

An Inquiry into the Locations and Characteristics
of Jacob Bright's Trading House and
William Montgomery's Tavern

by

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1977

Arkansas Archeological Survey

Publications on Archeology Research Series No. 11

RODERICK SPRAGUE

ABSTRACT

When Arkansas Post became part of the National Park system as Arkansas Post National Memorial in 1965, the National Park Service began preparation of a topographic map through archeological excavations to locate cultural features. For a week in the spring and ten weeks in the summer of 1971 the University of Arkansas Field School and the Arkansas Archeological Survey carried out excavations in Lot 27 on Walker's "Provisional Plan of Arkansas Post, 1819-1840." Documentary evidence for a history of the use of this lot had been collected by Bearss and Brown. Specific search was made for remains of a commercial house for the Indian trade conducted by Jacob Bright during 1804-1807 and for evidence of a tavern operated there by William Montgomery in 1819-1821.

Excavation revealed as evidence of buildings only a brick hearth and an adjacent pattern of brickfall interpreted as nogging from a French creole style house. Post-molds and charred posts in a complex of trenches indicated rebuilding of palisade type fences, characteristic of French colonial settlements, enclosing one area, partly enclosing another, and extending beyond the limits of the 1971 excavations. Inventories are extant of two other trading houses located at Arkansas Post at almost the same time as Bright and Company. Among the artifacts excavated, roughly half of the nonperishable items on these inventories are represented. As for tavern evidence, almost 5,000 fragments of dark green wine or liquor bottles were found and nearly 24,000 ceramic sherds, mostly dating to the early 19th century, plus cutlery and glass drinking vessels. Faunal remains include pig, cow, and deer, which fit descriptions of foods most commonly served in frontier taverns. Other considerations adduced to prove the location of Bright's and Montgomery's enterprises are legal documents, accounts of contemporary travelers who visited Arkansas Post, and a map of the village sketched in 1832.

trenches in the northwest portion of the excavation. Area B is the area partially enclosed by trenches in the southeastern portion of the excavation. Area III, opened later, when all other excavations were flooded by rains, proved to be functionally a continuation of Area B. Area II is the area excavated west of the park road. The designation "Other" refers to materials recovered outside of these areas, such as Feature 2 and 110S20E. The rationale for the use of Interpretive Areas will be explained in the final section of this report.

BEADS

Thirty-one beads were recovered from the excavation at Arkansas Post. An explanation of techniques of bead manufacture is necessary to clarify some of the terminology used in bead descriptions. Glass beads were manufactured in one of the following ways. In hollow-cane manufacture, a glass blower mixed a mass of molten glass, a "gather," onto his rod, then blew it into a large bubble. Then another man fixed a rod into the other end of the bubble, and they walked in opposite directions, stretching the bubble until it had cooled and was no longer ductile. This produced a hollow cane of glass sometimes reaching 300 feet in length (Good 1972:95). Next, the cane was broken into several lengths, each 2 to 3 feet long, and these were chopped with a chisel into bead-like proportions. The product was a crude sharp monochromatic tubular bead, which could be modified in several ways. At the first gather, the bubble was often dipped in several colors of molten glass, producing a layered polychrome bead. Stripes could be added to the beads by placing the gather in a bucket containing small glass rods of different colors, reheating, and drawing them out with the cane. After chopping the canes into bead shape, the beads were often reheated and tumbled in a drum to produce a smooth or round-globular bead. Facets were cut and/or ground on beads produced from a bubble of glass which was shaped and then drawn into an hexagonal cane.

In the second manufacturing method, solid glass rods were heated, and then a thread of glass was started from the rod. The thread was wrapped around a wire, or mandrel, until a bead shape was formed. Then the mandrel was withdrawn, leaving a perforation through the bead. These beads, being individually made, are of great variety and are difficult to classify (Kidd and Kidd 1970:49). In mandrel-wound beads it is possible to see the results of the wrapping process on the surface of the bead; the threads of glass circling the bead are visible. Hollow-cane bead fibers are likewise visible running the length of the bead. The beads from Arkansas Post

were examined under a binocular microscope, which in most cases made the mode of manufacture clearly evident.

The primary attribute by which beads are classified in the Kidd and Kidd typology is their mode of manufacture, hollow-cane or mandrel-wound. Within the beads designated hollow-cane, a secondary division into types is made by the presence or absence of two manufacturing refinements, tumbling and layering. The next level of division is based upon manufacturing refinements such as faceting, inseting, twisting, squaring, and striping. The lowest division is based upon physical attributes such as shape and color. Size is not used as a typological determinant.

Within the beads designated mandrel-wound there are three primary types. These types are based upon the presence or absence of manufacturing refinements on original shape. Type WI are beads left in simple shapes achieved by the wrapping process. Type WII are beads manipulated into shapes after the wrapping process but while the beads are still soft, for example, pressed faceting. Type WIII are beads with polychrome glass insets. Within each major type lesser divisions are made according to particular shape and color. Again size is not a determinant of type. The mandrel-wound bead sample from Arkansas Post included only Type WI beads, round, barrel, and doughnut-shaped, designated "b," "c," and "d" respectively.

In the description of beads, *simple* refers to a monochrome bead. *Compound* refers to a polychrome bead. Diameter of each bead was measured perpendicular to the perforation. Color references were made to the Munsell Color Charts according to their use by Mary Elizabeth Good in her report on the Guebert site (Good 1972:105-129). Length (parallel to the bead's perforation) was considered unimportant and was omitted from the descriptive section. Full references to the Good, Kidd and Kidd, and Harris (Bell, Jelks, and Newcomb 1967) systems may be found in References Cited. It should be realized that the Kidd and Kidd system is a typology, while the Harris and Good systems are catalogs for comparative purposes. Reference is made to these systems where possible in order to maintain a level of consistency in bead descriptions from various sites.

Category 1: 2 specimens (Fig. 6a,b)

These beads are of simple construction. They are white opaque beads manufactured by the hollow-cane method. The surface and ends have been smoothed by tumbling. Diameters are 2.5 mm and 3.0 mm. The beads correspond to Type IIa in the Kidd and Kidd system, and Number 44 on the Harris Bead Chart.

Category 2: 2 specimens (Fig. 6c,d)

The beads are of compound construction. They have a white opaque core with a clear layer of glass on top and are manufactured by the hollow-cane method and tumbled. Diameters are 2.5 mm and 3.0 mm. The beads correspond to Type IVa in the Kidd and Kidd system, Number 5 on the Harris Bead Chart, and Number 107a in the Good catalog from the Guebert site.

Category 3: 1 specimen (Fig. 6e)

This bead is of compound construction. It has a white opaque porcelain-like core with a white or clear surface layer of glass and is manufactured by the hollow-cane method and tumbled. The diameter is 5.0 mm. This bead is Type IVa in the Kidd and Kidd system, Number 4 on the Harris Bead Chart and similar to Number 107 in the Good catalog.

Category 4: 1 specimen (Fig. 6f)

This bead may be of compound construction, but it has deteriorated in the ground. It has a white opaque glass core with a probable clear glass layer on the surface, is of hollow-cane manufacture, and is untumbled. The diameter is 3.0 mm. It is Kidd and Kidd Type IIIa, Harris Number 65, and Number 119 in the Good catalog.

Category 5: 3 specimens (Fig. 6g-i)

These beads are of simple construction. They are clear faceted beads of hollow-cane manufacture from hexagonal cane. Diameters range 7.0-10.0 mm. These beads are Type If in the Kidd and Kidd system, Number 139 in the Harris Bead Chart, and Number 21 in the Good catalog.

Category 6: 2 specimens (Fig. 6j,k)

These beads are of simple construction. They are clear faceted beads of hollow-cane manufacture from hexagonal cane. They are more cylindrical than those of Category 5. Diameters are 4.5 mm and 7.5 mm. They are similar but for color to Good's Number 15 and Harris' Number 167; in the Kidd and Kidd system they are Type If.

Category 7: 1 specimen (Fig. 6 l)

This bead is of simple construction. It is a black opaque bead of hollow-cane manufacture and is tumbled. The diameter is 2.0 mm. This bead is Type IIa in the Kidd and Kidd system, Number 50 on the Harris Bead Chart, and Number 169 in the Good catalog.

Category 8: 1 specimen (Fig. 6m)

This blue opaque bead (Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5 PB 6/4) is of simple construction of hollow-cane manufacture and is tumbled. The diameter is 3.0 mm. This bead is Type IIa in the Kidd and Kidd system, Number 79 on the Harris Bead Chart, and Number 68 in the Good catalog.

Category 9: 1 specimen (Fig. 6n)

A bead of simple construction, this opaque green specimen (Munsell Green-Yellow Green 10 GY 4/4) is of hollow-cane manufacture and is tumbled. The diameter is 2.0 mm. This bead is Kidd and Kidd Type IIa and Number 181 on the Harris Bead Chart.

Category 10: 1 specimen (Fig. 6o)

This bead is of simple construction, hollow-cane manufacture, and is tumbled. The color is Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5 PB 3/10. The diameter is 3.0 mm. The bead corresponds to Type IIa in the Kidd and Kidd typology, Numbers 61 and 183 on Harris' Bead Chart, and is similar to Number 63 in Good's catalog.

Category 11: 1 specimen (Fig. 6p)

A bead of simple construction, this specimen is transparent and faceted. The color is Munsell Bluish Green 7.5 G 4/4. The diameter is 5.0 mm. This bead has been battered and damaged by burning and its mode of manufacture is uncertain. It appears to be of hollow-cane manufacture from hexagonal cane. It is Type IIa in the Kidd and Kidd system and is not included on Harris' chart nor in the Good catalog.

Category 12: 1 specimen (Fig. 6q)

This bead is of compound construction. It is a blue faceted bead with an opaque blue core and a darker transparent blue layer on the surface. The exterior is Munsell bluish Purple-Blue 2.5 PB 6/6, and the interior is Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5 PB 6/4. This bead is of hollow-cane manufacture from hexagonal cane. It is also somewhat damaged. The diameter is 5.5 mm. According to Kidd and Kidd it is Type IIIIf; it is Number 11 in the Good catalog and is Number 129 on the Harris Bead Chart.

Category 13: 1 specimen (Fig. 6r)

This bead is of simple construction; it is a green transparent faceted bead of hollow-cane manufacture from hexagonal cane. The color is Munsell Blue-Green Blue 10 BG 5/6. The diameter is 8.0 mm. It is Type If in the Kidd and Kidd typology, Number 16 in Good's catalog, and Number 171 on the Harris Bead Chart.

Category 14: 2 specimens (Fig. 6s,t)

These beads of simple construction are blue transparent faceted beads of hollow-cane manufacture from hexagonal cane. There is a slight color difference in these two beads (Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5 PB 4/12 and Munsell bluish Purple-Blue 2.5 PB 6/6). Both diameters are 7.0 mm. These beads are Type If in the Kidd and Kidd classification, Number 14 in the Good catalog, and Number 130 on the Harris Bead Chart.

Category 15: 1 specimen (Fig. 6u)

The bead is of simple construction; it is a blue transparent faceted bead of hollow-cane manufacture; the faceting may be incomplete. The color is Munsell greenish Blue-Green 2.5 BG 6/4. The diameter is 6.5 mm. This bead is similar except for color to Good's Number 15, and it is Type If in the Kidd and Kidd typology.

Category 16: 1 specimen (Fig. 6v)

This bead is of compound construction; it has a green transparent core with a red opaque middle layer and a clear thin surface layer of glass. This bead is of hollow-cane manufacture and is untumbled. The color of the middle layer is Munsell Yellowish-Red 7.5 R 4/6. The diameter is 2.0 mm. This bead seems to be a smaller version of Good's Number 125 which she calls Cornaline d'Aleppo. It is Type IIIa in the Kidd and Kidd typology and similar to Number 57 on the Harris Bead Chart.

Category 17: 2 specimens (Fig. 6w,x)

These beads are of simple construction; they are clear beads somewhat frosty in appearance. These beads are of mandrel-wound manufacture. Their diameters are 6.0 mm and 7.0 mm. These beads are Type WIb in the Kidd and Kidd system, Number 47 in the Good catalog, and number 93 on the Harris Bead Chart.

Category 18: 1 specimen (Fig. 6y)

This bead is of simple construction; it is an amber translucent bead of mandrel-wound manufacture (Munsell yellowish Yellow-Red 7.5 YR 6/8). The diameter is 7.0 mm. This bead is Type WId according to the Kidd and Kidd system, Number 45 in the Good catalog, and Number 94 on the Harris Bead Chart.

Category 19: 1 specimen (Fig. 6z)

This bead is of simple construction; it is a blue translucent bead of mandrel-wound manufacture (close to Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5 PB 6/4). The diameter is 6.5 mm. This bead is Type WIb in the Kidd and Kidd typology and similar to Number 76 in the Good catalog.

Category 20: 1 specimen (Fig. 6aa)

This bead is of simple construction; it is a blue translucent bead of mandrel-wound manufacture. The color is close to Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5 PB 6/4. The diameter is 8.0 mm. This bead is similar to the bead of Category 19 but is doughnut-shaped. It falls into Type WId in the Kidd and Kidd classification and is similar, but for color, to Good's Numbers 44 and 45.

Category 21: 3 specimens (Fig. 6bb-dd)

These beads are of simple construction; they are blue translucent beads of mandrel-wound manufacture. The color is Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5 PB 3/10. The diameters range from 7.5-8.0 mm. These beads are Type WId in the Kidd and Kidd typology and similar to Good's Number 46.

Category 22: 1 specimen (Fig. 6ee)

This bead is of simple construction; it is a blue translucent bead of mandrel-wound construction. The color is Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5 PB 3/10. The diameter is 8.0 mm. This bead is similar to those in Category 21 but is barrel-shaped. It is assigned to Type WIc in the Kidd and Kidd system and is similar to Number 46 in Good's catalog.

Distribution

	Area A	Area B	Area II	Others	Totals
Category 1		2			2
Category 2				2 (F2)	2
Category 3		1			1
Category 4		1			1
Category 5		3			3
Category 6	2				2
Category 7		1			1
Category 8				1 (F2)	1
Category 9		1			1
Category 10				1 (F2)	1
Category 11		1			1
Category 12			1		1
Category 13		1			1
Category 14	1	1			2
Category 15		1			1
Category 16	1				1
Category 17	1	1			2
Category 18		1			1
Category 19	1				1
Category 20	1				1
Category 21	2	1			3
Category 22		1			1
Totals	9	17	1	4	31

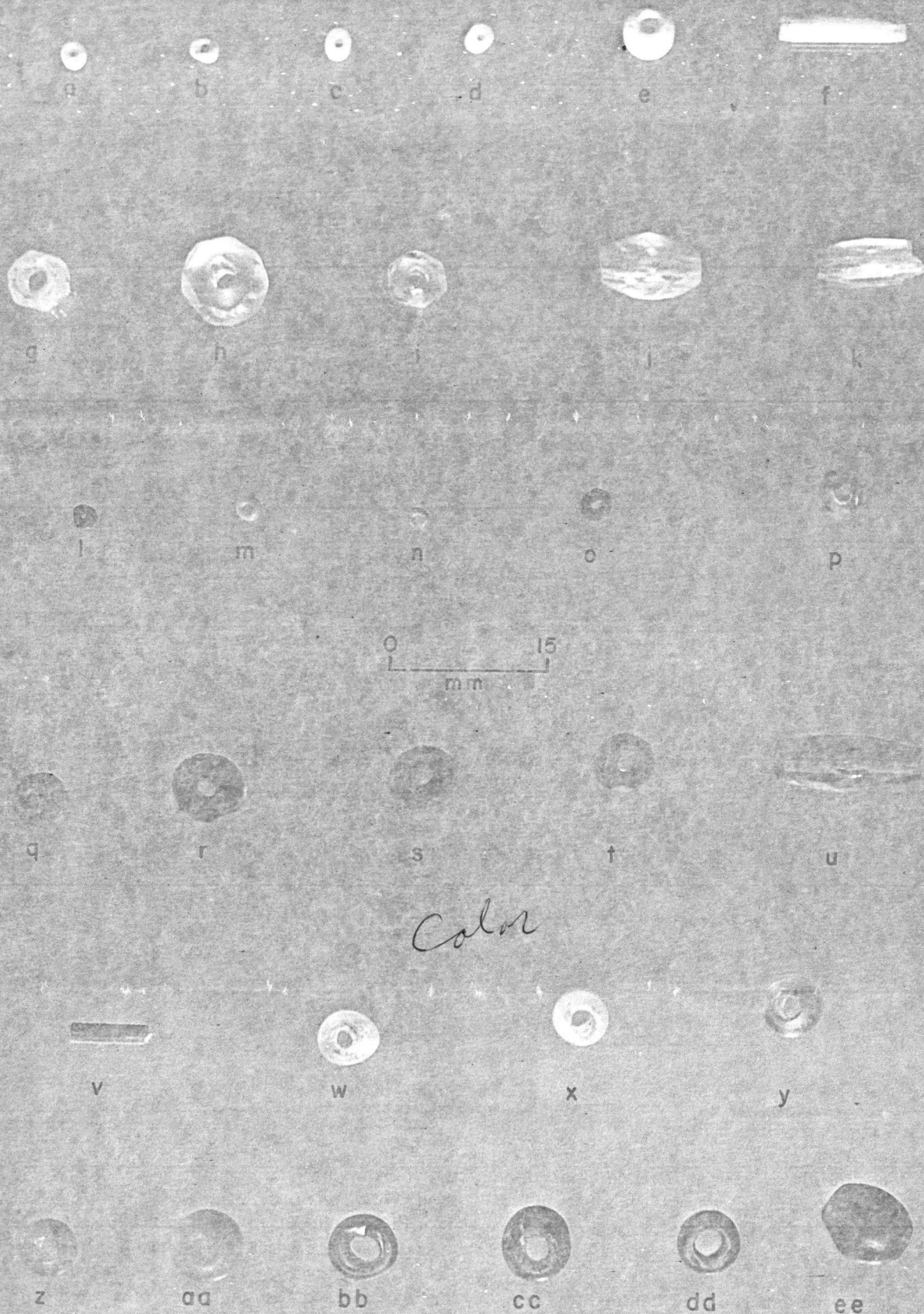


Figure 5. Glass beads recovered in 1971 excavations at 3AR47: a-b. Category 1; c-d. Category 2; e. Category 3; f. Category 4; g-i. Category 5; j-k. Category 6; l. Category 7; m. Category 8; n. Category 9; o. Category 10; p. Category 11; q. Category 12; r. Category 13; s-t. Category 14; u. Category 15; v. Category 16; w-x. Category 17; y. Category 18; z. Category 19; aa. Category 20; bb-dd. Category 21; ee. Category 22