

# Historic Ceramics from Fort Polk, Louisiana

## Pearlware (1780 A.D.–1820 A.D.)



**Attributes:** white to light cream-colored, thin, hard, compact paste. White to faint bluish white clear lead glaze, caused by the addition of cobalt to the glaze. Bluish cast where glaze pools.

**Design and Decoration:** plain, hand-painted, edged, slipped, or sponged.

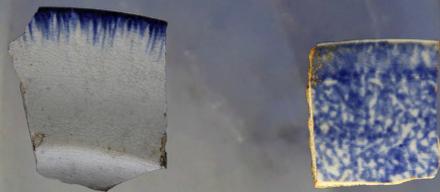
**Form:** flatware, bowl, tureen.

**Related Types:** Edged Pearlware, Transfer printed Pearlware.

**Definition Reference:** Noël Hume 1969.

**Frequency:** low occurrence at Fort Polk.

## Pearlware Shelledge and Sponge (1780 A.D.–1890 A.D.)



**Attributes:** white to light cream-colored, thin, hard, compact paste. White to faint bluish white clear lead glaze, caused by the addition of cobalt to the glaze. Bluish cast where glaze pools.

**Decoration and Design:** cobalt (or green) painted along the edge using a feather (left) and using a sponge (right) across the body.

**Form:** plate, bowl, platter.

**Related Types:** hand-painted polychrome pearlware and transfer printed pearlware.

**Definition Reference:** Noël Hume 1969.

**Frequency:** low occurrence at Fort Polk.

## Redware (1500 A.D.–Present)



**Attributes:** orange to buff to brick-red coarse earthenware paste with small to medium mineral inclusions. Vessel exterior is generally smoothed.

**Decoration and Design:** undecorated and sometimes molded. Occasionally lead glazed. Pictured on the right is a molded turpentine cup used to collect pine resin.

**Form:** cylinder, jar, basin.

**Definition Reference:** Deagan 1987.

**Frequency:** high occurrence at Fort Polk.

## Salt Glazed Stoneware (1675 A.D.–Present)



**Attributes:** semi-vitreous, opaque. Surface treatment includes glazes and slips. Salt glaze is very common and has a grayish color with pitting. Typically served utilitarian purposes.

**Design and Decoration:** salt glaze is very common and has a grayish color or with pitting.

**Form:** crock, jug, mug.

**Related Types:** White Salt Glazed Stoneware, Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware, Rhenish Stoneware.

**Definition Reference:** Noël Hume 1969.

**Frequency:** low occurrence at Fort Polk.

## Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware (1720 A.D.–1890 A.D.)



**Attributes:** semi-vitreous, opaque. Surface treatment includes brown slip and then a salt glaze. The salt glaze creates a mottled surface. Typically served utilitarian purposes.

**Design and Decoration:** a deep brown color slip.

**Form:** crock, jug, or mug.

**Related Types:** White Salt Glazed Stoneware, Rhenish Stoneware.

**Definition Reference:** Hildyard 1985.

**Frequency:** medium occurrence at Fort Polk.

## Yellow Ware (1780 A.D.–Present)



**Attributes:** paste is a coarse earthenware. Yellow Ware is an everyday utilitarian ware.

**Decoration and Design:** colors range from buff to mustard yellow. Bands of colors include white, brown gray, and black applied to exterior.

**Form:** bowl, chamber pot, crock.

**Related Types:** Queensware, creamware, or banded Annular Ware.

**Definition Reference:** Leibowitz 1985.

**Frequency:** medium occurrence at Fort Polk.

## Porcelain (1650 A.D.–Present)



**Attributes:** highly refined, thin-bodied ceramic. Paste is vitreous, white, and nearly translucent.

**Decoration and Design:** floral patterns are common. The one depicted on the left is decorated with overglaze polychrome decals (after 1880) and gold gilding.

**Form:** plate, tea cup, bowl, pitcher, teapot.

**Related Types:** none.

**Definition Reference:** Noël Hume 1969.

**Frequency:** medium occurrence at Fort Polk.

## Ironstone (1840 A.D.–1930 A.D.)



**Attributes:** white, hard, almost vitrified paste. Paste is usually thick because vessels were often utilitarian. Background color is white, but may have a faint bluish cast. Thick, clear, glasslike glaze. The example on the left is hand-painted. The example on the right is molded and more recent in age.

**Design and Decoration:** hand painted polychrome or monochrome, molded.

**Form:** cup, bowl, plate.

**Related Types:** refined earthenware.

**Definition Reference:** Noël Hume 2001.

**Frequency:** medium occurrence at Fort Polk.

**Note about date ranges:** historic settlement in the Fort Polk area by Old World peoples is primarily from ca. 1810 to 1940, when the military base was established. Most of the artifacts displayed are from sites dating to this period.

## Whiteware Hand Painted (1830 A.D.–Present)



**Attributes:** highly refined, white-bodied earthenware that is relatively non-porous. Paste is grayish-white to white. Lead glaze is typically clear and allows for bright colors to with stand firing.

**Decoration/Design:** hand painted in bright colors.

**Form:** bowl, plate, platter, tureen.

**Related Types:** Whiteware.

**Definition Reference:** Noël Hume 1969.

**Frequency:** medium occurrence at Fort Polk.

## Annular Ware (1785 A.D.–Present)



**Attributes:** refined, white-bodied earthenware. Thin, hard, compact paste that is white or cream. This is not a ceramic type but instead is a decorative type.

**Decoration/Design:** horizontal bands of varying color slips and varying widths.

**Form:** cup, chamber pot, bowl.

**Related Types:** banded Yellow Ware.

**Definition Reference:** Noël Hume 1969.

**Frequency:** medium occurrence at Fort Polk.

## Whiteware – Molded (1900 A.D.–Present)



**Attributes:** refined, white-bodied earthenware that is relatively non-porous. Paste is grayish-white to white. Lead glaze is typically clear.

**Decoration/Design:** molded waves and other simple patterns.

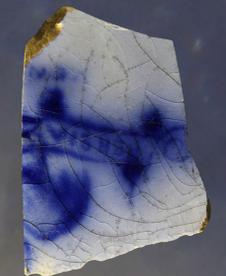
**Form:** bowl, plate, platter.

**Related Types:** Whiteware.

**Definition Reference:** Noël Hume 1969.

**Frequency:** high occurrence at Fort Polk.

## Whiteware Transfer Printed (1830 A.D.–Present)



**Attributes:** highly refined, white-bodied earthenware that is relatively non-porous. Paste is grayish-white to white.

**Decoration/Design:** colored transfer print in one color. Micro-crazing is typical for this ware. The example at the top represents an early form referred to as Flow-Blue for the overflowing blue color made by the use of cobalt.

**Form:** bowl, plate, platter, tureen.

**Related Types:** Whiteware.

**Definition Reference:** Noël Hume 1969.

**Frequency:** high occurrence at Fort Polk.

### Selected References

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**Note:** Artifacts are not to scale.  
Low Occurrence = less than 10; Medium Occurrence = 11 to 30; High Occurrence 31 or greater artifacts recovered.