

TEST EXCAVATIONS AT THE COEUR D'ALENE
MISSION OF THE SACRED HEART, CATALDO,
IDAHO, 1973

By

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I. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological team from the University of Idaho, Laboratory of Anthropology, conducted test excavations at the Coeur d'Alene Mission of the Sacred Heart, Cataldo, Idaho, over a 15-day period in August 1973. These excavations were conducted to evaluate the archaeological potential of this historically important site and to provide the restoration architect with information concerning the foundation construction details. In addition, test excavations were conducted under the floor of the mission church to ascertain if any potential damage might be done as a result of foundation stabilization procedures.

The site is designated as number 10 KA 45, in accordance with standard archaeological practice. It is the forty-fifth recorded site in Kutenai (KA) County, Idaho.

The Coeur d'Alene Mission of the Sacred Heart was the second location of the Jesuit missionary endeavors among the Coeur d'Alene Indians. The first location was abandoned in 1846 because of the frequent flooding of the St. Joe River. The present mission location was selected by Father De Smet; Father Anthony Ravalli began construction on the church in about 1850. Fr. Ravalli was apparently well versed in the architectural principles and methods of the times. Isaac Stevens

Fr. Ravalli had been at Fort Colville, where the post-in-sill method was in use, prior to his design of the Coeur d'Alene Mission of the Sacred Heart (Cody 1930:23).

Detailed comments on the construction of individual mission buildings are presented in the Structures section of this report.

The mission discontinued operations at the Coeur d'Alene River site in 1877. The church has been used intermittently from 1877 to the present. In 1924 the Diocese of Boise took over the control of the mission site and began a plan of repair and restoration (Crosby 1925). A pilgrimage to the mission in 1926 was part of a fund-raising drive to restore the mission and to make much-needed repairs (Brogan 1926). These repairs were finally accomplished in 1928 (Cody 1930). Since 1928 the mission has been used for periodic Masses and has been under the care of various interested persons.

TABLE 1
GLASS TRADE BEADS

Cat. No.	Quan.	Geometry	Manufacture	Length (mm)	Dia. (mm)	Diaphaneity	Color (Munsell No.)	Common Name
103	1	torus	drawn	3.0	3.5	translucent/ opaque	red (5 R 3/10)/ white (N 9.5)	Cornaline d'Aleppo seed bead
	1	faceted cylindrical	drawn	5.5	7.0	transparent	blue (7.5 PB 2/8)	Russian neck- lace bead
104	1	torus	drawn	2.0	2.5	translucent	robin's egg blue (7.5 B 4/8)	seed bead
	2	torus	drawn	3-3.5	3.5	translucent/ opaque	red (5 R 3/10)/ white (N 9.5)	Cornaline d'Aleppo seed bead
	1	faceted cylindrical	drawn	7.5	8.0	transparent	blue (7.5 PB 2/8)	Russian neck- lace bead
	1/2	round	wound	16.0	18.5	transparent	blue (7.5 PB 2/10)	chief necklace bead
201	1	torus	drawn	2.0	2.5	translucent	robin's egg blue (10 B 3/8)	seed bead
202	2	torus	drawn	1.5-2.0	2-2.5	Opaque	white (N 9.5)	seed bead
	2	torus	drawn	2.5	3.0	opaque	robin's egg blue (10 B 4/10)	seed bead

	1	torus	drawn	2.5	3.0	opaque	deep pink (5 RP 6/6)	seed bead
	1	faceted cylindrical	drawn	5.0	5.0	transparent/ translucent	dark blue (5 PB 3/10)/ light blue (5 PB 7/8)	chief necklace bead
	1	faceted cylindrical	drawn	6.5	7.5	transparent/ translucent	dark blue (7.5 PB 3/10)/light blue (7.5 PB 5/8)	chief necklace bead
	1	convex cylindrical	wound	6.5	7.0	transparent	light green (5 G 6/4)	necklace bead
203	2	torus	drawn	3.0	3.5	translucent/ opaque	red (7.5 R 3/10)/ white (N 9.5)	Cornaline d'Aleppo seed bead
	1	torus	drawn	2.5	2.5	opaque	blue (10 B 5/10)	seed bead
204	1	torus	drawn	1.5	2.0	opaque	white (N 9.5)	seed bead
205	1	torus	drawn	3.0	3.5	opaque	blue (10 B 3/8)	seed bead
208	1	torus	drawn	1.5	2.0	translucent	blue (10 B 4/10)	seed bead
	1	torus	drawn	3.0	3.5	opaque	blue (7.5 B 4/8)	seed bead
	1/3	spherical	wound	7.5	8.5	transparent	light blue green (10 BG 7/6)	necklace bead
302	1	spherical	molded	11.0	10.5	transparent	red (7.5 R 3/12)	modern costume jewelry bead