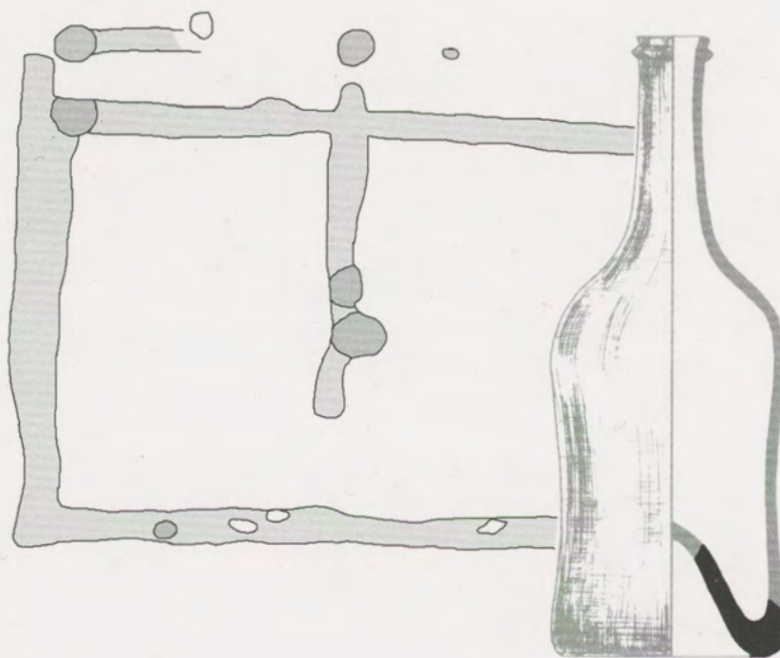


NEW LIGHT ON THE OLD FRENCH VILLAGE AT PEORIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT THE
"OLD VILLAGE" LOCALE IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS



ROBERT MAZRIM

Submitted to the Illinois Transportation Archaeological Research Program
University of Illinois, Department of Anthropology



SANGAMO ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTER
Fieldwork and Technical Reports Bulletin
Number 3, 2002

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The mission of the *Sangamo Archaeological Center* is to provide a research, interpretive, and curatorial facility for archaeological sites and artifacts that fall outside of state or federally mandated study, salvage, or protection. The focus of the center's activities and collections is on the American frontier period of the Midwest (c.1780-1850). The *Under the Prairie Frontier Archaeological Museum* makes many artifacts from this period accessible to the visiting public, and supports educational programs and scholarly research. The collections, displays, and programs are maintained through tourism revenues and private support. The Center also provides consultation services for cultural resource management programs and agencies.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The research presented in this report is the product of the efforts of a number of individuals. David Nolan coordinated our field work at Peoria, and his expertise made the identification of elusive archaeological deposits possible. The ITARP field crew included Bruno Calgaro, Ryan Gifford, Robert Hickson, and Richard Thompson. Robert Hickson also provided mapping data on which several of the figures are based.

Dr. Thomas Emerson oversaw the excavations at Peoria, and Dr. John Walthall offered valuable input into our findings there. Gloria LaHood contributed her expertise in Peoria history, as well as her enthusiasm. Judith Franke kindly shared her research files concerning French Peoria and Louis Chatellereau. Duane Esarey contributed friendly advice and many important insights into eighteenth century French and Native American activity in the Illinois valley. O'Brien Steel, the City of Peoria, and E. J. Mullaney graciously allowed access to properties for testing



FIGURE 1: J. M. Roberts' 1831 View of Peoria.

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In the summer of 1680, on a little hillock five hundred feet from the shore of a lake the Peoria tribe of the Illinois Indians called Pimitoui, the vandalized ruins of a small stockaded fort were marked with a message written in French; *Nous sommes tous des sauvages*, or “we are all savages.” Thus began the entry of Illinois’ first substantial European edifice into the archaeological record. Less than two hundred years later, residents of what had become known as the city of Peoria began searching for remnants of this fort, but for the next century few traces of the French presence at Pimitoui were to be unearthed.

Although it was the site of the first French military post in the Illinois County, occupied and reoccupied by French soldiers, traders, and families for over 100 years, Peoria Lake on the Illinois River is perhaps the least understood French locale in Illinois. Here, French efforts were based on the presence of Native Americans who occupied the shores of the lake in great numbers during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. These efforts including the construction of two forts, a mission, and two villages over a 132 year period.

Despite the importance of this locale to French fur trading interests, few written records of life at Peoria during the eighteenth century are known. In contrast to the wealth of information provided by court, parish and military records associated with the French communities in the American Bottom region, Peoria has been practically silent. The archaeological record of these occupations has been even more elusive.

In 2001, a proposed realignment of Adams Street in downtown Peoria presented an opportunity to archaeologically investigate an area believed to have been the location of an eighteenth century French village and seventeenth century French fort. Investigations were conducted by the Illinois Transportation Archaeological Research Program, University of Illinois (ITARP) in the fall of 2001, under the direction of David Nolan and the author. These excavations, funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation, encountered the first archaeological evidence of French activity in the region. The historical background of French activity at the “Old Village” locale, and the results of archaeological testing there, will be the focus of this report.

THE FRENCH AT PIMITOUI

In January of 1680, the noted French explorer Robert Cavelier Sieur de La Salle constructed a small fort called Crevecoeur on the east bank of Peoria Lake. Later that winter, while LaSalle was away, the fort was looted by his men, and quickly abandoned. French activity was redirected to the Starved Rock area, but in 1691 the French returned to Peoria, where Henri Tonti and Pierre Deliette constructed a new fort called Fort St. Louis (known today as Fort St. Louis II). At this post, and surrounded by as many as three hundred Peoria Illini houses, a mission was soon established. The post and its mission were prosperous for a short time. Changes in colonial trade policy and the aggressions of Native Americans led to the abandonment of the fort complex around 1710, and the Peoria themselves left the area around 1722 (Alvord 1920, Mulkey 1944).

The region was reoccupied by the Peoria in the 1730s, although the French do not appear to have returned until the late 1740s, when an unlicensed trader constructed a small post. By the late 1760s, a cluster of French houses had been constructed in the vicinity of this post, and by the late 1770s several farms had replaced the old post. This locale ultimately became known as the "Old Village." In 1778 a second village, "La Ville de Maillet" (or the "New Village"), was established, less than two miles downstream, and by the 1790s most of the residents of the Old Village had moved to this new location (Franke 1995, Esarey 1997).

The American Fur Company established a small post at the New Village in 1806, although the year-round population of the settlement remained small. In 1812, American militia, fearing an allegiance between the French at Peoria and the Indian population siding with the British during the war of 1812, attacked the New Village, looting homes and arresting the villagers. The following year, the Americans constructed Fort Clark at the New Village. The fort was abandoned in 1815.

The French settlement at Peoria did not recover after the war. A small number of French traders are said to have resettled the area in 1818, on the opposite side of the river. The first American farmers to visit the site of the New Village found the ruins of Fort Clark inhabited by a herd of deer. The town of Peoria was platted in 1826 around the remnants of the New Village and Fort Clark (Johnson and Company 1880, Rice 1912). To the north, the site of the Old Village was not reoccupied until the 1870s.

SETTING

The site of the Old Village is situated on a high, gently sloping, loess-mantled terrace overlooking the west bank of Peoria Lake in the Illinois River. The area fronts a small natural bay, created by a promontory known as Plum Point. This point would have provided shelter from river currents and northerly winds, and would have made the back of the small bay an ideal landing place. In the early 20th century, the shoreline of the bay was modified during the construction of a marina. This involved the extension of the shoreline to the east with large quantities of landfill, and the creation of a breakwater.

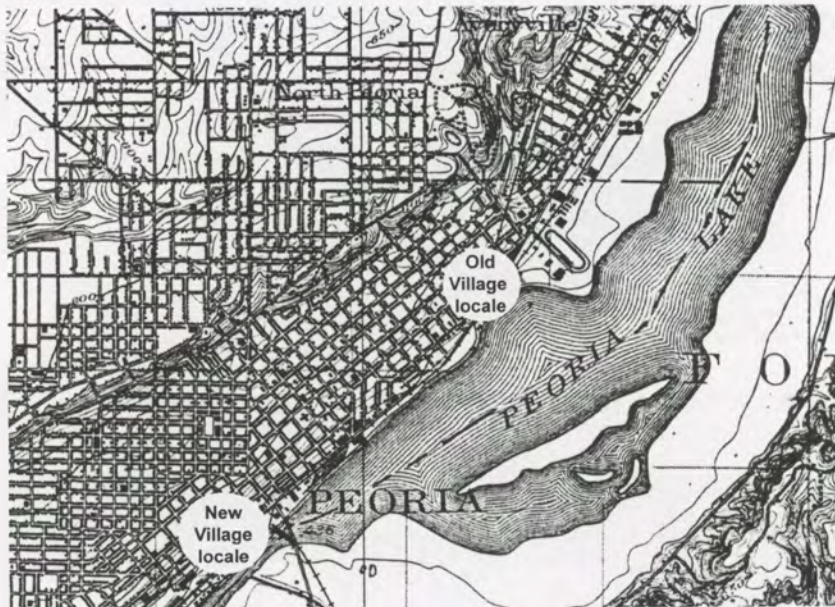


FIGURE 2: Old and New French village locales (1905 15' USGS) and 2001 project area at the Old Village locale (modern 7.5' USGS)

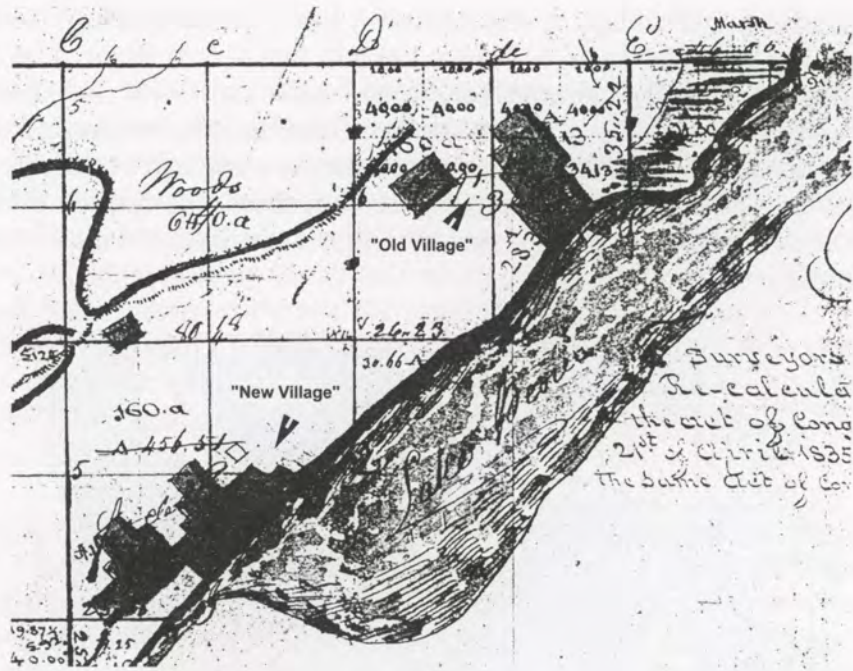


FIGURE 3: Land office township plat map, showing sites of old and new villages.

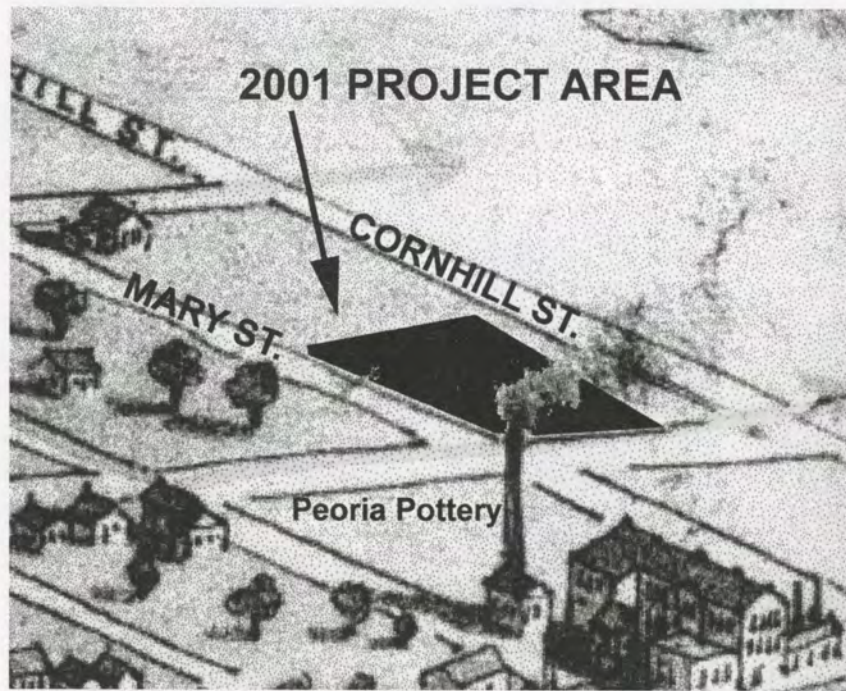


FIGURE 4: Detail of 1867 bird's eye map of Peoria, showing 2001 project area.

THE LIMITS OF THE "OLD VILLAGE"

Contemporary understanding of the limits of the Old Village is based primarily on the work of Percival Rennick, who examined French land claims records associated with the Old Village in the 1930s. Rennick (1935) superimposed General Land Office survey data (created in the 1830s) on then-modern maps, resulting in the conclusion that the limits of the Old Village as interpreted in the 1830s lay between modern city streets of Caroline, Hayward and Jefferson, and the shore of the Illinois River. It is from this overlay that subsequent studies and archaeological investigations have been based (Figure 5).

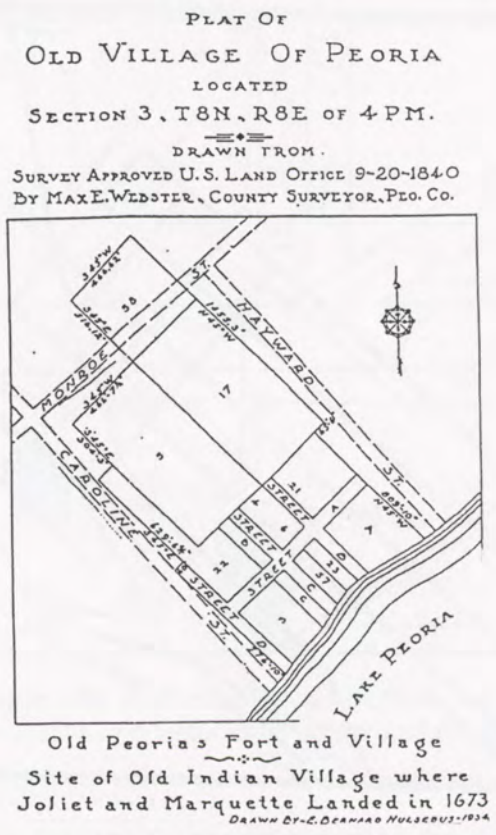


FIGURE 5: Percival Rennick's overlay of the 1837 survey of French lot lines.

For this study, the original land office records were reexamined. These records include field survey notebooks, individual plats of specific land claims, and a reconstructed "plat map" of the Old Village drawn as a result of the surveys in 1837. This plat was anchored to section lines, as they existed in 1830s. At some point after the creation of the map, however, the section lines in this particular region were resurveyed. Both the resurveyed and original section lines appear on modern USGS topographical maps, but it is the resurveyed lines that are used today as legal boundaries.

Using the 1837 plat of the Old Village and the relic Section 3 survey lines on the modern 7.5 minute USGS map, the French lot lines (as understood in 1837) were reapplied to the modern city streets, much like Rennick did in the 1930s. The results were very similar to those achieved by Rennick, with the same general modern street boundaries (Figure 6).

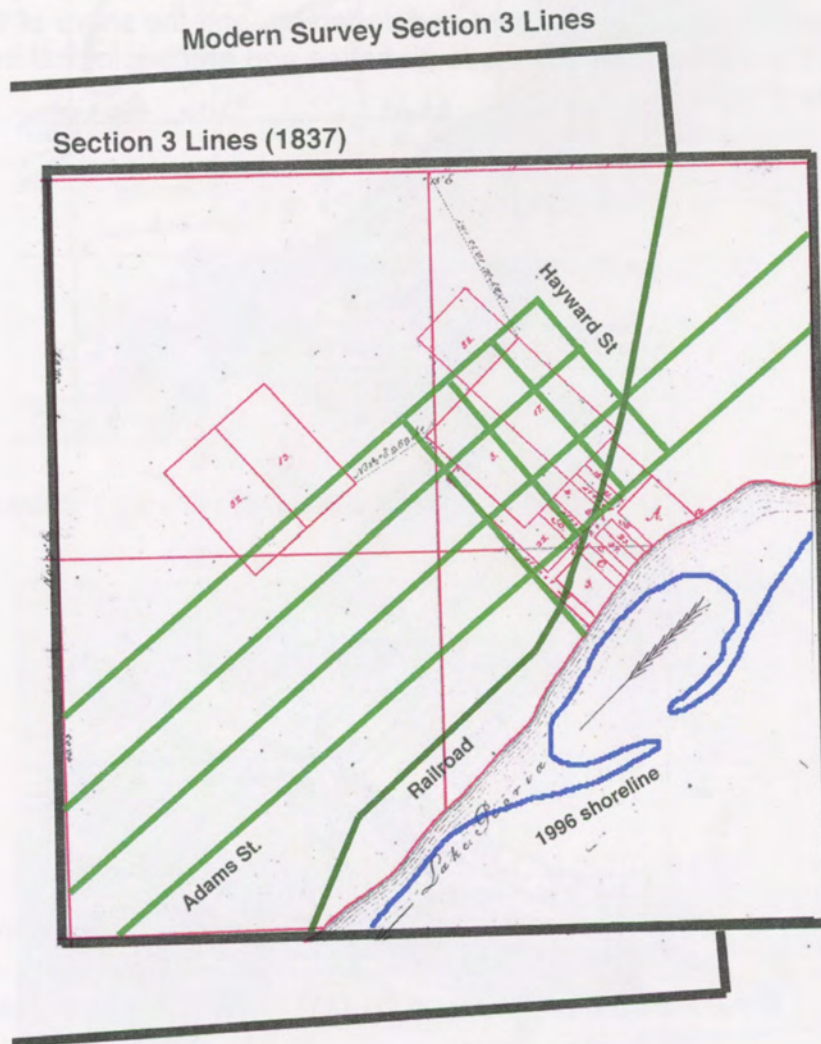


FIGURE 6: Revised overlay of 1837 plat.

Red = 1837 survey lines and shoreline, Green = modern streets, Blue = modern shoreline

PREVIOUS TESTING AT THE OLD VILLAGE

Most previous documentary investigations, as well as the bulk of previous field work, have focused on the location of La Salle's 1680 Fort Crevecoeur. Interest in that site began as early as the 1840s (Emerson and Mansberger 1991). On the east bank, the site of the Old Village was investigated by Illinois State University in 1983. Based on Rennick's village plat overlay, ISU tested ten modern lots in five days, using a backhoe and hand excavation. Some of these excavations were conducted on lots tested in 2001 (Figure 7). No eighteenth century features or artifacts were identified (Barr et al. 1988).

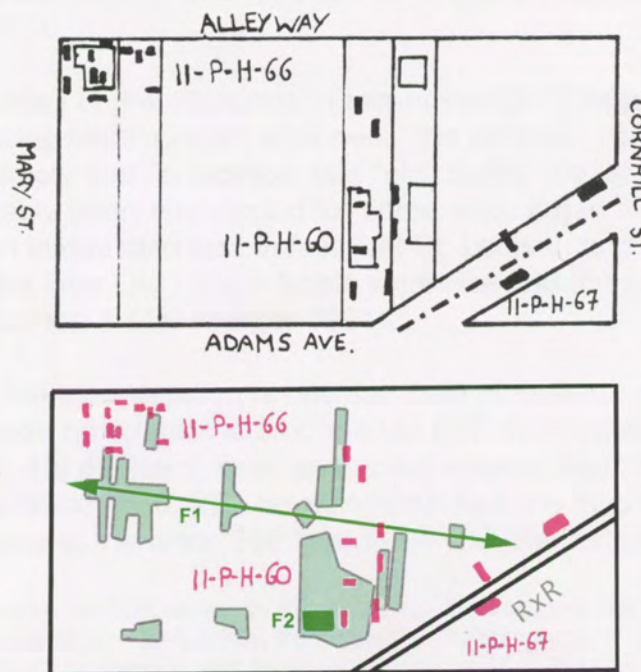


FIGURE 7: Base map of MARC excavations (from Barr et al. 1988).
Overlay of ITARP excavations and features (in green) and MARC excavations (in red).

In 1930s, the Peoria Journal Transcript reported the discovery of several eighteenth century artifacts during the construction of the Detweiller marina, immediately down slope of the 2001 project area. The artifacts included a brass kettle, a *Turlington's' Balsam of Life* medicine bottle, and a pair of trade silver ear bobs. The owner of the marina soldered a new base on the decayed kettle, and had the earbobs melted down for use in a walking cane (Peoria Journal Transcript 5/7/1933; 7). Such artifacts, when found intact, are often associated with Native American burials, having been used as grave goods.

Using the following information, you are to write a report on the site. The site is located in the town of Rannick, which is situated on the banks of the River Ouse. The site is bounded to the north by the river, to the south by the main road, and to the east and west by the railway tracks. The site is approximately 1.5 km long and 0.5 km wide. The site is currently used as a car park and a storage area for building materials. The site is owned by the Rannick Council. The site is situated in an area of high ground water table. The site is situated in an area of high ground water table. The site is situated in an area of high ground water table.



in 1900 the Professional Engineer reported the discovery of several... immediately north side of the 2001 project was. The project included a... year a 170000... The... the... 170000... American business... used in... goods.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

THE "OLD FORT" AT THE OLD VILLAGE LOCALE

French activity at Peoria is most well documented in a series of land claims made by former residents (and descendants of residents) of the two villages, in the early nineteenth century. The Old Village and the New Village (or La Ville de Maillet) are discussed specifically in a series of claims made to the United States Government (discussed below), and reported by Edward Coles in 1820 (Gales and Seaton 1834; 476-486).

In the testimonies of the claimants of lots in the Old Village, several properties are described as having been located at or near "the *old fort*". To what fort this referred is not made clear: simply that its location was "old" during the late eighteenth century, and that it had probably been abandoned for some time. It has been generally regarded that the fort in question was in fact Fort St. Louis II, and that this seventeenth century locale and the later Old Village locale were one and the same (Alvord 1920, Barr et al. 1988, Emerson & Mansberger 1991).

The origin of the interpretation is unclear. Late nineteenth century historian Charles Ballance made no attempt to link "the old fort" mentioned in the claims to any known historic event. He did learn, from an uncited source, that this fort was "burnt by Indians in 1788" (Ballance 1870; 27). He also described the inadvertent excavation of archaeological remains in the area "150 feet above the [Peoria] pottery".

"The quarter section on which this fort stood has been in the possession of Mr. John Birket for about forty-three years. In 1826, he could trace the lines of said fort by the lower ends of the pickets still being there, and by the earth being higher along the lines of the pickets than elsewhere. Back of this fort was the remains of a smithshop, and near it, in digging up a wild plum tree, he struck into a considerable quantity of metal, mostly iron, among which were some gun-barrels, the whole having the appearance of having been the stock in trade of a gunsmith, that had been long buried there. Among the rest was some silver plate, which had probably been had to inlay gun-stocks by way of ornament. As small change was then very scarce, he [Birket] cut this up into small circular pieces, in imitation of coin, and passed them as such."

(Ballance 1870; 27)

What was actually encountered by Birket is unclear, but the pickets interpreted as fort stockades could have also been the remains of field fencing, or the walls of a *poteaux en terre* dwelling. The silver artifacts were probably personal ornaments, not gun parts, and Birket may have encountered a human burials in the area as well.

By 1920 Clarence Alvord assumed that this fort was indeed Tonti's Fort St. Louis II, making the statement that his readers should refer to land claims in the American State Papers for the "definite location" of Fort St. Louis II (Alvord 1920; 100). This was a reference to Old Village testimonies that mentioned "the old fort". Alvord's assumption has routinely been adopted by later historians.

Primary references to the location of Fort St Louis II are surprisingly few. Pierre Charles Deliette, who constructed the fort with Tonti's engages and soldiers in the winter of 1691-92, described the location simply as at "the end of Lake Pimitoui" (Pease and Werner 1934; 327). Alvord cited unpublished French Archives of the Colonies documents when he described the fort as having been composed of a stockade made with 1800 pickets that surrounded four log buildings used as barracks and a warehouse (Alvord 1920; 100). The full citation for this description can be found in Faye (1945; 38).

While the 1680-81 Fort Crevecoeur (on the east bank of the river) is marked on several early maps of the Illinois Country, the more substantial Fort St Louis II appears to have been specifically noted on only one period map. Delisle's 1703 *Carte du Mexique et de la Floride des Terres Angloises et des Isles Antilles* depicts "Fort St Louis, previously called Fort Crevecoeur", on the east side of the river. This represented either a confusion between the two forts, or an indication that the two sites were in fact one and the same (Figure 8a). If the later were the case, it seems likely that Deliette would have made such a note in his memoirs. The Delisle map was also the source of later copies (Tucker 1942).

Two additional maps portray what may have been Fort St. Louis, on the west bank of the lake. Louvigny's *Carte du fleuve Missisipi avec les noms des peuples que L'habitent*, published in Paris in 1697, depicts a "Fort of the French" along with "Illinois Savages" on the west side of the river (Tucker 1942). This may be a reference to Fort St Louis II (Figure 8b). Hutchins' 1779 *A New Map of the Western Parts of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and North Carolina* (Tucker 1942) depicts the "Old Piorias Fort and Village" on the west bank as well (Figure 8c). This map, believed to have been based on a 1773 trip made by Patrick Kennedy (Esarey 1997), actually documented the ruins of a fort visible that year (see below).

These maps may depict Tonti's Fort St Louis II, which was evidently less historically significant than La Salle's Crevecoeur during the eighteenth century, and thus given less attention by cartographers. It should be noted, however, that a third French fort appears in mid eighteenth century documents pertaining to Peoria (Esarey 1997; 200, Franke 1995; 33).

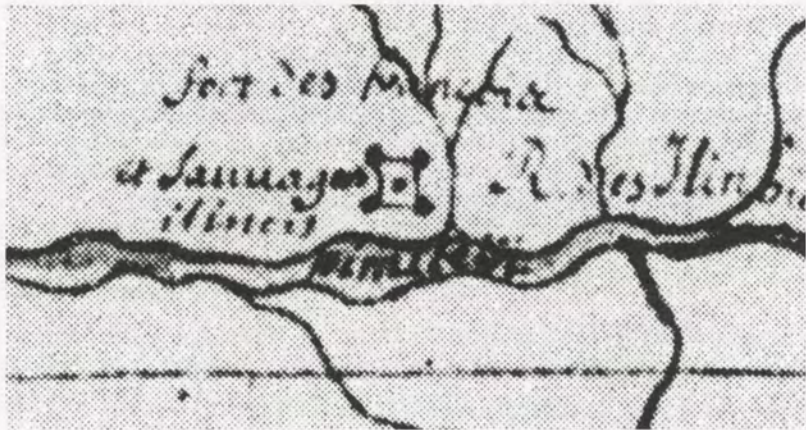


FIGURE 8: Period maps depicting forts on the west bank of Peoria Lake.

A = Delisle's 1703 *Carte du Mexique et de la Floride des Terres Angloises et des Isles Antilles*.

B = Louvigny's 1697 *Carte du fleuve Missisipi avec les noms des peuples que L'habitent*.

C = Hutchins' 1779 *A New Map of the Western Parts of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and North Carolina*

The earliest known reference to this post appears in 1751, when French military correspondence mentions a fort built by a trader called Descaris, a “few years” prior to 1751 (Pease and Jenison 1940; 317). The correspondence does not mention Pimitoui specifically, but states that the post was placed among the Peoria. During this period, the Peoria were based at the lake, and would have wintered in the lower Illinois valley as well (Esarey 1997).

“The Peoria, an Illinois tribe, has several times begged us to establish an officer among them with a little garrison to control the voyageurs from Canada. The late M. de Bertet had let them hope for it and consequently without our assent allowed their exclusive trade to a trader from Canada called Descaris, who built a fort there in the last few years. As it seems that this trader has been reimbursed for his expenditure and as it is proper that all such trading regions should be free, it will be for M. Macarty to decide as to the need of allowing this fort to remain and of keeping a little garrison in it with an officer. In case it is necessary he can give this command to an officer with a small garrison such as he thinks it should be, and require all the voyageurs who wish to go and trade with that tribe to carry rations for that officer and his garrison so that it may cost the king nothing. That the fort may not be a burden on the king, the traders and voyageurs who pass that place will be obliged to make repairs....”
(Pease and Jenison 1940; 317)

Descaris was probably at the Peoria post for less than five years. During this time, he was closely linked with the affairs of the local Native Americans. He was able to sing the Peoria war song, and was described as having “been with them for some time” (Pease and Jenison 1940; 460, 519, 527). A French soldier known as “De Carrie” or “De Kaurey” is known to have married into the Winnebago tribe in Wisconsin. In 1766, Jonathan Carver met De Carrie’s widow, Hopoecaw, who he described as the “queen” of a village at Doty Island, Wisconsin (Parker 1976; 79). Whether De Carrie was the same trader who resided at Peoria in the late 1740s is unknown.

By January of 1752, arrangements were made for a new commander (Adamville) to be sent to Peoria with a small number of soldiers when the weather improved (Pease and Jenison 1940;466). In August, Adamville wrote that, should the Peoria need to take refuge in the fort, he would not be able to defend it as it was “all decayed”. He complained that repairs were difficult, as the woods were “a long way off”. Apparently, voyageurs in charge of repairs also found it difficult to carry pickets “over bad paths”. The post may have been poorly equipped with trade goods, as Adamville found himself “besieged” with requests from the Peoria for “powder, bullets and other things” (Pease and Jenison 1940; 677). In late summer, Adamville reported that the “pickets of the fort were all ruined and that he would be obliged to rebuild it that autumn” (Pease and Jenison 1940; 663).

In 1763 a British merchant ("Mr. Hamburg") mentioned a French fort at "Epic" (Peoria) that was manned by an officer and five men, and was "of very little importance" (Mereness 1916; 363). In December of that year, M. Toulon and his garrison were recalled "from the Peoria", probably referring to the Pimitoui post (Alvord and Carter 1915; 53). In 1768, Captain Forbes recommended the establishment of a British post at "fort Dupice" (Peoria) to prevent French trade in the area (Alvord and Carter 1921; 382). Forbes' remarks would imply that the fort had been abandoned, and not yet reoccupied by British. In 1773, Patrick Kennedy made one of the most detailed accounts of Peoria during this period. He described what appeared to him as the stockades of a fort which had been burned, and houses that remained standing. This would suggest that by 1773, the "Old Fort" at the "Old Village" locale had been abandoned, and that a cluster of houses had been erected at or near the site of that fort.

"About 12 o'clock we got to the old *Pioria Fort* and village on the western shore of the River, and at the southern end of a lake called the *Illinois Lake*; ...We found the stockades of this *Pioria fort* destroyed by fire, but the houses standing. The summit on which the Fort stood, commands a fine prospect of the country to the eastward, and up the lake to the point, where the River comes in at the north end..."

Patrick Kennedy 1773 (Hicks 1904; 128)

Although Fort St. Louis II may have been located at the site of the Old Village, the references to an "old fort" made in the early nineteenth century - 100 years after the abandonment of Tonti's post - may more logically allude to the post that had been standing during the mid 1750s. If such is the case, the location of Fort St. Louis II (and the associated mission) remains unknown.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF THE OLD VILLAGE

Contemporary histories relate that the site of the "old fort" became the location of domestic settlement by the 1730s (Emerson & Mansberger 1991, Jelks & Unsicker 1981, Mulkey 1944). This date is based in part on assumptions that Tonti's fort had been located there, and that domestic trading activity followed the abandonment of the fort and the subsequent reoccupation of the Peoria area after the close of the Fox Wars. A careful examination of these histories, however, finds that the origins of this village are poorly understood, and that assumptions of pre 1750 French settlement there are substantiated by few primary sources.

"At what time the French commenced a settlement at Peoria, has long been a controverted point on which history and tradition are alike defective. Some believe it commenced when La Salle built Fort Creve ceour [sic], in the year 1680, and from that time people continued to reside here. Others fix the permanent settlement of the place about the year 1760; but from an old letter in the possession of a descendant of an early pioneer, as well as traditionary accounts, it is quite evident that it commenced at an early period."
(Matson 1874; 132)

"The Peoria region never regained its early prominence, although a French settlement was maintained there - probably not continuously- until it was uprooted by American militia troops in 1812."
(Mulkey 1944; 312)

"Fort St. Louis II evidently became the nucleus around which a settlement comprising hundreds of people grew up in the 18th century. Archaeological evidence of a settlement of this size could hardly have been completely eradicated....."
(Jelks & Unsicker 1981; 26)

There are few primary primary references to a pre 1750 French domestic occupation of the Old Village site. In 1732, a French military communication noted the request of Peoria Indians for "some Frenchmen" to accompany them on a proposed return to the lake (Rowland & Sanders 1932; 555-556). At the time, the Peoria were residing in the American Bottom. Palm suggests that the Peoria did not go back to Pimitoui until 1733, and that they had with them "neither missionary, soldier, nor French settler..."(Palm 1931; 48). Through the 1730s and 40s, the archival record pertaining to Pimitoui is dark. It is not until the 1750s that references to the locale reappear, in conjunction with Descaris' small trading post .

As for the proposed 1730s date of French domestic occupation of Peoria, the only direct reference is found in a memorial to Congress made primarily by residents of the New Village at Peoria. In the petition, it was stated that the village (unspecified as old or new) was established "about the year 1730" (Carter 1934; 431-432). The memorial, however, was made in 1807, and was designed to emphasize the antiquity of an occupation that would support villagers' claims for compensation. While it is certainly possible that this statement was an honest and accurate recollection of a 77 year occupation of the locale, it is also possible that the statement was an exaggeration made in what was a necessarily argumentative petition.

"Your Memorialists beg leave to observe, that this Village is one of the earliest frontier establishments in the Illinois; and in their opinion, to the interior Settlements of this territory, a principal point of defence - Situated at the discharge of the Illinois Lake - commanding the passage of the river, which has hitherto been the channel of an extensive trade between Canada and Louisiana - Being also a deposit of the furr-trade west of the lakes and North of the Illinois river; and being the yearly rendezvous of Several Nations of Indians--"
(Carter 1934; 431)

It is not until the 1760s when primary documents begin to suggest a domestic occupation of Peoria. Perhaps not coincidentally, these references follow the passing of control of the lands on the east bank of the Mississippi by the British in 1765. This resulted in an exodus of French families from the older villages in the American Bottom to villages on the west bank of the river (i.e. Alvord and Carter 1916), as well as to more remote locales such as Prairie Chien, Wisconsin where the British had yet to establish themselves (deJulio 1996). With this in mind, the settlement of Peoria may have been part of this rearrangement of the cultural landscape of Illinois in the 1760s.

In 1764, Commandant St. Ange at Fort DeChartres mentioned the theft of horses and slaves from French residents at Peoria (Alvord and Carter 1915; 293). Matson stated that officials from Fort DeChartres made a trip to Peoria in 1765 to notify "the people" that they were British subjects (Matson 1882; 227). In 1769, Father Meurin implied that there were Catholics under his care at Peoria (Alvord & Carter 1921; 554). In 1776 Pierre de Beuro, a trader, arrived at Peoria from Cahokia, where he clerked at a "trading house" (Matson 1882; 227). In 1777, Rocheblave wrote of the Illinois River, and possibly Peoria, that there were "only a few Canadians who do not litigate because they own nothing" (Mason 1890; 262). Most references that post date the 1778 founding of La Ville de Maillet are associated with that locale.

The Old Village appears to have been abandoned for a period during the revolutionary war. Several recollections contained in the testimonies for land claims state that various residents abandoned the village during 1781 and 1782, due to "apprehension of Indian hostility", and that they returned after the peace of 1783 (Gales and Seaton 1834; 476).

One post 1778 reference appears to mention both the old and new villages. In May of 1790, Hugh Heward encountered Louis Chatellereau "on the west side" of the lake. Chatellereau is thought to have been affiliated with the property tested in 2001 (discussed below). Heward then described "the Village of the Piorias" that was at "the south side" of the lake.

"on the West of this small Lake is settled one of the name Chatterou.
at the Villiage of the Piorias at the South Side of this small Lake are
Seven French settled among the Indians Augustin Fecto J. Bt Amelin
Lapierre a Smith, Capt Mye, Deneau, & Miney & Parrant & Oullett
Engages, & Diffon passed & a little farther boiled a kettle for the Night
& put a Drift in the porigue."

(Hugh Heward 1790, in Quaife 1928; 358-359)

From Heward's remarks, it would seem that the Chatellereau farm may have become the center of the Old Village by 1790. Further, even at this late date, the New Village may have appeared to some visitors as primarily an Indian settlement. The same year, however, Lieutenant John Armstrong described the village as "a French trading place" (Storm 1944; 54).

Aside from the farm of Louis Chatellereau, one of the latest references to activity at the site of the Old Village appears in land claims testimonies, which stated that Augustine Fiailteau operated a blacksmith shop there in 1791. His shop was located on Claim/Lot 21, immediately to the north of the Chatellereau lot, and very near the 2001 project area (Gales and Seaton 1834; 480).

LAND CLAIMS AT THE OLD VILLAGE

Residents of the French villages at Peoria first attempted to claim land grants from the United States Government under that ancient claims acts that allowed for land grants to heads of families, militia men, and those who had improved land prior to 1783. The first Peoria claims were apparently made prior to 1806, but were not immediately granted, due to Peoria's location outside of Kaskaskia treaty boundaries and the vague descriptions of individual property boundaries (Gales and Seaton 1834; 285-286).

McCulloch (1902) summarized these original claims, which were associated with both the old and new villages of Peoria. At least five individuals or heads of families made claims associated with the Old Village. The earliest improvements made at this locale (mentioned in these claims) were those made by Antoine St. Francois, who had cultivated a small field of corn in 1765.

Jean B. Parent had a house built and cultivated a field "near the old fort" in 1780. Jean Baptiste Shoenberger (aka St. Jean), made a claim based on improvements made near the old fort at Peoria prior to 1783. Louis Chatellereau claimed to have cultivated 40 acres, constructed a house, built a horse mill, and made other improvements prior to 1783 (McCulloch 1902; 40-43).

In the 1807 memorial to congress, twenty-three inhabitants of "the Illinois and village of Pioria" asked congress to reconsider the land claims made previously. The residents of Peoria apparently received no action on their claims until 1820, when Edward Coles, registrar at the Edwardsville Land Office, issued a report to congress regarding the French claims at Peoria. In his report, he listed 70 claims related to both the old and new villages. Support for these claims was also included, and consisted of testimonies made by various residents and their descendants (Gales and Seaton 1834; 476-486).

Coles described the inhabitants of Peoria as "generally Indian traders, hunters, and voyagers", who had formed "a link of connexion [sic] between the French residing on the waters of the great lakes and the Mississippi river" (Gales and Seaton 1834; 476). He also stated that the first house to be built in the New Village was erected in 1778 or 1779, and that the Old Village had been "entirely abandoned" by 1796 or 1797 in favor of the New Village locale. The new location was considered more

healthy and supplied with better water. Coles also described the difficulties in establishing the validity of claims that were based on villages that were “never formally laid out.” He sketched the approximate layout of the New Village with its streets and lots, but he submitted no such sketch of the Old Village.

It was not until 1837 that the land office made official reconstructed surveys of the old and new villages (Figure 9). That year, surveyors were sent to the sites, sometimes accompanied by the descendants of former residents. The result was a series of land office documents, including original and reworked survey logs, plats of individual lot claims, and the reconstructed village plats anchored to section lines. From the literature, it would appear that most of these documents have been ignored since Rennick’s initial work in the 1930s. With regards to the Old Village, there is also a vague reference in the surveyors’ notes to a map (perhaps similar to the sketch of the New Village made by Coles), that was used to orient the surveys.

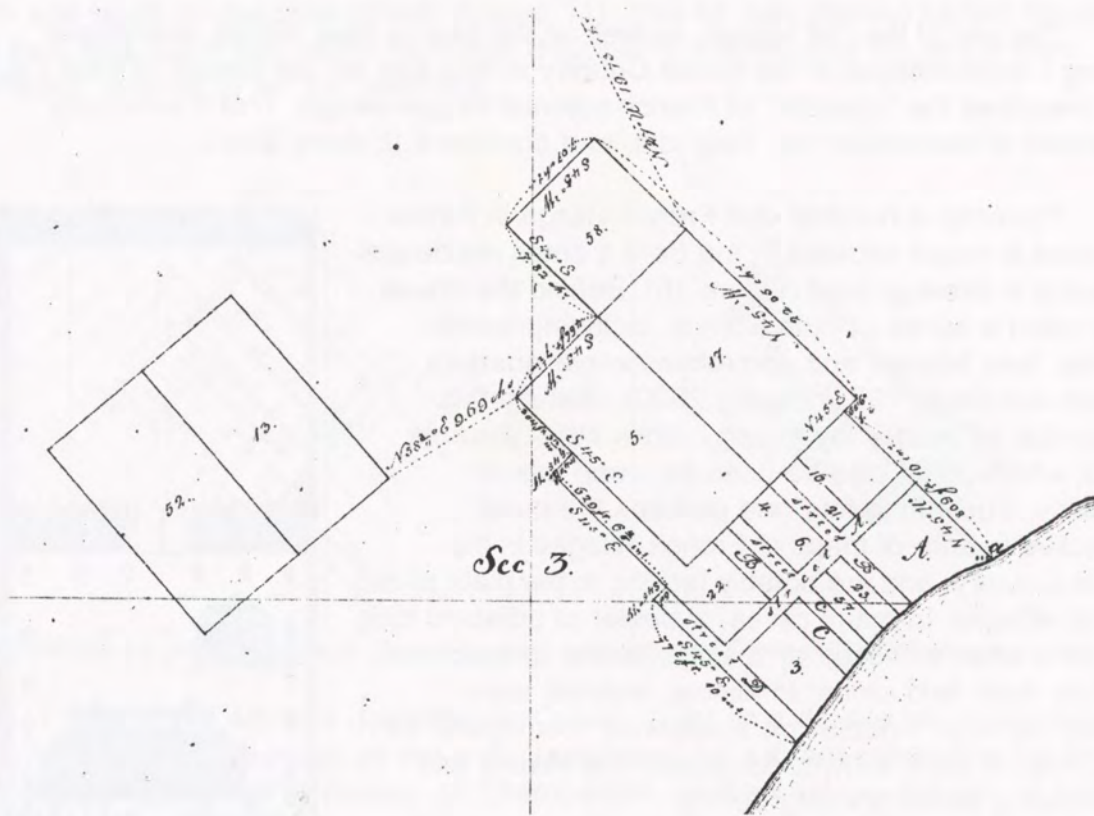


FIGURE 9: 1837 Government Land Office resurveyed plat of the Old Village.

As neither village was formally platted, the lots and streets that were resurveyed in 1837 were posthumous interpretations of what would have originally been (particularly in the case of the Old Village) a cluster of improvements and lot lines that had developed over decades, and which may have been altered and realigned during the life of the settlement.

THE NATURE OF THE OLD VILLAGE PLAT

The layout of the Old Village, as interpreted by the General Land Office in 1837, consisted of ten rectangular residential lots fronting a street that paralleled the river. Behind the western row of lots, lay three large “out lots” and two additional lots situated away from the main block of the village. Three cross streets are also depicted, ending at river bank on the east, and at the out lots on the west.

The plat of the Old Village, as well as the nearby New Village, are unique among French villages in the Illinois Country in that they do not consist of what Ekberg has described the “tripartite” of French colonial village design. This traditionally consisted of residential lots, long lots, and commons (Ekberg 2000).

Typically, a resident of a French village in Illinois occupied a house situated in the front a small residential lot facing a street or road (Figure 10). Behind the house were often a series of outbuildings, including barns, stables, hen houses and sometimes slave quarters (Brown and Dean 1977, Ekberg 2000). Behind this residential lot usually lay a long narrow strip of arable lands, which could also be used for wood lots or orchards. Such “long lots” are perhaps the most distinctive feature of maps of French villages in the Illinois Country, and are notably lacking in the plats of the Peoria villages. In many cases, a cluster of adjacent long lots were often enclosed by a single fence, to keep farm animals from field crops. In Illinois, animals were sometimes kept together on a separate “commons” for pasturing, or were allowed to wander the streets and surrounding lands (Ekberg 2000).

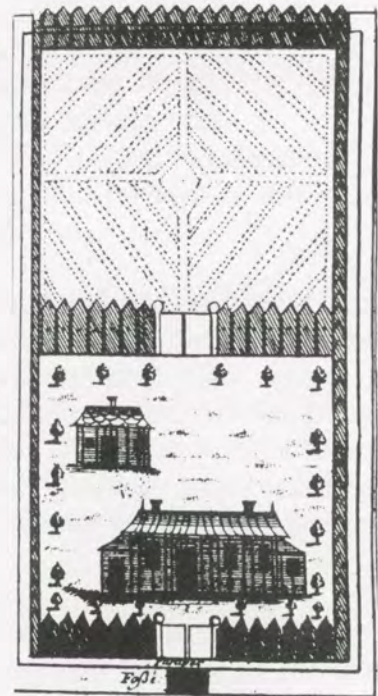


FIGURE 10
Montigny's 1753 depiction of French colonial residential complex.

At the Old Village, the residential lots were backed by three “out lots” which differ from the traditional long lots used for cultivation. Ekberg describes out lots as a late eighteenth century development, functioning as multipurpose properties, and reflecting changes in the traditional agricultural and land ownership practices (2001; 109). In most cases, out lots were located away from the nucleated village itself, as are two such lots at the Old Village. At Peoria, even those lots connected directly to the residential lots are described by the land office as “out lots”, and claims testimonies suggest that they were used primarily for cultivation.

LAND CLAIMS 4 & 6 AT THE OLD VILLAGE

Based on the overlay of the 1837 GLO claims surveys onto the modern topographic map, the 2001 project area was situated on a double wide residential lot fronting the main street running northeasterly through the village, and bounded on the north and south by two side streets (Figure 11). This lot was claimed by two families, and thus was given two claims numbers (Number 4 and Number 6), which were eventually referred to as “lot” numbers.

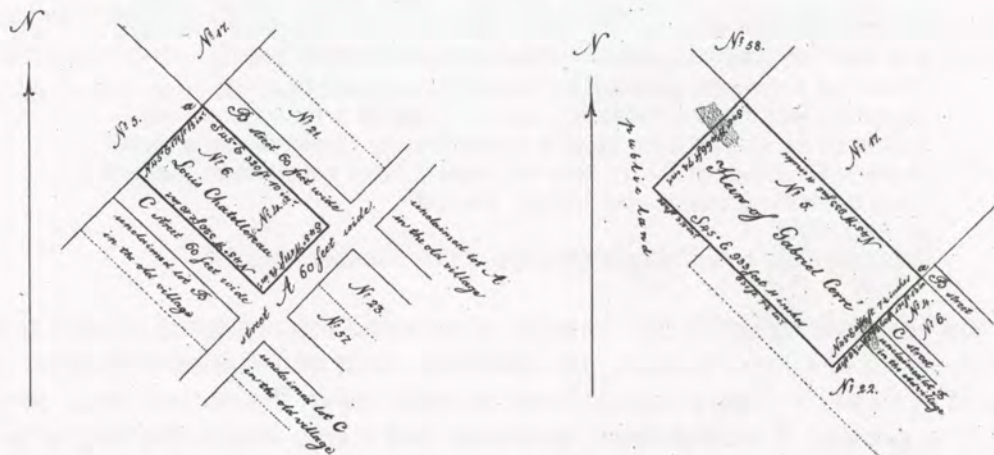


FIGURE 11: 1837 surveys of Claim 6 (project area lot), and Claim 5 (Chatellereau's out lot).

Claim or Lot 4/6 was described in Coles' report as a double lot, encompassing 54898 square feet, bounded on the north (northeast) by a street separating it from a lot occupied by Pierre LaVassieur dit Chamberlain; on the east (southeast) by a street separating it from the lot of John Baptist Emelin; on the south (southwest) by a street separating it from the lots of “Parent and Sibinger”; and on the west (northwest) by “cultivated lands of the old village of Peoria” (Gales and Seaton 1834; 477). The street marking the eastern boundary of the lot was probably the principal artery through the village, and today follows closely the alignment of Adams Street.

Lot 4/6 was claimed both by Louis Chatellereau junior and the heirs of Gabriel Cerre. Testimonies stated that Louis Chatellereau senior built a house and cultivated the lot in 1778, and that he occupied the lot until his death (in 1795). After Chatellereau's death, the lot was briefly occupied by Marie Josephe Tieriereau, until the property was sold by the Chatellereau estate to Gabriel Cerre. Cerre was an influential merchant at St. Louis, and was originally from Montreal (Primm 1990; 49).

Lot 5, adjacent to the western boundary of Lot 4/6 was also owned by Chatellereau during the late eighteenth century. The property was described by the land office as a ten acre "out lot" and cultivated field adjacent to the Old Village. It was claimed by the heirs of Gabriel Cerre, but had been cultivated by Chatellereau "as early as 1780". After his death, it too was described as occupied by Marie Josephe Tieriereau. Like the residential lot, the lot was sold to Cerre.

In the spring of 1837, the land office survey visited Lot 4/6 what would become the 2001 archaeological project area:

"Lot No. 4 in the old Village of Peoria being also lot 6 -
Survey of lot No 4 in the old village in the name of the heirs of Gabriel Cerre under Louis Chatellereau Pascal L Cerre being present I first, not having any testimony but that contained in the Registers Report and the map which has been furnished me marked D having measured across the small place formerly improved of which improvements the old traces are distinctly visible & having carefully examined as well as I am able all the testimony I have driven a picket at the N.E. corner of the lot, and at present have no stone to make a more permanent monument corner, thence"

22 April 1837

(USGLO Field notes, Illinois Surveys, 1837, Number 455; 17)

At the neighboring Lot 5, the surveyor also noted the presence of an a cultivated "enclosure", which is shown crossing the east and west boundaries of that lot on the finished plat of Claim 5. This enclosure was located within the project area, and its age in 1837 is unclear. It seems likely, however, that it was simply the field of an American farmer: perhaps that of John Birket, who had occupied the land on which the village stood as early as the 1820s. The surveyor also often noted the presence of apple trees in the area: perhaps the remnant of an orchard once kept by the residents of the Old Village.

LOUIS CHATELLEREAU

Although few archival records pertaining to the residents of the Old Village are known, the estate of Louis Chatellereau is better documented, due to the presence of a probate record and a mortgage agreement found at the Byron Lewis Historical Library in Vincennes, Indiana and transcribed by Judith Franke and Richard Day.

In 1792, Chatellereau mortgaged his farm at "Aux Pes" to St. Louis merchant Gabriel Cerre, owing him 9,901 livres, 10 sols, and 6 deniers in peltry, merchandise, and "obligations". The mortgaged farm included a "mill" (probably a horse drawn flour mill), and a "red slave" named Point Sable. Chatellereau was evidently illiterate, and signed with a mark. Chatellereau also purchased from Cerre 56 lbs of salt, six sickles and "1 barrel of rum in 5 leather bottles". He paid toward the total in peltry in July of 1792 and September of 1793.

Chatellereau died in July of 1795. His estate included three horses, 25 head of cattle and oxen, and seven hogs. He also had 56 bushels of wheat and 500 pounds flour on hand, probably produced at his mill. His estate included "1 Negro fellow", perhaps replacing the "red slave" he owned three years earlier.

Chatellereau appears to have been actively involved in the fur trade, as well as farming. At his death he owed wages to nine men for their work as *engages*, and one as a clerk. He also owned a large quantity of tobacco (80 pounds), which may have been used in the fur trade.

Of interest to archaeologists, most of the food service vessels described in the inventory of Chatellereau's household are described as tin, pewter or wood. Only three ceramic items ("3 earthen milk pots") are listed. There are also a number of metallic cooking vessels listed in the inventory (see Appendix).

3. FIELDWORK

Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, areas of highest probability for intact eighteenth century deposits (within the proposed project area as of October 2001) were defined through the use of the revised Old Village survey, the 1902 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, and an examination of the present day neighborhood. This identified Block 125 of Birket's Addition as an area of high probability, due to the presence of residential lots on the 1837 plat, and the proximity of undamaged yard areas to what was originally the west side of the main street through the French village. Block 125 is located between Mary and Cornhill streets, fronting Adams Street on the west (Figures 12 and 13).

Initially, properties owned by the O'Brien Steel company were examined (Figure 14). This included three lots on Block 125, as well as three lots on Block 131 to the north. Testing on the Block 131 properties encountered preserved subsoil, but no pre 1870 deposits. Testing on the Block 125 lots (1601, 1603 and 1607 Adams Street: 1902 Sanborn addresses) encountered several late nineteenth century house foundations, two late nineteenth century privy features, and Feature 1, which was interpreted as a possible late eighteenth century wall trench fence line.

Based on these results, additional lots on Block 125 were tested, following permission granted by the City of Peoria and private land owners. Tests on 1609 and 1615 Adams Street revealed more late nineteenth century deposits, additional segments of the Feature 1 fence line, and Feature 2, a small wall trench structure.

Phase Two testing of the project area involved the use of a backhoe (equipped with a three foot wide smooth blade bucket), to remove topsoil and expose the clay subsoil. Mechanical stripping was conducted in approximately five inch levels. Artifacts exposed during each pass were examined, and backdirt from the trenches was also monitored for debris. Had zones of pre-1850 material had been encountered, mechanical stripping would have been temporarily halted in favor of hand excavated test units, but this did not prove to be necessary.

Soils on the lots between Mary and Cornhill Streets were found to be composed of a very dark silty loam topsoil which contained large quantities late nineteenth and early twentieth century domestic and demolition debris, to a depth of 10-12 inches. When preserved, topsoils at a depth 10-16 inches below surface became lighter, siltier, more compact and generally less contaminated by late debris. This is believed to be an intact A-B transitional soil. A light brown clay subsoil was encountered at approximately 13-17 inches below surface. This clay overlaid a natural lens of gravel, which was encountered at varying depths, approximately 19 to 28 inches below modern grade.

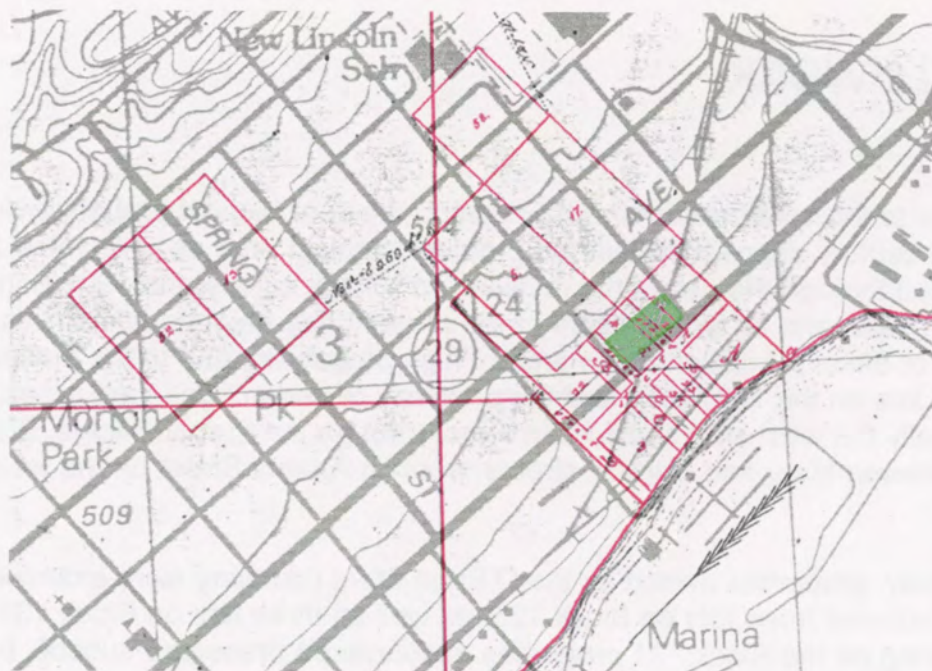


FIGURE 12: Overlay of 1837 Old Village plat (red) and 2001 project area (green) on modern topographical map.

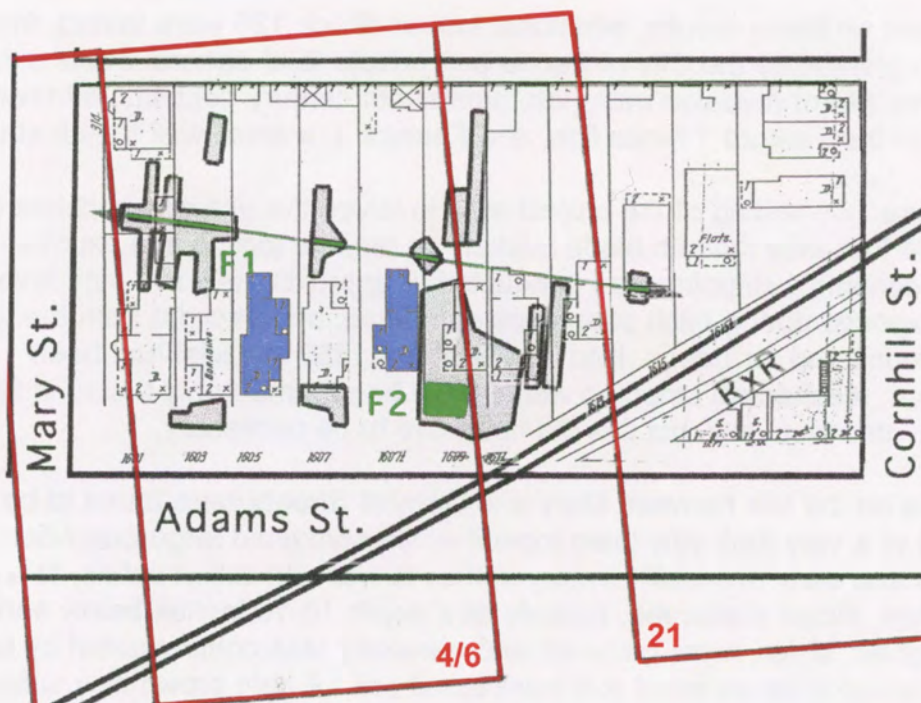


FIGURE 13: 2001 project area, showing modern streets, 1903 Sanborn structures, excavation blocks (gray), standing structures (blue), features (green), and 1837 lot lines (red).



FIGURE 14: View of 1601/1603 Adams (1902 Sanborn addresses).

The surface of the subsoil was shovel scraped. When features were encountered, test trenches (which were originally three feet wide) were expanded, to create block excavations. Post 1860 features were mapped in plan, but not excavated, and post 1860 artifacts were not collected. The fill of Feature 1 was screened through 1/4 inch wire mesh, and the fill of Feature 2 was collected as a large floatation sample. Backhoe work was accomplished in four days, and hand excavation of features in five days.

FEATURE ONE

Feature One is interpreted as a long wall trench, into which upright logs were once placed, and which was used to enclose an agricultural field or mark a lot boundary (Figure 15).

The feature was encountered in the first backhoe trench, at approximately one foot below modern ground surface. It appeared as a very faint, silty stain in the dry clay subsoil. The feature crossed both of the adjacent vacant city lots that were initially tested, and thus was found to be over 60 long. The feature was interrupted on the south by Mary Street, and the back yard of an occupied lot immediately on the north. The next lot north was accessible for excavations, and the trench feature was encountered there as well. Ultimately, the feature was found to cross at least nine city lots, and measured over 270 feet long.

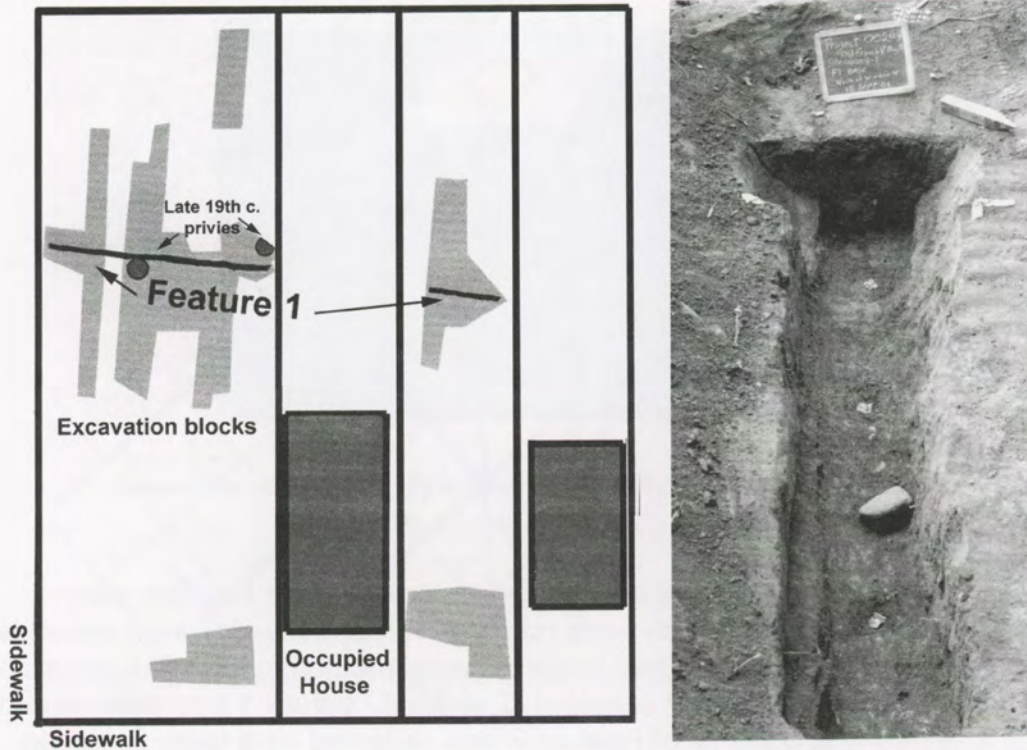
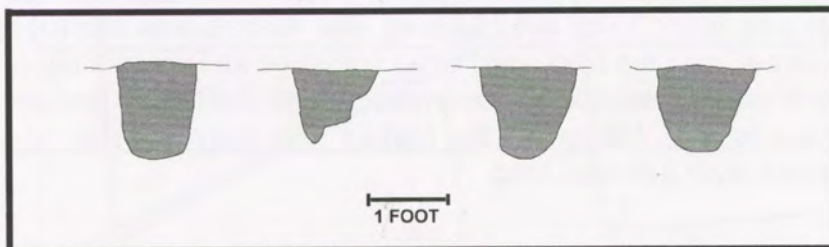


FIGURE 15: a = Plan map of Feature 1 excavation blocks. 1601/1603 Adams Street.
 b = Excavation view of Feature 1 segment, showing post impressions and limestone.

The width of the Feature 1 trench was approximately one foot, and this width varied slightly along the length of the feature. In some areas, the width of the trench approached sixteen inches when first defined. In profile, the feature appeared as a steep walled, U-shaped excavation (Figure 16). The trench extended approximately 14 inches below scraped surface, or 28 inches below modern grade. The base of the trench corresponded with the top of a natural layer of gravel, which would have been difficult to penetrate with shovels or hoes.



FEATURE 16: Selected profiles of Feature 1.

Evidence of posts was encountered sporadically along the length of the trench. This consisted of slight impressions into the gravel natural lens. The impressions were round, and ranged from six to ten inches in diameter. In two instances, limestone cobbles were found in association with the posts, and appear to have served as chinking stones used to stabilize posts. These stones appeared to have rolled into the post impression after the post had been pulled (Figures 15 b, 17).

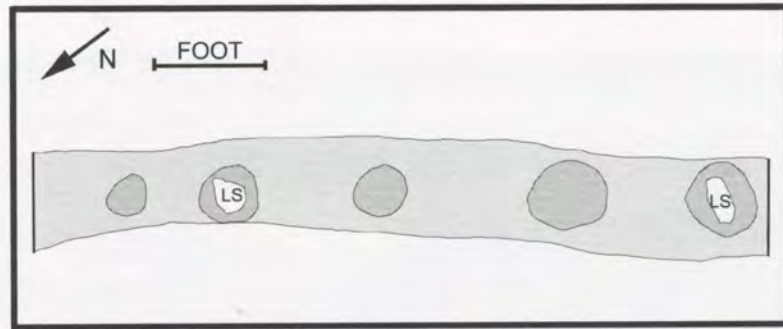


FIGURE 17: Plan of Feature 1 segment, showing posts and limestones.

In the segment of the feature where evidence of post impressions was best preserved, the trench had been more difficult to define in plan, and the east wall of the feature was more sloped in places. This may suggest that portions of the fence had been repaired or replaced, resulting in wider, more disturbed profiles, better preserved post molds, and the presence of chinking stones.

The orientation of Feature 1 differs from the orientation of lot lines on the 1837 reconstructed plat. This may reflect changes in orientation of various improvements over time, or perhaps more likely, error in the resurvey of lot lines nearly forty years after the abandonment of the village.

Very little cultural debris was found in the fill of the trench. If the feature did indeed function as a field boundary, there may have been little or no domestic midden development in the immediate area. A fragmentary mammal bone and several chert flakes were recovered from the fill.

Fences and enclosures constructed of upright posts were common in French Illinois. Such fences were used to protect crops from foraging domestic animals, which were usually allowed to roam freely. Such fences could also be used to enclose lots and yard areas. Henry Brackenridge remembered lots in the village of Ste. Genevieve (during the late eighteenth century) as having been enclosed by cedar pickets eight to ten inches in diameter and six feet high (Ekberg 2001; 52). Such a fence could have been supported by the Feature 1 trench. A similar fence line, interpreted as a possible lot boundary, was encountered at the Ghost Horse Site at the village of Chartres in the American Bottom (Gums and Witty 2000).

FEATURE 2

Feature 2 consisted of the wall trench outline of a small rectangular structure. The structure measured roughly 13 by 20 feet, and appears to have been divided into two nearly equal sized rooms (Figure 18).

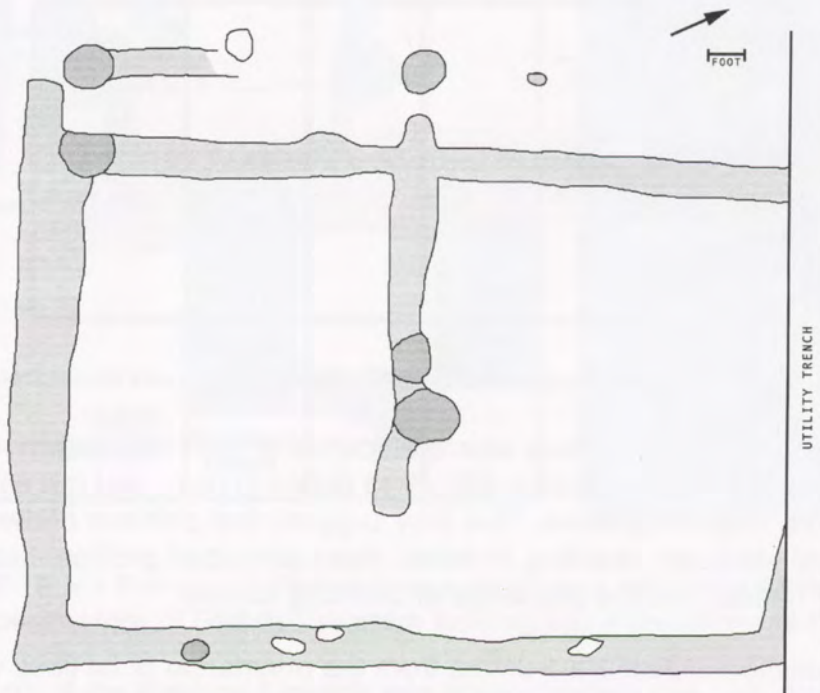


FIGURE 18: Plan view of the Feature 2 structure.

Feature 2 was composed of outer wall trenches which measured roughly 12 inches wide and extended between five and nine inches below a sloping scraped surface. Considering the incline of the scraped subsoil surface, the base of the trenches varied from 16 to 26 inches below modern grade. Like Feature 1, these wall trenches appeared to have intentionally terminated at contact with the natural gravel lens. The southern wall trench of the structure appeared wider when mapped in plan, but this was found to have been caused by root disturbance. The northern wall of the structure was mostly disturbed by a modern utility trench.

Observation of post impressions was more difficult in Feature 2, and few could be confidently identified. One large corner post, extending three inches deeper than the wall trench in which it was seated, was found in the southwest corner of the building. The upper portion of the fill of the trenches produced a small number of well preserved animal bones (found on the north side of the structure), as well as five six-inch limestones, four of which were burnt.

The rectangular structure was divided by a central wall trench. This trench stopped approximately three feet short of the east wall of the building, presumably allowing for a doorway between the rooms. No such gaps were found in the exterior walls of the structure. The central wall trench was found to be more shallow than the exterior walls, and terminated in large two round post holes. The largest of the two posts was situated near the center of the building, was 18 inches wide, and extended seven inches below scraped surface.



FIGURE 19: Feature 2 after excavation (looking east).

Evidence of a wall trench foundation for a *gallery* (open exterior porch) or narrow addition was found on the west wall of the building. Composed of a shallow wall trench a large post, the wall had been partially damaged by modern disturbance. This wall trench was significantly more shallow than the exterior walls of the building, extending to a maximum depth below scraped surface of only two inches. This addition was best preserved at its south end.

No evidence for a fireplace footing was encountered, although it is felt that any prepared limestone footing or burnt surface would have been situated at or just below original ground surface. This original surface would have been destroyed by the late nineteenth century development of the neighborhood.

Few artifacts were recovered from the wall trenches of Feature 2. These included a small number of chert flakes, a small amount burnt and unburnt limestone, animal bone, a hand forged nail, a brass straight pin, and several fragments of sun baked *bousillage*, or clay used in to fill gaps between the vertical logs of the structure.

Feature 2 at the Old Village is only the fifth French wall trench domestic structure to be tested archaeologically in Illinois. Wall trench dwellings have been investigated at the towns of Cahokia (Gums 1988, 1993), Prairie du Rocher (Safrain 1988) and Chartres (Gums and Whitty 2001). In present day Missouri, a wall trench dwelling was encountered at the Krelich Site, south of Ste. Genevieve (Trimble et al. 1991). Only those at Chartres (the Ghost Horse Site) and at the Krelich Site were fully exposed.

At the Ghost Horse Site, a rectangular structure measuring 20 by 28 feet, was encountered (Figure 20b). The building was divided into two rooms, and evidence of possible galleries or additions was noted. The structure was also equipped with a cellar, situated outside of the limits of the wall trenches, and presumably beneath a *poteaux sur sole* addition. Few artifacts were associated with fill of the wall trenches, although these were not excavated in their entirety. Notably, however, of the 98 nail fragments recovered from the feature, 74 were found in the fill of the cellar. Little evidence of a hearth was found to be preserved.

The structure at the Krelich Site was also a rectangular *poteaux en terre* building, measuring approximately 22 by 28 feet (Figure 20c). Wall trenches were approximately 18 inches wide, and extended slightly over one foot below base of plowzone. Evidence of trenches associated with a possible gallery was encountered at one corner of the structure. Like Feature 2 at Peoria, fragments of limestone were found periodically at the base of the wall trenches, and were interpreted as having been used to stabilize the vertical posts. The structure at Krelich was also equipped with a pit cellar, situated outside of the limits of the wall trenches, and presumably located beneath a *poteaux sur sole* addition. A scatter of limestone at one end of the structure was interpreted as the remains of a demolished fireplace and chimney.

A close compliment to Feature 2 at the Old Village is Feature 31 at Fort Michilimackinac in northern Michigan (Maxwell & Binford 1961; 79-81). This small dwelling measured approximately 20.5 by 17.5 feet, with wall trenches containing eight to ten inch posts that extended to a depth of 17 inches (Figure 20d). Two spaces for exterior doorways were encountered, both measuring approximately 3.5 feet wide. The house was not divided. Evidence of a fireplace consisted of an area of burnt sand and charcoal. The structure is believed to have been constructed after 1734, and abandoned prior to 1750. Interestingly, the only ceramic artifacts that could be confidently associated with the French occupation of the structure were two English white salt glazed sherds and two Canton porcelain sherds.

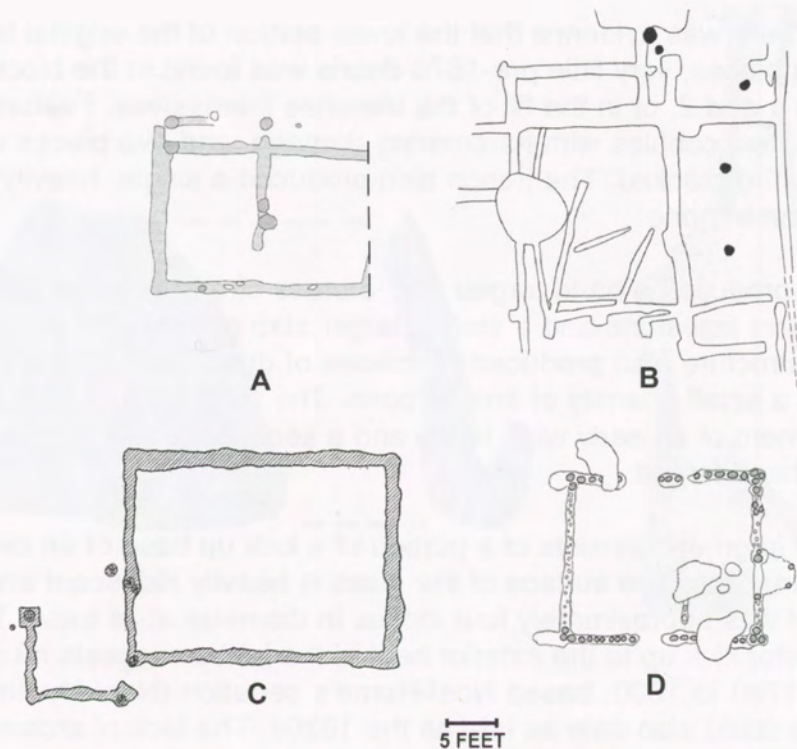


FIGURE 20: Selected *porteaux en terre* house features.
 A = Old Village Peoria, B = Ghost Horse, C = Krelich, D = Fort Michilimackinac.

FEATURES 3 & 4

Two small features that may have been affiliated with the eighteenth century occupation of Feature 2 were found immediately behind the structure. In plan they appeared as small ovoid pits, but based on their profiles both features appear to have been posts. These were approximately one foot wide, and extended less than six inches below scraped surface. No artifacts were recovered from the fill of Features 3 and 4, and their age and function is unknown.

ARTIFACTS

Although there was evidence that the lower portion of the original topsoil of the site was intact in places, very little pre-1870 debris was found in the block excavations around Features 1 and 2, or in the fill of the trenches themselves. Feature 1 produced four chert flakes, two cobbles with hammering damage, and five pieces of igneous rock that may be fire cracked. The trench also produced a single, heavily decomposed unidentified mammal bone.

Feature 2 produced a hand forged nail, a brass straight pin, six chert flakes, four pieces of burnt limestone and a single, larger slab of unburnt limestone. The wall trenches of the structure also produced six pieces of dried mud chinking (or *bousillage*), and a small quantity of animal bone. The soils adjacent to Feature 2 produced a fragment of an early wine bottle and a second, heavily corroded nail that may have been hand forged .

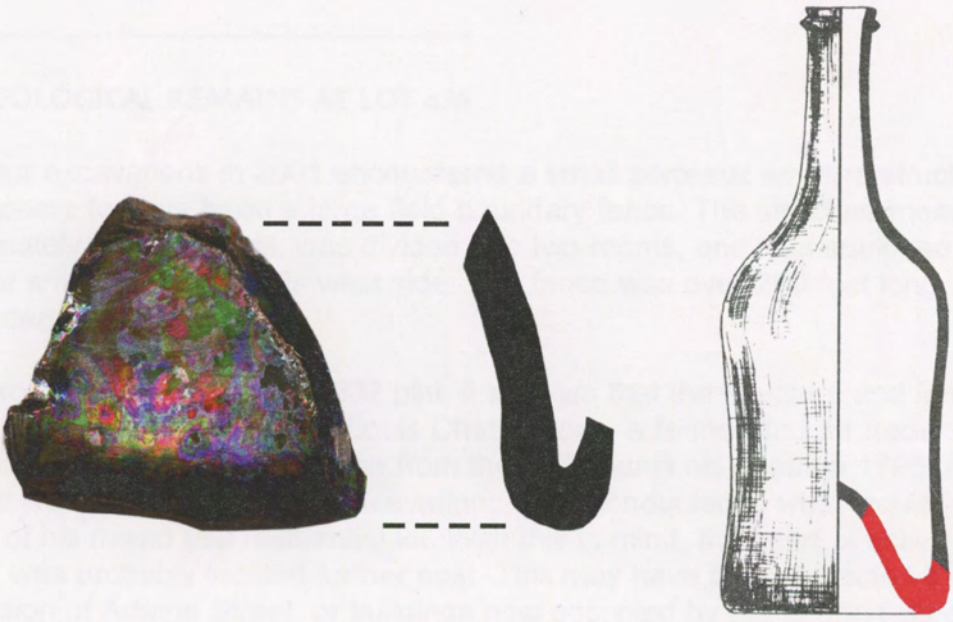
The bottle fragment consists of a portion of a kick up base of an olive green wine bottle (Figure 18a). The surface of the glass is heavily iridescent and slightly pitted. The bottle was approximately four inches in diameter at its base. The angle between the interior kick up to the exterior heel of the bottle suggests roughly a date of manufacture of 1780 to 1800, based Noel-Hume's seriation (Noel-Hume 1970; 68), but such a bottle could also date as late as the 1820s. The lack of archaeological or archival evidence of an early nineteenth century occupation of the tested area also supports a late eighteenth century date for the small bottle fragment.

Faunal remains from Feature Two were analyzed by Shane Vanderford and Dr. Terrance Martin. The small sample was found to include a fragment of a deer humerus and a complete bison calcaneus (Figure 18b). Three small cut marks are present on the calcaneus. Having likely been deposited after 1780, the Old Village archaeological context for the bison specimen is one of the latest known in Illinois (Terrance Martin, personal communication).

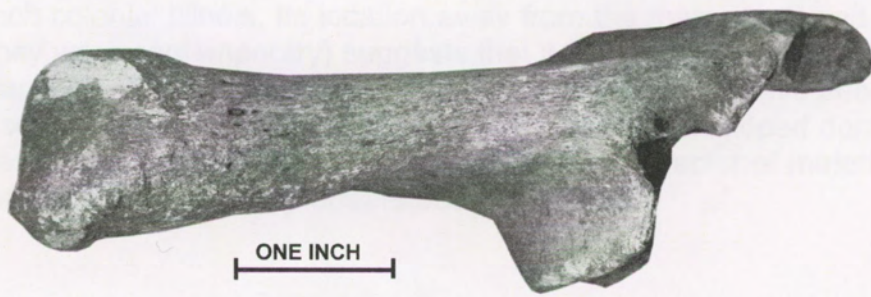
3. SUMMARY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AT LOT 416

The excavations in 1971 uncovered a small concrete structure, and what appeared to be a wine bottle. The bottle was found approximately 10 feet from the structure. The bottle was a dark glass bottle with a long neck. The bottle was found with a red stain on the lower part of the body. The red stain was identified as a wine bottle kick-up fragment. The fragment was a small, dark, irregularly shaped piece of glass. The fragment was found in the same area as the bottle. The fragment was identified as a wine bottle kick-up fragment. The fragment was a small, dark, irregularly shaped piece of glass. The fragment was found in the same area as the bottle. The fragment was identified as a wine bottle kick-up fragment.



The bottle was found in a shallow trench. The trench was approximately 10 feet long and 2 feet wide. The bottle was found in the center of the trench. The bottle was found in the same area as the fragment. The bottle was found in the same area as the fragment. The bottle was found in the same area as the fragment.



THE OLD VILLAGE OF POUA

The old village of Poua was a small settlement. The village was located in a shallow trench. The village was approximately 10 feet long and 2 feet wide. The village was found in the same area as the bottle and the fragment. The village was found in the same area as the bottle and the fragment. The village was found in the same area as the bottle and the fragment.

FIGURE 21: Wine bottle kick-up fragment (actual size) and bison calcaneus.

The old village of Poua was a small settlement. The village was located in a shallow trench. The village was approximately 10 feet long and 2 feet wide. The village was found in the same area as the bottle and the fragment. The village was found in the same area as the bottle and the fragment. The village was found in the same area as the bottle and the fragment.

ARTIFACTS

Although there was evidence that the lower portion of the original wall of the site was intact in 1870, very little pre-1870 debris was found in the back excavations around Features 1 and 2 or in the fill of the trenches themselves. Feature 1 produced four chert flakes, two cobble with hammering damage, and five pieces of granitic rock that may be identified. The trench also produced a single heavily decomposed/undecayed iron nail.

Feature 2 produced a hand forged iron spike, a brass spike, a brass nail, three pieces of burnt limestone and a small, larger slab of limestone. The wall trenches of the structure also produced 11 pieces of dry bone (possibly deer or small mammal) and a small quantity of animal bone. The trench also produced a fragment of a heavy iron bolt and a section of a lead pipe that may have been for a stove.

The glass fragment consists of a portion of a kick up base of an olive green wine bottle. The surface of the glass is heavily abraded and slightly pitted. The rim is flat, is approximately four inches in diameter at its base. The angle between the interior kick up to the exterior face of the bottle suggests roughly a date of manufacture of 1750 to 1800, based on the date of the earliest glass bottle (1770, 60), but such a bottle could also date as late as the 1820s. The lack of archaeological or archival evidence of a nineteenth century occupation of the land area also supports a date of 1750 to 1800 for the glass bottle.

Faded remains of a leaded glass window pane were recovered and identified by Terrance Martin. The structure was built with a leaded glass window pane that has a complete set of leaded glass panes. The panes are present on the ceiling of the structure. The leaded glass panes are dated after 1750. The leaded glass panes are dated after 1750. The leaded glass panes are dated after 1750. The leaded glass panes are dated after 1750. (Terrance Martin, personal communication).

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3. SUMMARY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AT LOT 4/6

Our excavations in 2001 encountered a small *poteaux en terre* structure, and what appears to have been a large field boundary fence. The structure measured approximately 13 by 20 feet, was divided into two rooms, and was equipped with a gallery or small addition on its west side. The fence was over 280 feet long, and may have undergone repairs.

From the overlay of the 1837 plat, it appears that the structure and fence were situated on land once owned by Louis Chatellereau, a farmer and fur trader. Chatellereau lived at the Old village from the 1770s until his death in 1795. From that survey, it would appear that our excavations were conducted in what would have been the rear of his mixed use residential lot. With this in mind, the heart of activity on this property was probably located further east. This may have been impacted by the construction of Adams Street, or buildings now occupied by the O'Brien Steel Company.

The Feature 2 structure probably served as a dwelling, but it was small for houses in French colonial Illinois. Its location away from the main street and near a field fence (if they were contemporary) suggests that it may have functioned as a dwelling for a farm hand, laborer, or slave. With this in mind, it may have been occupied only seasonally. This may explain the lack of a well developed domestic midden in the area, but it should be remembered that the character of material culture consumption at this locale is poorly understood.

THE OLD VILLAGE OF PEORIA

Archival evidence suggests that the Old Village of Peoria, as a familiar, organized French colonial village, was probably formed in the 1760s. This may perhaps have been a response to the British occupation of the villages in the American Bottom. Peoria's more remote position may have made it attractive under these circumstances. In this form, the village lasted about 30 years, and was probably abandoned before 1800.

If a "French village" in the Illinois Country is defined as a cluster of traditional houses and farms situated on lots with known or recorded boundaries, then the Old Village of Peoria was a small and short term example of such a community. However, if the definition of such a village is broadened to include less formal, hybridized,

“Metis” type settlements reflecting a greater degree of aboriginal influence, then the settlements at Peoria can probably be regarded as much older.

During its earliest years (before 1760), this community would not have resembled a transplanted European agricultural community, such as those in the American Bottom. Instead, this settlement may have appeared more similar to a traditional, Native American seasonal village. The aboriginal population here (first composed primarily of Peoria, and then of Potowatomi), was probably a significant one throughout most of the eighteenth century. Indeed, some visitors regarded Peoria as an Indian locale as late as 1790. Such a community would have been composed primarily of residents of Native American descent, but also of males of French ancestry, and their mixed blood offspring. The actual nature of such hybrid settlements, where Native American and French practices, languages, architecture and customs were truly blended together, is poorly understood.

As described since the early nineteenth century, Peoria served as the crossroads between the settlements and societies of Canada and those of Louisiana. The settlement on the west bank of the lake would have been familiar to many Canadian fur traders who made seasonal rounds through the lower Great Lakes, and was probably considered remote and somewhat wild by the farm families living at Cahokia and Kaskaskia. Those villages, however, were directly connected to Peoria by a well trodden overland trail, as well as by water (e.g. Mazrim 2002; 42), and residents of the American Bottom probably conducted fur trading business at Peoria on a regular basis. It will be the potential for examining this hybridized and distinctive community that will make further research at Peoria exciting and unique to the archaeological literature of the Illinois Country.

EXPECTATIONS AND FRENCH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

In Illinois, assumptions and expectations regarding the archaeological signature of a French colonial occupation have been founded primarily on the results of testing at sites such as Fort deChartres, Cahokia, Prairie du Rocher and Chartres. The glimpses of activities and material culture consumption from such sites, however, could be considered rarefied examples of French domestic life in the lower Great Lakes region during the eighteenth century.

Fort DeChartres was the administrative capitol of the Illinois Country, and was well stocked with a range of military and domestic provisions. Officers and their families set up housekeeping in and around the fort, and imported a range of domestic goods that would have been familiar to their social counterparts in France. The nearby villages of Chartres and Prairie du Rocher (both part of St. Anne's Parish) would have also directly benefited from the governmental supply lines to the fort, via access to trade and domestic goods from the fort's magazine. The largely sedentary

and agriculturally based residents of villages such as Cahokia, Kaskaskia, and Ste. Genevieve would have also obtained durable domestic goods such as faience platters and bottled wines from habitant-merchants who stocked their stores from warehouses in New Orleans and the French West Indies.

For fifty years, French farm families in the American Bottom enjoyed convenient and reliable access to domestic wares obtained in exchange for their farm produce. The result of this consumption was the formation of archaeological middens rich in artifacts such as decorated faience, coarse French earthenwares, bottle glass, buttons, and smoking pipes: most of which were deposited in the ground before 1770.

By 1765, the combined population of the French villages of the Illinois Country is thought to have been only 1000 people, however. As new regimes took control of the villages along the Mississippi River, the forests of the lower Great Lakes region still teemed with French men involved in the fur trade. Most of these traders operated out of forts in the upper Great Lakes or in Canada. Out of occupational necessity, such individuals subscribed to seasonally based, transitory lifestyles that mimicked those practiced by their Native American trading partners. Many fur traders eventually settled down, however, either retiring back to Canada or colonizing what were formerly mixed population summer villages, such as Prairie du chien.

There existed a number of French and Indian trading locales in the lower Great Lakes region that either: predated the establishment of reliable lines of material supply; were far removed from the domestic goods shipped upriver from New Orleans or up the lakes from Montreal; or were simply populated by people who spoke French, but did not necessarily require faience platters, cream pans in redware, or bottled claret.

Before 1720, French posts such as La Salle's Crevecoeur, Fort St. Louis I, or the nearby Newell Fort, were occupied by explorer-soldiers who struggled to maintain a temporary physical presence in a poorly understood natural and cultural landscape located thousands of miles from the settlements in Canada. This also occurred prior to the founding of the port of New Orleans. At such settings, goods such as European ceramic tablewares would have hardly been a priority.

Nonetheless, such artifacts are commonly expected in modern archaeologists' test units. For example, French ceramics topped the list of artifacts expected by researchers testing the potential sites of Fort Crevecoeur, occupied for less than a year in 1680 (Jelks and Unsicker 1981; 6). Further, the absence of a range of European domestic goods has consistently troubled some researchers, leading to the dismissal of pre 1720 posts in Illinois as too native, or simply too material poor to have been occupied by the French (Westover 1984, Mansberger 1999). Previous testing at Peoria has suffered from the same expectations, with the lack of an

eighteenth century midden causing tests to be suspended on the very lots on which French features were ultimately discovered.

The signature of French occupations post dating the 1760s is also poorly understood, in part due to the fact that most such sites are multicomponent, and were occupied both during and after the French Regime in Illinois. Limited evidence suggests that many changes in material culture consumption had occurred between 1750 and 1780, however. For instance, archaeological testing in the heart of the late eighteenth century village of Prairie du Chien has not produced a single sherd of faience prior to 2000 (Robert Birmingham, personal communication 2000). Testing at several sites in the Upper Village of Prairie du Chien (settled by French families after 1800) has produced an array of English wares, but no faience or French coarse earthenwares (Mazrim n.d.). French coarse earthenwares do appear to have lingered in the American Bottom, however, after the fall of faience from North American markets (Mazrim 2002; 202).

Locales such as Peoria were primarily the sites of seasonal occupations by Native American families and their male French trading partners. Trade of furs was linked to Montreal, and the manufactured goods brought into such villages by French traders were largely intended for Native American consumption. In contrast, the well known French settlements in the American Bottom were largely agricultural, occupied by French families involved in trade economies intricately tied to New Orleans.

In the late 1760s, in response to the British control of the heart of the old French Illinois settlements, French residents fled not only across the Mississippi (to St Louis and Ste. Genevieve), but also northward to old trading locales such as Prairie du Chien, and perhaps Peoria. Meanwhile, faience fell from North American markets, replaced by English refined wares that would have been available only in small quantities during the poorly supplied British tenure of Illinois. Cut off from the old French military and habitant-merchant supply lines, material life for those in settlements such as Peoria after 1765 probably paled in comparison to that of Kaskaskia and Chartres ten years earlier.

If an artifact rich midden is eventually encountered at Peoria, it will probably not resemble those found in pre 1770 contexts in the American Bottom. More importantly, if further testing does not encounter features or soils rich in artifacts, this negative evidence should not necessarily negate the possibility of eighteenth century French features in the immediate vicinity. Nor should assemblages lacking in traditional French material culture necessarily be attributed to Native American populations. Sites such as the Old Village of Peoria will provide an important and poorly understood perspective on this period of French history of the lower Great Lakes region, perhaps in spite of lack-luster artifact illustrations in archaeological reports.

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FIGURE 22: Features 1 and 2 and the 1837 plat.

eighteenth century midden causing them to be suspended on the very lots on which French features were ultimately discovered.

The signature of French archaeological assemblages is also poorly understood, in part due to the fact that most of the excavated components, and were accounted both during and after the seventeenth century. Limited evidence suggests that many of the artifacts and features were produced and occurred between 1750 and 1785, however, the archaeological record in the heart of the late eighteenth century village of Peoria is still limited. The archaeological record since about 1800 (Peoria's first major settlement) is also limited. Testing at several sites in the Upper Midwest of France to the west of Peoria (after 1800) has produced a number of artifacts and features that are French in origin (Mazrim 2002). The archaeological record in the American Bottom, which was a major market for French goods (Mazrim 2002: 202).

Locations such as Peoria, which were occupied by Native American families, and by French traders and missionaries. Trade of furs was linked to Montreal, and by the mid-eighteenth century, such villages by French traders were largely intact. The archaeological record in such villages, the well-known French settlements of Illinois, which were largely agricultural, occupied by French families involved in trade with the British and the New Orleans.

In his late 1760s, the French settlement of Peoria was part of the old French Illinois settlements. French residents lived not only in the Illinois (to St. Louis and St. Genevieve), but also northward to old trading locales such as Prairie du Chien, and perhaps Peoria. Moreover, furs from North American markets, supplied by English traders and the British, were not only in small quantities during the poorly supplied British tenure of Illinois. Cut off from the old French military and habitat-merchant supply lines, material life for those in settlements such as Peoria after 1765 probably paled in comparison to that of Kaskaskia and Cahokia ten years earlier.

When an archaeological midden is eventually encountered at Peoria, it will probably not resemble those found in pre-1770 contexts at the American Bottom. More importantly, if further testing does not encounter features or soils rich in artifacts, this negative evidence should not necessarily negate the possibility of eighteenth century French features in the immediate vicinity. Nor should seven ages lacking in traditional French material culture necessarily be attributed to French American populations. Sites such as the Cliff Village of Peoria will provide an important and poorly understood perspective on the needs of French settlers of the lower Great Lakes region, perhaps in spite of late-use artifact assemblages in archaeological reports.

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APPENDIX

Inventory of Goods and Chattles of Louis Chattellereau. 1795
(transcribed by J. Franke and R. Day)

1 Brown horse	£ 35
1 ditto	£ 100
1 White Ditto	£ 40
1 Yoke of Oxen	£ 200
1 Do. ditto	£ 180
1 Do. ditto 3 years old	£ 100
1 Do. ditto 3 years old	£ 90
1 Do. ditto 2 years old	£ 80
1 Do. ditto 2 years old	£ 80
1 Cow & calf	£ 60
1 Do & Ditto	£ 80
1 Do & Ditto	£ 100
1 Do & Ditto	£ 70
1 Do & Ditto	£ 70
1 Do & Ditto	£ 90
1 Cow	£ 90
1 Ditto	£ 70
1 bull 2 years old	£ 50
1 Ditto Do.	£ 60
1 Do. Do.	£ 50
1 Do. 1 year old	£ 27
1 Do. 1 year old	£ 35
2 large Hogs	£ 79
2 Hogs	£ 83
3 Ditto	£ 54

carried over £ 2023

1 Saw	£ 26
1 Table & Drawer	£ 9
1 Old Bedstead	£ 6
1 Feather Bed Weighing 37 lb. @ 40 sols per lb	£ 74
1 Cupboard	£ ()
1 Sugar-Box (of Tin	£ 1
11 Tin Pans	£ 9
9 Tin Dishes	£ 18
1 Small Hand Screw without Spring	£ 16
1 Liquor-Box	£ 8
2 Spades	£ 20
3 Earthen Milk Pots	£ 1
2 Candlesticks (1 being broken)	£ 8
5 Wooden Dishes	£ 6
9 Old Copper chafing Dish	£ 10
1 frying pan	£ ()
2 Axes	£ ()
2 Ditto	£ ()
3 old Ditto	£ ()
1 large soup Pot, broken	£ 13

1 lesser Ditto	£ 12
1 Handsaw	£ 10
2 Old Ditto	£ 8
1 Do. Do.	£ 3
1 Cooper's Adze	£ 2
1 Do. Do.	£ 3
2 Chizzells	£ ()
1 large Auger	£ ()
1 ___ Do.	£ 1
1 Small Do.	£ 1
1 Drawing knife	£ 3
1 Do. Do.	£ 1
1 pair of Small Scales	£ 8
1 Mould for big Shot	£ 3
1 Do. for Ball	£ 10
1 Scythe-Hammer	£ 2.10

carried over £ 2350

1 Parcel of old Iron	£ 2
1 Old plough Share	£ 4
3 old Steelyards	£ 2.10
4 Good Ditto	£ 36
1 Funnel	£ .10
3 Small Hammers	£ 2.10
1 Fan	£ 6
1 lesser Do.	£ 5
1 Sifter	£ 8
1 Ditto	£ 15
1 Ditto	£ 3
1 Ditto	£ 4
4 Old Bags	£ 1.10
1 Pewter Bason	£ 2.10
1 large Tin Kettle	£ 7
3 Small Ditto	£ 14
2 Pick-Axes	£ 1
1 Lanthorn	£ 2
1 Brass Cock	£ 1
1 Copper Kettle	£ 5
2 Old Ditto	£ 2
1 Ditto	£ 7
1 Bearskin	£ .5
1 Small Cart-mounted	£ 20
1 Do. Do.	£ 10
1 Large Cart	£ 8
1 Harness with a chain	£ 1
[item missing]	
1 Cloak	£ 20
2 Pair of Breeches (worn)	£ 6
2 Do. Do.	£ 9
1 Do. Do. do	£ 2.10
1 Do. Do. (Nankinette)	£ 2
1 Cloak (Bergo-op-zoom)	£ 40
2 Cotton Shirts	£ 10

amount brought forward £ 2619.5

1 Cotton Shirt	£ 2.10
1 round Jacket (of green cloth)	£ 6
1 Jacket (without sleeves)	£ 2.10
1 Jaconette hunting-Shirt	£ .10
2 Small Vests	£ 1
1 Girdle	£ 1
1 pr. of Boots	£ 20
1 Gun with the Horn	£ 6
1 Net (for Sturgeon)	£ 15
1 Tea Kettle (Brass)	£ 5
1 pair horse Fetters	£ 3
1 Set of Harness Irons	£ 5
1 Harness	£ 14
1 Parcell of old Iron	£ .10
1 Cheese Mould (of Tin)	£ .10
9 Sickles`	£ 20
10 old Do.	£ 7
2 Scythes	£ 20
1 Razor Case with the Razors	£ 6
1 pr. of Compasses & 1 Boring Iron	£ 1
1 Saw	£ 10
1 Small Pick Axe for the use of Carpenters	£ 3
11 Pewter Plates	£ 6
1 Whipsaw	£ 50
80# Tobacco @1#	£ 80
500# Flour @ .10#	£ 50
1 Negro Fellow	£ 880
56 Bushels wheat @5 #	£ 280
1 Pick Axe £	()
1 Plough all furnished (without its Share)	£ 15
400 Paling Sticks (or about)	£ 20
	£ 4145.15

1 Beaver Dam									
1 Handaxe	01								1 Cotton Shirt
2 Old Dots	01								1 Round Jacket (2 green dots)
1 Do. Do.	01								1 Jacket without sleeves
1 Cooper's Axle	01								1 Jackete having shirt
1 Do. Do.	01								2 Small Vests
2 Chisels	12								1 Knife
1 Large Apple	05								1 Cr. of Hoop
1 Do. Do.	01								1 Cr. with the Horn
1 Small Do.	01								1 Hat for (anyway)
1 Drawing Knife	01								1 Tea Kettle (Green)
1 Do. Do.	01								1 pot horse Felt
1 pair of small shoes	01								1 Set of Henck's Iron
1 Mould for big Shoe	01								1 Hammer
1 Do. for Hat	01								1 Piece of old iron
1 Spade/hammer	01								1 Chisel found in Top
	10								2 Bones
	1								10 Old Co.
	20								2 Vests
	0								1 Piece of Glass with the Pattern
1 Pair of old Iron	1								1 Cr. of Compass & 1 Ironpin
1 Old plough Share	01								1 Saw
3 Old Shovelheads	01								1 Small Part for the top of Carpenter
4 Good Iron	01								11 Small Plates
1 Funnel	01								1 Whisker
3 Small Sawheads	01								500 Tobacco Pipe
1 Fan	01								500 Pipe @ 100
1 Small Do.	01								1 Small Felt
1 Silver	01								50 Bushels wheat @ 10
1 Dime	01								1 Pick Axe
1 Dime	01								1 Rough 20 ironpin (without the Stone)
1 Dime	01								400 Paving Stone for stone
4 Old Taps	01								
1 Powder Spoon	01								
1 Large Tin Kettle	01								
2 Small Dots	01								
2 Pick Axes	01								
1 Lantern	01								
1 Brass Cook	01								
1 Copper Kettle	01								
2 Old Dots	01								
1 Oil	01								
1 Boarder	01								
1 Small Cast-iron pot	01								
1 Do. Do.	01								
1 Large Can	01								
1 Harness with a chain	01								
[Item missing]									
1 Cook	01								
2 Pair of Breasts (wheat)	01								
2 Do. Do.	01								
1 Do. Do. do.	01								
1 Do. Do. (Hankin's)	01								
1 Cook (large wood)	01								
2 Cotton Sacks	01								