

# NOTES

## NEW FOLSOM POINT FINDS FROM EASTERN TEXAS

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### ABSTRACT

*Largent et al. (1991) document 86 localities with 329 Folsom points found mainly in the Panhandle/Plains, Trans-Pecos, and Central Texas regions. Folsom finds are rare in the eastern region of Texas. To add to the data set on Folsom points, additional information and/or clarification is provided on several Folsom points and new localities found in eastern Texas.*

*Keywords: Folsom, Texas, lanceolate points, hunters, Prairies.*

Largent et al. (1991) recently studied the distribution of Folsom occupations (ca. 9000-8000 BC) in Texas, and documented 86 Folsom localities with 329 Folsom points. Although most Folsom points have been found in the Panhandle/Plains, Trans-Pecos, and Central Texas regions (Largent et al. 1991:Figure 1, 2), these authors' statistical analysis of site distributions concludes that the current pattern reflects county size and the intensity of archaeological investigations. Thus "the present distribution of Folsom localities does not provide insights into regional Folsom settlement patterns. Unfortunately, this will have to wait for a larger data set" (Largent et al. 1991:330). To that end, this paper offers further evidence of Folsom points in Texas, specifically information on new finds from the eastern portion of the state.

Six Folsom points from six localities were noted by Largent et al. (1991:327) in the East Texas region. Several other East Texas localities with Folsom points are known that were not considered by Largent et al. (see Story 1990:Table 44 and Figure 26). One of the more interesting Folsom localities in East Texas was found by an

avocational archaeologist at a site on the Neches River in Henderson County. Exposed by Lake Palestine shoreline erosion, numerous Paleoindian lanceolate projectile points come from deep sand deposits at the site, where projectile point preforms, drills, scrapers, and channel flakes also occur (Perttula 1989:20). Among the 35 Paleoindian lanceolates were a Folsom projectile point, a Folsom preform (e.g., Amick and Rose 1990:Figure 3), and two channel flakes. All of the Folsom tools and debris were manufactured from Alibates agatized dolomite. This material outcrops some 650 km west of the site (Banks 1990:Figure 5.1), but Banks (1990:91-92) notes that Alibates agatized dolomite is widespread in stream gravels along the Arkansas, Canadian, and Red rivers. These major drainages originate on the High Plains and flow east across the plains, so this raw material could occur nearer the Lake Palestine find spot than its bedrock sources.

Richner and Lee (1977:33) report that other Folsom projectile points have been found by collectors in the Palestine locality, Anderson County. This is approximately 25 km east of the Neches River locality described above.

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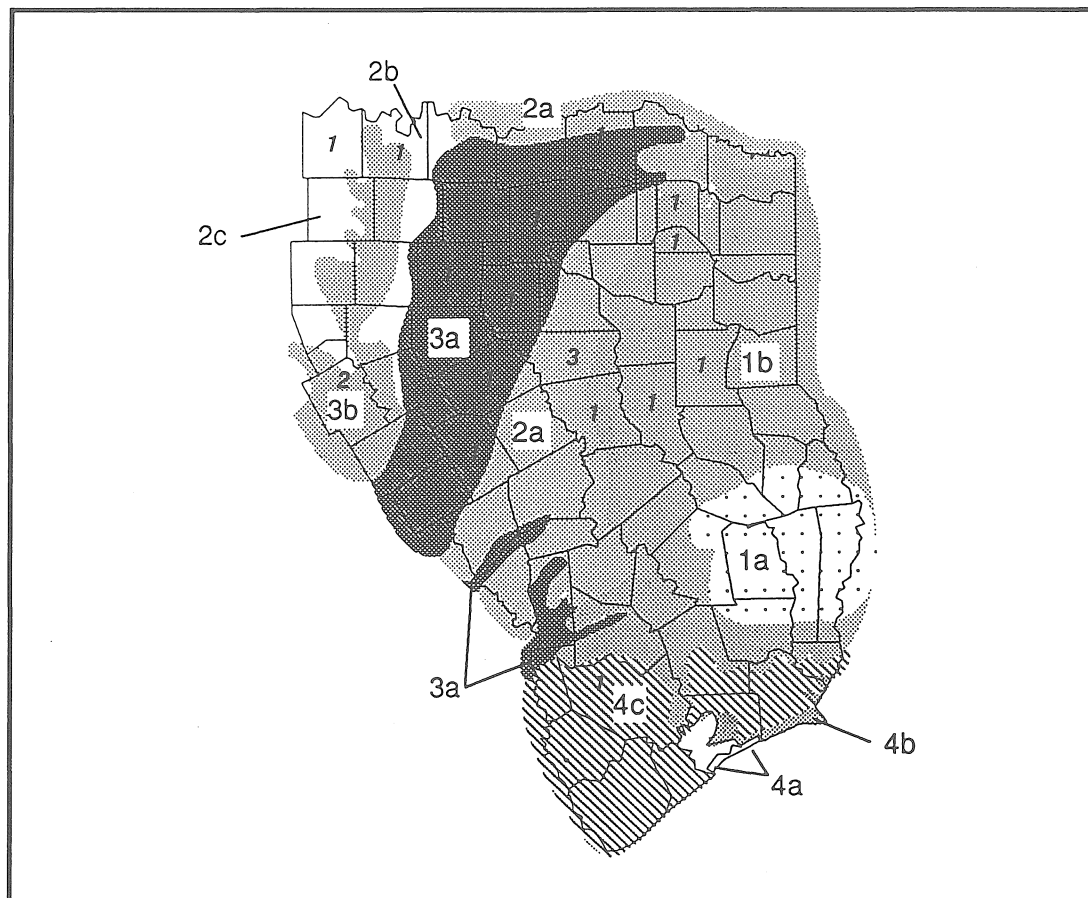


Figure 1. Folsom finds and present-day vegetation communities in eastern Texas. 1. Piney Woods—1a. longleaf pine forest; 1b. mixed pine-hardwood forest. 2. Oak Woods and Prairies—2a. oak woodlands; 2b. eastern cross timbers; 2c. western cross timbers. 3. Blackland Prairies —3a. blackland prairie; 3b. grand prairie. 4. Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes— 4a. dunes/barrier; 4b. estuarine zone; 4c. upland prairie and woods.

Another Folsom or Folsom-like projectile point is reported by Thurmond (1990:54, 152) from site 41CP27. This site is on an upland projection along Lilly Creek in the Cypress Creek drainage basin. Several other Paleoindian lanceolate projectile points were found at the site, including one Plainview and four Meserve (Thurmond 1990:152).

Folsom lanceolates have been reported from the Blackland Prairie portions of the North and South Sulphur rivers in Hunt, Delta, and Lamar counties (Carley 1988). There, the deep and extensive channel cutting of the North and South Sulphur rivers exposes late Pleistocene alluvial deposits containing various Paleoindian cultural

remains (Carley 1988; Perttula 1989). Of the 128 Paleoindian projectile points documented by Carley (1988), a single Folsom lanceolate has been recovered from the South Sulphur River channel. A Midland lanceolate was also found in another area of South Sulphur River channel deposits. In situ Folsom occupation zones have yet to be located in the Sulphur River drainage basin, however, or anywhere else in eastern Texas.

Largent et al. (1991:Table 1) report one Folsom locality and one Folsom point from Henderson County in the East Texas region, but they list two different sites from the county: Wild Bull (41HE61) on Cedar Creek, and Cope Sand Pit (X41HE134; the X-prefix indicates the site trino-

mial was assigned by Southern Methodist University) on a Trinity River Pleistocene terrace. A medial section of a Folsom point came from excavations at Wild Bull (Story 1990:181). Richner and Bagot (1978:147-150) report Folsom, Scottsbluff, Meserve, and Plainview point types were collected from the sand quarrying operations at Cope Sand Pit. These Paleoindian lanceolates were manufactured on nonlocal gray and black cherts (Richner and Bagot 1978:150).

With the Lake Palestine locality, three Folsom localities are now known for Henderson County. Including the Anderson County, Sulphur River, and Camp County localities in these totals, and adding them to the tabulations of Largent et al. (1991:Table 1), 10 Folsom localities and at least 10 Folsom projectile points are known for the East Texas region.

An additional Folsom locality is reported from the North Central region. A single Folsom point medial section was found at the Cobb-Pool site (41DL148), located on an alluvial terrace of Mountain Creek, a tributary of the West Fork of the Trinity River (Peter and McGregor 1988:146). The specimen was manufactured of a high quality, dark gray chert that is probably of Central Texas origin. Based on this find, there have been 10 Folsom points documented in North Central Texas from 6 localities.

Largent et al. (1991:Table 1) list two Folsom points and two Folsom localities in Bosque County, Texas, which is in their Central Texas region. The points and localities are from deep deposits in the north and south ends of Horn Shelter 2 (41BQ46), a major Paleoindian occupation in a bluff along the Brazos River (Forrester 1985; Redder 1985; Story 1990). Story (1990:189) reports, however, that three Folsom points have been found at the site, two from excellent context in the shelter's south end and the other from the shelter's north end. The additional Folsom find means that 53 Folsom projectile points have been recovered in Central Texas from 25 localities.

The additional Folsom projectile points and localities (Fig. 1) described here supplement the spatial data on the distribution of Folsom points. But they do not alter the basic fact that Folsom occupations are uncommon in eastern Texas (Story 1990:189). Story speculates that the

wooded regions of eastern Texas in the Late Pleistocene (e.g., Bryant and Holloway 1985; Collins and Bousman n.d.) "were unattractive to the Folsom folks, probably because their knowledge of natural resources was focused on grassland species." Thus, the few Folsom projectile points and localities known in eastern Texas seem to represent an occasional use of Late Pleistocene forests by very mobile hunters who typically exploited prairie resources such as bison. Similar but more extensive use of eastern Texas forests has been documented from ca. 8000-7000 BC by groups Johnson (1989:v) has dubbed Late Paleoindian plainsmen interlopers.

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