

# **Ninety Six: The Jail**

*by*

**Stephanie L. Holschlag**  
**Michael J. Rodeffer**

*and*

**Marvin L. Cann**

**Star Fort Historical Commission**  
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A cluster of window glass fragments also was recorded on the floor of the northwest corner of the southeast room. This glass is clear with no distortions, varies little in thickness from center to edge and may have been produced as cast glass.

Since most of the window glass fragments were recovered from the floor, they definitely were associated with the structure. Based on the number of pieces in the one nearly complete pane, no more than six panes were recovered from the cellar floor.

#### *Glass Bead*

A single burned decorated wire wound glass bead fragment was recovered from the floor in the northwest corner of the cellar. The bead surface is overlain with gold, black and white glass trails forming irregular spirals.

#### Discussion

The glass artifacts from the cellar fall easily into the classification established for the Fort Michilimackinac collections. The storage containers found on the floor differ only in quantity from those recovered from the rubble. Wine glasses and tumblers are almost exclusively confined to the rubble. The few bottles and tumbler fragments from the floor which were definitely associated with the structure, indicate that liquor storage and consumption occurred in the building prior to the conflagration. The superposition of bottles on wall stubs suggests that at least some were discarded following the reduction of the walls to the level defined during excavation. The similarity between these bottles and those removed from the floor suggests that the structure was salvaged shortly after the fire. The conditions under which the bottles, tumblers and wine glasses were discarded could not be determined.<sup>1</sup> The tumblers and wine glasses, especially the etched flip, suggest a relatively high status origin, although the social position of those depositing the items is not known.

#### METAL ANALYSIS

Materials made from brass, iron and lead were the most common artifacts recovered from the cellar and include 4768 specimens of which 92.3% are nails. These artifacts have provided significant data on the construction of the building and the activities associated with it.

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<sup>1</sup>A colleague has suggested that this material was deposited during a contemporary "back-fill party," although this activity has a modern analogue, it is poorly documented in the historical and archaeological records.