

Ross Collection
Arrow, Dart and Fragmented Projectile Points
Found Within the Lower Rio Grande Valley Region

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OUR GOAL

Our goal at the CHAPS Program is to identify evidence of human occupation for the past 10,000 years of the Rio Grande Valley region. This entails photographing, describing and sometimes drawing or casting projectile points and establishing their date within known typologies, identifying the stone or lithic source materials for the points and locating their place of discovery. With the permission of the “finder” and the landowner, we will record sites with the Texas Historical Commission to ensure information on the sites is preserved for future generations. Information gleaned from these descriptive endeavors will be used for scholarly research purposes. All site locations will be kept confidential per the guidelines established by the State of Texas and the larger code of ethics adhered to by the Register of Professional Archaeologists.

SITE LOCATION

La Luñena Ranch is located in Mexico a few miles north of the location where Highway 2 crosses the Rio Salado (see map page 3-6). There were sandstone structures on the property (see photos page 7-10).

LOCATION COORDINATES

Two miles north of where Mexico Route 2 crosses the Rio Salado.

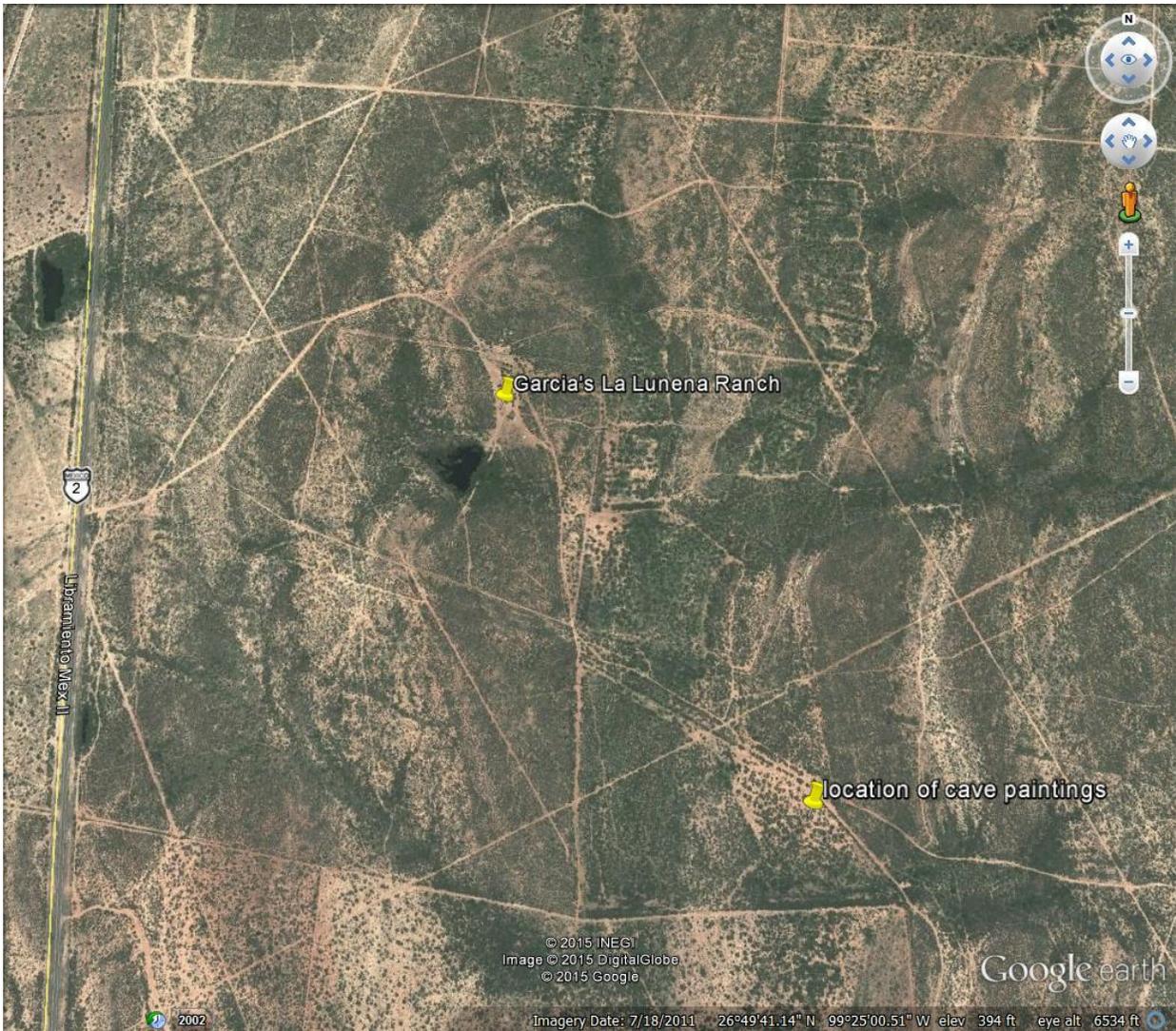
Latitude: 26°49'48.22"N

Longitude: 99°25'06.97"W

120.09 meters (394 feet) above sea level



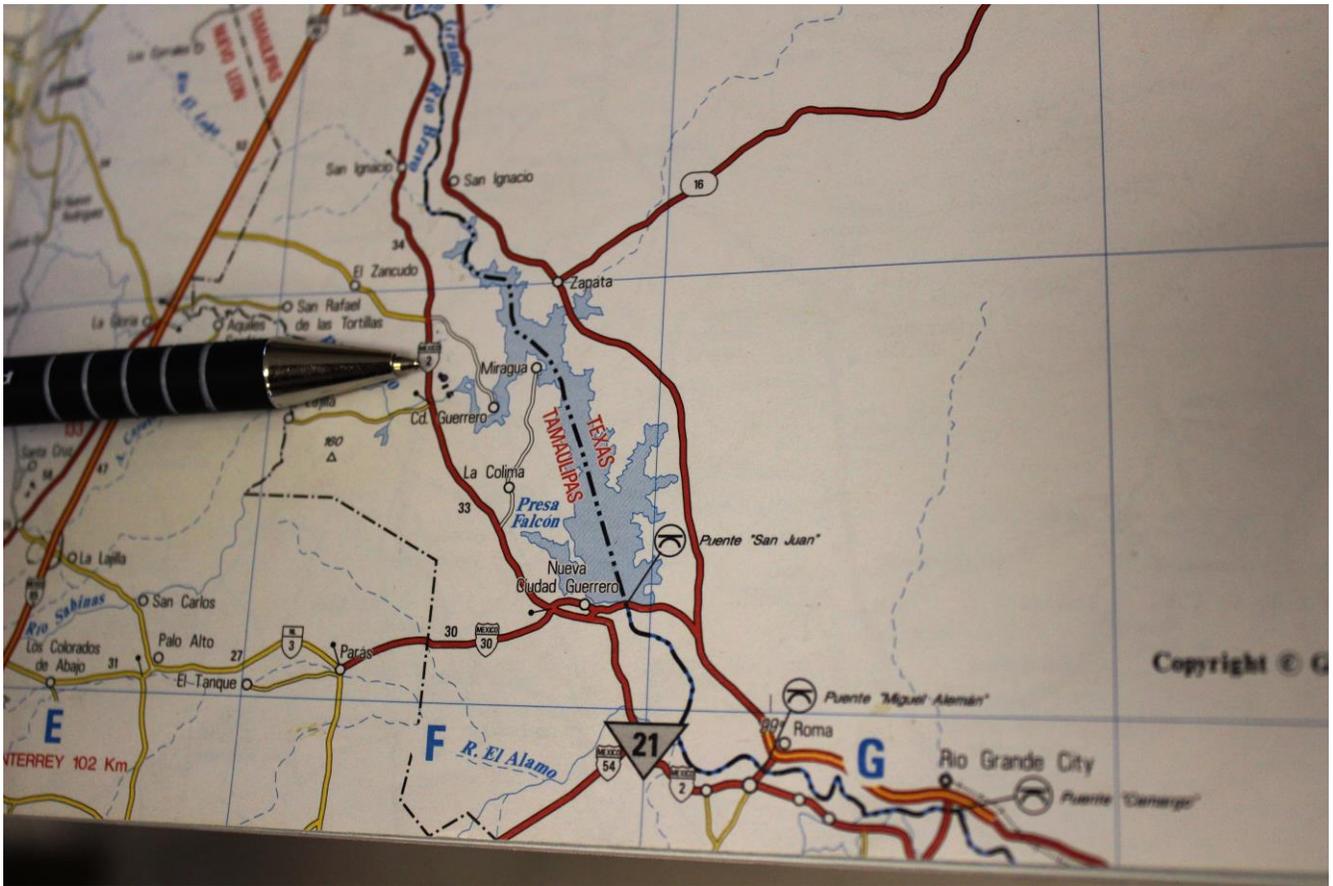
La Luñena Ranch is located in Mexico a few miles north of where Highway 2 crosses the Rio Salado and not far from Falcon Lake and Old Guerrero. This ranch is directly located along a dried up water source that once drained into the Rio Salado. Using this aerial view, you can see the outline of former branches of the Rio Salado that move upward to the north and slightly to the east. As Mr. Ross reported, ranch owner Mr. Garcia told him that there were ‘bucket loads’ of projectile point artifacts found by the cowboys and ranch-hands on this ranch prior to Buddy Ross’s hunting party’s arrival in the 1980s. Since the artifacts examined for the purpose of this report date from the Paleo Indian period (8000-9200 BC) through the Late Prehistoric period (700 -1200 AD), this suggests that this area was host to multiple prehistoric campsites throughout thousands of years. Also note that approximate location of the sandstone ruins that are on the property (see photos pages 8-10).



Closer view of location of La Luneña ranch in proximity to Route 2 and rural roads that cross the property. Note the approximate location of cave paintings that Mr. Ross discovered during hunting trips on the property.



Closer view of the ranch property compound with structures. Notice outline of foundation at top of photo; circular and rectangular base. There are no ruins surrounding this foundation outline. Also notice the water source at lower left. From distant aerial views, appears to be a deflation trough.



Road map image showing the of the location of La Luneña Ranch on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande west of Falcon Lake (Falcon International Reservoir).



White guest house – hunters' lodging on La Luñena Ranch.



Yvonne and Enrique Garcia of La Luñena Ranch.



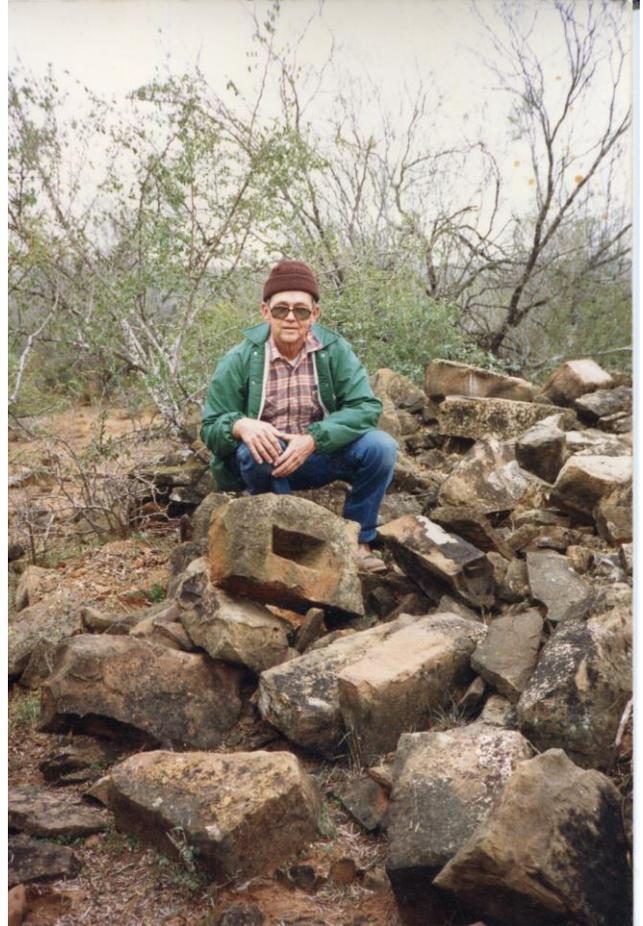
Sandstone structure in ruins.



Sandstone hearth. Buddy's dog Gunner in front.



Sandstone ruins.



Buddy Ross with gun port among sandstone blocks.



Sandstone structure in ruins.



Fanny Ross along sandstone ruin wall.

Buddy Ross points – Box 1



Buddy Ross points – Box 2



Additional points in Ross Collection – not reviewed or identified



Additional point in the Ross Collection – not reviewed or identified





Point # 1

Perdiz



Point # 2

Caracara



Point # 3

Perdiz



Point # 4

Caracara



Point # 5

Starr



Point # 6

Starr



Point # 7
Starr



Point # 8
Perdiz



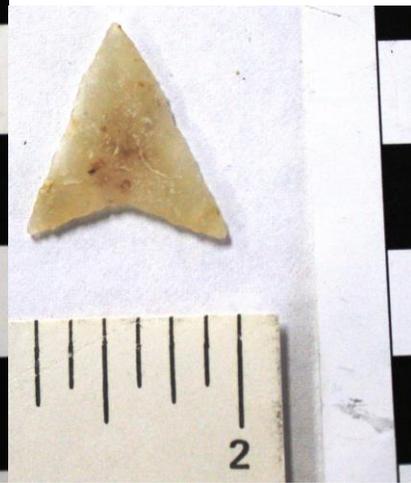
Point # 9
Starr



Point # 10
Caracara



Point # 11
Cara Cara



Point # 12
Starr



Point # 13

Starr



Point # 14

Fresno



Point # 15

Caracara



Point # 16

Caracara



Point # 17

Caracara



Point # 18

Caracara



Point # 19

Caracara



Point # 20

Cannot identify



Point # 21

Caracara



Point # 22

Caracara



Point # 23

Caracara



Point # 24

Caracara



Point # 25

Cannot Identify



Point # 26

Perdiz



Point # 27

Starr



Point # 28

Caracara



Point # 29

Caracara



Point # 30

Caracara



Point # 31
Caracara



Point # 32
Caracara



Point # 33
Caracara



Point # 34
Cannot Identify



Point # 35
Midland



Point # 36
Perdiz



Point # 37

Fresno



Point # 38

Padre



Point # 39

Matamoros



Point # 40
Abasolo



Point # 41
Desmuke



Point # 42
Langtry



Point # 43
Cannot identify



Point # 44
Tortugas



Point # 45
Pandora



Point # 46

Abasolo



Point # 47

Tortugas



Point # 48

Tortugas



Point # 49

Catán



Point # 50

Catán



Point # 52

Matamoros



Point # 53
Matamoros



Point # 54
Catán



Point # 55
Matamoros



Point # 56
Catán



Point # 57
Preform



Point # 58
Matamoros



Point # 59

Catán



Point # 60

Tortugas



Point # 61

Pandora



Point # 62

Abasolo



Point # 63

(tool)



Point # 64

Abasolo



Point # 65

Catán



Point # 66

Early Triangular



Point # 67

Perdiz



Point # 68

(could be a perforator)



Point #69

Matamoros



Point # 70

(Small Refugio)



Point # 71
Matamoros



Point # 72
Catán



Point # 73
Tortugas



Point # 74
Matamoros



Point # 75
Catán



Point # 76
Tortugas



Point # 77

Matamoros



Point # 78

Matamoros



Point # 79

Matamoros



Point # 80

Catán



Point # 81

Tortugas



Point # 82

Tortugas



Point # 83

Refugio



Point # 84

Matamoros



Point # 85

Cannot Identify



Point # 86

Tortugas



Point # 87
Lerma



Point # 88
Matamoros



Point # 89
Matamoros

Projectile Points: Box #1 – Buddy Ross – Mercedes, TX – Oct/Nov 2013

#	Material	Type	Color	Period
1 (1016)	Chert (dull)	Perdiz (base snapped)	2.5Y 7/1 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
2 (1018)	Chert (waxy luster)	Caracara	5YR 5/2 Reddish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
3 (1022)	Quartz (dull)	Perdiz	10YR 7/1-6/1 Light gray-gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
4 (1025)	Chert (waxy)	Caracara	2.5Y 7/1 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
5 (1028)	Quartz grain chert (dull)	Starr	10YR 7/2 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
6 (1030)	Fine grain banded chert (dull)	Starr	2.5Y 7/2 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
7 (1032)	Coarse grain chert (dull)	Starr	7.5YR 7/2 Pinkish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
8 (1034)	Coarse grain chert (dull)	Perdiz (base snapped)	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
9 (1036)	Coarse grain chert (dull)	Starr	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
10 (1038)	Coarse grain chert (dull)	Caracara	10YR 6/3 Pale brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
11 (1041)	Chert (dull)	(similar base to many caracaras)	10YR 7/2 Light gray	
12 (1046)	quartz	Starr	10YR 7/2 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
13 (1043)		Starr	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
14 (1049)	Quartz grain chert (dull)	Fresno	2.5Y 7/1 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
15 (1051)	Coarse grain chert (dull)	Caracara	2.5Y 7/3 Pale brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200

#	Material	Type	Color	Period
16 (1053)	Chert (waxy)	Caracara	7.5YR 7/1 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
17 (1055)	Chert (waxy)	Caracara	GLE Y1 5/N Gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
18 (1057)	Chert with inclusions (dull)	Caracara	10YR 7/1 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
19 (1059)	El Sauz chert With vugs – cavities with secondary minerals. Waxy	Caracara	10YR 8/1 White	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
20 (1061)	Chert?	Cannot identify	10YR 6/1 Gray	
21 (1063)	Chert (dull)	Caracara	10YR 7/2 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
22 (1065)	ESC? (dull)	Caracara	10YR 6/3 Pale brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
23 (1069)	Coarse grain chert (dull)	Caracara	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
24 (1071)	Chert – banded with some inclusions	Caracara	Too modeled and too speckled but in 10YR 7/1 family	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
25 (1073)	Fine grain waxy chert	Cannot identify	10YR 7/2 Light gray	
26 (1075)	Chert (dull)	Perdiz	10YR 7/2 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
27 (1077)	Chert (dull)	Starr	7.5YR 6/2 Pinkish gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
28 (1079)	chert	Caracara	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200

#	Material	Type	Color	Period
29 (1081)	chert	Caracara	2.5Y 6/1 Gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
30 (1083)	chert	Caracara	10YR 7/2 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
31 (1085)	Coarse grain chert (dull)	Caracara	10YR 6/3 Pale brown	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
32 (1087)	Chert with brown inclusions (dull)	Caracara	2.5Y 7/1 White	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
33 (1089)	Coarse grain chert (dull)	Caracara (Broken tip)	2.5Y 6/1 Gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
34 (1091)	Coarse grain chert	Cannot identify	2.5Y 7/1 Light gray	
35 (1093)	Fine grain, black chert (finest grain item in this collection)	Midland	GLE 1 2.5/N Black	Paleo-Indian 8000 – 9200 B.C.
36 (1105)	Chert (dull)	Perdiz	10YR 8/1 White	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
37 (1107)	El Sauz Chert waxy fine grain chert	Fresno	10YR 7/1 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
38 (1109)	Fine grain chert (waxy)	Padre	10YR 8/1 White	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
39 (1111)	Chert (dull)	Matamoros	2.5Y 5/2 Grayish brown	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.

Projectile Points: Box #2 – Buddy Ross – Mercedes, TX – Oct/Nov 2013

#	Material	Type	Color	Period
40 (0893)	chert	Abasolo	10YR 7/1 Light gray	Early Archaic 3500 – 6000 B.C.
41 (0895)	Spotted chert	Desmuke	2.5Y 7/1 Light gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
42 (0897)	Fine grain chert (dull)	Langtry	2.5Y 6/3 Light yellowish brown	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
43 (0899)	Fine grain volcanic rock	Too unique, not in book	GLE Y1 4/N Dark gray	
44 (0901)	Coarse grain with vugs (dull)	Tortugas	2.5Y 7/1 Light gray	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
45 (0903)	Fine grain chert	Pandora	10YR 6/3 Pale brown	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
46 (0905)	Fine grain volcanic rock shows flow banding	Abasolo	GLE Y1 4/N Dark gray	Early Archaic 3500 – 6000 B.C.
47 (0907)	Chert with inclusions, fine grain (waxy)	Tortugas	10YR 6/4 Light yellowish brown	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
48 (0909)	Coarse grain (dull) rock	Tortugas	10YR_ /1 White	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
49 (0911)	Highly weathered chert	Catán	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
50 (0913)	Coarse grain chert with longitudinal vein	Catán	2.5Y 8/1-7/1 White – light gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
52 (0917)	Coarse grain chert (dull)	Matamoros	10YR 7/2 Light gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.

#	Material	Type	Color	Period
53 (0919)	Coarse grain chert (dull)	Matamoros	10YR 7/2 Light gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
54 (0921)	Fine grain igneous rock with flow banding	Catán	10YR 5/1 Gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
55 (0923)	Coarse grain chert (dull)	Matamoros	White page 2.5Y _/1 white	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
56 (0925)	Fine grain igneous rock (no banding)	Catán	GLE Y1 4/N Dark gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
57 (0928)	Chert (waxy)	Preform – cannot identify	2.5YR 5/3 Reddish brown	
58 (0930)	Chert (waxy) with a quartz vein	Matamoros	10YR 7/3 Very pale brown	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
59 (0933)	Chert (waxy)	Catán	2.5Y 7/2 Light gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
60 (0936)	chert	Tortugas	10YR 6/4 Light yellowish brown	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
61 (0939)	Brecciated chert	Pandora	2.5Y 8/1-7/1 White-light gray	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
62 (0943)	Fine grain chert (dull)	Abasolo	7.5YR 6/2 Pinkish gray	Early Archaic 3500 – 6000 B.C.
63 (0946)	Coarse grained chert	Could be a tool, not a point	10YR 8/2 Very pale brown	
64 (0949)	Fine grained chert (dull)	Abasolo	10YR 8/1 white	Early Archaic 3500 – 6000 B.C.
65 (0951)	Fine grained chert (dull)	Catán	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.

#	Material	Type	Color	Period
66 (0953)	Coarse grained chert (dull)	Early Triangular	10YR 5/2 Grayish brown	Early Archaic 3500 – 6000 B.C.
67 (0955)	Chert	Perdiz	10YR 7/1 Light gray	Late Prehistoric A.D. 700 - 1200
68 (0957)	Coarse grained chert	Could be a perforator	10YR 8/2 Very pale brown	
69 (0960)	Chert with inclusions (waxy)	Matamoros	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
70 (0962)	Fine grained chert (waxy)	Smaller version of Refugio point	7.5YR 6/2 Pinkish gray	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
71 (0964)	Coarse (dull) grained chert	Matamoros	2.5Y 7/1 Light gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
72 (0967)	Chert with irregular inclusions	Catán	7.5YR 5/2 Brown (darkest color)	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
73 (0970)	Coarse grained chert (dull)	Tortugas	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
74 (0972)	Chert (waxy)	Matamoros	10YR 6/3 Pale brown	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
75 (0975)	Coarse grained chert (dull)	Catán	10YR 7/2 Light gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
76 (0979)	Coarse grained chert (dull)	Tortugas	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
77 (0981)	Coarse grained chert (dull)	Matamoros	7.5YR 6/3 Light Brown	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
78 (0983)	Chert with inclusions (waxy)	Matamoros	10YR 5/2 Grayish brown	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.

#	Material	Type	Color	Period
79 (0985)	Chert with inclusions (waxy)	Matamoros	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
80 (0987)	Banded, fine grained chert (dull)	Catán	10YR 6/2 Light brownish gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
81 (0989)	Chert with minor inclusions (dull)	Tortugas	2.5Y 6/2 Light brownish gray	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
82 (0991)	Fine grained chert (dull)	Tortugas	10YR 7/2 Light gray	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
83 (0993)	Chert with veins	Refugio	2.5Y 7/1 Light gray	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
84 (0997)	Chert (dull)	Matamoros	10YR 7/2 Light gray	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
85 (0999)	Chert?	Cannot identify	5YR 5/2 Reddish gray	
86 (1001)	Banded chert	Tortugas	Very modeled many colors	Middle Archaic 2500 B.C.
87 (1004)	Fine grained chert (waxy)	Lerma	7.5YR 6/3 Light brown	Early Archaic 3500 – 6000 B.C.
88 (1007)	Fine grained chert (waxy)	Matamoros	10YR 6/3 Pale brown	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.
89 (1009)	Chert (waxy)	Matamoros	10YR 7/3 Very pale brown	Late Archaic 1000 B.C.

Abasolo (dart point) is a large, unstemmed triangular point that has a distinctive well rounded base. The lateral edges may be beveled or steeply chipped, and the base is sometimes thinned. It is similar to Catán but larger in size. Abasolo specimens often have impact fractures reflective of their use as dart points, although microscopic use-wear is sometimes observed on the lateral edges. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 56)

Caracara (arrow point) is side notched, small with convex to nearly straight lateral edges. Flaking is random but usually well executed. The rounded or squared ends of the basal “ears” usually extend slightly beyond with of the shoulders. Bases are normally straight but may be slightly concave or slightly convex. (Turner and Hester 1999: 205)

Catán (dart point) is a triangular, unstemmed point that has straight to slightly convex lateral edges that are sometimes beveled and a convex, well-rounded base that has been thinned by the removal of one or two broad, arc-shaped flakes. The outline is similar to Abasolo, but Catán points are smaller. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 73)

Desmuke (dart point) is a small, lozenge-shaped point that has a characteristic contraction from the lower part of the body toward the base. The lateral edges are often alternately beveled and may be slightly serrated. Impact fractures are common, as is the use of heat-treated cherts. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 84)

Early Triangular (dart point) is a triangular point usually characterized by careful parallel-oblique flaking, straight to slightly concave bases, and alternately beveled lateral edges which may also be slightly serrated. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 88)

Fresno (arrow point) is an unstemmed, triangular point that has straight to slightly convex or concave lateral edges and a convex or slightly concave base. It is similar to Cameron but is over 20 mm in length. Some of these specimens may be preforms and not a distinct type. However, on the Texas coast, carefully chipped specimens appear to represent a typological group. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 191)

Langtry (dart point) is usually a thin and well-made point with straight to slightly concave, lateral edges and strong shoulders. This type is characterized by a tapered stem, sometimes with alternately beveled edges that terminate in a straight or slightly beveled, concave base. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 128)

Lerma (dart point) is a slender and has a bi-pointed outline; longitudinal symmetry, and thus sometimes seems difficult to determine which is the proximal and which is the distal end. Lerma

points are generally found in archaic contexts in south Texas and the coastal plain. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 129)

Matamoros (dart point) is a small, often thick, triangular or sub triangular, unstemmed point that is similar to *Tortugas*, but markedly smaller. Average length of *Tortugas* is 4.9 mm – 6.7 mm and Matamoros ranges from 3.2 mm to 4.7 mm in length. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 133)

Midland (dart point) is a thick lanceolate point that has straight to slightly convex lateral edges that have been carefully trimmed. This trimming is usually a diagnostic trait for the type. Both faces have a flat, invasive, regular retouch, which is parallel to subparallel with a marginal retouch on the edges. Bases are usually concave, or just slightly so. The point resembles Folsom in shape and size, but is very thick and unfluted. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 135)

Padre (arrow point) is a small, triangular, unstemmed point that has convex lateral edges and a rounded base. It exhibits characteristics of both Cameron and Fresno points. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 205)

Pandora (dart point) is an elongated, triangular point that has a straight to slightly convex base and can be relatively large and crudely chipped. It is a poorly known type, if it is indeed legitimate, and is quite possible that some are actually preforms or were used for knives. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 147)

Perdiz (arrow point) is a distinctive, contracting stem arrow point, usually with pointed barbs. There are many variations in size and proportion. Some specimens are worked on one side only and are typically made on flakes or blades, but workmanship is generally good, sometimes exceedingly fine with minutely serrated blade edges. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 206)

Refugio (dart point) is an elongated, triangular point with a rounded base and convex lateral edges. Sizes vary considerably. Some are large and heavy and others are smaller and often seen in southern Texas. The base is convex and often thinned. It is possible that some, or most, are actually preforms or knives. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 154)

Starr (arrow point) is a triangular point that is distinguished by slightly concave lateral edges and a pronounced basal concavity. These points are highly restricted in their geographic distribution and should not be used as a “niche” for similar points found great distances from their distribution. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 210)

Tortugas (dart point) are large, unstemmed, triangular points that have an approximately straight to concave base and alternately beveled edges. It is often thick and crudely flaked in the midsection and well-thinned basally. (Turner and Hester 1999: 188)

SPECIAL COMMENTS

Buddy Ross is the owner of Ross Gin Company in Mercedes, Texas. The projectile point artifacts reviewed in this report were found during hunting trips to the La Luñena Ranch near the Rio Salado in Mexico throughout a 17-year period during the 1980s and 1990s. The ranch was owned by Enrique and Yvonne Garcia. Buddy recalls that Mr. Garcia was a fine gentleman with whom he became good friends. Mr. Garcia has since passed away. Buddy Ross was introduced to Enrique Garcia by a broker of hunting leases in Mexico. Buddy leased the property for hunting and became good friends with the Garcias. The ranch property consisted of approximately 5,500 acres. During their hunting trips to La Luñena, Buddy and his friends stayed overnight in a white-washed house on the ranch (see page 7).

Buddy says that he spent more time looking for arrowheads than hunting for deer. Many years prior to Buddy's arrival on the ranch, Mr. Garcia's cowboys and ranch hands found these projectile point artifacts by the 'bucket-loads' and took them to Nuevo Laredo to sell them.

Buddy Ross and his daughter Sally recall that there are caves on this property with petroglyphs on the walls. These petroglyphs represented images of animals. We have indicated an approximate location of these caves on page 4 of this report.

The Rio Salado runs through the southern portion of the property and there are sandy areas along the river bank. Buddy remembers seeing a lot of black (indigo) snakes on this ranch; more indigo snakes than rattle snakes. They would catch catfish in the Rio Salado and eat them for dinner.

The terrain turned into caliche hills as one moves back and toward the west. There is an outcrop of sandstone on the ranch. A sandstone structure stood in ruins on the ranch (see photos pages 8-10). There was a gun port found among the ruins (see page 9). This suggests that this structure dates back to Spanish colonial settlements in the 1800s during a period of time where settlers needed to defend themselves from surprise attacks from Native Americans in the region.

SOURCES

Munsell Color

2009 Munsel Soil-Color Charts. Munsel Color, Grand Rapids, MI.

Turner, Ellen Sue and Thomas R. Hester

1999 A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians. Gulf Publishing, New York.

Turner, Ellen Sue, Thomas R. Hester and Richard McReynolds

2011 Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians. Taylor Trade Publishing, New York.