



1998

Historic European Trade Goods from the Willis Place #2 (41BW147) Site in Bowie County, Texas

Timothy K. Perttula

Center for Regional Heritage Research, Stephen F. Austin State University

Jay C. Blaine

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ita>



Part of the [American Material Culture Commons](#), [Archaeological Anthropology Commons](#), [Environmental Studies Commons](#), [Other American Studies Commons](#), [Other Arts and Humanities Commons](#), [Other History of Art, Architecture, and Archaeology Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Tell us how this article helped you.

Repository Citation

Perttula, Timothy K. and Blaine, Jay C. (1998) "Historic European Trade Goods from the Willis Place #2 (41BW147) Site in Bowie County, Texas," *Index of Texas Archaeology: Open Access Gray Literature from the Lone Star State*: Vol. 1998 , Article 39. <https://doi.org/10.21112/.ita.1998.1.39>

ISSN: 2475-9333

Available at: <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ita/vol1998/iss1/39>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Regional Heritage Research at SFA ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Index of Texas Archaeology: Open Access Gray Literature from the Lone Star State by an authorized editor of SFA ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu.

Historic European Trade Goods from the Willis Place #2 (41BW147) Site in Bowie County, Texas

Creative Commons License



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

HISTORIC EUROPEAN TRADE GOODS FROM THE WILLIS PLACE #2 (41BW147) SITE IN BOWIE COUNTY, TEXAS

Timothy K. Perttula and Jay C. Blaine

In this paper we report on possible historic European trade materials found at the Willis Place #2 site (41BW147), an aboriginal site along the Red River a few miles west of Texarkana, Texas. The possible trade materials were recovered in the 1970s by the landowner, Mr. Julian Cranfill, from a "fire pit" (or hearth?) exposed during plowing of a natural levee a short distance from the current channel of the river.

The possible European trade goods include a black glass bead and a small iron bell. The glass bead is a drawn or tubular specimen, type IIA5 in Brain's (1979:102) glass bead classification, possibly made in Amsterdam. The bead is 6.37 mm in length, 5.10 mm in diameter, and the perforation diameter is 1.78 mm. This type of bead has been found on 18th and early 19th century Caddoan sites along the Red River (in both Texas and Louisiana) as well as in East Texas.

The iron bell may be from a hawk bell (Figure 1), although it has unusual features and may be more recent in age than the glass bead. It has double (crossed) slots, an iron bell body (rather than copper or brass), and a long iron stem with a probable expanded head. This head, together with the length of the stem, suggests that the bell may have been attached through a thick base of unknown form or size; it is also possible that the bell may have been fastened with a later stem that would have been introduced through the crossed slots. It may have been attached to a toy or ornament. The bell, including the body and stem, is 35.8 mm in length, and 19.9 mm in width; the long straight iron stem is 16.8 mm in length and 3.06 mm in width.



Figure 1. Iron Bell from the Willis Place #2 (41BW147). Scale: 1:1. Drawn by Nancy G. Reese

At the present time, we do not have information on what kinds of aboriginal materials came from the "fire pit", or from the site as a whole. There is a substantial late 18th century historic Caddo Indian site (41BW512) about 400 meters south of the Willis Place #2 site, and the landowner has found there Natchitoches Engraved vessels, several thousand glass beads (mainly white seed beads), French and English blade gunflints, metal knives, and other assorted items. Perhaps the historic European trade materials from the Willis Place #2 site are associated with the Caddoan settlement at 41BW512.

REFERENCES

- Brain, J. P.
1979 *Tunica Treasure*. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 71. Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.