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Timothy K. Perttula

INTRODUCTION

Buddy Jones collected ceramic sherds from Caddo sites across the mid-Sabine River basin, in Gregg, Harrison, and Rusk counties, in the 1950s and 1960s. With only a few exceptions, however, did Jones complete analyses or publications on his collecting activities (see Jones 1957, 1968), and in most cases his general collections have not been fully inventoried or analyzed. In an attempt to remedy that, and in the process gather important information on the technological and stylistic character of Caddo ceramics found in Caddo settlements in the mid-Sabine River basin, this article discusses the ancestral Caddo ceramic assemblages from three sites in the Hawkins Creek drainage in central Gregg County, Texas (Figure 1). Hawkins Creek is a small and southern-flowing tributary to the river.

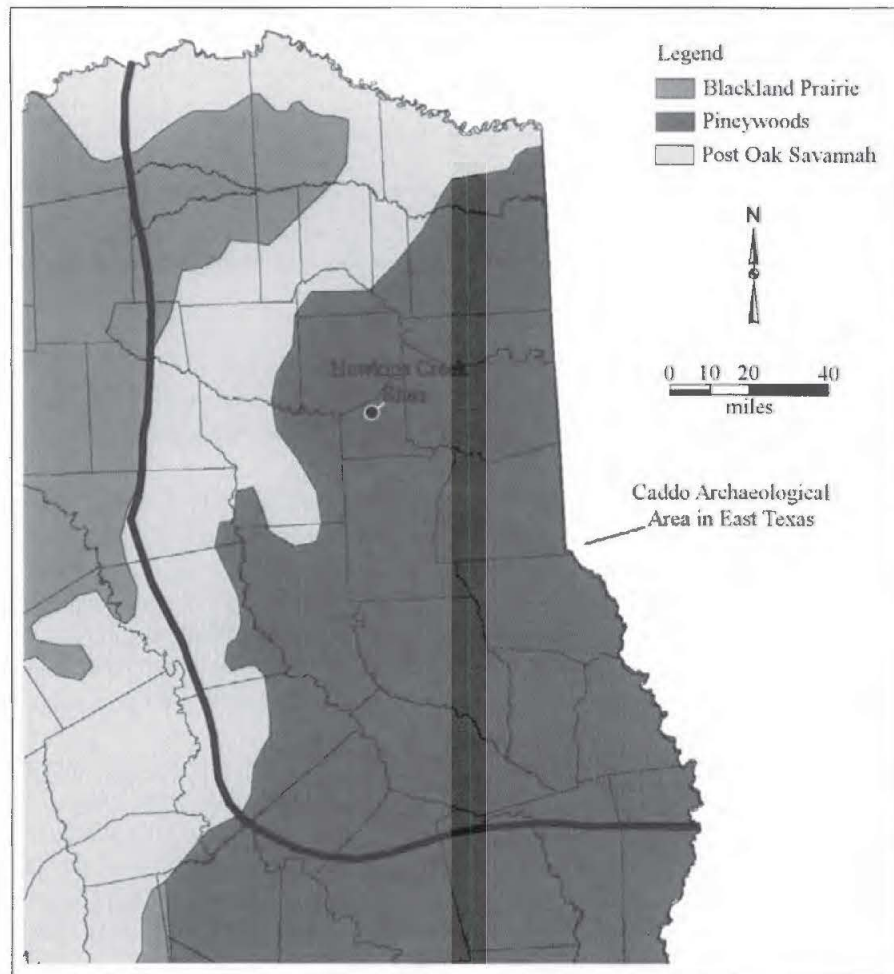


Figure 1. Location of the Hawkins Creek sites in Gregg County in East Texas. Figure prepared by Lance Trask.

GROUP'S PLACE SITE (GC-77)

There are 199 ceramic sherds from the Group's Place site, 132 plain sherds, 52 utility ware sherds, and 15 fine ware sherds (Table 1). The plain to decorated sherd ratio (P/DR) is 1.97. The sherds are from both grog-tempered (67%) and bone-tempered (33%) vessels.

Table 1. Ceramic sherds from the Group's Place site.

Ware	Rim	Body	Base	N
Plain ware	7	110	15	132
Utility ware				
Brushed	1	11	—	12
Brushed-Incised	—	5	—	5
Incised	1	11	—	12
Incised-Punctated	1	3	—	4
Punctated	1	18	—	19
Fine ware				
Engraved	3	12	—	15
Totals	14	170	15	199

The most common utility wares have punctations (see Table 1), including sherds with rows of fingernail punctates (n=1), tool punctates (n=11), linear tool punctates (n=4), and rows of circular punctates (n=2). The one rim, probably from a Washington Square Paneled vessel (see Hart 1982; Pertulla et al. 2010), has a row of diagonal tool punctates under the vessel lip.

Sherds with brushed and brushed-incised decorative elements comprise 32% of all the utility wares, and 25% of the decorated sherds from the Group's Place site (see Table 1). The one rim has horizontal brushing marks, while the body sherds have parallel brushed and/or incised marks and lines on the body of jars.

Incised sherds are common in the Group's Place utility wares (see Table 1). The one rim has diagonal incised lines. The body sherds have parallel (n=7), cross-hatched (n=2), diagonal (n=1), and straight (n=1) lines.

The first incised-punctated rim sherd from the site has a band of diagonal tool punctates under the lip and above a single horizontal incised line. This rim may also be from a Washington Square Paneled vessel. Two body sherds have incised triangles filled with tool punctates, while a third incised-punctated body sherd has curvilinear and semi-circular incised elements or panels filled with tool punctates (Figure 2b-c).

The engraved fine wares at the Group's Place site account for 22.4% of the decorated sherds in the assemblage (see Table 1), indicating ready access to the use of fine wares by the Caddo peoples living there. All three rim sherds have horizontal engraved lines, and at least one is from a compound bowl with horizontal engraved lines on the rim's upper panel. One sherd from the neck and upper body of a collared bottle has a single horizontal engraved line on the upper body. Other body sherds have a straight line (n=3), diagonal opposed engraved lines (n=3, Figure 3b), vertical lines (n=2), and parallel lines (n=1). Another sherd from a carinated bowl has horizontal and diagonal opposed engraved lines, while the last engraved sherd from the sherd has a horizontal engraved line and narrow near-vertical open or diagonal hatched panels or ladders (Figure 3c).

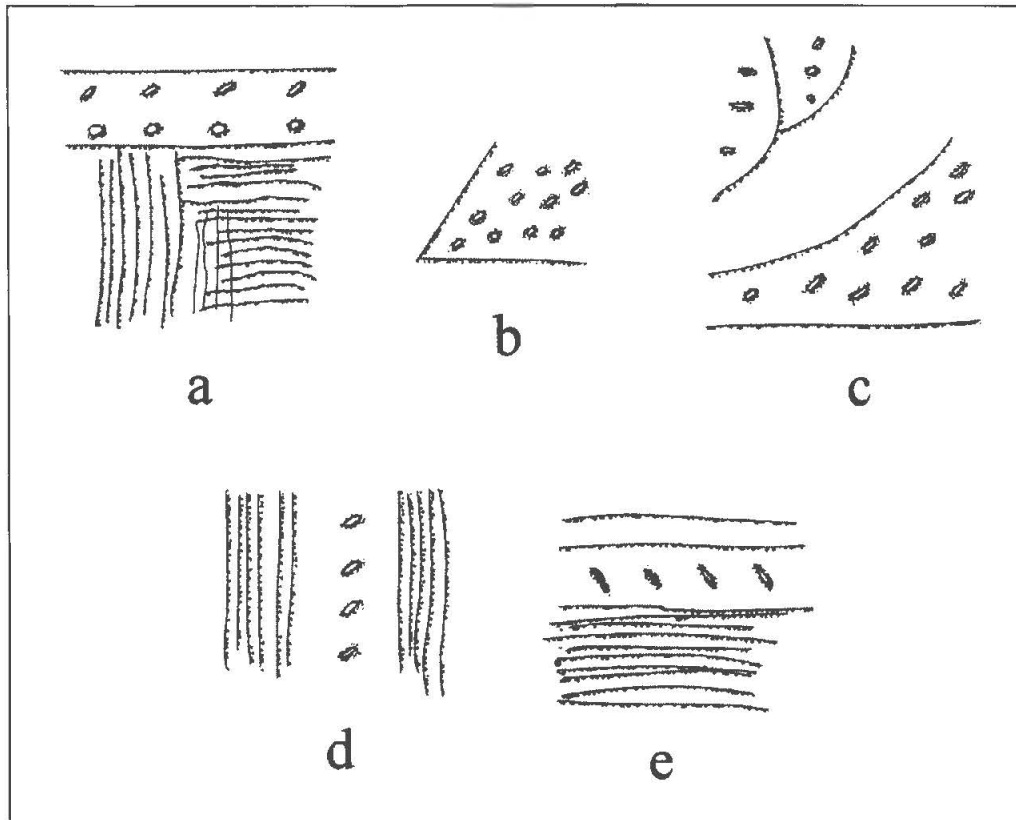


Figure 2. Hawkins Creek sites utility wares: a, incised-punctated-brushed element, GC-90; b-c, incised-punctated elements, GC-77; d, parallel brushed-tool punctated row, GC-78; e, incised-punctated-brushed element, GC-78.

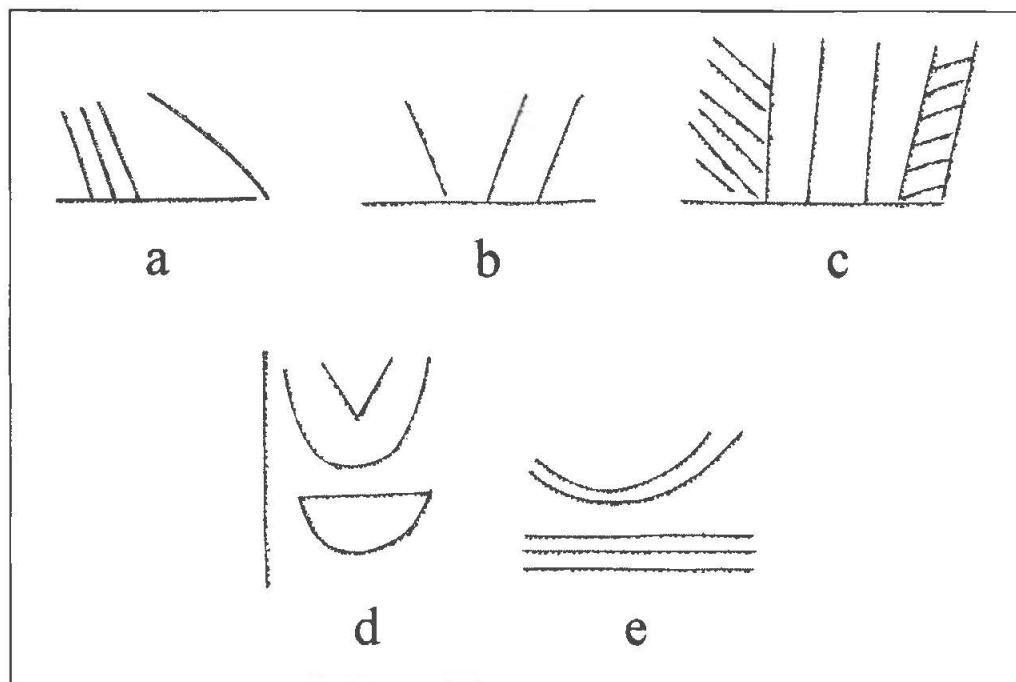


Figure 3. Hawkins Creek sites fine wares: a, engraved carinated bowl element, GC-90; b-c, engraved elements, GC-77; d-e, engraved elements, GC-90.

GC-78

There is only a small sample of ceramic sherds from GC-78, including 21 plain sherds, 26 utility ware sherds, and two line ware sherds (Table 2). The P/DR is 0.75. The sherds are from vessels tempered with grog (88%) and bone (12%).

Table 2. Ceramic sherds from GC-78.

Ware	Rim	Body	Base	N
Plain ware	–	18	3	21
Utility ware				
Brushed	–	11	–	11
Brushed-Incised	–	4	–	4
Brushed-Punctated	–	1	–	1
Incised	1	3	–	4
Incised-Punctated	1	2	–	3
Incised-Punctated-Brushed	–	1	–	1
Pinched	–	2	–	2
Fine ware				
Engraved-Punctated	–	1	–	1
Red-slipped	–	1	–	1
Totals	2	44	3	49

Among the utility wares, the most common are sherds from vessels with brushed or brushed-incised bodies, likely decorated with vertical brushing and/or incised marks and lines that extend from the rim-body juncture to near the vessel base. The brushed and brushed-incised sherds account for 58% of the utility wares, and 54% of all the decorated sherds from GC-78 (see Table 2). Incised utility wares include a single rim with diagonal incised lines, probably from a Maydelle Incised vessel, as well as body sherds with cross-hatched or parallel incised lines.

There are two sherds with brushed-punctated and incised-punctated-brushed decorations (see Table 2). The first may be from a Pease Brushed-Incised jar: it has vertical open panels with a row of tool punctations down their center, with the panels flanked by vertical brushing marks (see Figure 2d). The second sherd has horizontal incised lines below the rim-body juncture, followed by a row of linear tool punctations, and then by horizontal brushing marks (see Figure 2e).

The two pinched body sherds are likely from Killough Pinched jars. One sherd has curvilinear rows of pinching while the other has parallel pinched rows.

The incised-punctated rim sherd has at least two rims of tool punctates between horizontal incised lines. One of the body sherds has a similar decorative element, except there are multiple incised lines between the bands of punctates. The other incised-punctated body sherd has an incised triangle filled with tool punctates; it is from a Maydelle Incised jar.

One of the fine ware sherds from GC-78 (see Table 2) is a body sherd with a red slip on both interior and exterior vessel surfaces. The other is a rim, likely from a carinated bowl, with a narrow horizontal

engraved band under the lip filled with diagonal tool punctates. This decorative element is consistent with the Washington Square Paneled type (see Hart 1982). A vessel of this type has been identified from Burial 2 (Vessel No. 7) at 41GG50 on Hawkins Creek (Pertulla and Nelson 2013:Figures 27 and 28).

LOCKS' (GC-90)

The Locks' site ceramic sherd assemblage includes 96 sherds, 22 plain ware, 64 utility ware, and 10 fine ware (Table 3). The P/DR is 0.30. Almost 40% of the sherds are from bone-tempered vessels, and the remainder are grog-tempered.

Table 3. Ceramic sherds from Locks' (GC-90).

Ware	Rim	Body	Base	N
Plain ware	–	20	2	22
Utility ware				
Brushed	–	30	–	30
Brushed-Incised	–	14	–	14
Brushed-Punctated	1	6	–	7
Incised	1	6	–	7
Incised-Punctated	2	–	–	2
Incised-Punctated-Brushed	1	1	–	2
Punctated	–	2	–	2
Fine ware				
Engraved	1	9	–	10
Totals	6	88	2	96

The utility wares from the Locks' site are dominated by sherds from vessels with brushed rims and bodies. These comprise 83% of the utility wares and 72% of all the decorated sherds from the site (see Table 3). The one brushed-punctated rim sherd has a row of tool punctates under the vessel lip, as well as horizontal brushing marks. A lower rim and body sherd from a probable Maydelle Incised jar has diagonal incised lines on the rim, as well as a tool punctated row at the rim-body juncture, and diagonal brushing marks on the vessel body. Body sherds have parallel brushing marks (n=30) and parallel or opposed brushed-incised marks and lines (n=14). The brushed-punctated body sherds include one with a row of tool punctates above diagonal brushing marks, another two sherds with parallel brushing marks adjacent to a tool punctated row, and three Pease Brushed-Incised sherds with tool punctated rows pushed through parallel brushing marks. The one incised-punctated-brushed body sherd has an incised panel filled with two rows of tool punctates, with the panel above vertical and horizontal opposed brushing marks (see Figure 2a).

The incised sherds include a Maydelle Incised rim with diagonal opposed lines and six body sherds with parallel incised lines. Both incised-punctated sherds are rims (see Table 3). Both have a row of tool punctates under the vessel lip and above horizontal incised lines.

Fine wares account for only 13.5% of the decorated sherds from the Locks' site (see Table 3). The engraved rim has horizontal engraved lines on it. The body sherds are likely all from carinated bowls. These include sherds (n=7) with simple geometric elements: two sherds have parallel lines, three body sherds have

a single curvilinear engraved line, and another has a straight engraved line with an open triangle element pendant from the line. One body sherd has sets of diagonal lines attached to a straight line (see Figure 3a); this may be part of a slanted scroll motif. The other engraved body sherds have curvilinear elements: the first has a panel with ovals, semi-circles, and open triangles (see Figure 3d), while the other has a set of two curvilinear lines adjacent to a set of several parallel engraved lines (see Figure 3e).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Between the three Hawkins Creek sites there are 169 decorated sherds. Fine wares comprise only between 7.2-22.4% of the decorated sherds, and the assemblages are dominated by utility wares (Table 4). In the case of the Group's Place site (GC-77), the utility wares have primarily punctated, incised, and incised-punctated (52.3% of all the decorated sherds) elements, while the utility wares at GC-78 and Locks' (GC-90) have primarily brushed decorative elements, or brushing in combination with other (i.e., incised, punctated, and incised-punctated) decorative methods. At the latter two sites, sherds with brushing marks comprise 60.8-71.6% of all the decorated sherds in their assemblages (Table 4); incised, punctated, and incised-punctated sherds represent only 14.9-25.0% of the sherds from these two sites. Sherds with pinching are only present at GC-78.

Table 4. Decorated sherd comparisons.

Decorative Method	GC-77	GC-78	GC-90
Brushed	17.9*	39.3	40.5
Brushed-Incised	7.5	14.3	18.9
Brushed-Punctated	–	3.6	9.5
Incised	17.9	14.3	9.5
Incised-Punctated	6.0	10.7	2.7
Incised-Punctated-Brushed	–	3.6	2.7
Pinched	–	7.1	–
Punctated	28.4	–	2.7
Engraved	22.4	–	13.5
Engraved-Punctated	–	3.6	–
Red-slipped	–	3.6	–
Totals	67	28	74

*Percentage

Identified ceramic types in these sherd assemblages include Washington Square Paneled (GC-77 and GC-78), Maydelle Incised (GC-78 and GC-90), Pease Brushed-Incised (GC-78 and GC-90), and Killough Pinched (GC-78). In general, the Washington Square Paneled vessel sherds are indicative of Middle Caddo period (ca. A.D. 1200-1450) components, while the other identified types can be expected in both Middle and Late Caddo components in the mid-Sabine River basin.

Another indication of the age of the ceramics on these Caddo components is the proportions of brushed sherds in broadly contemporaneous mid-Sabine River Harrison and Rusk County sites, which range from 26-67% (Heartfield, Price, and Greene, Inc. 1988; Gadus et al. 2006; Dockall et al. 2008; Dockall and Fields 2011; Perttula and Nelson 2013). The site with the lowest proportion of brushed pottery in the decorated sherd assemblages is 41HS846 (Gadus et al. 2006), which has Bonham arrow points and two calibrated

radiocarbon dates that range from A.D. 1280-1420 at two sigma (Gadus et al. 2006). At 41GG5, 28% of the sherds from burial fill and surface collections have brushing marks, while at the Joe Smith site (41GG50), 40% of the decorated sherds are brushed or brushed-punctated. At 41HS74, 29% of the decorated sherds are brushed; the site has an uncalibrated radiocarbon date of A.D. 1320 ± 240 (Heartfield, Price, and Greene, Inc. 1988). These dates probably serve as a good approximation of the age range of the settlements and small cemeteries at the Group's Place site, from the late 13th century to the mid-14th century. The occupation at GC-78 may date a few generations later, perhaps to the early 15th century. The site with the highest proportion of brushed sherds is 41HS573 (Gadus et al. 2006). The sherd assemblage from the site (67% brushed) is associated with a calibrated 2 sigma age range of A.D. 1450-1660 (Gadus et al. 2006). The Locks' (GC-90) site may date to sometime in this Late Caddo time range. The engraved fine wares at this site do not resemble Late Caddo, Titus phase styles such as have been documented at a number of sites in the Pine Tree Mound community (see Fields and Gadus 2012).

Two of the three Hawkins Creek sites have ceramic assemblages where burned bone was an important temper used in vessel manufacture (Table 5). This is consistent with the aforementioned broadly contemporaneous Caddo sites in the mid-Sabine River basin. This includes sherds from 41HS74 (20% with bone temper, Heartfield, Price, and Greene, Inc. 1988); 41HS573 (29% with bone temper and 21% with grog and bone, Gadus et al. 2006); 41HS574 (19.5% with bone temper and 16.5% with grog and bone, Gadus et al. 2006); 41HS588 (3.4% with bone temper and 35% with grog and bone, Dockall et al. 2008); 41HS844 (11% with bone temper and 25% with grog and bone, Gadus et al. 2006); 41HS846 (12% with bone temper and 16% with grog and bone); and 41RK557 (29% with bone temper and 22% with grog and bone, Dockall and Fields 2011).

Table 5. Use of bone temper in Hawkins Creek Caddo ceramics.

Ware	GC-77	GC-78	GC-90
Plain	31.8*	9.5	50.0
Utility	38.5	15.4	35.9
Fine	20.0	—	40.0
Total Percentage	32.7	12.4	39.6

*Percentage

In general, sites in the region with considerable use of burned bone temper also have high proportions of brushed sherds. This is not the case at site GC-78, however (see Table 5), even though the proportions of brushed sherds in the assemblage is considerable (see Table 4), suggesting the existence of different ceramic manufacturing practices among the Caddo potters that lived there when compared to the potters at the Group's Place and Locks' sites.

In conclusion, these three sites on Hawkins Creek are part of a community of ancestral Caddo peoples that lived along the Sabine River and its tributaries, and they were contemporaneous with better known Middle and Late Caddo sites in the Pine Tree Mound community defined by Fields and Gadus (2012:Figure 9-10) some 25-40 km downstream in the Sabine River basin – which was established in the 1300s. However, the differences in the ceramics between the two areas suggest that the Hawkins Creek sites were not part of that community.

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