Volume 2016 Article 27

2016

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Introduction

Archaeological survey investigations were conducted in 1987 and 1988 in a large tract of land along Mill Race Creek, a southwestward-flowing tributary to Lake Fork Creek in the East Texas Pineywoods (Perttula and Gilmore 1988) (Figure 1). During the course of the survey, ancestral Caddo ceramic sherds were recovered from 15 sites (Perttula and Gilmore 1988:Table A.4-15), including the reanalyzed sherds from the three sites discussed in this article.

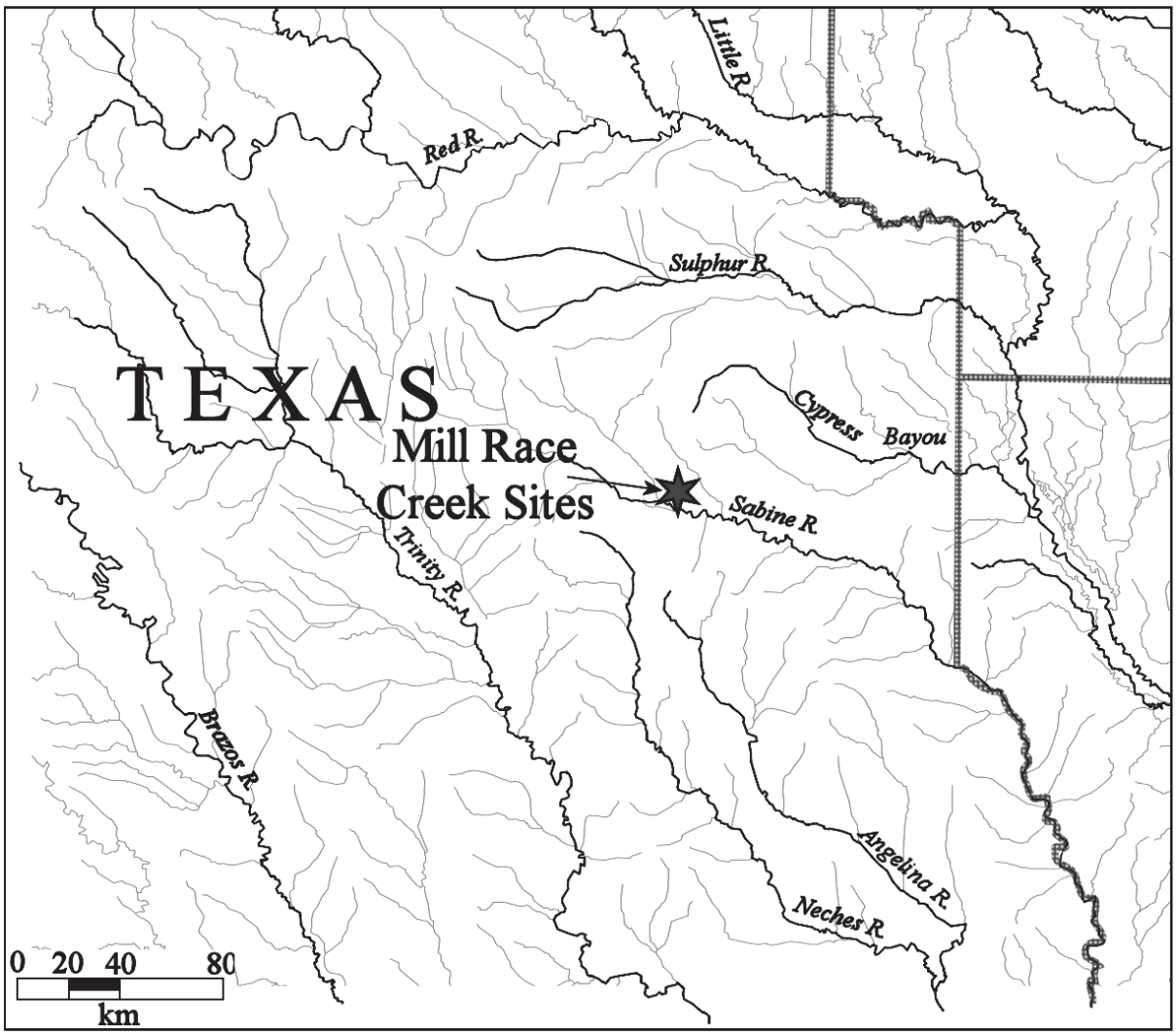

Figure 1. The location of the Mill Race Creek Caddo sites.

The Haines Varner Allen site (41WD573) is located on an upland landform overlooking the Mill Race Creek valley; it is an ancestral Caddo settlement with midden deposits that cover about 1.2 acres and has deposits that are a maximum of 75 cm in depth. The Audrey E. Allen-Smith site (41WD575) is ca. 250 m west-southwest of the Haines Varner Allen site, and is also situated in the uplands, but near the headwaters of a spring-fed tributary to Mill Race Creek. This site covers a 60 x 60 m area, with deposits ranging from 40-100 cm+ in thickness; there are midden deposits preserved in one part of the site (Perttula and Gilmore 1988:241-245, 248-249).

The Ned Moody site (41WD577) is located on a level upland landform 700 m west of the confluence of Mill Race Creek and Red Branch; there is a spring-fed tributary ca. 470 m to the southwest. The site is ca. 100 x 75 m in size, with 55 cm thick archaeological deposits. There were three concentrations of surface artifacts noted at the site, primarily sherds from Caddo vessels, and these spatial concentrations "may represent refuse deposits associated with separate Caddoan [sic] households" (Perttula and Gilmore 1988:257).

Caddo Ceramic Assemblages

A total of 543 ceramic vessel sherds are in the sherd assemblages from the three sites. More than 84 percent of the sherds are from the Ned Moody site (41WD577).

Haines Varner Allen Site (41WD573)

The ceramic assemblage from the Haines Varner Allen site consists of 28 plain and decorated sherds, all from grog-tempered vessels. The plain to decorated sherd ratio is 4.60.

The plain sherds include one rim and 22 body sherds. Two of the decorated sherds are from utility ware vessels: one body sherd has a single broad and straight incised line and the other has parallel incised lines.

The fine ware sherds (n=3) include both engraved and slipped sherds. The engraved body sherd has a single straight engraved line. The two red-slipped sherds are from bottles that have a red slip only on their exterior surface.

Audrey E. Allen-Smith Site (41WD575)

There are 56 sherds in the Audrey E. Allen-Smith site ceramic assemblage. This includes 46 plain body sherds and 10 decorated sherds from utility and fine ware vessels. The plain to decorated sherd ratio is also 4.60.

One of the utility ware sherds has parallel brushing marks, another has rows of tool punctations, three body sherds have parallel incised lines, and another has a single straight incised line. One body sherd has a curvilinear incised line or zone that has tool punctations within the zone.

Two of the fine ware sherds are from red-slipped vessels. One body sherd, probably from a carinated bowl, has a red slip on both interior and exterior surfaces, while the other body sherd has a red slip on only the exterior surface. The last fine ware sherd may be from a Sanders Engraved vessel, as it has a cross-hatched engraved decorative element (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 69).

Ned Moody Site (41WD577)

The 459 ancestral Caddo ceramic vessel sherds from the Ned Moody site are represented by all three wares (Table 1). The plain to decorated sherd ratio of this assemblage is 3.59.

Table 1. Ceramic wares from the Ned Moody site (41WD577).

Ware	Grog-tempered	Bone-tempered	N
Plain	345	14	359
Utility	69	6	75
Fine	25	-	25
Totals	439	20	459

About 95 percent of the ceramic sherds are from grog-tempered vessels. None of the fine ware sherds are from bone-tempered vessels, compared to 3.9 percent of the plain ware sherds and 8.0 percent of the utility ware sherds (see Table 1).

Seventy-five percent of the decorated sherds in the Ned Moody site ceramic assemblage are from utility ware vessels (Table 2). They include one vessel rim with diagonal incised notches on the lip, and sherds with brushed-incised (n=1, 1.3 percent of the utility wares) (Figure 2b), incised (n=32, 42.7 percent), incised-brushed-punctated (n=1, 1.3 percent) (Figure 2a), incised-punctated (n=8, 10.7 percent), pinched (n=1, 1.3 percent), and punctated (n=31, 41.3 percent) decorative elements; only 2.6 percent of the utility ware sherds are from vessels with any brushed areas.

Table 2. Decorative methods and elements in the utility ware and fine ware sherds from the Ned Moody site.

Decorative method and elements	Rim	Body	N
Utility Ware			
Brushed-Incised			
diagonal incised lines above opposed brushing marks	-	1	1
Incised			
cross-hatched incised lines	1	5	6
diagonal incised lines	1	2	3
opposed incised lines	-	2	2
parallel incised lines	-	11	11
straight incised line	-	10	10
Incised-Brushed-Punctated			
curvilinear incised zone filled with brushing marks; linear tool punctated row at rim-body juncture	-	1	1
Incised-Punctated			
diagonal incised lines (lower rim) above fingernail punctated row at rim-body juncture	-	1	1
parallel incised lines and adjacent tool punctated rows	-	1	1
parallel incised lines and zones filled with cane punctations	-	1	1
straight incised line and adjacent fingernail punctated row	-	1	1
straight incised line adjacent tool punctated rows	-	3	3
straight incised line and adjacent 6+ rows of circular punctations	-	1	1

Table 2. Decorative methods and elements in the utility ware and fine ware sherds from the Ned Moody site, cont.

Decorative method and elements	Rim	Body	N
Utility Ware, cont.			
Lip Notched			
diagonal incised notching on the lip	1	-	1
Pinched			
vertical pinched ridges	1	-	1
Punctated			
circular punctated rows	-	1	1
fingernail punctated rows	-	5	5
linear tool punctated row	-	5	5
tool punctated rows	2	17	19
vertical tool punctated rows	-	1	1
Fine Ware			
Engraved			
cross-hatched engraved lines	-	1	1
diagonal engraved lines	1	-	1
horizontal engraved lines above carina	-	1	1
horizontal and diagonal engraved lines	-	1	1
horizontal and diagonal engraved lines and hatched triangle el.	1	-	1
horizontal and vertical engraved lines	-	1	1
horizontal engraved zone with diagonal hatching	-	1	1
straight engraved lines	-	2	2
vertical engraved lines	1	-	1
Red-Slipped			
ext. red-slipped	-	3	3
int./ext. red-slipped	3	9	12
Totals	12	88	100

The incised sherds are likely from Canton Incised vessels with cross-hatched and diagonal incised motifs on the rim panel of jars (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 12). The incised-punctated body sherds have rows or a zone of punctations (fingernail, circular, or tool) adjacent to one of more straight incised lines (see Table 2). One other incised-punctated body sherd has diagonal incised panels, some of which are filled with cane punctations (see Figure 2c). This sherd may be from a Pennington Punctated-Incised vessel (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 61b).

The many punctated rim and body sherds have circular, fingernail, linear tool, and tool punctated rows as decorative elements (see Table 2). About 80 percent of the punctated elements are tool punctated, including one sherd with two vertical rows of punctations on the body of a jar (see Figure 2d).

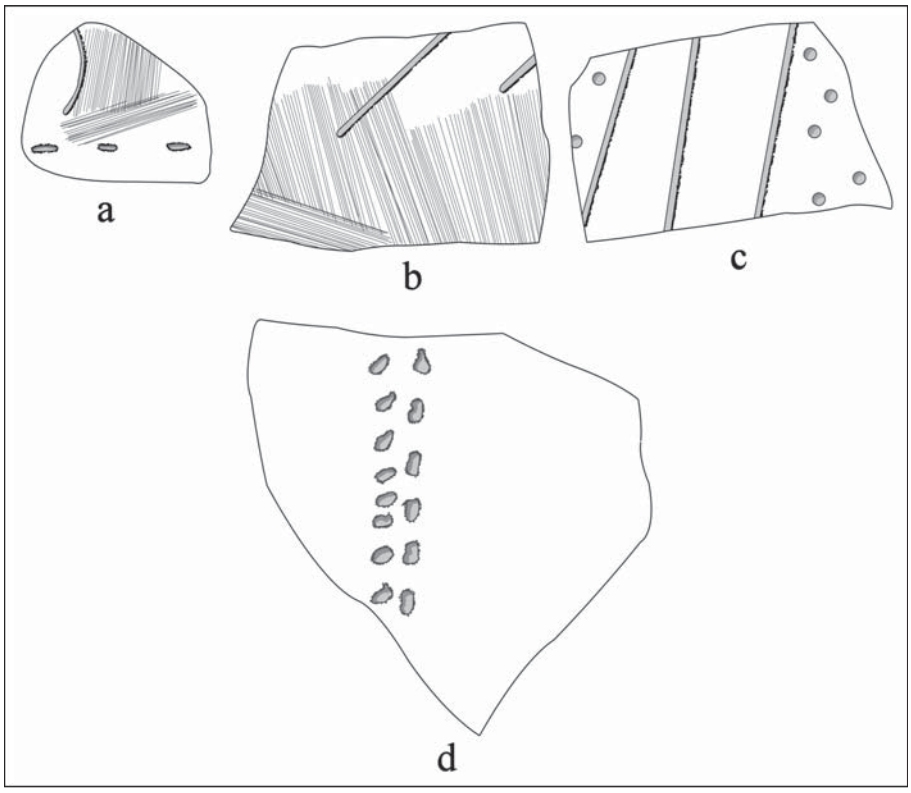

Figure 2. Selected decorative elements on utility ware sherds from the Ned Moody site.

The fine ware sherds from the Ned Moody site are dominated (60 percent) by rim and body sherds from red-slipped vessels (see Table 2), most likely from Sanders Slipped carinated bowls and bowls; no red-slipped bottle sherds are in this assemblage. The remainder of the fine wares have engraved decorative elements (Figure 3). The more distinctive engraved rim and body sherds have hatched horizontal zones and large hatched triangle elements (Figure 3a-b), sets of horizontal and vertical engraved lines (Figure 3c), body sherds from carinated bowls with horizontal or horizontal and diagonal engraved lines, and rim sherds with diagonal or vertical engraved lines. None of the engraved sherds have a clay pigment rubbed in the engraved lines.

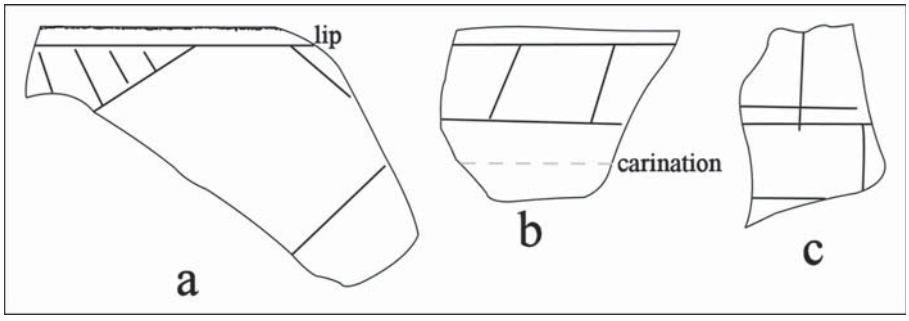

Figure 3. Selected decorative elements on fine ware sherds from the Ned Moody site.

Summary and Conclusions

The Haines Varner Allen (41WD573), Audrey E. Allen-Smith (41WD575), and Ned Moody (41WD577) sites are ancestral Caddo settlements in the Mill Race Creek valley in the upper Sabine River basin of East Texas. These sites were identified and investigated in 1987-1988 during an archaeological

survey of portions of the valley (Perttula and Gilmore 1988). During that work, a considerable number of Caddo ceramic vessel sherds were recovered from the archaeological deposits at the three sites, especially from the Ned Moody site, and the sherds have been reanalyzed to focus on the decorative methods and decorative elements present in the assemblages; these assemblages are dominated by vessels tempered with grog.

The assemblages have moderate plain to decorated sherd ratios—3.59-4.60—with sherds from incised, punctated, and incised-punctated utility ware vessels. The proportion of sherds with brushed decorative elements ranges from only 2 percent (at the Ned Moody site) to 10 percent (at the Audrey E. Allen-Smith site). Fine ware sherds have both engraved and red-slipped decorative elements, and the proportion of red-slipped sherds is considerable (60-67 percent of the fine ware sherds in the three assemblages). None of the engraved sherds have decorative elements consistent with either Early (ca. A.D. 1000-1200) or Late (post-ca. A.D. 1430) Caddo ceramic styles known from ancestral Caddo sites in the upper Sabine River basin, but include a Sanders Engraved sherd from the Audrey E. Allen-Smith site and distinctive hatched elements on vessel sherds at the Ned Moody site. These kinds of decorative elements on engraved sherds have been regularly documented from Middle Caddo sites in this region (Perttula et al. 1993; Perttula 2015a).

Red-slipped fine wares (bowls, carinated bowls, and an occasional bottle) are a common part of ancestral Caddo ceramic assemblages in several parts of East Texas, including the upper Sabine River basin (Perttula 2015b:Figure 3). Red-slipped vessels are relatively abundant in ca. A.D. 1200-1400 ceramic assemblages in the aforementioned area, particularly at sites such as Jamestown (41SM54) and A. C. Gibson (41WD1). Taken together with the range of decorative elements in the fine ware sherds from these three Mill Race Creek Caddo sites, it is likely that these sites are part of a Middle Caddo period community in the upper Sabine River basin with a distinctive suite of utility ware and fine ware vessels.

Acknowledgments

Lance Trask prepared the figures in this article.

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