The following pottery type descriptions are taken from sherds collected in excavations in Northern Alabama in the Pickwick Basin. The terminology in general follows March; that on shape conforms with the definitions set up by Wilder, and that on color follows Ridgway.


Wilder, Charles G. A suggested plan for classifying vessels on the basis of form. Monographed circular of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference.
Wheelers Plain

Paste: Technique of manufacture unknown, but molding suggested; tempering of vegetal fibres, usually a grass or sometimes whole leaves, constituting 10-20%; texture medium, often laminated; hardness 2-3; paste core bluish or mouse gray fired on interior and/or exterior to a mottled black and clay color, generally to a depth of 2-4 mm.

Surface Finish and Decoration: Smoothed on exterior and interior.

Form: Sometimes a luted rim strip, 10 mm. wide, rising to a ridge 10 mm. high with vertical incised marks; on each side of strip, on the body wall, a row of punctations, 1 mm. between successive punctures, an unknown distance beneath lip; lip flattened; shape is a large cup, healspherical, 20-25 cm. in diameter; one whole vessel is about 10 cm. interior depth; base circular, slightly concave or slightly convex; thickness: lip 6-12 mm.; wall 5-12 mm.; base 7-20 mm.

Range of Type: Throughout Pickwick Basin sites and Wheeler Basin shell mound sites in Northern Alabama.

Chronological Position of Type in Range: Occurs at base of pottery zone on all sites where present. Usually accompanied by other fibre tempered ware types. Overlain by wares of sand tempered, crushed limestone tempered, clay-grit tempered, and shell tempered pottery.

Rim profiles--inner surface to left.
PICKWICK SIMPLE STAFFED

Paste:- Technique of manufacture unknown, possibly molded; temper of vegetal fibers 10-20%; texture medium, usually laminated; hardness 2.5 to 3.5; paste core black fired to a mottled black and wood brown on interior and exterior, or sometimes fired to cinnamon to a depth of 2-4 mm.

Surface Finish and Decoration:- Smoothed on exterior and interior; then malleated with a tool having a sharp ridge or a dull rounded edge. Lip to base covered with haphazardly applied, though roughly parallel, malleations.

Form:- No decoration of rim but a biconical perforation 3 mm. in diameter often occurs in wall 13 mm. below lip; lip rounded or flattened; body shape a large cup, apparently hemispherical, 15 to 26 cm. diameter; base unknown; thickness: lip 5-10 mm.; wall 6-11 mm.

Range of type:- Throughout Pickwick and Wheeler Basins of Northern Alabama where it occurs in pottery zones of shell mounds.

Chronological Position of type in range:- Occurs in basal portions of pottery zones on all sites where present. Usually overlain by wares of sand tempered, crushed limestone tempered, clay-grit tempered and shell tempered pottery.

Rim profiles--inner surface to left.
Type of manufacture unknown, molding suggested; temper of vegetal fibres constitutes 10-20%; texture, medium, often laminated; hardness 2.5-3. Paste core black or buff, fired to a mottled black or clay color on interiors and exteriors or fired to mouse grey or buff to depth of 4 mm.

Surface finish and decoration: Smoothed, then punctured with a pointed instrument, sometimes quite sharp, but usually rounded and blunt. Rarely a semi-lunar impression as though made by edge of a hollow reed, or cane, or fingernail. Vessel covered entirely from lip over base on exterior. Punctations usually close and overlapping.

Form: No rim area but usually a biconical perforation 1.5 cm. below lip; lip, flattened; body, hemispherical or conical, a large cup 20-25 cm. in diameter; base convex, circular with outside diameter 7.5 cm.; thickness: lip 8-10 mm.; wall 2-14 mm. usually 8 mm.; base 12 mm.

Range of type: Throughout Pickwick, Wilson, and Wheeler Basins in Northern Alabama.

Chronological Position of type in range: Occurs at base of pottery zone on all sites where present. Usually occurs with other types of fibre tempered ware at this level. Occurs in most instances by wares of sand tempered, crushed limestone tempered, clay-grit tempered, and shell tempered pottery.

Rim profiles—inner surface to left.
ALEXANDER DENTATE STAMPED

Paste:- Technique of manufacture unknown, possibly molded; tempering of vegetal fibres constituting 20-35%; texture, medium; hardness, 2.5-3.0; paste core black, fired on interior and/or exterior to mottled black and cinnamon-buff to depth of 3-4 mm.

Surface Finish and Decoration:- Stamped with a dentate or comb-like tool, teeth blunt ended and rectangular (1 x 2 mm. to 3 x 4 mm.). Impressions haphazardly applied but usually a band of impressions width lip obliquely applied in correlation to impressions on rest of body. Entire body covered to base on exterior.

Form:- No distinct rim area except when set off by oblique impressions; lip rounded and flattened; sometimes rounded, sometimes a rounded ridge at outer margin; shape is a large cup, either hemispherical or conical, 26-35 cm. in diameter, 12-13 cm. depth; base circular, convex where known, 7.5 cm. diameter; thickness: lip 5-13 mm., usually 7; wall 7-14 mm. generally 9; base 22 mm.

Range of type:- Throughout Pickwick Basin and Wheeler Basin shell mound sites in Northern Alabama.

Chronological Position of types in range:- Occurs at base of pottery zone on all sites where present. Usually occurs with other types of fibre tempered ware at this level. Overlain by wares of sand tempered, crushed limestone tempered, clay-grit tempered, and shell tempered pottery.

Alexander Denticate Stamp
C'NEAL PLAIN

Paste: — Technique of manufacture unknown; temper consists of approximately 25 to 30%, of clean white sand, well rounded grains .20 mm. or less in size; texture fine, well consolidated; hardness 2.0 to 2.5; color of paste black to gray, occasionally exterior fired to ochreous buff to depth of 3 mm.; usually exterior fired to mouse gray, interior fired mouse gray or emmudged black.

Surface Finish and Decoration: — Polished on body and base; rim usually decorated with a row of hemispherical bosses 4 to 7 mm. in diameter, either contiguous or less than 2 mm. apart and from 5 to 12 mm. below lip; bosses are produced by punching from inner surface of vessel toward outer to produce pastule, then bosses filled and smoothed on inner surface.

Form: — Rim area set off when bosses are present; rarely a beveled rim with notches on the inner slope of a rounded lip, this bowl 18 to 26 mm. wide; lip incised with straight transverse lines 4 to 7 mm. long, on outer slope of lip; lip usually rounded; shape apparently a wide flaring-mouth pot with diameter at the lip of 30 cm.; thickness: lip 7 to 12 mm., usually 9 mm.; rim 5 to 12 mm.; well 5 to 9 mm.; base 8 to 15 mm.; no whole vessels known, and all base fragments are flat without foot; feet about 32 mm. high; base fragments suggest four legged vessel.

Range of type: — Throughout Pickwick, Wilson, and Wando Basins shell mounds in Northern Alabama.

Chronological Position of type in range: — Always overlies fiber tempered wares and is in turn overlain by shell tempered pottery generally called Tennessee-Cumberland. Since this type is known from sherds only, it actually may fall into other sand tempered pottery types.

Rim profiles: — Inner surface to left.
Alexander Incised

Paste: Technique of manufacture unknown; temper consists of about 25% clean, well-rounded, white sand grains about .25 mm. or less in size; texture fine, well consolidated; hardness 2 to 2.5; color of paste core black to light ochreous buff, usually exterior and interior fired to moose gray or occasionally exterior fired to vinaceous cinnamon to depth of 1 to 2 mm. with interior smudged black.

Surface Finish and Decoration: Smoothed, incised rectilinear or curvilinear lines, often chevrons or parallel lines with oblique cross lines between; width of lines vary from 0.8 mm. to 4 mm. wide. Rim bosses of type found on O’Neal Plain usually accompany the incising; vessel covered from lip to base usually; this type of incising may appear on vessels in combination with pinched or zone-stamped.

Form: Rim flares slightly and diameter at lip about 20 cm.; rarely a large cup with vertical sides and no rim arch except where set off by decoration; lip rounded and flattened usually; rarely flattened and with transverse incised lines 3 mm. long; rarely rounded; shape a large- vertical sided cup or flaring-mouth pot; base unknown; thickness: lip 5-7 mm.; rim 3-12 mm.; walls 5-10 mm.


Chronological Position of type in range: Always overlies fibre tempered ware types and in turn is overlain by shell tempered ware types usually called Tennessee-Cumberlaid.


Rim profiles--inner surfaces to left.
SMITHSONIA ZONE STAMPED

Paste: Technique of manufacture unknown; temper of rounded white sand grains, .25 mm. or less in size constituting about 20%; occasional inclusion of gravel 3 mm. in diameter; texture fine, well consolidated; hardness 2.5 to 3; color of paste black to mouse gray, fired on interior to russet-vinaceous or ochraceous-salmon to a depth of 2 to 3 mm.; exteriors occasionally fired to light drab, or smoked black.

Surface Finish and Decoration:—Smoothed; incised lines, usually 2 mm. or less wide and shallow, sometimes narrow and fine, either curvilinear or rectilinear incising stumped impressions apparently made with a small dentate tool; zoned areas vary from 6 mm. to 22 mm. wide; sometimes zoned design is individual punctations; designs usually conventionalized isomorphic, rectilinear, and curvilinear; decoration from base to lip.

Form:— Whole vessels unknown; rims usually set off by decoration and slightly flaring; occasionally large cup, 20 to 26 cm. in diameter with straight rim; lip rounded, frequently incised on outer slope with short radial lines; thickness: lip, 6-8 mm.; wall, 6-8 mm.

Range of type:— Throughout Pickwick, Wilson, and Wheeler Basins shell mounds in Northern Alabama.

Chronological Position of type in range:—Always overlies fibre tempered ware and is in turn overlain by shell tempered pottery generally called Tennessee-Cumberland.

Rim profiles—inferior surfaces to left.
ALEXANDER PINCHED

Paste:— Technique of manufacture unknown; temper of well rounded sand grains .25 mm. or less in size, constitute at least 25% of volume; texture fine, well consolidated; hardness 3 to 3.5; color of paste black to dull gray, rarely fired on exterior to orange-red from 1.5 to 2 mm., usually exterior and interior fired to mouse gray.

Surface Finish and Decoration:— Smoothed; small ridges produced by pinching, the moist material between thumb-nail and index finger nail; the design usually consists of pinched ridges arranged in parallel rows, occasionally arranged so that a diamond shaped pattern results; rarely haphazard pinched ridges; rim usually incised with 5 or less parallel lines about 2 mm. wide and very shallow, and about 3 mm. apart; first line 1 to 1.5 cm. below lip; row of bosses as described in Glass Plain occur about 8 mm. below lip; the pinched ridges may cover whole vessel from rim to base or may be restricted to circular bands about body of vessel.

Form:— Rim flares slightly and a wide-mouth pot results about 20 cm. in diameter at lip rim area usually set off by decoration; lip rounded and incised with radial straight lines on outer slope of lip; base shape unknown; thickness: lip 2-5 mm.; rim 11-15 mm.; wall 6.5 to 10 mm., usually 8 mm.

Range of type:— Throughout Pickwick, Wilson, and Wheeler Basins; shell mounds in northern Alabama.

Chronological Position of type in range:— Always overlies fibre tempered and is in turn overlain by shell tempered pottery generally called Tennessee-Cumberland.

Bibliography:— Fewke, Gerard; Archaeological Investigations II. E. A. E. 1944 Ann. Rept. pp. 452-453, pl. 84. (He description included).

Rim profiles—inner surfaces to left.
MULBERRY CREEK PLAIN

Paste:- Technique of manufacture unknown; temper of crushed limestone particles 1 cm. or less in diameter constituting about 20-35%; texture medium fine; hardness 6.0; paste color black or brown gray; exterior and interior fired to even gray, occasionally orange-vineaceous on interior or exterior to depth of 1 mm. or less.

Surface Finish and Decoration:- Smoothed and occasionally shows shallow furrows from a tool; sometimes rim decorated with incised horizontal lines inclosed by incised semi-circles alternately placed on rim and shoulder.

Form:- Rim slightly flaring, straight, or slightly constricted; sometimes a bevel rim with bevel 2 cm. wide sloping toward interior; lip flattened or rounded, usually an overhanging edge toward outer surface; body, globular or spherical pots in all types; small spherical vessels 10-12 cm. in diameter; large vessels 25 cm. in diameter at neck flaring to 35 cm. at mouth; rarely globular bodies 25 cm. in diameter at shoulder with mouth constricted to 15 cm. diameter; base flat with four legs, or spherical; thickness: lip 3.5-7 mm. usually 6 but 7 with bevel rims; rim 5.5-8 mm.; well 5.5-8 mm. usually 7; base 6-11 mm.; legs 18-28 mm. high; strap handles 34-33 mm. wide and 21-23 mm. thick.

Range of types:- Throughout Pickwick, Wilson, and Wheeler Basins in Northern Alabama.

Chronological Position of type in range:- Always overlined fibre tempered ware types and is in turn overlain by shell tempered pottery types usually referred to the so-called Tennessee-Cumberland. Mulberry Creek Plain, in conjunction with Pickwick Coiled and other crushed limestone tempered types, is tentatively to be associated with the Copano group.
LONG BRANCH FABRIC MARKED

Paste:- Technique of manufacture unknown; temper of crushed limestone particles 1.5 mm. or less in diameter equal 50 to 60% proportion; texture medium fine; hardness 2.0-2.5; paste core black or buff fired to mottled mouse gray or buff to depth usually less than 1 mm.

Surface Finish and Decoration:- fabric impressions of close weft and wide warp, including plain plaited basketry impressions of same technique cover vessel from lip to base; rarely incised lines are inscribed over fabric marking on straight sided vessels.

Form:- rim types are straight, flaring, or constricted; a conical perforation 1 cm. below lip on flaring rim vessel; lip rounded and flattened, or flattened, with slight overhang toward outer surface; body a globular pot with diameters at shoulder from 20-30 cm.; vessels 30 cm. at neck flare to 50 cm. at lip; in some larger vessels constricts at mouth to 30 cm.; no base sherds known; thickness: lip 4-5 mm.; wall 6.5 to 10 mm., usually 8 mm.

Range of type:- Throughout Pickwick, Wilson, and Wheeler Basins in Northern Alabama.

Chronological Position of type in range:- Always overlies fibre tempered ware types and is in turn overlain by shell tempered pottery types usually referred to as the so-called Tennessee-Cumberland.

Rim profiles—inner surface to left.
BLUFF CREEK SIMPLE STAMPED

Paste: Technique of manufacture unknown; temper of crushed limestone particles 1.5 mm. or less in diameter, 20 to 25% proportion, texture medium fine, well consolidated; hardness 2.0 to 2.5; paste core usually black fired to light drain to 1.5 mm. depth in walls and 5 mm. in base on exterior and interior, sometimes dried pinkish-buff throughout; rarely paste core neutral gray fired to pinkish-stoneware to 1/5 mm. depth on exterior.

Surface Finish and Decoration: Entire vessel covered by malleations from a die incised with longitudinal grooves 1.5 to 4 mm. wide so that a series of grooves and ridges result on the vessel; ridges usually about 5 to 8 mm. long and applied horizontally or parallel to lip, but often impressions overlap one another; vessel covered with impressions from lip to base.

Form: No whole vessels known; rim slightly flaring or vertical with an added rim strip applied over stamping carried to lip, then rim strip stamped; rim strip 18 to 32 mm. wide; lip rounded or rounded and flattened; body globular and pot-shaped, about 20 to 25 cm. diameter at shoulder; base flat and rounded (not well known); thickness: lip 5 mm.; rim 8 to 8.5 mm., usually 8; wall 4.5 to 10 mm., 7 mm. most common; base 6 mm.

Chronological Position of Type in Range: Always overlain fibre tempered ware types and is in turn overlain by shell tempered pottery types generally called Tennessee-Cumberland. Relation of Bluff Creek Simple Stamped to sand tempered pottery types is not stratigraphically clear.

Rim profiles--inner surfaces to left.
FRIEZE CHECK STAMPED

Paste:- Technique of manufacture unknown; temper of crushed limestone particles 2 mm. or less in diameter, usually about .5 mm.; proportion of temper 10-20%; texture medium to medium fine, well consolidated, occasional laminated; hardness 2-2.5; paste core black to bluish brown, interior fired to cinnamon or cinnamon buff to depth 1 mm., exterior usually fired to mousse gray or cream buff 1 mm. depth; rarely paste core vinaceous and only smudged on interior and exterior.

Surface Finish and Decoration:- Paddled with a die in which incisions were arranged in cross-hatched fashion forming a grid; individual impressions from 2 mm. x 2 mm. to 6 mm. x 7 mm.; size 3-3.5 mm. x 4 mm. most common; vessel covered from lip to base, including foot and loop handles; stamping often carried to lip before rim strip added.

Form:- No whole vessels known; rim slightly flaring and always an added rim strip 22-23 mm. wide, 2-3 mm. thick; stamping often on rim strip only and not on neck of vessel; lip rounded and flattened or rounded; base flat with lugs, apparently four, 30 mm. or less in height; loop handles 39 mm. wide, 33 mm. thick are known; body diameter at shoulder 20 to 30 cm.; diameter at lip 35 to 40 cm.; thickness lip 3.5 to 6 cm., usually 5 mm.; rim 5-7 mm.; wall 5-8 mm.; base 7 mm.

Range of Type:- Throughout Pickwick, Wilson, and Wheeler Basins in Northern Alabama.

Chronological Position of Type in Range:- Always overlies fibreglazed ware types and is in turn overlain by shell tempered pottery types generally called Tennessee-Cumberland. Relation of Frieze Check Stamped to sand tempered pottery types is not stratigraphically clear.

Rim profiles—inner surfaces to left.
PICKWICK COMPLICATED STAMPED

Paste: Technique of manufacture unknown; temper of crushed limestone particles 2.5 mm. in diameter, usually 1.5 mm. constitute about 25%; texture medium fine, well consolidated; hardness 2.0 to 2.5; paste core black, fired to mouse gray on exterior and interior to about 1 mm. depth; sometimes fired to finish-cinnamon to 1 mm. depth.

Surface Finish and Decoration: Entire vessel from lip to base covered with impressions from a die incised with curvilinear designs of complicated pattern; usual design consists of concentric circles with a central punctule or cross, these circle groups joined by curved or straight lines; rarely design consists of concentrically incised octagons in the shape of four-pointed stars; impressions applied haphazardly and overlap on body; carefully applied on rim strip.

Form: No whole vessels known; rim slightly flaring, sometimes an added rim strip 13-28 mm. wide and 1 mm. thick; sometimes impressions carried to lip with no rim strip; lip flattened or rounded and flattened, with occasional overhanging edge toward exterior; body a globular pot, with slight constriction before rim flares to diameter of 30-35 cm. at lip; diameters at shoulder about 25 to 30 cm.; thickness: lip 4-6 mm.; rim 7-8 mm.; wall 6-7 mm.; base 8 mm.; base flat with four legs, 7 to 24 mm. high.

Range of type: Throughout Pickwick and Wilson Basins in Northern Alabama.

Chronological Position of type in range: Usually overlies fibre tempered ware types where associated and in turn is stratigraphically superseded by shell tempered pottery types usually called Tennessee-Cumberland. Pickwick Complicated Stamped together with other crushed limestone tempered pottery types is tentatively assigned to the Copena Focus.

Rim profiles—inner surfaces to left.
**McKELVEY PLAIN**

**Paste:** Colored; temper of clay and particles of grit constitute about 10% proportion; clay particles are apparently pulverized potsherds 3.5 mm. in diameter or less; grit usually small (1.5 mm. diameter or less) rounded gravel particles; texture medium, well consolidated; hardness 2.5; paste core black or dull gray, fired to mottled gray and warm buff to 1 mm. depth, occasionally fired to cinnamon red or fawn color or avellaneous on both exterior and interior.

**Surface Finish and Decoration:** Smoothed and usually imperfectly polished; tool striations generally show on interior and exterior.

**Form:** Rim slightly flaring, straight, or constricted; usually an incised line 1.5-2 mm. wide and shallow, 5-14 mm. below and parallel to lip encircles rim on exterior; rarely dome type line on interior from 7-28 mm. below lip; often a vertical "lobe" or "ear" on lip rising 12 mm. above lip; mouth sometimes has sides compressed to form a subrectangular opening; rarely an added rim strip 27 mm. wide, 2 mm. thick; lip rounded, or rounded and flattened; rarely sloping outward; body, a bowl about 30 cm. diameter constricted to 25 cm. at mouth or a pot 15 cm. diameter at body flaring to 20 cm. at mouth, but most common shape a hemispherical cup 25 cm. diameter at rim with spherical base; thickness: lip 4-9 mm., usually 8; rim 5-8 mm.; wall 2-3 mm., usually 6 or 7; base 11-14 mm. on large vessels; 5 mm. on small.

**Range or type:** Throughout Pickwick, Wilson and Wheeler Basins in Northern Alabama.

**Chronological Position or type in range:** Always overlies fibre tempered ware types and is in turn overlain by shell tempered pottery types usually referred to the so-called Tennessee-Cumberland.

Rim profiles--inner surfaces to left.
SHELLER CHECK STAMPED

Paste: Coiled; temper of clay and particles of grit constitute 10% or less; clay particles are apparently pulverized potsherds 1.5-3.5 mm. in diameter; grit usually 1 mm. diameter rounded gravel particles; texture medium, well consolidated; hardness 2-2.5; paste color black or light neutral gray fired to clay color on exterior or interior or both to depth of 1-3.5 mm.; rarely fired to a dull brown, mottled with buffy-gray.

Surface Finish and Decoration: Entire vessel stamped with a checker or grid die, individual checks usually 3 x 3.5 mm.; variations are 6 x 10 mm., 9 x 3.5 mm., 5 x 3.5 mm. and 2 x 2.5 mm. in smallest.

Form: Straight or flaring rim; sometimes an added rim strip 22 to 50 mm. wide and 1 to 3 mm. thick; rarely rim decorated by a single incised line, usually deep, 10 to 20 mm. below lip, incised often squared over by added patches of clay; often a series of pinched nodes or ridges beneath lip, these being 10 mm. long and 10 mm. high or 7 mm. long and 3 mm. high; lip flattened, rarely rounded, rarely with radial notches on top haphazardly applied; body globular or spherical with diameters of 20 to 40 cm. at shoulders; mouth in bowl shapes usually constricted to 15 cm. or flares to 25 cm. in plate; base spherical; thickness: lip 4-6 mm., usually 7; rim 7-10 mm., usually 8; wall 3-11 mm., usually 8-9; base 10 mm.


Chronological Position or type in range: Overlies fiber tempered and sand tempered pottery types where all three are present. Is usually overlain by shell tempered pottery types generally called Tennessee-Cumberland. The relation of this type to the limestone tempered ware is not stratigraphically clear.

Rim profiles—inner surfaces to left.
MULBERRY CREEK CORD MARKER

Paste:- Coiled; temper of clay and grit particles constitute about 10% proportion; clay particles are possibly pulverized potsherds 3.5 mm. in diameter or less; grit usually rounded gravel particles 1.5 mm. in diameter or less; texture: medium; hardness 2.5-3; paste color black or mottled light gray-black or cinnamon; when black is unfired dried or fired to wood brown on both surfaces to 1-5 mm. depth; when cinnamon usually fired to grayish motting on surface; light grayish-black core usually fired to buff on interior and exterior.

Surface Finish and Decoration:- Paddled with cord wrapped implement, the cord apparently a twisted grass fibre; vessel covered from lip over base; when an added rim strip, vessel was malleated to lip before rim strip added.

Form:- Rim area demarcated in vessel with flaring mouth; sometimes rim area smoothed when flaring from 12 cm. diameter at neck to 15 cm. diameter at lip, or from 20 cm. at neck to 25 cm. at lip; often an added rim strip 2 to 2.5 cm. wide, 3 to 4 mm. thick; rarely a bevelled rim with bevel 11 mm. wide; lip usually rounded, rarely flattened but when flattened has an overhang toward outer surface; sometimes notches on inner edge of lip on flaring-mouth pots; mouth constricted in some bowls to 10 to 15 cm.; body globular or spherical with diameters of 30 to 35 cm. at shoulder; base spherical; thickness: lip 4-5 mm. usually 7; base 5 to 15 mm. usually 9 mm.

Range of type:- Throughout Pickwick, Wilson, and Wheeler Basins in Northern Alabama.

Chronological Position of type in range:- Overlies fibre tempered and sand tempered pottery types where all three are present. In usually overlain by shell tempered pottery types usually called Tennessee-Cumberland and also by utilitarian pottery of roundville type.

Rim profiles--inner surfaces to left.