

NEWS LETTER

SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Vol. I No. 2

March 1939

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TYPE NAME: SWIFT CREEK COMPLICATED STAMP

PASTE:

Method of Manufacture; Coiled

Tempering; Grit or sand, rarely micaceous; fine, some medium; medium to scarce.

Texture: Slightly gritty core with slight lamination. Texture generally fine, exterior and interior smooth; surface matte rather than sandy.

Hardness: 2.5 to 5.0, mean 2.5 to 3.0.

Color: Little variation between core and surfaces. Interior buff to gray, brown, some orange; exterior, buff to brown, some orange; exterior tends to be darker than interior. Some surface blackening and smudging on exterior.

SURFACE FINISH:

Modifications: Smooth, shows burnishing marks and in some cases polish with low reflecting surfaces, apparently burnished after air drying.

Filming: None.

DECORATION:

Technique: Carefully cut and precisely applied stamp with little overlapping.

Design: Elements mainly curvilinear, some curvilinear and rectilinear combinations, some rectilinear alone, some elements seem to be conventionalized symbols for natural objects, i.e., star or sun. Raised lines more definitely cut and spaced than in Lamar. Stamp cut deep enough so that even when overlapping occurs, both impressions are clear. Great variety of curvilinear designs. The majority of them do not seem to occur in Lamar. On basis of decoration and surface finish, type is divisible into Early, Middle and Late--showing from Early to Late a progressive increase in size of designs, improvement of firing and surface finish a lessening of rectilinear elements.

Distribution: Over entire surface of vessel--in some cases perhaps only between lip and shoulder in a band of varying width--in few cases a plain polished rim.

FORMS: (Very few whole or reconstructable vessels.)

Rim: Thickened or folded rim; possibly a developmental sequence from Middle to Late Swift Creek.

Lip: Generally rounded, some square, rarely tapered, rarely everted; some lips notched.

Body: Few whole vessels, probably a conoidal jar with slight shoulders and very gently flaring rim.

Base: Generally conoidal; some flat and squared bases occur. Tripodal small legs on conoidal bottoms occasionally.

Thickness: Body, 5 mm to 7 mm; lip, 4 mm to 7 mm.

Appendages: Rarely groups of 3 to 6 small nodes on base of vessel--may be a form of leg.

USUAL RANGE OF TYPE: Georgia, Northwest Florida, perhaps North into Tennessee Valley.

Specific Sites: Swift Creek, One Mile Track, Brown's Mount, Kolomoki (all in Ga.) Point Washington, Fla., St. John's River, Fla., possibly Norris Basin and Chickamauga Basin.

CHRONOLOGICAL POSITION OF TYPE IN RANGE: Stratigraphically Swift Creek is oldest of complicated stamp types. Cross finds of fiber-temper and checked stamp indicate approximate contemporaneity. Stratigraphically older than Macon Plateau and Lamar and shows no Mississippi influences. Origins obscure--perhaps in North Georgia region.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TYPE:

Holmes; 20th Annual BAE. plates 78, 87, 88.

Kelly, Dr. A. R. "A Preliminary Report on Archaeological Explorations at Macon, Ga." Smithsonian Institution, BAE Bull. 119, Washington, 1938, pp. 25-44, plate 11-a.

Webb, Major Wm. S. "An Archaeological Survey of Norris Basin", Smithsonian Ins., BAE Bull. 118, plate 91-a. These sherds seem to be more closely related to Swift Creek than any other stamped ware on basis of design elements.

Southeastern Archaeological Conference "News Letter", Vol. 1, No. 1, Pickwick Complicated Stamp shows very comparable design elements, paste and temper differ.

NOTE: Early and Late Swift Creek not known from "pure" sites at present. In illustration Early Swift Creek is shown in bottom nine sherds, Middle on top nine.

TYPE NAME: LAMAR COMPLICATED STAMP.

PASTE:

Method of Manufacture: Coiling, presence of coil fractures.

Tempering: Sand; prepared grit; shell rare; coarse to medium, moderate to abundant amount.

Texture: Gritty; medium; diagonal laminations.

Hardness: 3.0 to 4.0; rarely 5.0; interior and exterior.

Color: Core, dark brown to dark gray; exterior, brown to black, rarely buff. Interior, light brown to buff, gray, rarely black. Interior somewhat mottled.

SURFACE FINISH:

Modifications: Interior smooth, seems to be smoothed before air drying; exterior, poorly smoothed prior to stamping.

Filming: Absent.

DECORATION:

Technique: Stamped, probably carved paddle, incised paddles of pottery were used, 1 found. Little or no subsequent smoothing, stamps overlapped; carelessly applied; poorly executed.

Design: Complicated; mainly curvilinear, combined curvilinear and rectilinear, combined with raised dots. Design elements include concentric circles, paired concentric circles, figure eight multiple-line crosses of Filfol type, Filfol cross with raised dots at center. Rectilinear designs less common than curvilinear or designs partly curvilinear. Cross with corners filled with parallel diagonal lines; very rare. Rim decoration is generally semi-circular hollow reed punctates on a folded or thickened rim. Almost as common is pinched, folded or thickened rim. Rims rarely plain.

Distribution: Exterior of jars up to lip or rim thickening; on bowls the body below carinated shoulder.

FORM:

Rim: Generally flaring, generally short. Straight rims vary from narrow to nearly one half vessel height. Top of straight rims usually slightly flaring.

Lip: Usually rounded or squared, some tapered, everted on jars.

Body: Elongate globular, shoulders usually slight, but with straight rims may be quite sharp.

Base: Generally conoidal.

Thickness: Lip; 1.1 to 9.5 mm, Rim; 6.5 to 12.0 mm. Body; 6.0 to 10.0 mm, Base; 8.0 to 20.0 mm.

Appendages: Small strap handles extremely rare.

USUAL RANGE OF TYPE: Georgia, South Carolina, Southwest North Carolina, Eastern Ala.

Sites: Peachtree, N. C., Nacooche, Hollywood Mound, Neisler, Mossy Oak, Lamar, Irene.

CHRONOLOGICAL POSITION OF TYPE IN RANGE: Late; above Macon Plateau at Lamar; above Mossy Oak simple stamp at Mossy Oak. At sites in Northern Georgia and in Southwestern North Carolina this apparently extends down to the historic level as at Peachtree. In the general Ga. area this seems to be next to latest complex and to have given rise to latest pottery complex (Ocmulgee Fields). This is widely distributed in what Holmes calls South Appalachian Region. Focal variations are seen in Nacooche, Etowah, Irene and Lamar. Each of these will perhaps be designated as a separate type, on the basis of either decorative motif or temper.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

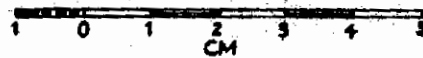
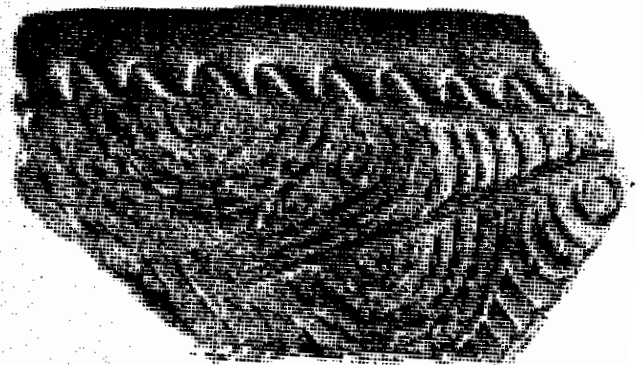
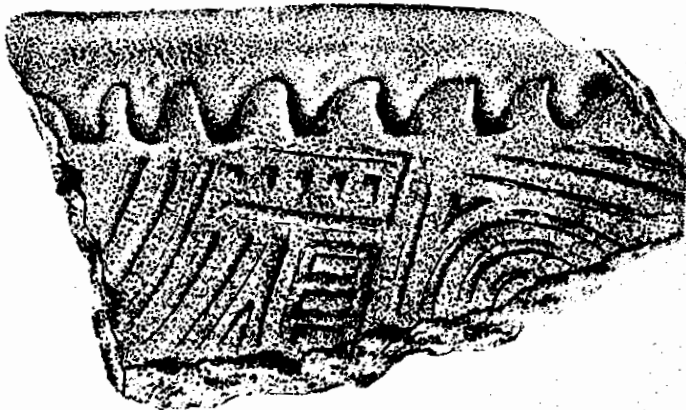
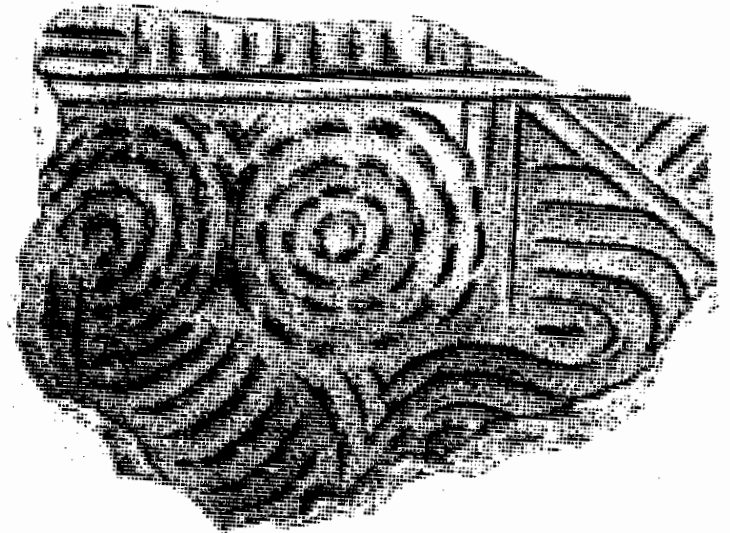
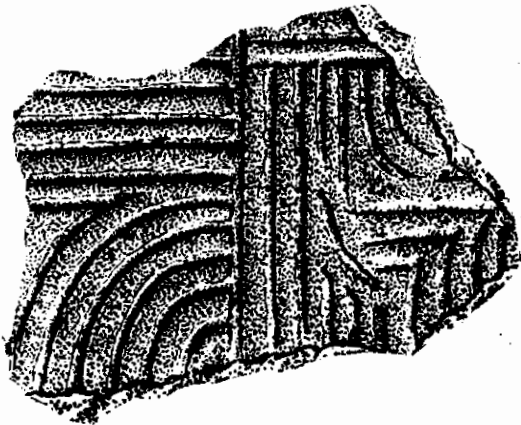
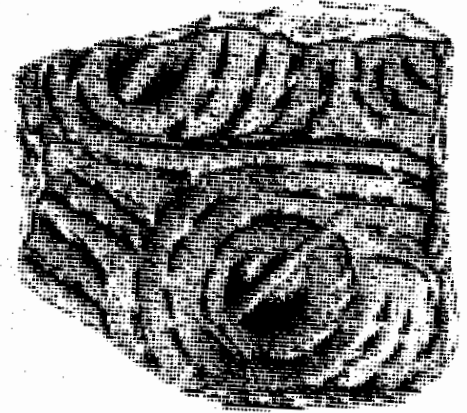
Holmes; 20th Annual BAE, pp. 130-138, figs. CXII-a, CXV-a, CXVI.

Moore, C. B.; Certain Aboriginal Mounds of the Coast of South Carolina; Certain Aboriginal Mounds of Savannah River. Phila., 1898.

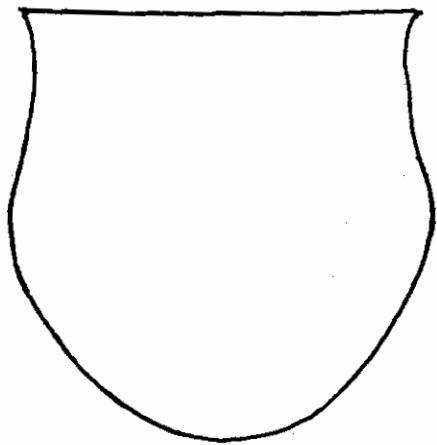
Clafflin, W. H.; Stallings Is; Peabody Mus. Papers, Vol XIV, No. 1; pp. 17-21 plates 22, 23

Heye, G. G.; Hodge, F. W.; & Pepper, G. H.; The Nacooche Mound in Georgia. Mus. Amer Ind; Heye Foundation, Contrib. Vol. IV, No. 3, N.Y. 1918. pp. 35-69, Plates 17, 18, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, fig 7-14.

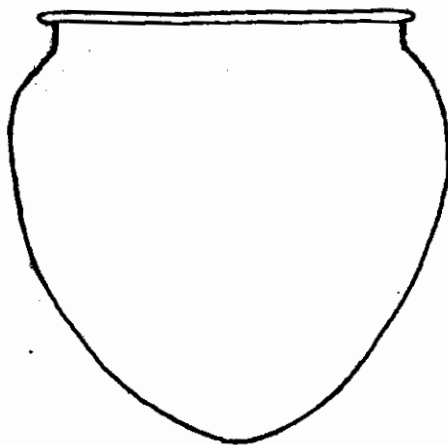
NOTE: The illustrations for Lamar Complicated Stamp show sherds in which the design is clear for the sake of identification of design elements. Actually Lamar sherds are almost never as plainly stamped as those shown.



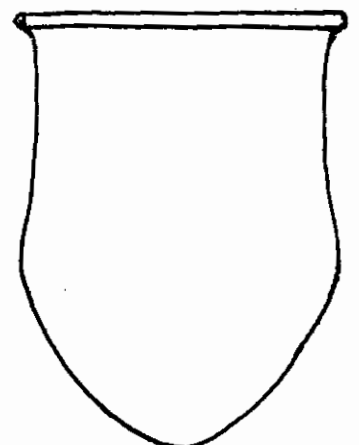
LAMAR COMPLICATED STAMP



HEIGHT 292 MM



HEIGHT 317 MM



HEIGHT 254 MM

Vessel Profiles



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



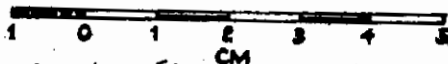
H



I



J



Profile of Rim Sherds with inside to Left

TYPE NAME: MOSSY OAK SIMPLE STAMP. (Formerly Vining Simple Stamp.)

PASTE:

Method of Manufacture: Coiled.

Tempering: Sand, some grit, micaceous sand usual; coarse to medium, large grains occasionally; abundant to very abundant.

Texture: Coarse to very gritty or sandy.

Hardness: 2.5 - 5 - interior; 2.5 - 5.5.

Color: Core dark, black to brown; surfaces black, brown, rarely buff or light gray; mottled black, smudged.

SURFACE FINISH:

Modifications: Smoothed interior; exterior before stamping. Temper shows on surface and gives sandy feel.

Filming: Absent.

DECORATION:

Technique: Simple stamp; probably dragged cord-wrapped, thong, or root-wrapped paddle. Never shows twisting of cord.

Design: Random application so that grooves and ridges cross at varying angles. Some smoothed rims. Rarely parallel application.

Distribution: All exterior; exception of rim occasionally.

FORM:

Rin: Vertical or slightly flaring, rarely folded.

Lip: Rounded, squared, rarely tapered, rarely thickened.

Body: Slight shoulders seem to be present, constriction above shoulders slight.

Base: Concoidal.

Thickness: Lip, 4.5-8 mm; Rin, 6-10 mm; Body, 6-10 mm; Base, 8-12 mm. (?)

Appendages: None found.

USUALY RANGE OF TYPE: Central Georgia, Bibb, Baldwin Butts, Putnam Counties.

CHRONOLOGICAL POSITION OF TYPE IN RANGE: Below Lamar at Mossy Oak. From trade sherds on Bacon Plateau appears early--is early as Early Macon Plateau, Early Swift Creek.

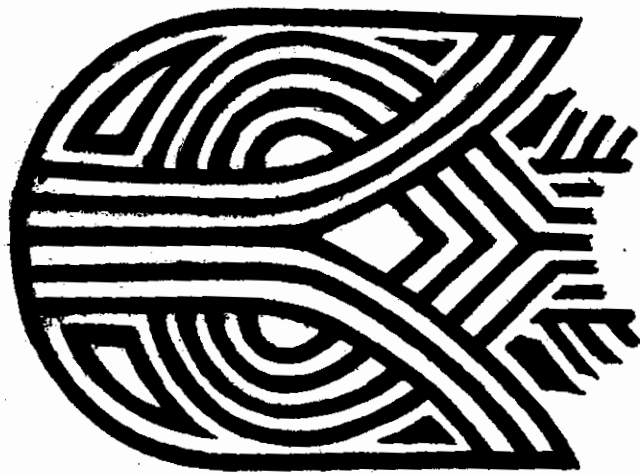
BIBLIOGRAPHY: Southeastern Archaeological Conference "News Letter" Vol. 1, No. 1, Buff Creek Simple Stamp is similar except for temper.



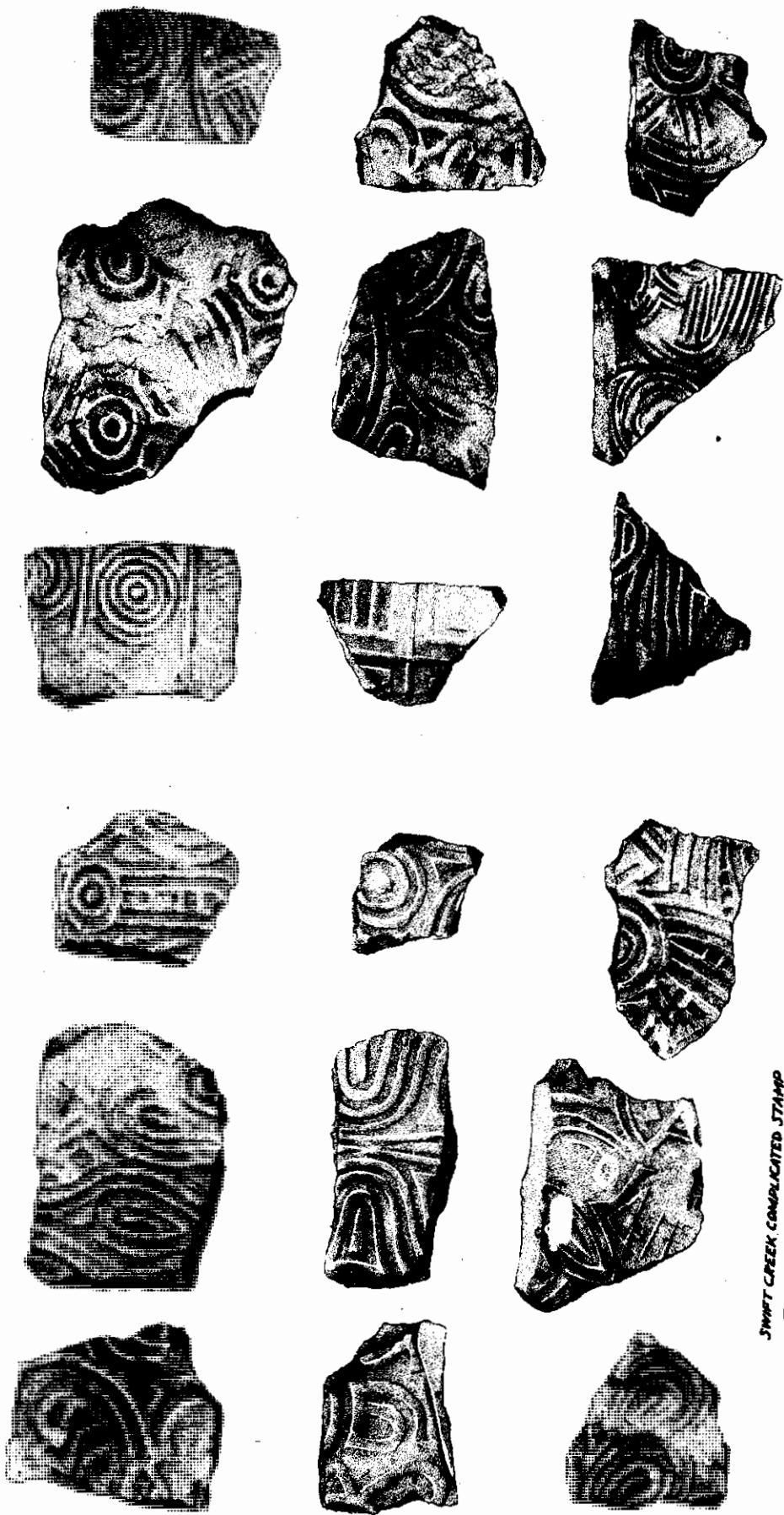
Rim profiles inside to left



Rim Sherds



Theoretical Reconstruction of Stamp - From Sherd.

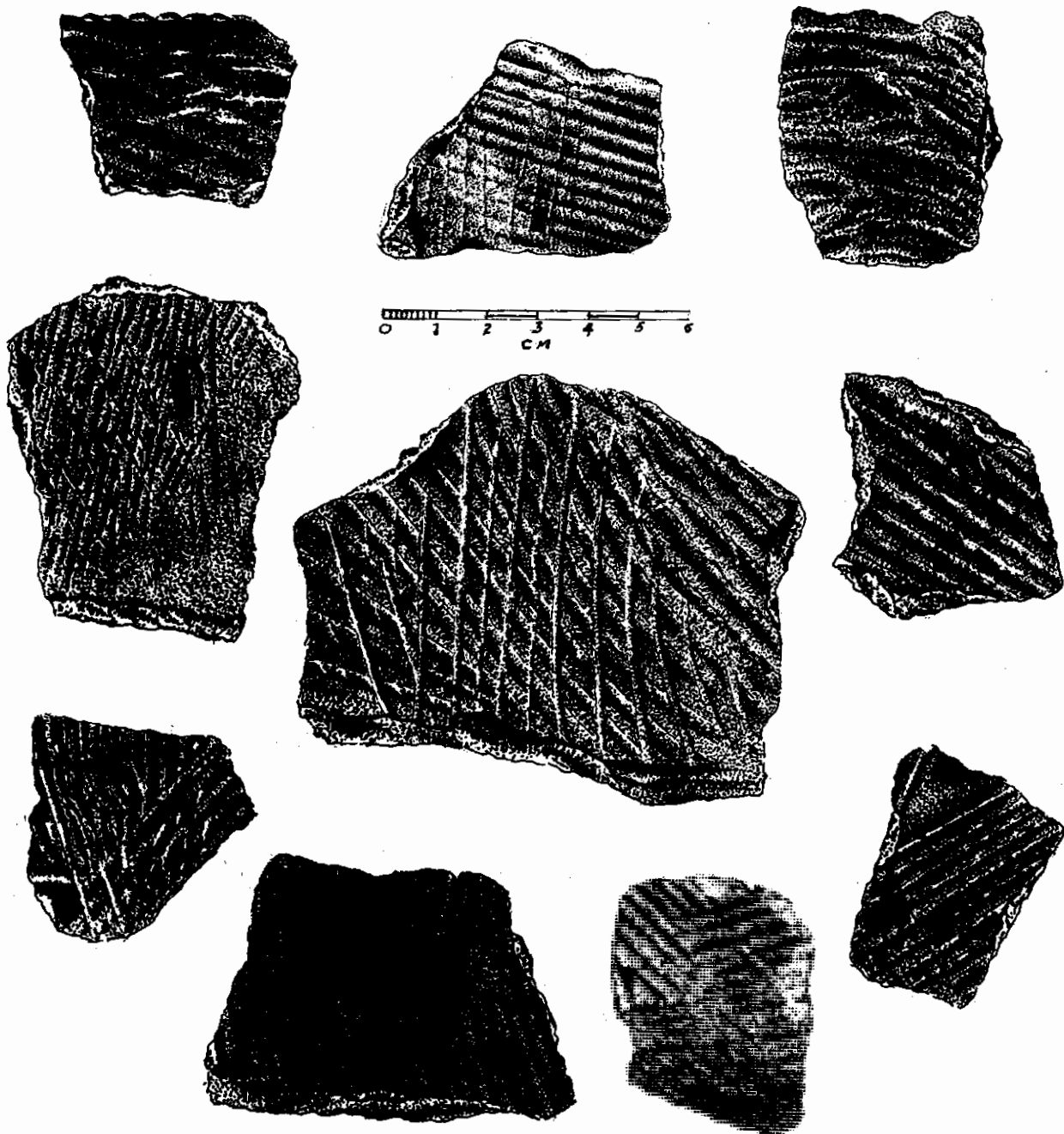


SWIFT CREEK COMPLICATED STAMP
1 0 1 2 3 4 5
CM

SWIFT CREEK COMPLICATED STAMP
1 0 1 2 3 4 5
CM



Profile of rim Sherds with inside from left to right



Mossy oak Simple Stamp

TYPE NAME: LAMAR BOLD INCISED.

PASTE:

Method of Manufacture: Coiling fractures very prevalent.
Tempering: Sand; grit; shell rare; coarse to medium; amount medium.
Texture; Gritty, medium to fine, diagonal laminations.
Hardness: 2.5 to 5.0.
Color; Core, gray, buff, black; exterior, black, light gray, buff; interior, brown to buff, rarely gray. Interior somewhat mottled.

DECORATION:

Technique: Incised Lines, broad--1.5 to 5.0 mm--medium broad are deepest; 1.0 mm deep. Hollow reed punctations and rarely punctate dots.
Design: Scroll, curvilinear designs usually combined with rectilinear elements, particularly horizontal lines between scrolls. Some rectilinear elements alone. Usually a row of hollow reed punctates at base of incised bands. Rarely area between lines filled with punctate dots. Base of bowls generally Lamar Complicated Stamp.
Distribution: Rim area on Cazuela bowls; upper surface of flaring rims on shallow bowls; some on rim or shoulder of jars.

FORM:

Rim: Surged; rarely flares outward, rarely vertical. One-third to one-half total height of vessel.
Lip: Rounded, rarely tapered; very rarely thickened.
Body: Cazuela bowl; hemispherical or flattened body; sharp angle at shoulder.
Base: Rounded--some flat.
Thickness: Lip; 3.1 to 8.3 mm, Rim; 5.0 to 10.3 mm, Body; (including base) 6.7-10.3 mm.
Appendages: Very rarely human effigy faces applique on rim.

USUAL RANGE OF TYPE:

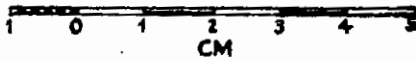
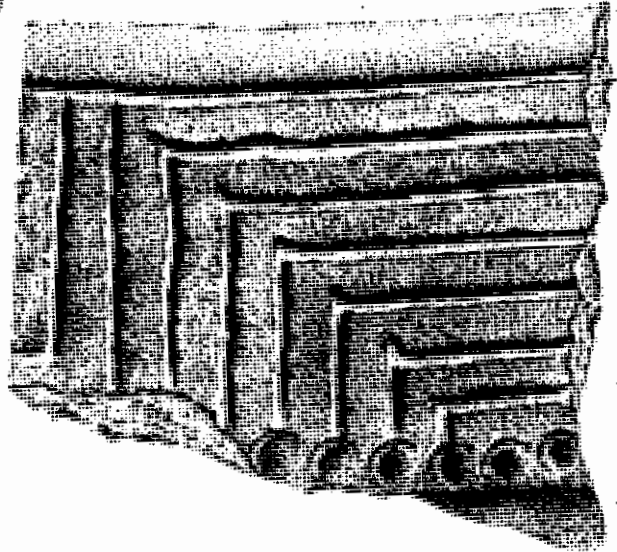
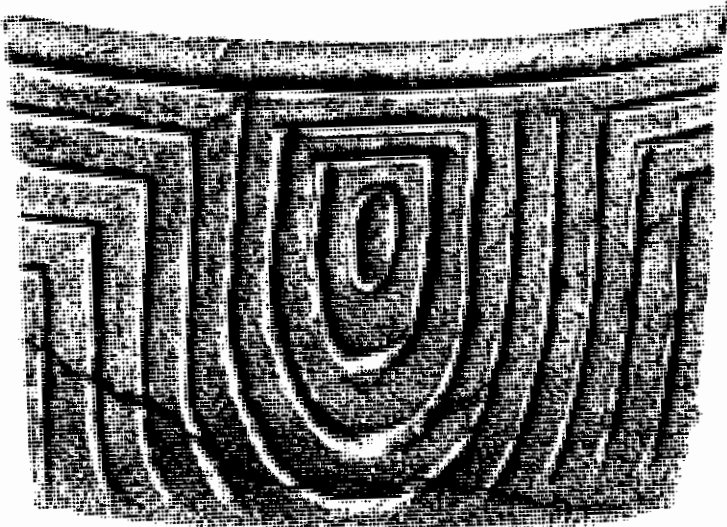
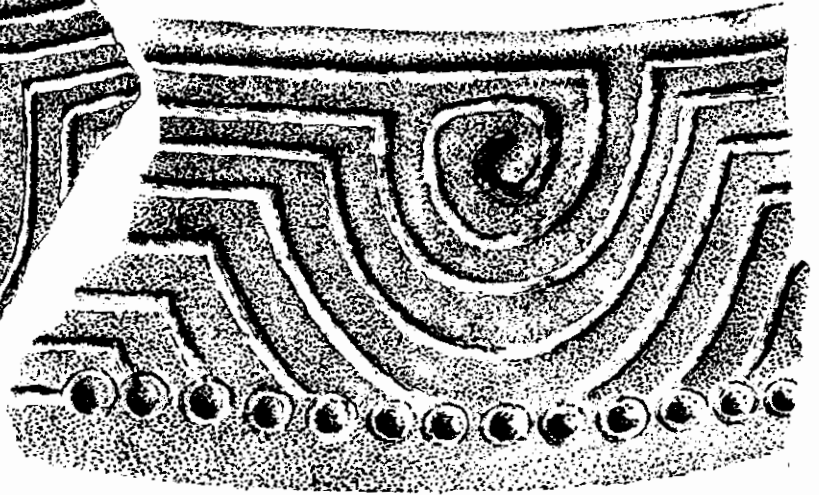
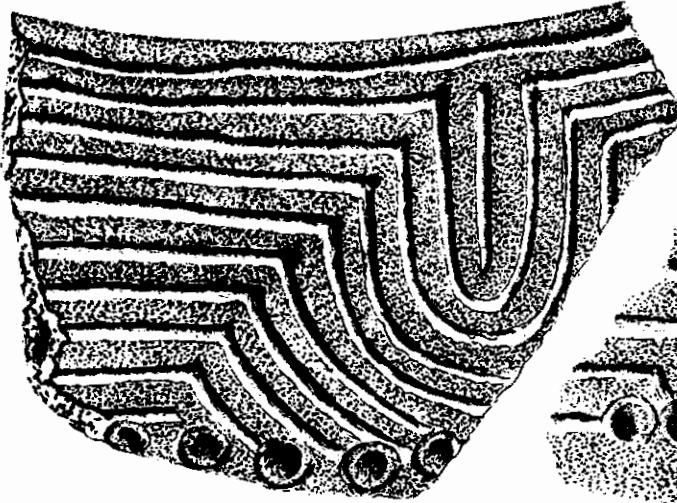
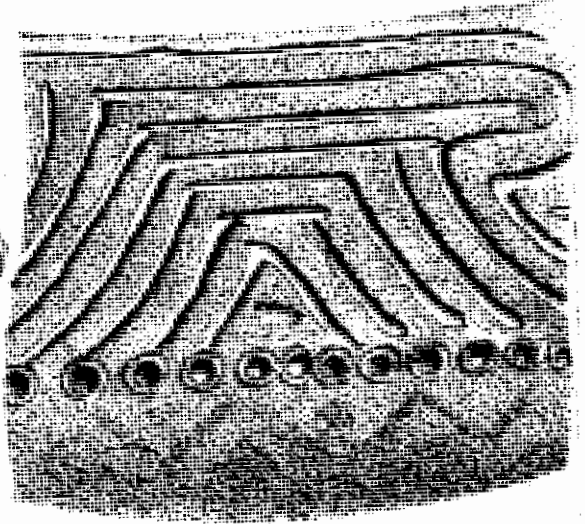
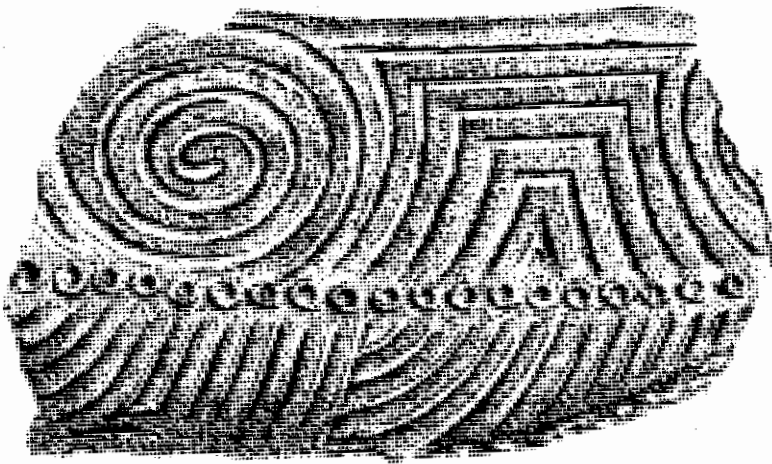
Southwestern North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Eastern Alabama. Usually does not extend to Gulf Coast on South. Seems to have a slightly more restricted range than Lamar Complicated Stamp.

CHRONOLOGICAL POSITION OF TYPE IN RANGE: Roughly equivalent to Lamar Complicated Stamp, but usually on later Lamar Sites and more abundant near the top of deep Lamar sites--apparently characteristic of late period Lamar. May extend into historic horizons in certain instances, together with Lamar Complicated Stamp. Probably ancestral to Ocmulgee Fields Incised.

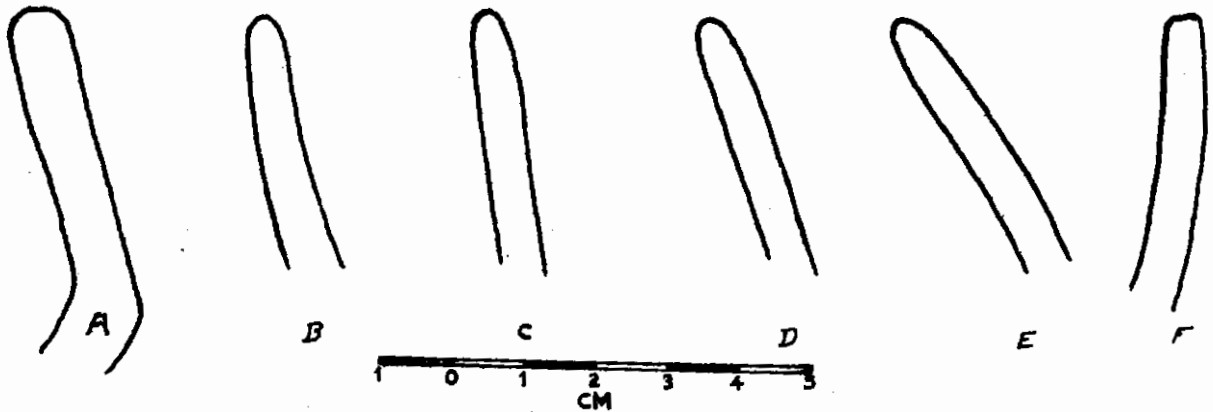
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TYPE:

Holmes; 20th Annual BAE; plates CXII-a.
Hays, Hodge and Pepper; "The Nacooche Mound in Georgia". Museum American Indian. Hays Foundation, Contrib. Vol. 4, No. 3 N. Y. 1918, pp. 69-71, Plates 19, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42.
Kelly, Dr. A. R., "A Preliminary Report on Archaeological Explorations at Macon Ga.," pp. 46-51; plate 12-a.

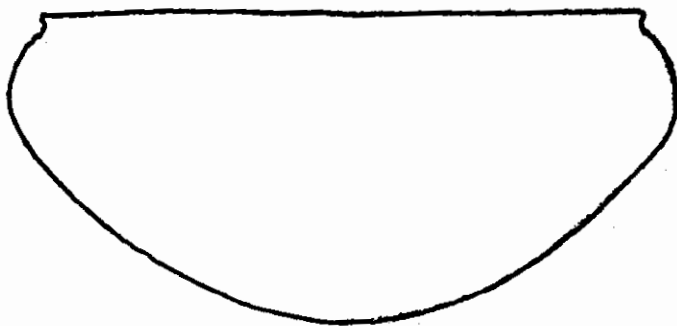
NOTE: Illustration shows two jars; these are rare in Lamar Incised, the general form is the Cazuela bowl shown.



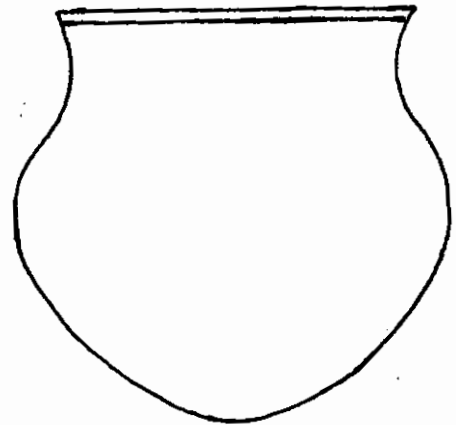
LAMAR BOLD INCISED



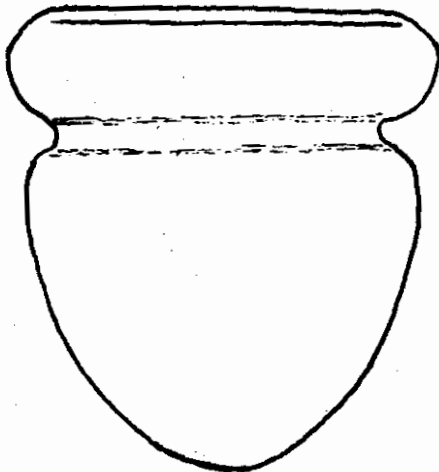
Profiles of Rim Sherds with inside to Left



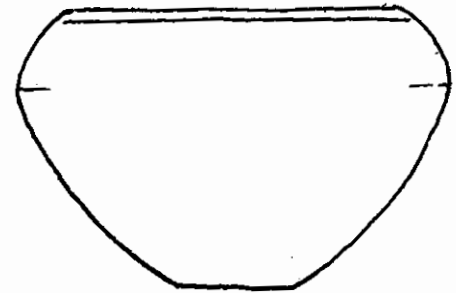
Height 158.75 M.M.



Height 130 M.M.



Height 100 M.M.



Height 70 M.M.

Lamar Bold Incised

OCMULGEE FIELDS INCISED.

PASTE:

Method of manufacture: Coiling fractures present.
Tempering: Grit, rarely shell; fine to medium; scarce to very scarce.
Texture: Fine, rarely medium-fine, even.
Hardness: 4.0 - 2.5 interior and exterior.
Color: Orange-buff to light brown exterior; interior, orange, buff, brown.
Both interior and exterior occasionally mottled; core, dark brown to black.

SURFACE FINISH:

Modifications: Surfaces smoothed, marks of burnishing tool show; no reflecting surfaces.
Filming: Rarely a light clay buff wash possible present.

DECORATION:

Technique: Narrow incised lines; some notches.
Design: Scrolls, guilloche, combined scrolls and straight lines; frequently a combination of scrolls and diagonal short incised lines; some chevron. Horizontal lines parallel to lip. Designs not well executed - often partly missing - designs hastily drawn and weak, in many cases apparently smoothed after incising, partly obliterating incised lines. Rarely notches on shoulder of carinated bowls.
Distribution: Rim area of carinated bowls, upper or interior surface of flaring rims on shallow bowls.

FORM:

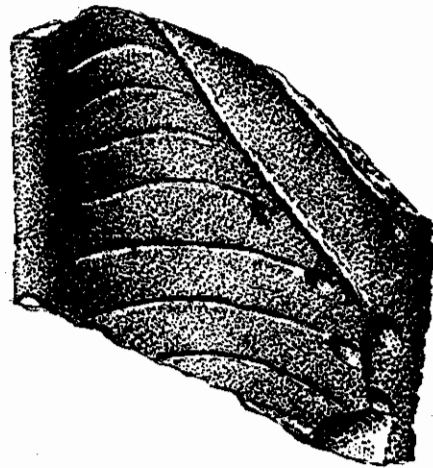
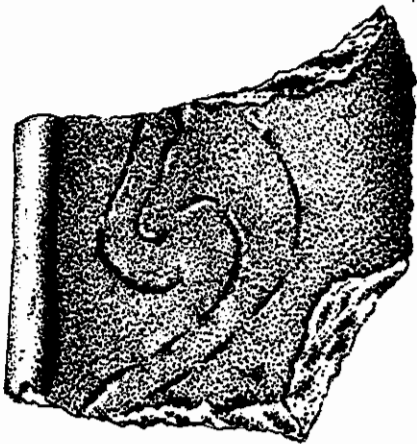
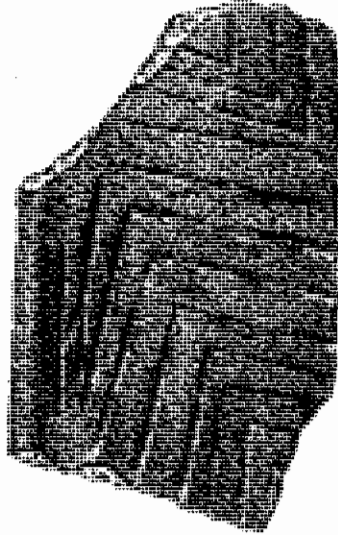
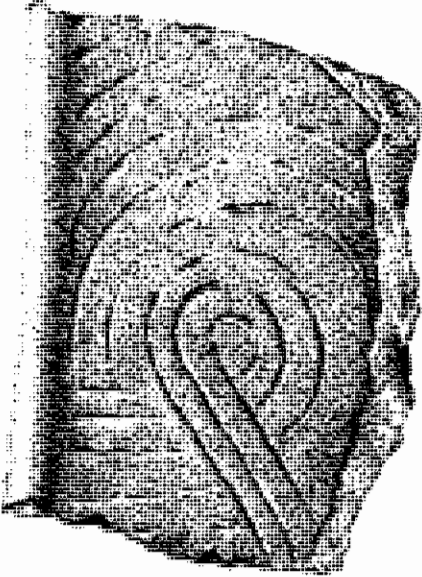
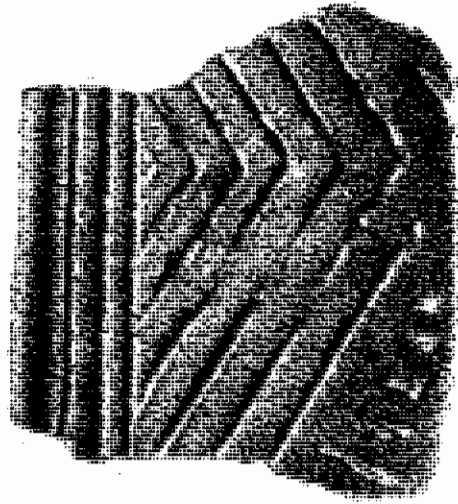
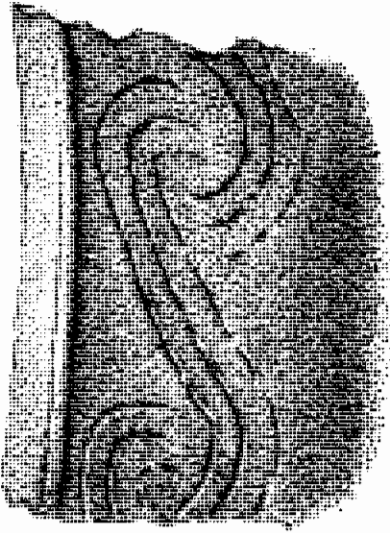
Fin: Surged. Rarely vertical, frequently rather low.
Lip: Rounded; or flattened and rounded, some flat, generally thickened on exterior by a slightly rounded protuberance. Some lips flare outward slightly.
Base: Rounded, flattened globular - some nearly flat.
Thickness: Lip - 5-10 mm; rim - 5-8 mm; body (including base, 3-7 mm.

USUAL RANGE OF TYPE: General Georgia area, especially Southwestern Georgia, Central Georgia, and Northern Georgia. Specific sites: - Macon Plateau Trading Post, Kasita Site, various sites in Baldwin and Butts Counties.

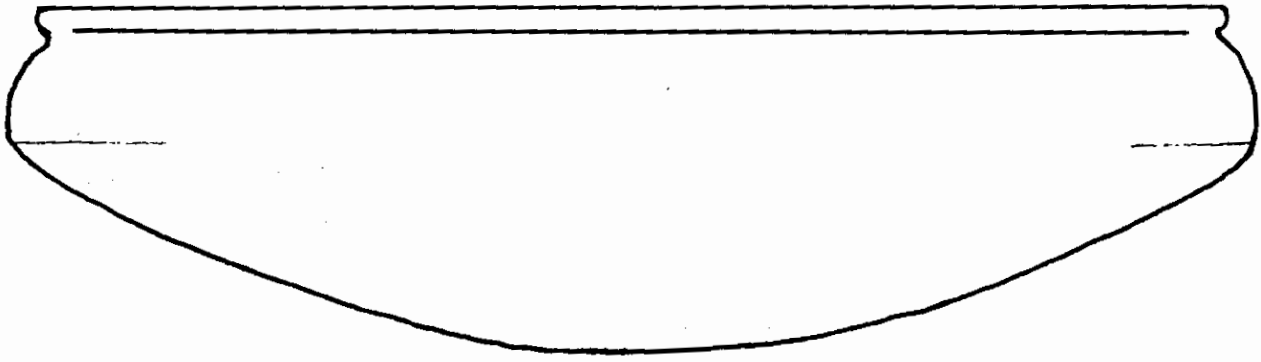
CHRONOLOGICAL POSITION OF TYPE IN RANGE: Stratigraphically the latest pottery type in the Georgia region. Occurring in direct association with historic levels at Kasita and Macon Plateau Trading Post. Ocmulgee Fields Incised is typologically an outgrowth of Lamar Incised and is possibly a degenerative form of Lamar Incised. It occurs throughout a wide area on historic sites, dateable throughout the 18th century. At the Macon Plateau tentatively identified with Hitchiti occupation. At Kasita Site, Columbus, Georgia, it is tentatively identified with the Kasita Creek Occupation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

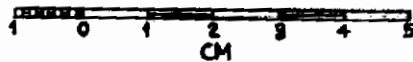
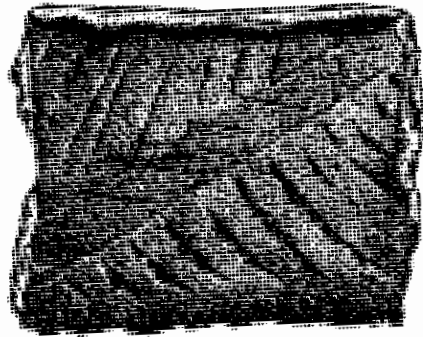
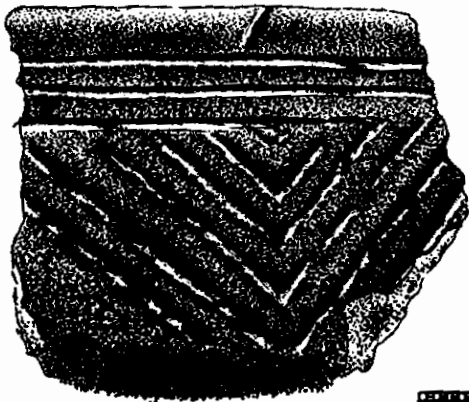
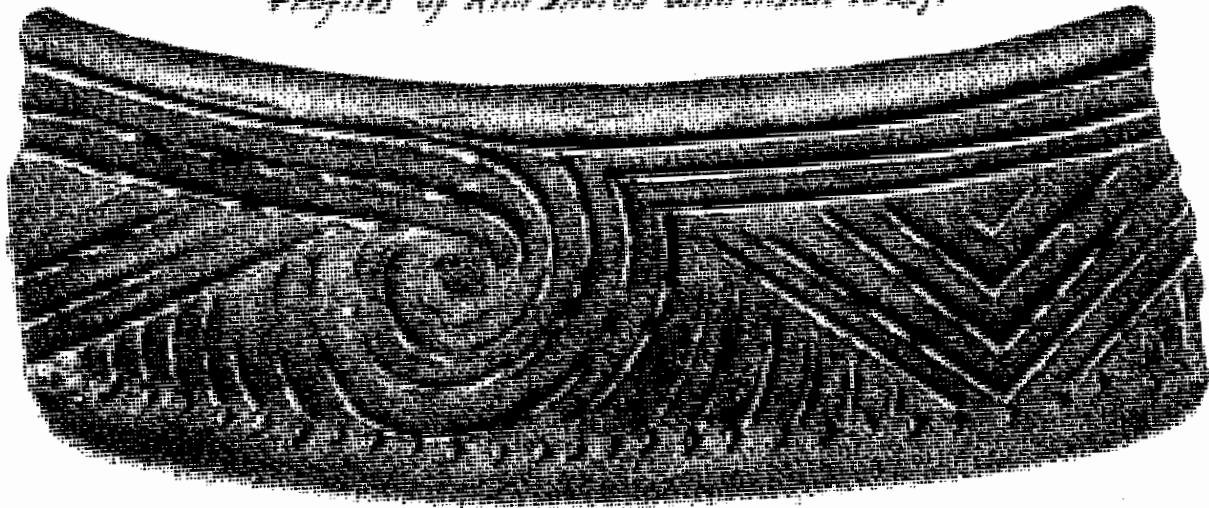
"A Preliminary Report on Archaeological Exploration at Macon, Georgia."
Dr. A. R. Kelly, Smithsonian Institution - BAE Bulletin 110, Washington, 1936, pp. 56-57, plate 12-B.
Gordon Willey - "Description of Kasita Site at Columbus, Georgia" - unpublished manuscript.



OCMULGEE FIELDS INCISED



Profiles of Rim Shards with inside to left



OCHULGEE FIELDS INCISED

Laboratory and Field Activities

The foregoing pottery types were described from material in Georgia by Jesse D. Jennings, Acting Superintendent, and Charles H. Fairbanks, Archaeologist, of Ocmulgee National Monument. At present, laboratory work, under their direction, is directed toward preparation of a report on Mound C, which will shortly be followed by analyses of other units of the Macon Plateau. Tentatively, it is found that Macon Plateau is most closely related to the Small Log Town House of Norris Basin. Historic Creek occupation is represented overlying Mound C.

Field work is concentrated on the Lamar Site where the Lamar complicated stamped pottery is found, probably the latest stamped pottery horizon in Central Georgia, provisionally considered to be ancestral to Historic Creek Horizon.

The archaeological laboratory in New Orleans is a LSU- WPA project, supervised by James A. Ford, Research Associate in Archaeology with L.S.U., and Gordon R. Willey, Archaeologist. The work in the laboratory is mainly analyzing and cataloguing of Marksville - Coles Creek Transition and Early Marksville pottery. Type descriptions are in preparation and should be released soon.

Field work is also devoted to a Marksville-Coles Creek Transition site in Marksville Parish and an early Marksville site in La Salle Parish. The field parties are supervised by King and Malloy.

At Knoxville the laboratory and field work is in charge of T. M. N. Lewis, Associate Professor of Anthropology. With Madeline Kneberg, Anthropologist, directing, the laboratory is completing an analysis of the Chickamauga Basin material. Recently published by Lewis and Kneberg was a "Manual of Field and Laboratory Techniques". The laboratory staff further consists of Alice Hendrick, Anthropologist, Andrew Whitford, Anthropologist, and J. Joe Finkelstein, Ethno-Archaeologist.

Three village sites in east Tennessee are being worked at present.

The laboratory in Birmingham under the joint direction of Marion Dunlevy, and David DeJarnette is just now completing the analysis of the Pickwick Basin material. The report for this area, co-authored by Major Webb and DeJarnette will be submitted to the Bureau April 1. Three different cultural manifestations were found in the Basin - shell heaps, earth mounds of the Copena complex and components of the Moundville complex. Charles G. Wilder, Junior Archaeologist, TVA, recently moved to the Birmingham laboratory to begin work on the Guntersville Basin material which will form a report jointly written by Major Webb and Wilder. Russell Foster and Julia C. Adcock are assisting Dunlevy and DeJarnette in the preparation of a trait list of the Moundville complex - a most important contribution at this time. The physical anthropology is under the direction of Charles Snow, who will collaborate with Marshall Newman on the report of this phase of the work.

Only one marginal site is under excavation in Pickwick Basin. This is a large shell heap on Seven-Mile Island under the supervision of Harold Anderson. The report of this excavation with additional marginal sites of Wheeler Basin will comprise a future report.

In Guntersville Basin, Harold Dahms, Carl F. Miller, Steve Wimberly, and Ted Johansen are excavating available marginal sites. Mounds of Copena and villages of early historic horizons are being excavated.

Joffre Coe is endeavoring to organize a joint University of North Carolina-Works Progress Administration archaeological program in North Carolina - specifically to excavate some known historic Siouan sites in that state.

The University of Kentucky-WPA Archaeological laboratory is directed by W. G. Haag, Henry A. Carey supervises the cataloguing and analyses of the various sites and Ivar Skarland the skeletal restoration.

Recently gone to press is the first number of a volume on shell-heaps of the Green River region of Kentucky by Major Wm. S. Webb and W. G. Haag. The physical anthropology of the single site was written by Skarland. At present, laboratory activities are all concerned with Fort Ancient and Adena materials. Two Fort Ancient sites are under excavation now; one in Boone county, 14 miles south of Cincinnati, supervised by Claude Johnston, and one in Greenup County, across the Ohio from the mouth of Scioto River, supervised by C. T. R. Bohannon. John Buckner has recently completed a large Adena mound in Montgomery county and has begun excavation on another in that county. In extreme eastern Kentucky, in Johnson county, James Greenacre is excavating an Adena Mound.

In the Green River region, one shell heap is being excavated by John Elliott near Calhoun in McLean county. In the neighboring Ohio county, Marion Baugh, is excavating three rock mounds in spite of high water, and in Butler county, Ralph D. Brown is working a large truncated pyramidal mound and an associated village which is tentatively identified as Gordon-Fewkes.

The field work is directly supervised by John L. Cotter, State Supervisor.

It is hoped the above gossip will give a general idea of work in progress in the Southeast. As will be noted, this could be more significant and more revealing if the results, or even speculations, were briefly outlined. Any information of this nature will be welcomed for the third number of this volume which will be distributed soon - probably before the May meeting. This number will contain type descriptions of Louisiana material and Moundville pottery, as well as additions and comments on the Pickwick types. Any comments, criticisms, or observed affiliations pertaining to the types in the first and second numbers are urgently requested. After all, that is the reason for circulating the type material. Perhaps it is well to emphasize a paragraph in Mr. Wilder's last circular letter:

"In connection with these pottery types it should be remembered that names and data included in the news letter are tentative and are subject to revision either by the original laboratory or the Conference."

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