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Another Look at the Snipes Site (41CS8) on the Sulphur River, Cass County, Texas

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Introduction

The Snipes site (41CS8) was excavated by Jelks (1961) in 1952 as part of the River Basins Surveys (RBS) program administered by the Smithsonian Institution in cooperation with the National Park Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation (see Jelks 2014). Snipes was one of three sites excavated by the RBS prior to the inundation of a large part of the lower Sulphur River valley by Texarkana Reservoir, now Lake Wright Patman (Figure 1). The Snipes site was apparently occupied during at least some part of the Woodland period (ca. 500 B.C.-A.D. 800), mainly during the latter part of the period, and can be considered a component of the Fourche Maline Culture (Schambach 1998, 2002:Figure 5.1; Ellis 2013:140) on the basis of the artifacts recovered from both habitation archaeological deposits and burial features. Other artifacts in the collection attest to the use of the Snipes site during Late Archaic and post-A.D. 900 ancestral Caddo times, as we will discuss below.

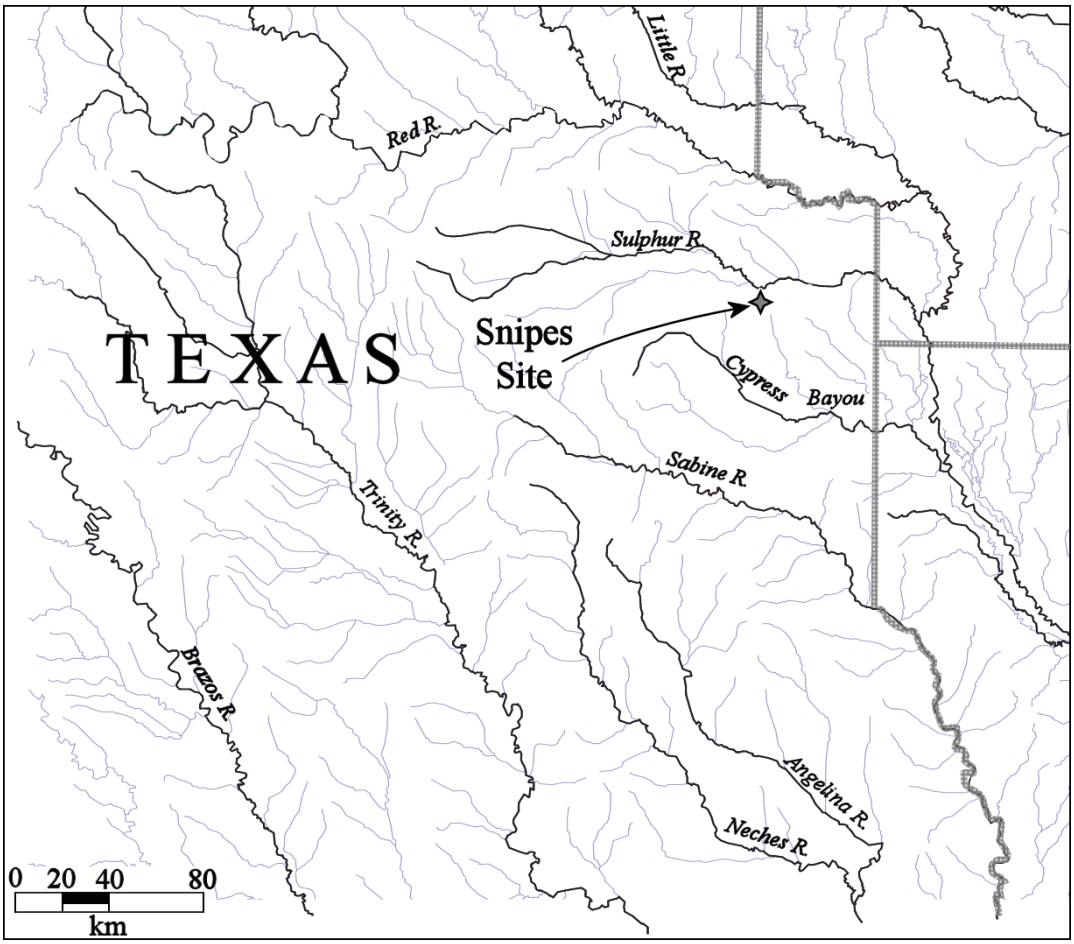

Figure 1. The location of the Snipes site in East Texas.

The site was estimated to cover ca. 6-7 acres of an upland landform about 1.6 km south of the Sulphur River, and was marked by a scatter of lithic artifacts, mussel shell, animal bones, charcoal, pottery sherds, etc. (Jelks 1961:41). Excavations were done in a series of 5-ft. squares dispersed across a 300 x 200 ft. area (Jelks 1961:Figure 5); according to Jelks (1961:41), "additional squares were opened adjacent to the most productive test squares." The archaeological deposits ranged from ca. 8-38 cm in thickness from the surface, and had been well disturbed by plowing. Apparent midden deposits marked by "a great deal of carbon and grease" (Jelks 1961:42) were identified in several parts of the excavations.

During the work at the site by Jelks, nine prehistoric burials were excavated there (Figure 2), including three (Burials 7-9) that were discovered an unknown distance northeast of Burials 1-6 (Jelks 1961:46) during the last round of work at the site. Jelks (1961:45-46) reported that traces of human remains from adults of unknown sex were present in Burials 6 and 7, but failed to mention if such was the case for Burials 8 and 9. However, since Burial 8 was reported to have contained two individuals, and the orientation of the heads was recorded (Jelks 1961:46), human remains (again, probably from adults, although not noted) were obviously preserved in this burial as well, but apparently not recovered. For Burial 9, Jelks (1961:46) simply noted that preservation "was poor."

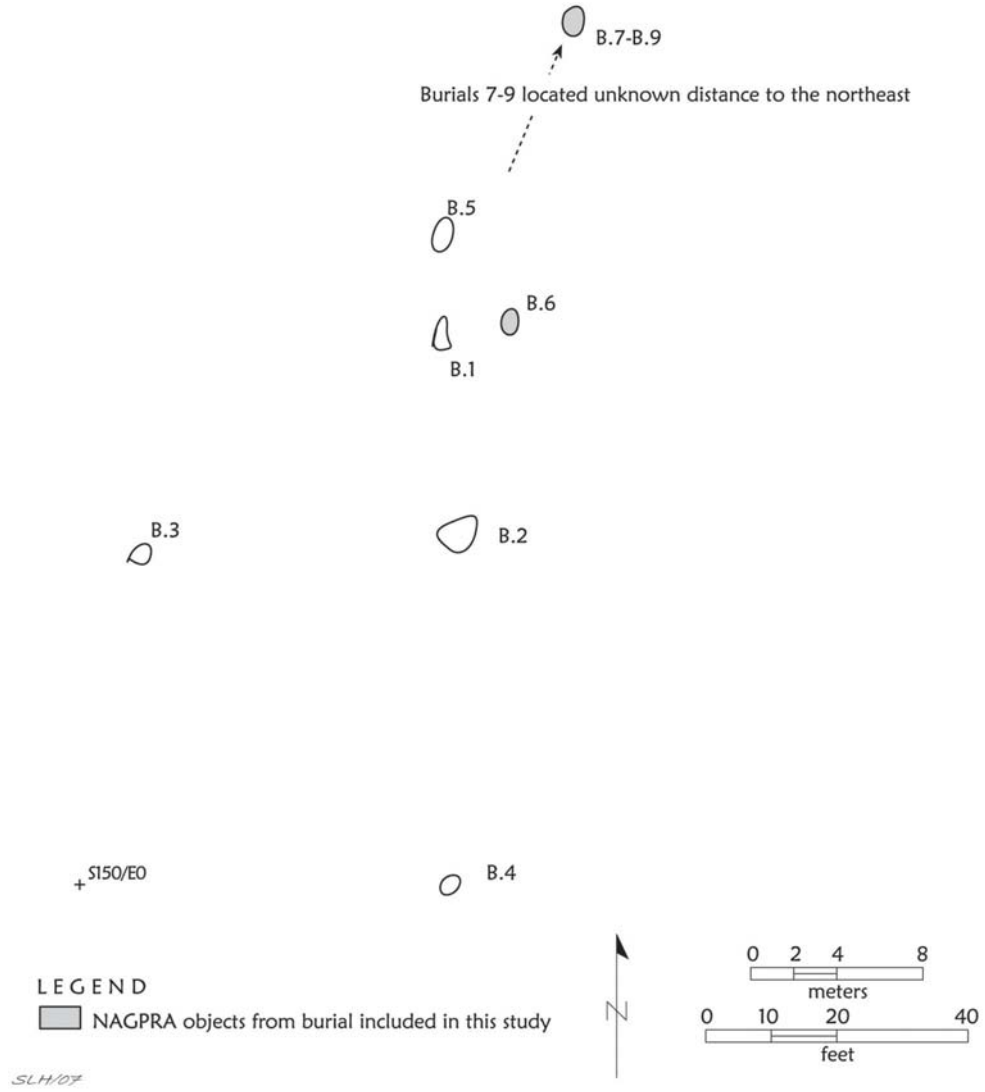

Figure 2. General map of the Snipes site and the location of prehistoric burials found there in archeological investigations.

Burials 6, 7, and 8 contained individuals that were placed in graves in an extended supine (i.e., on their back) position. Burial 8 had two individuals in extended supine position. The position of the deceased individual in Burial 9 was not recorded. Burial 6 had a Coles Creek Incised, *var. Stoner* bowl by the right shoulder of the deceased, and one small bowl each had been placed as a funerary offering in Burials 7-9; in two instances, the small bowls were by the left shoulder of the deceased. Two other vessels were funerary offerings in Burial 1 and a separate burial feature excavated by I. B. (Bogey) Price after the main RBS investigations (see Jelks 1961:42).

Lithic Artifacts

The lithic artifact assemblage recovered from the Snipes site consists of an abrader, bifaces and biface fragments (n=13), bi-pitted stones (n=4), celt and celt fragments (n=4), flake cores (n=2), drills (n=6), gouges (n=2), grooved axe fragments (n=2), a hammerstone, lithic debitage (n=21), a mano, preforms (n=11), projectile points (arrow points [n=13]; and dart points [n=29]), a scraper, tested pebbles (n=5), and a uniface. Raw materials used by site inhabitants in the manufacturing of stone tools include chert, hematite, jasper, novaculite, petrified wood, quartzite, quartzitic sandstone, sandstone, and siliceous shale (Table 1); these materials are available in local stream gravels (Bowie gravels) as well as in Red River gravels (Banks 1990; Largent et al. 1997). Cortex was recorded as smoothed or stream-rolled on 92 percent of the artifacts containing cortex (n=13). The proportion of chert tools and lithic debris at the Snipes is much less than at other generally contemporaneous sites in this part of the Sulphur River basin (see Lohse 2005), but the exploitation of novaculite is considerable. At the Weaver Creek site (41BW692), in the Sulphur River basin, for example, novaculite use increased in Early Caddo period times (ca. A.D. 1000-1200) for the knapping of flake tools and arrow points (Lohse 2005:37-38).

Table 1. Percentage of raw materials within the Snipes site artifact assemblage.

Raw Material	Percent
Chert	20
Hematite	3
Jasper	14
Novaculite	16
Petrified Wood	2
Quartzite	31
Quartzitic Sandstone	1
Sandstone	8
Siliceous Shale – Greenstone	5
Total	100

Gary dart points, of Woodland period age, account for approximately 31 percent (n=13) of the projectile point assemblage. Additional, but less prevalent dart points of Woodland period age include Edgewood, Ensor, and Kent types. There also is a single lanceolate, or Plainview-like dart point of Late Paleoindian age, as well as Late Archaic Wells and Yarbrough types. Arrow points postdating ca. A.D. 700 in the assemblage collected from the Snipes site include Alba, Colbert, Friley, Maud, and Steiner types; the Friley and Steiner points are among the earliest of the different arrow point types found in East Texas sites, dating from ca. A.D. 700-800. The Alba and Colbert points occur in Formative and Early Caddo period contexts (ca. A.D. 800/850-1200), while the Maud type dates after ca. A.D. 1500, and is associated with Texarkana phase Caddo settlements in the Sulphur River basin. The Wells and Yarbrough dart point types were dated using the temporal ordering of dart points in the East Texas Archaic, ca. 10,000 to 2500 years B.P., proposed by Perttula (2016), while the remaining point types were dated using Turner et al. (2011).

Complete thickness, stem length, and stem width at the shoulder measurements of the Gary dart points from the Snipes site indicate that they have a mean thickness of 0.7 centimeters (cm) (minimum of 0.6 cm; maximum of 1.0 cm; n=13), a mean stem length of 1.3 cm (minimum of 0.7 cm; a maximum of 1.7 cm; n=11), and a mean stem width at the shoulder of 1.4 cm (a minimum of 0.9 cm; maximum of 1.8 cm; n=12). These values are consistent with the Gary, *var. Camden* dart points (see Schambach 1982:Table 7-4; Leith 2014:Table 1). The Gary, *var. Camden* was isolated in Stratum 6 at the Paw Paw site in southwest Arkansas (Arkansas Archeological Survey site file notes cited in Schambach [1982]). Radiocarbon dates taken from Stratum 6 produced dates of A.D. 460 ± 40 and A.D. 660 ± 60. Thus, it is likely based on the consideration of the temporally diagnostic lithic artifacts that the main occupation of the Snipes site took place around the same time, ca. A.D. 400-720. However, the presence of Alba and Colbert (A.D. 800-1200 arrow point types, as well as one Maud arrow point (ca. A.D. 1500-1680), indicates that the site was occupied on several occasions during ancestral Caddo times as well.

Ceramic Vessels

There are six vessels in the collections (Table 2). All six are grog-tempered. One is a large barrel-shaped Coles Creek Incised, *var. Stoner* vessel, dated from ca. A.D. 550-700 (Brown 1998:8, 53), one is a Williams Plain flowerpot-shaped jar, and three others are small (0.12-0.25 liters) plain bowls. The last of the vessels is an incised-punctated ancestral Caddo jar that is from a burial feature (excavated by I. B. Price in 1954) associated with the post-ca. A.D. 900 Caddo use of the Snipes site.

Table 2. Vessels from the Snipes Site.

Vessel No.	Temper	Height (cm)	Orifice Diameter (liters)	Volume	Decoration	Type
Flowerpot-shaped jar						
1	grog	12.3	13.3	1.0	Plain	Williams Plain
Barrel-shaped bowl						
2	grog	19.1	14.0	2.1	single overhanging incised line and incised lip line	Coles Creek Incised, *var. Stoner*
Bowl						
3	grog	6.1	9.4	0.25	Plain	Undetermined*
4	grog	3.3	9.8	0.12	Plain	Undetermined*
5	grog	4.3	6.5	0.12	Plain	Undetermined*
Jar						
6	grog	8.0	8.3	0.53	Incised-Punctated	Unidentified Caddo utility ware

*Story (1990:304) identifies these vessels as Williams Plain

Story (1990:304) suggests the three small and plain vessels are examples of Williams Plain, but they have thin walls (less than 4.0 mm in thickness), whereas typical Williams Plain vessels are flower-pot shaped vessels with thick (> 8.0-10.0 mm) body walls (Schambach 1998, 2002). Nevertheless, the Coles Creek Incised vessel from Burial 6 provides confirmatory evidence that at least one of the burials from the Snipes site was interred during the latter part of the Woodland period.

Snipes Site (41CS8) Vessels

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: 41CS8

VESSEL NO.: 1, Burial 1

VESSEL FORM: Flowerpot-shaped jar

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: Direct rim and flat lip

CORE COLOR: F (fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air)

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: dark reddish-brown; organic residue on the rim

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: dark reddish-brown; fire clouds on the body and base; organic residue on the rim

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 8.7 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed on the rim

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed on the rim and body

HEIGHT (IN CM): 12.3

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 13.3

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 13.3

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 9.7, circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 1.0

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): Plain

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Williams Plain (see Jelks 1961:Plate 4a)

SITE NO.:41CS8

FEATURE: Burial 6

VESSEL NO.: 2

NON-PLASTICS: grog

VESSEL FORM: barrel-shaped bowl with a direct rim and a flat lip

CORE COLOR: not apparent

WALL THICKNESS: 3.3 mm near rim

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished

HEIGHT: 19.0 cm

ORIFICE DIAMETER: 14.0 cm

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK: N/A

BASE DIAMETER: 12.8 cm

ESTIMATED VOLUME: 2.1 liters

DECORATION: single horizontal over-hanging incised line on the upper part of the vessel and a single incised line on the lip itself (Figure 3a-b).

TYPE: Coles Creek Incised, *var. Stoner* (cf. Brown 1998:8, 53), estimated to date from ca. A.D. 550-700.

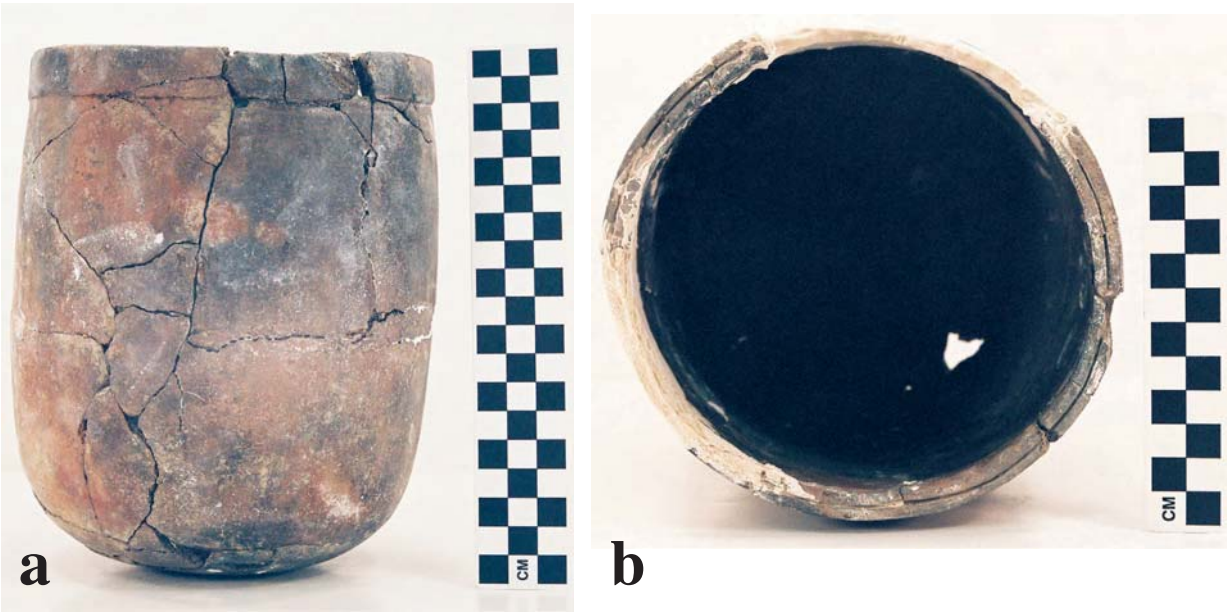

Figure 3. Coles Creek Incised, *var. Stoner* vessel from the Snipes site: a, side view; b, looking down at the incised lip line.

SITE NO.: 41CS8

FEATURE: Burial 7

VESSEL NO.: 3

NON-PLASTICS: grog

VESSEL FORM: small bowl with an inverted rim and a rounded lip (Figure 4-2)

CORE COLOR: B, or indicative of firing and cooling in a reducing environment

WALL THICKNESS: 3.8 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: none

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed, but heavily pitted

HEIGHT: 6.1 cm

ORIFICE DIAMETER: 9.4 cm

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK: N/A

BASE DIAMETER: 6.5 cm

ESTIMATED VOLUME: 0.25 liters

DECORATION: Plain

TYPE: Unidentified; Story (1990) suggests it is a Williams Plain vessel

Figure 4. Burial 7 vessel from the Snipes site.

SITE NO.: 41CS8

FEATURE: Burial 8

VESSEL NO.: 4

NON-PLASTICS: grog

VESSEL FORM: small bowl with a direct rim and a flat lip (Figure 5)

CORE COLOR: B (fired and cooled in a reducing environment)

WALL THICKNESS: 4.0 mm

INTERIOR SURFACEINTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: none

HEIGHT: 3.3 cm

ORIFICE DIAMETER: 9.8 cm

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK: N/A

BASE DIAMETER: 6.1 cm

ESTIMATED VOLUME: 0.12 liters

DECORATION: Plain; Story (1990) suggests it is a Williams Plain vessel

TYPE: Unidentified

Figure 5. Burial 8 vessel from the Snipes site.

SITE NO.: 41CS8

FEATURE: Burial 9

VESSEL NO.: 5

NON-PLASTICS: grog

VESSEL FORM: small bowl with an everted rim and a flat, exterior folded, lip (Figure 6)

CORE COLOR: B (fired and cooled in a reducing environment)

WALL THICKNESS: 4.1 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

HEIGHT: 4.3 cm

ORIFICE DIAMETER: 6.5 cm

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK: N/A

BASE DIAMETER: 5.8 cm

ESTIMATED VOLUME: 0.12 liters

DECORATION: Plain; Story (1990) suggests it is a Williams Plain vessel

TYPE: Unidentified

Figure 6. Burial 9 plain vessel from the Snipes site.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: 41CS8

VESSEL NO.: 6 (found during "pitting" by I. B. Price in 1954, after UT excavations had been completed at the site)

VESSEL FORM: Jar

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: Direct rim and rounded lip

CORE COLOR: F (fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air)

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: reddish-brown

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: reddish-brown; fire clouds on the rim

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 5.7 mm; body, 6.4 mm; base, 12.5 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: none

HEIGHT (IN CM): 8.0

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 8.3

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 8.4

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 5.4 cm, N/A

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.53

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The rim has diagonal opposed and cross-hatched incised lines as well as a single row of tool punctates at the rim-body juncture (Figure 7; see also Jelks 1961:Plate 4f). The vessel body also has sets of diagonal opposed incised lines.

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Unidentified utility ware

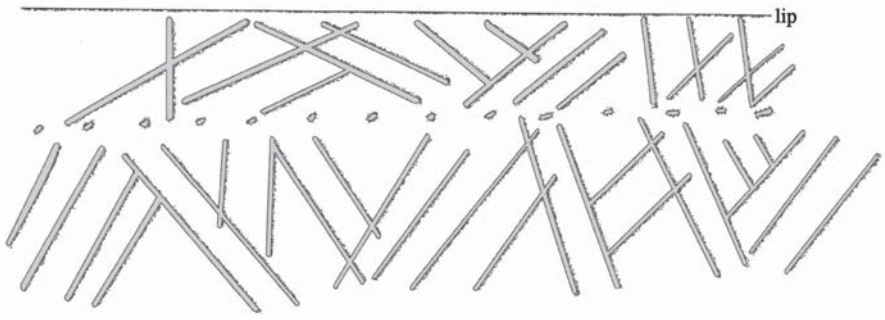

Figure 7. Decorative elements on Vessel 6 from the Snipes site.

Ceramic Sherds

The ceramic assemblage from the Snipes site held at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory includes 1078 ceramic vessel sherds from both Woodland and ancestral Caddo components (Table 3). More than 83 percent of the sherds are plain wares—including Williams Plain and Cooper Boneware associated with the Woodland component (Schambach 1998, 2002), and unnamed Caddo plain ware sherds—and the remainder are Late Woodland Coles Creek Incised sherds and 165 decorated sherds from ancestral Caddo ceramic vessels.

Table 3. Ceramic sherd assemblage from the Snipes site.

Ware	Temper			N
	Grog	Grog-Bone	Bone	
Plain ware	691	192	16	899
Utility ware-Coles Creek Incised	11	2	-	13
Williams Incised	1	-	-	1
Ancestral Caddo decorated sherds				
Utility ware*	122	-	-	122
Fine ware	40	2	-	42
Totals	865	196	16	1077

*does not include one shell-tempered Cass Appliqued body sherd

The sherds are primarily from vessels tempered with grog (80.3 percent), while another 18.2 percent are from vessels tempered with grog and bone temper (mainly plain ware sherds); only 1.5 percent of the sherds are from bone-tempered vessels, likely Cooper Boneware (see Table 3). More than 15 percent of the Coles Creek Incised sherds are from grog-bone-tempered vessels, compared to only 1.2 percent of the decorated ancestral Caddo vessel sherds.

To better sort the plain wares temporally and culturally, a sample of the plain ware rims, body sherds, and base sherds divided by temper were measured for wall thickness, given that Williams Plain is a thick-walled vessel form (Schambach 1998, 2002), and ancestral Caddo ceramic vessels tend to generally have much thinner vessel walls (Perttula 2013:201-202). In general, plain grog-tempered vessel sherds in the Snipes assemblage have rim sherds that range from 4.9-10.4 mm in thickness, compared to 6.5-10.5 mm in thickness for the plain grog-bone-tempered sherds, and 7.9-9.2 mm for plain bone-tempered vessel rims. Plain body sherds range from 4.5-11.9 mm in thickness across the three temper groups, while base sherds range from 7.7-17.3 mm in the three temper groups.

Table 4 and Figures 8 to 10 graphically display the different proportions of plain rim, body, and base sherds by temper group in the Snipes site sherd sample. In general, the plain grog-tempered sherds are equally abundant in the Woodland (the thicker Williams Plain) and ancestral Caddo components at the site, while the grog-bone and bone-tempered plain sherds are better represented by Williams Plain and Cooper Boneware—66.7-69.2 percent of the measured sherds—than they are in the ancestral Caddo component. The very low proportion of either grog-bone-tempered or bone-tempered sherds has already been noted among the ancestral Caddo utility ware and fine ware sherds in the assemblage (see Table 3).

Table 4. Vessel wall thickness distinctions and proportions by temper groups.

Grog-tempered	N	Percent
Rim sherds		
Ancestral Caddo, 4.8-8.1 mm	16	50.0
Williams Plain, 8.2-10.8 mm	16	50.0
Body sherds		
Ancestral Caddo, 4.5-8.4 mm	115	55.0
Williams Plain, 8.5-11.7 mm	94	45.0
Base sherds		
Ancestral Caddo, 7.7-11.2 mm	10	22.7
Williams Plain, 11.5-17.3	34	77.3
Subtotal, Ancestral Caddo	141	49.5
Subtotal, Williams Plain	144	50.5
Grog-bone-tempered		
Rim sherds		
Ancestral Caddo, 6.0-7.9 mm	4	25.0
Williams Plain, 8.3-10.6	12	75.0
Body sherds		
Ancestral Caddo, 6.0-8.5 mm	37	37.4
Williams Plain, 8.7-11.9 mm	62	62.6
Base sherds		
Ancestral Caddo, 7.9-8.8 mm	2	14.3
Williams Plain, 11.3-15.2 mm	12	85.7
Subtotal, Ancestral Caddo	43	33.3
Subtotal, Williams Plain	86	66.7
Bone-tempered		
Rim sherds		
Ancestral Caddo, 7.8 mm	1	33.3
Cooper Boneware, 8.9-9.1	2	66.7
Body sherds		
Ancestral Caddo, 7.5-8.3 mm	3	33.3
Cooper Boneware, 8.8-11.2 mm	6	66.7
Base sherds		
Cooper Boneware, 15.2	1	100.0
Subtotal, Ancestral Caddo	4	30.8
Subtotal, Cooper Boneware	9	69.2

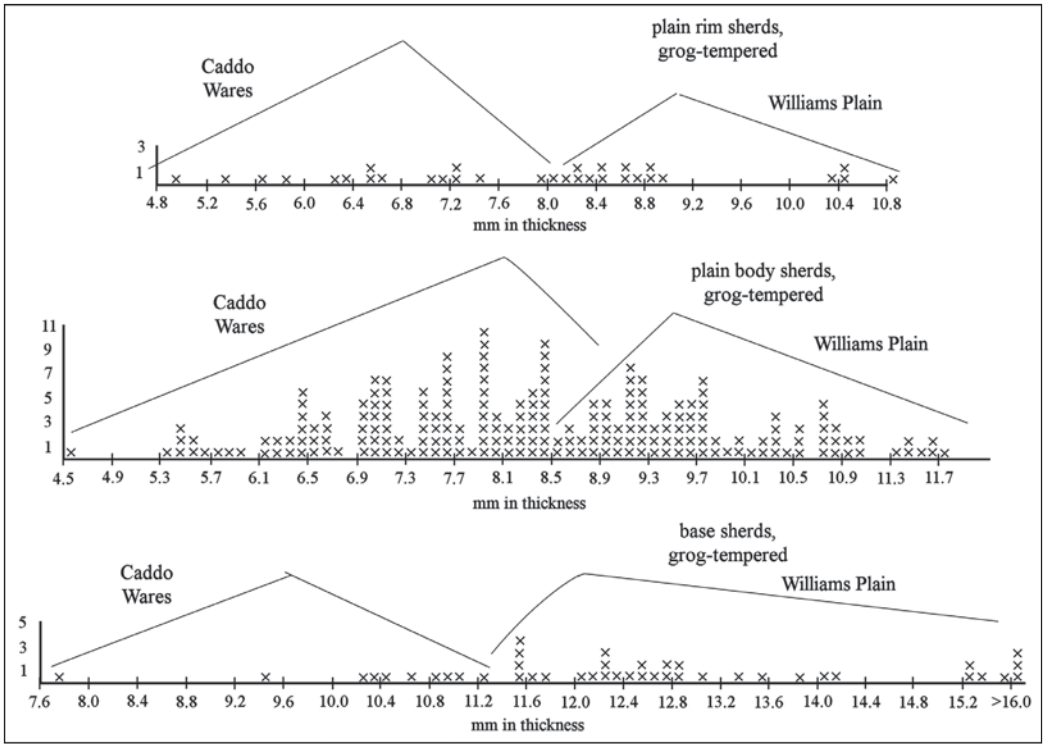

Figure 8. Wall thickness of plain rim, body, and base sherds from ancestral Caddo and Woodland period (Williams Plain) grog-tempered vessels at the Snipes site.

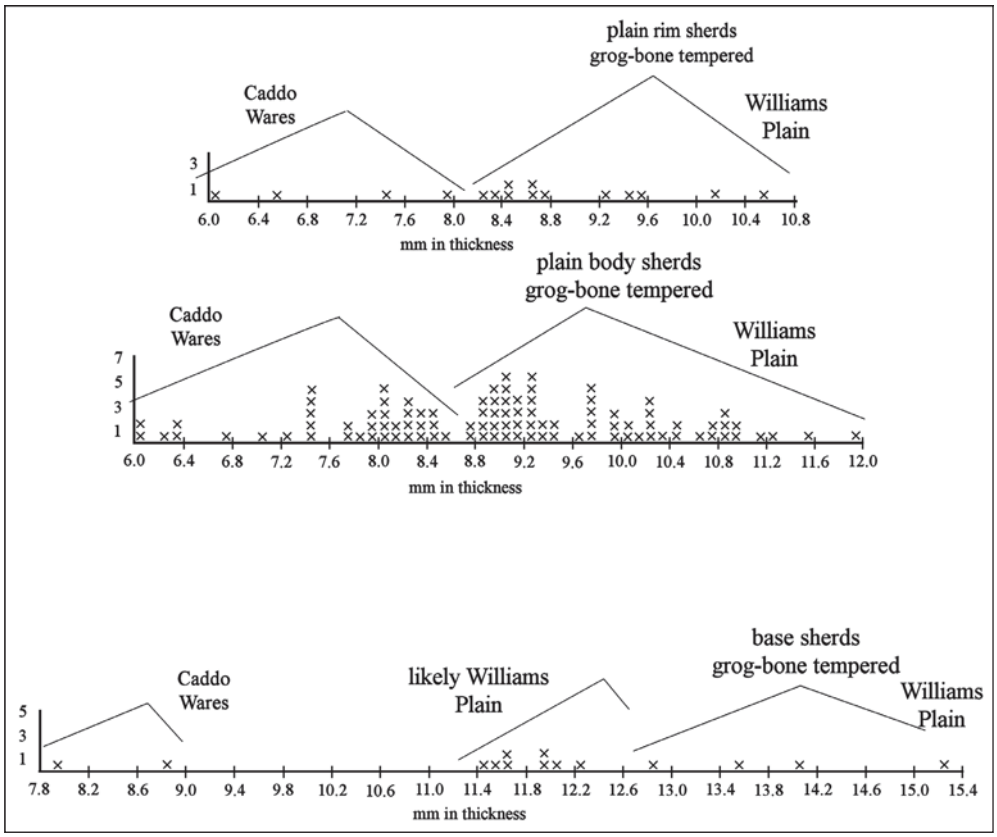

Figure 9. Wall thickness of plain rim, body, and base sherds from ancestral Caddo and Woodland period (Williams Plain) grog-bone-tempered vessels at the Snipes site.

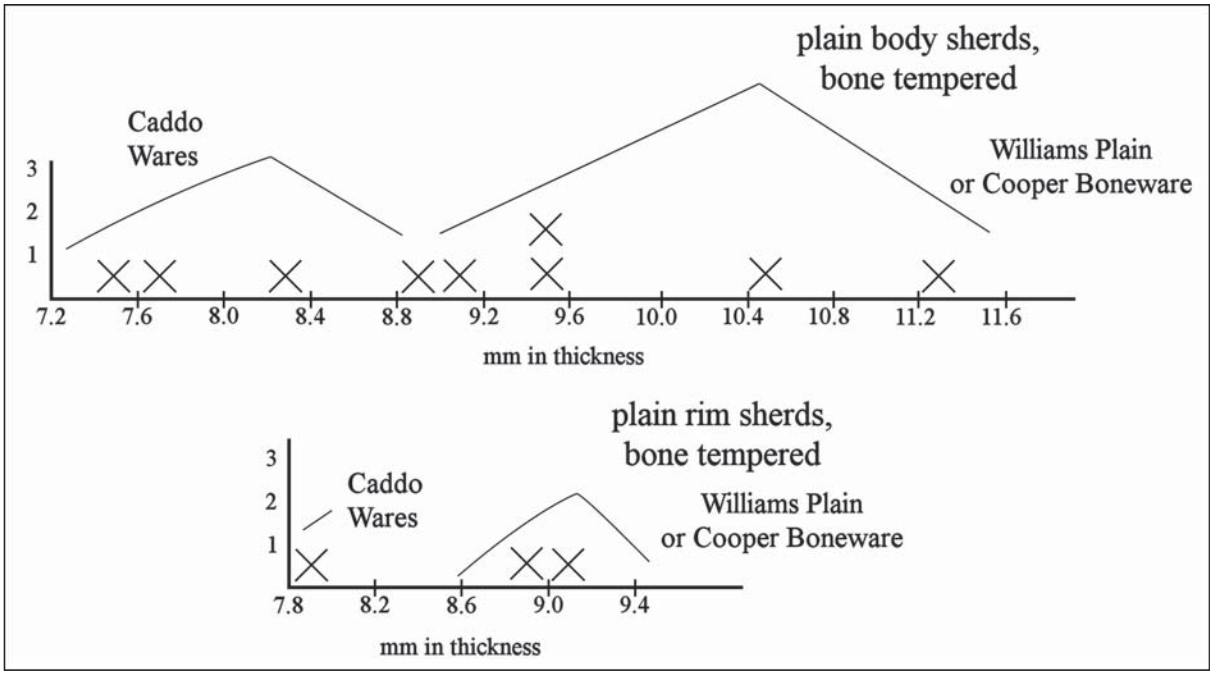

Figure 10. Wall thickness of plain rim, body, and base sherds from ancestral Caddo and Woodland period (Williams Plain or Cooper Boneware) bone-tempered vessels at the Snipes site.

By these vessel wall thickness measurements for sherds in the three temper groups at the Snipes site, about 54 percent of all the plain sherds in the assemblage (see Table 3) are from either thick Williams Plain or Cooper Boneware vessels. Rims are either rounded or flat, and the vessels have flat disk-shaped bases. The vessels tend not to be smoothed or burnished, and vessel forms identified in these sherds include flowerpot-shaped jars and bowls. One Williams Plain grog-tempered body sherd has a 8.3 mm drilled hole in it for apparent use as a spindle whorl.

Decorated sherds in the Late Woodland period component at the Snipes site include 13 Coles Creek Incised rim and body sherds, and one grog-tempered Williams Incised body sherd. The Coles Creek Incised sherds are from grog- and grog-bone-tempered vessels. Nine are from Coles Creek Incised, *var. Stoner* vessels dating from ca. A.D. 550-700 (see Brown 1988) that have one incised lip line and/or a single overhanging horizontal incised line on the rim itself, usually at the mid-rim. One *var. Stoner* rim sherd has a not completed suspension hole (7.6 mm in diameter).

One other Coles Creek Incised sherd has 2 widely-spaced horizontal incised lines, and may be from *var. Ely* (Brown 1988:8); this variety dates from ca. A.D. 700-850 in the Lower Mississippi Valley, and to the latter years of the Late Woodland period in East Texas. The other Coles Creek Incised sherds are body sherds that have either a single horizontal incised line (n=2) or a straight incised line (n=1); these are likely to also be from Coles Creek Incised, *var. Stoner* vessels.

The Williams Incised sherd (see Wood 1981:33-34) is from a thick-walled vessel (10.6 mm), likely a jar. The sherd has a single curvilinear incised line.

The 165 decorated rim and body sherds in the ancestral Caddo ceramics at the Snipes site include utility wares (n=123, 74.5 percent of the decorated sherd assemblage) and fine wares (n=42, 25.5 percent); 72 percent of the rim sherds are from utility wares (Table 5). About 98 percent of these sherds are from grog-tempered vessels (see Table 3).

Table 5. Decorative methods and elements in the ancestral Caddo ceramic sherds from the Snipes site.

Decorative method/elements Utility	Rim	Body	N
Utility Ware			
Appliqued			
curvilinear appliqued ridges* (Cass Appliqued)	-	1	1
straight appliqued fillet	-	1	1
Brushed			
horizontal brushed marks	2	1	3
horizontal-diagonal brushed marks	1	-	1
parallel brushed marks	-	15	15
Brushed-Appliqued			
straight appliqued fillet and diagonal opposed zones of brushed marks	-	1	1
Brushed-Incised			
parallel brushed-incised marks and lines	-	5	5
Brushed-Incised-Punctated			
linear tool punctated row at rim-body juncture; sets of diagonal incised lines and diagonal brushed zones	-	1	1
parallel brushed-incised marks and lines and adjacent tool punctated row	-	1	1
Brushed-Punctated			
horizontal brushed marks and tool punctated row at rim-body juncture	-	1	1
parallel brushed marks-tool punctations pushed through the brushing	-	1	1
parallel brushed marks and adjacent tool punctated rows	-	1	1
Incised			
diagonal incised lines	4	2	6
diagonal opposed incised lines	-	3	3
diagonal and vertical incised lines	-	1	1
closely-spaced horizontal incised lines	1	-	1
multiple horizontal incised lines	6	-	6
horizontal-diagonal incised lines	-	1	1
horizontal-diagonal-vertical incised lines	-	1	1
opposed incised lines	-	2	2
closely-spaced parallel incised lines	-	3	3
parallel incised lines	-	52	52
straight incised line	-	4	4
vertical incised lines	-	1	1

Table 5. Decorative methods and elements in the ancestral Caddo ceramic sherds from the Snipes site, cont.

Decorative method/elements Utility	Rim	Body	N
Incised-Punctated			
diagonal incised lines and tool punctated row at lip	1	-	1
diagonal incised lines above row of tool punctations	-	1	1
horizontal incised line above row of fingernail punctates	-	1	1
horizontal incised lines above zone of tool punctates	1	-	1
horizontal incised lines and circular and bracket-shaped incised zones filled with tool punctations (Crockett Curvilinear Incised)	1	-	1
horizontal-diagonal incised lines and intersecting row of fingernail punctations	-	1	1
straight incised line and adjacent tool punctated row	-	1	1
Punctated			
single fingernail punctation	-	1	1
linear tool punctated row	-	1	1
tool punctated rows	1	-	1
Subtotal, Utility Wares	18	105	123
Fine Ware			
Engraved			
cross-hatched engraved bracket el.	-	1	1
curvilinear engraved line/lines	-	6**	6
curvilinear engraved lines-ticked semi-circle el., triangle, and diamond els.	-	1	1
curvilinear bracket el. and upper horizontal engraved line (Simms Engraved)	-	1	1
curvilinear cross-hatched engraved zone	-	1	1
diagonal engraved lines	-	1	1
horizontal engraved line, mid-rim	1	-	1
horizontal engraved lines	3	2	5
widely-spaced horizontal engraved lines	1	-	1
horizontal engraved lines, one with diagonal tick marks (Barkman Incised)	-	1	1
horizontal engraved line and hatched diagonal columns (Barkman Engraved)	-	1	1
horizontal engraved lines with attached semi-circle el. and narrow hatched zone	1	-	1
horizontal engraved lines with open pendant triangle el.	-	1	1
horizontal-diagonal engraved lines	-	2	2
horizontal and vertical engraved lines	1	1	2
horizontal-vertical engraved lines and curvilinear spur el. (Haley Engraved)	-	1	1

Table 5. Decorative methods and elements in the ancestral Caddo ceramic sherds from the Snipes site, cont.

Decorative method/elements Utility	Rim	Body	N
opposed engraved lines	-	1	1
closely-spaced parallel engraved lines	-	1	1
parallel engraved lines	-	3	3
straight engraved line	-	3	3
Engraved-Punctated			
curvilinear engraved lines and panel with open and hatched pendant triangles; excised punctation in panel	-	1	1
horizontal engraved lines and row of excised punctates between engraved lines (Barkman Engraved)	-	1	1
horizontal engraved line with tick lines and associated row of excised punctations (Barkman Engraved)	-	1	1
horizontal engraved zone filled with excised punctations (Barkman Engraved)	-	1	1
straight engraved line-adjacent row of excised punctations	-	1	1
Engraved-Red-Slipped			
horizontal-vertical-diagonal engraved lines and int. red-slipped	-	1	1
Trailed			
curvilinear trailed lines (Keno Trailed)	-	1	1
Subtotals	7	35	42
Totals	25	140	165

*shell-tempered
** two with a red clay pigment rubbed in the engraved lines

The principal ancestral Caddo utility wares at the Snipes site have incised decorations; about 66 percent of the utility ware rim and body sherds have incised decorative elements (see Table 5). These include rims from Davis Incised, Dunkin Incised, and Kiam Incised vessels with horizontal or diagonal incised lines (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plates 18, 19, and 45), as well as body sherds from Dunkin Incised vessels (Figure 11b, h-i). These vessels would have been manufactured in Early Caddo period times, between ca. A.D. 900-1200, and are representative of the initial Caddo occupation of the Snipes site. The ceramic assemblage at the nearby Weaver Creek site (41BW692), with a single calibrated radiocarbon date that ranges from A.D. 1010-1190, has sherds from Davis Incised and Dunkin Incised utility ware vessels, as well as red-slipped fine ware sherds and engraved sherds with rectilinear and straight line elements, which is consistent with an Early Caddo ceramic assemblage (Perttula 2005:29).

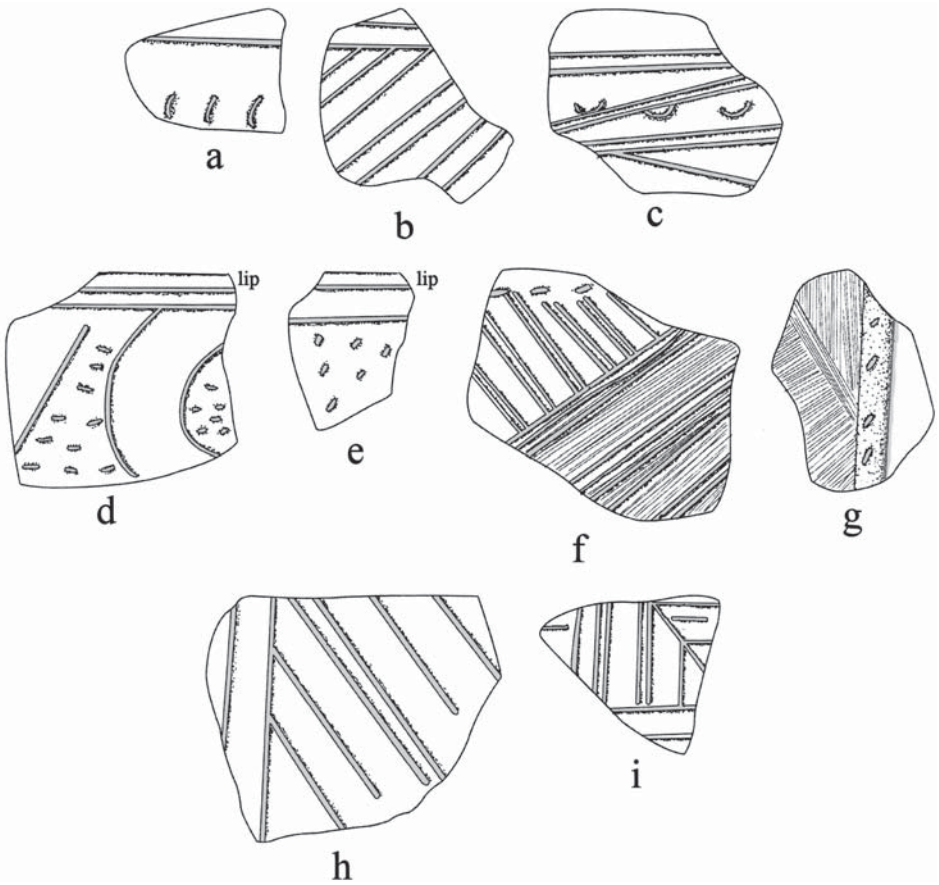

Figure 11. Selected decorative methods and elements on utility ware sherds from the Snipes site: a, c, e, incised-punctated; b, h-i, incised (Dunkin Incised); d, Crockett Curvilinear Incised; e, Pennington Punctated-Incised; f-g, Pease Brushed-Incised.

Other utility ware ceramics associated with this Early Caddo component are sherds from Kiam Incised (see Figure 11a), Crockett Curvilinear Incised (see Figure 11d), and Pennington Punctated-Incised (see Figure 11e). Among the fine ware sherds belonging to this component is a single bottle sherd from a Holly Fine Engraved or Spiro Engraved vessel (Figure 12j), a grog-tempered rim sherd with horizontal and vertical engraved lines (Figure 12b), and another grog-tempered rim sherd with horizontal engraved lines with an attached semi-circle element and a narrow horizontal hatched zone (Figure 12k).

A second use of the Snipes site by Caddo peoples is a single grog-tempered bottle sherd with horizontal-vertical engraved lines and curvilinear spur elements from a Haley Engraved vessel (see Figure 12i). Haley Engraved vessels are associated with the Middle Caddo period in the Red River basin, including the Sulphur River (see Perttula 2017:111-112). Several brushed-incised-punctated and brushed-appliqued Pease Brushed-Incised body sherds (see Figure 11f-g) may be part of this Middle Caddo period use of the site, but it is more likely that they are part of the ceramic assemblage belonging to the third and final Caddo occupation of the Snipes site that dates after ca. A.D. 1500 and is affiliated with Texarkana phase sites on the Red and Sulphur river basins (see Perttula 2017:Figure 75).

This third ancestral Caddo component at the Snipes site has a number of sherds from brushed, brushed-appliqued, brushed-incised, brushed-incised-punctated, and brushed-punctated utility ware vessels (see Table 5). These comprise 22.8 percent of the utility wares, and 17.2 percent of all the

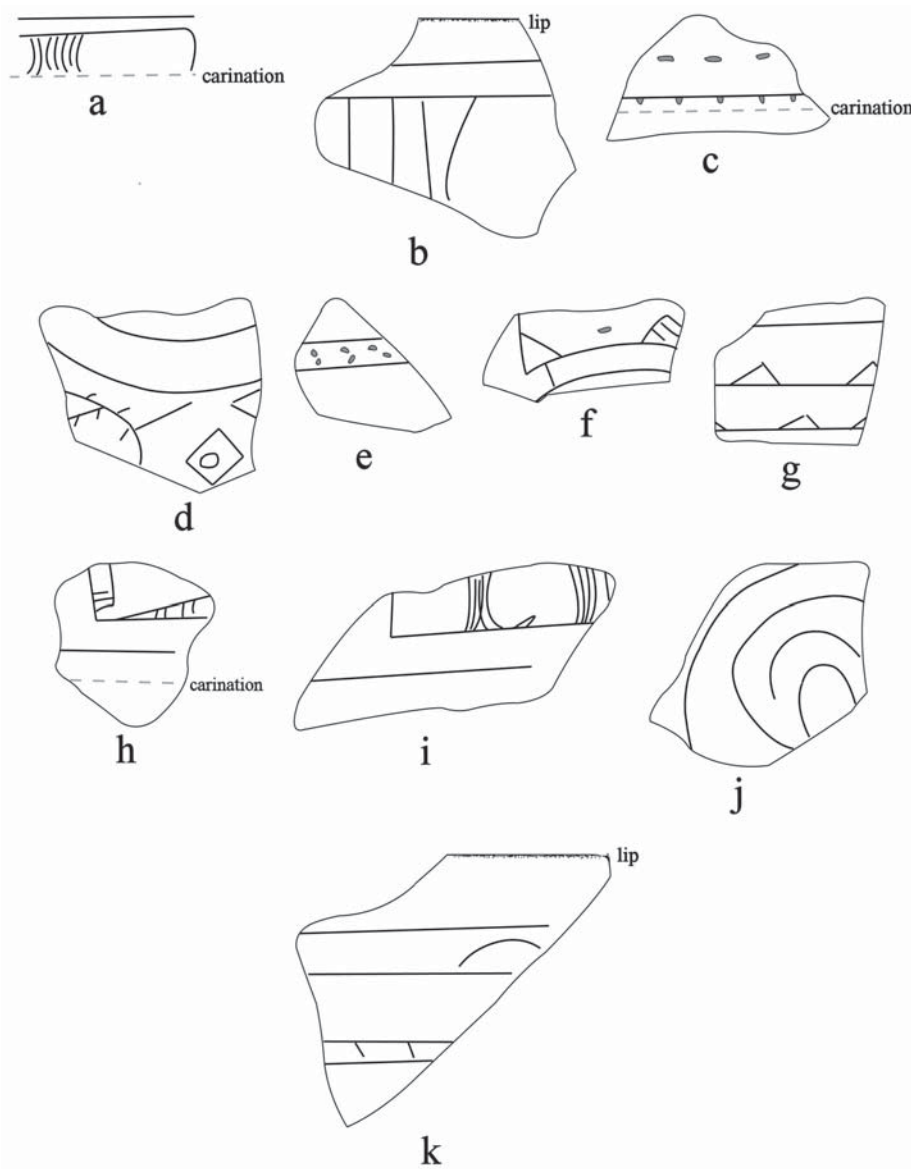

Figure 12. Selected decorative methods and elements on fine ware sherds from the Snipes site: a, Simms Engraved; b, g, k, engraved; c, e, h, Barkman Engraved; d, cf. Hatchel Engraved; i, cf. Haley Engraved; j, Holly Fine Engraved.

decorated Caddo wares in the assemblage; as mentioned, several are from Pease Brushed-Incised vessels. There is also a shell-tempered Cass Appliqued body sherd. The fine ware sherds in this component include a Keno Trailed body sherd, a possible Hatchel Engraved bottle sherd with curvilinear engraved lines, a semi-circle element with diagonal tick marks, as well as triangle and diamond elements (see Figure 12d), a lower rim sherd from a Simms Engraved carinated bowl (see Figure 12a), and five body sherds from Barkman Engraved carinated bowls (see Figure 12c, e, h). Two other engraved body sherds with excised punctations are also likely to be from Barkman Engraved vessels (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:7 and Plate 4).

Summary and Conclusions

The Snipes site (41CS8) is a multi-component prehistoric site on the Sulphur River in Cass County, Texas. The site was found and investigated as part of a River Basin Survey project done in 1952 directed by Edward B. Jelks (1961). We recently had the opportunity to take another look at the collections from the site (held by the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at The University of Texas at Austin) to better understand the native history of the site, and to clarify the character of the material culture remains that are associated with the different periods of use at the Snipes site since the Late Paleoindian period.

The main feature of the Snipes site is a cemetery with nine burials; two of the burial features had multiple individuals (two or three persons). The burials had been placed in pits in either flexed or extended positions. Funerary offerings with the burials included a few ceramic vessels, including one Coles Creek Incised, *var. Stoner* bowl and several small plain bowls and jars, as well as lithic artifacts in Burial 1 (Jelks 1961:44), and these indicate that the cemetery was used almost exclusively during the Late Woodland period. There is one ancestral Caddo vessel from a burial excavated by I. B. Price at the Snipes site that may be associated with the Early Caddo period use of the site.

The lithic and/or ceramic artifacts recovered in the burial features as well as habitation contexts at the Snipes site indicate a very limited use of the site during the Late Paleoindian and Late Archaic periods. The principal occupation of the site took place from ca. A.D. 400-800 by a Fourche Maline culture group, and is marked by Gary, *var. Camden* dart points, ca. A.D. 700-800 arrow points, grog-, grog-bone-, and bone-tempered Williams Plain and Cooper Boneware sherds and vessels, and Coles Creek Incised, *var. Stoner* and *var. Ely* vessels and/or sherds.

There were also ancestral Caddo settlements at the Snipes site. The first dates from ca. A.D. 800-1200, in the Formative and Early Caddo periods. The ceramics from this component include sherds from Davis Incised, Dunkin Incised, Kiam Incised, Crockett Curvilinear Incised, Pennington Punctated-Incised, and Holly Fine Engraved/Spiro Engraved vessels; one Alba arrow point is part of this component. A single Haley Engraved sherd points to a limited use of the site by Caddo peoples between ca. A.D. 1200-1400. The last use of the Snipes site by ancestral Caddo peoples took place after ca. A.D. 1500, and this component is associated with the Texarkana phase. This component includes sherds from Barkman Engraved, Cass Appliqued, Keno Trailed, Simms Engraved, and Pease Brushed-Incised vessels as well as a single Maud arrow point.

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