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Date: seventeenth century. The only early historic artifact is a heavily patinated blue glass bead of drawn construction. It is 7mm in diameter and 4.5mm in length with a 2mm bore.

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Contributions to the Archaeology of the St. Ignace Area

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site, and he stayed in St. Ignace beyond the completion of the regular field season to complete his analysis and report.

This volume has been organized in a chronological sequence running from the oldest site to the youngest although there was some overlapping of components. In spite of the fact that it was the last to be excavated, the Nelson site is presented first in this series of reports. Elizabeth Cardinal and Fel Burnett did the faunal and floral analysis for each of the sites. I prepared the rest of the report on the Nelson site and Lynott did that for the Ferrier site. Kathleen Cushman supervised the excavations on the Sposito site and prepared the section of the report describing them. We worked together on the artifact analysis which I wrote from our notes. This same procedure was followed for the Norge Village site with Lynott and the Beyer site with Clarke.

Much of the background information on several of these sites exists only in manuscript copy with the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. Therefore, large sections of that report dealing with specific sites have been condensed and are summarized here. The artifact illustrations from the survey report (Fitting and Fisher n.d.) for these sites have been combined in several figures (Figures 23 and 28) so the reader can compare artifacts obtained in 1972 with those which we found in 1973.

Again, it must be emphasized that this is not a final report on our work in St. Ignace nor even a complete report on the 1973 field season. It is, as the title indicates, a series of contributions on the archaeology of the St. Ignace area.

Chapter 2

THE NELSON SITE (SIS-34)

By James E. Fitting

EXCAVATIONS

The Nelson site is located approximately one half mile to the west of the Marquette Mission site (Stone 1972, Fitting n.d.a) at the end of Marquette Street where it runs into North High Street. Marquette Street crosses a series of old beach terraces and the Nelson site is located at the edge of a lower Algonquin terrace at an elevation of 640 feet above sea level and 60 feet above the present level of Lake Huron.

The area is not one that would have been selected for excavation in the normal course of events. It is obviously an area of shallow soil with some rock outcroppings reaching the surface. The present grade for Marquette Street has disturbed much of the area around the site since it cuts the edge of the beach terrace. The old route for Marquette Street was a switch-back which passed over the site and destroyed a portion of it cutting it down nearly two feet to bed rock (Figure 3). Today, the old grade is a grassy gravel drive with weathered limestone outcroppings near the edges.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nelson are collectors and their home is full of many interesting items. They also have a deep and long standing interest in the history and archaeology of the region. There is a garden in their backyard and several years ago, using a metal detector, Mr. Nelson found a cache of eight copper spear points and knives in the garden. These were shown to Dr. Lyle Stone in 1971 and he took pictures of them. Dr. Stone passed the information on to me when I was directing the 1972 survey in the area but we did not have an opportunity to work on the site during that summer.

In 1973, Mr. Nelson found another copper spear point along the edge of the old road cut. He had been following the work at the Mission site as well and obtained a screen and screened a six foot square in the garden in the spring before planting. In addition to the copper artifacts, he obtained a number of projectile points and other chipped stone artifacts and a small amount of unmodified chippage indicating that a site was present.

worked during the summer of 1973. Only the Gyftakis site produced any quantity of this material. Therefore, one of the first things which we noted about the Nelson site was the large quantity of fire cracked rock which we found. The site produced a total of 572 fragments of fire cracked rock with a total weight of 126 pounds. The distribution of the fire cracked rock is given in Table 6.

TABLE 6
FIRE CRACKED ROCK FROM THE NELSON SITE

Unit	Number	Weight in Pounds	Average Weight
T.P. #1, L #1	12	3½	.29
T.P. #2, L #1	229	70	.31
T.P. #3, L #1	87	17	.20
F #1	47	10½	.22
F #2	197	25	.13
Total Site	572	126	

The striking thing about the distribution of this material is that it seems to be concentrated in the Features and in Test Pit 2 the unit furthest from the features. If this was used for heating objects in a roasting pit, we would have expected traces of charcoal and evidence of soil discoloration from firing. Since such traces of roasting are lacking, we can speculate that if these are cultural features, they were used for stone boiling; that is, the rocks were heated elsewhere and dropped into lined pits filled with water. If this was the case, we could explain why stone was either in the pit or at some distance back from it. We did not find any traces of a hearth in our excavations but Mr. Nelson reported that he had found an area of ash and charcoal at the base of the hummock zone in his garden just to the west of our excavations.

EARLY HISTORIC ARTIFACT

One possible artifact from the Nelson site can be related to the intensive 17th century occupation of the St. Ignace area. There was a heavily patinated blue glass cane blown trade bead found at Level 1 of Test Pit 2. It was .7 cm in diameter, .45 cm thick and had a hole diameter of .2 cm. It does not fit with either the Late Archaic or late historic occupations represented in the collection from the site. It is not surprising that we found one such object since there was a major 17th century occupation of the St. Ignace

area and this type of bead is common at the Marquette Mission site located at the base of the hill on which the Nelson site is located.

LATE HISTORIC ARTIFACTS

The bulk of the cultural material recovered by the Michigan History Division excavations at the Nelson site consisted of late 19th and early 20th century artifacts. The distribution of this material is summarized in Table 7. Most of this collection consisted of glass from several window panes that must have been broken, or dumped after breaking, in the area near the Nelson house. The greatest concentration of broken window glass was in Test Pit 2 near the house with smaller amounts in other units. Actually, the pattern for the distribution of all cultural material, historic and prehistoric, followed this same pattern.

The clear bottle glass category might include glasses and dishes as well as bottles but the only identifiable types were bottles. The identified types included two rimsherds from a full mold food jar in Test Pit 1; a milk bottle rim with a ground lip and a narrow necked screw top bottle with a ground lip and the word AVON on the neck that were found in Test Pit 2; a medicine bottle base with no markings from Test Pit 3 and a medicine bottle neck from Feature #1.

The amber and green bottle glass probably represents several beer bottles and a single wine bottle. A single sherd of amethyst bottle glass was found in Test Pit 1 and three fragments of heat altered glass, a pressed glass bodysherd too small to determine the design, and a crimped glass lamp chimney rim were all found in Test Pit 2. For the most part, these items could date to either the late 19th century or almost any part of the 20th century. The medicine bottles, ground lip bottles and lamp chimney all suggest the period of 1875 to 1925 but the window glass and other bottles might be later.

The historic ceramic assemblage consisted primarily of small frost pitted sherds. At least two different dinner plates and one chamber pot were represented. Nine of the sherds had fragmentary hallmarks. These were from two different plates and while none were complete, enough of the stamp was present to determine that they were manufactured by J. & G. Meakin at Hanley, England (with a crest). From the analysis of the ceramics at sites in St. Ignace and Mackinac Island, it is known that this is a very late 19th or early 20th century mark. There was also one sherd of badly weathered Victorian Majolica similar to those recovered from the privy of the Highstone Store down the hill from the Nelson site (Stone 1972, Fitting n.d.).