Florida Paleoindian Points and Knives

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Introduction
This is a preview of a longer-range effort aimed at compiling, defining, and identifying the various types of Paleoindian projectile points and bifacially flaked knives in a revised typology. At present, we prefer to refer to the different classes as forms rather than types, although some, such as the Western Clovis Fluted and the Eastern Clovis Waisted, are documented elsewhere as recognizable types. Our reasons for using the term form instead of type are threefold. First, the Florida Suwannee point type described by Bullen (1968:48 and 1975:55) does not meet the criteria of representing a distinctive type; rather, it represents a heterogeneous assemblage of forms. Second, there are forms that either are not identified in previous typological efforts or, as in the case with Bullen's Suwannee type, are lumped with another form. Third, there is a problem of distinguishing what the Simpson type actually represents. To the extent possible, our eventual goal is to get beyond the "unresolvable dispute between the 'splitters' and the 'lumpers' " (Steward 1954:55) and to distinguish between types by identifying attributes, including metric and non-metric morphology, edge damage suggestive of function, and raw materials used for production. Here we identify many of the Florida Paleoindian lanceolate forms.

Background
In Florida, the Clovis form obviously took its name from the classic type (Sellards 1952). Suwannee and Simpson points were identified in Florida as Florida types. John Goggin (1949:13–44 and 1950:46–49) first recognized the Suwannee type in publication, but he also indicated that people had been locally identifying them by that name for some years. The Simpson, the last to be named as a distinct type by Ripley Bullen (1968:49 and 1975:56),

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was introduced in his typology of Florida projectile point types. Subsequent recognition that Paleoindian diagnostic artifacts occur in Florida has been used mostly to study the spatial distribution of isolated finds and sites rather than to establish or refine typology (Allen 1967; Bullen 1958, 1962; Dunbar 1991; Dunbar and Waller 1983; Jenkins and Simpson 1941; Neill 1964; Simpson 1948; Waller 1970; Waller and Dunbar 1977).

A principal exponent of this investigative approach is Bullen (1968 and 1975). His assertions concerning typology can be stated as fundamental questions: What are the diagnostic types, and what periods do they represent? Do forms historically considered types in Florida (Bullen ibid) enter and exit the stage independent of one another, or do they partially overlap in time? Are cultural continuity and evolution reflected in the Florida assemblage, or is there evidence of discontinuous episodes of human occupancy similar to that for the Southwest Archaic (Berry and Berry 1986: 255-327)?

Using these topics as a starting point, we offer the following observations on morphology and manufacture of Paleoindian projectile point and knife forms for consideration.

**Page-Ladson Lanceolate**

(Figure 1A) Distribution: Florida and Georgia

Several specimens of this newly proposed unfluted form have been recovered from displaced contexts at the Page/Ladson site (8JE591) as well as at other Aucilla River sites. Additional specimens have been reported as isolated finds from both the St. Marks and Suwannee rivers. The Page-Ladson form should not be confused with the unfluted Clovis described by Cambron and Hulse (1990:27), which is a form more akin to the fluted Clovis type, not the Page-Ladson form. Although the Page-Ladson form has not been recovered in context, Dunbar (2002) believes there is circumstantial evidence that this form is a Clovis ancestor. At Page-Ladson two specimens were recovered from displaced context. The Page-Ladson form is the most likely candidate for association with Unit 3, dating to 12,420 ± 80 RCYBP (pooled average of seven dates = 14,345 CALYBP), which produced artifacts and a cut-marked masticodon tusk.

Among the specimens presently included in this form, variability in lithic quality may have been linked to manufacturing strategy. On specimens with overshoot flaking, the source rock is high-quality chert; however, specimens made of poor-quality, granitic materials do not have overshoot removals. One of the overshoot specimens is manufactured from imported jasperoid, similar to that of the nearest source area in the Flint River basin, Georgia (Cooke 1945: 104-105). Page/Ladson, in the Half Mile Rise section of the Aucilla River, should be considered the type-site for this form.

**Clovis Fluted**

(Figure 1B) Distribution: Across North America

Several specimens of this type have been recovered from displaced context in river basins and in various locations from just south of Tampa Bay northward in Florida. No known specimens of this form have been found in stratigraphic context in Florida, although a single example was recovered adjacent to the stratified deposits at the Silver Springs site (8MR92; Neill 1958:33-52, Fig. 3c). All specimens considered here are fluted on one or both sides.

**Lakw Jackson Lanceolate**

(Figure 1C) Distribution: Florida at Present

Despite the limited sample of three specimens available for inspection, we believe it possible that this form is distinctive, based on its differential basal thinning, rounded and downward-pointing basal ears, and haft area shape. Thinning includes mid-preform-stage fluting, late-preform-stage fluting, and basal thinning. Lateral basal thinning, when present, is minor. The other distinctive characteristic appears to be the haft area, which constricts from the proximal towards the distal end. Its shape is also somewhat distinctive compared with other forms, even though both examples appear to have been resharpened. No amount of resharpening could alter the shape of the constricted hafting area. It is the only form that displays proximal to distal tapering of the hafting area. The hafting shape, rounded basal ears, and varied basal thinning uniquely define this form. It is possible this form represents the reworked distal end of a broken Clovis or Clovis-like point salvaged for further use by its maker (Marrow 2000).

**Simpson Fishtailed**

(Figure 1D) Distribution: Florida and Southern Georgia

The Simpson form considered here is an extremely recurve form that has a greatly contracted
haft area compared with the width of the blade on specimens that have not been extensively resharpened. One extensively resharpened specimen has an outline shape reminiscent of the Suwannee Waisted form. Characteristic Simpson features include its extreme width-to-thickness ratio prior to resharpening (ca. 12:1–21:1) and broadly expanding, percussion-struck flaking extending about three quarters across the blade from the lateral margins. This type of flaking creates a central blade region thinner than the surrounding lateral area, a trait similar to Central and South American fish-tail and Lake Madden types (Ranere and Cooke 1991:239). Another distinguishing characteristic of the Simpson (versus the Suwannee Waisted form) is its extremely constricted haft area (waist) that is, in our opinion, functionally ill suited for projectile and thrusting-type use. We suggest its function was a cutting or skinning knife.

**Clovis Waisted**

_(Figure 1E) Distribution: Eastern U. S., Occasionally West of the Mississippi River_

Neill recovered a Clovis Waisted point in situ at the undated Silver Springs site (8MR92; 1958:33-53, Fig. 3a) along with a probable preform (ibid, Fig. 3d). An additional example was recovered out of context (ibid., Fig. 3b). Sloth Hole (8JE121) has produced multiple Clovis Waisted points as well as the classic form. The signature for Clovis Waisted points is particularly strong at Sloth Hole along with the occurrence of carved ivory shafts or foreshafts. Aside from the characteristic shape, fluting, and overshot flaking, an unusually large number of specimens of this form display heavy impact fractures and repaired impact fractures that betray its function as a projectile. Sloth Hole, in the Aucilla River, should be considered the Florida type-site for this form.

McFadden Beach in Texas (Stright et al 1999) and Murray Springs in Arizona (Haynes 1982) are two Western sites that have also produced the Clovis Waisted type.

**Suwannee Waisted**

_(Figure 1F) Distribution: Coastal Plain of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina_

This form may represent the earliest of Bullen's Suwannee forms. One example was excavated and three others recovered from displaced context at the Ryan-Harvey site (8JE1004). A distinctive uniface tool kit and diverse faunal remains including Pleistocene horse and tapir were recovered in situ from test excavations. A carved ivory shaft fragment was recovered from displaced context. Other Suwannee Waisted points have been recovered in a variety of locations from southern Florida northward. It is noteworthy that a small percentage of Suwannee Waisted points share certain characteristics, such as occasional fluting and overshot flaking, with the Clovis Waisted form. They also share with Clovis Waisted the same ratio of waft width to maximum width.

Another interesting feature, although not included in this sample, is the waisted form recovered from the Harney Flats excavations conducted by Daniel and Wisenbaker (1987:42-54). The Harney Flats specimen, although referred to as a Simpson, is not distinctive given the range of forms in the Bullen typology (see below). It has a ratio of waist width to maximum width of 1.6:1, which is in line with Suwannee Waisted and Clovis Waisted forms. More importantly, the Harney Flats specimen is opposite beveled, which is a characteristic of the early-Archaic Bolen side-notched assemblage. That the Suwannee Waisted specimens occasionally share features with Clovis Waisted and with the form at Harney Flats may be indicative of an evolutionary continuum within these waisted forms.

**Suwannee, Greenbrier-like**

_(Figure 1G) Distribution: Florida, Elsewhere Uncertain_

This is an uncommon form whose most distinctive features are horizontally expanding ears and a parallel-blade form. Several specimens have been identified, including specimens in the Bullen type-case collection (Figure 2). The specimen in Figure 1G is from the Page-Ladson site (8JE591). At least one specimen has overshot flaking, which may or may not represent an intended manufacture feature. Although this form superficially resembles a reworked Suwannee Waisted, it lacks horizontally expanding ears. Its ears and nearly parallel blade edges give it a Greenbrier-like appearance.

**Bullen's Typology**

_(Figure 2)_

One of our justifications for undertaking this study is the need to update Ripley Bullen's original typology. To understand Bullen's Paleoindian types we felt it best to consider the specimens

![Clovis and Simpson examples](image)

**Figure 2.** Examples of variation in Bullen's type collection, most notably within the Suwannee type.
in his type-case collection by applying his methodology. Because Bullen used outline shapes to depict the Clovis, Suwanee, and Simpson types (in his Guide to the Identification of Florida Projectile Points, 1968 and 1975), we do so here for the points in his original type-case collection. Images of the points were digitized and outlined, and the images were then deleted to create scaled outlines of their silhouettes. The Suwanee type shown in Figure 2 demonstrates the heterogeneous assemblage that he lumped together. We have arranged the different forms into potential types of forms under the headings Excavate, Waisted, Parallel, Reworked, and Greenbriar-like. The upper part of Figure 2 depicts the Clovis and Simpson types. Note that Bullen lumps the more classic, excavate Clovis type with the excavate Clovis Waisted. Another problem is Bullen's placement of a excavate, fluted Clovis under the excavate Suwanee form (note the excavate Suwanee on far left, Figure 2). Finally, note the similarities between some specimens in the Simpson and Suwanee Waisted types. Our evidence suggests the major differences between the two waisted forms are in ratios of shaft width to maximum width, blade thickness profiles, and the presence (Simpson) versus absence (Suwanee) of the large expanding, percussion-struck 34-shot flakes.

Summary
The Page-Ladson site has produced a form of lanceolate point that promises to be of pre-Clovis or Old Clovis age. The Clovis Waisted and classic Clovis forms have been found together at the Sloth Hole site (8JE121) and the Silver Springs site (8MR92) in Florida. The Clovis Waisted form occurs elsewhere in the eastern U.S. (see the Ross County, Ohio, type in Prufer 1962:15–21, Fig. 1b; Perino 1985:330; Goodyear 1999: 432–481). Although uncommon, this form has also been found in at least two sites west of the Mississippi River, along the Texas coast at McFadden Beach (Stright et al. 1999) and in the Desert Southwest at the Murray Springs site in Arizona (Haynes 1982). The Suwanee Waisted form shows evidence of being an offspring of Clovis Waisted. We are uncertain where the Lake Jackson Lanceolate and Greenbriar-like Suwanee forms fit into this timeline. We believe the Simpson form described here is a knife and not a projectile point. We look forward to assembling larger samples of these forms and others for a deeper comparative analysis.

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Florida Paleoindian Points and Knives

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