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Timothy K. Perttula

Heritage Research Center, Stephen F. Austin State University

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The Wollard #2 Site (41HE22) in the Upper Neches River Basin, Henderson County, Texas

Timothy K. Perttula

INTRODUCTION AND SITE SETTING

The Wollard #2 site (41HE22) was first identified by Leroy Johnson, Jr. and Edward B. Jelks in August 1957 during their survey of then proposed Blackburn Crossing Reservoir, now Lake Palestine, in Henderson County, Texas (Figure 1). The site was described by Johnson (1961:233-234) as:

located in an old cultivated field on the high ground directly to the west of Caney Creek and the Neches River floodplain [Figure 2], is one of the most prolific sites located in the reservoir area...The midden soil at the site extends to a depth of 16 inches and is rich in animal and shell remains as well as stone flakes and artifact fragments.

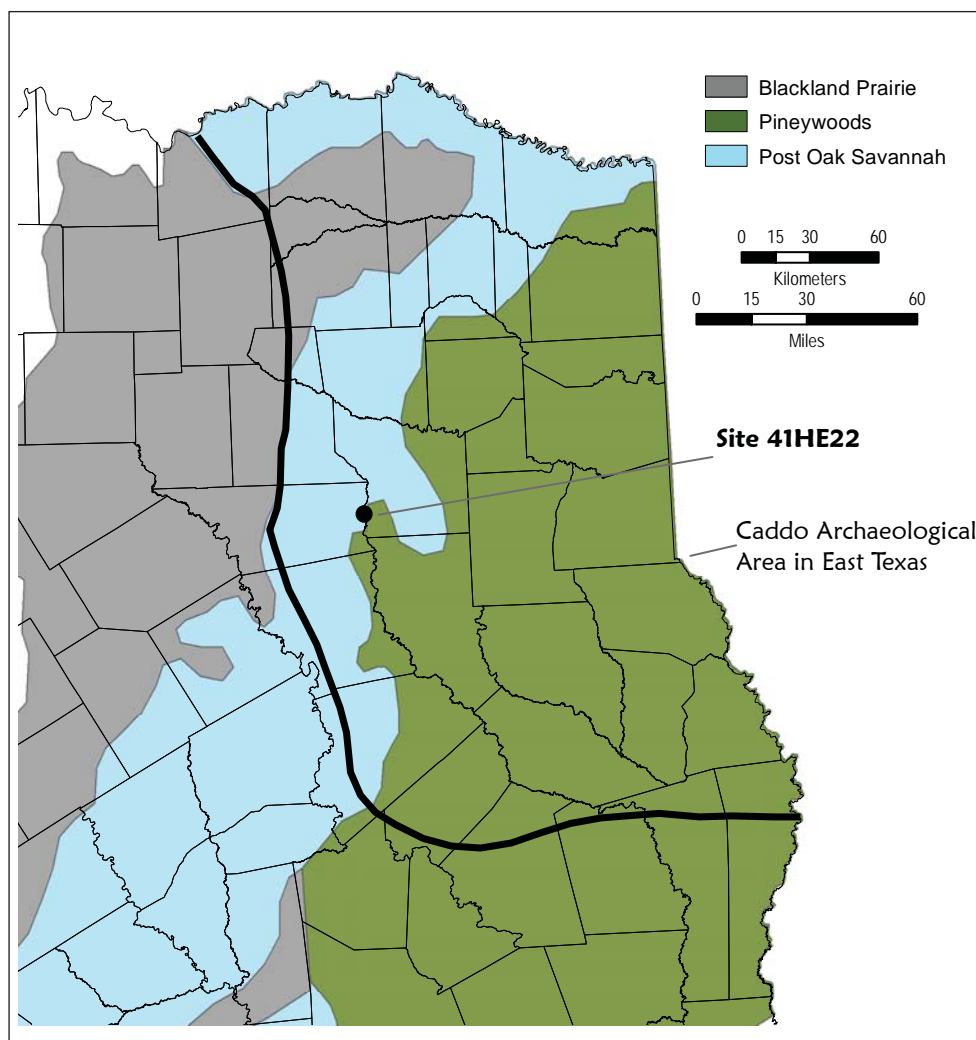


Figure 1. Location of the Wollard #2 site in East Texas.

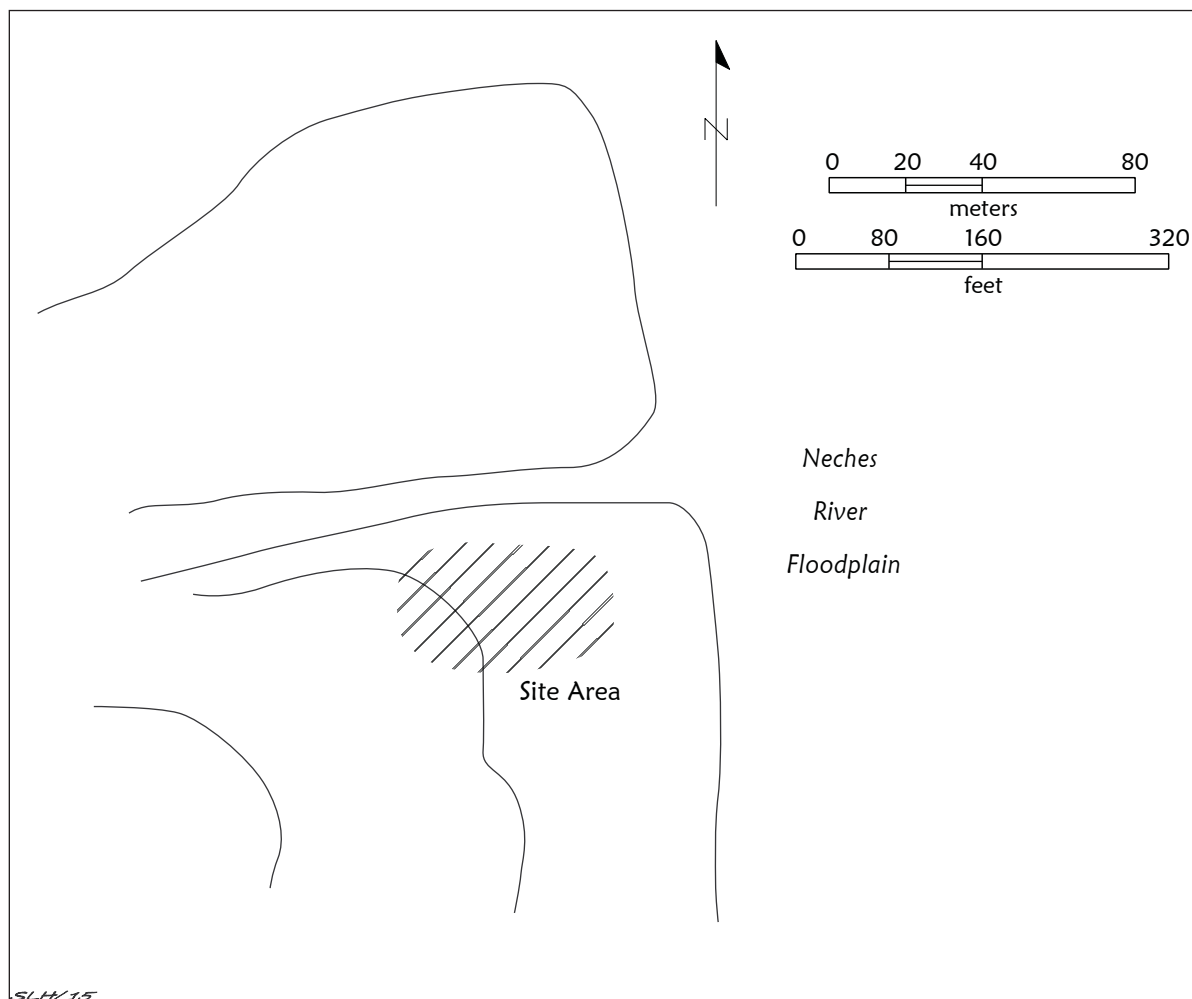


Figure 2. LeRoy Johnson's 1957 map of the Wollard #2 site.

When Southern Methodist University (SMU) returned to the proposed Lake Palestine area in 1969 to complete data recovery investigations at sites to be inundated by the lake, they chose to work at the Wollard #2 site, which they renamed the Mitchell site (X41HE17). X is the SMU designation used for site numbering. Review of project area maps by Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) staff indicated that the Mitchell site was plotted in the same area as the Wollard #2 site, and thus the Mitchell site also has the 41HE22 trinomial (Story 1990:560).

However, an examination of Anderson et al. (1974:19-44) and a comparison to Johnson's site map (see Figure 2) indicates that the SMU investigations at the Wollard #2/Mitchell site—which consisted primarily of systematic surface collections and the excavation of scattered 1 x 3 m units (Anderson et al. 1974:Figure 5)—unfortunately did not encompass any of the well preserved Caddo midden deposits described by Johnson (1961:213-214). Rather, the SMU work (Figure 3) was located uphill on the landform from the midden, in areas with sparse Caddo deposits. The SMU work recovered only 73 sherds in extensive surface collections on the landform (Anderson et al. 1974:Table 1) and only another 361 sherds from the excavation of 36 1 x 3 m units in several areas of the Mitchell site (Anderson et al. 1974:Table 3). The brief work by Johnson and Jelks recovered almost as many sherds (see below) as did the entire SMU investigations at the site. Furthermore, no midden deposits were identified in the SMU work and only four pieces of animal bone were recovered (Anderson et al. 1974:42); hardly evidence of a midden “rich in animal” bones as described by Johnson (1961:214).

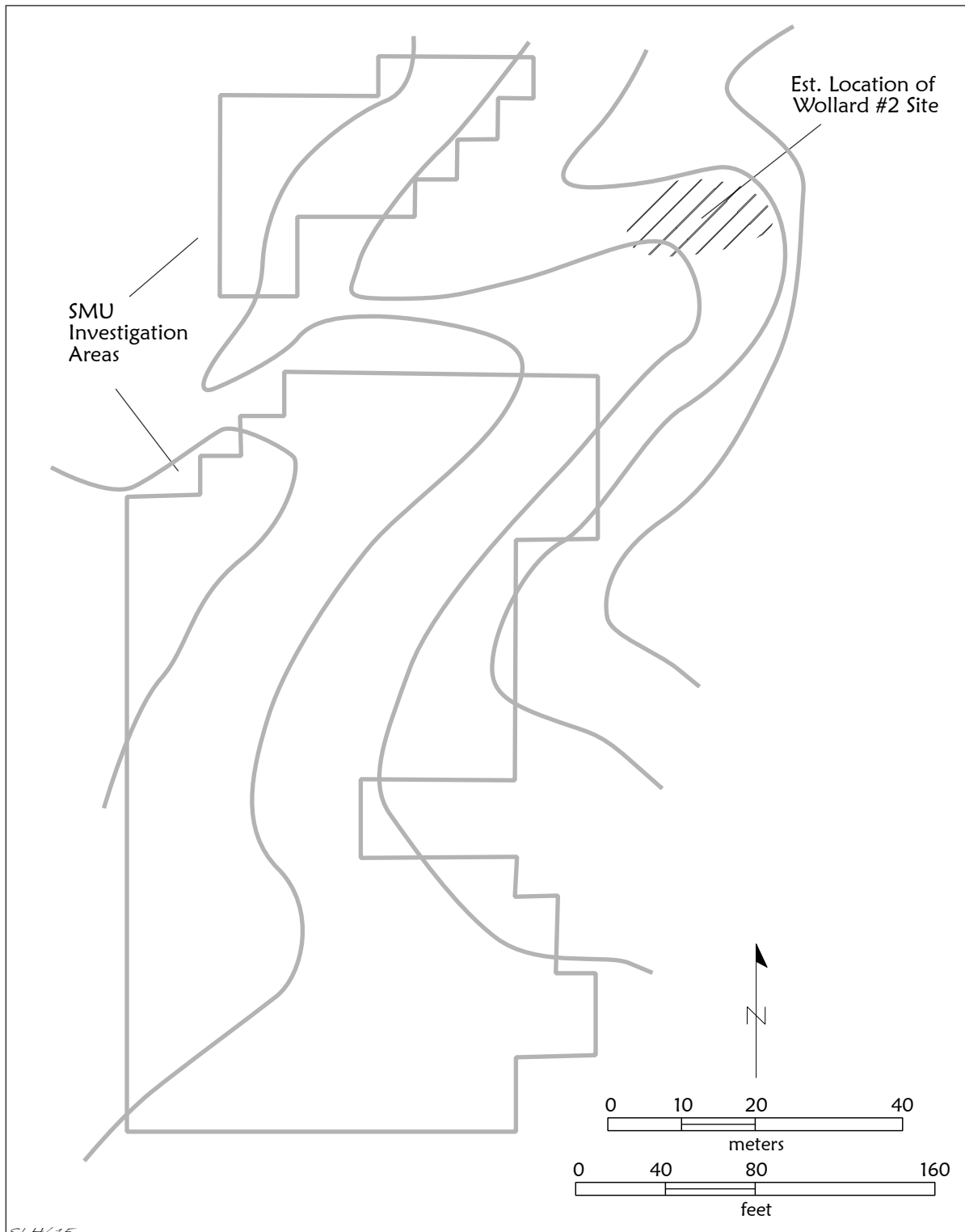


Figure 3. Anderson et al. (1974:Figure 5) map of the Mitchell and my plotting of the location of the Wollard #2 midden deposits that were overlooked in the SMU data recovery investigations at the site.

Ceramic Sherd Assemblage

The TARK collections from the Wollard #2 site have 291 ceramic sherds from plain ware, utility ware, and fine ware vessels (Table 1). As with other upper Neches River basin ceramic tradition sites (see Pertulla 2011:315-318), the vast majority of the sherds (97.9 percent) are from grog-tempered vessels. Only 2.1 percent of the sherds are from bone-tempered vessels. The plain to decorated sherd ratio is 1.16.

Table 1. Ceramic sherd assemblage from the Wollard #2 site (41HE22).

Ware	Grog-tempered	Bone-tempered	N
Plain	154	2	156
Utility	107	2	109
Fine	24	2	26
Totals	285	6	291

More than 80 percent of the decorated sherds from the site are from utility ware vessels (Table 2). The principal decorative methods represented in the utility wares are sherds with brushing marks (n=62, or 46 percent of all the decorated sherds and 57 percent of the sherds from utility ware vessels) and incised decorative elements (n=25, 23 percent of the utility wares). All of the fine ware sherds are from engraved vessels, both carinated bowls and bottles.

Table 2. Decorative methods and decorative elements represented in the utility ware and fine ware sherds from the Wollard #2 site (41HE22).

Decorative method/ Decorative elements	Rim	Body	N
Utility Ware			
<i>Brushed</i>			
diagonal brushing marks	-	1	1
opposed brushing marks	-	1	1
parallel brushing marks	-	59	59
vertical to curvilinear brushing marks	-	1	1
<i>Brushed-Incised</i>			
horizontal brushed marks and overlying cross-hatched lines	1	-	1
horizontal brushed marks and overlying diagonal lines	1	-	1
parallel brushed marks-incised lines	-	1	1
parallel brushed marks and overlying parallel lines	-	1	1
parallel brushed marks and overlying diagonal and horizontal lines	-	1	1
parallel brushed marks and overlying lines opposed to the brushing	-	1	1
<i>Grooved</i>			
parallel grooved	-	1	1

Table 2. Decorative methods and decorative elements represented in the utility ware and fine ware sherds from the Wollard #2 site (41HE22), cont.

Decorative method/ Decorative elements	Rim	Body	N
<i>Incised</i>			
cross-hatched lines	-	3	3
closely-spaced curvilinear lines	-	1	1
diagonal lines	4	-	4
diagonal opposed lines	2	3	5
horizontal and diagonal opposed lines	1	-	1
parallel lines	-	7	7
straight line	-	1	1
closely-spaced vertical lines	-	2	2
vertical and diagonal lines	1	-	1
<i>Incised-Punctated</i>			
diagonal line adjacent to tool punctated zone	-	1	1
diagonal opposed lines and triangle-filled tool punctated zone	-	1	1
horizontal and vertical lines and row of tool punctates	-	1	1
incised triangle filled with tool punctates	-	1	1
incised triangle filled with elongated tool punctates	1	-	1
parallel lines and adjacent elongated tool punctated zone	-	2	2
<i>Pinched</i>			
vertical pinched ridges	2	-	2
<i>Punctated</i>			
finger nail punctated rows	-	2	2
elongated tool punctated rows	1	1	2
tool punctated rows	1	-	1
vertical tool punctated rows	-	1	1
Sub-total, Utility Ware	15	94	109
Fine Ware			
<i>Engraved</i>			
opposed sets of circular lines	1	-	1
cross-hatched zone	-	1	1
broad curvilinear line	-	2	2
closely-spaced curvilinear lines	-	3	3
opposed curvilinear lines	-	1	1
closely-spaced curvilinear lines and negative ovals	1	-	1
widely-spaced curvilinear lines	-	1	1
curvilinear hatched triangle element	1	-	1

Table 2. Decorative methods and decorative elements represented in the utility ware and fine ware sherds from the Wollard #2 site (41HE22), cont.

Decorative method/ Decorative elements	Rim	Body	N
diagonal lines and curvilinear hatched triangle element	-	1	1
hatched rectilinear zone	-	1	1
horizontal line and opposed set of closely-spaced curvilinear lines	-	1	1
horizontal line above carination	-	1	1
horizontal line below lip	1	-	1
horizontal excised line and excised bracket	1	-	1
horizontal and diagonal lines	-	1	1
horizontal-diagonal lines and closely-spaced curvilinear lines	-	1	1
diagonal opposed lines	-	1	1
closely-spaced parallel lines	-	2	2
straight line	-	1	1
large excised triangle element	-	1	1
nested triangles	2	-	2
Sub-total, Fine Ware	7	19	26
Totals	22	113	135

The many brushed body sherds are from Bullard Brushed jars (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:21 and Plate 11). The sherds from brushed-incised vessels may also be from Bullard Brushed vessels as the principal decorative element on the sherds is horizontal brushing marks on the rim of utility ware jars and parallel (or vertical) brushing on vessel bodies. What differentiates most of the brushed-incised sherds from Bullard Brushed vessels is the incised decorative elements that overlie and cut through the brushing (Figure 4a-c). One body sherd has parallel brushed marks and overlying lines opposed to the brushing, and is identified as coming from a Spradley Brushed-Incised vessel. This utility ware is found on Historic Caddo Allen phase sites in the Neches-Angelina river basins in East Texas. It consists of parallel brushing elements with overlapping straight incised lines that are opposed or perpendicular to the brushing (Marceaux 2011:140 and Figure 5.2).

One body sherd from the site is from a Lindsey Grooved jar with broad parallel or horizontal grooved elements (see Table 2). Lindsey Grooved is an Allen phase utility ware type comprised of large bowls or jars with direct or slightly everted rims. The rims have shallow horizontal grooves (Marceaux 2011:140-141). Lindsey Grooved vessels also occur in conjunction with appliqued, brushed, incised, or punctated elements, typically either at the rim-body juncture or on the vessel body.

In most cases, the incised sherds are from Maydelle Incised vessels (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:103 and Plate 52a-d, f) with simple geometric elements on the rim and vessel body (see Table 2 and Figure 4d-f). The one body sherd with closely-spaced curvilinear incised lines may be a wet paste variety of Poynor Engraved (see below), as such decorative elements that have been engraved are associated with several varieties of Poynor Engraved; I resist the temptation of dubbing this sherd as Poynor Incised. The incised-punctated sherds are also from Maydelle Incised vessels (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 52e), as they have sets of diagonal and diagonal opposed incised lines that have created triangle elements filled with tool punctations (Figure 5a-b), most notably elongated tool punctations (Figure 5c).

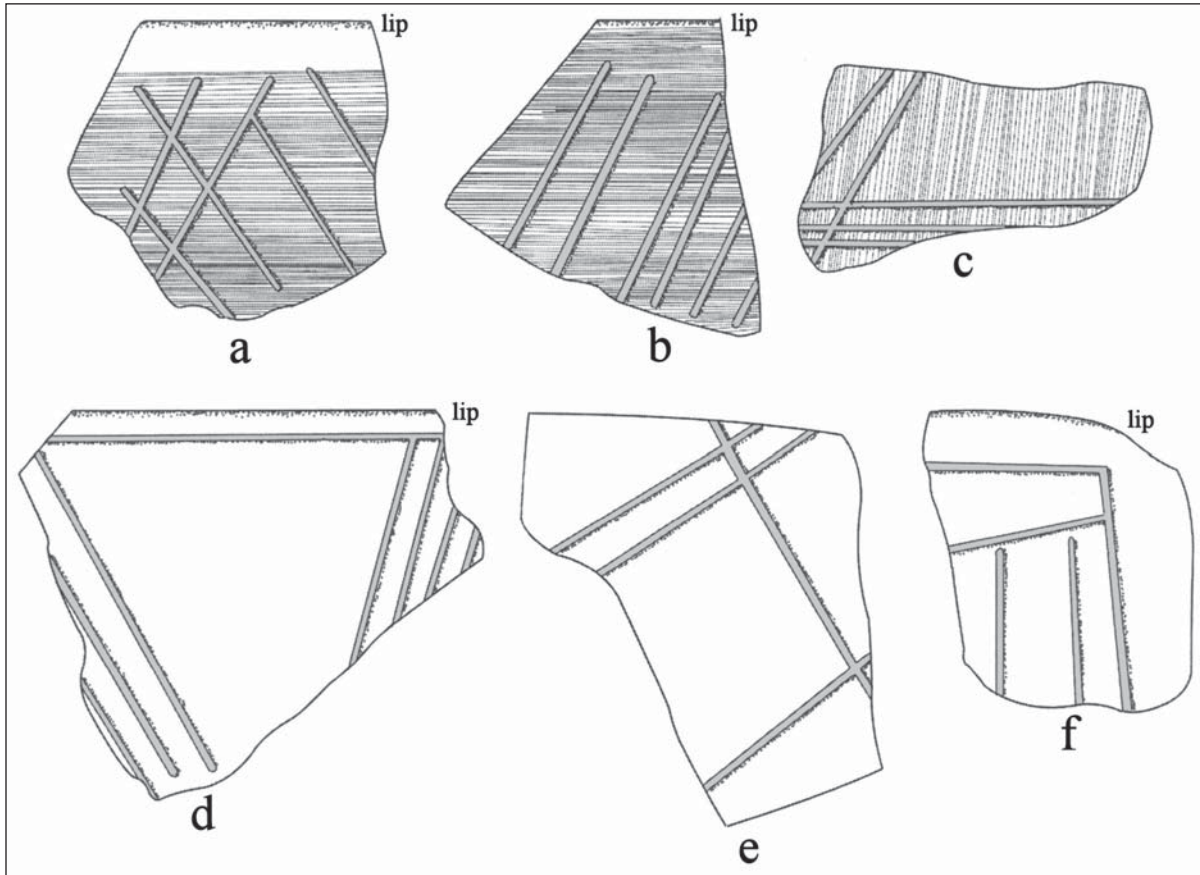


Figure 4. Selected Brushed-incised and incised decorative elements on utility ware sherds from the Wollard #2 site (41HE22): a-c, brushed-incised rim and body sherds; d-f, incised rim and body sherds.

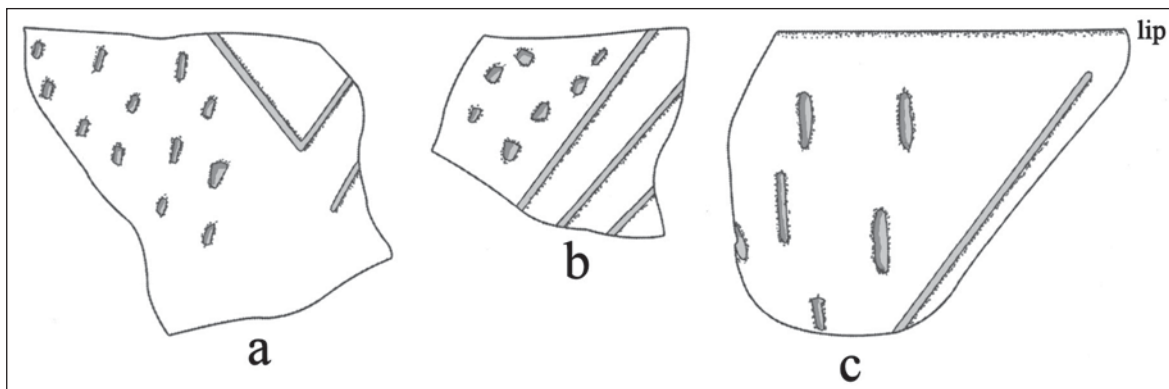


Figure 5. Decorative elements on incised-punctated sherds from the Wollard #2 site (41HE22).

The sherds with pinched decorative elements are from Killough Pinched jars (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:91 and Plate 46). The few punctated sherds (4.4 percent of the decorated sherds from the site) have either horizontal or vertical rows of fingernail and tool punctations, including several sherds with elongated tool punctations.

The engraved rim and body sherds are from Poynor Engraved carinated bowls and bottles. Two rims have nested triangles and are identified as regional *Var. A* of Poynor Engraved (Perttula 2011:Figure 6-65) (Figure 6a-b). Another rim, from a *var. Hood* vessel (see Perttula 2011:Figure 6-64e), has part of an excised bracket on the rim panel (Figure 6c), while a fourth rim in the assemblage has closely-spaced opposed circular lines from a *var. Cook* carinated bowl (Figure 6d; see also Perttula 2011:Figure 6-64c-d). Two other rims have Poynor Engraved, *var. unspecified* decorative elements, including negative ovals defined by closely-spaced curvilinear lines (Figure 6e) and a curvilinear hatched triangle element that is part of a scroll motif (Figure 6f).

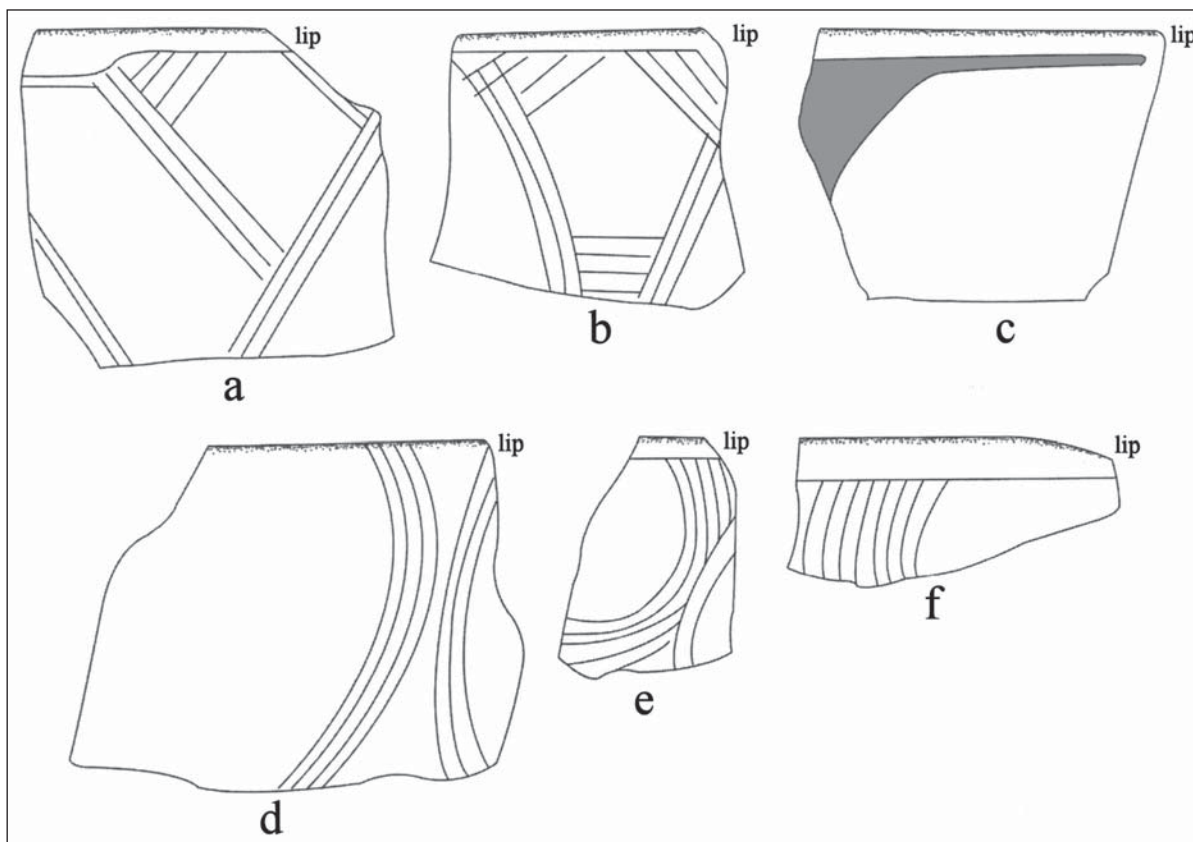


Figure 6. Selected decorative elements on Poynor Engraved rim sherds from the Wollard #2 site (41HE22): a-b, *Var. A*; c, *var. Hood*; d, *var. Cook*; e-f, *var. unspecified*.

The engraved body sherds from the Wollard #2 site are also primarily from Poynor Engraved carinated bowls (Figure 7a-b, d). One bottle sherd with opposed curvilinear lines may be from a Poynor Engraved bottle (Figure 7f; see Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 63).

Typologically unidentified fine wares include a body sherd in the fine ware assemblage that has a rectilinear zone filled with diagonal hatched lines (see Figure 7c). The last of the engraved body sherds in the collection has sets of diagonal opposed lines (see Figure 7e).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Wollard #2 site (41HE22) has a Late Caddo period Frankston phase component (ca. A.D. 1400-1650) in the upper Neches River basin that was marked by a well-preserved midden deposit with numerous ceramic vessel sherds, animal bones, and mussel shell fragments. It was found in 1957 during the first survey of Blackburn Crossing Reservoir, later Lake Palestine (Johnson 1961). When SMU returned to the site in

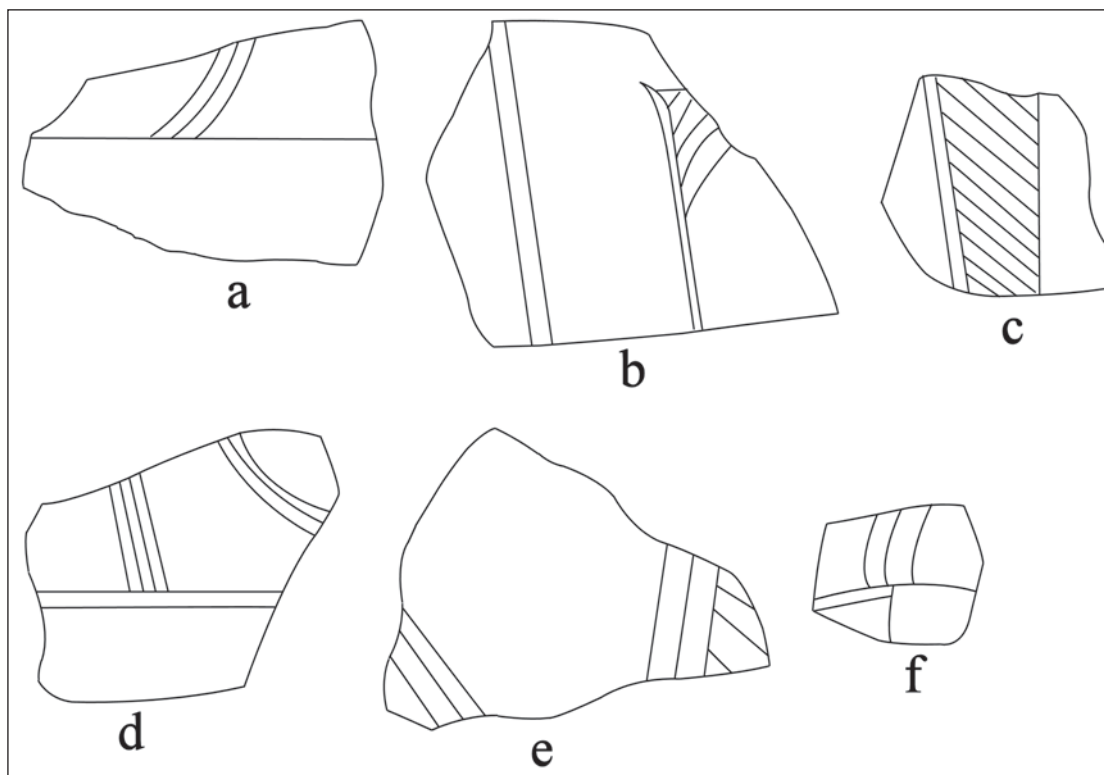


Figure 7. Selected decorative elements on engraved body sherds from the Wollard #2 site(41HE22): a-b, d, Poynor Engraved sherds; c, hatched rectilinear zone; e, diagonal opposed lines; f, possible Poynor Engraved bottle sherd.

1969 for further investigations, their work was focused on a higher landform west of the midden area, and they unfortunately did no work in the midden deposits or habitation areas that would have been in proximity to the midden. The location of the site suggests that it is now underwater at the lake.

The ceramic sherd assemblage from the Wollard #2 site is consistent with the upper Neches River basin Caddo ceramic tradition (Perttula 2011:315-318) that dates from ca. A.D. 1320-1700+. In this tradition, ceramics are (1) almost exclusively grog-tempered; (2) brushed utility ware pottery from Bullard Brushed vessels dominates the decorated sherd assemblages; (3) fine ware sherds are primarily from varieties of Poynor Engraved before ca. A.D. 1650 and Patton Engraved varieties after ca. A.D. 1650; and (4) plain to decorated sherd ratios (P/DR) range from only 0.14-1.50, with most of the sites having P/DR values less than 0.72; the P/DR of the Wollard #2 assemblage is 1.16. Caddo sites of this tradition did not have many plain ware vessels. The Wollard #2 site occupation by Caddo peoples likely dates primarily from the late 15th century A.D. to the mid-16th century, in the Frankston phase, based on the occurrence of several defined varieties of Poynor Engraved as well as the very high proportion of brushed utility ware sherds in the assemblage. The presence of two Spradley Brushed-Incised and Lindsey Grooved body sherds in the assemblage suggests that the Wollard #2 site may also have been occupied after ca. A.D. 1650. These utility ware types have been found in Caddo sites in the Neches-Angelina River basins in post-A.D. 1650 Allen phase components.

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