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## Current Archeological Research in East Texas: Documentation of WPS-Gus Arnold Archeological Survey Collections

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## Current Research:

### Current Archeological Research in East Texas: Documentation of WPS-Gus Arnold Archeological Survey Collections

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Gus Arnold identified and recorded many ancestral Caddo sites during his 1939-1940 Works Progress Administration (WPA)-sponsored archeological survey of East Texas (see Im 1975). Currently, I have been engaged in studying the artifact collections from 51 WPA sites in Angelina, Cherokee, Gregg, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Sabine, and San Augustine counties (Figure 1), especially the ceramic sherd assemblages, held by the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at The University of Texas. The sites are located in the Sabine River, Neches River, Angelina River, and Attoyac Bayou stream basins.

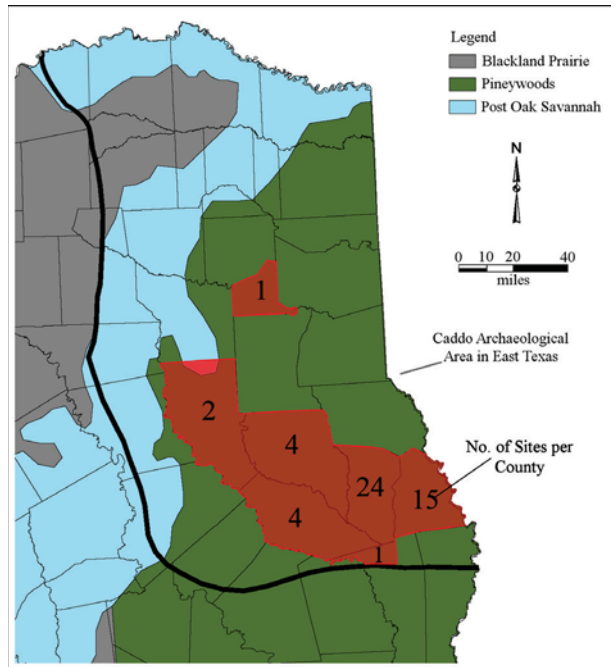


Figure 1. East Texas counties with Gus Arnold collections that have been recently documented.

The character of these ceramic sherds—and their stylistic (Figures 2 and 3) and technological similarities or differences to other studied ceramic assemblages in the region—have been the primary focus of the analyses. These are areas where the temporal, spatial, and social character of much of the Caddo archeological record is not well known. This work has

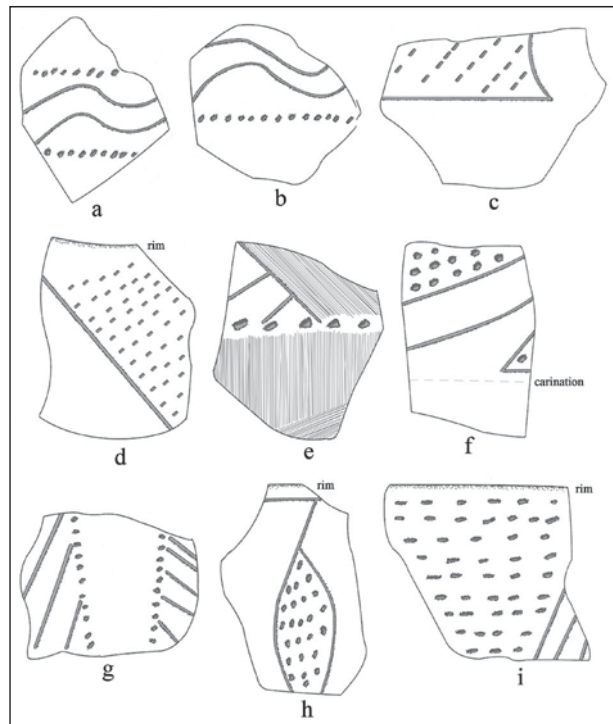


Figure 2. Selected decorative elements on utility ware sherds from 41SB34: a-b, f-i, incised-punctated; c-d, incised-stamped; e, brushed-incised-punctated. Figure prepared by Lance Trask.

documented ancestral Caddo components that were occupied as early as ca. A.D. 1000 and as late as the early eighteenth century, but most of the Caddo sites appear to have been occupied between ca. A.D. 1400-1680, in the Late Caddo period.

Arnold typically collected substantial sherd samples from the surface of plowed fields during his survey effort, along with long-stemmed Red River and elbow pipe sherds, Woodland period sandy paste Goose Creek Plain and Goose Creek Incised sherds, an occasional Marksville Stamped sherd, and chipped stone tools dating from as early as the Late Paleoindian period to the Late Caddo period. During the course of this documentation effort, approximately 13,000 plain and decorated ceramic vessel sherds were analyzed, about

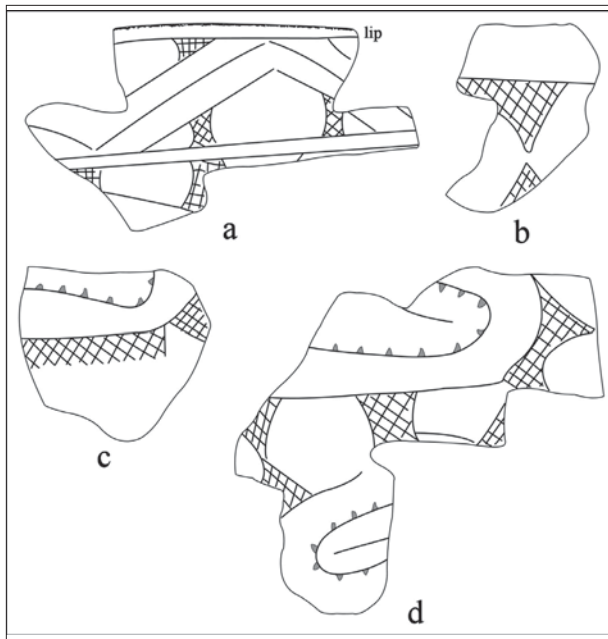


Figure 3. Decorative elements on Natchitoches Engraved bowl rim and body sherds from the Kinsloe site excavated in 1937.

60 percent from 24 sites in San Augustine County (see Figure 1), along with six vessels noted by Arnold that had been excavated from the Kinsloe site (41GG3) in 1937 by a local collector (Pertula 2015a, 2015b, 2016, 2017a-i).

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