Ceramic Comparisons Between Certain Historic Caddo Sites in Nacogdoches County, Texas: Henry M. (41NA60), Spradley (41NA206), and Deshazo (41NA27)

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Ceramic Comparisons Between Certain Historic Caddo Sites in Nacogdoches County, Texas: Henry M. (41NA60), Spradley (41NA206), and Deshazo (41NA27)

Timothy K. Perttula

The Henry M., Deshazo, and Spradley sites are three of the better and recently studied Historic Caddo ceramic assemblages in East Texas (see Middlebrook and Perttula 2008; Perttula et al. 2009; Fields 1995). All three are in Nacogdoches County (see Middlebrook 2007:Figure 1), Henry M. and Deshazo on Bayou Loco, and Spradley on Lanana Creek.

How do these sites compare with respect to the decorative classes present in the utility wares and fine wares? All three sites are dominated by brushed utility wares (Table 1). At Spradley, brushed pottery comprises 53.4% of the decorated sherds compared to 72.7-85.6% of the decorated sherds from Henry M. and Deshazo. Incised, punctated, and incised-punctuated decorative classes, however, are also abundant in the Spradley ceramic assemblage (30.8%), but much rarer in the Henry M. and Deshazo utility wares.

Fine wares—especially Patton Engraved—comprise between 13.8% and 15% of the decorated sherds at the Spradley and Henry M. sites (see Table 1), suggesting that fine wares were equally available at both of these Historic Caddo sites. The exact proportion of engraved sherds cannot be determined at the Deshazo site because engraved and incised sherds were not quantified separately in the analysis by Fields (1995); nevertheless, Patton Engraved is the principal fine ware at the site. Based on the proportions of decorative classes in Table 1, engraved sherds can constitute no more than 13.7% of the Deshazo decorated sherds, but this proportion is likely much less than that amount (recent reanalysis by Shawn Marceaux of the Deshazo site decorated sherds will clarify the matter).

Henry M. and Deshazo ceramics are primarily grog-tempered (83-90.4%) (Table 2). Bone-tempered pottery, conversely, is much more abundant at the Spradley site, suggesting the existence of a different tradition of ceramic manufacture there when compared to the wide-spread use of grog temper at the two Bayou Loco sites.

We can extend the ceramic comparisons to a broader part of Nacogdoches County (Table 3), employing several categories of decoration proposed by Middlebrook (2007:Table 1) as a means to differentiate contemporaneous ceramic assemblages, and also perhaps to distinguish different Caddo groups and communities living in the area. In Table 3, I use selected assemblages with more than 196 total sherds, and list them by drainage.

An inspection of Table 3 indicates the following:

The closest ceramic comparisons between the Henry M. site and the other known Nacogdoches County historic Caddo sites is with the Deshazo site (41NA27);

Bayou Loco and Angelina River sites are dominated by brushed utility wares. In the case of the Bayou Loco sites, they can be divided into two groups based on the relative proportion of brushed wares, one group with proportions ranging from 43-48.7% and the other with proportions between 59.8-69.4% (see Table 3); and

the Lanana Creek Caddo sites, Legg Creek sites, and Attoyac Bayou sites are part of a different local ceramic tradition, where brushed pottery is much less important, particularly in Caddo sites on Attoyac Bayou and Lanana Creek (see Table 3).

Table 3 makes clear that there are distinct spatial groupings of Allen phase sites in Nacogdoches County. Table 4 reshuffles the sites to regroup them by proportional similarity in the percentages and ratios expressed in the same ceramic attributes em-
Table 1. Decorative classes in the utility ware and fine ware ceramics.

| Decoration               | Spradley | Henry M. | Deshazo |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| **Utility Wares**        |          |          |         |
| Brushed                  | 50.0*    | 72.3     | 85.6    |
| Brushed-incised          | 2.7      | 0.3      | *       |
| Brushed-appliqued        | 0.5      | Trace    | *       |
| Brushed-punctated        | 0.2      | 0.1      | *       |
| Grooved                  | 0.2      | Trace    |         |
| Neck banded              |          | 0.1      | Trace   |
| Rridged                  | 0.1      |          |         |
| Appliqued                | 0.2      | Trace    | 0.5     |
| Incised                  | 14.5     | 5.2      | *       |
| Punctated                | 15.4     | 1.7      | 0.2     |
| Incised-punctated        | 0.9      | 0.3      |         |
| Pinched                  | 0.1      |          |         |
| Lip notched              | 0.1      |          |         |
| **Fine wares**           |          |          |         |
| Engraved                 | 15.0     | 13.0     | *       |
| Engraved-brushed         |          | 0.8      | *       |

No. of decorated sherds 1499**  2132  23,651

*present, but not quantified in Fields (1995); **robust sample from the site; + = percentage

Table 2. Temper comparisons between the three Historic Caddo sites.

| Temper             | Spradley | Henry M. | Deshazo |
|--------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| bone-tempered      | 40.3%    | 9.2%     | 17.0%   |
| shell-tempered     | 0.9%     | 0.4%     |         |
| grog-tempered      | 58.8%    | 90.4%    | 83%     |

Employed in Table 3, irrespective of stream drainage, leading to the recognition of five groupings: Group I on Lanana Creek, Group II on the lower Bayou Loco, Group III on the upper part of Bayou Loco and other streams draining into the Angelina River, Group IV sites on Bayou Loco and Legg Creek, and a single site near the confluence of Attoyac Bayou and the Angelina River (Figure 1).

What do these ceramic groups represent other than generally contemporaneous historic sites occupied by Caddo peoples. I suggest they represent different but clearly related social groups or communities of Caddo peoples living in the Angelina River basin (Corbin 2007; Perttula 2007:78). These groups may be refined, revised, or rejected with further analyses of the decorative elements and motifs present in the utility wares and fine wares.

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Table 3. Ceramic Comparisons with selected other Historic Caddo sites in Nacogdoches County, Texas.

| Site* | % Brushed** | Brushed/Plain | % Brushed/Brushed + Plain |
|-------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Lanana Creek sites |             |               |                           |
| 41NA206 | 26.6        | 0.50          | 33.4                      |
| 41NA223 | 18.1        | 0.32          | 24.2                      |
| Angelina River sites and Bayou Loco |             |               |                           |
| 41NA6   | 65.1        | 4.61          | 82.2                      |
| 41NA15  | 54.0        | 4.29          | 81.1                      |
| 41NAS4  | 70.2        | 3.8           | 79.0                      |
| Bayou Loco sites |             |               |                           |
| 41NA21  | 46.2        | 1.21          | 54.7                      |
| 41NA22  | 48.7        | 1.34          | 57.3                      |
| 41NA23  | 43.0        | 1.15          | 53.5                      |
| 41NA27  | 66.1        | 2.9           | 74.3                      |
| 41NA60  | 59.8        | 2.8           | 73.8                      |
| 41NA111 | 69.4        | 5.44          | 84.5                      |
| Legg Creek |             |               |                           |
| 41NA44  | 34.1        | 1.07          | 51.8                      |
| Attoyac Bayou |             |               |                           |
| 41NA67  | 7.2         | 0.12          | 10.7                      |

*Except for 41NA223, the sherd data from the other listed sites is from Middlebrook (2007: Table 1). **% Brushed is the percentage of all sherds with brushing as the only surface treatment; Brushed/Plain is the ratio of brushed sherds to plain or undecorated sherds; and % Brushed/Brushed + Plain is the percentage of the sherds with brushing compared to all the sherds in a collection that do not have “more elaborate decorative styles such as incised, engraved, or punctated” (Middlebrook 2007:101).

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Table 4. Groups I-V of Historic Caddo Ceramic Assemblages.

| Site*                | % Brushed** | Brushed/Plain | % Brushed/Brushed + Plain |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| **Group I: Lanana Creek sites** |
| 41NA206              | 26.6        | 0.50          | 33.4                     |
| 41NA223              | 18.1        | 0.32          | 24.2                     |
| **Group II: Bayou Loco** |
| 41NA60               | 59.8        | 2.8           | 73.8                     |
| 41NA27               | 66.1        | 2.9           | 74.3                     |
| **Group III: Angelina River and Bayou Loco** |
| 41NA15               | 54.0        | 4.29          | 81.1                     |
| 41NA6                | 65.1        | 4.61          | 82.2                     |
| 41NA111              | 69.4        | 5.44          | 84.5                     |
| 41NA54               | 70.2        | 3.8           | 79.0                     |
| **Group IV: Bayou Loco sites and Legg Creek** |
| 41NA44               | 34.1        | 1.07          | 51.8                     |
| 41NA21               | 46.2        | 1.21          | 54.7                     |
| 41NA22               | 48.7        | 1.34          | 57.3                     |
| 41NA23               | 43.0        | 1.15          | 53.5                     |
| **Group V: Attoyac Bayou** |
| 41NA67               | 7.2         | 0.12          | 10.7                     |
Figure 1. Location of Group I to Group V Historic Caddo ceramic assemblages in Nacogdoches County (after Middlebrook 2007:Figure 1). Black circles = location of Historic Caddo sites; Gray circles = location of possible Historic Caddo sites.

1. NA6 Dorsey  
2. NA King  
3. NA18  
4. NA21 Mayhew  
5. NA22 Iron Rock  
6. NA23 Loco Bottom  
7. NA26  
8. NA27 Deshazo  
9. NA29 Perkins  
10. NA33  
11. NA44 Chaya  
12. NA47  
13. N53  
14. NA Cecil Sparks  
15. NA55  
16. NA60 Henry M  
17. NA65  
18. NA67  
19. NA111 Dick Shipp  
20. NA113  
21. NA187 Loco Fork  
22. NA202 Stevens  
23. NA206 Steve Spradley  
24. NA223 Guadalupe Pilar  
25. Joe Little  
26. AL Self  
27. WT Williamson  
28. Appleby Bead  
29. Nac. East Bead