



INDEX OF TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGY

Open Access Gray Literature from the Lone Star State

Volume 2014

Article 50

2014

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Timothy K. Perttula

INTRODUCTION

The GC-123 site was located and investigated by Buddy C. Jones during his years of archaeological work and surface collecting at numerous aboriginal sites in the mid-Sabine River basin in East Texas. The site is in south-central Gregg County (Figure 1), on Rabbit Creek (a northern-flowing tributary to the Sabine River), but only a few miles from the Sabine River valley.

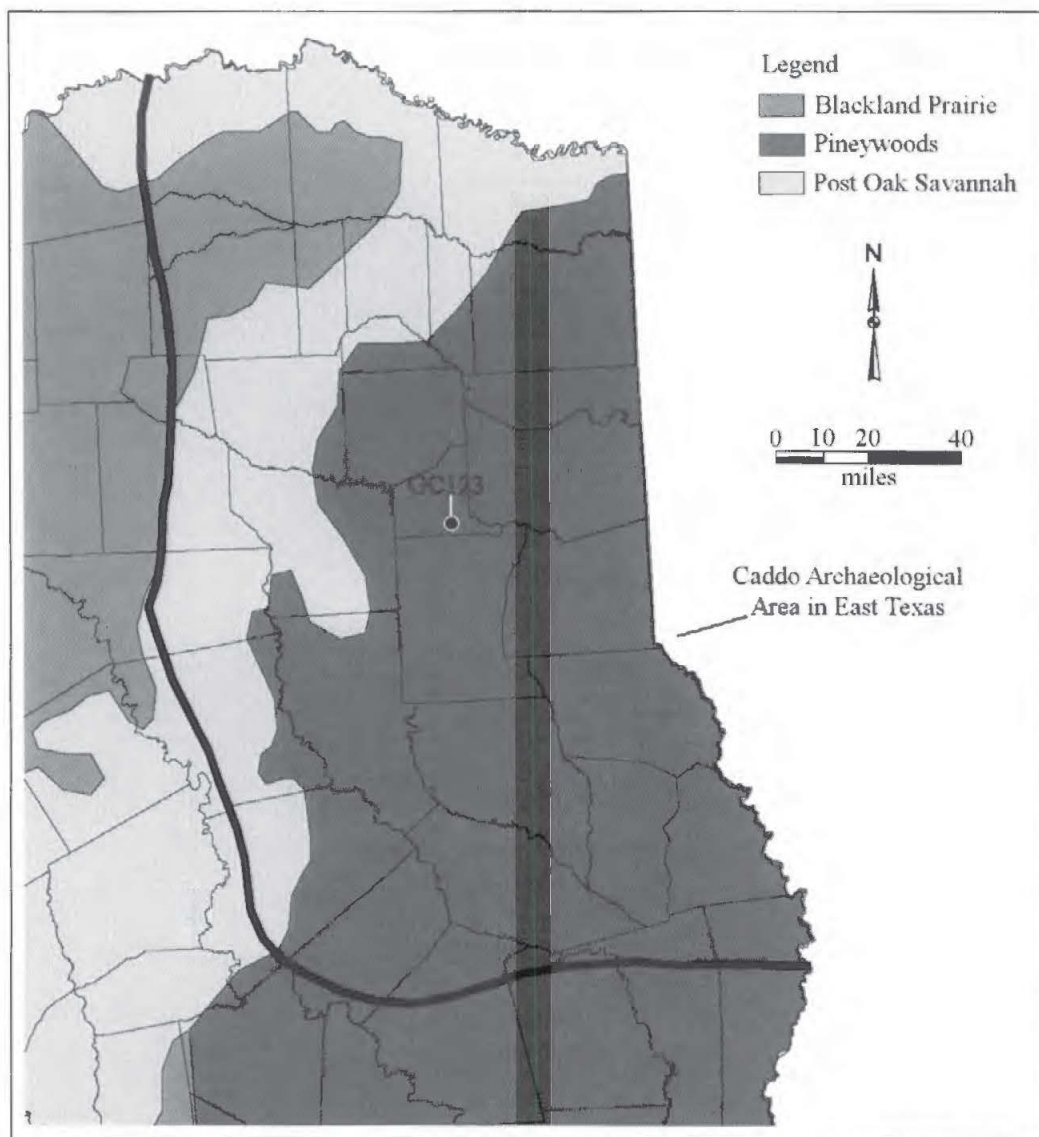


Figure 1. The location of Site GC-123 in East Texas. Figure prepared by Lance Trask.

The site is notable for its ceramic sherd assemblage. Based on characteristics of Woodland period ceramics from the mid-Sabine River basin, including sites such as 41HS231 and 41RK562 (see Dockall and Fields 2011; Dockall et al. 2008), Hawkwind (41HS915), Folly (41RK26), Herman Ballew (41RK222), and Resch (41HS16 (see Ellis 2013; Ellis et al. 2013; Pertulla 2001; Webb et al. 1969), the GC-123 site appears to be a single component Woodland period occupation.

SHERD ASSEMBLAGE

There are only 26 rim, body, and base sherds in the GC-123 assemblage. None of the sherds are decorated. About 73% of the sherds (four rims, 12 body, and three base) are from grog-tempered vessels, and the remaining 27% (seven body sherds) are bone-tempered.

The grog-tempered sherds are from plain bowls and jars with direct rims and rounded lips (Figure 2), with two different sizes: one group of rims with thin vessel walls (mean thickness of 6.0 mm) and another with thick vessel walls (mean thickness of 11.1 mm). The latter rim sherds may be from Williams Plain vessels. Grog-tempered body sherds are variable in thickness, with a range from 6.1-10.0 mm, with a mean thickness of 7.66 mm. Grog-tempered base sherds have a mean thickness of 11.67 mm. The thickness of the plain grog-tempered vessels at GC-123 is comparable to the vessels from the Woodland period components at the Hawkwind and Resch sites (Ellis 2013:151).



Figure 2. Plain grog-tempered rim sherds from site GC-123.

The bone-tempered sherds are from thick and coarsely tempered vessels, as the mean thickness of the body sherds is 9.87 mm, with a range from 5.0-11.2 mm. These are likely sherds from Cooper Boneware jars (cf. Schambach 1998).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The small sample (n=26) of plain ware sherds from site GC-123 in the mid-Sabine River basin are from thin and thick-walled grog-tempered and thick-walled bone-tempered vessels, likely including both Williams Plain and Cooper Boneware. The sherds appear to be from a single component Woodland period occupation. The occurrence of Cooper Boneware sherds at GC-123 suggests that the Woodland period occupation took place sometime prior to ca. A.D. 400 (e.g., Ellis 2013:173).

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