

THE POSEY SITE (Wg-19): A HISTORIC SITE
IN THE
THREE FORKS LOCALE, EASTERN OKLAHOMA

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INTRODUCTION

With the imminent construction of the Arkansas Navigational Project and a canal system on the Verdigris River, it became apparent that a number of archaeological sites would be lost to construction activities or, eventually, inundation. The loss of such sites meant that considerable information regarding man's prehistory and history in the affected area would also be eliminated. In an effort to salvage some of this data, the Oklahoma River Basin Survey undertook, in the fall of 1963, an extensive survey along those segments of the Arkansas and Verdigris rivers which would be subject to construction or other modification. The 1963 survey located a number of prehistoric and early historic sites, and recommendations were made for salvage work at a number of these sites (see Barr 1965).

One of the sites found during the 1963 survey was the Posey site (Wg-19, the 19th site reported for Wagoner county). The Posey site was represented by traces of rock foundations and a rock-lined well along with assorted historic debris. The location of this site suggested this might be the remnants of the Three Forks Trading Post, established around 1804 by C. J. Bougie and later purchased and operated by the Chouteau trading interests (Barr 1965:34).

The opportunity to conduct archaeological excavations at this site availed itself in the fall of 1965. At that time salvage work was being undertaken in the nearby Webbers Falls Lock and Dam locale under National Park Service contract #14-10-0333-1285. Permission was obtained to work Wg-19, and excavations were begun on November 8. This work continued till December 30, 1965.

The following report presents a description of the site and the features and artifacts found during the work at this site. Associated with these descriptions are chronological and functional implications of the nature and time span represented by the occupation at this site. The major interpretive problem to be dealt with is that of relating the Posey site to the location of the Three Forks Trading Post.

POSEY SITE ARTIFACTS: PART IV

Trade Goods

Beads

Beads Type I (Plate XIV; No. 16)

Number of specimens: 2; 2 complete.

Description: These are small, white, opaque, donut shaped garter (sometimes called "seed") beads of simple construction. They have a porcelain-like texture. These were made from canes which were broken and tumbled.

Dimensions: .1 to .4 cm. in diameter.

Comment: These beads compare favorably to Type 44 on the R. K. Harris bead charts. Seed beads are not particularly helpful in establishing chronological limits for a site as they were introduced into the Southern Plains around 1700 and were maintained as a trade item into the late 1800's.

Beads Type II (Plate XIV; Nos. 17 through 19)

Number of specimens: 5; 5 complete.

Description: These are small, opaque white, donut shaped garter beads of compound construction. They have 2 layers of glass with the inner layer has a porcelain-like texture while the outer layer has a frosted appearance.

Dimensions: Diameter; .1 to .4 cm.

Comments: This type compares to Type 4 on the Harris chart. Its temporal relationships are not well established due to its long period of usage, dating around 1700 to 1850.

Beads Type III (Plate XIV; Nos. 20 to 21)

Number of specimens: 3; 2 complete, 1 broken.

Description: These are small, donut shaped garter beads of simple construction. They are Peacock Blue in color and are opaque. The glass exhibits fine lines running lengthwise with the bead, creating a striped appearance.

Dimensions: Diameter, .1 to .4 cm.

Comments: This type compares to R. K. Harris's Type 46. Its chronological associations are rather extended, dating from around 1700 to the mid-1800's.

Beads Type IV (Plate XIV; No. 22)

Number of specimens: 1; 1 complete.

Description: This is a small, donut shaped garter bead of simple construction. It is black and opaque and has a porcelain-like texture.

Dimensions: Diameter, .2 cm.

Comment: This bead compares to Type 50 on R. K. Harris's bead chart. Its temporal relationships are from around 1700 to 1840.

Beads Type V (Plate XIV; No. 23)

Number of specimens: 1; 1 complete.

Description: This is a small, tumbled seed bead of simple construction. It is emerald green and is translucent.

Dimensions: Diameter, .25 cm.

Comments: This specimen compares with Type 83 on the Harris chart. Its temporal span ranges from around 1750 to 1850.

Beads Type VI (Plate XIV; No. 24)

Number of specimens: 1; 1 complete.

Description: This specimen is an ovoid shaped necklace bead. It is of medium size, dark blue color, and semitranslucent. It is a mandrel wire wrapped type of bead.

Dimensions: Diameter, .5 cm.

Comments: This specimen compares to Harris's Type 107 bead which is noted to appear in French trade at Fort St. Louis de Kadohadacho before 17 and to continue till around 1850.

Beads Type VII (Plate XIV; Nos. 25 through 27)

Number of specimens: 6; 6 complete

Description: These are large, barrel shaped necklace beads. They are dark Bluebird Blue in color and are translucent. The outer layer of glass has approximately 16 pressed facets while the inner layer is blue-white in color.

Dimensions: Diameter, .5 to .9 cm.

Comments: This type is analogous to Type 129 on Harris's chart. Type 12 is noted to occur in small quantities between 1815 and 1830 and increase in appearance in Southern Plains sites that date in the mid-1830's.

Beads Type VIII (Plate XIV; Nos. 28 through 30)

Number of specimens: 8; 8 complete.

Description: These are large, multi-faceted (16), barrel shaped beads of simple construction. They are dark Bluebird Blue in color and are translucent.

Dimensions: Diameter, .6 to .8 cm.

Comments: These specimens compare to Type 130 on the Harris chart. They are believed to date from around 1815 through the 1830's.

Beads Type IX (Plate XIV; No. 31)

Number of specimens: 1; 1 complete.

Description: This is a small, barrel shaped, seed bead of simple construction. It has pressed facets, is dark amber in color, and is translucent.

Dimensions: Diameter, .3 cm.

Comments: This specimen compares favorably to Harris's Type 134 which is noted to come into trade in small quantities around 1815 and increase around 1830 (at the Colfax Ferry Site, Louisiana; see Gregory and 1965)

Beads Type X (Plate XIV; Nos. 32 through 33)

Number of specimens: 4; 4 complete.

Description: These are large, barrel shaped, necklace beads of simple construction. They are of clear glass with approximately 16 pressed facets.

Dimensions: Diameter, .5 cm.

Comments: This type corresponds to Harris's Type 139 which is noted to have a temporal span of around 1815 through 1832.

Beads Type XI (Plate XIV; No. 34)

Number of specimens: 1; 1 complete.

Description: This is ovoid shaped garter bead of simple construction. It



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



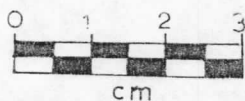
10



11



12



cm



13



14



15



16



17

18

19



20



21



22



23



24



25



26



27



28



29



30



31



32



33



34



35



36



37



38

Plate XIV. Wg-19, Posey Site artifacts: No. 1, .55 caliber conical bullet; Nos. 2 through 5, .50 caliber musket balls; No. 6, .44 caliber musket ball; Nos. 7 through 9, Buckshot; Nos. 10 through 13, Flattened musket balls; Nos. 14 and 15, Shell beads; No. 16, Trade bead Type I; Nos. 17 through 19, Trade bead Type II; Nos. 20 and 21, Trade bead Type III; No. 22, Trade bead Type IV; No. 23, Trade bead Type V; No. 24, Trade bead Type VI; Nos. 25 through 27, Trade bead Type VII; Nos. 28 through 30, Trade bead Type VIII; No. 31, Trade bead Type IX; Nos. 32 and 33, Trade bead Type X; No. 34, Trade bead Type XI; No. 35, Trade bead Type XII; No. 36, Trade bead Type XIII; No. 37, Trade bead Type XIV; No. 38, Trade bead Type XV.

is of medium size, is translucent, and is dark Bluebird Blue in color.
 Dimensions: Diameter, .5 cm.

Comments: This type is the same as Harris's Type 142 which is noted to occur on Norteño focus sites dating around the 1830's.

Beads Type XII (Plate XIV; No. 35)

Number of specimens: 2; 2 complete.

Description: These are large, barrel shaped, necklace beads of simple construction. They exhibit about 20 pressed facets and are black and opaque.

Dimensions: Diameter, .5 to .9 cm.

Comments: This type equates with Harris's Type 170 which is noted to occur in the Southern Plains in contexts that date from around 1815 through the 1830's.

Beads Type XIII (Plate XIV; No. 36)

Number of specimens: 1; 1 complete.

Description: This is a large, barrel shaped, necklace bead of simple construction. It is emerald green in color, translucent, and has approximately 20 pressed facets.

Dimensions: Diameter, .9 cm.

Comments: This is the same bead type as Harris's Type 171 which is suggested to occur primarily in contexts dating from around 1815 to 1834.

Beads Type XIV (Plate XIV; No. 37)

Number of specimens: 1; 1 complete.

Description: This is a large, round necklace bead of simple construction. It is of clear glass and has approximately 30 facets. The surface of this specimen appears to be slightly frosted from age.

Dimensions: Diameter, 1.0 cm.

Comments: This specimen is analogous to Harris's Type 172 which occurs in early 1800 contexts.

Beads Type XV (Plate XIV; No. 38)

Number of specimens: 1; 1 complete.

Description: This is a large, clear, necklace bead of compound construction. This is a bead built over another bead with the interior specimen being crimson. The outer layer has a 5 point star pressed into each end, and its surface is weathered.

Dimensions: Diameter, 1.3 cm.

Comments: This type would seem to be rather unique, and comparable examples have not been seen in the Southern Plains.

Firearms

Barrel Band (Lower) (Plate XV; No. 6)

Number of specimens: 1; 1 complete.

Description: This is an heavily oxidized lower barrel band. It is oval in outline and thin in cross section. In some respects, this specimen

Table IV

Posey Site--Wg-19

Artifact Provenience

Trade Goods

	Feature Areas			Grid	Test Squares					Total
	1	2	3		1	2	3	4	5	
<u>Beads</u>										
Type I				2						2
Type II			3	2						5
Type III			1	2						3
Type IV				1						1
Type V			1							1
Type VI			1							1
Type VII			5	1						6
Type VIII			8							8
Type IX				1						1
Type X			4							4
Type XI			1							1
Type XII			1	1						2
Type XIII			1							1
Type XIV			1							1
Type XV			1							1
<u>Firearms</u>										
Barrel Band (Lower)				1						1
Breech Plug				1						1
Bullet Molding Debris			3	7						10
Butt Plate Finial				1						1
Flat Keys			2							2
Frizzins				4						4
Frizzin Springs				1						1
Gunflints--English			17	42						59
Gunflints--French			4	3						7
Hammers--Flintlock				5						5
Hammers--Upper Vise Jaws				2						2
Hammers--Vise Jaw Screws				1						1
Mainsprings				2						2
Musket Balls	1		34	19						54
Patch Box Hinges				3						3
Percussion Caps			4	1						5
Rear Sight				1						1
Sears				2						2
Sears Spring				1						1
Triggers			1	2						3
Trigger Floor Plates				1						1
Trigger Guard Sections				2						2
Tumblers				6						6

Table VI

Posey Site

Potential Time Relationships for Certain Artifacts

<u>Artifacts</u>	<u>Potential Time Span</u>
Construction and Building Materials	
Cut Nails	1830-1890 (?)
Household Articles	
Porcelain-Blue Featheredged	1800-1880 (?)
Porcelain-Handpainted Type II	mid-1800's
Porcelain-Purple Floral and Scenic	1800-1840 (?)
Porcelain-Sherds with potters' marks	1800-1850's (?)
Personal Possessions	
Buttons Type I	1750-1865
Buttons Type II	1800-1865
Buttons Type III	1812-1865
Buttons Type IV	1837-1865 (?)
Buttons Type V	1800-1865
Buttons Type VI	1800-1865
Buttons Type VII	1837-1865
Buttons Type VIII	early 1800's
Buttons Type IX	1800-1870 (?)
Military Buttons Type I	early 1800's
Military Buttons Type II	1808-1827
Military Buttons Type III	1821-1830
Money-U.S. Half Dime	1839 and after
Money-Spanish coins	post 1808
Trade Goods	
Beads Type I	1700-1880's
Beads Type II	1700-1850
Beads Type III	1700-1850
Beads Type IV	1700-1850
Beads Type V	1750-1850
Beads Type VI	pre 1780-1850
Beads Type VII	1815-1835
Beads Type VIII	1815-1840's
Beads Type IX	1815-1830
Beads Type X	1815-1832
Beads Type XI	circa 1830
Beads Type XII	1815-1840
Beads Type XIII	1815-1834
Beads Type XIV	early 1800's
Firearms-Barrel Band	early 1800's
Pipes-Decorated Unglazed Type I	late 1800's
Pipes-Undecorated Unglazed Type I	late 1800's
Pipes-Kaolin Type I	1800-1830 (?)
Pipes-Kaolin Type II	circa 1830
Pipes-Kaolin Type III	1830-1840
Indian Artifacts	
Pottery-McIntosh Roughened	post 1827