

THE PREHISTORIC CERAMICS OF GALT ISLAND (8LL27):  
A TECHNOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

By

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This study compares the archaeological ceramic assemblage of Galt Island (8LL27) to the current Caloosahatchee regional ceramic chronology to test its validity as an instrument of prediction. The theoretical approaches of multiscale critical analysis and ceramic ecology provide a basis by which the Galt Island site ceramic chronology is compared to the Caloosahatchee regional ceramic chronology by examining multiple scales of analysis as well as examining the ecological framework in which the pottery and manufacturer existed.

A sample of 2,024 pottery fragments weighing 21,931.6 grams was selected for analysis. A binocular microscope, Munsell color charts, an electric weight scale, and sliding metric calipers are the primary tools of measurement.

The variables selected for measurement are designated as either primary or secondary variables. The primary variables differed from secondary variables in that they are ceramic attributes that are "ecologically" rather than "culturally" conditioned. The primary variable includes paste composition. The secondary variables, determined as "culturally" conditioned, include surface decoration, core colors/degree of coring, vessel form, and technology. The covariation of primary and secondary variables establishes the framework by which

the Galt Island site's ceramic typology and chronology are devised and compared to the existing Caloosahatchee regional ceramic chronology.

The results of the technological and formal variability analysis of the Galt Island ceramic assemblage produce only a small number of refinements to the Caloosahatchee regional ceramic chronology. These few refinements demonstrate the overall validity of the regional ceramic chronology as an instrument of prediction for other comparable ceramic studies in the Caloosahatchee region. These objective and standardized methods of ceramic analysis should be employed in other ceramic studies throughout Florida so that further comparisons can be drawn and the regional ceramic chronology's validity as an instrument of prediction be further tested.