CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE THE WOODS' SPRINGS FARM PROPERTY AND SITE 41 LB 16, LIBERTY COUNTY,TEXAS

Prepared for:

Texas Historical Commission
Archeological Survey Agreement
Contract No. THC-008-28

and

Liberty County Historical Commission
P. O. Box 23
Liberty, Texas 77575

Prepared by:

William Louis Fullen
Principal Investigator
Texas Heritage Services
717 Dartmouth Lane
Deer Park, Texas 77536

and

Jean L. Epperson
Texana Heritage Services
Rt. 2 Box 162
Dayton, Texas 77535

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ABSTRACT

The Liberty County Historical Commission initiated a project to gather historical and archeological information about the historic site of Atascosito Post, an early 19th century Spanish military post located at Atascosito Springs, that might be useful for determining elgibility of the site for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. They determined that archeological site 41 LB 16, previously located and reported on the Woods' Springs Farm property, might contain significant cultural resources in the form of archeological deposits that would relate to Atascosito Post, and also to the homesite of a prominent early Anglo-American settler, George Orr, who served the area as alcalde for the Mexican Government.

The commission undertook an extensive archeological survey and limited testing of the 45 acre Woods' Springs Farm property, and received a Department of Interior, National Park Service, Historic Preservation Grant through the Texas Historical Commission for matching funds to conduct the study.

The work was performed for the Liberty County Historical Commission. William Louis Fullen, of Texas Heritage Services, served as archeologist and principal investigator for the project. Jean L. Epperson, of Texana Heritage Services, conducted the archival research and wrote the historical section of the report. Thirty-one volunteer workers assisted in carrying out the field and laboratory tasks. Sandra Pickett, Chairman of the Liberty County Historical Commission, served as administrator for the project and coordinated the project with Nancy Kenmotsu, Archeologist with the Texas Historical Commission.

The investigations included a thorough archival and literature search, and an analysis of the artifacts gathered in 1987 and of the aerial photographs of the study area. Field work was confined to the Woods' Springs Farm property and included an archeological reconnaissance, the construction of a map of the structures on the property, a pedestrian survey of the property and stratigraphic testing.

No major limitations were encountered during the study. During the pedestrian survey 2 areas were identified that might contain significant cultural resources. After excavating 37 stratigraphic tests in the area most likely to contain evidence of an early Anglo-American occupation, a second area was tested with 22 excavation units, where 2 small glass beads were found on the surface along with Indian ceramics.

Both areas were composed of sandy soils that were severely mixed by the repeated burrowing of pocket gophers.

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No clear cultural stratigraphy could be discerned in either area. No evidence of a Spanish occupation was found in either area.

Area A, near the modern barns and tool shed on the west end of the property, contained evidence of both Indian and Anglo-American occupations. The George Orr homesite might be present in the vicinity of the barns south of the area tested, but sufficient evidence was not found to nominate the site to the National Register of Historic Places.

Area B, east of the barns, contained few historic artifacts, but more Indian ceramics than area A. No historic artifacts were found that would indicate a historic Indian occupation other than the 2 glass beads found on the surface.

A State Of Texas Archeological Site Report was filed with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, and the records and collections were placed at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center at Liberty, Texas.

Recommendations were made to conserve the cultural resources on the Woods' Springs Farm property. Recommendations were also made for further historical and archeological research concerning the Atascosito Post and the George Orr homesite.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are particularly grateful to several members of the staff of the Texas Historical Commission who made this study possible. LaVerne Herrington and Robert J. Mallouf provided initial information and advice concerning the project. James E. Bruseth and Nancy Kenmotsu provided invaluable technical assistance for finalizing the project. They also administered the National Historic Preservation Grant for matching funds. Their encouragement, technical assistance and the grant made the study possible.

Our appreciation is expressed to the landowners of the Woods' Springs Farm for their permission to carry out the study. Carl Pickett, Bernardine Pickett and Bradford Pickett were particularly interested and helpful as we conducted the investigations.

Thirty-one volunteers contributed 463 hours of time to the project while they carried out a variety of tasks efficiently and cheerfully. Ben Pickett recorded activities on video tape. Charles W. Fisher, Jr., who served as photographer, also video taped many of the activities. Jean Epperson, Richard Gregg and Sandra Pickett provided invaluable assistance in supervising the volunteers. The help of the volunteers is gratefully acknowledged as the project could not have been conducted without their help.

Our thanks to members of the Junior Historians Club of the Liberty Middle School who contributed 125 hours of their time to the project. The students and their sponsors, teachers Barbara Fisher and Mark Wills, assisted in the pedestrian survey of the property while learning more about the process of carrying out archeological surveys.

We wish to thank Bernard Naman for translating a number of the Spanish documents cited in the historical section of the report. His work was most helpful in completing the research.

Sharon Clanahan and Robert L. Schaadt read and commented on the historical section of the report. Ms. Clanahan also provided funds for a technical critique of the historical section by Jesus de la Teja. Their comments and suggestions were most helpful and are sincerely appreciated.

We also owe our most sincere thanks to Sandra Pickett, Chairman of the Liberty County Historical Commission, who administered the project, coordinated activities with the volunteers and the Texas Historical Commission staff and edited the technical report. Her leadership and encouragement were most valuable to everyone who participated in the project.

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Margie Fullen carried out a final editing of the report. We are most appreciative of her efforts to correct our errors and omissions, and to make the report more understandable.

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The Liberty County Historical Commission initiated a project to gather historical and archeological information about the historic site of Atascosito Post, an early 19th century Spanish military post located at Atascosito Springs, that might be useful for determining elgibility of the site for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. They determined that archeological site 41 LB 16, previously located and reported on the Woods' Springs Farm property, might contain significant cultural resources in the form of archeological deposits that would relate to the historic site of Atascosito Post, and also to the homesite of a prominent early Anglo-American settler, George Orr, who served the area as alcalde for the Mexican Government.

The commission undertook an extensive archeological survey and limited testing of the 45 acre Woods' Springs Farm property, and received a Department of Interior, National Park Service, Historic Preservation Grant, Atascosito Survey, Liberty County, Texas (HPF, G3), for matching funds to conduct the study. The work was carried out by the Liberty County Historical Commission under Archeological Survey Agreement Contract No. THC-008-28 with the Texas Historical Commission. The cultural resource management information is to be utilized by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service for a determination of elgibility for nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

The work was performed for the Liberty County Historical Commission under the technical supervision of the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer of the Texas Historical Commission. William Louis Fullen, of Texas Heritage Services, served as archeologist and principal investigator for the project. Jean L. Epperson, of Texana Heritage Services, conducted the archival research and wrote the history section of the report. Thirty-one volunteer workers assisted in carrying out the field and laboratory tasks. Sandra Pickett, Chairman of the Liberty County Historical Commission, served as administrator for the project and coordinated the project with Nancy Kenmotsu, Archeologist with the Texas Historical Commission.

Initial data collection work began on January 2, 1988, and was completed on April 11, 1988. Initial data collection required 62 person-days. Cataloging and analysis of records and artifacts began on April 14, 1988, and was completed on April 25, 1988. Cataloging and analysis required 22 person-days. Reporting began on April 26, 1988, and the final report was completed on July 10, 1988. Reporting required 13 person-days. Adult volunteers contributed 58 person-days

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to the project. Members of the Junior Historian Club of the Liberty Middle School participated in the pedestrian survey and contributed 17 person-days.

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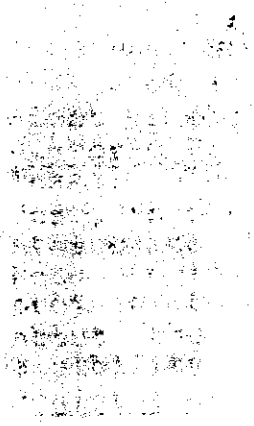
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INTRODUCTION

The Liberty County Historical Commission undertook a review of archeological sites in Liberty County, Texas, that might be elgible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. See Figure 1, Location of Liberty County, Texas. They believe that the historic site of Atascosito Post, an early 19th century Spanish military post located at Atascosito Springs, is located somewhere along present day Wood Spring Creek. The commission decided to initiate a project to gather historical and archeological information about the post that might be used to determine the elgibility of the site for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Liberty County Historical Commission Project

The Liberty County Historical Commission determined that archeological site 41 LB 16, previously located and reported on the Woods' Springs Farm property by Elton R. Prewitt (1973c), might contain significant cultural resources in the form of archeological deposits that would relate to the historic site of Atascosito Post. This determination was based on recommendations made by Prewitt and extensive historical research undertaken by commission member Jean L. Epperson.

Epperson's research also indicated that the homesite of a prominent early Anglo-American settler, George Orr, who served the area as alcalde for the Mexican Government, might be located on the property. Since archeological information about site 41 LB 16 was based on a surface collection of artifacts made by Prewitt during a limited survey, the commission decided to undertake an extensive archeological survey and limited testing of the 45 acre Woods' Springs Farm property in order to determine if significant cultural resources are present that would correlate with the known history of the Atascosito Post or the homesite of George Orr.

Historic Preservation Grant

The Liberty County Historical Commission applied to the Texas Historical Commission for a Department of Interior, National Park Service, Historic Preservation Grant for matching funds to conduct the study. The purpose of the grant was to assist in a statewide inventory of cultural resources. A Historic Preservation Grant, Atascosito Survey, Liberty County, Texas, was awarded and the study was carried out by the Liberty County Historical Commission under Archeological Survey Agreement Contract No. THC-008-28 with the Texas Historical Commission. The cultural

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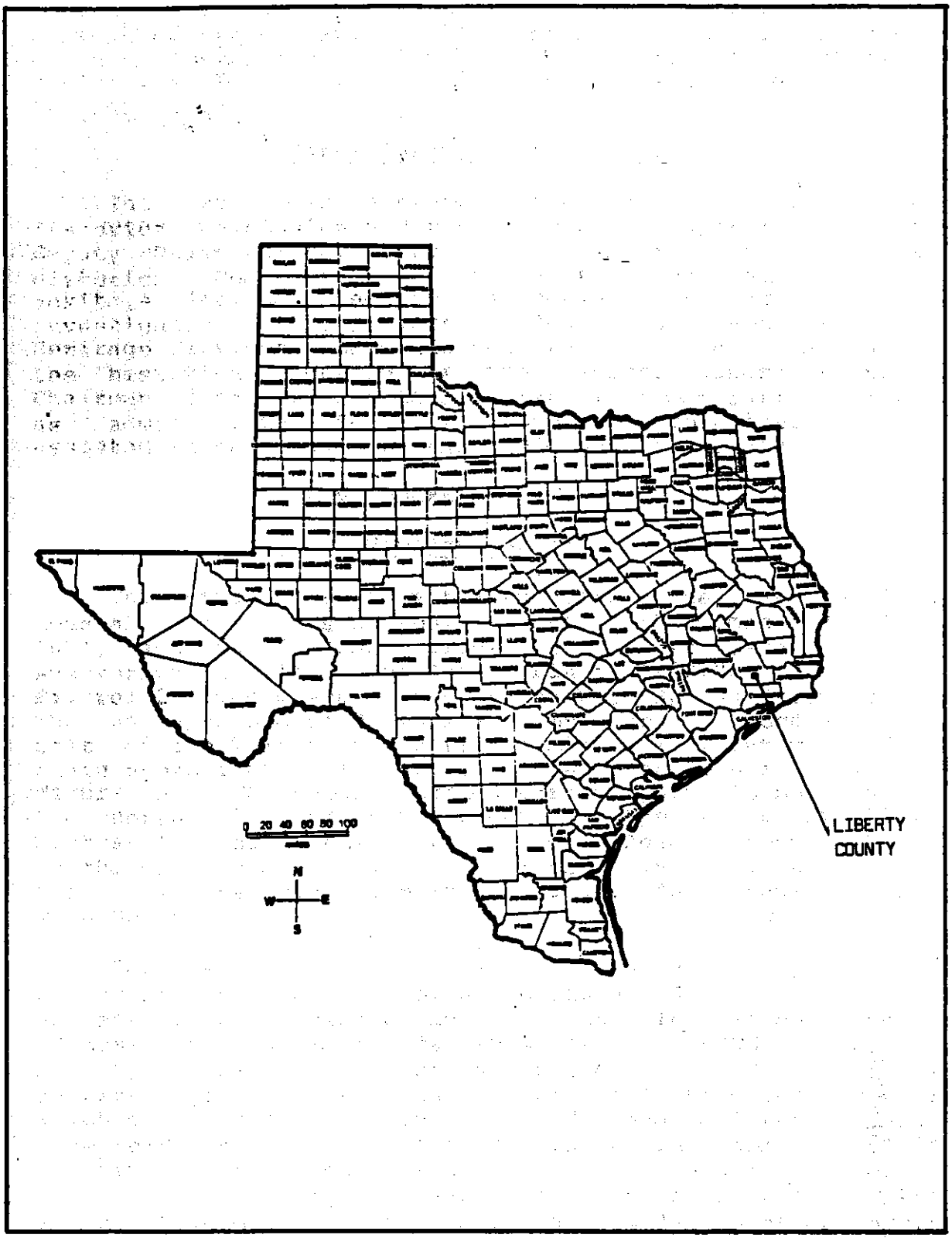


Figure 1. Location of Liberty County, Texas.

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resource management information is to be utilized by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service to determine elgibility for nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

Participants in the Study

The work was performed for the Liberty County Historical Commission under the technical supervision of the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer of the Texas Historical Commission. William Louis Fullen, of Texas Heritage Services, served as archeologist and principal investigator for the project. Jean L. Epperson, of Texana Heritage Services, conducted the archival research and wrote the historical section of the report. Sandra Pickett, Chairman of the Liberty County Historical Commission, served as administrator for the project. Volunteer workers assisted in carrying out the field and laboratory tasks.

ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND

Geologic Setting

The study area is situated within the Western Gulf Coastal Plain physiographic province (Fenneman 1938:101-102), and is included within the western edge of the Austroriparian Biotic Province (Blair 1950:98-100). See Figure 2. Topographic map of the Wood Spring Creek area. The 45 acre Woods' Springs Farm property is located just east of the Trinity River floodplain on a relatively flat plain approximately 14 meters (47 feet) above sea level. See Figure 3. The Woods' Springs Farm property is bordered on the north by Wood Spring Creek, on the south by State Highway 146 and on the west by Sandune Road (formerly known as the Old Inside Road). The property is bisected by Farm Road 1011 that runs from State Highway 146 northwest across Wood Spring Creek.

Results of a soil survey of Liberty County by the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service are not published at this time. The following soils information was made available by the ASCS office in Liberty. The surface soils of the Woods' Springs Farm property are classified as the Bienville-Kenefick complex which are described as deep, well drained, moderately rapid permeable, sandy soils that formed in sandy coastal plain alluvium. The Bienville series near the ground surface is described as a loamy fine sand that ranges in color at the surface from dark grayish brown (10 YR 4/2) to strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) 100 cm beneath the surface. The Kenefick series near the ground surface is described as a loamy fine sand that ranges in color from brown (10 YR 4/3) to strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) 50 cm beneath the surface. The Kenefick series changes to sandy clay loam from 50 cm to 100 cm. and the color changes to red (2.5 YR 4/8) with a few fine

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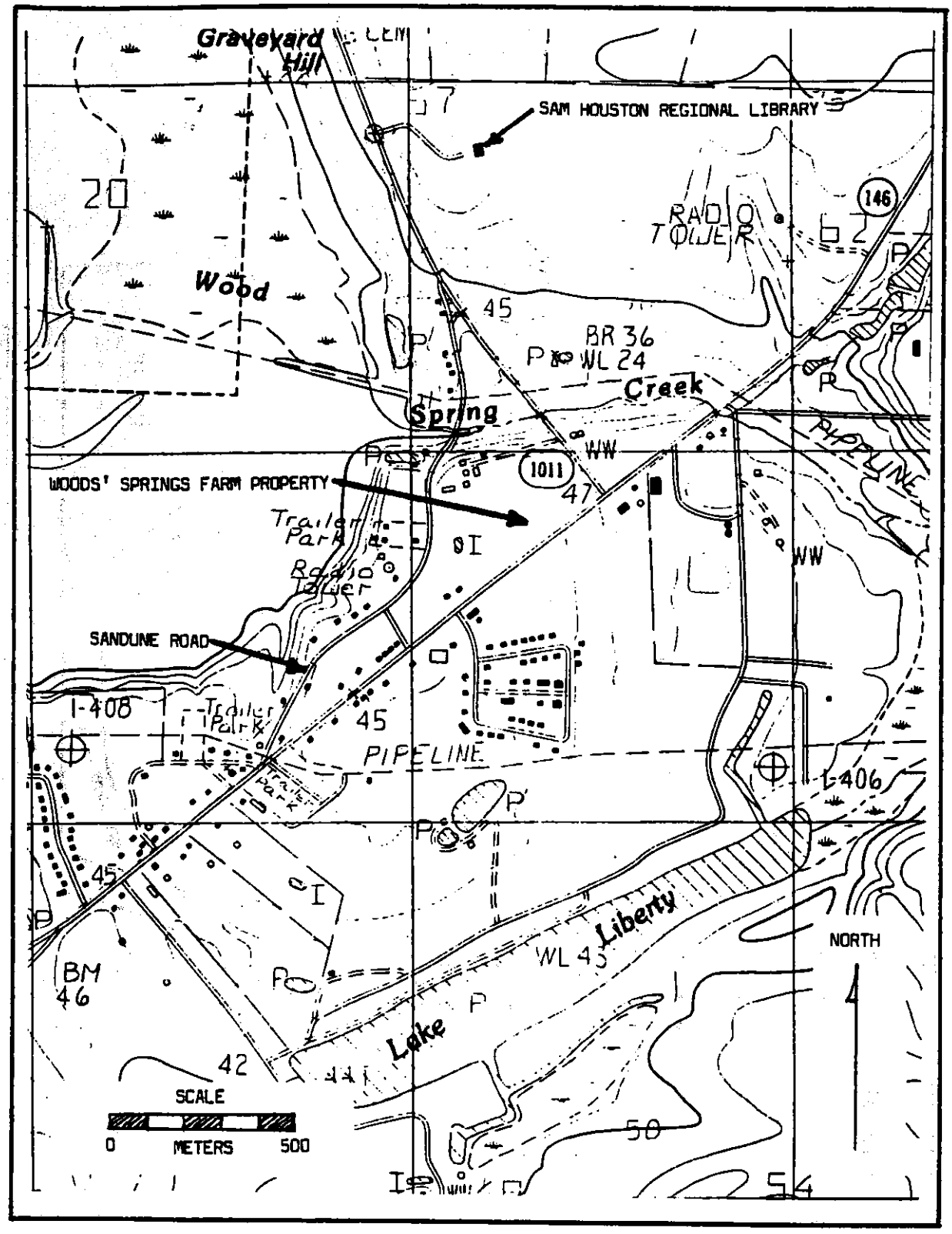


Figure 2. Topographic map of the Wood Spring Creek area. (Enlarged from U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map, Liberty, Tex.)

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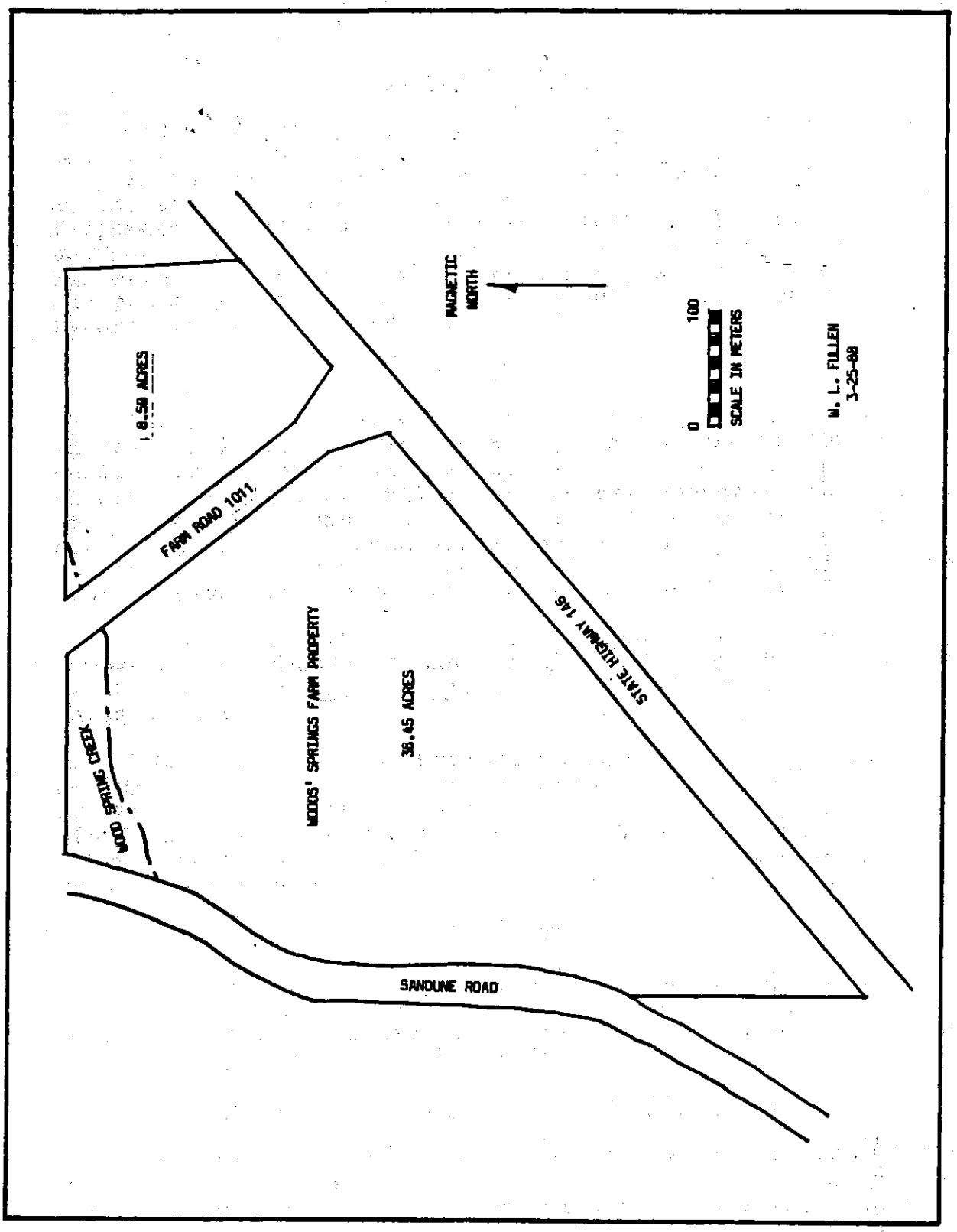


Figure 3. Plat map of the Woods' Springs Farm property.

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distinct brownish yellow (10 YR 6/6) mottles in the lower part of the horizon (Smith personal communication, 1987).

Atascosito Springs

The historic record indicates that Wood Spring Creek was the area known as Atascosito Springs during the middle 18th to the middle 19th centuries. A historical marker for Atascosito is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Highways 146 and 1011. Today, numerous springs, fed from the surrounding sandy terraces, flow into the creek. A pumping well immediately south of the springs has probably diminished their flow, which still measured 5.0 liters per second in 1975 (Brune 1981).

Fauna

Today faunal resources are limited primarily to cattle egrets, killdeer, crows, common grackles, and various other small birds, along with small mammals such as oppossums, racoons, rabbits, armadillos and pocket gophers. White tail deer and bear were once the prevalent large game animals, but now, only an occasional deer is found in the area. Alligators, which were once hunted to near extinction, are again present in the bottom land along the Trinity River.

Severe disturbance of the property is evidenced by numerous low mounds of sandy soil created by the Louisiana pocket gopher, Geomys breviceps (McClure personal communication, 1988).

The property is presently being used as improved pasture for cattle. Most of the property is covered by short grasses but the immediate area along the creek supports a stand of trees and dense shrubs. Numerous barns, sheds, outbuildings, corrals, fences, a pond, and a camp house have been constructed on the property since 1946.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design includes statements of management objectives, research objectives, methods of data recovery, methods of data analysis, limitations to the study, and data sources utilized during the study.

Cultural Resource Management Objectives

The goal of the study is to provide the Liberty County Historical Commission and the State Historic Preservation Officer with information concerning the location, nature, and significance of cultural resources within the Woods' Springs Farm property. This information is to be utilized to determine if cultural resources are present that meet the criteria for nomination of the site to the National Register of Historic Places. Data on the location and nature of the resources shall be provided by a literature and

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archival search and an archeological survey of the Woods' Springs Farm property. Assessments of significance shall be based on the potential of sites to contribute significantly to an understanding of the culture history and cultural processes of the region, and on the National Register of Historic Places criteria.

Four cultural resource management objectives are: (1) to locate, report, and assess all cultural resources within the Woods' Springs Farm property; (2) to submit draft National Register Nominations of all properties that meet the National Register criteria; (3) to determine how best to preserve significant cultural resources that are present; and (4) to propose further study of resources that are located.

Archeological Research Objectives

Five prehistoric archeological objectives derived from models presented by Aten (1979; 1983) are: (1) to investigate the chronology of prehistoric sites, (2) to investigate the subsistence of the Indians, (3) to investigate the settlement systems, (4) to investigate the population dynamics, and (5) to investigate regional interactions.

Three research objectives concerning non-aboriginal historic resources are: (1) to identify European and Anglo-American sites; (2) to recover artifacts and record data which reflect, or are a function of, ethnicity; and (3) to determine what happens through time in terms of architecture, material culture and land use practices.

Scope of Work

A scope of work was proposed by the Liberty County Historical Commission and was agreed to by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. The scope of work provided for a thorough archival and literature search, an archeological survey of the 45 acre tract known today as Woods' Springs Farm that is owned by members of the Pickett family of Liberty, Texas, limited testing of selected areas, the initial assessment of sites, a field progress report, and the preparation of a technical report of findings.

All work shall follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for developing historic contents, identification, evaluation, registration, and archeological documentation. Reporting shall follow the Council of Texas Archeologists Guidelines for Cultural Resource Management Reports.

Methods

The following ethnohistorical and archeological investigations shall be conducted as initial steps in

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gathering the information necessary for assessing the significance of cultural resources on the Woods' Springs Farm property.

These investigations shall include a literature and records search, a study of the available remote sensing data for the project area, and several interviews of local citizens who have useful knowledge concerning the ethnohistory and the cultural resources of the property. An archeological survey shall be conducted after an initial literature search and this work shall be followed by limited testing of areas believed likely to contain significant cultural deposits. Artifacts recovered shall be cleaned, catalogued and analyzed. It was agreed that records and artifacts shall be deposited at the Sam Houston Regional Library at Liberty, Texas.

1. The Study Area. The study area is defined as the Woods' Springs Farm property located along Wood Spring Creek.

2. Information Search. The information search shall include a detailed study of previously gathered archeological, ethnohistorical, geological, botanical, and remote sensing data of the Woods' Springs Farm area. These studies shall focus on the past history of the area, particularly Atascosito Springs, Atascosito Post, the George Orr homesite, and later use of the Woods' Spring Farm property. Archival research shall be conducted at the Sam Houston Regional Library, the Wallisville Heritage Park, the Texas State Library, the General Land Office, the Barker History Center and the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory.

3. Archeological Survey. An intensive pedestrian survey of the Woods' Springs Farm property shall be conducted in order to determine where significant cultural resources may be present. Particular attention shall be paid to the inspection of probable habitation areas near Wood Spring Creek.

4. Systematic stratigraphic tests shall be excavated every 5 meters over a 25 m x 25 m area most likely to contain significant cultural resources based on information gained during the pedestrian survey.

5. Results shall be analyzed and newly discovered archeological sites shall be reported. Draft nominations to the National Register of Historic Places shall be completed for sites that meet National Register criteria, and recommendations shall be made for additional work that would be needed in order to determine if any cultural resources found are elgibile for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

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Schedule

A schedule for data collection, analysis, and reporting was established. Tasks were taken from the research design and estimates were made of person-days required for each task. These estimates provided useful information for planning and carrying out the work.

Initial data collection work began on January 2, 1988, and was completed on April 11, 1988. Initial data collection required 62 person-days. Cataloging and analysis of records and artifacts began on April 14, 1988, and was completed on April 25, 1988. Cataloging and analysis required 22 person-days. Reporting began on April 26, 1988, and the final report was completed on July 10, 1988. Reporting required 13 person-days. Adult volunteers contributed 58 person-days to the project. Members of the Junior Historian Club of the Liberty Middle School participated in the pedestrian survey and contributed 17 person-days.

Limitations to the Study

No major limitations were encountered during the study. Volunteers proved to be efficient workers. During the pedestrian survey 2 areas were identified that might contain significant cultural resources. After excavating 37 stratigraphic tests in the area most likely to contain evidence of an early Anglo-American occupation, a second area was tested with 22 excavation units where a small glass bead was found on the surface along with Indian ceramics. Both areas contained sandy soils that were severely mixed by the repeated burrowing of pocket gophers.

ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric Archeology

Several major archeological studies have been conducted at prehistoric Indian sites along the lower Trinity River. Approximately 80 kilometers north of the Woods' Springs Farm, at present day Lake Livingston, much of the lake area was surveyed before construction and several Indian camp sites were extensively excavated. This study was carried out by the Texas Archeological Salvage Project assisted by members of the Houston Archeological Society. McClurkan (1968) established that occupation of the sites excavated occurred during and after a late Archaic stage and a Neo-American stage spanning 2000 years. The late Archaic, the earlier stage, was characterized by contracting stem dart points, other lithic tools, and plain, sand tempered pottery. The Neo-American stage (A.D. 1000 to historic) was characterized by decorated, non-sand tempered pottery, and arrow points, in addition to the traits seen in the late Archaic stage. McClurkan concluded that the area was occupied by Bidais Indians whose Neo-American occupation was strongly influenced by the Caddo Indians who lived to the

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northeast of the Livingston Reservoir area.

Just several miles west of the Woods' Springs Farm property, near the west bank of the Trinity River, a prehistoric Indian site was excavated by members of the Houston Archeological Society from 1959 to 1961 (Aten 1967). Site 41 LB 2, the Jamison Site, was a dome-shaped earth midden that varied in thickness from 38 cm to 168 cm. Horizontal extent of the site was never determined. Thirteen 5 ft x 5 ft units were excavated in 6 in levels. Approximately 1600 artifacts were recovered. Fourteen hundred of these were potsherds, 135 were projectile points and 100 were other stone artifacts. The artifacts were grouped into four assemblages. The first and earliest assemblage was characterized by a large number of expanding stem dart points and the absence of ceramics. The second assemblage was separated from the first by a zone of soil devoid of artifacts. This assemblage was similar to the first, but had different proportions of dart point stem forms and preferences of stone material. The third assemblage was characterized by plain and red-filmed sandy paste ceramics, by more contracting stem dart points than previously encountered and by approximately equal proportions of expanding, straight and contracting stem arrow points. The fourth assemblage was characterized by plain, incised, and red filmed ceramics; plain and incised grog-tempered ceramics; very few contracting stem dart points and more contracting stem arrow points than were found in the third assemblage. A major contribution of this study was the definition of 2 new ceramic types, San Jacinto Plain and San Jacinto Incised. These types were defined as grog-tempered ceramics made from clay that contained crushed or ground-up potsherds.

Since the early work at 41 LB 2, Aten (1979; 1983) conducted extensive archeological studies at numerous sites along the upper Texas Coast and particularly near the mouth of the Trinity River at Wallisville Reservoir. His work produced important ethnohistoric and archeological frameworks for the Indians of the upper Texas coast. One major outcome from these studies was his refinement of the ceramic typology for the area. In this typology, Aten described 17 varieties of Indian ceramics for the upper Texas coast (Aten 1983:206-245).

Only one archeological site has been extensively excavated in the vicinity of the Woods' Springs Farm property. The Price Daniel Site (41 LB 3) was excavated by Malone (1969). This site is located approximately 3 kilometers west of the Woods' Springs Farms property and 1 kilometer east of the Trinity River. This was a prehistoric Indian campsite that contained significant quantities of ceramic and lithic artifacts.

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Cultural Resource Records Search

A records search of the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory files revealed that one known archeological site, 41 LB 16, had been located and reported on the Woods' Springs Farm property. Also, two prehistoric Indian sites, 41 LB 15 and 41 LB 17, had been reported nearby. During a survey of a proposed route for a pipeline, Prewitt (1973a; 1973d) located and reported Site 41 LB 15 within the proposed right-of-way just north of the Woods' Springs Farm property. He excavated 6 test pits and recovered Indian ceramics, projectile points, other lithic tools and some historic ceramics, a gunflint, glass sherds and metal fragments. Prewitt concluded that the Indian artifacts represented a late prehistoric Indian occupation and the historic artifacts might be from activities of European settlers or historic Indians who used the campsite. He recommended that the site was not of sufficient significance to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Prewitt (1973b) reported that site 41 LB 17 once contained Indian artifacts. It had once been a high sandy ridge located along Wood Spring Creek southeast of the Woods' Springs Farm property, but the site was destroyed when it was removed and used as road fill for Highway 90 construction.

Previous Investigations of the Woods' Springs Farm Property

During the pipeline survey Prewitt (1973c) examined a portion of the Woods' Springs Farm property along the south side of Wood Spring Creek with Andy Kyle, a local collector of Indian artifacts since 1948. Prewitt collected 56 historic ceramics, square iron nails, 56 bottle glass fragments, brick fragments, window pane fragments, 4 flint flakes and 2 Indian sherds. Based on his survey and information supplied by Kyle and others, Prewitt tentatively identified the site as the location of Atascosito and it was designated Site 41 LB 16. He defined the site as extending along the high ground just south of the bank of Wood Spring Creek from Sandune Road eastward across Farm Road 1011 to State Highway 146. Prewitt recommended that extensive archival research about Atascosito be conducted and extensive test excavations be carried out at 41 LB 16.

Andy Kyle has recovered at least 5000 projectile points, mostly lithic tools, from 78 different sites in southeast Texas. Kyle mounted most of his collections in picture frames and they are on display at the Sam Houston Regional Library. During 1986, several members of the Houston Archeological Society, with the assistance of Mr. Kyle, reported the 78 sites, photographed the collection, analyzed the identifiable projectile points and reported their findings. They concluded that all of the prehistoric Indian sites appear to represent campsites of nomadic

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peoples with a hunting and gathering lifeway. They also concluded that the Archaic broad-based subsistence pattern of Southeast Texas persisted for over 10,000 years. (Kindall and Patterson 1986:14-21).

Kindall (1986) also filed a site report, based on Kyle's information and point collection, that grouped Kyle's Indian artifacts from 41 LB 15 and 16 together. Kyle found many of the artifacts during construction of Farm Road 1011 across Wood Spring Creek. Based on this information Kindall classified the area as a prehistoric Indian camp site. Patterson provided the following information about the sizeable collection of stone projectile points that Kyle found in the vicinity of Wood Spring Creek. Several Late Paleo-Indian Period dart points attest to occupation between 10,000 to 7000 B.P. The remainder of the collection covers the Archaic-Early Ceramic Period (7000 to 1400 B.P.); and the Late Prehistoric Period (1400 to 500 B.P.). The General Archaic through Late Prehistoric Period (7000 to 500 B.P.) are represented by the largest collection of 48 points (Patterson personal communication, 1987).

Early History of the Region

Indians have probably occupied southeast Texas and the lower Trinity River valley for the last 12,000 years. They first hunted Pleistocene fauna that lived in the deeply entrenched Trinity River valley and camped nearby on the high ground of the valley walls. These people, now known as Paleo-Indians, lived in the region from approximately 12,000 years ago until about 7000 years ago. Their stone and bone tools and the fossil remains of Pleistocene fauna have been found along McFadden Beach on the upper Texas coast (Long 1977).

About 5000 years ago Galveston Bay was formed by a rising sea level as glaciers melted during the close of the Pleistocene. Prior to that time, sea level was about 70 meters below its present stand and the Texas coastline was approximately 160 kilometers offshore of the present coast. As Galveston Bay formed and the Pleistocene fauna dissappeared, shellfish became an important source of food for the Indians in the region. These people, now known as Archaic Indians, continued their hunting and gathering practices by hunting smaller game as the Pleistocene fauna became extinct and may have become more nomadic as they exploited the shellfish resources of the Trinity River delta and Galveston Bay.

Indian-made ceramics were introduced into the Galveston Bay region about 100 A.D. Indians began to use the bow and arrow instead of short spears that were hurled with the atlatl about 500 A.D. These people, who manufactured ceramic vessels and utilized the bow and arrow, are known as Neo-American Indians. They subsisted on even smaller game, and greater varieties of edible plants as they traveled

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northward into the interior and returned to the seashore in a seasonal round in search of food (Aten 1979;1983).

First European contact with the Indians of the upper Texas coast was probably made by Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca or other Spaniards from the ill-fated Navarez expedition. In November of 1528, Cabeza de Vaca and 85 other Spaniards were shipwrecked on a small island somewhere on the upper Texas coast. Many historians believe that this was probably Galveston Island, but the present length of the island does not fit the description given by Cabeza de Vaca in his account of living 8 years among the Indians of Texas. The island could also have been Bolivar Peninsula, because Bolivar Peninsula was probably a much smaller island some 400 years ago.

The Spaniards in De Vaca's party gave the Indians small glass beads and metal bells as gifts. Eventually the Indians acquired all of the European items that the Spanish had brought with them. Cabeza de Vaca named the Indians on the west end of the island the Capoque and those on the eastern end of the island the Han. He was made a prisoner of the Capoque, but escaped from the island to live with the friendly Charruco Indians of the forest on the mainland. Eventually, Cabeza de Vaca found his way across Texas into New Mexico and then to Mexico City (Covey 1961).

The second known European contact with Indians of the upper Texas coast area occurred in 1719, when Simars de Bellisle, a French Army officer, and 3 companions were marooned on Bolivar Peninsula. After his companions died from exposure, De Bellisle was taken prisoner by Indians at Galveston Island and in a few weeks was taken to their village on the east side of Galveston Bay where he was made a slave. After his escape and return to French Louisiana, De Bellisle returned to Galveston Bay with Bernard de La Harpe to explore the region and to establish a French fort near the Indian village where De Bellisle was held prisoner. La Harpe failed to win the confidence of the Indians, and the expedition returned to New Orleans (La Harpe 1971:173-182).

Trade soon developed between the French from New Orleans and the Indians along the lower Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers. This trade in furs, skins, and bear grease in exchange for European tools, ornaments, guns, cloth, and whiskey continued until 1754 when Joseph Blanpain, a French trader, was arrested by the Spanish for trespassing in Spanish Territory and for building a trading post on a lagoon just east of the Trinity River near present day Wallisville (Epperson and Fullen 1987).

The Capoque Indians became known as the Karankawa, the Han as the Attakapa, and the Charruco as the Orcoquiza. In 1756 the Spanish established Presidio San Agustin de Ahumada on the site of Joseph Blanpain's trading post to prevent

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further intrusion by the French into the region. They also built Mission Nuestra Senora de La Luz for the Orcoquiza Indians within the walls of the presidio. The presidio and the mission, which had been relocated on higher ground to the east of the presidio, were destroyed in September, 1766, during a gulf storm. The Spanish rebuilt the mission and presidio, but in 1771 they abandoned El Orcoquisac as the place was called (Bolton 1970; Fullen 1978).

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries the native Orcoquiza Indian groups declined, probably due mostly to the effects of European diseases. They were replaced by the Koasati Indians who came from the Tennessee River area, first to the Red River in Louisiana, and then to the Sabine and Trinity Rivers in Texas. Remnants of the Koasati Indians joined with the Alabama Indians and are known today as the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe who live on a reservation in Polk County, Texas (Berlandier 1969:124).

It is possible that historic artifacts such as small glass trade beads, religious medals, coins, gun parts, metal tools, vermillion, bottle glass, European ceramics, basalt manos and metates, and other European artifacts are present in the historic Indian campsites in the area. These artifacts, if recovered, could provide important new information on questions concerning the culture history and the culture processes of the native Americans at the time of contact with Europeans who entered the region in the 16th, 18th and 19th centuries.

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EL ATASCOSITO

Jean L. Epperson

A number of geographical locations in early Texas were named Atascoso or Atascosito. This narrative will focus on Atascosito near the Trinity River in present day Liberty County, Texas. The name Atascoso is derived from the Spanish noun atasco which means an obstruction or obstacle. When the Spanish diminutive -ito is added to the end of the word the meaning becomes little obstruction. Atascosito was sometimes used to describe a little muddy or boggy place. The name was very appropriate for this location as multiple springs along the banks of a creek make the area muddy and boggy. Anglo settlers often ended Atascosito with an a or mispronounced the word; e.g. "Tuscasito".

Immediately to the west of the creek, presently known as Wood Spring Creek, the valley wall falls away sharply to the Trinity River bottoms which are frequently flooded. To the east of the springs a high sand ridge and sandy plain offer desirable habitation sites.

Early Place Names

One of the earliest places named Atascosito was a ranch associated with the mission of San Jose de Aguayo, founded in 1720. The ranch was in what is now Wilson County, 3 miles from Floresville on the west bank of the San Antonio River (Castaneda 1976:14; Heusinger 1936:91,92).

A stream or arroyo on the east bank of the Trinity River above the Presidio San Agustin de Ahumada del Orcoquisac was named Atascozo on the 1757 map that Bernardo de Miranda made after his explorations in 1756. See Figure 4 for the locations of Atascozo, an Horcoquisa Indian village and Presidio San Agustin (Bryan and Hanak 1961:14). Miranda did not indicate that there was a habitation of any kind at Atascoso although he covered his map with houses and tepees in other places.

This same location was described in a letter from Fray Francisco Vallejo to the Viceroy in February 1758. He complained about the miserable and unhealthy living conditions at the Mission Nuestra Senora de la Luz and Presidio San Augustin de Ahumada del Orcoquisac, which was founded in 1756 at present day Wallisville, Texas on the lower Trinity River. Vallejo requested removal of these establishments to El Atascoso. Vallejo and Fray Joseph Francisco Caro visited Atascosito or El Atascoso y Los Tranquillos and said that it was one small league from the Rio Trinidad, had two springs of water capable of sustaining the colony, land of good quality, sufficient fire wood, horse ponds and abundances (pasturage) for the herds (Vallejo 1758). The removal was approved, but never made.

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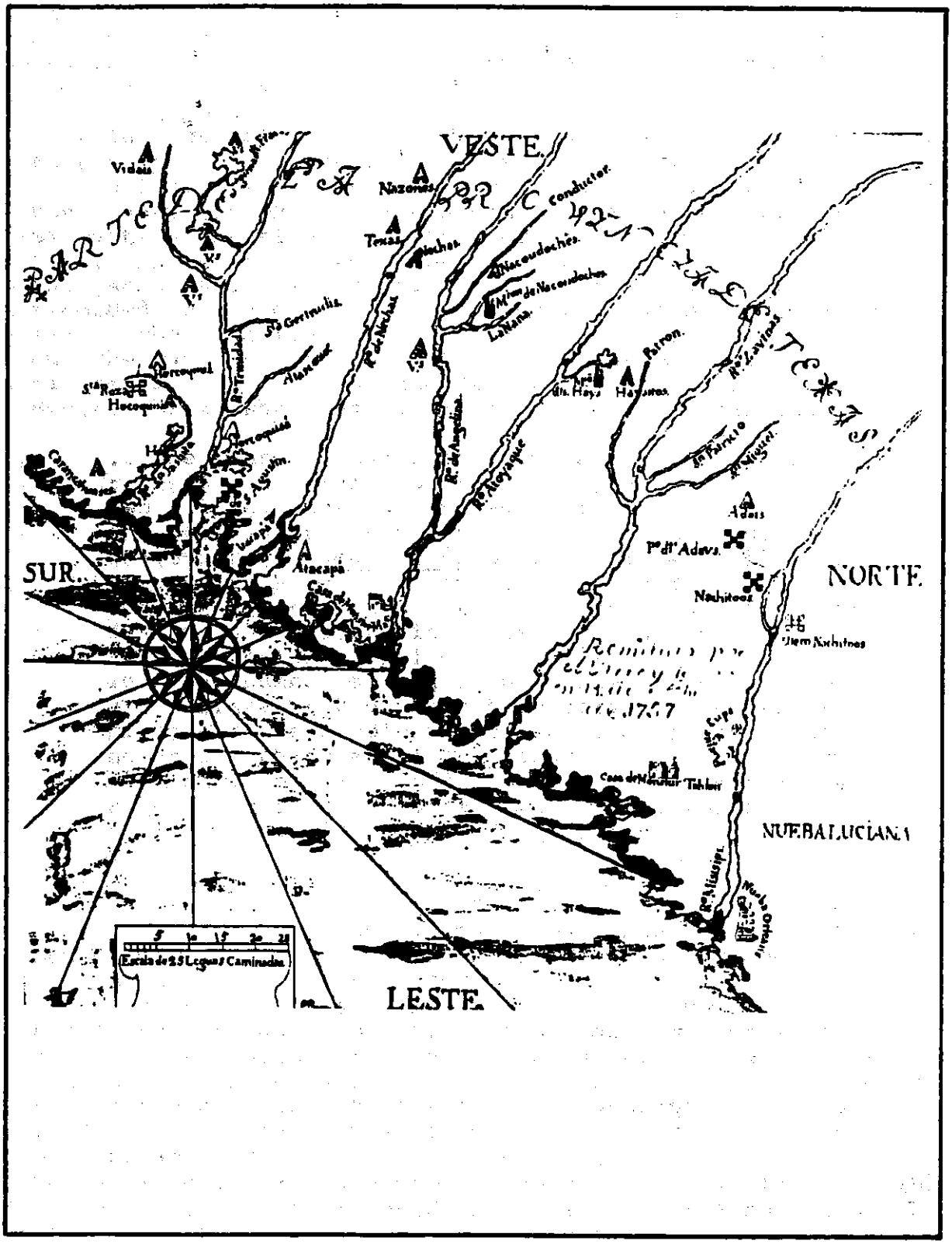


Figure 4. 1757 map of Bernardo de Miranda's explorations of the province of Texas.
(reproduced from Bryan and Hanak 1961:14)

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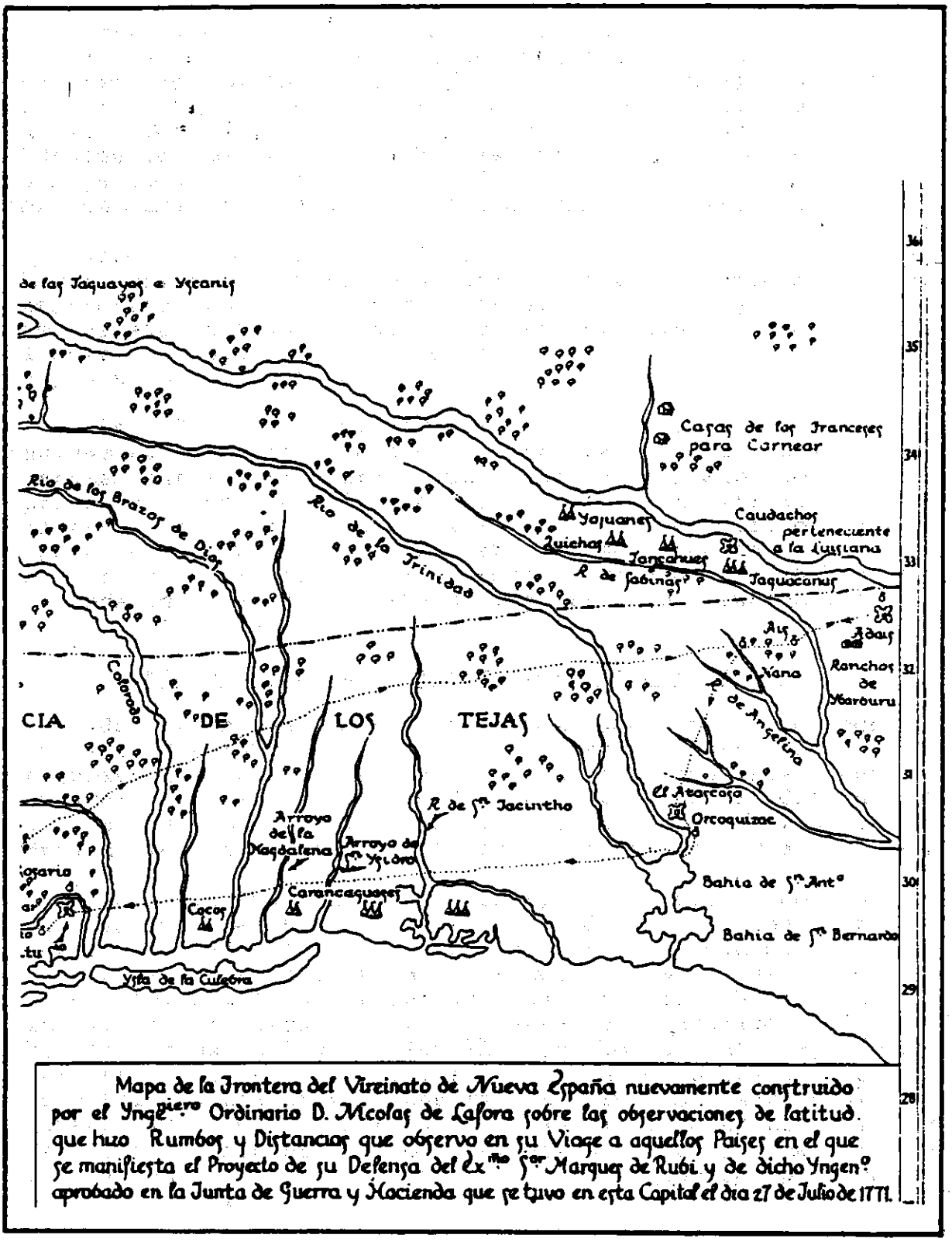
Louisiana was ceded by France to Spain in 1762. The capital of Texas was moved from Los Adaes, present day Robeline, Louisiana, to San Antonio, Texas. The east Texas missions, no longer necessary, were moved or abandoned (Bolton 1970:374).

The expedition of Nicolas de Lafora in 1766-1768 mentioned 3 different locations named Atascoso or Atascosito. The first named was Atascosito arroyo, beyond the Pedernales River. The second was in east Texas. As the expedition traveled east, they crossed an arroyo called La Nana; and 2-3/4 leagues beyond they camped on the banks of the Atascoso. The third, in Liberty County today, was recorded in the diary of Lafora as El Atascoso on October 8, 1767. The locations of El Atascoso and Orcoquizac are shown on the eastern portion of Nicolas de Lafora's map shown in Figure 5. This is the first mention of a possible habitation at what was later to be known as Atascosito.

> ... we entered Guajolote (turkey) plain. When it rains this plain becomes a lake, at times impassable, the water reaching to a man's waist and to a horse's belly. We traveled for four leagues to a small rancho at a place called El Atascoso. Here we camped. Extraordinary features of this plain are flat-topped mounds, for four to six varas in diameter and from one to two in height, which nature has scattered about in great number making it passable. Rising above the surface of the water they serve as a resting place for the people who often have to carry their goods on their shoulders because the beast become worn out, or lack food. On these mounds they can keep their feet dry while packing the loads which otherwise would be almost impossible (Kinnaird 1958:153, 166, 170).

Presidio San Agustin de Ahumada and Mission Nuestra Senora de la Luz, known collectively as El Orcoquisac, were abandoned by the Spanish in 1771 (Bolton 1970:374). Fourteen years later Fray Joseph Mariano Reyes, who was stationed at Nacogdoches, was scolded for attempting to restore the mission of the Orcoquisa Indians without first obtaining the consent of his superiors. He was told to return the cows and the supplies to Nacogdoches. The fact that this temporary mission was at Atascosito rather than Orcoquisac was proven by Reyes' statement in 1788 that he was visited at San Juan Capistrano by Orcoquisa Indians who remonstrated with him about returning to El Atascosito and restoring their mission (Leutenegger and Habig 1973:143,153; Reyes 1788).

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Mapa de la Frontera del Vireinato de Nueva España nuevamente construido por el Yng.ro Ordinario D. Nicolas de Lafora sobre las observaciones de latitud. que hizo Rumbos y Distancias que observo en su Viage a aquellos Paises en el que se manifiesta el Proyecto de su Defensa del Ex.mo S.or Marques de Rubi y de dicho Yngen.o aprobado en la Junta de Guerra y Hacienda que se tuvo en esta Capital el dia 27 de Julio de 1771.

Figure 5. The eastern portion of Nicolas de Lafora's map of the Province of Texas.
(reproduced from Kinnaird 1958)

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The Atascosito Road

The Atascosito Road or lower Camino Real began at La Bahia (Goliad) and ran northeastward to a sandy, shallow crossing on the Trinity River that had been used since early historic times; then 1 league east, or approximately 3 miles, to the springs near where the settlement of Atascosito developed. The eastward extension of the road was known as the Opelousas Road. It is not certain by whom or when the trace was first called the Atascosito Road.

From Atascosito a trail led south to Orcoquisac and the lower Trinity River. A second trail went northeast from Atascosito to Nacogdoches. After the founding of Trinidad de Salcedo in 1806 on the upper Trinity River in present day Trinity County, a third road ran north to connect Atascosito and Salcedo.

In 1956, Ross G. Partlow, Jr., a registered public surveyor, conducted a study of the Atascosito Road. He carried out a field survey and constructed a map showing the probable location of the road from the Trinity River eastward to Big Bayou. In 1974, Miriam Partlow added additional sites to Ross Partlow's map and the combined results of their studies are shown in Figure 6. Atascosito Springs and the site of Atascosito are also shown on the map (Partlow 1974:20).

Founding of the Military Post of Atascosito

Jose Joaquin Ugarte, the commandant at Nacogdoches, wrote on November 4, 1804, to the Governor, Juan Bautista de Elguezabal, that it was absolutely necessary that a detachment of 12 or 15 soldiers be stationed at Orcoquisac or Atascosito in order to prevent herds of horses from being driven along the coast and taken to Louisiana (Ugarte 1804).

Sergeant Juan Antonio Urrutia, of the Flying Company of San Carlos de Parras, was ordered by the governor on January 8, 1805, to leave La Bahia with a squad of soldiers to occupy the station at Atascosito. He was instructed to: make camp; maintain harmonious relations with the Indians of the vicinity; reconnoiter the area for caballadas (horse herds) being driven illegally to Louisiana; apprehend persons without passports or with contraband goods; forestall entrance into the Trinity River of any vessels, especially those of foreigners; and instructed to build a stockade for his protection (Elguezabal 1805). There is no indication in the records that Atascosito was ever garrisoned before this time.

Urrutia reported March 15 that he had constructed seven jacals (huts) and a corral at Atascosito (Valle 1805a). Coushatta Indians were living on the opposite bank of the Trinity River from Atascosito and offered to help the

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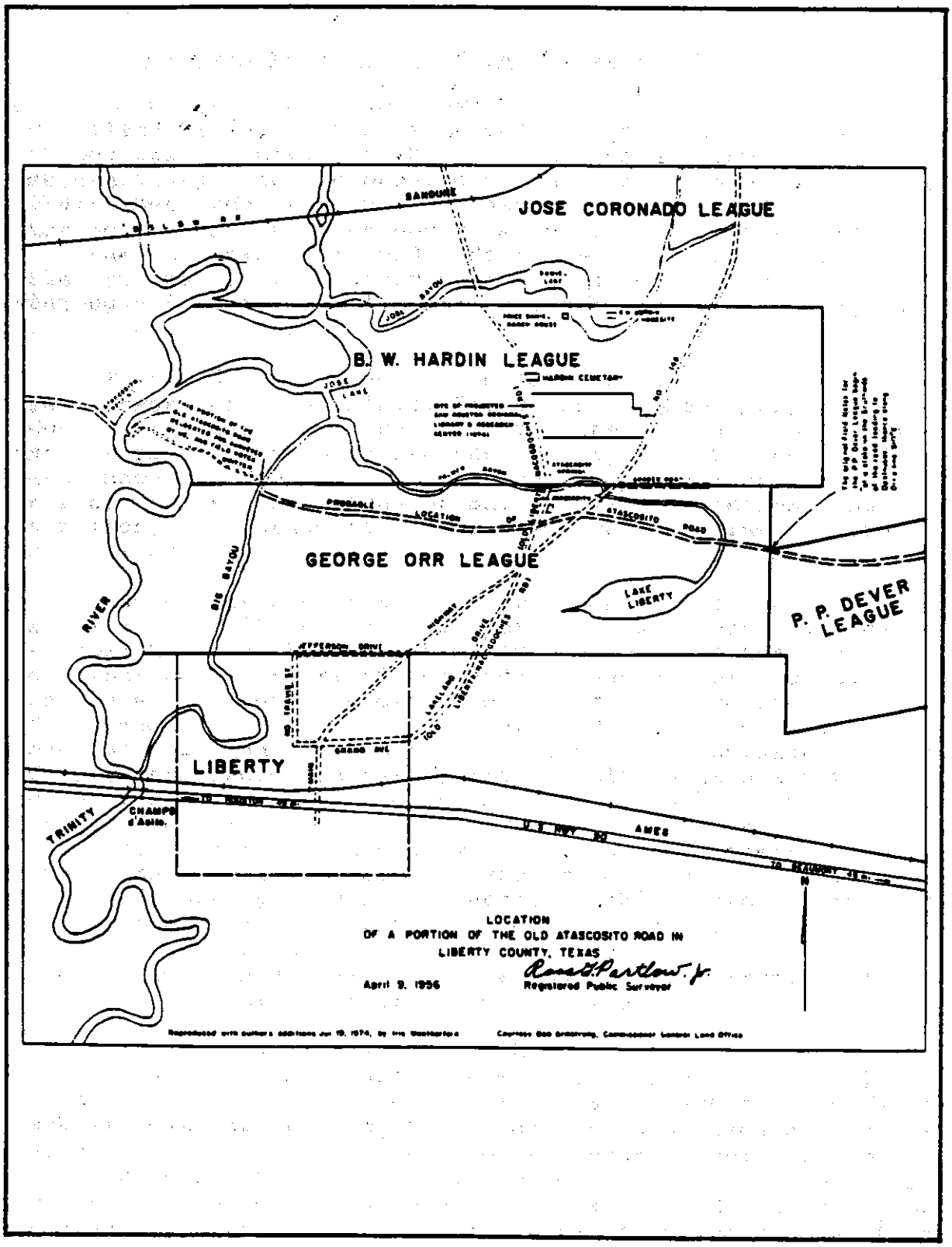


Figure 6. Map of the location of a portion of the Old Atascosito Road in Liberty County, Texas. (reproduced from Partlow 1974:20)

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commander to defend the settlement if they were needed (Salcedo 1805a).

Immigrants, Visitors and Unwanted Guests

Frenchman Bernardo Despallier, and Juan Brady, a Carmelite priest, proposed a colony and a port at the mouth of the Trinity River in 1804. The Spanish Crown, by royal decree, approved the opening of the Port of San Bernardo in 1805; but the crown did not designate the exact place for the port, and it never became a reality. The establishment of the new town of Trinidad de Salcedo on the Trinity and the rumors of the authorization of a port spread rapidly through Louisiana. Immigrants began arriving seeking land in the area (Salcedo 1806a).

Trinidad de Salcedo was founded in February 1806 on the east bank of the Trinity River in present day Trinity County, Texas. The post was situated on the Upper Camino Real road which transversed the country from San Antonio to Nacogdoches. Today, Texas Highway 21 approximately follows the old route. Trinidad de Salcedo was the nearest Spanish garrison to Atascosito and the two maintained frequent communications.

The garrison at Atascosito was soon to host prospective settlers and traveling visitors. The port was never established and the settlers were directed to the interior or expelled by orders of Commandant General Nemesio Salcedo. On June 7, 1805, Sergeant Jose Mendes, commandant of the detachment of Atascosito, informed Dionisio Valle in Nacogdoches that residents of Attacapas, Louisiana, Juan Garnier and Pedro Arzeneaux, with 2 enlisted men arrived and were asking for sites to build homes which were promised by Brogne de Clouet. Mendes was told to detain them at Atascosito until a decision was reached about their request. These men were the advance scouts for the 300 families which Clouet proposed to settle on the previous site of Orcoquisac. Eleven families of the settlers arrived in July and were placed in temporary quarters at Camp Orcoquisac at Atascosito (Valle 1805b; Valle 1805c; Salcedo 1805b; Castaneda 1976:vol 5, pp. 124,125).

Illness swept the post of Atascosito in July of 1805. The commandant, Sergeant Jose Mendes, Corporal Chirino, and 4 soldiers were sick with chills and fevers. Sergeant Mendes was at the point of death and was begging for a priest. A messenger was sent for the nearest priest, who was at Nacogdoches (Valle 1805d). Mendes died and the official report in November was made by Sebastian Rodriguez. He stated that there was still sickness at the post and that the troops numbered only 12 men (Salcedo 1805c; Rodriguez 1805).

Geronimo de Herrera was in command of Atascosito by 1806. While conducting an exploration expedition through

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Louisiana and east Texas, Brigadier General Sebastian Calvo de la Puerta y O'Farrill, Marques Casa-Calvo visited Atascosito the last part of 1805 and the first part of 1806. Casa-Calvo was the boundary commissioner between Texas and Louisiana and former governor of Louisiana. The commission, traveling by water in the Vigilante, the Delfina and lesser craft, arrived in San Bernardo Bay (Galveston Bay) where they separated into 2 groups. The naval detachment continued its inspection and sounding of San Bernardo Bay. Casa-Calvo, accompanied by his men including, Thomas Power the surveyor, and Nicolas de Finiels the engineer, rested at the recently established post of Atascosito before continuing their return to Louisiana by land. Saddle horses and pack mules were secured and loaded with the expedition's equipment. When the expedition left for Nacogdoches, a detachment of troops from the post marched with it (Holmes 1966:324-339). Nicolas de Finiels drew a map of the area transversed by the expedition (Holmes 1963:37).

Bernardo Despallier, who immigrated with his family to Texas in February 1804, was appointed second in command at Atascosito and general Indian agent by Governor Antonio Cordero. Despallier was granted a monthly salary of 70 pesos out of the Mestena fund and arrived in Atascosito on March 4, 1806, from San Antonio. Cordero attempted to justify, to an irate Salcedo, the appointment of a Louisiana immigrant, not yet formally admitted, by extolling Despallier's knowledge of Indian languages, his friendship with the Alabamas, the Choctaws, and the Coushattas and his experience as a forester in Lousiana. Salcedo ordered the immediate discharge of Despallier and dispensed with his salary (Cordero 1806a, 1806b; Salcedo 1806b; Despallier 1806). Despallier and his family were listed as residents of Trinidad de Salcedo on the 1806 Census (Hatcher 1976:324-328).

Daniel Boone, a nephew of Kentucky's famous Boone, was a resident of Opelousas before immigrating to Texas. Writing from Atascosito on June 11, 1806, Boone asked permission to settle in Texas. He eventually became a resident of San Antonio (Hatcher 1976:322-323).

In July, Father Domingo Joaquin de Solana, former pastor of San Bernardo de la Nueva Godoy, Louisiana, arrived at Atascosito by ship from New Orleans. Geronimo Herrera, the commander of the post, considered his arrival very fortunate and was happy to allow him to remain until his petition was decided. He said, "...Divine Providence had sent him (Solana) for the spiritual comfort of the men and their families in these critical times when the soldiers and the small group of families at this post were suffering from an epidemic of fever." (Castaneda 1976:vol. 5, p. 328). Father Solana had come apparently as an agent for Juan Evalvez, a wealthy and respected Irishman of New Orleans, who desired to found a settlement at Orcoquisac. Solana's mission proved futile. In the early fall he was

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still at Atascosito, and ill with malaria. The springs at Atascosito were both a blessing, providing fresh water, and a curse, as a breeding place for mosquitoes.

On July 30, 1806, the coastal patrol from Atascosito apprehended 4 Spaniards who arrived at the mouth of the Neches River in a pirogue with a cargo of rice and brandy. They were ordered to return to their point of departure with their cargo and warned that if they appeared on the coast again they would be arrested and their merchandise confiscated (Faulk 1964:41).

The number of Spanish troops in Texas reached an all time high in November 1806 shortly before the "Neutral Ground Agreement" was concluded between Mexico and the United States. There were 883 soldiers in the Nacogdoches area, 178 at San Antonio, 76 at La Bahia, 76 at Atascosito, 25 at Trinidad de Salcedo, and 35 scattered at the posts on the Guadalupe, Colorado and San Marcos Rivers (Salcedo 1806c). See Figure 7. "Plano Geographico de la Prouyncya de Texas". This 1807 map shows the military stance of Texas following the Neutral Ground Agreement of 1806, and includes the locations of Atascosito and Trinidad de Salcedo (Wilson and Jackson 1987:157,176).

During November 1806 arrivals at Atascosito, reported Commandant Geronimo de Herrera, included: 7 Frenchmen from Opelousas driving 400 head of stock; 6 families of Attacapa Indians from the village of the same name, in order to join those of the same tribe that were already there; Juan Erendrek (John Hendrick), an American from Attacapas, with 3 servants, and 400 head of stock; and 3 soldiers set out to escort a family from the Neches that was on its way to settle in the province (G. Herrera 1806a).

A redistribution of troops must have occurred after the tensions eased on the border of Texas and Louisiana as Herrera reported on December 1, 1806, that the detachment of Orcoquisac at Atascosito totaled 44 men. Four soldiers were on the sick list (G. Herrera 1806b).

The last month of 1806 proved active when the coastal patrol found 5 families at the mouth of the Neches River who had been ship-wrecked. They had lost part of their baggage and all of their food supplies. The people were from the Calcasieu, and they had come with the object of establishing their residence in one of the new settlements in Texas (G. Herrera, December 31, 1806). A muleteer, Narsiso Sanchez, delivered 9 cargas of flour from Nacogdoches to Orcoquisac (Atascosito) and was charged with consuming 1 carga on the way valued at 31 pesos and 5 reales (Arrambide 1807).

It is obvious from the correspondence and later references that Camp Orcoquisac, the Post of Orcoquisac and Atascosito were one and the same and not the previously abandoned Presidio San Agustin de Ahumada del Orcoquisac.

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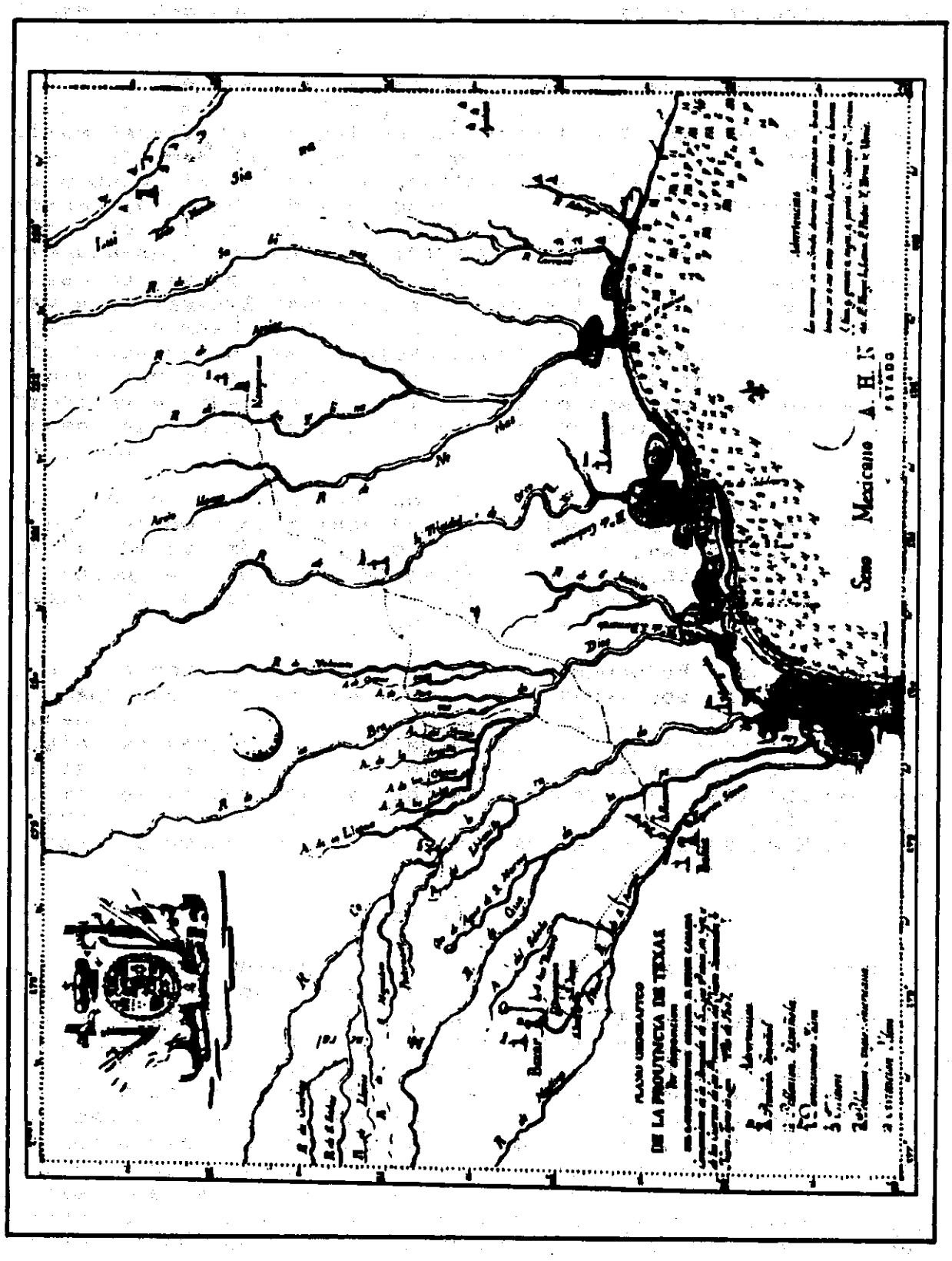


Figure 7. Plano Geographico de la Prouyncya de Texas. (reproduced from Wilson and Jackson 1987:176)

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Father Domingo Solana signed his letters Atascosito de Orcoquisac (Hatcher 1919).

In February 1807 Father Solana was still at Atascosito and it was ordered that a portable chapel be sent to him from Bexar. The chapel belonged to the Company of the Alamo, and 25 men of this company were already at Atascosito (Cordero 1807). Father Solana was very pleased, and in a communication to his commandant, Geronimo de Herrera, urged him to order without delay the transmittal of the altar, ornaments, sacred vessels, oblations, wax and everything else needed to serve mass and to administer the sacraments. He also asked Herrera to give him a list of the given names, family names and class of each person at the post, "...separating the soldiers from the civilians in order that they may be compelled everyone (exclusive of those who do not have the use of their mind) to prepare themselves and make arrangements for their confession within one month." (Solana 1807).

A lengthy list of supplies given to the Indians of the coast from August 1806 to August 1807 included gunpowder, salt, flour, meat and tobacco (G. Herrera 1807a). Indian interperter, Carlos Salient, was paid 32 pesos for his services, at the rate of 4 pesos per month from March 10 to November 10, 1807 (G. Herrera 1807c).

On November 1, 1807, Herrera conducted a census of the immigrants, their servants and livestock that were at Atascosito. Ten men, 10 women, 22 sons, 13 daughters, 2 male servants, 1 female servant, 673 head of cattle and 14 horses were listed. See Appendix, Census Report of Immigrant Families at Camp of Orcoquisac, November 1, 1807 (G. Herrera 1807b). The people had come from Louisiana and many of the surnames recorded by Geronimo de Herrera were French or Anglo-American.

Visitors by Sea

Rapid changes of post commanders and maritime activities underscored the year 1808 at Atascosito. At least 4 different groups came by sea. In January of 1808, 8 people led by Miguel de Larrua, a Frenchman, came by boat from the Trinity River to Atascosito and requested permission to be received as settlers. The group included Larrua's son; Carlos Rumanoli, an Italian servant; Juan Eugenio Michamps and his wife, Rosa Francisca Verchan; and Michamp's servants, Pedro Estevan and Pedro Flogny. All were received by the local authorities as settlers, and in 1809 Larrua was actually granted permission to examine the coast from Louisiana to Matagorda, by sea (Cordero 1808b, 1808e, 1809a).

Geronimo Herrera left Atascosito sometime during the winter of 1807 after reporting his inability to move the immigrants to Trinidad de Salcedo as he had been instructed.

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His excuse was that there were not sufficient horses to make the move (G. Herrera 1807b). Herrera left Miguel Serrano in charge of the post. Serrano petitioned to be relieved of command prior to April 25, 1808 (Cordero 1808c).

Felipe, Arciniega was appointed to replace Serrano (Salcedo 1808b). Arciniega forwarded the military reports of Atascosito on August 1, then was replaced by Jose Antonio Cuellar as commandant of the post by November 3 (Arciniega 1808; Cuellar 1808).

By February 7, 1808, Father Solana had refused the post of Curate of Orcoquisac (Atascosito) stating that the settlers of that post were English and French and that he did not speak their language. He also told the authorities that the former commandant of the post, Geronimo Herrera, arrived in Monterrey and told him that he (Herrera) had withdrawn all the troops from Atascosito. Nemesio Salcedo requested an explanation from Governor Antoino Cordero as to why Herrera had been permitted to leave Orcoquisac to go to Monterrey (Salcedo 1808a). Cordero's reply was not found. One of the men had been untruthful as the troops had not been withdrawn from Atascosito. Perhaps Solana was trying to strengthen his argument for declining the post of curate.

Four mariners presented themselves to the commander of Atascosito, February 1, 1808. They were sent by Captain Don Luis de Clouet, of the Royal Army, to ask permission to examine the coast as far as the Trinity and to sound the entrance of the river to try to determine whether or not it was navigable. Three of the men, Andres Beray, Antonio Molinar and Jose Olivert were still at Atascosito in August when the post commander received a communication from Nemesio Salcedo expressing his opinion that the mariners were "suspicious characters of slight trustworthiness", but that they had permission to return to Louisiana by way of Nacogdoches. They were not to be permitted to return by sea regardless of their reasons for requesting it (Cordero 1808a; Salcedo 1808c).

Nine of the immigrant families from Louisiana were transfered from Atascosito to the new villa of Trinidad de Salcedo during the summer of 1808 (Cordero 1808d; Varela 1808).

The annual military report was made in August of 1808 by Felipe Arciniega. Thirty-four men were listed at the Post of Atascosito, 16 of whom were ill. The munitions, the equipment for the horses and the mounts were in serviceable condition, but the clothing was worn out, reported Arciniega (Arciniega 1808).

Permission was given in August for Father Jose Angel Cabasos to be replaced at Atascosito, because of the attacks of illness which he suffered, by Fray Francisco Maynes

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(Maynes 1808).

Marcelino de la Garza and 4 other soldiers were sent as replacements to Atascosito in September. They brought 5000 pesos for salaries for the officers and for payment to the Indians of surrounding villages for corn and frijoles previously bought from them (S. Herrera 1808).

In November of 1808, Carlos Tessier arrived by sea from Louisiana and requested permission from the commandant of Atascosito to continue his journey to Bexar as he had some personal property which belonged to the wife of the newly appointed governor, Manuel Salcedo. Tessier was allowed to go to Bexar because he had a passport to that point, but the crew of the boat in which they had come was detained under guard until further orders could be received. The boat crew was ordered back to New Orleans, and the master was to accompany them unless he wished to become a permanent settler (Hatcher 1976:136).

Near the end of December 1808 there appeared at Atascosito another mariner and leader of a party of immigrants, Francisco de la Rosa. Rosa, accompanied by 2 slaves and 2 servants, came up the Trinity River in a small boat. He had anchored his ship, with his family of 19 persons and his belongings, off Culebra Island (Galveston). He declared his intention of settling at Bexar, brought documents signed by Jose Vidal, Vice-Consul of New Orleans and begged to be allowed to proceed to the harbor of Matagorda. The commandant readily gave the desired permission, because he was convinced of the dangers of trying to bring the ship up the Trinity River or of leaving it where it was. Governor Salcedo believed that Rosa was a contraband trader and issued orders for his detention until his case could be decided. The local authorities could not carry out these orders as Rosa was not seen again in Texas for 2 months. Finally, he reappeared at Atascosito with a tale of a terrible storm which had blown him all the way to Campeche, his re-entry into Bahia de San Bernardo (Galveston Bay), and his return to Atascosito to search for food for his starving people. The commandant apparently believed the story and allowed him to depart on another trip to seek the port of Matagorda (Hatcher 1976:136,137).

The year 1809 proved to be relatively tranquil at the Post of Atascosito. Commandant Cuellar delivered medals to the new Indian Chiefs, Tacpna and Nicopi of the Vidais and the Orcoquisa tribes (Calderon 1809; Cuellar 1809a). Father Maynes had the portable altar transferred and continued to minister to the temporal needs of the inhabitants (Prieto 1809). The mail for Atascosito was lost due to the flooded condition of the San Jacinto River, and smuggling operations continued to be of concern (Cordero 1809b). Cuellar's military report in August listed 27 soldiers and officers, and 53 horses at the post (Cuellar 1809b).

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1810 and Revolution

The year 1810 was the formal beginning of the Mexican Revolution when Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla delivered his eloquent call for independence from Spain on September 16. The Royalists faced a harrowing decade of intrigue, conflict and filibustering in Texas.

Father Francisco Maynes was transferred to Trinidad de Salcedo, where he staunchly defended the conduct of his parishioners and the resident foreigners to the visiting governor, Manuel Salcedo, in March (Almaraz 1971:53, 54; Mills 1980:4, 69, 237; Barker 1919-1922:vol. 1, pp. 680-685).

Jose Antonio Aguilar assumed command of the Post of Atascosito, which he was to administer for over a year. In July 1810 Aguilar complained of a serious lack of troops to carry on prescribed duties. Desertions and illness had taken their toll (Aguilar 1810a, 1810b). The August report stated that 12 men were suffering from chills and fever. In September and October 6 soldiers were sent to the military hospital in Bexar (Aguilar 1810c, 1810d). Aguilar requested sick leave for himself in December. He needed medical attention for, what he termed, extreme ill health. His last correspondence from Atascosito to his superior was a military report dated January 1, 1811 (Aguilar 1810e, 1811).

1811 Revolution and Counter-Revolution

On the night of January 21, 1811, Juan Bautista de las Casas, a retired Spanish army captain, effected a coup d'etat in San Antonio for the revolutionists. At dawn of the 22nd, Casas and his supporters took over the garrison and placed Governor Manuel Salcedo under arrest. On the first day of his administration Casas freed all the political prisoners, and ordered the arrest of all European-born Spaniards and confiscation of their property. He also dispatched mounted troops to Nacogdoches and La Bahia to proclaim the new order and to arrest the commanders and others who refused to recognize his authority (Almaraz 1971:118).

Commandant Jose Antonio Aguilar at Atascosito was probably deposed as there had been little time for him to have been granted a sick leave. A very fawning letter of congratulations was written at Atascosito from Pedro Jose Trevino to Casas. Trevino had not been listed the previous year on the roster of soldiers at Atascosito but probably was a replacement. He wrote in part:

> Since the very day that I arrived at this Post poor health has taken hold of me so as to exhaust me. Reply if you can furnish me relief, for this climate and its rains are noxious to me. Already

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> the malady of chills and fever is beginning....May God put all these difficulties to rights and may your mercy lead us from this Second Purgatory (Trevino 1811).

Meanwhile a counter-revolution by the Royalists led by Juan Manual Zambrano, toppled the autocratic Casas on March 1, 1811, in San Antonio. He was subsequently court martialed in Monclova, found guilty of treason and shot on August 3. His head was sent back to San Antonio to reside on the top of a pole in the middle of the Military Plaza (Almaraz 1971:124). Hidalgo had been apprehended and executed in Chihuahua July 27, 1811.

The rapid changes in government left a 5 month gap in the official correspondence and a void in the recorded activities of Atascosito. Governor Salcedo, Simon de Herrera and 12 other royalist officers had been sent under heavy guard to Monclova. After the restoration of the royalist government in Texas and the release of Salcedo and his officers, Salcedo went to Chihuahua to conduct the proceedings against the revolutionaries. He returned to Bexar on September 11, 1811, but did not resume his regular duties until December 15, 1811 (Almaraz 1971:125).

After 5 months of silence at Atascosito, a 1 page list of personal articles carried by a Frenchman, signed by Felipe de la Garza on July 11, 1811, found its way into the official correspondence. The regular correspondence resumed on December 9, 1811, with a report from Andres de Saldanas, the new commandant of Atascosito. The report was an inventory of horses and mules consficated from Manuel Gallardo and his companions, Ignacio Herrera, Felix Mendez, Jose Maria Vasaldua, and Manuel Flores. These men were apprehended a little west of Atascosito, while driving a large herd of horses and mules eastward toward the Louisiana border and the Opelousas market. A lengthy transcription of the arrests and trials in Bexar resulted (Garza 1811; Saldanas 1811, 1811-1812).

Atascosito Post Abandoned

The Post of Atascosito was abandoned in April of 1812. In order to meet the threat of the advancing Magee-Gutierrez Filibustering Expedition, Commandant Andres de Saldanas, aided by the military commander of Texas, Bernardino Benavides, and the troops of Atascosito, marched for Trinidad de Salcedo on the upper Trinity River (Garza 1812a, 1812b). Atascosito Post was never again occupied for any length of time by the military of Spain or Mexico.

The Atascosito garrison was utilized to reinforce Trinidad de Salcedo and Nacogdoches, after which the troops were pulled back to San Antonio. The battle of Rosillo, on March 29, 1813, between the filibusters and the Spanish Royalists ended in the defeat of the Royalists and the

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capitulation of San Antonio. On April 3, 14 Spanish officers, who had been made prisoners, were marched about 1-1/2 miles below the town, and their throats were cut. Geronimo Herrera, the former commandant of Atascosito, was one of those unfortunate victims, along with Governor Manuel de Salcedo, Simon de Herrera and others (Warren 1943:49-50).

The invasion of 1812 by Augustus Magee, Bernardo Gutierrez and the Republican Army of the North was stalled by dissension among the leaders. Shortly thereafter, they were defeated and scattered by General Jose Joaquin Arrendondo at the battle of Medina in August 1813. Colonel Ignacio Elizondo was dispatched to pursue the fleeing rebels and to clear Texas of all Royalist enemies. Remnants of the invading army, collaborating civilians and Indians fled to the neutral ground east of the Sabine River. By the middle of September 1813 the country between San Antonio and the Sabine was desolate and the Royalists were back in control of Texas.

Rebels and Reconnaissance

The New Orleans conspirators, the Mexican revolutionary government officials and the Baratarian pirates continued to plan for another invasion of Texas. The main routes of entry were to be from Natchitoches to Nacogdoches, down the Trinity River to Galveston; the Atascosito-Opelousas Road and the water route from Louisiana to Galveston or Matagorda. Bernardo Gutierrez was to follow the northern route, raising the Indian tribes as he traveled. By November 1815 General Jean Humbert, an aging French revolution veteran, had left with 50 men to join Henry Perry near the mouth of the Sabine River, and the Baratarians supplied a ready made navy (Picornell 1815).

The Spanish were aware of the threat and reconnaissance trips were made to Atascosito and to the Trinity, Neches and Sabine River mouths, searching for intruders. Usually the Indians of the area would warn the authorities in San Antonio or La Bahia of alien or covert activities and troops would be dispatched to investigate.

In February of 1816, Sergeant Jose del Toro, accompanied by 3 soldiers and 2 civilians, was sent to scout the lower Trinity and Neches Rivers. On February 20 Toro stated: "Came to the San Jacinto where I met the Indio Captain Joyoso with 14 Indians of the Bidais nation who gave me information that their trader, called Julian, had ordered him to say that many people had come down to Atascosito to stop and that they (the Indians) should give information quickly to the Presidio of La Bahia in order that they would not be deceived by those bad people" (Toro 1816). On February 26 Toro and the detail rafted over the Trinity and passed the night at Atascosito. Apparently the place was uninhabited as nothing is said in Toro's diary about finding anyone there. On the morning of the 27th the Sergeant and 3

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soldiers left to reconnoiter the old Presidio of Orcoquisac. They examined all the land in the immediate area of Orcoquisac without finding any trace of people having been there and then they returned to Atascosito on March 2. On March 3 the 2 civilians sent to reconnoiter the mouth of the Neches returned and reported that they likewise had not seen any gathering of revolutionists. The detachment departed Atascosito on the same day and crossed the Trinity River for the return trip to La Bahia (Varela 1816).

Sergeant Antonio Aguirre of the Company of La Bahia del Espiritu Santo was detached in November of 1816 to reconnoiter the mouths of the Trinity, Neches, Sabine and Calcasieu Rivers for a party of outlaws reported to have assembled. Aguirre struck the Trinity on November 17 where he stayed 4 days, delayed by heavy rains. Resuming his march, he stopped 3 days at Atascosito and was told by Indians that a large party of men had arrived in canoes at the house of a foreigner named Bree (Bray) that was situated on the Trinity near Atascosito. Aguirre found the trail of about 200 men on foot. He followed them a short distance, then fearing treason on the part of the Indians, he decided to proceed to the Calcasieu River. He arrived there on December 4 and gathered information about the movements of the insurgents. Aguirre began his return trip on January 22, 1817, and was delayed on the Sabine until February 11 by a rise in the river. Crossing the river, he shaped his course for the Trinity. Here, he observed that a party of Indians, Spaniards, Frenchmen and Americans, who had held that point (Perry's Point?) for the rebels, had withdrawn. He met a Bidias Indian who informed him that 103 Americans, negroes, mulattoes and Spanish had occupied the abandoned Presidio of Orcoquisac, but had left that position February 13 to join the outlaws at Galveston Bay. Aguirre returned to La Bahia (Aguirre 1817).

During the Spring of 1818 a mixed group of settlers led by exiled French soldiers from Napoleon's Army founded an illegal colony on the Trinity River. They were aided by the corsair, Jean Lafitte, who was in control of Galveston Island by this time. The group began to build fortifications and homes, and called the settlement Champ D'Asile (Hudson, ed. 1969:123-132).

The Spanish authorities were soon apprised of this intrusion, and Captain Juan Castenada and 240 soldiers were sent to expell the invaders. The Indian informants described the location of the settlement as some 6 or 7 leagues below Atascosito, between the Trinity River and a creek pass known as Cayo Gallardo (Castenada 1818a). This place was probably present day Moss Bluff.

Castenada departed from Mission San Juan, September 16, 1818. After crossing the Trinity River on October 12, the Spanish passed through Atascosito at 8 a.m., saw no signs of the French and made no mention of anyone else

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there. Traveling south, the troops were contacted by their advanced scouts and informed that the enemy fortifications were not at Cayo Gallardo, as previously thought, but were farther below on the banks of the Trinity and had been abandoned. Continuing south, Captain Castenada encountered 3 Americans living at the mouth of Turtle Bayou at a place called Punto de Busto. He expelled the Americans, sent messages to the Galveston conspirators to vacate the island, then began his return trip. He destroyed the French fortifications on the Trinity. This task was completed on October 31, 1818, and Castenada continued north to Atascosito, the Atascosito road, then west to San Antonio de Bexar (Castenada 1818b, 1818c).

On November 22, 1819, Lt. Jose Salinas made his report to his superior on his mission to reconnoiter Atascosito and the coast. A detachment of 30 soldiers, under the command of Sergeant Juan Galban, arrested Don Benito Pariente, his servant Pablo Salinas and a Xaraname Indian. The men had been on their way into the Conchate town (lower village of the Coushatta Indians) for supplies. Pariente told Galban that 4 of his countrymen and 2 Xaraname Indians were taking care of his horse herd at Atascosito. The soldiers pushed on to Atascosito where they found only a trail leading south to Cayo Gallardo. At Cayo Gallardo they encountered the herd and the drovers, whose number had been augmented by 5 Americans. A skirmish ensued. Two Americans were killed. Two of the Spanish and the 2 Indians were captured along with 96 horses and mules belonging to Parientes. Proceeding to the mouth of Cayo Gallardo, to a place called El Muey (el muelle, the wharf?), the soldiers found the abandoned house of Captain Frances. Having taken a boat across to the west bank of the Trinity River, Captain Frances called to the troops, inquiring as to who they were. On learning their identity, he said they were his enemies having killed 2 of his companions, then he disappeared into the woods. The soldiers burned the wooden house and departed (Salinas 1819).

All was quiet on the lower Trinity during the years 1820 and 1821, as the Spanish Royalists were occupied elsewhere.

The Republic of Mexico and George Orr

Mexico formally declared its independence on August 20, 1821. A liberal policy of immigration by the Mexicans encouraged Anglo-Americans to flood into the lower Trinity River region of Texas. With this tide came George Orr, a former captain in the Republican Army of the North under Bernardo Gutierrez, and Augustus Magee (Partlow 1826). Orr immigrated from Louisiana in 1821 with his common-law wife Tilpah and his son, Thomas (Abstract #26945; Osburn, ed. 1963:16,17). The family settled on the road near the springs at Atascosito, and in 1831 acquired title to the league of land which included their home and the site of the former

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Spanish military post of Atascosito. The Orr home was considered an important stopping place for travelers on the Atascosito Road.

Orr, born in Pennsylvania, was 42 years old in 1826. He listed himself as a gunsmith, farmer and stockraiser. His wife, Tilpah (Delphine) Berwick, born in Louisiana, was 23 years of age. She was the daughter of Thomas Berwick II and his wife, Rachel Comstock (Foret 1986). The Orr's first child, Thomas, was born in Louisiana about 1819. Martha and William were born in Texas about 1823 and 1825 respectively. Tilpah apparently died and Orr married Priscilla Clark, the daughter of John Clark and Esther Comstock in 1831 or 1832. Priscilla was a first cousin to Tilpah Orr, as their mothers were sisters. Two children resulted of this union: John, born about 1833, and Joanna, born about 1835 (Osburn 1963:16,17).

Orr assumed the leadership of the settlers in trying to procure titles to their lands from the Mexican government. He and Henry W. Munson were the first elected joint alcaldes of the Atascosito District in 1826. Orr served again as alcalde in 1828 and 1829 and a third time in 1833.

The Atascosito District was bounded on the east by the Sabine River, on the west by the San Jacinto River, on the north by the municipality (district division) of Nacogdoches and on the south by the Gulf of Mexico, including all islands and bays within 3 leagues of the sea shore (Munson n.d.,1826). Local administration of the government was conducted at Atascosito from 1826 until 1831 when it was changed to the new town of Liberty 3 miles to the south.

On January 25, 1831, Jose Francisco Madero, the General Land Commissioner for Texas, arrived at George Orr's home at Atascosito and proceeded to issue land titles to the settlers. Orr received title to a league on April 23, 1831, which began at the Trinity River and extended east to include his improvements at the Springs of Atascosito (General Land Office 1831). Orr's wife stated later that he had acquired the rights of Jose Maria Felan to the property prior to applying for the land grant (Abstract #26945: 4,5,17,18). Felan was apparently traveling with Madero becaused he signed many of the land transactions. Perhaps he was receiving a gratuity for facilitating matters.

A visitor to Texas in 1831 vividly described Atascosito thus:

> Tuscasito, instead of being a town or even a village, is a mere stopping place on the way to San Antonio, with a single house and a blacksmith's shop. It is situated on a sand Prairie, where are hardly any signs of vegetation, yet where Indian corn will grow, and look well if barely put into the ground, though it will not yield a large

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> harvest. I have heard it said that forty bushels to an acre is a very great crop on that tract. The view from that spot is fine, looking out upon the bay. Mr. George Orr, who has lived there several years, has a family of fine children; but there is no other inhabitant in the vicinity. The spot is important to travelers; and there is a yard for horses, which is a very unusual thing. An election was held there about the time of our visit to Anahuac, at which settlers from a great extent of surrounding country assembled, all, or nearly all, North Americans. It was held on the Sabbath, according to the common custom in Mexico; the polls were opened in Spanish and English, and the tellers having been appointed, the voting went on. One old man of ninety had come on horseback about sixty miles. This "republican" meeting was held in a small log building just erected for a courthouse; in the rear of which a cart was backed up on the Prairie, with a barrel of whiskey in it, furnished with a spigot, and free to all (Anonymous 1975:76; Holley 1985:122).

The traveler describing the view "looking out upon the bay" undoubtedly was looking at the flooded Trinity river bottom at Atascosito. The election was held May 22, 1831, at the newly established town of Liberty and evidently where the log building was built for the courthouse, even though the quote leads you to believe it was Atascosito (Blake n.d.). The old man of ninety who came on horseback about sixty miles to attend the election was probably Beasley Prewitt who lived on the west side of the Trinity River about 6 miles distance.

George Orr died in 1835 leaving his neighbor, Reason Green, as administrator of his estate (Abstract #26945:16). The circumstances of his death are unknown, but he complained of fever and illness in 1828 when asked by Stephen F. Austin to apprehend the Hardins. The Hardins were Orr's neighbors who were wanted on a murder charge in Tennessee. His excuse may have been reluctance on his part to arrest his friends and neighbors, but it's possible that he was in ill health. The Spanish repeatedly suffered from chills and fever, probably malaria, while living at Atascosito. Orr was presumably buried on the home place along with his first wife. His family continued to live there (Orr 1828).

A vivid descriptive narrative of the Atascosito crossing and road at the Trinity River was written by an early settler. During the Run-Away-Scrape in March of 1836 hundreds of refugees, fleeing before the advancing Mexican Armies, crossed the San Jacinto River at Lynchburg, then either took the road east to Anahuac or the road northeast to Liberty. Those going to Liberty struck the Old Atascosito Road and arrived at the Atascosito Crossing on

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the west bank of the Trinity. The Dr. Peasant W. Rose family was among the refugees. The reminiscences of his daughter, Dilue Rose Harris, give a graphic description of the terrain and a poignant narrative of the people's suffering. The river was at flood stage, and she said that the horrors of crossing were beyond her power to describe. When their party got to the ferry the water broke over the banks and ran around them. Their family was the last to get to the boat, and more than 500 people were left on the west bank. When they landed the lowlands were under water and everybody was rushing for the prairie 3 miles away.

> We crossed a bridge that was under water. As soon as we crossed a man with a cart and oxen drove on the bridge, and it broke down, drowning the oxen. That prevented the people from crossing as the bridge was over a slough that looked like a river. We got to the prairie and found a great many families camped there. The other families stayed all night in the bottom without fire or any thing to eat, and the water up in the carts. It took four days to get everything out of the water. The town of Liberty was three miles from where we camped. My little sister that had been sick died and was buried in the cemetery at Liberty. (Harris 1900-1901:85-127, 155-189).

The refugees must have camped near the Orr home, but the Roses did not mention the Orrs.

The widow Orr married her overseer, Benjamin Franklin, in August 1837 (Williams 1984:#314). The Franklins continued to keep a hostel and boarding house at Atascosito. David Carlton Hardee, a boarder from 1838 to 1840, made interesting observations in a letter about his hostess and the house. Mrs. Franklin was described as tall and slender, swarthy of complexion and homely, but very industrious and an exceptionally fine cook. Her mother, Esther Clark and a negro woman helped with the cooking. Hardee said, "The house was a sort of gemble (sic) with a good many rooms to it. Like most of the houses it was built of cypress slabs and covered with cypress boards and the floors were made of cypress puncheons. With a long broad front gallery it was a comfortable place to stay at." A spring house and a stable on the premises were mentioned (Hardee 1897).

Thomas, Martha and William, the children of Orr by Tilpah, his common-law wife, were declared to be legitimate children and heirs, "capable in law of inheriting their parent's property, in the same manner as if they had been born in lawful wedlock" on January 26, 1839, by a special act of the Congress of the Republic of Texas (Gammell 1898). This action may have been initiated by the administrator of the Orr estate because Mrs. Franklin and her husband were selling the land.

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A partition was made of the George Orr league in August 1845. Mrs. Priscilla Franklin received 781 acres including the old improvements where the Orrs had lived. The balance of the property was divided among the Orr children, except that which had been sold previously (Abstract #26945; Orr n.d.). See Figure 8. Partition of the George Orr League. Mrs. Franklin sold on July 18, 1846, 200 acres and the new improvements on the east side of her 781 acres to Kitty Warring. This sale did not include the old Orr home place.

The Franklin family had moved to Sabine Pass in Jefferson County by 1850. Mrs. Franklin's mother was not living with the family at this time. She may have died and been buried at the Atascosito homestead (Abstract #26945:18; Abstract #166615:22,23; U. S. 1850 Census). Mrs. Franklin sold her remaining interest in the George Orr league, March 1, 1860, to Charles H. Ruff of Jefferson County. Mrs. Franklin's ownership of the property at the time of this sale is doubtful as the property appears to have been sold for taxes earlier (Abstract #26945:16).

Mr. Franklin died just before the Civil War, and Mrs. Franklin survived him by only a few years (Russell 1986:38).

The Orr home at Atascosito Springs was torn down about 1882 after having been owned and lived in by a number of families. Mr. Stephen Green remembered it as a "low" house just back of three walnut trees at Woods' Springs about 3 miles from Liberty. The house faced north and across the road from the house was the spring. "The water was clear and sparkling and cool as water which had been iced," stated Mrs. Julia Welder in 1897. She also described the many broken bricks where the chimney once stood on the west end of the house and a little distance behind the house site were many pieces of charcoal, the remains of the old blacksmith shop. Mrs. Welder also said that the underground cistern was still there. (Welder to Hardee, September 3, 1897).

Orr Homestead Chain of Title

This study is primarily concerned with who owned and lived on the property, and what kind of structures may have existed at or near Atascosito Springs. The chain of title of the Orr homestead tract of land is not complete due to the fact that the Liberty County Court house burned on December 12, 1874 and the records were destroyed. Some deeds were re-recorded, but not all (M. Partlow 1974:175).

The Republic of Mexico granted to George Orr, on April 23, 1831, one league of land on the Trinity River in the State of Coahuila and Texas (Abstract #26945).

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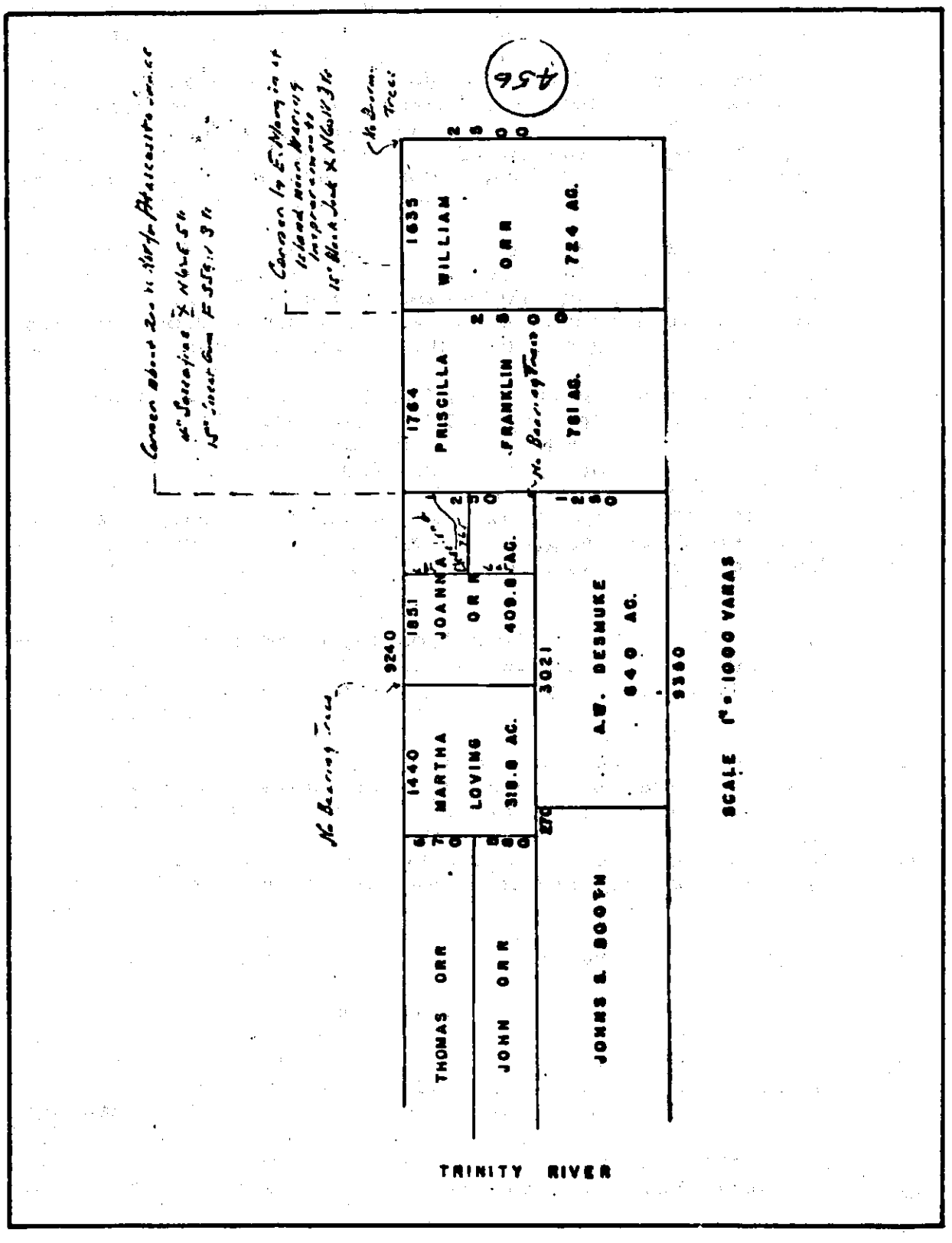


Figure 8. Partition of the George Orr League.
(reproduced from Abstract #26945)

The Orr family lived on their land grant at Atascosito Springs in a long, low cypress house. This may not have been the first home that Orr built there for his family. George Orr died in 1835 and his family continued to live at the springs. Mrs. Orr married Benjamin Franklin, and they sold many acres of the Orr league to John S. Booth and A.W. Desmuke. These sales, did not include the home place, but apparently were the reason a partition of the property was sought and obtained.

The following chain of title is contained in Abstract #166615 in the files of the Pickett law firm in Liberty, Texas. The George Orr League was partitioned on August 25, 1845, and the widow, Mrs. Prisilla Franklin, received 781 acres and the old improvements where George Orr had lived.

A break in the title record occurs here. The Franklins moved to Jefferson County prior to 1850, and, perhaps, did not keep the taxes paid on the property.

T.S. Boone to George Woods, Dec.27, 1856, deed for 581 acres. There is no mention in the records of how T. S. Boone acquired the property. Boone and Woods were living next door to one another, in the Wallisville Community, when the 1860 census was taken (U. S. Census 1860).

Priscilla Franklin to C.H. Ruff, March 1, 1860, deed to 1/4 undivided part of Orr headright. Ruff never assumed ownership of the property, perhaps because it had already been sold for taxes.

By some accounts the Franklins abandoned the homestead, the land lay vacant and was used as a camp for Confederate soldiers during the Civil War (Welder 1897b).

W. G. Woods, a son of George Woods, and his family was living at or near the springs during the 1870 Census (U. S. Census 1870).

George Woods died before February 27, 1878, at which time a probate was completed of his property. The 640 acre homestead went to his heirs.

Another break in the chain of title occurred at this time. It was not of record how E. G. Thompson acquired the property.

E. G. Thompson estate sale at court house door, May 1878, 81 acres to W. L. Douglas and S. R. Perryman.

W. L. Douglas and S. R. Perryman deed to Jane H. Hardin, November 7, 1882, of 81 acres. The old Orr home was reported to have been torn down about 1882. Did Mrs. Hardin tear it down in order to build another house? Was this when the so-called Layle house was built?

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Henry Woods and Mary E. Kelley, heirs of George Woods, to attorney James G. Minter, February 5, 1886, 81 acres. Was this transaction done to clear the title?

Jane H. Hardin died April 28, 1892. Heir, Gus Hardin to W. B. Green, March 26, 1894, 81 acres.

W. B. Green died October 16, 1917. The Old Billy Green homestead was mentioned. Heirs, W. Jeff Green, et al. to J. N. Haywood.

J. N. Haywood sold to B. M. Layle, January 1, 1920, 60 acres.

B. M. Layle to E. B. Pickett, Jr., January 19, 1921, 60 acres. The Pickett family owns the property at the present time.

Memoirs

Miss Bernardine Pickett remembers an old house being on the property in the vicinity of the tool shed just to the west of the large old sycamore tree. The house faced south and the farm road. She said the Layle family lived there. Since the Layles only had the property 1 year and the house was old in the 1920's, it was probably built by an owner prior to the Layles. Miss Pickett did not remember when the Layle house was torn down. The present-day camp house was moved to the property in 1946 or 1947 (Bernardine Pickett personal communication, 1988). The red barns and corrals were built some 30 years ago, or around 1957, and a pond was dug in the pasture south of the cattle barns in 1950 (Bradford Pickett personal communication, 1988).

Conclusions

The Atascosito Springs-Woods' Springs Farm property has been home for a number of different, historically significant, culture groups including, Indian, Spanish, Mexican and Anglo-American people. The written history of the interaction between these culture groups at Atascisito Springs has provided some insight into cultural changes that have taken place on a broader spectrum in east Texas.

Archeological evidence of known structures built in the area may still remain on the Woods' Springs Farm property. These would include a ranchito in the 1750s and 1760s, a temporary mission in 1785, the military post of Atascosito (1805-1812), George Orr's house or houses (1821-1882), Orr's blacksmith shop, a spring house and a corral as well as the Layle house. The numerous Indian, Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo-American people who lived there probably left many artifacts as archeological evidence of their activities.

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RESULTS OF THE STUDY

This section provides an explanation of the investigations undertaken and specific information gathered about the Woods' Springs Farm property. This work included analyzing artifacts gathered in 1987 and analyzing aerial photographs of the study area. Field work was confined to the Woods' Springs Farm property and included an archeological reconnaissance, constructing a map of the structures on the property, a pedestrian survey of the property and stratigraphic tests of 2 selected areas. Figure 9 is the map of the Woods' Springs Farm.

Aerial Photographs of the Woods' Springs Farm

Several aerial photographs were located and inspected for additional information about the project area. The archives of the county engineer's office in Liberty, Texas, contained black and white aerial photographs of the area taken November 9, 1938; November 27, 1938; May 26, 1958; and December 12, 1964. What is believed to be the Layle house and several outbuildings are shown on the 1938 photographs. The house was located north of the old Atascosito roadway approximately where the tool shed is today. Smaller structures were to the north and east of the house. The present day barns and camphouse were not present. The 1958 photograph shows the present barns and camphouse but the Layle house and outbuildings have been removed. The 1964 photograph shows the same barns and camphouse and a more recent cattle shed that was constructed just east of Farm Road 1011 and just south of the creek.

Jean Epperson took oblique color infrared slides of the farm area from a low flying aircraft with a 35 mm camera on February 12, 1987. These slides were viewed and 3 were printed as 8 x 10 photographs. The photographs provided more detailed close up views of the farm area than the black and white photographs. As expected, significant vegetation changes could be seen around the tool shed, barns, corrals and camp house, but no significant vegetation changes in undisturbed areas of the property were seen that might indicate buried archeological resources. Epperson took a second set of aerial photographs using color slide film on March 9, 1987. These slides were viewed and no significant features that might indicate buried archeological resources were seen.

Artifact Category Terms

Several general terms were used to categorize artifacts recovered during the study. The term stone was used for lithic artifacts, chips and chunks of chert, or petrified wood. Bone was used for all bone recovered. Most samples were poorly preserved and in very small unidentifiable fragments. None of the bone samples appeared to be modern.

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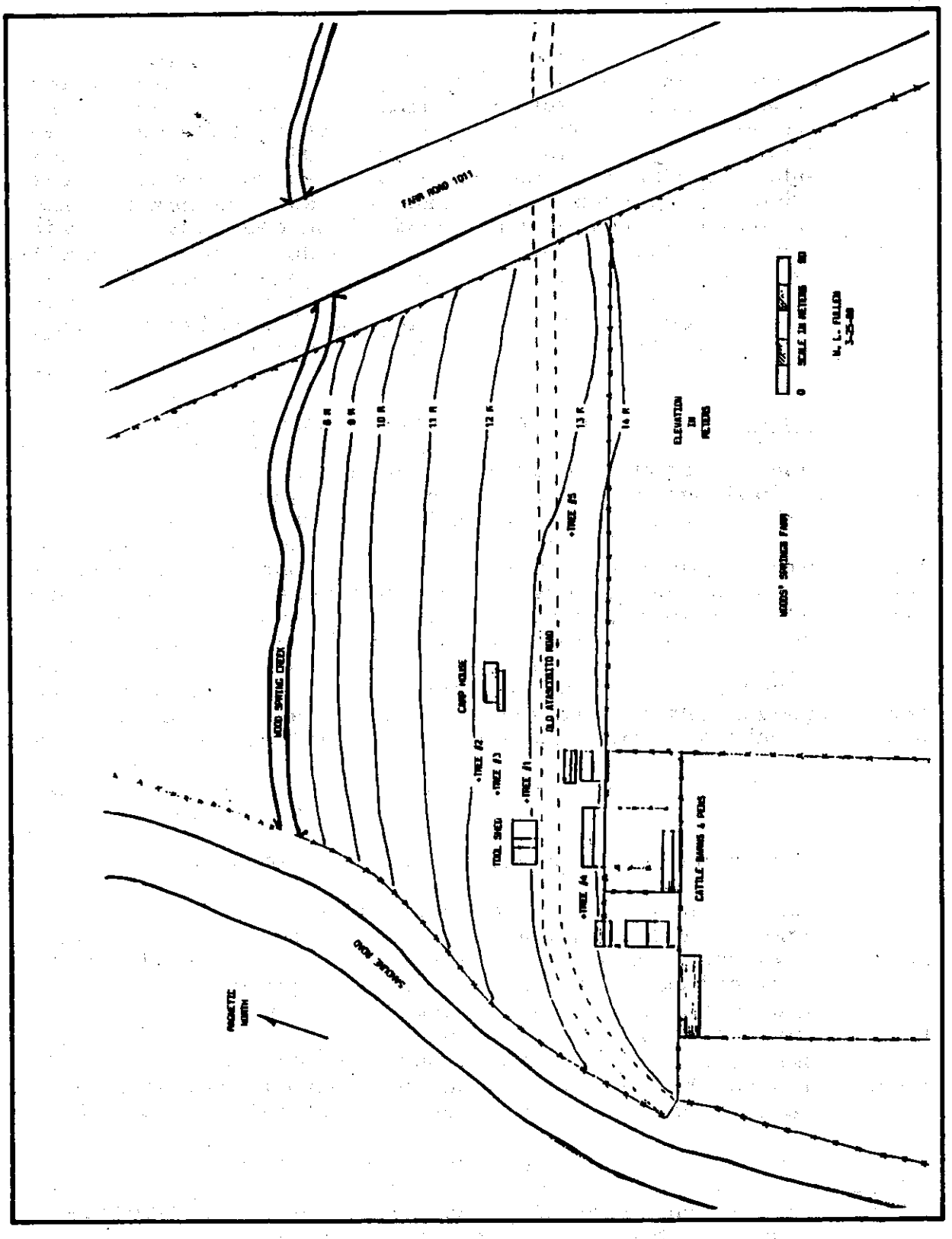


Figure 9. Map of the Woods' Springs Farm.

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The term Indian ceramics was used for unglazed low-fired earthenware ceramics that are of Indian manufacture. The typology developed by Aten (1983:220-245) was used to describe the Indian ceramics. The term Anglo ceramics was used for all other ceramics recovered. These included any ceramics manufactured in Britain, Europe or America during the late 18th, 19th or 20th centuries. Flat glass sherds were categorized as sheet glass and curved glass sherds were categorized as bottle glass. Most ceramic and bottle glass sherds were too small to determine vessel shape or type. Almost all metal objects were heavily oxidized iron and most were nails or fragments of nails or wire. Small brick and mortar fragments were also found. All items recovered were saved, catalogued, and described. Tables were prepared that list the provenience, quantity and description of the items recovered.

Limited Reconnaissance of the Woods' Springs Farm

On April 1, 1987, a limited reconnaissance was conducted in the vicinity of the barns and tool shed by Liberty County Historical Commission members Sandra Pickett and Jean Epperson. They were assisted by Dr. Margaret Henson and archeologists Jack Hudson and Mark Price. They found several sherds of Anglo ceramics and other historic artifacts on the surface in the dripline of the tool shed and excavated 4 shovel tests northwest of a very large sycamore tree that is located east of the shed. They also excavated 3 shovel tests northwest of the tool shed. Table 1 is a list of the artifacts recovered by the group. They did not record the provenience of each artifact. These materials, particularly the creamware and pearlware ceramics, indicate that a pioneer Anglo-American settler probably lived nearby.

Archeological Reconnaissance and Mapping

An initial one day archeological reconnaissance of the Woods' Springs Farm property was undertaken on January 26, 1988, by the principal investigator, assisted by 4 members of the Liberty County Historical Commission and 2 volunteers. The group made several traverses across the pastures and closely inspected most of the disturbed areas around structures and fences on the property. No Indian artifacts were found, but several sherds of Anglo pearlware ceramics were located in the dripline of the tool shed.

The map of the Woods' Springs Farm, shown in Figure 9, was constructed by using the surveyor's plat map and taking measurements along the east-west fence just south of the roadway designated the Old Atascosito Road. Each structure was measured and plotted on the map and elevations were taken with an alidade and plane table. The barns and corrals are situated on the northern edge of a relatively level sandy plain that is approximately 14 m above sea level. Just north of the Old Atascosito Road, the land

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Table 1. Description of artifacts recovered during reconnaissance in 1987.

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION
1	Indian ceramic, Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
11	Iron nails
1	Iron staple
1	Iron cultivator blade
44	Iron fragments
6	Brick fragments
2	Sheet glass fragments, light yellow tint
4	Sheet glass fragments, light blue tint
5	Sheet glass fragments, clear
5	Bottle glass fragments, clear
2	Bottle glass fragments, amber
1	Bottle neck and lip, double ring, clear
4	Anglo ceramic, creamware, plain, body sherds
1	Anglo ceramic, pearlware, plain, basal sherd
1	Anglo ceramic, pearlware, plain body sherd
1	Anglo ceramic, pearlware, handpainted blue, body sherd
1	Anglo ceramic, pearlware, plain, rim sherd
1	Anglo ceramic, pearlware, handpainted blue floral design basal sherd
1	Anglo ceramic, pearlware, embossed, hand painted blue body sherd
1	Anglo ceramic, transitional pearlware/whiteware, black transfer print of woman, body sherd
1	Anglo ceramic, ironstone, plain, body sherd

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slopes downward to Wood Spring Creek. The creek is approximately 6 m below the Old Atascosito Road. The road has been leveled and filled with crushed limestone in some areas and is currently used for access to the property.

Intensive Pedestrian Survey

A 100% intensive pedestrian survey was carried out on the Woods' Springs Farm property on March 26, 1988. The survey was accomplished by 26 students from the Liberty Middle School who were members of the school's Junior Historians Club. Their work was supervised by 2 of their teachers and 9 other adults. Six survey crews were formed and the property was inspected by the crew members walking approximately an arm's length apart. When an artifact was found the principal investigator assisted the crew in identifying the artifact, assigned the artifact a number and marked the location on a master map. Crew chiefs noted the artifact on survey forms and bagged each artifact separately. See Figure 10 for the locations of the items recovered during the pedestrian survey, and Table 2 for the descriptions of the items recovered.

Some of the historic artifacts found around the tool shed are probably from the Layle house occupation, but others, particularly the creamware and pearlware ceramics, suggest that an early Anglo-American house site, perhaps the George Orr house site is nearby.

The concentration of Indian and historic artifacts along the fence east of the barns suggested that a significant Indian component may be present in this area. Of particular importance was a small glass bead that was found at location S-15 during the survey. Another small glass bead was found on the surface at location S-41 during later testing of the area and is included in this data.

Only 1 artifact was recovered from the field east of Farm Road 1011. This was an Anglo ceramic sherd found near the Old Atascosito Road on the northwest edge of the field. Based on this survey and the information previously gathered, the area around the tool shed was chosen for stratigraphic testing.

Archeological Testing of 41 LB 16

Archeological testing began on April 9 and was completed on April 11, 1988. Six teams of 2 adults each participated each day. An east-west base line was established along the fence just south of the Old Atascosito Road. A grid system was established by assuming that the west corner post of the fence would be North 0 and East 0. Measurements in meters were made parallel and perpendicular to the fence line. Locations of test units were determined by using this grid system.

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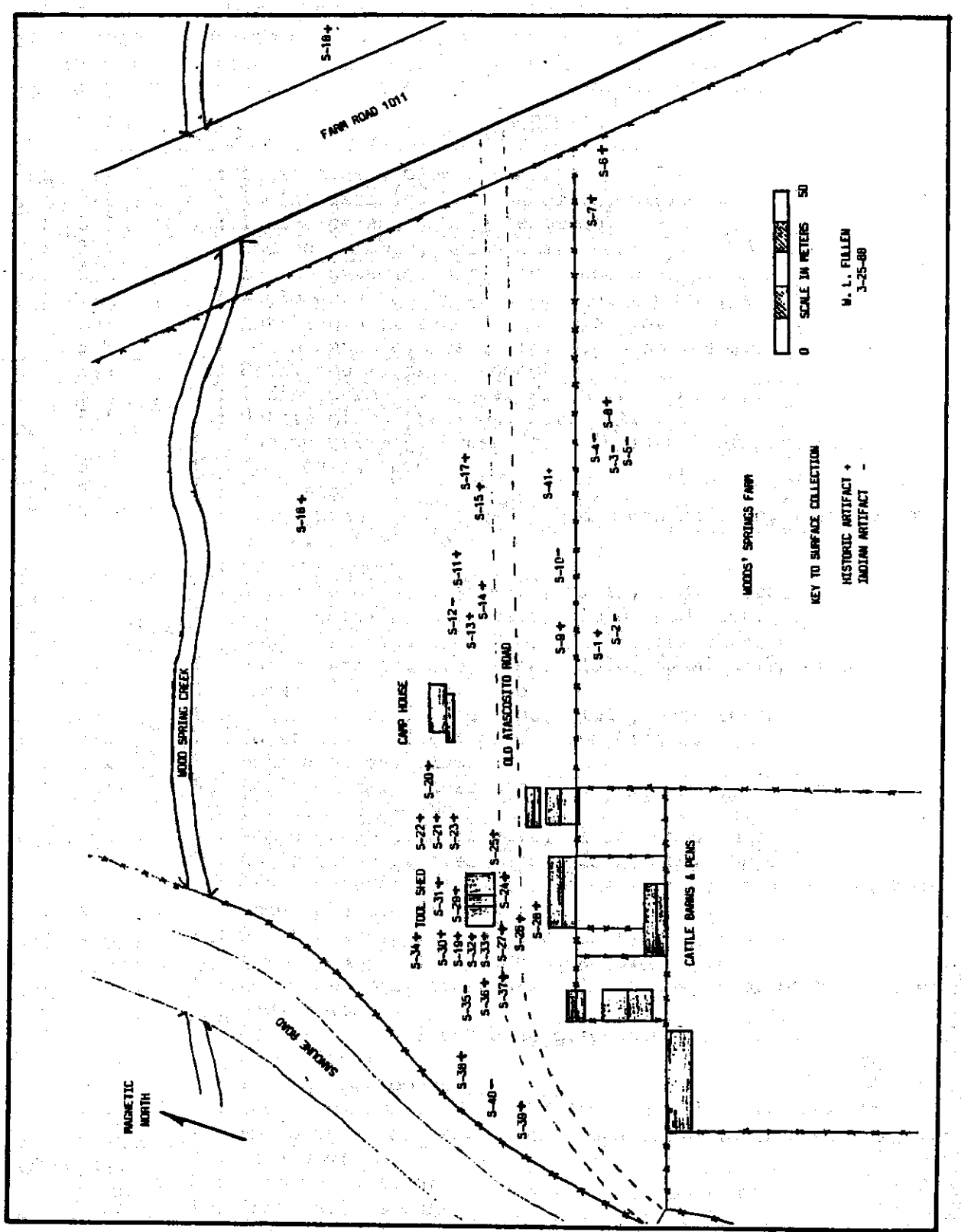


Figure 10. Location of artifacts recovered during the pedestrian survey.

Table 2. Description of artifacts recovered during the pedestrian survey.

LOCATION	QTY	DESCRIPTION
S-1	1	Sheet glass, blue green tint
S-2	1	Indian ceramic, bone tempered, plain
S-3	1	Indian ceramic, bone tempered, plain
S-4	1	Indian ceramic, Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
S-5	1	Indian ceramic, bone tempered, plain
S-6	1	Anglo ceramic, ironstone, plain, body sherd from bowl
S-7	1	Bottle glass fragment, purple tint
S-8	1	Anglo ceramic, pearlware, plain body sherd
S-9	1	Brick and mortar fragment
S-10	1	Indian ceramic, O'Neal Plain, var. Conway
S-11	1	Bottle glass fragment, purple tint
S-12	1	Indian ceramic, Goose Creek Incised, var. unspec.
S-13	1	Iron nail, round
S-14	1	Iron staple
S-15	1	Glass bead, long cane, round cross section, translucent white, 2.5 mm dia x 6 mm long
S-16	1	Brick fragment
S-17	1	Anglo ceramic, creamware, plain, body sherd
S-18	1	Anglo ceramic, pearlware, plain, body sherd
S-19	1	Anglo ceramic, ironstone, plain, rim sherd of plate
S-19	1	Anglo ceramic, ironstone, plain, basal sherd of plate
S-20	3	Sheet glass, light green tint
S-21	1	Anglo ceramic, ironstone, plain, body sherd
S-22	1	Sheet glass, light blue green tint
S-23	1	Bottle glass, clear
S-24	1	Anglo ceramic, pearlware, hand painted blue floral pattern, body sherd
S-25	1	Anglo ceramic, pearlware, plain, basal sherd
S-26	1	Anglo ceramic, creamware, plain, body sherd
S-27	1	Anglo ceramic, stoneware, blue white Bristol glaze, body
S-28	1	Sheet plastic fragment
S-29	1	Sheet glass, light blue green tint
S-30	1	Sheet glass, light blue green tint
S-31	1	Anglo ceramic, pearlware, blue transfer print both sides body sherd
S-32	1	Bottle glass, light blue green tint
S-33	1	Brick fragment
S-34	1	Iron nail, square
S-35	1	Indian ceramic, Baytown Plain, var. Phoenix Lake
S-36	1	Anglo ceramic, transitional pearlware/whiteware, plain body sherd
S-37	1	Iron nail, square
S-38	1	Iron nail, square
S-39	1	Anglo ceramic, pearlware, plain, body sherd
S-40	1	Stone, petrified wood chunk
S-41	1	Glass bead, slight barrel shape, tumbled, opaque white, 3 faint brown stripes around circumference of bead, 3 mm diameter x 5 mm long

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All stratigraphic test units were 30 cm x 30 cm, and were excavated by shovel and trowel in 10 cm levels measured from the ground surface. Excavated material was passed through 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth. All materials left on the screen were saved except unmodified pebbles, crushed oyster shell from the roadway and iron concretions that form naturally in the soil. Artifacts and other materials saved were bagged, and stratigraphic test reports were filled out as each level was excavated. Munsell soil colors were determined and recorded for each level. Most units were excavated from 70 cm to 100 cm in depth to sterile clay. When sand deposits were deeper, then, a 7 cm diameter coring tool 190 cm long was used to attempt to determine the depth of the underlying clay.

Excavation information was tabulated by excavation unit number, depth excavated and depth of clay. Other observations were noted as remarks. Munsell soil color was determined for each level, but was not included in the tabulated information. Generally, the soil excavated was a loamy fine sand that varied in color from 10 YR 4/2 dark grayish brown at the surface to 10 YR 5/3 brown near the top of the clay.

Provenience of artifacts and other materials recovered were tabulated by type, excavation unit number, level and quantity. Description of Indian ceramic and Anglo ceramic artifacts were tabulated by type, unit number, level and a complete description. This information is presented as tables of data in the following discussion.

Stratigraphic Test of Area A

The first area tested was in the vicinity of the tool shed and near the north wall of one of the barns. This area was designated Area A. Thirty-seven stratigraphic test units were excavated 5 m apart wherever possible. The tool shed, a very large sycamore tree, the roadway and the barns were avoided. See Figure 11. Location of stratigraphic tests in Area A. Unit 32 was designated but was not excavated as it was located in the roadway.

Table 3 is a summary of the stratigraphy of Area A. The soil excavated was a loamy fine sand that varied in color from 10 YR 4/2 dark grayish brown at the surface to 10 YR 5/3 brown near the top of the clay. Depth of the clay increased from 50 cm west and north of the tool shed to greater than 190 cm east of the tool shed. Very wet sand was encountered at 180 cm in the deeper tests. Most of the area was disturbed by pocket gophers. The area tested between the road and the barn showed disturbance from human activity. Numerous crushed oyster shell fragments, used as road fill, were found in Units 33, 35 and 38. A 5 cm to 10 cm thick strata of sandy clay was found in Units 36, 37 and 38.

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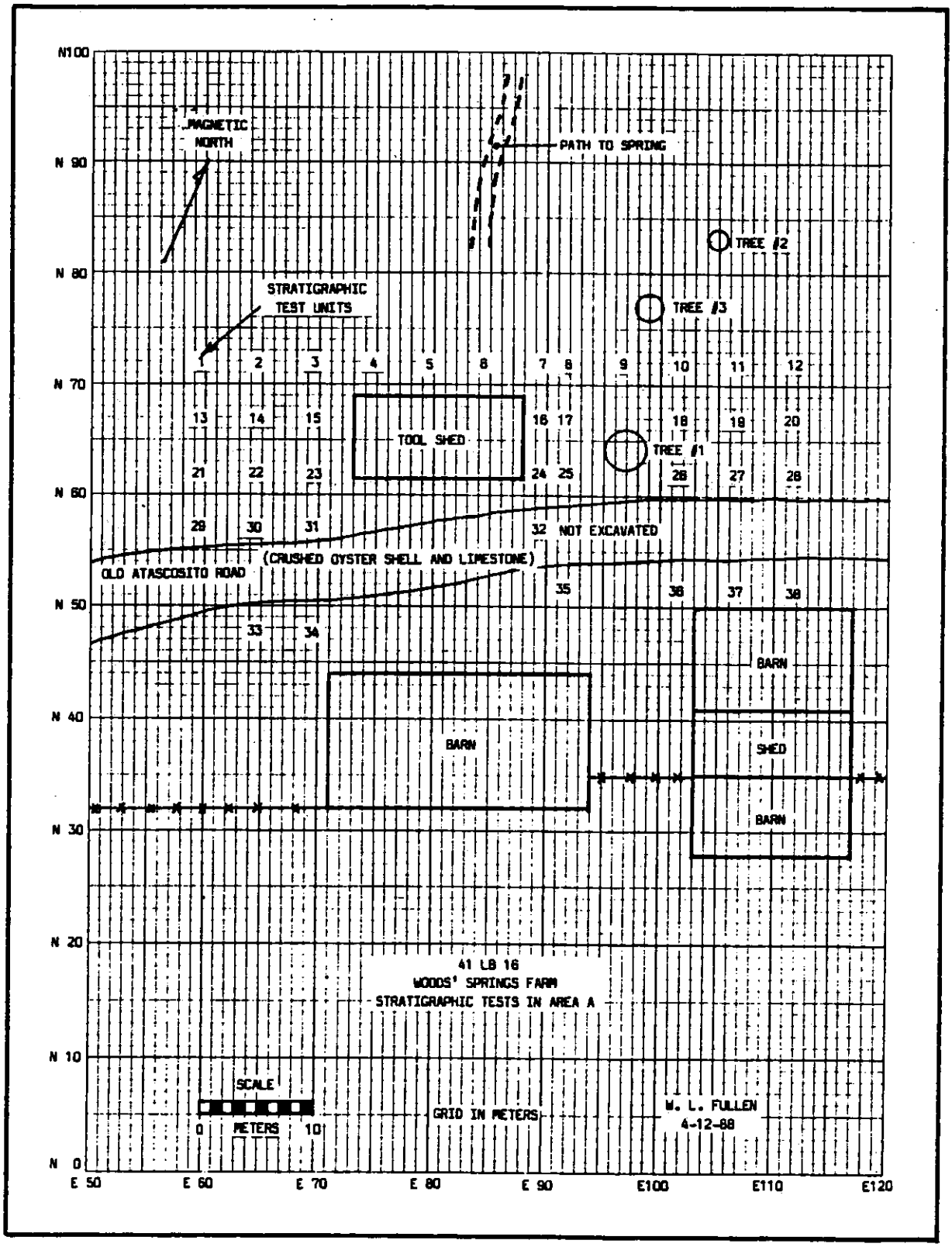


Figure 11. Location of stratigraphic tests in Area A.

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Table 3. Stratigraphy of Area A.

EXCAVATION UNIT NUMBER	DEPTH EXCAVATED in cm	DEPTH OF CLAY in cm	REMARKS
1	40	40	
2	30	30	
3	30	30	
4	50	50	
5	30	30	
6	50	50	
7	60	170	
8	70	170	
9	70	160	
10	90	Unknown	Wet at 180 cm, cored to 190 cm
11	80	Unknown	Wet at 160 cm, cored to 170 cm
12	120	Unknown	Wet at 160 cm, cored to 180 cm
13	40	40	
14	60	60	
15	50	50	
16	70	100	
17	180	180	
18	80	Unknown	Did not core
19	110	Unknown	Wet at 180 cm, cored to 190 cm
20	100	Unknown	Wet at 180 cm, cored to 190 cm
21	60	60	
22	50	60	
23	58	58	
24	70	70	
25	90	90	
26	100	185	
27	80	Unknown	Wet at 180 cm, cored to 190 cm
28	100	Unknown	Wet at 180 cm, cored to 190 cm
29	70	70	
30	70	70	
31	60	65	
32			This unit was not excavated
33	70	70	Some road shell 0 cm to 40 cm
34	70	80	
35	70	105	Road shell 0-10 cm
36	70	Unknown	Sand cored to 90 cm
			Sandy clay strata 30 cm to 35 cm
37	70	100	Clay strata 30 cm to 40 cm
38	70	Unknown	Sand cored to 180 cm
			Dense road shell 3 cm to 10 cm
			Clay strata 37 cm to 40 cm

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Twenty-five Indian ceramic sherds were recovered from Area A. Table 4 lists the provenience for each specimen and Table 5 is a description of each artifact. Eighteen of the sherds are of the sandy paste Goose Creek type and some were found to depths of 90 cm. One of these sherds is a very small fragment with an incised line. These sherds may indicate an early Neo-American Indian occupation, but could have been manufactured as late as historic times. Three of the sherds are of the grog tempered Baytown Plain type that appear in the ceramic chronology later in time than Goose Creek types. One sherd is a sand tempered O'Neal Plain type, commonly found in Indian sites in the Sabine Lake area. Three sherds contain bone temper that indicate a late prehistoric or historic Indian occupation.

A total of 22 stone specimens were recovered from Area A. Twenty-one appear to have been modified by Indians. Table 6 lists the provenience of the specimens. Most of the specimens are small flakes, chips and chunks of chert or petrified wood that were not modified into useful tools. A retouched flake of tan chert, 23 mm long x 8 mm wide x 3 mm thick was found in Level 3 of Unit 4. The distal end of a broken biface tool of reddish brown petrified wood, 17 mm long x 16 mm wide x 4 mm thick, was recovered from Level 5 of Unit 15. The distal end of another biface of reddish brown petrified wood, 15.5 mm long x 16.5 mm wide x 4 mm thick, was found in Level 9 of Unit 25. A very heavy chunk of iron like ore, 52 mm long x 37 mm wide x 21 mm thick that weighed 100 grams, was found in Level 3 of Unit 26. It appeared to be volcanic in origin as some surfaces were vitrified and others contained numerous bubbles. None of the surfaces showed wear from use as a grinding tool, and it did not appear to be a fragment of a basalt mano or metate commonly utilized by the Spanish.

Fifty-two specimens of bone were recovered from Area A. Table 7 lists the provenience of each specimen. Most specimens were very small fragments of poorly preserved bone, while a few were fragments of long bone that had been snapped. None of the bone fragments appeared to be modern. Several bone fragments had been gnawed by animals. One identifiable bone was recovered from Level 7 of Unit 3. This was a 1st phalanx of a Bison or Bos. Dimensions of the bone were 63 mm long x 25 mm wide x 18 mm thick.

Table 8 lists the provenience of each metal object recovered from Area A. Most of the 245 metal specimens recovered were heavily corroded iron fragments of nails, barbed wire and sheet metal. Two fragments of a rectangular cast iron plate, 9.5 cm long x 2.8 cm wide x 4.5 mm thick, were found in Level 6 of Unit 4 . Markings cast in the plate appear to be "BLOO" and fragments of a screw remain near one end. A broad, iron, U-shaped handle was found in Level 2 of Unit 9. The handle is 11.5 cm long x 12 mm wide x 6 mm thick. One iron button was recovered from Level 3 of Unit 9. It was made of sheet metal with a rolled edge and

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Table 4. Provenience of Indian ceramics recovered from Area A.

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1													1						
2													1						
3		1			1	1				1		1				1			
4														1					
5																			
6																			
7												3							
8																			
9												3							
10																			
TOTAL	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	7	2	1	0	1	0	0	0

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS																		
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
1														1					
2		1													1			1	1
3																1			
4						1						1				1			
5																			
6																			
7																			
8									1										
9																			
10																			
TOTAL	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	1

TOTAL INDIAN CERAMICS RECOVERED = 25

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Table 5. Description of Indian ceramics recovered from Area A.

UNIT-LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
2-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
5-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
6-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
10-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
12-3	Goose Creek Incised, var. unspec.
12-7	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
12-7	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
12-7	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
12-9	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
12-9	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
12-9	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
13-1	Baytown Plain, var. San Jacinto
13-3	O'Neal Plain, var. Conway
14-4	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
16-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
21-2	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
25-4	Grog and bone tempered
28-8	Bone tempered, plain
31-4	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
33-1	Baytown Plain, var. Phoenix Lake
34-2	Baytown Plain, var. San Jacinto
35-3	Bone tempered plain
35-4	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
37-2	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
38-2	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.

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Table 6. Provenience of stone recovered from Area A.

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1					1		1			1									
2					1												1		
3				1	1				2								1		
4							1							1					
5															1				
6																			
7																			
8																			
9									1										
10												1							
TOTAL	0	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	3	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS 20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
1		1			1														
2																			
3							1												
4																			1
5																			
6										1									
7																			
8																			
9						1	1												
10																			
TOTAL	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

TOTAL STONE RECOVERED = 22

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Table 7. Provenience of bone recovered from Area A.

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1					1													1	
2																1		1	
3							2		1			1							
4							3			4									
5									1							1			
6																			
7												1							
8																			
9																			
10																			
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	2	4	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS 20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
1			1	2															
2		1	2	2												2			
3																			
4											1					6			
5																2			
6																13			
7																			
8	1																		
9	1																		
10																			
TOTAL	2	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0

TOTAL BONE RECOVERED = 52

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Table 8. Provenience of metal recovered from Area A.

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1		1	7	5	14	2	1		1		1		1		1	1	3	6	
2	2	5	3		11	16		3	9		1	2	4	3	5	1	11	2	
3	1	3	1	3	2	2			36		3		1				8		
4	1								6		1				2		1		
5																			
6																			
7																			
8																			
9																			
10																			
TOTAL	4	9	11	8	27	20	1	3	52	0	6	2	6	3	8	2	23	8	0

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS																		
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
1	2		1	1	4	1													
2	3		2	1	5		1		1	2	1					2		5	4
3					2		1										1		1
4											1						2		1
5	1						1									1			
6									1										
7	1						1												
8									1										
9																			
10																			
TOTAL	7	0	3	2	11	1	4	0	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	3	5	6

TOTAL METAL RECOVERED = 245

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measured 14 mm in diameter x 3 mm thick. One thin sheet copper fragment was found in Level 1 of Unit 5. It was 11 mm long x 8 mm wide x 0.5 mm thick. Two brass items that are probably from a shoe were recovered from Unit 9 . A one-piece brass eyelet was recovered from Level 3. It was 10 mm in diameter overall with a 5 mm diameter hole. A one-piece brass hook for retaining a shoe lace was recovered in Level 4. It was 6 mm in diameter and 6 mm tall. A larger two-piece oval shapped brass grommet with 4 prongs was found in Level 4 of Unit 30. It measured 32 mm long x 25 mm wide x 4 mm thick, and had remnants of leather sandwiched between its 2 parts. A fragment from an unidentifiable thin sheet brass object was recovered from Level 3 of Unit 11. It was once a larger, well-finished, symmetrically shaped object, that was broken at one end and hammered and cut at the other. Dimensions were 33 mm long x 23 mm wide x 1.5 mm thick. A modern shotgun shell case was found in Level 2 of Unit 22 and another was found in level 2 of Unit 28.

Provenience of sheet glass recovered from Area A is listed in Table 9. Only 12 clear glass fragments were recovered. Eleven appeared to be from window panes ranging from 1.5 mm to 2.5 mm in thickness. One fragment was plate glass that was 3 mm thick.

Table 10 lists the provenience of 59 bottle glass fragments recovered from Area A. Several specimens were clear glass, but most had a light purple or a light green tint. A thicker fragment, dark brown in color, was found in Level 2 of Unit 6. Only 2 patinated glass fragments were recovered. One had a metallic luster on all surfaces and was recovered from Level 2 of Unit 34. The other patinated glass sherd was a light tan color on all surfaces and was found in Level 3 of Unit 35.

Brick and mortar fragments were found in 12 of the 37 units excavated. Table 11 lists the provenience of the fragments. All fragments were too small to determine if they were from earlier hand-made bricks or from modern bricks. Much of the mortar was burned suggesting that the fragments came from a fireplace.

Table 12 lists the provenience of Anglo ceramics, and Table 13 describes the 32 specimens recovered from Area A. Three porcelain sherds and 1 small red earthenware fragment with a green lead glaze were recovered. The red earthenware fragment may have been from a vessel manufactured in Mexico. The 1 creamware, 15 pearlware and 1 transitional pearlware sherds were from vessels that were probably brought to the area prior to the Civil War. The remaining 11 sherds of refined earthenware, whiteware, ironstone and stoneware probably represent later occupations of the area from the time of the Civil War to the present.

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Table 9. Provenience of sheet glass recovered from area A.

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1																	1		
2																	1		
3									4										
4																			
5																			
6																			
7																			
8																			
9																			
10																			
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS 20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
1				2															
2				1															
3	2																1		
4																			
5																			
6																			
7																			
8																			
9																			
10																			
TOTAL	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

TOTAL SHEET GLASS RECOVERED = 12

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Table 10. Provenience of bottle glass recovered from Area A.

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1		1	1		3	1					2						2	1	
2	2	1			1	3	1		1			1			1	3	2	1	
3			1			4			3		1					1	2		
4				1					1										
5																		1	
6											1								
7																			
8																			
9																			
10																			
TOTAL	2	2	2	1	4	8	1	0	5	0	4	1	0	0	1	4	6	3	0

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS																		
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
1					1	2													
2		1	1		1					1					1				
3		1					1									2			
4																		1	1
5																		1	
6																			
7																			
8																			
9																			
10																			
TOTAL	0	2	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	1

TOTAL BOTTLE GLASS RECOVERED = 59

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Table 11. Provenience of brick and mortar fragments recovered from Area A.

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1					4								2			2	18		
2						1		2								1	1		
3					2	1		1	52										
4						1													
5																			
6																			
7																			
8																			
9																			
10																			
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	6	3	0	3	52	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	19	0	0

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS																		
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
1					1				1					1					
2					1													1	
3																			
4																			
5																			
6																			
7																			
8																			
9	1																		
10																			
TOTAL	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0

TOTAL BRICK AND MORTAR RECOVERED = 94

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Table 12. Provenience of Anglo ceramics recovered from Area A.

10 cm Levels	EXCAVATION UNITS 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1					2													1	
2		1		1	1	1			1										
3					1				1								1	1	
4																			
5																			
6																			
7																			
8																			
9																			
10																			
TOTAL	0	1	0	1	4	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0

10 cm Levels	EXCAVATION UNITS 20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
1				1			2			1						1			1
2				1		1						1		1	1	1			
3						1	1									1			
4							1				1					1			
5												1							
6										1									
7																			
8																			
9																			
10																			
TOTAL	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	4	0	0	1

TOTAL ANGLO CERAMICS RECOVERED = 32

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Table 13. Description of Anglo ceramics recovered from Area A.

UNIT-LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
2-2	Pearlware, mocha pattern, black on orange, body sherd
4-2	Pearlware, plain, body sherd
5-1	Porcelain, plain, body sherd
5-1	Porcelain, plain, body sherd
5-2	Creamware, plain, body sherd
5-3	Pearlware, blue transfer print, rim sherd
6-2	Pearlware, slip decorated, brown bands and white wavy lines on light greenish-brown background, rim sherd of large bowl
9-2	Pearlware, hand painted green and brown floral design, body sherd
9-3	Whiteware, plain, rim sherd
17-3	Transitional pearlware/whiteware, black transfer print, body sherd
18-1	Refined earthenware, slipped green & brown bands, body sherd
18-3	Ironstone, plain, body sherd
23-1	Porcelain, plain, body sherd
23-2	Pearlware, blue transfer print, body sherd
25-2	Pearlware, plain, basal sherd
25-3	Refined earthenware, flow blue, body sherd
26-1	Refined earthenware, blue & yellow banded slip decorated & black transfer printed on white, body sherd
26-1	Pearlware, blue transfer print, rim sherd
26-3	Red earthenware, green lead glaze, possibly handle fragment
26-4	Pearlware, hand painted blue floral pattern, rim sherd
29-1	Stoneware, alkaline glaze on one side, body sherd
29-6	Whiteware, plain, body sherd
30-4	Pearlware, yellow hand painted floral pattern, body sherd
31-2	Pearlware, embossed and hand painted green, body sherd
31-5	Whiteware, plain, body sherd
33-2	Refined earthenware, flow blue, body sherd
34-2	Pearlware, mocha pattern, black on orange/black band, body
35-1	Whiteware, blue on one side, body sherd
35-2	Pearlware, blue transfer print both sides, body sherd
35-3	Pearlware, plain, body sherd
35-4	Refined earthenware, flow blue, rim sherd
38-1	Pearlware, handpainted black band, rim sherd

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Stratigraphic Test of Area B

The second area tested was east of the barns in the vicinity of the east-west fence and the Old Atascosito Road. This area was designated Area B. Ten stratigraphic test units were excavated 5 m north of the fence along a east-west line and 10 units were excavated along a north-south line. Units were spaced 10 m apart. See Figure 12. Location of stratigraphic tests in Area B.

Table 14 is a summary of the stratigraphy of Area B. The soil excavated was a loamy fine sand that varied in color from 10 YR 4/2 dark grayish brown at the surface to 10 YR 5/3 brown near the top of the clay. Most of the area was disturbed by pocket gophers.

Seventy Indian ceramic sherds were recovered from Area B. Table 15 lists the provenience for each specimen, and a description of each sherd is listed in Table 16. All of the sherds were relatively small. Forty of the sherds were of the sandy paste Goose Creek Plain type. Three sherds were of the Goose Creek Incised type. One had 2 lines around the rim separated by small punctates. Another had lip notching, and the third sherd was incised with vertical lines near the lip. These sherds may indicate an early Neo-American Indian occupation, but could have been manufactured as late as historic times. One of the sherds was grog tempered Baytown Plain, var. Phoenix Lake type that appears later in time in the ceramic chronology than the appearance of Goose Creek types. Twelve sherds were sand tempered O'Neal Plain type, commonly found in Indian sites in the Sabine Lake area. Twelve sherds contained bone temper that indicate a late prehistoric or historic Indian occupation. One sherd was Mandeville Plain and 1 sherd was sand tempered with a brushed exterior with asphaltum applied along a break.

Only 4 stone specimens were recovered from Area B. All were very small chips of tan chert. Table 17 lists the provenience of the specimens.

Twenty-nine specimens of bone were recovered from Area B. None of the specimens appeared to be modern. Table 18 lists the provenience of each specimen. All specimens were very small fragments of poorly preserved bone. No identifiable bone was recovered from Area B.

Table 19 lists the provenience of the metal objects recovered from Area B. Only 4 items were recovered. One was a fragment of a square iron nail from Level 2 of Unit 41, and another was a round iron nail recovered from Level 1 of Unit 58. Two items were small unidentifiable iron fragments.

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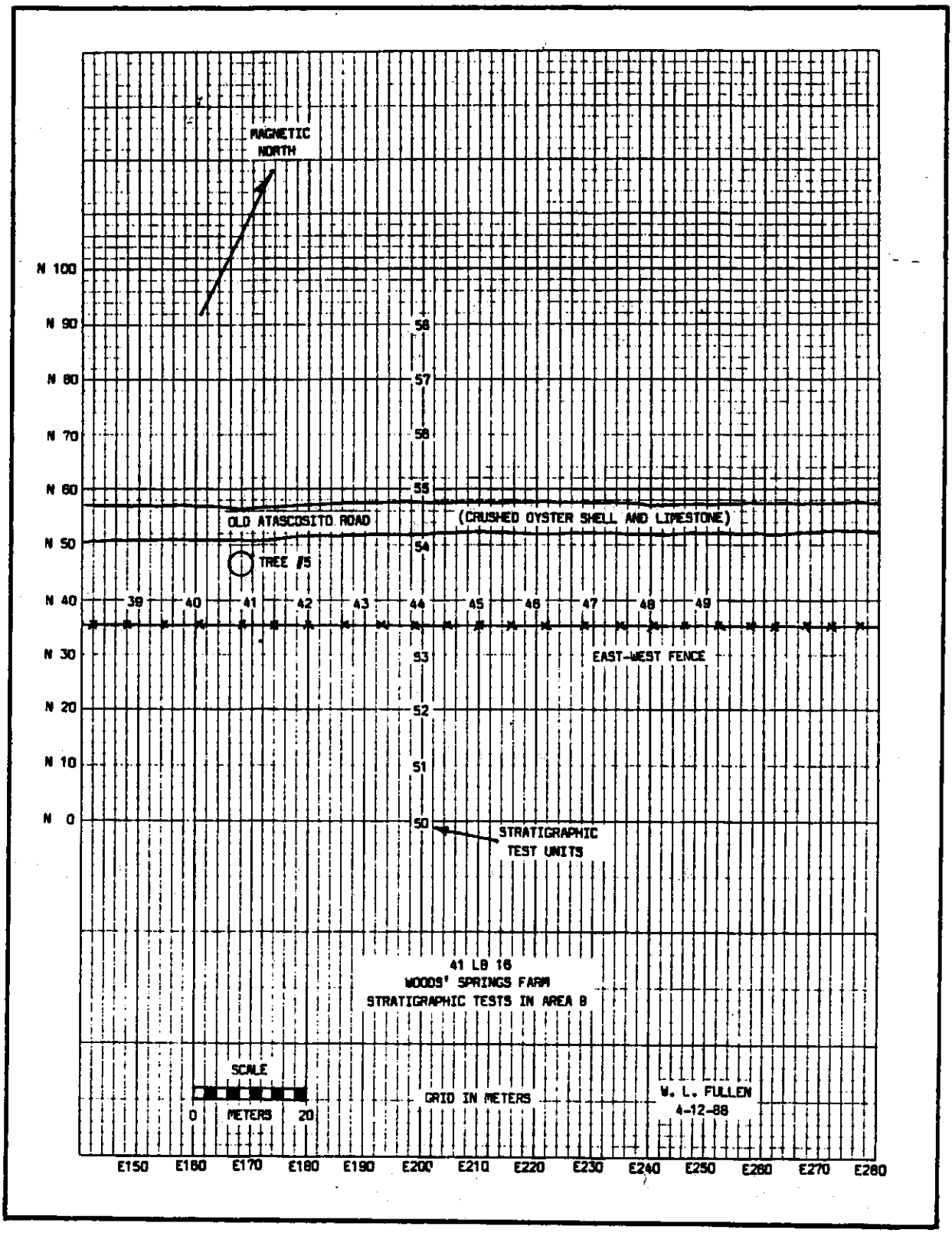


Figure 12. Location of stratigraphic tests in Area B.

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Table 14. Stratigraphy of Area B.

EXCAVATION UNIT NUMBER	DEPTH EXCAVATED in cm	DEPTH OF CLAY in cm	REMARKS
39	70	70	
40	80	80	
41	90	90	
42	100	140	
43	100	170	
44	100	Unknown	Did not core
45	100	Unknown	Did not core, wet sand at 100 cm
46	100	Unknown	Did not core
47	90	90	
48	100	160	
49	100	Unknown	Sand cored to 190 cm
50	100	100	
51	100	130	
52	100	100	
53	100	Unknown	Did not core
54	100	190	
55	100	180	
56	100	110	
57	60	60	
58	100	Unknown	Sand cored to 190 cm

Table 15. Provenience of Indian ceramics recovered from Area B.

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS 39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
1	2					1				1										
2	1				1				2	1	3			1		1				
3			1	1	2	2			1	3		1	3			1				1
4	1		2	3			1			1	1				1	2				
5									4					2		1	1			1
6							1		1	5	1					1	1			
7					3				2						1					
8														1						
9										2										
10																				
TOTAL	4	0	3	4	6	3	2	10	12	6	1	3	4	2	6	2	0	0	2	0

TOTAL INDIAN CERAMICS = 70

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Table 16. Description of Indian ceramics recovered from Area B.

UNIT-LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
39-1	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
39-1	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
39-2	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
39-4	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
41-3	Bone tempered plain
41-4	O'Neal Plain, var. Conway
41-4	O'Neal Plain, var. Conway
42-3	O'Neal Plain, var. Conway
42-4	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
42-4	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
43-2	Bone tempered plain
43-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
43-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
43-7	Bone tempered plain
43-7	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
43-7	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
44-1	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
44-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
44-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
45-4	Baytown Plain, var. Phoenix Lake
45-6	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
46-2	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
46-2	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
46-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
46-5	Bone tempered plain
46-5	Bone tempered plain
46-5	Bone tempered plain
46-5	Bone tempered plain
46-6	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
46-7	O'Neal Plain, var. Conway
46-7	O'Neal Plain, var. Conway
47-2	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
47-3	Goose Creek Incised, var. unspec.
47-3	O'Neal Plain, var. Conway
47-3	O'Neal Plain, var. Conway
47-4	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
47-6	Bone tempered plain
47-6	Bone tempered plain
47-6	O'Neal Plain, var. Conway
47-6	O'Neal Plain, var. Conway
47-6	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
47-9	Bone tempered plain
47-9	Bone tempered plain
48-1	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
48-2	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
48-2	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
48-2	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
48-4	O'Neal Plain, var. Conway
48-6	O'Neal Plain, var. Conway

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Table 16 (continued). Description of Indian ceramics recovered from Area B.

UNIT-LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
49-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
50-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
50-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
50-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
51-2	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
51-5	Mandeville Plain
51-8	O'Neal Plain, var. Conway
52-4	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
52-7	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
53-2	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
53-3	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
53-4	Goose Creek Incised, var. unspec.
53-4	Goose Creek Plain, var. Anahuac
53-5	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
53-6	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
54-5	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
54-6	Goose Creek Plain, var. unspec.
57-3	Sand tempered & brushed exterior with asphaltum at break
57-5	Bone tempered plain

Table 17. Provenience of stone recovered from Area B.

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS 39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
1																				
2					1														1	
3																				
4				1																
5																				
6																				
7																				
8																				
9					1															
10																				
TOTAL	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

TOTAL STONE RECOVERED = 4

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Table 18. Provenience of bone recovered from Area B.

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS																			
	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
1			1																1	
2								1												
3																	1			
4				2									2							
5							2				1		1							
6									5							1		2		
7											1					2	1			
8																3				
9						1										1				
10																				
TOTAL	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	1	5	0	2	0	3	0	0	7	2	2	1	0

TOTAL BONE RECOVERED = 29

Table 19. Provenience of metal recovered from Area B.

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS																			
	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
1			1																1	
2	1		1																	
3																				
4																				
5																				
6																				
7																				
8																				
9																				
10																				
TOTAL	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

TOTAL METAL RECOVERED = 4

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No sheet glass was recovered from Area B, and only 9 fragments of bottle glass were recovered. Table 20 lists the provenience of the bottle glass recovered from Area B. Four specimens were clear glass. One had a light purple tint, and 1 was light blue-green in color. One thin dark green fragment was recovered, and a thicker dark green fragment was found in Level 6 of Unit 47. Only 1 lightly patinated glass fragment was recovered. It was a thin translucent fragment, light olive green in color.

No brick or mortar was recovered from Area B.

Table 21 lists the provenience of the Anglo ceramics recovered from Area B, and Table 22 describes the 2 specimens recovered. One was a plain creamware sherd, and the other was a plain pearlware sherd.

Survey of Large Trees at Woods' Springs Farm

Karen Cole, a forester, examined the trees just east of the tool shed, a tree near the barn and a dead tree east of the barn near the road. See Figure 9. Results of her study are listed in Table 23 (Cole personal communication).

CONCLUSIONS, ASSESSMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Archeological investigations of the Woods' Springs Farm property, previous to this study, indicated that significant Indian and Anglo-American cultural resources might be present. The purpose of this study was to gather additional information useful in assessing the archeological resources within the property for nomination of the site to the National Register of Historic Places. A second purpose was to provide recommendations for conserving the cultural resources and for conducting additional archeological and historical studies of the Wood Spring Creek area.

Conclusions

The historical research provided a great deal of information about Spanish activities at the military post of Atascosito from 1805 to 1812. First garrisoned by 12 or 15 soldiers in 1805, the number of soldiers increased to 76 by November 1806 and then declined in number until the the post was abandoned in 1812. Their archeological record should include quantities of Spanish military artifacts such as metal buttons, buckles and gun parts. Spanish household items should also be present. These should include basalt manos and metates, copper and iron cooking vessels and a variety of soft paste earthenware vessels manufactured in Mexico. These would most likely be burnished earthenwares, lead-glazed earthenwares and tin-glazed earthenwares.

During this time immigrant families from Louisiana stopped at the post for extended periods of time. They probably brought with them hard paste earthenware vessels,

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Table 20. Provenience of bottle glass recovered from Area B.

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS																			
	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
1										1										
2						1	1							1						
3																	1			
4																				
5																				
6									2									1		
7											1									
8																				
9																				
10																				
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0

TOTAL BOTTLE GLASS RECOVERED = 9

Table 21. Provenience of Anglo ceramics recovered from Area B.

10 cm LEVELS	EXCAVATION UNITS																			
	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
1																				
2		1																		
3										1										
4																				
5																				
6																				
7																				
8																				
9																				
10																				
TOTAL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TOTAL ANGLO CERAMICS RECOVERED = 2

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Table 22. Description of Anglo ceramics recovered from Area B.

UNIT-LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
39-2	Creamware, plain, body sherd
48-3	Pearlware, plain, body sherd

Table 23. Description of large trees at the Woods' Springs Farm.

TREE #	TREE TYPE	DIA. in.	APPROXIMATE AGE in years
1	Sycamore, Platanus occidentalis Platanaceae	56.5	226
2	Sycamore, Platanus occidentalis Platanaceae	19.7	77
3	American Elm, Ulmus americana Ulmaceae	37.1	148
4	Walnut, Juglans nigra Juglandaceae	12.7	57
5	Dead Walnut, Juglans nigra Juglandaceae	27.4	110

Note: Estimates of age were made from "Guide for establishing values of trees and other plants" by the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers International Society of Agriculture, 1924.

Tree #1 is 125 feet tall.

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manufactured in Great Britain, such as creamwares and pearlwares.

Architectural remains of the post should include evidence of numerous structures, built of wood, with prepared clay floors. Post holes, fireplaces and quantities of hand wrought square iron nails should remain where these structures once stood.

Historical evidence concerning the George Orr homesite included a description of his house that was occupied sometime after 1821 until about 1850. The house was located south of the road and faced the road and the creek. The most diagnostic artifacts from the Orr-Franklin occupation should be British made hard paste earthenware ceramics such as creamwares, pearlwares and the later banded pearlwares. Architectural remains of the wooden house should include quantities of square iron nails, a brick chimney and an underground cistern. Remains of Orr's blacksmith shop should be found behind the house.

It is not known if the Orr-Franklin house was occupied again before it was torn down in 1882, but it may have been occupied by George Woods and members of his family. They would probably leave different types of ceramic artifacts behind. These would include stoneware vessels and ironstone ceramics that replaced pearlwares in popularity after the Civil War.

The pedestrian survey of the Woods' Springs Farm property provided new information about the location of an early Anglo-American homesite and an area where Indian ceramic artifacts were concentrated. Most of the artifacts were found near the east-west fence and downslope around the tool shed. No artifacts were found very far south of the east-west fence.

Based on the pedestrian survey, it appears that Indians utilized much of the area along the high ground south of Wood Spring Creek from Sandune Road to Farm Road 1011. Historic ceramics were found in the same vicinity as Indian artifacts, but they were concentrated in the vicinity of the tool shed. It was suprising that no Indian artifacts were found east of Farm Road 1011 and only 1 Anglo ceramic sherd was found there.

It appears that both Indians and Anglo-Americans occupied Area A around the tool shed and near the barns. One very small red earthenware sherd with a lead glaze was recovered that might have been of Spanish origin, but no significant evidence of a Spanish occupation was found. Some of the creamware and pearlware ceramics could have been left by the immigrant families who stopped at Atascosito Post, or possibly by occupants of the Layle house which stood near the tool shed, but it is more likely that they indicate that the George Orr homesite is nearby, probably

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south of the roadway in the vicinity of the barns and corrals.

No distinct cultural layers were discernable from the stratigraphic tests in Area A, and no cultural features were found. Cultural stratigraphy is poorly preserved because of the constant burrowing by pocket gophers which have severely mixed the sandy soils and moved artifacts from their original locations. Construction of the Layle house and its later removal and construction of the tool shed also contributed to the disturbance of Area A.

Area B contained very few historic artifacts compared to Area A. No evidence of a Spanish occupation was found and only 2 Anglo ceramic sherds were recovered. A total of 70 Indian ceramic sherds were recovered from the 20 stratigraphic tests in Area B, while only 25 Indian sherds were recovered from the 37 tests in Area A. Vessel shapes and sizes could not be determined because most of the sherds were very small fragments. The bone tempered Indian ceramics indicate a late prehistoric or historic Indian occupation. No significant diagnostic stone artifacts were recovered from either area. Stratigraphy of Area B was severely mixed by burrowing pocket gophers.

Two glass beads, apparently of European manufacture, were found on the surface at the eastern edge of Area B. They were probably items acquired by Indians, but could have been left by the Spanish who utilized beads as trade items.

Assessments

A State of Texas Archeological Site Data Form was completed for 41 LB 16 that included information gained during this study. The limited investigation of the Woods' Springs Farm property produced important new information about cultural resources present, but did not yield sufficient historical or archeological evidence to identify the site of the Atascosito Post or the George Orr homesite.

Historic artifacts recovered indicated that an early Anglo-American homesite is in the vicinity of Area A. If the artifacts were from the George Orr homesite, then, the site is probably in the vicinity of the barns and corrals south of the roadway. Construction and utilization of the barns, sheds and corrals for raising cattle has affected the stratigraphy on the western portion of the property. These structures also limit the areas that can be investigated south of the roadway where historical information indicated the Orr house site might be.

Indian artifacts recovered, mostly ceramics, suggest that both prehistoric and historic Indians camped along the high ground south of Wood Spring Creek. Most of the Indian ceramics recovered were very small fragments. No diagnostic stone tools were recovered and bone preservation was very

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poor. The deep sandy soils on the property are severely mixed by the burrowing of pocket gophers which has resulted in poorly preserved cultural stratigraphy.

Current historical and archeological information about the cultural resources present on the Woods' Springs Farm property is not sufficient evidence for nominating an archeological site to the National Register of Historic Places. Positive identification of the Atascosito Post or the George Orr homesite remain important objectives for further historical and archeological research.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the landowners of the Woods' Springs Farm property conserve the archeological resources that have been found or may remain to be found on their property. This could be accomplished by the land owners informing the Liberty County Historical Commission of any plans to disturb the deposits. The Commission could then consider the need to monitor ground disturbing activities in order to prevent loss of significant cultural resources.

Historical research has provided significant information about Atascosito Springs, Atascosito Post and the George Orr homesite. Additional information may exist that would be useful in determining the exact location of these sites. It is recommended that historical research be continued in an effort to locate this needed information. Suggested sources of the information include the Mexican Military Archives and letters and diaries of individuals who may have had knowledge of these historic places.

It is recommended that the Liberty County Historical Commission continue to make archeological surveys of the Woods' Springs Farm property, particularly after rains when artifacts are most likely to be found on the surface around gopher burrows.

Additional stratigraphic testing around the barns and corrals south of the roadway may provide the archeological evidence needed to identify the George Orr homesite. It is recommended that these areas be surveyed with a metal detector, and then areas likely to contain significant historical artifacts or features should be tested.

It is recommended that other properties along Wood Spring Creek be systematically surveyed for cultural resources. The site of Atascosito Post may be located east of Highway 146 on high ground near Wood Spring Creek. Owners of properties along Wood Spring Creek should be encouraged to inform the Liberty County Historical Commission of plans to disturb their property in order for the Commission to consider the need to monitor these activities.

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APPENDIX

Census Report of Immigrant Families at Camp of Orcoquisac, November 1, 1807.

Census of the families of immigrants who are in this post unable to proceed farther, and who are being permitted to settle here as they have no mounts; the number of cattle and horses each person has is also listed:

	M	W	S	D	MS	FS	C	H
1st Family								
Agustin BENDOT, widower.	1							
His Children								
Benxamin, 16 yrs. old,			1					
Maria Margarita, 15 yrs. old				1				
Servants								
Maria LACADIUT						1		
Personal Property								
Horses								3
Cattle							150	
Another Family								
Sebastian BENUA	1							
Hipolita LEBLIUT, his wife		1						
His Children								
Jose Defesu, 4 yrs. old			1					
Maria Dolores, 3 yrs.				1				
Maria Josefa, 8 months.				1				
Another Family								
Maria Magdalena VENUA, widow		1						
Her Children								
Luys Pabro, 8 yrs.			1					
Denis, 5 yrs.			1					
Agustin, two yrs.			1					
Maria Celestina, 10 yrs.				1				
Personal Property								
Horses								1
Cattle							6	
Carried Forward	2	2	5	4		1	156	4
Another Family								
Federico ESCOMAN	1							
Catarina ESBOMEN, his wife		1						
Children								
George, 21 yrs. old.			1					
Enrriques, 15 yrs. old			1					
David, 13 yrs. old			1					
Juan, 11 yrs. old			1					
Pedro, 9 yrs. old			1					
Pedro, 9 yrs. old			1					
Maria, 4 yrs. old				1				
Francisco, 2 months			1					
Another Family								
Don Carlos SABET	1							
Catarina LEBLIUT, his wife		1						
Children								
Alejandro, 3 yrs. old			1					
Luisa, 2 yrs. old				1				
Personal Property								
Cattle							200	
Horses								2
Another Family								
Blas LECHAM	1							
Catarina, his wife		1						
Children								
Bautista, 32 yrs. old			1					
Celestina, 7 yrs. old				1				
Personal Property								
Cattle							15	

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	M	W	S	D	MS	FS	C	H
Another Family								
Jose GIRUDT	1							
Carried Forward	7	6	14	8		1	373	4
Celestina ERNIBESOM, his wife		1						
Children								
Jose, 4 yrs. old			1					
Manuela, 3 yrs. old				1				
Personal Property								
Cattle							80	
Horses								3
Another Family								
Selome DUCER	1							
Angela BLESD, his wife		1						
Francisco, his son, 1 yr.old			1					
Personal Property								
Cattle							20	
Horses								1
Another Family								
Juan EROMDREQUE	1							
Serafina ESMIT, his wife		1						
Children								
Maria Luysa, 14 yrs. old				1				
Servant Carlos, 32 yrs. old					1			
Personal Property								
Cattle							200	
Horses								6
Another Family								
Juan EROMDREQUE	1							
Rosalia APSER, his wife		1						
Carried Forward	10	10	16	10	1	1	673	14
Children								
Francisco, 6 yrs. old			1					
Eram, 5 yrs, old			1					
Ricardo, 4 yrs. old			1					
Serafina, 3 yrs. old				1				
Juan, one yr. and 6 mos.			1					
Maria, 11 mos. old				1				
				6				
Servant, Frillo LAMDREY					1			
Another Family								
Santiago MEGLAFAM	1							
Maria MANTA, his wife		1						
Children								
Ana, 10 yrs. old				1				
Beatriz, 6 yrs. old				1				
Matilde, 4 yrs. old				1				
Francisco, 3 yrs. old			1					
Antonio, 2 yrs. old			1					
TOTAL	10	10	22	13	2	1	673	14

Remarks

The Families of Pedro FRUCHED and Francisco MERCANTEL, who were here, were forced by me to return to the place they came from because I observed they conducted themselves extremely bad.

Daniel BOOM and his family are on their way to San Antonio de Bejar with a petition to settle there.

Camp at Orcoquisac, November 1, 1807.

Geronimo de HERRERA (Rubric)

Source: Bexar Archives, Barker History Center, University of Texas at Austin.
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