

REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS:
MACKENZIE RIVER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

by

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near the mouth of the river; Browning's store was at the mouth, about four miles below Jean Marie Village (Usher 1971: 65).

JjRd 3 - This is the location of the Browning sawmill at Spence River. A cabin is located on the fifth terrace of the river. Although excavations were conducted, only surface material was assigned this number. It consisted of broken glass, a fish hook, a seed bead and two chert flakes in addition to some bone material. This contemporary material may represent the occupation associated with the Browning sawmill.

JjRd 2 - This number was assigned to the prehistoric material collected and excavated from the garden area near the Browning cabin. Two end scrapers, two side scrapers (Plate 33), two broad square base projectile point bases (Plate 34), fragments of bone and glass, one of which had been retouched (Figure 3), were collected.

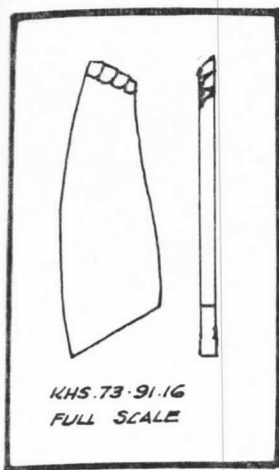


Figure 3

Glass Artifact, JjRd 2

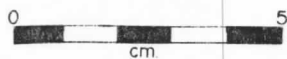
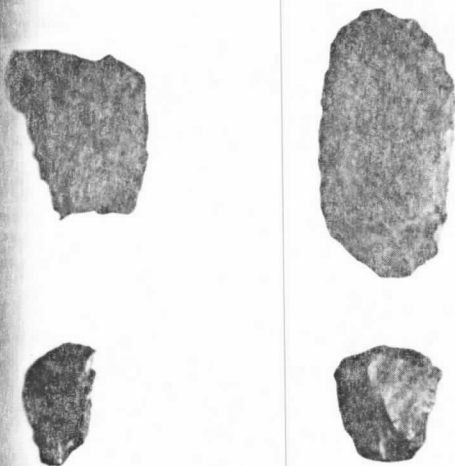


Plate 33

Scrapers, JjRd 2

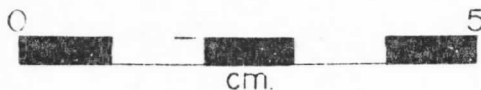
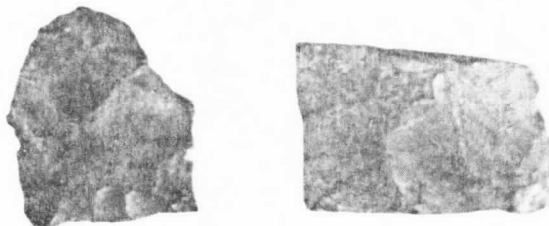


Plate 34

Projectile Point Bases, JjRd 2

KHS 73.119 - Exposed in a cut bank in front of Goodall's store was a wood chip zone containing historic or contemporary material. A charcoal and ash sample was taken from a basin shaped ash feature probably representing a hearth. Dressed logs and smaller poles were also present at a depth of one and one-half metres below the surface. The latter remains may represent remains of a cabin or similar structure.

Artifacts from the feature level consist of a circular white opaque bead (type 11a13, Kidd and Kidd 1970: 56; Plate 56 e), square nails, fragments of china (Plate 56d), five pieces of worked glass, three worked on a point; and a fragment of clay which may either be another piece of china or part of a clay pipe bowl.

KHS 73.120 - This is a site excavated by Mr. Jerry Morran and his Grade 7 and 8 students from Fort Simpson. The site is exposed in a high cut bank of the Mackenzie River about 8 metres upstream from the Bay warehouse. Wood chips were observed to a depth of 25 centimeters below brown river silt. Found in this site were the following:

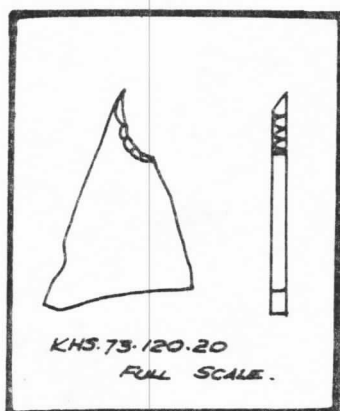


Figure 5

Glass Artifact, KHS 73.120

round and square nails (Plate 56a), 11 kaolin pipestem fragments (Plate 56 b), two fragments of a kaolin pipe bowl, one small circular black bead (type 11a7, Kidd and Kidd 1970: 70), three circular beads 5mm. diameter of type IVa3 (Kidd and Kidd 1970: 79) with a redwood exterior and light grey core (Plate 56c), one small, 4 mm. (type 11a37, Kidd and Kidd 1970: 70), circular bead which is Aqua Blue in color (Plate 56c - lowermost specimen), five opaque white beads, 4 mm. in diameter (Plate 56 c - uppermost) and two seed beads. Also present were three worked pieces of glass; two worked along an edge (Figure 5) and one worked on a point.

Plate 56

Artifacts from
KHS 73.119 and KHS 73.120

prob. 19th cent.

outlines and associated internal features (Map 23). There is some evidence (such as charred jack knives and exploded cartridge shells) that the structures were destroyed by fire.

Number KHS 73.155 refers specifically to cabin #4 at the site of the Stewart Trading Post. Within the outline 9.5 by 4.5 metres in size, were growing trees estimated to be about 25 years old. A prospector's stove was found lying outside the cabin outline. A test pit excavated in the southwest corner of the outline contained old cans and live ammunition cases which had apparently blown up, and round nails. Quantities of burnt wood in the excavation indicates that this building had been destroyed by fire. A large rock, 13 centimeters in diameter, was found overlying a small medicine bottle, china fragments and a 30-30 shell. An old watch, safety pins and can keys were found below the round nails, jack knives and burnt glass and mustard cans which were within the top 20 centimeters of soil.



Plate 66

Charred Jackknives, KHS 73.155

*(1924-32)

KHS 73.156 - This number was given to cabin #2 at the Stewart Trading Post* site. This outline is approximately 8 by 5.4 meters large and contained remains of a clay and stone fireplace in the northwestern corner. A test pit in the outline contained rabbit and moose bones, a square nail, pieces of metal, round nails, a bone snowshoe weaver (Figure 7), an old green whiskey bottle, an old fork, a pipe, broken china (Plate 67a), a blue glass bead (Plate 67b) and numerous seed beads (Plate 67c).

Plate 67

Artifacts, KHS 73.156

early 20th C.

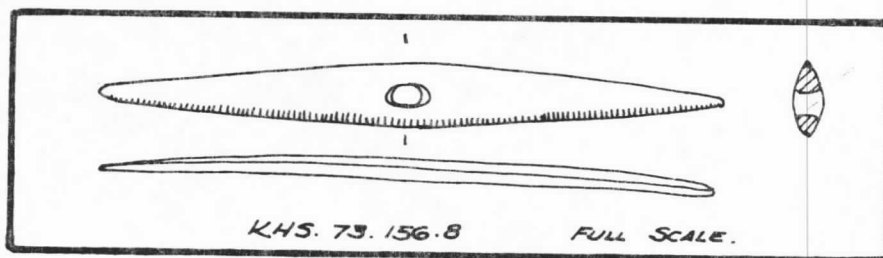
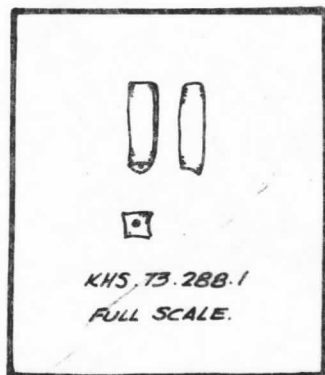


Figure 7

Bone Snowshoe Weaver, KHS 73.156

KHS 73.288 - This number was assigned to the historic material collected from the vicinity of the Bay. It consisted of glass, round and square shank nails, shell, china fragments, a tooth, buttons and a ridged tube bead (Figure 9), 10 millimetres long and 5 millimetres wide (type W11f, Kidd and Kidd 1970: 85).



post-1850.

Figure 9

Ridged Tube Bead, KHS 73.288

LfRq 6 - This number was given to the prehistoric material collected on the Bay property at Fort Norman. It consists of flakes of black chert, welded tuff and coarse quartzite; two different fragments of pale blue welded tuff microblades (Plate 134), a black chert midsection of a projectile point (Plate 134), and a worked flake of welded tuff. Permission to dig on the Bay premises was obtained but no prehistoric artifacts were found in the excavations.

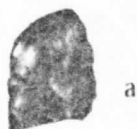


Plate 134

Artifacts, LfRq 6