

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS  
AT EISENHOWER PARK,  
NORTHERN BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

A. Joachim McGraw

Center for Archaeological Research  
The University of Texas at San Antonio  
Archaeological Survey Report, No. 167

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A. Joachim McGraw

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## **ABSTRACT**

During December 1985, a cultural resources assessment was made within the 350-acre property of Eisenhower Park in northern Bexar County, Texas. Systematic survey of the property and limited subsurface testing at four newly recorded and two previously recorded prehistoric sites were done. All sites are characterized by a deflated scatter of lithic debris. None of the sites examined are deemed potentially eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places or to be designated as a State Archeological Landmark.



## INTRODUCTION

During December 1985, personnel from the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), conducted an intensive archaeological survey and limited testing within the 350-acre property of Eisenhower Park in northern Bexar County, Texas. The work was conducted under contract between the City of San Antonio, Parks and Recreation Department, and the CAR-UTSA (City Ordinance 61584, October 10, 1985, and letter of transmittal dated October 14, 1985). The purpose of the work was to assess the significance of identified archaeological sites and their potential for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and/or to be designated as a State Archeological Landmark. The investigations were carried out by A. Joachim McGraw and Bruce Ellis of the Center staff during the period from December 4-17. The project was conducted under Texas Antiquities Committee Permit No. 522. All work was done under the general direction of Thomas R. Hester, Center Director, and Jack D. Eaton, Associate Director. The maps and artwork for the cover for this report were drawn by Bruce Ellis, and the artifact illustrations were drawn by Cathy Dodt.

## FIELD METHODOLOGY

Field methodology consisted of two distinct but related elements: (1) as close as possible to a 100% intensive surface survey of the park area, and (2) limited subsurface examination in the form of multiple 50-cm<sup>2</sup> shovel tests across individually defined site areas. While pedestrian surveys found some areas, due to the density of vegetation and nature of the terrain, difficult to traverse, all park property was inspected and assessed.

Following the relocation of two previously recorded sites (41 BX 395 and 41 BX 399) and the identification of four additional sites (41 BX 700, 41 BX 701, 41 BX 702, 41 BX 703), a change was initiated in the investigative strategy. After intensive survey, assessment of the sites investigated, and redefinition of the material and physical characteristics of the prehistoric activity areas, subsurface examination (multiple 50-cm<sup>2</sup> shovel tests) was considered to be more productive, practical, and cost-effective than the previously recommended (Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad 1978:343-344) mapping of the site area(s) (see Site Descriptions, 41 BX 395 and 41 BX 399, for a detailed discussion for this change of methodology). Subsurface testing in all identified site areas was conducted not only to identify the vertical depth (or lack of) of material deposits but also to verify the extent of site deflation and depositional integrity; if present. In all recorded site areas, intensive survey suggested extensive if not severe natural deflation of activity locations. Given the density of juniper and difficulty of access because of slope and terrain, the mapping of scattered, deflated lithic debris was considered to be unproductive and ineffectual.

The field survey was accomplished by two persons spaced at 20 to 35-m intervals, depending upon terrain and ground cover. Subsurface testing was based upon a judgmental sampling procedure in which the horizontal site limits were defined and material concentrations noted, if any. Systematic interval sampling across the individual site areas was utilized when no identifiable materials were readily observed; the frequency of sampling was

based on a determination of site subsurface potential. All recorded sites were plotted on USGS 7.5' topographic maps and small scale 1:200 project maps furnished by the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department.

All newly assessed locations were recorded on state survey forms, and collections were made of chronologically diagnostic or otherwise significant artifacts. All site locations were revisited to review the accuracy of initial estimates of site description, location, and dimension. Field notes, photographs, collected artifacts, and other site information are on file at the CAR-UTSA.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

The study area is situated on the southern margins of the Edwards Plateau in northern Bexar County. As such, the immediate vicinity of the park area includes the Balcones Fault Zone, a physiographic area identified as a recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer. The Balcones Escarpment separates the Edwards Plateau from the Gulf Coastal Plain to the south and east (Blair 1950; see also Carr 1967). The study area, encompassing an upland hilltop/ridge complex, divides the watershed of two major drainages of northern Bexar County: the Salado Creek drainage to the east and the upper Leon Creek drainage to the west. The major channels of each of these hydrological systems are currently located ca. 1.5 km from the park. In ancient times, the former floodplain of Leon Creek may have been much closer to the western portion of the study area (see Fig. 1).

The physiography of northern Bexar County is characterized by eroded limestone hills dissected by intermittent, deeply incised drainages in relatively wide floodplains. This is, according to modern geological interpretations (W. Hammond, Associate Professor of Geology, UTSA, personal communication), due to a long history of major flooding episodes that have scoured broad, low-lying areas adjacent to otherwise ephemerally flowing stream channels. High energy flash floods are a well-known phenomenon of modern weather patterns in Bexar County, and such episodes are thought to have had their antecedents in much earlier times, since the beginning of the Holocene epoch.

The soil surrounding the study area is of the Tarrant-Brackett series (Freese and Nichols, Inc. 1977). The soil is shallow and calcareous overlying the lower Glen Rose or Edwards Limestone formations.

The flora and fauna of the area have been discussed in some detail by Freese and Nichols, Inc. (1977). Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad (1978:28-29) also present a list of past and modern biota that may have been exploited by aboriginal groups in the area.

The study area forms the southern margins of the Balconian Biotic Province; it also contains a mixture of flora and fauna related to the Tamaulipan and Texan Biotic Provinces to the south and east (Blair 1950). Climax vegetation includes several subgroups of oak as well as mesquite, juniper, shin oak, Texas oak, persimmon, and hackberry. Tamaulipan associated flora, common along the hillslopes, includes catclaw, twisted-leaf yucca, Spanish dagger,

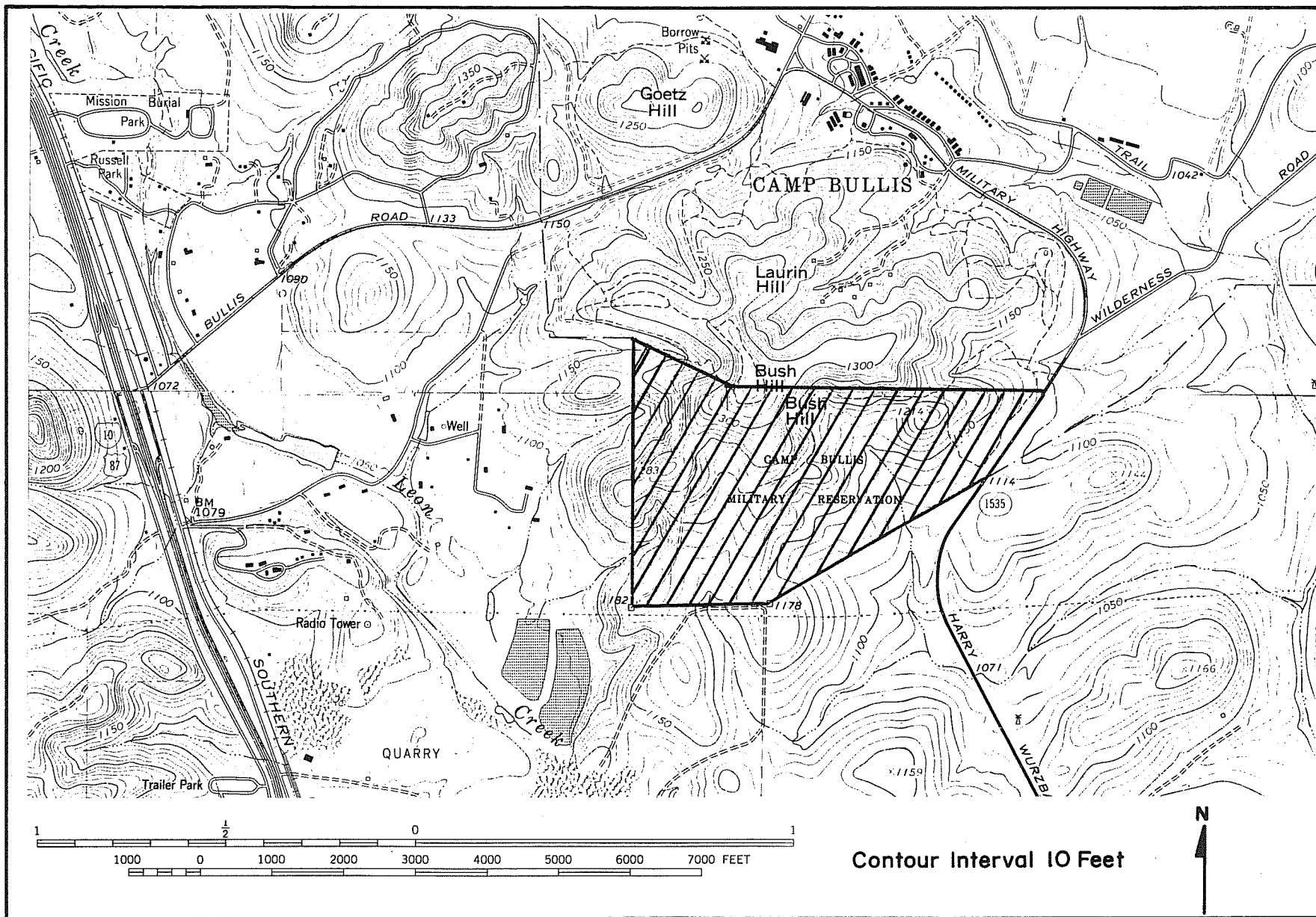


Figure 1. General Location of Study Area. Drawing adapted from USGS 7.5' maps: Camp Bullis Quad and Castle Hill Quad.

sotol, and tasajillo. Indigenous fauna includes white-tailed deer and javelina, as well as a number of smaller animals such as fox squirrel, armadillo, cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, striped skunk, pocket gopher, and a wide variety of snakes.

The area's climate is usually described as modified subtropical and falls within a climatological transition zone of the Edwards Plateau, south-central, and upper coast divisions. Prevailing winds are southeasterly for most of the year except in the winter months. From the years 1931 to 1960, the average winter temperature was 53.7°F, and the average summer temperature was 83.2°F (Taylor, Hailey, and Richmond 1966). Rainfall, especially short-term heavy downpours, are characteristic of this area, and McGraw and Hindes (n.d.) note that Bexar County has the third highest maximum 24-hour recorded rainfall rate in a 17-county area.

In summary, the environmental characteristics are reflective of the Balcones Escarpment of the Edwards Plateau. From an archaeological perspective, the upland natural setting of the study area has influenced both the extent and frequency of aboriginal exploitations.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Within the last 10 years, a number of archaeological investigations have occurred in Bexar County, and such work has contributed significantly to the understanding of quickly diminishing local cultural resources. In many cases, especially northern San Antonio, the extent of identification, documentation, and assessments of a large number of archaeological sites has been overshadowed by the accelerated destruction of additional sites through relic collecting, suburban expansion, and commercial development.

Published archaeological reports concerning Bexar County sites date to the 1930s. It was, however, not until 40 years later that a review of the prehistory of the county was presented by Fawcett (1972), along with the environmental characteristics and description of archaeological sites, to that date, of the area. Following work by Fox (n.d.) and Schuetz (1966), Dibble (1979) conducted a preliminary archaeological survey along portions of Salado Creek in northern Bexar County.

Since 1974, cultural resources management studies have increased the local information base. The Fort Sam Houston/Camp Bullis project reported by Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad (1978) is directly related to this current work and is the source of the original data for the two previously recorded sites (41 BX 395 and 41 BX 399). Studies, such as those conducted by McGraw and Valdez (1978a, 1978b), McGraw, Valdez, and Cox (1977), and more recently, Black and McGraw (1985), have contributed substantially to the understanding of the local archaeological record. Black and McGraw (1985) present a detailed discussion of northern Bexar County and list a local chronological sequence for the area. To a lesser extent, Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad (1978) also present descriptive reviews of major archaeological sites in the northern part of the county. Most recently, McGraw and Hindes (n.d.) have completed an extensive prehistoric, historic Indian, and historical overview

of southwestern Bexar County; their detailed, general background data is applicable to this study area.

A more detailed review of previous research is beyond the scope of this report, and the reader is referred to Black and McGraw (1985), Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad (1978), and McGraw and Hindes (n.d.) for further discussions and references of earlier work in this area.

The chronological framework for northern Bexar County can be traced to at least 9200-8150 B.C. by the occurrence of **Folsom** and **Clovis** Paleo-Indian projectile points recovered from 41 BX 52, ca. 2.5 km southwest of Eisenhower Park along Leon Creek. Paleo-Indian **Plainview** points (ca. 8200 B.C.) have been excavated at 41 BX 229 and also recently reported from an area southwest of 41 BX 52; currently the CAR-UTSA is attempting to redefine site locations here and assess the extent of cultural deposits.

Sites reflecting Archaic period occupations (ca. 5000 B.C.-A.D. 900) dominate the prehistoric record of northern Bexar County. Such sites as 41 BX 228, 41 BX 229, 41 BX 300, and 41 BX 22 represent major occupation areas with recurring activities that often span more than 4000 years of prehistory. These large Archaic campsites are often characterized by accumulations of burned rock, burned rock cluster features, and a wide variety of lithic debris, projectile points, and other stone tools. Chronologically diagnostic (Archaic) projectile points commonly found in northern Bexar County are related, morphologically and in stratigraphic context, to those types commonly recognized for "central Texas." Early Archaic points are Early-Corner Notched, **Martindale**, **Gower**, and **Bell** (ca. 5000-3000 B.C.), as well as later in time types, **Nolan**, **Travis**, and **La Jita** (ca. 3000-2000 B.C.). Middle Archaic index markers include **Pedernales** and **Langtry** (ca. 2000-650 B.C.). **Montell**, **Castroville**, and **Marcos** types (ca. 650 B.C.-A.D. 250) are associated with the Late Archaic period, followed by such types as **Frio** and **Ensor** (A.D. 250-900).

The Late Prehistoric period is represented by such chronological diagnostics as **Scallorn** and **Edwards** arrow points (ca. A.D. 900-1300) and more recent **Perdiz** arrow points (A.D. 1300+) and undecorated **Leon Plain** ceramics. The remains of historic Indian sites and materials are poorly represented in the local archaeological record, although a chert gunflint was collected at site 41 BX 638 along Leon Creek, ca. 4 km south of Eisenhower Park, and the largest collection of prehistoric (or perhaps historic Indian) ceramics was identified at 41 BX 338, ca. 8 km southeast of the project area.

In summary, the archaeological record of northern Bexar County is typified by large occupation sites situated along the terraces of mainstream or tributary channels of the Leon Creek or Salado Creek drainages. Large quarry workshop sites, often more than a kilometer in length, are located along the relatively flat ledge chert exposures of the Edwards formation. Small lithic reduction/workshop sites characterized by evidences of temporary camping activities are commonly found in upland contexts; very often these sites, because of their location on hilltops and slopes, are severely impacted by natural erosion.

## SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Six archaeological sites and one isolated find locality were assessed during current work. Two of the prehistoric site locations, 41 BX 395 and 41 BX 399, were previously recorded. All site assessments are based on surface examination and subsurface testing.

### **41 BX 399** (previously recorded)

Type of Site: Prehistoric lithic workshop area with light (temporary) occupation activities in some scattered locales.

Dimensions: This site extends northward, beyond the survey area, into a restricted Camp Bullis (U.S. Army) military zone. Dimensions of site within survey area are ca. 200 x 150 m.

Location: The site is situated along the top and upper slopes of Bush Hill, in the northwest margins of the park area.

Topographic Context: The site is located on a hilltop and upper slopes. The locale overlooks portions of the Leon Creek floodplain, ca. 0.5 km to the northwest, and has overviews to most of the park area.

Elevations: 1320-1340 feet above mean sea level (msl).

Water Source: The site is located in an upland context with no water source noted within ca. 400 m. Evidences of a small spring, now dry, are situated near the base of Bush Hill, ca. 400 m to the southeast. Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad (1978:146), who recorded the site originally, noted Salado Creek as a water source within one kilometer. This is somewhat of an optimistic projection, given the foreseeable difficulty in negotiating the extremely steep sloping terrain in the direction of this water source. This measurement was also based from a position on Laurin Hill, an additional 400 m northward. Since Salado Creek meanders southeastward, away from the current project area, the distance from Bush Hill to Salado Creek is estimated at two or more kilometers.

Vegetation and Soils: The site and surrounding hilltop areas consist of uncleared thorn brush and dense stands of juniper interspersed with small grassy areas and prickly pear. Some live oak, huisache, hackberry, and mountain laurel were also noted. The soil is composed of a very shallow (often less than 12 cm thick) light yellowish brown calcareous stony matrix overlying limestone. Numerous bedrock exposures along the steep slopes indicate the lack of soil cover and extent of past erosion.

Site Condition: The site is extensively disturbed by long-term natural erosional processes. Because of the steep slopes, lack of soil cover, and erosion, site integrity is considered to be nonexistent.

Site Discussion: The site was first recorded in 1978 by Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad (1978) during survey transects when the area was still part of the Camp Bullis Military Reservation. The location was described as a very low

density lithic scatter, ca. 500 m<sup>2</sup> covering both Laurin and Bush Hills as identified on USGS topographic maps. Three unidentified point fragments were collected from an area ca. 200 m north beyond the present park boundary on the eastern margins of Bush Hill.

Unidentified by Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad (1978:90, Fig. 20,c,g), two of these specimens, although too fragmented for a definitive assessment, do generally follow the morphology of the Uvalde type as described by Turner and Hester (1985:155). This Early Archaic type is only broadly defined across central Texas, and its morphology varies widely. As a result of five transects over the site area an additional three retouched bifaces ("scrapers") were collected, and a light scatter of lithic debris, including core fragments, decorticate and corticate chips, and flakes was noted. No features were noted, and material concentrations were estimated to be along the eastern margins of Bush Hill and toward Laurin Hill farther north (both of these areas are beyond the current project location). The site was briefly summarized as the remains of an Archaic quarry site reflecting initial as well as tertiary lithic reduction activities. Intensive survey and mapping were recommended as further work.

The 1978 site assessment does not agree with the map in the Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad (1978:117, Fig. 34) report that projects a no chert zone across the current project area, which is north of an identified geologic fault line. Additionally, the original site description does not address the widely varying topography of the local area. The described site area includes portions of two hilltops and their slopes--a difference in elevation of at least 80 feet.

Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad (1978:343-344) recommended that, because 41 BX 399 was probably located at a major source of large chert nodules, intensive survey and mapping should be initiated. Site function, material distribution, and physical context were reassessed during this current work, and these evaluations (especially the latter, mapping) were reconsidered. While the 1985 work considered intensive survey combined with systematic subsurface testing to be a necessity in more accurately describing the site, mapping was considered to be more difficult and less productive or useful. This reevaluation was based upon several factors: (1) most of the originally defined site area is located northward beyond the public park's boundary, and only an estimated 10% of the described site area is in current park property; (2) the dense cedar and thorn brush across this portion of the site area would have made mapping of the identified site location extremely difficult and time consuming; and (3) the steep slopes and shallow to nonexistent soils indicated that the physical context of site materials and site integrity as a whole had been severely affected by natural erosion, e.g., colluvial slope wash. The mapping of a disturbed, light scatter of lithic debris formerly transported from upslope locations was not considered to be archaeologically productive. As discussed in the Field Methodology section, subsurface testing in the form of multiple 50-cm<sup>2</sup> shovel tests was utilized to determine the vertical concentration, depth of deposits, and extent of site deflation.

Site 41 BX 399 was relocated and reassessed during current studies. Only a small portion of the site, the southern half of Bush Hill, was included in the park area. The extensive site area to the north was delineated by the

U.S. Army fence line boundary and excluded from any investigations or reassessments.

Systematic transects at ca. 25-35 m intervals through dense juniper indicated extensive exposures of limestone bedrock with shallow (less than 10 cm in depth) to nonexistent soils along the hilltop and slopes. Pockets of soil and organic debris were identified only around stands of juniper. A light scatter of lithic debris (a single artifact per 10-15 m<sup>2</sup>) was observed across the hilltop and upper slopes. No material concentrations or features were noted. Very little burned or fire-reddened rock was identified. Three small dart point proximal fragments (individually described later) were collected from the surface over the upper slopes of the ca. 200-m<sup>2</sup> site area; all three of these were found in erosional washes or lying on bedrock (see Fig. 2). Five 50-cm<sup>2</sup> shovel tests were excavated across the site area to identify the depth of soil deposits as well as the frequency and pattern of subsurface cultural materials. Subsurface testing consisted of a judgmental sampling methodology with units located along the east-west site axis at a consistent interval of ca. 40 m. The results of the shovel testing, screened through 1/4-inch wire mesh, are summarized in Table 1.

#### Artifacts Collected:

Specimen 1 (Fig. 3,a): This specimen is manufactured from a medium grayish brown, fine-grained chert. The blade fragment shows evidence of a snap fracture on the distal end. Minute step fractures along the same end suggest possible reutilization in a scraperlike function. The shoulder of one blade edge has been snapped as well as the basal end on this same side. The remaining morphology of the artifact indicates a basal section with well-defined blade shoulders and a bifurcated base. It is similar to the Late Archaic **Montell** type but more likely is of the **Pedernales** type, dating to the Middle Archaic.

Provenience: Surface.

Measurements: Length, 3.6 cm; width, 3.4 cm; thickness, 0.64 cm; weight, 8.5 g.

Specimen 2 (Fig. 3,b): This reworked basal fragment is of a medium grayish brown, fine-grained chert similar to Specimen 1. The base is strongly curved (concave), and the flared basal corners give it an almost recurved appearance. The stem length is relatively long, ca. 1.9 cm, and may indicate a modification of the original blade notching point by oblique pressure flaking from the basal corners. The artifact is considered to be untyped and has broad similarities to the Early Archaic **Uvalde** type described by Suhm and Jelks (1962:255) and Turner and Hester (1985:155). Black and McGraw (1985:122) also comment on the similarities and differences of the **Uvalde** point to other untyped points of the nearby Salado Creek drainage; unfortunately, the present specimen is too fragmented and reworked for a clearer definition. Given the general characteristics of its morphology, the specimen is estimated to be a variant of the highly variable series known as Early Corner Notched points, found in the region and dating to the Early Archaic.



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information.

TABLE 1. RESULTS OF SUBSURFACE TESTING, 41 BX 399

Shovel Test Number (50 cm <sup>2</sup> )	Depth of Soil Deposit (to bedrock)	Excavated Level	Materials Recovered
1	13 cm	0-10 cm	2 decorticate chips  1 tertiary flake, single faceted platform, fire- reddened
		10-13 cm	1 corticate chip, moderately patinated
2	22 cm	0-10 cm	1 secondary flake  3 decorticate chips  1 tertiary flake, single faceted platform
		10-22 cm	1 decorticate chip
3	17 cm		sterile
4	26 cm	0-10 cm	1 decorticate chip  1 corticate chip
		10-20 cm	1 small burned limestone fragment  1 tertiary flake, multi- faceted platform
		20-26 cm	sterile
5	14 cm	0-10 cm	1 decorticate chip
		10-14 cm	1 decorticate chip

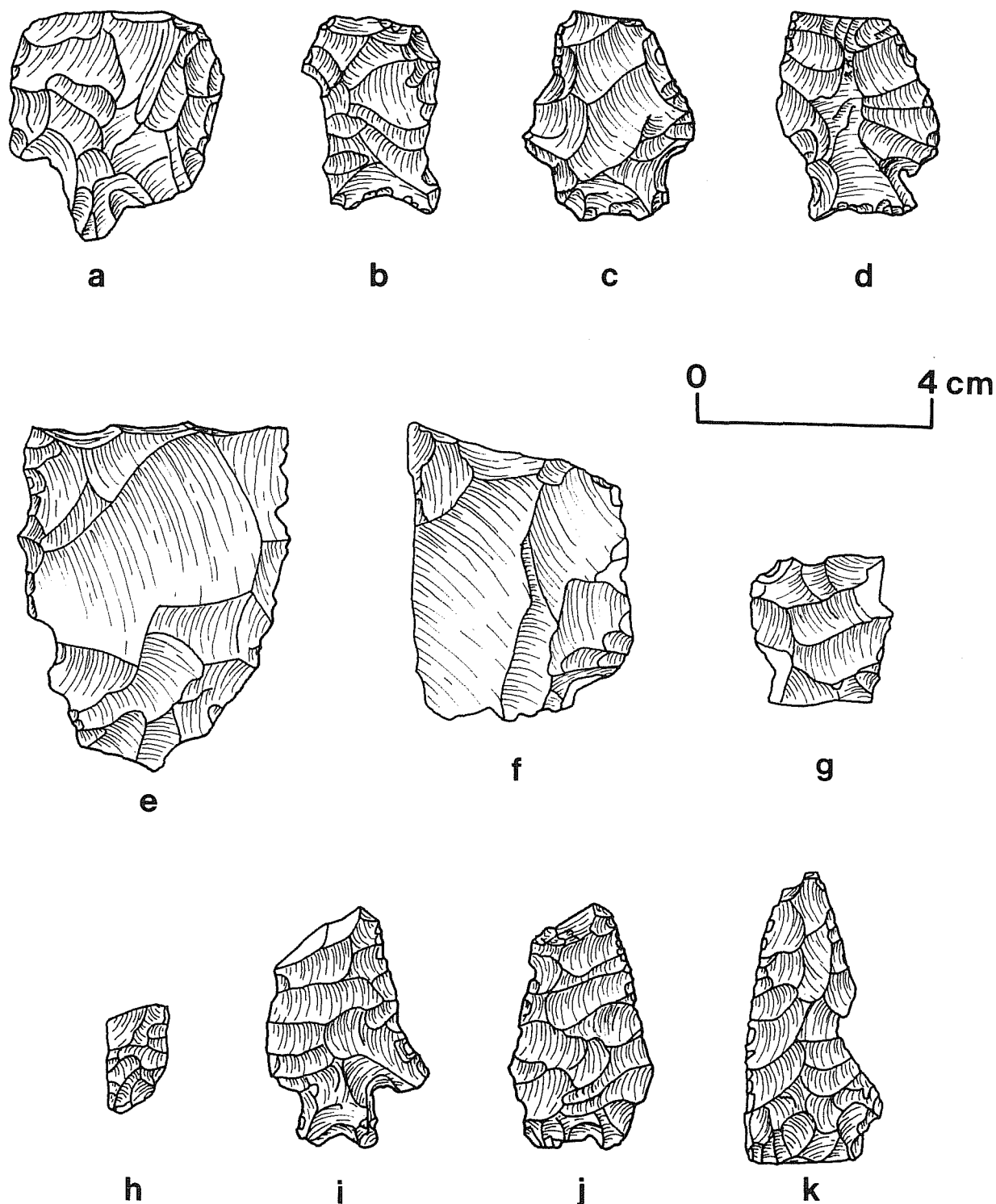


Figure 3. **Collected Artifacts.** a, Specimen 1, 41 BX 399; b, Specimen 2, 41 BX 399; c, Specimen 3, 41 BX 399; d, Specimen 1, 41 BX 395; e, Specimen 1, 41 BX 701; f, Specimen 2, 41 BX 701; g, Specimen 3, 41 BX 701; h, Specimen 4, 41 BX 701; i, Specimen 1, 41 BX 702; j, Specimen 2, 41 BX 702; k, Isolated Find.

Provenience: Surface.

Measurements: Length, 3.0 cm; weight, 2.4 cm; thickness, 1.6 cm; weight, 5.0 g.

Specimen 3 (Fig. 3,c): Extensively patinated on both faces, this projectile point fragment has been reworked. Soft-hammer or pressure flaking resulting in oblique flake scars across the blade (done during reworking?) are reminiscent of the flaking pattern on Specimen 2. Fragmentation of the original artifact precludes type identification; given the degree of patination, flaking pattern, and conjectural original shape, it is estimated the specimen is the remains of a projectile point of Early Archaic age.

Provenience: Surface.

Measurements: Length, 3.3 cm; width, 3.1 cm; thickness, 0.8 cm; weight, 7.5 g.

Site Assessment: The portion of 41 BX 399 that is located within the Eisenhower Park property is characterized by a light, deflated scatter of lithic debris across the upper slopes and crest of Bush Hill. Little evidence of fire-burned rock and no features were observed across the site area, ca. 150 x 200-250 m.

Although Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad (1978:344) suggested this area was a large quarry site, this was not noted in the portion of 41 BX 399 investigated at Eisenhower Park. The lithic scatter observed in this area is thought to represent not a quarry site but a lithic workshop location, primarily reflecting secondary and tertiary lithic reduction processes.

The results of current field work indicate the site area in the vicinity of Bush Hill is completely deflated, and no features or concentrations of materials were noted. The collected projectile point fragments and those recovered by Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad (1978:90, Fig. 20,c,g) suggest the area was exploited during the Early Archaic period. The location of Bush Hill as a high overlook above the Leon Creek drainage to the west and portions of the Salado Creek drainage to the east may account for much of the former functions of this prehistoric site.

Recommendations: Because of extensive and severe site damage by natural erosion and a lack of subsurface soil and cultural deposits, the portion of 41 BX 399 within the boundaries of Eisenhower Park is not considered to be eligible for National Register nomination, nor can it be designated as a State Archeological Landmark. No further work is recommended. It is recommended that the site area be identified on construction plans, so that any further damage may be avoided by future construction activities. It is also recommended the site area be identified to personnel, such as park rangers, who would monitor this location to avoid possible site damage by relic collectors.

#### 41 BX 395 (previously recorded)

Type of Site: A light scatter of prehistoric lithic debris.

Dimensions: ca. 250 x 200 m.

Location: First described by Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad (1978:144) as adjacent to an intermittent drainage and having a site area of 20 x 40 m, current work has substantially increased the site's dimensions. The locale is situated on the slopes of an ephemeral drainage in the south-central margins of the park.

Topographic Context: Upland margins and slopes along an intermittent stream that drains Bush Hill, ca. 700 m northwest.

Elevation: ca. 1065-1090 feet above msl.

Water Source: The closest water source seems to be intermittent run-off from slopes that accumulates in a nearby drainage, ca. 25 m distant. A small (now dry) spring was also identified ca. 400 m northward along the drainage at the foot of Bush Hill. Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad (1978:144) also mention that Salado Creek is within one kilometer. In actuality, the distance is closer to two kilometers.

Vegetation and Soils: Climax vegetation is dominated by a dense growth of juniper throughout the area. Short to medium grasses cover the ground, interspersed with occasional stands of prickly pear cactus. A very thin layer of light brown calcareous soil covers the area, and exposures of limestone bedrock occur frequently.

Site Condition: The site is extensively disturbed by long-term erosion. The original integrity of cultural deposits is severely affected by soil depletion, and the entire site area is considered deflated.

Site Discussion: The site was first identified in 1978 by Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad, who described it as an upland margins site with dimensions of ca. 20 x 40 m. The original surveyors noted the site contained a scatter of core fragments as well as other corticate and decorticate lithic debitage. Recovered from a 2-m<sup>2</sup> surface collection unit were four fragments of debris. Site 41 BX 395 was identified as an initial reduction/chert quality testing site. Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad (1978) recommended a possible controlled surface collection and mapping. It should be noted that, because of the field methodology employed in 1978, representative transect sampling, the full surface extent of the lithic scatter was not realized until intensive survey in 1985.

In the process of relocating 41 BX 395 during current work, it was found that the original site area is the northern limit of a very light scatter of lithic debris that extends southward to the southeastern park boundary for a distance of ca. 250 m. Lithic debris density on the surface of this area was observed to be minimal and, except for the originally defined location, never exceeded one fragment per 20 m<sup>2</sup>. Five 50-cm<sup>2</sup> shovel tests, spaced at ca. 50-m intervals, were excavated along the long axis of this location (site

TABLE 2. RESULTS OF SUBSURFACE TESTING, 41 BX 395

Shovel Test Number (50 cm <sup>2</sup> )	Depth of Soil Deposit (to bedrock)	Excavated Level	Materials Recovered
1	18 cm	0-10 cm 10-18 cm	sterile sterile
2	13 cm	0-10 cm 10-13 cm	1 decorticate chip sterile
3	9 cm		sterile
4	21 cm	0-10 cm 10-21 cm	1 tertiary flake 1 decorticate chip sterile
5	9 cm	0-9 cm	2 corticate chips

width varied from ca. 200 m in the southern portion to ca. 75 m in the northern section). The results of these shovel tests are presented in Table 2.

During the course of intensive survey, which located surface materials concentrated in the northern portion of the site (in the vicinity of the originally defined site area), the proximal portion of a small dart point was found ca. 20 m north of the park fence line in the southern half of the site.

After a consideration of the paucity of both surface and subsurface material as well as the observed site deflation, it was thought that site mapping would accomplish little toward a clearer understanding of site function or significance of material distributions. Efforts were then, through intensive survey, toward the identification of a concentration of surface material, with the intention of establishing a controlled surface collection in this area.

Following the identification of a surface material concentration, a 10-m<sup>2</sup> unit was established in this area for a controlled surface collection. Eight

fragments of lithic debris were collected: five corticate chips, one single-faceted tertiary flake, and two decorticate chips. No other materials, features, or burned rock were noted or collected.

#### Artifacts Collected:

Small Dart Point (Fig. 3,d): The projectile point fragment is characterized by a corner notched, expanding stem and a slightly concave basal end. Blade edges have been extensively reworked, and both barbs are missing. The point is similar in morphology to an unnamed form (D4:2) identified by Black and McGraw (1985:122) as a variety of the Early Corner Notched series, dating to the Early Archaic Period.

Measurements: Length, 3.2 cm; width, 2.6 cm; thickness, 0.45 cm; weight, 4.5 g.

Site Assessment: Based on intensive survey, limited testing, and controlled surface collection, 41 BX 395 is identified as a lithic workshop site characterized by a light scatter of debitage along the upland margins of an intermittent stream channel. Site dimensions, based on the distribution of a very low surface artifact density, are estimated at 250 x 200 m in the southern portion of the site and narrowing to a width of ca. 75 m in the northern limits. The long axis of the site follows the intermittent drainage channel northward and may indicate a former proximity to a small water source.

Recommendations: Because of the lack of significant cultural materials from the limited testing and controlled surface collection and the overall observed site deflation, site 41 BX 395 is not considered eligible to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places or designated as a State Archeological Landmark. No further work is recommended at this location.

#### **41 BX 700 (newly identified)**

Type of Site: Prehistoric lithic workshop and possibly temporary occupation.

Dimensions: ca. 25 m in diameter.

Location: Approximately 300 m south of Bush Hill and 0.7 km north of the southern fence line of the park.

Topographic Context: Adjacent to the upper slopes (upland margin) of a small, intermittent drainage that received run-off from Bush Hill.

Elevation: 1140 feet above msl.

Water Source: The site is currently situated near a dry tributary channel. A small spring (now dry) ca. 300-400 m upstream may have also once furnished a small amount of water in this channel.

Vegetation and Soils: The site and surrounding area are covered by short to medium grasses. Dense stands of juniper occur along the upland margins with sotol and prickly pear cactus. Some oak and other deciduous trees line the lower slopes of the drainage. The light brown soil is eroded, shallow, and calcareous.

Site Condition: The site is somewhat deflated by natural erosion. No modern adverse impacts were noted.

Site Discussion: Collected from the surface of this site location were five fragments of lithic debris: two small core fragments, one corticate chip, and two small primary flakes. All debris is made of a light tan chert. No burned rock fragments or features were noted in this location. Two 50-cm<sup>2</sup> shovel tests were excavated at this location to a maximum depth of 19 cm (to bedrock). Shovel test 1 recovered one decorticate and two decorticate chips at 7 cm; shovel test 2, ca. 15 m distant, was sterile. No other features or materials were noted or observed.

Artifacts Collected: Only lithic debris as previously discussed were recovered.

Site Assessment: Site 41 BX 700 is believed to be the remains of a small, temporary lithic workshop station, perhaps consisting of a single episode of activity revolving around initial lithic reduction. While such a small, discrete area may shed insights into individual lithic reduction techniques, the extreme paucity of materials and lack of soil depth related to long-term erosion negate the potential research value.

Recommendations: The site does not meet the eligibility criteria for nomination to the National Register or to be designated as a State Archeological Landmark. No further work is recommended in this area.

#### **41 BX 701 (newly identified)**

Type of Site: Prehistoric scatter of lithic debris. Several scattered fragments of burned and fire-fractured limestone rock indicate that temporary camping activities may have occurred at this location.

Dimensions: ca. 50 x 70 m.

Location: At the southern base of Bush Hill and near the head of a small, intermittent run-off channel that meanders southward from this point.

Topographic Context: The locale forms the beginning of a small drainage at the base of Bush Hill. The remains of a small, natural seep spring is located at this point.

Elevation: 1165 feet above msl.

Water Source: In present times, the intermittent drainage is dry. A source of water may have once been found at the small spring (see above).



Vegetation and Soils: Numerous exposures of limestone bedrock outcrop in this vicinity. A medium brown, calcareous soil layer thinly overlies this limestone. Soil depth varies from less than 10 cm to pockets of almost 50 cm (where humus has formed around groups of oak and juniper). Vegetation consists of short grasses and occasionally prickly pear cactus; oak and juniper dominate the climax flora.

Site Condition: Surface and subsurface examinations show little depth of cultural materials, and the site appears deflated.

Site Discussion: This small area of prehistoric activity is characterized by a light scatter of lithic debris composed of corticate and decorticate chips and primary, secondary, and tertiary flakes. Temporary camping activities may be indicated by several small burned rock fragments scattered throughout the site area.

Two thick (more than one centimeter) proximal biface fragments, one medial projectile point fragment, and the barb from a projectile point blade were collected from the surface. A more complete description of this material follows.

Two 50-cm<sup>2</sup> shovel tests were excavated to determine depth and intensity of possible subsurface materials. Shovel test 1, it should be noted, was excavated along a terrace slope in a small pocket of soil ca. 10 m<sup>2</sup> beneath a group of juniper. It is possible that this material actually represents a disturbed, transported collection from farther upslope. A list of the materials collected from the two shovel tests is presented in Table 3.

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TABLE 3. RESULTS OF SUBSURFACE TESTING, 41 BX 701

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Shovel Test No.	Depth of Soil Deposit	Excavated Level	Materials Recovered
1	32 cm	0-10 cm	1 secondary flake 4 decorticate chips 4 corticate chips
		10-20 cm	1 tertiary flake 1 decorticate chip 1 core fragment
		20-32 cm	sterile
2	14 cm	0-10 cm	3 corticate chips 2 decorticate chips 1 tertiary flake
		10-14 cm	sterile

The results of subsurface testing as well as intensive survey of this small lithic scatter indicate that a light scatter of lithic debris exists on the surface and just below the surface at this site location. No features or otherwise significant materials were noted or collected.

#### Artifacts Collected:

Specimen 1 (Fig. 3,e): This specimen consists of a completely patinated triangular biface fragment fractured along the short central axis. Primarily billet flaked, portions of the biface edge are pressure flaked, suggesting edge rejuvenation or perhaps later reutilization.

Provenience: Surface.

Measurements: Length, 5.5 cm; width, 5.14 cm; thickness, 1.25 cm; weight, 33 g.

Specimen 2 (Fig. 3,f): This well-patinated artifact is the proximal fragment of a thick biface. The ventral edge is characterized by marginal edge retouch in the form of pressure flaking; all other flake scars across ventral and dorsal faces appear to be soft hammer percussion flaked.

Provenience: Surface.

Measurements: Length, 3.35 cm; width, 4.45 cm; thickness, 1.14 cm; weight, 24.5 g.

Specimen 3 (Fig. 3,g): This specimen is the medial fragment of a small, thin biface thought to have probably functioned as a projectile point. Knapped from a coarse-grained tan chert, the artifact is extensively patinated.

Provenience: Surface.

Measurements: Length, 2.30 cm; width, 2.26 cm; thickness, 0.70 cm; weight, 5.0 g.

Specimen 4 (Fig. 3,h): This small, finely worked projectile point barb is completely patinated. While it is not possible to identify the diagnostic context of the original artifact, it is suggested the morphology of this fragment is similar to other Early Archaic projectile points known as Bell (cf. Turner and Hester 1985:72).

Provenience: Surface.

Measurements: Length, 1.60 cm; width, 0.94 cm; thickness, 0.33 cm; weight, 0.5 g.

Site Assessment: Artifact recovery frequency was minimal from both intensive survey and subsurface testing. The presence of a fragmentary barb from a dart point (Early Archaic?) suggests at least some activities from this small lithic workshop site may be related to the Early Archaic.

Recommendations: The site does not meet the eligibility requirements for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places or to be designated as a State Archeological Landmark. No further work is recommended at this location.

#### 41 BX 702

Type of Site: Prehistoric lithic scatter.

Dimensions: ca. 120 x 75 m.

Location: Approximately 0.85 km east of the western park fence line and 0.75 km south of Bush Hill.

Topographic Context: Along an upland ridge.

Elevation: 1125 feet above msl.

Water Source: None within 400 m; an intermittent drainage lies ca. 400 m to the east.

Vegetation and Soils: Short grasses and juniper cover the site area. The soil in the area is thin (less than 12 cm), tan-colored, and calcareous with numerous limestone bedrock exposures.

Site Condition: The site is extensively eroded and deflated.

Site Discussion: A light scatter of lithic debris, with a density of less than two artifacts per 25 m<sup>2</sup>, characterizes the surface of this site. Corticate and decorticate chips dominated the surface materials observed. Two small proximal projectile point fragments (described in more detail following) were surface collected from the site.

In addition to intensive survey, two 50-cm<sup>2</sup> shovel tests were excavated to depths of 35 cm across the site area. Both test units were sterile, and no features or other significant materials were noted in surface or subsurface contexts.

#### Artifacts Collected:

Specimen 1 (Fig. 3,i): This extensively patinated specimen is characterized by broad corner notching and a slightly expanding stem with a small concave basal end. Blade edges are recurved, suggesting previous blade edge modification or resharpening. The unidentified point fragment is generally similar to Group 4, Form 1, unnamed Early Expanding Stem varieties from 41 BX 228 (Black and McGraw 1985:121-123).

Provenience: Surface.

Measurements: Length, 3.74 cm; width, 2.68 cm; thickness, 6.8 cm; weight, 6.1 g.

Specimen 2 (Fig. 3,j): This artifact, untyped, is distinguished by its extensively reworked blade and shoulders. Reworking of the blade has altered the shape to where its original morphology can no longer be easily identified. The lack of patination suggests a relatively younger age than Specimen 1.

Provenience: Surface.

Measurements: Length, 3.94 cm; width, 2.28 cm; thickness, 0.57 cm; weight, 5.5 g.

Site Assessment: Site 41 BX 702 is identified as a light scatter of lithic debitage in an upland context. It is thought to represent the remains of a temporary workshop station that has been extensively affected and deflated by natural erosional processes. The presence of two broken projectile points suggests at least some (Early Archaic?) upland activity in this area, and the relative lack of patination on Specimen 2 may indicate later, sporadic, and temporary interest.

Recommendations: Because of the infrequency of materials, lack of subsurface materials, and eroded and damaged site condition, no further work is recommended in this area. The site does not meet the eligibility requirements to be nominated to the National Register or to be designated as a State Archeological Landmark.

#### 41 BX 703

Type of Site: A light scatter of prehistoric lithic debris.

Dimensions: ca. 75 x 50 m.

Location: Along the upper slopes of an extensive ridge complex near the south-central margins of the park area.

Topographic Context: The site is situated on the southeastern slopes of an extensive upland hill/ridge complex. The overview, to the southeast, is quite extensive, and is in the general direction of the Salado Creek drainage, ca. 1.7 km away.

Elevation: 1160 feet above msl.

Water Source: None noted. The site is within a distinctly upland context. A small, intermittent drainage in the vicinity of 41 BX 395 is located ca. 350 m to the east.

Vegetation and Soils: Short grasses and scattered stands of juniper cover the site area. Extensive exposures of bedrock indicate a shallow to non-existent thin, calcareous soil zone.

Site Condition: Severely deflated by natural erosional processes.

Site Discussion: Over the site area is a light to very light scatter of decorticate and corticate chips and an occasional flake. Several fragments of this debitage were observed to be laying on exposed bedrock along the slope. A single 50-cm<sup>2</sup> shovel test was excavated in a shallow soil deposit near the upper site margins. Although the test unit was excavated to bedrock, ca. 15 cm, no cultural materials were uncovered. No chronologically diagnostic or otherwise significant features were recovered or observed in the site area.

Site Assessment: Site 41 BX 703 is similar to the other light scatters of lithic debris identified and assessed in the study area. It is characterized by a paucity of cultural remains in a severely disturbed context. No features or significant materials were noted.

Recommendations: No further work is recommended at this site. The site does not meet eligibility requirements to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places or to be designated as a State Archeological Landmark.

#### ISOLATED FIND LOCALITY

A single small projectile point fragment was recovered during survey transects in the south-central portion of the study area, ca. 200 m north of 41 BX 703 and 400 m west of 41 BX 702 (Fig. 2). This artifact (Fig. 3,k) consists of the lateral blade edge of a small, thin biface. Extensive fracturing along the end and side of the blade precludes identification of proximal and distal ends. The intact blade edge reflects distinctive, steep edge beveling. The specimen is moderately patinated and may be the remains of an extensively reworked lanceolate biface.

Measurements: Length, 6.68 cm; width, 2.25 cm; thickness, 6.7 cm; weight, 9.0 g.

#### SUMMARY

A detailed examination of the two previously recorded archaeological sites as well as four newly identified locations indicates the study area has been severely affected by a long history of natural erosional processes. This has led to the deflation of cultural materials which were once deposited on shallow soils in sloping, upland contexts. This interpretation of the physical contexts of these aboriginal sites in this area has led to some changes in the investigative strategy and field methodology for this current work in contrast to previous, preliminary recommendations (Gerstle, Kelly, and Assad 1978). It is felt that the current approach of intensive survey, selective subsurface testing, and appropriately controlled surface collection more effectively and accurately assess the integrity and significance of the sites in this area.

The aboriginal sites of the project area reflect a long history of sporadic, temporary activities across the upland landscape between the Leon Creek and Salado Creek watersheds. The value of these deflated sites in eroded, upland contexts does not lie in the significance of the (disturbed) material

evidence but in the identification of such sites in their physiographic and chronological contexts. Such data should offer broader insights of prehistoric patterns of exploitation, especially in Early Archaic times, to future researchers of the archaeological record of Bexar County.

Although the cultural resources identified in the Eisenhower Park study area require no further work, do not meet the eligibility requirements for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and cannot be designated as a State Archeological Landmark, it is necessary to address the preservation of these cultural remains. Most importantly, as the park becomes developed, there is a real danger of accelerated sites destruction by random or, as in other areas of the Salado Creek drainage, systematic illegal relic collecting. Such effects can in a large part be mitigated by the awareness of park personnel and the formal and informal continued monitoring of these site locations. The value of these cultural resources and the legacy of their material remains are a significant aspect of this modern wilderness park. The public's awareness and enjoyment of the natural resources of Eisenhower Park today is another aspect of the continued exploitation of this same natural setting as in past times.

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