

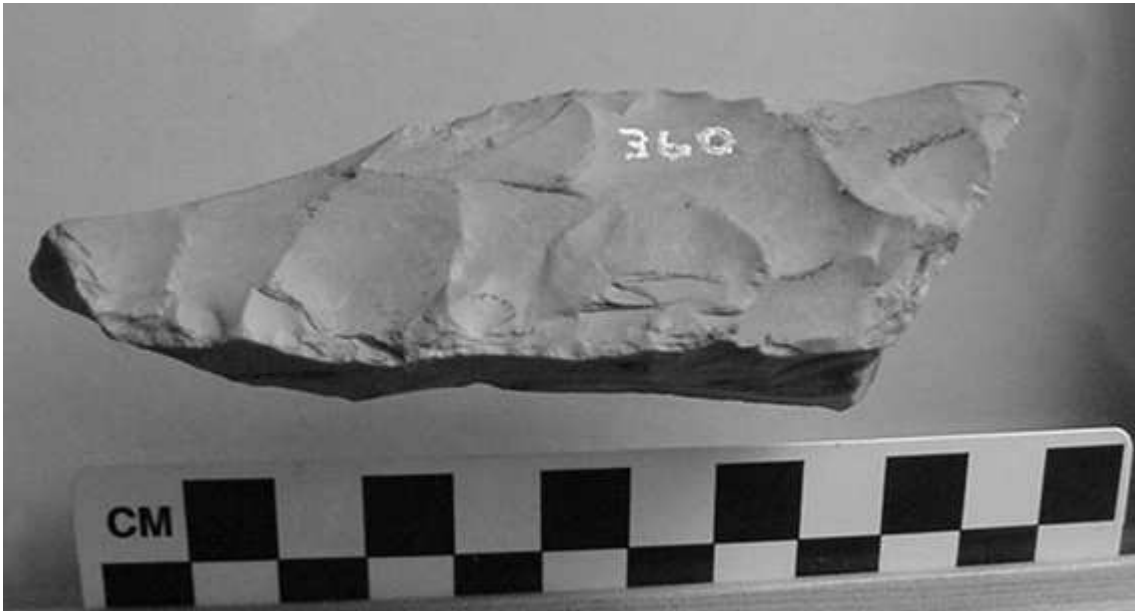
Overview of the Archaeology of Medina County Artifact Descriptions



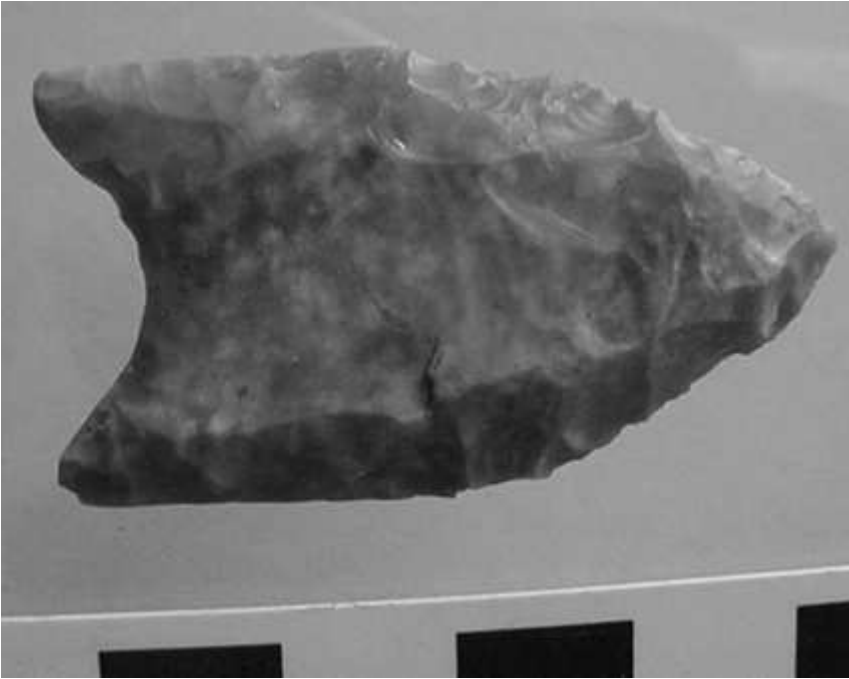
#1 (top) Castroville – Late Archaic 800 – 400 B.C. – Usually a large triangular body with massive barbs created by deep, wide basal notches. These broad blade points are usually well made by random soft, hammer percussion flaking to a distinctively triangular blade with a slightly convex to straight base. Pressure flaking is highly controlled and well organized, generally collateral, and sometimes reaching at or near the bifaces midline. Pristine specimens can be quite large, reaching lengths of up to 12 centimeters (4 ¾”) or more, but generally found in an exhausted stage of 4-6 centimeters in length. Width on complete specimens is usually 4-6 centimeters.



#2 – Trade Blanks – These artifacts are early stage performs, which have been thinned and reduced for easy transport. Shapes range from distinctly triangular to ovate, round and occasionally square. They are found as single artifacts, or sometimes in caches of a dozen or more. Their sizes range from 3-4” in length to as large as dinner plates.



#3 - Guadalupe Biface – Early Archaic 3500 B.C. or earlier. A very unique, gouge type tool, found only in south Texas, between the Guadalupe River and the Rio Grande, generally south of the Balcones Escarpment. See paper on this artifact type elsewhere on this website.



#4 – Clovis – Early Paleoindian 9200 B.C. – The Clovis point is the earliest known time diagnostic artifact in North America. It is lanceolate in outline and rather flat in cross section. The base is thinned with fluting flakes, generally on both faces and the lower lateral edges and basal area are heavily ground.

It was produced using a percussion flaking technology which we call “overshot flaking”, and remnants of those large percussion flakes can often still be seen on either face, despite the exhausted state of most Clovis point finds. This is not the case on the particular specimen pictured here, as reworking and resharpening on this specimen as removed all traces of earlier percussion work except for the distinctive flutes. The Clovis point is found sparsely but widely across Texas.



#5 – Harahey Knife – Late Prehistoric – 1300 A.D. – This elongated, diamond shaped biface is often referred to as a two or four beveled knife. Often associated with bison kills, their distribution covers most of Texas. Bevels seen on this type artifact are created by unifacial resharpening.



#6 – Clearfork Tools – Paleoindian – Middle Archaic – A common tool shape throughout most of prehistory, probably used as adzes in wood working activities. Bifacial Clearforks are sometimes associated with the Paleoindian era, while unifacial Clearforks were generally used during later time periods. They are generally triangular in outline and planoconvex (see artifact coding form this website) in profile. The “bit” will be steeply beveled, while the hafted or pointed end sometimes retains original cortex from the parent rock.



#7 – Gouge – age unknown – This tool form is narrow and elongated with a strong medial ridge, and will often be planoconvex in profile. Cortex will often remain on the basal end.



#8 – Tortugas – Late Middle Archaic – 850-600 B.C. – This distinctly triangular artifact is often somewhat thick and hefty. The base will be well thinned. It is found widely across south Texas and is often crude in appearance, possible because of the poor quality of lithic materials found in southern Texas. It is often alternately beveled in resharpening, giving it a twisted appearance.



#9 – Marcos – Late to Transitional Archaic – 600 B.C. – A.D. 200
– This distinct biface is made from a straight based triangular perform. Basal notches are punched in from the extreme corners of the base, creating a sharply expanding base and pronounced barbs. These broad blade points are usually well made by random soft, hammer percussion flaking to a distinctively triangular blade with a straight base. Pressure flaking is highly controlled and well organized, generally collateral, and sometimes reaching at or near the bifaces midline. Many Marcos points are extremely well made using high quality flint. Resharpening on this point type id bifacial in nature. Pristine specimens can reach lengths of 6-7 centimeters (3 ¼”) but will usually be found at an exhausted stage of 3-5 centimeters. Widths vary from 3-4 centimeters generally. Distribution is central and southern Texas.



#10 – Pedernales – Middle Archaic – 2000-1200 B.C. - This broad blade, bifurcated based dart point is the most common identifiable artifact in Texas. It is characterized by a stem with straight lateral edges and a base, whose bifurcation is created by basal thinning flutes. Stem lateral edges exhibit tiny alternating punch flakes. This biface is corner notched with strong, prominent barbs. It was made using soft hammer, random, percussion flaking, usually collateral in nature. Pressure flaking is also collateral and very controlled. This point type has produced some of the most beautiful, finely made artifacts in Texas, and at the same time, some of the crudest looking too. Preforms of this type often have the base chipped in and flute thinned at an early stage of reduction. Exhausted specimens can be mistaken for Andice points, as both used the punch flaking to notch the base. This point type varies in size from huge specimens up to 16 centimeters (6”) in length and 5-7 centimeter wide. Exhausted specimens can be as short as 4 centimeters. Resharpening was usually accomplished bifacially. Distribution is throughout most of northwest, central and south Texas, including the lower Pecos region.



11 – Montell – Late to Transitional Archaic – 1000 B.C – A.D. 200 – This artifact type was made from a convex based, triangular perform. Three notches were pressure flaked into the base to produce a bifurcated, barbed base. Two notches, one each from the basal corners, and a third larger, “V” shaped notch at the center of the base, produced this artifacts beautiful and unique shape. Then the bi-stems were usually pressure flaked into a rectangular shape. Flint knapping skills among the prehistoric people who made these dart points were very advanced. This artifacts broad, usually very thin blade was made using soft hammer percussion in a very controlled collateral fashion, with percussion flakes usually overlapping the center of the blade. Pressure flaking skills were exceptional as well, as exhibited by the often needle tips on these points. Distribution in central and south Texas, including the lower Pecos region.



#12 – Triangular Knife Forms – Age unknown – Triangular bifaces were used throughout prehistory. Some are unfinished performs, while others were obviously being used in cutting and scraping activities. At some point, artifacts like the one shown here, could possibly have been converted into projectile points. The age of such artifacts can only be determined by their direct associations with either time diagnostic artifacts or datable materials from properly excavated sites.



13 – Angostura – Late Paleoindian – 6800 B.P. – This lanceolate point varies widely in outline and profile. It was preformed using percussion flaking, although little evidence of this percussion flaking remains on most specimens.