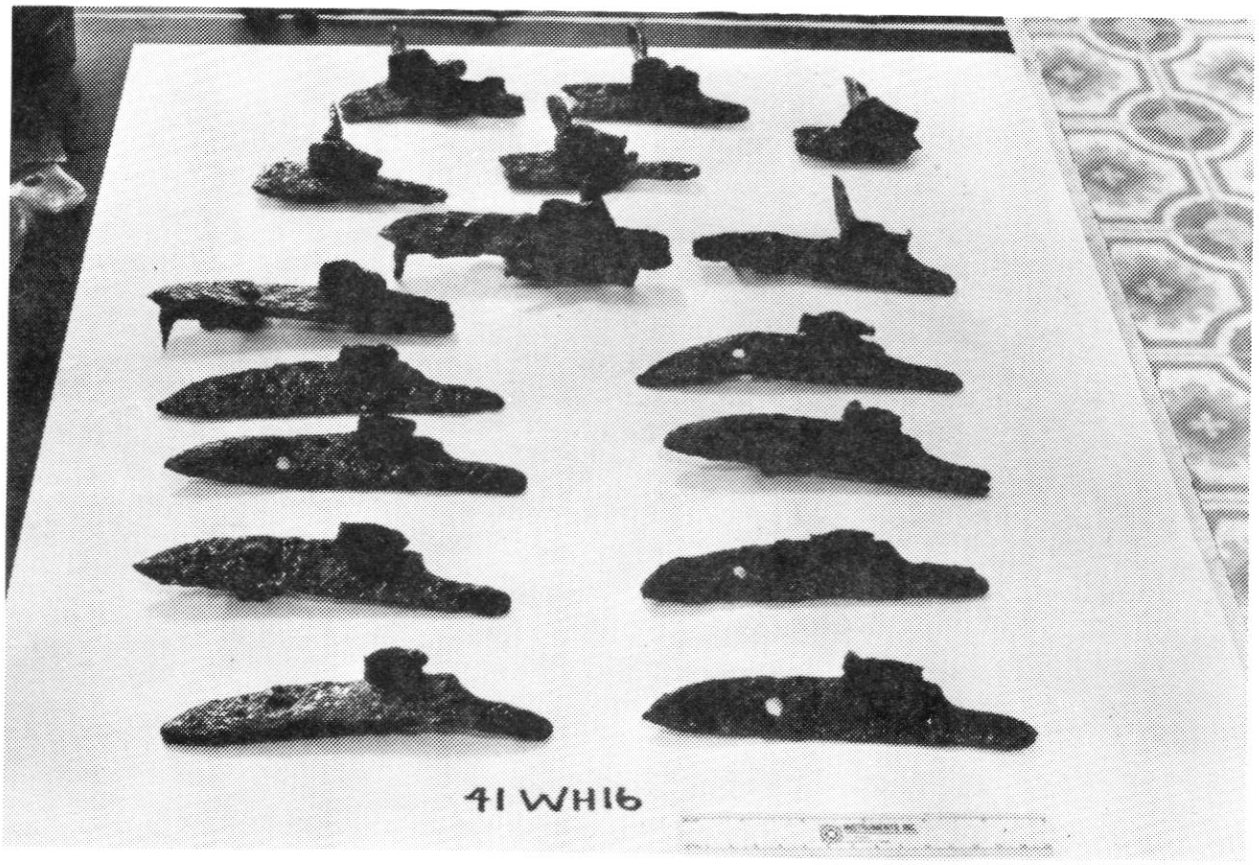


TABLE III



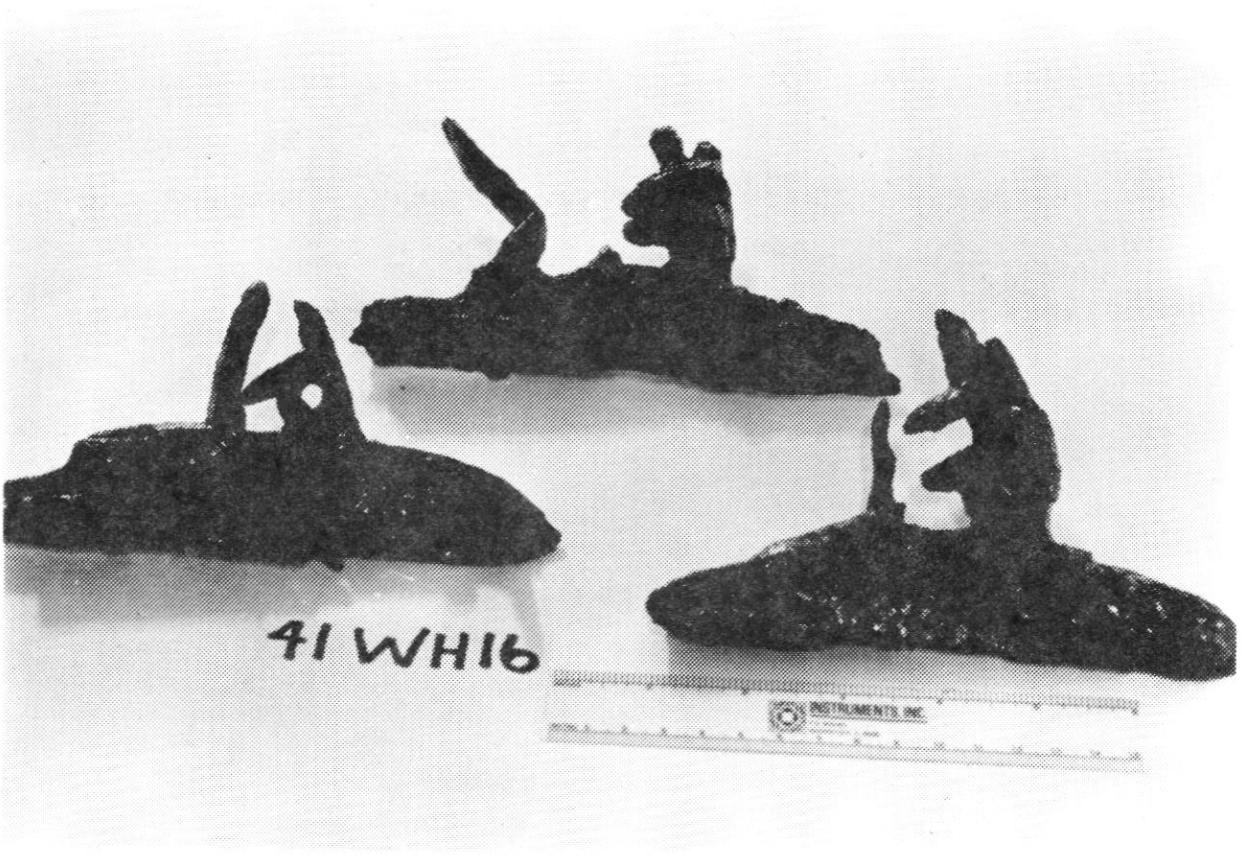


TABLE III

Peikert Site

Joe Hudgins and Sheldon Kindall

History

The Peikert site is a prehistoric cemetery and midden located in Wharton County, Texas, 5 miles west of Hungerford and about 60 miles southwest of Houston. The site is situated at the end of a finger of land formed by a sharp bend in a small stream known as Clark's Branch, just upstream from its confluence with the West Bernard River.

The field adjacent to the site has been under cultivation for many years, but the site itself remained wooded until the land was purchased by the Peikert brothers, Allen and Gorden, in 1977. They expanded the acreage available for cultivation by clearing border areas around the field which included the site location. Clearing meant not only removing trees and heavy undergrowth but also grading uneven surfaces including the top part of the site.

While the clearing operation was underway, a large number of artifacts were exposed. The site was reported to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, and TARL responded with the site designation of 41WH14.

The Peikert brothers planted a first crop of white corn over the site during the 1978 growing season. After the harvest of that crop and while preparing the land for the 1979 season by deep plowing to remove residual roots, parts of three human burials were exposed. The total number of burials at this site was later determined to be eleven. The Peikert brothers very graciously left the site area fallow while the Houston Archeological Society investigated the site on weekends from March through October of 1979.

Field activities on this site were first reported (Reference 1) in 1980. Since that time, reduction and analyses have proceeded sporadically. A first report on the analysis of the human skeletons was published (Reference 2) in 1984. It is anticipated that there will be more reports. This report documents the projectile points found scattered over the surface of the site and the results of the faunal analysis.

Projectile Points

Due to disturbance of the upper levels of the site by grading and plowing, a wide variety of points were scattered over the surface. Drawings of these points are presented in Figures 1 through 10. These points are now on loan to the Wharton County Museum.

Faunal Analysis

Approximately 35,000 grams of faunal material was recovered from a set of 39 test pits. Each pit was 1 meter by 1 meter, and most of the pits were excavated in 5 cm levels (after the first level) using 1/4 inch mesh. A few pits were excavated in 10 cm levels, also using 1/4 inch mesh screen. The burial pits were screened with 1/8 inch and 1/16 inch mesh screen. The first level for all pits was the furrow, independent of how thick the furrow was. All pits were excavated into a sterile zone, usually about 40 cm deep.

The majority of faunal material was so fragmented that identification

was not possible. However, some distal and proximal ends of bones as well as teeth, turtle shell, and vertebra did survive sufficiently intact for identification.

Table 1 and 1A present the identified species as a function of depth. Table 1A contains the data from the few pits excavated in 10 cm level.

Table 2 presents the results of fine screening one level (15 cm to 20 cm) of pit number 35 using 1/8 and 1/16 inch screens.

Table 3 shows the faunal material found in the burial fill of the units associated with human burials.

Faunal Summary

Deer, antelope, striped skunk, beaver, plain pocket gopher, cottontail rabbit, some member of the canidae family, and bison (or cow) are the mammals that were most represented at the site. About 30% of the bone fragments showed some indication of being burned. Many of the bones had butchering and/or rodent gnaw marks.

Bird bones were recovered but not identified by species. The only judgement made was that they belonged to a bird smaller than a duck.

Snakes were also present. Vertebra of both poisonous and nonpoisonous snakes were found. More than 50% of the snake vertebra were burned.

Several species of fish were identified. Gar scales, catfish spines, fresh water drum teeth, and bowfin vertebra were used for identification. About 50% of the fish vertebra were burned.

Fine screening of the one level in unit 35 revealed the presence of small fish vertebra and finely crushed mammal bone.

The faunal material distribution found in the burial fill was similar to the distribution of faunal material found in each excavated unit and the distribution of material on the surface.

Conclusion

The range of point types indicate site occupancy from Middle or Late Archaic to Late Prehistoric. The very high density of artifacts indicate relatively intense use of the site.

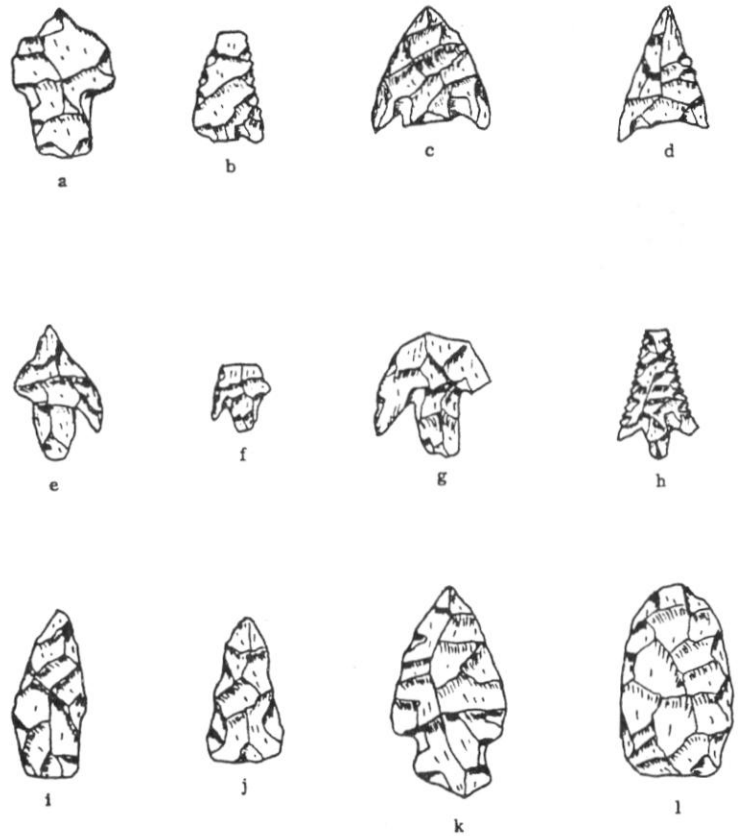
Why this site was so attractive for such a long period of time is not clear. The popularity of the site may have been related to an abundance of cane in the vacinity. Cane motts are still relatively abundant.

References

1. Kindall, S.M., "Peikert Site," HAS Newsletter, Number 66, 1980.

2. Copas, W.J., "Preliminary Report on the Analysis of Human Skeletal Remains from the Peikert Site (41HI4) in Wharton County, Texas," Journal of Houston Archeological Society," Number 79, 1984.

Figure 1. (a-d) Gary, (e-k) Scallorn



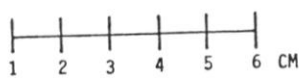


Figure 2. (a) Kent, (b-h) Perdiz, (i) Kent, (j) Fresno, (k) Ellis, (l) Preform

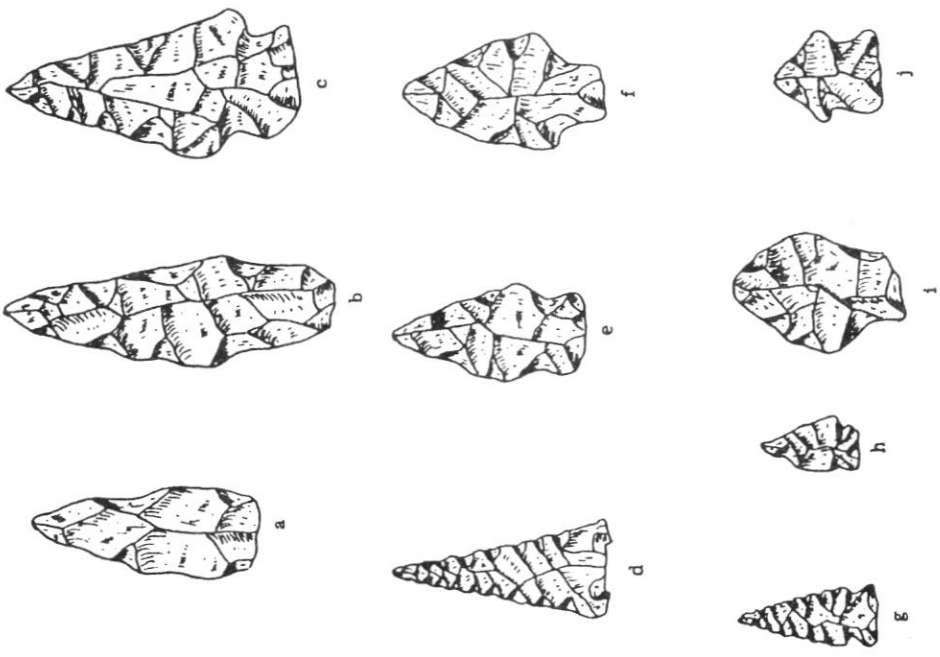


Figure 3. (a) Fresno, (b) Kent, (c) Williams, (d) Perdiz, (e) Ensor, (f) Bulverde, (g-h) Scallorn, (i) Ellis, (j) Elam

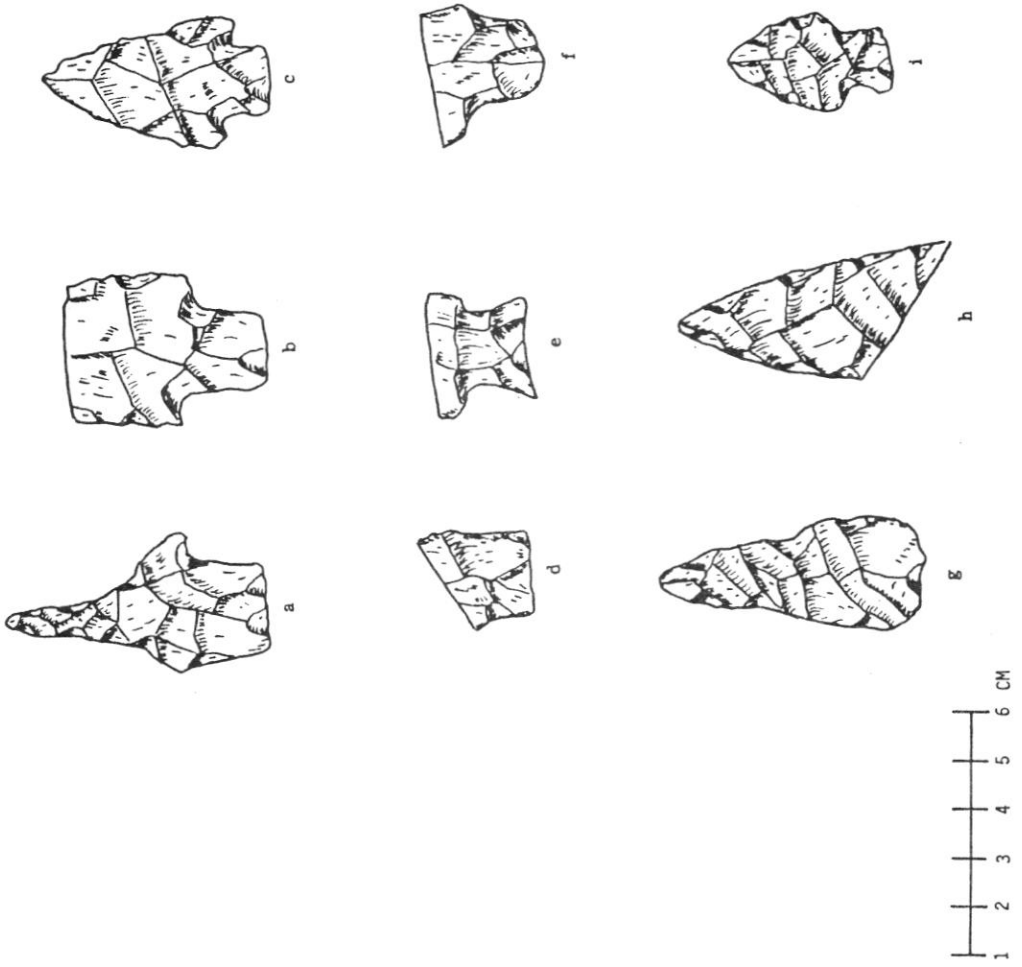


Figure 4. (a-f) Bulverde, (g) Tortugus, (h) Unclass., (i) Yarbrough

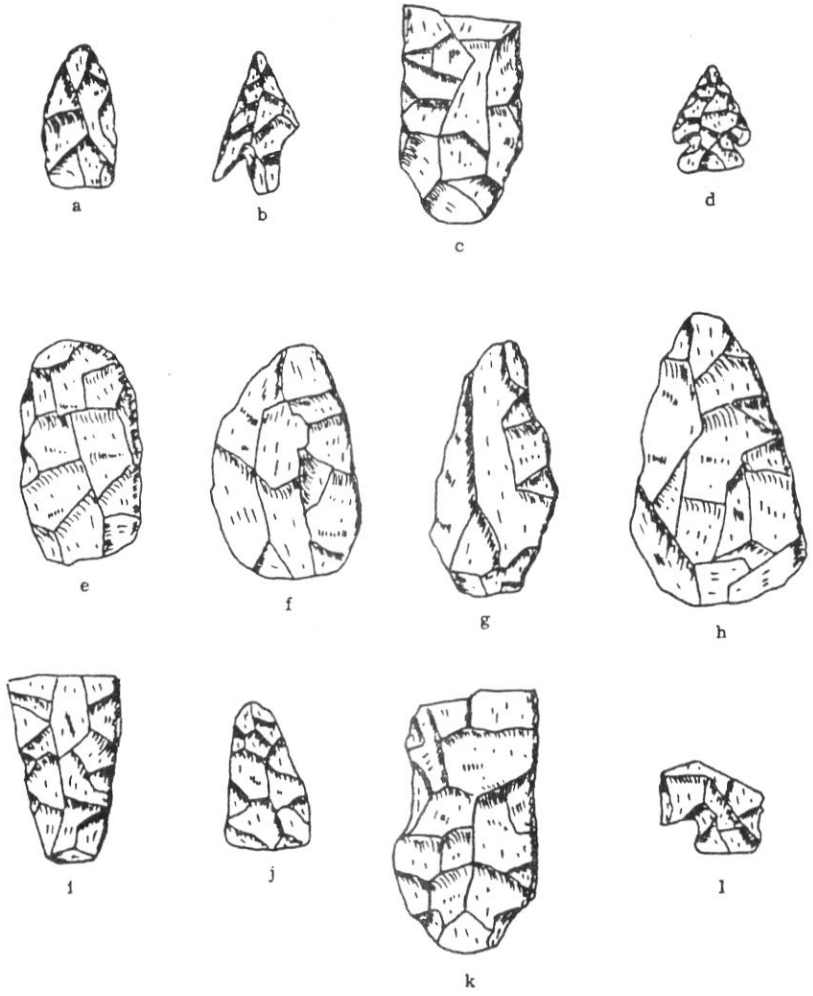
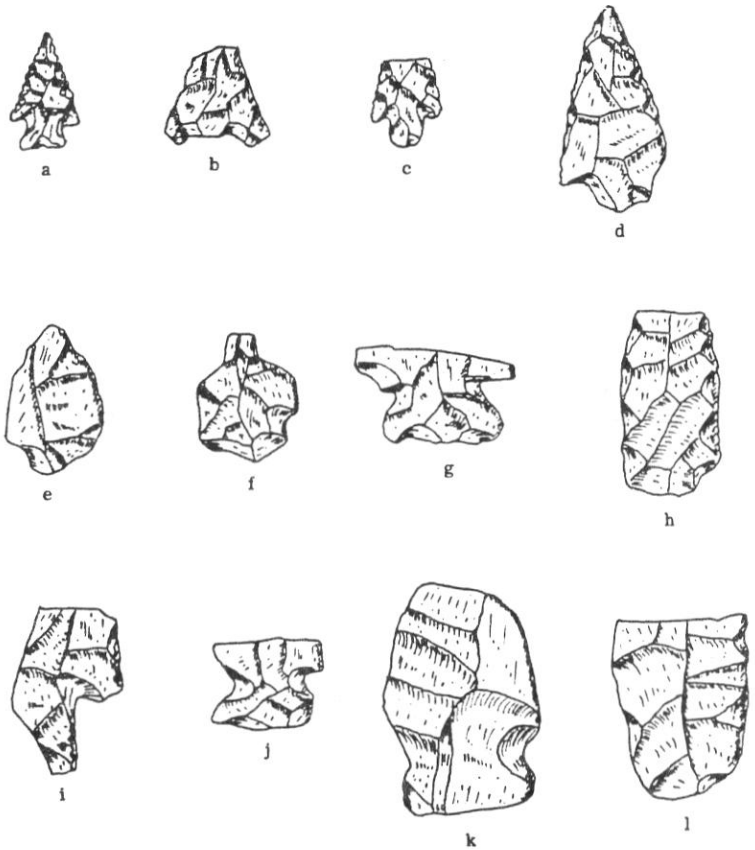


Figure 5. (a) Preform, (b) Perdiz, (c) Unclass., (d) Scallorn, (e-h) Preform, (i) Unclass., (j-k) Perform, (l) Unclass.



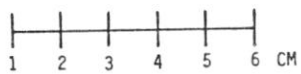


Figure 6. (a) Scallorn, (b) Perdiz (probable), (c) Perdiz, (d-j) Unclass., (k-l) Perform

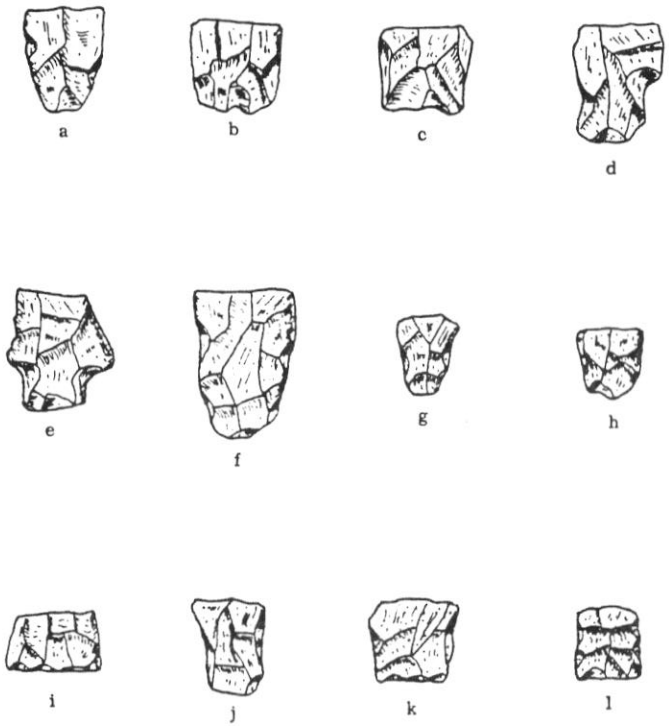
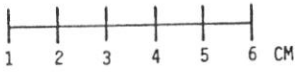


Figure 7. Assorted Stems



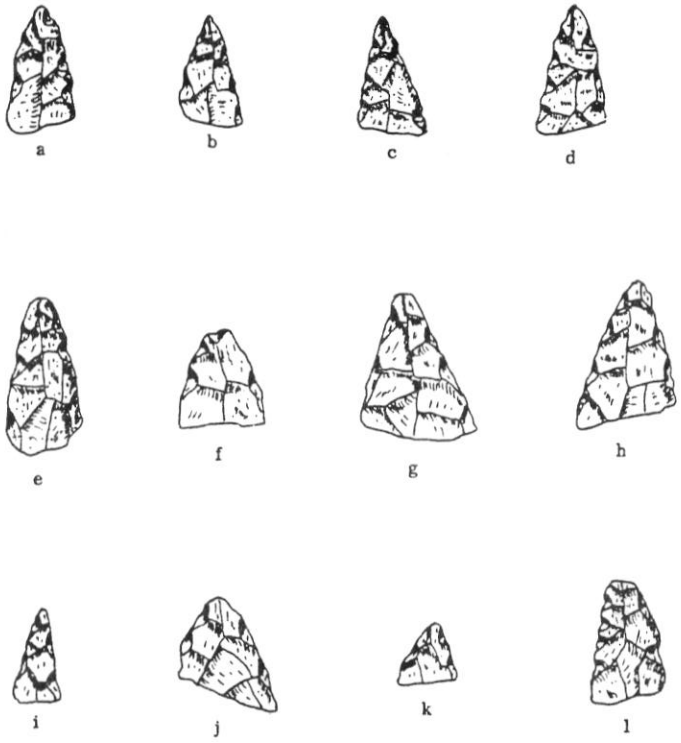


Figure 8. Point Tips

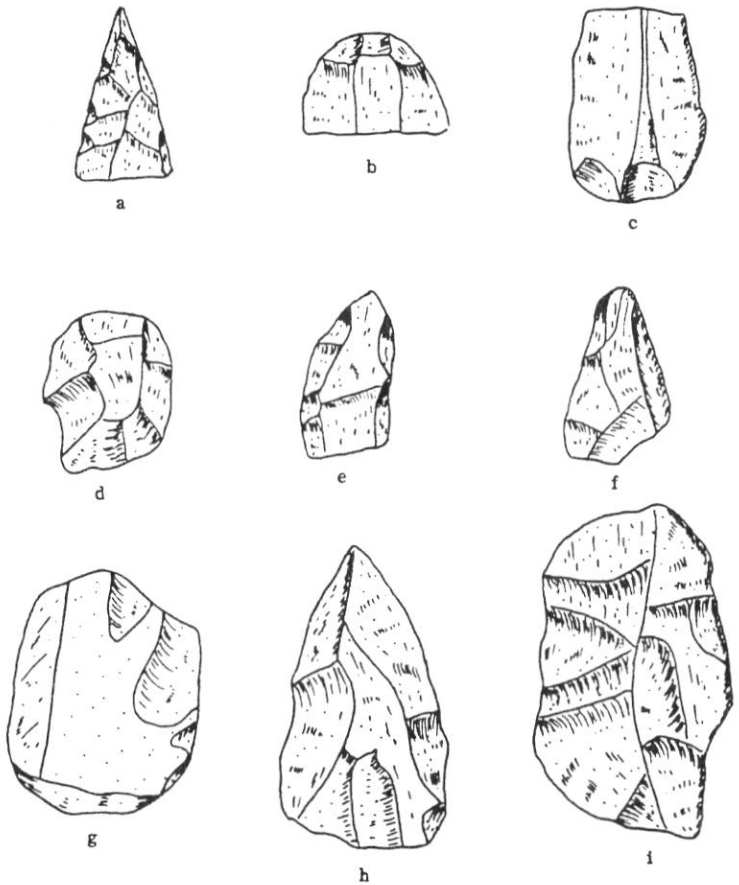


Figure 9. (a) Point Tip, (b-i) Unclass.

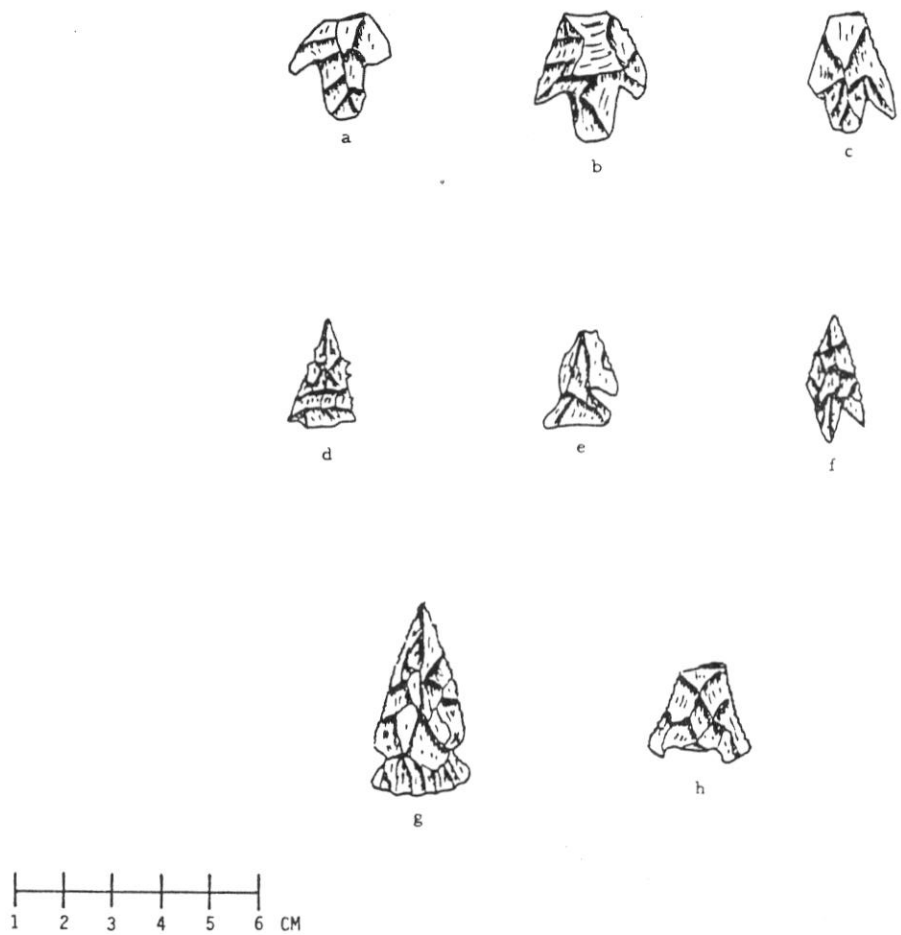


Figure 10. (a-d) Perdiz, (e) Scallorn, (f) Perdiz
(g) Ellis, (h) Catahoula

Table 1. Faunal Species/Element by Stratigraphic Zone

species and element	surface	furrow	0-5 cm	5-10 cm	10-15 cm	15-20 cm	20-25 cm	25-30 cm
Deer - Antelope (Artiodactyla)								
humerus distal-right	5		1		1	1		
humerus distal-left	4		1		3			
radius distal-right					1			
radius distal-left	1			2				
radius proximal-right			1	1				
radius proximal-left					3			
metacarpal distal			2	4	3	1	1	
metacarpal proximal	2	1		2		1		
metacarpal diaphysis	1		1	1				
femur distal-right		1						
femur distal-left				2			1	
femur proximal-right				1	1			

Table 1. Faunal Species/Element by Stratigraphic Zone (continued)

species and element	surface	furrow	0-5 cm	5-10 cm	10-15 cm	15-20 cm	20-25 cm	25-30 cm
tibia distal-left	1				1			
tibia proximal-left					1			
metatarsal distal	2		3	3				
metatarsal proximal	1	1		3				
metatarsal diaphysis	4		1		3			
calcaneum	4		1	2	2		1	
astragalus	8	3	4	6	5	9	1	
naviculo cuboid		1				1		
metapodial condyle	3	2	8	10	14	7		
phalanges	10	15	20	21	24	14	8	
tarsal and carpal	1		1	1	2	1	2	
vertebra	2			2	1			
petrous temporal	2	2	4	9	5	2	1	
pelvis fragments	1				1			

Table 1. Faunal Species/Element by Stratigraphic Zone (continued)

species and element	surface	furrow	0-5 cm	5-10 cm	10-15 cm	15-20 cm	20-25 cm	25-30 cm
Deer (Odocoileus virginianus)								
skull fragments	1							
antler tine				1				
maxillary premolars			1	2	3	1	4	
maxillary molars				6	5		3	
mandible premolars	2	1	2			3	4	
mandible molars			5		6	4		
incisors						2	1	
tooth fragments		20	23	12	35	20	6	

Table 1. Faunal Species/Element by Stratigraphic Zone (continued)

species and element	surface	furrow	0-5 cm	5-10 cm	10-15 cm	15-20 cm	20-25 cm	25-30 cm
Antelope (Antilocapra americanus)								
teeth								3
Striped skunk (Mephitis)								
mandible-left					1			
Beaver (Castor canadensis)								
molar							1	
Plains pocket gopher (Geomys bursaris)								
mandible		1						

Table 1. Faunal Species/Element by Stratigraphic Zone (continued)

species and element	surface	furrow	0-5 cm	5-10 cm	10-15 cm	15-20 cm	20-25 cm	25-30 cm
Eastern Cottontail (Sylvilagus floridanus)								
tibia distal-right						1		
femur distal					1			
Fox-Coyote-Dog-Wolf (Canidae)								
phalanges						1		
Cow or Bison (Bovidae)								
humerus distal-right		1						
humerus proximal-right		1						
tooth fragments		3						

Table 1. Faunal Species/Element by Stratigraphic Zone (continued)

species and element	surface	furrow	0-5 cm	5-10 cm	10-15 cm	15-20 cm	20-25 cm	25-30 cm
Bird (undetermined)								
humerus distal					1			
diaphysis								1
Snake (Viper)								
vertebrae		4	4	10	8	6	2	1
Snake (Colubridae)								
vertebrae		8	29	54	35	32	17	6
Frog (Rana)								
humerus					1			

Table 1. Faunal Species/Element by Stratigraphic Zone (continued)

species and element	surface	furrow	0-5 cm	5-10 cm	10-15 cm	15-20 cm	20-25 cm	25-30 cm
Fish								
Gar (Lepisosteus)								
vertebrae		1	2	5	2	5	6	2
scales			7	6	18	9	10	2
Bowfin (Amia calva)								
vertebrae		2	2	4				
Catfish (Ictalurus)								
vertebrae			1					
Undetermined								
vertebrae		5	39	12	18	21	7	9

Table 1. Faunal Species/Element by Stratigraphic Zone (continued)

species and element	surface	furrow	0-5 cm	5-10 cm	10-15 cm	15-20 cm	20-25 cm	25-30 cm
Box Turtle (Terrapene)								
carapace/plastron fragments		720	1606	1568	1661	769	329	198
nuchal		2	3	4	6	5	3	1
femur				1	1	1		
humerus						1		
humerus/femur fragments			1	1	2		2	

Table 1A. Faunal Species/Element by Stratigraphic Zone

species and element	0-10 cm	10-20 cm	20-40 cm
Deer - Antelope (Artiodactyla)			
tibia distal-right			1
tibia distal-left	1		
metatarsal proximal	1		
calcaneum			1
astragalus	4	5	2
naviculo cuboid	1	1	
humerus distal-right	1	3	
humerus proximal-right		1	1
radius distal-left		1	2
radius proximal-left			1
metacarpal distal			2
metacarpal proximal	1	1	
vertebrae		1	1
metapodial condyle	6	2	4
petrous temporal	1	8	4
phalanges	7	3	5
tarsal and carpal	1	4	
ulna proximal			1

Table 1A. Faunal Species/Element by Stratigraphic Zone (continued)

species and element	0-10 cm	10-20 cm	20-40 cm
Deer (Odocoileus virginianus)			
maxillary premolars		1	2
maxillary molars	1	1	3
mandible premolars	1		
mandible molars	1		5
teeth fragments	8		16
Jackrabbit (Lepus californicus)			
phalanx			1
Snake (Viper)			
vertebrae	2		7
Snake (Colubridae)			
vertebrae	10	26	10
Fish			
Gar (Lepisosteus)			
vertebrae	3	6	1
scales	7	5	

Table 1A. Faunal Species/Element by Stratigraphic Zone (continued)

species and element	0-10 cm	10-20 cm	20-40 cm
Bowfin (Amia calva)			
vertebrae			1
Catfish (Ictalurus)			
vertebrae	3		1
Undetermined			
vertebrae	2	9	9
Box turtle (Terrapene)			
carapace/plastron	748	800	
humerus/femur fragments			1

Table 2. Fine Screen Faunal Species/Element, Unit 35, 15-20 cm

species and element	1/8" screen	1/16" screen
Fish		
Drum (Aplodinotus grunniens)		
teeth		2
Gar (Lepisosteus)		
vertebrae	125	
scales	36	51
Catfish (Ictalurus)		
spines		25
Undetermined		
vertebrae		300
Mammal - by weight		
Undetermined		
bone fragments	225 grams	150 grams

Table 3. Faunal Species/Element from Burial Fill by Unit

species and element	unit 7	unit 13	unit 14	units 15&18	unit 19	unit 20
Deer - Antelope (Artiodactyla)						
radius distal-right	1					
tibia distal	1					
metatarsal distal				1		
metatarsal shaft				1		
femur distal-left				1		
calcaneum		2				
astragulus		1	1	2	1	
phalanges		2		1	1	6
metapodial condyle						1
carpal			1			
petrous temporal	1					

Table 3. Faunal Species/Element from Burial Fill by Unit (continued)

species and element	unit 7	unit 13	unit 14	units 15&18	unit 19	unit 20
Box turtle (Terrapene)						
carapace/plastron	50	140	17	42		27
Snake (Viper & Colubridae)						
vertebrae	4	3	1	5	10	
Fish						
Gar (Lepisosteus)						
vertebrae	1			1		
scales	6	2		1	7	
Undetermined						
vertebrae	10	5		9	40	

TEST EXCAVATIONS AT SITE 41WH10, WHARTON COUNTY, TEXAS

L. W. Patterson and J. D. Hudgins

Introduction

A previous survey (Patterson and Hudgins 1980) of site 41WH10 in Wharton County, Texas has shown this to be an important prehistoric site having a long occupation sequence. The time range covered is from the Late Paleoindian period (probably before 6,000 B.C.) to post-ceramic time (after A.D. 100). Because of the research potential of this site, the Houston Archeological Society has done some initial test excavations to determine the extent of intact stratification and horizontal layout. The results of work during the spring of 1984 will be summarized here. This work has been done with the cooperation of the present landowner, Marcial Sorrel.

Site 41WH10 is located on a relatively high sandy ridge that covers several acres. It slopes gently towards an active creek. Some of this area has been disturbed by an old gravel pit and by some erosional gulleys. There has also been some general surface disturbance from agricultural operations. This sandy ridge is an unusual geological feature for this area, and would have been an ideal campsite location.

While there is much evidence of lithic manufacturing at this site, the subsurface chert gravels found here would have been generally too small to be useful for manufacture of large stone tools. However, large pieces of chert can be found within a few miles of this site. The lithic artifacts found here seem to be made mainly from local cherts, with few specimens that might be identified as exotic materials.

Persons who participated in excavations at this site include: Sheldon Kindall, Richard Gregg, Dave Atherton, Ray MacCausland, Bernard Naman, Mike Johnston, Debbie Leffler, Joe Hudgins, Bill Hudgins, Lee Patterson and Tommy Nuckols.

This site probably represents a campsite used by nomadic hunter-gatherers over a very long time period. A variety of floral and faunal food resources would have been available, as well as a good water supply. Preliminary test excavations show that this site still has some research potential, in spite of various surface disturbances.

New Surface Finds

Additional surface collecting on this site has yielded mainly chert flakes and Goose Creek potsherds. However, a few additional diagnostic artifacts have been found, as shown in Figure 1. The landowner has found three Paleoindian projectile points, two of which can be classified as Plainview or Plainview-like points. These three Paleoindian points and one previously found Paleo point (Patterson and Hudgins 1980:Fig. 1A) all have a distinctive flaking pattern on one face of each point. One long thinning flake starts at the right side of the basal edge, and one or more additional thinning flakes start at the left side of the basal edge to intersect with the longer right thinning flake. This flaking pattern might have some relationship with the Paleoindian fluted point tradition. One of the Plainview points appears to

have a reworked tip. The landowner has also found one Bulverde projectile point on the surface of this site, which represents additional evidence for middle to Late Archaic site occupation.

Three thick bifacial cores have been found, with diameters of 70 to 90 mm. All are of local chert types. A possible bifacial gouge (Figure 1F) was also collected, with a steep beveled edge that is typical of this tool type.

Some historic materials have also been found here in the form of a glass and ceramics. An old cabin was once located on the west end of the site.

Test Excavations

Three one-meter square test pits have been completed at this site. Test Pit 1 yielded the most significant results. It is located at the center of the site, approximately 180 feet from the creek. A total of 356 chert flakes were found in this test pit, and details are summarized in Table 1. In addition, 313 pieces of heat-fractured chert were found, distributed fairly uniformly thoughout the fill of this test pit. If this material is the byproduct of heat treating of chert for flintknapping purposes, it represents a significant failure rate in temperature control during processing. In addition, pieces of broken chert cobbles were found throughout the levels of Pit 1. One Goose Creek sherd was found in the 0 to 10 cm excavation level.

In test Pit 1, the soil appears to be disturbed down to a level of about 20 cm. Below this, the stratigraphy appears to be intact. The Beaumont clay formation was encountered at 90 to 100cm in different parts of this test pit. No archeological remains were found below 100 cm in test Pit 1.

Test Pit 2 is located approximately 80 feet south of test Pit 1, where the ground starts to level out toward the creek bank. Excavations were made down to a level of 90 cm, but all of the material in this test pit appears to have been redeposited. A piece of barbwire was found at the 80 to 90 cm level, and Goose Creek potsherds were found as low as 80 cm.

Test Pit 3 is located approximately 100 feet east of test Pit 1, in an area where many chert flakes and potsherds were found on the surface. The levels of test Pit 3 are stratified in the same manner as in Pit 1. However, only a few chert flakes and pieces of heat-fractrued chert were found at each level of excavation. Like Pit 1, Pit 3 had no archeological remains below 100 cm.

Unlike many sites in Wharton County, few burned clayballs were found at site 41WH10. Five clayballs with diameters of 15 to 50 mm were found in the 40 to 50 cm level of Pit 1.

Future Research

Since some portions of this site appear to have undisturbed stratigraphy, this site could be important for future studies concerning the Paleoindian and Archaic periods. No portion of this site has yet been found with undisturbed post-ceramic levels. Some tests are probably warranted on the east side of this site, beyond the old gravel pit, to determine if there is any intact stratigraphy at that location, also.

Summary

Surface surveys and test excavations have shown that site 41WH10 is a large site with a long occupation sequence, from the Late Paleoindian period through some portion of post-ceramic time. As is common to prehistoric sites in this region, this site probably represents a seasonal campsite of nomadic Indians following a foraging lifestyle. A significant number of sites with very long occupation sequences have now been found on the inland portion of the upper Texas coastal plain.

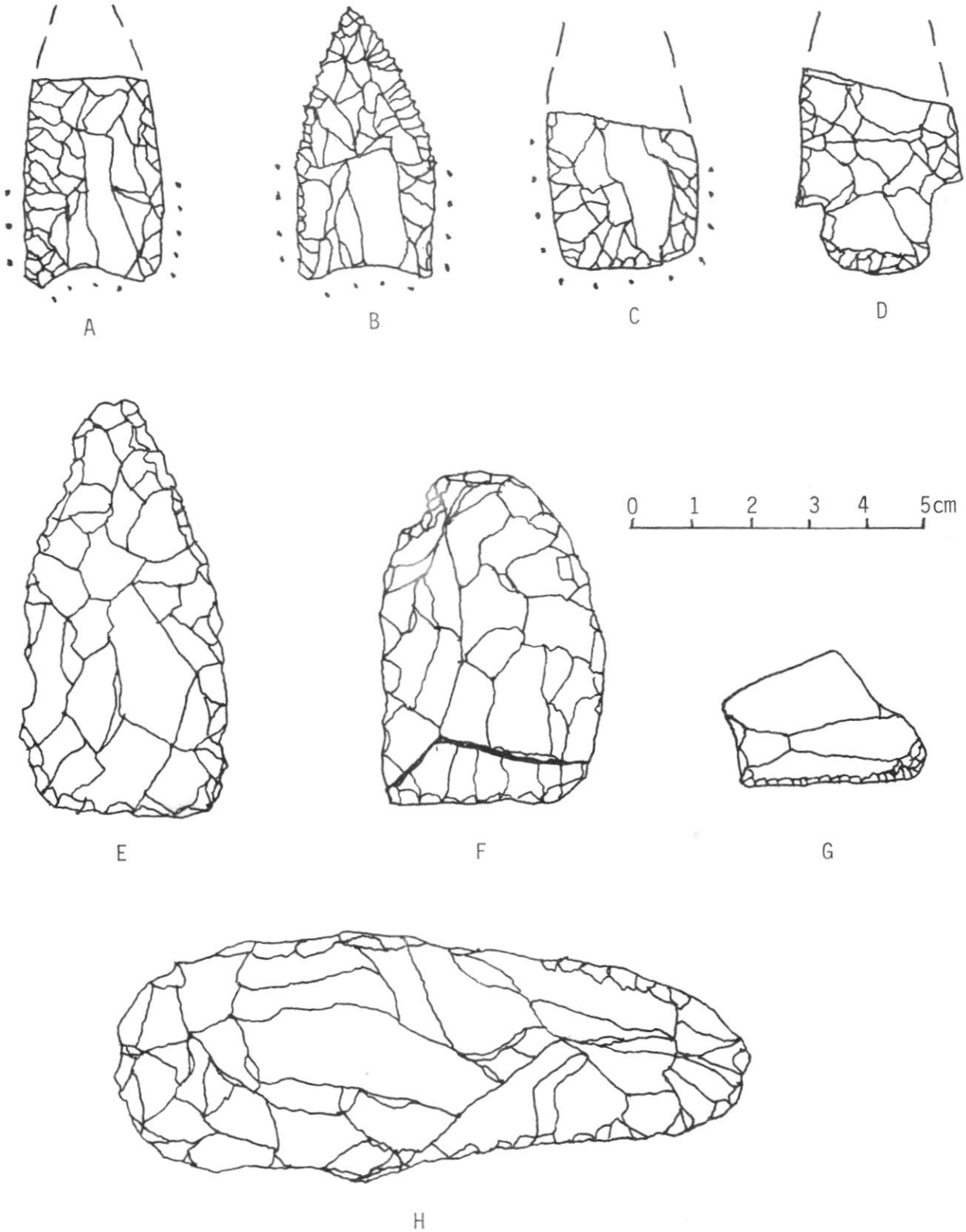
Reference

Patterson, L. W. and J. D. Hudgins
1980 Multi-Component Site 41WH10, Wharton Co., Texas. Houston Archeological Society Newsletter 68:28-35.

TABLE 1
PIT 1 LITHIC FLAKES, 41WH10

Flake Size, MM Square	EXCAVATION LEVEL, CM								
	0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-90	90-100
Under 15, %	56.4	61.4	54.4	64.7	56.9	42.8	43.5	33.3	50.0
15-20, %	38.5	31.7	31.6	21.6	27.6	28.6	21.8	40.7	33.3
20-25, %	5.1	2.3	7.0	5.8	5.2	14.3	15.2	14.8	16.7
25-30, %		2.3	3.5	2.0	3.4	7.1	8.7	7.4	
30-35, %				2.0	5.2	3.6	4.3	3.8	
35-40, %		2.3	3.5	3.9	1.7	3.6	4.3		
40-50, %							2.2		
TOTAL, %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
TOTAL NUMBER	39	44	57	51	58	28	46	27	6
TYPE, %									
Primary	5.9	11.8	3.8	0	4.0	0	3.8	11.1	100.0
Secondary	35.3	35.3	34.6	33.3	16.0	50.0	26.9	27.8	-
Interior	58.8	52.9	61.6	66.7	80.0	50.0	69.3	61.1	-

FIGURE I
SITE 41WH10 LITHIC ARTIFACTS



A - Plainview point, B-reworked Plainview point, C-unclassified Paleo point,
D - Bulverde point, E-preform, F-possible bifacial gouge,
G - scraper (Pit 1,60-70cm), H-thick biface (Pit 1,20-30cm), dots show ground edges

HAS Historic Note Number Three

Alan R. Duke and Suzanne Patrick

1960-61

New officers for 1960-61 were as follows:
Chairman - Wayne Neyland
Sec.-Treas. - Alan R. Duke
Directors - John Dieckman, Richard Worthington and Damon Dunn

- In 1959, the HAS started its first major excavation at site 41LB2 (Jamison Site, Liberty Co., Texas) and during 1960-61, work accelerated on this earth midden near Dayton. In 1960, a preliminary report was issued and presented at the TAS annual meeting. The final report on the site was written by Lawrence Aten in 1967 and became HAS Special Report No. 1. Artifacts from the "dig" were processed in lab sessions in HAS member Gordon Bailey's home and at Rice University and were stored finally at Rice. The carefully controlled excavations were completed in early summer, 1961 after more than two years of continuous week-end work.

- In 1960, the HAS applied for and was accepted as a member of Instituto Interamericano - an organization of persons interested in the Anthropology of the Americas and an agency of the Interam Foundation. Dr. Art Gallaher, University of Houston, was appointed by the membership to represent the HAS in the Houston area and was subsequently appointed as fellow of the Instituto.

- The HAS hosted its second important event, the 31st Annual Texas Archeological Society meeting, on November 4, 5, and 6, 1960. The meeting was held at the University of Houston.

- During 1960-61, Hubert Mewhinney, noted Houston Post columnist, continued to serve as Editor of the HAS Newsletter. In the June 1961 (No. 5) issue, he expressed, in his own inimitable fashion, his suggestions for improving the Newsletter.

"With no intent to exert any undue influence on the members of the Society, the acting editor---for no one else seems to be acting in any regular manner---would nevertheless ask this opportunity to offer a few suggestions for the publication of this Newsletter:

(1) We ought to quit changing its name every second or third time we publish it.

(2) We would do well to abandon fancy headings, attempts to imitate the make up of the daily newspapers, etc.

(3) Contributors should eschew the polysyllabic jargon which, with disordered syntax, is unhappily so common in the writings of professional archaeologists.

(4) We need more preliminary reports on work in progress. Detailed and extended papers are more suitable for publication by the Texas Society.

(5) Papers for this newsletter need not be limited to work done in excavating sites. If some member wishes to indulge in comment or debate: Let him do so."

(To be continued in Journal No. 81)

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Houston Archeological Society, P. O. Box 6751, Houston, Texas 77005

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2nd Friday of each month
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of Natural Science

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