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Timothy K. Perttula

Heritage Research Center, Stephen F. Austin State University

Mark Walters

Heritage Research Center, Stephen F. Austin State University

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Analysis of the 19th Century Historic Archaeological Material Culture Remains from the Browning Site in Smith County, Texas

Timothy K. Perttula and Mark Walters

SITE SETTING AND EXCAVATIONS

The Browning site (41SM195A) is located on a 3800 m² alluvial terrace that overlooks the Auburn Creek floodplain in eastern Smith County, Texas. This setting is near the headwaters of a stream system in the Harris Creek drainage; Harris Creek meets the Sabine River ca. 34 km to the north. In the vicinity of the Browning site, the valley, being narrow with steep valley walls, offers few locations suitable for either prehistoric or historic occupations. Soils here are Entisols; they vary in depth from 30-70 cm across the landform, terminating at a sandstone C-horizon. These are soils that formed mostly under forest vegetation and are dominantly sandy or loamy (Hatherly 1993). The Browning site falls within the Pineywoods vegetation area and represents the western extent of the pine and deciduous forests of the Southeastern U.S. coastal plain (Diggs et al. 2006).

Archaeological investigations at the Browning site have been carried out intermittently for several years by the junior author (Figure 1). That work has led to the recognition that it is a stratified site with two very distinct occupations, an early to mid-19th century assemblage of historic artifacts primarily in an upper zone (0-20 cm bs) overlying a buried (20-50 cm bs) Late Woodland period occupation (Walters 2004a, 2004b, 2009; Shafer and Walters 2010). The historic occupation is in the center of the terrace, covering approximately 500 m². The historic artifacts are found primarily in the upper sediments, but due probably to pedoturbations, they have been found as deep as 50 cm in the underlying prehistoric archaeological deposits.

Excavations at the Browning site have consisted of 41 1 x 1 m units (with a total excavated volume of 20.4 m³) and 22 shovel tests (see Figure 1). Surface collections were obtained from the site in 1996 and 2002.

The 22 shovel tests excavated at the site were conducted first to better ascertain the limits of the

site and identify areas of concentrated cultural activity; ST 4, 8-9, 12, and 19 contained 19th century historic artifacts (see Figure 1). Once a buried prehistoric occupation zone was identified, units were placed primarily in cardinal directions to better define the occupation zone's boundaries and levels of occupational intensity, and also sample the overlying 19th century component. The 1 x 1 m units were excavated in arbitrary 10 cm levels and the soil was dry-screened for artifacts through 1/4-inch hardware cloth except for a fine screen sample from Unit 1 that was water-screened through 1/32-inch mesh. A level sheet was completed at the end of each level. Profiles were drawn of one wall of each unit or a common wall when several units were joined. The shovel tests followed the same procedures, except they were excavated in arbitrary 20 cm levels.

One feature (Feature 2) had four refined earthenware sherds (as well as two prehistoric artifacts) and 15 small pieces of animal bone. This was a shallow pit with a very dark grayish-brown sandy loam fill (with charcoal flecks) and a rounded bottom that was 63 cm in diameter and extended from 22-29 cm bs.

19TH CENTURY HISTORIC ARTIFACTS FROM THE BROWNING SITE

The excavations at the Browning site have recovered a total of 360 19th century artifacts from surface collections (n=17), shovel testing (n=7, 1.4 artifacts per positive shovel test, or ca. 11.2 artifacts per m²), and the 1 x 1 m unit excavations (n=336, or 8.2 artifacts per m²) (Table 1). Most of the recovered historic artifacts are sherds from refined earthenware (i.e., whiteware and porcelain) plates and cups (81.3%), followed by artifacts of iron (mainly cut nails) (11.4%), stoneware, stoneware pipes and yellowware sherds (3.9%), and bottle glass (3.6%).

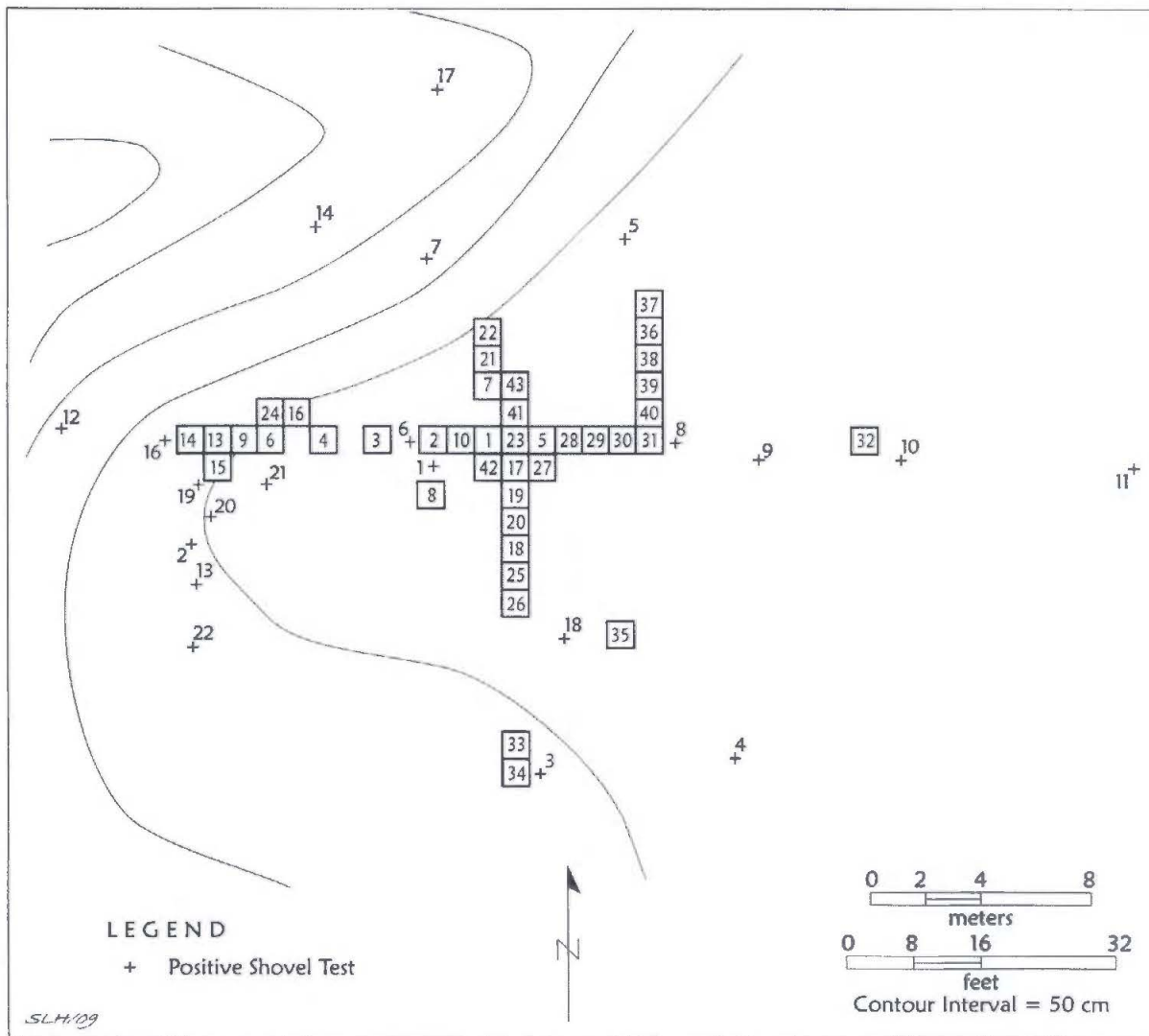


Figure 1. Map of the Browning site archaeological investigations.

By depth, 86% of the 19th century artifacts from the shovel tests were found between 0-20 cm bs, with one artifact recovered from 20-40 cm bs. In the hand-excavated units, the preponderance of the historic artifacts is also from 0-20 cm bs (64.2%), but there are significant amounts of historic artifacts in the 20-30 cm (24.8%), 30-40 cm (8.3%), and 40-50 cm bs (1.5%) levels; 1.2% of the historic artifacts from the Browning site are from Feature 2 (22-29 cm bs).

The spatial density of 19th century artifacts from the site indicates that there are three small clusters of units that have higher densities of artifacts in the excavation area (Figure 2). The first is at the western edge of the terrace, in Units 6, 13-15, and 24 (12-18 artifacts per m²); the second cluster is in the

central part of the terrace (Units 17, 21, 22, 28-31, 40, and 42, with 9-13 artifacts per m²); and a third cluster at the southern edge of the terrace (Units 33-34, 14-21 artifacts per m²). At the present time, it is not known if these higher density spatial clusters of artifacts correspond to functionally different parts of the 19th century occupation, or if they simply represent discrete trash disposal areas.

Refined earthenwares—including whiteware and porcelain—are abundant in the Browning site 19th century artifact assemblage (Table 2). The whitewares, both plain and decorated sherds (about 22% of the whiteware sherds have a decorative element) from vessels that were likely made by English potteries beginning in the 1830s (Majewski and O'Brien 1987), account for about 98% of the refined

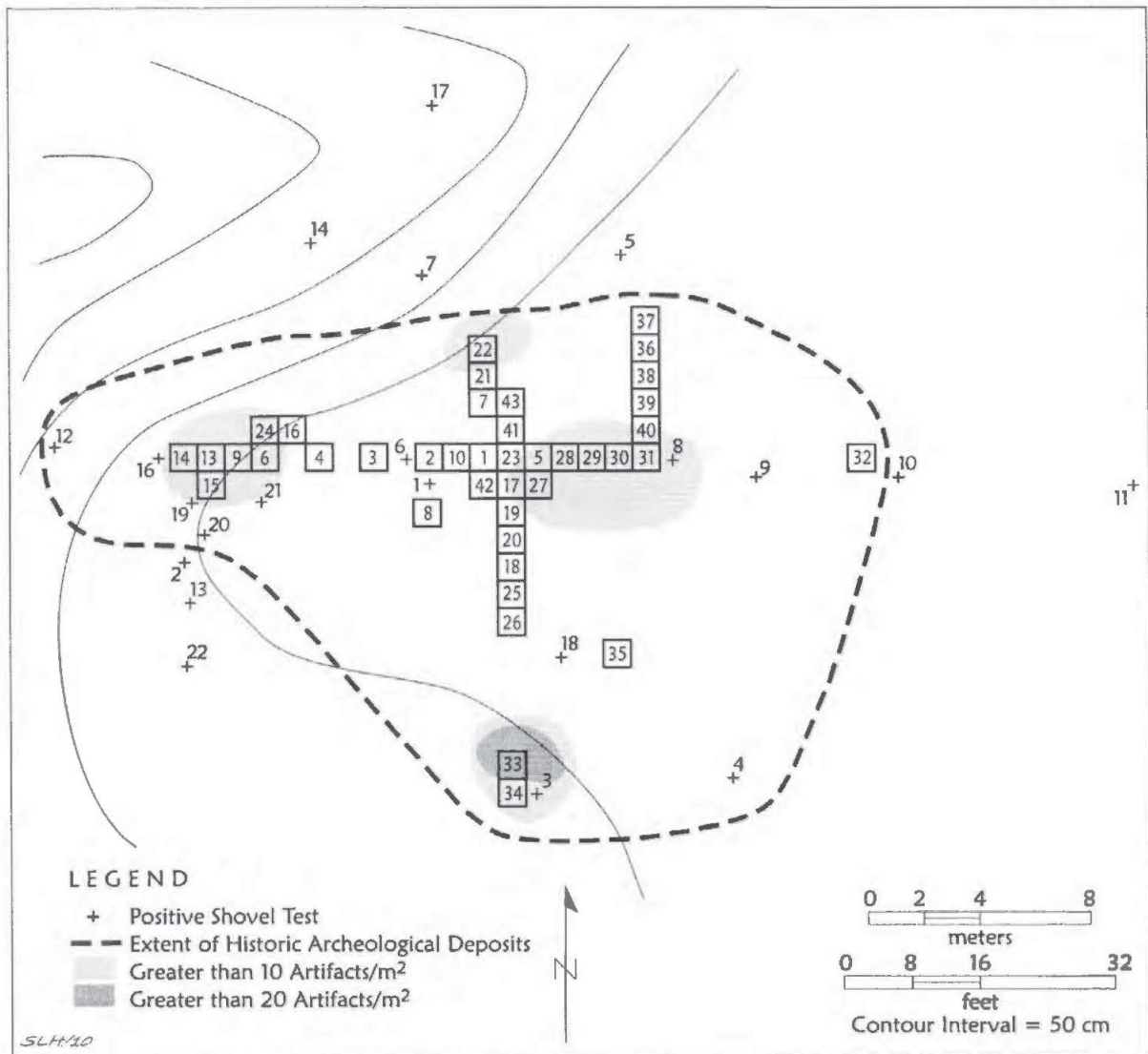


Figure 2. The distribution of historic 19th century artifacts from the Browning site.

earthenwares, and the remaining 2% are sherds from porcelain or bone-china vessels.

The decorated whitewares are divided into eight different categories based on the kind of decoration (i.e., hand-painted, transfer-printed, annular ware, shell-edged, etc.) found on individual sherds in the assemblage (Table 3). Sherds from annular ware vessels are the most common, comprising 39% of the decorated sherds, followed by hand-painted sherds (28%), blue shell-edged sherds (23%), and transfer-printed (4.7%). Sponge ware and flown blue sherds account for the remaining 4.7% of the decorated sherds from the Browning site.

In general, the decorated whiteware from the Browning site would seem to have been made and used between the 1830s and 1860 (cf. Price 1979;

Majewski and O'Brien 1984, 1987). All of these decorated ceramic sherds are from vessels probably of English manufacture, and they likely were obtained through shipments of goods from New Orleans brought up the Red River and Caddo Lake to Jefferson, and then carried overland to distributors and stores.

Annular wares (Figure 3) at the site have earthy color tones. These include brown, black, and yellow bands of varying widths as well as gray, yellow, white, and blue zones, as well as cat's eye dots (Majewski and O'Brien 1987:163), suggesting these sherds are from early (ca. 1840s) annular ware.

The hand-painted sherds from the site are from cups primarily decorated with fine line polychrome and monochrome floral motifs (including petals and

Table 1. Historic Artifacts from the Browning site.

Provenience	Metal	Bottle Glass	Refined Earthenware	Stoneware*
Surface	—		17	—
ST 4	—	1	—	—
ST 8		1	1	
ST 9	—	—	1	—
ST 12	—		1	1
ST 19	—		—	1
Unit 1	—	—	8	—
Unit 2	—	—	3	—
Unit 3	—	—	3	—
Unit 4	—	—	3	—
Unit 5	1	—	3	—
Unit 6	2	1	8	1
Unit 7		—	5	—
Unit 8	—	—	2	1
Unit 9	—		7	—
Unit 10	—	—	5	
Unit 13	3	2	13	—
Unit 14	—	1	14	—
Unit 15	1	4	9	2
Unit 16	—	—	7	2
Unit 17	1	—	12	—
Unit 18	—	—	7	—
Unit 19	1		3	—
Unit 20	2	—	4	
Unit 21	2	—	7	—
Unit 22**	1	—	10	—
Unit 23	—	1	6	—
Unit 24	2	—	11	1
Unit 25	—	—	1	—
Unit 26	—		3	—
Unit 27	—	—	4	
Unit 28	1	—	10	—
Unit 29	—	—	11	1
Unit 30	1	—	11	1
Unit 31	2		9	1
Unit 32		—	2	2
Unit 33	2	—	19	—
Unit 34	6	1	7	—
Unit 35	2	—	6	—
Unit 36	2+	—	4	—
Unit 37	3		1	

Table 1. Historic Artifacts from the Browning site, cont.

Provenience	Metal	Bottle Glass	Refined Earthenware	Stoneware*
Unit 38	2	–	5	–
Unit 39	1	–	5	–
Unit 40	–	–	9	–
Unit 41	1	1	3	–
Unit 42	1	–	8	–
Unit 43	1	–	4	–
Totals	41	13	292	14

*including pipe sherds and yellowware sherds; ** includes four refined earthenware sherds from Feature 2 (22-29 cm bs)

+late 19th-early 20th century shotgun shell not included in the tabulation

Table 2. Refined Earthenwares from the Browning site.

Provenience (cm bs)	Plain Whiteware	Decorated Whiteware	Plain Porcelain	N
Surface	14	2	1	17
ST 8, 20-40	1	–	–	1
ST 9, 0-20	1	–	–	1
ST 12, 0-20	1	–	–	1
Unit 1, 0-10	1	1	–	2
Unit 1, 10-20	5*	–	1	6
Unit 2, 0-10	2	–	–	2
Unit 2, 40-50	1	–	–	1
Unit 3, 0-10	1	1	–	2
Unit 3, 10-20	1	–	–	1
Unit 4, 0-10	2	1	–	3
Unit 5, 0-10	1	–	–	1
Unit 5, 10-20	1	1	–	2
Unit 6, 10-20	6	1	–	7
Unit 6, 20-30	1	–	–	1
Unit 7, 0-10	–	3	–	3
Unit 7, 10-20	–	1	1	2
Unit 8, 0-10	2	–	–	2

Table 2. Refined Earthenwares from the Browning site, cont.

Provenience (cm bs)	Plain Whiteware	Decorated Whiteware	Plain Porcelain	N
Unit 9, 0-10	1	–	–	1
Unit 9, 10-20	3	2	–	5
Unit 9, 20-30	1	–	–	1
Unit 10, 0-10	2	–	–	2
Unit 10, 10-20	2	–	–	2
Unit 10, 20-30	1	–	–	1
Unit 13, 0-10	2	1	–	3
Unit 13, 10-20	4	3	–	7
Unit 13, 20-30	3	–	–	3
Unit 14, 0-10	5	1	–	6
Unit 14, 10-20	4	–	–	4
Unit 14, 20-25	4	–	–	4
Unit 15, 0-10	–	1	–	1
Unit 15, 10-20	5	3	–	8
Unit 16, 0-10	3	2	–	5
Unit 16, 10-20	–	1	–	1
Unit 16, 20-30	1	–	–	1
Unit 17, 0-10	6	1	–	3
Unit 17, 10-20	2	–	–	2
Unit 17, 20-30	3	–	–	3
Unit 18, 10-20	6	–	–	6
Unit 18, 20-30	1	–	–	1
Unit 19, 20-30	–	2	–	2
Unit 19, 40-50	1	–	–	1
Unit 20, 10-20	–	1	–	1
Unit 20, 20-30	2	1	–	3
Unit 21, 10-20	1	–	1	2
Unit 21, 20-30	1	1	–	2
Unit 21, 30-40	2	1	–	3
Unit 22, 0-10	1	–	–	1
Unit 22, 10-20	3	–	–	3
Unit 22, 20-30	2	–	–	2
Unit 22, F. 2	4	–	–	4

Table 2. Refined Earthenwares from the Browning site, cont.

Provenience (cm bs)	Plain Whiteware	Decorated Whiteware	Plain Porcelain	N
Unit 23, 10-20	5	1	–	6
Unit 24, 0-10	2	2	–	4
Unit 24, 10-20	5	2	–	7
Unit 25, 10-20	1	–	–	1
Unit 26, 10-20	2	–	–	2
Unit 26, 20-30	1	–	–	1
Unit 27, 10-20	2	–	–	2
Unit 27, 20-30	1*	1	–	2
Unit 28, 10-20	4*	1	–	5
Unit 28, 30-40	3	1	–	4
Unit 28, 40-50	1	–	–	1
Unit 29, 10-20	4	–	–	4
Unit 29, 20-30	6	–	–	6
Unit 29, 30-40	1	–	–	1
Unit 30, 0-10	1	–	–	1
Unit 30, 10-20	1	–	–	1
Unit 30, 20-30	6	1	–	7
Unit 30, 30-40	–	1	–	1
Unit 30, 40-50	1	–	–	1
Unit 31, 0-10	3	–	–	3
Unit 31, 10-20	1	–	–	1
Unit 31, 20-30	1	2	–	3
Unit 31, 30-40	–	1	–	1
Unit 31, 40-50	1	–	–	1
Unit 32, 0-10	1	–	–	1
Unit 32, 20-30	1	–	–	1
Unit 33, 0-10	1	1	–	2
Unit 33, 10-20	1	1	–	2
Unit 33, 20-30	3	2	–	5
Unit 33, 30-40	10	–	–	10
Unit 34, 10-20	–	–	1	1
Unit 34, 20-30	4	–	–	4
Unit 34, 30-40	2	–	–	2

Table 2. Refined Earthenwares from the Browning site, cont.

Provenience (cm bs)	Plain Whiteware	Decorated Whiteware	Plain Porcelain	N
Unit 35, 0-10	3	2	–	5
Unit 35, 30-40	1	–	–	1
Unit 36, 10-20	1	1	–	2
Unit 36, 20-30	–	2	–	2
Unit 37, 10-20	1	–	–	1
Unit 38, 10-20	2	1	–	3
Unit 38, 20-30	1	–	–	1
Unit 38, 30-40	1	–	–	1
Unit 39, 10-20	2	–	–	2
Unit 39, 20-30	2	1	–	3
Unit 40, 10-20	1	2	1	4
Unit 40, 20-30	3	1	–	4
Unit 40, 30-40	1	–	–	1
Unit 41, 0-10	–	1	–	1
Unit 41, 10-20	2*	–	–	2
Unit 42, 0-10	2	2	–	4
Unit 42, 10-20	1*	1	–	2
Unit 42, 20-30	2	–	–	2
Unit 43, 0-10	1	–	–	1
Unit 43, 10-20	2	1	–	3
Totals	222	64	6	292

*includes plain rims (n=5) with non-scalloped lips and impressed lines

Table 3. Decorated Whiteware Sherds.

Provenience (cm bs)	HP-P	HP-FL	AW-CE	AW-B	TP-F	BSE	SP	FB
Surface	–	–	–	–	–	2*	–	–
Unit 1, 0-10	–	–	–	–	1 (blue)	–	–	–
Unit 3, 0-10	–	–	–	–	–	1*	–	–
Unit 4, 0-10	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–

Table 3. Decorated Whiteware Sherds, cont.

Provenience (cm bs)	HP-P	HP-FL	AW-CE	AW-B	TP-F	BSE	SP	FB
Unit 5, 10-20	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unit 6, 10-20	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unit 7, 0-10	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Unit 7, 10-20	-	-	-	-	1 (blue)	-	-	-
Unit 9, 10-20	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Unit 13, 0-10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unit 13, 10-20	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
Unit 14, 0-10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unit 15, 0-10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unit 15, 10-20	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unit 16, 0-10	-	-	-	-	-	2/1*	-	-
Unit 16, 10-20	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Unit 17, 0-10	-	-	-	-	1+ (blue)	-	-	-
Unit 19, 20-30	-	-	-	1	-	1*	-	-
Unit 20, 10-20	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unit 20, 20-30	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unit 21, 20-30	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unit 21, 30-40	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unit 23, 10-20	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-
Unit 24, 0-10	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unit 24, 10-20	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unit 27, 20-30	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unit 28, 10-20	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unit 28, 30-40	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unit 30, 20-30	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unit 30, 30-40	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unit 31, 20-30	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unit 31, 30-40	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unit 33, 0-10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unit 33, 10-20	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Unit 33, 20-30	-	-	-	1	-	1*	-	-
Unit 35, 0-10	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Unit 36, 10-20	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-
Unit 36, 20-30	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Unit 38, 10-20	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-
Unit 39, 20-30	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-
Unit 40, 10-20	-	1	-	-	-	1*	-	-
Unit 40, 20-30	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Unit 41, 0-10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

Table 3. Decorated Whiteware Sherds, cont.

Provenience (cm bs)	HP-P	HP-FL	AW-CE	AW-B	TP-F	BSE	SP	FB
Unit 42, 0-10	-	-	-	1	-	1*	-	-
Unit 42, 10-20	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unit 43, 10-20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	16	1	24	3	15	2	1

HP-P=hand-painted, polychrome; HP-fine-line and/or monochrome; AW-CE=annular ware, cat's eye; AW-B, annular ware, banded in brown, black, and yellow and with gray, yellow, and blue zones; TP-F=transfer-printed-floral; BSE=blue shell-edged; SP=sponged; FB=flown blue

*non-scalloped lip with impressed lines on the rim
+oriental motif

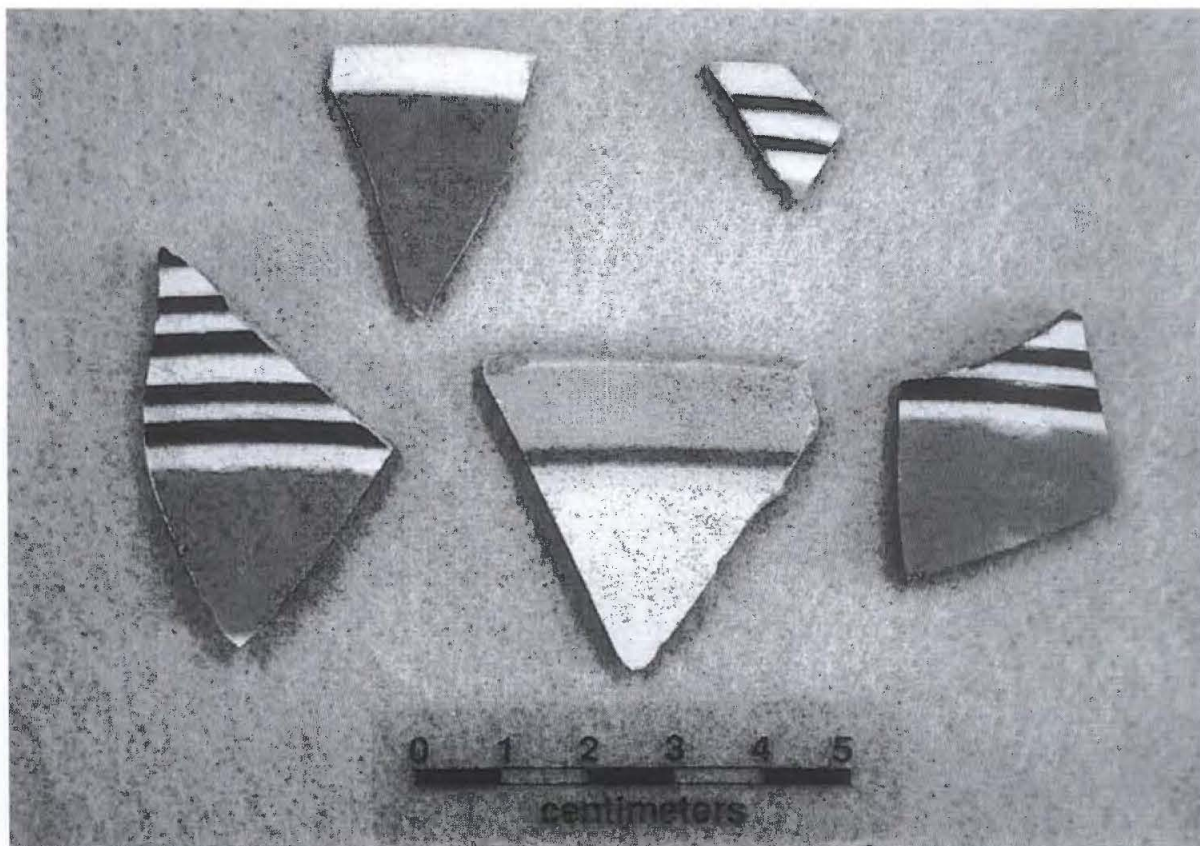


Figure 3. Annular wares with earth-toned bands and zones. Provenience: top row, left to right: Unit 28, 10-20 cm; Unit 31, 20-30 cm; bottom row, left to right: Unit 42, 10-20 cm; Unit 8, 0-10 cm; Unit 33, 0-10 cm.

branches) (Figure 4). The rim sherds have blue or black hand-painted rim lines on both the exterior and interior cup surfaces. These decorative elements are consistent with ca. 1840-1860 hand-painted whitewares (Majewski and O'Brien 1987:157).

The shell-edged whiteware from the Browning site has a blue painted edge, impressed lines, and a non-scalloped lip (Figure 5); on three sherds, the lip form could not be determined because of breakage of the sherd. The absence of green shell-edged

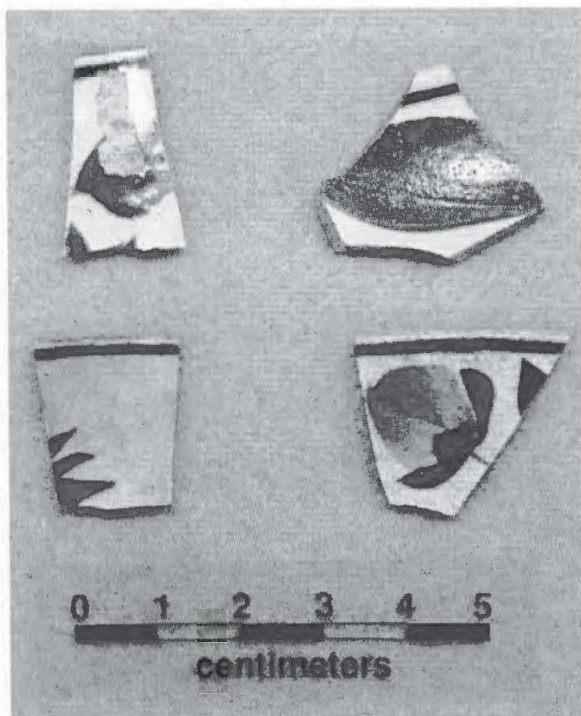


Figure 4. Hand-painted rim sherds. Provenience: top row, left to right: Unit 15, 10-20 cm; Unit 9, 10-20 cm; bottom row, left to right: Unit 6, 10-20 cm; Unit 24, 0-10 cm.

refined earthenware from the site is notable because green shell-edged plates began to diminish in frequency after 1800 relative to blue shell-edged plates (Sussman 2000:51).

The rim form of shell-edged ceramics is chronologically sensitive (cf. Hunter and Miller 1994, 2009). Plates and platters with unscaloped rims and impressed lines, like all the blue shell-edged whiteware from the Browning site, were being made by the 1840s, while the earlier symmetrical scalloped shell-edged ware continued to be made into the 1830s (Hunter and Miller 2009:13); this earlier form is absent in the Browning site artifact sample. There are five plain rims with unscaloped edges and impressed lines (see Table 2) that were likely made at the same time.

All three of the transfer-printed sherds have medium blue colors, and either floral (Figure 6, right) or oriental (Figure 6, left) motifs. The date ranges of production of medium blue (1784-1859) transfer-printed refined earthenware (Samford 2000:Table 5), and the fact that these transfer-printed sherds from the Browning site are whitewares, would seem to indicate that the occupation could have ranged from ca. 1830-1859. Central designs on transfer-printed refined earthenwares that featured Chinese elements were popular primarily before 1840, while floral

central designs (as well as border elements on plates) were popular "throughout the course of the 19th century (Samford 2000:73 and Figure 17). Peak periods of production of transfer-printed wares with floral designs was in the late 1840s.

Flown blue vessels became popular in the United States in the 1840s-1850s, especially those with landscape motifs (Samford 2000:79 and Table 7). There are two sherds with blue sponged (or spattered, see Majewski and O'Brien 1987:161) decorations. This type of decorated whiteware was "produced in great quantities by British potteries throughout the nineteenth century, primarily for export, and in the United States after about 1850" (Majewski and O'Brien 1987:161).

Other ceramic sherds from the Browning site include several stoneware jug or crock sherds (n=4), yellowware sherds from bowls and crocks (n=8), and sherds from glazed stoneware elbow pipes (Table 4). The stoneware sherds, from a minimum of two vessels, are from excavations only in the central part of the site, while the yellowware sherds (also from a minimum of two vessels, Figure 7, right) are distributed principally in the western part of the Browning site. The pipe sherds are also from excavations in the western part of the site (see Figure 1).

The stoneware sherds found in the archaeological deposits at the Browning site include salt-glazed sherds (n=3), a brown-glazed ink bottle (n=1) sherd, and yellowware (n=8) (see Table 4). These particular kinds of stoneware would have been manufactured and used between the 1830s and ca. 1875. Salt glazing was one of the more commonly employed glazes in the manufacture of utilitarian stoneware (Greer 1981:180). The absence of salt-glazed stoneware sherds with a natural clay slipped interior surface suggests that these particular sherds are from stoneware vessels that were made before ca. 1870 (Lebo 1987:140).

The ink bottle basal sherd (see Figure 7, left) has a reddish-brown exterior glaze that extends near the base of the bottle, and it has a pinkish-paste. This particular stoneware vessel was probably made in England in the mid-19th century (ca. 1850s), would have had a paper label, and been stoppered with a cork (see Switzer 1974).

Yellowware began to be produced in the 1820s in England, but by the 1840s it was also being manufactured in the United States, especially in the Midwest (Leibowitz 1985:4). The peak production of yellowware vessels was in the 1860s and 1870s,

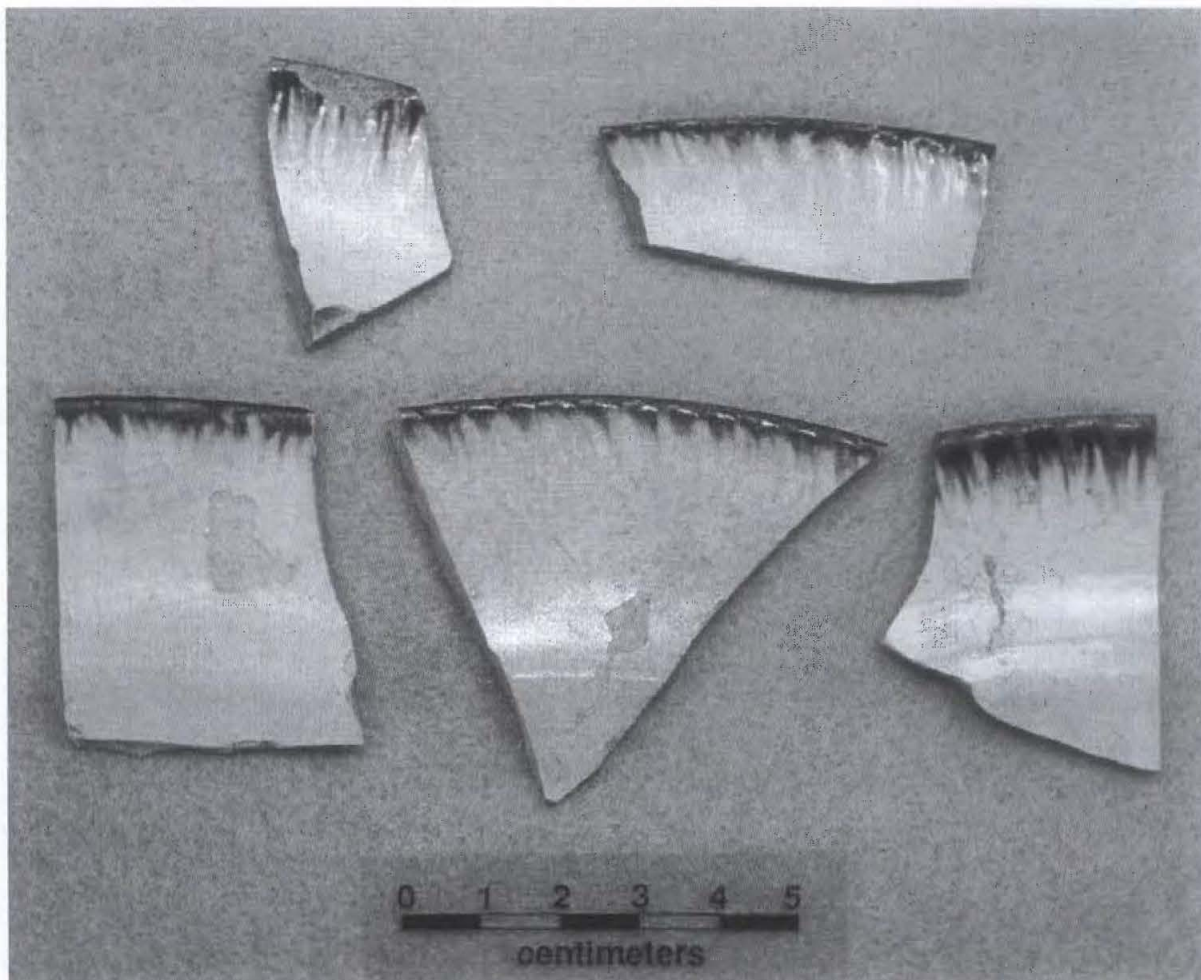


Figure 5. Blue Shell-edged plate or platter rims, non-scalloped, impressed lines. Provenience: top row, left to right: Surface; Unit 3, 0-10 cm; bottom row, left to right: Unit 40, 10-20 cm; Unit 42, 0-10 cm; Unit 19, 20-30 cm.

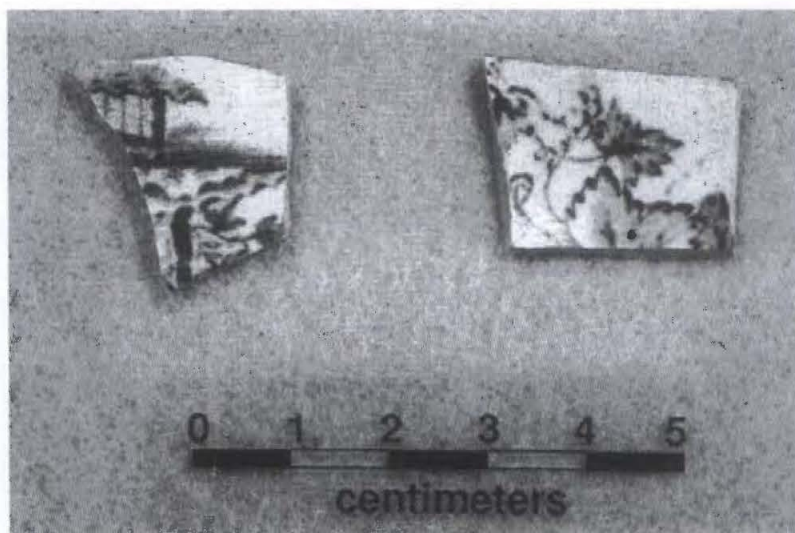


Figure 6. Blue transfer-printed body sherds. Provenience: left to right: Unit 17, 0-10 cm; Unit 1, 0-10 cm.

Table 4. Stoneware, Yellowware, and Ceramic Pipe Sherds from the Browning site.

Provenience	Stoneware	Yellow ware	Stoneware Pipe
ST 12, 0-20	-	-	1 (body)
ST 19, 0-17	-	1	-
Unit 6, 0-10	-	1	-
Unit 8, 0-10	-	1+	-
Unit 15, 0-10	-	1	-
Unit 15, 10-20	-	1	-
Unit 16, 10-20	-	1	1 (rim, elbow pipe)
Unit 24, 0-10	-	1	-
Unit 29, 10-20	1 (ink bottle)	-	-
Unit 30, 20-30	1 (salt glazed)	-	-
Unit 31, 0-10	-	1	-
Unit 32, 0-10	1 (salt glazed)	-	-
Unit 32, 20-30	1 (salt glazed)	-	-
Totals	4	8	2

+with blue and white bands

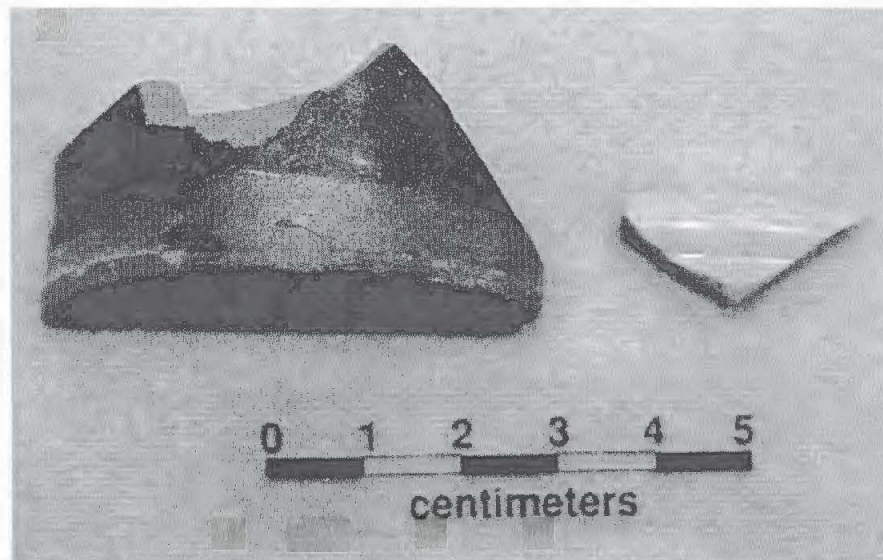


Figure 7. Stoneware sherd and yellowware sherd from the Browning site. Provenience: left to right: Unit 29, 10-20 cm; Unit 31, 0-10 cm.

although it was still being made in the early 1900s (Leibowitz 1985:14).

The pipe sherds from the Browning site are from early to mid-19th century stoneware forms. The elbow-shaped stoneware pipe is a reed stem pipe with a replaceable reed stem, and is mold-made, with a ribbed bowl. These sorts of pipes

were made at several pottery kilns in the region, including the J. S. Nash factory in operation in Marion County, Texas, between 1850-1880 (Lebo 1988:282). Similar styles of molded elbow pipes have been recovered from 1837-1846 and 1852-1857 Anglo-American farmsteads in northeastern Texas as well as the 1840s-1860s port of Monterey

Table 5. Bottle Glass.

Provenience (cm bs)	Aqua-colored sherd	Aqua-colored medicine vial sherd
ST 4, 0-20	1	–
ST 8, surface	1	–
Unit 6, 10-20	1	–
Unit 13, 20-30	2	–
Unit 14, 10-20	–	1
Unit 15, 0-10	2	–
Unit 15, 10-20	2	–
Unit 23, 30-40	1	–
Unit 34, 20-30	1	–
Unit 41, 0-10	1	–
Totals	12	1

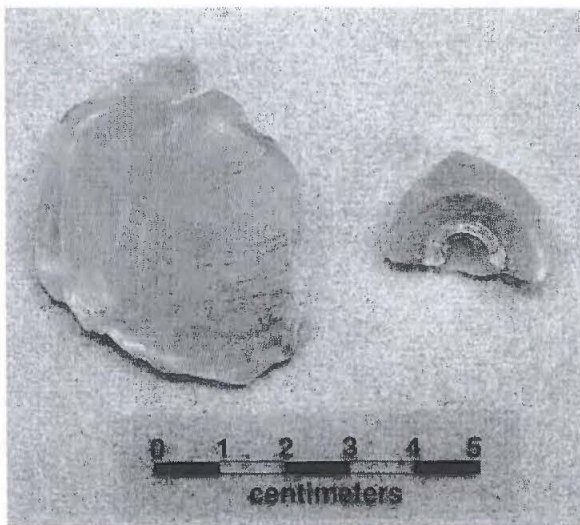


Figure 8. Aqua-colored bottle glass sherds. Provenience: left to right: Unit 41, 0-10 cm; Unit 14, 10-20 cm.

(Nelson and Perttula 2003; Perttula 1989:99; Perttula and Nelson 2010).

All of the bottle glass from the Browning site is aqua-colored (Table 5). One is from a small medicinal vial (Figure 8, right) with an iron-tipped pontil mark on its base (cf. Jones 2000:158-159), marking a method of holding the bottle during the finishing process that was used from the early 19th century until the 1870s. These bottles appear to have been hand-blown and likely held medicines and liquor.

The principal metal artifacts (Table 6) from the Browning site are cut nails (1820-1891, see Wells 2000). Although they are not common, their occurrence suggests that the area of excavations at the site was in the vicinity of a wood-framed building, or a log structure (or in the vicinity of an area where structural/architectural artifacts were discarded), that may have had a mud cat chimney (see Jordan 1978). These nails occur in three small clusters in the western, central, and southern parts of the site (see Figure 1).

Horse and stable artifacts include two horseshoe nails and an iron buckle (Figure 9, bottom row, left). There are also kitchen/domestic artifacts, such as an iron spoon handle (Figure 9, left), and a possible iron shaft/handle pull to a piece of wood furniture or a cabinet (Figure 9, bottom row, right). One plain 2-holed iron button is indicative of clothing/adornment (Figure 9, top row, left).

The two small and thin pieces of tin (see Figure 9, top row, right) may be from a cup, or various sorts of pans. Finally, there are several pieces of unidentifiable strips and fragments of iron that may be evidence of working/fabricating iron tools.

CONCLUSIONS

The Browning site has well-preserved archaeological evidence of a 19th century occupation along

Table 6. Metal Artifacts.

Provenience	Cut Nail	Horseshoe nail/horse tackle/buckle	Utensils	Iron strap frag./UID frag.	Iron button	Tin frag.	Iron shaft/ handle pull
Unit 5, 0-10	–	1 (buckle)	–	–	–	–	–
Unit 6, 0-10	–	–	1 (spoon)	–	–	–	–
Unit 6, 20-30	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Unit 13, 10-20	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Unit 13, 20-30	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
Unit 15, 10-20	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Unit 17, 0-10	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Unit 19, 10-20	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Unit 20, 10-20	–	–	–	2	–	–	–
Unit 21, 0-10	–	–	–	2	–	–	–
Unit 22, 10-20	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Unit 24, 0-10	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Unit 24, 10-20	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Unit 28, 30-40	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Unit 30, 10-20	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Unit 31, 10-20	–	–	–	2	–	–	–
Unit 33, 20-30	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Unit 33, 30-40	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Unit 34, 20-30	4	–	–	2	–	–	–
Unit 35, 10-20	–	1 (nail)	–	1	–	–	–
Unit 36, 10-20	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Unit 36, 20-30	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Unit 37, 10-20	2	–	–	1	–	–	–
Unit 38, 10-20	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Unit 38, 20-30	–	1 (nail)	–	–	–	–	–
Unit 39, 10-20	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Unit 42, 0-10	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Unit 43, 20-30	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Totals	17	3	1	15	1	2	1

* This does not include a REM-UMC No. 12 NITRO CLUB shotgun shell from Unit 36 (20-30 cm)

a tributary to the Sabine River, in northern Smith County, Texas. Although no habitation features have been identified in the excavations conducted to date at the site, and the recovery of cut nails and an assortment of kitchen/domestic artifacts (refined earthenware plates and cups, stoneware vessel sherds, and bottle glass sherds) personal items (an iron button), and horse gear (horseshoe nails and an iron buckle), it seems clear that there was a structure built on the site that was lived in by at least one family, probably

a farming family. The low density of artifacts across the site, as well as the relatively ephemeral nature of the archaeological deposits (ca. 20 cm thick, covering only ca. 500 m, and little evidence of features such as foundations, pier stones, wells, or privies), suggest this probable farmstead may have been occupied for no more than a generation (ca. 20 years).

The best available evidence that speaks to the chronological age of the Browning site occupation is the decorated refined earthenware. The

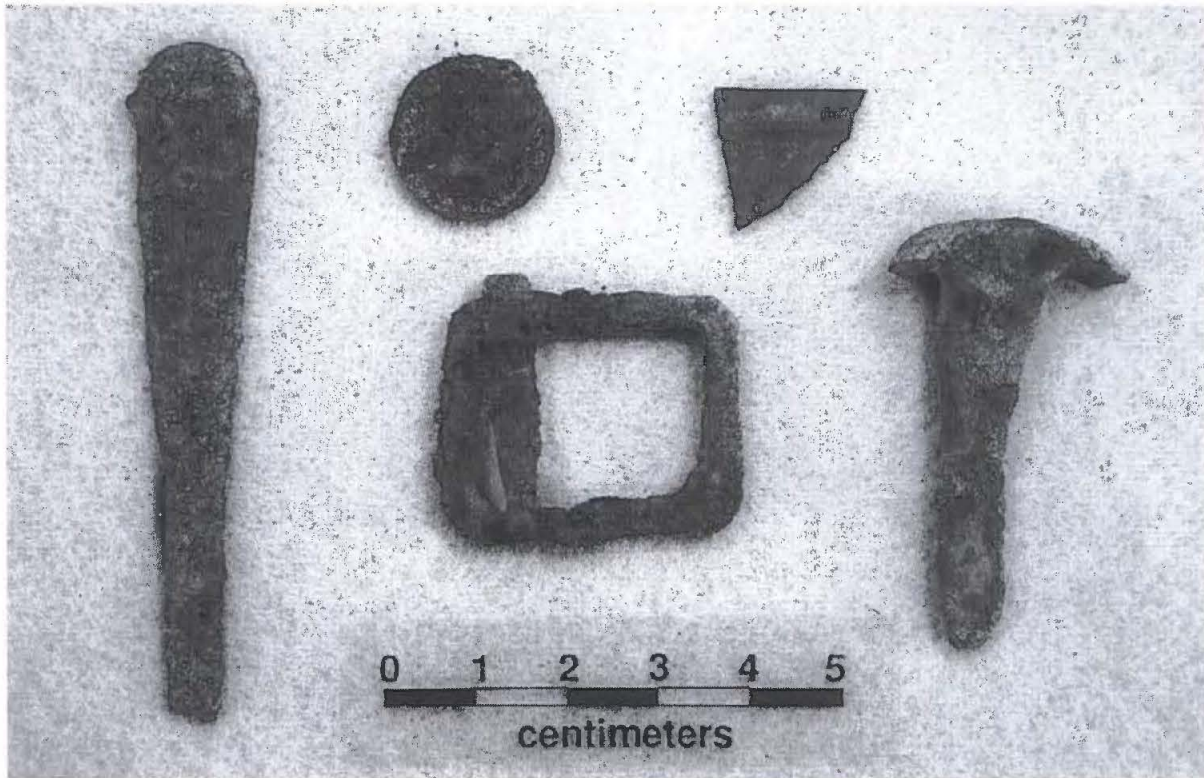


Figure 9. Metal artifacts from the Browning site: left: iron spoon handle; top row, left to right: 2-holed iron button; thin piece of tin (?); bottom row, left to right: metal buckle (horse tack); shaft/handle pull or large forged nail. Provenience: left, Unit 6, 0-10 cm; top row, left to right, Unit 22, 10-20 cm; Unit 13, 10-20 cm; bottom row, left to right: Unit 5, 0-10 cm; Unit 38, 10-20 cm.

preponderance of the evidence (see Table 3) is consistent with a ca. 1840-1860 occupation, one that postdated the Cherokee occupation of East Texas. The historic occupation of the Browning site is most likely the product of an Anglo-American settlement in the Sabine River basin.

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