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Shipp Brushed Appliqued Ceramics

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Shipp Brushed Appliqued Ceramics

Tom Middlebrook

Introduction

In recent years, new ceramic types have been identified and discussed in the archaeological literature pertaining to the Allen phase of the Angelina-Neches River drainages in East Texas, the core of the historic Hasinai Caddo area. These new types have included King Engraved, Lindsey Grooved, Mayhew Rectilinear, Spradley Brushed-Incised, Gallant Neck Banded, and Constricted Neck Punctated (Perttula and Selden 2014:43, 47-49; Marceaux 2011:140-141, 154; Jackson et al. 2012:177-180; Gregory and Avery 2007:33, 49-54). These ceramic types joined other longstanding and well-known types from the Allen phase such as Bullard Brushed, Hume Engraved, Killough Pinched, La Rue Neck Banded, and Patton Engraved (Suhm and Jelks 1962:21, 83, 91, 93, 117). This article introduces a new recognized ceramic type in the Hasinai area, especially in western Nacogdoches County.

Terminology

Shipp Brushed Appliqued refers to a specific utility ware ceramic artifact from the Allen phase of East Texas with decorations that include brushed and appliqué elements. Brushing is a wet paste modification done prior to firing and is the most common Late and Historic Caddo decorative method in the Angelina and Neches basins. Brushed designs can be horizontal, diagonal, vertical, parallel, overlapping, or opposed and are often seen in combination with other wet paste elements such as incising and punctating. They were made by roughening the surface “with stiff bundles of grasses, sticks from other plants, or some type of tool with multiple prongs” (Marceaux 2011:136).

“Appliqué” refers to the application of shaped clay elements to a ceramic item after its basic construction for the purpose of decoration or enhancing its functional utility. The majority of appliqué elements in regional Caddo ceramics are nodes, strips (fillets), or very narrow ridges of clay. Other more elaborate appliqué additions to an artifact can include handles, straps, loops, lugs, knobs, projections, and features on effigy bowls or rattle bowls. In the case of Shipp Brushed Appliqued, “appliqué” refers primarily to nodes and “fillets” of clay placed on the surface of a utility jar. Timothy K. Perttula (personal communication, February 2021), based on a suggestion from Dee Ann Story, has generally considered appliqué “fillets” to be narrow strips of clay that have been *punctated* or *impressed* in some manner rather than unmodified strips of clay that he refers to as appliqué “ridges.” Marceaux (2011:142) agrees and stated succinctly: “An appliqué fillet is a strip of clay that has punctations.” In this article, however, the term “fillet” will apply to any strip of applied clay with or without punctations. In part, this is because all the standard dictionary definitions consider “fillet” as “a narrow strip of material” without reference to punctations or other modifications. Additionally, the *Handbook of Texas Archeology: Type Descriptions* (Suhm and Jelks 1962) clearly implies the distinction between “fillets” with and without punctations in the descriptions of Cass Appliqued, Haley Complicated Incised, Harleton Appliqued, and Pease Brushed-Incised (Suhm and

Jelks 1962:255, 59, 65, 119 and Plates 13, 59, 65, 119). Likewise, Fields (1995:199) in his study of the Deshazo site (41NA27) ceramics distinguishes between appliquéd “punctated fillets” and “fillets without punctations”.

Type Description

METHOD OF MANUFACTURE

Coiled.

PASTE

Temper: Grog, bone, and hematite in varying amounts; singly or in various combinations. Grog is the most common temper.

Texture: Fine to medium granular; occasionally coarse.

Color: Various shades of yellowish-red and reddish-brown, and more rarely very dark grayish-brown; occasionally fire mottled with dark gray to black splotches. Firing was typically in low oxygen settings leading to dark cores but cooling was frequently, but not always, in an oxygen-rich environment.

Surface finish: Interior smoothed; exterior roughened by decoration.

FORM

Wall thickness: 4 to 9 mm.

Lip: Rounded; usually flush with rim, occasionally rounded outward.

Base: Flat externally; slightly thicker centrally.

Vessel shape: Jars only; small to medium globular jars with everted or slightly flaring rims (Form J6, Perttula 2015b:12-14 and Figure 9f) or jars that show little distinction between body and rim (Form J7, Perttula 2015b:13 and Figure 9g).

DECORATION

Treatment: Brushing, appliquéd, punctating, and more rarely, incising and impressing.

Designs: Bodies are covered with vertical, diagonal, or horizontal brushing with superimposed appliquéd punctated fillets or nodes. Rims are typically brushed, incised, or punctated and may or may not have appliquéd elements. Fillets almost always exhibit perpendicular instrument punctations (Figure 3a, e); more rarely, V-shaped impressions produce a corrugated effect (Figure 3c). Occasionally, centrally located punctations in wide fillets push out lateral bulges of clay giving a chain-like appearance to the appliquéd (Figure 3f). Fillets are straight and positioned horizontally just below the lip or at the rim-body juncture (Figure 3f-h), or they are placed vertically on the body (Figure 3d-e) making four panels around the vessel (Figures 1-2). Nodes

are typically 1.0 to 1.5 cm in diameter at their base and are domed to peak-shaped. Nodes are typically placed in the center of the quadrated brushed panels. A few brushed body sherds have a field of multiple randomly placed nodes (Figure 4).

CULTURAL AFFILIATION

Principally the Allen phase, the archaeological expression of the historic Hasinai Caddo groups of East Texas, and especially in areas likely occupied by the Hainai constituent group. Some forms may be related to ceramics recovered from the latter part (ca. A.D. 1560-1680) of the preceding Late Caddo Frankston phase.

DISTRIBUTION

Primarily the Neches and Angelina River basins in Anderson, Cherokee, Houston, Rusk, Nacogdoches, Angelina, and San Augustine counties as well as perhaps in adjoining counties. The highest frequencies are found in western Nacogdoches County along the mid-Angelina River, King Creek, Legg Creek, and Bayou Loco.

ESTIMATED AGE

A.D. 1680-1800; perhaps earlier in the 17th century.

REFERENCES

Good 1982:84, 88 and Figure 35C; Fields 1995:183, 203 and Figures 60G-H, 62A-C, 76E; Perttula 2021:139 and Figure 6.18h; Corbin et al. 1978:40 and Figure 18a; Perttula et al. 2010:12 and Figure 9a, c; Perttula and Marceaux 2019:16, 20, 34-35 and Figures 12, 14, 15; Perttula and Marceaux 2018:27 and Table 13; Walker and Perttula 2011:50, 52, Figure 29d, and Table 6; Perttula 2008:371-372 and Figures 7.30f, 7.33e, 7.43d, 7.48b, d, 7.59b, e, and 7.62a; Marceaux 2011:142.



Figure 1. Shipp Brushed Appliquéd, var. *Iron Rock* jar excavated circa 1939 by Robert L. Turner at the Deshazo site (41NA27) near Bayou Loco.

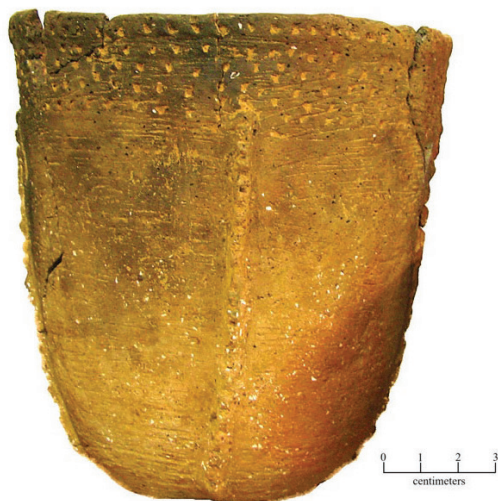


Figure 2. Shipp Brushed Appliqué, *var. Iron Rock* jar excavated by Marshall Boozer at 41NA208 near King Creek in the Middle Angelina River basin.

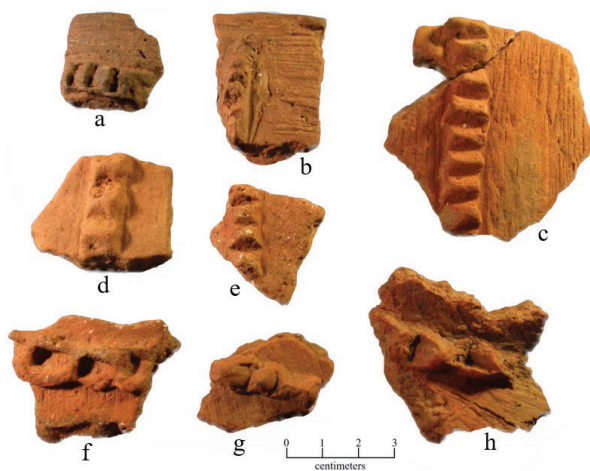


Figure 3. Shipp Brushed Appliqué, *var. Iron Rock* sherds: a-f, Dick Shipp site (41NA111); g-h, Iron Rock site (41NA22).

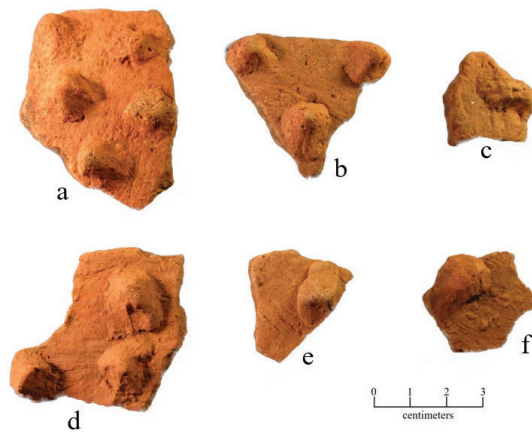


Figure 4. Shipp Brushed Appliqué, *var. Tannery* sherds and other sherds with single nodes, all from the Dick Shipp site (41NA111).

PROVENIENCE OF ILLUSTRATED SPECIMENS

Figure 1, Deshazo site (41NA27), Grave 9; Figure 2, 41NA208 (Marshall Boozer collection); Figure 3a-f, Dick Shipp site (41NA111), 3g-h, Iron Rock site (41NA22); Figure 4, all from the Dick Shipp site (41NA111).

VARIETIES

Shipp Brushed Appliqué, *var. Iron Rock*:

This variety refers to jars with four vertical punctated appliqué fillets on a brushed body portion of the vessel (see Figures 1–3). Horizontal punctated fillets may be found at the rim/body juncture or on the rim beneath the lip; a single node may be found in the middle of the four brushed body panels.

Shipp Brushed Appliqué, *var. Tannery*:

While no intact vessels of this variety have been observed to date, a number of sherds from the Dick Shipp site (41NA111) have appliqué nodes on brushed body sherds (see Figure 4). The sherds may represent globular jars or bowls. These ceramics are similar to Moore Noded (Perttula and Selden 2014:40 and Figure 33a-d) except the vessel body has been brushed prior to application of the nodes, and the nodes may be more widely placed.

Discussion

Shipp Brushed Appliqué ceramics with their vertical and horizontal punctated appliqué fillets and nodes are distinctive in Allen phase assemblages in the Neches and Angelina River basins of East Texas. Its introduction as a taxonomic category will be useful in ongoing regional research if it allows for more precise stylistic identification of certain utility wares and promotes greater recognition of its temporal and spatial boundaries. At this time, only two varieties are proposed to capture the concept of brushed wares with the two specified forms of applied elements. Later studies may test the reasonableness of adding as varieties those vessels in Allen phase assemblages that have straight punctated fillets on non-brushed bodies, curvilinear fillets, or non-punctated fillets.

Two large studies conducted during the last decade allow us to seek additional data regarding the distribution of Historic Caddo brushed utility wares with punctated fillet appliqué decoration. The first, Shawn Marceaux's (2011) University of Texas dissertation, reviewed in detail the ceramics from 28 sites in eight areas of the Neches, Angelina, and Sabine River drainages. The areas included the Upper Neches (n=3 sites), Middle Neches (n=4), Lower Neches (n=1), Middle Angelina (n=5), East Fork Angelina (n=3), Bayou Loco (n=7), Lanana (n=1), and Attoyac/Ayish (n=4). While these sites range geographically for 85 miles from Anderson County in the northwest to San Augustine County in the southeast, 42.9 percent of the sites and 67.5 percent of the reviewed utility sherds were found in just two areas centered in western Nacogdoches County: the Middle Angelina and Bayou Loco areas. Of the 31,977 utility ware sherds analyzed in all the study sites, only 834 or 2.6 percent had observed appliqué additions to their surface decoration. When Marceaux classified appliqué sherds, he helpfully sorted them between those on brushed vessels and those on other non-brushed wet paste vessels. Additionally, in the group of brushed sherds with appliqué fillet designs, he distinguished between those that had fillets with punctations (referring to them

as “Appliquéd-Brushed-Punctated”) and those that did not (called “Appliquéd-Brushed”). Other categorical designations were “Appliquéd Incised,” “Appliquéd-Punctated” or simply “Appliquéd.” A careful comparison between Marceaux’s dissertation data and the primary data reported from the Chayah site (Corbin et al. 1978:40) and the Iron Rock site (Perttula and Marceaux 2019:18 and Table 6) clearly demonstrates that Marceaux recorded vessel sherds fitting the Shipp Brushed Appliquéd type as “Appliquéd-Brushed-Punctated” in his data collection. Table 1 presents the number of total studied utility ware sherds in each of the eight designated research areas along with the total number of appliqué sherds (on plain, brushed, and other wet paste vessels), the number of “Appliquéd-Brushed-Punctated” sherds, and the percentage of the latter sherds as part of the utility wares.

Table 1. Data on appliqué sherds from Marceaux’s (2011) dissertation.

Research Area	Utility Ware	Appliquéd	Appliquéd-Brushed-Punctated	% of Utility Sherds
Upper Neches	651	8	2	0.31
Middle Neches	989	7	3	0.30
Lower Neches	156	2	1	0.64
Middle Angelina	3,515	81	37	1.05
East Fork Angelina	2,550	12	1	0.04
Bayou Loco	18,061	669	393	2.18
Lanana	3,229	40	18	0.56
Attoyac/Ayish	2,826	15	10	0.35
TOTAL	31,977	834	465	

A quick perusal of Table 1 demonstrates the relatively high frequency of Marceaux’s total appliqué sherds (89.9 percent) and the “Appliquéd-Brushed-Punctated” sherds (92.5 percent) recovered from just the two areas centered in western Nacogdoches County, the putative homeland of the Hainai, the lead tribe of the Hasinai Caddo. Based on the percentage in the area assemblages, “Appliquéd-Brushed-Punctated” sherds are 5.85 times more common in western Nacogdoches County sites than in the other six areas combined. It appears that sherds consistent with Shipp Brushed Appliquéd were present in low amounts (0.04-0.64 percent) in most of the Hasinai Caddo constituent group areas, but they were significantly related to the Hainai sites, especially the ones along Bayou Loco.

In the second study, Perttula (2015a:1-46) published a pioneering Caddo sherd database from information related to 260,096 sherds recovered from 399 sites/components in East Texas and eight in western Louisiana. By sorting through the database in the categories of “Appliquéd-Brushed” and “Brushed-Appliquéd” that should capture those sherds meeting the type Shipp Brushed Appliquéd criteria (Timothy K. Perttula, personal communication, February 2021), 24 sites were identified as having such ceramics and as having an estimated age after A. D. 1680. Generally consistent with Marceaux’s findings, over half of the sites with these specified Historic Caddo utility ceramics were in Nacogdoches County. The number of sites per county included: Nacogdoches=13, Cherokee=6, Houston=2, Anderson=1, Angelina=1, and Bowie=1. Again, the epicenter of Brushed-Appliquéd sherds on sites postdating 1680 were in western Nacogdoches County and to a lesser extent in Allen phase sites to the west in Cherokee and Houston counties.

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