

NORTHWEST FLORIDA ARTIFACT TYPOLOGY AND SORTING CRITERIA

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This guide uses established artifact typologies for the region (see references), adding criteria to make types mutually exclusive and help classification and sorting in the lab. It was established for use at UWF in 1982 and USF in '83, and now revised to be available electronically and also to include shell tools. Illustrations are from USF lab specimens/data. I'd appreciate any comments or corrections!

TIME PERIOD ABBREVIATIONS (all dates approximate):

Paleo = Paleo-Indian, 12,000+ B.P. (before the present) to ca. 9000 B.P. [10,000-7000 B.C.]

Arch = Archaic, 7000-1000 B.C.

EArch = Early Archaic, 7000-5000(?) B.C.

MArch = Middle Archaic, 5000-3000(?) B.C.

LArch = Late Archaic, 3000-1000 B.C.

Dept = Deptford (Early Woodland), 1000 B.C. - ca. A.D. 100

SwCr = Swift Creek (Early and Middle Woodland), ca. A.D. 100 - 700

eWI = early Weeden Island (Middle Woodland), ca. A.D. 400-700

lWI = late Weeden Island (Late Woodland), A.D. 700-1000

FW = Fort Walton (Mississippian and earliest historic Indian), A.D. 1000-ca. 1700

Lam = Lamar (historic Indian), A.D. 1600(?) - 1750(?)

LCr/Sem = Lower Creek/Seminole, A.D. 1750(?) - ca. 1840(?)

HistAbo = indeterminate historic aboriginal

Hist = historic Euro-American (Spanish, French, British, American, etc.)

Indet = indeterminate prehistoric

Indetceram = Indeterminate prehistoric ceramic (may have lithic materials too)

?, (?) = uncertain attribution

Prob = probable

Poss = possible

—> = from ___ to ___

ABORIGINAL CERAMICS

- Ceramic types, specific and generic, listed by general frequency of occurrence and time period.
- When in doubt about temper, use microscope or magnifier; about surface treatment, take reverse impression with modeling clay.
- A needle stuck with pliers butt-end into the wide end of a chopstick is good for scratching temper particles to see what they are.
- Ceramics of this region nearly all have glittery mica flecks in the paste; this mineral is naturally occurring in the soil.

PLAIN WARES: GENERIC

- smooth surface, usually body sherds because if there's decoration, it's usually on rims.
- distinguished by temper or aplastic mixed with the clay
- remember they can be plain portions of many other types of vessels, or sherds that once had another surface treatment that has eroded away.

sand-tempered: has angular crystal grains of sand (smoothed), large or small, Dept—>HistAbo

grit-tempered: has crushed quartzitic rock, irregularly shaped pieces of temper, usually larger than sand, Dept—>HistAbo.

grog-tempered: has crushed, fired clay bits, usually showing up as lighter color, possibly yellower, lighter grey or brown, or redder than the matrix of the sherd. Some use the term clay-tempered; others use sherd-tempered, especially when you can see flat surfaces on the temper particles meaning the temper is crushed potsherds; grog is usually soft enough to scratch. Dept—>HistAbo.

shell-tempered: has crushed shell, either as flat, whitish or grayish particles, or leached away and indicated by flat shallow holes on the surface and slit-like holes in the broken edge of the sherd (be sure to note if shell is still present); may be lighter in weight than sherds of other tempers when shell is leached away. You could use the type name Pensacola Plain for a rim sherd that is the shell-tempered equivalent of Lake Jackson Plain. FW—>HistAbo.

fiber-tempered: has Spanish moss fibers that burned away during firing, leaving long, thin, squiggly trails; thick, usually crude-looking pottery; not given type name because of extreme disagreement in the literature. Be sure to distinguish real fiber-tempered from fiber-like marks on other ceramic surfaces that were made accidentally during manufacture (the potter setting the wet clay vessel on the grass). Some northwest Florida fiber-tempered is also simple-stamped (parallel lines). LArch only.



limestone-tempered: has white, soft, chunky, angular pieces of crushed limestone, or else blocky, deep holes if limestone bits leached away; distinguish limestone temper from light-colored grog temper (both being soft and scratchable) by placing drop of HCl on a temper particle; if it fizzes, it's shell or limestone; Dept (?)—>FW.

combinations of temper: can include any two or three of the above, beginning as early as Dept except for anything with shell, which is FW or later, and fiber, which is always LArch.

temperless: fine paste, not even tiny sand grains visible; rare; if the paste is chalky, rubbing off on your fingers, it may be St. Johns pottery imported from the Atlantic coast; Dept—>HistAbo.

INDETERMINATE GENERIC TYPES

- distinguished by exterior surface treatment; usually body sherds of any temper except fiber or shell (which are the only ones diagnostic of a particular time period) with no other attributes present on sherd to indicate specific type)
- not appropriate to give them known type names from other regions
- indicate temper when classifying

check-stamped: paddle-impressed with checkerboard pattern; unless it has other diagnostic attributes (such as a podal support) or associated more-diagnostic types, it can't be given a specific type name, Dept—>HistAbo.

indeterminate incised: lines incised in wet clay before firing; indicate if parallel lines, curvilinear or straight, etc.; distinguishable from stamped lines by the tiny ridges of clay that formed along the incision; Dept—>HistAbo.

indeterminate punctated: punctations or small, deep impressions punched with a stick, fingernail, hollow cane (annular or ring-shaped punctations), or any other tool made in wet clay; Dept—>HistAbo.

indeterminate stamped: pattern impressed or stamped into wet clay but indistinct now, usually because of erosion of sherd surface; different from incising because does not have tiny ridges of clay along incision edges; Dept—>HistAbo.

indeterminate complicated-stamped: stamped pattern that can be distinguished as complicated, curvilinear or rectilinear, but not attributable to a specific type; SwCr—>Lam.

engraved: patterns cut or excised in clay after it was dried and leather-hard or after firing; recognizable because looks like scratching, not smooth incising into wet clay; FW.

excised: patterns cut deeply into wet clay having broad areas in geometric shapes and surfaces made lower than original sherd surface; differs from incisions, which are narrow and linear, and from cutout vessels, which have portions of vessel wall completely removed, SwCr—eWI—>FW.

indeterminate brushed: thin lines brushed into wet clay, often just to smooth the surfaces; differs from Chattahoochee Brushed in temper or in having extremely fine brushing.

fabric-marked or fabric-impressed: impressed with woven mat or fabric; differs from Deptford Fabric-Marked by being a coarser, larger weave; seen by pressing modeling clay into the sherd surface (as below here) to get a positive impression in which you can see individual strands woven in and out (this is what distinguishes it from check-stamped). ? —> HistAbo(?).



cord-marked: impressed with twisted cords that may have been wrapped around a paddle; differs from fabric-marked in that it's not woven; often more easily seen by pressing modeling clay into the sherd surface to get a positive impression. SwCr-eWI—>IWI(?).



cob-marked: impressed with corncob; can look like fingernail punctations or cord marking until you compare it with distinctive impression left by 8- to 12-row corn (a cob of commercially available popcorn with kernels removed is close to this); more easily seen by pressing modeling clay into the sherd surface to get a positive impression; LW1(?)—>HistAbo.



net-marked: impressed with net in diamond-shaped mesh; sometimes you can see knots in corners and estimate net mesh size; easily distinguished with reverse impression obtained by pressing modeling clay into the surface eWI—>?



red-painted or black-painted: painted with black or red pigment, sometimes with obvious brush strokes; note whether exterior, interior, or both are painted; paint can be distinguished from natural outer surface of sherd because it is only thinly applied on surface, while the outer fired layer of the sherd (which may be orangish-red) extends inward; SwCr-eWI—>HistAbo. Rarely white or off-white or buff-colored paint was used along with red or black.



red-slipped or white-slipped: a very thin layer of watery colored clay applied to the exterior; unclear which time periods, though Chattahoochee Brushed sherds of the Lower Creek/Seminole people were often white-slipped.



Other characteristics to note: (sherds may have several of these)

zoning: punctations, incisions, paint may be in discrete areas or zones on the surface of the sherd, (not entire surface).

linearity of check stamping: checks have parallel lands (raised portions) of one direction larger and more pronounced than those of the transverse direction; Dept —> FW.

ceramic appendages:

handle: can be strap (flat) or loop (rounded) handle (see pictures with Lake Jackson type); FW.

lug: solid projection from rim, like tiny filled in handle (see pictures with Lake Jackson type); FW.

node: rounded conical projection (like on Barbie doll), usually lower down on vessel neck or on top of handles (see pictures with Lake Jackson type); FW.

Pods or podal support: cone-shaped or rounded support, between one and four of the feet of a tetrapodal base (can look like nodes but always on bottom of vessel);

Dept—>SwCr.

adornos or rim effigies: state whether human, bird, other animal, head, tail, etc. and whether facing in or out; SwCr-eWI—>HistAbo.



appliqués: clay pieces added to vessel, usually on neck or shoulder, as effigies, decorated strips, etc; state location on vessel; WI—>HistAbo.

molded or modeled shape: vessel shaped into effigy of animal or human or geometric form, lobed, cutout, multi-chambered or other variety; SwCr-eWI—> HistAbo.

vessel shape: note if jar (constricted neck), bowl, casuela bowl (incurving rim, flaring shoulder), square bowl, bottle (long narrow neck), beaker (like a juice glass), other shape; note rim points (on FW vessels) or widened, decorated lips (WI) or any other such feature.

note whether rim, body, or basal sherd or appendage.

vessel diameter: measure on chart of parallel curves if rim sherd is large enough to see curves;

bottleneck has very narrow diameter (up to 5 cm diameter); beaker slightly wider (up to 10 cm diameter), but watch for confusion with pipe fragments.

ceramic disk: cut from pot bottom, with beveled edges; these were specific artifacts, used for unknown purpose; Dept?—>FW.

also note: unusual thicknesses or thinness of vessel walls, holes for repair of crack or in rim for suspension, larger holes in "killed" or perforated bases, any other significant attributes.

SPECIFIC TYPES DIAGNOSTIC OF TIME PERIODS

Remember all time periods have minority types that are rare and usually only identified if they are in association with diagnostics. Different ceramic series can overlap within one time period, as with Swift Creek–early Weeden Island, which constitutes the Middle Woodland period in this region.

LATE ARCHAIC

fiber-tempered plain: has clay mixed with Spanish moss fibers that burned away (see above description and picture); made before coil method of pottery making was developed, so vessels are hand-shaped, may be large and heavy, may have flat bottoms; type names (Orange, Norwood) in dispute so generic name preferred.

fiber-tempered simple-stamped: same as above, but with stamped parallel lines or criss-cross stamped parallel lines; type names in dispute so generic name preferred.

DEPTFORD

Deptford Simple-Stamped: sand, grit or grog temper; surface stamped with grooved paddle has parallel lines; clearly stamped not incised; over stamping may result in criss-crossed lines; vessel shape may be pot, bowl, etc.; rim may be outflaring, straight, etc.; lip may be notched; base may be tetrapodal.



Deptford Linear Check-Stamped: temper and vessel shape as above; stamped with very linear checks (lands of one direction very large by comparison with lands of transverse direction); some may have been stamped with a roller instead of a paddle, as occasionally rows of checks are curvilinear; may be confused with other check-stamped types, which can sometimes also be linear, but usually not extremely linear like the Deptford version.



Deptford Check-Stamped: temper and vessel shape as above as above; any check-stamped definitely in association with other Deptford types (even podal sherds may be Deptford but could be Gulf Check-Stamped (see below). By itself a regular (non-linear) check-stamped sherd cannot be diagnostic of any time period.

Deptford Fabric-Marked: temper and vessel shape as above; impressed with fine woven fabric and in association with other Deptford types or possessing a tetrapodal vessel shape (by itself, a fabric-marked sherd is not necessarily Deptford); check that it's fine fabric-marked by comparing clay positive impression with a clay impression of your sock or other woven clothing.

SWIFT CREEK

Swift Creek Complicated-Stamped: sand, grit, or grog-tempered; stamped with carved paddle in complicated, predominantly curvilinear pattern; vessel shape usually tall pot with outflared orifice; rim may be notched or scalloped; base may be tetrapodal or rounded; body sherds sometimes distinguishable from those of later complicated-stamped wares by pattern or by fineness of stamping (see Lamar Complicated-Stamped), but best to have association with other diagnostic sherds; earlier vessels have stamping all over the pot surface, later ones more often have stamping only on upper vessel below rim.



Saint Andrews Complicated-Stamped: same as above, but with rectilinear stamped pattern, right angles in pattern.



Crooked River Complicated-Stamped: same as above but with rectilinear zigzag lines or chevrons, always scalloped or notched lip; can be hard to distinguish from St. Andrews by original criteria (Willey 1949:384-5) so pick one of these two type names and use it consistently.



New River Complicated-Stamped: same as above, but with combination of complicated pattern (usually curvilinear) and check stamping.



Santa Rosa Stamped: temper and vessel shapes as above; rocker-stamped surface done by rolling the edge of a notched or smooth tool, usually a shell, in zig-zag pattern; rare in Apalachicola valley and more common westward toward Pensacola and Alabama.



Alligator Bayou Stamped: same as above but rocker stamping is zoned and bounded within broad-line incisions.

Basin Bayou Incised: same temper and vessel shapes as above; designs made up of broad-line incisions in curvilinear and rectilinear motifs, scrolls, triangles, etc., on entire vessel or band below rim.



Gulf Check-Stamped: temper and vessel shapes as above; just like nearly every other check-stamped except has notched or scalloped rim (so recognizable only in rim sherds) or is associated definitely with diagnostic Swift Creek types only.

WEEDEN ISLAND

Weeden Island Incised: sand, grit, or occasionally grog paste, usually fine; vessel shapes highly variable; elaborate decoration with designs made by incisions and punctations in zones bounded by single incisions; only distinguishable in most small body sherds by unique large triangular and/or circular single punctation at the ends of some incisions; usually well made and diagnostic of early Weeden Island only (Middle Woodland).



Weeden Island Punctated: paste and vessel shapes as above; elaborate decoration with designs created entirely by punctations and NO incisions; sometimes has a few large triangular or circular single punctations amid the finer punctations or in plain areas; well made and diagnostic of early Weeden Island only (Middle Woodland).



Weeden Island Zoned Red: same as Weeden Island Incised but with red pigment applied to plain-surfaced zones of the decoration; can only be distinguished from later red types by distinctive decoration or association with other diagnostics.

Weeden Island Plain: paste and vessel shapes as above but most often recognized in cutout or compound-shape vessels; surface very smooth, sometimes burnished; rim usually folded and smooth, sometimes rounded, usually with incision below lip; this type is only recognizable from cutout or excised-surface vessel, as other types, including from other time periods, can have folded rim.

Indian Pass Incised: paste and vessel shape as above; decorated with very fine parallel incisions in curvilinear patterns of swirls (a lot like large stylized fingerprints); very hard to distinguish this type unless you have both a large sherd and clear association with other Weeden Island diagnostic types.

Tucker Ridge Pinched: paste and vessel shapes as above; surface has long, usually vertical raised ridges made by pinching with fingers; often individual fingernail impressions are visible; decoration usually in a band below rim; distinguished from Carrabelle Punctate because of continuous ridge, raised pinch marks, instead of individual, separated fingernail punctations.



Carrabelle Punctated: paste and vessel shapes as above; decoration is multiple punctations, usually confined to wide band around neck or just below rim; punctations can be fingernail, triangular, rectanguloid, circular, irregular, annular [ring-shaped], shallow or deep, large or small; pattern usually bounded by horizontal incisions; this type is usually only distinguishable in rim sherds unless you get a large body sherd with a band of punctations bounded by incisions AND other diagnostic types; this type is often confused with Fort Walton Incised and other types.



Carrabelle Incised: paste and vessel shapes as above; decoration is parallel incised lines confined to a wide band around neck or just below rim; incisions are vertical or diagonal, arranged parallel in simple rows, herringbone pattern, or nested triangles; pattern is usually bounded by horizontal incised lines on top and bottom; usually only distinguishable on rim sherds unless you get a large body sherd with a band of such incisions AND other diagnostic types; this type is often confused with Fort Walton Incised and other types; it is distinguished from Marsh Island Incised because vessel shape of that type is a jar with outflaring rim and even possibly handles, and its incisions often go all the way up to the lip, while Carrabelle Incised has a definite band of incisions a little farther below the rim, often a folded rim or rim with typical Weeden Island-type widened areas.



Keith Incised: paste and vessel shapes as above; decoration is diagonal parallel incisions that cross in X shapes or cross-hatching, sometimes with a dot punctation in the center of each diamond or on lines or at intersections; decoration can be on wide band below rim or more extensive on vessel and may be bounded by incised horizontal lines; this is one of easiest types to recognize.



Wakulla Check-Stamped: sand, grit, or grog temper; vessel shapes variable; rim often folded, sometimes with incision below lip; surface stamped with checkered paddle; extremely ubiquitous type and can only be classified if with other diagnostics; extends from late Weeden Island into Fort Walton.



FORT WALTON

Lake Jackson: sand, grit, or grog-tempered plain bowls or collared jars, often with handles or lugs; surface plain except for rim, which may have one or more of the treatments below; only recognizable in rim sherds, and also the characteristic rims may be on several other FW types. Originally Lake Jackson Plain was defined as including no or one horizontal incision below lip, and Lake Jackson Incised had two or more such incisions. Here they're lumped into one type BUT you must indicate.....

Lake Jackson rim styles:

plain surface

handle, either strap (flat) or loop (cylindrical)

ticks (tiny notches on exterior lip)

lugs (large or small protrusions, either D-shaped or B-shaped [bi-noded] or amorphous)

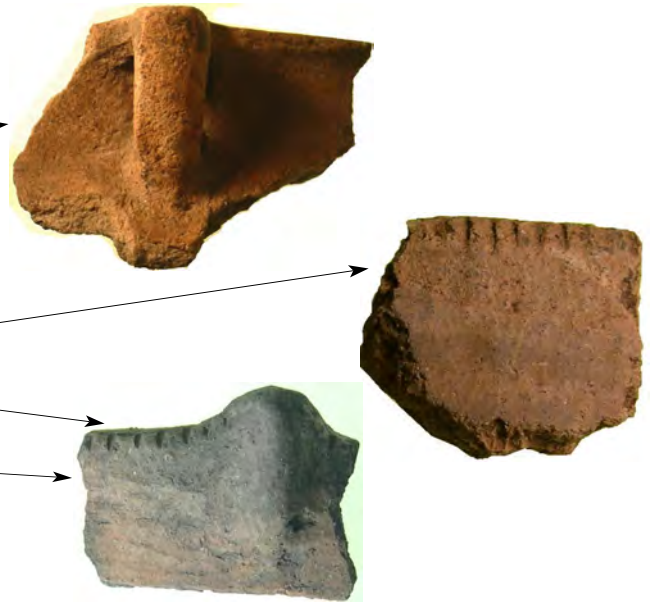
nodes (often smaller protrusions than lugs, rounded or cone-shaped [think Barbie doll] and usually lower down on vessel collar than lugs, or else on top of handle)

notches (rarer; pinches or large vertical punctations; can be confused with Lamar Plain, so need other associated diagnostics)

vertical wide incisions or gouging (rare; more common near Tallahassee)

scalloped but otherwise plain (rare)

Cool Branch Incised: exactly the same as Lake Jackson but with addition of incised arches, usually 4, around vessel body; arches may be one line or several parallel lines, and may be accompanied by punctations or ticks at right angles on top (making arches look like "eyelashes"), and may even be combined with molded lobes or actual protrusions of vessel body; vessel shape usually collared jar. Examples in illustration have strap handles and one on right has two notches in handle.



notches

Marsh Island Incised: temper as above; vessel shape jar or open bowl; has incisions around vessel below rim in band of opposed triangles or of chevrons made up of parallel diagonal and/or vertical lines; recognizable only from rim sherds; distinguished from Carrabelle Incised by jar shape or other Fort Walton attributes (handle, lug, etc.). Example in illustration has loop handle and rim point.



Fort Walton Incised: temper as above; decoration by incision AND punctation, usually on upper walls of vessel, commonly in patterns of either rectilinear or curvilinear guilloches (interlocking scrolls), but many other patterns too; may have rim ticks or smooth rim; vessel shapes can be casuela bowl, effigy pot, beaker, bottle, etc., including the 6-pointed (rarely, 5-pointed) open bowl distinctive of this region, recognizable because often has decoration on interior, ticks on exterior (underside of rim). Fort Walton Incised is distinguishable from Point Washington Incised because the latter has no punctations; harder to distinguish from Lamar or Ocmulgee Fields Incised, so do this by associated other diagnostics.



Point Washington Incised: temper as above; vessel shapes usually open bowls, sometimes with rim effigies or bowl shaped as effigy; design incised on whole vessel or just upper part below rim in mostly curvilinear, sometimes rectilinear patterns using 2, 3, or 4 lines (rarely more); hard to recognize in small sherds; differs from Fort Walton Incised because it has no punctations; differs from Marsh Island Incised in that incisions are not upright vertical or diagonal; harder to differentiate from Lamar or Ocmulgee Fields types so use association with other diagnostic types to do this.



Pensacola Incised: includes everything with shell temper (with or without additional tempers like sand, grit, grog) decorated with incisions and/or punctations; it is the shell-tempered equivalent of the types Fort Walton Incised and Point Washington Incised.

PROTOHISTORIC/HISTORIC ABORIGINAL

LAMAR

Lamar (or Jefferson) Complicated–Stamped: sand, grit, and/or grog temper; rim sometimes plain but usually folded, outflaring or straight, with a line of large notches or annular punctations below the lip; vessel shape usually jar; surface stamped with paddle carved with curvilinear or sometimes rectilinear designs; distinguished from Swift Creek Complicated–Stamped (usually) in that the stamping is more sloppy and patterns less distinctive on Lamar; however, best to have other diagnostics to make sure it's Lamar and not Swift Creek or other Middle Woodland complicated–stamped types.



Lamar Plain: temper and vessel shape as above; plain surface except for rim/collar treatment: rims usually have an added fillet or appliqué strip which is pinched or notched, or rims may be simply folded or thickened and pinched, deeply notched, or delimited by a line of large annular punctations; this type only recognizable in rim sherds, and may overlap with Lake Jackson Plain, so you need other Lamar diagnostics associated to be sure.



Lamar Incised (originally Lamar Bold Incised) and Ocmulgee Fields Incised: temper as above; vessel shape often casuela bowl or other bowl; has incised patterns of curvilinear or rectilinear scrolls or other designs often confined to upper part of vessel; occasionally has punctations along the base of the incised decoration, along the ridge of the vessel shoulder; nearly impossible to differentiate these individual types (some lines might be more “boldly” incised [wider], and with Ocmulgee Fields the lines might be thinner. Also confused with Point Washington Incised (except that type has no punctations); therefore needs to be associated with other Lamar or historic Creek materials to be classified as either Lamar or Ocmulgee Fields Incised.



Leon Check–Stamped: temper as above; resembles all other check–stamped except checks may (or may not) be larger, up to 1 cm wide, and sometimes diamond–shaped (which happens with other check–stamped types too); rims may be typical of Lamar, as noted above; this type identifiable only if you have that rim or if it's associated with more diagnostic Lamar types.



LOWER CREEK/SEMINOLE

Chattahoochee Brushed: sand, grit, or grog temper; vessel shape jar or bowl; rim usually as in Lake Jackson or Lamar Plain; surface brushed with fiber brush, leaving fine scratches in wet clay; mostly parallel; may have white slip (thin white clay pigment) put on exterior surface before brushing. This type usually indicates very late historic Indians, close to time of removal; though occasional brushed sherds occur earlier, they are not necessarily Chattahoochee Brushed. Sometimes general smoothing of the pot (in any time period) included some sort of brushing, which may occur on interior as well as exterior; this kind of brushing usually leaves shorter, more random and less parallel lines than the distinctive brushing in Chattahoochee Brushed.



Ocmulgee Fields Incised: temper and vessel shapes as above, often casuela bowl; incised and/or punctated wares known to be protohistoric or historic Creek; only sometimes distinguishable from Lamar Incised by its thinner lines; this type name most often used when sherds are also associated with the more diagnostic type Chattahoochee Brushed.

Kasita Red-Filmed: temper, shape as above; any red pottery that's protohistoric or historic Creek.

NON-VESSEL CERAMIC ARTIFACTS (all time periods)

plummet or pendant: teardrop or other shape convenient for hanging; may be grooved for attachment to line; may be for jewelry, net sinker, or other function(s).

bead: easily recognizable; can be tubular, spherical, oblong, etc.; EW->all later time periods.

pipe: elbow shaped or sometimes tubular, for smoking tobacco (only); EW->all later time periods.

Poverty Point-type object or clay ball: handmade, palm-sized small ball or melon-shaped object (other shapes too: cylinders, cones) deriving from Poverty Point, Louisiana, apparently for cooking before pottery was invented; often has finger grooves; hard to recognize if broken, as it looks like just a fired clay fragment. LArch only.



daub fragments: globs of clay, sometimes mixed with grit or grasses, plastered on the outside of wattle-and-daub houses; often burned if preserved; occasionally has imprints from cane or sapling wattle walls or even fingerprints.

clay lump: puzzling, amorphous, small lumps of what look like fired clay; may be leftovers from pottery-making or tiny daub bits or other remnants of some activity.

LITHIC ARTIFACTS

CHIPPED STONE

RAW MATERIAL TYPES:

Gulf Coast chert: originally translucent honey-colored, weathers to white, creamy yellow, sometimes pale pink or brown, occasionally very light gray; can be bright pink or orange when heated; often very fossiliferous; sometimes not good-quality material; the most common raw material in northwest FL.

Talahatta quartzite: opaque white or translucent greenish gray with white or gray or brown inclusions; always with distinctive glittery surface; came from south Alabama.

agatized or petrified coral: white to brown to reddish (when heated); always with forms of tiny coral bodies faintly visible; sometimes available on the beach.

Note: many other as yet unnamed varieties of chipped stone raw material may occur in small minorities; they may be imported. Note color, inclusions in stone, luster and reddish appearance that could be from thermal alteration (heat treating for better chipping).

ARTIFACT TYPES

projectile points: "arrowheads" (but most are spear points, earlier than bow and arrow); bifacial (chipped on both sides) tools with a point on one end; may have a stem, notched base, or other distinguishing characteristic. There are hundreds of point types, so specify type from a guide. Illustration shows Early Archaic Bolen type.



drill: small long biface nearly round in cross-section; may show wear on tip; may or may not have wider end at base for hafting.

microtool: any very small bifacial or unifacial tool that is long and may have been used as a tiny drill, awl, chisel, and so on; may even be less than 1 cm long.

scraper: unifacial (chipped on one side) tool often with convex surface chipped and flat on unworked side, presumably to use as hide or wood scraper; large to small.

indeterminate biface or uniface or fragment: specify

core: original cobble or piece of raw material, may have some or many flakes already taken off it; also may be shaped for ease of flaking, as in a bipolar core (both ends) or blade core (long, narrow, to flake off thin, long blades); often covered with cortex, the naturally weathered outer material (like a rind).

debitage: most common stone artifacts recovered (French for garbage left during chipping or flintknapping—in other words, chips and flakes) can be characterized by what stage it represents in the manufacturing process (as below), and also note raw material and if worn or utilized (indicated by little chips taken out of the sharp edges):

primary flake (first step in reducing original core or cobble or quarry piece); 2 kinds:

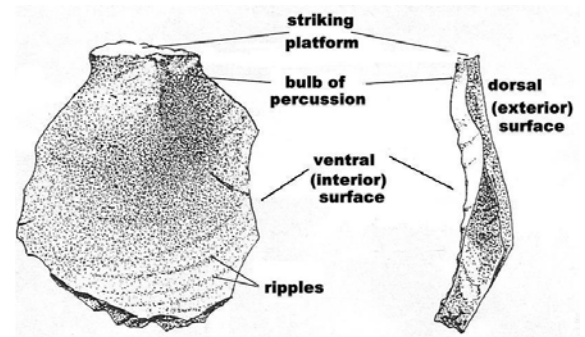
primary decortication flake: has over 50% cortex

secondary decortication flake: has under 50% cortex

secondary flake (finer reduction product): thin, flat, has no cortex; if not broken has bulb of percussion, feathering ripples; several varieties, e.g.,

biface thinning flake: has multifaceted platform, acute platform-to-dorsal surface angle, and lip on ventral surface just above bulb of percussion.

retouch flake: extremely tiny, from sharpening tool.



block shatter: blocky, chunky, irregular pieces resulting from shatter of prospective cores; they have little formal flake morphology (no well-defined bulb of percussion, systematic alignment of flake scars, etc.)

GROUND STONE ARTIFACTS:

RAW MATERIAL TYPES

quartzite: river cobbles on the lower Chattahoochee; has crystal grain structure; only labeled artifacts if show use wear or some deliberate shaping.

quartz: crystals sometimes obtained from upriver, used in natural form or shaped.

greenstone: from the Appalachian mountains; greenish gray, sometimes with veins of other material.

sandstone: found along river, must be shaped or worn to be an artifact; brown, reddish, or yellowish.

hematite: reddish stone (due to high iron content) often used for pigment; may show wear where it was rubbed on skin or clothing; yellow version is called limonite.

limestone: available along the river, must be shaped or worn to be an artifact or somehow associated with artifacts; usually whitish.

other stone: granite, other hard rock from upriver to make tools by grinding, pecking and smoothing.

Other aspects of stone:

- A Mohs scale kit can indicate hardness of stone to help identify it.
- stones unmodified, not shaped into artifacts, but not local to the area, may have been brought in by people for some purpose.

ARTIFACT TYPES

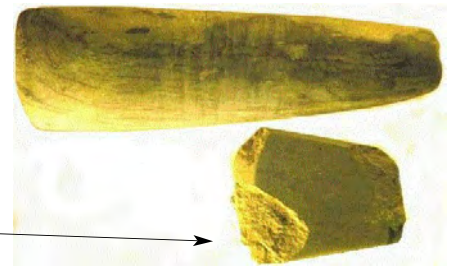
hammerstone: quartzite cobble with use wear marks, bashed, scratched, smoothed areas where the rock patina is worn off

pitted stone: quartzite or other flat stone with a pit worn into one or both surfaces from drilling to make fire, pounding nuts, etc.

abrader: sandstone or other softer rock grooved from honing or sharpening bone or wood pointed tools; may have single or multiple grooves, going one way or many ways; may be small or very large.

grinding stones: small hand-held (mano) rock or larger flat (metate) sandstone or quartzite abraded, smoothed in a distinct area or even dished from grinding grains, nuts, other substances.

celt: ax or adze (depending on whether it was hafted sideways or endways), large or small, of greenstone or other hard stone. May have bit (cutting) end sharp or worn and broken, butt (other) end rounded or also battered from use.



plummet or pendant: teardrop or other shape convenient for hanging; may be grooved for attachment to line; may be for jewelry, net sinker, or other function(s).



bead: disc-shaped, spherical, etc., polished or not; LArch-> all later times.

bannerstone: wide, nicely shaped ground stone with large hole drilled up the central ridge so it could fit on the atlatl (spear-thrower) as a weight; may be of any hard stone.

polishing stone: pebbles with worn surfaces, supposedly for smoothing pots during manufacture.

steatite bowl: technically not ground but chipped and cut into shape from very soft steatite or soapstone (obtained from N. Georgia); stone is dark or light gray, sometimes greenish, sometimes glittery, and can be dented with your fingernail since it is so soft; sherds may be from base or body, may have striations from cutting out of quarry and shaping; rim sherds may have small notches.

sandstone bowl: same as above but of sandstone, which is harder; may be difficult to tell sherds from flat natural rocks but a whole bowl would be obvious!

SHELL ARTIFACTS

RAW MATERIALS (all saltwater species):

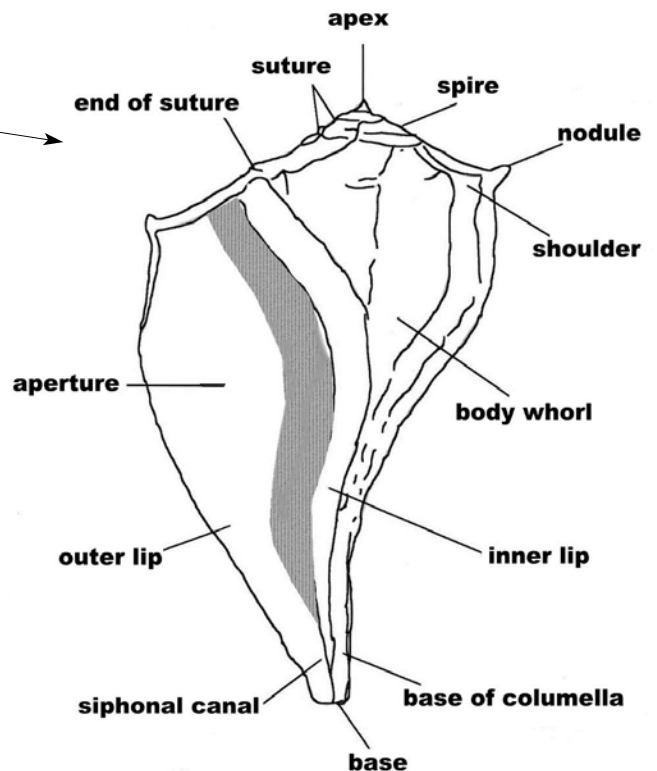
Busycon contrarium or *Busycon perversum*, left-handed whelk or lightning whelk, a large gastropod with a hard, thick shell used most often for artifacts. Recognizable (if you have the whole shell or a large part) by its leftward spiral, unlike other gastropods.

Pleuroploca gigantea, horse conch, large gastropod used near/on the coast for some large columella tools, recognizable by its parallel diagonal grooves on the columella.

Mercenaria campechiensis, southern hardshell clam (quahog, Venus clam), a large, thick bivalve used for smaller, flatter artifacts.

N.B.: artifacts were not usually made with other shell species, possibly because they were not as thick or hard or durable. Don't confuse natural breaking or drilling into the shell by predator species, or recent breaks and bag-wear from modern handling, with original human-made alteration. It's sometimes difficult to distinguish artifacts from ecofacts.

For gastropod-shell artifacts: the columella is the central axis around which the shell whorl spirals. Indicate if the artifact is made up of most or all of the whole shell, just the columella, or just a portion of the whorl. Indicate wear on edges, cut marks, length/width, diameter, any other useful characteristics



ARTIFACTS (at least LArch->all later times).

hammer: 3 general types:

- mostly whole gastropod shell with hole for attachment of handle, battered columella base
- modified gastropod shell with some of the top remaining for a handle and battered base
- columella portion only, with battered base (far right)



cutting-edge tool: same as hammers except with angular cut at the base to provide a sharp cutting edge

pointed columella tool: with or without any portion of the whorl, with one end of columella worked to a point

bi-pointed columella: columella only, both ends worked to points

columella tool: columella only, but unclear whether hammered, broken point or other implement

awl: pointed, solid sliver of gastropod whorl or bivalve showing use wear/smoothing (could be tiny chisel too; pointed columella can also of course be used as awl)

adze: roughly trapezoidal, of gastropod body whorl, with a beveled edge



cup or dipper: usually whelk with columella removed to make container, large or small, possibly for Black Drink (yaupon holly tea)



dish or bowl: body whorl fragment, concave for holding solid or liquid

scoop or spoon: smaller than dish, may have columella portion (handle?) and other parts of whorl; may be of clamshell too

scraper/spatula: whorl or clamshell fragment with one or more beveled/worn edges; flatter/shallower than scoop

bead: tiny or large, finely made or crude, flat disk, tube, or even bead preform with hole only partially drilled or not drilled; also fragments that broke during drilling or afterward; indicate cut marks, human-made perforations, interior and exterior diameters, length, etc.



gorgets, carved shells: gorgets (circular ornaments to wear on a necklace) and carved whole shells are common in the southeastern U.S. only at important ceremonial sites (in NW FL this would mean Lake Jackson mounds in Tallahassee). Only one possible example of a gorget is known from the Apalachicola valley area, and it was found in a collection and labeled "Jackson" so it may be from Jackson County or from Lake Jackson (Wheeler 2001)

shell pins: long thin columella with top portion rounded to make head of pin

plummet or pendant: teardrop or other shape convenient for hanging; may be grooved for attachment to line; may be for jewelry, net sinker, or other function(s)

shell tool, worked shell, fragments, debitage: indeterminate pieces showing signs of working, use wear, smoothing, cutting, perforation; describe shape, modification, etc., as clearly as possible

ARTIFACTS OF BONE, WOOD, ANTLER AND OTHER ORGANICS

Artifacts made of organic materials other than shell and sometimes bone, tooth, or antler are seldom preserved unless they were charred or recovered from completely wet or completely dry contexts in which they did not rot (rare in northwest Florida). They are distinguished from ecofacts by their evidence of cutting, drilling, smoothing, shaping, use wear, or other human action.

point: bone or antler, pointed at one or both ends or socketed in one end for hafting; may be rounded, flat, concave (following the shape of the bone), of deer, turkey, other animal; small points may have been fish gauges (fish swallows it, gets stuck in throat).



pin: usually bone, pointed or tapered at one end, often other end is decorated with carved lines or shaped head.

awl or perforator: bone pointed at one end, for poking holes; may have rest of bone for handle.

needle: bone, small, long, pointed; may or may not have hole.

hook: bone, large or small, V-shaped or U-shaped; maybe for fishing but could be for hanging or fastening something.



bead: often bird bone since they are already hollow, or something else drilled for suspension.

HISTORIC EURO-AMERICAN

Of course such artifacts are also found on protohistoric and historic aboriginal sites too. They are generally sorted into categories unless you can get specific type from historic typologies or even manufacturer's marks.

CERAMICS

olive jar: Spanish; thick-walled; sand, grit, or grog-tempered; distinguished from aboriginal pottery by a few attributes: often has typical parallel-grooved interior surfaces from being thrown on a wheel; often a dull buff color slightly different from that of New World clays.



unrefined earthenwares: have a soft paste you can scratch with a fingernail; may be glazed or not; include many types, including

majolica : unrefined earthenware, glazed and painted in many colors (white, blue, green, yellow, brown, black, alone or combined); associated with Spanish, usually made in Mexico; many types identifiable often in online guides.



refined earthenwares: have hard paste (can't be scratched easily), generally called china; easy to look up various patterns and decorations; if there's a maker's mark on the bottom, can be well-identified; various categories include

pearlware: white paste, clear glaze with pale blue tint in pools of glaze at edges.

creamware: white paste, clear glaze with pale green tint in pools of glaze at edges.

whiteware: white paste, clear glaze, no tint

porcelain: made in China, thin, fine translucent, various patterns.

pipe: can be of unrefined clay, white kaolin clay (British-made), or other material; lots of guides available to classify historic pipes

glass, metals, cloth, etc.: specify item name, if possible; raw material; color; shape, thickness, other dimensions; whether whole or fragment(s); any other distinguishing characteristic (bottle neck, panel, or base; iron fragment, possible nail); consult online references, old Sears catalogs, etc., for types of bottles, beads, metal implements, etc. Use a magnet on orange lumps to see if they are rusted iron. Remember prehistoric and historic aboriginal people had copper and occasionally other metals; copper is green, iron is orange (rust), and all metals will usually be heavy for their size.

BIOTIC AND OTHER MATERIALS

ECOFACTS: any natural materials utilized by past people but not modified to become artifacts. They include shells, animal bone and antler, charcoal, other charred plant materials, seeds, even preserved wood (usually underwater).

Faunal materials: bone, shell, horn, antler, hoof, claw, etc.; try to specify animal species or at least class (mammal, bird), element of skeleton, side of body, fragment of bone or tooth represented (as distal, medial, buccal, etc.), and any other distinguishing aspects, including cut marks and gnaw marks. For indeterminate fragments: specify if mammal (dense), bird (hollow), fish shellfish, etc., whether burned (burned bone often turns blue or chalky white).

Floral materials: any plant remains, usually burned and so preserved (if not burned, it's probably not old, unless it was preserved underwater); specify type (wood charcoal, seed, etc.), species when possible.

Stone: occasionally pebbles and other natural stone are saved and brought to the lab when they might provide additional information about natural processes affecting the site, or might be unusual items saved by past peoples.

Soil: samples are saved from every excavation for both permanent storage (typically 1 liter) and flotation (typically 9 liters); describe soil texture (sand [large grains], silt [smaller], clay [smallest grains] or combinations of these; give color, from Munsell chart if possible).

FINAL NOTES

For any classification of artifacts, always put in descriptive characters when needed. Your sand-tempered plain potsherds (probably your most numerous) may include one with an unusual thickness, so measure it and note the measurement. Your projectile point may not look like any known types but be closest to one or two types you can name. Your indeterminate stamped sherd may look mostly like check-stamped but have a chance of being cord-marked, so say probably one but possibly the other. The terms possibly and probably are extremely useful in your list of artifacts.

Be sure to say if something is broken or only a fragment of a whole artifact.

You may find artifacts not classifiable into any of these types; just describe them carefully and say what they look closest to. This list is always subject to revision!

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