

The Cedar Valley Site Ceramic Vessel Sherds, San Jacinto County, Texas

Timothy K. Perttula

The 15 ceramic vessel sherds in the collection from the Cedar Valley site in San Jacinto County are primarily from Goose Creek Plain, *var. Goose Creek* (see Phillips and Weinstein 2018) vessels (n=13, 87 percent) (Figure 1b). Story (1990) and Perttula (2018) previously referred to such sandy paste sherds as Goose Creek Plain, *var. unspecified*. Ceramic vessel sherds from this type and variety are part of the Woodland period Mossy Grove culture (see Ellis 2013; Perttula 2018), dating as early as 2500 years ago, and lasting to ca. 1000 years ago. The other two sherds are from Goose Creek Plain, *var. Burris* lip notched vessels (Perttula 2018:10) (Figure 1a, c). Lip notching on ceramic vessels has been suggested to have been common ca. 2200-2000 years ago in Mossy Grove culture sites (Perttula 2018:39).



Figure 1. Sandy paste sherds from the Cedar Valley site: a, c, Goose Creek Plain, *var. Burris*; b, Goose Creek Plain, *var. Goose Creek*.

The two lip notched Goose Creek Plain, *var. Burris* rims from the Cedar Valley site have either diagonal lip notching lines (see Figure 1c) or a row of small linear notches (see Figure 1a). The rims are from two different vessels fired in a reducing environment; one was also cooled in a low oxygen environment (firing condition B) while the other was cooled in the open air (firing condition F, Table 1). One of the rims has an exterior smoothed surface (see Figure 1c). The rims range from 6.2-6.6 mm in thickness.

Table 1. Cedar Valley site sherd analysis.

Sherd type	Paste	Firing Conditions*	Surface Treatment	Thickness (mm)	Decoration
body	SP	G	I SM	6.2	Plain
body	SP	B	-	4.9	Plain
rim	SP	F	-	6.2	Lip notched
body	SP	I	-	4.9	Plain
body	SP	D	-	5.2	Plain
body	SP	E	I/E SM	5.4	Plain
rim	SP	B	E SM	6.6	Lip notched
body	SP	G	E SM	6.5	Plain
body	SP	C	-	5.2	Plain
body	SP	A	I/E SM	5.6	Plain
body	SP	B	I/E SM	6.3	Plain
body	SP	E	E SM	6.4	Plain
body	SP	G	I SM	6.9	Plain
body	SP	G	-	6.0	Plain
body	SP	F	E SM	7.1	Plain

*after Teltser (1993:Figure 2)

SP=sandy paste

I SM=interior smoothed; E SM=exterior smoothed

Based on the firing conditions, the 13 body sherds are from as many as eight different vessels (see Table 1). One sherd (7.7 percent) is from a vessel fired and cooled in an oxidizing environment (firing condition A), four sherds (30.8 percent) are from vessels incompletely oxidized during firing (firing conditions C-E), seven sherds (53.8 percent) are from vessels fired in a reducing environment, and then either cooled in a low oxygen environment (firing condition B) or cooled in the open air (firing conditions F-G), and one sherd (7.7 percent) is from a vessel that has been sooted or smudged (firing condition I).

Most of the Goose Creek Plain, *var. Goose Creek* body sherds (69 percent) have some form of surface treatment, either body smoothing on one or both vessel surfaces. Two sherds have only interior vessel smoothing, four have just exterior vessel smoothing, and three other body sherds have both interior and exterior smoothing; these are likely from bowls.

The Cedar Valley site Goose Creek Plain vessels have thin vessel walls, ranging from 4.9-7.1 mm thick. The mean thickness is 5.89 ± 0.64 mm.

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