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Timothy K. Perttula

Introduction

The Pine Tree Farm site, an ancestral Caddo site occupied during the Titus phase (ca. A.D. 1430-1680), was recorded by Bob D. Skiles in June 1977, on the basis of investigations conducted there by Skiles and James E. Bruseth, then a graduate student at Southern Methodist University, as well as work done by Skiles in 1970. The site is on a flat upland landform (400 ft. amsl) ca. 300 m northeast of Myrtle Springs Branch, a tributary to Dry Creek in the Lake Fork Creek drainage in the East Texas Pineywoods (Figure 1).



Figure 1. The location of the Pine Tree Farm site in East Texas.

The Goldsmith site (41WD208) is ca. 0.4 km to the east on Dry Creek (Perttula et al. 1993), and several kilometers below the dam at Lake Quitman. The Dry Creek drainage basin, as well as the Caney Creek arm of Lake Fork Reservoir, have clusters of Late Caddo period Titus phase sites (Bruseth and Perttula 1981; Perttula 2005, 2015; Perttula and Skiles 2014a, 2014b).

The main known feature at the site was a large trash midden or midden mound that was ca. 20 x 22 m in size and approximately 35 cm in thickness. The midden deposits contained many Caddo ceramic vessel sherds, animal bones, mussel shell, charcoal and other charred plant remains (hickory nut shells), and ash deposits. Most of the trash midden was excavated in 1970, but there were intact midden deposits along the western and southern part of the trash midden, and in June 1977, several small units were excavated by Skiles and Bruseth in those areas. The ancestral Caddo ceramics discussed herein come from Units 2-4 in the southern part of the trash midden, but are not all of the sherds that were recovered in that work (Bob D. Skiles, October 13, 2015 personal communication).

Decorated Sherd Sample

The decorated sherd sample from the Pine Tree Farm site is about equally divided between utility wares (n=19) and fine wares (n=18). The sherds are almost all from grog-tempered vessels (97.3 percent), and one La Rue Neck Banded rim sherd is from a bone-tempered vessel.

The utility ware sherds include eight rim and body sherds from everted rim La Rue Neck Banded jars, 10 applied sherds from McKinney Applied vessels (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 49a, h), and one applied-incised body sherd. Eight of the applied body sherds have a single straight applied ridge, and another has a straight applied ridge and an associated applied node. The last applied sherd has diagonal opposed applied fillets (Figure 2a), and is from a Harleton Applied jar (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 33e, h). The applied-incised body sherd has parallel applied ridges with a single straight incised line between the applied ridges.

Three rim and body sherds are from vessels that have a red slip on both interior and exterior vessel surfaces. These may be from vessels decorated only with a red slip, which is a notable feature of upper Sabine River basin Titus phase assemblages, or from the non-engraved portions of vessels.

There are a number of decorative elements in the fine ware sherds from the site, all of which are from engraved vessels. This includes two body sherds with a single straight engraved line; two body sherds with opposed engraved lines (one had a white pigment rubbed in the engraved line); a body sherd from a carinated bowl with closely-spaced horizontal engraved lines above the carination (a white pigment was also rubbed in the engraved lines on this sherd); a body sherd with a hatched triangle element; and a body sherd with a curvilinear engraved line and an excised area. One rim sherd has horizontal engraved lines on the rim panel.

The remaining seven engraved sherds are from Ripley Engraved carinated bowls. This includes a body sherd with a slanted scroll motif and an associated excised triangle area (see Figure 2b) and two rim sherds with slanting scroll motifs (see Figure 2g); one rim has a red pigment rubbed in the engraved lines. The scroll fill zones on these Ripley Engraved sherds include triangular areas with triangular excised corners (see Figure 2h) as well as negative oval-shaped areas outlined by excised or cross-hatched brackets (see Figure 2f). Such combinations of elements are found on Ripley Engraved, *var. Gandy*, *var. Galt*, and *var. Carpenter* vessels.

The remainder of the Ripley Engraved sherds are from *var. Galt* vessels with a slanting scroll and circle motif (see Figure 2c-e); the vessels are also red-slipped on interior and exterior vessel surfaces. The central circle element has a circle bisected by excised lines that end in excised triangles (see Figure 2d), and there are excised triangles associated with the upper and lower scroll fill zones.

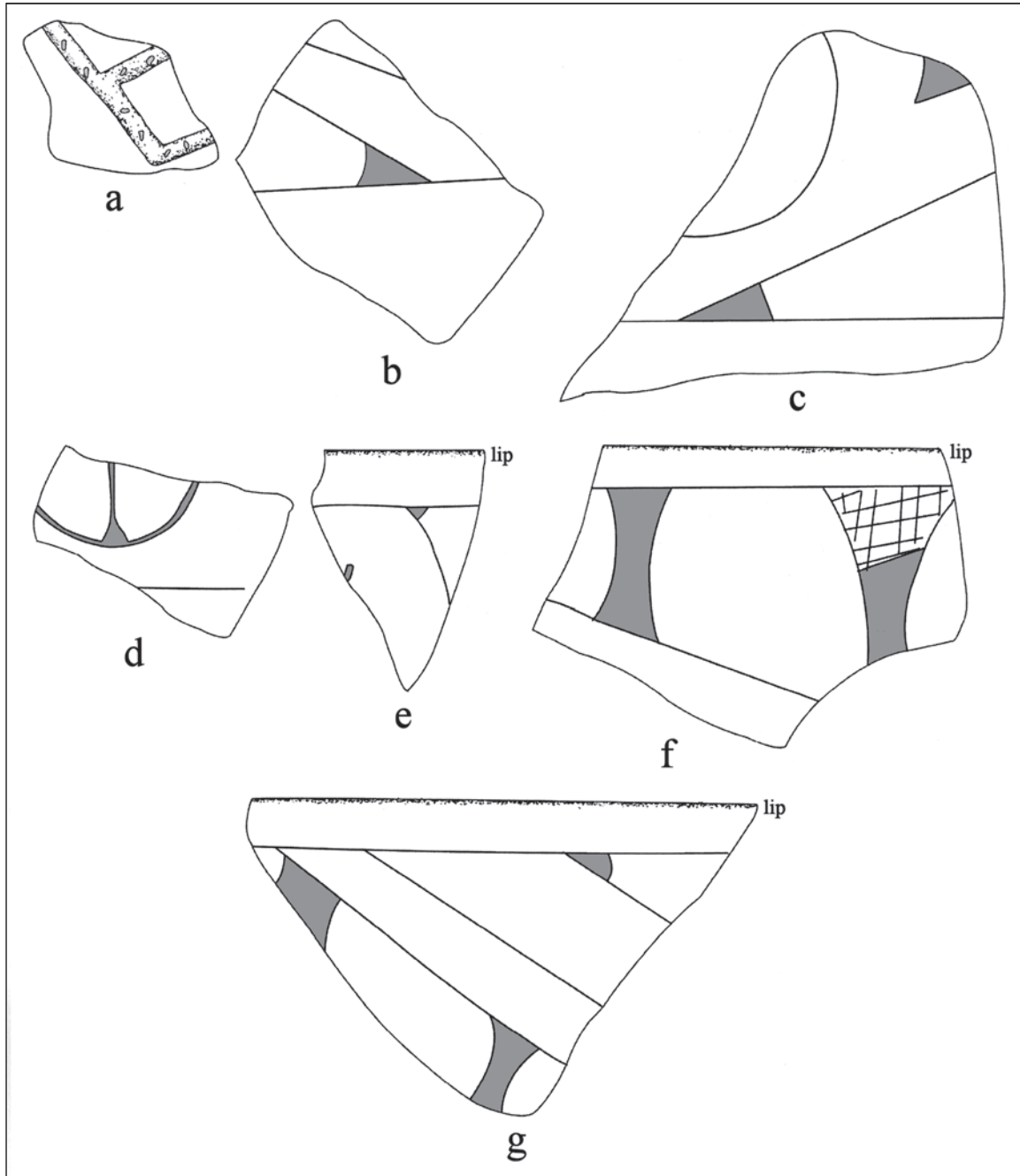


Figure 2. Selected decorative elements on the sherds from the Pine Tree Farm site.

Summary and Conclusions

The Pine Tree Farm site in the Lake Fork Creek basin in East Texas was investigated in the 1970s, and that work focused on a large and well-preserved trash midden deposit. Recovered in the trash midden were sherds from both utility ware and fine ware vessels tempered almost exclusively with grog, and a sample of those sherds was available for this study. The utility wares in the sample are from McKinney Applied and Harleton Applied jars, as well as La Rue Neck Banded vessels. The fine ware sherds are from red-slipped vessels as well as from Ripley Engraved vessels, primarily carinated bowls. Scroll and scroll and circle motifs were identified in the Ripley Engraved vessels, including sherds from at least one *var. Galt* vessel.

The suite of identified ceramic types in the Pine Tree Farm site decorated sherd assemblage examined herein is consistent with a Late Caddo period, Titus phase, occupation. Although the sample of decorated sherds is small, the absence of sherds from Taylor Engraved vessels or Ripley Engraved, *var. McKinney* vessels suggests that the Caddo were living at the site sometime in the period between ca. A.D. 1430-1550.

Acknowledgments

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