

Late Prehistoric Points from Fort Polk, Louisiana

Friley
(1300–900 B.P.)



Attributes: small triangular blade with pronounced outward and commonly upward flaring shoulders, and a small expanding stem with a straight or convex base.

Related Types: Catahoula.

Definition Reference: Bell 1960.

Range: western Louisiana and eastern Texas. High occurrence at Fort Polk.

Catahoula
(1300–900 B.P.)



Attributes: long slender triangular blade with straight to slightly incurvate or excurvate margins, large rounded or squared outflaring barbs, and a small squared to slightly expanding stem with a straight to convex base.

Related Types: Catahoula Perforator.

Definition Reference: Webb and Gregory 1986.

Range: occurs widely throughout Louisiana and eastern Texas. Medium occurrence at Fort Polk.

Scallorn
(1300–800 B.P.)



Attributes: a triangular blade with finely serrated straight to slightly incurvate or excurvate lateral margins, pronounced barbed shoulders, corner-notches, and a wide expanding stem with a straight to slightly convex or concave base.

Related Types: Colbert and Alba.

Definition Reference: Williams and Brain 1983.

Range: occurs widely across Texas and Louisiana. Medium occurrence at Fort Polk.

Alba
(1200–650 B.P.)



Attributes: triangular blade with straight to slightly incurvate or excurvate lateral margins, pronounced squared to barbed shoulders, and a small square to slightly expanding stem with a straight base.

Related Types: Bonham, Colbert, Scallorn.

Definition Reference: Suhm and Jelks 1962, Pertulla 2004.

Range: widely throughout northern Louisiana, northeast Texas, and southwestern Arkansas. High occurrence at Fort Polk.

Colbert
(1150–400 B.P.)



Attributes: triangular blade with finely serrated incurvate or excurvate lateral margins, pronounced squared and barbed shoulders, and an expanding stem with a straight base. The shoulders are often quite wide, giving the blade a concave appearance.

Related Types: Alba.

Definition Reference: Webb 1963.

Range: eastern Texas and in adjoining parts of Louisiana and Arkansas. High occurrence at Fort Polk.

Livermore
(1150–600 B.P.)



Attributes: long slender blade, pronounced squared to flaring shoulders, and a narrow stem with a convex base. The blade margins are steeply concave and sometimes serrated, while the stem may range from expanding to contracting to squared.

Related Types: Alba.

Definition Reference: Kelley et al 1940.

Range: western Texas. Low occurrence at Fort Polk.

Hayes
(1000–500 B.P.)



Attributes: long slender triangular blade, large squared shoulders, and a small diamond-shaped stem distinguished by a pointed to slightly rounded base. The tip is commonly sharply pointed, while the point body above the shoulders contracts markedly, giving the blade margin an incurvate, straight, and then incut appearance from the shoulder to the tip. The point is finely retouched and the blade margins are sometimes serrated.

Related Types: Alba, Bonham.

Definition Reference: Newell and Krieger 1949.

Range: occurs widely throughout Louisiana and into northeastern Texas. Medium occurrence at Fort Polk.

Perdiz
(800–500 B.P.)



Attributes: triangular blade with straight lateral margins, pronounced barbed shoulders, and a long contracting stem that is usually pointed or less commonly rounded or even straight. Barb size and shape varies appreciably; on some specimens the width at the barbs may exceed the overall point length.

Related Types: Bassett, Clifton.

Definition Reference: Kelley 1947.

Range: occurs widely across Texas and Louisiana. High occurrence at Fort Polk.

Note: The example on the left is indicative of what is found at Fort Polk. The one on the right is an example of the typology definition.

Clifton
(800–500 B.P.)



Attributes: triangular blade, pronounced squared shoulders, and a short contracting stem. Crudely made, the form typically has little or no fine retouch. Possible preform for Perdiz points.

Related Types: Perdiz.

Definition Reference: Krieger 1946.

Range: occurs widely across southern and eastern Texas and into Louisiana. Medium occurrence at Fort Polk.

Bonham
(800–500 B.P.)



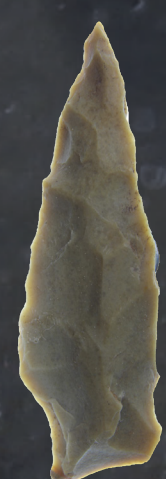
Attributes: triangular blade with straight to slightly convex lateral margins, pronounced squared shoulders with small barbs, and a small rectangular stem with a straight to slightly convex base.

Related Types: Alba.

Definition Reference: Krieger 1946.

Range: northeastern Texas and western Louisiana. Medium occurrence at Fort Polk.

Bayougoula
(800–500 B.P.)



Attributes: long triangular blade with straight to slightly convex margins, weak shoulders, an expanding fishtail or hourglass shaped stem, and straight or concave bases.

Related Types: none.

Definition Reference: Williams and Brain 1983.

Range: found throughout eastern Louisiana. Low occurrence at Fort Polk.

Note: This is the only example found on Fort Polk.

Fresno
(800–500 B.P.)



Attributes: a stemless, triangular blade with straight to slightly convex or concave lateral margins and a straight base.

Related Types: Mississippian Triangular.

Definition Reference: Suhm et al. 1954.

Range: widely throughout eastern Texas but uncommon in Louisiana. Low occurrence at Fort Polk.

Note: the one on the left is made from Novaculite which is a common material in Arkansas.

Selected References

- Anderson, David G., and Steven D. Smith
2003 *Archaeology, History, and Predictive Modeling Research on Fort Polk, 1972-2002*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.
- Bell, Robert E.
1960 *Guide to the Identification of Certain American Indian Projectile Points*. Special Bulletin No. 2. Oklahoma Anthropological Society, Norman.
- Kelley, J. Charles
1947 *The Lehmann Rock Shelter: A Stratified Site of the Toyah, Uvalde, and Round Rock Foci*. *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society* 18.
- Kelley, J. Charles, T.N. Campbell, and Donald Lehmer
1940 *The Association of Archaeological Materials with Geological Deposits in the Big Bend Region of Texas*. *West Texas Historical and Scientific Society* 10.
- Krieger, Alex D.
1946 *Cultural Complexes and Chronology in Northern Texas*. University of Northern Texas, University of Texas Publication No. 4640, Austin.
- Krieger, Alex D.
1947 *Certain Projectile Points of the Early American Hunters*. *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological and Paleontological Society* 18:7-27.
- Newell, H. P. and A. D. Krieger
1949 *The George C. Davis Site, Cherokee County, Texas*. *Memiors of the Society for American Archaeology*. The Society for American Archaeology and the University of Texas, Menasha.
- Pertulla, Timothy K. (editor)
2004 *The Prehistory of Texas*. Texas A&M Anthropology Series Number 9, Texas A&M University Press, College Station.
- Suhm, Dee Ann, Alex D. Krieger, and Edward B. Jelks
1954 *An Introductory Handbook of Texas Archaeology*. *Texas Archaeological Society Bulletin* 25.
- Suhm, Dee Ann, and Edward B. Jelks
1962 *Handbook of Texas Archaeology: Type Descriptions*. Texas Archaeological Society and Texas Memorial Museum, Austin.
- Webb, Clarence H.
1963 *The Smithport Landing Site: An Alto Focus Component in De Soto Parish, Louisiana*. *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society* 34: 143187.
- Webb, Clarence H., and Hiram G. Gregory
1986 *The Caddo Indians of Louisiana*. 2nd ed. Anthropological Study No. 2, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission, Baton Rouge.
- Williams, Stephen and Jeffrey P. Brain
1983 *Excavations at the Lake George Site, Yazoo County, Mississippi, 1958-1960*. *Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology*, Harvard University, Volume 74.

Cuney
(600–300 B.P.)



Attributes: triangular blade with straight to slightly incurvate lateral margins, pronounced shoulders with well defined barbs, and a small square to slightly expanding stem with a concave or notched base.

Related Types: none.

Definition Reference: Suhm et al. 1954.

Range: eastern Texas into western Louisiana. High occurrence at Fort Polk.

Bassett
(500–300 B.P.)

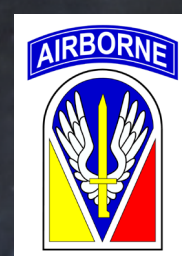


Attributes: wide triangular blade with convex lateral margins, pronounced barbs, and a small sharp to slightly rounded contracting stem.

Related Types: Perdiz.

Definition Reference: Suhm and Jelks 1962.

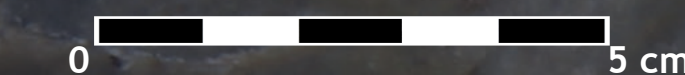
Range: eastern and northeastern Texas and northwestern Louisiana. High occurrence at Fort Polk.



JRTC and Fort Polk
DPW-Environmental Division



Southeast Archeological Center
National Park Service



Low Occurrence = less than 10; Medium Occurrence = 11 to 30; High Occurrence 31 or greater artifacts recovered.
B.P. = Before Present in calendar years.