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## Upper Neches River Basin Caddo Ceramics, an Attempt at an Updated Seriation and a Context for Understanding Frankston to Allen Phase Ceramic Stylistic and Technological Changes

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## Upper Neches River Basin Caddo Ceramics, an Attempt at an Updated Seriation and a Context for Understanding Frankston to Allen Phase Ceramic Stylistic and Technological Changes

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**UPPER NECHES RIVER BASIN CADDO CERAMICS, AN ATTEMPT AT AN  
UPDATED SERIATION AND A CONTEXT FOR UNDERSTANDING  
FRANKSTON TO ALLEN PHASE CERAMIC STYLISTIC AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES**

*Timothy K. Perttula*

Table 1 provides comparative sherd assemblage data from Lake Palestine sites on the Neches River (see Anderson et al. 1974), 41HE139 west of Lake Palestine (Cliff et al. 2004), 41AN38 (Kelley et al. 2006) south of Lake Palestine, as well as the Kah-hah-ko-wha site (41CE354) (Perttula and Nelson 2006) to the northeast of the lake. This site has an Allen phase component. The Lake Palestine sites include Debro (41CE86), William Sherman (41CE30), Forest Drive (41HE184), Halbert, Woldert (41HE80), Ferguson, Tomato Patch (41HE185), Mitchell (41HE22), and White Mule (41HE166) (Figure 1).

**Table 1. Comparative sherd assemblage data from Lake Palestine Caddo sites, 41AN38, and 41CE354, and proposed temporal sequence of sites.**

Site	No. of Dec. Sherds	% Brushed*	% bone- temper	% Wet-paste decorations	P/DR	Brushed/Wet paste ratio
<b>YOUNGEST SITE: GROUP Ia, known Allen phase component</b>						
41CE354	474	82.7	3.1	8.9	0.20	8.14
<b>GROUP Ib, YOUNGEST FRANKSTON PHASE SITES</b>						
Debro	311	80.0	?	10.3	0.14	7.75
William Sherman	525	75.8	?	16.2	0.44	4.68
<b>GROUP II</b>						
Forest Drive	1693	68.6	?	21.9	0.56	3.12
Halbert	1757	65.8	2.6	26.3	0.70	2.51
Woldert	1730	62.7	0.0	28.8	0.72	2.19
Ferguson	4116	60.8	<1.0	27.9	0.61	2.17
<b>GROUP III, OLDEST FRANKSTON PHASE SITES</b>						
Tomato Patch	912	49.2	?	41.7	1.50	1.21
41AN38	2435	35.9	6.7	38.0	1.40	0.91
Mitchell, De	54	32.1	0.0	33.3	1.37	1.50

**Table 1. Comparative sherd assemblage data from Lake Palestine Caddo sites, 41AN38, and 41CE354, and proposed temporal sequence of sites, cont.**

Site	No. of Dec. Sherds	% Brushed*	% bone-temper	% Wet-paste decorations	P/DR	Brushed/Wet paste ratio
<b>MIDDLE AND EARLY CADDO GROUPS</b>						
<b>GROUP IV</b>						
White Mule	1404	18.5	1.5	63.7	2.61	0.29
41HE139	40	17.5	8.1	65.0	2.51	0.33
<b>OLDEST SITE: GROUP V</b>						
Mitchell, A-C	56	1.3	12.0	65.7	1.71	0.03

\*percentage of all decorated sherds; other comparisons in this volume use percentage of brushed sherds relative to all sherds, both plain and decorated

These comparisons of the composition of upper Neches River basin Caddo decorated sherd assemblages—and the temporal orderings and cultural affiliations they imply—are based on the percentage of brushed sherds in the decorated sherd sample (rather than the percentage of brushed sherds among all the sherds, both plain and decorated), the percentage of bone temper in the assemblages, the percentage of wet-paste decorations other than brushing (i.e., incised, punctated, appliqued, neck-banded, etc.), the plain/decorated sherd ratio (P/DR), and the brushed sherd/wet paste decorated sherd ratio (see Table 1). From these comparisons, six different groups of assemblages have been defined in a seriation of the Lake Palestine area sites. These groups seem to reflect temporal changes due to the high frequency of Late Caddo Frankston phase decorated types, such as Poynor Engraved, Maydelle Incised, Bullard Brushed, Hume Engraved, and engraved effigy vessels, that are found in the Groups Ib-III sites—as well as Patton Engraved sherds from 41CE354 in Group Ia—and the occurrence of Early and Middle Caddo types such as Canton Incised, Dunkin Incised, Holly Fine Engraved, and Pennington Punctated-Incised in the Group IV and V Lake Palestine sites.

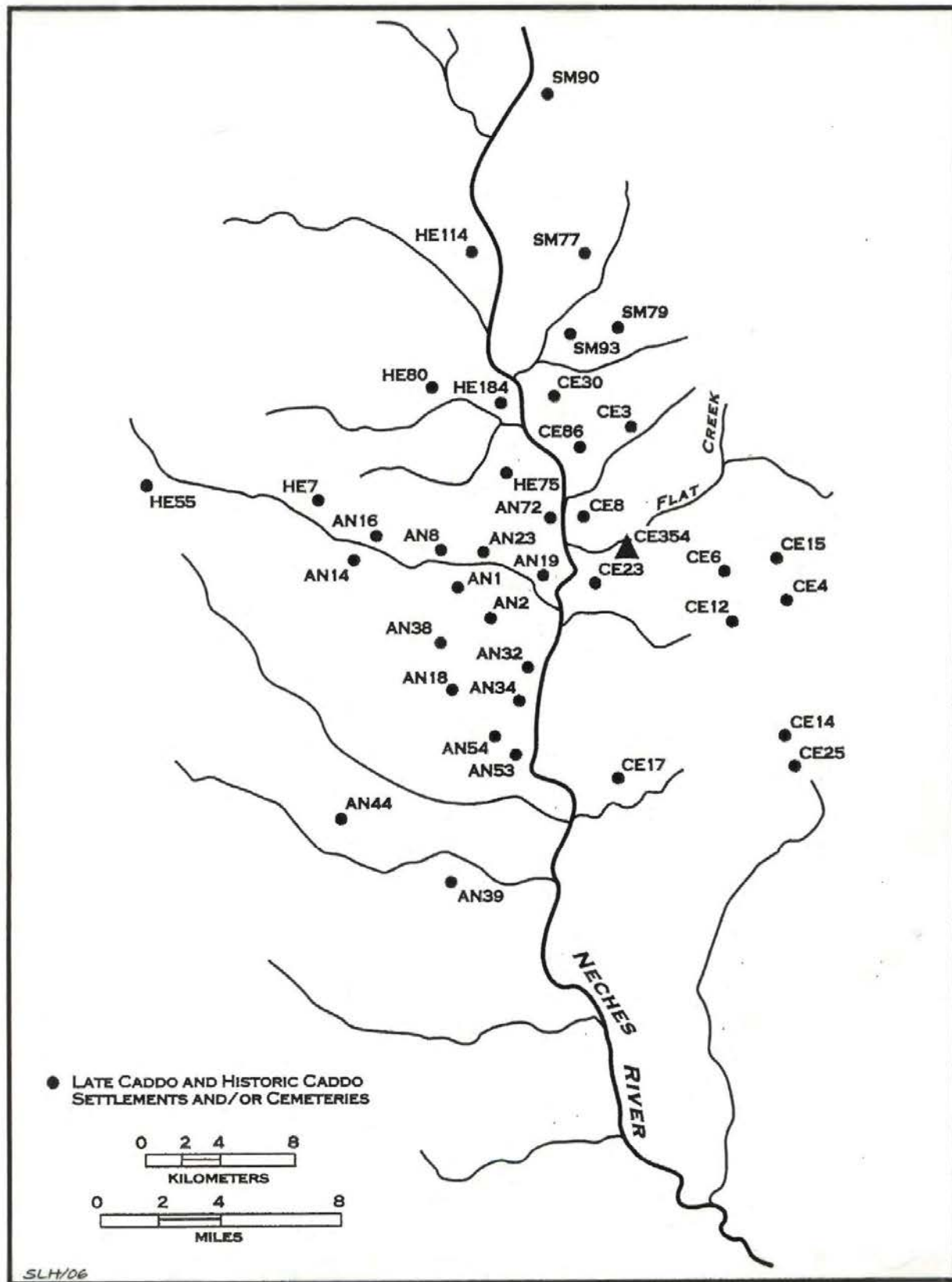


Figure 1. Selected Frankston and Allen phases in the upper Neches River basin, Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson, and Smith counties, Texas.



This particular seriation, with three different temporal groupings of Frankston and Allen phase sites, is also supported by differences in: (a) the proportions of Poynor Engraved varieties, Patton Engraved, engraved effigy vessels, Maydelle Incised, La Rue Neck Banded, and Bullard Brushed in upper Neches River Caddo burials, (b) differences in the relative frequencies of common vessel forms in Poynor and Patton Engraved vessels (Kleinschmidt 1982:Figure 24), as well as (c) the occurrence of European trade goods. The Kah-hah-ko-wha site (41CE354) is in Group Ia of the seriation (see Table 1), and is interpreted as the youngest or most recent known Caddo occupation of the Lake Palestine area sites. Corbin (2007, this volume) considers the Group Ib-III Caddo sites part of an upper Neches River cluster that represents a conglomeration of constituent groups that share a broadly similar socio-political organization through time and space (see Story and Creel 1982:30-34).

No Sanders phase pottery types (i.e., Sanders Engraved, Monkstown Fingernail Impressed, Maxey Noded Redware) were recovered in the Lake Palestine sites. Furthermore, it has been shown in several other ceramic studies in northeastern Texas that the proportion of brushed sherds in decorated sherd assemblages steadily increases through time, beginning after ca. A.D. 1250, during the occupation of the Group IV Caddo sites (and after the principal Early Caddo occupation ended at the George C. Davis site, i.e. after ca. A.D. 1250-1300). By the late 17th and 18th centuries Caddo sites are known in the Neches and Angelina river basins (including Deshazo) where brushed sherds account for ca. 50-90% of all the decorated sherds. More than 82% of the sherds at the 17<sup>th</sup> century Kah-hah-ko-wha site (41CE354) are brushed (see Table 1). This site appears to be the youngest Caddo site in the proposed seriation.

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