

MICHIPICOTEN ARCHAEOLOGY

1971

Investigations at the Hudson's
Bay Company Fur Trade Post.

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INTRODUCTION

The Excavation during the summer of 1971 was focused on the area occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company from 1821 to 1904. The project was conducted by the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. The Department had financed two survey projects during the summers of 1969 and 1970. However, these efforts were not specific in their objectives. The 1971 excavations and report will form part of the groundwork for a proposal for possible reconstruction of the post. The information will also be used in interpretive programmes for Parks and Recreation Areas Branch.

This report contains descriptions of the site, its history, the 1971 archaeology and a complete artifact analysis of the material recovered. Concrete dates were documented where possible.

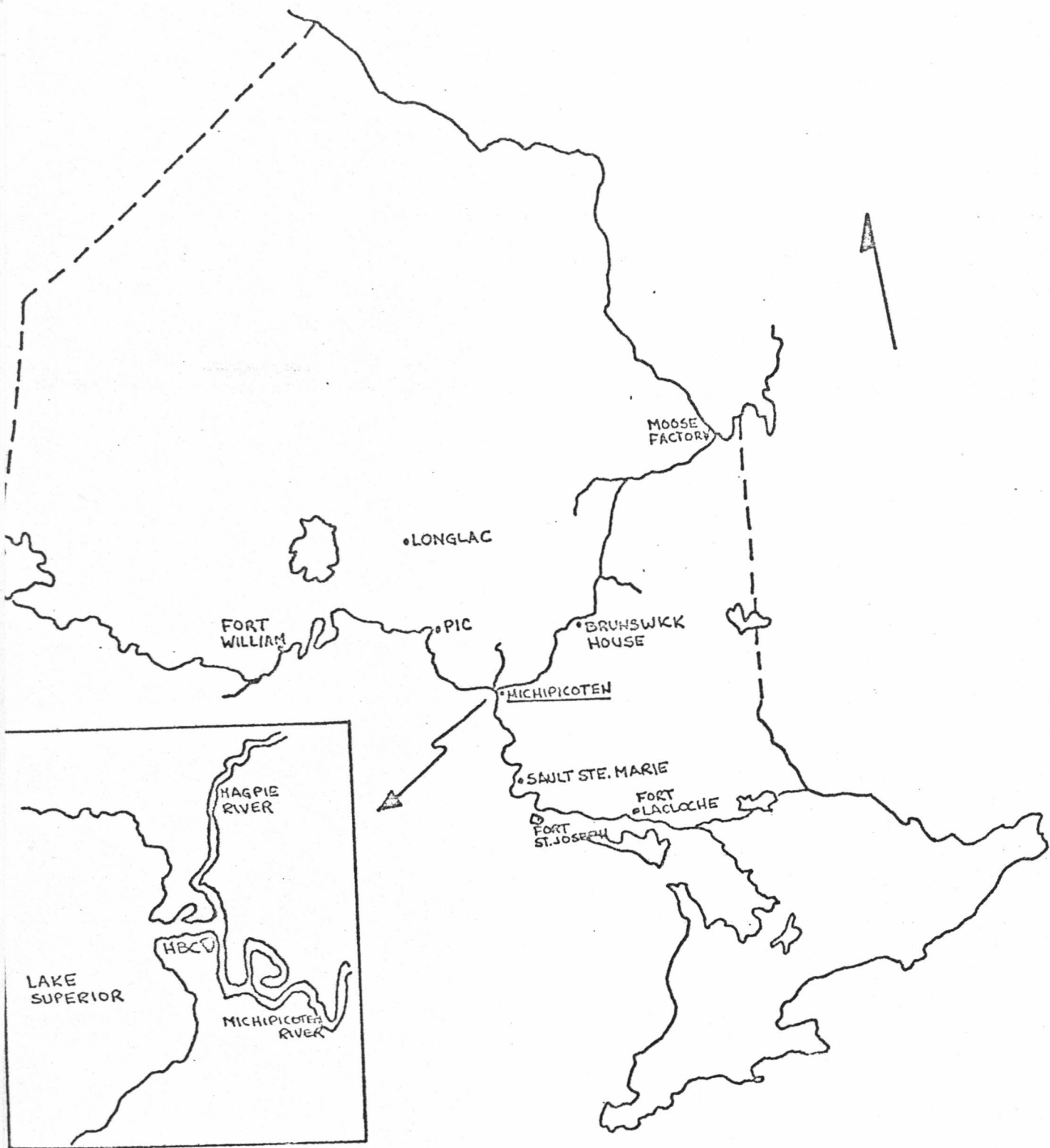


FIGURE 1: LOCATION OF POSTS CONTEMPORARY WITH MICHIPICOTEN

BEADS

Glass beads were recovered from most of the excavated areas of the site. The total of 402 included beads of diverse size and colour and of the drawn and wound style of manufacture.

Provenience has not been included in the bead discussion as no definite conclusions may be drawn from the distribution pattern.

The description has been divided into three sections - drawn and wound and mould pressed. "In the manufacture of drawn beads, a section of glass tubing is broken up into lengths that are the size of the bead desired. The beads that result from this process may be further unaltered, save for possible faceting, or the edges may be rounded off. The latter is accomplished by placing the rough beads in an iron drum containing a mixture of charcoal dust and plaster which is then heated and rotated simultaneously. In another process the beads are placed in a large metal pan with sand and wood ash, or plaster and graphite. The pan is then heated and the contents stirred. This rounds the sharp broken ends and gives the bead a more symmetrical appearance. The charcoal-plaster mixture keeps the beads from sticking together as the glass becomes plastic. The beads are subsequently cleaned and are then ready for use.

Recommendations for bead analysis were made by Karlis Karklins, National Historic Sites Service, Ottawa.

This method is the one used to produce the common "seed" and "pound" beads. They are also known as embroidery beads.

"Wound beads are produced in a much more time consuming manner. In this process a thin filament of glass is drawn from a molten rod and wound around a wire numerous times until the desired size is achieved. The remaining portion of the filament is cut from the resulting glass ring which is heated and rotated to further fuse the glass and make the surface smoother. The beads are then stripped from the wire and are ready for use". (Karklins, Personal communication).

Of the final total, drawn beads represent 98.6 percent of the sample. Two beads were mould pressed.

Colour identification is most often in accordance with Kenneth Kidd's bead classification system (1970).

Drawn (396 specimens)

- IIa14
i) 246 white opaque embroidery beads. Bead ends are rounded with a diameter range of 2.0 mm. to 4.5 mm.
- IIa45
ii) 35 "Bright Copen Blue" embroidery beads. Diameters 1.5 mm. Ends are rounded.
- IIa*
iii) 27 "Robin's Egg Blue" transparent embroidery beads. Ends are rounded. Diameter range 4.0 mm. to 2.0 mm.
- IVa6
iv) 26 "Cornaline d'Aleppo" type embroidery beads. Redwood opaque exterior with a light green translucent core. Ends are rounded. Diameters 3.0 mm.

IVa

v) 11 "Cornaline d'Aleppo" type embroidery beads. Transparent scarlet exterior with a white opaque core. Ends are rounded.

Diameters 2 mm.

IIa

vi) 11 "Light Cherry Rose" opaque embroidery beads. Ends are rounded. Diameter range 3.5 mm. to 1.5 mm.

IIa

vii) 11 scarlet transparent embroidery beads. Ends are rounded. Diameter range 2.0 mm. to 1.5 mm.

IIa2

viii) 4 "Redwood" opaque embroidery beads. Ends are rounded.

Diameters 3.5 mm.

IIa

ix) 3 "Light Aqua Green" opaque embroidery beads. Ends are rounded. Diameter range 2.0 mm., to 1.5 mm.

IIa

x) 3 "Cerulean Blue" translucent embroidery beads. Ends are rounded. Diameters 4.0 mm.

IIa7

xi) 2 black opaque embroidery beads. Ends are rounded.

Diameters 3.0 mm.

IIa

xii) 2 red translucent embroidery beads. Ends rounded.

Diameters 2.0 mm.

IIa

xiii) 2 pale pink opaque embroidery beads. Ends are rounded.

Diameters 2.0 mm.

IIa

xiv) 1 "Emerald Green" translucent embroidery bead. Ends are rounded. Diameter 3.5 mm.

IIa

xv) 1 yellow translucent embroidery bead. Ends are rounded.

Diameter 2.0 mm.

IIa

xvi) 1 light pink transparent embroidery bead. Ends are rounded. Diameter 2.0 mm.

IVa

xvii) 1 black opaque barrel-shaped embroidery bead with a red core. Ends are rounded. Diameter 3.0 mm.

Ia5

xviii) 3 white tubular opaque. Ends are irregular breaks. Length recorded: 21.0 mm., 10.0 mm., and 10.2 mm. Respective diameters: 5.0 mm., 4 mm., and 4 mm.

Ia2

xix) 2 black tubular opaque. Ends are irregular breaks. Lengths recorded: 19.0 mm., and 7.0 mm. Respective diameters: 6.5 mm., and 3.0 mm.

Ia20

xx) 1 "Dark Navy" tubular opaque. Ends are irregular breaks. Length 8.0 mm., diameter 5.0 mm.

III f

xxi) 2 tubular cornerless hexagonal beads. Clear transparent outer layer with a white opalescent core. Ends are even breaks. Diameters 7.0 mm. and 6.5 mm. Circa 1760-1880.

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xxii) 1 tubular cornerless heptagonal bead. "Amethyst" transparent. Ends are even, flat breaks. Diameter 7.5 mm. Ca. 1760-1880.

Wound (4 specimens)

W I c1

i) 2 white opaque oval bead. Diameters 5.0 mm., and 4.0 mm. Respective lengths 9.0 mm. and 8.5 mm. This style dates from 1767-1820 (Karklins, Personal communication).

W I b11

ii) 1 "Robin's Egg Blue" translucent bead. Spherical in configuration with slightly flattened ends. Striations on the surface run concentrically in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the perforation. Diameter 6.5 mm.

iii) 1 "Aqua Blue" transparent oval bead. It has been wound on a tapered mandrel. Body facets have been ground. They are irregular in form and total 14. The perforations vary in size. One concave end. Diameter 5 mm.

Mould Pressed (2 specimens)

i) 2 "Light Aqua Blue" translucent beads. The glass has a opaline cast when held up to a light. The beads are spheroidal in shape. A line circles the bead from perforation to perforation suggesting that the two sections were pressed together in a mould. This line is slightly different in colour due to a variance in light refraction. The beads are decorated with elongate depressions and circular indentations. Areas between the depressions consist of meandering rounded ridges. Diameters 14.0 mm., and 8.0 mm. Respective lengths 13.5 mm., and 8.0 mm.