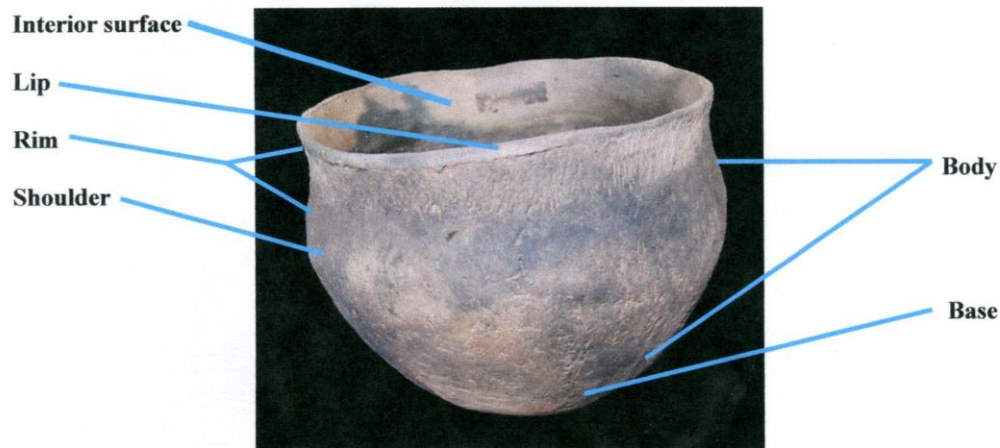


The description of pottery sherds in the following articles include some descriptive language that may not be familiar to everyone. The terms defined on this page will help you understand precisely what is being discussed in the language of the articles. It is important to understand the vessel's basic shape in order to realize where the sherd you have found fits into the overall vessel and often plays a part in correctly identifying the pottery type, especially where "plain" types are being identified.

## A DEFINITION OF VESSEL SHAPES AND FEATURES



### RIM STRUCTURES



Rim treatment is one of the most identifiable features of a vessel type. Certain rim treatments only occur during some periods of time, thus helping you understand where your rim sherd and pottery type fits into the archaeological record.

## BASAL STRUCTURS

**Rounded**



**Podal (Mammiform)**



**Podal (Wedge)**



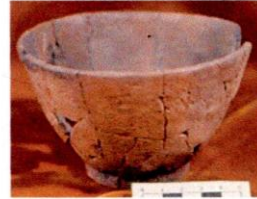
**Flattened**



**Conical**



**Annular**



Basal structures will also help you understand both where your sherd fits into the archaeological record as well as identify correctly the pottery type.

## VESSE FORMS

**Bowl**



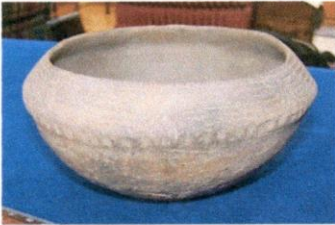
**Cazuela Bowl**



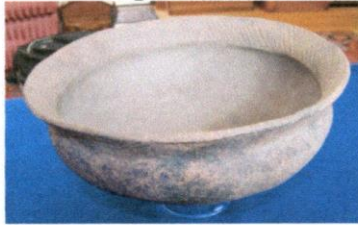
**Globular Bowl**



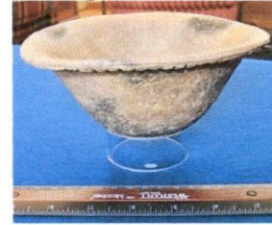
**Flattened Globular Bowl**



**Open Bowl**



**Soup Bowl/Plate**



**Collared Globular Jars**



**Flattened Globular Jars**



**Cylindrical Jars**



**Globular Jars**



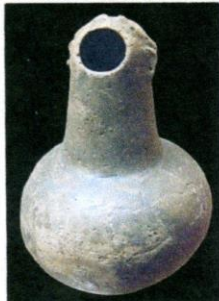
**Flanged Globular Jars**



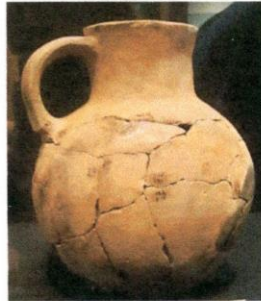
**Water Bottle**



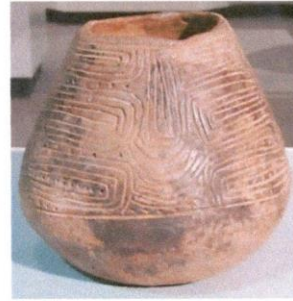
**Hooded Water Bottle**



**Pitcher**



**Beaker**



Vessel shape will help you understand the terms used in the following articles as well as determine the type and period of the vessel. There are many variations of the above forms as they are connected to both rim treatments and basal forms. The types defined in the articles are nearly always defined by the suggestion



of sherd formation. Very few complete vessels are ever recovered. Obviously, many of those shown above are illustrated from the assembly of multiple sherds.

## RECOGNIZING PASTE TEMPERERS

Pottery making in itself was a wonderful invention for the Native American. Along with it came the discovery of coil manufacture and the addition of other materials meant to temper or strengthen the clay, causing it to hold together. These materials now help us in the identification of the various types of pottery. Temper materials included the following list.

### FIBER



Fiber was the earliest form of temper. Grass or Spanish Moss fibers were added to the clay paste in an attempt to hold the pottery together. It did not work well because the fibers burned out during the firing process. Consequently, very few large sections of fiber tempered pottery are recovered.

### SAND

Sand tempering is made of very fine grains of sand almost too small to detect with the eye. The use of sand and the discovery of the coil method of manufacture produced pottery that was much stronger than the fiber tempered pottery that proceeded it. Sand can produce a very fine textured surface excellent for stamping, incising, burnishing or other forms of marking and was used throughout many archaeological periods.

### GRIT



Grit temper is the inclusion of small pebbles in past for the purpose of holding the vessel in shape. The pebble size is much larger than sand and worked fairly well. Grit-sized pebbles were used throughout several archaeological periods across Georgia.

## **LIMESTONE**



Limestone tempering is the inclusion of small bits of ground up limestone in the clay for the purpose of holding the vessel shape and strengthen it for use. Limestone leaves the surface of the vessel rough to the touch. This tempering method was used extensively in northern Alabama. That pottery spread through northwestern Georgia and southeastern Tennessee.

## **SHELL**



Small shell particles were added to clay paste for temper in the Macon, Georgia area during the Early Mississippian period. Walnut Roughened pottery, named for Walnut Creek in that same area spread across central Georgia while other pottery types did not. Hiwassee Island pottery was also shell tempered during this same period, but is primarily found among Tennessee sites.

### **CLAY**

Clay tempering in the form of clay particles or crushed pottery was added to new paste as tempering. It was most often used in Wilmington and St. Catherine's pottery types along coastal Georgia. The clay temper left the interior surfaces of the vessels rough or lumpy. The clay particles are not always easily visible, but may be detected as small dark particles within the paste.

### **DIATOMACEOUS EARTH**

