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# The Bonner Place (41AG3) and J. A. Jordan (41AG5) Sites in the Neches River Basin, Angelina County, Texas

*Timothy K. Perttula*

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## Introduction and Site Settings

The Bonner Place (41AG3) and J. A. Jordan (41AG5) sites are ancestral Caddo habitation sites recorded by Gus E. Arnold in November 1939 during his WPA-sponsored archaeological survey of East Texas. Both sites are in the Crawford Creek drainage; Crawford Creek is a westward-flowing tributary of the Neches River (Figure 1).

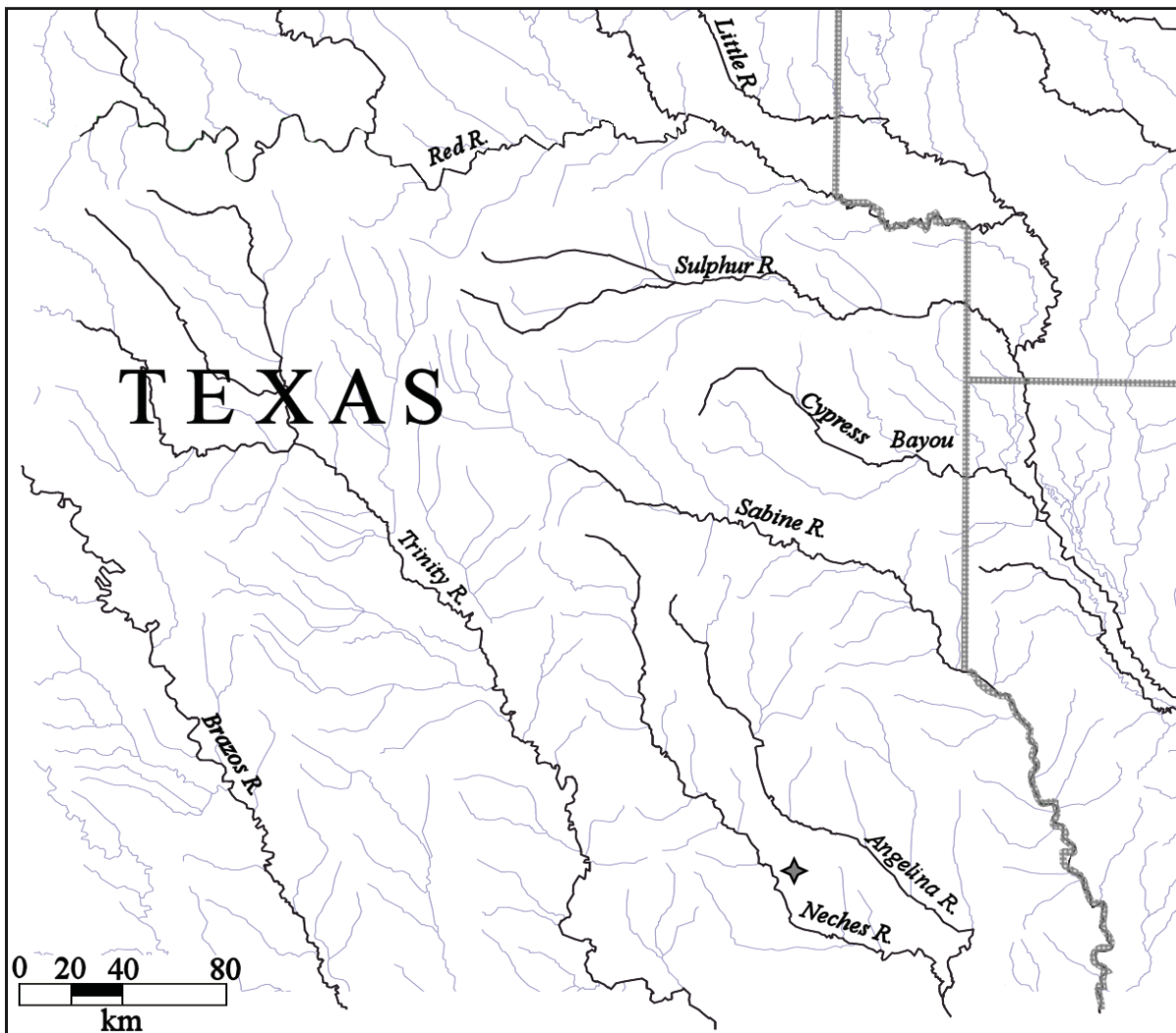


Figure 1. Location of the Bonner (41AG3) and J. A. Jordan (41AG5) sites in East Texas as marked by the star-shaped symbol.

Arnold described the Bonner Place site as covering ca. 4.5-5 acres on the crest of an upland landform; he surface collected a total of 348 ceramic vessel sherds from the site. The J. A. Jordan site is about 1.5 miles southeast of the Bonner Place, and covered ca. 1.5 acres on a sandy knoll on the south side of the Crawford Creek valley. Arnold collected 139 sherds from the surface of the plowed knoll.

### Ceramic Sherd Assemblages

Although Arnold's site form indicates that he collected 487 ceramic sherds from both sites, only 102 sherds were available for study at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at The University of Texas at Austin (TARL), all decorated sherds. The character of the other 385 sherds that Arnold collected in 1939 is not known, but they likely are plain sherds and body sherds with brushed decorative elements; there is no inventory of these sherds in TARL records.

#### *Bonner Place (41AG3)*

The existing collection of decorated sherds from the Bonner Place is comprised primarily of grog-tempered (93.3 percent) utility wares (81.7 percent of the decorated sherds). All of the fine ware engraved sherds are from grog-tempered vessels, while 8.2 percent of the utility ware sherds are from bone-tempered vessels.

**Table 1. Decorated ceramic sherd assemblage from the Bonner Place (41AG3) site.**

Ware	Grog-tempered	Bone-tempered	N
Utility	45	4	49
Fine	11	-	11
Totals	56	4	60

Sherds with rows of circular, fingernail, and tool punctations comprise 33.3 percent of the sample of decorated sherds from the site (Table 2). Maydelle Incised rim and body sherds with cross-hatched, diagonal, diagonal opposed, and other incised decorative elements represent 28.3 percent of the decorated sherd assemblage; one sherd has vertical zones with horizontal hatched incised lines (Figure 2d). The incised-punctated sherds (5 percent) include one rim with a diagonal incised zone filled with circular punctates (Figure 2a).

**Table 2. Decorative methods and decorative elements in the utility ware and fine ware sherds from the Bonner Place site.**

Decorative method and decorative elements	Rim	Body	N
<b>Utility Ware</b>			
<i>Brushed</i>			
diagonal brushed	2	-	2
parallel brushed	-	1	1
<i>Brushed-Appliqued</i>			
parallel brushed and straight appliqued fillet	-	1	1

**Table 2. Decorative methods and decorative elements in the utility ware and fine ware sherds from the Bonner Place site, cont.**

Decorative method and decorative elements	Rim	Body	N
<b><u>Utility Ware, cont.</u></b>			
<b><i>Brushed-Punctated</i></b>			
parallel brushed and fingernail punctated row through the brushing	-	1	1
parallel brushed and tool punctated rows through the brushing	-	3	3
<b><i>Incised</i></b>			
cross-hatched incised lines	-	6	6
diagonal incised lines	1	-	1
diagonal opposed incised lines	-	3	3
horizontal and cross-hatched incised lines	-	1	1
horizontal and diagonal incised lines	-	1	1
parallel incised lines	-	4	4
vertical hatched incised zones	-	1	1
<b><i>Incised-Punctated</i></b>			
diagonal incised zone filled with circular punctates	1	-	1
parallel incised lines and zone of circular punctates	-	1	1
straight incised line and adjacent tool punctated zone	-	1	1
<b><i>Pinched</i></b>			
parallel pinched ridges	-	1	1
<b><i>Punctated</i></b>			
circular punctated rows	-	2	2
crescent-shaped fingernail punctated rows	-	1	1
fingernail punctated rows	-	2	2
tool punctated rows	2	13	15
<b><u>Fine Ware</u></b>			
<b><i>Engraved</i></b>			
closely-spaced curvilinear engraved lines	1	-	1
curvilinear engraved lines that end in excised circles	-	1*	1
diagonal hatched engraved zone	-	1	1
horizontal engraved line and set of closely-spaced curvilinear engraved lines	-	1	1
parallel engraved lines	-	2	2
parallel engraved lines with diagonal tick marks	-	1	1
sets of closely-spaced curvilinear engraved lines	-	1	1
sets of closely-spaced parallel engraved lines	-	1*	1
straight engraved line	-	2	2
Totals	7	53	60

\*red pigment rubbed in the engraved lines

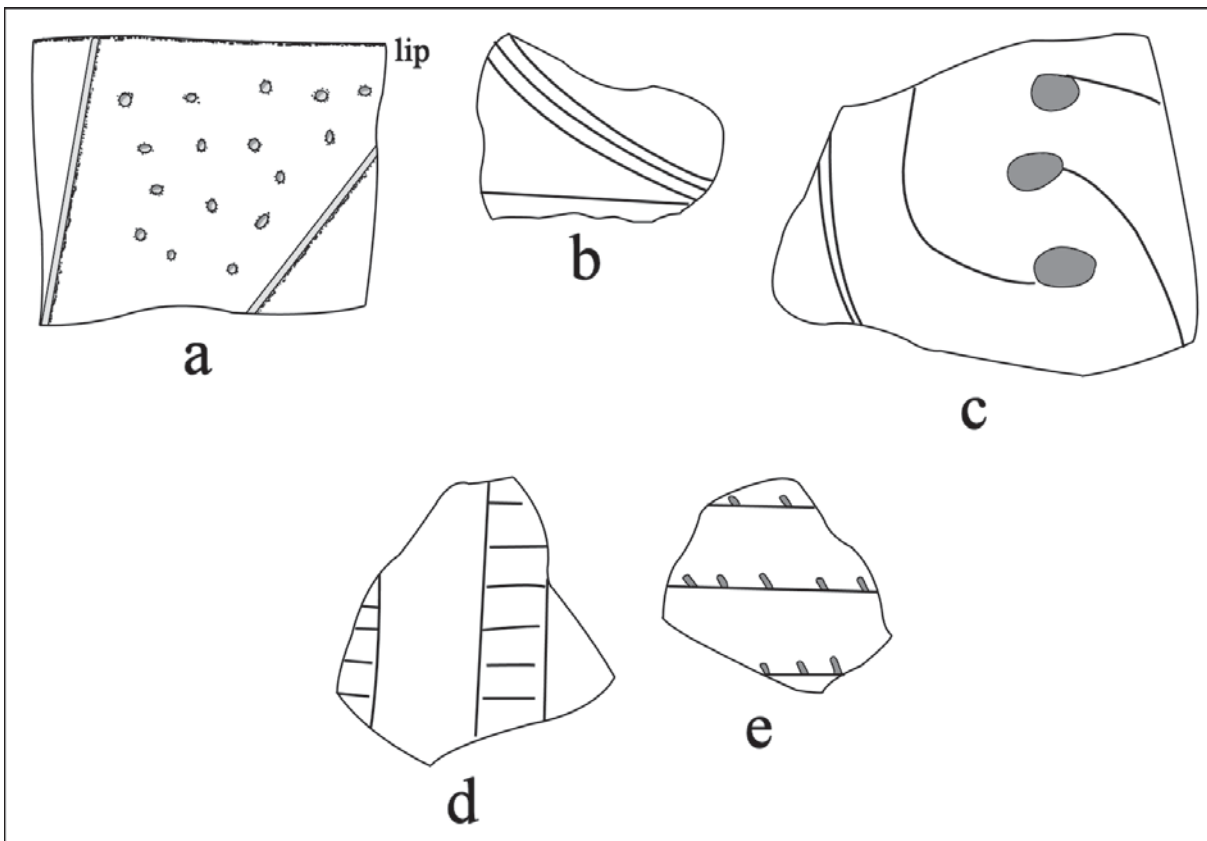


Figure 2. Selected decorative elements in utility ware and fine ware sherds from the Bonner Place site (41AG3).

The brushed, brushed-appliqued, and brushed-punctated sherds comprise only 13.3 percent of the decorated sherd sample from the Bonner Place (see Table 2). These are from Bullard Brushed vessels as well as a Pease Brushed-Incised sherd with parallel brushing marks next to a straight applied fillet (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 60a). There is also one body sherd (1.7 percent) with parallel pinched ridges that is from a Killough Pinched vessel.

The fine ware sherds are from engraved vessels (see Table 2). At least four sherds are from Poynor Engraved vessels with closely-spaced parallel or curvilinear engraved lines (see Figure 2b); one has red pigment rubbed in the engraved lines. A distinctive sherd in the assemblage has sets of broad curvilinear engraved lines that hook around each other, and the ends of the lines have large excised circles or ovals (see Figure 2c). A red pigment has also been rubbed in the engraved lines and excised areas. Another body sherd in the assemblage has at least three parallel engraved lines, each with diagonal excised tick marks (see Figure 2e). This particular sherd may be from a Patton Engraved vessel, but Patton Engraved vessels and sherds tend to have triangular-shaped excised tick marks or linear tick marks, not the diagonal excised tick marks seen on the Bonner Place sherd.

#### *J. A. Jordan Site (41AG5)*

The decorated sherds from the J. A. Jordan site are almost exclusively from grog-tempered vessels: 97.6 percent (Table 3). Sherds from utility ware vessels comprise 85.7 percent of the decorated sherd assemblage.

**Table 3. Decorated ceramic sherd assemblage from the J. A. Jordan (41AG5) site.**

Ware	Grog-tempered	Bone-tempered	N
Utility	35	1	36
Fine	6	-	6
Totals	41	1	42

About 38 percent of the decorated sherds are from vessels with incised decorative elements (Table 4). These include Maydelle Incised vessels with cross-hatched, diagonal, and diagonal opposed incised rims (Figure 3b), as well as horizontal and cross-hatched incised decorative elements (Figure 3a).

**Table 4. Decorative methods and decorative elements in the utility ware and fine ware sherds from the J. A. Jordan site.**

Decorative method and decorative elements	Rim	Body	N
<b><u>Utility Ware</u></b>			
<b><i>Brushed</i></b>			
opposed brushed	-	2	2
parallel brushed	-	2	2
<b><i>Brushed-Lip Notched</i></b>			
horizontal brushed and diagonal lip notched	1	-	1
horizontal brushed and straight lip notched	1	-	1
<b><i>Incised</i></b>			
cross-hatched incised lines	1	2	3
diagonal incised lines	2	1	3
diagonal opposed incised lines	2	2	4
horizontal and cross-hatched incised lines	-	2	2
horizontal and diagonal incised lines	-	3	3
parallel incised lines	-	1	1
<b><i>Incised-Punctated</i></b>			
diagonal incised panel and triangular incised el., both filled with tool punctates	1	-	1
incised triangle element filled with circular punctates	1	-	1
parallel incised lines and adjacent tool punctated zone	-	1	1
straight incised line and adjacent fingernail punctated rows	-	1	1
straight incised line and adjacent tool punctated zone	-	2	2
<b><i>Punctated</i></b>			
semi-circular tool punctated row	-	1	1
tool punctated rows	-	7	7

**Table 4. Decorative methods and decorative elements in the utility ware and fine ware sherds from the J. A. Jordan site, cont.**

Decorative method and decorative elements	Rim	Body	N
<b><u>Fine Ware</u></b>			
<i>Engraved</i>			
curvilinear hatched zone	-	1	1
horizontal engraved lines	1	-	1
horizontal and curvilinear engraved lines	-	1	1
horizontal engraved line and diagonal hatched zones	-	1	1
horizontal and diagonal engraved lines and diagonal hatched zone	1	-	1
parallel engraved lines and parallel excised zone	-	1	1
Totals	11	31	42

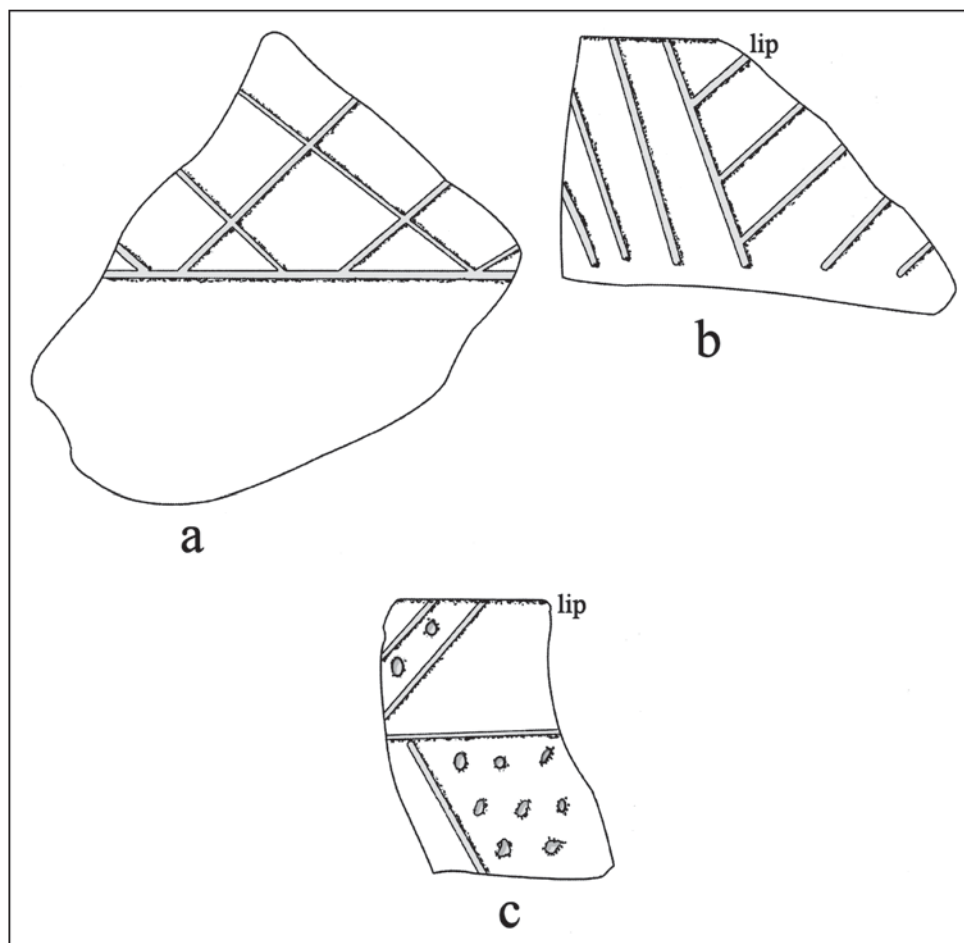


Figure 3. Selected decorative elements on utility ware sherds from the J. A. Jordan site.



Sherds with punctated decorative elements (19 percent of the decorated sherds) have horizontal and semi-circular rows of tool punctations (see Table 4). The brushed sherds (14.3 percent) are from Bullard Brushed vessels; two rim sherds have horizontal brushing marks on the rim and distinctive notched lips. The incised-punctated sherds (14.3 percent of the decorated sherds) have either triangular incised zones filled with tool punctations, or have triangular incised zones as well as narrow diagonal zones filled with tool punctations (see Figure 3c).

The engraved fine ware sherds in the J. A. Jordan ceramic assemblage represent only 14.3 percent of the decorated sherd assemblage (see Tables 3 and 4) The most common engraved decorative elements are diagonal or curvilinear engraved zones filled with diagonal engraved lines (Figure 4a-c). A rim has horizontal engraved lines and a body sherd has both horizontal and curvilinear engraved lines. Another body sherd has parallel and opposed engraved lines with a very narrow parallel excised zone (Figure 4d).

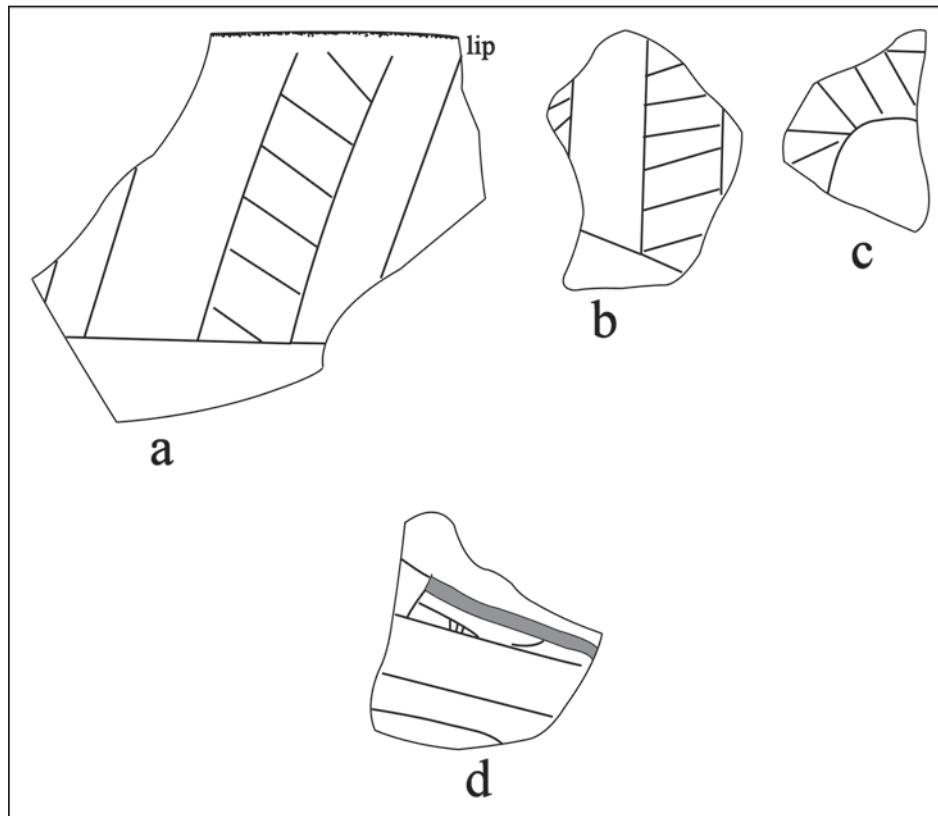


Figure 4. Selected decorative elements on fine ware sherds from the J. A. Jordan site.

### Summary and Conclusions

The Bonner Place (41AG3) and J. A. Jordan (41AG5) sites are ancestral Caddo settlements in the Crawford Creek valley in the Neches River basin in East Texas. Both sites were recorded by Gus E. Arnold in November 1939 during a WPA-sponsored archaeological survey.

The decorated sherd assemblage from the Bonner Place is primarily from grog-tempered vessels, with punctated (33.3 percent), incised, (28.3 percent), engraved (18.3 percent), brushed/brushed-applied/brushed-punctated (13.3 percent), incised-punctated (5.0 percent), and pinched (1.7 percent) decorative elements. The identification of sherds from Bullard Brushed, Killough Pinched, Maydelle Incised, Pease Brushed-Incised, and Poynor Engraved vessels indicates that the ancestral Caddo occupation at this site took place during the Late Caddo period Frankston phase (ca. A.D. 1400-1680).

The one possible Patton Engraved body sherd in the decorated sherd assemblage hints that the site was used as late as the late 17<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

In the case of the decorated sherds from the J. A. Jordan site, they are also almost exclusively from grog-tempered vessels (97.6 percent). They are from incised (38 percent), punctated (19 percent), brushed (14.3 percent), incised-punctated (14.3 percent), and engraved (14.3 percent) vessels. The utility wares are from Bullard Brushed and Maydelle Incised vessels; the two brushed rims have distinctive straight or diagonal lip notches. The engraved sherds cannot be identified with a defined type, but 50 percent have either narrow curvilinear or diagonal engraved zones filled with diagonal hatched lines. Such decorative elements may be associated with certain Hume Engraved vessels, although none of these sherds from the site are from cylindrical-shaped bottles (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 42a-e), and it is considered more likely that these are from Middle Caddo period carinated bowls that often feature hatched or cross-hatched curvilinear and vertical ladders or narrow panels (Perttula 2013:Figure 8c).

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