



NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Summer 2025 Vol. 53, No. 2



**Evergreen Plantation
Archaeology Community Day 2025**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

J. Lynn Funkhouser, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

In June of 2025 our personal and professional communities have an opportunity to deepen their engagement with Louisiana's rich Black and Creole heritage through attendance and participation in the many Juneteenth events scheduled across the state.

The significance of June 19, 1865—Juneteenth—resonates particularly deeply in Louisiana, home of the 80th United States Colored Infantry (15 of whom were enslaved on Evergreen Plantation) and the Creole leaders who successfully advocated for universal suffrage (for men), culminating in the ratification of the 15th Amendment in 1870. Nearly two years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas, with news of freedom that had been deliberately withheld from enslaved populations. For many of Louisiana's Black communities, this moment represented not just legal emancipation but the beginning of a complex journey toward true freedom and self-determination. Today, there is a growing recognition of Juneteenth as both a federal holiday and a powerful symbol of freedom, resilience, and the ongoing struggle for social and environmental justice.

A landscape at the intersection of Indigenous, Caribbean, African, French, and Spanish influences, Louisiana's remarkable precolonial, colonial, and postcolonial histories have created a cultural milieu found nowhere else on Turtle Island (North America). This has also created a nonnegotiable need for multivocal dialogue and collaboration in archaeological practice and actions that we should not hesitate to take. Louisiana archaeologists maintain high ethical standards of practice that includes working in partnership with descendant, diaspora, and modern local communities in stewardship and heritage protection. Community-based archaeology takes various forms, unified by a commitment to sharing authority in research design, fieldwork, interpretation, and dissemination. Public archaeology in Louisiana progressively embraces its responsibility to confront difficult histories through education and engagement. Rather than avoiding controversial topics, public archaeology programs recognize that justice and reconciliation require honest acknowledgment of past violence and its ongoing impacts. Louisiana archaeologists are well equipped to

study and draw attention to histories that have been marginalized and erased.

Juneteenth Freedom Day celebrations are annual reminders of a history that should not be forgotten and a truth that must not be denied. Community is not only a source of joy and fulfillment. It is a powerful means of cultural transmission and resilience. As Juneteenth celebrations are held across the state this month, let us see these events as opportunities for the archaeological community to engage with and support local efforts to preserve and celebrate Black and Creole heritage and community. Major Juneteenth celebrations planned for 2025 include:

In New Orleans, the [NOLA Juneteenth Festival and Parade](#) will be held on June 19th at 12 p.m. in Louis Armstrong Park. Run by the Louisiana Afro & Indigenous Society, the festival will feature musical performances celebrating the African roots of jazz. This event is free and open to the public.

In Baton Rouge, [Juneteenth Discovery Day](#), held on June 21st from 10 - 2 p.m. at the Capital Park Museum, will feature a community puzzle mural, a Juneteenth scavenger hunt, and a story corner explaining Black excellence and the meaning of Juneteenth. This event has discounted admission.

In Iberia Parish, Shadows-on-the-Teche and the Iberia African American Historical Society will host a special Juneteenth performance of [Zebulon's Dream](#) on Thurs., June 19th at 5:30 p.m. at the Shadows Visitor Center. The event is free to attend.

[In Shreveport](#), Shreveport-Bossier African-American Chamber of Commerce will host the Juneteenth Food Truck Night from 5 - 10 p.m. on June 19th at Louisiana Daiquiri Café. The event will feature Black-owned food trucks, including Smoking Oyster, Prayer in a Pot and Louisiana Smokehouse.

[In Acadiana](#), Move the Mindset is hosting a Juneteenth Commemoration on June 18th from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Downtown Convention Center. The Southwest Louisiana (SWLA) Juneteenth Festival & Stone Soul Picnic will be held June 21st from 4 - 8 p.m. in Heymann Park. Both events are free and open to the public.

As we commemorate this Juneteenth, let us keep in mind the unique role archaeologists can play in countering the erasure of Black and Creole histories in Louisiana. The archaeological record presents material evidence of both injustice and resistance, as well as opportunities for community engagement, public education, and dialogue. Louisiana’s archaeological community can foster relationships to advance heritage stewardship and restorative justice.



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MOVE THE MINDSET PRESENTS

JUNETEENTH COMMEMORATION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18TH 6:00-7:30PM

Freedom’s Unfinished Journey: From Juneteenth to Today’s Struggle for Inclusive History

- ◆ PUCCI PERCUSSIONS**
- ◆ STUDENT POETRY**
- ◆ FILM & PANEL DISCUSSION**
- ◆ COMMUNITY VENDORS**



Documentary Film:
Juneteenth



Ruth Foote
Award Winning
Journalist and
Historian



Erica Fox
Founder, Maison Creole
de Freetown African
American Heritage
Museum



Cheylon Woods
Director and Archivist
of the Ernest J. Gaines
Center

FREE EVENT

**DOWNTOWN CONVENTION CENTER
124 S. BUCHANAN STREET, LAFAYETTE**

**Vendors &
Refreshments
start at 5:30PM**

Wednesday, June 18th
6-7:30PM
Downtown Convention Center
Lafayette, LA

FIELD NOTES AND RECENT RESEARCH

Interesting chipped stone tools from Tangipahoa Parish
Chip McGimsey

Mr. Harrell Griffin was an avocational archaeologist and member of the Louisiana Archaeological Society in the 1970s and 1980s. When he wasn't out collecting, he and his wife Karen operated a series of newspapers in southeast Louisiana. Mr. Griffin passed away several years ago and Karen Griffin recently donated his collection to the Division.

The Griffin collection includes surface collected artifacts from four sites in the uplands of Tangipahoa and St. Helena Parishes – 16TA43, 16TA46, 16TA47, and 16SH5 (Figure 1). Each of these sites occupies a level upland surface overlooking intermittent or small creek drainages. In general, the assemblage from each site consists primarily of bifaces and biface fragments with very low frequencies of other tool forms. Projectile points are dominated by Middle Archaic through Late Archaic types; arrow points and ceramics are conspicuously absent.

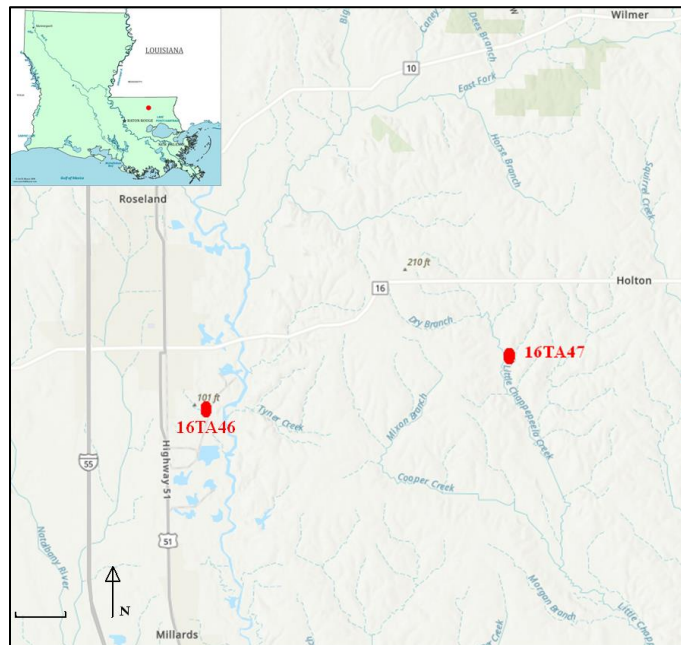


Figure 1. Location of the sites discussed in southeast Louisiana.

Tabulation of the 16TA46 and 16TA47 collections identified two distinctive tool types; these are briefly described here. At 16TA47 a set of five pebble scrapers are present (Figure 2). The pebbles are generally

triangular and thin (less than 15 mm thick) with the bifacial retouch confined to the broad end. The pebbles average 42 mm in length (range 36-62 mm) and 37 mm in maximum width (range 28-41 mm).



Figure 2. Front and reverse views of the pebble scrapers from 16TA47.

The majority of the end retouch occurs on one face, typically the steepest edge, with the retouch flakes less than 10 mm long. The working edge exhibits a lot of tiny step fractures, as if the edge were pounded into a hard material like a wedge or *pièce esquillée*. However, there is no evidence of battering on the opposite, unmodified end of the pebble. The consistent tool shape and placement of retouch on the broad end suggests this form was manufactured for a specific task, but the nature of that task remains unknown.

The 16TA46 collection includes a set of eight specimens exhibiting polish suggestive of use as adzes (Figure 3). In addition, there are an additional six morphologically similar pieces that do not exhibit polish (Figure 4). Twelve of the 14 specimens exhibit extensive surficial retouch over both faces; two are limited to unifacial surficial retouch. Most do not exhibit extensive edge retouch at either of the narrow, presumably working, edges. The edges on all specimens tend to be blunt with numerous step fractures and not very acute. All items have been heavily resharpened and polish is visible only as occasional remnants on flake ridges and surfaces. Interestingly, polish often occur at both ends of the tool and in a couple of instances can be seen across the broad surface of the artifact.



The eight specimens with polish average 36 mm in length (range 34-51 mm), 28 mm in width (range 19-34 mm), and 12 mm in thickness (range 9-20 mm). The six morphologically similar specimens have similar dimensions; length 43 mm (30-60 mm range), width 31 mm (29-35 mm range), and thickness 13 mm (9-15 mm range).

These items likely functioned as small wood-working tools, although some of the polish could also reflect hafting wear. Their relatively small size makes it difficult to see how they were hafted. The presence of polish in various places along multiple edges suggests they may have been frequently rehafted and repositioned to take advantage of sharper edges.

As Mr. Griffin's collection were all surface collected, it is not possible to assess whether the artifact forms discussed here are the result of a specific occupation that had a particular need for these tools, or whether they were produced occasionally during the numerous reoccupations of these two site locales.



Figure 3. Front and reverse views of the bifaces with polish from 16TA46.



Figure 4. Front and reverse views of the bifaces without polish from 16TA46.

James A Ford's 1937 Excavation of 16CO7 and 16CO10
 Chip McGimsey and Sadie Whitehurst

In 1937 James A Ford, presumably operating under the aegis of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), trenched the mounds at the Dunbarton (16CO7) and Turtle Lake (16CO10) sites in Concordia Parish, Louisiana. The available records consist of two pages of Ford's field notes and a small artifact collection from each site curated at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (LSUMNS). The field notes are included in the James A. Ford records housed at the Division of Archaeology with the originals available at the National Anthropological Archives. The collections were analyzed by the authors. The decorated ceramics were categorized following Belmont 2004, Brown 1998, Phillips 1970, Toth 1988, and Williams and Brain 1983.

16CO7, the Dunbarton site, lies on the south bank of the Tensas River (Figure 1). It was initially reported to Ford as a mound, although excavation suggested it was instead a natural rise. The artifact scatter covered approximately 2 acres (LSUMNS site card). Beginning on 1 February 1937 and continuing for three days, a crew of 40 African Americans excavated the site. They began with a 10-foot wide trench running east-west along the south side of the mound. A second 5-foot wide trench at right angles to the first then cut through the center of the mound. Two additional 10-foot wide trenches were excavated east-west at 10-foot intervals north of the original trench (Figure 2).

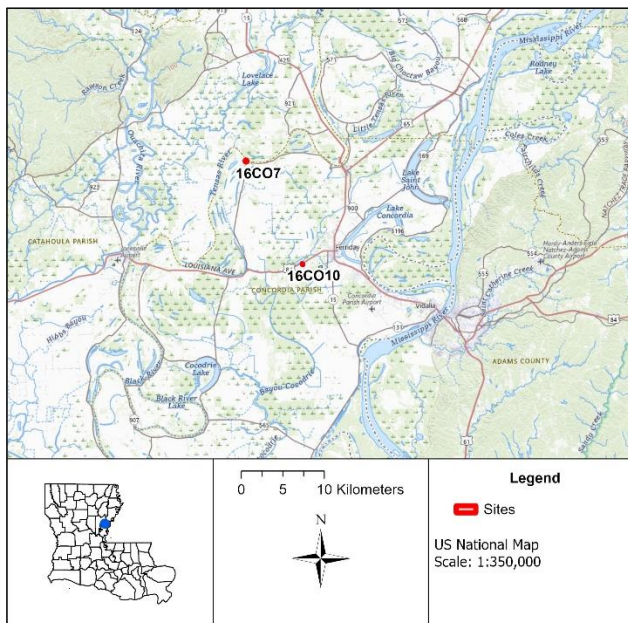


Figure 1. Site locations in northeast Louisiana.

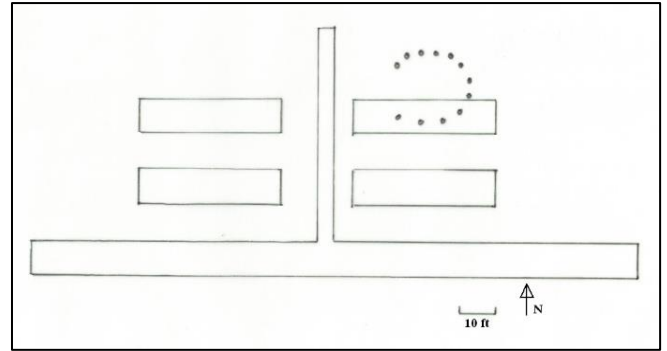


Figure 2. Sketch map of trenches and posthole structure at 16CO7. Redrawn from sketch in Ford's field notes; scale and north arrow approximate.

In each trench, the stratigraphy is described as 12-18 inches of silt overlying a 10-inch thick midden, underlain by many feet of alluvial sands and silts. The field notes for 2 February 1937 state "This structure is not a mound. Just an elevation which served as a habitation site." The northernmost east-west trench uncovered a series of postholes, presumably identified at the base of the midden although the field notes do not indicate this. Once the posts were discovered, the area immediately to the north of the trench was opened up to expose more of the post arc. The sketch map in the field notes (Figure 2) indicates most of a complete circle was eventually uncovered. The posts are 6 inches in diameter and are spaced 18 inches apart (field notes, 3 February 1937). On 7 February 1937 the excavations were filled.

The artifact collection consists of 472 sherds, three flakes, two projectile points, 2 chert angular fragments, two worked ground stones, and nine pieces of unmodified rock. There is no documentation on which strata or trench any of the materials came from, although presumably they are all from the midden stratum. The two projectile points include one Kent (Figure 3a) and one heavily reworked probably contemporary point (Figure 3b). The two ground stone pieces represent 1 cm thick slabs with a heavily worn surface. Both are broken and their original size and shape are unknown. They do not exhibit pigment staining or obvious abraded striations, suggesting use as a chipped stone abraded.

The ceramic assemblage is dominated by decorated specimens (223/420, 53.1%). There are only 57 plain body sherds, and the remaining plain examples are rims. There is an obvious bias to the collection as evidenced by these frequencies as well as the fact that very few sherds less than 3 cm in size are present.



Figure 3. Projectile points from 16CO7.

Three sherds, two plain body and one indeterminate incised body, are fiber-tempered. They do not exhibit a contorted paste suggestive of Tchefuncte but are less well fired and have a softer, clayier feel than the grog-tempered sherds. The remainder of the assemblage are Baytown grog-tempered paste sherds. Within the plain body sherds, there are four circular flat bases and 10 square flat bases. There are also what appear to be four carinated bowl sherds in the assemblage. The plain rim sherds almost uniformly exhibit squared to slightly rounded lips with no lip modifications (notching, lugs, etc.).

As a whole, the assemblage reflects at least occasional occupation of the site from the Marksville through Plaquemine periods (Table 1). The earlier periods, Marksville (Figure 4) and Baytown (Figure 5 a-c), have relatively few representatives suggesting ephemeral occupations during these periods. Coles Creek Incised (Figure 6 a-c) and Plaquemine Brushed varieties represent 44.4% of the decorated materials. The indeterminate incised sherds are most likely examples of Coles Creek Incised; if they are included the Coles Creek / Plaquemine types represent 57.8% of the decorated assemblage. In the absence of any stratigraphic or spatial data, it can only be suggested the primary occupation of the site within the excavated area occurred during these periods. It would also suggest the structure most likely dates to one of these occupations.

Table 1. Decorated ceramic types at 16CO7 and 16CO10 (includes both rim and body sherds).

Type	16CO7	16CO10
Marksville Stamped var. <i>Newsome</i>	12	
Troyville Stamped var. <i>Poindexter</i>	27	
Churupa Punctate var. <i>Churupa</i>	3	
Chevalier Stamped var. <i>Chevalier</i>	1	
Chevalier Stamped var. <i>Lulu</i>	1	
Chevalier Stamped var. <i>unspecified</i>		2
Alligator Incised var. <i>Oxbow</i>	1	1
Avoyelles Punctate var. <i>Tatum</i>	2	
Avoyelles Punctate var. <i>Kearney</i>		1
Avoyelles Punctate var. <i>unspecified</i>		1
Mulberry Creek Cord-marked var. <i>Porter Bayou</i>	1	
French Fork Incised var. <i>McNutt</i>	5	
French Fork Incised var. <i>Wilzone</i>	1	
French Fork Incised var. <i>unspecified</i>		2
Evansville Punctated var. <i>Evansville</i>	7	
Evansville Punctated var. <i>Rhinehart</i>		1
Evansville Punctated var. <i>Sharkey</i>	1	
Evansville Punctated var. <i>unspecified</i>	1	1
Harrison Bayou Incised var. <i>Harrison Bayou</i>	4	
Coles Creek Incised var. <i>Hunt</i>	1	
Coles Creek Incised var. <i>Mott</i>	8	11
Coles Creek Incised var. <i>Hardy</i>	22	1
Coles Creek Incised var. <i>Stoner</i>	3	
Coles Creek Incised var. <i>unspecified</i>	20	19
Mazique Incised var. <i>unspecified</i>		3
Plaquemine Brushed var. <i>Plaquemine</i>	55	
Anna Incised var. <i>Anna</i>	9	6
Indeterminate punctated	4	8
Indeterminate incised	30	
Indeterminate brushed	1	1
Indeterminate stamped	2	
Indeterminate incised (untempered)	1	



Figure 4. Marksville Incised var. *Sunflower* (a, b) and *Prairie* (c) and Churupa Punctate var. *Churupa* (d) sherds from 16CO7.



Figure 5. Evansville Punctated var. *Evansville* (16CO7 – a, b, c) and *unspecified* (16CO10 – d).



Figure 6. Coles Creek Incised var. *Hardy* (a – c) and French Fork Incised var. *McNutt* (d, e) from 16CO7.

Thirty-six rim sherds are large enough to assess the vessel form and orifice diameter (vessel forms follow Ryan et al. 2004: Figure 7.2). Twenty-three rims are plain and include 11 beakers, three necked jars, six deep bowls, two globular bowls, and one restricted jar. Four vessels (two beakers and one globular bowl) have a distinct interior fold. A second globular bowl represents the only vessel with lip decoration with notches on the lip top. The decorated rims include four beakers, six necked jars, one deep bowl, 1 globular bowl and one plate. The plate represents an Anna Incised var. *Anna* vessel (Figure 7).

16CO10, the Turtle Lake site, lies on the south side of Turtle Lake just west of Ferriday (Figure 1). Mound A lies

on the south side of US 84 while Mound B is on the north side. Mound B was reported to be significantly impacted by plowing prior to 1994 when it was destroyed by bulldozing (Cusick et al. 1995:9-2). Shovel testing and limited excavations indicated no intact remnants of the mound remained at the site. Mound A remains largely intact, primarily due to the presence of an 1800s cemetery on its crest.



Figure 7. Anna Incised var. *Anna* sherds from 16CO7.

Ford began excavating Mound B (he identifies it as Mound A) on 4 February 1937 with a trench along the north side. The following day a small, plain broken pot was recovered (Figure 8). It is a small restricted jar 11 cm high with an orifice diameter of 8 cm. Four more trenches were put through the mound over the next four days; a few Coles Creek sherds were found but the notes indicate “very little results”. On 11 February two trenches were started across Mound A but quickly encountered the cemetery. Cusick et al. (1995:Table 9.2) lists the headstones for three children buried between 1839 and 1847. Ford notes that he encountered 10 burials, indicating the cemetery likely extends across

most of the mound summit, and abandoned any further testing of this mound. The crew then spent another two days trenching Mound B but apparently found nothing of interest.



Figure 8. Baytown Plain vessel from 16CO10.

The artifact collection consists of 404 sherds, four flakes, 14 angular fragments or fire-cracked pebbles, five pieces of unmodified rock, and one pitted cobble. There is no information on the context in which any artifacts were found and it is unclear which are from mound fill and which are from areas outside or below the mound.

Unlike 16CO7, the Turtle Lake ceramic assemblage is dominated by plain sherds (85.4%). All but nine sherds are Baytown Plain. One plain body exhibits a coarse sand temper while another appears to be untempered. The surprise in this collection is the presence of seven plain body sherds with abundant bone temper. Bone tempering is typically found in Caddo assemblages of northwest Louisiana but Brain (1988:334) does recognize an Addis Plain *var. Feliciana* characterized by bone temper in late pre-contact contexts at Tunica sites. Williams and Brain (1983:92) also note that Baytown Plain *var. Addis* may occasionally include bone temper.

Bone tempering in the Lower Mississippi Valley appears to reflect a late pre-contact occupation.

The decorated assemblage is dominated by Coles Creek Incised varieties (31/59, 52.5%) with low frequencies of other types (Figure 5 d). The collection also includes a section of a large Baytown Plain bottle (Figure 9). The bottle neck is 19 cm tall, 4 cm wide at the mouth and 10 cm side at the neck/body junction. Given that Ford noted the discovery of the small plain vessel, it is surprising he did not record the recovery of this vessel. In the absence of any information on the context of the sherds, it is unclear which types/varieties may reflect the construction and use of Mound B. The investigation by Cusick et al. (1995:Table 9-1) recovered a Palmillas-like Archaic point and one sherd of Coles Creek Incised *var. Hilly Grove* from excavations in the area where Mound B had stood.



Figure 9. Baytown Plain bottle from 16CO10.

This study documents the results of James Ford's investigation of these two sites and illuminate a small part of the 1930s WPA archaeological efforts across Louisiana. The limited records and unprovenanced collections limit interpretations but both sites appear to

have been primarily occupied during the Coles Creek or later periods. As such, they add to our understanding of Concordia Parish and the people who once lived here.

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An Exploration of the Deep Six Basket Fragments

Diana M. Greenlee, Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program, University of Louisiana at Monroe

“In every basket, there’s a treasure trove of delights, waiting to be explored.” -- Author Unknown

Background

In 1983, Dr. Glen Greene (Northeast Louisiana University, now the University of Louisiana at Monroe [ULM]) led an archaeological field school for six weeks at Poverty Point (16WC5). Excavation of the “Deep Six Locale,” where Ridge 1 North intersects the eastern edge of Macon Ridge (Figure 1), was prompted by the observation of a thin midden about 18 ft (roughly 6 m) below the current ground surface. The slumping bluff required stabilization, and the “Deep Six” excavation was conducted prior to dirt work that created a stable angle of repose along the bluff edge.

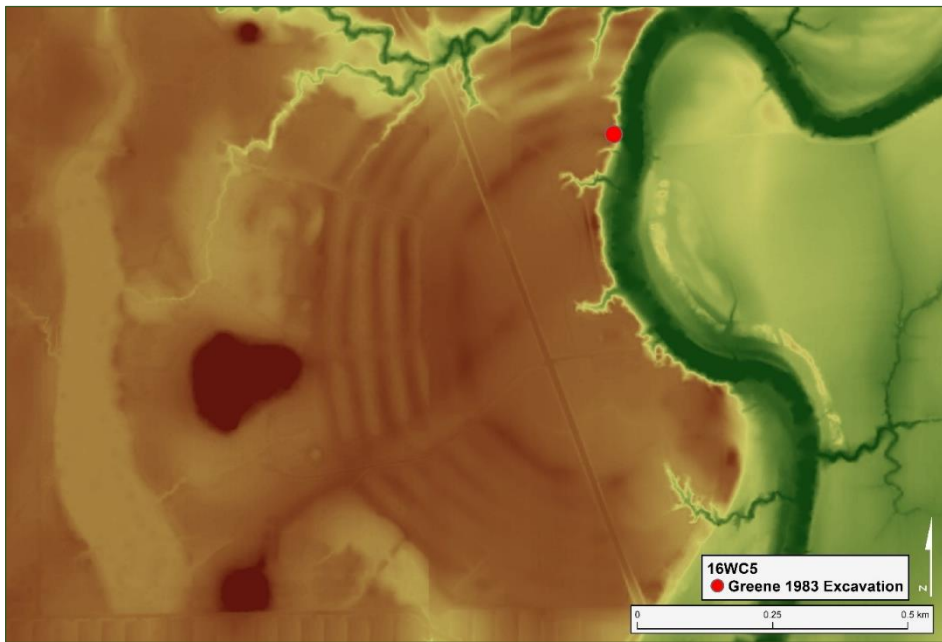


Figure 1. Lidar surface topographic model of Poverty Point, with the “Deep Six Locale” on Ridge 1 North indicated.

A 6 x 6 m area was excavated in a series of steps, or benches, down the face of the bluff (Figure 2). The excavation revealed a series of three midden deposits, separated by thick strata of basket-loaded fill. The deepest of those three, the originally observed Deep Six midden, has been the subject of some debate since 1983. Is it a culturally enhanced slackwater lacustrine (lake) paleosol? Greene (1990:113) concluded that its characteristics were consistent with deposits of a “permanent or semi-permanent lake or shallow slough from the base of the bluff extending east an unknown distance and perhaps for several miles north-south along the eastern rim of the site.” The idea of a “Lake Maçon,” and the rich and dependable set of resources it might have provided, has long been of interest among archaeologists, but confirmation has been elusive (e.g., Gibson 1984; Greene 1990; Hillman 1990; Marcum-Heiman et al. 2017; Pace n.d.).

The radiocarbon dates from this excavation are another issue. Seven samples were submitted for radiocarbon determinations and, of those, only two were considered “acceptable.” Four (older than expected) were thought to have been contaminated with lignite and one (younger than expected) with root matter. The dating technology of the time required large samples and that was met by combining multiple pieces of charcoal from the context of interest, a practice that is now frowned upon. Today, AMS dating accommodates the submission of single, small, identified short-lived fragments of twigs, bark, seeds, nutmeat, or nutshell; wood charcoal is avoided when possible because of the “old wood” issue that arises from long-lived trees.



Figure 2. The Deep Six excavation, showing benches. Photo courtesy of Robert Rickett.

Because of the post-excavation slope stabilization efforts, it is unlikely that the Deep Six units will be re-excavated to allow the profiles to be re-examined with newer methods. Thus, conserving this forty-year-old collection takes on added importance. The Marshall Fellowship Fund awarded a grant to the Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program at ULM to rehabilitate the collection, i.e., to update curation of the artifacts and records to modern standards. Excavation records and maps have been scanned, field journals have been scanned and transcribed, and the artifacts have been placed in appropriately labeled archival bags. The grant, with additional support from an anonymous donor, allows for some research, as well. This includes analysis of macrobotanical and faunal remains, sediment analyses, raw material source studies, and new radiocarbon dates.

“Basket Remains”

Greene (1985:17) noted “the remains of two cane baskets or matting fragments” were encountered during the excavation in the lower stratum of basket-loaded fill. Among the boxes of artifacts from the excavation processed during the rehabilitation project was one containing “basket remains.” The fragments had been removed with their supporting blocks of sediment and, upon drying, those sediment blocks hardened to a concrete-like consistency.

The samples were sent to Dr. Elizabeth Horton (Rattlesnake Master LLC) for examination (Horton 2025). Using a Dremel tool to slowly (and dustily) grind away the encasing sediments, she was able to expose a section of one of the fragments. Not only did Horton document interlacing, or weaving, in the remains (Figure 3), but she also determined that the cane had been processed to create the “peels” typically used in basket manufacture. This process involves splitting the cane culms and scraping the splits to remove the inner cells, resulting in a strong, flexible fiber. Debris consistent with the gathering and processing of cane culms was also observed.

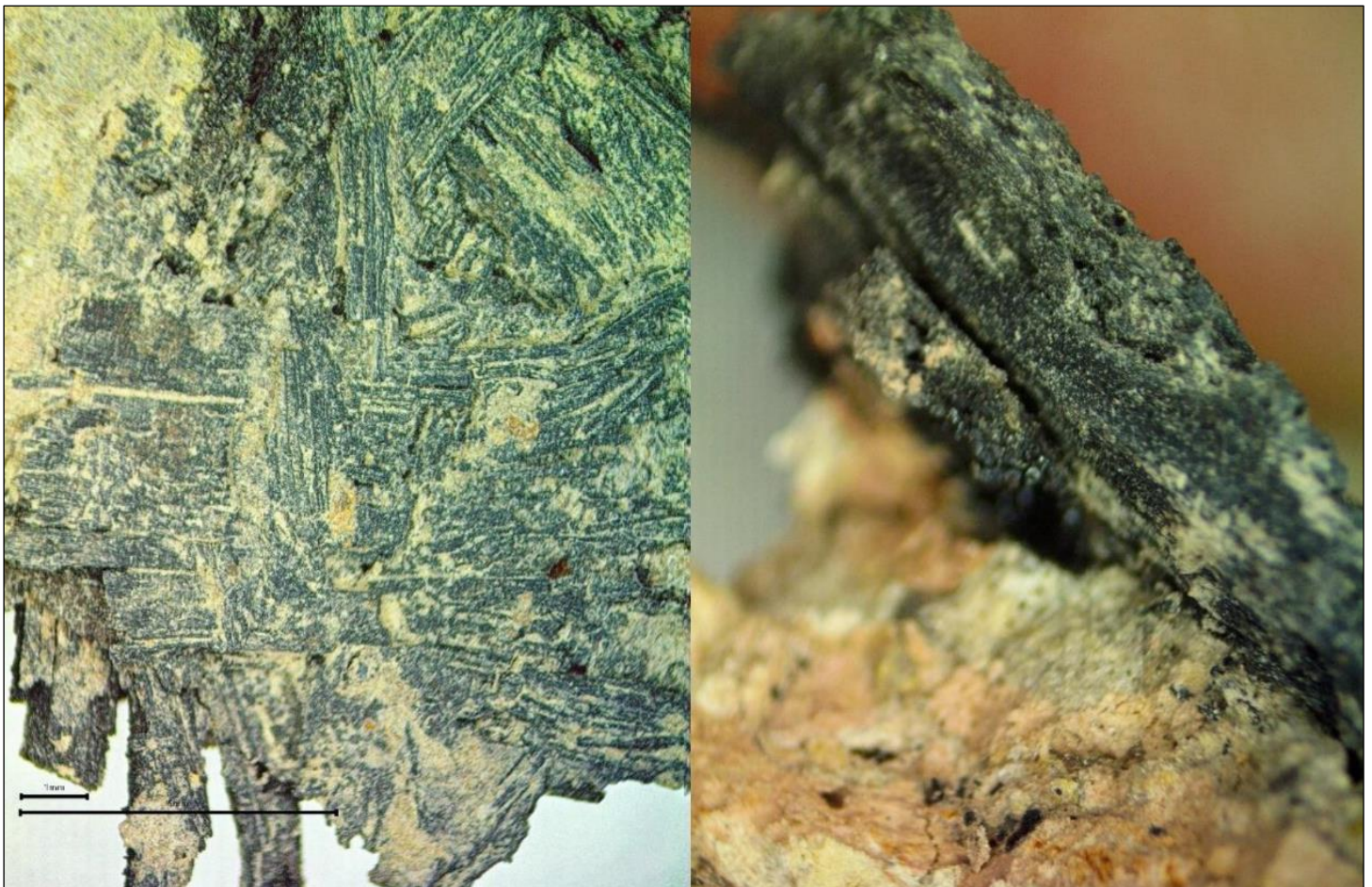


Figure 3: Left, small fragment of intact interlaced cane basketry peels. Right, same fragment viewed in transverse section showing peels at 90-degree angles to each other. Scale bars at 1mm and 5mm, images at 10x magnification. From Horton (2025:8).

As there was no evidence that these specimens were intact baskets, i.e., they appeared to be discarded fragments, Horton processed the remaining sediment blocks as flotation samples. Small bits of bone, charcoal, a couple of seeds, nutshell, and PPO/fired earth fragments were recovered. This further suggests that these basket remnants were discarded, along with other occupational debris, and incorporated into the fill.

Conclusion

The general assumption has been that baskets were an important component of life at Poverty Point. However, few actual examples of basketry have survived. Previous investigators (Ford 1955; Ford and Webb 1956) reported evidence for baskets, in the form of impressions, in Poverty Point's Mound B and beneath Ridge 1 South, as well as in nearby Motley Mound. Webb (1982:45) noted finding a loose-weave of split cane in a "subfloor pit" and impressions on the surface of fired-earth PPOs. Those were all important observations. However, the fragments discovered during the Deep Six excavation and removed as *in situ* sediment blocks are the first clearly documented remains of basketry, and they would have remained unexamined were it not for the generous support provided by donors to rehabilitate this four-decade-old legacy collection.

Acknowledgments

The Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program would like to thank the Marshall Fellowship Fund and our anonymous donor for supporting the Deep Six Rehabilitation Project. The contributions of Helen Bouzon, Jim Delahoussaye, Randy Denmon, Claire Garber, Elizabeth Horton, Sam Huey, Noelle Latiolais, and Shannon Torrens are gratefully acknowledged.

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Archaeology Field School at the Old LSU Site in Kisatchie National Forest

Conan Mills, Louisiana State University

In May - June 2025, the Louisiana State University (LSU) Department of Geography and Anthropology held a field school at the Old LSU Site (16RA49) in Kisatchie National Forest as part of thesis research. Opened in 1860 as the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy, the institution moved to Baton Rouge in 1870. The crew included students, LSU faculty, and was permitted and supported by Kisatchie National Forest. Excavations ran from 27 May through 20 June with a lab component from 23 - 27 June.



Figure 1. Crew photo along with the Chansellor of LSU Alexandria Dr. Paul Coreil, and LSU Alexandria staff, June 2025. Photo courtesy of Trevor Chapman.



Figure 2. Students began the field school by learning about shovel testing and the purpose it serves in archaeology.



Figure 3. Students are laying out units and getting ready for excavations.



Figure 4. Extending excavation units to capture more detail of building foundations.



Figure 5. There was no shortage of ceramics and tableware, most of which were imported through New Orleans.



Figure 6. Early 20th century Rapides Bottling Works bottle recovered during excavations.



Figure 7. Bricks were manufactured on site, and sometimes the brick makers let us know they were there.



Figure 8. One of many surprises during excavations. An unexpected piece of exterior architecture recovered from the site. Photo courtesy of Dr. Matthew Helmer.



Figure 9. How it started versus how it is going. This little 50cm x 50cm exploratory unit ended up being a 15-foot diameter cistern.

[For additional information on the Old LSU Site](#)



The Sites of Francis Broussard III: Upland Ceramic Assemblages in St. Tammany and Washington Parishes

Chip McGimsey and Francis Broussard

This article is the third in a series exploring the archaeology of southeast Louisiana as seen from the collections of Francis Broussard. The previous articles examined sites in the Mandeville area (McGimsey, Halling, and Broussard 2023) and selected elements of two sites in the uplands (McGimsey and Broussard 2022). In the 1970s, Francis Broussard made repeated surface collections from a series of 20 sites in the uplands of St. Tammany and Washington Parishes as they were exposed by development and timber clear-cutting. His efforts resulted in modest to large lithic assemblages reflecting extensive bifacial tool production primarily from the Middle Archaic through late pre-contact periods; the chipped stone assemblages will be the subject of a subsequent study. This article examines the ceramic assemblages obtained by Broussard’s efforts.

To date, there are few studies that produced anything more than a handful of ceramic artifacts from upland southeast Louisiana sites. The Broussard collection presents a rare opportunity to examine these assemblages and characterize their variability and temporal position. As the collections are all surface finds, they do not represent a systematically collected data set and interpretations are limited to qualitative assessments.

Thirteen sites produced ceramic assemblages ranging in size from 1 to 294 sherds (Table 1; Figure 1). They document occupation of this region from Tchula through late Mississippian periods. There are also several wares and decorated types whose placement in time is unknown. As the great majority of the sherds are plain, the various pastes will be discussed first followed by discussion of the decorated type/varieties. All pastes were identified through examination of a freshly broken edge with a 10X hand lens. Several apparently untempered pastes are identified; they are characterized by inclusions and texture.

Table 1. Inventory of ceramic types in the Francis Broussard collection.

	Paste	Sites											Totals	
		16ST288	16ST291	16ST305	16ST306	16ST307	16WA186	16WA191	16WA196	16WA197	16WA202	16WA206		16WA207
Plain	Tchefuncte					1							12	13
	Baytown	13	18	8	121		10	2			9		11	192
	Mississippi				49		3						1	53
	Bell				11									11
	Guillory				41		1						2	44
	Graveline				14									14
	fine sandy paste		7	12	32		14		2			55		122
	blocky clayey paste		2	6			8	2				9	4	31
	coarse sand-tempered		8	1										9
Decorated	Tchefuncte Incised var. Bogue Falaya (untempered)				12									12
	Alexander Finched var. Castine Bayou (fine sandy paste, untempered)						3							3
	Mabin Stamped var. Crooks (Baytown)								1					1
	Talisheek Noded var. Broussard (fine sandy paste, untempered)				5									5
	Finney Creek Incised var. Chitto										6			6
	Coles Creek Incised var. unspecified (Baytown)							2		1				3
	French Fork Incised var. unspecified (Baytown)							1						1
	Pontchartrain Check Stamped var. Pontchartrain (Baytown)							2						2
	indeterminate incised (Baytown)				3		2			1			1	7
	indeterminate cord-impressed (Baytown)												1	1
	indeterminate incised (Guillory)				3									3
	indeterminate incised (Graveline)				2									2
	indeterminate incised (Mississippi)												1	1
	indeterminate incised (fine sandy paste)		1		1		1							3
indeterminate incised (blocky sandy paste)											5	2	7	
indeterminate incised/punctated (Mississippi)												1	1	
Totals		13	36	27	294	1	4	43	4	4	1	84	36	547

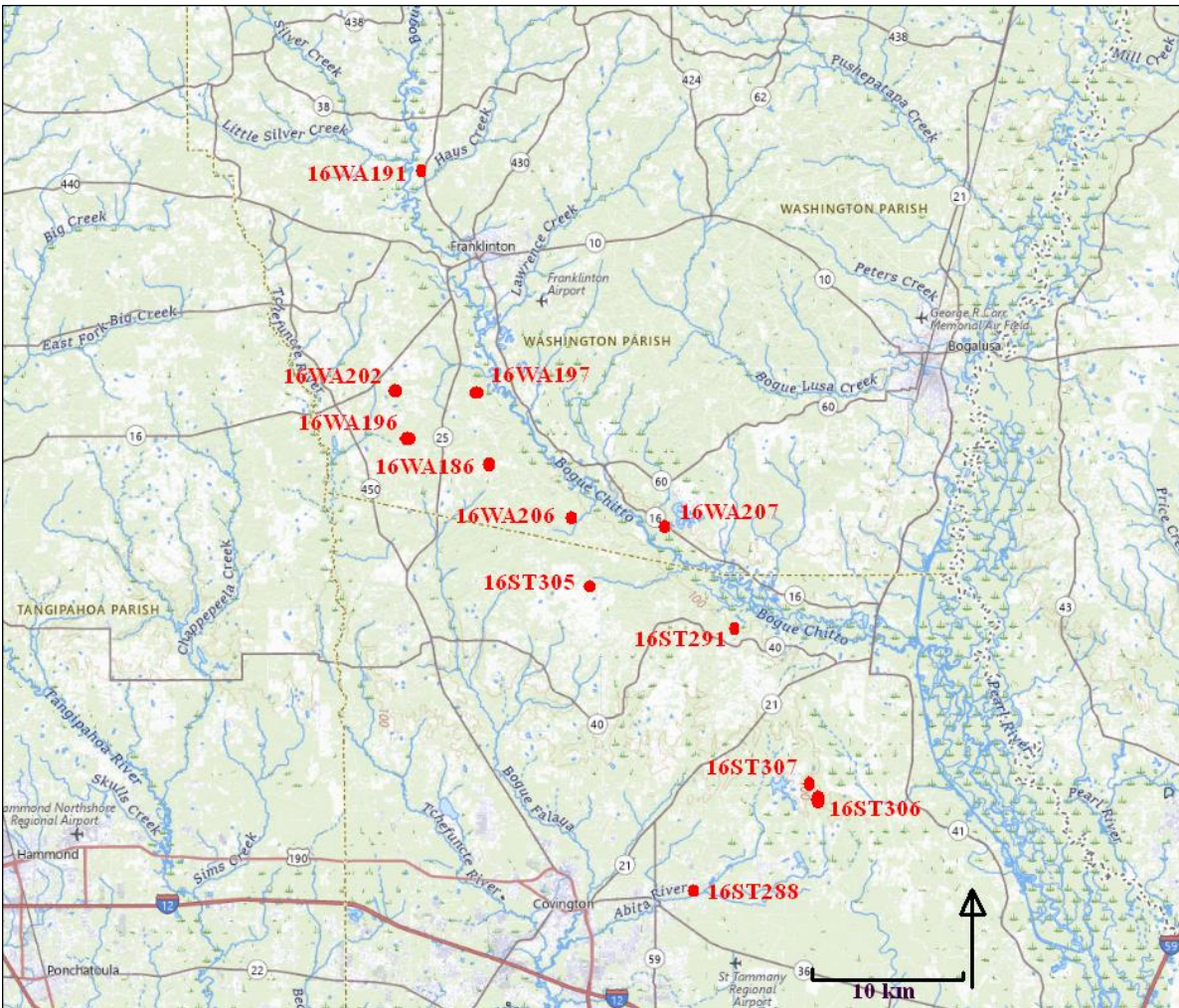


Figure 1. Location of the sites discussed in the article.

The most abundant paste is Baytown as defined by the presence of grog temper (Table 1; Phillips 1970). The density of grog however, is very low; on many sherds with a 1 cm long broken edge only 1-3 small (LT 2 mm) grog particles are visible and the separation between grog and natural inclusions is not always obvious. The paste overall is dominated by very fine sand and most sherds have a slight sandpaper feel. One sherd is a complete, circular, flat base 10 cm in diameter and 1.5 cm thick.

The only sherds with typical Lower Mississippi Valley grog temper abundance are the decorated types Coles Creek Incised, French Fork Incised, and Pontchartrain Check Stamped, suggesting they may have been imports from outside this region. Baytown paste sherds occur at nine of the 13 sites in this sample.

Tchefuncte paste is identified by its characteristic untempered, contorted paste (Weinstein and Rivet 1978); in the very small sample here (Table 1), the paste is very soft and clayey with little to no sand or other inclusions present. This clayey paste is somewhat unusual in the collection as most of the other ceramics are made of a generally sandy paste. All but three of the Tchefuncte sherds were recovered at one site and almost certainly represent a single vessel.

Shell-tempered pastes represent a surprisingly high proportion of the collection and are evenly split between platy shell Mississippi/Bell pastes and blocky shell Guillory/Graveline pastes (Table 1). Bell paste is distinguished from Mississippi by having 75% or more of the shell particles less than 1 mm in size. Similarly, Graveline is distinguished from Guillory by having 75% or more of the shell particles less than 1 mm in size. Mississippi and Guillory pastes are more frequent than

Bell or Graveline. The Guillory/Graveline sherds represent a temper style that appears in southeast Louisiana probably after 1300 CE. These wares are concentrated at three sites with 16ST306 producing the majority of each paste.

The second most common paste includes sherds that are untempered and exhibit a generally uniform texture with a very fine sandy paste giving them a distinct sandpaper feel. The texture can occasionally exhibit a slight blocky structure suggesting the original clay was not highly prepared and remnant soil peds remain partially intact. The sherds lack the chunky or contorted paste characteristic of Tchefuncte. Occasional organics and/or mineral inclusions are present, and some sherds have a black core. Many sherds exhibit interbedded irregular patches of orange and gray that can make it difficult to identify if fine grog is present.

Alexander Plain (Ford and Quimby 1945; Phillips 1970) is defined as a Tchula period sandy paste or sand-tempered ware. Some examples in the Broussard collection are clearly Alexander (see discussion of Alexander Pinched below), but it is not clear that all sherds with this paste can be assigned to that time period. Other decorated specimens do not exhibit zoned incising organized into rectangular, angular or nested designs (Ford and Quimby 1945:64; Phillips 1970:37), and the incising is typically thin, shallow, and irregularly organized. At least one example exhibits incised lines typical of late Woodland/Mississippian styles. In addition, while some sherds tend to be thick (5-6 mm thick in line with the original definition; Ford and Quimby 1945:64), the majority of the Broussard specimens are typically 3-4 mm thick and mirror most of the other sherds in this collection. Phillips (1970:54) identifies Baytown Plain *var. Thomas* as “a sandy-textured variety of Baytown” lacking grog temper that occurs in the Marksville period of northwest Mississippi. He suggests it simply reflects the use of available sandy clays. We agree with Phillips and suggest the untempered, sandy paste ceramics in the Broussard collection reflect the use of a locally available sandy clay as the source material. Thus this paste could have appeared, and reappeared, in any time period as the clay source became exposed and available. Clearly some sherds represent Tchula period Alexander materials, but the indeterminate incised sherds suggest this clay source was utilized in later periods as well. Thus, the challenge in sorting the plain body sherds. For this study the plain sherds are tentatively sorted as Alexander Plain (Table 1) while the decorated sherds that do not clearly fit Tchula period decorative styles are sorted as indeterminate incised on a sandy paste. Alexander Plain and fine sandy paste sherds were recovered at eight sites in the Broussard collection.

There are two other untempered pastes in the collection. One is characterized as a blocky clayey or blocky clayey sandy paste. This paste exhibits a distinctly blocky or platy texture that likely reflects a poorly prepared matrix where the original soil peds still retain integrity. Most examples have a clayier texture than the Alexander Plain ware but a few examples exhibit a slightly sandy paste. The blocky structure suggests this paste represents a Tchula period ware (see also the discussion of the decorated examples). It was recovered at six sites.

The third untempered paste has a generally fine sandy matrix but with distinct coarse sand grains included. It is unclear if the coarse sand is a natural constituent in the clay or if it was added during manufacture. It may be a minor variant within Alexander Plain. This paste was found at only two sites.

Three fiber-tempered sherds were identified at one site (Table 1). They exhibit a very fine sandy paste with abundant small circular voids. The rim and body sherds are thin (2-3 mm thick) and the rim suggests a small bowl. The base is a flat, circular form. This ware is probably Early Woodland in age and contemporary with the Alexander and Tchefuncte materials.

The decorated assemblage is small (n=62, 10.6% of the total assemblage). The decorated types document occupation of this region of southeast Louisiana from the Early Woodland through late pre-contact Mississippian periods. The Early Woodland period is represented by Tchefuncte Incised *var. Bogue Falaya* (Weinstein and Rivet 1978:40; Figure 2) and Alexander Pinched *var. Castine Bayou* (Ford and Quimby 1945:64; Phillips 1970:37; Figure 3). Each type is represented by a single vessel. The Tchefuncte Incised sherds are on a soft, very clayey paste and exhibit unevenly spaced irregular lines where the incising tool was swung slightly side to side. The Alexander Pinched sherds each exhibit large finger-

pinched ridges more-or-less organized into rows. Each of the sherds exhibits an untempered, fine sandy paste with a uniform texture. The sherds are 3-4 mm thick.



Figure 2. Tchefuncte Incised var. *Bogue Falaya*; 16ST306.



Figure 3. Alexander Pinched var. *Castine Bayou*; 16WA186.

The Middle and Late Woodland periods are represented by 14 sherds (Table 1), including Mabin Stamped *var. Crooks*, Coles Creek Incised *var. unspecified*, French Fork Incised *var. unspecified* (Figure 4), and Pontchartrain Check Stamped *var. Pontchartrain*. In addition, the nearly complete Marksville Incised *var. Goose Lake* vessel recovered from 16ST289 in this same region (McGimsey and Broussard 2022) is another example of the regional Middle Woodland assemblage. All of the sherds in the current study are on a Baytown paste with abundant visible grog tempering. In this, they are distinct from most of the Baytown paste sherds in this collection where the grog tempering is scarce and occurs primarily as fine particles. The French Fork specimen in particular appears to be an import as the paste is distinct from the others in the assemblage. One Baytown paste sherd exhibits two wide-spaced cord-impressed lines; the type is unknown. The seven indeterminate incised sherds on a Baytown paste are simply too small to assign to a type.

The Baytown Plain assemblage also includes one Joffrion-like rim with one lug and two very eroded lines on the lip surface. This vessel was a small necked jar with an orifice diameter of 8 cm. Another plain rim represents a necked jar with a 28 cm diameter orifice.

The Mississippi period is represented by six sherds (Table 1), all of them indeterminate incised on Mississippi, Guillory, and Graveline pastes. The one example on Mississippi paste is stylistically very similar to Pensacola Incised *var. Bear Point* (Fuller 1996) but is a very small vessel.

Two new types are defined from the Broussard collection. The types are tentative as each is represented primarily by a single vessel, but they are stylistically very distinct and so are segregated here. Talisheek Noded *var. Broussard* (Figure 5) is defined by a series of 1 cm wide nodes placed irregularly around the body. Although only a portion of the vessel is present, there is no obvious patterning to the node placement.



Figure 4. French Fork Incised *var. unspecified*; 16WA191.



Figure 5. Talisheek Noded *var. Broussard*; 16ST306.

Interestingly, while the nodes were formed by pushing from the interior surface, the resulting interior depression was filled such that it is typically invisible on the interior surface. The vessel rim exhibits regularly spaced exterior lip notches with a line of small (3-4 mm wide) nodes immediately below and paralleling the lip. This pattern of lip notching with a line of nodes immediately below the lip mirrors illustrated examples of Alexander Incised and Alexander Pinched (Ford and Quimby 1945:Plate 7 h, j, k, m, and n), suggesting this type is likely contemporary with the Tchefuncte and Alexander Pinched sherds identified in this collection. The vessel is a necked jar with a 32 cm orifice diameter. The vessel walls are 3-4 mm thick.

The second type is Finney Creek Incised *var. Chitto* (Figure 6). It is defined by a band of more-or-less vertical incised lines beginning 2-3 cm below the lip. There are no horizontal bounding lines above or below the incised zone. The incised lines are thin, shallow, 3-4 cm long, are irregularly oriented, and spaced 2-10 mm apart. The decoration appears almost brushed or scratched rather than incised. One vessel section is present and represents a beaker with a 30 cm orifice diameter. The vessel section is made of a fine sandy paste while a sherd from a different vessel has a fine sandy-clayey paste with coarse sand temper. This type was only collected at one site (Table1). The temporal placement of this type is unknown.

Ten sherds with a fine sandy (Alexander?) paste or a blocky clayey/sandy paste exhibit indeterminate incised lines. The five sherds from 16WA206 are stylistically similar to Jaketown Simple Stamped *var. Sorrento* (Weinstein and Rivet 1978:76). The incised lines are wider spaced and much sharper than those seen on the Finney Creek Incised vessel. One fine sandy paste sherd exhibits multiple shallow, neat, curvilinear incised lines drawn on a leather-hard surface. The nature of the lines is more similar to later types like Leland or Winterville Incised than a Tchefuncte or Marksville style.



Figure 6. Finney Creek Incised *var. Chitto*; 16WA206.

The Broussard collection documents upland use from the Tchula through late Mississippian periods. While hardly surprising given the general paucity of contract archaeology in this region, there are few ceramic assemblages from the uplands of St. Tammany and Washington parishes to compare the Broussard assemblage with. The small sherd sizes and paucity of decoration make it difficult to assess how the occupational intensity may have varied over time. Nearly all of the ceramics appear to have been locally produced using whatever clays were available in the area of the site. A few examples such as the French Fork Incised sherd indicate that an occasional vessel was manufactured elsewhere and brought to these sites. The presence of significant quantities of untempered sherds, and the low frequency of grog tempering in the Baytown sherds indicates the local clay was sufficiently malleable and strong to be used with minimal tempering. The presence of Guillory and Graveline pastes, particularly at 16ST306, is surprising. As the blocky shell temper is believed to represent crushed *Rangia cuneata* or oyster shell (Erin Nelson, personal communication 2025), the presence of these wares suggests 1) that one or the other bivalve population was living in the Bogue Chitto or middle Pearl River drainage which seems unlikely given that both require brackish waters to breed (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center; <https://invasions.si.edu/>, [accessed 3/14/2025]), or 2) that these ceramics were brought in from elsewhere. As always, more and larger samples from upland southeast Louisiana are needed to assess the trends noted in the Broussard collection.

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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tad Britt: A Donation, a Retirement, and Many Projects

Sadie Whitehurst, Division of Archaeology

Retirement is often a paradox and is especially so in the field of archaeology. Our colleague and friend Tad Britt exemplifies this paradox in every way. After 25 years in federal service, Tad has “retired” from his position as Chief of Archaeology at the National Park Service’s National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT). Before NCPTT, he was Senior Researcher at the US Army Corps of Engineers, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory. With 30+ years dedicated to archaeology internationally and no plans to slow down after retirement (well, not too much), Tad has brought and continues to bring knowledge, collaboration, and research opportunities to Louisiana.

In true Tad fashion, LAS received with much gratitude a donation from his library of 12 boxes of books, reports, and maps for the Annual Meeting Silent Auction. “It’s the best place for them.” The donation contains work that he and many archaeologists rely on throughout their careers. It includes staples of southeastern archaeology, soil science, and geography, such as the original Fisk report and all the early works of Phillips, Ford, and Griffin. The Silent Auction generates proceeds for LAS and that Tad chose to share his library for the group’s benefit is a testament to his generosity of spirit. Picking up the donation from Tad was bittersweet; the sheer amount of books and knowledge in the back of Sadie’s car was enough to prompt a farewell photo.

Tad is still quite active and continues the work on the LSU Campus Mounds, various local projects, and volunteering whenever possible. In retirement he can mostly likely be found fishing, networking, or volunteering on a local archaeological project. Tad welcomes this new chapter with, “I can’t sit still, it’s genetic and I’m always ready to help. Thanks to Sadie and LAS! Peace!”



Archaeological Research Presented in “Posters at the Capitol”

Mark Rees, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

On June 9, 2025, undergraduate students from institutions across Louisiana presented posters on their research to State Legislators and the public in the Rotonda of the Louisiana State Capitol. The first annual “Posters at the Capitol” event was held by the Louisiana Undergraduate Research Association (LaURA).

Ian Robicheaux, President of the Acadiana Chapter of the LAS and Anthropology major at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, presented his poster on “Remote Sensing Applications in Identifying High Probability Archaeological Locales on the South Central Louisiana Coastline.” Ian’s poster was previously presented at the Joint Annual Meeting of the LAS and MAA on February 22, 2025. Ian is a research assistant at the Louisiana Public Archaeology and Osteology Lab at UL Lafayette.

The Posters at the Capitol program and abstracts are available on the LaURA website:

<https://lauranews.org/home/posters-at-the-capitol-3/>



Undergraduate students from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with the Associate Vice President for Research, Dr. Kumer Das (left), President Joseph Savoie (center), and Vice President for Research, Dr. Ramesh Kolluru (right). Ian Robicheaux, President of the Acadiana Chapter of the LAS, to the right of President Savoie.



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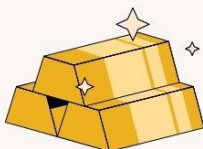
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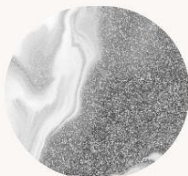
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PRESS RELEASE

Federal Jury Convicts Georgetown Man of Unauthorized Archaeological Digging of Arrowheads and Illegal Possession of a Firearm

Thursday, March 13, 2025

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Louisiana

ALEXANDRIA, La. – Acting United States Attorney Alexander C. Van Hook announced that a federal jury in Alexandria has returned a guilty verdict against **Roy Everett Jordan, Jr.**, 57, of Georgetown, Louisiana, for the unauthorized removal of archaeological resources and illegal possession of a firearm. United States District Judge Dee D. Drell presided over the trial. It took just 30 minutes for the jury to find Jordan guilty of the crimes.

According to information presented in court, in 2022, U.S. Forest Service agents learned that there had been unauthorized digging at four Native American archaeological sites in the Kisatchie National Forest in the Grant Parish, Louisiana. The digging had been done in places where arrowheads and other human-altered stones were known to be present. Through their investigation, agents obtained photo evidence of Jordan being in the area where the digging was taking place. Just a few hours after photo evidence was taken of him conducting unauthorized digging, Jordan made a post on social media about a find that he had made that day in that location and the piece of pottery he found.

A search warrant was obtained for Jordan's residence and upon execution of that warrant, agents found numerous arrowheads and pottery shards. A table covered in a camouflage cloth was found which matched the photo Jordan had posted on social media. In addition, there was an outbuilding/shed on the property that was full of Jordan's belongings and numerous arrowheads and pottery shards in multiple places. Agents found clothing in the shed that matched what Jordan had worn in the photo evidence that was obtained by law enforcement agents. In addition, agents found and seized a loaded ISSC semi-automatic .22 caliber pistol. Jordan has three prior felony convictions prohibiting him from possessing any firearm or ammunition. Testimony by an archaeologist at trial established that the value of the restoration and repair of the disturbed archaeological sites at the Kisatchie National Forest will be greater than \$500.

Jordan faces a sentence of not more than 2 years in prison, a \$20,000 fine, or both, on the conviction for removal of archaeological resources, as well as restitution for the damage caused at the archaeological sites. He also faces a sentence of up to 15 years in prison, and a fine of up to \$250,000, for the firearms conviction. The case was investigated by the U.S. Forest Service and Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys William C. Gaskins and Mike Shannon.

NEW MANUSCRIPT ALERT

MOORE

ARROW POINTS OF TEXAS AND ITS BORDERLANDS

ATM

ARROW POINTS OF TEXAS AND ITS BORDERLANDS

WILLIAM E. MOORE

FOREWORD BY JOHN E. DOCKALL

A NEW USER-FRIENDLY GUIDE TO ARROW POINTS IN TEXAS AND BEYOND . . .

State and federal entities of the relatively new United States may have set borders—but archaeological history does not. *Arrow Points of Texas and Its Borderlands* illuminates surviving archaeological material in the form of Native American arrow points commonly found in Texas and the surrounding regions. After a fourteen-year gap without an updated field book, professional archaeologist and cultural resources consultant William E. Moore has assembled the latest research on typology and distribution to produce this handy guide.

Incorporating points found not only in Texas but also in the nearby areas of Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, and northern Mexico, this book provides, in the words of the foreword by noted lithic specialist John E. Dockall, “a much-needed synthesis of regional and chronological data that will be useful to professional and avocational archaeologists alike.” Indeed, by taking such an approach, Moore helps to alleviate some of the persistent confusion arising from arbitrary boundaries and resulting provincial perspectives.

Including helpful references, a field guide, and distribution maps in addition to detailed illustrations, the book pulls together in a single easy-to-use volume much information that was previously diffused among an array of archives and “gray literature” reports. *Arrow Points of Texas and Its Borderlands* will find a welcome place on the bookshelves of professional and avocational archaeologists and collectors throughout the Southwest.



WILLIAM E. MOORE is a professional archaeologist, consultant, and the owner of Brazos Valley Research Associates in Bryan, Texas. He is the author of several books, including *The Texas Calaboose and Other Forgotten Jails*, as well as articles in local and national magazines.



“Although there have been previous publications devoted to aboriginal projectile points in Texas, this is the first book devoted entirely to a comprehensive review and description of the state’s arrow points. It is also the most up-to-date synthesis on the state’s arrow points and includes information on points not previously included in past publications. However, it is much, much more than simply a listing of arrow points. Besides providing detailed descriptions of 60 named arrow points, one arrow point “form,” and four arrow point categories based on the material out of which the points were fashioned (metal, glass, shell, and gas scales), Moore devotes significant portions of the book towards discussions on what constitutes an arrow point, the raw material classes out of which arrow points were fashioned, and the numerous books, bulletins, journals, newsletters, and databases utilized in compiling the publication. Perhaps most interesting is a section devoted to the history of arrow point typology in Texas and adjacent states. I strongly recommend this book to anyone interested in the prehistory of Texas and its Native American cultures.”

—Richard A. Weinstein
Coastal Environments, Inc.



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TRIVIA

Chip McGimsey

Originally published in the April 2025 Houston Archaeological Society Newsletter, written by Louis Aulbach.

Why Standard Railroad Gauge is a Certain Width

The United States standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates designed American railroads. Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing. Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long-distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts. So, who built those old, rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long-distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since. And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore, the U. S. standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever. Now, the twist to the story. The next time you are handed a specification/procedure/process and wonder "What horse's ass came up with this?"—you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses (two horses' asses).



LAS CHAPTERS

Acadiana Chapter

The Acadiana Chapter of the LAS meets regularly and hosts a speaker series in partnership with the Anthropology Society at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Check our [Facebook](#) page at <https://www.facebook.com/AcadianaLAS/> or email acadianalas@gmail.com for future dates and locations.

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Delta Chapter

The Delta Chapter hosts a monthly speaker series from August through April. The Delta Chapter meets the 4th Thursday of each month at Tulane University, Department of Anthropology, Dinwiddie Hall, at 7 pm in Room 201. For more information, email Brian Ostahowski at brian.ostahowski@gmail.com.

The Delta Chapter has a Facebook page at:
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LAS Newsletter Information

The *Newsletter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society* is published digitally three times a year for the society. Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) members receive email invitations for *Newsletter* content and regular notifications with links to the online *Newsletter*. Past issues of the *Newsletter* are available on the [LAS website](https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/) at <https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/>

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Membership Information

LAS members receive the digital *Newsletter*, one print copy of the annual LAS Bulletin, *Louisiana Archaeology*, and are invited to attend the annual LAS meetings. Annual membership dues are: \$30 for individuals; \$5 for associated family members; \$15 for students (with a valid student ID); \$45 for institutions such as libraries and universities. Life memberships for individuals or institutions are \$300. Members can also choose among the following chapter affiliations: Acadiana; Baton Rouge; Delta; Northwest; West Louisiana.

Visit the [LAS website](https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/) at <https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/> to join or renew. Membership requests, dues, and changes of address can also be directed to the LAS Treasurer:

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Make checks payable to the *Louisiana Archaeological Society*.

LAS publications, including issues of *Louisiana Archaeology*, as well as shirts, hats, and other gear can be ordered from the [LAS website](https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/) at: <https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/>



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