Late-Paleoindian and Archaic Archaeological and Geoarchaeological Research along Leon Creek, San Antonio, Texas

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Investigations at 41BX47 in the upper Leon Creek Valley, Bexar County, Texas, documented numerous late Paleoindian through late-Archaic occupations in five terrace deposits along Leon Creek (Tennis 1996). Test excavations exposed 78 burned-rock features. Based on feature density and site size, an estimated 4,000–5,000 burned-rock features probably exist on this 1,500,000-m^2 site in the floodplain of Leon Creek.

We identified five alluvial land forms (T0–T4 terraces) and five alluvial units (I–V) (Figure 1). The highest terrace (T4) is 5–6 m above the low-water channel. Two units (I and II) compose the T4 terrace fill. Carbonate morphology of the sediments in the upper portion of Unit I suggests a late-Pleistocene age. One ^{14}C assay on Unit II channel sediments and associated buried soil inset into Unit I dates to 5,810 ± 50 yr B.P. (Beta-81546).

The T3 terrace fill, 4.5–5 m above the channel, consists mainly of Unit II sediments. Channel deposits in the T3 terrace fill, a facies of Unit II sediments, date to 7,440 ± 100 yr B.P. (Beta-81547). We discovered burned-rock features at two depths in this same channel. Charcoal from a burned-rock hearth 175 cm below the surface dates to 7,920 ± 50 yr B.P. (Beta-82227). Lying 50 cm above this hearth were two other circular clusters of burned rocks. Midway between these two hearth features was a Texas Angostura point base (Turner and Hester 1993). The point is 34 mm long and terminates with a transverse snap fracture. Grinding extends 16–17 mm from the base along both sides.

Higher in the T3 terrace fill, a large number of early-Archaic hearths were discovered; a smaller number of middle- to late-Archaic hearths, rock ovens, and burned-rock middens were present even higher in the profile. Charcoal in one of the middle-Archaic hearths returned a radiocarbon assay of 4,390 ± 50 yr B.P. (Beta-82228). No archaeological materials were recovered from the other terraces.

References Cited

Tennis, C. L. 1996 *Archaic Land Use of Leon Creek Terraces: Archaeological Testing in Northern Bexar County, Texas.* Archaeological Survey Report, No. 234. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Turner, E. S., and T. R. Hester 1993 *A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians.* Second Edition. Gulf Publishing, Houston.

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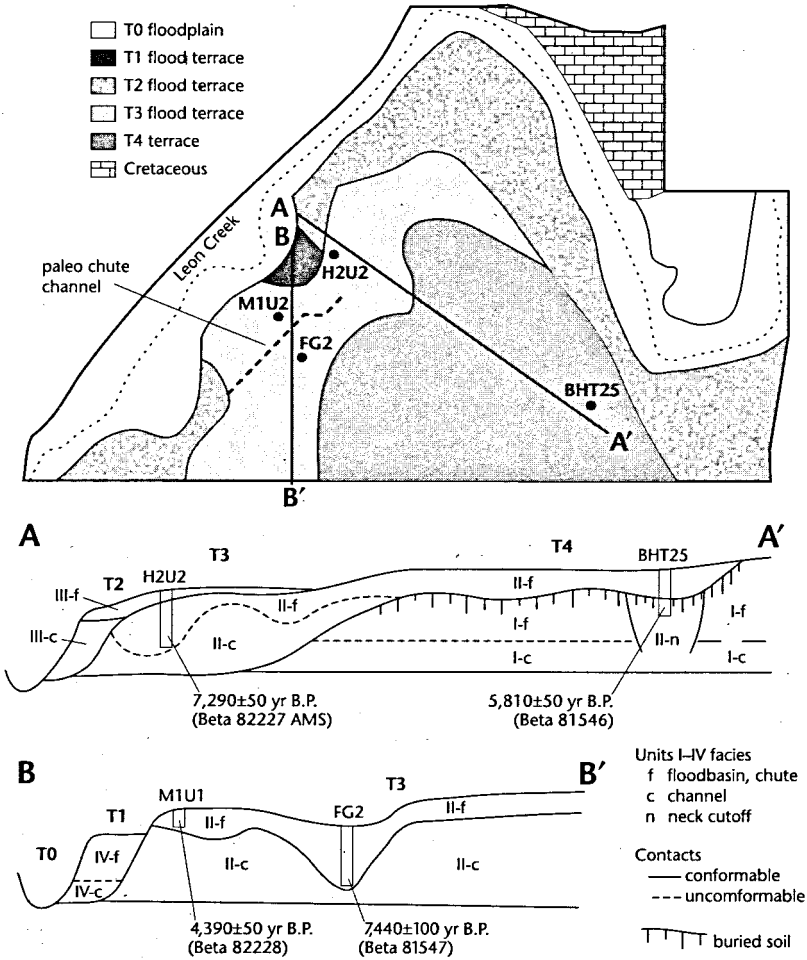

Figure 1. Geomorphic map and composite stratigraphic cross section.

A Multiple-fluted Folsom Manufacture Failure from South Texas

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An unusual Folsom point, recently recovered from site 41MV127 in south Texas, is described in detail. The point is an unfinished manufacture-broken

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