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## Recent Research on the Archaeological and Historical Evidence of the Hasanai

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## RECENT RESEARCH ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF THE HASINAI

*Paul Shawn Marceaux*

### Introduction

This article was assembled using information collected for my dissertation proposal. The Allen Phase Caddo sites and other aboriginal Historic sites of interest are located in the upper Neches and Angelina River basins in East Texas, and were identified from various sources in the archaeological literature. In addition, regional archaeologists and avocational archaeologists, including several participants of the East Texas Caddo Research Group 2006 meeting, provided information and helped in the process of vetting sites.

My dissertation will examine the archival and archaeological records in hopes of identifying the archaeological correlates of Hasinai Caddo groups in East Texas. To accomplish this I will revisit primary documents and their translations, analyze known archaeological site collections, and locate, document, analyze and, if possible, contextualize unreported private collections. Utilizing multiple lines of evidence, including a broad survey of sites (Figure 1), collections, and a detailed examination of regional ceramic attributes, I propose to link archaeological sites to specific Hasinai regional entities.

Native Caddo groups inhabited the area between the Neches and Angelina river valleys of East Texas for hundreds of years before the first European contact at ca. A.D. 1542. Written accounts from the time of sustained contact, more than 100 years later have informed and influenced our understanding of the social, political, and economic organization of the Caddo. Over the last half-century many public and privately owned archaeological sites have been excavated and reported, but to my knowledge there has not been a detailed region-wide ceramic study of archaeological sites and collections from the upper Neches and Angelina river drainages.

### The Hasinai in the Archaeological and Historic Record

The Hasinai confederacy<sup>1</sup>, comprised of sedentary Caddo groups living in dispersed settlements along the upper Neches and Angelina rivers, was united through the religious leadership of a grand *xinesí* (Pertulla 1993, 2001). The hierarchical structure of the Hasinai is also evidenced by a set of hereditary and appointed officials, including *caddices* and *canahas*, who governed and mediated important matters. Ethnographic accounts from ca. 1690 (Casañas 1927; Espinosa 1927; Foster 1998; Hidalgo 1927; Joutel 1906; Margy 1879), although not exact in terms of location, provide evidence as to the position and geographical extent of some of the Caddo groups. The Frenchman René

<sup>1</sup> Anthropologists and archaeologists have used the term 'confederacy', although it does not appear in the historical sources.

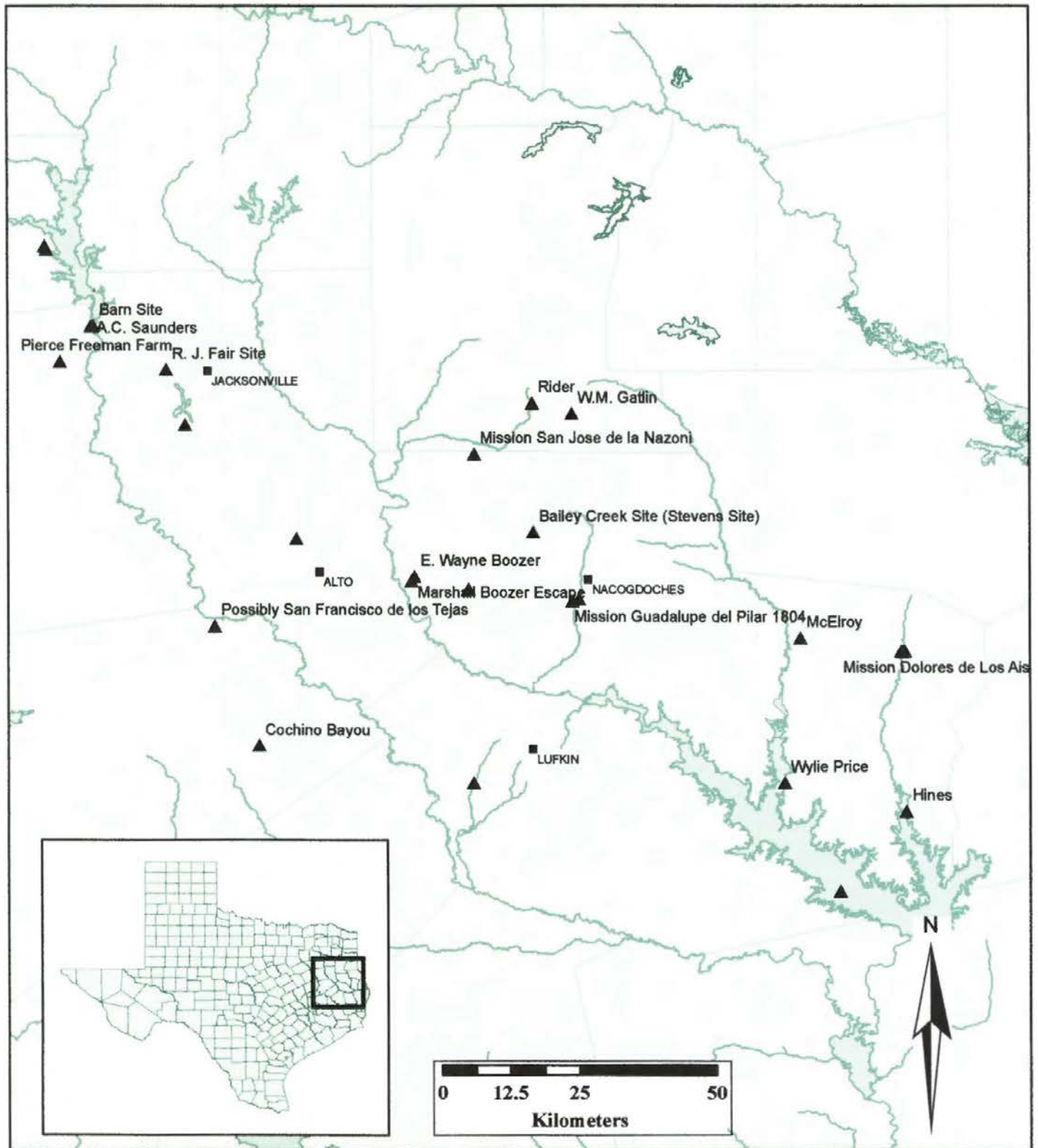


Figure 1. Historic and potentially historic sites of interest.

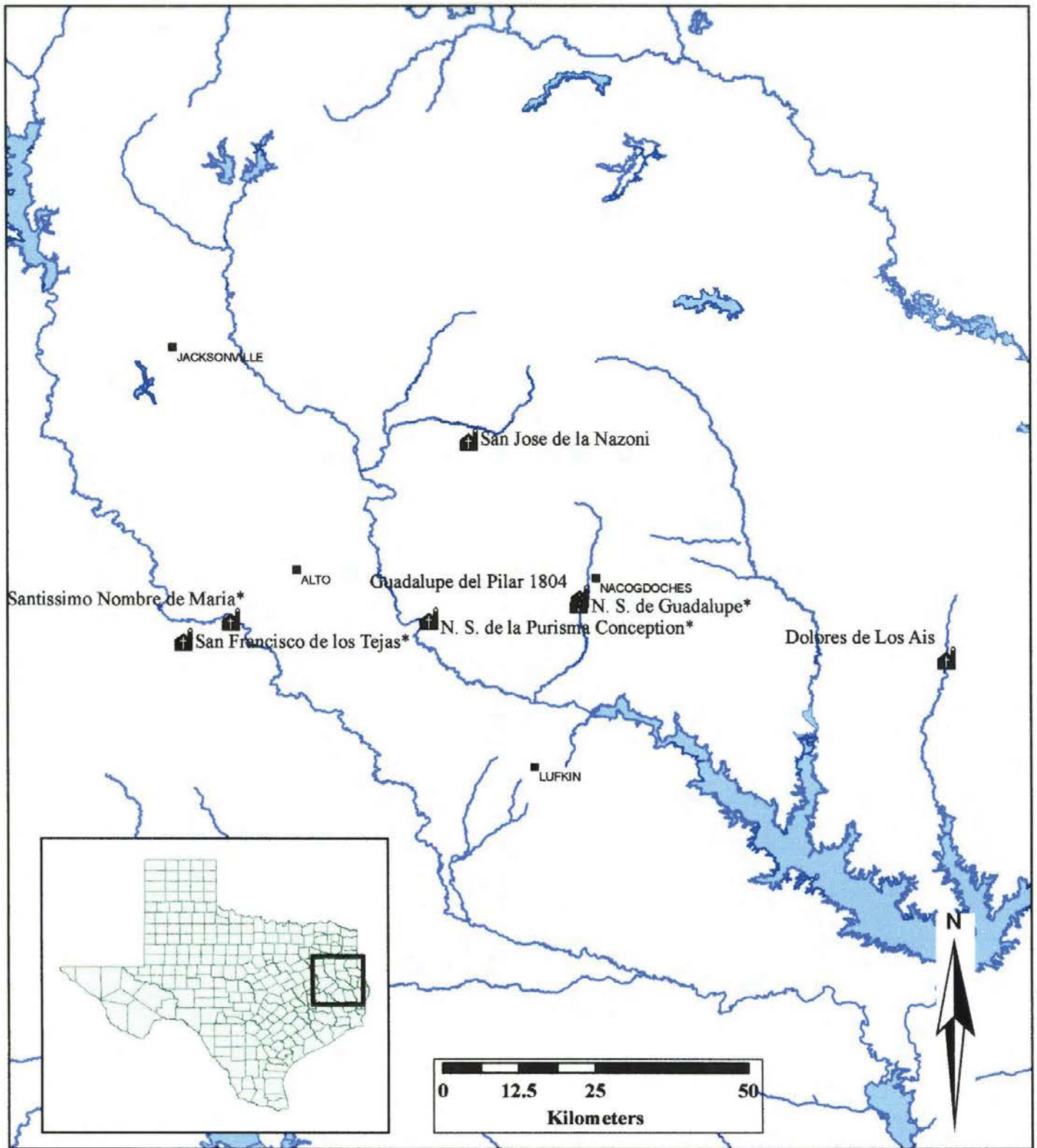
Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle visited the Cenís [Hasinai] in 1686, and Henri Joutel, with survivors from the failed Fort St. Louis, spent two months among the Nabadache and lower Nasoni the following year. Over the last two decades archaeologists have identified sites associated with these two groups of the Hasinai confederacy (Bill Young, personal communication 2006; Corbin 1989:273; Kenmotsu and Perttula 1993:151; Perttula and Nelson 2006).

Perttula and Nelson (2006) recently excavated two sites in Mission Tejas State Park, Houston County, which they determined to be part of the Nabadache village known from historical sources. The sites are possibly associated with either Mission San Francisco de los Tejas [1690] or with Mission Nuestro Padre San Francisco de Tejas [1716] or with both. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries there were six named Spanish missions established in seven locations in East Texas (Figure 2). Mission San José de los Nasonis [1716] is one of only two positively identified East Texas missions, thus making it an invaluable addition to the archaeological record. Mission Nasonis was located in Rusk County in 1988 by Bill Young, a Texas Historical Commission Steward. According to Espinosa, Mission Nasonis is associated with the Nasoni Caddo group (Tous 1930:23-24), as the name indicates, and although most East Texas Caddo archaeologists are aware of the site only limited investigations have taken place there, and none have been published.

Joutel's diary [1685-1687] provides detailed descriptions of French interaction with the Cenís [Hasinai] groups, but it would be several years before the Spanish established permanent settlements in the area. In 1691, we learn of the affiliation of the nine nations occupying the Hasinai province. The Franciscan Fray Francisco Casañas de Jesús María (1691) listed the Aseney [Hasinai] as consisting of the Nabadacho [Nabadache], Necha, Nechavi, Nacono, Nacachau, Nazadachotzi, Cachaé, Nabiti, and Nasayaha. Casañas further noted that the nine affiliated groups were "agreeable and obedient to the demands of the grand *xinesí*, who is like a small king" (my translation of Casañas 1691). The Nazonis [Nasoni], along with many other groups, are listed as tribes friendly to the province of the Hasinai but not necessarily subject to the grand *xinesí*.

It is not until after 1716 that several groups, including the Nasoni, Nadaco, and Nacaos, are included in lists of the Hasinai confederacy. Based on historical sources, archaeologists have noted that the leadership around this time was "a governing elite consisting of a religious head (*xinesí*) and village or confederacy assemblies" (Wyckoff and Baugh 1980:238). Perttula notes (1992:177) that when comparing ethnographically recorded locations of the affiliated Hasinai groups to the archaeological data available from the Neches and Angelina drainages two points are apparent:

First, that fairly specific Caddoan ethnic affiliations may be feasible for the Allen phase components in proximity to El Caminos Reales (Corbin 1991) and, second, that Allen phase components in the upper Neches River basin cannot be presently affiliated with any known Caddoan group, "band," or tribe.



\* indicates the exact location is unknown

Figure 2. Spanish missions in the upper Neches and Angelina River valleys.

There are several important surveys of Historic Caddo Allen phase sites in the study area (Kenmotsu and Perttula 1993; Perttula 1992:115-117; Story 1982, 1990), but none examine the distribution of detailed regional ceramic attributes across these sites. This, along with new translations and the re-examination of primary sources, may provide new insight into the socio-political organization of the Hasinai Caddo groups.

### Other Previous Research

Krieger's (1946:205-211) discussion of the Fulton Aspect notes that "the Frankston Focus was, in the main, a prehistoric culture" recognized as the Hasinai groups. He also identified the association between Patton Engraved ceramics and sites with European goods. In the later *Introductory Handbook of Texas Archeology*, Suhm et al. (1954:219-221) first characterize the Allen Focus<sup>2</sup> (dating from ca. A.D. 1600-1800) as dominated by Patton Engraved ceramics, Cuney and Turney projectile points, and European trade goods. The distribution of Patton Engraved and other ceramic types associated with Allen phase sites (Figure 3), including Poynor Engraved, Hume Engraved, Bullard Brushed, Killough Pinched, LaRue Neck Banded, and Maydelle Incised (see Fields 1981; Kleinschmidt 1982; Shafer n.d.; Story and Creel 1982; Suhm and Jelks 1962), will provide an analytical tool that can be used to approximate the geographical extent of some Hasinai groups.

The most comprehensive archaeological research in the study area comes from the work at the Deshazo site in Nacogdoches County (Story 1982, 1995). Using this Allen phase site and their knowledge of the regional archaeology, Story and Creel (1982:32-34) suggest that the Late Prehistoric and Historic Caddo groups at times were organized socio-politically into *constituent groups* that comprised an *affiliated group* headed by the grand *xinesí*. This suggestion provides a testable model based on *constituent groups*, ethnographically analogous to the above mentioned nine principal historical tribes, whereby each constituent group would share a greater number and variety of elements of material culture than the *affiliated group*.

Drawing from a larger sample of sites and archaeological data, but utilizing local and regional ceramic studies (Campbell 1936; Cole 1975; Fields 1981; Gilmore 1973; Kleinschmidt 1982; Shafer n.d.; Story 1982, 1995), I propose to identify and refine the chronology of specific affiliated and constituent groups. Historic archives, ceramic styles and their variations, and inclusive material culture assemblages will be the basis for identifying differences from one area and group to another.

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<sup>2</sup> The Allen Focus designation was changed to Allen phase (Story 1982) when the use of Aspect and Focus designations fell out of favor for the more general term phase. Herein, I will use Perttula and Nelson's (2006) dates for the Allen phase (A.D. 1650-1800).

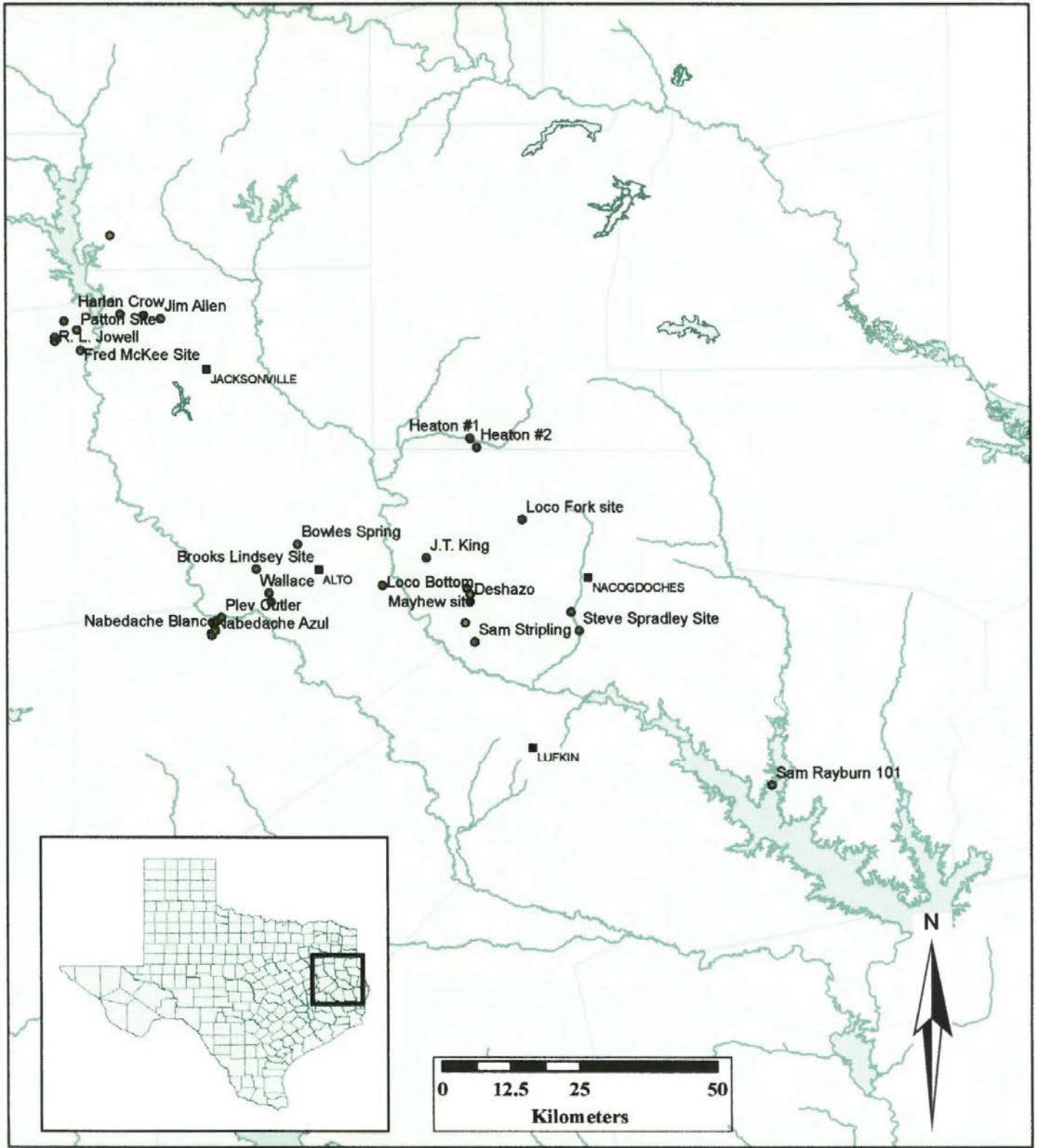


Figure 3. Allen phase sites



### Methodology and Ceramic Analysis

As mentioned above, there has not been a detailed region-wide ceramic study of archaeological sites and collections from the Neches and Angelina river drainages. In fact, according to Perttula (1992:78), "there has never been a comprehensive survey effort carried out within any part of the Caddo Area to acquire the regional archaeological data to characterize the density and distribution of Caddo sites that postdate 1520." To correct this problem and as the basis for my dissertation work I have created and developed a database containing site and locational data from over 800 Caddo sites, ranging in age from Early Caddo to the Historic period. Using the power of database queries and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping, I have identified approximately 60 Caddo sites in the Neches and Angelina River drainages that date to the latter part of the Late Prehistoric and Historic periods. Over half of the sites contain both Caddo ceramics and European trade goods, confirming their historic context.

My research relies primarily on four sets of data: (1) unreported private collections of ceramic sherds, including those from Mission San José de los Nasonis and the Henry M site in Nacogdoches County, (2) existing ceramic collections consisting of vessels and sherds (including the most recently excavated sites) stored at regional facilities such as the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin and at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, (3) regional site, artifact, and locational data gathered from previous reports and compiled in a database, and (4) early French and Spanish historical documents associated with this area.

The principal objective of the research is to determine how specific pottery attributes of morphology, technology, and style from the study area correlate with sites found in the presumed locations of the principal tribes of the Hasinai as indicated by the archaeological and historical records. In other words, how do ceramic assemblages from the region reflect the position and geographical extent of Hasinai groups? It is my belief that a survey of historic Caddo sites will provide a means of identifying these affiliated and constituent groups.

In all, 28 sites identified as having Historic period or potentially historic components (Table 1) of Caddo age, and 35 Allen phase sites (see Figure 3 and Table 2), are included in the analysis. Pottery attributes such as techniques of surface treatment, temper, decorative motif or element and, when possible, manufacturing technique, vessel part, and form will be recorded. Plain, brushed, and some ceramics decorated while the paste was wet, are thought to represent utilitarian wares and will be quantified using counts and weights. It has also been demonstrated that the plain to decorated sherd ratio decreases through time from Late Prehistoric to the Historic Caddo period (Perttula and Nelson 2006), providing a provisional chronological measure.

Table 1. Historic and potentially historic sites in the study area.

Site Trinomial	Site Name	Source
41AG22		K&P*, Story 1990
41AG39		K&P, Story 1990
41AG57		TARL Dbase
41AN164	Barn Site	TARL Dbase
41CE333		THC Sites Atlas
41HE139		TARL Dbase
41HE14		TARL Dbase
41HO6	Possibly San Francisco de los Tejas	K&P, Story 1990
41NA171		TARL Dbase
41NA202	Bailey Creek Site (Stevens Site)	THC Sites Atlas, Tim Perttula (Personal Comm.)
41NA207		THC Sites Atlas
41NA208	E. Wayne Boozer	THC Sites Atlas
41NA22		K&P
41NA223	Mission Church Guadalupe del Pilar 1804	TARL Dbase
41RK1	W.M. Gatlin	K&P, Story 1990
41RK5	Rider	K&P, Story 1990
41RK200	Mission San Jose de la Nazoni	K&P, TARL Dbase
41SA116	McElroy	K&P, Story 1990, Jelks 1965
41SA25	Mission Dolores de Los Ais	THC Sites Atlas, Story 1990, Corbin et al 1980
41SA38		K&P, Story 1990
41SA41		K&P, Story 1990
41SA94	Wylie Price	K&P, Story 1990, Jelks 1965
41SA95	Hines	K&P, Story 1990, Stephenson 1950
Possibly include		
41AN19	A.C. Saunders	Kleinschmidt 1982
41AN34	Pierce Freeman Farm	TARL Dbase
41CE25	R. J. Fair Site	K&P, TARL Dbase
41CE45		K&P, TARL Dbase
41HO212		THC Sites Atlas

\* Kenmotsu and Perttula 1993

Table 2. Allen phase sites to be included in the study.

Site Trinomial	Site Name	Source
41AN13	R. L. Jowell	THC Sites Atlas, Cole 1975, Story 1990
41AN21	Mrs. Emma Owens Site	TARL Dbase, Story 1990, Cole 1975
41AN26	Patton Site	TARL Dbase, Story 1990, Cole 1975, Kleinschmidt 1982
41AN32	Fred McKee Site	TARL Dbase, Story 1990, Cole 1975
41AN8	L. Cecil Farm I and II	TARL Dbase
41CE12	Jim Allen	K&P, Story 1990, Cole 1975, Kleinschmidt 1982
41CE19	George C. Davis Site	K&P, Story, Newell and Krieger 1949
41CE20	Wallace	TARL Dbase, Story 1990
41CE293	Brooks Lindsey Site	K&P, TARL Dbase
41CE354	Harlan Crow	Tim Perttula, personal communication
41CE48	Bowles Spring	K&P, Story 1990
41CE6	E. W. Hackney	K&P, Story 1990, Cole 1975, Kleinschmidt 1982
41CE62		THC Sites Atlas
41HO1	Plev Cutler	K&P, Story 1990
41HO122		Erickson and Corbin 1996
41HO147		Erickson and Corbin 1996
41HO211	Nabedache Blanco	Perttula and Nelson 2006
41HO214	Nabedache Azul	Perttula and Nelson 2006
41HO64	G.A. Moore Site 1b	K&P, Story 1990, Perttula 2005
41HO65	G.A. Moore Site 1c	K&P, TARL Dbase, Story 1990, Perttula 2005
41HO67	Krieger's George A. Moore Site 3	K&P, Story 1990
41HO91		Erickson and Corbin 1996
41NA113		K&P, Story 1990
41NA15	J.T. King	K&P, Story 1990
41NA183	Loco Fork	Tom Middlebrook (Personal communication)
41NA197	Sam Stripling	TARL Dbase
41NA206	Steve Spradley	Tom Middlebrook (Personal communication)
41NA21	Mayhew site	K&P, Story 1990, Kenmotsu 1992
41NA27	Deshazo	K&P, TARL Dbase, Story 1982, 1990
41NA60	Henry Mast, Loco Bayou #104	K&P, TARL Dbase
41NA67	Sam Rayburn 101	K&P, TARL Dbase, Story 1990
41RK191		K&P, TARL Dbase
41RK197		K&P
41SM77	Vanderpool	Tim Perttula (Personal communication)

### Conclusions

I will employ a multifaceted approach that utilizes unpublished archaeological investigations, information on material culture from previous, current, and ongoing regional studies, and archival records documenting the arrival and subsequent occupation of East Texas by European colonists. The current research proposes using ceramic attributes to refine decorative elements within types, potentially leading to the identification of Hasinai groups. Ceramic assemblages dominate most Caddo collections and provide the best opportunity to identify groups of the Hasinai Caddo in the archaeological record. Database functionality and spatial analysis of GIS software will facilitate mapping ceramics sherd and vessel attributes, the distribution of European trade goods, and other temporally sensitive artifacts (e.g., projectile point types and knives).

The identification of archaeological sites associated with historically known members of the Hasinai confederacy will greatly contribute to further archaeological research in this area. This study will serve as an example of how archaeologists utilizing curated and unpublished collections, previous research, ethnographic accounts, and technological innovations such as GIS can arrive at new understandings of Native American groups.

Tables 3 and 4 include examples of sorted queries from a database I created in order to manage site and artifact information for this study. Some fields contain reported counts, (i.e., VESSEL COU, T\_SHERDS), and some fields are noted as present (1) or absent (0), (i.e., VESSELS, TRADE\_BEAD, PP\_K). Figure 4 is a map of sites across East Texas where European trade goods have been reported.

Table 3. Examples of database fields and values collected for analysis.

SITE TRINO	VESSELs	VESSEL_COU	T_SHERDs	TRADE BEAD	PP_K
41NA27	1	16	31615	1	0
41RK200	0	0	8548	1	0
41SA25	0	0	1579	1	0
41SA95	0	0	967	0	0
41NA67	0	0	583	1	0
41CE293	0	0	400	0	0
41RK191	0	0	360	0	0
41AN32	1	21	341	1	1
41CE20	1	1	251	1	0
41AG22	0	0	249	1	1
41HO214	0	0	227	1	0
41RK197	0	0	199	0	0
41AN21	1	1	189	0	1
41HE139	0	0	182	0	0
41AN8	1	5	166	0	1
41CE62	0	0	133	0	0
41HO211	0	0	94	1	0
41AN26	1	30	93	1	1
41CE354	0	0	90	0	0
41AN34	1	21	68	0	1
41NA60	0	0	44	1	0
41HE14	0	0	25	0	0
41NA113	1	2	22	1	0
41AN164	0	0	11	0	0
41NA139	0	0	10	0	0
41SA38	0	0	5	0	0
41AG39	0	0	2	1	0
41CE12	1	62	0	1	0
41AN13	1	17	0	1	1

Table 4. Examples of database fields and values collected for analysis.

Phase	Sherd ID	Site Tri	Provenience	Sherd	Temper	Decoration
Allen	206	41HO214	Unit 7, 0-10 cm	body	bone	parallel brushed
Allen	207	41HO214	Unit 7, 0-10 cm	body	grog	parallel brushed
Allen	208	41HO214	Unit 7, 0-10 cm	body	grog	deep parallel incised lines
Allen	209	41HO214	Unit 7, 0-10 cm	body	grog	opposed brushed
Allen	210	41HO214	Unit 7, 0-10 cm	body	grog	parallel brushed
Allen	211	41HO214	Unit 7, 0-10 cm	body	grog	parallel incised lines
Allen	212	41HO214	Unit 7, 10-20 cm	body	grog/SP	plain
Allen	213	41HO214	Unit 7, 10-20 cm	body	bone	parallel brushed-incised
Allen	214	41HO214	Unit 7, 10-20 cm	body	grog	parallel brushed
Allen	215	41HO214	Unit 7, 10-20 cm	body	grog-bone	tool punctated row
Allen	216	41HO214	Unit 7, 10-20 cm	body	bone-ht	parallel brushed
Allen	217	41HO214	Unit 7, 10-20 cm	body	bone-ht	parallel brushed
Allen	218	41HO214	Unit 7, 20-30 cm	body	grog	parallel incised, closely-spaced
Allen	219	41HO214	Unit 7, 20-30 cm	body	grog	tool punctated rows
Allen	220	41HO214	Unit 7, 20-30 cm	body	grog	parallel brushed
Allen	221	41HO214	Unit 7, 20-30 cm	body	grog-ht/SP	parallel brushed-incised
Allen	222	41HO214	Unit 7, 20-30 cm	body	bone-grog	parallel brushed
Allen	223	41HO214	Unit 8, 0-10 cm	body	grog-ht	parallel brushed
Allen	224	41HO214	Unit 8, 0-10 cm	body	bone	neck banded
Allen	225	41HO214	Unit 8, 10-20 cm	body	grog	parallel brushed
Allen	226	41HO214	Unit 8, 10-20 cm	body	grog-bone	parallel brushed-incised
Allen	227	41HO214	Unit 8, 10-20 cm	body	grog	plain
Allen	331	41RK191	RK1	rim		incised
Allen	332	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel brushed incised
Allen	333	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel incised
Allen	334	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel incised
Allen	335	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel incised
Allen	336	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel incised
Allen	337	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel incised
Allen	338	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel incised
Allen	339	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel incised
Allen	340	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel incised
Allen	341	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel incised
Allen	342	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel incised
Allen	343	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel incised
Allen	344	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel incised
Allen	345	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel incised
Allen	346	41RK191	RK1	body		crosshatched-incised
Allen	347	41RK191	RK1	body		single straight line incised
Allen	348	41RK191	RK1	body		single straight engraved line
Allen	349	41RK191	RK1	body		single straight engraved line
Allen	350	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel engraved
Allen	351	41RK191	RK1	body		parallel engraved
Allen	352	41RK191	RK1	body		curvilinear engraved
Allen	353	41RK191	RK1	body		patton engraved
Allen	354	41RK191	RK1	body		patton engraved
Allen	355	41RK191	RK1	body		patton engraved
Allen	356	41RK191	RK1	body		patton engraved
Allen	357	41RK191	RK1	rim		horizontal engraved

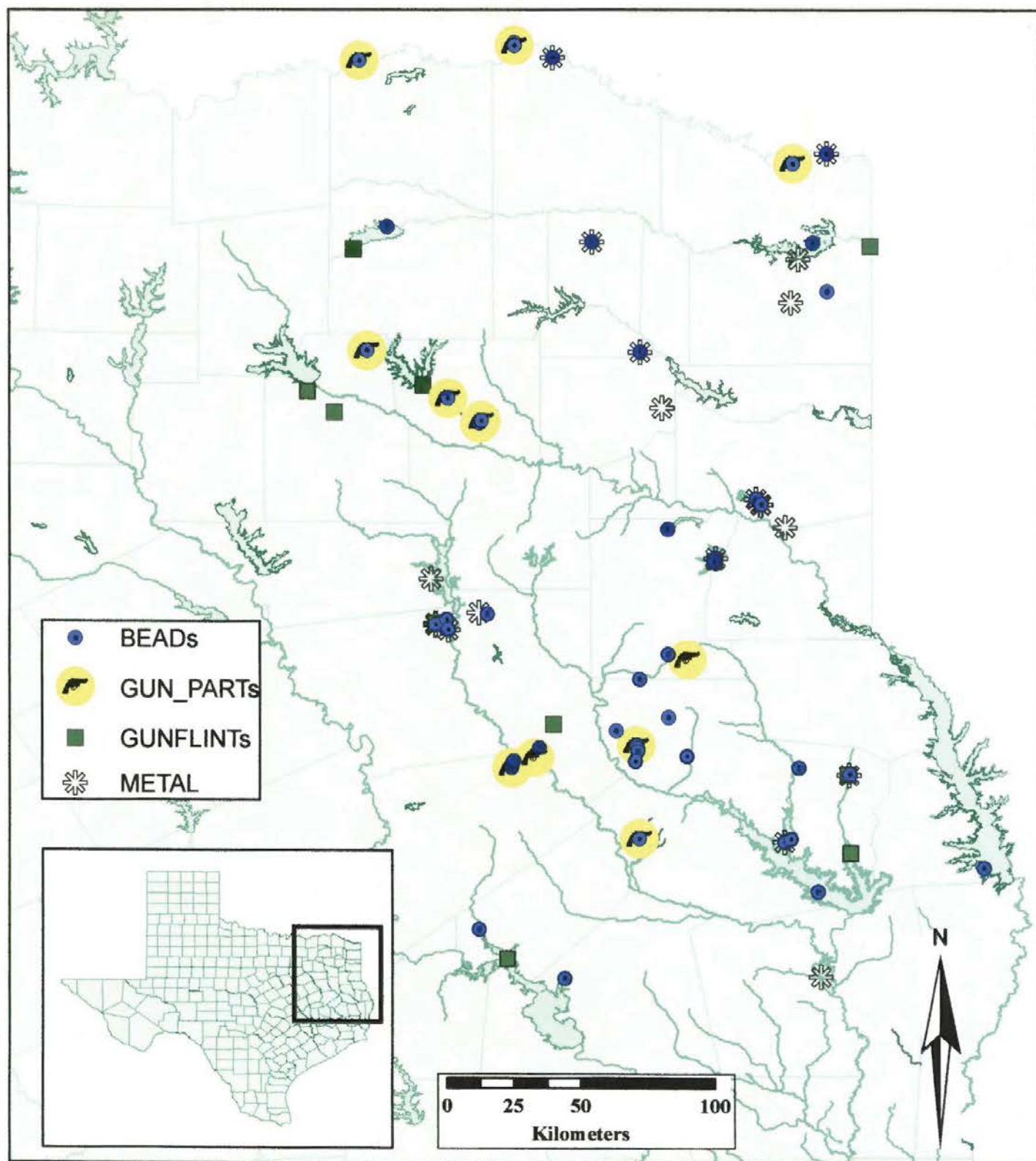


Figure 4. European trade goods reported at sites in East Texas.

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