

Goose Creek Plain Ceramic Vessel Sherds from Brazos and Burleson Counties, Texas

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This report concerns the documentation of Goose Creek Plain, *var. unspecified* (see Story 1990; Perttula 2018) vessel sherds from three sites in Brazos County and one site in Burleson County, Texas. Analysis includes identification of the sherd type (i.e., rim, body, and base), paste/temper, firing conditions (Teltser 1993:Figure 2), surface treatment, vessel wall thickness, and decoration, if any.

41BZ37

This collection has two base sherds from the same vessel, although they do not conjoin. In addition to a coarse sandy paste, the sherds have burned bone temper inclusions. The vessel was fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air (Teltser 1993:Figure 2g). There is no surface treatment. The base sherds range from 11.0-11.3 mm in thickness.

41BZ94

The one sherd from this site (Lot 2) is a Goose Creek Plain, *var. unspecified* body sherd with a naturally sandy paste. It is from a vessel fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air (Teltser 1993:Figure 2g); the sherd has not been smoothed or burnished on either vessel surface. The body sherd is 8.4 mm in thickness.

41BZ99

The five Goose Creek Plain sherds from 41BZ99 (Table 1) may be from four separate vessels, based on differences in temper/paste and firing conditions; none of them have any evidence of surface treatment. One sherd has a sandy paste and bone temper, and is from a vessel that was fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air. The other sherds have a coarse sandy paste, and are from vessels that have been fired in several different ways (Table 1). Vessel wall thicknesses on these body sherds range from 4.6-9.0 mm (Figure 1a-b).

Table 1. Goose Creek Plain ceramic vessel sherds from 41BZ99.

Sherd type	Temper/ Paste	Firing Conditions	Surface Treatment	Thickness (mm)	Decoration
body	bone/SP	G	-	6.2	Plain
body	SP	A	-	7.4	Plain
body	SP	G	-	4.6	Plain
body	SP	G	-	7.4	Plain

Table 1. Goose Creek Plain ceramic vessel sherds from 41BZ99, cont

Sherd type	Temper/ Paste	Firing Conditions	Surface Treatment	Thickness (mm)	Decoration
body	SP	L	-	9.0	Plain

SP=sandy paste

Firing conditions: A, fired and cooled in an oxidizing environment; G=fired in a reducing environment, cooled in the open area; L-possible sooted/smudged



Figure 1. Goose Creek Plain, *var. unspecified* body sherds from 41BZ99.

41BU53

This site has one Goose Creek Plain, *var. unspecified* sandy paste body sherd (Figure 2). The sherd is from a vessel that was fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air (Teltser 1993:Figure 2g), and has no surface treatment. Its vessel walls are 7.8 mm thick.

Goose Creek Plain ceramics, first made ca. 2500 years ago (Perttula 2018), have a sandy paste, thin walls, floated surfaces, and rounded or conical bases and are associated with the Mossy Grove Culture (Ellis 2013:141 and Figure 1; Perttula 2019). Decorated sandy paste pottery is generally rare (see Story 1990:Tables 58 and 64), and likely dates mainly after ca. A.D. 900 on area sites; although the sample of Goose Creek Plain sherds is small in these assemblages, it suggests they predate ca. A.D. 900. Plain and decorated

bone-tempered ceramic wares are apparently present throughout the region before the post-A.D. 1250 manufacture of Leon Plain pottery (see Kenmotsu and Boyd 2012), as are bone-tempered sandy paste ceramics. Plain bone-tempered sandy paste ceramics have been recovered in pre-A.D. 400 and ca. A.D. 380-800 contexts in the Trinity and Navasota River basins (Perttula and Ellis 2013:125), while at the much later Boriack Bog in Lee County, plain bone-tempered and bone-tempered sandy paste sherds occur

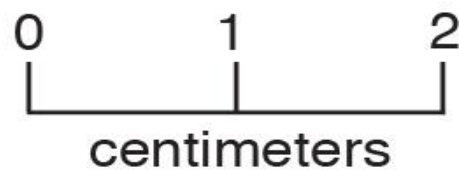


Figure 2. Goose Creek Plain sherd from 41BU53.

together with brushed as well as red slipped or red-filmed sherds in post-A.D. 1200 contexts.

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