

Spanish Colonial Ceramic Sherds from the Morris Ranch site in southwestern Atascosa County, Texas

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There are two Spanish Colonial period sherds in the collections from the Morris Ranch site in southwestern Atascosa County in southern Texas (Figure 1). The first is a Smooth Brown lead glazed rim sherd (Fox and Ulrich 2008:56 and Figure 4-10). The rim sherd (3.5 mm thick), probably from a shallow bowl, has a transparent lead glaze on both vessel surfaces, and a dark brown painted band on the exterior rim and on the lip itself (Figure 2a). Fox and Ulrich (2008:56) date the manufacture of this Mexican ceramic ware to ca. 1775-1830.

The second rim sherd from the Morris Ranch site is from a Black Luster Glaze ware vessel, likely a deep bowl (Fox and Ulrich 2008:62 and Figure 4-13). The rim is 5.5 mm in thickness and has a black and shiny glaze on both sherd surfaces (see Figure 2b). The paste has a terra cotta color. Black Luster Glaze ware vessels were manufactured between ca. 1750-1850 in Mexico, although the places of manufacture are not definitely known (Fox and Ulrich 2008:62).

In summary, a collection of ceramic sherds from the Morris Ranch site in southwestern Atascosa County has two rim sherds from Spanish Colonial ceramic wares made in Mexico. These sherds, including a Smooth Brown lead-glazed rim and a Black Luster Glaze rim, indicate that the site was occupied between ca. 1750-1850. Additional investigations at the site are warranted to obtain a larger sample of the Spanish Colonial wares at the site to better define the period and character of the occupation as well as the ethnic and social affiliation of the occupants.

References Cited

- Fox, A. A. and K. M. Ulrich
2008 *A Guide to Ceramics from Spanish Colonial Sites in Texas*. Special Report No. 33.
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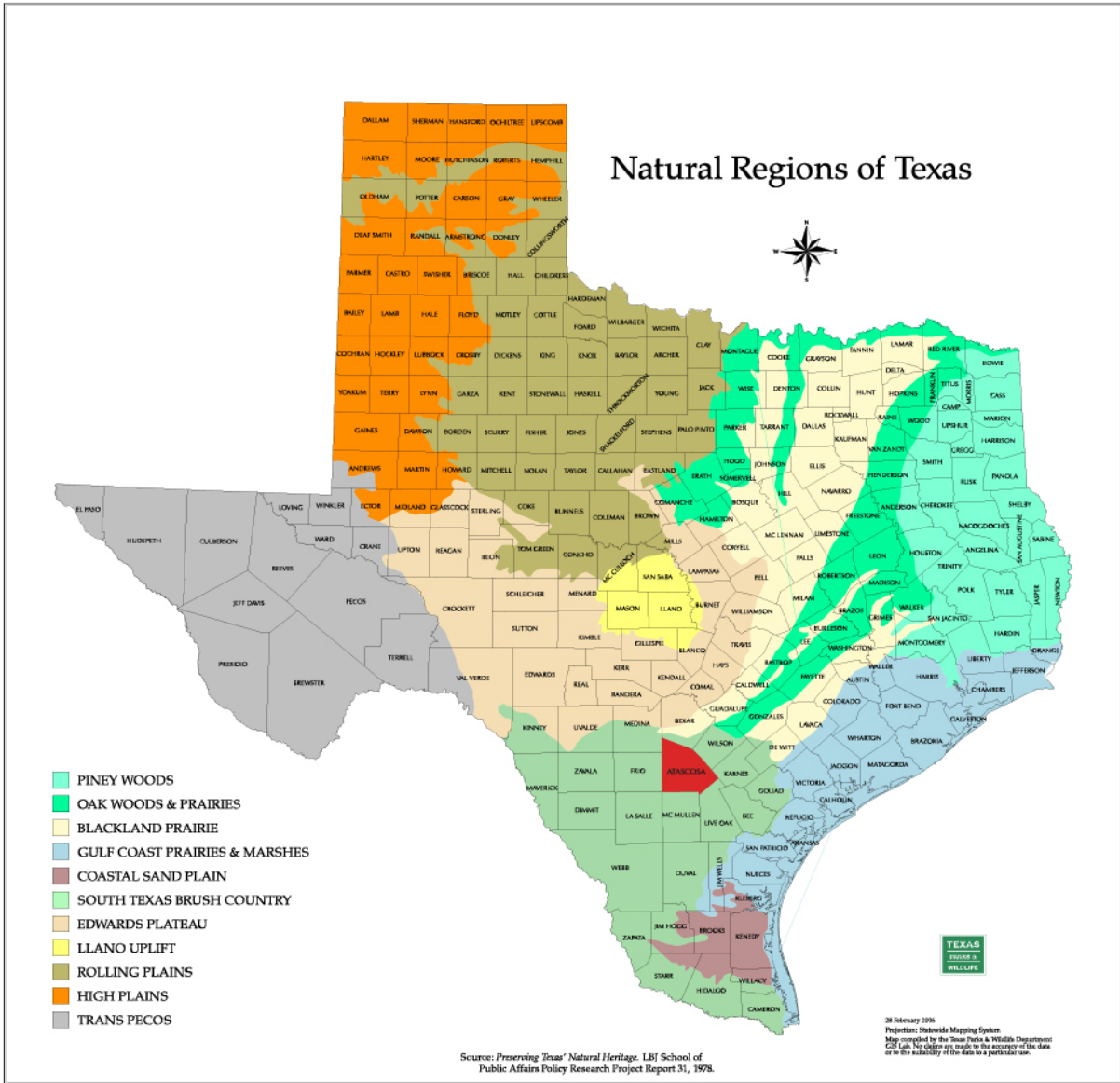


Figure 1. The location of Atascosa County in South Texas.



Figure 2. Spanish Colonial ceramic sherds from the Morris Ranch site in Atascosa County, Texas: a, Smooth Brown rim sherd; b, Black Luster Glaze rim sherd.