



INDEX OF TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGY

Open Access Gray Literature from the Lone Star State

Volume 2008

Article 26

2008

Trends and Varieties in Late Caddo and Historic Caddo Fine Ware Pottery Types in the Upper Neches River Basin

Timothy K. Perttula

Heritage Research Center, Stephen F. Austin State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ita>



Part of the [American Material Culture Commons](#), [Archaeological Anthropology Commons](#), [Environmental Studies Commons](#), [Other American Studies Commons](#), [Other Arts and Humanities Commons](#), [Other History of Art, Architecture, and Archaeology Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Tell us how this article helped you.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Regional Heritage Research at SFA ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Index of Texas Archaeology: Open Access Gray Literature from the Lone Star State by an authorized editor of SFA ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu.

Trends and Varieties in Late Caddo and Historic Caddo Fine Ware Pottery Types in the Upper Neches River Basin

Creative Commons License



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)

Trends and Varieties in Late Caddo and Historic Caddo Fine Ware Pottery Types in the Upper Neches River Basin

Timothy K. Perttula

One of the goals of recent archaeological research investigations in the upper Neches River valley in East Texas is to better understand the temporal and stylistic character of the post-A.D. 1400/1450 Frankston and Allen phase Caddo ceramic assemblages found in this area. From this will hopefully arise a better understanding of the settlement history of Caddo peoples living here.

This research has involved a detailed examination of 278 vessels from burials on seven sites in the collections at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL), 31 vessels from burials at 41AN38 (Perttula et al. 2007), and a review of other vessel data (n=321 vessels) from several other sites and diverse collections, both at TARL, in private collections, and in archaeological excavations (see Perttula 2006; Shafer 1981). In total, I have compiled a data base of 630 vessels from 35 different sites in Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson, and Smith counties, Texas.

The basic composition of the Caddo vessel assemblage from upper Neches River burial sites includes fine wares (73.3%), decorated utility wares (14.9%), and a significant proportion of plain ware vessels (11.8%). The principal fine wares are Poynor Engraved bowls and carinated bowls (n=229, 49.6% of the fine wares), Patton Engraved (n=63, 13.4%), Hood Engraved (n=56, 12.1%)—a newly named type that comprises effigy ware vessels decorated with broad horizontal engraved lines—and Hume Engraved (n=54, 11.7%). Among the utility wares, the major types include Bullard Brushed (n=21), Killough Pinched (n=20), Maydelle Incised (n=11), punctated jars (n=9), and brushed-punctated jars (n=8). Most of the plain wares are simple bowls (n=29), carinated bowls (n=23), and several forms of bottles (n=16).

For the moment, I have focused in detail on the fine wares from the ceramic vessel data base, primarily because they are ubiquitous on upper Neches River Caddo sites and because the

stylistic diversity in the fine wares is amenable to a more refined consideration of stylistic and temporal changes in these ceramic assemblages. This pursuit includes the recognition of distinct stylistic motifs and elements in the fine wares; attempting to identify varieties of the fine ware types that have spatial distributions and an adequate site representation; and examining the temporal implications of these varieties. Previous vessel and sherd seriation analyses (Kleinschmidt 1982; Perttula 2007) have already established that Patton Engraved is the youngest of the fine ware types in the upper Neches River (and it is commonly found in association with late 17th and early 18th century European trade goods; see Cole 1975), with Hume Engraved, Hood Engraved, and Poynor Engraved having begun to be made around ca. A.D. 1400 or so. Hume Engraved is most common apparently in post-A.D. 1650 Allen phase contexts, while Poynor Engraved is primarily a Frankston phase (ca. A.D. 1400-1650) type.

Although I have recognized at least 30 Poynor Engraved bowl and carinated bowl rim stylistic motifs—including several from 41AN38 that may be amongst the earliest motifs—five new varieties represent more than 73% of the Poynor Engraved vessels in the upper Neches River basin. These include varieties Blackburn, Cook, Freeman, Hood, and Lang (Figure 1); *var. Hood* is the most common (see Figure 1e). In the present vessel assemblages, I have also defined three varieties of Hood Engraved (*var. Cook*, *var. Hood*, and *var. Allen*), two varieties of Hume Engraved and a third unspecified variety, that is, a variety in search of a name (Figure 2c-g) (*var. Allen* and *var. Hume*), and four varieties of Patton Engraved (*var. Allen*, *Fair*, *Freeman*, and *Patton*) (Figure 2a-d). Patton Engraved, *var. Freeman* (see Figure 2c) is the dominant known variety of this type.

Some progress has been made in discerning temporal changes in the fine ware varieties beyond

Table 1. Ceramic Vessel Database from the upper Neches River valley in East Texas.

Wares	No. of vessels	No. of sites	Percentage
Utility Wares			
Killough Pinched	20	10	3.2
Bullard Brushed	21	11	3.3
Maydelle Incised	11	7	1.8
Punctated jar	9	3	1.4
Punctated-appliqued jar	1	1	0.2
La Rue Neck Banded	1	1	0.2
Incised Jar	5	3	0.8
Brushed-incised-punctated jar	1	1	0.2
Brushed-punctated jar	8	4	1.3
Brushed-pinched-appliqued jar	1	1	0.2
Brushed bowl	5	4	0.8
Poynor Brushed	3	2	0.5
Brushed-pinched jar	2	1	0.3
Appliqued jar	1	1	0.2
Brushed-incised jar	3	2	0.5
Incised-punctated jar	1	1	0.2
Incised-pinched jar	1	1	0.2
Subtotal	94	14.9	
Plain Wares			
Plain bowl	29	14	4.6
Plain jar	6	4	1.0
Plain carinated bowl	23	9	3.7
Plain bottle	16	7	2.5
Subtotal	74	11.8	
Fine wares			
Simms Engraved, <i>var. Darco</i>	3	1	0.5
Hume Engraved bottles/bowls	50/4	19	8.6
Garland Engraved (?)	1	1	0.2
Unidentified engraved bottle	3	2	0.5
Poynor Engraved bottle	42	15	6.7
Poynor Engraved	229	32	36.3
Hood Engraved	56	22	8.9
Taylor Engraved	6	5	1.0
Patton Engraved	63	10	10.0
Horizontal engraved bowl	1	1	0.2
Natchitoches Engraved	1	1	0.2
Engraved-punctated bowl	1	1	0.2
Red-slipped bowl	2	2	0.3
Subtotal	462	73.3	

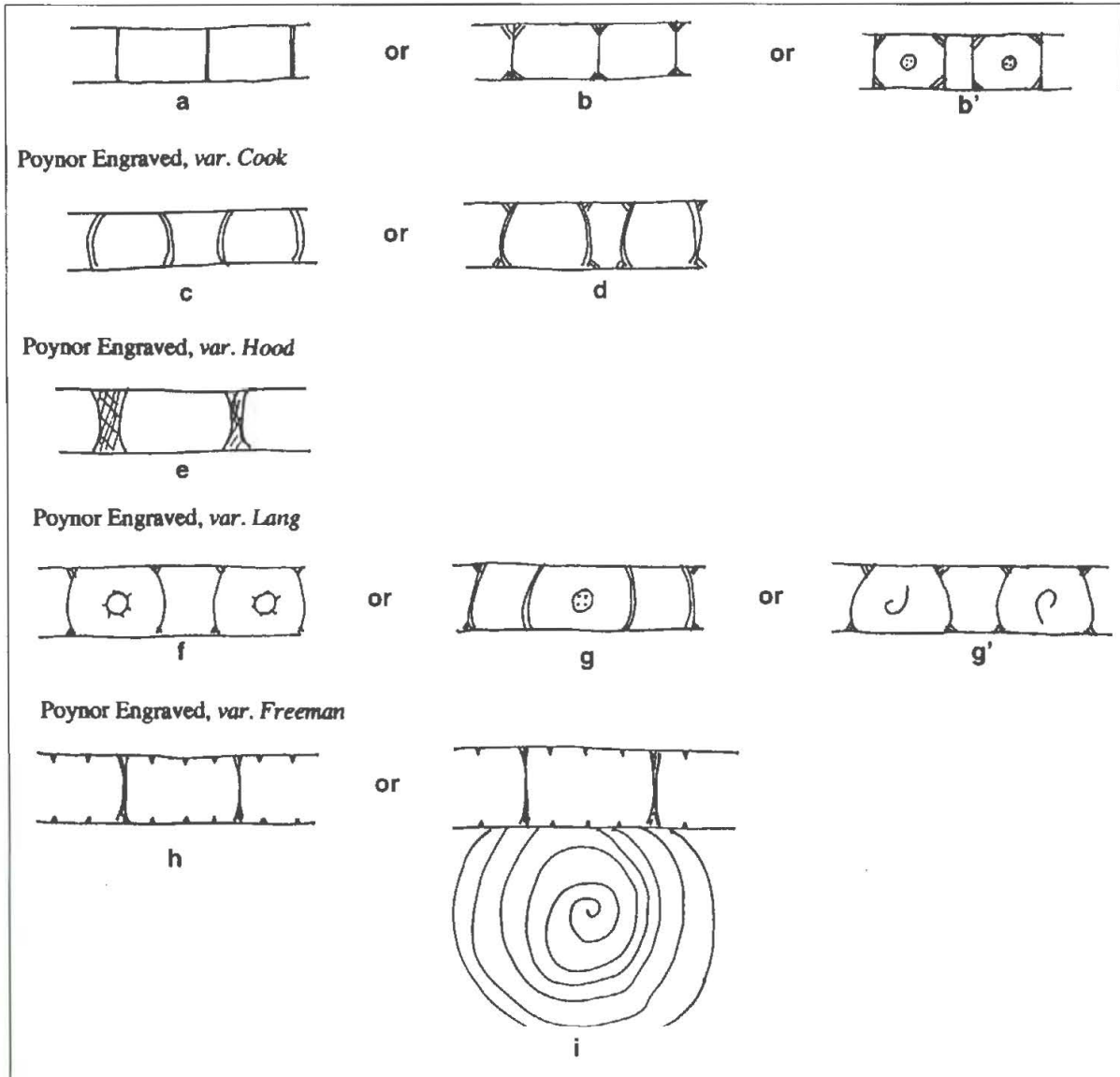


Figure 1. Varieties of Poynor Engraved in the upper Neches River basin.

the basic distinction between the earlier Poynor Engraved varieties and the later Patton Engraved varieties. First, Poynor Engraved, *var. Freeman* appears to be the latest variety of the Poynor Engraved type, and the simple addition of concentric circles on the body (see Figure 1i) on this variety, and then the addition of ticked marks to body concentric circles (see Figure 2c), suggests a clear stylistic link between Poynor Engraved, *var. Freeman* and Patton Engraved, *var. Freeman*. This further suggests that Patton Engraved, *var. Freeman* is the earliest of the defined Patton Engraved varieties. This variety of Patton Engraved is the dominant one (39.3%) at the Richard Patton site (41AN26), along with *var. Patton* (28.6%), *var. Fair* (14.3%), and *var. Allen*

(14.3%). Based on lower proportions of *var. Freeman* and *var. Patton* at the Jim Allen site (41CE12), but higher proportions of *var. Allen* (41.2%) and several unspecified varieties, it is suspected that *var. Allen* is a later Patton Engraved variety.

Hood Engraved, *var. Allen* is found in association with Patton Engraved, and is an Allen phase diagnostic. This effigy vessel form includes tail riders. The other varieties of Hood Engraved have effigy heads and tab tails—as well as horizontal engraved lines, with *var. Cook* also having engraved pendant triangle elements—and arc found in Frankston phase temporal contexts. Hume Engraved, *var. Allen* and *var. Hume* are found primarily in Allen phase contexts or late Frankston phase contexts.

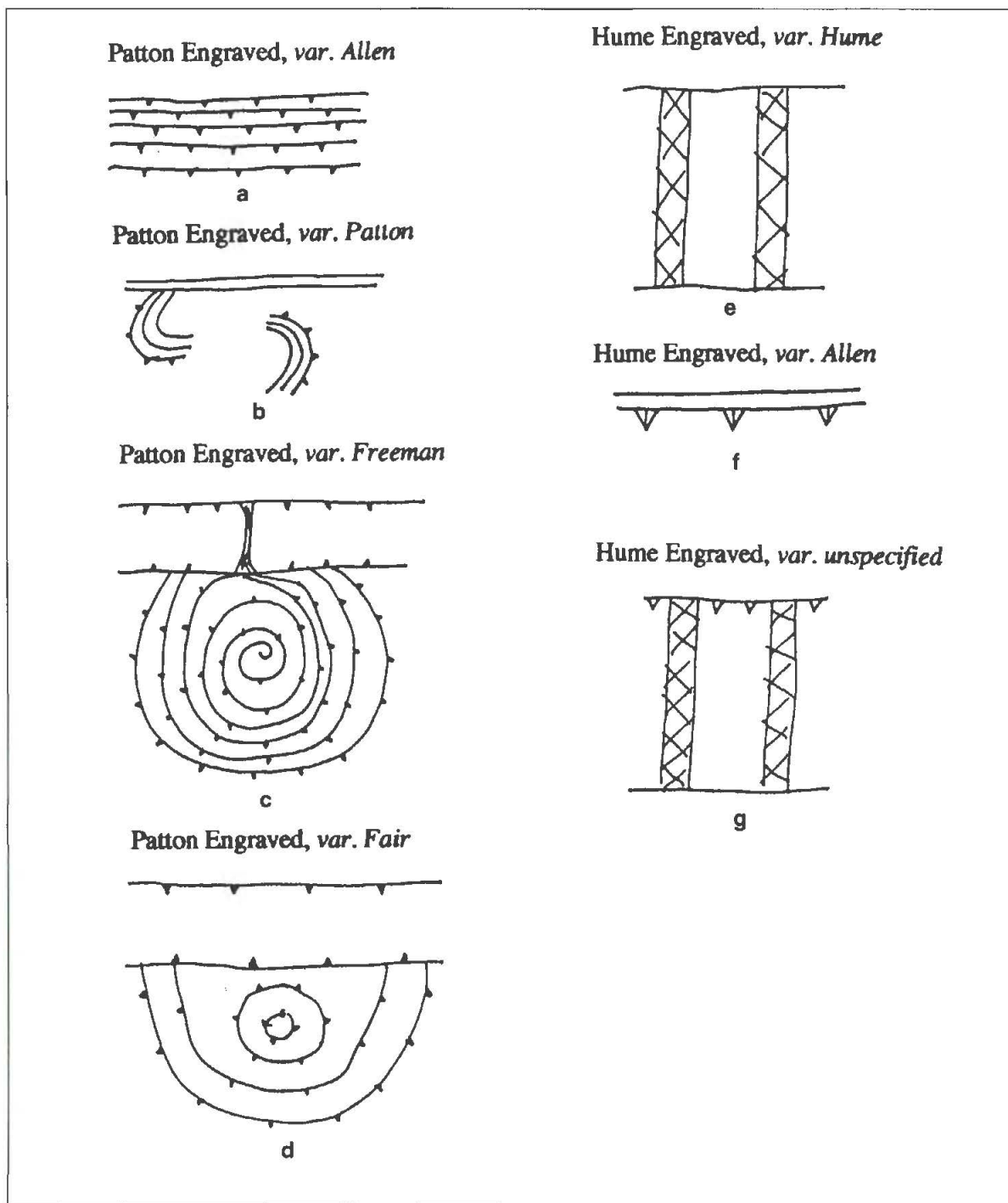


Figure 2. Defined varieties of Hume Engraved and Patton Engraved in the upper Neches River basin.

REFERENCES CITED

Cole, N. M.

- 1975 Early Historic Caddoan Mortuary Practices in the Upper Neches Drainage, East Texas. Master's thesis, Department of Anthropology, The University of Texas at Austin.

Kleinschmidt, U. K. W.

- 1982 Review and Analysis of the A. C. Saunders Site, 41AN19, Anderson County, Texas. Master's thesis, Department of Anthropology, The University of Texas at Austin.

Perttula, T. K.

- 2006 *A Study of the Buddy Jones Collection from Northeast Texas Caddo Sites*. Special Publication No. 6. Friends of Northeast Texas Archaeology, Austin and Pittsburg.

- 2007 Seriation Proposed by Kleinschmidt (1982:Table 19) of Allen Phase and Frankston Phase Sites in the Upper Neches River Basin. *Journal of Northeast Texas Archaeology* 26:150-153.

Perttula, T. K., D. B. Kelley, D. E. Wilson, and B. M. Albert

- 2007 Final Research Design for Data Recovery Excavations at 41AN38, Anderson County, Texas. Coastal Environments, Inc. and Archeological & Environmental Consultants, LLC, Baton Rouge and Austin.

Shafer, H. J.

- 1981 Archeological Investigations at the Attaway Site, Henderson County, Texas. *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society* 52:147-179.