RECONSTRUCTING THE PAST: A METHODOLOGICAL STUDY OF A COLES CREEK PERIOD ASSEMBLAGE

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ABSTRACT

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(Under the direction of Vincas P. Steponaitis)

Functional studies of ceramic assemblages can provide a wealth of information about the cultures that constructed them. For prehistoric societies, these analyses are even more important as they are an essential component for interpreting cultural change. In this paper, I test a methodological approach for the study of a Coles Creek period (A.D. 700 – 1200) assemblage from the Feltus Mounds in Jefferson County, Mississippi. Utilizing prior research and a three-dimensional modeling program, vessel shapes, sizes, and functions are determined for the sample. Twelve basic shape categories are identified and functions for the vessels are determined to include serving, storage, and cooking activities. Frequency distributions of rim diameter and volume indicate that vessels were being produced in distinct size categories; additional analyses suggest a possible correlation between the sizing of certain jar varieties and household serving size. Application of the data to the historical sequence connotes that emergent social ranking may have existed during the early Coles Creek period at Feltus Mounds. This research provides a methodological contribution to the

study of Coles Creek lifeways and speaks to broader historical and archaeological questions concerning the rise of social ranking in the Lower Mississippi Valley.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

The cultures of the Lower Mississippi Valley have long been a source of intrigue to both archaeologists and historians since their discovery by early explorers in the 1500's (Steponaitis 1998:2). The first Europeans encountered highly complex, socially stratified societies whose leaders dwelled atop large earthen mounds and held sway over regional populations (Kidder 1992:145, 2004:558). Defined as 'chiefdoms' in anthropological terms, these societies were well documented during years of early settlement and provided a wealth of information regarding indigenous southeastern lifeways.

Despite such documentation, however, the prehistoric sequence of cultural evolution in the valley has remained nebulous (Kidder 2004:558). Archaeologists are now fairly certain that sometime during the Late Woodland period (A.D. 600-1000) cultures in the valley underwent changes that would transform these once egalitarian societies into the chiefdoms encountered by explorers (Steponaitis 1986:378). Exactly what catalyzed these changes or what forms they took is as of yet undetermined, but what is clear is that it was during this time that the Coles Creek cultures in the valley (A.D. 700-1200) provided the greatest evidence for societal change (Kidder and Fritz 1993:283).

By providing a study of a sample Coles Creek period ceramic assemblage this paper seeks to add to the body of knowledge concerning lifeways and social change in the Lower

Mississippi Valley during the Late Woodland period. The assemblage that serves as the focus of this paper is from the Feltus Mounds in Jefferson County, Mississippi. Feltus Mounds is believed to have been an important regional mound center during the Coles Creek period, and as such, the study of this site and its assemblages is essential to gaining clearer picture of the dynamic changes that transformed the era.

Project Goals and Organizational Outline. This paper maintains the premises that (a) ceramic vessels were utilitarian tools (Hally) that reflected the demands and needs of their users (Kidder 1992:152), and (b) social changes can frequently be evidenced/witnessed in variations of societal output. As such, by studying an assemblage of pottery within a chronological context, it is possible to detect the presence and direction of cultural change. The two primary research goals of this project were to answer the questions: (1) what are the dates, shapes, and sizes of vessels represented in this collection of pottery, and (2) what do these data suggest about activities at Feltus Mounds and/or the larger region?

With these premises and goals in mind, the general outline of this report is as follows. Relevant historical background and timelines are presented first to give context to the subsequent discussions; next, the assemblage itself is described. Ceramic types and their relevant chronologies are described in Section III. Section IV proposes vessel shapes and functions for a Coles Creek assemblage. These are then applied to the Feltus sample and distributions of volume and rim diameter are analyzed. The general site interpretations are presented last, in the concluding section, along with suggestions for future research. The appendix contains the complete data sets, photographic logs, and rim profile drawings to facilitate any additional referencing purposes.

BACKGROUND

The Woodland period of the American Southeast is a term used by archaeologists and historians to describe the time span from approximately 700 B.C. to A.D. 1000, traditionally divided into Early (700 B.C. – A.D. 1), Middle (A.D. 1-600), and Late (A.D. 600-1000) phases (Steponaitis 1986:378). It was an important formative era for cultures throughout the southern U.S., and broadly viewed, the period was a time of gradual change as cultures built upon the developments of their predecessors (Steponaitis 1986: 379). During this time, economies slowly shifted towards greater agricultural reliance and ceased to depend exclusively on hunting-fishing-gathering activities (Kidder 2004). With innovations in the cultivation of seed-bearing plants and the slow addition of gardening practices, the period additionally witnessed an overall increase in sedentism amongst its populations (Steponaitis 1986:379).

For the cultures of the Lower Mississippi Valley, their social evolution during the Woodland period differed from cultures throughout the rest of the Southeast (Kidder and Fritz 1993:282). For one, agricultural reliance did not develop until late in these regions (A.D. 1200 at the earliest) when compared to dates for neighboring territories (Kidder and Fritz 1993:283). Yet, despite the apparent lack of agricultural subsistence, there is evidence for increased populations and an earlier growth of social complexity than was witnessed in other regions of the Southeast (Kidder and Fritz 1993:283; Kidder 2004:554).

Evidence for early social stratification in the Lower Mississippi Valley is also found in the introduction of platform mounds during the Coles Creek period of the late Woodland (Kidder 2004:554). Though cultures in the valley had a lengthy history of mound-building, in eras prior mounds primarily assumed a public mortuary focus (Kidder 2002:87). During the Coles Creek period, however, the focus of these new platform mounds centered on their service as the support structures for elite dwellings, an innovation that indicated dynamic social change (Kidder 1993:283, 2004:554).

Coles Creek Culture

The Coles Creek period and its cultures in the Lower Mississippi Valley were a locally-developed phenomenon that emerged out of its long history of occupational precedents (Kidder 1992:148). Beginning around A.D. 700 and lasting until approximately the onset of the Plaquemine period in A.D. 1200 (Kidder 1992:147), the region's rich indigenous history provided the necessary framework for the social, cultural, and technological innovations that would concurrently define this period and its peoples and create the social foundations for the birth of chiefdoms (Kidder 1992:148).

Among the numerous changes that occurred for the cultures of the Lower Mississippi Valley during these years, are altercations in settlement patterns evidencing important social shifts. Early on, the majority of people lived in small, dispersed settlements near streams, rivers, or other types of bodies of water (Kidder 1992:147; Steponaitis 1986:385); but as the period progressed, there was a gradual movement towards larger, more aggregated settlements and fewer dispersed hamlets that peaked by the end of the late Coles Creek

(Kidder 2002:87). In addition to increased aggregation, there is evidence to suggest populations overall were increasing throughout the Lower Mississippi Valley between A.D. 400 -800 (Kidder 1992:153).

By the early Coles Creek, there was also an increase in mound construction within specific regions that focused upon a new functional form of mound: the platform mound-plaza complex (Kidder 1992:153, 2002:85). Innovating upon antecedents, the new mound forms combined longstanding beliefs of 'the sacred' with recent developments in social status (Kidder 2004:554; Steponaitis 1986:386). These flat-topped mounds are believed to have possibly served as the support structures for the dwellings of an emergent class of elites, who used the mounds to usurp symbols of the sacred and thereby convey hierarchal and authoritative legitimacy to the community (Kidder 2004:554; Steponaitis 1986:386). Accompanying the mounds was a central plaza, an important innovation that served as a nucleus/stage for communal gatherings, religious and presumably political events (Steponaitis 1986:385, 1998:11).

Despite general beliefs that complex social systems must have developed late in the period (Kidder 1992:148), an early presence of platform mounds in northeastern Louisiana suggests that by A.D. 800 organizational changes occurred for at least some of the cultures in the valley resulting the emergence of simple elite polities amongst those communities (Kidder 1992:148,153). It has been additionally suggested that this emergent social ranking may have centered on kinship or lineages, (Kidder 1992:156, 2004:554) and it was this hereditary connection to ancestors buried in the mounds that may have given rising elites their power (Steponaitis 1986:386).

Another consideration in the development of elites among the Coles Creek peoples is in viewing kin-based social ranking models. According to these models, feasting and/or other gift-giving exchanges based upon principles of reciprocity may have been influential in the growth of elite polities in societies based upon lineage affiliation (Blitz 1993).

The Feltus Mounds

The Feltus Mounds group (26-K-42) is a Coles Creek period site that lies in Jefferson County, Mississippi, approximately 24 miles north of the historic town of Natchez (Brain et al. 1971:3.1). It is a primary mound center located on the edge of a bluff 50 m above the alluvial valley, and in this respect is similar to the sites of Anna (10 km to the south) and Windsor (25 km to the north) (Brain, et al. 1971:3.1). The site has previously gone by a variety of names such as Ferguson, Truly, and Villa Gayoso Mounds.

The first recorded person to investigate the site, then known as Ferguson's Mounds, was Dr. Montroville Wilson Dickeson in 1846 (Culin 1900:122). Dr. Dickeson wrote numerous accounts concerning his archaeological adventures in the Lower Mississippi Valley (Culin 1900:122). Though his accounts appear exaggerated in some respects, they have overall proven fairly reliable.

The site is described by Dickeson as a group of approximately seven mounds situated on the bluffs bordering the Mississippi River, with the four (or five) largest forming an evenly spaced flattened circle on the summit of the bluff, the rest of the mounds being situated a bit farther off (Culin 1900:122). The account further suggests that Feltus is an important regional center with connections to other mound sites in the area. As stated by Dickeson:

> Extensive roads diverge from this system of mounds all over the country, and one of them may be traced for seventy miles, passing by most of the large tumuli in the State. The first it touches is the great Seltzertown [Emerald] mound [Culin 1900:122].

Dr. Dickeson also lays claim to having uncovered numerous burials and a variety of artifacts from the site as he was excavating the mounds. Among the artifacts he alleges to have found at Feltus are a sandstone pipe, found in the largest mound, depicting a man in sitting posture holding a bowl (Brown 1926:46), half of a jasper bannerstone "frog" (Brown 1926:200), and a carved animal figurine (Culin 1900:Plate 13; Brown 1926:207). Later analysis has ascribed dates for these artifacts ranging from Neo-Indian to the Mississippi period (Brain et al. 1971:3.6).

The writings by Dickeson encouraged further investigations at the site, conducted first by Warren King Moorehead in 1924 (Moorehead 2000:159). Although poor field notes and little recorded data exist from his work, Moorehead did put units into Mounds C and D at Feltus. Similar to Dickeson he describes both mounds and "two rather large depressions" which he dubs "sink holes" as part of the group (Moorehead 2000:164). He did uncover over thirty burials at what is known today as Mound C at Feltus, though he records that "[n]ot a single mortuary offering accompanied the interments" which is congruent with Coles Creek mortuary practices (Brain et al. 1971:3.2). Another similarity that Moorehead's description bears with Dickeson is that he states local tradition "avers that there was a well-defined trail from the Ferguson site through to Selsertown [Emerald] and White Apple village, below Natchez" (Moorehead 2000:164).

After Moorehead, the site was again studied in 1935 by James A. Ford, when it was known as Truly Place (Ford 1936:198). By this time there were only four standing mounds, thought to be Dickeson's "four largest" (Ford 1936:198-199). Even though Ford did not excavate, but rather surface collected, he did find that the majority of collected sherds were from the Coles Creek period (Ford 1936:199).

By 1971, when excavations of the site again resumed by the Lower Mississippi Valley Survey, there were only three remaining mounds at the site, with at least one other having been destroyed in years previous. Site tests demonstrated these appeared to fit Dickeson's original description for three of the "four largest mounds" at the Ferguson site (Brain et al. 1971:3.2).

As they are seen today, Feltus Mounds are grouped in a typical "mound-plaza arrangement" (Steponaitis 1998:11) with these three primary mounds surrounding a large central plaza. The site occupation dates at Feltus were found to have begun in the early Baytown phase (approximately A.D. 300) with the site continuing as an important center during the Coles Creek Period (A.D. 700-1200) (Brain et al. 1971:3.4). Diagnostics suggest that activity at these mounds noticeably diminished after the Anna phase (after A.D. 1200) with a complete lack of evidence for the Foster phase (beginning around A.D. 1350) (Brain et all 1971:3.4).

The Prospere Collection

The study presented in this paper focuses on a collection of pottery under the private ownership of Dr. Robert Prospere of Natchez, Mississippi. Dr. Prospere conducted a surface

collection of the Feltus Mounds site where he found all of the sherds at the edge and bottom of a ravine located next to the southwestern corner of Mound B (Steponaitis, personal communication, October 26, 2007). The collection was on loan to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Research Laboratories of Archaeology over the summer of 2007 to aid in this study.

The sample consists of 107 rim sherds with joined sherds being counted as one, 52 body sherds, and 2 pipe stems. After the collection was brought to the university, the sherds were sorted into typological categories defined by Williams and Brain (1983). Their type-variety method uses sets of related pottery varieties created from the archaeological contexts at Lake George (William and Brain 1983:315). These varieties correspond to Lower Yazoo Basin phases and their associated periods. This step was necessary in order to establish proper timelines and site occupation dates for the vessels. All broken vessels were reconstructed as much as possible and category information was all logged in Microsoft Excel spread sheets to aid later processing (see Appendix A).

After initial typological categories were determined, measurements of thickness and height were taken of all rim sherds using sliding calipers (Sutton and Arkush 2002:33). Vessel orifice diameters were estimated by fitting rim sherd lips to their appropriate curvature on a rim-diameter template drawn in centimeter increments. The rim-diameter template also facilitated estimations of rim diameter percentages for each of the sherds, a necessary step for later for vessel reconstructions. All of these data were added to the Excel spread sheets.

Profiles were then drawn of each rim sherd. The drawings were kept to scale, and rim shapes, angles, and important decorative features such as banded incisions were noted in the

renderings. After the drawings were completed, profiles were scanned and converted into individual digital images which could be used in *DesignCAD 3000*. This program enabled two-dimensional images to be converted into approximated three-dimensional models of the original vessel shapes as well as make approximations of vessel volumes. Finally, photographs were taken of all sherds and edited using Adobe Photoshop (see Appendix B).

CERAMIC TYPOLOGY in the LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

A general typological overview for varieties identified at Feltus is presented in this section. Focus will primarily center on decoration and the distribution percentages from the Feltus collection across the represented timelines. Vessel shape and function will be examined in Section IV. Lower Mississippi Valley chronology for the periods corresponding to Feltus is also briefly reviewed as it is applicable to later sections. Listed in alphabetical order, the following types and varieties of sherds were identified in the sample collection from Feltus Mounds.

Alligator Incised, variety Alligator. This type is known for careless incising with a blunt object in parallel, rectilinear patterns on the exterior surface of clay-grit tempered pottery that exhibits a medium to coarse texture (Williams and Brain 1983:117). It is also noted by Williams and Brain that they found jars and beakers to be the principal types of vessels incised with these decorations. Only one sherd from the collection fits into this category; it is thick in comparison to most of the other sherds, at 9 mm, with a rounded lip (Figure 1 a).

Anna Incised, variety Anna. Here again, only one sherd represents this category from Feltus (Figure 1 b). Anna Incised pottery is noted for lines incised on the interior of vessels which are usually shallow bowls or plates; designs are simple, either in curvilinear or rectilinear patterns, and execution ranges from large and coarse to fine lines

near engraving quality (Williams and Brain 1983:120). This sherd has a rounded lip and exemplifies a high degree of craftsmanship.

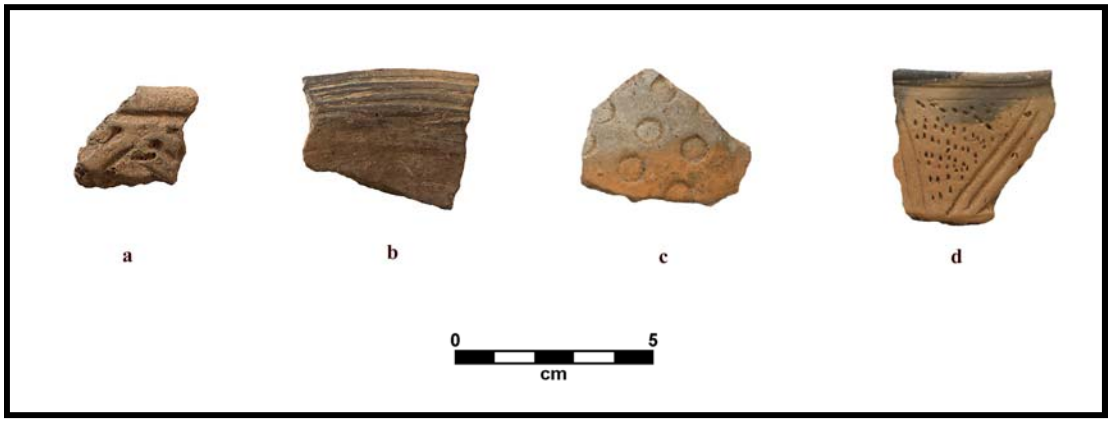

Figure 1: Types and varieties: (a) Alligator Incised; (b) Anna Incised; (c) Avoyelles Punctated variety Avoyelles; (d) Avoyelles Punctated variety unspecified. [Rim sherd catalog numbers: (a) p1; (b) p2; (d) p4.]

Avoyelles Punctated, variety Avoyelles. There is one body sherd from the sample that represents this type (Figure 1 c). It is characteristic in its decoration, with circular punctuations pressed into plastic clay; pottery is clay-tempered (Williams and Brain 1983:120). What is not represented on this particular sherd, but is commonly found, is that the punctuations may be circular or triangular and are generally zoned by incised lines into rectilinear patterns on the outside of vessels (Williams and Brain 1983:120).

Avoyelles Punctated, variety unspecified. This category is for those sherds that are clearly typologically defined as Avoyelles Punctated, but cannot be fitted into an appropriate variety based upon available material or inconsistencies in decoration not yet accounted for. Two rim sherds fall into this category from Feltus. Both exhibit punctuated areas zoned by rectilinear incisions, however neither fit neatly into the other defined varieties of Avoyelles Punctated presented by Williams and Brain (Figure 1 d).

Figure 2: Types: (a) Baytown Plain; (b) Beldeau Incised; (c) Chevalier Stamped; (d) Coleman Incised. [Rim sherd catalog numbers: (a) p5; (c) p17.]

Baytown Plain, variety unspecified. Though there are numerous varieties of this common type, which differ according to paste, vessel shape, etc., the general category is simply noted here for the purposes of this study. As the name suggests, sherds from this category are undecorated and usually of a mixed-clay temper (Williams and Brain 1983:92). Seven sherds comprise this category from the Feltus sample (Figure 2a).

Beldeau Incised, variety Beldeau. The single body sherd from the collection is a good example of the typical diagnostics of Beldeau Incised (Figure 2 b): a cross-hatched pattern of neatly incised lines with a triangular (or circular) punctuation in the center of each diamond cross-hatch; patterns typically are only on the upper portion of vessels, which again appears to be exhibited here (Williams and Brain 1983:133).

Chevalier Stamped, variety Chevalier. Thirteen sherds from the Feltus sample constitute this type, two of which are body sherds. Williams and Brain assert that

Chevalier Stamped pottery is a marker for the Coles Creek Culture (1983:140). Variety Chevalier is noted for rocker stamping as its primary mode of decoration; stamping is applied in vertical, parallel rows on the upper exterior portion of vessels, making it a distinctive mode of decoration (Williams and Brain 1983:140,141). The Chevalier Stamped rim sherds from Feltus vary in rim thickness and shape, some being more tapered and/or rounded and others slightly more squared off; however all exhibit an incised line below, and running parallel to, the lip that delineates the band of decoration below (Figure 2 c). Several of Chevalier Stamped sherds from Feltus also demonstrate a gradually undulating rim curvature.

Coleman Incised, variety Coleman. Only one body sherd constitutes this type from the Feltus sample (Figure 2 d). As defined by Williams and Brain, decoration is noted for careless incising in wet-paste on the upper exterior portion of vessels (1983:145); on this sherd, banded incisions appear curvilinear.

Coles Creek Incised. This type again serves as a useful diagnostic marker for the Coles Creek culture and period (Williams and Brain 1983:145). Though among its varieties there is considerable variation both spatially and across time, the type itself retains continuity in expression and is noted for its linear decoration (Williams and Brain 1983: 145).

Figure 3: Coles Creek Incised varieties: (a) Cambellesville; (b) Chase; (c) Coles Creek; (d) Mott; (e) Phillips; (f) Stoner; (g) Wade. [Catalog numbers: (a) p23; (b) p24; (c) p36; (d) p51; (e) p56; (f) p61; (g) p66.]

Coles Creek Incised, variety Cambellesville. There are three variety Cambellesville sherds from Feltus, p21-23. Decoration consists of two widely-spaced, overhanging lines, horizontally incised along the rim of medium textured, mixed-clay tempered pottery: these exterior incisions are accompanied by one or two lines incised in the lip (Williams and Brain 1983:147). In addition to the above diagnostics, the three representative sherds from Feltus also exhibit fairly squared rims (Figure 3 a).

Coles Creek Incised, variety Chase. Decoration on variety Chase vessels consists of two, or possibly three, neatly-executed and closely-spaced horizontal lines on the exterior rim, creating a distinctive "strap" (Williams and Brain 1983:148). Eight sherds from the sample fall into this category; all of which exhibit the typical diagnostics, and additionally also include an incision in the lip; all have rims of similar shapes. One sherd (p27) also contains two rows of small, circular punctuates between the exterior incised lines (Figure 3 b for example).

Coles Creek Incised, variety Coles Creek. This variety is the "classic" example of the Coles Creek type (Figure 3 c) and is considered to exhibit the "core decorative concept" (Williams and Brain 1983:146). The eighteen rim sherds and three body sherds found in the Feltus sample are prime examples of the typical decorative diagnostics; multiple, closely spaced overhanging lines that run horizontally along the upper portion of the vessel and separated by broad and clearly defined incisions in medium-textured, mixed clay tempered pottery (Williams and Brain 1983:146). The band of incised lines is frequently followed by a row of triangular punctuates located below. In the Prospere collection, all of the eighteen rim sherds were fairly consistent in thickness, varying between 5 and 8 mm, with only one bearing an incision in the rim (p32). Most of the sherds exhibited flattened/squared lips, three being more rounded (p32, p35, p37).

Coles Creek Incised, variety Hunt. The only example of this variety found in the collection is a nearly whole pot (Figure 4). This variety is thought to be one of the earlier manifestations of the Coles Creek Incised type, and decoration is minute and often crude, usually placed along the rims of simple bowls (Williams and Brain 1983:151). As the bowl in the Feltus collection exemplifies, the sole decorative idea consists of two (or

sometimes three) crudely executed incisions drawn horizontally across the rim, generally with a pointed tool while the clay was still quite plastic (1983:151). The lines are closely spaced and pottery is generally coarse textured of a mixed clay-grit temper (1983:151).

Figure 4: Coles Creek Incised variety *Hunt*. [Catalog number: p50].

Coles Creek Incised, variety Mott. This variety is noted for numerous closely spaced overhanging lines that are neatly incised and placed horizontally on the upper exterior of a Baytown Plain vessel, generally with a "*Vicksburg*" rim (Williams and Brain 1983:152). The term "Vicksburg" for the rim is taken from the Baytown Plain variety *Vicksburg* type-variety of pottery; the rim is defined by Williams and Brain as exhibiting a "graceful tapering" (1983:105). There are two body sherds and three rim sherds of

variety *Mott* in the collection (Figure 3 d). All illustrate the usual type and are relatively thin, 4 or 5 mm in thickness, exhibiting the tapered, *Vicksburg* rim.

Coles Creek Incised, variety Phillips. There are six rim sherds from the Feltus sample that make up this variety (Figure 3 e for example). As evidenced in the sherds, decorative treatment consists of a single, crudely executed incision directly beneath the lip (Williams and Brain 1983:156). Similar to variety *Hunt* in execution, the incision is generally made with a pointed tool on a coarse-textured, mixed clay tempered vessel; dissimilar to *Hunt*, however, is the occasional inclusion of an incision in the lip in addition to the one on the exterior (Williams and Brain 1983:156). The sherds from Feltus have differing rim shapes and four of the sherds exhibit an incision in the lip.

Coles Creek Incised, variety Stoner. There are approximately five rim sherds from the collection of this variety, two of which (p63 and p64) are reconstructed parts of the same vessel (Figure 3 f for example). The stylistic mode of decoration consists of a single, overhanging line placed well below the lip on the exterior of a medium textured, mixed clay tempered vessel (Williams and Brain 1983:156). The exterior decoration is occasionally accompanied by another incision in the lip (Williams and Brain 1983:156). All of the sherds from Feltus evidence the lip incision or decoration, p62 having two incisions, and rim shapes are also similar. In addition, the large vessel exhibits a decorated corner point.

Coles Creek Incised, variety unspecified. This category was reserved for sherds that were clearly Coles Creek Incised, but not enough (or specific enough) diagnostics were remaining to determine which variety they belonged in. There was only one body sherd

included here, because its representation was too small to determine without a high possibility of error.

Coles Creek Incised, variety Wade. Variety *Wade* is defined by two or three overhanging, horizontal incisions on the exterior of a vessel; the incisions should be well executed and be placed in an intermediate length below the lip: closer than *Hunt*, but farther than *Chase* (Figure 3 g) (Williams and Brain 1983:156). Two rim sherds (p65 - 66) comprise this category from Feltus; p66 also includes an incision in the lip.

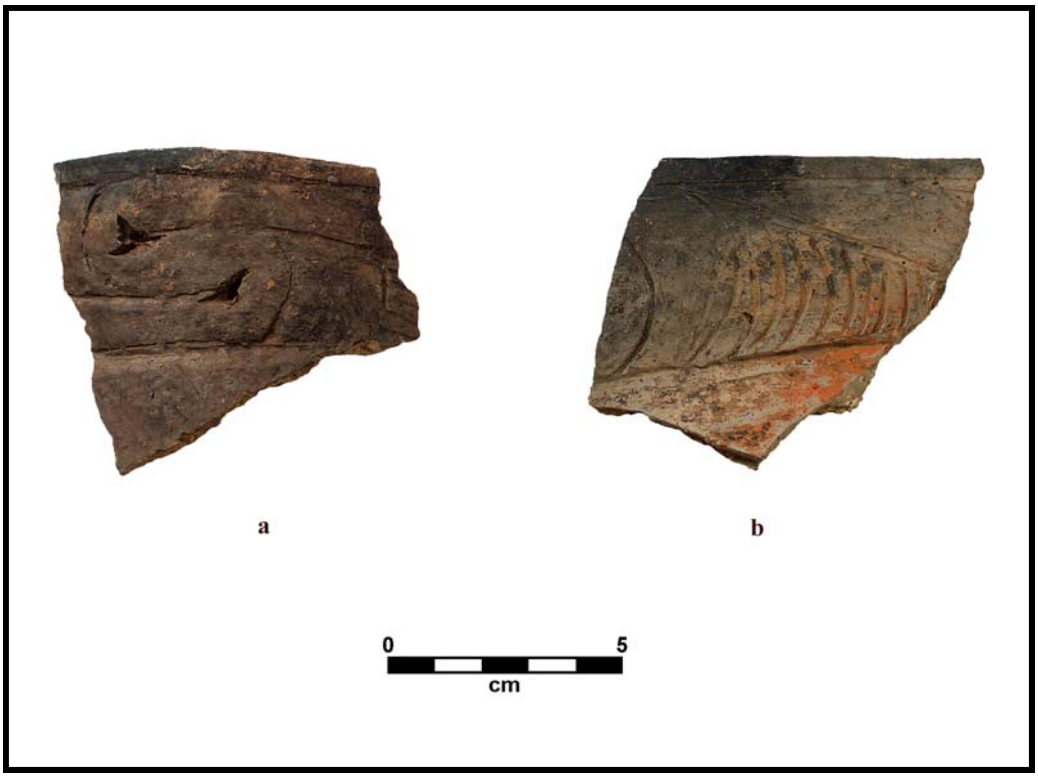

Figure 5: French Fork Incised variety *Laborde*. [Catalog numbers: (a) p68; (b) p71.]

French Fork Incised. As noted by Williams and Brain (1983) and Phillips (1970), there is a wide range of decorative variation encompassed within this type. In its basic form, French Fork Incised exemplifies complex, curvilinear patterns and incised lines

that are frequently coupled with closely spaced triangular or circular punctuations (Williams and Brain 1983:160). In addition to the elaborate decorative treatment, the "French Fork lug" is also a notable marker for this type (Williams and Brain 1983:160). The handle is triangularly shaped, frequently incised or punctuated in similar style to the rest of the vessel and protrudes from the lip (Williams and Brain 1983:160).

French Fork Incised, variety Laborde. Seven rim sherds and two body sherds make up this variety in the sample from Feltus. The decorative mode is neatly executed with fine incisions that end in slightly depressed zones of triangular punctuations; pottery is fine-textured and clay-tempered (Williams and Brain 1983:162). None of the examples from Feltus demonstrate incisions in the lip, and all of the sherds are of relatively similar thickness. The rims are of similar shape, and p68 has a rim curvature similar to several of the Chevalier Stamped vessel pieces (Figure 5, a and b).

French Fork Incised, variety Larkin. In variety *Larkin*, designs are generally comprised of curvilinear patterns of alternating zones of punctuation and incision on the upper portion or exterior rim surfaces of vessels (Williams and Brain 1983:162). Incision patterns frequently terminate in larger, depressed triangular or circular punctuates. Pottery is usually medium textured and of a mixed clay-temper (Williams and Brain 1983:162). There are eighteen rim sherds and twelve body sherds of this variety found in the Feltus sample (Figure 6 a). None of the sherds have lip incisions. A few of the sherds, such as p74 and p91, evidenced an undulating 'peak' here as well.

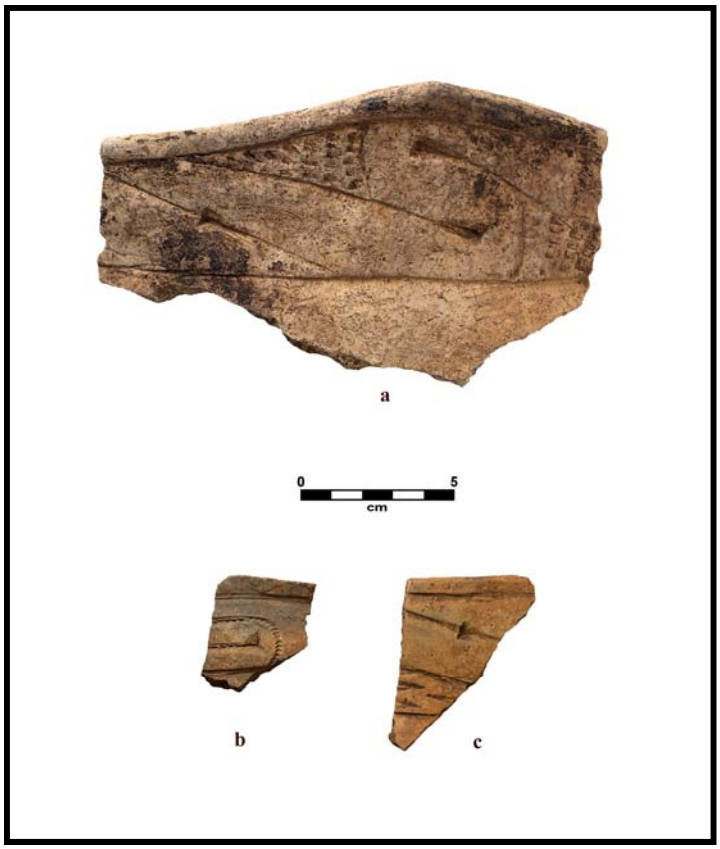

Figure 6: French Fork Incised varieties: (a) Larkin; (b) unspecified; (c) Wilzone. [Catalog numbers: (a) p74; (b) p93; (c) p94.]

French Fork Incised, variety unspecified. This is again a catch-all category for either sherds that are too small to be identified into specific varieties or they exhibit stylistic variations that do not sort into any of the other created varieties. Two rim sherds (p92 and p93) and three body sherds from the Feltus sample fall into this list. The first, p92 has very little decoration left under the lip to determine its categorical distribution and it is also the only French Fork Incised sherd from Feltus to exhibit an incision in the lip. p93, with its minute punctuations creating the curvilinear designs (instead of the typical incised lines), exhibits variation from the usual definitions and is thus put into this category (Figure 6 b).

French Fork Incised, variety Wilzone. One rim sherd (p94) and one body sherd from the collection comprise variety *Wilzone* (Figure 6 c). Characteristics include rocker stamping, generally in a zigzag pattern between zones of incising; designs are usually curvilinear and on the exterior of clay-grit tempered vessels of medium texture (Williams and Brain 1983:163).

Figure 7: Harrison Bayou Incised variety *Harrison Bayou*. [Catalog number: p95.]

Harrison Bayou Incised, variety Harrison Bayou. Approximately four rim sherds and at least one body sherd constitute this type in the assemblage from Feltus Mounds; the

two large sections, p95 and p96, appear to be from the same vessel (Figure 7 for example). Diagnostics for this type are evident in the samples from Feltus: rectilinear incisions forming a careless cross-hatched pattern on the upper exterior portion of mixed-clay-tempered vessels of medium texture (Williams and Brain 1983:165).

Indian Bay Stamped, variety unspecified. One sherd, p99, represents this type from the collection. It evidences wide-spaced rocker stamping on the exterior of the vessel (Williams and Brain 1983:167). Surface texture of this type can vary from medium to coarse, and temper is generally a clay-grit mixture (Williams and Brain 1983:167).

Larto Red, variety Silver Creek. Larto Red vessels are distinguished mainly by red slipping over the whole vessel (Williams and Brain 1983:167). Variety *Silver Creek* adds to this a single incision well below the lip running horizontally across on the exterior surface of a medium-textured vessel (usually a bowl) of a clay-grit texture; there is often another incision in the lip itself that runs parallel to the exterior incision (Williams and Brain 1983:169). The only sherd from the sample that represents this type contains a single, incised line in the lip (Figure 8 a).

L'Eau Noire Incised, variety L'Eau Noir. According to Williams and Brain, this type is unique to the Lower Mississippi Valley and serves as a useful dating marker (1983:170,171). It is known for complex, interlocking rectilinear patterns incised with a pointed tool when the paste was dry, resulting in the typically rough edges and deep gouging lines (Williams and Brain 1983:170,171). Designs are found on the exterior of medium-textured vessels of a mixed-clay or occasionally shell tempered variety (Williams and Brain 1983:171). There is one body sherd from the Feltus assemblage that represents this variety (Figure 8 b).

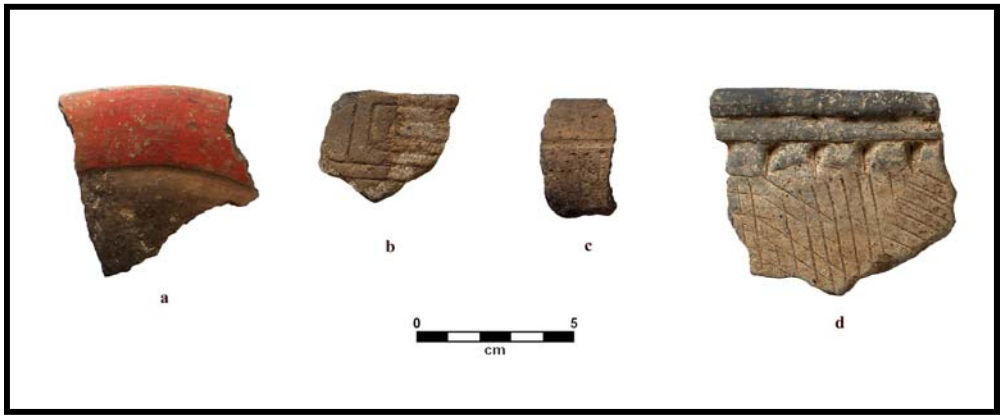

Figure 8: Types and varieties: (a) Larto Red Filmed variety *Silver Creek*; (b) L'Eau Noire Incised variety *L'Eau Noire*; (c) Marksville Stamped variety *Manny*; (d) Mulberry Creek Cord Marked variety *Smith Creek.* [Catalog numbers: (a) p100; (c) p101; (d) p102.]

Marksville Incised, variety Yokena. Again, only one body sherd constitutes this type from the collection. The primary diagnostics of variety *Yokena* are clear, well defined U-shaped incisions forming curvilinear or rectilinear patterns on the exterior of clay-grit tempered vessels (Williams and Brain 1983:181). Pottery is usually of a medium to coarse texture and designs of this variety are generally found on jars or beakers (Williams and Brain 1983:181).

Marksville Stamped, variety Manny. This variety of Marksville Stamped is identified by simple, curvilinear patterns created by careless, dentate rocker stamping and U-shaped incisions (Williams and Brain 1983:182). Decorations are on the outside of medium to coarse textured vessels and temper is generally clay-grit (Williams and Brain 1983:182). One rim sherd is classified into this variety, (Figure 8 c).

Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, variety Edwards. One body sherd represents variety Edwards from the Feltus sample. This variety is identified by careless cord-marking applied with a cord-wrapped paddle while the clay was still plastic; the primary intent appears to have been textural and there is little to no attempt at patterning (Williams and

Brain 1983:189). Decoration is applied to the exterior of vessels most of which appear to have been small constricted bowls or jars. Vessels are of a coarse texture and are clay-grit tempered (Williams and Brain 1983:189).

Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, variety Smith Creek. Unlike variety *Edwards*, there is some attempt at patterning evident in *Smith Creek* (Williams and Brain 1983:189). The recognized diagnostics for this variety are fine cord marking applied with a cord-wrapped paddle while the clay was of a medium plasticity (Williams and Brain 1983:189,190). The cord-marking usually falls in a criss-crossed pattern on the exterior of smaller vessels of medium texture and have clay-grit temper (Williams and Brain 1983:190). Four body sherds and one rim sherd are of this variety in the sample from Feltus (Figure 8 d). The rim sherd has a thick, rounded rim that tapers into a thinner, decorated body wall; additionally, the two overhanging lines along the rim are followed by a row of punctuations just below the second line.

Plaquemine Brushed, variety Plaquemine. As a wide spread variety in the Lower Mississippi Valley, Plaquemine Brushed vessels are considered to be markers for the Plaquemine culture during the Mississippi period (Williams and Brain 1983:196). This variety contains surface brushing over the exterior of vessels while the clay was still very plastic; there is some attempt at rectilinear patterning and pottery is generally mix-clay tempered and of medium texture (Williams and Brain 1983:196, 200). There are two rim sherds and one body sherd from the sample from Feltus (Figure 9 a).

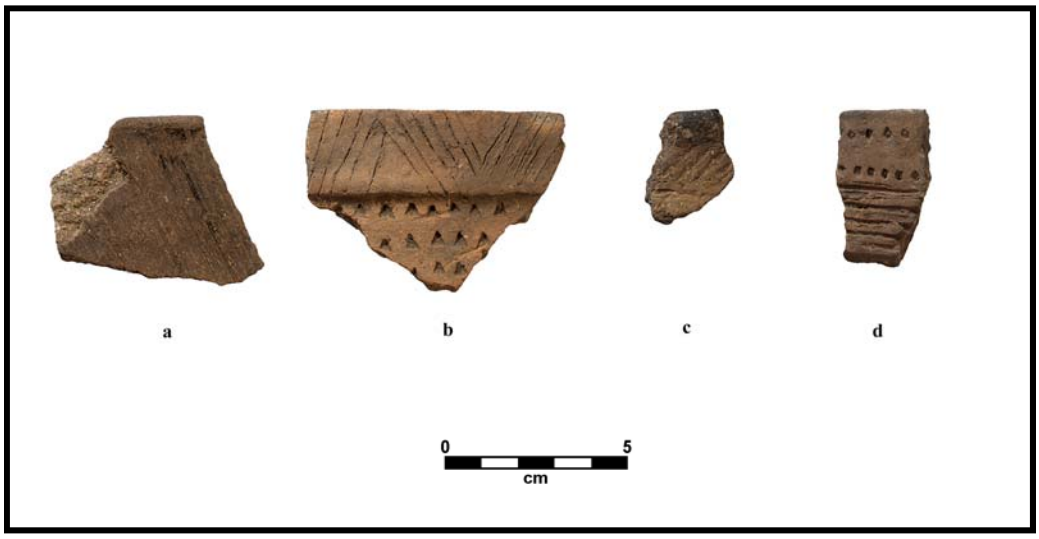

Figure 9: Types and varieties: (a) Plaquemine Brushed; (b – d) unclassified. [Catalog numbers: (a) p103; (b) p105; (c) p106; (d) p107.]

Unclassified sherds. There are three rim sherds and one body sherd that fall into this category since they do not fit any of the identified diagnostics for the type-varieties listed by Williams and Brain (Figure 9 b-d). Figure 9 b has one overhanging rim-line, well below the lip upon which alternating rows of parallel incisions made with a sharp tool are carved in N-shaped patterns. Below the rim are horizontal rows of triangular punctuations that all face the same direction. Figure 9 c is a small sherd with a distinctive rim below which there is evidence of cord marking. Figure 9 d also has an initial, wide rim band below the lip, upon which are two horizontal rows of punctuations. Under the rim band is a series of deeply grooved parallel incisions, cut sloppily into the paste while still quite plastic, presumably with a broad, flat tool.

Chronology

Since the indigenous history of the Lower Mississippi Valley dates back to the arrival of the first people in North America, the chronology presented in this section will begin with the earliest dates found in the Feltus sample. The chronological dating system utilized here was established by Williams and Brain (1983):

The sherds from Feltus begin at the earliest date with the Marksville Culture, which begins around A.D. 1 and continues through to about A.D. 300, although end dates are slightly variable here (Table 1; Figure 10). Three sherds from the collection date to the Issaquena phase of the Late Marksville period according to William and Brain's system: Alligator Incised variety *Alligator*, Marksville Stamped variety *Manny*, and one body sherd, Marksville Incised variety *Yokena* (1983:393). The Issaquena phase of the Late Marksville period dates from approximately A.D. 100 to 300 according to William and Brain (1983:352). Historically, the Issaquena phase is notable as it represents the primary expression of the Marksville Culture (Williams and Brain 1983:362). Williams and Brain contend that this period was characterized by cultural homogeneity, dispersed small settlements and a lack of ceremonial centers or organized social systems (1983:363).

After Marksville, comes the Baytown period at around A.D. 400 which lasts roughly up through A.D. 700 in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Approximately 31 sherds from the collection date to the Baytown period equating to approximately 19.5% (Table 1; Figure 10). Seven rim sherds, comprised of Coles Creek varieties *Hunt* and *Phillips*, and one body sherd, Mulberry Creek Cord Marked variety *Edwards*, date to the Deasonville phase

of the Early Baytown period. The remaining sherds date to the Bayland phase in the Late Baytown, encompassing Coles Creek varieties *Chase*, *Stoner* and *Wade,* as well as French Fork variety *Wilzone*, Larto Red variety *Silver Creek,* and Mulberry Creek Cord Marked variety *Smith Creek*.

Table 1: Relevant chronological sequence of the Lower Mississippi Valley with distribution of sherds from the Feltus sample.

Period Dates (A.D.)	Period	Phase	Sherd Count
1200-1350	Plaquemine	Winterville	2
1000-1200	Late Coles Creek	Crippen Point	9
900-1000	Middle Coles Creek	Kings Crossing	6
750 -900	Early Coles Creek	Aden	68
400 - 700	Baytown	Deasonville, Bayland	31
100 - 300	Late Marksville	Issaquena	3

The next period in the Lower Valley is Coles Creek, beginning approximately around A.D. 750-800, according to Williams and Brain, and lasting until the Plaquemine period around A.D. 1200 (1983:393). The period is generally divided into early, middle and late components (Table 1; Figure 10). There are 83 sherds from the collection date to the Coles Creek Period making up slightly over half of the total count; 68 of those sherds date to the Early Coles Creek period, which is approximately 43% of the collection; 50 of these are rim sherds and include: Chevalier Stamped, Coles Creek varieties *Cambellesville* and *Coles Creek,* and French Fork Incised variety *Larkin*. The 18 body

sherds from early Coles Creek include the same types as above with also the addition of the Avoyelles Punctated variety *Avoyelles* sherd. For the middle Coles Creek, there are three rim and three body sherds, which are Coles Creek Incised variety *Mott* and Beldeau Incised variety *Beldeau*. Late Coles Creek vessels are represented by six rim sherds and three body sherds, constituting the Coleman Incised, Harrison Bayou Incised, and Plaquemine Brushed types.

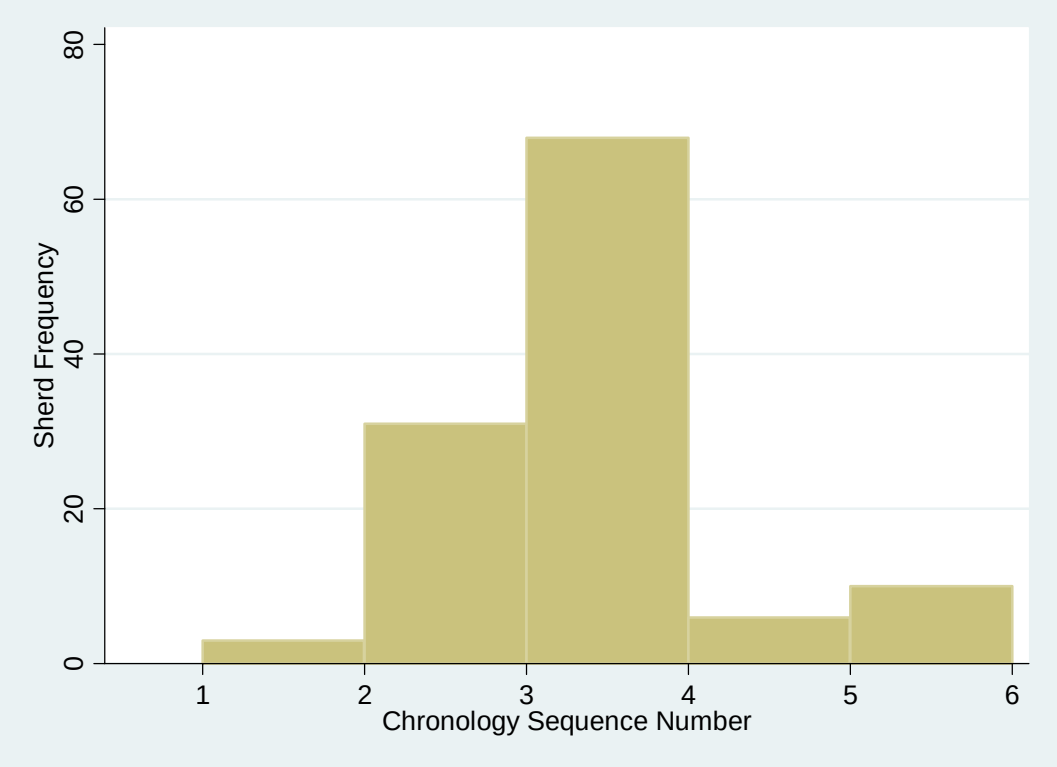

Figure 10: A chronological distribution of all identified sherds from the Feltus sample. [Key to X Axis Labels: Bar 1 = Late Marksville Period (A.D. 100-300); Bar 2 = Baytown Period (A.D. 400-700); Bar 3 = Early Coles Creek Period (A.D. 750-900); Bar 4 =Middle Coles Creek Period (A.D. 900-1050); Bar 5: Late Coles Creek Period (A.D. 1050-1200); (The two Plaquemine period sherds are included in the end of Bar 5 as entry dates are set around A.D. 1200).

The Plaquemine cultural tradition emerges at the end of the Coles Creek period (Table 1; Figure 10). There was some discrepancy as to the placement of the Plaquemine

Brushed pieces (if they are included in late Coles Creek or early Plaquemine) as they are transitional. There are two sherds from the collection that date to the early Plaquemine period, beginning around A.D. 1200, which are the Anna Incised rim sherd (Figure 1 b [p2]) and the L'Eau Noire Incised body sherd (Figure 8 b).

In summary, the type-variety system outlined by Williams and Brain and their corresponding chronological sequence shows that the occupations represented in the sample date from late Marksville (A.D. 100-300) up through the late Coles Creek (A.D. 1000-1200) and early Plaquemine periods (A.D. 1200-1350) (1983:393). The basic distribution of sherds (Table 1; Figure 10) from the sample evidences a gradual increase in the number of sherds beginning in the late Marksville until the early Coles Creek period, where the number of sherds spikes considerably. Nearly half the sherds in the collection date to the early Coles Creek, making it the overwhelming majority, after which there is a marked decline again until all evidence tapers off with the onset of the Plaquemine period.

VESSEL SHAPE and FUNCTION

In this section suggestions for vessel shape, size, and function are presented for a Coles Creek period assemblage. A full vessel assemblage recreation is not attempted, but rather the focus was to determine out of the sample from Feltus, what shapes and sizes were represented and to subsequently give suggestions for possible functions for those vessels. The emphasis will remain on the Coles Creek shapes and varieties, and as such, analyses for other periods will be included only for reference or comparative purposes.

Coles Creek Vessel Shapes: Greenhouse as a Model Assemblage

After determining the chronology of the sherds in the Prospere collection, it was necessary to find another assemblage from the Coles Creek period that provided examples of prevalent vessel shapes that could be used as a model. I chose the notable study conducted by James A. Ford at the Greenhouse site in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana (1951).

Greenhouse is a predominantly Coles Creek period site that lies along the bluffs just east of Marksville, Louisiana (Ford 1951:13). It bears similarities to Feltus in its typical mound-plaza arrangement and contemporaneous use dates. Excavations were conducted in 1938 by James A. Ford, Robert S. Neitzel and Edwin B. Doran, and findings were

notable for aiding in the creation of the Southeastern classification systems for pottery and their corresponding time sequences (Ford 1951:12).

Shape Categories. Ford's study was particularly useful as it was one of the few that included numerous drawings of reconstructed vessel forms found at the site. However, it is important to note that the drawings are artist's renditions of vessel forms based upon available material only, since not many whole vessels were found (Ford 1951:48). Thus these renditions are used as general guidelines of typical vessel shapes to look for, and are not intended to be a definitive list.

I sorted the images from Ford's study into vessel categories based upon common shape characteristics. There were five primary categories that emerged: bowls, jars, necked jars, flare-neck pots/jars, and a pyramidal pot. These broad categories were then further subdivided resulting in a total of nine basic categories: simple/shallow bowls (*SB*), deep bowls (*DB*), constricted bowls (*CB*), wide-mouth jars (*J1*), straight-sided jars (*J2)*, constricted or barrel jars (*J3*), necked jars (*N*), flaring-neck pots (*FN*), and a squashed/pyramidal pot (*U*) that bears similarities to the constricted bowls and barrel jars.

As Ford did not typically include vessel dimensions in his report to go along with the drawings, I had no gauge for actual vessel size. To solve this problem, I measured all of the drawings to look for recurring vessel dimension ratios that could be used to determine the actual heights and widths for the vessels from Feltus. Once ratios were collected, I then chose to use the median of the ratios of each category to use in my vessel calculations for the Feltus group. It was my hope that in doing this I would create a more midline, "typical" vessel representation for each group and minimize artistic biases and/or extremities, both of which make reliable calculations difficult.

In addition to considerations of function, the categories for vessel shapes were based upon the following:

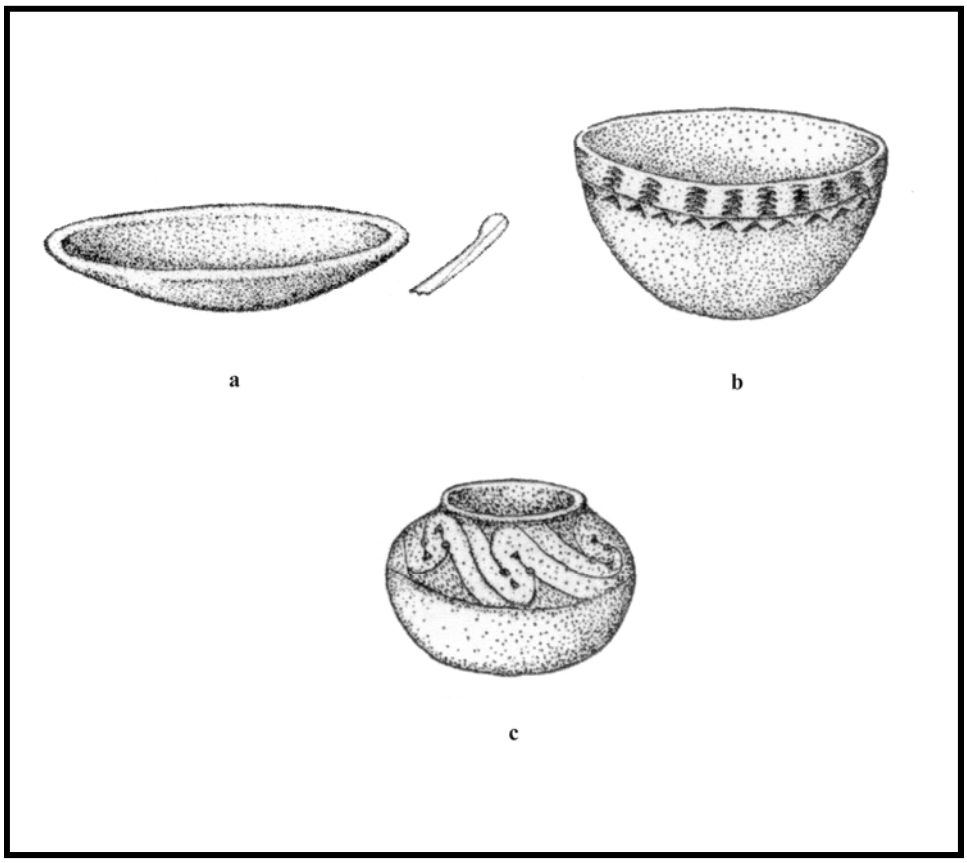

Figure 11: Greenhouse bowl categories: (a) Simple, Shallow Bowl (SB); (b) Deep Bowl (DB); (c) Constricted Bowl (CB). [Greenhouse page and figure references for the images (Ford 1951): (a) Fig. 20 b, Plate 11, page 61; (b) Fig. 31 f, page 80; (c) Figure 21 d, page 63.]

Shallow bowls (*SB*) have a wide angle of repose for rim pieces, with their curvature remaining below the point of convex vertical tangency for (or widest part of) the vessel (Figure 11 a). The wide vessel opening and shallow basin allow for easy access to contents and provide a minimal degree of containment security. According to the

Greenhouse measurements, the vessel orifice diameter also retained a median of approximately 5.83 times greater than vessel height.

Deep bowls (*DB*) have an exterior curvature that proceed to, but generally not surpassing, the point of vertical tangency (Figure 11 b). This also allows for greater containment security than is permitted by the shallow bowl. The vessel orifice diameter has a median of 3.13 times larger than the vessel is high.

Constricted bowls (*CB*) have openings above the point of vertical tangency (maximum width or midway point of exterior circular curvature) of the vessel and now have openings that are narrower than the vessel is wide (Figure 11 c). The constricted opening allows for greater degree of containment security for the contents, but also restricts access as well. The median range for vessel orifice diameter was 1.26 times wider than the vessel height, and the median for the widest point was 0 .74 times the vessel height.

Jars were divided into wide (*J1*), straight (*J2*), and constricted (*J3*) categories. Wide-mouth jars (*J1*) have rims at outfacing angles from the vertical, allowing for greater access to contents (Figure 12 a). The orifice diameters have a median of 1.5 times larger than the base and 1.12 times larger than the height. Vessel walls are predominantly straight and bodies are reverse trapezoidal in shape.

Straight-sided jars (*J2*) have straight walls perpendicular to the rim at roughly 90 degree angles from the base (Figure 12 b). The orifice diameter is approximately the same size as the base diameter; vessel height has a median of 0.90 times larger than orifice diameter. Bases appear squared in the renderings though openings are curved.

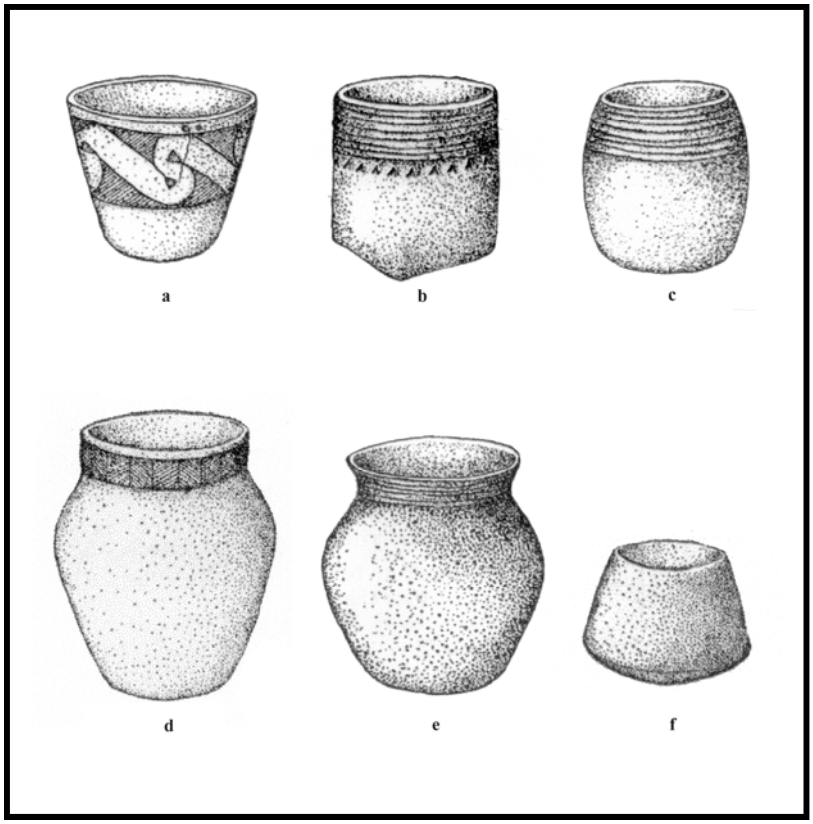

Figure 12: Greenhouse jar categories: (a) Wide-Mouth Jar (J1); (b) Straight-Sided Jar (J2); (c) Constricted Jar (J3); (d) Necked Jar (N); (e) Flare-Necked Jar (FN); (f) Pyramidal Jar/Pot (U). [Greenhouse page and figure references for the images (Ford 1951): (a) Fig. 21 e, page 63; (b) Fig. 23 b, page 75; (c) Fig. 27 c, page 75; (d) Fig. 17 e, page 56; (e) Fig. 27 j, page 75; (f) Figure 26 a, page 73.]

Constricted-mouth or barrel jars (*J3*) have concave vessel walls that curve outward and taper at the top of the vessel, constricting orifice diameter and creating a higher degree of containment security as well as restricting access more than the wide or straight versions do (Figure 12 c). Rims are at acute angles from the vertical. Vessel orifice diameter and base diameters remain approximately the same size, with the height having a median of 0.72 times greater than the orifice diameter. Maximum width also has a median of 0.75 times larger than orifice diameter. There is no obvious vessel neck on this type.

Necked jars (*N*) are similar to constricted jars in that they are on average slightly higher than they are wide and their openings are restricted (Figure 12 d). They differ however, in that they have a distinct neck with a small opening that allows for a higher degree of security for contents. The neck of the vessel is generally vertical and decorated. Vessel height was found to have a median of 0.67 times larger than orifice diameter, and the maximum width has a median of 0.71 times larger than orifice diameter.

Flare-neck pots (*FN*) have a distinct curvature on and above the vessel neck, with the rim/neck walls flexing outward at obtuse angles from the vertical and narrowing in a funnel-like manner towards the constricted neck (Figure 12 e). Though there is a vessel neck and the opening is past the convex point of vertical tangency, the wide orifice diameter is distinctive and gives this vessel specialized function. The median vessel height is 0.77 times larger than orifice diameter, and median maximum width is 0.81 times larger than the orifice diameter.

Pyramidal pots (*U*) are triangular in shape and exhibit the least amount of curvature in their vessel walls than any of the other constricted vessel types represented (Figure 12 f). The wide base in comparison to the narrowed opening gives this vessel a high degree of stability, and the constricted neck increases containment security. The height has a median of 0.71 times the orifice diameter and the base has a median of 0.67 times the orifice diameter.

Coles Creek Period Vessel Shapes at Feltus

The next phase of my study required the nine shape categories I created from Ford's study to be applied to (and thus tested by) the sample collection from Feltus. In order to accomplish this, I first compared the rim profile drawings from the Feltus sample to the shape categories created from Greenhouse. For most of the vessels, I had to rely upon identifiable similarities in the upper portion of the vessels as complete rim to base dimensions were not present. I looked for similarities in rim shape, the curvature of upper vessel walls, presence or absence of an identifiable neck, shape of the neck, decoration, and angles of repose for rim pieces. Additionally, rim sherds that had representative orifices of less than five percent of the original whole were omitted from consideration as it is generally maintained that they are unreliable for determining rim diameter.

The following/subsequent distribution of vessels shapes was identified for the Feltus collection. For clarity's sake, vessel volume and diameter distributions will each be discussed in later sections.

For later comparative purposes, I will first briefly go over the distribution of Baytown Period vessels before discussing Coles Creek, which retains emphasis here. Out of the collection, there were 25 rim sherds that dated to the Baytown Period category, and only eight of these had rim-diameter representations clearly above five percent. Nonetheless, some of these smaller sherds were still able to be identified into basic categories, making the count 15 for this period.

Table 2: Vessel shapes, type-varieties, and sherd counts from Feltus.

Period	Chronological Phase	Vessel Typologies	Vessel Varieties	Vessel Bowl Varieties	Vessel Jar Varieties	Counts and Period Totals
Late Marksville	Issaquena	Marksville Incised	Yokena			1
Late Marksville	Issaquena	Alligator Incised	Alligator			1
Late Marksville	Issaquena	Marksville Stamped	Manny			1
						3
Early Baytown	Deasonville	Coles Creek Incised	Hunt	CB		1
Early Baytown	Deasonville	Coles Creek Incised	Phillips	CB, DB		6
Early Baytown	Deasonville	Mulberry Creek Cord Marked	Edwards			1
						8
Late Baytown	Bayland	Coles Creek Incised	Chase	CB, DB	J3/U	8
Late Baytown	Bayland	Coles Creek Incised	Stoner	CB, DB		5
Late Baytown	Bayland	Coles Creek Incised	Wade	DB	J3/U	2
Late Baytown	Bayland	French Fork Incised	Wilzone			2
Late Baytown	Bayland	Larto Red Filmed	Silver Creek	SB		1
Late Baytown	Bayland	Mulberry Creek Cord Marked	Smith Creek		J2	5
						23
Early Coles Creek	Aden	Chevalier Stamped	Chevalier	DB	FN, J1, J3/UU, N	13
Early Coles Creek	Aden	Coles Creek Incised	Cambellsville	CB, DB		3
Early Coles Creek	Aden	Coles Creek Incised	Coles Creek	CB	FN, J1-3, J3/U, U	21
Early Coles Creek	Aden	French Fork Incised	Larkin	CB	CB/N, FN, J1-3, J3/U	30
						67
Middle Coles Creek	Kings Crossing	Coles Creek Incised	Mott		J2	5
Middle Coles Creek	Kings Crossing	Beldeau Incised	Beldeau			1
						6
Late Coles Creek	Crippen Point	Coleman Incised	Coleman			1
Late Coles Creek	Crippen Point	Harrison Bayou Incised	Harrison Bayou		J1, J2	5
Late Coles Creek	Crippen Point	Plaquemine Brushed	Plaquemine			3
						9
Early Plaquemine	Winterville I	Anna Incised	Anna	SB		1
Early Plaquemine	Winterville I	L'Eau Noire Incised	L'Eau Noire			1
						234

The majority of these sherds for the Baytown period fell into one of the three bowl categories (Figures 13-16). Only one shallow bowl was evident, a Larto Red variety *Silver Creek* (Figure 13). The large Coles Creek Incised variety *Stoner* deep bowls dated to the Late Baytown period (Figures 14 and 15). Three sherds made up the limited jar varieties: Coles Creek Incised variety *Chase* (p31), Coles Creek Incised variety *Wade* (p65), Mulberry Creek Cord Marked variety *Smith Creek* (p102). They were divided into two jar categories: straight-sided (*J2*), and an amalgamated vessel that is closest in rim appearance to (*J3/U*). There were no necked jars (*N*), wide-mouth jars (*J1*), or flare-neck vessels (*FN*) apparent.

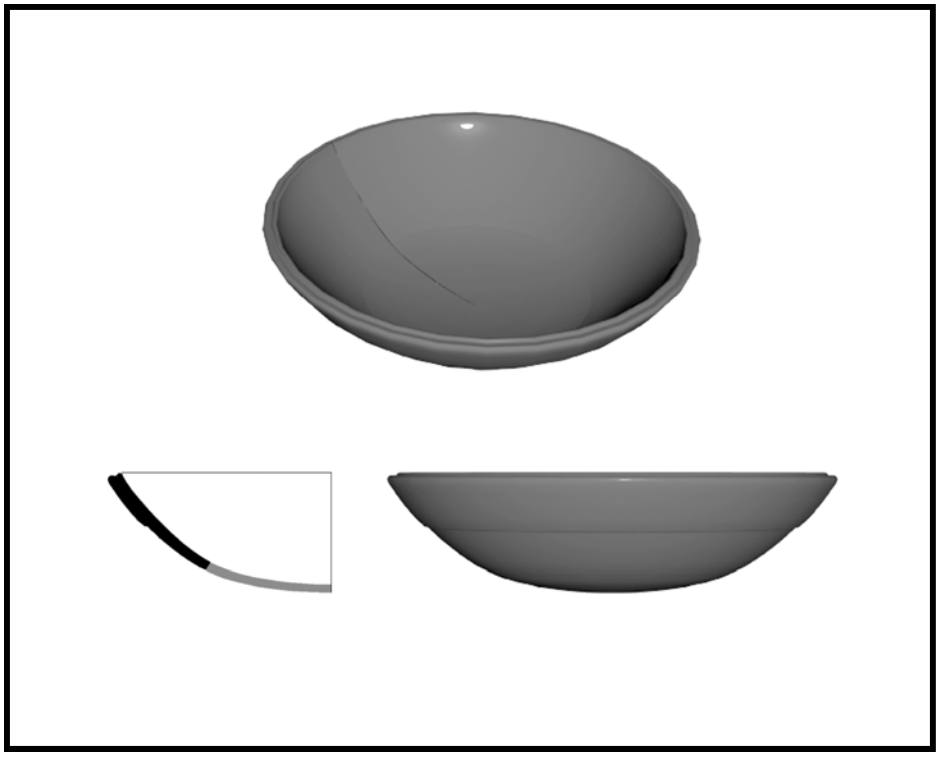

Figure 13: Larto Red Filmed variety *Silver Creek* shallow bowl (SB). Black profile = original sherd; Gray profile = extension to the midpoint of the vessel. Rim diameter = 19 cm; Volume approximation = 0.3 liters. [Catalog number: p100.]

Figure 14: Coles Creek Incised variety *Stoner* deep bowl (DB). Late Baytown period.

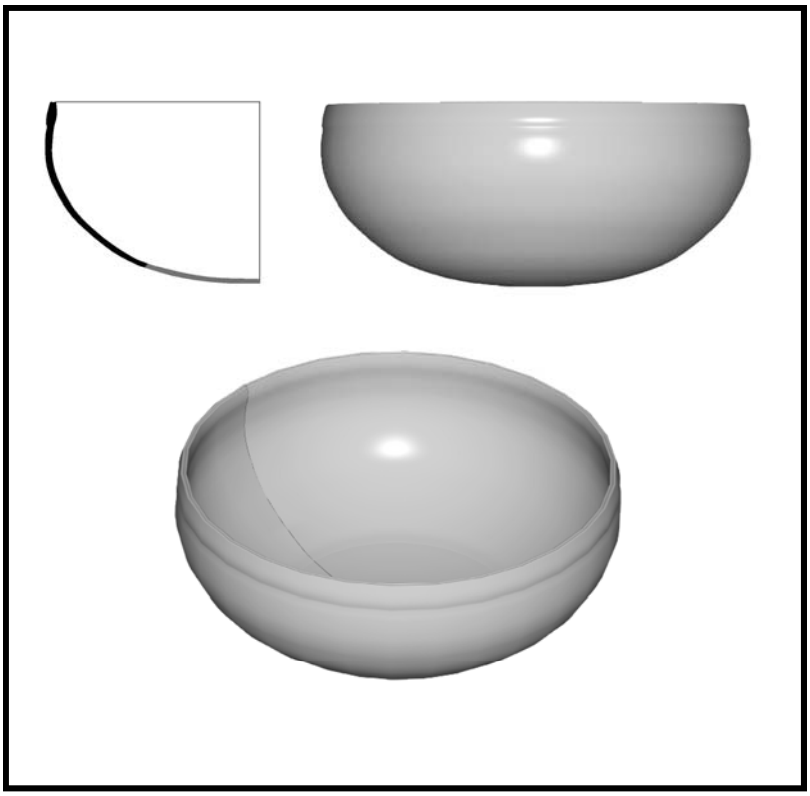

Figure 15: Coles Creek Incised variety *Stoner*, deep bowl (DB). Black profile = original sherd; Gray profile = extension to the midpoint of the vessel. Rim diameter = 39 cm; Volume approximation = 9.4 liters. [Catalog number: p63.]

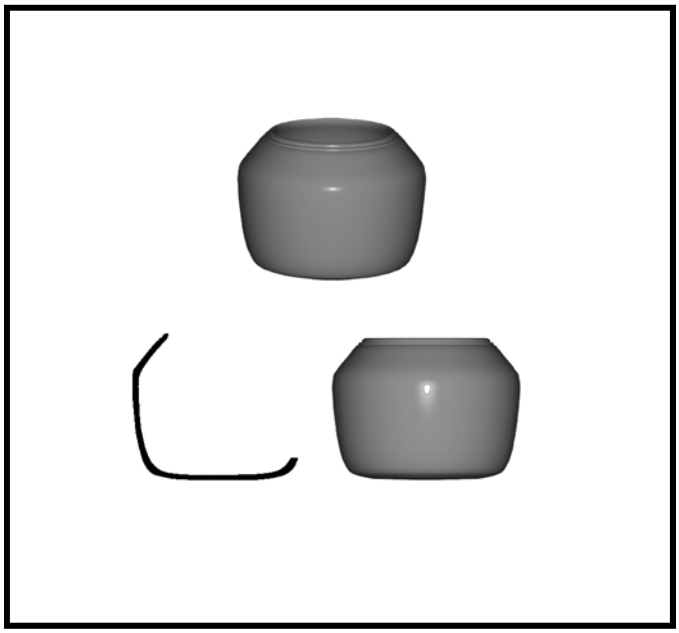

Figure 16: Coles Creek Incised variety *Hunt*, constricted bowl (CB). Early Baytown. Rim diameter = 10 cm; Volume approximation = 1 liter. [Catalog number: p50.]

For the Coles Creek period, there were 59 rim sherds. Eighteen were omitted as they either had remaining orifice percents below the 5% threshold or they had undeterminable rim diameters due to warping or undulating curvature. With the remaining sherds, the categorical distribution was as follows:

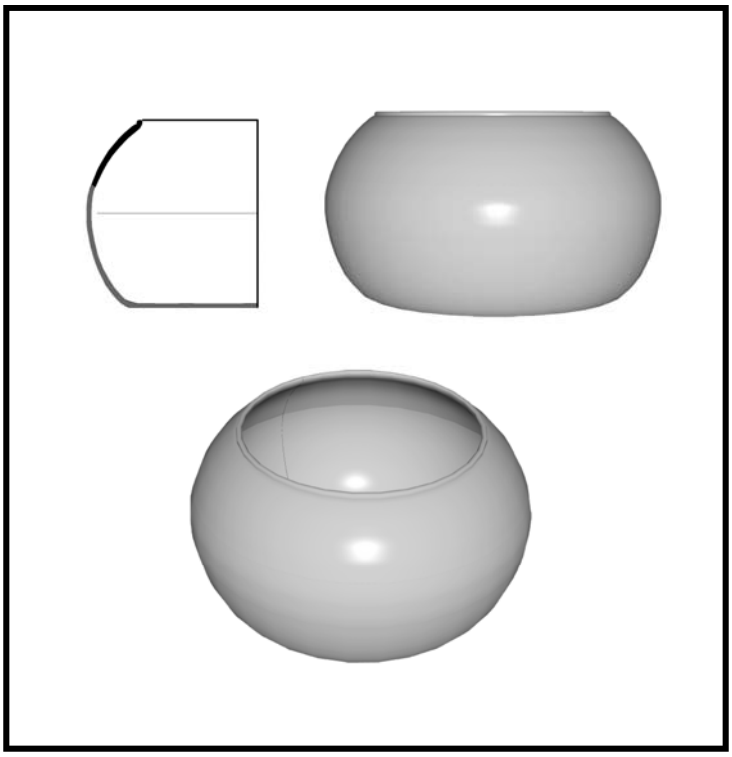

Figure 17: French Fork Incised variety Larkin, Constricted Bowl (CB). Black profile = original sherd; Gray = extension to vessel midpoint. Rim diameter = 22 cm; Volume approximation = 12 liters. [Catalog number: p76.]

Category 1: Bowls. There were eight sherds that fit into a bowl category (Figure 17 for constricted bowl example). Two additional sherds that might have fit this category will be discussed later in Category 3. The bowls represented here were less varied than in the Baytown period assemblage as no shallow bowls were found. Only two sherds clearly fit the Greenhouse characteristics of a deep bowl: p22 Coles Creek Incised variety *Campbellsville*, and p13 Chevalier Stamped. Six sherds were placed in the constricted

bowl category with orifices ranging from 8-33 cm in diameter. One very large bowl, p23, Coles Creek Incised variety *Campbellsville,* was difficult to distinguish between constricted or deep as it was right on the cusp of the two types, having its opening above the maximum width curvature of the vessel but not as far above it as most other constricted types. It was placed under amalgamated terminology (DB/CB). Another sherd, p21, also appears to be this same type of vessel, however reliable diameter calculations were not determinable and it had to be excluded from further calculations. All of the bowls dated to the early Coles Creek period.

Category 2: Jars. There were 32 sherds that were identified as a type of jar based upon shape characteristics, however only 29 were useful for calculations. All of the varieties from Greenhouse were found in the Coles Creek assemblage, including some varieties in between (Figures 18 -21). The pyramidal jar was difficult to identify and I now have reservations as to whether or not it was ever a viable addition to the collection at Feltus.

Figure 18: Harrison Bayou Incised variety *Harrison Bayou*, Wide-Mouth Jar (J1). Diameter = 25 cm; Volume Approximation = 4.6 liters. [Catalog number p96.]

Five sherds were identified as wide-mouthed jars (*J1*), two of which were from the same Harrison Bayou Incised vessel, p95 and p96, which dated to the late Coles Creek period (Figure 18). The remaining three sherds, p18 Chevalier Stamped, p35 Coles Creek Incised variety *Coles Creek*, and p81 French Fork Incised variety *Larkin* all dated to the early Coles Creek. Diameters ranged from 15 to 22cm for the early Coles Creek vessels and 25 cm for the Harrison Bayou Incised.

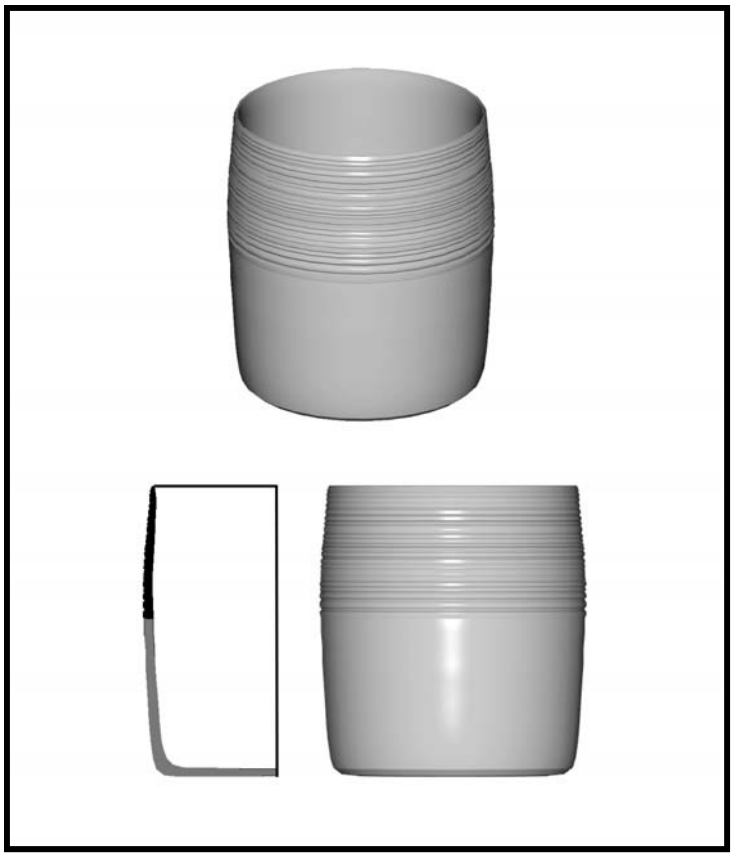

Figure 19: Coles Creek Incised variety *Mott*, Straight-Sided Jar (J2). Diameter = 12 cm; Volume Approximation = 1 liter. Profile image: Black = original profile; Gray = extension to midpoint. [Catalog number p51.]

The dates for straight-sided jars (*J2*) varied, with representatives for the entire band of early, middle, and late Coles Creek periods (Figure 19). (It is also noted that this was one of the three jar varieties also found in the Baytown representation). Nine sherds were identified as straight-sided, with orifices ranging from 12 to 25 cm.

Six sherds fit into a constricted /necked jar category. Three were necked jars (*N*): p11 and p12 which were Chevalier Stamped, and p37 Coles Creek Incised variety *Coles Creek* (Figure 22). Their vessel orifices were between 20 and 27 centimeters and all dated to the early Coles Creek. Three jars were constricted (*J3*), p42 and p44 which were

Coles Creek Incised variety *Coles Creek*, and p75 French Fork Incised variety *Larkin*.

Vessel orifices were from 21 to 25 cm (Figure 20).

Figure 20: French Fork Incised variety *Larkin*, Constricted Jar (J3). Diameter = 24 cm; Volume approximation = 16 liters. Black profile = original sherd; Gray = extension to vessel midpoint. [Catalog number p75.]

Figure 21: French Fork Incised variety Larkin, Flare-Neck Jar (FN). Rim diameter = 26 cm; Volume approximation = 18 liters. Black profile = original sherd; Gray = extension to vessel midpoint. [Catalog number p74.]

Three sherds were classified as flare-neck jars (*FN*), all dating to the early Coles Creek (Figure 21). Diameters varied at 10, 19, and 26 cm, as did their types: p14 Chevalier Stamped, p32 Coles Creek Incised variety *Coles Creek*, and p74 French Fork Incised variety *Larkin*.

Figure 22: Chevalier Stamped variety Chevalier. Images (a) and (b) offer two versions of the same vessel. Black profile = original sherd; Gray = extension to vessel midpoint. Rim diameter = 26 cm; Volume approximation = 26.5 liters. [Catalog number p11.]

Category 3: Miscellaneous Constricted Vessels. For the remaining nine sherds, there was some difficulty in distinguishing whether or not they fit into one of the specific categories outlined in the Greenhouse study or if they were some sort of amalgamated

vessel. It seemed best to put them all into this category since I would argue that their function was probably similar.

Two sherds, p77 and p80, both French Fork Incised variety *Larkin*, are they same type of vessel and I further suggest probably are pieces of the same vessel (Figure 23). Orifice diameters are both at 26 cm, of comparable thickness, and their other dimensions (decorative, etc.) correspond as well. I termed this vessel (CB/N) which appears to be a type of constricted, necked pot or jar; however the design is slightly different in construction and rim-angle from the basic necked-jars (N) presented in Greenhouse, or the simple constricted bowls. Additionally the neck curvature is slightly more bottle-like than the other varieties, which further encouraged me give it a separate designation.

Figure 23: Amalgamated vessel, (CB/N). [Catalog numbers: (a) p77; (b) p80.]

The following sherds: p15, p34, p36, p39, p45, and p79 appear to be similar types of constricted vessels. All exhibit similar rim shapes and angles from the horizontal and rim diameters are also complementary. There are only three diameters between all of the vessels: 20, 26, and 27 centimeters. In Figure 24, below, the two sherds at 27 cm, p36

and p39, could be part of the same vessel; in addition to diameter, their angles, thickness, and number of overlapping incised lines are all consistent.

Figure 24: Coles Creek Incised variety Coles Creek sherds, possibly part of the same vessel.

The majority of the above sherds were originally placed into the pyramidal pot category; however none fit neatly into the depictions from Greenhouse. After further consideration I suggest that they might be examples of a large, complex bowl presented by Williams and Brain (1983:91) that exhibits a corner point, which might account for the strange, straightened angle from the lip with little to no curvature.

Vessel Size and Volume at Feltus

After basic vessel shape categories were determined for the sherds from Feltus, rim-diameter distribution and size ranges for the vessel shapes were analyzed. This section

will present these analyses and include Baytown period distributions briefly to aid in comparisons and later interpretive speculations; however, emphasis will remain on the Coles Creek assemblage. Rim-diameter distributions and modality will be covered first, after which vessel size distributions for Coles Creek and Baytown Period assemblages at Feltus will be presented.

Rim Diameter. Out of the original 59 sherds that dated to the Coles Creek period, 40 were suitable for diameter and volume analysis. The overall distribution of diameters, which included the full assortment of vessel shapes found in the collection, ranged from 8 to 33 cm in diameter (Figure 25). As is noticeable in the chart, the majority of sherds fell in the midrange, from 19 to 30 centimeters.

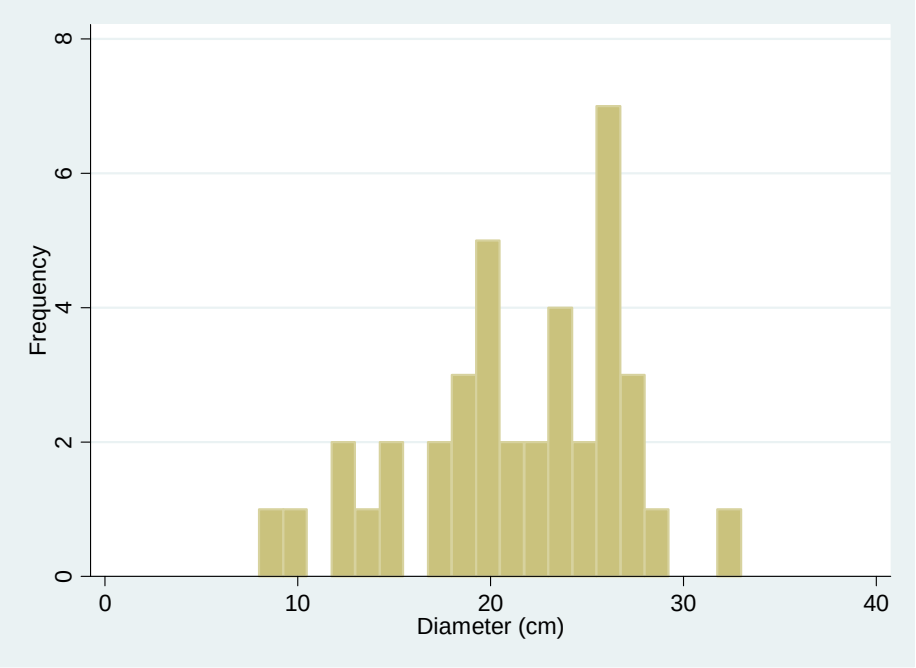

Figure 25: Coles Creek period vessel orifice diameter distribution for the Feltus Mounds sample.

This accentuation on midrange vessel diameters in the Coles Creek period varies considerably from the representative sample from the Baytown period at Feltus (Figure

25 versus Figure 26). Although fewer sherds were available from the Baytown period, there appears to be a higher incidence of large rim diameters than is found in the Coles Creek period. The Baytown diameters range from 10 to 40 cm, with a fairly even distribution between the medium/large and large groups (Figure 26). However, it is important to note that this might simply be attributable to some collection bias in this case. The most noticeable difference is in the very limited number of jars found in the Baytown sample, as compared to those in the Coles Creek Period (which will be discussed in greater detail below).

In Figure 26, three basic groups for diameters can be seen in this sample from the Baytown period, which may generically be termed small, medium, and large. The clearest distributions of vessel type are in the small and large size groups. In the medium category, there is a higher degree of vessel variety convergence.

The data distribution places shallow bowls (*SB*) and constricted bowls (*CB*) in the small to medium size ranges and exclusively taking up all the vessel places from 10 to 23 cm in diameter. Constricted bowls display three size categories: a small vessel at 10 cm, a medium sized vessel at 17 to 19 cm, and a larger at around 23 cm in rim diameter. As there is only one shallow bowl dating to this period, modal distribution for diameters cannot be assessed. The shallow bowl is placed in the medium sized diameter category at 19 cm.

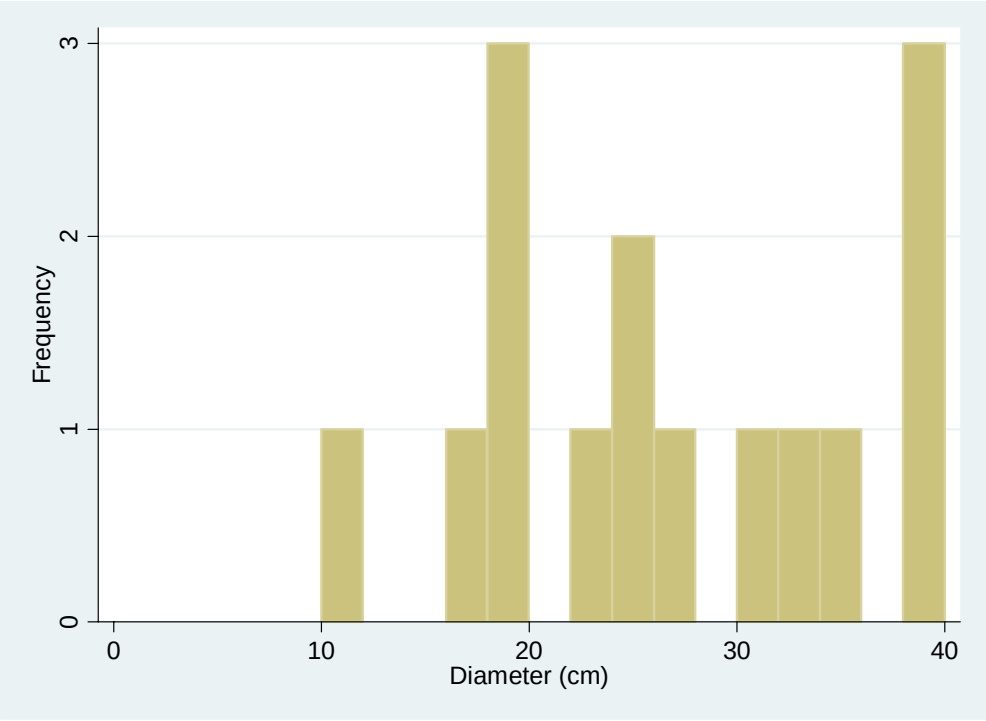

Figure 26: Baytown period vessel orifice diameter distribution for the Feltus sample.

The medium and large sizes consist of deep bowls (*DB*) and a limited number of jar varieties. Deep bowls begin emerging in the medium size category, at 24 cm in diameter, after which there is no evidence of constricted and shallow bowls. The three sherds with the largest diameters are p61, p63, and p64, all Coles Creek Incised variety *Stoner* deep bowls. Sherds p63 and p64 are most likely part of the same bowl, however it is questionable at this point whether or not p61 is indeed part of this same bowl or is part of a different one of comparable size. The three jars dating to this period, divided into groups *J2* or *J3/U*, fit into the large diameter size category, ranging from 25 to 35 cm.

Aside from the increased number of sherds, the most noticeable difference between the Baytown Period and Coles Creek Period orifice diameter charts is that there are more vessel types represented in the Coles Creek chart, with an emphasis on jar varieties. When considering the spectrum of possible shapes outlined from the Greenhouse study

for a Coles Creek assemblage, all varieties except for the shallow bowl are represented. This difference is additionally notable in the proliferation of jar varieties evident in this sample. In the Baytown period sample, there were only three basic jar shapes, all of which were very simplistic forms, whereas in this sample there are at least seven types with the forms increasing in complexity. As there are a considerably higher number of vessel varieties in this sample from the Coles Creek period, a closer inspection of the shape and size distributions of the specific groups is needed.

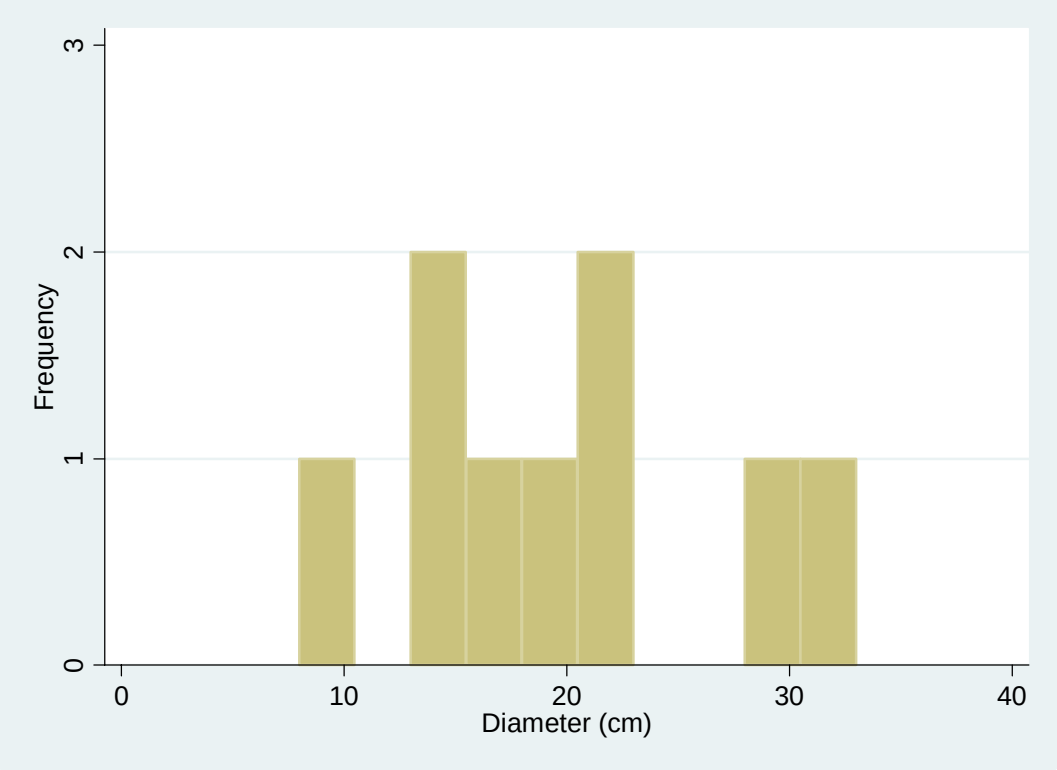

Figure 27: Vessel orifice diameter distribution for Coles Creek period bowls.

Three size ranges for bowls are apparent, which again may be termed small, medium, and large (Figure 27). No shallow bowls were found dating to the Coles Creek Period, thus the chart in Figure 27 represents only sherds from the deep and constricted bowl varieties. The small size group is from approximately 8 to 13 cm in diameter, and the

medium size group from approximately 15 to 22 cm. Here, all sherds with rim diameters less than 20 cm were constricted bowls (*CB*), making up the entirety of the small group and the majority of the medium. Deep bowls appeared again in the medium and large categories, at 21 and 29 cm. Similar to the distinct size ranges in the Baytown period example, the specific size ranges for vessel shapes may suggest specific utilitarian functions that influenced vessel shape.

The vessel orifice diameters for the continuum of Coles Creek jar varieties are illustrated below in Figure 28. In the general chart, it is difficult to distinguish the distinct size categories for the jar varieties after approximately 15 cm. The independent categories, however, do evidence repetitive size patterns, which may again be termed small, medium and large (although these definitions will be slightly variable for the different vessels as far as size parameters are concerned).

The small orifice size category for jars may generically be considered to range from 10 to 15 cm in this sample (Figure 28). It consists of four sherds falling into the following groups: one Chevalier Stamped flare-neck jar (*FN*); two wide-mouth jars (*J2*), Coles Creek Incised variety *Mott* and French Fork Incised variety *Larkin*; and one Chevalier Stamped straight-sided jar (*J1*).

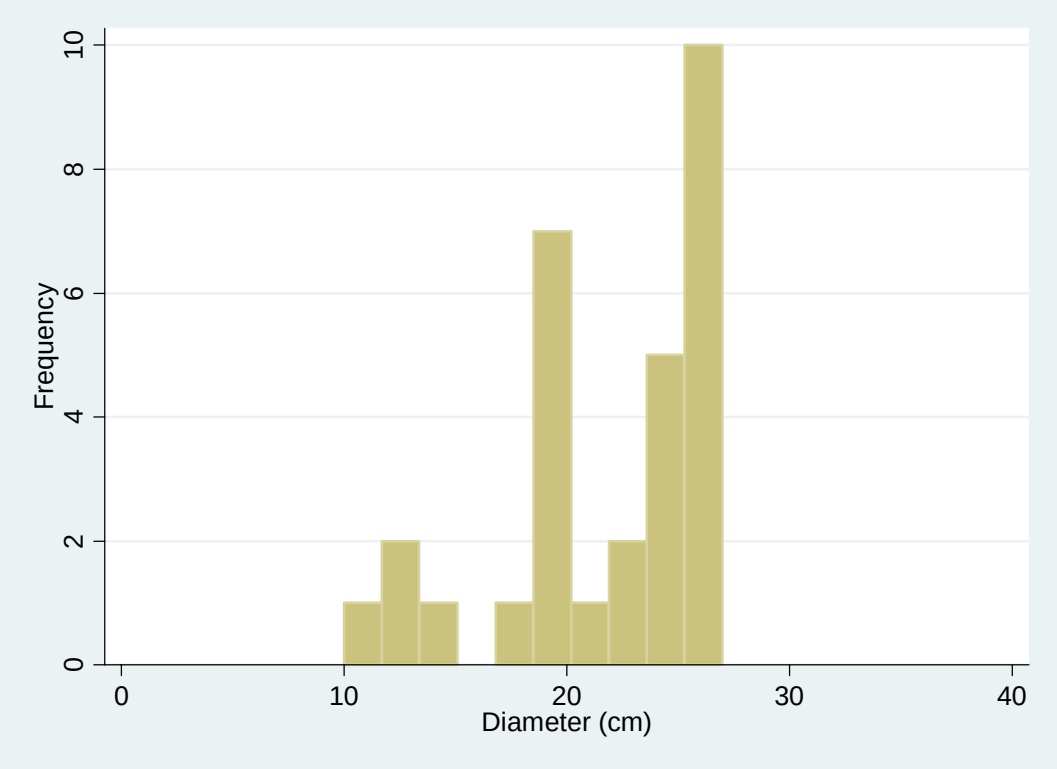

Figure 28: Orifice diameter distribution for Coles Creek period jar varieties.

The medium size category is somewhat non-distinct when viewing the general sample and may arbitrarily be divided from 17 to 23 cm in diameter; however this group is difficult to define on its own and is better described by discussing the distributions of the individual shapes. The four sherds that constitute the wide-mouthed jars (*J1*) fall in the medium size ranges, specifically from 15 to 23 cm. Here, two dominant sizes are apparent, one smaller at 15 and 17 cm, and a slightly larger vessel at 22 and 23 cm. Although by diametric accounts this difference does not seem much, in the following volume analysis the size difference is more apparent and I would suggest might again be an example of discreet size ranging for this vessel category. Additionally, as each sherd represents a different vessel typology it is all the more likely that these size ranges are intentional and functionally-based rather than coincidence.

Eight sherds constitute the straight-sided jars (*J2*) and distribute across the small to medium categories, with diameters from 12 to 25 cm; however, within this spectrum *J2* exhibits three size ranges which I again suggest are intentional. The small vessel appears at 12 centimeters, which two sherds make up: a Coles Creek Incised variety *Mott* and a French Fork Incised variety *Larkin*. The medium-sized vessel sits at 19 and 20 cm comprised of three Coles Creek Incised variety *Coles Creek* sherds (not the same vessel). The larger vessel is at 24 and 25 cm, comprised of three sherds of different varieties. Again, these size ranges may or may not suggest specific functions for these vessels, though I would assert that the ranges are intentional variations, the sizes of which are clearer in the vessel volume discussion.

There were only three clearly defined constricted, barrel jar (*J3*) sherds and four additional sherds fell into an amalgamated category, dubbed *J3/U*, whose particular morphology was more uncertain. The three barrel jars fell in the medium to large size categories, with one sherd at 21 cm and two sherds of different typologies at 24 and 25 cm. Here, again, I would argue in favor of distinct sizing (which is more apparent in the discussion of volume below). Out of the four sherds that fell into the amalgamated category, two dominant sizes were again apparent: a smaller vessel at 20 cm and a larger again at 26 to 27.

For the remaining vessels, the following distributions were apparent. Flaring-neck vessels (*FN*) again distributed in the three common jar sizes; a small vessel at 10 cm, a medium vessel at 19, and a large vessel at 26 cm. Six sherds made up necked jars (*N*) and pyramidal pots (*U*), both of which exhibited two dominant sizes. The smaller vessel for both of these fell into the midrange at 20 cm, and the large vessels were at 26 and 27

cm. The two final sherds from the jar varieties that did not appear to clearly fit any of the Greenhouse categories, which was dubbed (*CB/N*), again had a large, and common-sized orifice diameter at 26 cm.

In summary, if orifice diameter distributions may be considered a fairly reliable gauge for vessel size patterning, then the individual analyses of Coles Creek period jar and bowl orifice diameters from the Feltus Mounds sample suggests that, similar to the Baytown period example, vessels were being produced in distinct, replicable sizes/size ranges. Nevertheless, this argument is difficult to hold without further inquiry into the actual sizes of the vessels, especially since vessel orifice size is only relevant to the discussion of vessel size when applied to its particular shape group. Thus, this hypothesis was tested by further analyses in the following section.

Vessel Volumes

In the analysis of vessel volumes, the notion of intentional size bounding becomes more apparent. It is important to note that the calculated volumes presented here are approximations only and are not intended to be definitive or exact. Once again, a quick overview of Baytown vessels will be given first.

All of the following calculations were made using the *DesignCAD 3000* program, which allowed volume to be determined based upon completed Feltus rim-profile models. The models were constructed by selecting at least one profile (but frequently two) out of the rim profile drawings from Feltus to be the representative for the designated vessel group. The vessel profiles were digitized and extended to the vessel midpoint, allowing

for the program to create whole vessel reconstructions. Dimensions for height, width, and base diameter were attained for the Feltus vessels by applying the ratios collected from the corresponding vessel shape category in the Greenhouse drawings. Once the digital reconstructions were finished, the program allowed vessel diameters for each model (and thus vessel sizes) to be changed, and in so doing, the approximated range of volumes available for each category from Feltus was determined. Original calculations of volume were in cubic centimeters; conversions were made to liters for diagnostic convenience. (Earlier Figures 13-22 in section III show the individual vessels along with brief profile information. On the following page, Figure 29 demonstrates the relative sizes of the vessels in contrast to one another. Appendix A has complete profile information for the rim sherds listed according to catalog number.)

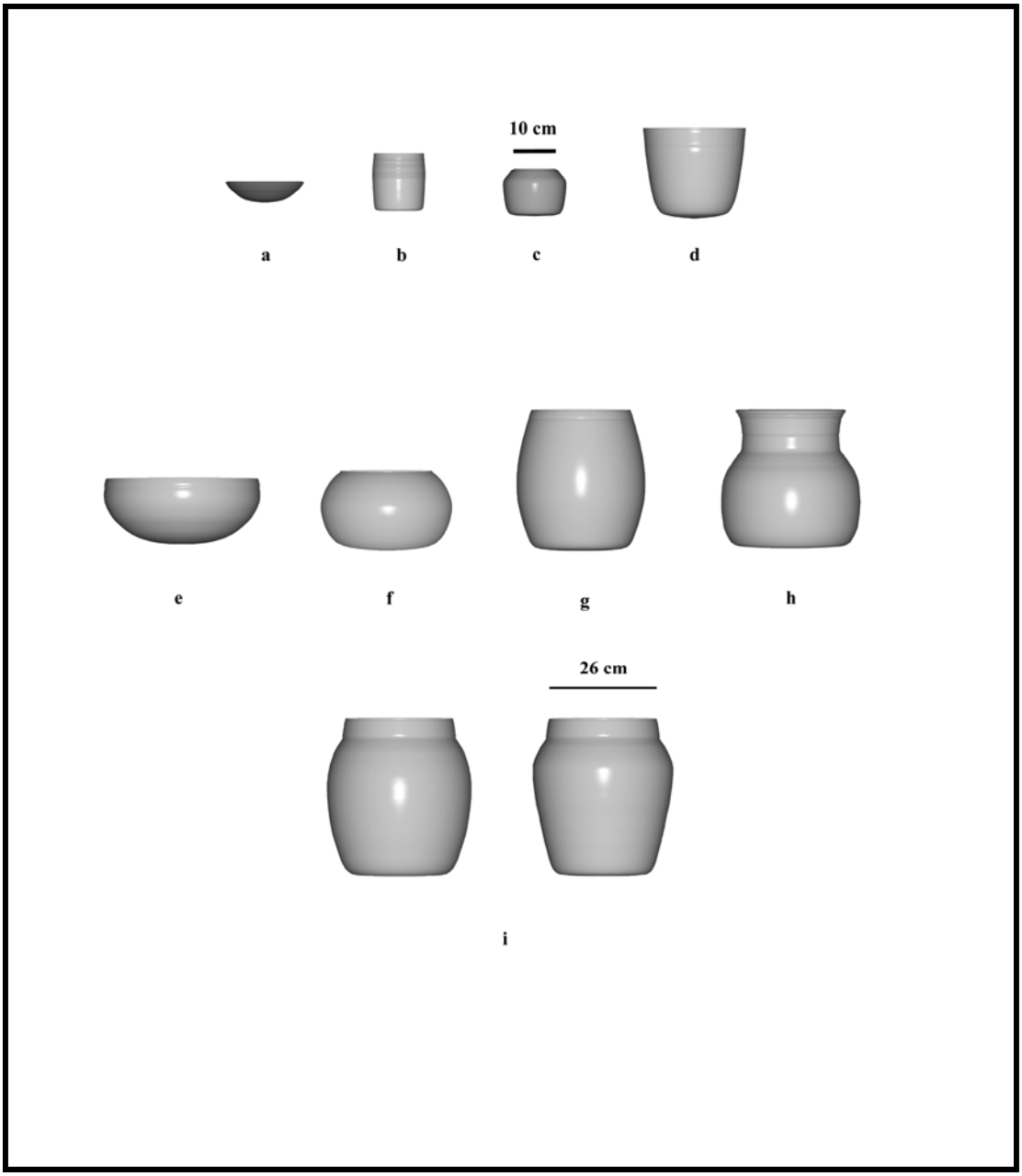

Figure 29: Distribution of vessel sizes and shapes from Feltus. Vessels are juxtaposed according to their relative sizes: (a) 0.3 liters; (b) 1 liter; (c) 1 liter; (d) 4.6 liters; (e) 9.4 liters; (f) 12 liters; (g) 16 liters; (h) 18 liters; (i) 26.5 liters.

Since so few sherds were available for analysis from the Baytown period, the following trends are overviewed tentatively. It is important to also reiterate that the only eight of these sherds could be clearly identified as having rim percents over the 5% threshold. As the majority of vessels from this period are bowls, it is not surprising that volumes fall overwhelmingly in the low end (Figure 30). What is interesting, however, is the distribution of vessel varieties across this chart. The one shallow bowl represents the lowest volume, of approximately 0.3 l. After this, constricted bowls (*CB*) appear in roughly three sizes: small, medium, and large. The small constricted bowl is at roughly one liter, the medium varies from 5.5 to 7.7 l, and the large bowl is close to 14 l. Deep bowls (*DB*) also evidence roughly three sizes, although they are closer in proximity and all fall in the mid-range of vessel volumes. For *DB* the small vessel is around 2 to 2.5 l, the medium is at 4 l, and the large is approximately 9 l. The three sherds that appear to be jars also have three (tentative) sizes: a smaller vessel at 10 l, a medium at 18 l and a very large at 46 l.

A general diagram of Coles Creek period size distribution for the Feltus sample is given below in Figure 31. In its most simplistic sense, again there are three primary size ranges for volume that emerge: small, medium, and large. As is again evident, the majority of sherds were from vessels with volumes below 10 l, after which there is an abrupt jump in volume size to those closer to 20 l. This may be called the medium size range category, where volumes range from approximately 16 to 20 l. The large volume category contains vessels with volumes just below 30 l.

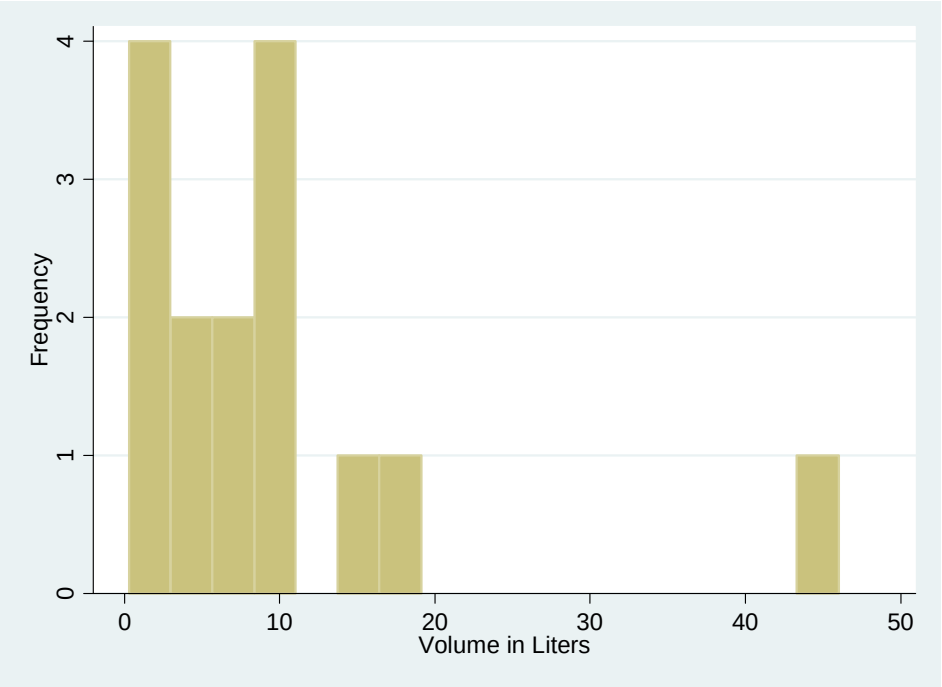

Figure 30: Baytown period vessel volume distribution

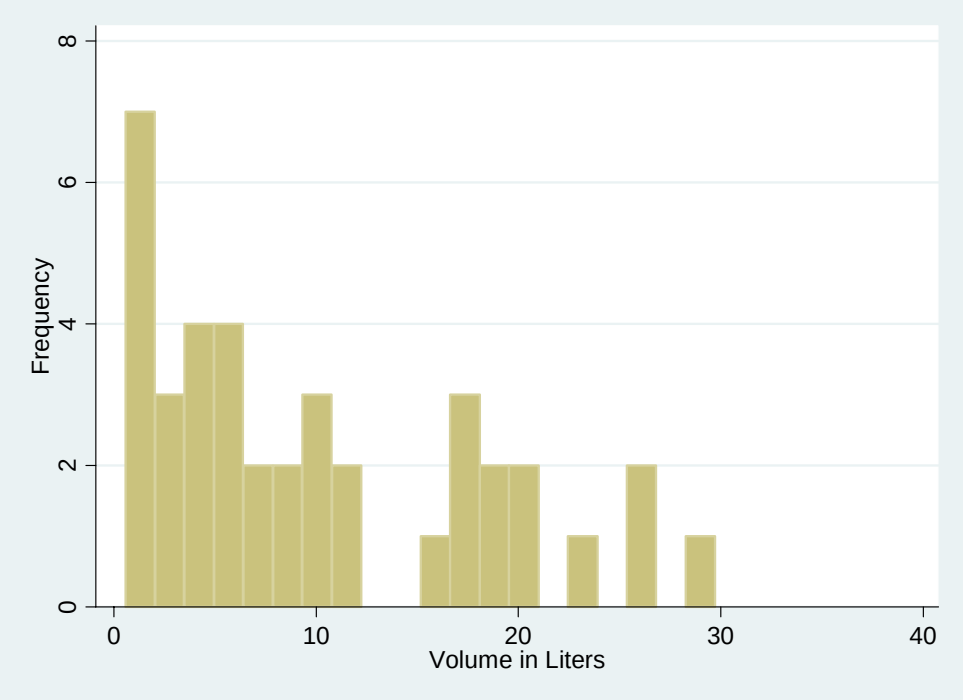

Figure 31: Coles Creek period vessel volume distribution.

As might be expected for constricted (*CB*) and deep (*DB*) bowl varieties, vessel volumes fell below 10 l (Figure 32). It is interesting to note, however, that even though the deep bowls constituted some of the largest rim diameters, constricted bowls always have considerably higher volumes per diameter size and comprise both the smallest and the largest volumes in this chart. One such example is found in similar mid-range diameters: 19 and 22 for constricted bowls and at 21 for the deep bowl. The volumes for both of the constricted bowls varied between seven to nine times the volume of the deep bowl, which was only slightly over 1 liter.

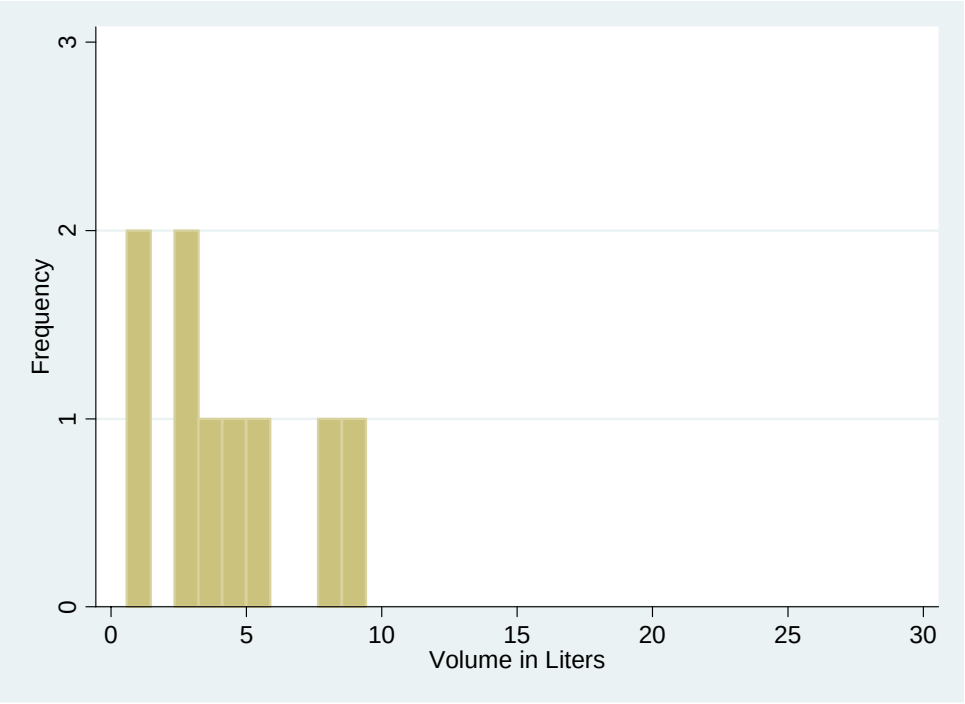

Figure 32: Coles Creek period bowl varieties, volume distribution.

A clear delineation of volume sizes is also manifest in the jar varieties, though exhibiting a much wider range of size distribution. Small, medium, and large ranges for volume are defined here as well (Figure 33). Since a considerable percentage of jars again fell below the 10 l marker, a closer inspection is needed for the individual varieties.

Wide-mouth jars (*J1*) are only found in the low-end of the small volume category (Figure 33). There are two sizes that repeat, the first at approximately 1 l and the other at just above 3 liters. In this regard they are similar to bowls in volume capacity; however this further implies that varying functional characteristics are the defining features between these types. Additionally, with their reduced bases the morphology of these vessels would force them to remain small and squat in order to prevent compromising stability.

Straight-sided jars (*J2*) are also found exclusively in the small volume size category; however sizes within this category are again variable (Figure 33). The vessels with diameters at 12 cm have low-end volumes of about 1 l. A middle sized vessel with diameters at 19 and 20 cm varied from approximately 4 to 5 l. The larger straight-sided jars with diameters at 24 and 25 cm had variable volumes just below 10 l. The variations in volume in relation to the variations of diameter further emphasize distinct and intentional sizing.

Constricted barrel jars (*J3*) and flare-neck jars (*FN*) both span the small to medium size ranges and again demonstrate a modal size distribution for the vessels. For the barrel jars, the smaller vessel is right at about 10 l and the larger two falls just below 20 l (Figure 33). The mixed vessels (*J3/U*) also exhibit two sizes: a small vessel at around 6 l and medium sized vessels with volumes between 17 and 18 l. Flare-necked jars (*FN*) exhibit three sizes: a small at 1 l, a medium-small at about 7 l, and a larger “medium” sized vessel at 18 l. In this category I will also place the undetermined (*CB/N*) vessel, which may roughly be considered to have a volume just below 20 l, placing it at the end of the medium sized vessels.

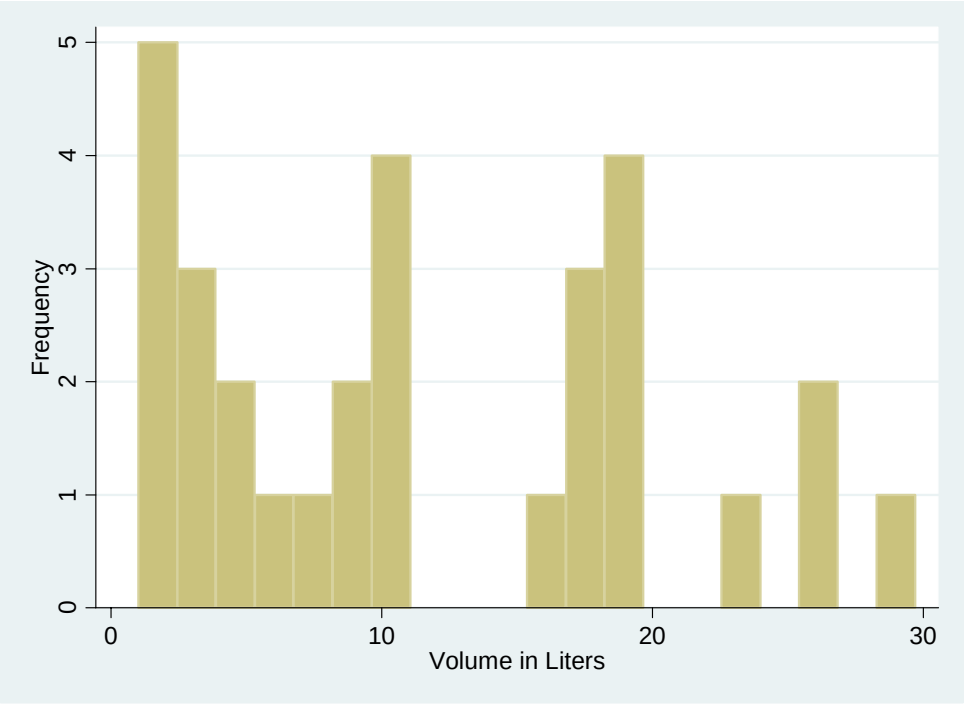

Figure 33: Coles Creek period jar varieties, volume distribution.

Necked Jars (*N*) and pyramidal jars (*U*) both have two sizes in this sample; small and large (Figure 33). Even though the necked jars seem to exhibit slightly higher volumes per orifice size the distribution between the two vessels is comparable. In both types, the small vessel has a volume of about 10 l and the large vessels are between 27 and 29 l.

To summarize, in this section an argument in favor of intentional sizing of vessels and vessel shapes at Feltus Mounds has been presented. The following section will discuss relevant functional theories and possible interpretations for the shapes and distributions found in this sample.

Vessel Functional Interpretations

Ethnographic data and morphological studies will now be applied to the Feltus sample to aid in the discussion of vessel shape and size distributions as well as interpretations of vessel functions. The two dominant studies mentioned here are by David J. Hally (1986) and Elizabeth Henrickson and Mary McDonald (1983).

All the authors advocate a cross-cultural, utilitarian approach to the analysis of pottery vessels. According to their theories, pottery vessels may be seen as utilitarian tools whose functional needs define their morphological parameters and in cases where functional needs are similar, these parameters can be considered cross-cultural (Hally 1986:268). This theory is taken one step further by Henrickson and McDonald who suggest that generic morphological parameters as they are related to vessel function may be seen in a universal light (1983:631). These considerations create a justifiable basis from which ethnographic data for Southeastern foodways, as well as multiethnic functional studies for the uses of jars and bowls, may be applied to Feltus.

Ethnographic data concerning the foodways of Mississippian cultures in the Lower Mississippi Valley suggests that pottery vessels were employed in various stages of food preparation including soaking, parching, baking, boiling, and storing, in addition to serving, carrying, and non-dietary related functions (Hally 1986:269,270).

According to multiethnic research, cooking vessels are most frequently large and squat with fairly thick walls and restricted mouths to better retain heat and prevent boiling contents from evaporating (Henrickson and McDonald 1983:631). Vessel stability concerns are also likely in this case, and the morphology described above would

address this. In the American South, Hally asserts that the most common types of vessels used in cooking functions were jars and bowls, especially for boiling foodstuffs (1986:268). Reports described these as large rounded or "carinated" bowls from two and a half to six liters, and large "windmill" or "beehive" shaped jars up to twenty liters in carrying capacity (Hally 1986:268).

A variety of containers could be used for food storage. Pottery vessels were generally only used to keep a limited/restricted assortment of foodstuffs, which were predominantly liquids and kept in large quantities (Hally 1986:272). Among the staples typically stored in pottery vessels in Southeast are bear oil, hickory nut oils, dried shellfish, and water (Hally 1986:271). Additionally, Hally found that jars were commonly used to store oils, which were important flavoring ingredients in a lot of dishes. Two of the most highly esteemed oils, hickory milk and bear oil, were generally kept in "large covered jars with capacities up to 20 liters" (1986:270).

In their varied research, Henrickson and McDonald found that the most common types of long-term storage vessels tended to be tall and thin, frequently with "rolled-over or everted rims, possibly to facilitate tying a pliable cover over the opening for protection against insects and dirt" (1983:632, 633). They additionally found short-term dry storage vessels favored a lowered, squat design with wide mouths (Henrickson and McDonald 1983:632). Burnishing as a decorative technique was frequently reserved for treatment of liquid storage vessels (primarily jars), presumably to prevent evaporation of contents, and was not commonly found on dry storage varieties, however jars that contained oils generally were not burnished (Henrickson and McDonald 1983:633).

Cross-culturally, the most common type of serving vessel is an open "unrestricted" bowl allowing for easy access to contents; these were frequently decorated and could be constructed for either individual or group use (Henrickson and McDonald 1983:632). In the southeastern United States, bowls were frequently used to hold black drink, which was important for use in ritual contexts and "consumed in large quantities at public gatherings" (Hally 1986:272). Vessels used to keep black drink are commonly depicted as either a deep rounded bowl of about 12 liters in capacity [Swanton 1946:365], "a straight-sided caldron [Swanton 1946: Plate 98], [or] a large jar with a constricted neck [Schmidt and Bell 1953: Plate 6; Swanton 1946:791-793]" (Hally 1986:270). In addition to this, "cylindrically shaped vessel[s] with flat bottom[s] and wide orifice[s]" stood about camps and households and were used to keep corn soup or food staples that could be eaten at any time night or day (Hally 1986:269). This was a convenient solution to the frequent and irregular eating intervals of these cultures that necessitated having staples readily available (Hally1986:270).

Interpretations. The following suggestions are based upon morphological characteristics and ethnographic data. It is important to note that this is not intended to be a conclusive or detailed analysis, but an overview of possible functions and explanations for the vessels and sizes found for the Coles Creek assemblage at Feltus Mounds. Further investigations of larger site patterns are needed for a more conclusive study.

Shallow, simple bowls (*SB*) may be considered to have had primarily serving functions with their open orifices and low volumes. I suggest that it is more likely that solid rather than liquid foods were served in shallow bowls as containment security is at

its lowest with these vessels. Southeastern ethnographic data gathered by Hally suggests that various solid foods, such as roasted nuts, fruit, and hickory meal, were most likely served in smaller vessels such as this during communal meals (1986:272).

Deep bowls (*DB*) could have served more varied functions than shallow bowls. Containment security is increased in comparison to the shallow bowls, which would make them suitable for holding solids or liquids. Accounts describe deep bowls as receptacles for liquid foods such as soups, drinking water during meals, and as containers for black drink (Hally 1986:269,271). These vessels also would have been suitable for the communal serving practices described by Hally (1986:271). The medium sized vessel orifices from the Feltus sample, coupled with the relatively low volumes, suggest to me that these vessels were primarily intended for serving or in food preparation functions. The low volumes also may attest to low group size that these individual bowls serviced. The one large amalgamated vessel (*DB/CB*), with the large orifice and volume, I suggest was probably a stationary cooking vessel or perhaps water receptacle.

Constricted bowls (*CB*) could have served more varied functions than either deep or shallow bowls. With higher walls, constricted orifices, and low, squat body shapes containment security and vessel stability are increased. Vessels of this type that were not burnished or painted could have been suitable for various cooking functions, such as boiling, as chance of spillage is reduced and the small orifices would retain heat well (Hally 1986:280). Accounts from the southeastern United States describe “large rounded bowls” or “carinated bowls of 2.5-6 l capacity” being used to boil foodstuffs such as vegetables (Hally 1986:269). Once again, Coles Creek period volume estimations for constricted bowls place their capacities well within these ranges, with several being

considerably over the 6 l marker. Ethnographic data also mentions “little pots” which were used to transport fire in ceremonial contexts, which might fit the smallest varieties of this type (Hally 1986:271).

Based upon their morphology, wide-mouth jars (*J1*) have reduced stability and reduced containment security for contents; however ease of access to contents is greatly increased by the wide orifices. With the low volume findings and roughly two sizes of mid-range orifices, I suggest a few possible functions for this vessel may have been as: (a) short term storage jar, perhaps of dry foods (Henrickson and McDonald 1983:632); (b) large serving jars, or c) possibly as a type of “sofkee pot” allowing for dietary staples to be eaten at leisure throughout the day (Hally 1986:269). Although sofkee usually references corn-based soup, a staple that would have antedated the Coles Creek period, these jars could have been used to contain another, similar dietary staple more suitable to the time, such as a native seed crop (Kidder and Fritz 1993: 283). The descriptions for the vessels are additionally similar enough that it suggests a cultural continuity in this respect. A further consideration is that according to Hally, these “sofkee” serving/storage jars frequently varied in capacity according to family size, but were usually at least two liters in capacity (1986:269). This measurement would place the larger vessels of this type at Feltus within this range.

Straight-sided jars (*J2*) could have served a variety of functions well. They have better stability than the wide-mouthed jars as bases equate rim diameters, and the non-restricted openings aid in ease of access to their contents; however, the cylindrical shape does allow for larger sizes and thus greater volumes for this type without compromising stability. These vessels again reasonably fit the definitions of cooking jars, food

preparation containers, or as a type of stationary staple pot for serving foods throughout the day. It is also possible that they may have served well as stationary water jars. If Hally is correct in suggesting that the sizes of these vessels might have varied according to household size, than it would be interesting to determine the number of people that one of such vessels could reasonably serve in the course of a day. (This topic will be briefly touched upon later in the future research section.)

Constricted jars (*J3*) seem to fit best definitions of large cooking vessels in my estimation. Containment security is again higher with this type of vessel as the orifice is further constricted and ease of access to contents is reduced. Additionally, these jars would be suitable for maintaining temperature and preventing the rapid evaporation of contents, both of which are best facilitated by narrow vessel orifice diameters and/or by covering the vessel opening (Hally 1986:280). According to descriptions by Hally, large unburnished "beehive" shaped jars up to 20 l in capacity could have been used for boiling foodstuffs (1986:268). The dimensions for the *J3* vessels at Feltus accurately reflect ethnographic estimates. It is also possible that they could have had some type of storage function, and there are also reports of large, covered jars that were used to store water, which might be applicable here as well.

Necked jars (*N*) exhibit greater containment security than the other jar varieties. According to Hally, vessels designed with greater restriction or angle of constriction of the vessel orifice have a better chance of reducing the spillage of contents and might also aid in pouring (1986:280). Henrickson and McDonald's research further asserts that tall, thin vessels of the jar varieties cross-culturally were found to be used for liquid storage purposes (1983:633). Some ethnographic reports suggest that jars with constricted necks

were one type of vessel into which "black drink" was poured (Hally 1986:270). I also suggest that unburnished vessels of this type could/might have been used for storing valuable oils which needed secure storage often for lengthy periods of time, reports suggesting up to a year for bear oil, which would be congruent with reports by Hally (1986:270). Boiling/cooking is again another consideration for the function of necked-jars, and it is also possible that variants of these vessels could have been used for water-carrying pitchers (Hally 1986:270; Henrickson and McDonald 633).

Flare-neck jars and/or pots (*FN*) I suggest were designed to aid in both the process of filling and pouring contents. The morphological designs of these vessels – the wide flaring mouth constricting in a funnel-like manner to the smaller neck and the shorter, squat body – fit Hally's descriptions for vessels intended to aid in pouring or filling (Hally 1986:280). In addition to this, containment security is high which would make transport easier for smaller vessels of this type. In the Feltus sample, three sizes of flaring-neck vessels emerged, roughly at one, seven, and eighteen liters. The small and medium vessels would be fairly easy to carry. The larger vessel may have been mostly stationary and been used as an intermediary vessel of sorts. In short, the design considerations of these vessels would have made them suitable for a variety of functions within a society. They could have been used as intermediary vessels from which to transfer contents into from vessels that might be easier to spill from, or as serving and carrying pitchers, or as storage or cooking containers.

Pyramidal pots (*U*) exhibit the greatest degree of stability with their wide bases and narrowing bodies that taper into constricted orifices (Hally 1986:279). Their volume capacities are additionally large, between 10 to 20 l. I think these vessels may again have

been used for large-scale cooking of foodstuffs, particularly in boiling or other such functions where preventing spillage and/or evaporation of contents is of the highest concerns.

General Site Interpretations

To facilitate general site interpretations for the distributions found here, the hypothesis I would like to suggest is that the varying morphology of vessels is largely a by-product of its varying utilitarian functions, but the differences in size for at least some types of vessels may be a reflection of group size or social status. This hypothesis for the interpretation of Feltus distributions is largely derived from southeastern historical records gathered by Hally (1986) and working assumptions advocated by Blitz (1993).

Both the ethnographic and morphological studies suggest that the majority of vessels comprising the Feltus sample were probably involved in cooking or storage functions. Cooking and serving vessels, in comparison to storage, have a clearer relation to group serving size. If this is held as the working assumption, then looking at a few of the representative varieties that most clearly exhibit cooking or serving functions might indicate variations in group/household size or possibly status at Feltus.

Looking at the basic distribution of volumes for Coles Creek jar varieties, the majority of vessels have volumes designated into the small category with capacities of 10 l or below (Figure 33). If this distribution were tied to household size as Hally and Blitz suggest, than it would indicate a majority of low-number households being served at

Feltus (according to this sample). Under this premise, the medium and large sizes would suggest correspondingly larger household sizes or kin groups that were being served.

What is more difficult to account for, however, is the presence of the large vessels. Approximately ten vessels from the site demonstrated relatively large volumes which also corresponded to the largest findings in gathered data according to Hally. These vessels all date to the early Coles Creek period and could reflect: (a) a low number of large households (perhaps even just one), (b) large-scale feasting or storage activities, (c) mound-building activities, or (d) increasing populations.

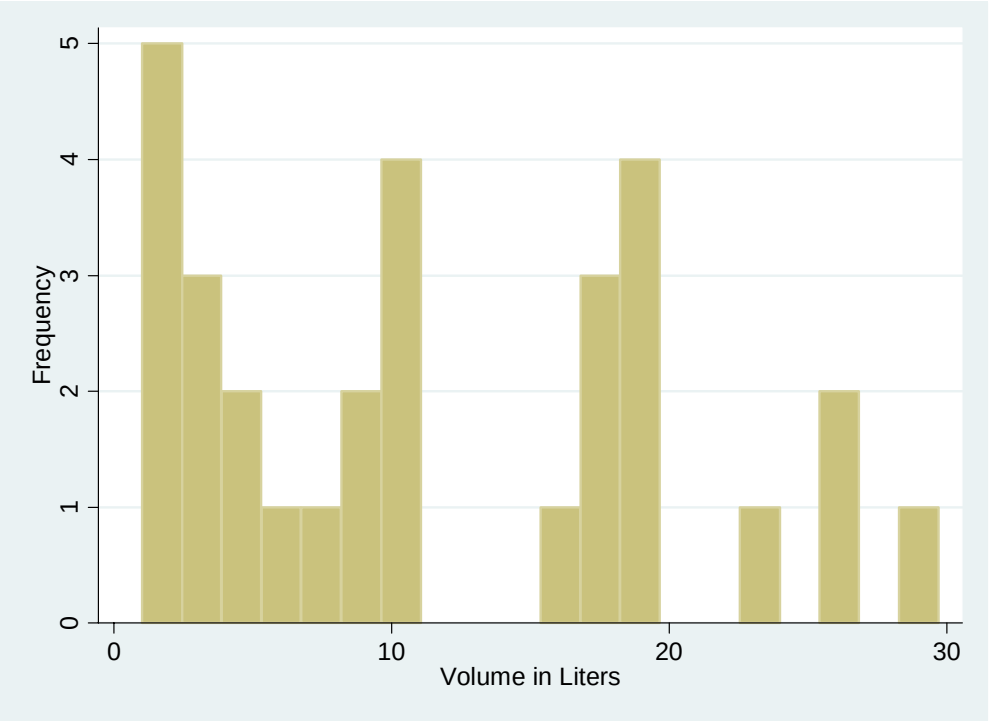

Figure 33: Volume distribution of Coles Creek period jar varieties.

If the large varieties represent one or a few large households, then a few additional considerations come to mind. For one, why is one household (or a few) growing disproportionately in comparison to the others if populations in the valley are projected to

have been expanding overall at this time? Secondly, how does one account for the disproportionate access to resources?

One explanation is offered by Blitz, who suggests that: "[k]in groups that amassed more food held the advantage in the competitive arena of feasts and gift giving that serves to bind together households in small-scale societies" (1993:80). In this way food surplus could be used as "a social strategy to extend alliances, reinforce obligations, and promote prestige" (Blitz 1993:80). This idea is further reiterated by Kidder who suggests that during the Coles Creek period:

> Solidification of power and prestige was apparently undertaken within the existing framework of local kinship networks and community and household independence. The ability to mobilize labor, probably through kinship networks and clan affiliation, was likely to have been an important aspect of elite status and maintenance (Knight 1990) [1992:157].

By these terms the presence of large cooking and storage related vessels might indicate the disproportionate growth of one household or kin group, possibly via social networking schemas, and in this way building its communal power base.

Similar to the conclusions drawn from the large household hypothesis, if instead the jars indicated an increase in either mound-building or related activities, or feasting, than again emergent social ranking or similar power strategizing is implied. Fritz ascribes the development of these ranking mechanisms amongst Coles Creek cultures in terms of preagricultural sedentation and dietary economies. In regions where there is an abundance of available resources, sedentation was often able to develop amongst complex hunting-gathering-fishing populations long before there was any demand for agricultural supplementation to the diet (Fritz 1995:5,11). These societies often exhibited

"preagricultural territorialism, a higher rate of population growth, increased manipulation of useful plants, and 'a more integrated sociopolitical organization' [Niederberger 1979:141]" (Fritz 1995:5), all of which are witnessed among the Coles Creek peoples in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Fritz argues that territorialism in Coles Creek culture can be evidenced in the platform mound sites themselves, which she views as loci of competitive feasting during ritual occasions which created surplus and obligation within and between clan groups (Fritz 1995:9). Seen in this light, the large cooking vessels may represent large-scale feasting activities sponsored and orchestrated by emerging elites.

In addition to considerations of vessel size, the increase of vessel varieties in the Coles Creek period may have several connotations. For one, it may simply imply an increase of activity at the site at this time, either through continued (or increased) mound building, ceremonial activities, or even an increase in local populations – all of which would be congruent with historical data. A second consideration is that it might also be attributable to an increase in specialized activities that could have been brought on through dietary changes, improved functional innovations, or larger-scale feasting. The shapes of vessels are also more complex in comparison to the Baytown assemblage, which may signal a greater mastery of skill at this time, or new varieties developing to accommodate changing needs. According to flotation analyses conducted by Fritz, an intensification of the management of wild resources was occurring during the early Coles Creek period (1995:9), which might explain the proliferation of vessel varieties at this time as an accommodation to these needs.

In conclusion, I would suggest that there is reasonable evidence in this ceramic assemblage to indicate social ranking at Feltus dating from at least the early Coles Creek

period. (I will not attempt similar analyses for the Baytown period representation as the available distribution is so small that conjectures would be highly speculative). However, more research is needed on the larger site to determine the validity of these claims and how representative the sample actually is.

APPENDICES

The following appendices are provided for referencing convenience. Appendix A contains the data log for all the rim sherds. Appendix B is a photographic catalog of the rim sherds, with profile drawings following in Appendix C. Lastly, Appendix D contains the photographic log of the body sherds from the collection.

APPENDIX A: FELTUS DATA TABLES

The following tables are listed for referencing purposes and provide a detailed list of the data collected from the sherds in this study. The rim sherds are listed by their catalog numbers, and then by their identified type-varieties. Columns then follow in order of: rim diameter; sherd thickness; height of original sherd; percent of the rim represented; whether or not this sherd is above the 5 % threshold of rim representation; its identified vessel shape group; calculated volumes in cubic centimeters and liters; whether or not it has incision or decoration in the lip; the corresponding period and Lower Yazoo Basin chronological phase; and lastly its chronological sequence number given for easier computing purposes.

Table A.1: Catalog of rim sherds and corresponding information.

New Number	Catalog	Type	Variety	Diameter (cm)	Thick (mm)	Height from Horizontal (mm)	Rim Percent	Degrees (each block 5˚)	5% or Over	Group	General Categories	Volume cm^3	Volume in Liters	Incision in lip	Period	LYB Phase
1	F-1 p1	Alligator Incised	*Alligator*	12	9	24	4	15						N	Late Marksville	Issaquena
2	F-1 p2	Anna Incised	*Australia*	22	5		6	23	Y	SB	w	470.72	0.47	N	Early Plaquemine	Winterville I
3	F-1 p3	Avoyelles Punctated	*unspecified*	20	4		10	35	Y	J3	c	9,447.47	9.45	N		
4	F-1 p4	Avoyelles Punctated	*unspecified*	12	5		11	40	Y	?	w		0.00	N		
5	F-1 p5	Baytown Plain	*unspecified*	14	6	38	10	35	Y	J1	w	817.84	0.82	N		
6	F-1 p6	Baytown Plain	*unspecified*	21	6	46	7	25	Y	SB	w	409.41	0.41	Y		
7	F-1 p7	Baytown Plain	*unspecified*	50	10	32		15			c		0.00	Y		
8	F-1 p8	Baytown Plain	*unspecified*	13	6	18	5	20	Y	?	w		0.00	Y		
9	F-1 p9	Baytown Plain	*unspecified*	30	5	38		10			c		0.00	Y		
10	F-1 p10	Chevalier Stamped	*Chevalier*		6	25			Y	N	c		0.00	Y	Early Coles Creek	Aden
11	F-1 p11	Chevalier Stamped	*Chevalier*	26	5	52	12	42	Y	N	c	26,549.71	26.55	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
12	F-1 p12	Chevalier Stamped	*Chevalier*	20	5	46	7	25	Y	N	c		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
13	F-1 p13	Chevalier Stamped	*Chevalier*	21	6	47	10	35	Y	DB	w	1,364.56	1.36	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
14	F-1 p14	Chevalier Stamped	*Chevalier*	10	4	49	17	60	Y	FN	w	1,026.56	1.03	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
15	F-1 p15	Chevalier Stamped	*Chevalier*	26	6	37	5	15	Y	J3/UU	c		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
16	F-1 p16	Chevalier Stamped	*Chevalier*	18	6	36	3				w		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
17	F-1 p17	Chevalier Stamped	*Chevalier*		6	34	1				w		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
18	F-1 p18	Chevalier Stamped	*Chevalier*	15	7	44	7	27	Y	J1	w	1,009.60	1.01	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
19	F-1 p19	Chevalier Stamped	*Chevalier*	27	7	33	4	10			w		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
20	F-1 p20	Chevalier Stamped	*Chevalier*		7	30	4				w		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
21	F-1 p21	Coles Creek Incised	*Cambellsville*		6	65				CB	c		0.00	Y	Early Coles Creek	Aden
22	F-1 p22	Coles Creek Incised	*Cambellsville*	29	7	64	5	23	Y	DB	w	3,584.73	3.58	Y	Early Coles Creek	Aden
23	F-1 p23	Coles Creek Incised	*Cambellsville*	33	4	52		15		CB	c	40,807.40	40.81	Y	Early Coles Creek	Aden
24	F-1 p24	Coles Creek Incised	*Chase*		7	31	2			DB	w		0.00	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland
25	F-1 p25	Coles Creek Incised	*Chase*	18	5	26	4	15			c		0.00	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland
26	F-1 p26	Coles Creek Incised	*Chase*		6	19	3				c		0.00	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland
27	F-1 p27	Coles Creek Incised	*Chase*	19	5	58	7		Y	CB	c	7,755.76	7.76	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland
28	F-1 p28	Coles Creek Incised	*Chase*		6	30					c		0.00	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland
29	F-1 p29	Coles Creek Incised	*Chase*	17	4	43	8	27	Y	CB	c	5,531.96	5.53	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland
30	F-1 p30	Coles Creek Incised	*Chase*		4	26					c		0.00	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland
31	F-1 p31	Coles Creek Incised	*Chase*	35	5	45		33		J3/U	c	46,000.00	46.00	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland
32	F-1 p32	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	19	5		17	60	Y	FN	w	7,041.19	7.04	Y	Early Coles Creek	Aden
33	F-1 p33	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	25	6	50	4	15			w		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
34	F-1 p34	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	26	6	100	10	35	Y	U	c	23,792.77	23.79	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
35	F-1 p35	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	22	7	77	11	37	Y	J1	w	3,185.25	3.19	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
36	F-1 p36	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	27	6	62	5	19	Y	J3/UU	c		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
37	F-1 p37	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	27	6	63	6	23	Y	N	c	29,732.61	29.73	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
38	F-1 p38	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	20	5	47	7	25	Y	J2	w	4,941.94	4.94	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
39	F-1 p39	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	27	5	60	10	37	Y	U	c	26,644.91	26.64	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
40	F-1 p40	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*		7	51				N	c		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
41	F-1 p41	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	25	8	35	5	17	Y	J2	w		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
42	F-1 p42	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	21	6	49	9	32	Y	J3	c	10,881.57	10.88	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
43	F-1 p43	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	20	6	59	12	40	Y	J2	w	4,941.94	4.94	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
44	F-1 p44	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	25	6	71	5	19	Y	J3	c	18,546.14	18.55	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
45	F-1 p45	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	20	6	41	13	45	Y	U	c	10,885.73	10.89	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
46	F-1 p46	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	8	5	34	15	55	Y	CB	c	578.94	0.58	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
47	F-1 p47	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	19	6	71	8	30	Y	J2	w	4,254.44	4.25	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
48	F-1 p48	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	26	8	55	5	17	Y	J3/U	c		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
49	F-1 p49	Coles Creek Incised	*Coles Creek*	17	6	63	4	15			c		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden

Table A.1: Catalog of rim sherds and corresponding information.

New Number	Catalog	Type	Variety	Diameter (cm)	Thick (mm)	Height from Horizontal (mm)	Rim Percent	Degrees (each block 5˚)	5% or Over	Group	General Categories	Volume cm^3	Volume in Liters	Incision in lip	Period	LYB Phase
50	F-1 p50	Coles Creek Incised	*Hunt*	10	4	103	97		Y	CB	c	1,130.74	1.13	N	Early Baytown	Deasonville
51	F-1 p51	Coles Creek Incised	*Mott*	12	4	61	10	35	Y	J2	w	1,063.11	1.06	N	Middle Coles Creek	Kings Crossing
52	F-1 p52	Coles Creek Incised	*Mott*	24	4	51	6	21	Y	J2	w	8,539.67	8.54	N	Middle Coles Creek	Kings Crossing
53	F-1 p53	Coles Creek Incised	*Mott*		5	43					c		0.00	N	Middle Coles Creek	Kings Crossing
54	F-1 p54	Coles Creek Incised	*Phillips*	19	5		4	15		CB	c	7,755.76	7.76	N	Early Baytown	Deasonville
55	F-1 p55	Coles Creek Incised	*Phillips*		11						w		0.00	Y	Early Baytown	Deasonville
56	F-1 p56	Coles Creek Incised	*Phillips*		6						c		0.00	Y	Early Baytown	Deasonville
57	F-1 p57	Coles Creek Incised	*Phillips*		4	50				CB	c		0.00	Y	Early Baytown	Deasonville
58	F-1 p58	Coles Creek Incised	*Phillips*	26	5	35	8	30	Y	DB	w	2,583.34	2.58	Y	Early Baytown	Deasonville
59	F-1 p59	Coles Creek Incised	*Phillips*										0.00		Early Baytown	Deasonville
60	F-1 p60	Coles Creek Incised	*Stoner*	23	6		6	20	Y	CB	c	13,757.77	13.76	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland
61	F-1 p61	Coles Creek Incised	*Stoner*	40	5	53		15		DB	w	9,430.07	9.43	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland
62	F-1 p62	Coles Creek Incised	*Stoner*	31	9	44		22		DB	w	4,367.91	4.37	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland
63	F-1 p63	Coles Creek Incised	*Stoner*	39	5	150		57		DB	w	9,430.04	9.43	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland
64	F-1 p64	Coles Creek Incised	*Stoner*	39	5	147				DB	w	9,430.04	9.43	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland
65	F-1 p65	Coles Creek Incised	*Wade*	25	7	47	4	15		J3/U	c	10,200.00	10.20	N	Late Baytown	Bayland
66	F-1 p66	Coles Creek Incised	*Wade*	24	6	37	6	21	Y	DB	w	2,036.90	2.04	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland
67	F-1 p67	French Fork Incised	*Laborde*		5	51					c		0.00	N	?	?
68	F-1 p68	French Fork Incised	*Laborde*	15	4	67	15	55	Y	FN	w	3,464.65	3.46	N	?	?
69	F-1 p69	French Fork Incised	*Laborde*		6	51					w		0.00	N	?	?
70	F-1 p70	French Fork Incised	*Laborde*	20	5	36	2	10			w		0.00	N	?	?
71	F-1 p71	French Fork Incised	*Laborde*	20	5	66	11	40	Y	N	c	12,021.20	12.02	N	?	?
72	F-1 p72	French Fork Incised	*Laborde*	19	5	30	4	12			w		0.00	N	?	?
73	F-1 p73	French Fork Incised	*Laborde*		5	27	3				c		0.00	N	?	?
74	F-1 p74	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*	26	6	93	22	75	Y	FN	w	18,262.82	18.26	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
75	F-1 p75	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*	24	5	58	7	25	Y	J3	c	16,243.05	16.24	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
76	F-1 p76	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*	22	6	62	6	20	Y	CB	c	12,091.08	12.09	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
77	F-1 p77	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*	26	6	51	8	27	Y	CB/N	c		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
78	F-1 p78	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*	15	5	34	7	25	Y	CB	c		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
79	F-1 p79	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*	20	5	34	8	28	Y	J3/UU	c		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
80	F-1 p80	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*	26	5	76	8	30	Y	CB/N	c		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
81	F-1 p81	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*	17	6	33	5	20	Y	J1	w	1,475.09	1.48	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
82	F-1 p82	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*		6	34	3				w		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
83	F-1 p83	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*	12	5	70	7	25	Y	J2	w	1,067.46	1.07	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
84	F-1 p84	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*	17	4	37	12	40	Y	CB	c	5,531.96	5.53	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
85	F-1 p85	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*		8	26					w		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
86	F-1 p86	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*	19	4	70	17	60	Y	CB	c	7,755.76	7.76	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
87	F-1 p87	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*	42	5	27		10	Y		w		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
88	F-1 p88	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*	16	5	21	6	24	Y	?	c		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
89	F-1 p89	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*	13	5	29	6	22	Y	CB	c	2,505.33	2.51	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
90	F-1 p90	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*		6	20	4				w		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
91	F-1 p91	French Fork Incised	*Larkin*		6	41					w		0.00	N	Early Coles Creek	Aden
92	F-1 p92	French Fork Incised	*unspecified*	35	7	23		13			w		0.00	Y		
93	F-1 p93	French Fork Incised	*unspecified*	11	6	38	7	30	Y	CB	c	1,511.39	1.51	N		
94	F-1 p94	French Fork Incised	*Wilzone*	19	5	56	7	24	Y	?	w		0.00	N	Late Baytown	Bayland
95	F-1 p95	Harrison Bayou Incised	*Harrison Bayou*	23	4	205	16		Y	J1	w	3,626.33	3.63	N	Late Coles Creek	Crippen Point
96	F-1 p96	Harrison Bayou Incised	*Harrison Bayou*	25	5	253	19		Y	J1	w	4,674.09	4.67	N	Late Coles Creek	Crippen Point
97	F-1 p97	Harrison Bayou Incised	*Harrison Bayou*	24	4	65	6	20	Y	J2	w	8,539.67	8.54	N	Late Coles Creek	Crippen Point
98	F-1 p98	Harrison Bayou Incised	*Harrison Bayou*		3	39	3			J2	w		0.00	N	Late Coles Creek	Crippen Point
99	F-1 p99	Indian Bay Stamped	*unspecified*	24	7	33	4				w		0.00	N		
100	F-1 p100	Larto Red	*Silver Creek*	19	5	44	9		Y	SB	w	300.85	0.30	Y	Late Baytown	Bayland

Table A.1: Catalog of rim sherds and corresponding information.

New Number	Catalog	Type	Variety	Diameter (cm)	Thick (mm)	Height from Horizontal (mm)	Rim Percent	Degrees (each block 5˚)	5% or Over	Group	General Categories	Volume cm^3	Volume in Liters	Incision in lip	Period	LYB Phase
101	F-1 p101	Marksville Stamped	*Manny*		6	36	3				w		0.00	N	Late Marksville	Issaquena
102	F-1 p102	Mulberry Creek Cord Marked	*Smith Creek*	32	6	66		25	Y	J2	w	18,000.00	18.00	N	Late Baytown	Bayland
103	F-1 p103	Plaquemine Brushed	*Plaquemine*		6						c		0.00	N	Late Coles Creek	Crippen Point
104	F-1 p104	Plaquemine Brushed	*Plaquemine*		7						w		0.00	N	Late Coles Creek	Crippen Point
105	F-1 p105	Unclassified		20	6	49	11	40	Y	FN	w	8,212.47	8.21	N		
106	F-1 p106	Unclassified			7	30					c		0.00	N		
107	F-1 p107	Unclassified		17	6	43	4	15			c		0.00	N		

APPENDIX B: PHOTOGRAPHIC CATALOG OF FELTUS RIM SHERDS

A catalog of the rim sherds used in this study is provided on the following pages. Sherds are listed in order of their catalog numbers. Data references can be found for each in the preceding appendix, and profile drawings for each are provided in Appendix C.

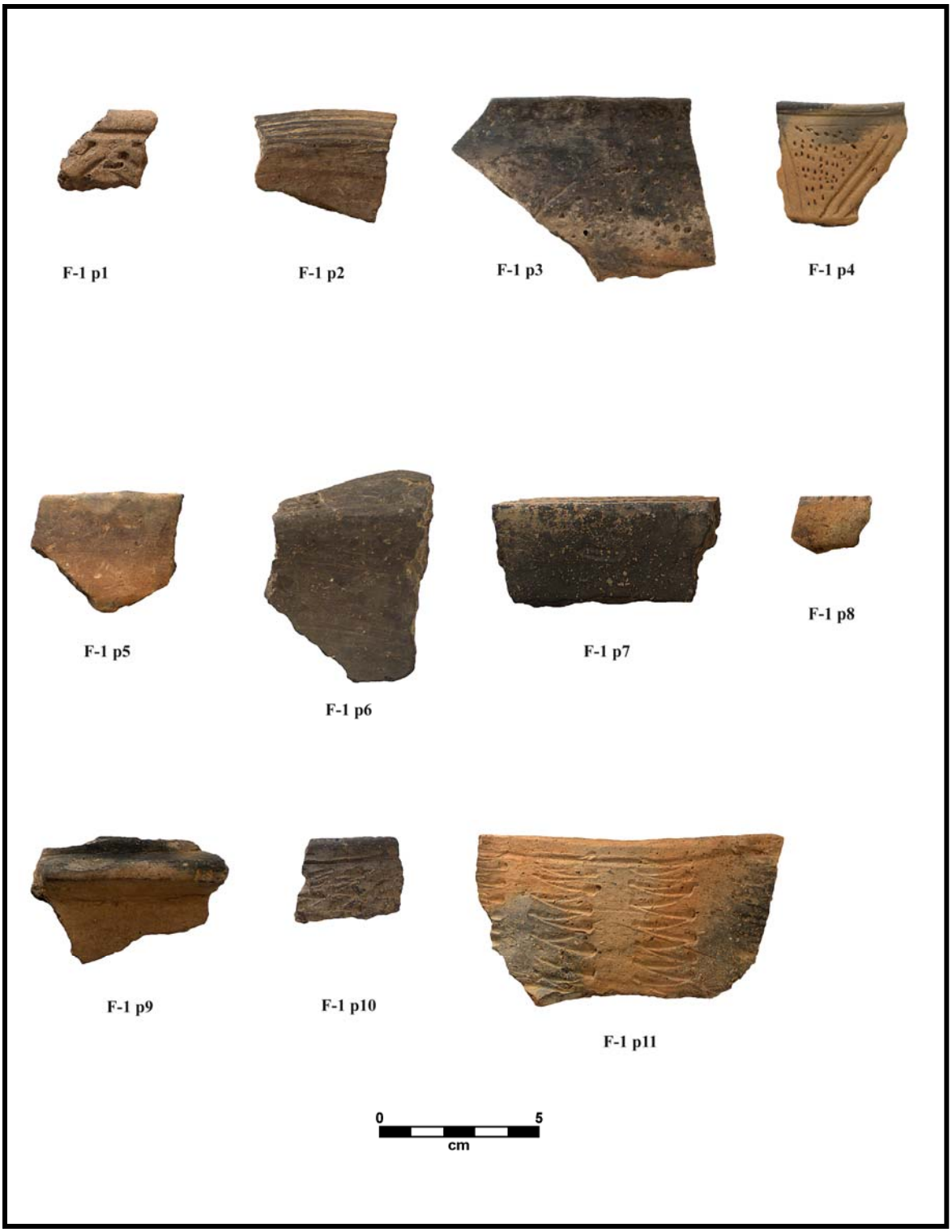

Figure B.1: Feltus rim sherds p1-11; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

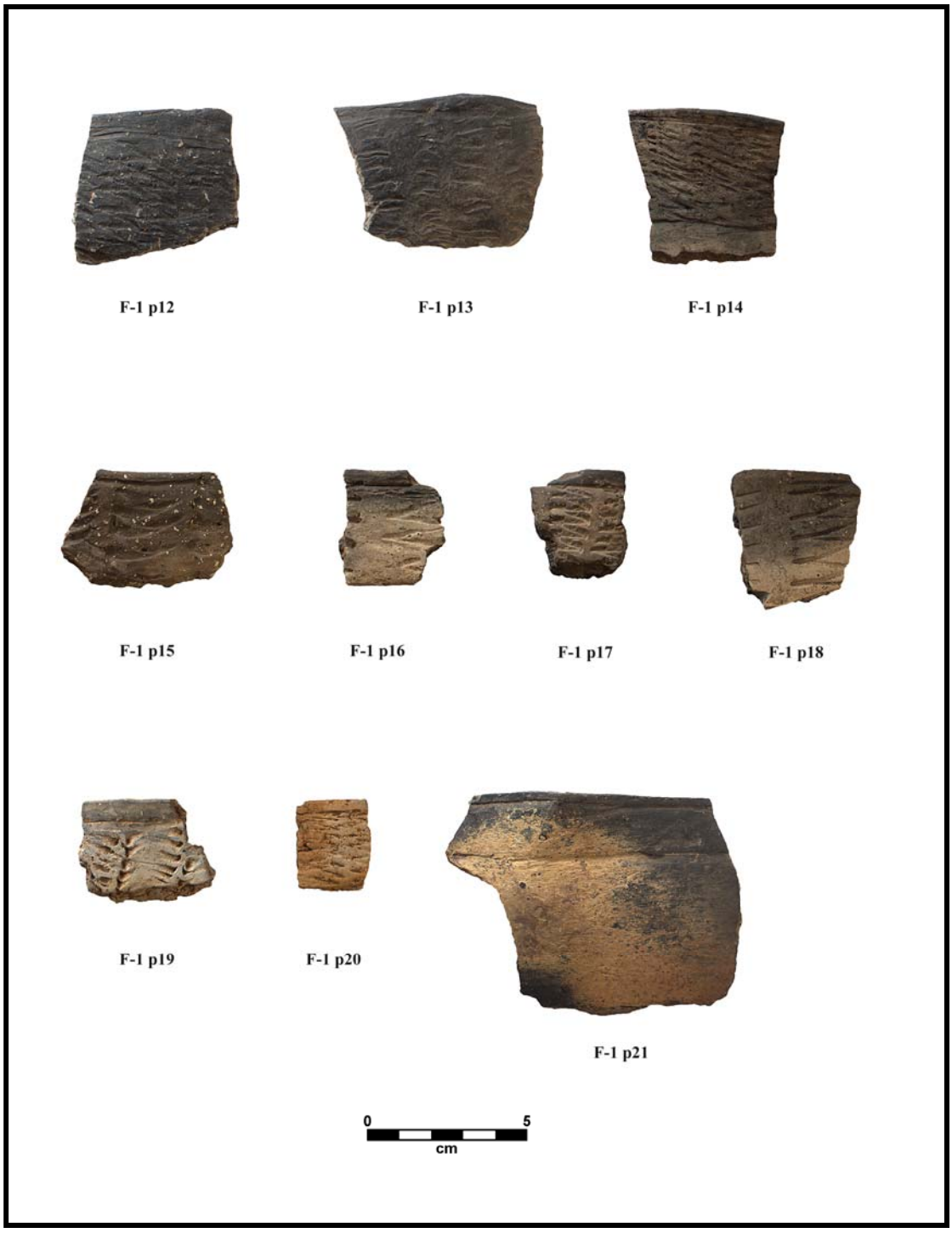

Figure B.2: Feltus rim sherds p12-21; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

Figure B.3: Feltus rim sherds p22-32; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

Figure B.4: Feltus rim sherds p33-37; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

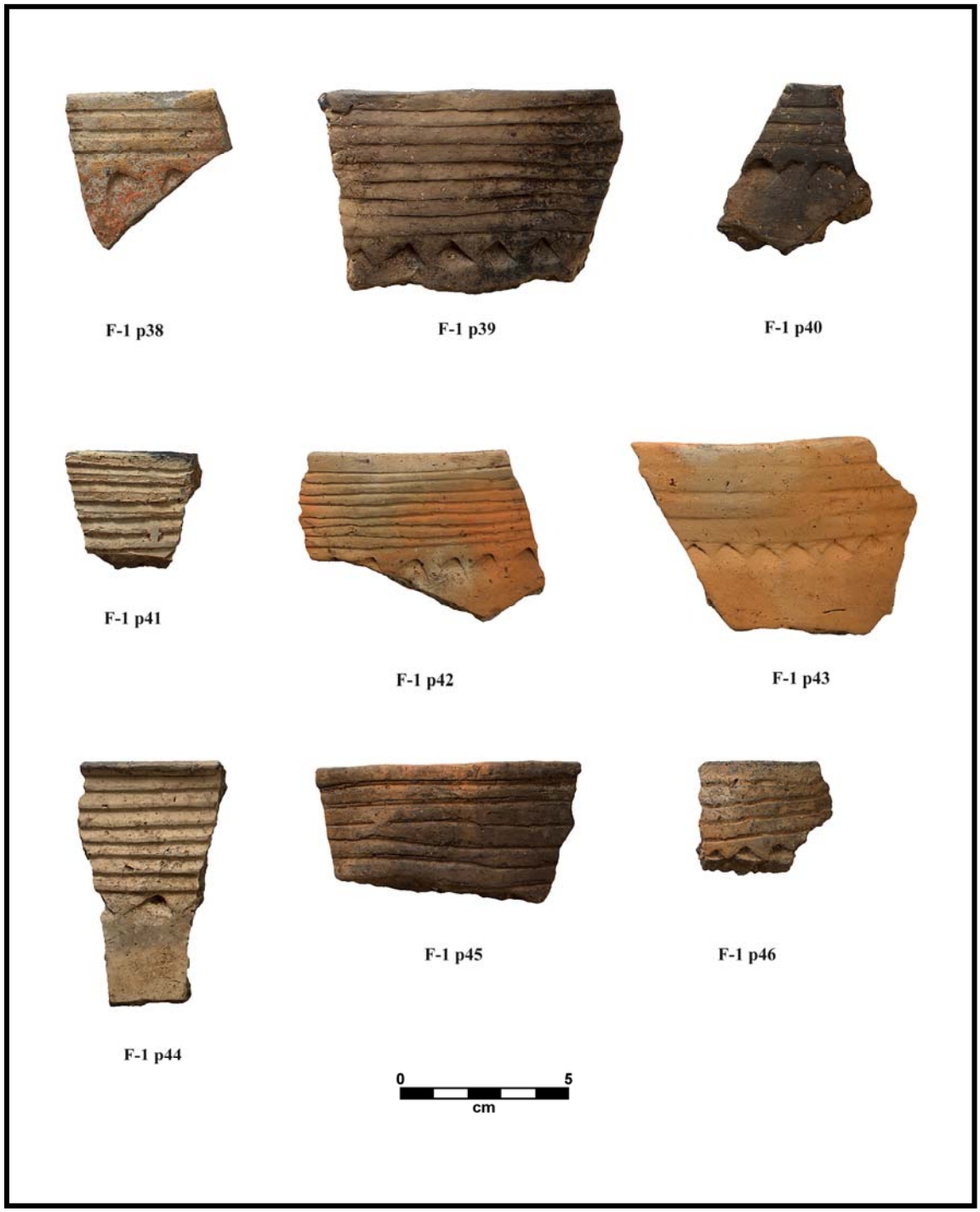

Figure B.5: Feltus rim sherds p38-46; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

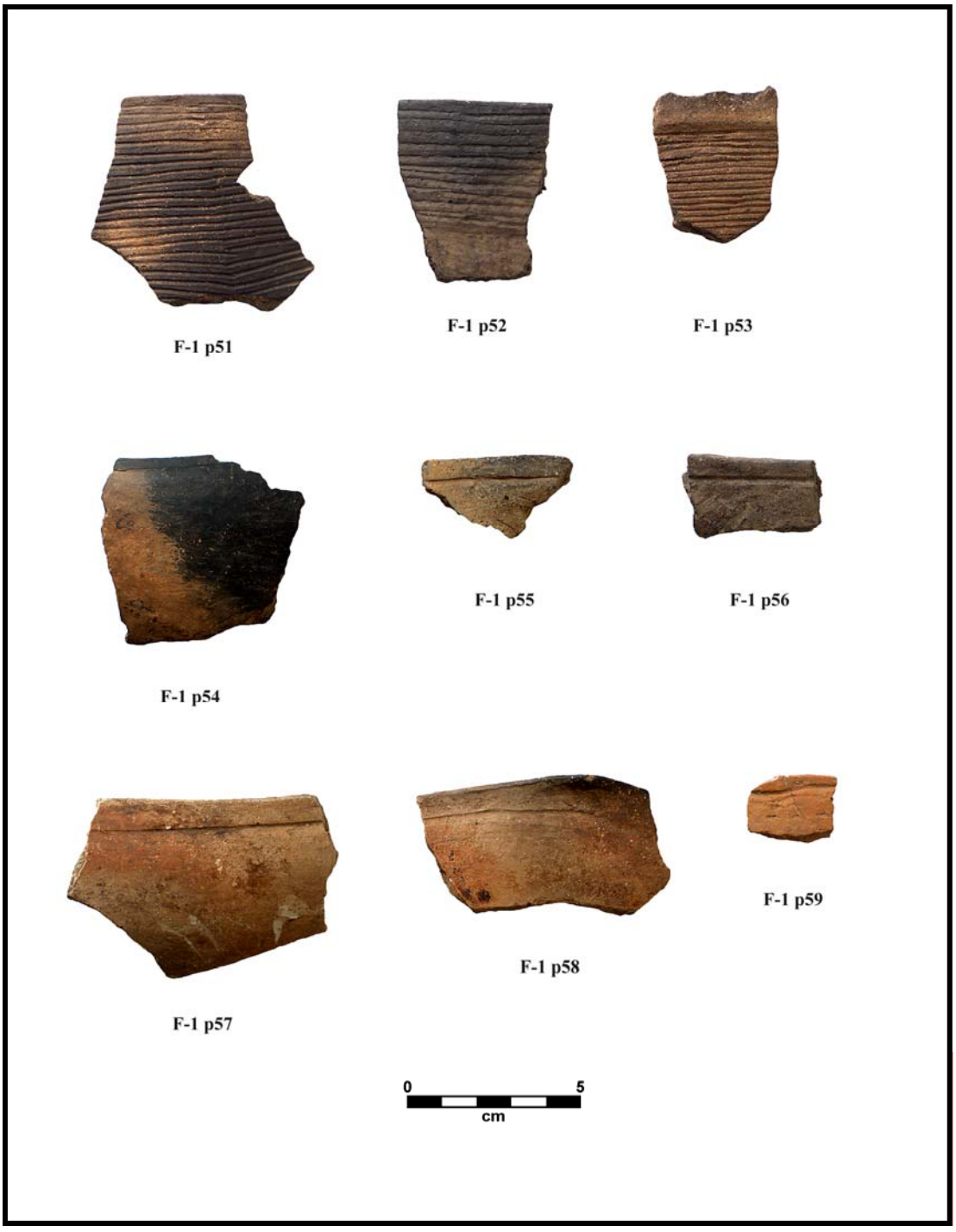

Figure B.6: Feltus rim sherds p51-59; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

Figure B.7: Feltus rim sherds p47-50; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

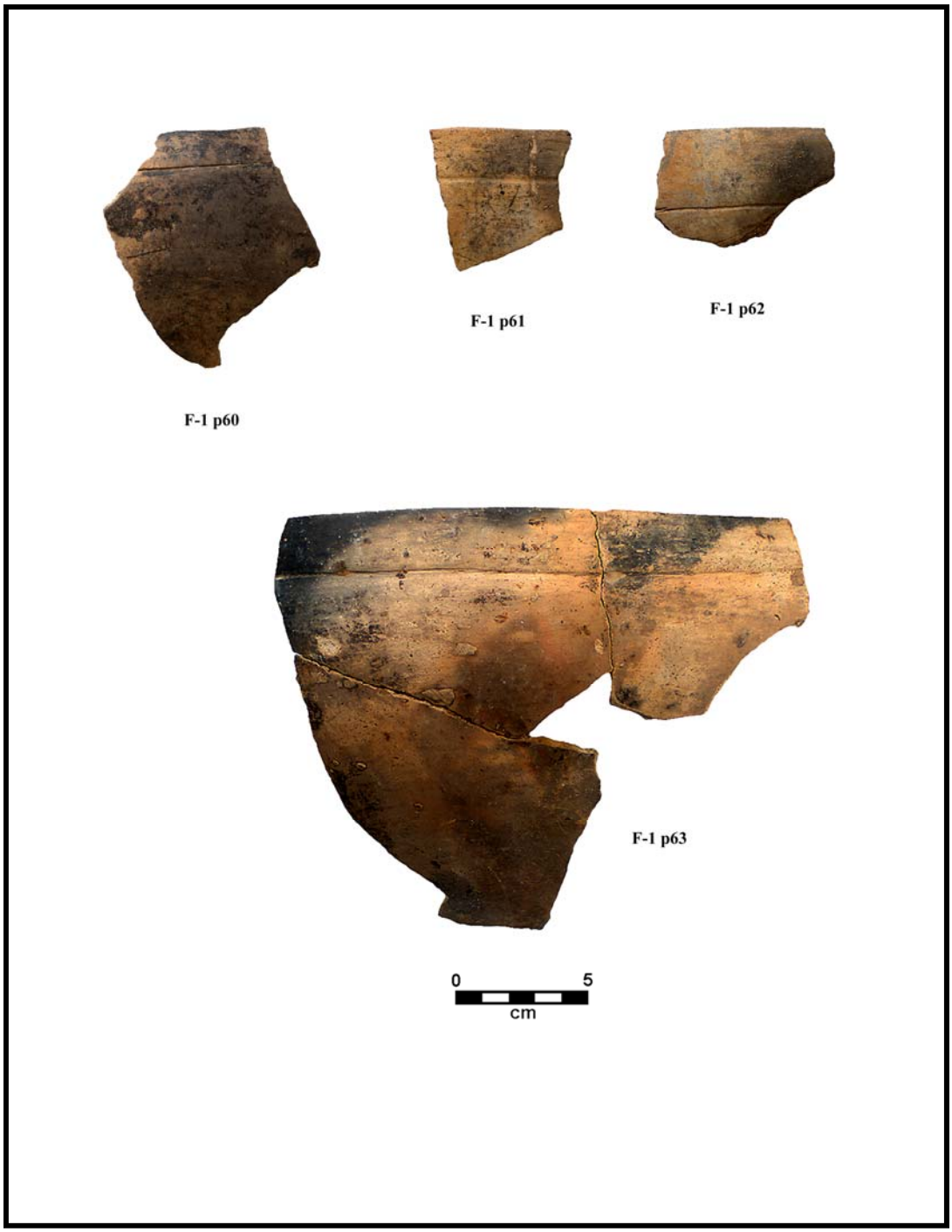

Figure B.8: Feltus rim sherds p60-63; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

Figure B.9: Feltus rim sherd p64; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

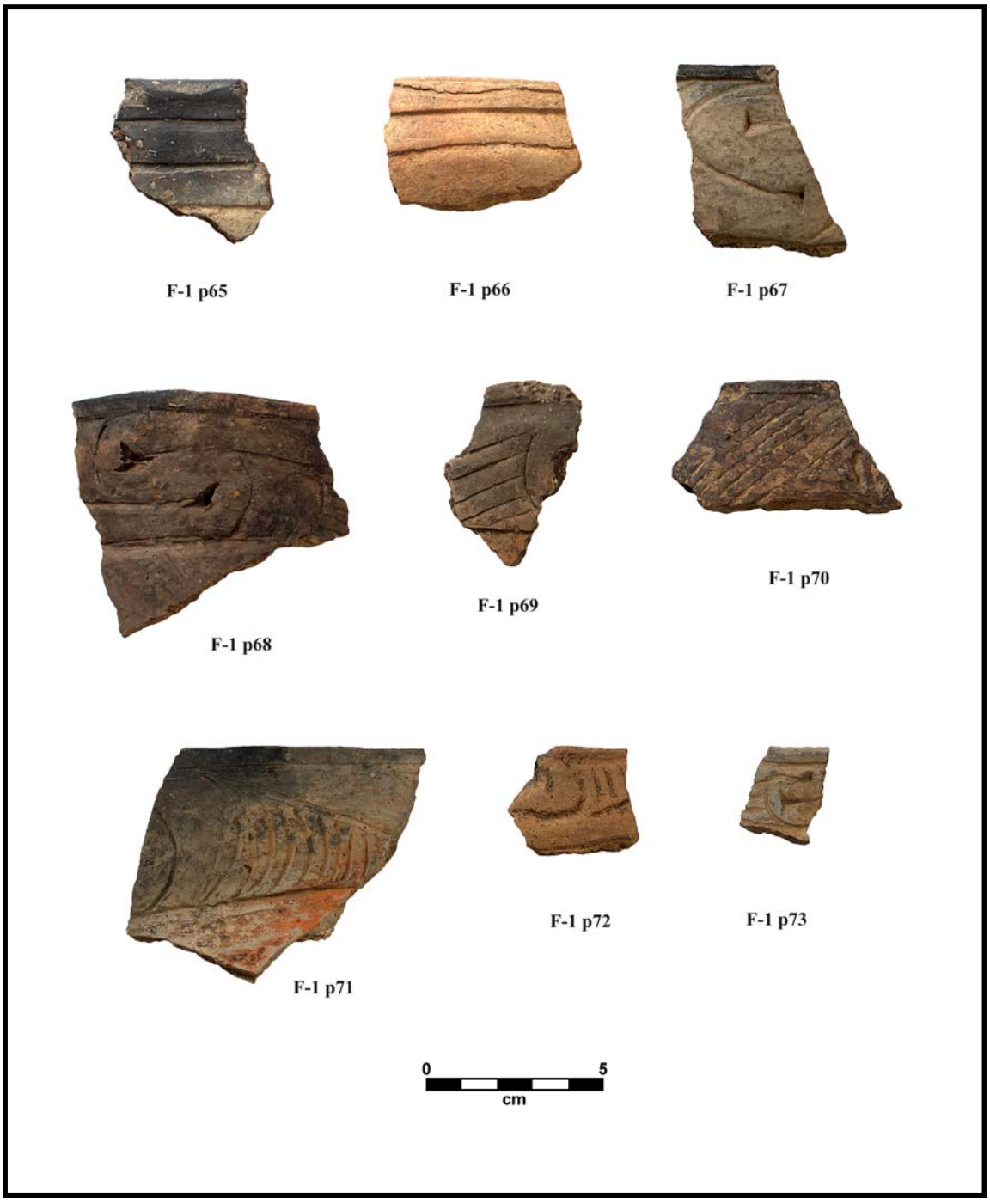

Figure B.10: Feltus rim sherds p65-73; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

Figure B.11: Feltus rim sherds p74-77; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

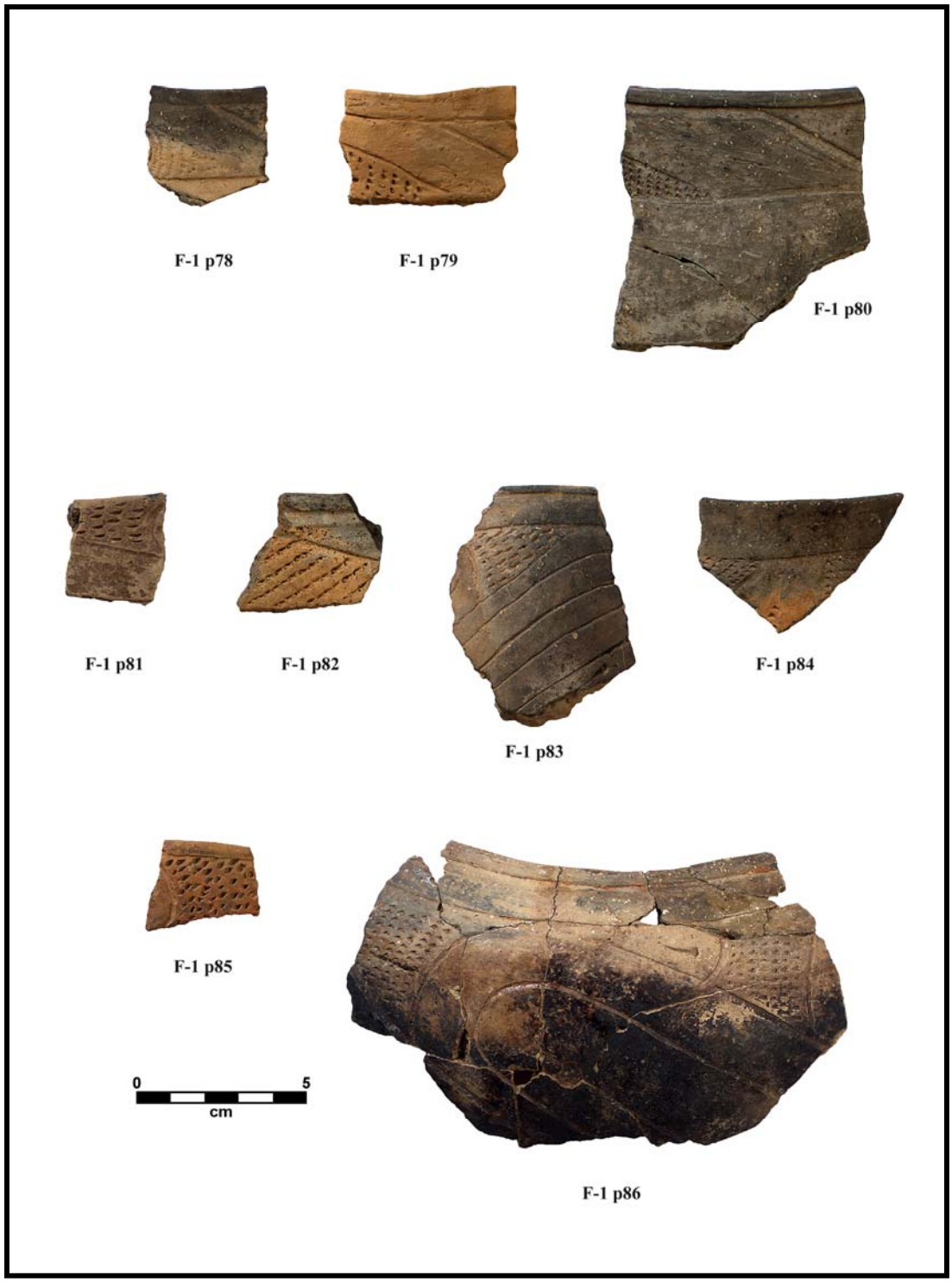

Figure B.12: Feltus rim sherds p78-86; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

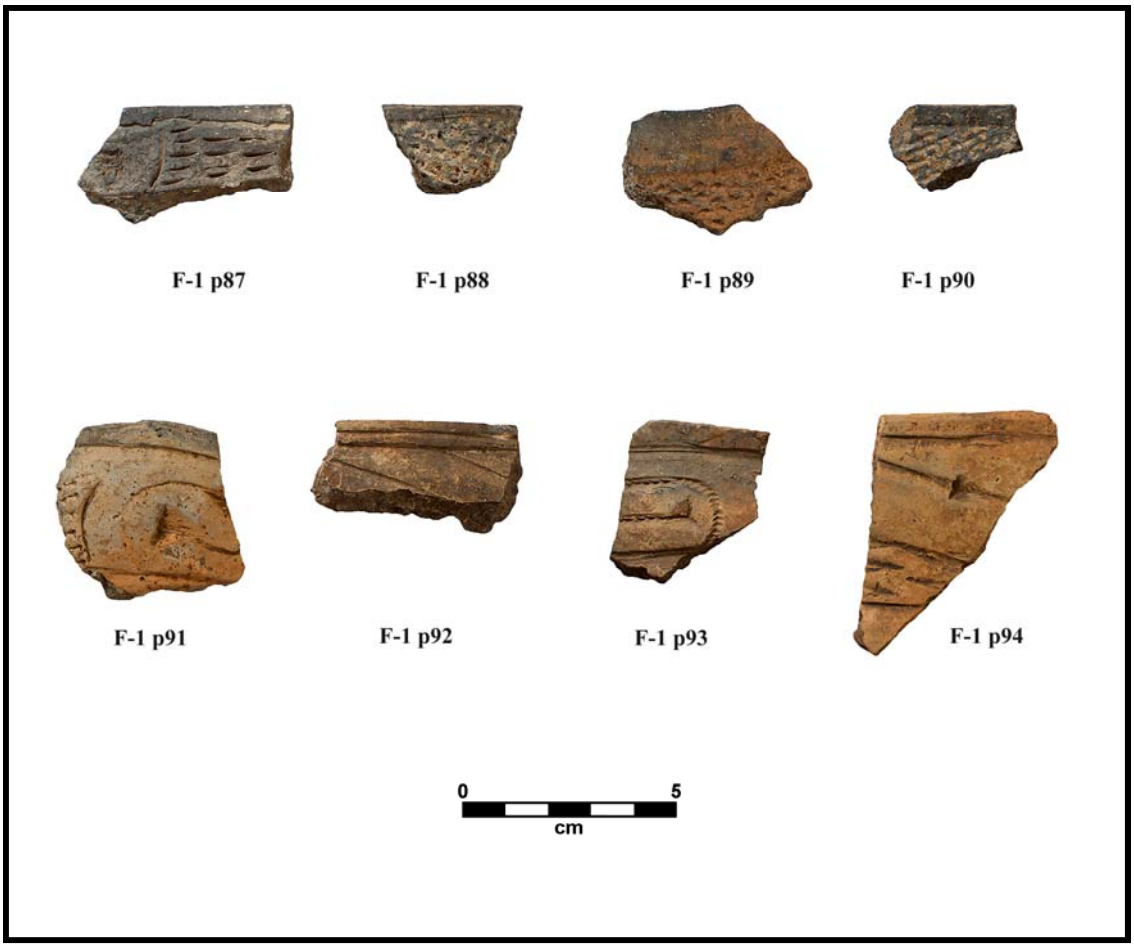

Figure B.13: Feltus rim sherds p87-94; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

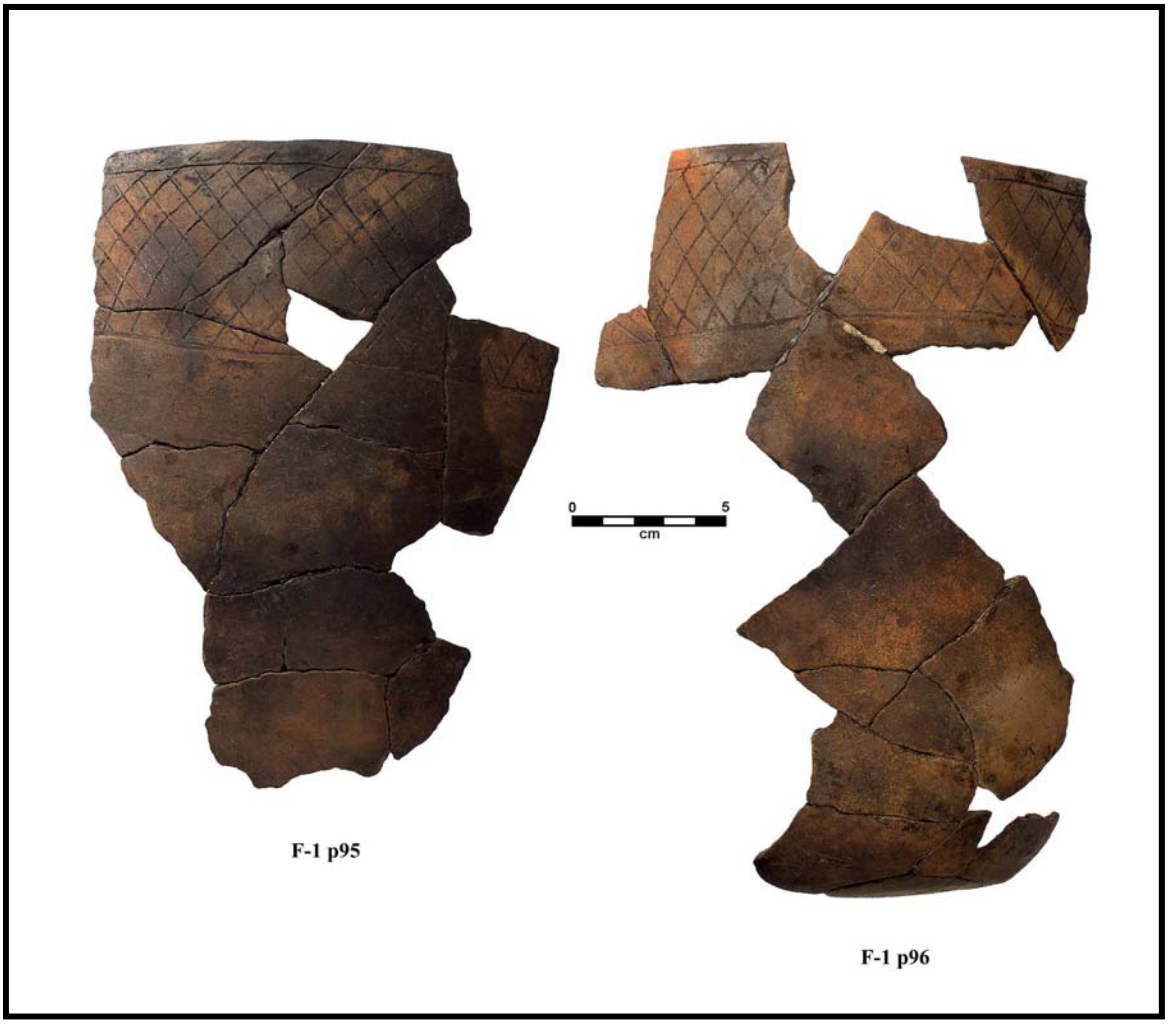

Figure B.14: Feltus rim sherds p95-96; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

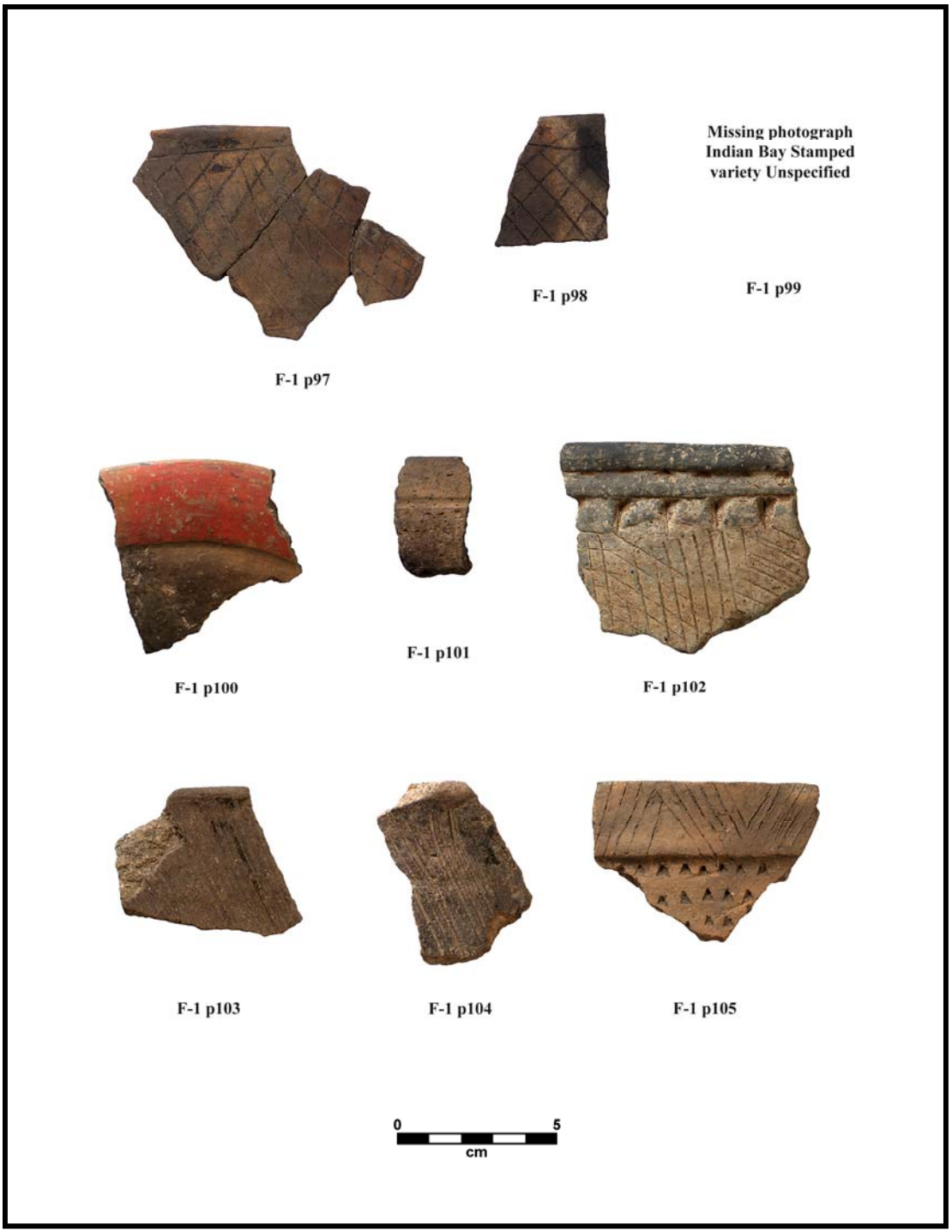

Figure B.15: Feltus rim sherds p97-105; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

Figure B.16: Feltus rim sherds p106-107; corresponding information in Appendix A and profiles in Appendix C, both according to catalog number.

APPENDIX C: FELTUS RIM PROFILE DRAWINGS

A complete index of all the rim profile drawings is provided in this section. Sherds are listed by their catalog numbers and their corresponding data in provided Appendix A with photographs in B. I have attempted to keep the renderings to scale, however some variability may have occurred during the computer-rendering process. Please refer to measurements in Appendix A for exact sizes. Height for sherds in both Appendices A and C are calculated from the vertical.

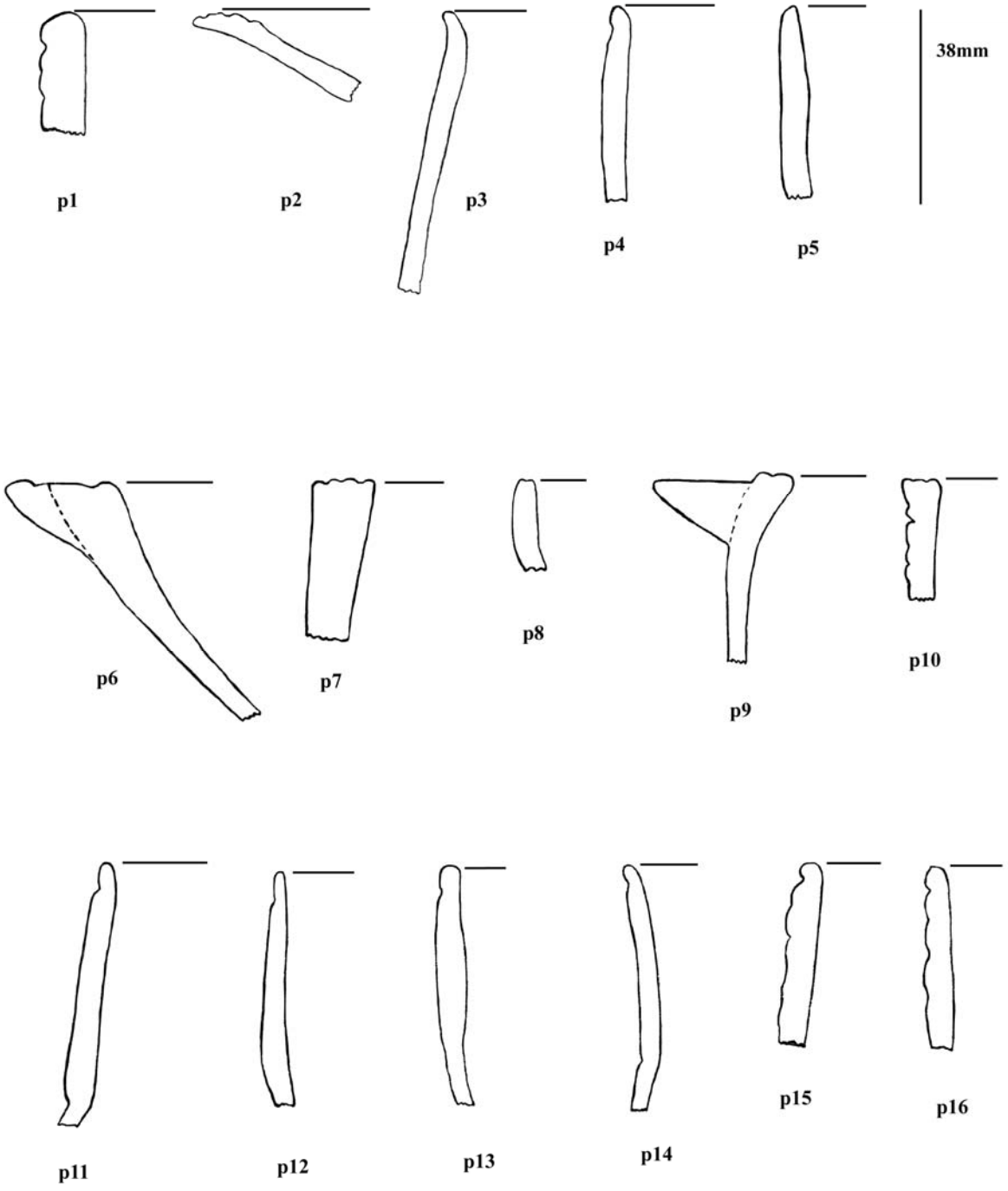

Figure C.1: Sherds 1-16.

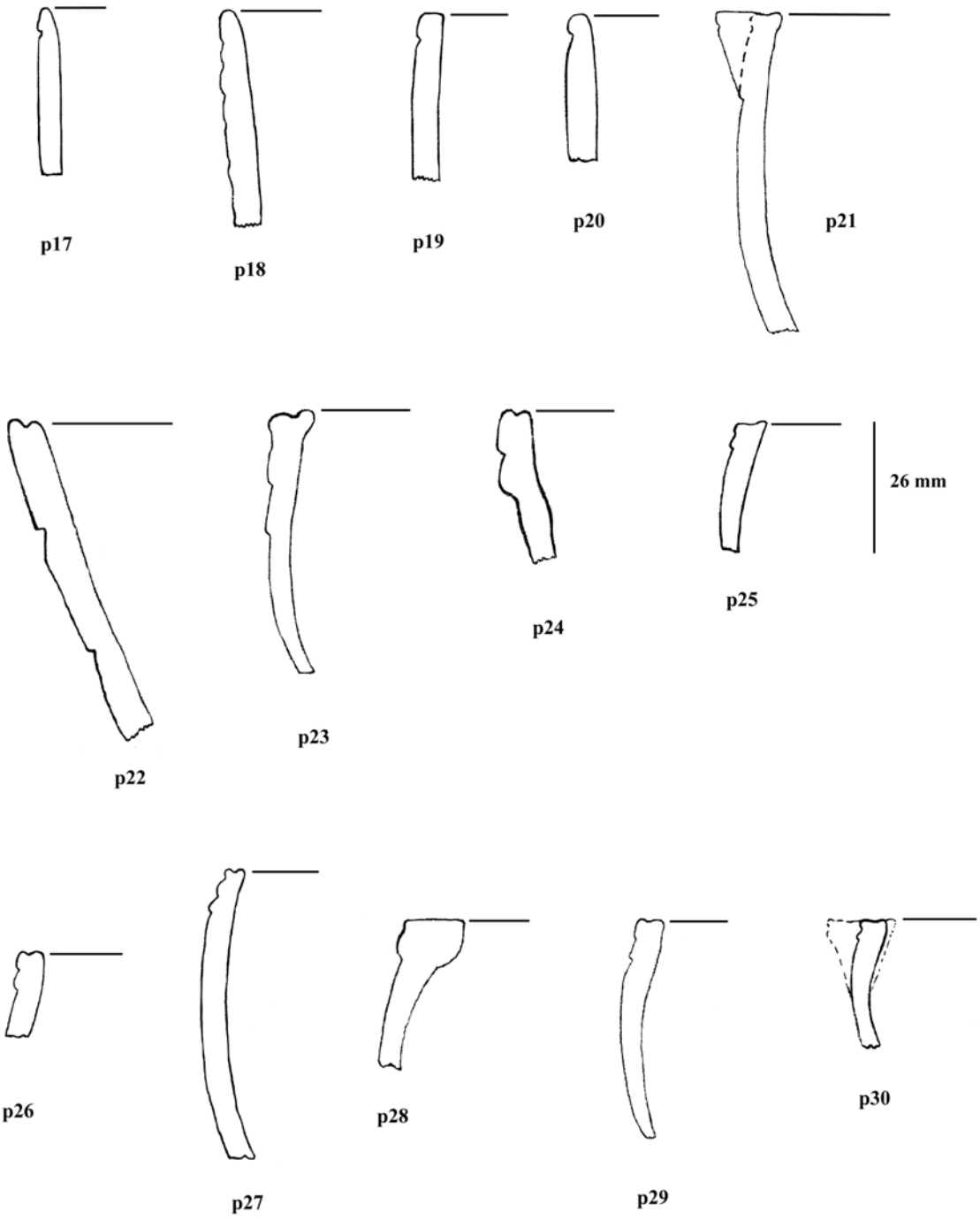

Figure C.2: Sherds 17-30.

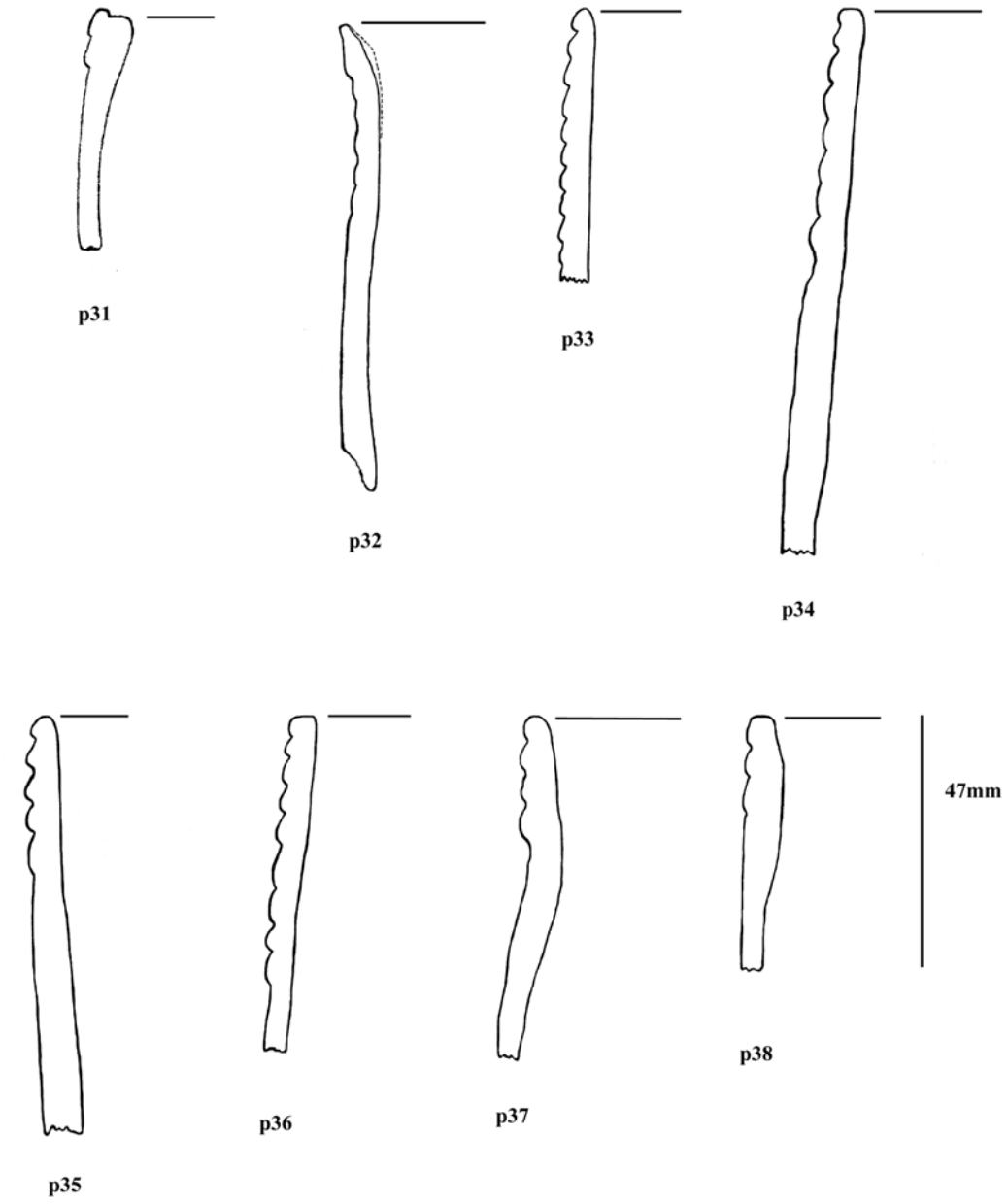

Figure C.3: Sherds 31-38.

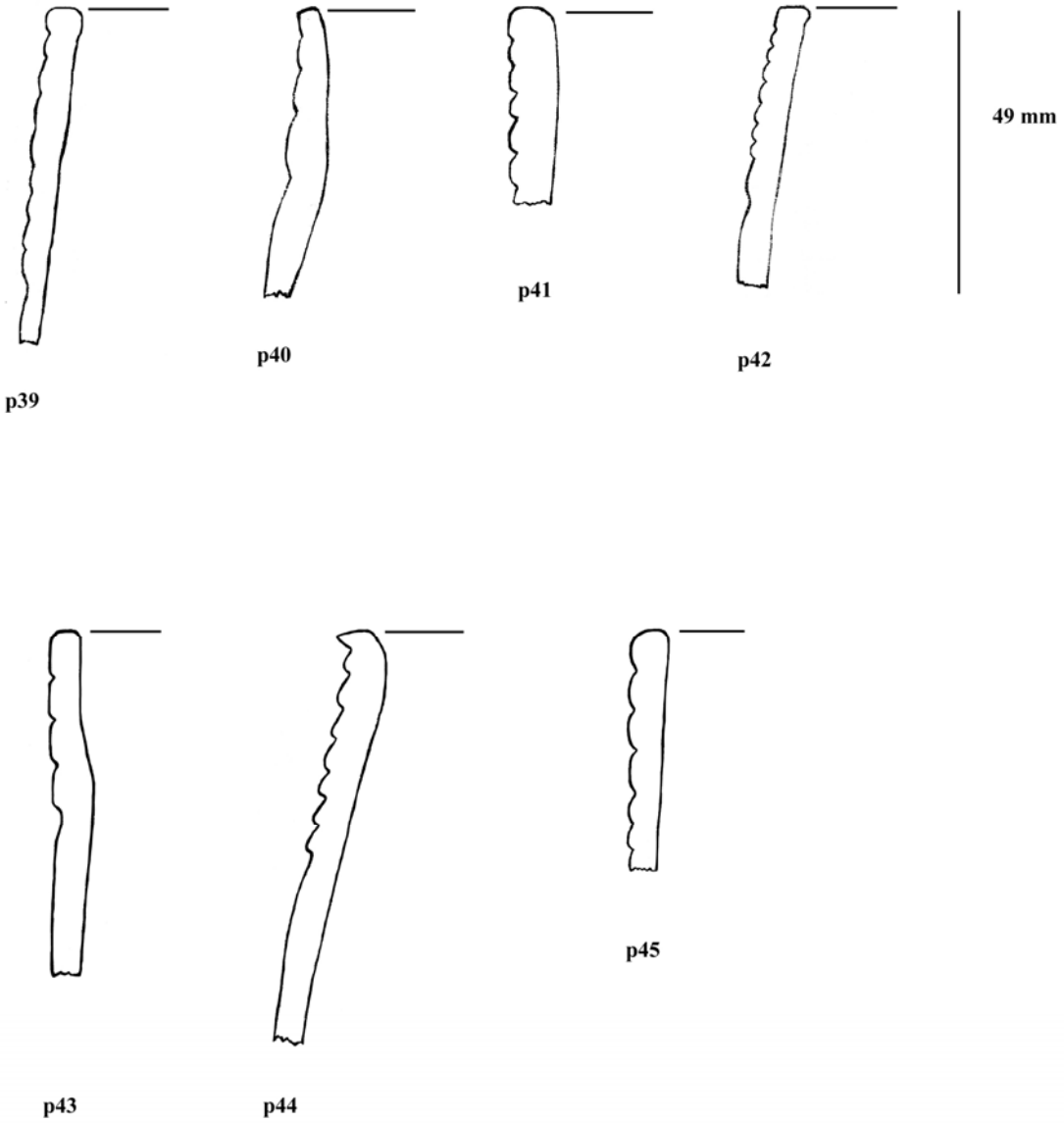

Figure C.4: Sherds 39-45.

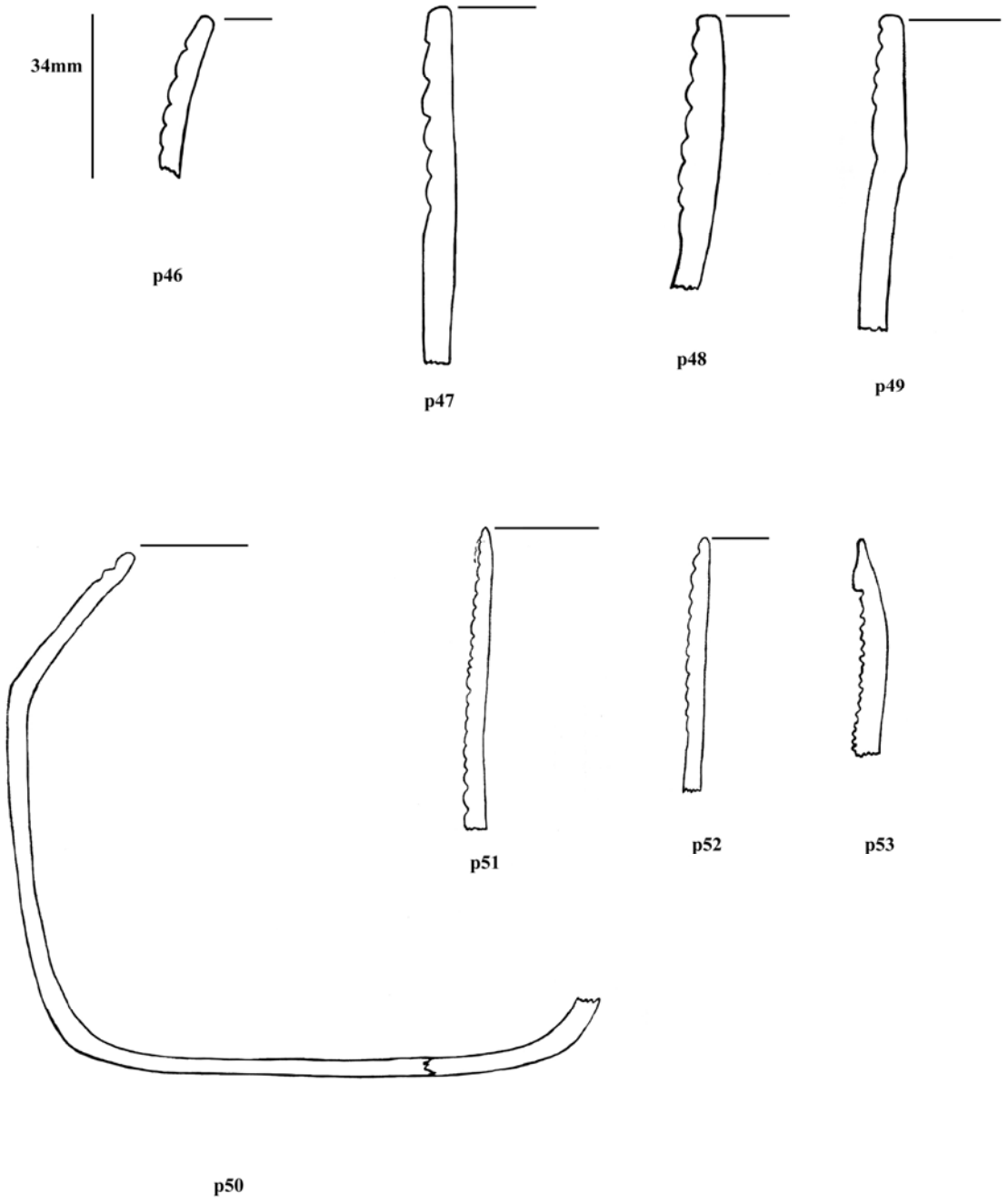

Figure C.5: Sherds 46-53.

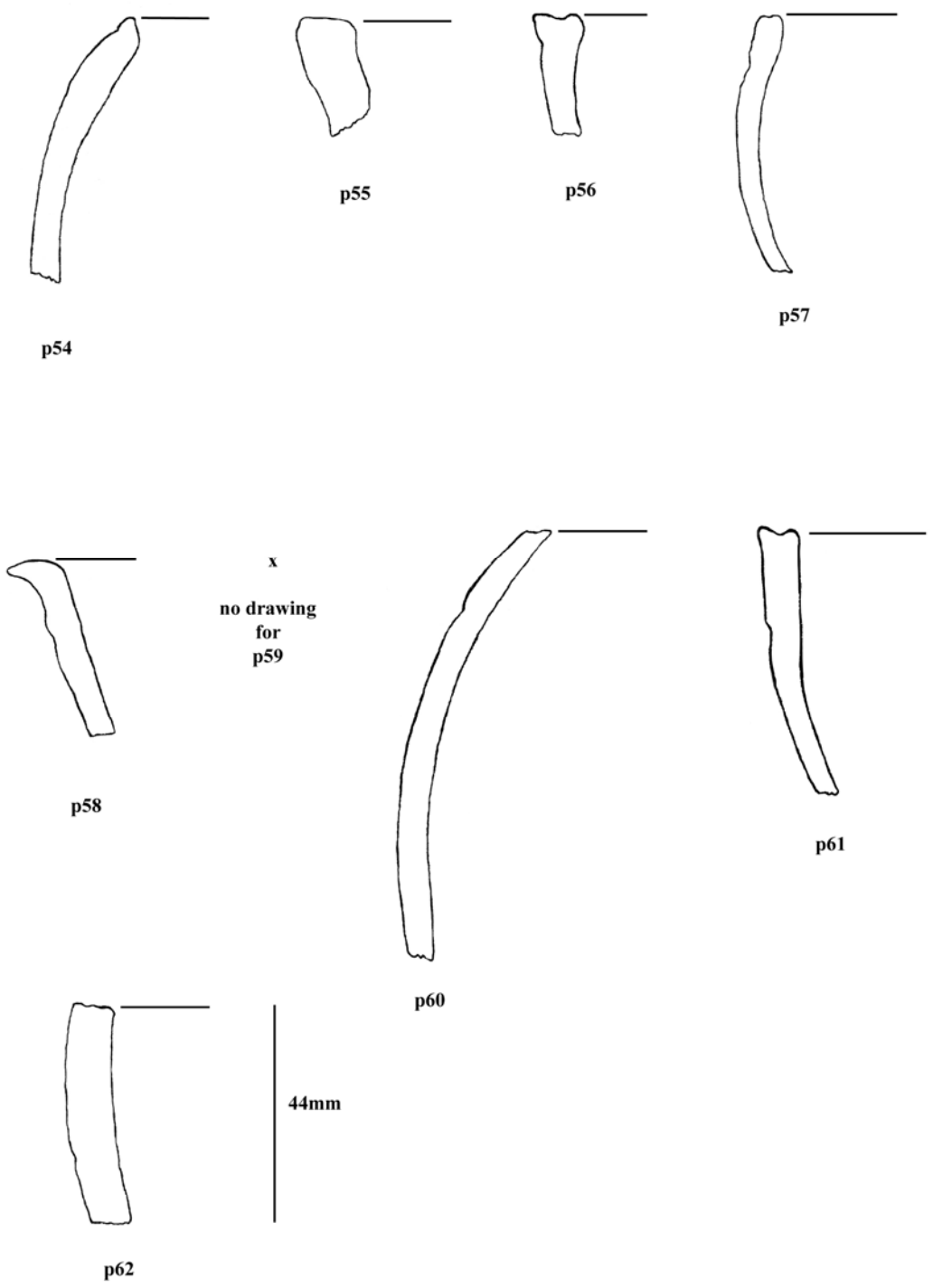

Figure C.6: Sherds 54-62.

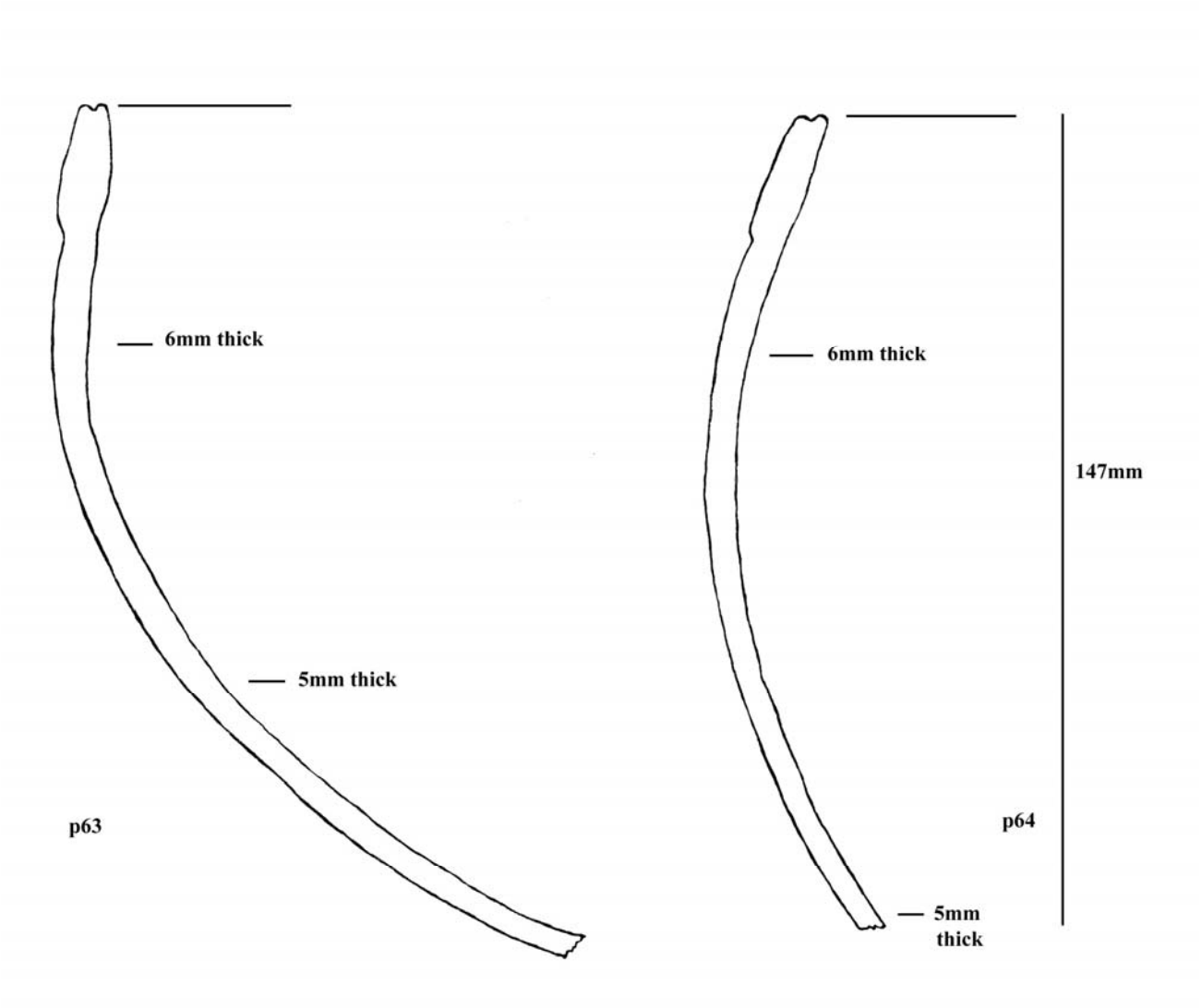

Figure C.7: Sherds 63-64.

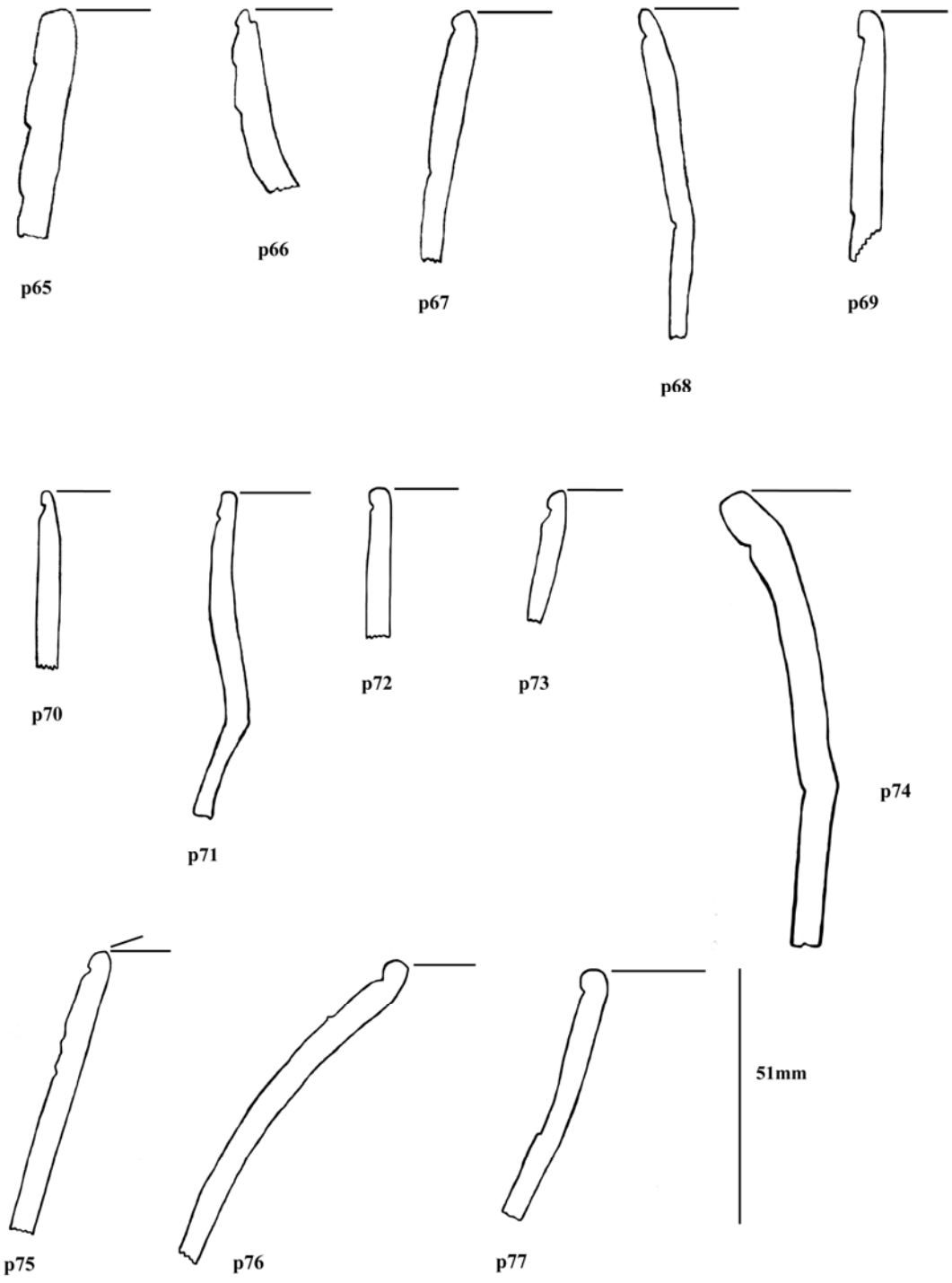

Figure C.8: Sherds 65-77.

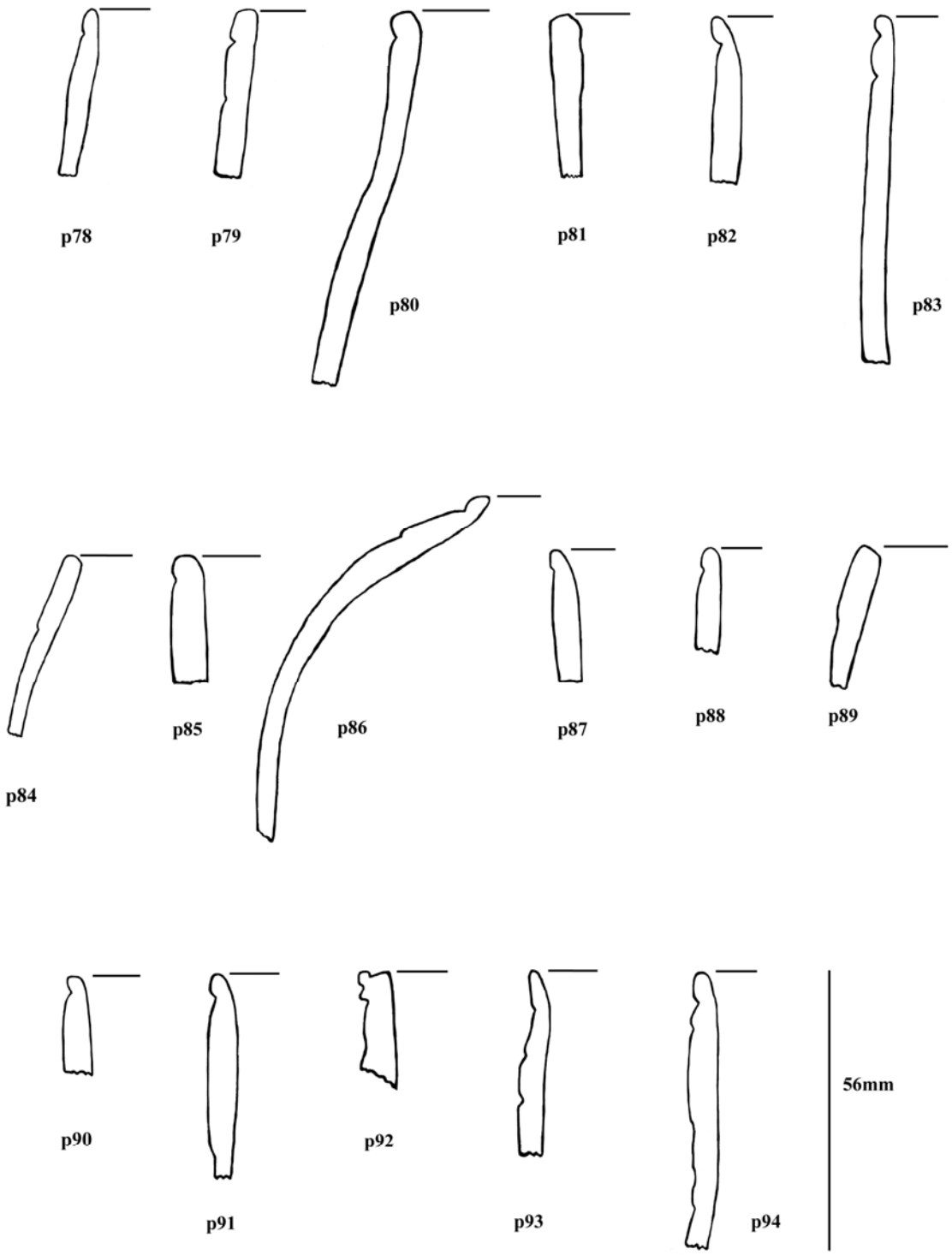

Figure C.9: Sherds78-94.

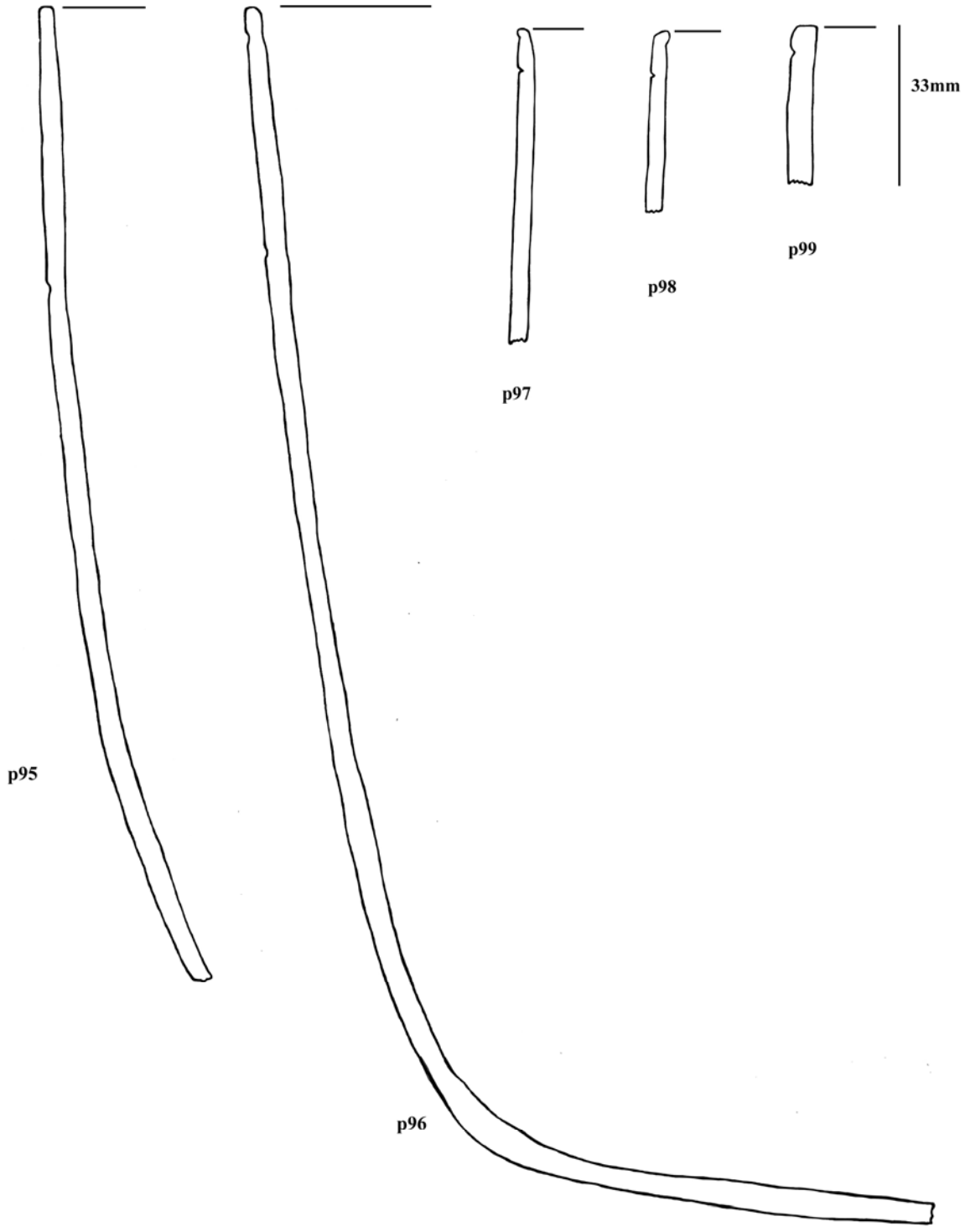

Figure C.10: Sherds 95-99.

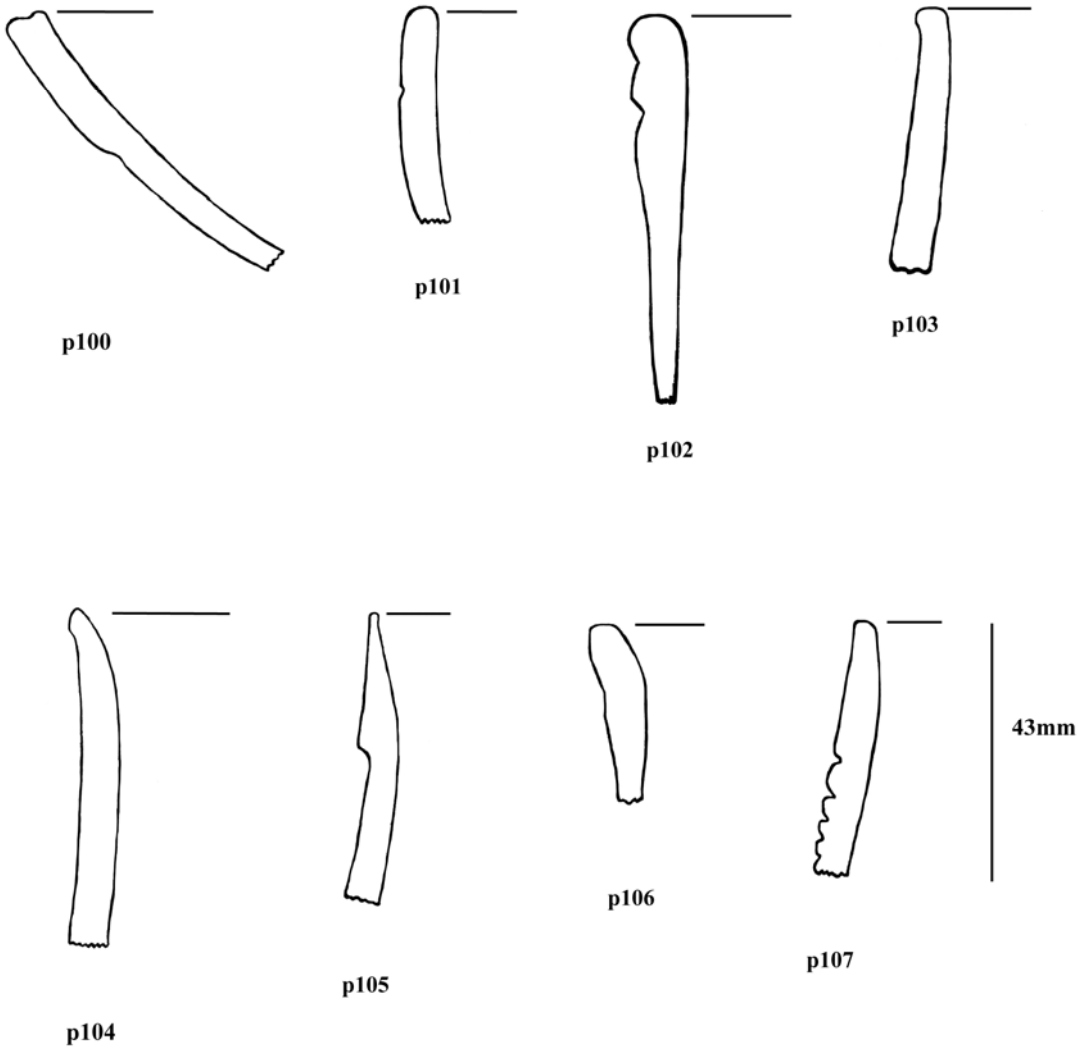

Figure C.11: Sherds 100-107.

APPENDIX D: PHOTOGRAPHIC CATALOG OF FELTUS BODY SHERDS

This section includes the photographs taken of the non-rim sherds in the collection. As there are no catalog numbers for these sherds I have tried to provide labeling for their corresponding typologies. Figure labels provide referencing data according to corresponding letter.

Figure D.1: Feltus body sherds: (a) Avoyelles Punctated variety *Avoyelles*; (b); (c) Beldeau Incised variety *Beldeau*; (d) L'Eau Noire Incised variety *L'Eau Noire*; (e); (f) and (h-i) Mulberry Creek Cord Marked variety *Smith Creek*; (g) Mulberry Creek Cord Marked variety *Edwards*; (j-k) and (n) Coles Creek Incised variety *Coles Creek*; (l-m) Chevalier Stamped variety *Chevalier*; (o-t) French Fork Incised variety *Larkin*.

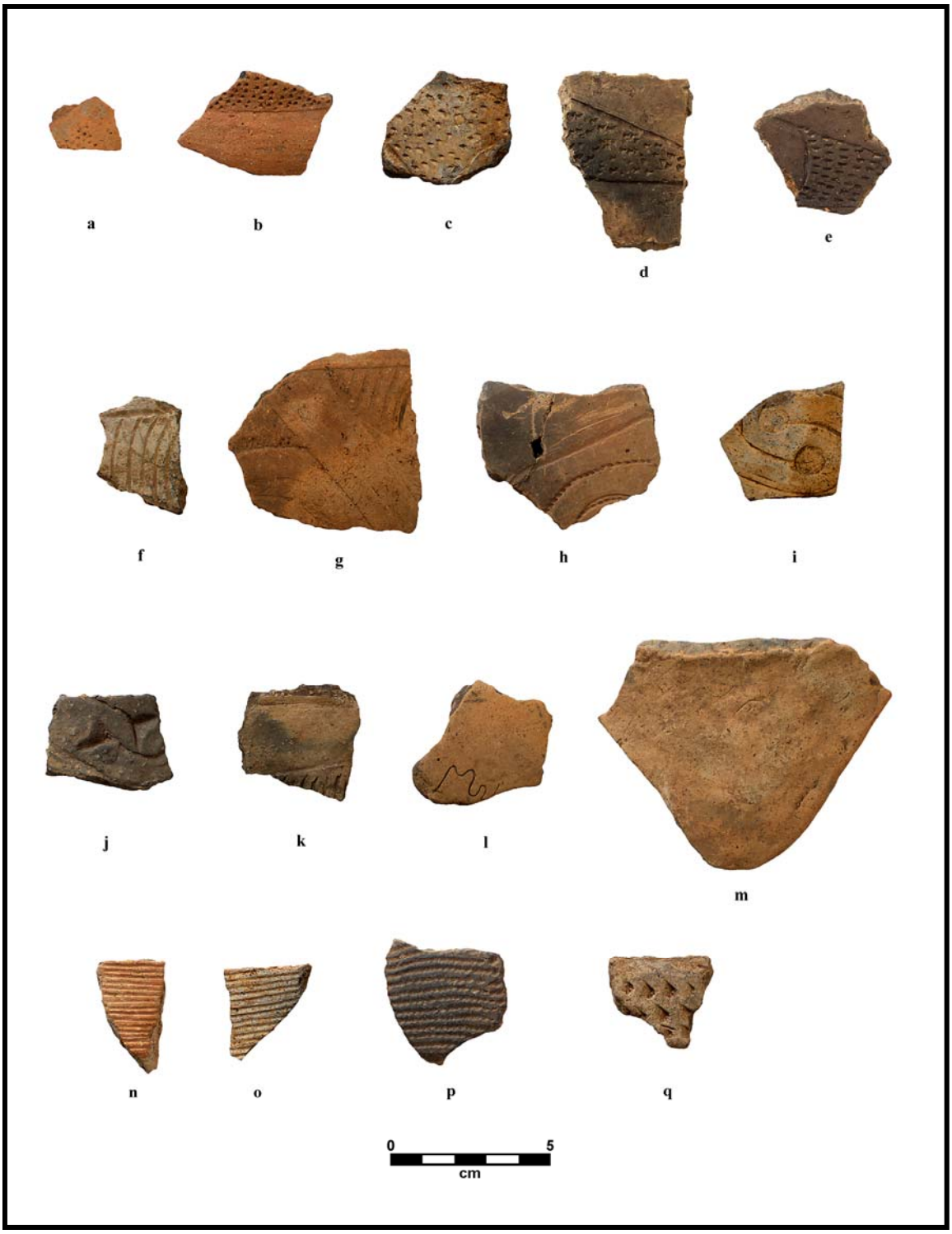

Figure D.2: Feltus body sherds: (a-e) French Fork Incised variety *Larkin*; (f) and (k) French Fork Incised variety *Laborde*; (g) French Fork Incised variety *Wilzone*; (h-j) French Fork Incised variety *unspecified*; (l-m) Baytown Plain; (n-o) Coles Creek Incised variety *Mott*; (p-q) Unclassified.

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