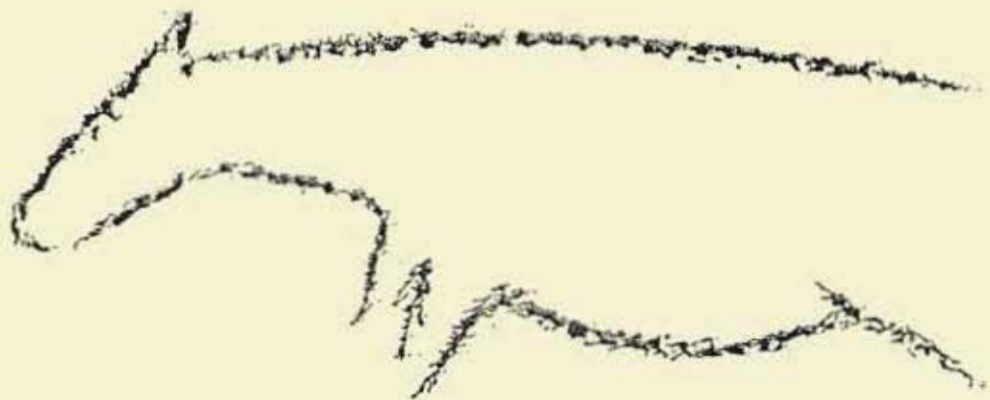


# ANCIENT ECHOES



**VOLUME 1, No. 1**  
**2002**

JOURNAL OF THE  
HILL COUNTRY  
ARCHEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

# ANCIENT ECHOES

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Sue Jensen Hobbs  
Editor

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AN ANTIQUITIES STUDY AND SURVEY OF 64.44 ACRES OF LAND  
FOR THE PROPOSED OUR LADY OF THE HILLS CATHOLIC HIGH  
SCHOOL PROJECT, KERRVILLE, TEXAS  
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AT THE WIDBEE SITE (41KR570), IN  
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ABOUT THE COVER: A pictograph, sketched from the Hatfield Rock Shelter 41KR493

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**AN ANTIQUITIES STUDY AND SURVEY OF  
68.44 ACRES OF LAND FOR THE PROPOSED  
OUR LADY OF THE HILLS CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT  
KERRVILLE, TEXAS**

by the

**HILL COUNTRY ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
KERRVILLE, TEXAS**

by

**ROBERT R. RECTOR  
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**

with contributions by  
Bryant Saner, Jr.

**SPONSORED BY THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ST. IGNATIUS, INC.**

**HILL COUNTRY ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
SURVEY REPORT NO. 1  
February 2001**

## **ABSTRACT**

In January 2001, the board of directors of St., Ignatius Regional Catholic High School contacted representatives of the Hill Country Archeological Association concerning an antiquities study on 68.44 acres where the proposed Our Lady of the Hill Regional Catholic High School (OLH) is to be built. This contact was made out of concern for the impact this construction will have on cultural resources that might exist on or below the surface of the land. In February 2001, an archeological survey was conducted on the property. It was found that, although there are indications of historic and prehistoric occupation, no site on this tract could be nominated for an prehistoric Historic Landmark or Archeological Landmark. However, the survey contributed information of the greater understanding to the historic and prehistoric background of the area.

## **THE HILL COUNTRY ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

The Hill Country Archeological Association (HCAA) is composed of local and regional members concerned with historic and prehistoric documentation, conservation and preservation of archeological resources in the Edwards Plateau regional of central Texas. Members are composed of professional and avocational archeologist members that are trained in proper archeological fieldwork and methods through project participation. As a volunteer organization, the HCAA is primarily involved in projects on private land or projects that are not regulated by state or federal regulations. Projects under the direction of the HCAA follow the same guidelines as set forth by official standards, and are published and distributed to members, property owners, and the general public. Members are required to abide by a code of ethics when they join the HCAA.

The HCAA sponsors meetings every other month at which various educational programs are presented. In the spring the Archeological Rendezvous and in the fall an Archeological Fair are sponsored by the HCAA. At the Rendezvous and Fair various programs and demonstrations are featured to promote archeological awareness in the community. These events are open to the public and there is no charge.

## **MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

Upon acquisition of maps of the study area, a plan was formulated for a pedestrian survey across the surface of the land in controlled 100 foot transect intervals. All surface observations, artifacts, and features are noted and mapped for later analysis and interpretation. No significant indicators of buried deposits were found during the investigation. There are surface indication that historic and prehistoric people used this tract. Background searches of the property, general area and significance of the survey are included in this report.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The HCAA would like to thank Barbara A. Cole, Jim Green, Ilse Bailey, Sam Baker and the Board of Directors of the St. Ignatius, Inc. (D/b/a Our Lady of the Hills Regional Catholic High School) for their cooperation and assistance in allowing the HCAA to undertake this survey. A debt of gratitude is owed to OLH for their concern with the cultural resources of the area. The HCAA crew of Virgil Altwien, Jose Contreras, Von and Vonie Evans, Woody and Kay Woodward and Christina Weinzierl are to be thanked, without them this project would have never taken place. Special thanks is extended to Rosa Lavender of the Kerrville Daily Times for the excellent newspaper coverage on the project.

A debt of gratitude is owed to Fidelity Abstract, Especially to Jimmy Peschel and Terry Goodwin, for the assistance they provided in locating and interpreting historic documents. Also a thank you goes to Betty Sevey, Senior Clerk and the staff at the Kerr County Clerk's Office, and all the others that assisted in locating historic documents. Christina Weinzierl provided wonderful assistance in obtaining references for this report. Donald R. Meier, an engineer with the Kerrville Telephone Company, provided valuable information for this report. Assistance with the identification of the historic artifact by Anne Fox, historic archeologist at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Center for Archaeological Research is greatly appreciated. Thanks to Bruce Moses for the wonderful maps.

## **INTRODUCTION**

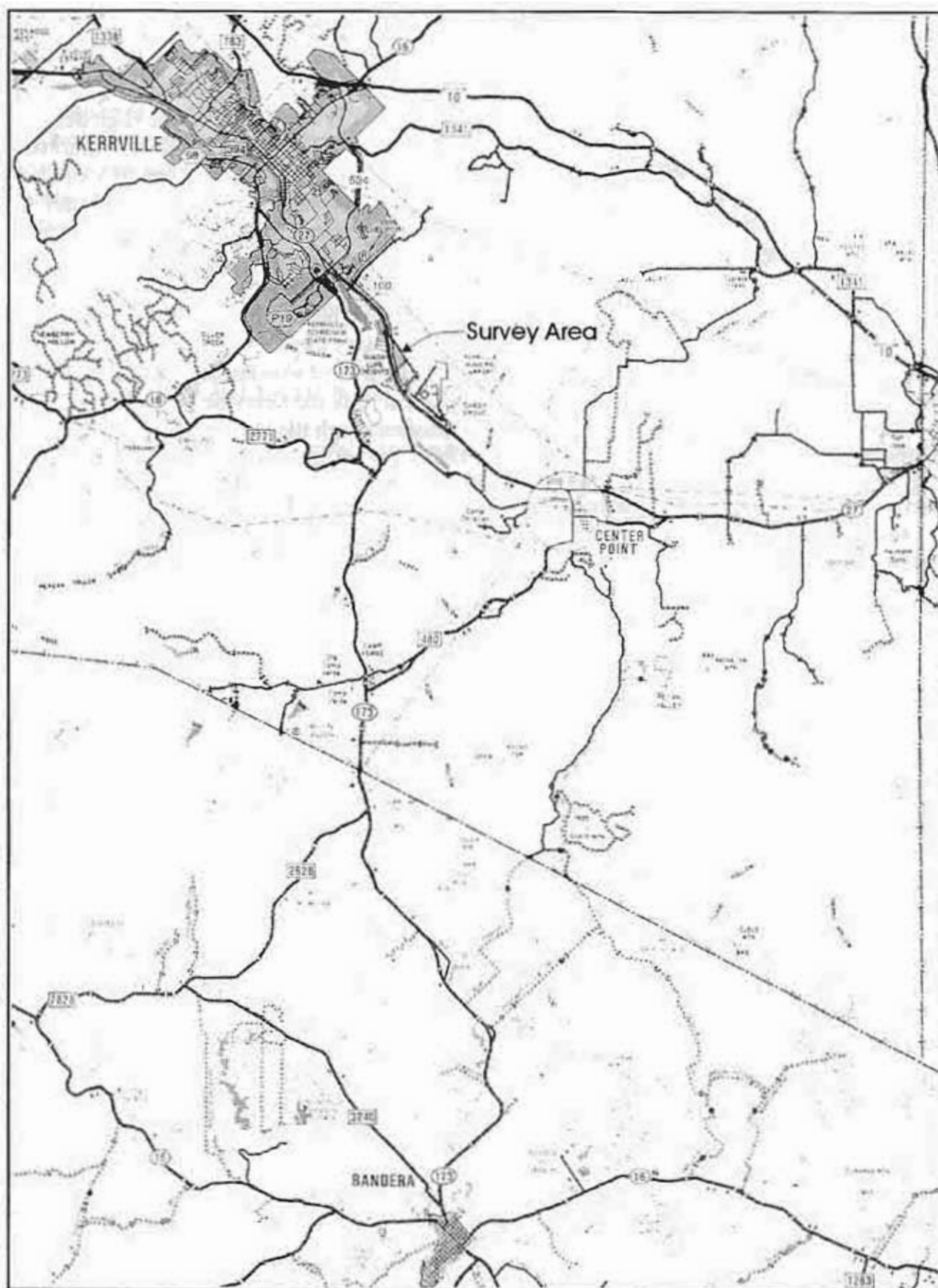
The current rate of development in the Texas Hill Country has resulted in critical impacts to the historic and prehistoric resources in the area. Public awareness has recently focused on the protection and evaluation of these areas before they are destroyed and lost forever. This awareness and concern was on the minds of the Board of Directors of the St. Ignatius, Inc. when they contacted the HCAA to evaluate the project area prior to the beginning of construction of Our Lady of the Hills Regional Catholic High School.

The HCAA formulated a scope-of-work for the 68.44 acre tract (Map 1) that included a series of pedestrian survey transects 100 feet apart (Map 2). Both historic and prehistoric observations were noted on the field notes and re-evaluated at a later date for significance to the area. The findings included the result of a search of the historic records. An interpretation of the prehistoric findings can be found in this report.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS**

### **CLIMATE**

Today Kerr County has a moderate climate that ranges from an average of 32 degrees F in January to 94 degrees in July with an average rainfall of 29.8 inches per year and a 216-day growing season (Kingston 1993). At the time of the first Anglo settlement in the area in 1854, the climate was the same but the landscape consist of vast prairie grassland with ribbons of woody vegetation along the canyons and streams (Weniger 1984). Years of over-grazing and agricultural activities have



Map 1. Location of Our Lady of the Hill survey area.





contributed to dense stands of cedar and brushy areas that currently exist on the landscape.

The present stable climate has been in place for several hundred years, however, the Native Americans who occupied the area over the last 10,000 years managed to adapt to major fluctuations in climatic shifts throughout the centuries. During the last Ice Age (10,000 to 14,000 years ago) the climate was cold enough to support flora species such as spruce and pine, and the prehistoric populations existed mainly on hunting now extinct large game species such as mammoth, mastodon and *Bison Antiquus* (a species twice as large as the buffalo of today) (Kelly & Todd 1988; Bryant and Holloway 1985). Around 8,500 years ago, the climate shifted to a much warmer and drier environment with larger animals dying out and human populations shifting to foraging plants and hunting smaller animals for subsistence. The climate remained warmer and drier than today for four thousand years until about 4,500 years ago when the climate shifted to slightly cooler and wetter, and much like it is today. It was during this climatic shift that increased utilization on plant processing occurred and population levels began to increase. No formal agricultural activities occurred, but instead, plant utilization consisted of intense gathering of nuts, seeds, and plant roots.

A shift to cooler and wetter conditions occurred about 2,000 years ago, which allowed southerly migration of bison herds from the north to enter the region adding to the resource base of the native populations (Dillehay 1974). This climatic period lasted until about AD 1700 when the area stabilized much as it is currently. The occupants of the region probably were able to adapt to these climatic shifts with ease and much better than their counterparts in more fragile environments such as the desert southwest or other area where there were less stable sources of water, firewood, vegetation and the animals that feed on it. Another factor that added to the stability of the region can be found in the geology that exist here.

#### GEOLOGY:

Over 100 million years ago, the area was covered by a vast shallow sea. Evidence of marine invertebrates that once filled the sea are found in all levels of the sedimentary deposits as fossils. As these animals decayed, their chemical remains (in the form of silicates and calcium carbonates) filtered down through the mud and silts and collected in pockets. Over time and pressure, these deposits crystallized into tabular veins and nodules that we call chert (flint) embedded in the solidified mud that is now limestone (Luedtke 1992).

The area we know as the Edwards Plateau was created during the Miocene era in geological time (10 to 20 million years ago) when the uplift of the Cretaceous rocks along the Balcones Fault Line pushed the sea floor 2000 feet above where it was once submerged. The resulting elevated landform became subject to runoff from rain falls, springs and streams. Eventually over time, those forces created hills and valleys of the landscape we see today (Spearing 1993). The principal geologic unit that exist in the exposed hills are the Cretaceous Glenn Rose and Edwards Limestone formations. The younger Edwards Limestone found on the crests of the hills (2000' AMSL - 1800' AMSL) contains veins of high quality chert that was highly prized by prehistoric inhabitants as a raw material for tool manufacture and was often traded to groups in other regions. The older Glen Rose Formation occurs around 1600' AMSL and contains a lesser quality chert that occurs in the form of nodules, and is less desirable as a raw material for tool manufacture.



Soils are a combination of Pleistocene and Holocene (two million years to present) and the result of colluvial and alluvial forces (flood or erosion deposits) (Spearing 1993). The relationship of the geological deposits will be discussed in the review of the archeological deposits found on the property.

## HISTORY OF THE AREA AND THE LAND

### PREHISTORIC

**Paleo-Indian:** (12,000 to 6,500 BC, or 14,000 to 8,500 BP-years ago) These people were the first Americans that are thought to have migrated across the Bering Strait in three intervals according to glacial melting during the Ice Age. They survived by being highly mobile and hunting now-extinct big game animals such as Mammoths, Mastodons, sloth, horse, and Bison Antiquus (an extinct species of bison twice as large as a bison of today).

**Early Archaic:** (6,500 to 2,000 BC, or 8,500 to 4,500 BP-years ago) After the Ice Age receded, temperatures gradually became warmer and drier. The extinction of the big game animals forced populations to shift to a combination of hunting smaller animals, and gathering plant resources. These groups were still highly mobile and operated in small family bands.

**Middle Archaic:** (2,500 to 1,000 BC, or 4,500 to 3000 BP-years ago) Since the climate was increasingly warmer and drier (called a Altithermal episode), resulting in changes in plant populations from spruce and pine to desert species such as cactus, sotol and lechugilla, pecan and oak. Some of these species required cooking methods, such as steam baking to be edible. It was during this period that the burned rock middens were being used, and are thought to be the result of repeated oven construction.

**Late Archaic:** (1,000 BC to 700 AD, or 3,000 to 1,200 BP-years ago) This period is also called the Transitional Archaic. For a brief period (200 to 700 years) the climate changed to cooler and moister. Bison herds once again migrated into the region. In addition to the traditional resources of plants and smaller animals for food, these larger animals resulted in tool changes that are suited to butchering larger animals.

**Late Prehistoric:** (700 to 1,700 AD, or 1,200 to 300 BP-years ago) Researchers define the Late Prehistoric period in two phases. From 700 AD to 1,300 AD; which is referred to as the Austin Focus, migrating groups from the northeast moved into the Edwards Plateau following bison migrations. Not only did they come in contact with existing bands that had been here for centuries, they also may have competed for territorial ranges that may have caused conflicts with local inhabitants. The new invaders had technological advancements (i.e. bow and arrows) which were no match for the spear and spear-thrower (atlatl-pronounced at-lat-al). Burials from this period show diagnostic arrow points in the graves positioned in a way that suggest they may have been the cause of death. These may also indicate that population levels were increasing and territorial boundaries were in dispute.

Around 1300 AD, an additional southerly migration of different groups following bison herds from the north occurred. This period; called the Toyah Phase, included different arrow points, the introduction of pottery, specialized tools for bison butchering.

## HISTORIC

The Kerrville area was first settled by a shingle maker named Joshua Brown in the late 1840s. He was attracted to the area by the abundance of large cypress trees along the banks of the Guadalupe River suitable for making shingles. Brown and a few brave souls set up a camp and began to make shingles. Soon the Indians started raiding the camp. The group retreated to safety in Gonzales. Brown did not let the danger prevent his return. When he came back more people came with him. He believed in safety in numbers. The camp was set up on the banks of the Guadalupe River close to present-day downtown Kerrville and his shingle operation was back in business.

A small settlement sprang up around the camp and it became known as Brownsboro. A short time later the name was changed to Kerrsville, with an "s" after Kerr. The town was named for a good friend of Brown's, James Kerr. Kerr probably never visited the town that was named for him. In 1855 a group of local citizens banded together to ask the state legislature to form a county. In 1856 Kerr County was created with Kerrsville as the county seat. The "s" was dropped and the town was known as Kerrville. This spelling first appears in the records in 1866 (Bennett 1956). The town had a humble beginning but in the years since has blossomed to a beautiful city.

## ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE STUDY AREA

The Edwards Plateau and area immediately surrounding the 68.44 acre tract was home for highly mobile bands of hunter and gatherers for thousands of years. Unlike many other groups in Central and North America at the time, these groups did not have the degree of social organization that enabled the development of long-term campsites or chiefdoms that controlled large groups of families and kinship groups. Instead, the inhabitants of the region are thought to have had an "egalitarian" society that focused on the immediate needs of the small family unit. The family units are thought to have been composed of approximately 10 to 20 immediate family members and extended kin that wandered from resource patch to resource patch when the foods became available. Foraging ranges and distances varied depending on the available resources in a given territorial range, and stays at any particular campsite may have lasted from a few days to several weeks (Newcomb 1961). Most heavy or bulky items were left at campsites to be used on the next visit since all transport of personal belongings to the next campsite was by foot.

It's no wonder there were thousands of sites utilized and spread across the landscape over the thousands of years of human occupation in the area. However, there are five types of areas utilized that have since become archeological sites. The most familiar in the area are the burned rock middens (Indian Mounds) that are usually found associated with reliable water source. They are frequently found in association with open campsites that are usually found on high terraces above major or reliable streams. Limestone cliff overhangs were often used as rockshelters because they provide excellent protection from the elements. Numerous rockshelters in the Trans-Pecos area to the west of Kerr County exhibit elaborate rock art decoration and contain well preserved organic artifacts (woven mats, sandals, food remains) that usually deteriorate in the moister climates on the eastern edges of the Edwards Plateau. Natural sinkholes: vertical caverns on the crest of hills formed by erosion into the limestone, were occasionally used as burial chambers for the dead. One sinkhole in the Kerr County

area contained as many as 60 individuals interred over the centuries (Bement 1994)

One of the common sites to be found throughout the region are quarry sites or lithic procurement areas where tool makers would go to obtain the chert for manufacturing weapons and utility tools necessary for everyday life. Usually these sites are found near the crest of hills where good quality Edwards cherts are exposed in the bedrock outcrops. These sites can be found anywhere naturally formed chert exist. This is what was discovered at the OLH tract.

## PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION

The first archeological investigation in Kerr County took place in September 1934. Walter Goldschmidt searched for "kitchen midden mounds" along the proposed Texas Highway Department road-bed about 12-13 miles west of Kerrville. The road-bed is part of Highway 27 between Ingram and Mountain Home (Goldschmidt 1934)

In 1977, two sites on Highway 16 about 4 miles south of Kerrville were tested by the Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation (TxDOT now). These site were in the Right-Of-Way (ROW) for the widening of Highway 16. Both of these sites were small burned rock middens. Diagnostic artifacts were recovered that indicated that these sites were used during the Late Paleo through the Middle Archaic periods (Luke 1980).

In 1981, an investigation of a high voltage transmission line ROW revealed an Early Archaic site near Center Point. Backhoe trenching produced several Martindale dart points fragments. Several other prehistoric sites were found during the investigation of the ROW. The other sites did not yield any diagnostic artifacts. They did have burned and fire cracked limestone rock, chert flakes and some ground stone (Moncure 1981)

In 1982, an archeological surface survey was conducted by the Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation (TSDHPT) on an area north of Highway 27 and west of the Kerrville Municipal Airport east of Kerrville. A proposal was made to extend Split Rock Rd. north to skirt the north end of the runway in order to reach the terminal on the north side of the east-west runway. The east-west runway was to be extended blocking a road that lead to the airport terminal and a housing developement on the north side of the airport. Four sites were recorded at that time. All are lithic procurment areas. A portion of two of the site, 41KR209 and 41KR210 , are on OLH property. The other sites are 41KR207 and 41KR208 (TSDHPT 1982). The proposal fell through and the road was never built .

The city farm, where the landfill, soccer fields and sewage plant are located was the obeject of an informal survey in 1995. Three hearth features and two Bulverde dart points were noted. This indicate the area was used by Native Americans in the late part of the Early Archaic and Middle Archaic (Saner 1995).

In 1998 a survey of a 21.9 acre tract of land on Loop 534 near the VA Hospital was undertaken to satisfy Texas antiquities laws. The Kerrville Home Opportunity Board was planning to construct affordable housing on this tract. The archeological investigation revealed the area was used by the Indians. Chipped stone tools were recovered. However, no diagnostic artifacts were found to give a clue of the time period this area was used. It is similar to the OLH tract in that the majority is in an upland area and was a quarry site (Rector 1998).



An archeological survey of land owned by the Kerr County Federal Credit Union on the north side of Highway 27, near the entrance to the VA hospital was conducted in 1999. It revealed an occupation area of two burned rock middens located on the south side of Highway 27 and an occupational area on the north side. In historic times the area on the north side was used as a field. An historic trash dump used between the 1930s and early 1950s was found east of the credit union building and tested during this investigation. No prehistoric diagnostic were recovered (Saner 1999).

In 1999 the Scott Schriener Municipal Golf Course under went renovations. The investigation showed that many of the sites had been disturbed by previous renovations. Diagnostic artifacts found did reveal that the area was used during the Middle and Late Archaic time period (Rector 2001)

In the fall of 2000 an archeological survey was conducted by Southwest Texas State University, Anthropology Department on the land where the new KISD high school will be located. It revealed prehistoric artifacts on the north and northwestern portion of the property. However, there was no indication of subsurface cultural deposits (KDT 2000). At the time of this writing the publication of the report was not out.

This area has been occupied for thousands of years by Native Americans. This report can only give a small clue to the prehistoric times in the region. The information gathered at the OLN tract will add to the base of knowledge already collected. It will serve to help put another small piece in the puzzle of prehistoric life in the Edwards plateau. There have been other archeological investigations in the Hill Country area, too numerous to mention in this report.

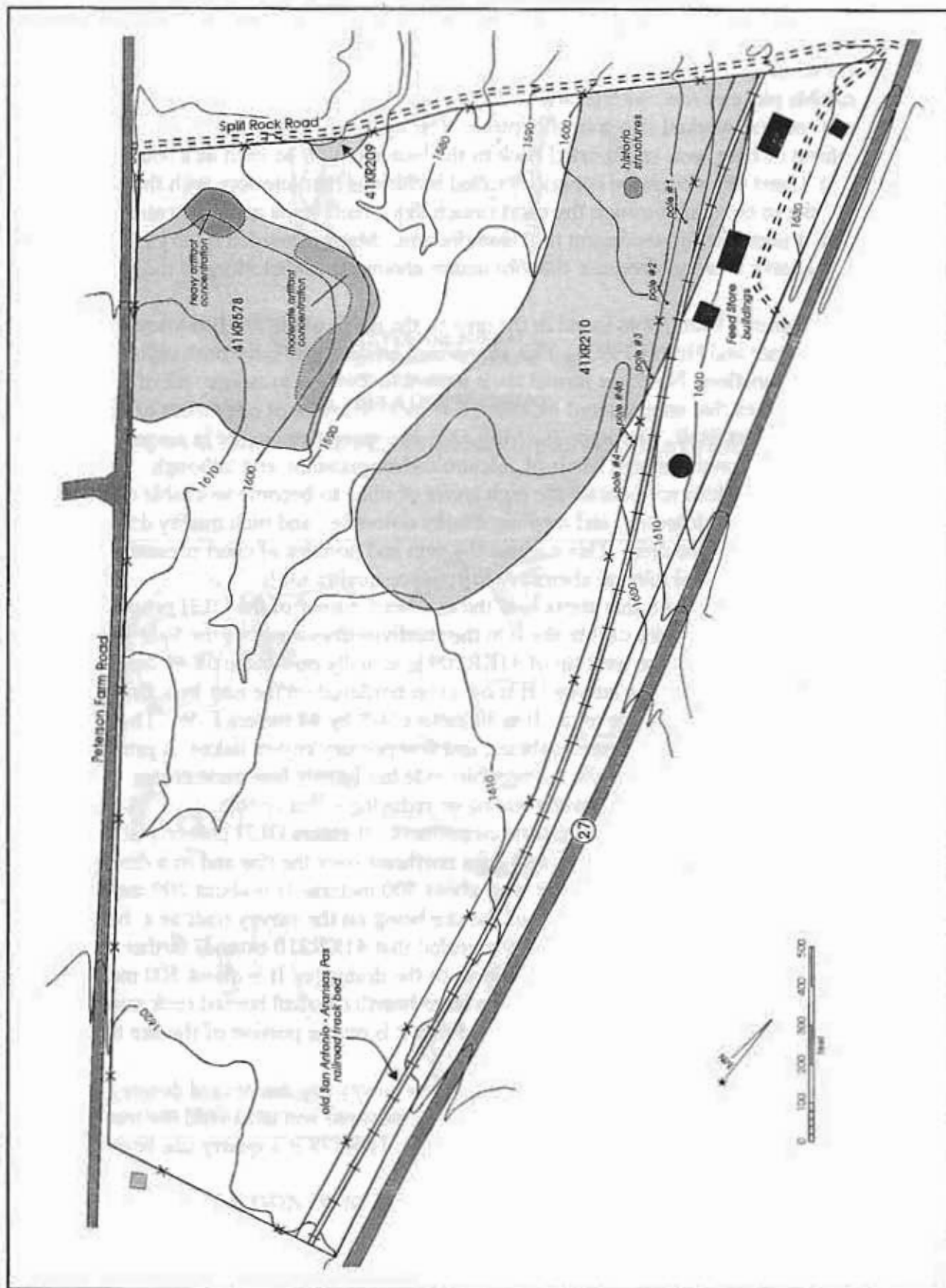
## INTERPRETATION OF THE CULTURAL RESOURCES

### PREHISTORIC

The pedestrian survey saw chert nodular tested cobbles, and core fragments along transect A and B in the area of the two previously recorded sites on the property (41KR209 and 41KR210). Additional chert deposits and similar tested chert nodules were located to the west of 41KR209 across the drainage area and on the northern slope above the dry creek bed. This new site was recorded and a trinomial number (41KR578) obtained from the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (Map 3). It is difficult to determine the original location of the deposits found at the site due to surface modification by ranching and landscaping activities. Much of the surface topography has been scarred by brush clearing activities and brush burning as is evident by numerous heat-spalling of some of the chert samples, charred cedar stumps, and stones crushed by heavy machinery.

It is possible to determine that the chert nodules and other rock assortments come from the surface of the caliche gravels that lie below the shallow soil surface (4"-6") and are exposed along the hill slope by erosion in the 1580' to 1600' AMSL elevation range. These deposits generally lie deep below the Edwards Limestone formation and above the Glen Rose formation, and are commonly called "Uvalde Gravels". Chert formed in association with Uvalde Gravels is often of lesser quality and composition than the tabular cherts found in more stable limestone formations.

Inspection of the area revealed that many of the chert nodules had been tested for quality and workability by aboriginal toolmakers. "Testing" involves the striking of the parent chert nodule or cobble to remove a test flake to examine the quality and workability of the material within the parent



Map 3. Site Locations.



raw material. Man-made flakes or fractures are distinguishable from natural or machine-made breaks. Attributes of man-made flakes or fractures on the flake or parent material that is consistent with a planned and directional impact that was prepared on the stone before the flake was struck and visible after the flake was removed (Fig. 1).

Once a suitable piece of raw material was found, all unusable parts of the exterior would be removed and the stone was worked into a smaller piece. The lighter weight core material (called a quarry blank, preform or core) was transported back to the base camp to be used as a source for making other tools (Fig. 2). Chert often contains impurities called inclusions that interfere with the impact force necessary for the flake to continue through the chert (much like a dam stops water in a stream). These inclusions make chert unusable for successful tool manufacture. Many discarded quarry blanks are frequently found at quarry locations because the tool maker encountered inclusions in the reduction stages.

One preform (quarry blank) was found in the area to the north of the dry bed known as 41KR578 (Fig. 3) (Turner and Hester 1993). This abandoned artifact may have been utilized as a core tool or served another function. No other formal tools were found at this location. All of the tested cobbles exhibited test flakes that encountered inclusion that included ribbons or patches of dolomite or hairline fractures in the chert itself. Dolomite ( $\text{CaMg}[\text{CO}_3]$ ) is a stone that occurs in association with chert forming deposits, but contains high levels of calcium and magnesium, and although cryptocrystalline in nature, does not contain the high levels of silica to become workable chert. Tabular pieces of poor quality dolomite, and medium quality dolomite, and high quality dolomite mixed in chert nodules were found in the area. This suggests the vein and nodules of chert present at the location do not possess the internal mineral chemistry to produce quality tools.

Site 41KR209 is a quarry site that starts near the northeast corner of the OLH property and extends to the east. The vast majority of this site is in the subdivision east across the Split Rock Road from the OHL property. The extreme west tip of 41KR209 is actually on the 68.44 acres. This small area was easily located during the survey. It is on a rise bordered on the east by a fence and Split Rock Rd and on the west by the drainage area. It is 30 meters N-S by 44 meters E-W. The ground surface is scattered with chert cobbles, tested cobbles, and few primary cortex flakes. A primary cortex flake has chert showing on one surface while the opposite side has mostly limestone cortex remaining. It is usually one of the first flakes removed when testing or reducing a flint cobble.

Site 41KR210 is a quarry site with a historic component. It enters OLH property at the southeast corner of the fence at Split Rock Rd. and goes northeast over the rise and to a drainage area. It then follows the southern edge of the drainage west about 500 meters. It is about 200 meters wide. The old site form shows about 500 meters of the site being on the survey tract or about one-half of this site (TSDHPT 1982). The pedestrian survey revealed that 41KR210 extends farther west than indicated on the 1982 map where it narrows and is closer to the drainage. It is about 500 meters N-S by about 200 meters E-W. The old site form mentioned a large hearth or small burned rock midden. This was not located during the survey so it must be surmised that it is on the portion of the site that is not on OLH property.

Site 41KR578 is a site not previously recorded. It is a quarry site discovered during the survey. The field number OLH-1 was given to this site when it was discovered and used until the trinomial was obtained from the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory. 41KR578 is a quarry site bound on the

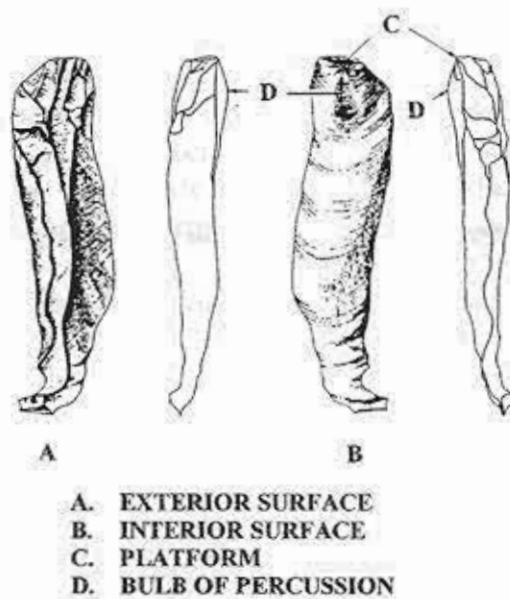


Figure 1: MAN-MADE FLAKE DESCRIPTIONS AND ATTRIBUTES

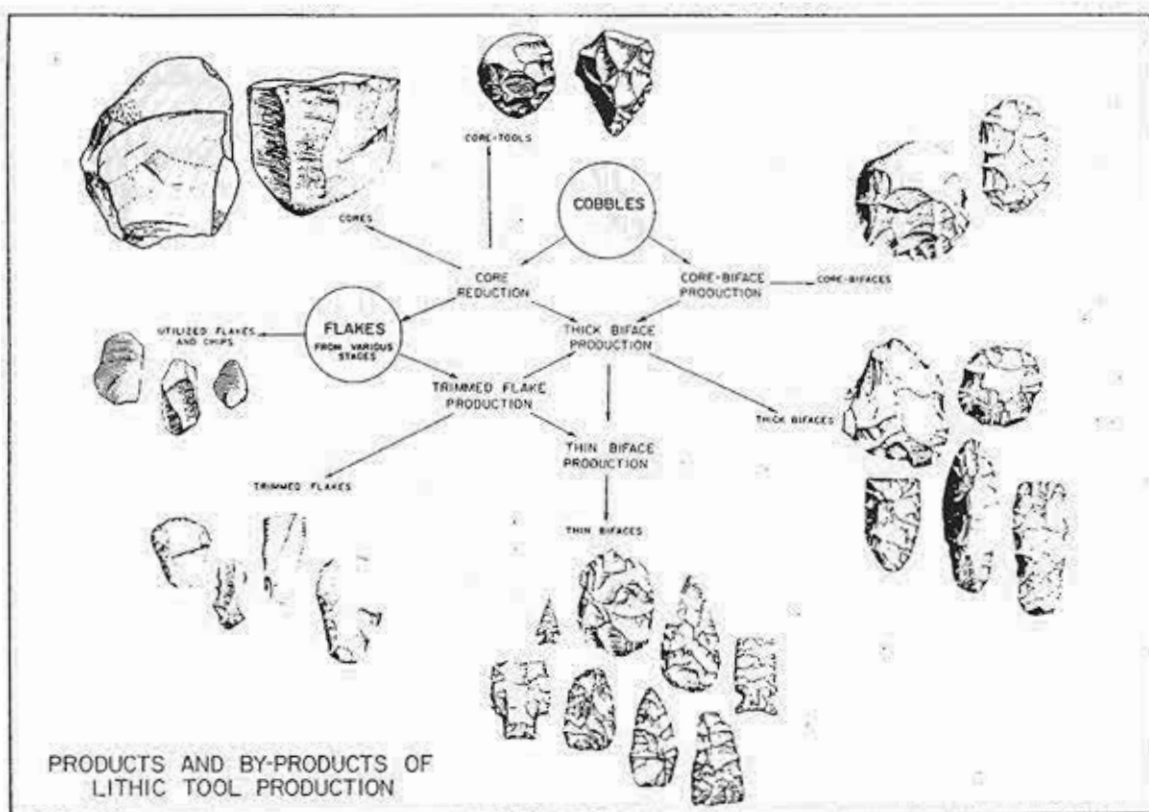
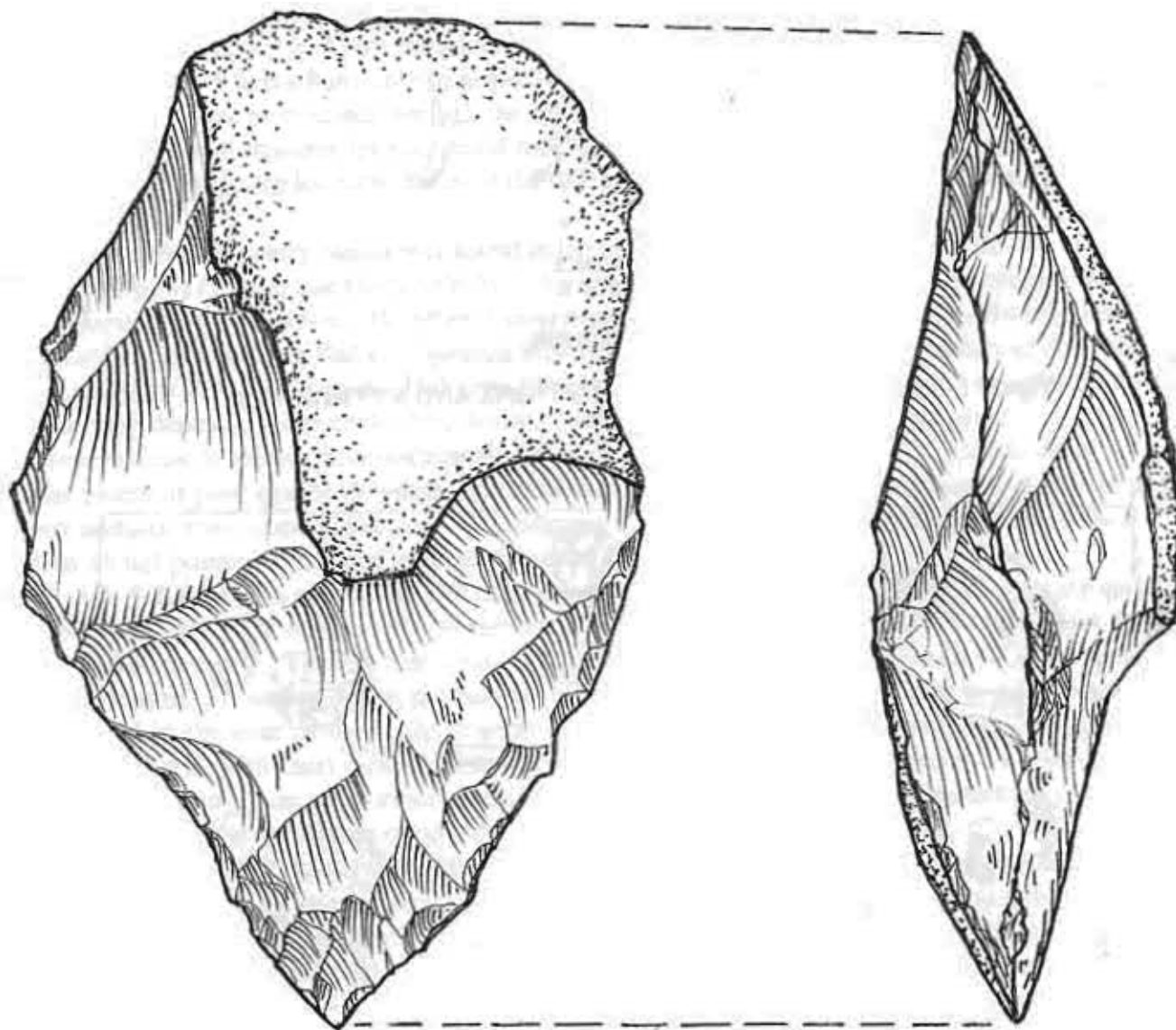


Figure 2: EVOLUTION OF STONE TOOLS FROM RAW MATERIALS OR CORES



Preform / Quarry Blank

Figure 3: ARTIFACTS LOCATED IN THE CHERT OUTCROP AREA

northeast by Peterson Farm Road, on the southeast and southwest by drainage areas and on the northwest to the point where the artifacts stop. There are heavy to moderate concentration areas of artifacts on the site. The heavy concentration area is on the east side of the site while the heavy to moderate area is along the drainage areas where they merge on the south and southwest portion of the site. The remainder of the site has a moderate concentration of artifacts. Tested chert cobbles are noted across the site. A quarry blank/ preform (See fig. 3 and two tested cobbles were collected from this site (see fig. 4).

All the prehistoric sites found during the pedestrian survey appear to be surface only, the result of natural erosion exposing chert deposits. The chert found at every site is not of high quality. Convenience or the need of expedient tools may have drawn prehistoric people to this area.

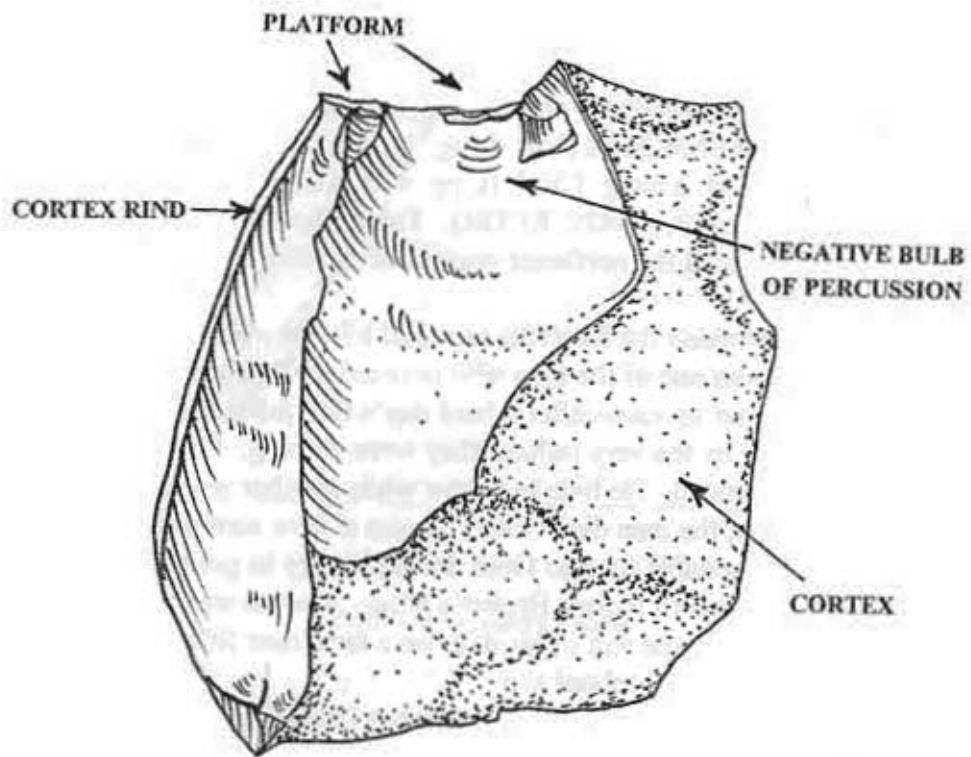
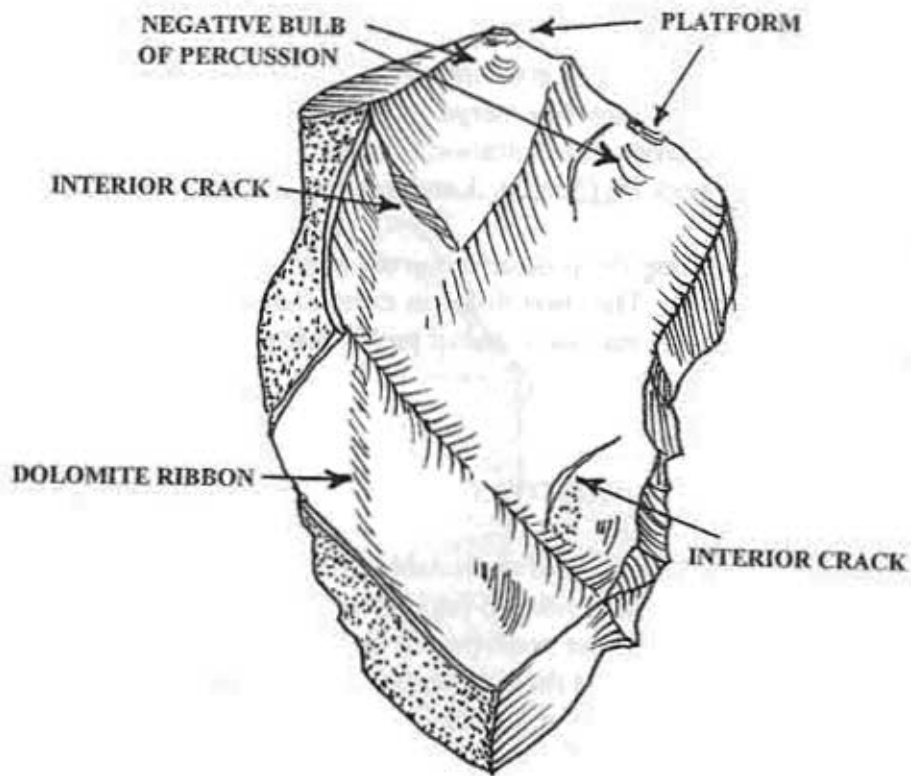
## HISTORIC

The tract of land has been owned by some of the notable men in the history of Kerr County. These people held community service offices, developed regions of Kerr County and had hair raising adventures in this new and untamed land. In later years people associated with this tract contributed greatly to the growth and welfare of the area and the people that live in it. The lives of the owners and events that played a significant part in the history of the region are discussed.

In 1846 W. T. Crook applied for and was granted patents on several tracts of land a few miles southeast of present-day Kerrville. This area was in Bexar County as Kerr County would not be created until 1856. The 68.44 acre tract of land investigated during the survey is part of a 640 acre tract that was patented in that same year by Crook. It is known as the W. T. Crook Survey 70 (Vol. 1, pg. 57 KCDR). Crook was a native of Pennsylvania and records indicate he may have never lived in this area. In 1847 Crook sold this land to Robert Mills (Vol. 1, pg. 13, KCDR). In 1869 the tract sold several times. Mills sold the tract to M. M. Young ( Vol. B, pg. 410, KCDR). Several weeks later Young sold the land to Henry Tatum (Vol. B, pg 429, KCDR). Tatum then sold to John Wharton (Vol. B, pg. 464, KCDR). In 1874 Wharton sold the northeast portion of the land to J. S. (Spence) Goss (Vol. D, pg. 439, KCDR).

In 1857 the Comanches raided the Kerrville area and killed a man. A group was formed to go after the killers. Spence Goss was one of the men who persued the Indians. At a water hole about 25 miles west of Kerrville the men set up camp after a hard day's ride following the raiders. Early the next morning the group was attacked by the very Indians they were chasing. Several of the men lost their lives and Goss was severely wounded. He hide in a cave while another wounded man tried to make it back to Kerrville. Unfortunately, the man died before he was able to summon help. Goss was given up for dead. No help came in a reasonable time so Goss decided to try to get back on his own. He was found outside of Kerrville and taken to Joshua Brown's home. Brown was Goss' brother-in-law. He survived his ordeal and lived out the rest of his days on a farm near Silver Creek (Bennett 1956). This farm included the 68.44 acre OLH school site.

In 1877 Wharton sold the southwest portion, that has Guadalupe River frontage, to H. M. Burney (Vol. E, pg. 267, KCDR). In the 1860s and 1870s, Burney and Henry Tatum (previous owner)



Tested Cobbles  
16



operated the first steam powered saw mill in the area. It was located on the Guadalupe River about three miles down stream from Kerrville. The lumber was sold in the area. Tatum also served as a Kerr County Commissioner from 1863-1865. Burney was one of the first people to settle in the Center Point area. He was the first postmaster in Kerrville from 1858 to 1866. In 1864 and 1865' H. M. Burney was the chief justice of the Kerr County Commissioners Court. He served in various public offices until the early 1880s (Bennett 1956). In January of 1887, Burney sold a long, narrow strip of land to the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway. This parcel is about 150 feet wide and about 1600 feet long (Vol., P, pg. 360). It was located between the present day Highway 27 and the fence on the southwest side of the OLH tract (See Map 3)

## THE SAN ANTONIO AND ARANSAS PASS RAILWAY

The San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway (SA & AP RR) was formed on Aug. 13, 1884 by Uriah Lott. He was backed by a group of San Antonio businessmen who wanted to have a rail line to haul products to and from the coast of Texas. Lott had successfully developed the Corpus Christi, San Diego & Rio Grande Railroad a few years earlier. The railroad would originate in San Antonio and end in Aransas Pass. On May 18, 1885' the first spade of dirt was turned and the SA & AP RR was soon operational (Hedges & Dawson 1883).

In the mid 1880s, a committee was formed to persuade the SA & AP RR to build a line to Kerrville. Lott met with the group and told them that if \$180,000 could be raised the railroad would build a line to Kerrville and serve the communities on the line. The line was to go no further than Kerrville and would be known as the Kerrville Branch. Comfort and Boerne would also benefit greatly the from rail service. Committees were formed in San Antonio, Kerrville, Comfort and Boerne to raise \$180,000 in mortgage bonds. The goal was reached and work started on the new line on August 26, 1886 (Hedges & Dawson 1883).

The line was completed in fall the of 1887 and on October 6<sup>th</sup> of that year the first excursion train arrived in Kerrville at 11:45 AM (Hedges & Dawson 1883). Passengers and freight service were now available. The railroad changed the way freight was transported in and out of Kerrville and eastern Kerr County. The importance of the freight wagons for transportation of goods was greatly reduced. The freighter were no longer needed to move freight to and from San Antonio so they began to haul freight to the west (Bennett 1956).

In July of 1890 the SA & AP RR went into receivership as a result of numerous lawsuits filed because of a serious train wreck. It was not on the Kerrville Branch. Southern Pacific Railroad (SP RR) took advantage of this opportunity to take partial control of their competitor in June of 1892. SP RR took complete control in 1925 and operated the Kerrville Branch for forty-five years. In 1970, 49.19 miles of track from Camp Stanley to Kerrville was permanently shut down for good (Hedges & Dawson 1983). The SP RR transferred the land in the ROW On W. T. Crook Survey 70 to L. D. Brinkman in 1973. No document was found to confirm this transaction, however, it has been insured by title comanpies throughout the years since 1973. Split Rock road cuts through the track bed a short distance north of Highway 27 (Fig. 5). The track has since been removed and little evidence remains of the railroad

## PETERSON STOCK FARM

J. S. Goss died on Mar. 22, 1892. No record of the transfer of the J. S. Goss property to his heirs could be located. His heirs sold the land he owned in the W. T. Crook Survey 70 to the Petersons over a period of years from 1899 to 1906. Some tracts went through other owners, but eventually it was all purchased by the Petersons. The transactions are too numerous to list. This land was added to other parcels of land acquired by the Petersons and became known as the Peterson Stock Farm with a total of 3,453 acres.

The Peterson family was influential in the development of Kerrville and Kerr county from the turn of the century to the 1960s. The Peterson Garage and car dealership was the main stay of their holdings. The American Pure Milk Company, known as the "Creamery" along with the Kerrville Bus Company, a tire testing company and a taxi cab company were developed by the Petersons. On Halloween 1944 the Hal and Charlie Peterson Foundation was formed. This foundation was to fund needed projects in the community. The most important contribution to the area was the funding of the Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital. The Petersons believed the community was growing and to continue to grow it needed a quality medical facility. The hospital opened its doors in 1949. The foundation also insured that anyone needing medical care would be able to have it regardless of their ability to pay for it (Audette & Graham 2000). Today the foundation is no longer associated with the hospital, but it continues to fund needed projects in the Hill Country.



**Figure 5.** Rail bed profile at Splitrock road.

## FEED STORE

On May 19, 1902 H. M. Burney's land was transferred to W. B. Burney (Vol. U, pg. 519, KCDR). W. B. Burney sold the land to Herman Schultze in 1911 (Vol. 1, pg 57, KCDR). Schultze sold to W. K. Richardson on March 28, 1945 (Vol. 75, pg. 315, KCDR). Richardson then sold to Thorvald Nielson on Aug. 24, 1945 (Vol. 76, pg. 511, KCDR). Nielson sold a five acre tract to R. J. Lange on Aug. 11, 1961 (Vol. 110, pg. 343, KCDR). The Lange Feed Store, also known as Hill Country Mills was built on the north side of Highway 27 close to where it intersects with Split Rock Road (See Map 3). This is on the southeast corner of the OLH property. A few remnants of the operation can still be seen. This endeavor was closed in 1965 and the land went to Edward Lange on Aug. 19, 1965 (Vol. 125, pg. 122, KCDR). Edward Lange sold to L. D. Brinkman on Aug. 7, 1974 (Vol. 157, pg. 577, KCDR).

## L. D. BRINKMAN

Charlie Peterson Died on Dec. 28, 1953 and Hal "Boss" Peterson died on Mar. 14, 1962. Both men left the bulk of their estates to the Hal and Charlie Peterson Foundation. This bequeath included the Peterson Stock Farm (Audette & Graham 2000). On Nov. 1, 1968, the Peterson Foundation sold the land to Stanley Frank and Fred Ball (Vol. 135, pg. 566, KCDR). L. D. Brinkman purchased all the land in the W. T. Crook Survey 70 owned by Frank and Ball on Jan. 1, 1970 (Vol. 143, pg. 176, KCDR). By the mid 1970s, L. D. Brinkman succeeded in purchasing all the land in the W. T. Crook Survey 70.

Brinkman purchased much of the land in and around Riverhill Country Club and housing developement in the early 1970s when the economy in the Kerrville area was depressed. He is responsible for getting Riverhill on the road to success after two developers had failed to make it since 1967. In 1985 Brinkman donated funds for an addition to the Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital. This addition now bears his name.

## SHELTON RANCH CORPORATION

On April 1, 1980, Brinkman sold the land he acquired on and around the W. T. Crook Survey 70 to Shelton Ranch Corporation. (Vol. 233, pg. 277, KCDR). This coporation was headed by Robert Bobby Shelton, a descendant of the founder of the famed King Ranch in South Texas. Shelton had horse and cattle ranches in Kerr County as well as Florida and Montana. His corporation created jobs in Kerr County in the 1980s. Shelton was also a generous supporter of the Hill country youth involved in agriculture. In the 1980s, Shelton morgaged much of his ranch property to the Farm Credit Bank. In the early 1990s the loans were not being paid. The holding were transfered, including the OLH land, to the Farm Credit Bank on August 12, 1994 to prevent forclosure (Vol. 759, pg. 789, KCDR).

## OUR LADY OF THE HILLS

On July 15, 1997 the Gala Land Company purchased a tract of land, including part of the OLH

tract, from the Farm Credit Bank (Vol. 908 , pg. 753, KCDR). On June 8, 1999, the Our Lady of the Hills Regional Catholic High School purchased 40 acres of land from the Gala Land Company (Vol. 1016, PG. 297, KCDR). Another tract of land made up of undeveloped lots in the Los Primiados Estates Subdivision was purchased on Jan. 11, 2000 (Vol. 1046, pg. 257, KCDR). This made a total of 68.44 acres owned by Our Lady of the Hills Regional Catholic High School at the time of the survey. On Mar. 8, 2001 6.13 acres was purchased from Silvero and Pam Cervantez (Vol. 1110, pg. 768, KCDR). This tract was not owned by OLH at the time of the Survey. The total land owned by OLH is 75.57 acres. Remodeling of the existing structure on the newest tract began in late 2001 and is now the office for the school. The school buildings were started on the same tract in early 2002. The school will open in August of 2002 (Green 2002)

## HISTORIC STRUCTURES

In the southeast portion of the OLH property is a concrete water storage tank (Fig. 6), concrete trough (Fig. 7) and a tile water trough (Fig. 8), concrete pilings and scattered concrete and tile. The concrete pilings may have been the footing for a windmill that was at this location. It was removed prior to the archeological survey (Green 2001). No remnants of the windmill were noted during the survey.

In the 1920s and early 1930s, concrete, cement, brick and tile were discovered by farmers and ranchers. It is a long lasting material that can be used to construct barns, sheds, water tanks and troughs and require less maintenance. The tile seen at the site was in common use in the 1920s and 1930s (Fox 2001). This data indicates the structures were most likely constructed in the first third of the 1900s. This is the time period when the Peterson's owned this land. They were involved in agricultural activities on this land at the time (Audette & Graham 2000). It is safe to say the Petersons were responsible for these agricultural improvements.

Five native cedar poles are seen along the fence near the southeast corner of the fenced area. These are historic and used to carry telephone/telegraph lines (See Map 3). Pole 1 is 11 1/2 feet high; the upper portion of the pole has been cut off. It has a large piece of wire connected to it to support the six foot fence that encloses most of the OLH land. This wire appears to have been added later, perhaps when the poles were no longer being used to hold telephone/telegraph lines (Fig. 9). Pole 2 appears to be broken off at ground level and is laying on the ground. It is 17 1/2 feet in length. Near the top of this pole are several narrow metal bars used to support a wooden cross bar. A glass insulator and insulator fragments are noted laying next to the metal supports(Fig. 10). Pole 3 is 17 feet in height and has a metal support holding a wooden cross bar in place near the top of the pole. The wooden cross bar is no longer perpendicular to the vertical pole (Fig. 11). The cross bar has six holes in it to support wooden pegs to anchor glass insulators to the cross bar. Two lines are required to operated on circuit. Therefore the pole could carry three circuits (Meier 2001). Pole 4 is broken off 9 feet above the ground. Pole 4A is broken of 11 1/2 feet above the ground (Fig. 12). The broken portion of the pole was not located during the survey. The poles are not in alignment with the fence, but do seem to parallel the old railroad right-of-way.



## HISTORIC ARTIFACTS

There are two possible uses for the poles. The poles are about 75 feet from the center of the rail bed. The SA & AP RR may have used them for telephone, telegraph and/or signal communications lines. Telegraph operators had offices in many train depots. At time the operator would also sell the tickets, receive and deliver train orders. Many of the pictures showing SA & AP RR depots, tracks and train wrecks have pole with crossbars near the track (Hedges & Dawson 1983).

The glass insulator found near pole 2 is a clear Whitall Tatum No. 1, made by the company of the same name (Fig. 13). This type of insulator was manufactured from 1924 to 1938. According to an old advertisement it was designed for use by



Figure 6. Concrete water tank.



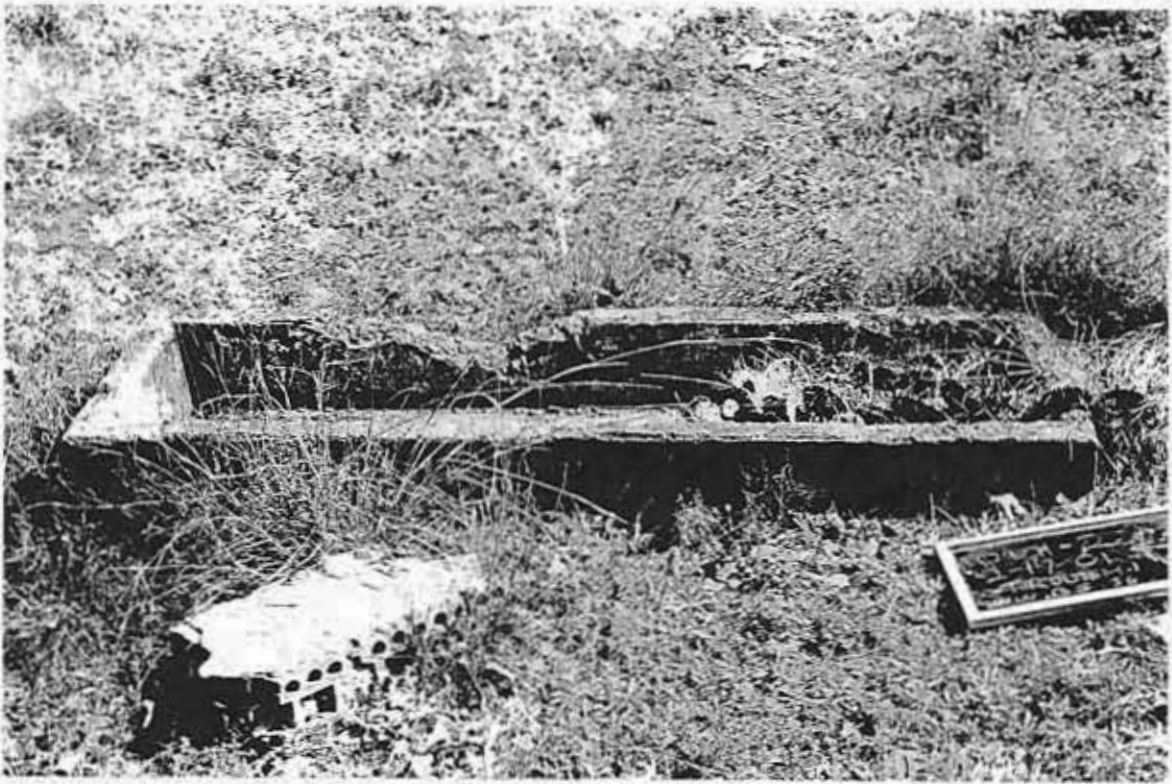


Figure 7. Concrete water trough.

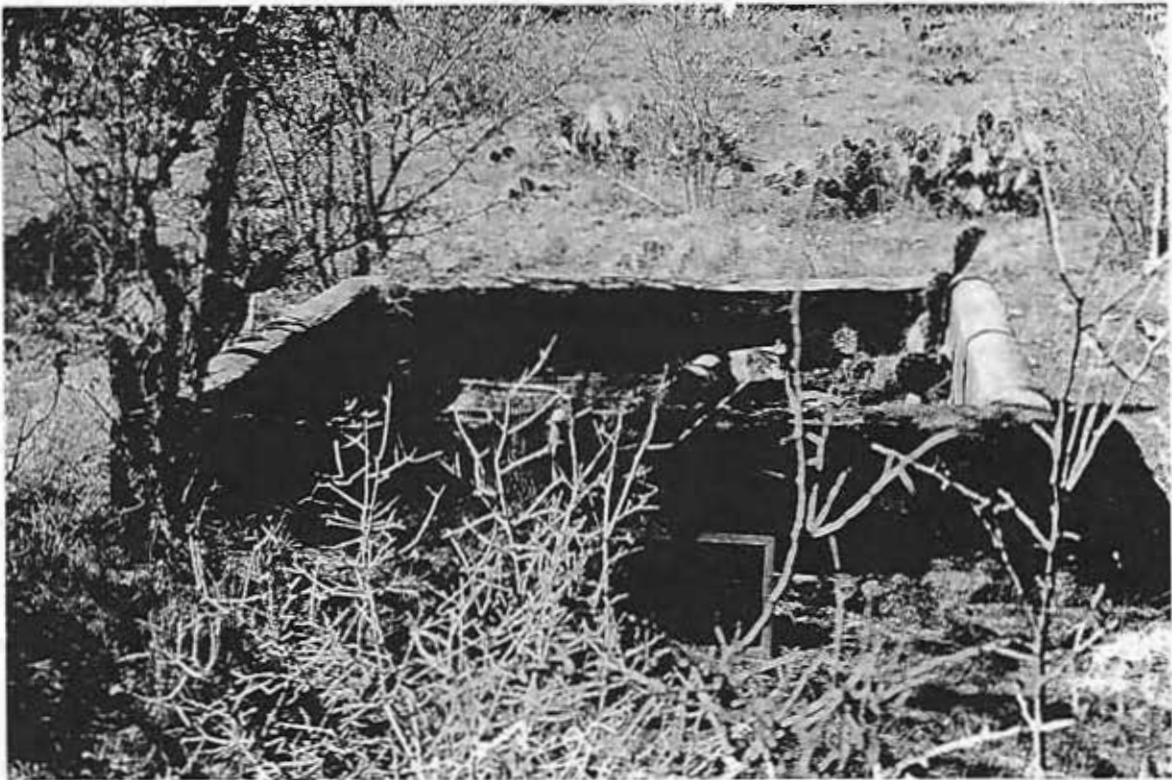


Figure 8. Tile and concrete water trough.

U. S. A. railroads for telephone, telegraph and signal lines or toll lines of greater than 100 miles and on shorter line where insulation is critical (McDougald 1990). The fragments of several unidentified insulators that were recovered near the Whitall Tatum No. 1. However, one fragment is purple. This indicates the presence of manganese in the glass. Manganese was added from 1880 to 1914 to produce clear glass (Polak 2000).

In 1896 the Kerrville Telephone Exchange (changed to Kerrville Telephone Company in 1908) was started in Kerrville. Lines were built to Rocksprings, Harper, Junction, and Medina in 1898 (Kerrville Daily Time 1996). The telephone enterprise demonstrated a desire to expand quickly after opening for business. Kerrville Telephone Company (KTC) records show that in 1948 creosote posts with cross bars were placed on the north side of Highway 27 near the road adjacent to what is now



Figure 9. Pole 1.



Figure 10. Pole 2.

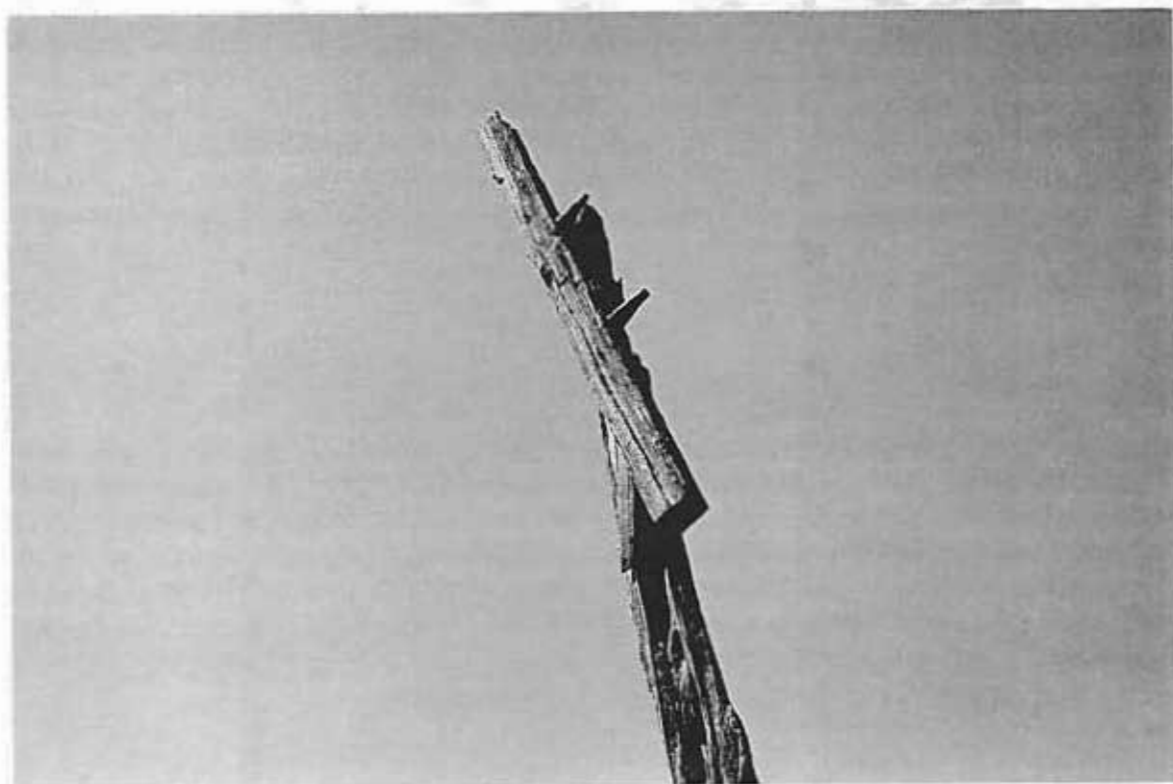


Figure 11. Pole 3.





Figure 12. Pole 4 and 4A.

OLH land. Prior to this the KTC lines were on the south side of Highway 27. In 1966 the native cedar post on the south side of the highway were removed. The wire on these poles was circa 1900.

It is possible that the native cedar poles found during the survey could have been early KTC long distance lines. However, no records could be found to document who placed the poles or who used them and when.. The recovery of an insulator specifically designed for use by the railroads, the poles on OLH land are at the edge of the RR ROW and KTC had poles on the south side of the highway in 1948 with wire that was circa 1900 is circumstantial evidence that indicates use by the railroad.

Near the concrete water storage tank is an old, rusty farm implement (Fig. 14). It is a John Deere grain binder (harvester) as they were called. John Deere first tested this type of farm equipment in 1910-1911. In 1915 500 binders were produced and most were sold in Canada. In 1912 a new plant was opened in East Moline, Illinois. The early binders were horse draw. In 1930 John Deere advertised the "Light Running Grain Binder" that could be pulled by horse or tractor.. In the 1930s the binder was built to accommodate power take off (PTO) from a tractor. A 1937 picture advertisement shows a binder operating behind a tractor with PTO. Prior to PTO a large wheel under the end of the binder was in contact with the ground. As the binder moved across the ground the wheel turned which rotated the gears and made it operational. This type of binder could be pulled by horse team or tractor. Both types required two people to operate it, one on the binder and one driving the team or the tractor (MacMillian & Jones 1988).

The grain binder found during the survey has deteriorated over the years. The wood is rotting, the metal is rusted and parts are missing from the implement. The name "New John Deere Grain Binder" appears on a metal panel on top of the gear section and a PTO drive shaft is seen on the



**Figure 13.** Whitall Tatum glass insulator.

implement. This binder is from the mid-1930s. It was probably used during the Peterson ownership of the land.

Two fragments of the bottom amber bottle were recovered near pole #1 (Fig. 15). According to Anne Fox (2001) the thickness, shape and manufacturing style indicates that the bottle fragments are circa 1900. This style of bottle was generally used for alcoholic beverages, mainly beer.





Figure 14. John Deere grain binder/harvester.

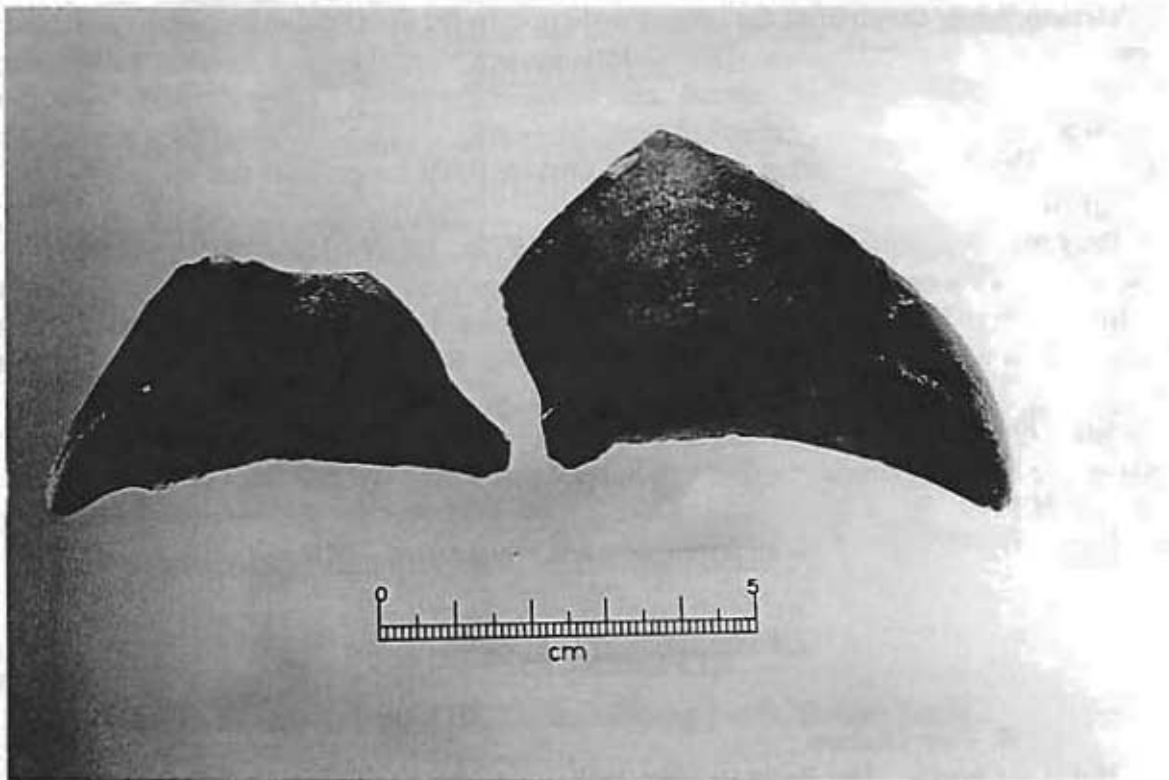


Figure 15. Amber bottle bottom fragments.

## CONCLUSION

The data gathered about the OLH land reflects the prehistory and history of the area. The native inhabitants use this land to procure chert to replenish their stone tools kits. Roaming the land to find the highest quality of chert was an important part of providing for their families and just surviving. Indians have lived here for possibly 10,000 years. However, it is difficult to say exactly how many of those years these sites were used as chert quarries. It is safe to say as long as the needed material was exposed on the surface the Indians came here gather it.

Joshua Brown attempted to live and work in this land in the late 1840s. He was driven away by Indians, but returned to start community. J. S. Goss' 1857 adventure was on indication of the transition of free roaming Indians to the complete disappearance from the land of these people. The last Indian raid in Kerr County was October 5, 1878 when four of the Dowdy children were killed during an attack near Mountain Home (Bennett 1956).

As time went on more agriculture, industry and civilization came to the area. H. M. Burney settled and initiated development in the Center Point area. He also served public during the infant days of Kerr County. Tatum and Burney's saw mill was built and contributed to the economy of the area. The railroad came to Kerrville in 1887 and change the way of life by increasing accessibility to the area. Freight wagons were no longer needed to make the arduous journey to San Antonio to haul goods and supplies. Cattle could be ship out by rail instead of driven to markets in Kansas and later to San Antonio. People could visit other cities and towns without riding a horse or using a buggy. The railroad tracks sliced through the southwestern portion of the OLH land.

The Peterson family exemplifies agriculture and concern for the community. The equipment and structures are a result of their interest agriculture. Kerr County was primarily a farming and ranching area in the first half of the 1900s. The Peterson' also built businesses and hire local people to work in them. They saw a need for high quality medical care. Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital is a result of their foresight. The Peterson Foundation still exist to provide funds for projects that allow the community to grow.

L. D. Brinkman made his presence felt in the early 1970s. He developed land for homes, provided jobs and funded a new wing on the hospital the Peterson started. He contributed to the youth of this area. In the late 1970s Shelton Ranches came to the area. He left his mark on the area. Shelton Ranches provided jobs which stimulated the economy. He, like Brinkman, was interested in the youth of the area.

In the late 1990s the idea of a private Catholic high school to serve the region sprang to life. The Our Lady of the Hills Regional Catholic High School was born. The first tract of land was purchased in June of 1999. Several tracts of land were purchased over the next two years for a total of 75.57 acres. The high school will open its doors to students in August 2002

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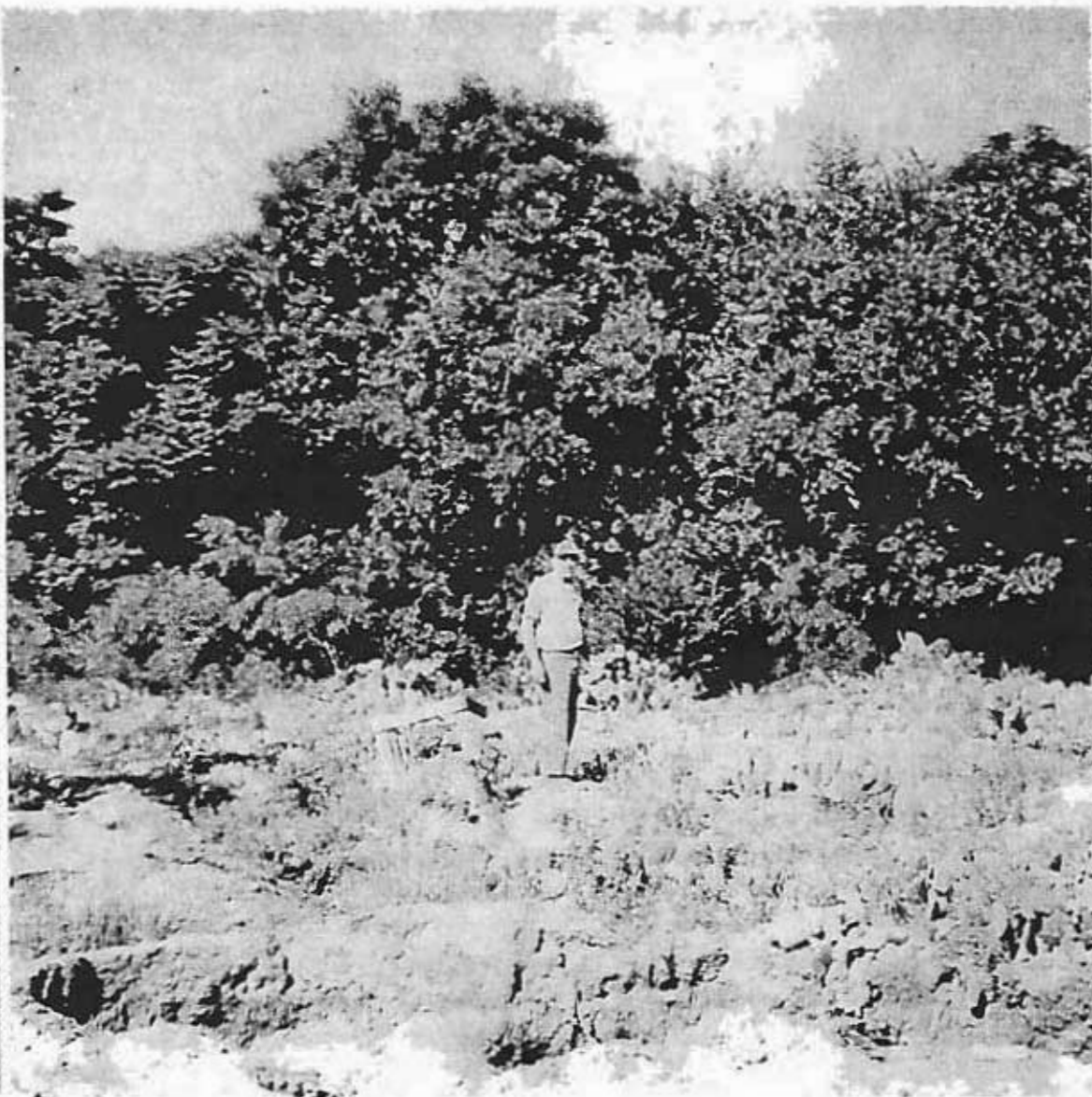
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS AT THE  
WHIDBEE SITE  
(4IKR570), IN WEST KERR COUNTY, TEXAS

By  
Robert R. Rector



A PROJECT OF THE  
HILL COUNTRY ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
◀FIELD SCHOOL No. 1▶  
Kerrville, Texas

July and August 1999

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Hill Country Archaeological Association (HCAA) is a new organization concerned with the preservation and studies of archaeological sites within Kerr County and other Counties within the Edwards Plateau. We are extremely grateful for the support we have received and the participation of new members that make our projects successful. On this, our first field project, we wish to thank our new members who participated in this opportunity to document and record the remnants of a large site that has previously been devastated by collectors. Even though this site has been disturbed by collection activities for over 50 years, it still deserves documentation for posterity's sake.

Special thanks are extended to the owners of the Cypress Springs Estates; Hoyt and Jay Whidbee for their appreciation and realization that the archaeological sites on their property are significant, and allowed us the opportunity to do testing. We appreciate their efforts and support.

Additional thanks go to the new HCAA crewmembers and field participants that included Field Secretaries and Documenters Brenda and Vernon Harrison, Sue and Scott Hobbs, and Laboratory personnel Woody and Kay Woodward. Fieldwork was completed thanks to Bryant Saner Jr., Jose Contreras, Virgil and Gwen Altwein, Sherry Bouquet, David BeDair, Kathryn Luke, Eddie Miller, Shirlene Cowie, and Deborah Bauer. Crewmembers also included Chris and Sean McDowell, Elliott Hatch, Fred and Kay Powell, Tom Miller, Raymond and Ian Clark, Carl Moore, Richard Foote, Gary Hecht, Travis Reed, and Donne Schloss.

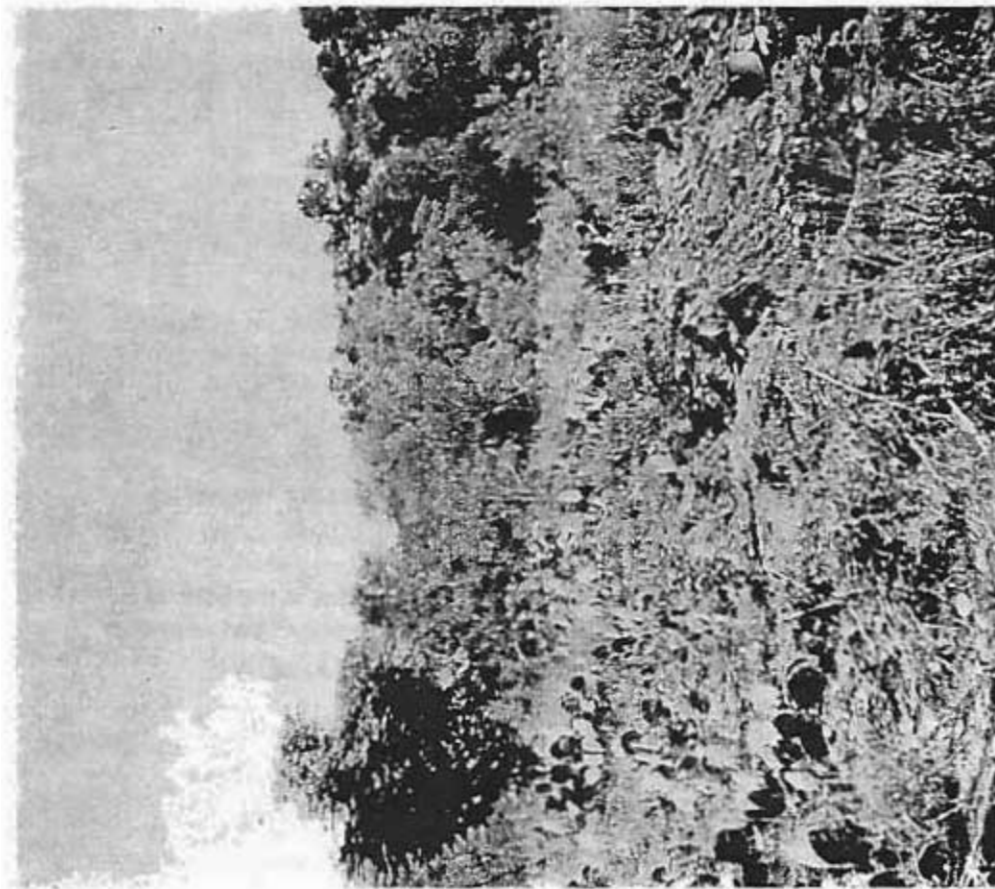
Special thanks also go to consulting experts Steve Tomka and Anne Fox from the Center for Archaeological Research at UTSA in San Antonio for lithic and pottery analysis. The HCAA is also grateful to Charter Member Tom Miller for the loan of the cover photograph taken in the early 1970s with a unique 3-D camera, and to renowned photographer James Partain for making the two dimensional prints we have used in this report.

Without the participation of these individuals, the investigation and documentation of this site would not have been possible.

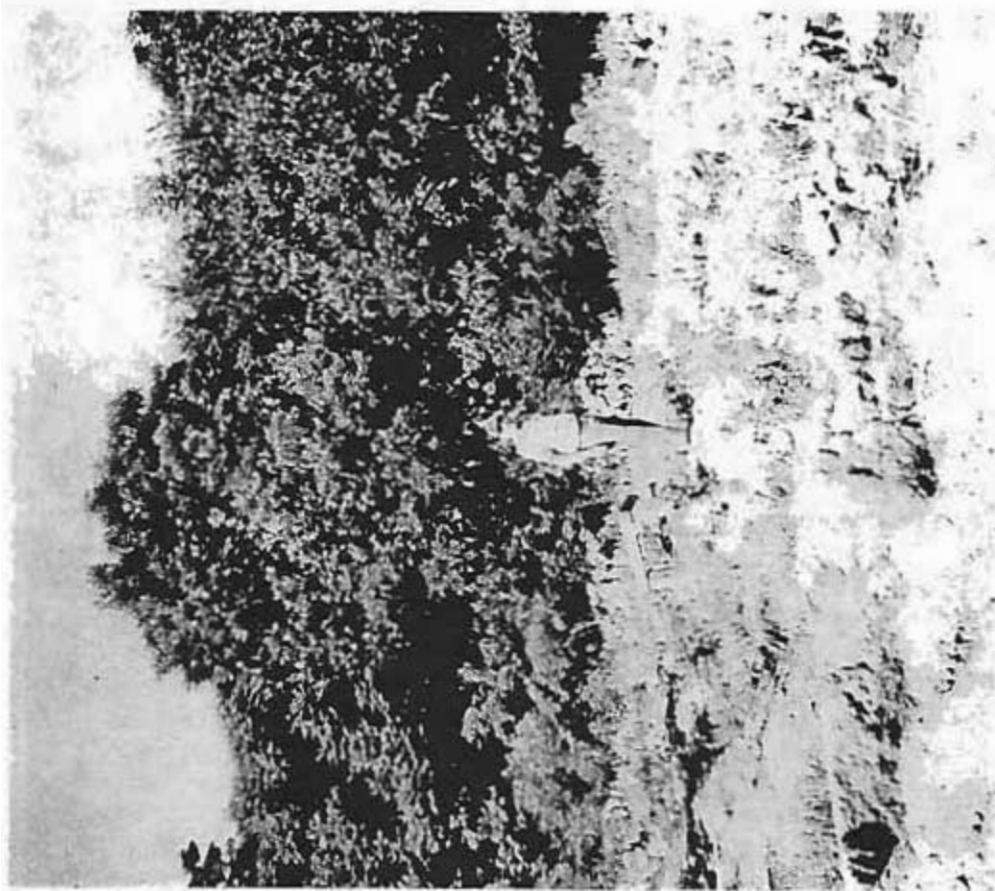
## ABSTRACT

The initial focus at the Whidbee Site (41KR570) was to determine the extent of damage done by collectors who have excavated the 1/2 acre site since the 1950's and possibly earlier. Currently the area is a landscaped park area for the residents of Cypress Springs Estates. The investigations concentrated on shovel testing at 10-meter intervals across the site in a grid system that paralleled a wooden privacy fence on the western property line. In five fieldwork days, 24 of 47 test probes were excavated across the site. These shovel tests reflected areas of impact by collectors, and one area of undisturbed deposits.

This report summarizes the results of fieldwork and other observations in the field. In addition, results of the shovel tests suggest that impact of the collector excavations had rendered all but a small portion of the site remaining useful as a research tool.



**Plate 1: 1970s VIEW OF COLLECTORS PITS LOOKING  
NORTH** (1999 Site datum is tree on left)



**Plate 2: 1970s COLLECTORS PITS LOOKING EAST**  
(Undisturbed area is beneath trees in background)

## **SITE HISTORY**

Our present knowledge of the history of the site is limited to rumors and stories related to us by the current landowners, and people who witnessed the site during excavating activities in the early 1970's. According to the current owners, the extent of the site reaches 200 meters to the west of the privacy fence on the boundary of the ½ acre we tested making the total area of the site approximately 100 by 250 meters in size. We did not attempt to examine the area across the property fence line.

It is widely known that collectors frequently excavated the area we tested and removed numerous artifacts. E. T. (Tom) Miller (a current HCAA member) had the opportunity to visit and photograph the site in the early 1970s. At that time artifact collecting was considered a hobby. Fortunately, Mr. Miller's photographs of the area show the extent of trenching and destruction to the deposits at the site (Plate 1) and is valuable to our assessment of the damage in this report. Mr. Miller also indicated a thick brush-line of cedar, mesquites, and cactus prevented excavation of areas close to the drainage creek that feeds into the Guadalupe River on the east boundary of the site (Plate 2). This is reinforced by intact deposits in three shovel tests in that area. Recent collectors have excavated an area above the dry creek bed that allowed us to clean up the damaged trench face and obtain a soil profile of the only remaining intact portion of the site.

Tom Miller's contribution to Texas archeology is well known in the Texas Archeological community. Although an avocational archeologist, and retired from the Postal Service, Mr. Miller has participated at so many important archeological sites as a volunteer that he has gained the respect of the premier Texas archaeologists. We are fortunate to have Tom on our team as both a member and a site historian.

Damage to archaeological sites by collectors has contributed to the loss of cultural data throughout the years. The debate about collection activities and archaeological ethics are not the issue in this data recovery effort. In the beginning, the interest and inspiration for archaeology through collection of artifacts fostered many of the premier archaeologists of today in pursuit of educations and research that make current archaeology what it is today. This report is not intended to grieve over lost data or blame anyone for site destruction. However, this investigation would like to place emphasis on the degree of impact these activities have on currently undisturbed archaeological deposits and the effects that a 'hobby' can have on an irreplaceable archaeological resource.

## **FIELD TESTING:**

## **METHODOLOGY:**

A Scope-of-work was designed following an initial inspection of the site on July 9, 1999. Fieldwork consisted of a series of N/S (@330°) and E/W (@60°) directional



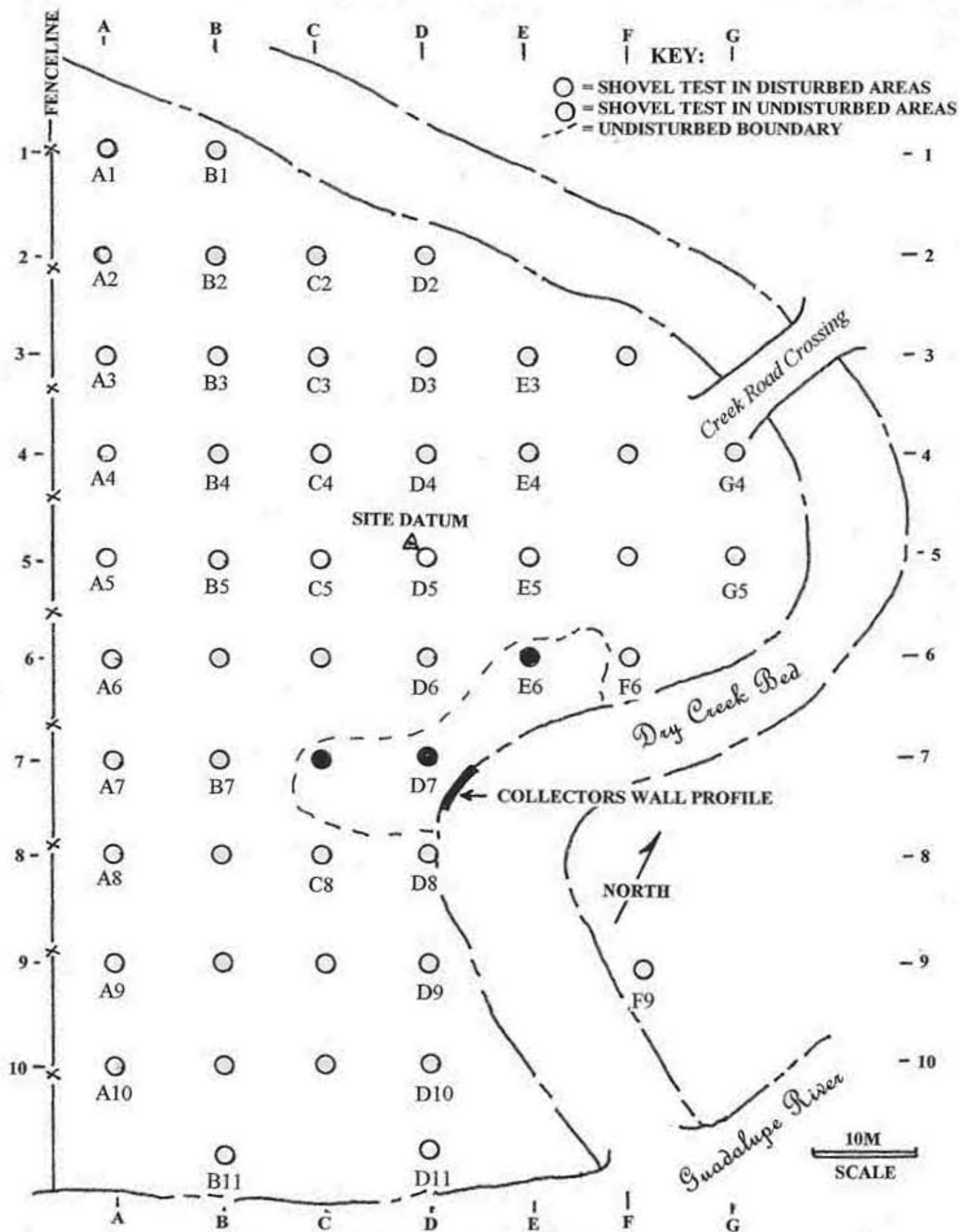
transects across the site area at ten-meter intervals. A shovel test was placed where each of these N/S and E/W transects crossed (Map 1). Each shovel test was approximately 14" to 18" in diameter, and excavated in ten centimeter levels with each level screened using ¼" hardware mesh and recorded on a shovel test form for each level. The depth of each shovel test was determined by length-of-reach by each testing team (usually 60cm).

Each team (of three to four members) successfully completed 24 out of the 47 shovel tests across the site. However, some of the shovel tests were regarded as unnecessary when located in the flood zone or in soils too old for buried deposits (i.e. caliche). Since shovel testing reinforced the collecting activities in the west portion of the site, we concentrated our efforts to find intact deposits in the eastern part of the site (below the described brush line).

## RESULTS:

All shovel tests excavated in the areas shown in Plate 1 and 2 showed disturbed deposits to depths that could no longer be reached. Deposits are considered to be disturbed when they exhibit non-uniform mixes of soil types or burned rocks that do not appear to be in an intact matrix. An intact 'matrix' includes intentionally constructed hearths, fire-fractured rocks still in place and rocks that cluster at specific ranges below the surface. Disturbed deposits exhibit free-floating rocks at unusual angles in the soil and no coherent distribution, along with other artifacts in vertical, rather than horizontal positioning. Artifacts are frequently found in vertical positions (standing on end rather than laying flat) at intact archaeological sites. This can be the result of various natural factors that include erosion, animal burrowing, or vertisols (cracks in dry soil allowing flat articles to fall in and remain sealed in a vertical position). However, the extent of previous excavation and reburial of deposits suggests the probable cause of this type of placement is the results of recent human activities and not nature.

Since the majority of shovel tests contained disturbed deposits, the cultural data recovered within them is considered to be limited in research value. No in situ diagnostic artifacts (dateable) or significant artifacts were found. No formal inventory of the contents was attempted, but a visual inspection revealed that approximately 90% of the flakes were tertiary (small, final stages of tool making), with few large chunks of chert or core fragments. Small bone fragments (possibly deer, and one turkey bone) were found across the area and small freshwater mussel fragments were also present. The absence of larger raw materials would usually suggest that only finishing tools, resharpening, or repair was conducted at the site. However, without knowing what was collected and removed, it is inappropriate to make that assumption. Many of the chert flakes showed damage by exposure to heat (spalling), which is most likely due to discarded debris mixed with or close to cooking fires.





**Plate 3: 1999 AREA LOOKING SOUTH TOWARD GUADALUPE RIVER**



**Plate 4: SHOVEL TEST C7 TO 70cm (Note: fire cracked rock in wall)**

## INTACT SHOVEL TESTS:

Three shovel tests (C7, D7, and E6) were determined to be in intact soils and located in the brush line area pictured in Plate 2. This allowed us to approximate a boundary area of intact deposits between those shovel tests that were disturbed (Map 1). Although not indicated on Map 1, some of the adjoining shovel tests (F5, F6, G4, G5, and C and D transects to the south) are located on elevation contours that lead down to the creek bed or into the flood zone area of the river where they would be affected by erosion. The three shovel tests and surrounding area is at an elevation equal to the other areas of the site disturbed by collectors and appears to be the only areas of the site not affected by natural or man made impact.

**C7:** The contents of C7 included:

<b>LEVEL:</b>	<b>TERTIARY FLAKES</b>	<b>FCR</b>	<b>OTHER:</b>
0-10CM	11	30	0
10-20	13	28	1 SECONDARY
20-30	12	35	1 PRIMARY
30-40	13	34	2 BURNED
40-50	10	12	0
50-60	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>N/A</b>

This shovel test is closest to the major area of the site disrupted by collectors. Fire cracked rock (FCR) and chert flakes have relatively constant totals from the surface down to 40cm (Plate 4).

This shovel test might be considered more representative of the area further to the west. The shovel test appears to be located on the peripheral edges of the former brush line (Plate 2) and may have been similar to the disrupted areas excavated by collectors.

**D7:** The contents of D7 included:

<b>LEVEL:</b>	<b>TERTIARY FLAKES</b>	<b>FCR</b>	<b>OTHER:</b>
0-10CM	2	0	1 BURNED
10-20	9	FCR	1 EDGE TRIM
20-30	6	FCR	2 BURNED
30-40	3	0	0
40-50	0	0	0
50-60	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>0</b>

As the shovel test gets closer to the creek, concentrations of artifacts taper off at the surface and lower levels with the highest concentrations at the 10cm to 30cm levels.



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This corresponds with the nearby collector pit profile where feature deposits (e.g. hearths) begin at 10cm and extend to 40cm (Profile 1). No FCR totals were taken in this shovel test, but notes indicate FCR was present along with burned chert and a modified flake.

**E6:** Shovel test E6 contained:

<b>LEVEL:</b>	<b>TERTIARY FLAKES</b>	<b>FCR</b>	<b>OTHER:</b>
0-10CM	14	FCR	1 PRIMARY
10-20	17	FCR	1 BURNED
20-30	8	FCR	0
30-40	1	0	0
40-50	N/A	N/A	0
50-60	N/A	N/A	C14
<b>TOTAL:</b>	40	N/A	0

Closest to the creek, this shovel test has deposits closer to the surface with FCR and chert between 10cm to 30cm. No FCR inventory totals were taken in this shovel test.

The shovel tests suggests the highest depth of cultural activities was similar to that of the collector profile (Profile 1) where FCR and chert deposits begin to increase at the 10cm depth, peak at the 20cm to 30cm level and taper off near the 40cm level. Unfortunately, no diagnostic artifacts were found to suggest when this activity occurred.

Anomalies in this observation occur in C7 where artifacts appear closer to the surface (closer to more increased site use to the west?) and in E6 where artifact counts also appear closer to the surface (down the hill and subject to erosion?).

#### COLLECTOR TRENCH PROFILE:

Erosion from floodwaters in the dry creek bed has exposed in situ deposits approximately 10 feet above the streambed. This has given easy access to collectors to dig into, rather than down to artifacts. This also allowed us to clean the surface of the vertical wall of deposits to reveal an undisturbed profile (Profile 1) beyond the collector's impact. The profile shows undisturbed soil layering that suggests the extent and depth of cultural activity at that part of the site extended 40cm below the ground surface. A cluster of fire-cracked rocks 10cm to 30cm below the surface extended from the center of the profile and into the unexcavated wall to the right. This cluster may represent a buried feature (i.e. hearth) and is at the same buried level of burned rock clusters found in the nearby intact shovel tests. The soils in this 40cm thick deposit showed no signs of discreet stratigraphic lenses or distinct living surfaces. The soils consisted of a dark brown to black clay loam with a Munsell color description of 10YR2/1. These soils are consistent throughout the 40cm layer with roots and root cast filled with 10YR6/3 (pale brown) soil.

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30-40	1	0	0
40-50	N/A	N/A	0
50-60	N/A	N/A	C14
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>0</b>

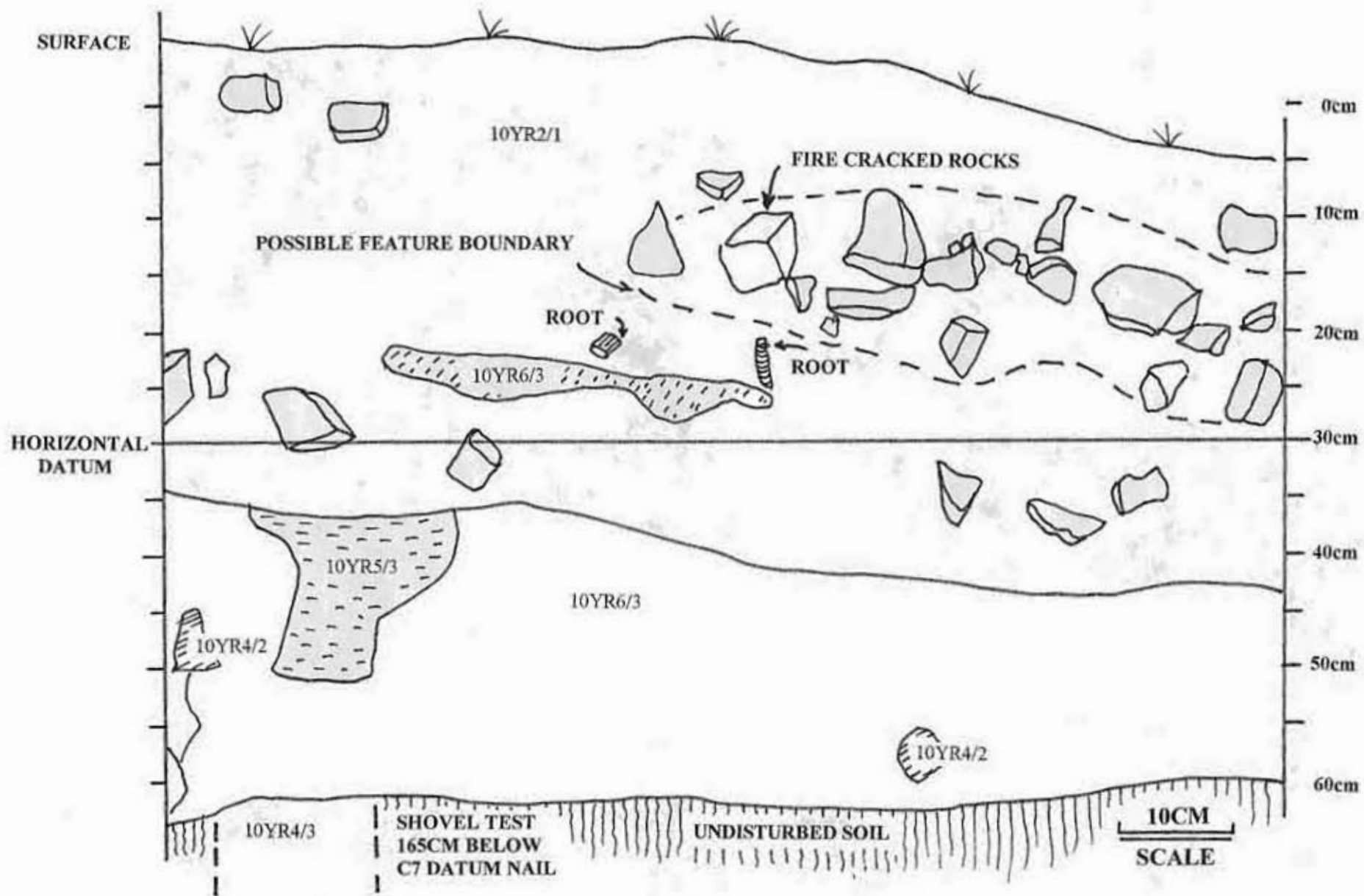
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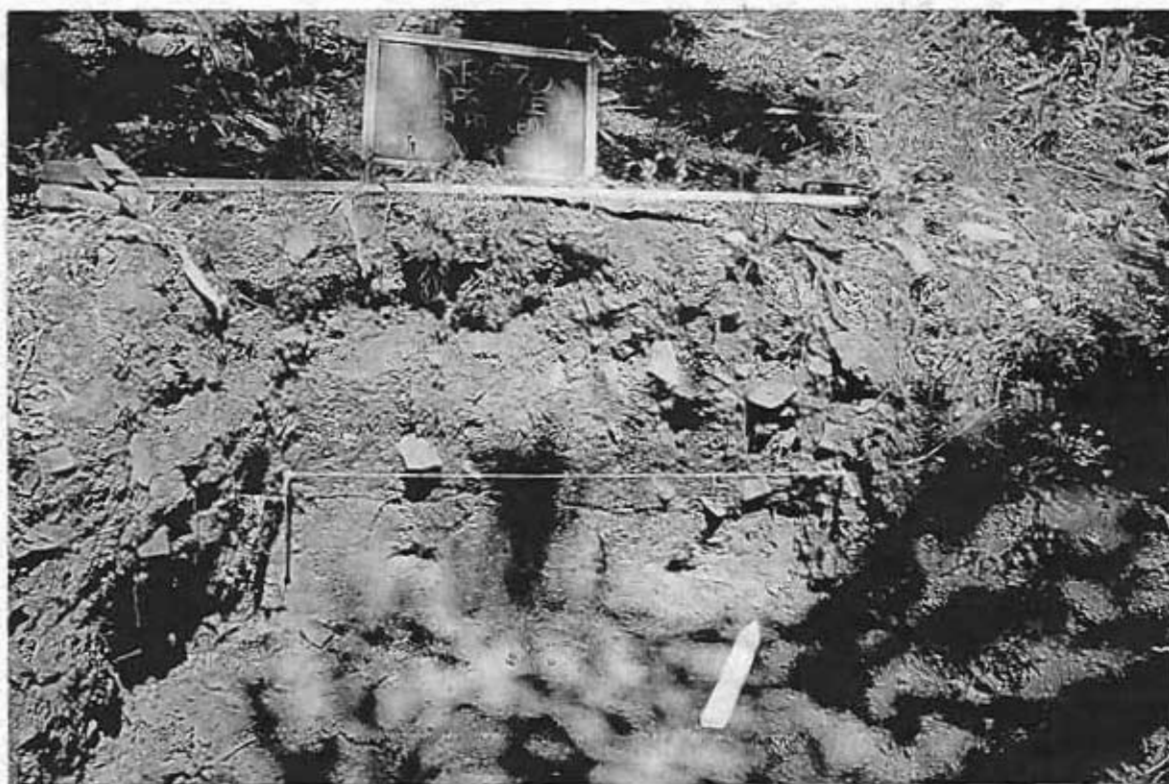


Profile 1: WEST WALL PROFILE OF THE COLLECTORS TRENCH ABOVE THE DRY CREEK BED





**Plate 5: BRYANT SANER CLEANING COLLECTORS WALL PROFILE**



**Plate 6: COLLECTORS WALL PROFILE**

The soils below the top 40cm level extend from the 40cm level to the bottom of the profile at 60cm. These soils are a pale brown clay loam (10YR6/3) with root cast or animal burrow pockets of 10YR4/2 (dark grayish-brown). Evidence of discolored soil (41YR5/3) was located at the top level of the 40cm layer and extended 15cm into the YR6/3 deposit. This may indicate an uprooted stump at the surface before the cultural layer was established. No artifacts or evidence of cultural occupation was found in this layer, or the shovel test excavated to a depth of 40cm below the base of the profile on the left side (Profile 1).

#### SURFACE ARTIFACTS:

During the course of the investigation, various artifacts were located on the surface of the site. These artifacts were left by previous collectors for various possible reasons, which might range from the nature of their imperfections, non-value, or non-recognition. Therefore, their value as research items is limited to a small representation of the type of artifacts present at the location rather than as part of a larger assemblage of artifacts in relationship to each other. These artifacts are catalogued as Unique Items (UI), numbered in sequence of their discovery and illustrated in Figure 1.

**UI 1 & 2:** These two tan pottery fragments are classified as "Leon Plain" type of ceramic made of local clay. The vessels were tempered with ground up bone fragments to aid in the firing process during their construction (Anne Fox; personal communication). Leon Plain ceramics are diagnostic of the Toyah Phase of the Late Prehistoric period (AD1300 and later) and are associated with Perdiz arrowpoints and specialized tools for bison processing (Johnson 1994).

**UI 3:** This unidentified dart point base might be considered as a Baker, Gower, or Uvalde type (both Early Archaic; 6000BC - 4000BC) (Turner and Hester 1993). Intense heat spalling is present above the stem.

**UI 4:** A dart point mid-section (medial). No age or type identification is possible.

**UI 5:** This squared base preform is similar to the Tortugas (Late Middle Archaic) or Early Triangular forms (Early Archaic) as described by Turner and Hester (1993:188 and 110). However, the nature of the flaking patterns present on the artifact suggest this biface was in the initial stages of reduction and broken in the process before final pressure flaking and corner notching was attempted.

**UI 6:** Artifacts such as this non-local sandstone 'abrading stone' are found throughout Texas and date to all time periods. The longitudinal 'V' shaped groove on the surface may have been used for smoothing the edges of bifaces in the tool-making process, or used in the shaping, sharpening or polishing of other items such as bone needles or awls (Turner and Hester 1993:287).

**UI 7:** Large chert artifacts such as this core tool may have started out as a basic chunk of raw material and later used as a device for bashing, crushing or chopping other items such as wood or bone. Battered areas around the chipped edges indicate that this item suffered impact damage as a result of chopping activities.

**UI 8 & 9:** These two limestone 'manos' were hand-held grinding stones used in conjunction with a 'metate' or other hard grinding surface to pulverize seeds and nuts into a powder used as flour for breads or other food products. Rounded limestone cobbles are frequently used as manos but are distinctive at archaeological sites because long-term grinding use creates a smooth, flat surface with a distinctive platform lip at the edges of the grinding area. Manos of imported non-local sandstone and granite are frequently found in the area. These artifacts date to all time periods.

**UI 10:** This rounded base biface appears to have been broken during manufacture and discarded.

**UI 11:** A mid-section biface fragment (not illustrated) found on the surface exhibits a basal-tang area near the fracture origin. It is uncertain if this fracture was the result of the notching procedure or a result of the fracture itself.

**UI 12:** This Lower Cretaceous Period fossil is not an 'artifact' used by the inhabitants of the site for any utilitarian process. Its origin and how it got to the site is questionable, however, objects such as geodes, crystals, odd items, or curiosities sometimes show up in archaeological context. Their significance is questionable, other than they were found elsewhere and brought back to the site.

**UI 13:** This diagnostic Montell biface (Late to Transitional Archaic; 1000BC to AD700) is the only diagnostic artifact found during shovel testing (ST A6; 30-40cm). Unfortunately, shovel test A6 was in a disturbed area and the depth at which this artifact was found is not a reliable indicator that the 30-40cm levels across the site are Transitional Archaic in age.

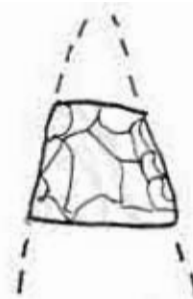
**UI 14:** This small dart point (not numbered on illustration) was found in the road across the dry creek bed. Although extensively re-sharpened and missing part of its proximal base, this artifact appears to resemble a Pedernales dart point (Middle Archaic; 2500BC-1000BC) on its partial proximal base. However, the body more closely resembles a Late Archaic Ensor or Edgewood form. Whether this is due to excessive long-term re-sharpening is uncertain.



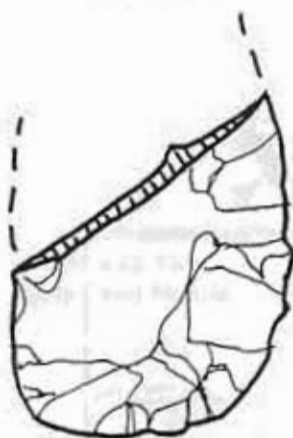
13  
**MONTELL**  
15 X 20 X 3  
Med. Brown



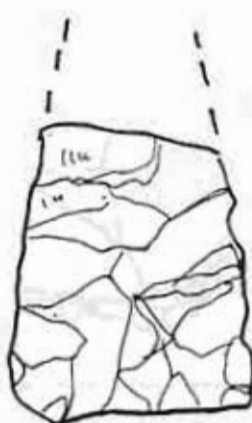
3  
**UNIDENTIFIED**  
20 x 18 x 4  
Gray  
(burned w/  
potlids at fracture)



4  
**MEDIAL SECTION**  
16 x 21 x 6  
Dk. Brown



10  
**ROUNDED BASE**  
50 x 35 x 5  
Med. Brown



5  
**SQUARED BASE  
PREFORM**  
39 x 30 x 4  
Med. Brown  
(Unifacial)



1  
**POT SHERD**  
20 x 25 x 5  
Tan  
(Bone tempered)



2  
**POT SHERD**  
22 x 16 x 6  
Brown

**KEY:**  
**CATALOG #**  
**LENGTH x WIDTH x THICKNESS**  
**COLOR**

**NOTE: ALL ARTIFACTS ARE ILLUSTRATED  
IN ACTUAL SIZE.**

**(Grinding slab (Metate)  
not illustrated)**



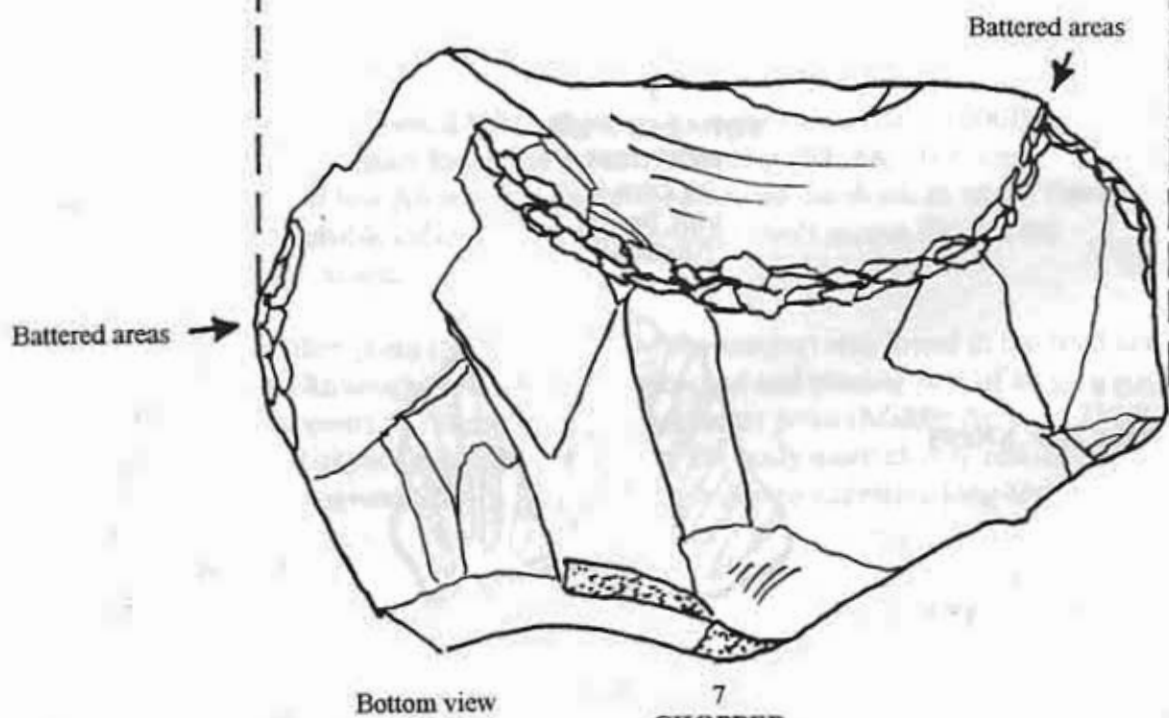
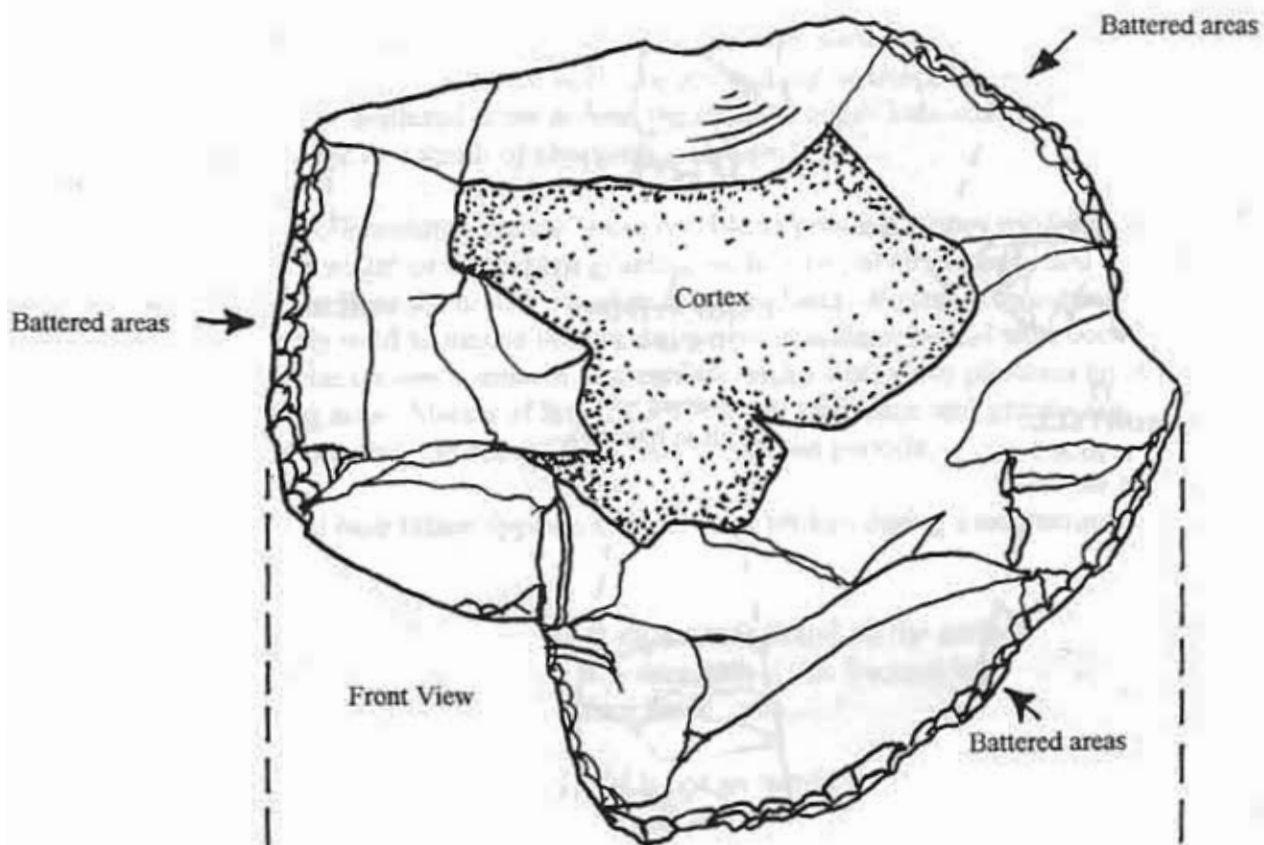
12  
**FOSSIL**  
52 x 35 x 14  
Limestone  
(Poss. *Adkinsites* or *Oxytropideceras* sp.,  
Lower Cretaceous Period, Nautilus family)  
(Finsley 1989)



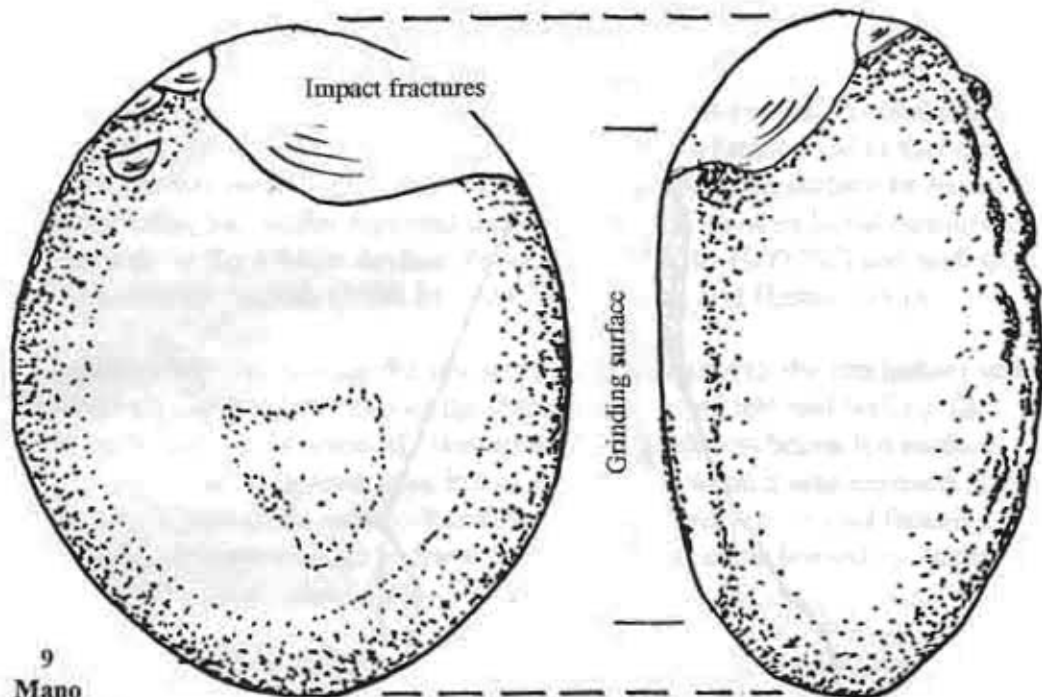
14  
**UNIDENTIFIED**  
(Possible resharpened  
Pedernales)

**Figure 1: ARTIFACTS FROM THE SURFACE AT 41KR570 (Actual Size)**

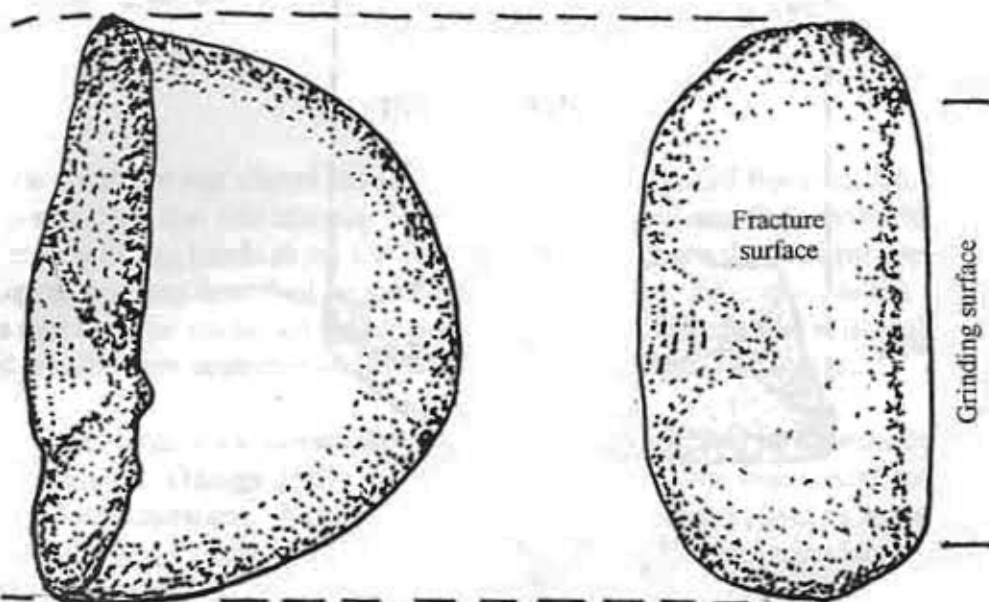




7  
**CHOPPER**  
105 X 160 X 58  
Dolomite



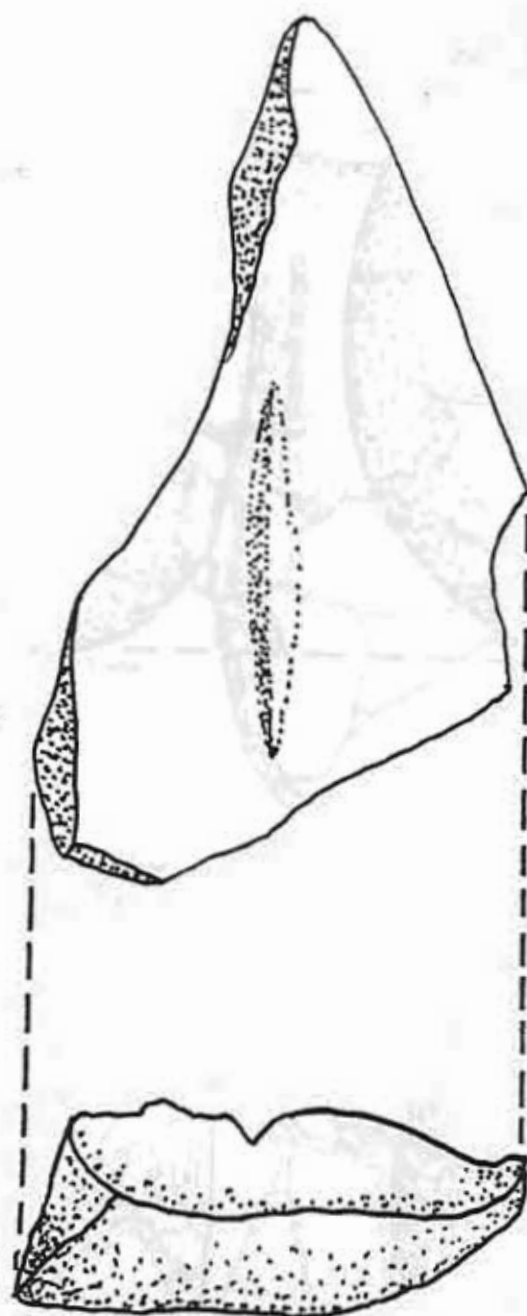
9  
Mano  
90 X 78 X 48  
Lt. White Limestone  
Cortex over a Lt. Gray  
poor Quality Chert Nodule.



8  
Mano  
78 X 54 X 39  
Limestone

Top view

End view



6  
Abrading Stone  
118 X 58 X 17  
Sandstone

## SUMMARY

Information provided by Tom Miller indicates that there was a Late Prehistoric component (AD 1300-AD 1700) called the 'Toyah Focus' (Prewitt 1981) that included arrow points (Perdiz) and ceramics that we also recovered on the surface by the security fence. Additionally, Mr. Miller reported that artifacts recovered included diagnostic artifacts that date to the Middle Archaic Period (2500 BC to 1000 BC) and well into the Late and Transitional Archaic (1000 BC-AD 700) (Turner and Hester 1993).

Unfortunately, our testing did not add any information to the site history other than what was gained from the area of the three intact shovel test and wall profile. That information is limited to the areas of 10cm to 40cm in thickness below the surface indicating fireplaces or campfires were in use at that level when it was exposed. High levels of tertiary flakes in the same cultural zone indicate weapon or tool finishing was occurring nearby or close enough to these features to have some burned by intense heat before or during the fires when in use.

Being on the edges of the creek bed suggest that these features were probably on the peripheral eastern edge of the main site when it was in use. The lack of diagnostic artifacts surrounds the mystery of the relationship of this area to the rest of the site and when it was constructed and occupied. However, the size of the entire site (100m X 250m) suggest that a large group of people may have congregated and camped at the site in the past. Having features so close to the downward slope to the creek may indicate that a crowded camp may have had limited campsites.

## DISCUSSION:

The results of our shovel tests and the information gained from our informants, lead us to speculate that this site may have been a communal area that served individual hunting and gathering bands along the Guadalupe River. Since the massive area of archeological deposits described by informants exists almost 200 meters to the west, it suggests that the area contained higher populations of individuals than is thought to have occupied smaller sites upstream on the tributaries of the Guadalupe River.

Areas of large-scale communal occupation were described by Cabeza de Vaca in his 1538 'Narrative' (Hodge 1907) that described his seven-year trek across Texas among the local Native Americans. Areas similar to 41KR570 were described as specific locations along rivers where different small family hunting and gathering bands would congregate at a certain time during the year (usually summer or late fall) to renew social affiliations, see old relatives, conduct marriages and have religious ceremonies. These functions were called the Txē-Complex by anthropological researchers (Ruecking 1955:157) in south Texas prehistory since it denotes rights of passage, but has since been modified to the descriptions made by witnesses as 'Mitotes'.



However, there is a point that must be made with this assumption. The eye-witnessed accounts by Cabeza de Vaca in his seven-year trek through southern Texas did not lead him into the Edwards Plateau, but cultural traits may have been similar in the interior. Additionally, the period that Cabeza de Vaca traveled through Texas was during the Toyah Phase (AD1300-AD1700), which would relate to diagnostic artifacts (ceramics, etc.) from that period found at the site.

One of the common beliefs of researchers is small patrilineal bands of hunters and gatherers (male-based descent authority) made the decisions for family groups of 25 to 30 individuals (or less) that moved from one ripening resource patch to the next throughout the year. For small groups like these to converge on the area the size of a football field at once, seems to indicate that something was going on at this site. However, questions arise about how long this 'Mitote' ceremonialism was present in the prehistoric past. Questions also must be asked about relating a large site to any type of ceremonialism or social events.

The very small amount of information recovered during our investigations leaves us little to imply on site size, function, or time span other than the site was used many times over the years. Most likely the site was a frequent gathering place for many groups over the centuries and its size is a reflection of years of reuse. Was there a burned rock midden (or several) at the site? What were the total artifacts assemblages recovered at the site, and what could they have told us? Those, and a myriad of other questions are unanswerable because we came to the site 50 years too late. Ironically, this is the answer to the question first poised at the beginning of this investigation. What impact did collector activities *really* have on this site?

## CONCLUSIONS:

The very small amount of data recovered during this survey might seem to be insignificant and unworthy of the effort spent doing any archaeology at all. However, there were many positives in this investigation. The HCAA was able to locate undisturbed deposits and the Cypress Springs Estates personnel can better protect and preserve them in the future. The HCAA members gained valuable and enjoyable field experience. And the archaeological record of this part of Kerr County will benefit from our study.

Archaeology is a discipline that depends on recorded information to build on. This investigation has added a piece to the puzzle of site location, type, and some information about artifact assemblages. Future researchers may be able to use this study to better define and explain other sites up or down stream for studies in riverine adaptation strategies, settlement patterning research, and other issues concerning prehistoric populations in the region. No matter how small and insignificant any investigation may seem, if it becomes part of the documented record it is worthy of the effort.

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## THE HILL COUNTRY ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The Hill Country Archeological Association (HCAA) is a non-profit association. Our purpose is to bring people together who have an active interest in the archeology and prehistoric heritage of the Texas Hill Country in an atmosphere conducive to the exchange of information and ideas. Foremost, in our activities, we promote preservation of sites and offer proper archeological field and laboratory techniques training.

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