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Timothy K. Perttula

Heritage Research Center, Stephen F. Austin State University

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The Linebarger Site on Dry Creek, Camp County, Texas

Timothy K. Perttula

INTRODUCTION

The Linebarger site (41CP493) is an ancestral Caddo site on Dry Creek in Camp County (see Perttula et al. 2010:Figure 6), not far upstream from the Tuck Carpenter site and large Late Caddo Titus phase cemetery (Turner 1978, 1992). At least four ancestral Caddo burials are known to have been excavated at the Linebarger site in the 1960s, and Perttula et al. (2010:Figures 306-307) documented two vessels and a large chipped biface from burial contexts in the Tommy Johns collection. The Robert L. Turner, Jr. surface collection came from an unspecified habitation area at the site.

The first documented vessel was a small inverted rim carinated bowl with a typologically unidentified engraved motif (horizontal engraved rim panel with a series of unique elements, including vertical engraved lines, ovals, semi-circles, and diagonal engraved lines, without apparent rhyme or pattern), and the other was a small tool punctated jar with rim peaks and lug handles. The biface, made from a dark grayish-brown Central Texas chert, was well knapped with small retouch/pressure flakes along both edges of the piece; there is no evidence of polish on either face. The biface has basal notches and a short expanding stem (20.8 mm in stem width and 11.8 mm in stem length). The biface is 174.5 mm in length, 72.0 mm in width, and only 7.6 mm in thickness.

LITHIC ARTIFACTS

The lithic artifacts in the Linebarger site collection include one quartzite fire-cracked rock, 13 pieces of lithic debris, and two chipped stone tools. The chipped stone tools include an end scraper made from a non-local dark grayish-brown chert and a dart point (i.e., Gary point) preform made on a heat-treated local quartzite.

The lithic debris is from the manufacture of chipped stone tools made from both local and non-local raw materials. The local materials (primarily from stream gravels in the Big Cypress Creek basin) include heat-treated and non-heat-treated quartzite (n=6), yellow chert (n=1), and red chert (n=1). Non-local lithic raw materials, from Red River gravels and/or Ouachita Mountains sources in southeastern Oklahoma, include red jasper (n=2), gray novaculite (n=1), siliceous shale (n=1), and dark gray chert (n=1).

CERAMIC ARTIFACTS

The Turner collection from the Linebarger site has 85 vessel sherds and a rim from an elbow pipe. The vessel sherds are divided into 42 plain (10 base and 32 body sherds) and 43 decorated sherds; the plain to decorated sherd ratio is 0.98. Approximately 90% of the sherds are from grog-tempered vessels and the remainder are from bone-tempered vessels.

Fine ware sherds comprise 30% of the decorated sherds. Two are interior/exterior red-slipped bowl or carinated bowl sherds (Figure 1a-b). The rim sherd has a rim peak and an interior thickened profile (Figure 1b). The remainder are sherds

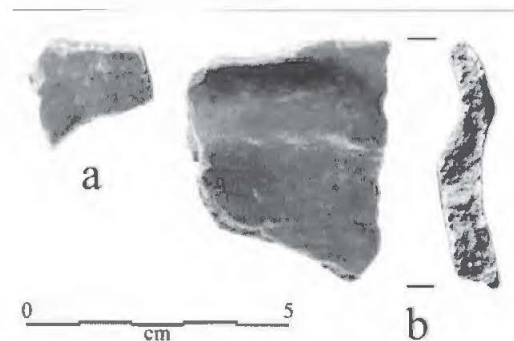


Figure 1. Red-slipped rim and body sherds.

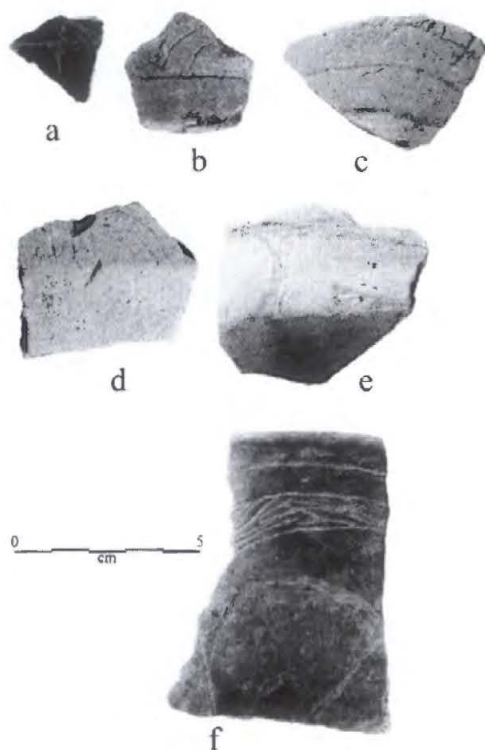


Figure 2. Engraved bottle and carinated bowl sherds: a, c, bottle sherds; b, d-f, carinated bowl sherds.

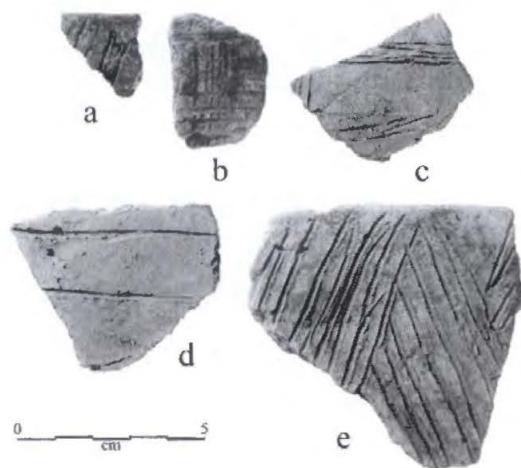


Figure 3. Incised rim and body sherds: a, diagonal incised rim; b, overlapping incised body sherd; c, opposed incised body sherd; d, widely-spaced parallel incised body sherd; e, opposed incised rim sherd.

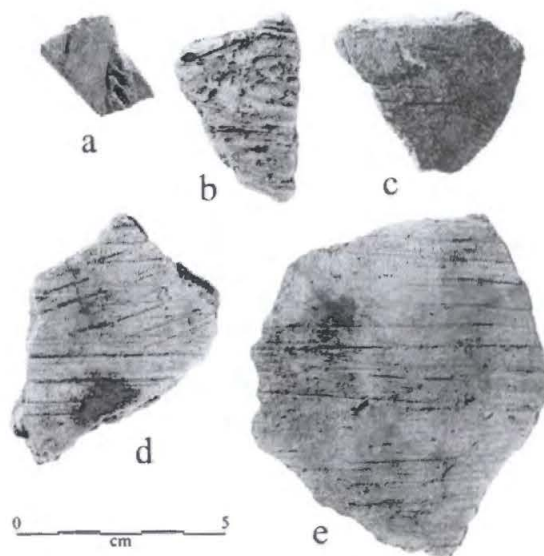
Figure 4. Brushed and brushed-punctated-appliqued body sherds: a, brushed-punctated-appliqued; b-c, e, parallel brushed; d, opposed brushed.

from engraved bottles (Figure 2a, c) and carinated bowls (Figure 2b, d-f).

Two of the engraved sherds are from bottles (see Figure 2a, c). These have straight lines and spurs or curvilinear engraved lines; one bottle sherd has a red pigment rubbed in the engraved lines (see Figure 2a). Carinated bowl sherds have concentric semi-circular and/or diagonal motifs (see Figure 2b, d, f, $n=3$), semi-circular and vertical engraved lines with spurs ($n=1$), slanted scrolls (cf. Ripley Engraved, see Figure 2e, $n=1$), nested triangles (cf. Ripley Engraved, var. *Cash* or var. *Williams*, $n=1$), and horizontal engraved lines ($n=3$), including two rims with a horizontal engraved line under the lip. These rims have a direct profile and rounded, exterior folded lips.

The incised sherds ($n=10$, 23% of the decorated sherds and 33% of the utility wares) include two rims and eight body sherds. One rim has diagonal incised lines (Figure 3a), while the other, probably from a Maydelle Incised jar (Figure 3e), has diagonal opposed incised triangles. Incised elements on the body sherds include parallel lines ($n=5$, Figure 3d), opposed incised lines ($n=2$, Figure 3c), and overlapping incised lines ($n=1$, Figure 3b).

Eight sherds have brushed decorations (18.6% of the decorated sherds and 26.7% of the utility wares). Five have parallel brushing marks (Figure 4b-c, e) likely oriented vertically on jar bodies), one has opposed brushing marks (Figure 4d), and another has vertical brushing marks. Another body sherd, possibly from a Pease



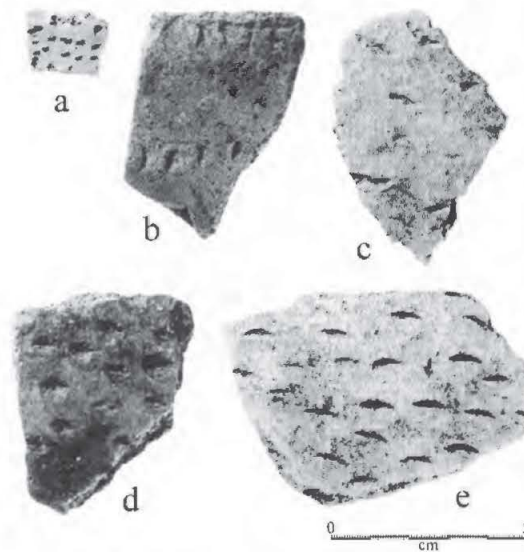


Figure 5. Punctated body sherds: a, closely-spaced tool punctated; b, widely-spaced tool punctated; c-d, tool punctated; e, fingernail punctated.

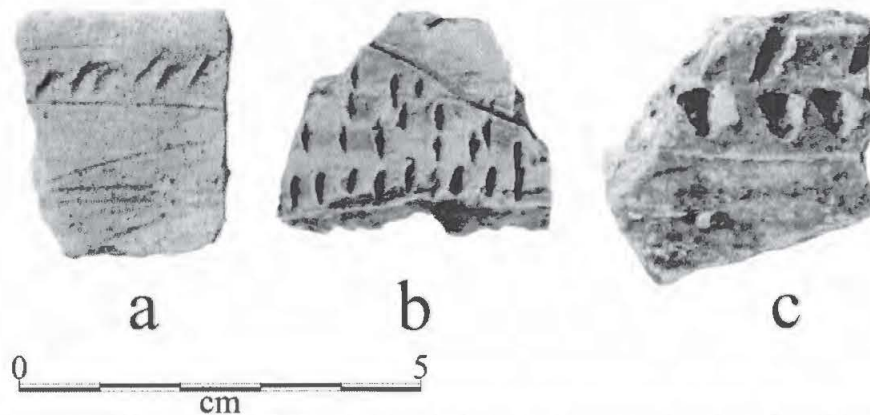


Figure 6. Incised-punctated rim and body sherds: a, horizontal incised-tool punctated row rim sherd; b, tool punctated-filled incised triangle body sherd; c, tool punctated rows and parallel incised body sherd.

Brushed-Incised vessel, has parallel brushing marks, tool punctates pushed through one area of brushing, and a straight applied fillet (Figure 4a).

There are eight punctated body sherds (18.6% of the decorated sherds and 26.7% of the utility wares), six with tool punctates (Figure 5a-d) and two with fingernail punctates (Figure 5e). The punctations occur in continuous horizontal rows across the vessel surface, likely on both the rim and portions of the bodies of jars.

The four incised-punctated sherds (9.3% of the decorated sherds and 13.3% of the utility wares) have two distinct motif elements: (1) tool punctated rows and horizontal/parallel incised lines either above or below the punctations ($n=2$, Figure 6a, c), and (2) incised triangles filled with linear or circular tool punctations ($n=2$, Figure 6b).

There also is a post-A.D. 1350-1450 elbow pipe rim sherd in the collection. It is grog-tempered, and has a direct rim and a flat lip.

MISCELLANEOUS ARTIFACTS

Miscellaneous artifacts in the Turner collection from the Linebarger site include an unburned deer bone and a single piece of daub.

CONCLUSIONS

The small surface collection obtained by Robert L. Turner, Jr. from the Linebarger site includes 16 lithic artifacts, 85 vessel sherds, one elbow pipe rim sherd, a deer bone, and a piece of daub. The vast majority of these artifacts are likely from ancestral Caddo habitation deposits associated with a cemetery of unknown size. The one Gary point preform suggests a very limited use of the site sometime in the Woodland period.

The decorated vessel sherds from the site include a range of sherds from both fine ware bottles and utility ware jars. Several of the engraved carinated bowl sherds have decorative elements and motifs consistent with ca. 14th and 15th century Caddo wares in the Big Cypress Creek basin, including several sherds comparable to defined varieties of Ripley Engraved. However, the common occurrence of red-slipped sherds (4.7% of the decorated sherds) and only a moderate quantity of brushed sherds (18.6%), including a possible Pease Brushed-Incised sherd, are similar to nearby Middle Caddo components at sites such as Harold Williams (41CP10, Turner and Smith 2003) and Polk Estates (41CP245, Nelson and Perttula 2006) that have radiocarbon dates that range from A.D. 1300-1460 and OCR dates that range from A.D. 1191-1410. Thus, the Linebarger site likely is contemporaneous with these ancestral Caddo sites in the middle reaches of the Big Cypress Creek basin.

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