



INDEX OF TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGY

Open Access Gray Literature from the Lone Star State

Volume 2021

Article 21

2021

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An Ancestral Caddo Utility Ware Ceramic Sherd from a Site in Williamson County, Texas

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River, and joins with it a few miles downstream and to the east in Milam County. The site, 41WM763, is in the Blackland Prairie zone of Central Texas. The site lies about 90 m east of a prominent hill top that also has an archaeological site on it (41WM762, the Noack site), but one without any evidence of aboriginal pottery use.

The ceramic sherd is a body sherd from a utility ware jar tempered with grog and burned bone, and smoothed on its interior surface. The sherd came from a vessel that was fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air (Teltser 1993:Figure 2g). The body sherd is 8.2 mm in thickness.

The body sherd has two rows of fingernail punctations (Figure 2), and is from a vessel of either Dunkin Incised (Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 12a, g) or Kiam Incised (Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 45b-c, e) that was manufactured well to the east of the site by a Caddo potter that lived in the Post Oak Savanna and Pineywoods of East Texas. These particular ceramic types were made by Caddo potters between ca. A.D. 900-1250, and were often traded or exchanged with Central Texas groups living in the Brazos and Colorado River basins.

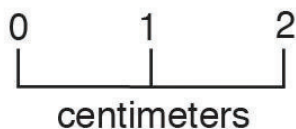


Figure 2. Fingernail punctated body sherd from 41WM763.

A recent compilation has identified at least 163 known sites and/or collections in Central Texas with ancestral Caddo ceramic sherds (Perttula 2018:Figure 2 and Table 1). Caddo ceramic sherds of ca. A.D. 900-1250 age are most commonly reported in Hill, McLennan, Williamson, and Coryell counties (Perttula 2018:Figure 89), in Blackland Prairie settings.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Ken Mikulencak for permission to document this Caddo ceramic vessel sherd in his collection. Lance Trask prepared Figure 1, and Brian Wootan prepared Figure 2 in this article.

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