

FIGURE 1

Map of the Pic River Region showing the location of the post in relation to Lake Superior, Marathon and Heron Bay.

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(Accepted April 26th, 1967)

## The Excavation of Fort Pic, Ontario

### INTRODUCTION

The Fort Pic Site is located in the District of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, on the west bank of the mouth of the Pic River (Fig. 1). The area has been under continued archaeological investigation since an initial excavation by Griffin and Quimby in 1957 (Quimby, 1961:83), including a joint archaeological expedition of the University of Toronto and the National Museum of Canada in 1960 (Emerson, n.d.). These previous investigators were primarily concerned with the Indian cultural manifestations. An expedition in 1964 was supported by a grant from the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of the Province of Ontario and was primarily concerned with the historic occupation, mainly involving the "New firm" or Hudson Bay Company Post. This post was the last of a series of occupations of the site by various traders and fur companies.

### GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

The west bank of the mouth of the Pic River consists of large, rolling sand dunes within a triangular area bounded by Lake Superior to the west, the Pic River to the south and by a sharp rock face to the north-west. North of the rock face the terrain consists of low rock outcrops, spruce forests, and muskeg.

The Fort at the Mouth of the Pic River served to draw furs from the drainage systems of the Pic and Black Rivers. The Pic River is easily navigable by canoe to connect with the Hudson Bay drainage. The headwaters of the Pic lie close to those of the Oswagan River, a tributary of the Albany (Fig. 1). Fort Pic was thus located at the end of a major canoe route between the Great Lakes and Hudson Bay, the other end of which lay Fort Albany on James Bay.

### HISTORY OF THE FORT

The area of the site of Fort Pic appears to have been occupied sporadically over a long period of time and at least three different levels of Indian occupation are known (Emerson, n.d.). These represent samples from Late Middle Woodland to historic materials. Some of the pottery demonstrates a cultural relationship to the west "The stratified Pic River site produced prehistoric Blackduck/Manitoba foci ceramics in the second and third strata. A radio carbon reading from the third stratum gave a date of  $1000 \pm 80$  B.P. (GSC-855)" (Wright, 1963:5).

Quimby and Griffin were concerned with the identification of the Indian material as to period and its relation to an historically known Indian group. Although exact identification of the group is not possible, it is likely that the Indians in the area of the fort were Northern Ojibwa (Chippewa) (Quimby, 1961:89).

The Pic River is first shown on a Jesuit map dated 1671 and is named on a map of 1788 (Nute, 1930:46). The name seems to derive from an Ojibwa word meaning "Muddy".

Various explorers who passed through this region in the 18th century stopped at the mouth of the Pic. The D'Anville map of the early 1700's shows the Pic River, while the Jonathan Carver map does not (Tucker, 1942:11). Alexander Henry visited the Pic River in 1775 and notes a band of Ojibwa Indians encamped at its mouth, but no mention of a fort is made (Henry, 1921: 231-2).

A fort must have been established by the late 1780's. Count Andreani first mentions that the Pic District produced "30 bundles of fine peltry" in 1790 (Smith, n.d.), and in 1793, John Macdonnel mentions the fort operated by Mr. Cote, who traded on Lake Superior from at least 1789.

The Ojibwa village mentioned by Henry appears to have been abandoned by the 1780's. Quimby and Griffin state "The absence of post-1750 trade objects at the Pic River site, in addition to the presence of aboriginal pottery and flint, and types of trade objects that fit a pre-1750 context, suggest a period between 1700 and 1750" (Quimby, 1957:85).

The band of about 150 Ojibwa during the occupation of the Fort Pic trading post are probably related to the inhabitants of the early historic village. The Indian Reserve at Heron Bay South, some five miles inland, still exercises traditional fishing rights at the mouth of the Pic.

#### OCCUPATION OF THE FORT

The historic occupation of the fort can be divided into three periods. These correspond to major shifts in ownership and company control. The period of Free Traders began about 1789, with Cote's post. The second is the period of the North-West Company, which lasted from 1799 to 1821. The last is that of the Hudson Bay Company which continued as a store until the late 1880's.

#### FREE TRADERS (1789-1798)

In partnership with John Grant and Maurice Blaudeau, Cote had established a fort at the Pic River by 1789. Cote was succeeded in 1795 by St. Germain who had previously owned the Michipicoten post in partnership with Baptiste Nolan.

A document, dating 1794-1804, discovered in Edinborough in 1938 (Smith, n.d.), describes the post at this period. It consisted of a stockade, 9' in height, standing on a cleared area 193' x 145'. The first building was a warehouse, 136' x 12', constructed of horizontal cedar logs and roofed with cedar bark with two movable glass window sashes. The second building was a residence similarly constructed of cedar logs and bark, 30' x 20', (Nute, 1948 :6) . The contents of the latter were reported to include tin plates, tin kettles, a frying pan, two large wooden platters, twelve chairs, two poplar tables, a poplar desk and two bedsteads (Smith, n.d.). Associated with the residence was a small stable.

#### NORTH-WEST COMPANY, 1799-1821

Baptiste Perreault of the North-West Company took over the fort at the Pic River in 1799.

Perreault was chief factor of the fort between 1799 and 1805, which represents the height of the company's success in the fur trade in this region. Between 1799 and 1812 the post was at its largest with a large resident complement, e.g.: in 1804 there were at least fifteen men at the post including the factor, three clerks, an interpreter and ten voyageurs (Smith, n.d.).

From 1805-1815, the factors were Dr. Henry Munro (1805-1806), Charles Chaboilley (1807-1810), Pierre Batel de Rocheblave, who was son of the last French governor of Illinois (1810-1815). After 1815 the post became less important. In 1820, Colin Robertson, of Lord Selkirk's staff, was detained at the Pic for a month, while on his way to Montreal.

The period (1797-1821) constituted the maximum expansion of the post. Cote's building remained and had been extended. Additional buildings consist of a shed, 20' x 15', and a great house of five rooms, 40' x 21', with a fireplace and eight glass windows. A stable, 15' x 18', also dates from this period. These buildings may have been erected by St. Germain (1795-1807) or during the early period of the North-West Company (1798-1805). Four other structures had been added by 1804, a cellar, serving as a powder magazine, a small forge, a warehouse 48' x 18', and the greathouse.

Under Perreault's factorship (1799-1805), the buildings numbered nine. This increase must have been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the areas enclosed by the stockade and surrounding cleared land.

#### HUDSON BAY COMPANY POST, 1821-1865

Alexander McTavish took over the post in 1821 for the Hudson Bay Company and remained until 1827.

David McIntosh (1827-1831) succeeded McTavish as factor in 1827 and in turn was replaced by Thomas McMurry (1831-1834), William Chouster (1834-1836), Thomas McMurry (1847-1848), Elandson (1841-1848), and Charles Begg (1849-1865). No further factors are recorded.

Dr. J. J. Bigsby, in 1823, describes the post as still being stockaded and containing a residence as well as several other buildings (Smith, n.d.). Reference is also made to farming activities around the post, which suggests an extension of the cleared land. Lieutenant Surveyor H. W. B. Bayford, in the Collins Report of 1825, shows the stockade, three other enclosed areas and six buildings (Smith, n.d.). Louis Agassiz, in 1847, noted that the buildings formed a hollow square and were single storied, whitewashed and trimmed with red, the square was planked and a plank roadway protected by a picketed palisade led from a river gate to the river (Smith, n.d.).

#### POST-1865 OCCUPATION

No references to the post appear in the Hudson Bay Company's records after 1865, although a minimal establishment appears to have been maintained. Captain Harry Nicholson, a ship's captain, stopped at the Pic in 1881 and found a post still in operation, but the stockade seems to have been abandoned and only four buildings remained.

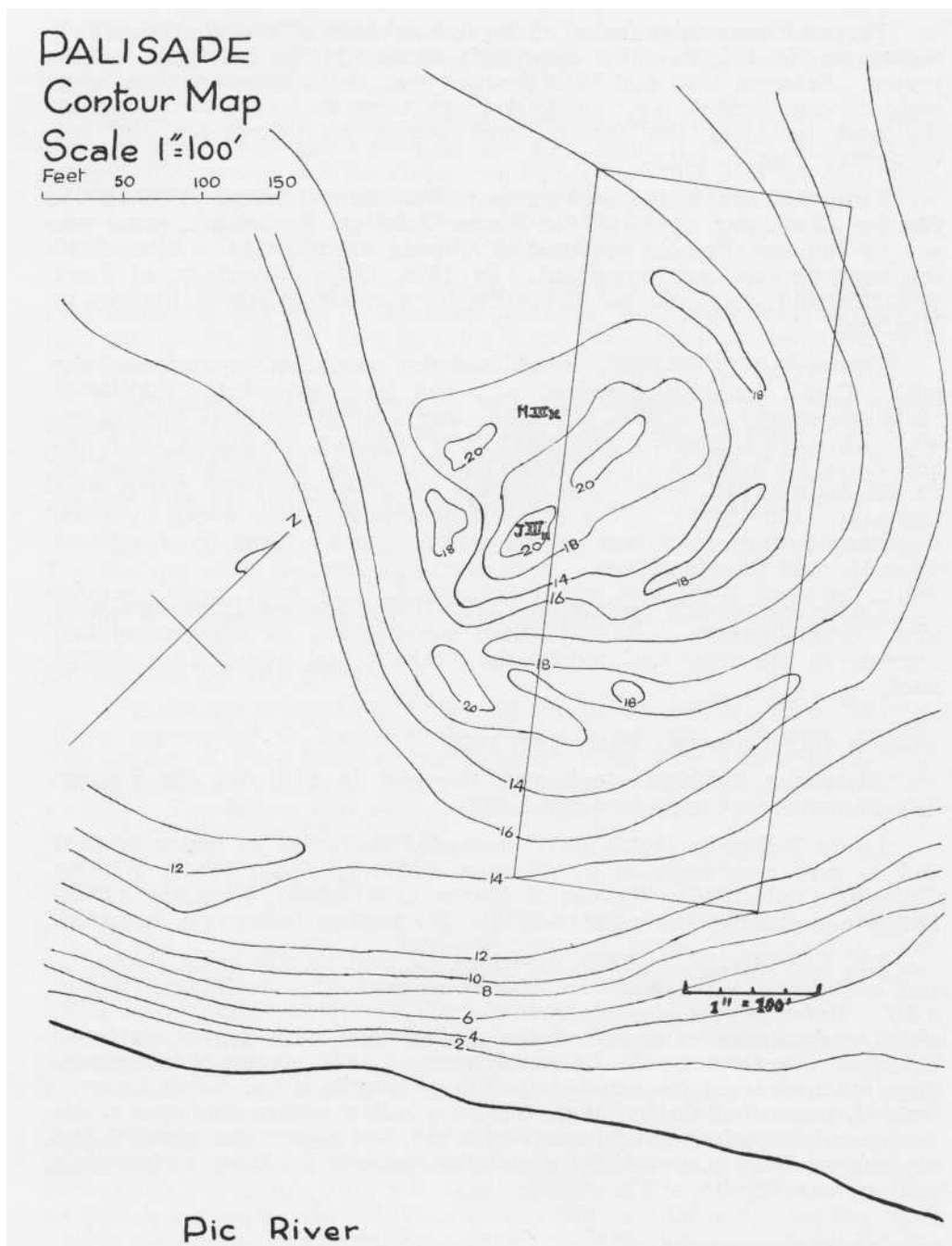


FIGURE 2

Contour map of Fort Pic. The palisade is indicated by the rectangle and the datum markers for the grid system by crosses.

Only one building outside the original stockade was used in the 1880's. Several Indians now living at Heron Bay recall it and at least one was employed as a mail carrier between the store and the railway at the turn of the century. No exact date of the termination of Hudson Bay Company activities at the mouth of the Pic can be established, although it probably was before 1914.

A Roman Catholic mission church to serve the Indians of the area was established on the site of the fort in the second decade of the 20th century. In the mid-1930's, the church was moved to its present location in the reserve. The old church yard with some graves is visible to the south-west of the fort.

The Marathon Corporation of Canada, in the late 1930's, established a log-boom camp at the mouth of the Pic. These buildings were largely located on the site of the old fort. During this period considerable alteration in land contour took place and extensive areas of the fort which lay near the surface were disturbed or destroyed.

Employees of the Marathon Company during the 1940's recall that parts of the stockade were clearly visible, together with the stone foundations of a building. Evidently, these areas of the old fort were exposed by the drifting sand and have been recovered. Remains of the fort generally lie within three feet of the surface although, in localized areas, the sand has buried the stockade to a depth of over five feet. Traces of other structures lay near the surface, but the Marathon Company's operations or the drifting dunes have obliterated them. The remains of the only stone building in the fort, the Hudson Bay Company's smithy, has not been located.

## EXCAVATION OF THE FORT

### METHODS

The 1964 archaeological investigation of the site of Fort Pic was to locate the outer stockade and fences and as much of the internal structures as possible and to recover an extensive sample of artifacts. The excavation was undertaken by a total party of three adults and ten Marathon High School students and lasted six weeks.

### GRID SYSTEM

The site was laid out in fifty foot squares from a base line one hundred feet in length, extending between the two datum points. The datum posts, J III and H III of the grid system (Figs. 2 and 3), were 4" logs placed 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>' into the ground. The datum points were indicated by a nail on the top of each log. In case of the destruction of the datum posts, the J III datum marker was surveyed into survey blaze marks on two trees. These trees are located to the north-west of the hydro line and to the south-east of the present road. The trees are blazed, trimmed, and bear the signature date, exact distance and bearing to the J III grid post.

The fifty foot squares of the grid system were labelled A, B, C, etc., from west to east and in Roman I, II, III, from north to south (Fig. 3). The north-east corner of any area or square is the datum referent. These areas are further divided into five foot units which are designated

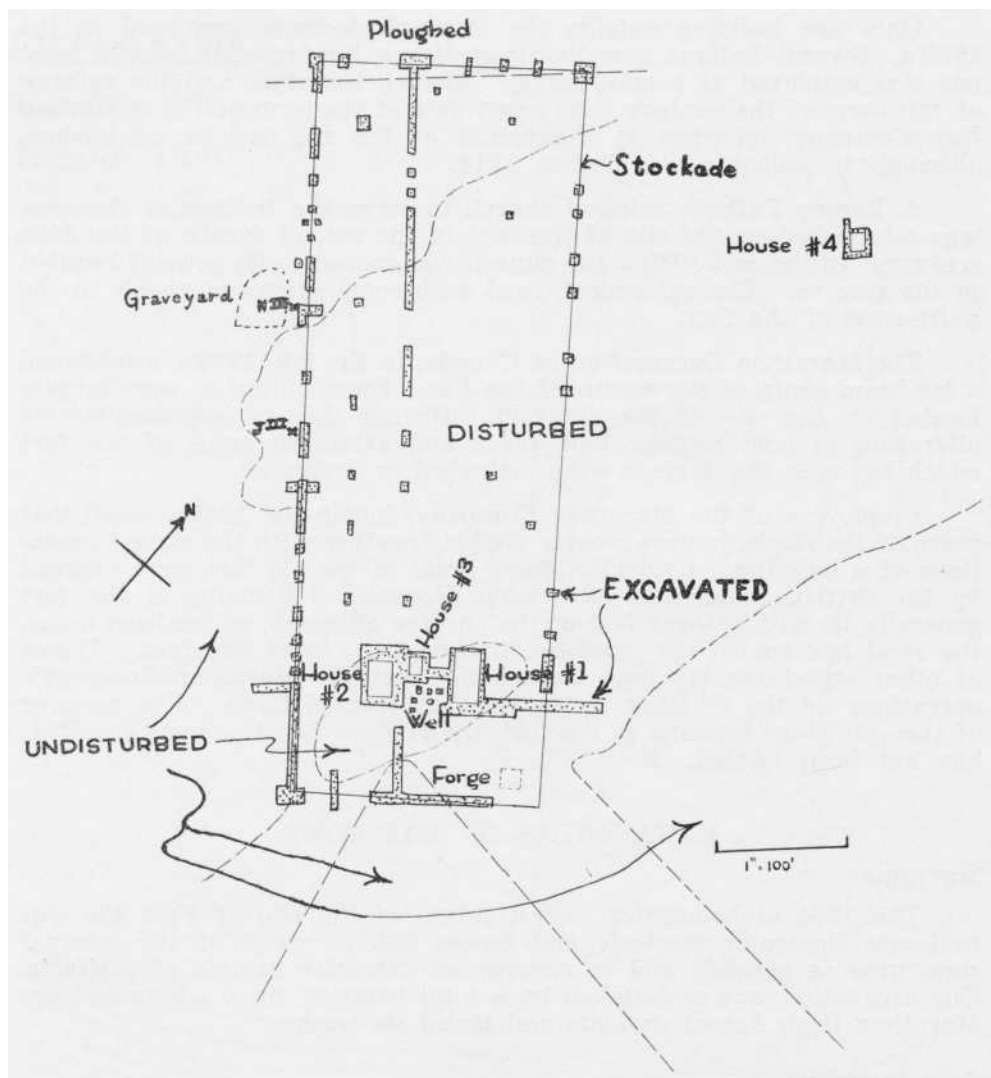


FIGURE 3

Map of Fort Pic showing excavated areas (stippled) and excavated structures.

by two Arabic numerals. These squares are numbered from the datum post at the north-east corner of the area. The longitudinal number precedes the latitudinal number.

#### RECORDS

Levels consist of occupation levels. Floor plans were mapped every five foot unit. Profiles of the north and west walls of the first sixty-five squares opened were taken. Subsequently profiles were taken for squares or trenches in which noteworthy features occurred.

Artifacts and other items were marked with their square and sequence designations in the field catalogue and a photographic catalogue of special features was maintained.

The following twelve structures were treated as separate problems and required special consideration or techniques: (1) South Palisade, east section; (2) South Palisade, south-east corner; (3) South Palisade, Fallen Picket - 1; (4) South Palisade, west section; (5) South Palisade, Fallen Pickets, 2; (6) North Palisade; (7) West Palisade; (8) East Palisade; (9) House 1; (10) House 2; (11) House 3, and (12) House 4.

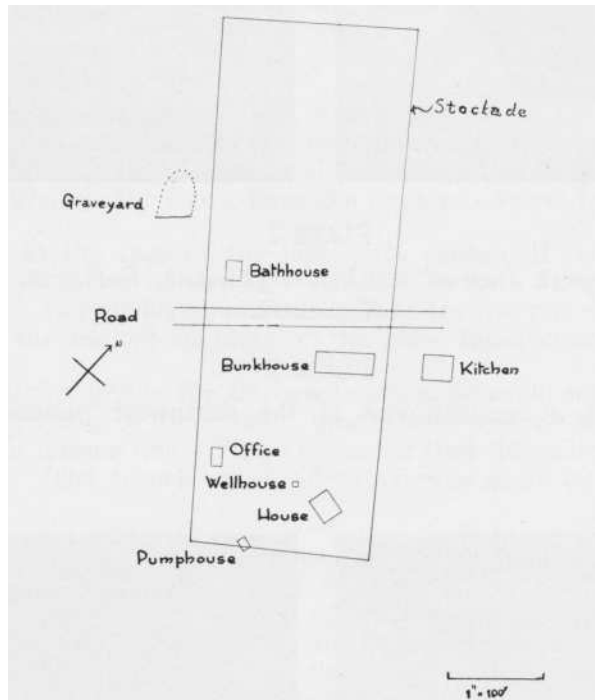


FIGURE 4

Modern buildings of the Marathon Co. on the site of Fort Pic.

## BUILDINGS AND SURFACE FEATURES

### STOCKADE

#### LOCATION

The excavation of the palisade became the major task during the excavation. The final and probably largest stockade was a rectangle 450' x 170'. The longer wall is oriented 318° E. magnetic (compass without correction) and lies roughly perpendicular to the river (Fig. 2). Of the four sides only the southern pickets were intact, the other three having been almost completely obliterated except for small sections. Of the four corners, only the south-east remained.

The fort is located 16' above the present water level, and above spring flood level, in sand dunes of the northern bank of the Pic River.



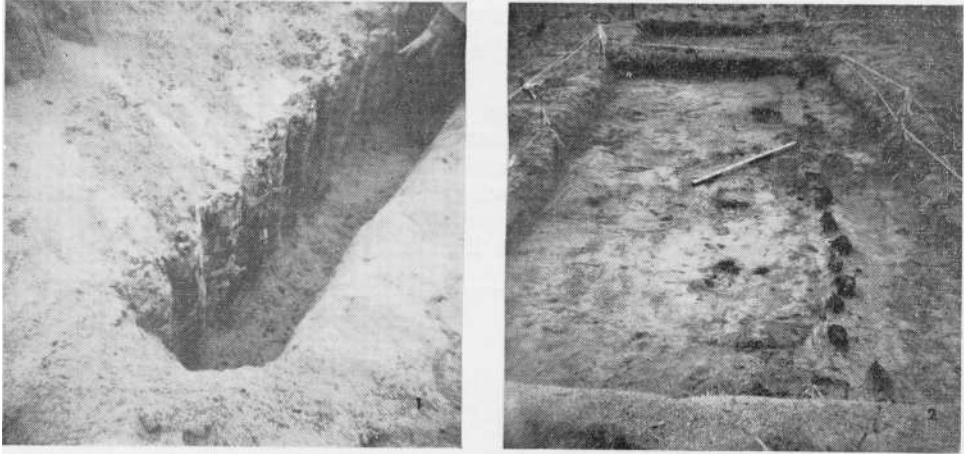


PLATE 1  
Section along north face of southwest palisade, Fort Pic, basal section of pickets.

PLATE 2  
Line of pickets at eastern end of the southwest palisade, Fort Pic.

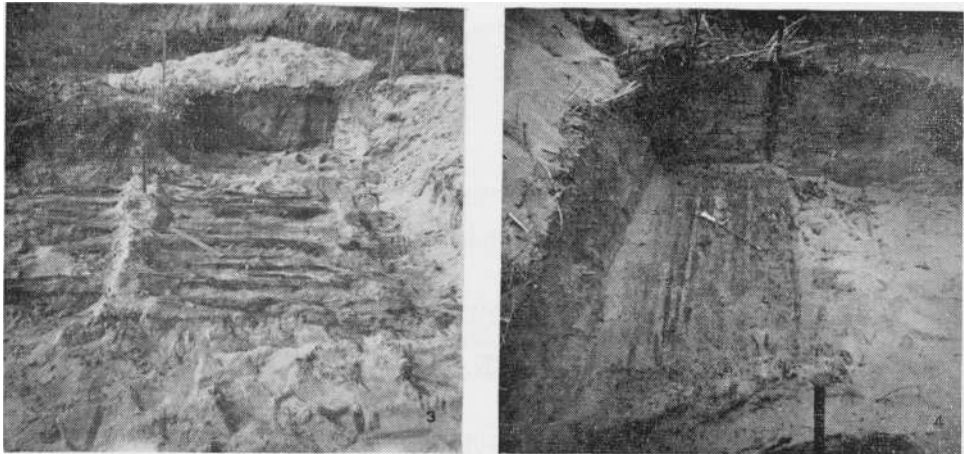


PLATE 3  
Section of fallen picket with intact horizontal brace, southwestern palisade, Fort Pic.

PLATE 4  
Plank flooring in the southeastern section of House 1, Fort Pic.

It is located about 150 yards from the mouth of the river and is sheltered from the frequent southeasterly storms. The steep river bank bordering the flat on which the fort is situated, curves to form a wide area of beach directly downstream from the fort. This beach has been considerably expanded and the slope of the bank reduced since the establishment of logging operations.

The suitability of this site is attested to by the establishment of the Marathon Company's Boom-Camp (Fig. 4), on the site of the fort, a number of whose buildings lie within the area of the old stockade.

## CONSTRUCTION

The stockade was constructed of wood, probably spruce or fir which grow nearby. It consisted of a line of poles placed vertically side by side (Pls. 1 and 2). The general alignment of the sides of the stockade is straight, although for short distances sections deviate from this (Pl. 2).

Sections at the face of the logs were excavated for all four sides. The average diameter of the logs was 3½" with a range of 2½" to 5" for each side. Larger logs had been split to the desired smaller diameter. In all cases, the barked surfaces of the poles faced outwards (Pl. 1).

The ground contour for the whole stockade could not be determined because of drifting of later sand dunes, but several localized portions showed a thin humus line. These indicated that the palisade was erected by trenching. The trench appeared to average some 3' wide and up to 4' deep.

Two examples of the above-ground portion of the stockade were located during the excavation. The first was a single fallen picket, while the second was a five foot section of the palisade (Pl. 3). The former was a log some 14' long and 4¾" in diameter. The latter consisted of 9 uprights held together by two horizontal braces. The two braces were 3' apart and consisted of split log planks about 3 3¼" wide. The uprights were notched to take the braces, which were fastened with 2½" square-headed wiredrawn nails of the type common to the period 1825-1855 (Fontana and Greenleaf, 1963:54).

No section of the palisade structure was sufficiently well preserved so that the height could be measured. However, its height above ground can be estimated from the two sections of fallen picket that were 14' long, of which at least 4' must have been below ground, suggesting a maximum height of about 10'.

The palisade appears to have been roughly constructed. The alignments were uneven and the gaps between pickets unequal. Consequently, it appears that the palisade served to define the limits of the fort, rather than for defence.

No evidence of the three enclosed areas mentioned by Collins, probably located within the palisade, were observed probably because of their obliteration by later activities.

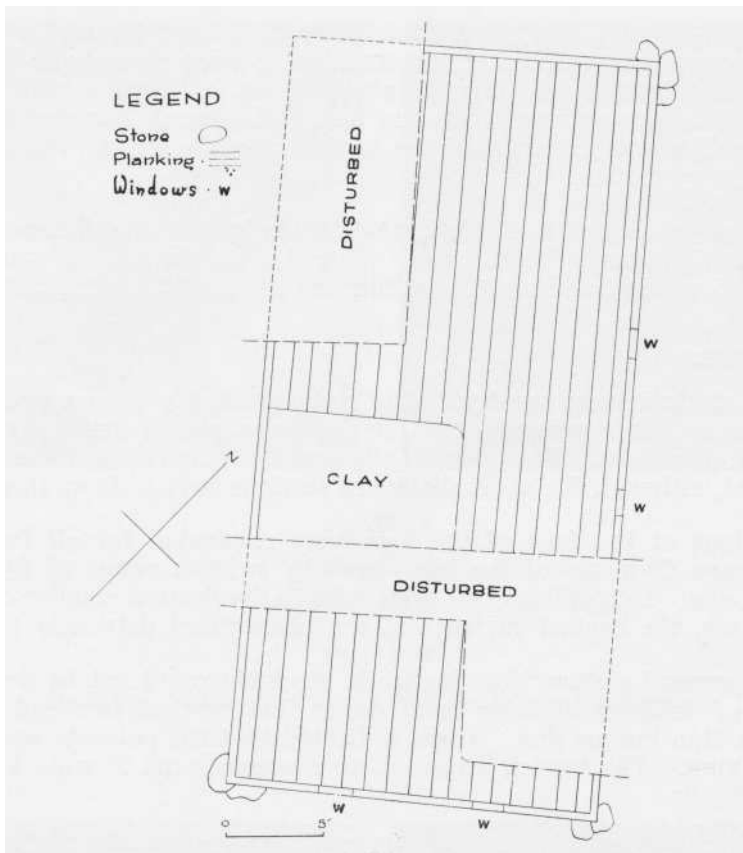


FIGURE 5

Floor plan of House 1.

This palisade may be attributed to the period of the Hudson Bay Company's occupation which included the maximum perimeter of the post and because of the late date (1825-55) deduced from the nails used in its construction lies within this period.

#### BUILDINGS

##### HOUSE 1

This structure is a large building 40' x 19', the walls of which are oriented parallel to the sides of the palisade (Fig. 5). The longer walls are oriented north-west to south-east parallel to the longer sides of the palisade.

Three corners were reinforced or plumbed by three or four rocks beneath them. The wall is defined by a 2" x 6" horizontal plank. The flooring consists of 1" x 6" planking with 2" x 4" joists spaced at 3' intervals (Pl. 4). These joists appear to have been placed directly on the sand.

The wooden floor is interrupted on the south-west side by a clay insert 10' wide but, because of disturbance, its length may be estimated at not more than 10' nor less than 4'. The clay averages 8" and appears to have been puddled flat. This clay floor probably defined at least one room within the house, possibly a kitchen or storeroom.

The possible position of four windows was suggested by four con-fined concentrations of window glass. These lay symetrically in pairs in the north-east and south-east walls. Concentrations lay 5' and 13' from the east corner in the south-east wall and at 16' and 25' from the same corner on the north-east wall.

The nails used in this building are all square headed plate nails, dating the construction of the building to pre-1830 (Fontana and Green-leaf, 1963:52) while the lack of wrought-iron nails dates the period of building to post-1800 (ibid:54).

This building was constructed towards the end of the last occupancy of the North-West Company on the evidence of the nails and can be identified as the greathouse built by St. Germain in 1804. Because traces of exterior planking are found on the south-west and north-west sides of the building, it may have been still used by the Hudson Bay Company when Agassiz passed through the area in 1842.

## HOUSE 2

This is a building 30' x 25', and oriented 315° E. magnetic and about 5° E. of the general orientation of the post (Fig. 6).

This building appeared as a small tumulus before excavation. The remains of the building lay very close to the surface and the structure was found to be not quite rectangular ; this may be attributed to movement of the log walls during their collapse.

This building appeared to have been constructed voyageur fashion. The walls were of horizontal logs which extend beyond each corner. Each log was notched to fit the log running at right angles under it. The spaces between the logs were chinked with mortar.

The interior was floored with rough uneven planking which may have been hand-hewn. Planks average 4" wide, but range from 3" to 7" thick and are of variable length. Sixteen nails holding the planking to joists were located. These nails are of wrought iron, suggesting an early date for the building (Fontana and Greenleaf, 1963:54).

Although the 23' side of this building is 3' longer than that reported in the literature (Nute, 1948:6), it is suggested that this building may be the great house of Cote, the first free trader to occupy the site. Construction by the log cabin method, the use of wrought-iron nails and the general dimensions support this view.

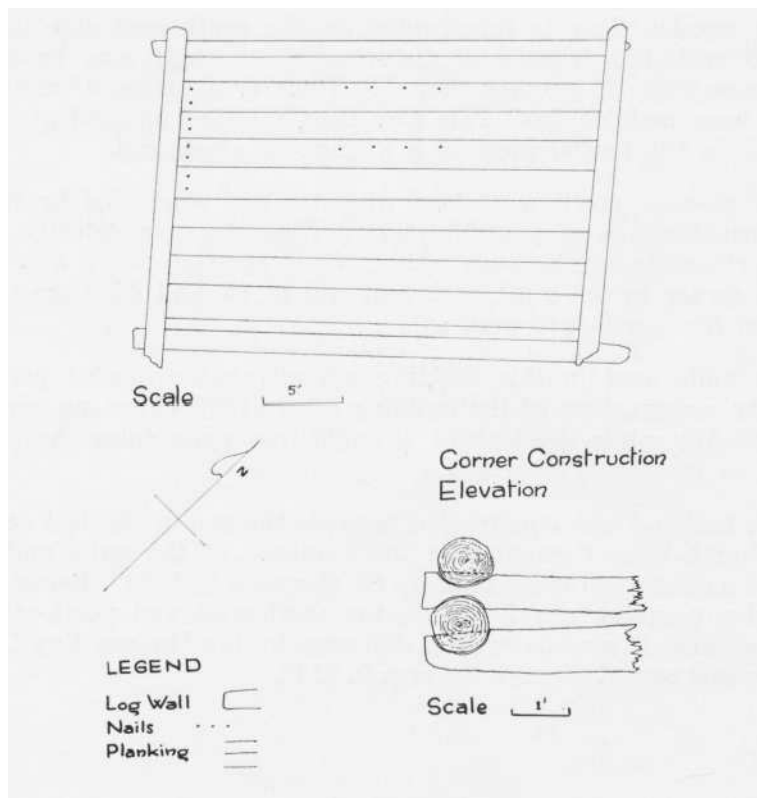


FIGURE 6

Floor plan of House 2, with detail of corner construction.

### HOUSE 3

Lying 5' to the north-west of the north-west wall of House 2 is a small structure evidently related to the former (Fig. 7). It is 8' x 12', has the same orientation and construction as House 2, but the south corner had been destroyed. In the west corner of this structure, a piece of an iron back from a stove was found. However, unlike Houses 1 or 2, this building was not floored. This building may be the small stable associated with Cote's greathouse.

### HOUSE 4

This structure was located outside the palisade (Fig. 3) and may have been the post-1865 store. According to local informants, this building was removed in the early part of the present century and no wooden elements remained. An 8' x 8' half-basement was located, which measured some 5' deep and probably served as a cold cellar.

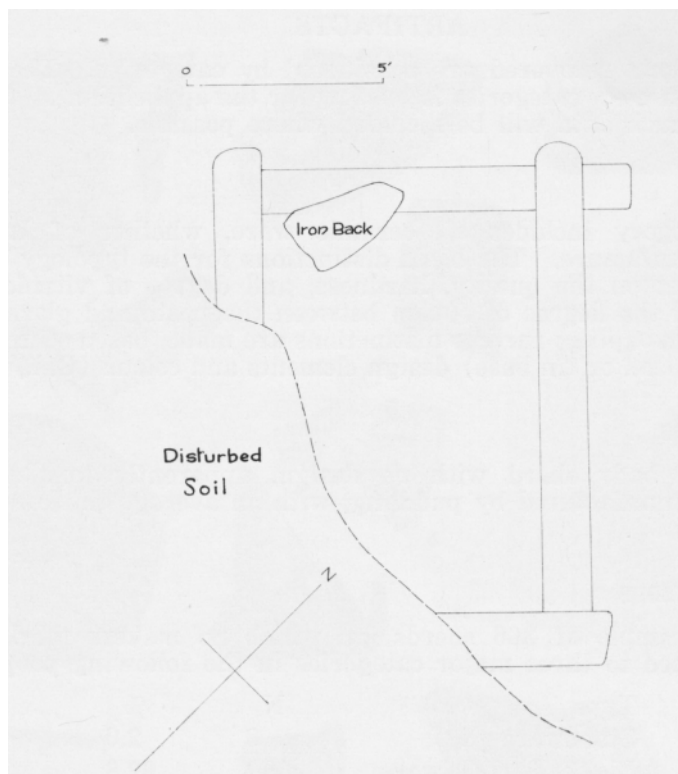


FIGURE 7

### Floor plan of House 3.

#### OTHER STRUCTURES

The approximate location of two other structures connected with the Hudson Bay occupancy was also determined.

The forge may have been in the east corner of the fort. However, this building, including its foundations, was destroyed in the late 1940's when log booms were moved over this area of the post for winter storage. The stones used in its construction are reported to have been bulldozed away and used as fill in a nearby swampy area. Investigation of the approximate site of the building revealed only a few fragments of granite field stone which may have been used in the forge's construction.

The existing well appears to be the original well. When it was deepened and widened, several copper trade pots, an axe head and other artifacts of historic origin were recovered from its floor. A well in this particular location would thus appear to date from the Hudson Bay occupation.

## ARTIFACTS

The artifacts recovered are considered by categories. The number of specimens in most categories is too few for the application of statistical analysis, but such data will be included where possible.

## POTTERY

This category includes all ceramic ware, whether of Indian or European manufacture. The basic distinctions for the typology of European ware rest on the quality, hardness, and degree of vitrification of the paste, and the degree of fusion between the paste and glaze. Within each of these groupings further distinctions are made, based on the nature of the glaze, (lead or tin base) design elements and colour (Gall, 1962:2).

## INDIAN SHERDS

Only one body sherd with no design, apparently tempered with granite and manufactured by puddling, with an average thickness of  $\frac{1}{8}$ " was found.

## EUROPEAN SHERDS

A total sample of 366 sherds, on which no makers marks occur, may be assigned to three major categories in the following proportions:

Type	N	%
Stoneware	8	2.0
Light Earthenware	338	92.8
Heavy Earthenware	20	5.2
	366	100.0

The absence of recovered china from the fort may corroborate the late date of occupation, as mass produced earthenware is progressively more common in the later historic period.

## STONEWARE (P1. 5)

Stoneware is a hard, heavy pottery, falling between china and earthenware in the degree of vitrification of its paste. The eight pieces found appear to come from a single vessel, having a uniform thickness of  $\frac{3}{4}$ ". All of the sherds have a dark grey slip and are overglazed.

## EARTHENWARE (P1. 5)

Earthenware is distinguished by the fact that there is a clear division between the paste and glaze. Earthenware paste is usually soft and is colored off-white to light brown. The majority of items recovered in this category appear to be tableware.

The method of application of the design is of diagnostic importance. Transfer-ware predominates over handpainted ware in the sample as only two sherds appear to be hand decorated, As transfer-ware came into wide use only in the late 18th century, such proportions indicate the relatively late occupancy of the post.

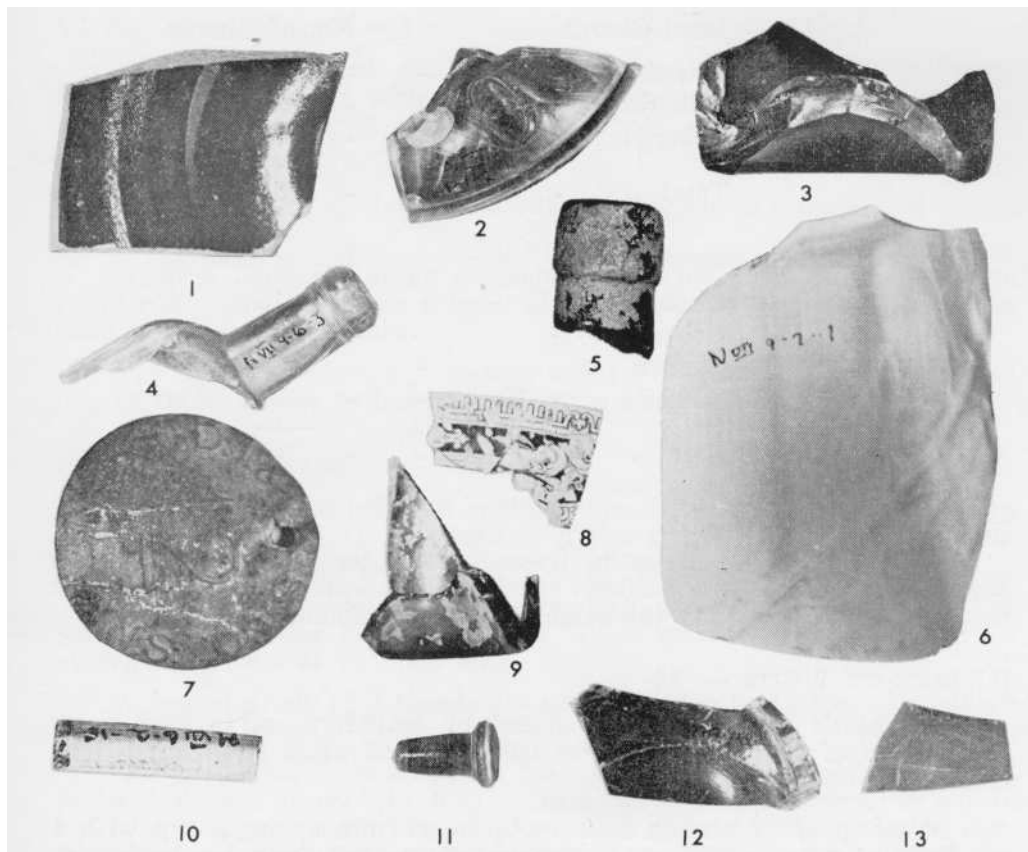


PLATE 5

Pottery, glass and kaolin fragments from Fort Pic (different scales) : (1) Heavy stoneware, (2) Rim and side from a pressed glass dish, (3) Base fragment of a green blown glass bottle, showing basal contour, (4) Rim neck, and shoulder from a clear glass medicine bottle, (5) Mouth fragment from a green glass bottle, (6) Fragment from a heavy earthenware crock with a raised maple leaf design, (7) Beaver token or tag, reading in embossed raised lettering "12 D.I. & S. CO. N.S.", (8) Earthenware with geometric floral design of blue on white, (9) Basal fragment of a clear glass blown bottle, (10) Kaolin pipe stem fragment, (11) Glass stopper of clear glass, (12) Fragment of a pressed glass, clear bottle base, (13) Fragment of window glass.

## I PLAIN WHITE - 137

The largest number of sherds are of this type. Sherd thickness is uniform, varying from  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " on basal sections, and from  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on rim and body fragments. The plain white earthenware comprises 47 tin-glazed and 90 lead-glazed sherds, which may derive from the following types of vessels:



A.	Lead-glazed Sherds					No. of Sherds
Cup Sherds	-	-	-	-	-	9
Plate Sherds	-	-	-	-	-	15
Misc. Sherds	-	-	-	-	-	66
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Total	-	-	-	-	-	90
B.	Tin-glazed Sherds					No. of Sherds
Rim Sherds	-	-	-	-	-	15
Plate Sherds	-	-	-	-	-	11
Cup Sherds	-	-	-	-	-	7
Misc. Sherds	-	-	-	-	-	14
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Total	-	-	-	-	-	47

## II PLAIN BLUE — 8

This category is similar to I, except that the slip is a light blue. Eight unidentifiable, but uniform sherds with a lead glaze and ½" thick that probably come from the same vessel, were found.

## III BLUE ON WHITE — 74

All sherds have designs produced by transfers and a lead glaze. This group of sherds is characterized by an off-white slip with a blue transfer design under the glaze.

A group of 37 sherds appears to come from a single cup with a symmetrically arranged floral design under a geometrically banded border which could not be restored (Pls. 5-8). Rim sherds of this cup are 3/32" thick and basal sections ½" thick.

A second group of 28 sherds, apparently from a second cup, also have a floral design. But there is a curved motif around the edge and tulips are stylistically arranged on the interior of the bowl. Rim sherds of the second cup are 3/8" thick and ½" at the base.

A further 19 sherds with blue-on-white designs were too small to identify the pattern.

## IV GREEN ON WHITE - 9

These are similar to the previous group except that the transfer pattern is green. All sherds appear to come from a single 5½" plate with a basal diameter of 3½". The motif was bunches of flowers and leaves in a curved arrangement.

## V BROWN ON WHITE - 38

This pattern is similar to those in groups III and IV. All 38 sherds are from a 5" saucer with a basal diameter of 2½". The motif employs stylistic roses with curved leafy sprays.

## VI BLACK ON WHITE - 1

Only a single sherd, that is too small for the motif to be discerned, 3/32" thick, decorated with a floral transfer design, has been found.

## VII POLYCHROME — 6

This group are all fragments with multicoloured designs and a lead glaze.

A large fragment of an 8" plate with a basal diameter of 4" was recovered. This plate has a band of gilt around the rim and a second band of green within this.

The other 5 fragments are too small to distinguish the motif and two of these appear to have been handpainted.

## HEAVY EARTHENWARE

This category includes all earthenware with a dark paste and, or an average thickness of or greater. These sherds appear to come from mixing bowls, vases, mugs and crocks, rather than from tableware.

One group of 8 body sherds are dark brown and glazed on both surfaces and appear to come from a tall cylindrical crock and have an average thickness of 3/4" (Pl. 5-1).

A second group of 4 sherds are similar to the first except that there is no internal glaze.

One sherd is a large fragment from a 7/8" thick, tall, globular vessel, probably a vase or pot (Pl. 5-6). The paste is medium brown in colour but is covered by a light blue slip and a tin glaze. A raised design consisting of a branch with maple leaves, is moulded on the sides of the vessel.

## KAOLIN PIPES

Only 19 pipe fragments were found, comprising 15 sections of stems, 3 of which had unbroken ends (Pl. 5-10). Bore-diameters of the 30 stems were 1/16", 1/16", 1/32". Two stem fragments possessed studs; one was plain and rounded; the other was cylindrical with a flat end bearing the raised letters I F (Fig. 8a).

Maker's marks or decorations are present on 7 stem fragments and the other 8 were plain. Two stems have stamped designs consisting of three transversely raised parallel ridges separated by a band of small circles (Fig. 8b) and no associated maker's mark. A single stem fragment has both a design and a maker's mark. Its impressed design consists of three axially parallel lines, the middle of which is grooved and the other two raised, that alternate with a single row of four incised circles (Fig. 8c). Two stamped marks encircled by "ropes" occur on this stem (Figs. 8d and 8e). One reads "MONTREAL" and the other, "BANNERMAN". A maker of this name in Montreal produced pipes from 1797-1830 (Oswald, 1960:197). A second fragment (Figs. 8f and 8g) bears the marks "HENDERSON" and "MONTREAL", but several Montreal inhabitants named Henderson produced pipes during the period of the post. Two other stem fragments bear the marks "McDOUGALL"

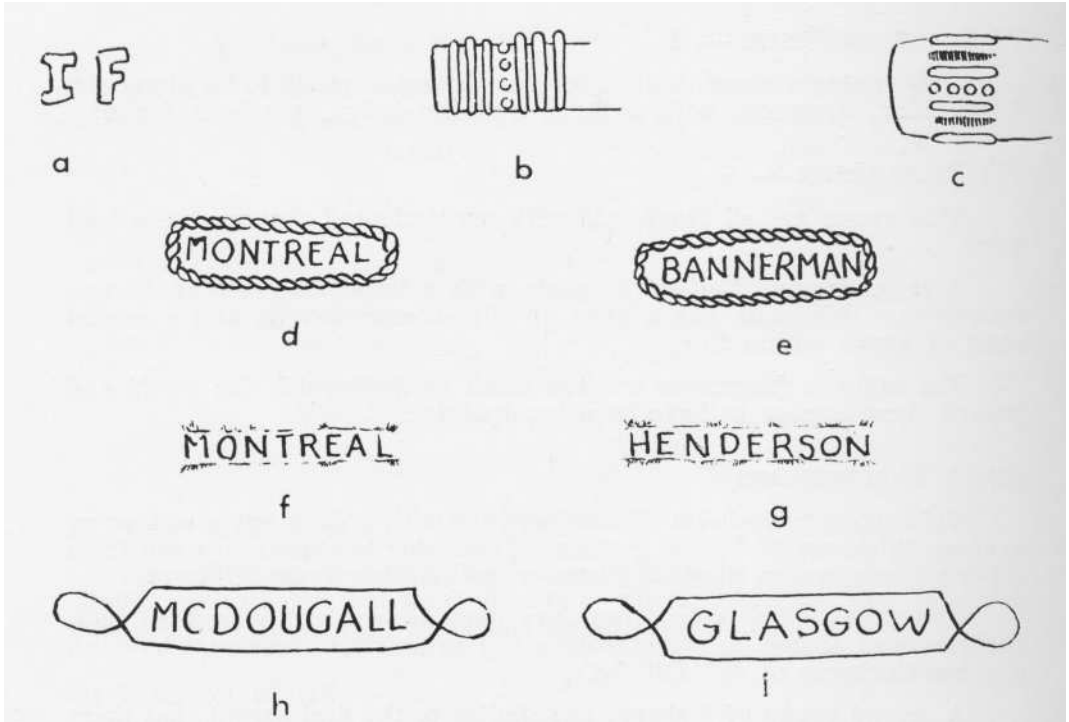


FIGURE 8

Kaolin pipes: Stem decorations, a - c x 2; Makers' marks, d - i x 1.

and "GLASGOW" (Figs. 8h and 8i). Again, a number of makers used these marks and a specific period of manufacture cannot be suggested.

Only one fragment of a plain bowl was recovered. It has a diameter of 9/10" and a height of 1/12" and would appear to be of the type known as the American trade pipe (ibid: 9).

#### GLASS

The glass recovered may be placed within categories of: dark bottle glass, clear bottle glass, miscellaneous glass objects, and window glass.

#### DARK BOTTLE GLASS

This category includes dark green or brown bottle glass. Bottles of this material appear to have been mainly for wines and spirits.

Characteristic and diagnostic features of bottles are the form of the rim or shoulder. Manufacture may be either by blowing or moulding the bottle, and the latter method did not come into common use until the first half of the 18th century. In a blown glass bottle, the "Kickup" or concave base is diagnostic (Pl. 5-3). The kickup began as a low round depression in the bottom of the bottle, and became progressively

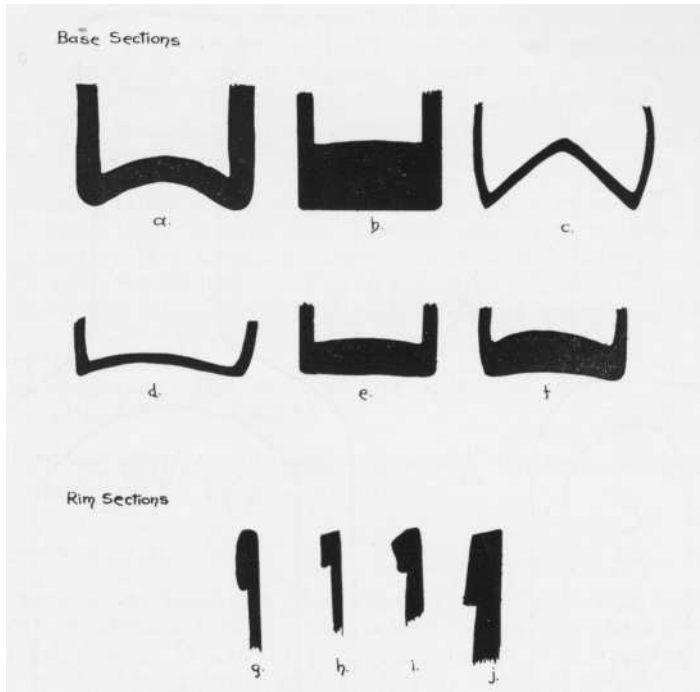


FIGURE 9

Base and rim sections of glass bottles, x  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

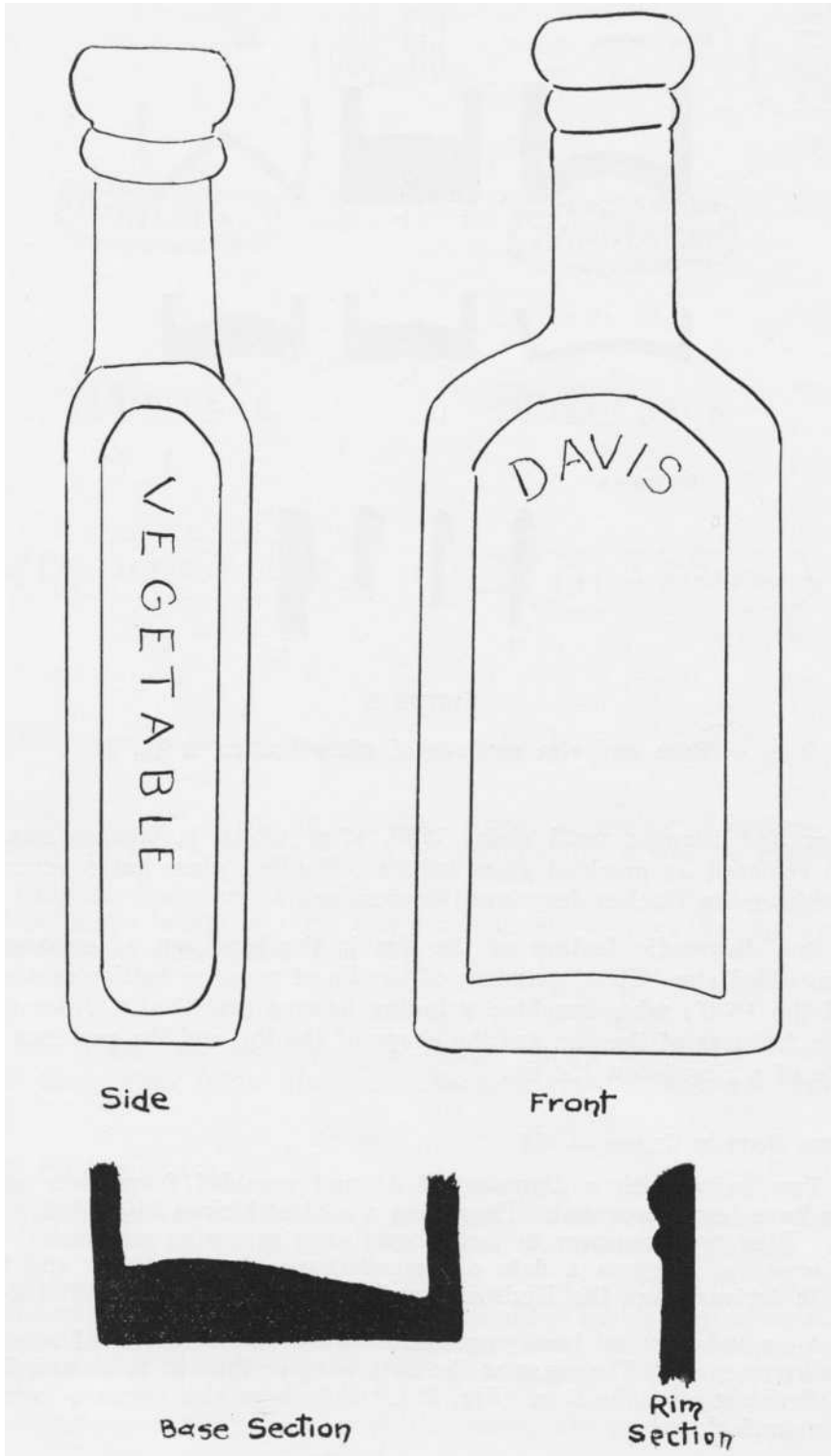
higher and rounder until about 1790, after which it became smaller, until replaced by moulded glass bottles. Moulded glass bases generally are thicker and lack a deep basal depression.

One diagnostic feature of the rim is the hand cut as opposed to the moulded rim. Hand grinding of the lip of moulded bottles continued until the 1820's when machine grinding became prevalent. Other diagnostic features of the rim are the shape of the lip, and the presence and shape of a ring below the lip.

#### GREEN BOTTLE GLASS - 65

Two bases with a diameter of 4" and moulded from clear green glass have been recovered. They have a conical kickup  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " high. (Fig. 9a). This type appears to have been used for wine or spirits. Its conformation suggests a date of manufacture of about 1850 and thus that it derives from the Hudson Bay Company's period of 1821-1865.

A second type of base, represented by 3 specimens, is of moulded dark green glass. The glass at the base is more than 2" thick and there is little kickup on the base (Fig. 9b). This type also appears to be of late manufacture.



A patina covered, third fragment of blown glass is thin walled and 3" in diameter. The kickup is high and conical and approaches the maximum development, which suggest a date of about 1790 (Pl. 5-9 and Fig. 9c). It would appear that this base dates at least to the North-West Company's occupancy and more probably to the period of the French Free Traders.

Two moulded bottle rims of green glass with a rounded, overhanging form of lip have been recovered. The moulded lip, rather than hand-shaped, suggests a late date of manufacture and this type of rim may be associated with the first type of base described above (Figs. 9a and 9g) , which has been attributed to the period of the Hudson Bay Company.

Another type of rim, also of moulded glass, has the upper portion of the lip hand-shaped. The form of the lip is flat, with a straight-sided, bevelled rim (Pl. 5-5 and Fig. 9h).

An additional 59 miscellaneous fragments of green bottle glass could not be reconstructed or recognized further.

#### BROWN BOTTLE GLASS

Two bases of dark brown glass were recovered. The first base was moulded with a diameter of 4" and a thick, slightly conical base (Fig. 9d). Associated with it are 17 body fragments which indicate a cylindrical body with a long neck and a slightly sloping shoulder. The rim of this bottle is moulded, with a hand-shaped rim and a straight-sided bevelled lip form (Fig. 9h).

The second moulded brown glass base has a diameter of 4½", and has an extremely flat, thick base section (Fig. 9b).

#### LIGHT BOTTLE GLASS

PATENT MEDICINE BOTTLE (P1: 5-4 and 6: Fig. 10)

This 8½" high reconstructed bottle is moulded from light blue-green glass. Its base measures 2" x 1" and is flat with a low convex interior. The body of the bottle has four vertical sides with a concave panel on each. Raised letters occur in the four panes, two of which are legible and read, "VEGETABLE" and "DAVIS". The shoulder of the bottle is sharply defined and lies about 2" below the lip. The neck is ¾" in external diameter and 2" in height. There is a round hand shaped lip with a second ring beneath it.

This bottle probably belongs to the mid-19th century, because of its moulded construction and hand-turned lip.

#### CLEAR GLASS BOTTLE

A second reconstructed bottle 6" high was recovered. Its shape is irregularly ten sided, formed by two series of vertical sides arranged in

FIGURE 10 (Opposite)

Reconstruction and sections of patent medicine bottle, 5 x 1 (see Pl. 6).

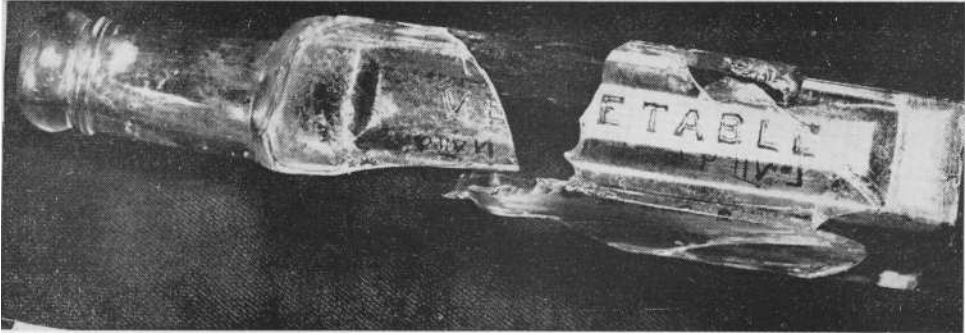


PLATE 6

Broken medicine bottle showing embossed label on side panel reading, "VEGETABLE", from Fort Pic.

the following pattern: two contiguous sides  $1 \frac{2}{10}$ " wide, three contiguous sides  $\frac{7}{10}$ " wide, two contiguous sides  $1 \frac{2}{10}$ " wide, and three contiguous sides  $\frac{7}{10}$ " wide to give 10 sides. The base is flat, with a slightly convexity on the interior. On the bottom, a series of lettering occurs: "Hau . .", "Co.", "D", "4", "442", "Patd.", "45 . ." (Fig. 11a). This bottle resembles those still used for vinegar (Fig. 11a).

#### OTHER CLEAR GLASS

Four clear glass bottle bases were found. One is of blown glass, with a flattened low concave base  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter (Pl. 5-3). Two others are similar, with diameters of 4" and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " respectively. A fourth base appears to be from a small bottle as might be still used for perfume or lotions. It is moulded with a cracked pattern in the interior of the glass, 1" in diameter and flat bottomed with a slightly concave interior.

Two rims of clear glass were also recovered. One is light blue with a slight patina and a hand-shaped lip with a rounded contour. Except that it lacks a second ring below the lip (Fig. 9i), it is similar to that of the patent medicine bottle (Fig. 10). The other rim is clear, moulded, 2" in diameter and has a tall ( $2\frac{1}{2}$ ") overhanging rim (Fig. 9j) and has no patina.

Twenty-two unanalysable, miscellaneous glass sherds from the bodies of bottles were also found.

#### MISCELLANEOUS GLASS OBJECTS

A glass bottle-stopper moulded from bluish-green glass (Pl. 5-11 and Fig. 11b) was recovered. It is cylindrical with a top diameter of  $1 \frac{2}{10}$ " and a tapered plug,  $1 \frac{3}{42}$ " high which has a diameter of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the top and  $\frac{3}{8}$ " at the end.

Two fragments from 6" pressed glass plate, decorated with alternating circles and ovals about the rim were also found (Pl. 5-2).

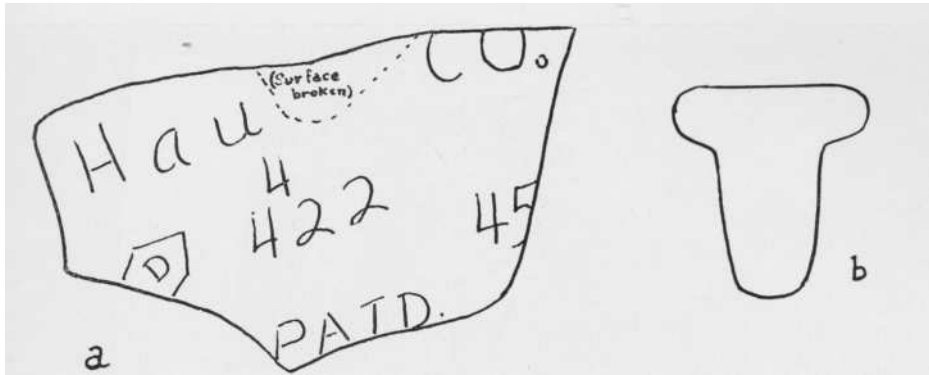


FIGURE 11

Glass fragments : a—diagram of glass base with markings; b—outline of glass stopper.

#### WINDOW GLASS

Forty-nine fragments, none of which were from an edge, were found. There were two distinct types of window glass. The first group, consisting of 13 fragments, has a considerable patina and a varying thickness which averages  $2/32$ ". A concentration of this type of glass was found in House 3 which has been identified as a building from the Free Traders' period.

A second type consisting of 36 fragments of pane glass, has only a slight patina and has a uniform thickness of  $1/32$ ". This type was found in the concentrations of glass in House 1 which derives from a later period (Pl. 5-13).

#### METAL AND STONE

Items in these categories have been considered below on the basis of function.

#### CONTAINERS

A round tinsplate pill box has a diameter of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. Due to the tendency of the side tabs to spread, the lid fits extremely snug over the bottom. A second similar lid was also found. The base was made by cutting a circle of tin and, after making radial cuts deep around the edge, the tabs were bent upwards to form the sides.

Two round Copenhagen snuff box lids were recovered. These bear raised lettering reading, "COPENHAGEN SATISFIES" and a trademark of a "C" within a diamond. The lids are 3" in diameter with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " lip. They are made of tinsplate, and are about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " smaller in diameter than the modern lids of the same brand type, but are similar in all other respects (Pl. 7-7).

Two sardine cans 6" x 4" (Pl. 7-11) were also found and appear to be pressure-seal cans of a type developed in the mid-1800's (Fontana and Greenleaf, 1963:68).



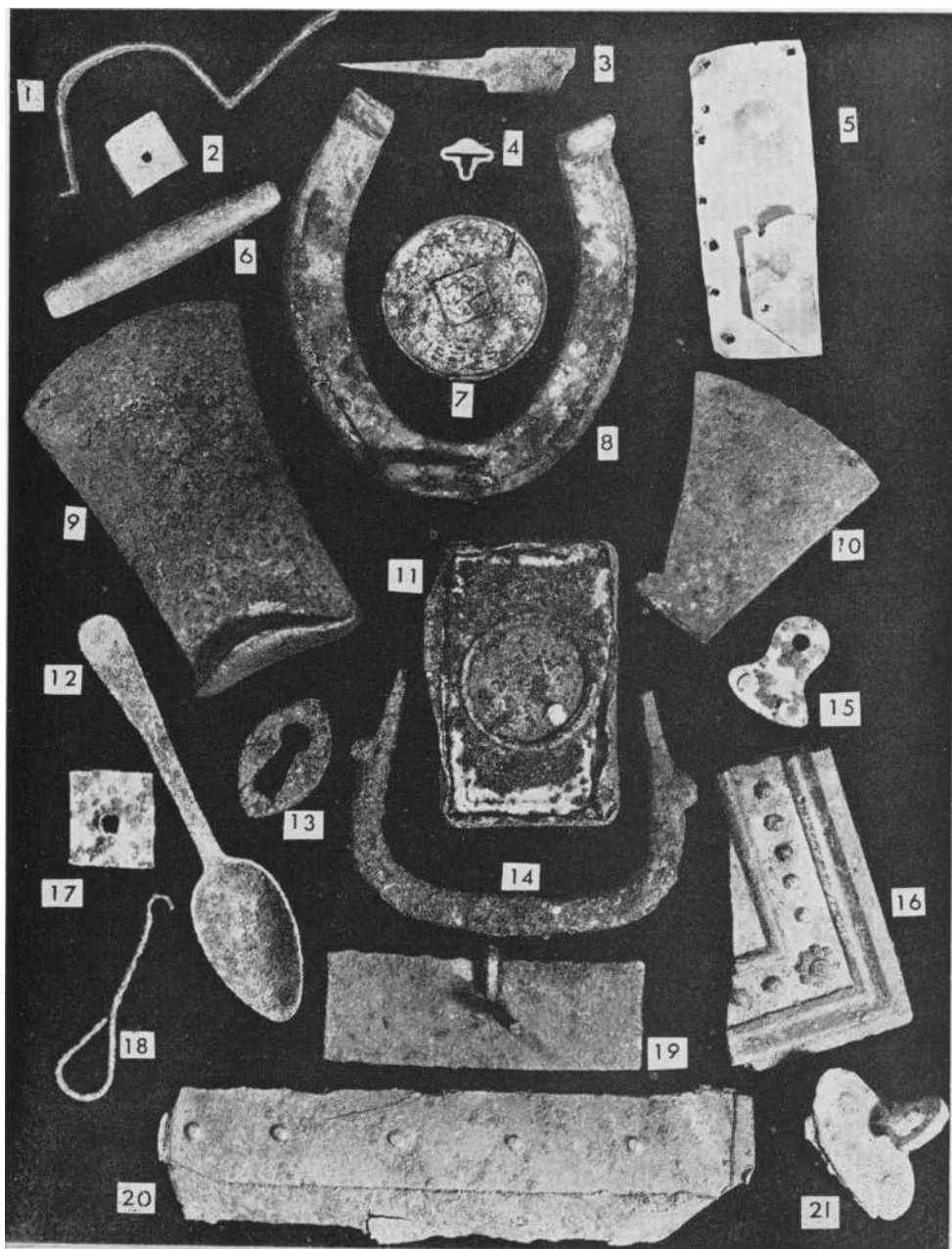


PLATE 7

Metal artifacts from Fort Pic (different scales) : (1)Door handle of iron, (2) Hand cut lead weight, (3) End of a rasp file, (4) Lady's garter fastener, (5) Section of reinforcing copper sheeting, punched with holes for nails, (6) Lead net weight, (7) Lid from a COPEN-

## HOUSEHOLD GOODS

A tinplated tablespoon 7" overall and with a 2" long bowl was found (Pl. 7-12).

Several parts of an iron stove were discovered. One is the corner of a door with a catch on the inside (Pl. 7-16). The fragment is  $7\frac{1}{2}$ " long, 8" deep,  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " wide at the ends and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick. It is decorated with a raised geometric pattern consisting of three parallel lines,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in height. The two outer lines are spaced  $\frac{1}{2}$ " apart and the inner is  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the middle line. Within the two inner lines, at the corner of the door, there is a rosette of eight raised circles around a ninth with lines of bosses running radially along the sides. Several irregular sections of the side of the fire box were also located. Finally, a damper handle was found which consists of a U-shaped iron bar  $5" \times 3\frac{1}{2}"$  with two small projections on the outer edge, 1" from each end (Pl. 7-14).

## STRIPPING AND REINFORCEMENTS

Four pieces of copper, varying in size from  $4" \times 4"$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}" \times 8"$  were found (Pl. 7-5). These have nail holes placed irregularly around their four edges. A section of iron reinforcing  $9" \times 2\frac{1}{2}" \times \frac{1}{4}"$  with rivets every  $1\frac{1}{2}"$  along both edges was also recovered (Pl. 7-20).

## TOOLS

Three lead fishing weights were found (Pl. 7-2, 6, and 17). Specimens 2 and 17 are hand made. They consist of a roughly cut rectilinear block of lead  $3\frac{3}{4}" \times 3\frac{2}{5}" \times \frac{1}{2}"$ . There is a central hole, of  $\frac{1}{4}"$  diameter which has been bored from both sides. This may be a sink for nets. Specimen 6 is fusiform. Its widest section is  $\frac{1}{2}"$  in diameter at the mid point of its length, from which it tapers to  $\frac{1}{4}"$  at each end. The bore which goes through the entire length of the weight has a diameter of  $\frac{1}{8}"$ .

Two axe heads were found (Pl. 7-9, and 10). The first is a large axe head  $12" \times 6"$  with a maximum thickness of  $1\frac{1}{4}"$ . The second is a light hatchet head  $3" \times 5"$  with a maximum thickness of  $\frac{1}{2}"$ . Both are similar to modern types.

A curved copper awl  $2\frac{1}{2}"$  long and with a maximum diameter of  $\frac{1}{4}"$  appears to have been a commercially produced type.

A single lead shot  $\frac{1}{4}"$  in diameter and a large horse shoe with cleats (Pl. 7-8), probably for a work horse, and 19 fragments of flint,

## PLATE 7 (Continued)

HAGEN snuff box, (8) Horse shoe, (9) Wedge, (10) Small hatchet head, (11) Square pressure sealed tin can lid, (12) Dessert spoon of tin alloy, (13) Key hole facing, (14) Iron damper handle or bar, (15) Flat eye bracket, (16) Corner of iron stove door, (17) Large hand-cut lead weight, (18) Iron button hook, (19) Door fastener, (20) Fragment of iron sheeting with rivets, (21) Iron pot's eye for pot handle.

three of which are worked, were also found. One flint fragment appears to be for a small flintlock and is  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in dimensions and of English manufacture. The other flints are scrapers, probably of Indian origin.

#### HARDWARE

Some items used in the construction and latching of doors were found. A section of a door hinge  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $\frac{1}{4}$ " with two 2" nails in place and the eye section of a hook and eye latch were located (Pl. 7-19). The eye consists of an iron loop set in the centre of an oval plate. The plate has a maximum diameter of 2" and a single wire drawn square nail was in place. A small metal eye-bracket was found (Pl. 7-15). A facing for a keyhole  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " was also located (Pl. 7-13).

A total of 209 nails were collected. Four distinct types of nails are present (Fontana and Greenleaf, 1963:54). The earliest type was the hand forged nail, of which 57 were headless and bent into a right angle. The second type was represented by 20 wrought-iron nails with square heads and thin shanks. The first type dates to before 1890, while the second predominated from 1890 to the early 1900's. Five plate nails of a type used in the first decade of the 19th century and a sample of 83 wiredrawn nails, much as were used between 1825 and 1855, were found.

Two types of chinking was reported. The first consists of 5 fragments of mortar which were obtained from House 2. The second consists of 12 fragments of cement which appear to have been used in House 1. The cement forms a triangle with concave surfaces on two sides. Occasionally a nail hole occurs, suggesting that spikes were left sticking out of the wood to hold the chinking in place. The third and outer flat surface of the chinking shows signs of whitewash.

#### CLOTHING AND ORNAMENT

These items include the metal section from a lady's garter fastener (Pl. 7-4), and a lead button back, 1" in diameter, on which a round shank occurs. A second glass button,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter, has four holes and is white with a black rim.

Two metal beads, probably of Indian manufacture, were located. The first is a conical bead  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in length, tapering from  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The second and larger bead is cylindrical,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " in length, and has a diameter of  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". These were manufactured from trade copper.

The glass trade beads recovered comprise 26 specimens of 5 different types. The first type, represented by 4 specimens, is a large round bead with a diameter of  $\frac{3}{8}$ ". This type occurs in both black and yellow. The second type, represented by 15 beads, is small and cylindrical, with a diameter and length of  $\frac{1}{8}$ " and occurs in both yellow and white. The third type, represented by 3 beads, is a small round bead with a diameter of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and also colored in yellow and white. The fourth type comprises 4 red cylindrical beads with a diameter of  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". As these beads were collected from the surface, they cannot be assigned to any given period or structure within the fort and are of the same type of "seed" bead as that still sold in Hudson Bay posts today.

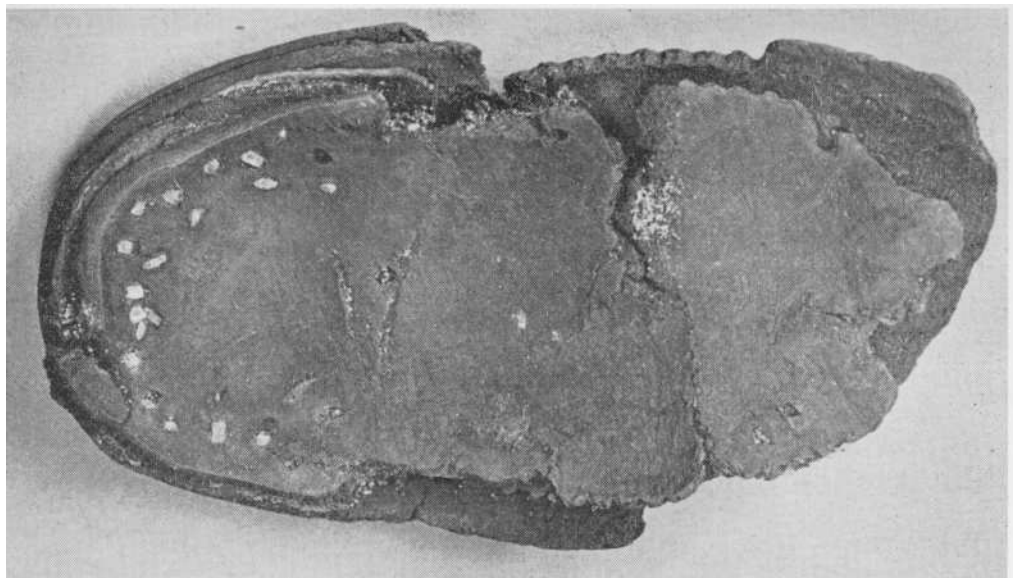


PLATE 8

Sole of a hand-stitched leather sole, Fort Pic.

The fragmentary sole of a hand stitched shoe,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and 6" long, was recovered. It is formed from four layers of tanned leather which have been hand sewn together with crude and irregular stitching (Pl. 8).

#### COINS AND TOKENS

A beaver token or tag, such as is used to mark bundles of pelts, was found (Pl. 5-7). It consists of a disc of tin,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter, with a hole for a string or clip at the top. Lettering around the edge reads: "D.I. & S. CO", "N.S.". Centrally the number "12" appears in figures three times as large as the letters.

A badly worn bronze coin, now in the possession of a local merchant, was found on the site of House 2, some 13 years ago (Fig. 12). The reverse bears the faint outline of a head surrounded by laurel. The obverse bears the monogram of the North-West Company and the date 1791. The lettering about the edge is faint and reads in part "THE", "M . . .", "PE". It is about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick and bears the inscription "PAY-ABLE IN BIRMINGHAM, LONDON OR BRISTOL", about its edge.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The location and orientation of the Fort Pic stockade was determined. Three house structures were completely excavated and a sample of artifacts obtained. The three buildings were dated by constructional details to various periods of occupancy of the fort. The location and details of the excavated buildings supports the existing historical docu-

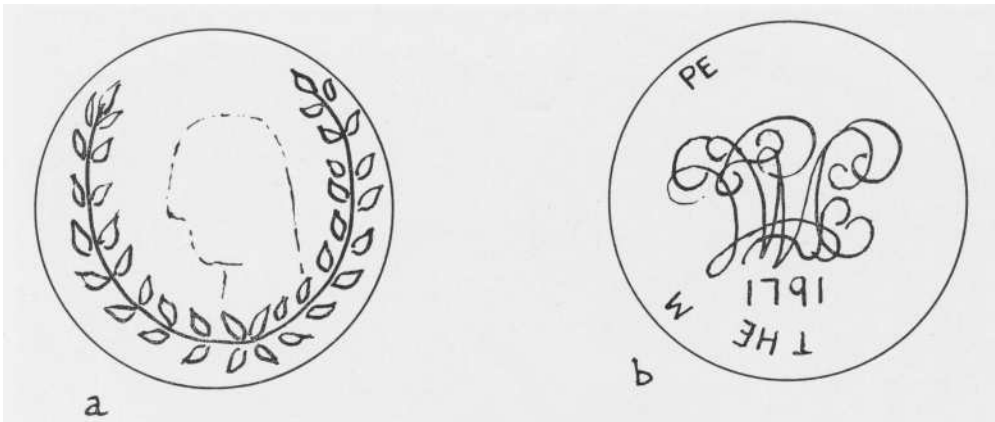


FIGURE 12

Diagram of coin from House 2: a—obverse ; b—reverse.

mentation for the fort. Considerable disturbance of the site after its abandonment as a fur trading post was established by test trenches.

The final stockade of the post consists of a rectangle 450' x 170'; the orientation of the long wall is 318° E. magnetic north and perpendicular to the river. The three buildings located lay within the stockade and other structures, probably dating from the Hudson Bay occupancy, were tentatively located in the disturbed area to the west of the three excavated buildings. Traces of planking to the north and east of Houses 2 and 3 and to the west of House 1 support their arrangement about a planked square as reported by Louis Agassiz. However, test trenches indicate that the present ground level has been considerably lowered over much of the site. In these areas the soil containing evidences of the occupation level of the fort appears to have been shallow. The shallow depth of House 1 at 9½" and the south palisade at 8¼" corroborate this. Test trenching to the east (Fig. 3) of the excavated buildings indicates that the depth of disturbance extends below that of the occupation level of the fort, so that no structures remain intact ; however, the buildings which were undisturbed constituted the south side of the hollow square.

House 1 was the largest of the three excavated houses at 40' x 19'. This building was dated between 1800 and 1830, during the North-West Company occupancy. House 2 was constructed voyageur fashion of logs, measured 30' x 25', is related to the Free Traders period of 1789-1798 and was possibly Cote's residence. House 3 was a small structure, 8' x 12', and belongs to the same period as House 2.

A small sample of varied artifacts was obtained. This sample of artifacts is typical of the wide range of materials found on an historic site. Many of the items are of the sorts still in use, but the total array of goods may be considered typical for a post of the late historic period.

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