

# DATA BOX

347

347-THUNDER BAY URBAN SURVEY 1976

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presence of a number of other potential sites in the area. It is fully expected that further future survey will disclose a much more extensive complex than the one presently recorded.

## (G) HISTORIC ARTIFACTS - THE MISSION (DcJh-3)

### (1) Background History

The original Fort William Mission was founded in 1848 by Fathers Pierre Choni and Fre Miot, two Jesuit Missionaries. Nine years after the founding of the Mission, Henry Hind of the Red River Expedition gave the following description of the site:

" There were already congregated from 30 to 35 houses substantially built of wood; in their general arrangement and construction they are far superior to the log houses of Canadian Pioneers in the forest. Many of them have gardens attached to them, a few of which were in a good state of cultivation; some small fields fenced with post and rail were in the rear of the most thriving."  
(Robin, 1919: 17).

Of the chapel, Hind notes that it was:

"... a very spacious and well constructed building of wood with a semi-circular ceiling painted light blue." (1919: 17)

In 1870, the Order of the Daughters of Mary opened an orphanage on the mission site. They were succeeded in 1885 by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

In 1885, fire razed the Chapel, priests home and convent and from this point no record exists of the missions continuance. Presumably the Jesuits ceased operations on the site at this time and abandoned the burned site. However, in the same year the Sisters of St. Joseph had a boarding house built on the site of the old mission, which served as both orphanage and convent until the 1930's when the sisters moved to a new residence on Franklin Street. The mission site then reverted to farm land.

In 1973 flames from a grass fire spread to a large barn and several smaller buildings and thence to the still standing convent building. The stone walls of the convent basement are all that remains of the site today.

### (2) Artifact Descriptions

A total of 253 artifacts were recovered from the Mission site of these 82 were surface collected while the remaining 171 were excavated from test pits. Only the more comparative or diagnostic artifacts are considered in this study, all artifacts recovered are listed in the artifact catalogue.

#### CERAMICS

A total of 76 ceramic sherds make-up the total sample from the site. Table 18 presents a stylistic breakdown of the sample. Plain white refined earthenware predominated on the site (61.84%), followed by refined earthenware with underglaze transfer printed designs including "flown blue" (11.02%). Edgeware (7.89%) and annular ware (7.87%) comprised the other major ceramic categories.

### Stoneware

A total of eight fragments of stoneware were collected, 6 from the surface, 2 from test pits. The surface collected pieces were as follows: 1 fragment of mottled yellow/brown stoneware, 1 fragment of red/brown salt glazed stoneware, 1 fragment of striped grey/black stoneware, 1 burnished blue/grey stoneware lid fragment, 1 yellow/brown salt glazed stoneware lid fragment with glaze in the centre of the lid the edges being unglazed. The material from the test pits consisted of one burnished/black and one unglazed red/orange stoneware fragment

### Pipes

The pipe sample included 9 bowl and 6 stem fragments. Only one of the bowls was marked, having a typical T.D. cartouche. Of the stems four were plain while two were marked, one Henderson (1847 - 76) and one Bannerman (1858 - 1907) (Reid, 1975: 71). None of the stems showed any indication of glazing and no mouth pieces were recovered.

### Gunflints

A single light brown translucent spall type gunflint was surface collected from the site.

### Nails

A total of 59 stamped square nails comprise the site sample, of these 12 were surface collected the remaining 47 being from test pits. Only a single cut wire nail was recovered from the site, the low frequency of this type of nail was interesting considering the amount of contemporary disturbance and long occupation history of the site.

### Glass Beads

A single round, dark blue wire wound glass bead was picked up on the dirt road adjacent to the mission. The bead measured 7.5 x 7.5 mm in diameter and had interior diameter of 2.0 mm. The bead is somewhat similar to Kidd's W1b16 category. (Kidd & Kidd, 1970: 84).

### Adze/Hoe

A single, large hand-wrought adze or hoe was found eroding from the river bank directly behind the "orphanage". The specimen weighed 1,744.40 gms. The eye was round measuring 46.0 mm in diameter with a haft 58.5 mm in height and 10.5 mm in maximum thickness. The blade was set perpendicular to the eye and was curved and battered. The blade measured 18.0 cm long x 11.5 cm in maximum breadth.

### Brass Disc

A single round brass disc was recovered from a test pit. The disc measured 32.0 mm in diameter and was 0.5 mm thick. The disc had a central perforation 2.0 mm in diameter around which were arranged a total of 8 fleur-de-lis perforations. The word (Columbus) was stamped on one side of the disc.

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