THE MIDDEN

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Fort Rupert: A Northern Vancouver Island HBC Fort

THE MIDDEN

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SUBMISSIONS: The ASBC welcomes article contributions for The Midden on an ongoing basis. Periodically there will be themed issues with specific topics, but the ASBC always encourages the submission of articles related to a diverse array of topics that pertain to BC Archaeology for more wide-ranging issues. Please email submissions to asbc.midden.gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS: For 2019 and going forward the ASBC has decided to make The Midden digital and open access. The latest issue of The Midden will be sent to ASBC members upon release, and will be open access to the public six months after release at

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Archaeological Society of British Columbia

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Archaeological Society of British Columbia meetings in Victoria featuring illustrated lectures are now generally held on the third Tuesday of each month from September to May at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Victoria, Cornett Building, 3800 Finnerty Road, Victoria, BC. Please follow our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ASBCVictoria for details on upcoming lectures, or inquire with us about our email list. New members and visitors are welcome at lectures. Admission is free.

THE MIDDEN

Volume 50, No. 1
Spring 2020

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The Midden Subscriptions

Subscriptions to a digital copy of **THE MIDDEN** are included with ASBC memberships.

Subscription forms and membership application forms are available on our website (http://asbc.bc.ca/the-midden/).

Cover: 1921 Charles Newcombe photo showing the south elevation of the Factor's House. Note the large central chimney. (B.C. Archives image (RBCM), PN 12847).

The ASBC Pages

Contribute! The Society and its Journal are a charity made possible through its membership and membership contributions

Welcome to the 50th volume and a brand new decade of The Midden. In this volume, we have included our yearly Presidents' Letters from both the Victoria and Kamloops branches of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia (ASBC), which discuss 2019 accomplishments and 2020 objectives. We also have included two letters created by the ASBC on current policy issues pertaining to the Old Growth Strategic Review and the Wet'suwet'en Crisis. Our primary article in this issue is an in-depth archaeological examination of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) Fort at Fort Rupert by Bjorn Simonsen and Carol Judd, which was adapted from a 1989 report. We also were able to publish a short article written by Quentin Mackie which discusses tree burials located at the First Nations village of Tsaxis, which is located near Fort Rupert. Finally, we also include a Dig It article by Erin Willows and Matt Begg on managing the loss of cultural heritage in the face of climate change. Thank you to all our members and readers for continuing to support The Midden.

What Your ASBC Membership and Donations Supports

A contribution to the Archaeological Society of British Columbia (ASBC) is a charitable donation to a Society that uses its single source of income to educate the public about B.C. Archaeology in whatever ways possible. An annual membership is a donation towards the education we strive to provide for the B.C. public and B.C. archaeologists. Last year I received multiple emails from archaeologists cancelling membership to the ASBC as they had not received enough in return for their $25 contribution. In response, I feel I should make some comments on the use, benefits and impacts membership fees have to the Society. Membership gets individuals, students, retired people, families, and workplaces access to The Midden Journal. The funds we get from membership goes almost entirely into the journal (formatting and printing costs, part-time journal manager, part-time society manager). Each new issue of this journal is then emailed to ASBC members upon release and before it is available online to the general public, which is six months after the original publication release. A low membership (and thus low contribution levels) leads to a struggling publication. At $25 per year for a standard membership, our Society rates are the most affordable when compared to similar archaeological societies (BCAPA, CAA, SAA), which typically start at $100 or more per year.

New support for Midden and calls for new editorial board

This year the BCAPA generously offered to financially help support the ASBC in the production of The Midden journal. In light of this, we are seeking archaeologists around the province to take up the reigns of a new editorial board for The Midden, one that is at arms reach of the ASBC Board of Directors. Their responsibilities would be to find and review content for the journal, which is financially supported and partly managed by the ASBC Board of Directors. Individuals with both an interest in joining this new editorial board and over 5 years experience in academic or consulting archaeology are encouraged to contact asbc.midden@gmail.com. Please provide details about whether you would be interested in sitting on the board, or providing support through copy editing or reviewing.

We strongly feel that our role as ASBC Board of Directors would be more useful by focussing energies on boosting membership and other community programs. By being released from editorial duties for The Midden, we would be free to focus on providing financial support for The Midden.

Archaeologists in schools

(*pandemic pending*)

Prior to the global pandemic the ASBC was making moves to start up a fund to help pay archaeologists to visit classrooms in B.C. schools to teach grade school students about archaeological practice and the ancient history of their province. Archaeologist Nicole Smith brought up the issue of the lack of public education of archaeology during the November 2019 BC Archaeology Forum, hosted by the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and Inlailawatash Limited Partnership in North Vancouver. She spoke of her experiences going to classrooms throughout Victoria and beyond, teaching youth about the history of the B.C. coast. Her talk expressed the need for more students in the province to be educated about archaeology and the archaeological history of Indigenous peoples in the province.

Following her talk, the ASBC pledged $750 annually to help pay archaeologists to give talks to local grade schools. Such talks paid for through the Society would also be eligible for support through the Science-in-Schools organization, which reimburses speakers for out-of-pocket expenses associated with school visits. The Society was contacted by the BCAPA who pledged to provide an additional $1000 annual contribution to help make this ASBC initiative happen. Unfortunately the ASBC's efforts to apply for provincial and civic grants are likely in jeopardy due to the widespread reassessment of grants in 2020 due to the pandemic, and sadly, our requests for support from the CRM community have been left unanswered.

Although schools are currently closed, virtual classrooms continue and the 2020/2021 school year has not yet been called off. School will eventually resume, and we would like to be ready to create opportunities for youth to have access to an archaeological education. The funds the Society has available today would fund 10 school visits throughout the province. We hope that we can increase this number substantially.

We call on the archaeological community to please pledge funds towards this program, and for individual archaeologists to contact that the Society if they are interested in speaking at a local school.

Other Donation Opportunities

The ASBC also accepts donations towards its other endeavors:

- Gerald Merner Field School Awards ($300 contribution to one undergraduate and one First Nations community member's participating in their first archaeological field school)
- One award to cover costs for participation in the Archaeology in Schools Professional Development Workshop (put on by Nicole Smith and Harold Joe) for teachers wanting to focus on archaeology in the classroom.
- Donations in support of the production of The Midden

We also encourage everyone to renew their memberships for 2020 (and beyond). A membership payment is a tax deductible donation to ASBC programs, The Midden Journal and the education of British Columbians in the history of their province. We would cease to exist without it.

Thank you,

Jacob Earnshaw, MA

President Archaeological Society of British Columbia

Kamloops Chapter – 2019 Summary

The number of archaeologists in Kamloops has been steadily increasing over the years. A group of resident archaeologists would often meet throughout the year to chat over beer and socialize. In late 2018 Jacob Earnshaw suggested we consider forming our own chapter of the ASBC. In January 2019, we decided to officially form a chapter of the ASBC so we could organize events and further educate and engage with the local community about what we do as archaeologists and the value and importance of heritage protection in our city and surrounding area. The forming of our chapter seemed timely as a few high-profile archaeology projects within the Kamloops city limits were undertaken in 2019 and residents of Kamloops were curious about the archaeology process.

Figure 1: ASBC booth at the Kamloops Farmer's Market (ASBC members Todd Paquin and Kim Christenson).

Figure 2: Post-Glacial Geology Tour.

In 2019 we had about 20 members in the Kamloops chapter and hope to grow that number in 2020. We meet as a group the first Wednesday of every month and travelling archaeologists working in the Kamloops area are always encouraged to join us. Some of our highlights from 2019 include:

- A booth at the BC Studies Conference held at Thompson Rivers University in May. At this conference, ASBC volunteers spoke with conference attendees about the ASBC and archaeology in the Kamloops area.
- A recurring booth at the Kamloops Farmer's Market in July, August, and September where people could learn about archaeology, talk to local archaeologists, ask questions about archaeology and heritage, and view and hold artifacts generously on loan from the Secwepemc Museum (Figure 1). We saw a lot of visitors at the market and people of all ages were interested in stopping by to hold artifacts, share stories, and ask about archaeology in the Kamloops region.
- A post-glacial geology tour led by local geologist Ed Frey (Figure 2). This tour took the group throughout the Kamloops region to visit five locations and discuss the effects and timing of glacial ice retreat, glacial deposits, and terrain and landform formation throughout the Kamloops area. This was beneficial to archaeologists working in the Kamloops area to understand deglaciation processes and how this process relates to the location and nature of archaeological sites.

In 2020 we plan to continue with the Farmer's Market booth as it was well received by the community. We have also started a lecture series – Dr. Natasha Lyons was our first presenter this February, and we look forward to hosting more lectures in the future. If you are a resident of Kamloops or the surrounding area or just someone that works regularly in the southern interior please consider stopping by the Kamloops chapter ASBC meetings (kamloops.asbc@gmail.com)!

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January 23, 2020

Archaeological Society of British Columbia Submission to the Old Growth Strategic Review.

(The following letter was submitted by the ASBC to the BC Old Growth Strategic Review Panel on January 23rd, 2020)

The Archaeological Society of British Columbia (ASBC) is a 53 year old organization comprised of academic and consulting archaeologists, students, First Nation community members and the public, formed to advocate for the protection of archaeological sites within this province. Our Board of Directors would like to contribute the following letter to the panel to support new management strategies for old-growth forests in light of their unique and critical importance to the archaeology of British Columbia. It has been reviewed and signed in support by the province's professional organization, the British Columbia Association of Professional Archaeologists (BCAPA) Executive, and the Kamloops ASBC Chapter.

We are aware of the complexity of this issue and the effect any decision will have on B.C. communities and forestry workers. While being cognizant of jobs and the economy, we also recognize that the current process of old-growth logging is rapidly erasing what is left of a globally significant cultural heritage landscape; the visible remnant of a substantial Indigenous forest management system dating back thousands of years. Our Executive Members have observed the effects of old-growth logging on specific archaeological sites and broader cultural heritage landscapes during our combined decades of archaeological research and assessment within the forestry industry. This includes documenting site impacts before, during, and after harvesting. Two issues affecting cultural heritage and old-growth in B.C. are evident through our collective experience:

1. Old-growth logging can directly impact archaeological sites, such as culturally modified trees (CMTs), rockshelters and caves, burial sites, trails, shell midden habitation and camp sites. Despite the best efforts put forward by Provincial and consulting archaeologists to document and protect archaeological sites within forestry cutblocks, impacts associated with incomplete survey, direct logging, exposure caused windfall and road building activities can contribute to the loss of archaeological sites. Beyond specific impacts to archaeological sites, the cultural landscape immediately surrounding identified sites is often irreparably impacted or destroyed. These spaces contain a history and cultural knowledge beyond the scientific record of the archaeological site. For example, they may host ancient resource gathering areas, trail routes, seasonally visited camping and hunting locations and named places in oral histories. Such locations may not be protected on their own merit by Provincial standards and are often positively associated with individually protected archaeological remains.

2. The continued destruction of archaeological sites and cultural landscapes during the harvesting of old-growth forests without consent and co-management of First Nations is inconsistent with the recently adopted articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in British Columbia. Two articles within UNDRIP, 8:2 and 11:1, support the protection of archaeological sites within old-growth areas:

Figure 1: Examples of CMT features (left to right): tapered bark strip, rectangular bark strip, undercut, and a historical image of the creation of four canoes which has left a stepped top Aboriginally logged stump in the background (B.C. Archives).

> Article 8:2 reads, *"States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for: ...(b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources."*
>
> Article 11:1 reads, *"Indigenous peoples have the right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts…"*

These two issues affect many types of archaeological and cultural sites. However, culturally modified trees, or CMTs, are consistently the most threatened features. A CMT is any tree that has been modified by Indigenous peoples as part of a traditional use of the land and is often datable to precise years of harvest. CMTs are created through the extraction of bark, wood or cambium. They may have been bark stripped, chopped, undercut, planked, or burned while others exist as remnant stumps, log sections, or canoe blanks (Figure 1). Occasionally features are found with carved faces (arborglyphs) or blazes for trails. These features exist throughout the Province, although a great many were lost in early clearcutting prior to the establishment of specific archaeological recognition and protections in the mid-1990s (B.C. Government 1995; 1996). Taken together, these features represent a province-wide pulse of sustainable management of forests through the last several centuries. As such, these features are valuable and, in some cases, may be the sole tool for First Nations to establish title to the traditional forests, by proving a group's sufficiency, continuity, and exclusivity of occupation to their traditional territories (see Tsilhqot'in Nation v British Columbia 2014). Historic losses of these features through industrial forestry have increased their importance (Angelbeck 2008). Several issues specifically threaten CMT sites during old-growth logging:

1. Individual CMT features that are shown to post-date 1846 are not protected under the B.C. Heritage Conservation Act (HCA; B.C. Archaeology Branch 1996) and are often harvested, which effectively erases evidence of continued First Nations forest use from pre-contact times to the twentieth century (evidence of 'continuity' is a required proof of aboriginal title in *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia*).

2. Research suggests that over half of all bark harvested CMTs on western red-cedar (both the most common species harvested and CMT type in the province) are overlooked in archaeological impact assessments (AIAs) and logged without record, due to embedded scarring and misidentification of older features (Earnshaw 2019, also Eldridge 1997 and Ramsay 2013). This suggests that there are at least twice as many CMTs in landscapes that have had archaeological survey (and possibly logged).

3. Existing models of archaeological potential are often inaccurate, excluding many areas with CMTs and archaeological sites. Areas that are considered 'low' potential for CMTs are often logged without archaeological survey by foresters who have not been trained to identify CMTs or other archaeological features.

4. CMTs that are identified as protected archaeological sites may still be logged following successful application of a Site Alteration Permit to the B.C. Archaeology Branch under the *Heritage Conservation Act*. These are very rarely rejected (see Figures 2-8 in the appendix which show the harvesting of eight of the ten largest CMT sites in Nuu-chah-nulth territory).

5. "Protection boundaries" around CMTs within and adjacent to clearcuts are often insufficient to shield trees from the exposure to winds. Minimal 10 metre "protection boundaries" are regularly chosen instead of appropriate wind-firm buffers that would preserve the features within the stand from storms and exposure.

We are concerned that the continued destruction of CMTs prevents communities from revisiting and learning from cultural sites, continuing traditional economies, conserving cultural heritage for future generations and proving title to ancestral lands. As such, we believe current practice runs contrary to the commitments of UNDRIP (B.C. Government n.d.). More generally the destruction of these forests reduces the potential for future economies in local and First Nations run tourism.

Recommendations

We feel that current protections afforded to archaeological and cultural heritage sites under the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA) are inadequate in remaining old growth forests. We suggest greater protections generally for at risk old-growth forests and more specifically special protections for remaining intact cultural forests surrounding recorded archaeological sites. Please consider the following recommendations:

1. A cessation of old growth logging in particular regions when a 30% threshold of remaining intact forests is passed would align itself with the ecological conservation targets outlined in the 2050 Convention on Biological Diversity Vision (https://presspage-production-content.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/1763/jointstatement-905923.pdf?10000) and would grant protections to highly fragmentary old growth remaining in various areas on Vancouver Island and elsewhere in the province.

2. Enact Ecosystem-based Management for old-growth forests in the province in close consultation and co-management with regional First Nations, as was done in the lead up to the 2016 Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order (B.C. Government 2016).

3. Create a cultural heritage protection designation for "Cultural Forests" with notable archaeological site networks and definable cultural heritage landscapes (e.g., associated archaeological sites, higher than normal density of sites or features, areas of special cultural importance to First Nations, or stands of monumental cedar). We feel that such culturally designated forests could protect heritage features, preserve monumental cedars and/or other species for future use, and encourage continued traditional management of forests for local First Nation communities.

4. Expand protection boundaries for these sites beyond the 10 metres required for individual CMTs and 5 metres for archaeological sites (HCA protections). While any recommendations would be contingent on input by regional First Nations, we point to Haida Gwaii Land Use Objectives Order which outlines clear objectives for protecting cultural features that is locally suitable and structured (Haida Gwaii Management Council 2017). In this order both CMTs and monumental cedars are protected by a reserve boundary of 0.5 the tree length and a management buffer of 1.0 tree length beyond that (further details in subsection 9: Objectives for culturally modified trees and monumental cedar).

Conclusion

We as archaeologists have the unique position of studying many cultural sites in the short time period between scientific identification or revisitation and industrial impact. Our experience tells us that substantial changes must be made to the management of old-growth forest in order to preserve our province's heritage for future generations and to live up to our agreements to uphold the rights of B.C. Indigenous peoples (B.C. Government n.d.).

Sincerely,

The Archaeological Society of British Columbia
Board of Directors

Signed in support by,

The British Columbia Association of Professional Archaeologists
Board of Directors

The Kamloops ASBC Regional Chapter
Board of Directors

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Appendix:
Nuu-chah-nulth CMT images:

The following aerial images are used to illustrate a regional example of the destruction of CMT sites during old-growth logging operations despite the strong protections afforded by the HCA. The region (Nuu-chah-nulth territory, west coast of Vancouver Island) is known to have some of the highest densities of CMTs within B.C. However, it has also experienced some of the most widespread clearcut logging.

(This section has been edited and images redacted or altered to comply with BC Archaeology Branch privacy standards. Borden numbers have been replaced).

Nuu-chah-nulth CMT sites are remarkably significant landscapes where archaeologists have identified between 830 and 3100 CMTs within proposed block boundaries. All sites likely have CMTs that extend beyond these boundaries. Eight of the ten sites (in figures 2-7) have been either directly impacted or completely removed by recent old-growth logging through Site Alteration Permits that were accepted at the BC Archaeology Branch. Please note the minimal date sampling taken at most sites, and the unusual lack of recorded CMT sites in adjacent clearcuts.

We believe this one example indicates insufficiencies in CMT site protections throughout the province. All site data below has been collected from the B.C. Archaeology Branch Remote Access to Archaeological Data (RAAD) database with sensitive information redacted.

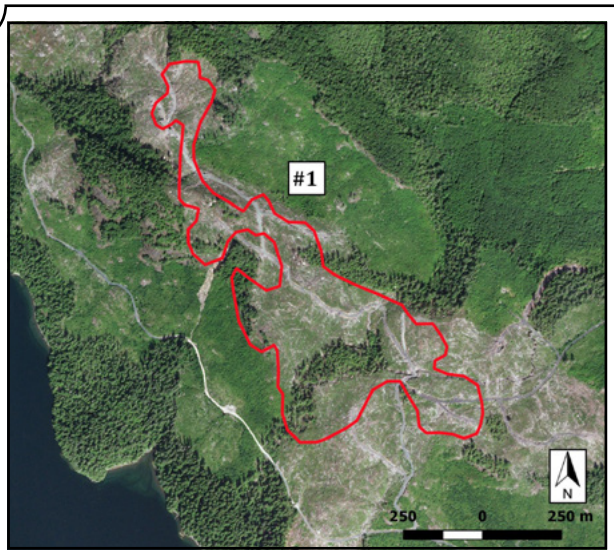

Figure 2: (Site name redacted-#1), ***958*** CMTs identified (***895*** CMTs removed, ***83*** date samples taken, ***9%***).

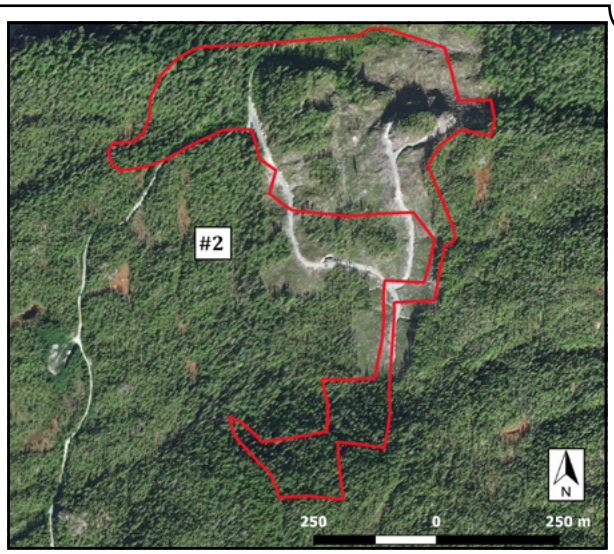

Figure 3: (Site name redacted-#2), ***2744*** CMTs identified (***487*** CMTs removed, ***44*** date samples taken, ***9%***)

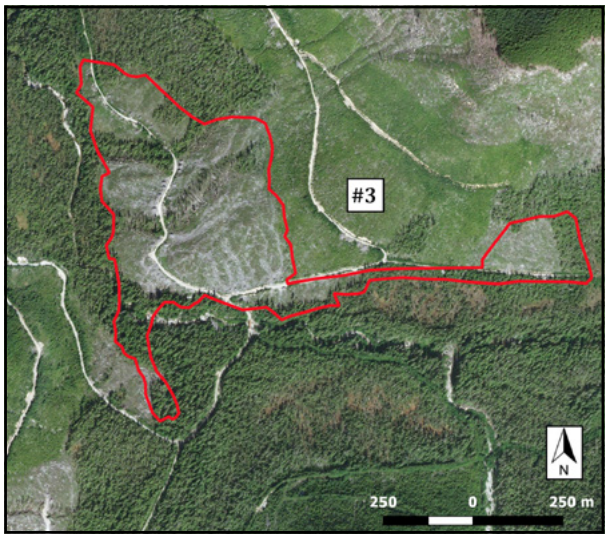

Figure 4: (Site name redacted-#3), ***2538*** CMTs identified (***2538*** CMTs removed, ***112*** date samples taken, ***4%***)

Figure 5: (Site name redacted-#4), ***836*** CMTs identified (report on removed or sampled CMTs never submitted)

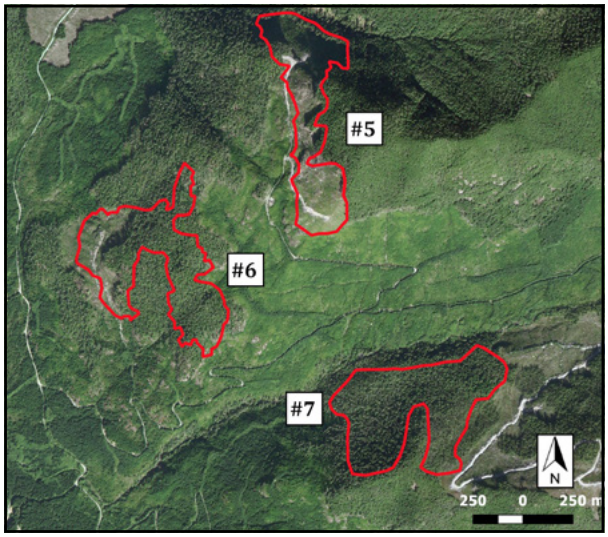

Figure 6: (Redacted-#5), ***903*** CMTs identified (***903*** CMTs removed, ***8*** date samples taken, ***<1%***) (Redacted-#6), ***1508*** CMTs identified (***747*** CMTs removed, ***5*** date samples taken, ***<1%***) (Redacted-#7), ***3106*** CMTs identified (***252*** CMTs removed, ***37*** date samples taken, ***15%***)

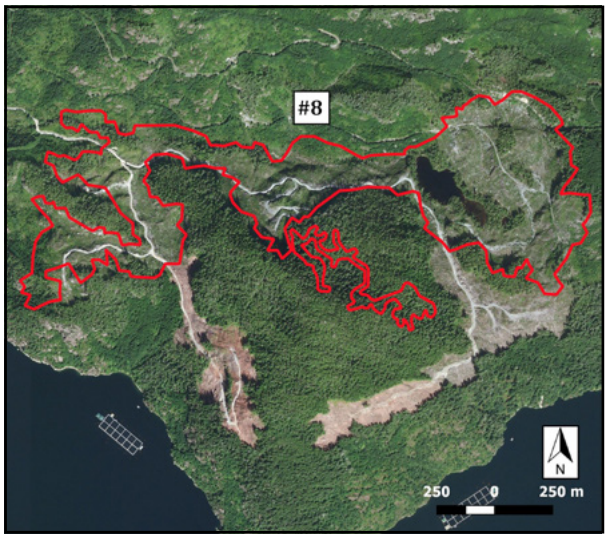

Figure 7: (Site name redacted-#8), ***2391*** CMTs identified (***2121*** removed CMTs, ***23*** date samples taken, ***1%***)

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January 30, 2020

ASBC Updated Letter of Support and Concern for the Wet'suwet'en

In February 2019 the Archaeological Society of British Columbia (ASBC) responded to the recovery of archaeological materials during the active construction of Coastal GasLink Ltd. (CGL) pipeline for LNG Canada in Wet'suwet'en Territory. We reiterate our concern that CGL's work resumed after only a few days of mitigation over the 42 km^2 bulldozed area. Furthermore, we were very concerned to hear about the subsequent destruction of sites by the proponent in August 2019, including the destruction of the famed Wet'suwet'en Kweese War Trail, potential burials, and "historic/prehistoric" campsites.

We, the ASBC Board of Directors, believe that the lack of archaeological impact assessments and inadequate mitigation, need to be formally and publicly addressed. Archaeology in Canada can be an essential tool in the resolution of Aboriginal Rights and Title as it demonstrates, challenges, and substantiates oral and documentary histories. Given that Wet'suwet'en Rights and Title are unresolved, the destruction of Wet'suwet'en archaeology results in the destruction of cultural evidence for Indigenous peoples human rights, as stated in the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Rights (UNDRIP). We recognize the urgency felt by the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs that continued, "destruction of Wet'suwet'en cultural heritage including archaeological sites by CGL crews amounts to cultural genocide, as it erases Wet'suwet'en cultural information from the land and destroys evidence of use and occupation for Aboriginal rights and title."

As professional archaeologists, we understand the importance of archaeological heritage for Indigenous communities in British Columbia. We urge the BC Archaeology Branch to complete a detailed review of existing archaeological overview assessments, archaeological impact assessment, and mitigation plans to ensure that more sites within the development area are identified and protected under the Heritage Conservation Act. On behalf of the ASBC we call on the BC Government to stand in the complexity of what it means to adopt UNDRIP legislation and uphold government-to-government relationships. This means engaging in difficult but meaningful dialogue while seeking free, prior, and informed consent from Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs for all development and archaeological activity on their territories.

We, the ASBC stand with Wet'suwet'en people, protecting their lands, their archaeological heritage, and their basic human rights. Legislating UNDRIP into BC law must be accompanied by meaningful action, which supports Indigenous peoples rights to protect their land, heritage, and culture. Failing to engage with the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and review and implement proper protections of archaeological sites is a direct violation of UNDRIP, especially Articles 11.1, 19, and 27:

Article 11.1: *"Indigenous peoples have the right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts…"*

Article 19: *"States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them."*

Article 27: *"States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process."*

Sincerely,

The Archaeological Society of British Columbia
Board of Directors

Interested in being involved with the new Midden Editorial Board?

The ASBC is pulling together archaeologists from around the province that have at least 10 years experience in a combination of academic and consulting archaeology to create a new peer review board for The Midden.

Archaeologists willing to review and or copy edit articles for The Midden, please contact:

asbc.midden@gmail.com

*q'ulum'

By Alex Lausanne

While exploring traditional terms from various Indigenous languages in some of the previous issues of The Midden, we focused on words that had a relation to archaeology and the land. In issue 49(1) we looked at "Gumx ts'a'ax," a Sm'algyax term from the Tsimshian language that refers to the shell mounds that old villages are found on, which archaeologists commonly call shell middens. In issue 49(3) the Secwepemc word "tmicw" was brought forth and is used as a general term for land and territory.

In keeping with the theme of interaction with the land, in this issue, we look to the Hul'q'umi'num word "q'ulum'." From the Hul'q'umi'num' to English Dictionary, "q'ulum' " means to camp (p. 138). It may be related to "q'uluts'tun," which means tent or shelter (p. 137), or "q'uluts'thut," which means to shelter oneself (p. 136). Camping is an activity and a process that can leave lasting evidence on the land. As people continue to spend time on the land today, archaeologists can use the modern landscape clues to determine where people may have camped on the land in the past. To camp is an interactive engagement with the land that both connects people to a place for a moment in time or for a lasting connection.

It is important to remember that Indigenous languages, such as Hul'q'umi'num', are spoken languages and are sources of connection and maintaining oral histories. Below are some resources of the great work being done to preserve and restore various Indigenous languages. Language projects, such as FirstVoices, an initiative of the First People's Cultural Council, allow listeners to hear words how they are traditionally spoken.

Resources:

Hul'q'umi'num' to English Dictionary
A digital resource compiled through research projects in the 1970s to 1990s with various Elders in the Hul'q'umi'num' speaking community.

http://abed.sd79.bc.ca/hulqumimum-resourses/hulquminum-to-english-dictionary/

The First Peoples' Cultural Council assists B.C. First Nations communities in their efforts to preserve and revitalize their language, arts and culture. Some of the amazing programs they support include FirstVoices, an extensive online Indigenous language archive and teaching tool, and the Language Nest program, aimed at creating new language speakers through language and cultural immersion for young children. Find out more about these programs and resources:

http://www.fpcc.ca/language/Programs/

https://www.firstvoices.com/

Coast Salish Traditional Place Names projects
http://www.sfu.ca/brc/imeshMobileApp/place-names.html

https://salishseasentinel.ca/2019/02/work-begins-to-restore-coast-salish-place-names-on-mid-island/

Archaeological Investigations and Associated Archival Research Relating to Fort Rupert on Northern Vancouver Island

by Bjorn Simonsen and Carol Judd

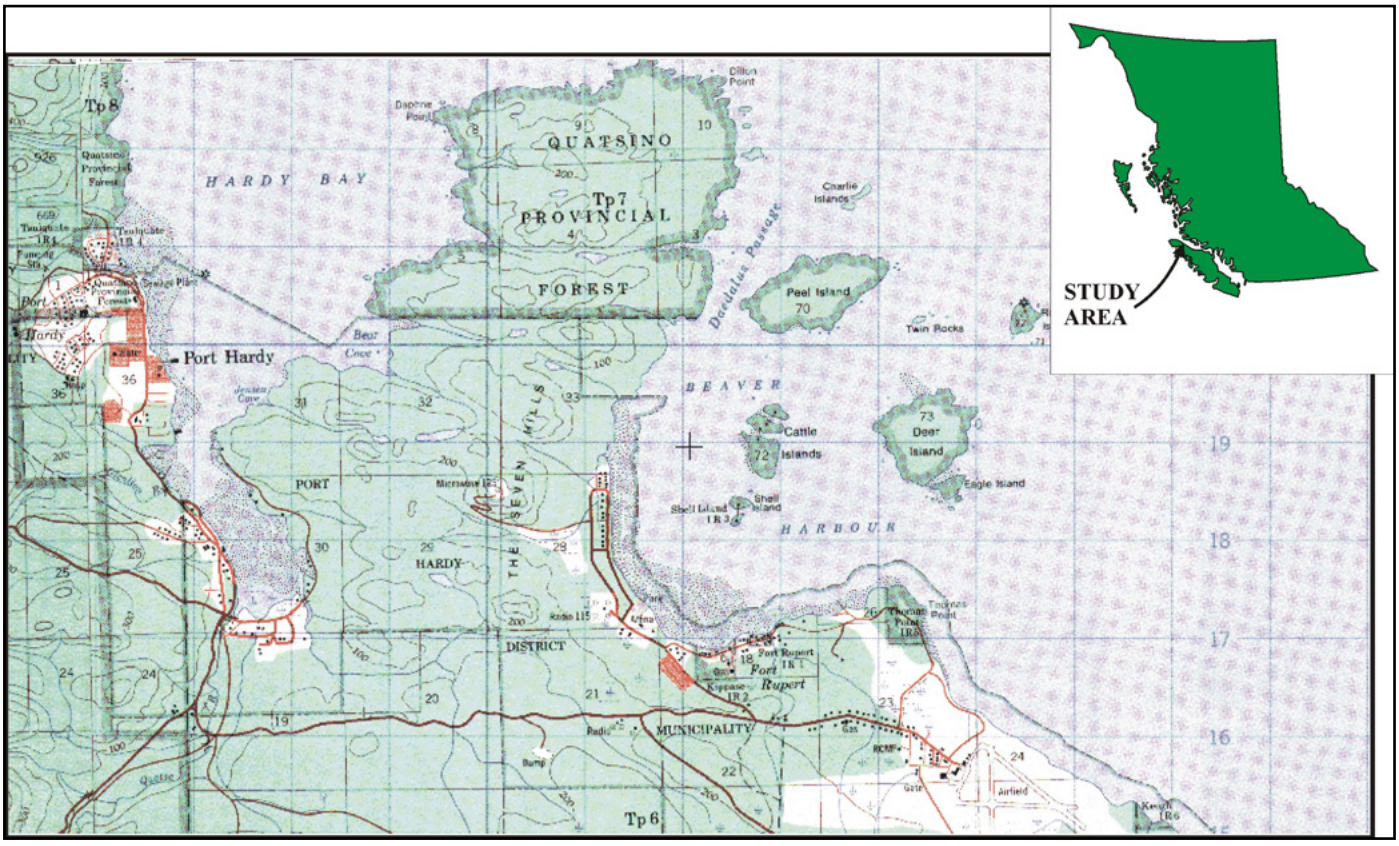
Original Paper presented at the Annual BC Studies Conference, May 5 – 7, 2011 at Kelowna, BC

Introduction and Background

When the authors of this report first contacted Richard Garvin (Department of Anthropology, UBC Okanagan) about putting together a series of papers focusing on archaeological investigations and related research at Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) sites in British Columbia, we did not realize that our ensuing quest for people to present papers in such a session would be such a daunting task. This was particularly true since there has been minimal research done on the old HBC sites and establishments in B.C.– at least compared to other parts of Canada.

The following report is a condensed version of a more substantial report entitled "Site Survey of Historic Fort Rupert: Its History, Archaeology, and Architecture" that was submitted to the B.C. Heritage Conservation Branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture" in March of 1989 (Judd et al. 1989a). That report was authored by Carol Judd, Bjorn Simonsen and Ken Scopick under the terms and conditions of an agreement with the B.C. Heritage Trust. The purpose of the 1989 study was to provide the results of a comprehensive study of the HBC Fort Rupert site in preparation for a future site restoration project focused on the old fort location and its history. The project was also supported by the local Port Hardy Chamber of Commerce whose vision included a reconstruction of the fort to operate as a tourist generating site and local educational centre. Unfortunately, this goal was never realized.

The senior author of this report (Bjorn Simonsen) had a past interest in HBC-related history and research going back to the 1970s when, as B.C.'s Provincial Archaeologist, he was in charge of organizing and expanding the province's archaeological heritage site inventory program. He recalls being puzzled by the lack of information relating to the numerous HBC establishments that were known to exist in British Columbia. With some notable excep-



Map 1: NTS 1:50,000 Scale map showing location of Fort Rupert at the head of Beaver Harbour.

tions like Fort Langley and Fort St. James (where Parks Canada was actively doing a major archaeological investigation at the time), little was known about the location and condition of most HBC sites, both along the coast and in the interior regions of the province. Subsequent to this, in 1977, Simonsen, in his capacity as Provincial Archaeologist, hired a two-person field crew comprised of Kathryn Bernick and Carol Clark (then students in anthropology at UBC and UVIC respectively) to spend the months of July and August travelling the province to locate and briefly document the condition of HBC sites. This resulted in 35 separate HBC associated fur trading posts (or "forts" as they are often called) being visited, some of which had never been formally recorded and a couple whose locations appeared to have been unknown. Of course, some of the sites were impossible to visit due to their remote location (e.g., Fort Nass at the mouth of the Nass River), but the crew managed to locate and record the majority of these long-abandoned sites.

One of the sites visited was that of Fort Rupert situated at Beaver Harbour, just south of Port Hardy near the north end of Vancouver Island. This fort was relatively well known and had been previously included in the provincial archaeological site inventory by then Provincial Museum Archaeologists, Donald Abbott and John Sendy. It should also be noted, that an area immediately adjacent to the fort site had been excavated some 20 years earlier (in 1957) by B.C,'s first female archaeologist, Catherine Capes, who had obtained a radiocarbon date of 5,275 years for this shell midden deposit (Capes 1964). This date was controversial at that time as it was a few thousand years older than the contemporary oldest known date on northern Vancouver Island. Later archaeological excavations at the BC Ferries terminal site near Port Hardy, excavated by Catherine Carlson and Lenard Ham on behalf of the Provincial Archaeologist's Office, obtained a date of just over 8,000 years BP (Carlson 1979). This date remains to be one of the older pieces of evidence for human presence on Vancouver Island.

Fort Rupert Project: The Site

The Hudson's Bay Company established Fort Rupert on the north-eastern tip of Vancouver Island in 1849 (Map 1). It was Vancouver Island's second fur trade post after Fort Victoria, established in 1847. The Company subsequently leased the Fort Rupert establishment to Robert Hunt, a former employee, in December 1882, and eventually sold him the fort and all its improvements in 1885. Historical curiosity about the old fur trade post surfaced sporadically throughout the 20th Century, and the history and the cultural practices of local First Nations of the area have been of considerable interest to scholars such as Franz Boas, Marius Barbeau, G.M. Dawson and Charles Newcombe and others who have studied and described the Kwagiulth cultures of northern Vancouver Island.

In 1980 the Port Hardy Chamber of Commerce submitted a site development proposal to the British Columbia Heritage Conservation Branch for an area that included the Fort Rupert site. This proposal was passed on to the Provincial Heritage Advisory Board where members recommended that the Provincial Secretary (being the provincial minister responsible for the administration of the B.C. Heritage Conservation Act) order a 'Site Investigation' of Fort Rupert and "a detailed study in accordance with the guidelines approved for designation feasibility studies" (Minutes of the Provincial Heritage Advisory Board, Feb. 22 and May 2, 1980). However, it took another nine years for this study to commence when finally, in March of 1989, a team of three heritage consultants (Carol Judd, Ken Skopick, and Bjorn Simonsen) began an investigation at the site of Fort Rupert.

The 1989 research and in-field investigation was carried out under the authority of a "Ministerial Order" under Section 7(2) of the B.C. Heritage Conservation Act, issued on January 24, 1989. The study was ordered by the then Minister of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture (Hon. Rita Johnston) in response to persistent requests and pressure from the Fort Rupert Heritage Society, headed by Dave Landon, a prominent Port Hardy businessman, and others wanting to develop the old fort site as a historic reconstruction and tourist attraction. The main objectives of the study were as follows:

> *Protect the site from further destruction; protect employees of the Branch and their consultants from trespassing on private land; establish the historical and archaeological significance of Fort Rupert; and finally, to undertake a feasibility study to determine the costs and benefits of the proposal to reconstruct Fort Rupert as an historical attraction.*
> *(Judd et. al 1989a: 4).*

Normally, an archaeological investigation that included an excavation component would have required a permit under Section 12 of the B.C. Heritage Conservation Act. However, the Province opted to have the archaeological component of the project carried out under the authority of a Ministerial Order, as this would negate the need for the land owner's permission to allow the Heritage Branch's archaeological consultant's field crew access to the Fort Rupert property.

Figure 1: Google aerial view of Fort Rupert site. Note the location of the small creek flowing into Beaver Harbour. The creek follows the same course as the 1847 west stockade of the fort.

Site Location, Land Ownership and the Influence of the HBC

The site of Fort Rupert (Borden Archaeological Site Record **EeSu-03**) is situated on the south shore of Beaver Harbour, which lies on the west side of Queen Charlotte Strait south of Hardy Bay on Vancouver Island (Map 1 and Figure 1). The fort site has a north-westerly exposure and faces Shell Island (Kwagiulth Indian Band Reserve No. 3). The eastern boundary of the site consists of a gently sloping pebble beach with sandstone outcroppings (Figure 2). At low tide, an extensive intertidal zone is exposed. To the west, the site is bounded by the eastern edge of the Kwagiulth Indian Band Reserve No. 1. This boundary is almost contiguous with a sizable stream (shown as the Moffatt River on early maps of the area) which drains the swampy upland to the south and discharges into Beaver Harbour. This stream supports small runs of salmon seasonally. The eastern extent of the Fort Rupert site is marked by a distinct rise in elevation leading towards Thomas Point, on which is situated Kwagiulth Indian Band Reserve No. 5 (Figures 3 and 4). The southern limit of the site ends near a wet, swampy area which is covered in dense bush and grasses. To the south, the ground rises to a high terrace which was clear-cut logged sometime prior to 1990.

By 1849, when construction of Fort Rupert began, the Kwagiulth people had been in direct contact with Europeans for almost sixty years. In 1792, Captain George Vancouver visited the Nimpkish village of Cheslakees, situated at the mouth of the Nimpkish River south of present-day Port McNeill. Journal entries from Captain Vancouver's crew discuss meeting people with a highly developed culture that had a complex system of social stratification and ranking of groups and individuals within groups. Ethnologists have suggested that much of the accumulation of European goods can be traced to the establishment of Fort Rupert, which provided new sources of trade for the Indigenous people in the area.

Franz Boas, who was to become the main anthropologist of Kwagiulth culture, provided a small example of the wealth of one of the high-ranking families (nobles) at Fort Rupert village in the late 1890s. Recounting a potlatch given by a prominent chief, Boas listed the various items given as payment of a marriage debt to the chief's father-in-law:

> *...many boxes and button blankets and gold bracelets, over one hundred bracelets ... and also 400 silver bracelets and 4,000 copper bracelets and the same number of small flat coppers; and 2,000 spoons and 200 box covers and 50 chiefs' hats and 150 abalone shells and 600 button blankets and more than 100 dance masks and all kinds of food. (Boas 1903: 85).*

Figure 2: 1989 view to the west taken from the east end of the fort. The fence shown in the middle of the photo follows the same alignment as the original east stockade. (B. Simonsen photo).

Figure 3: View to the east showing the Hunt/Cadwalader story as it appeared in the summer of 1989. Note the distinct terrace which follows the 1847 west stockade alignment. Note the presence of several trailer units that occupy most of the Fort Rupert site. Note that the location of the Fort's Northwest Bastion would be to the immediately to the left of the dark colored van. (B. Simonsen 1989 Photo).

Figure 4: E. Dossiter photo from circa 1885, showing the so-called "Fort Rupert" Kwakiutl village in the foreground, and some remaining buildings on the site of the 1847 HBC establishment. (B.C. Archives image (PABC), HP 33583).

Ethnologists have suggested that HBC posts all along the coast (e.g., Fort Victoria, Fort Nanaimo, Fort McLoughlin, Fort Simpson, etc.) often affected settlement patterns and socioeconomics of the surrounding local Indigenous communities.

There was also a darker side. The fur trade posts interrupted the traditional way of life and–sometimes by design, sometimes by virtue of the opportunities they offered–caused radical shifts of power and socioeconomic alliances. European settlers also brought diseases against which the Indigenous population had not developed immunities. The Kwagiulth population declined from an estimated 10,700 in 1835, to 3,000 in a 70% reduction. These dramatic population declines also had a major effect on the traditional lifeways of Indigenous groups. Duff claims that with greatly reduced numbers, survival became challenging for Indigenous communities and some groups became more and more dependent on the HBC forts for their economic means of survival (Duff 1964: 72).

As early as 1835, local First Nations had reported the existence of coal deposits on northern Vancouver Island to HBC traders at Fort McLoughlin, situated at what is now the thriving village of Bella Bella in Heiltsuk territory. When the Company's steamship Beaver conducted her first trading assignment along the Inner Passage of the Pacific coast in 1836, HBC employee, Duncan Finlayson, was ordered to investigate. Finlayson reported that coal had been found at Chisklakus on the north-east end of the Vancouver Island, and his report recommended the establishment of a fort at Beaver Harbour. Coal was suddenly in demand over the next few years since not only did the HBC have its steamship Beaver on the coast, but the Royal Navy also made its presence known in this area. Within a few years, private merchant vessels also plied the waters off western North America and thus gave birth to a flourishing fur trade along this coast. Apparently, it was inquiries by the Royal Navy that prompted the HBC, ever alert to possibilities of making money or at least cutting down the costs of maintaining a string of fur trading establishments, to begin to regard the coal deposits at the northern end of Vancouver Island as a viable commercial opportunity (Mackie 1984; Ormsby 1958).

The final decision to establish a fort at Beaver Harbor was likely a direct result of a report from HBC employees, James Douglas and John Work, to the HBC Governor and Committee of Officers in December of 1846, where they noted that the Royal Navy was very impressed with the coal at the north end of Vancouver Island that the Hudson's Bay Company had supplied to them.[1]

[1] *The most reliable information relating to the establishment and activities of the Hudson's Bay Company on the British Columbia Coast including the establishment of Fort Rupert is found in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives (Fort Rupert Post Journal 1849-1850) as well as Volume 32 of the Fort Victoria Letters (Bowsfield 1979), such as those listed in this report's Bibliography section.*

The specific location of Fort Rupert was decided on the 11th of May, 1849. The establishment was to be in Beaver Harbour. On the day of their arrival the clerk reported in the Fort Rupert Post Journal the following:

> *The HB Company steam vessel (Beaver) having the Russian American Company brig "Constantine" in tow, entered Beaver Harbor. Mr. Chief Factor Work, having with him Mr. Chief Trader MacNeill and clerks Blenkinsop, Beardmore and Simpson, also a party of 28 men, being on board the two vessels to establish a Fort for the trading of Coal and Furs.*
> *(Fort Rupert Post Journal 1849-1850 and Governer and Committee Records 1845-1850).*

Construction began almost immediately (see Diagram 1, Site Plan 1) and is described in detail in the Fort Rupert post journal for 1849-50. On May 14th, 1849 the men began by cutting down trees "for a place to build on" (Fort Rupert Post Journal 1849-1850), assisted by a number of HBC men, First Nations, and the Russians from the Constantine who landed the frame of the bastions and the gun carriages. The next day found the men squaring timber for the "filling-up-pieces" for the bastions. Work on the bastions continued until June 13, when the men began to lay the foundation for the Factor's House. They also made a landing place for hoisting cargo to the upper story of the NW Bastion (Fort Rupert Post Journal 1849-1850).

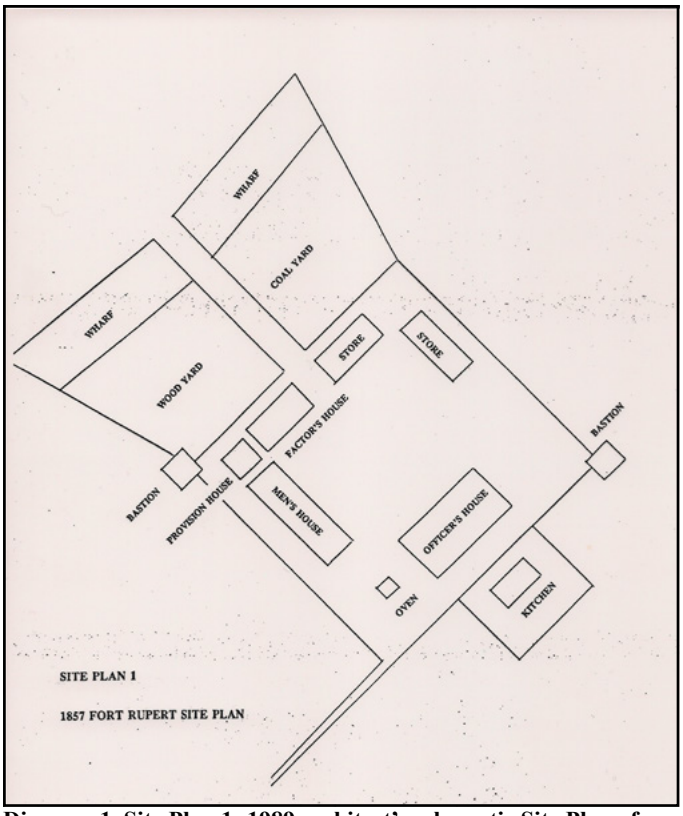


Diagram 1, Site Plan 1: 1989 architect's schematic Site Plan of Fort Rupert, showing the location and approximate size of the various buildings and other features as it would have been laid out by the HBC. (Bastion Group image).

The bastions were built at Nass, one in it's entirely, the other in frame only, and loaded aboard the Constantine to be towed south along the inside passage, across Queen Charlotte Strait, to be landed at the site of Fort Rupert. Mr. John Work commenced with nearly all hands on the first bastion, on the 22nd of May and finished on the following 5th of June. Mr. Blenkinsop commenced to build the second bastion and in seven days had it finished, though he had only half the men and had the filling up pieces to cut for the upper story (Fort Rupert Post Journal 1849-1850).

Construction work at the fort site continued through the summer of 1849 and into the following two years with various buildings and structures being erected, as shown in Figure 4.

The search for suitable coal seams and the mining of coal was carried out during all stages of construction. Much of this work was done by local First Nations workers, along with several Scottish and British miners who had been brought to the west coast for this purpose. It is noted that before the arrival of these experienced miners, coal production was limited to the mining of surface exposures in the area immediately east of the new fort (see pp. 30-32 in Judd et. al. 1989b for details).

The area around these coal deposits was heavily used by several Indigenous groups and the Company believed for various reasons that this activity should "extinguish" any future claims to the coal resources. This rather lofty assumption was supported by the following statement, as noted in an excerpt from a June 30, 1849 correspondence

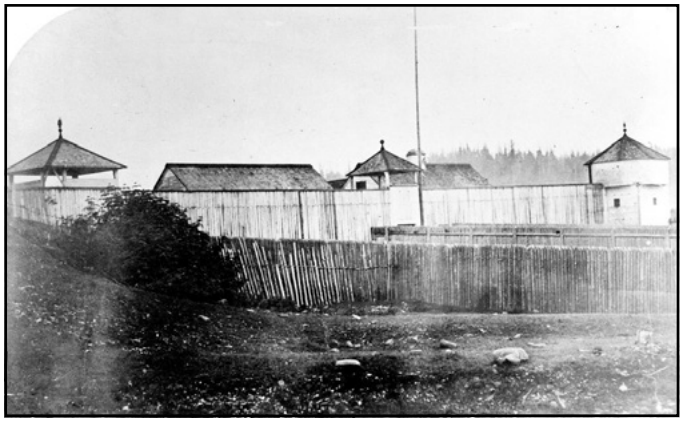


Figure 5: Circa 1870 photo showing both the NW and SE Bastions and other HBC buildings inside the 1847 fort. The areas outside the main stockade included a coal yard and a wood yard (as shown in Diagram I), were constructed over the pebble beach on wooden platforms. A small glimpse of the Factor's House can be seen directly behind the tall flag pole in the centre of this photo. (BC Archives Image (PABC), HP 2147).

from HBC Governor Simpson and the HBC committee:

> *The Indians occupying that part of the coast near which the coal mine is situated are numerous, and when we first commenced dealings with them were a very bold and treacherous character; they have, however, since then by our frequent intercourse, become civilized to a certain degree, and it is thought they may be made useful as laborers at the mine. In order to guard against future difficulty with them arising from extravagant claims for compensation for the coal lands ....they should be purchased from them with a formal agreement, as an annual payment in goods in the amount of 100 Sterling, at the usual Indian Tariff price. (Bowsfield 1979).*

Figure 6: Late 1898, photo at a Potlatch event at Fort Rupert. Note the extensive stockade structure in the rear area of the photo. The individual to the right side of the picture, wearing white pants and a vest, is reputed to be Franz Boas, and the man to his right could be Harlan I. Smith. (B.C. Archives image (RBCM), PN 7302).

The British miners arrived in Beaver Harbour 24 September, 1849. John Muir, the "Oversman," was immediately enthusiastic about the prospects for coal. A little over a week after his arrival at Fort Rupert, Muir had tested a spot 250 yards from the fort, but after digging down only six feet, he found it to be too wet to be suitable. He then began digging 600 yards from the fort, at an undetermined location. By February 1850, the shaft was 41 ½ feet deep. At that time, the miners expected to soon find a workable seam of coal. Douglas reported, "they are in great spirits, and full of hope, as to their ultimate success" (Governor and Committee Records 1845-1850). Meanwhile, the First Nations workers had collected a total of 1,100 tons of surface coal.

Douglas reported on 3 April, 1850, that the shaft was now 70 feet deep, but still without coal. Water problems were increasing, and four fort men worked every day until 10 o'clock in the morning to empty it. However, Douglas said, "Mr. Muir and his men are in good spirits and never saw better prospects of coal, in all their experience" (Governor and Committee Records 1845-1850). The events of the next few weeks would shatter the optimism of Douglas's words.

On April 26, the miners refused to work. In fact, the search for coal was then effectively abandoned until the HBC brought in a new crew of miners the following year. The local First Nations, however, continued to collect surface

Figure 7: Harlan I. Smith 1898 photo from Fort Rupert, showing a group of Kwakiutl individuals playing la'hal in front of the stockade in the area originally used for coal and wood storage. Note the Factor's House in the background. Also note the square patch at the top of the Factor's House which was originally occupied by the large chimney prominently shown in the cover photo of this paper. See also Figure 9. (B.C. Archives image (RBCM), PN 14202).

coal, bringing their output to perhaps as much as 3000 tons, not counting quantities used locally.

In June 1851, Douglas reported that he had sent Andrew Hunter, newly arrived engine driver to Fort Rupert to clear out the pit dug in 1850 and get the mine ready for the new miners. In addition, preparation for the arrival of the new Oversman and his helpers included four houses which were put up expressly for the accommodation of the miners.

Of note here is the arrival of 80 new HBC recruits who arrived at Victoria in March of 1850. Among them was Robert Hunt who was to become a key figure in the later history of Fort Rupert and whose name is now prominent throughout the First Nations community, both on the north Island and in Victoria. Hunt arrived at Fort Rupert in late April of 1850 to take up his duties as a labourer, only to find chaos among the workers and serious troubles with relations between the First Nations of the area and the HBC establishment (Governor and Committee Records 1845-1850).

Robert Hunt remained at Fort Rupert until 1868 when he was transferred to Fort Simpson. However, before his posting at Fort Simpson, Hunt had married Tongass Tlingit woman Mary Ebbetts (Ansnaq) and had by 1860 taken charge of what remained of the HBC establishment at Fort Rupert. By then, the coal mining enterprise had been abandoned in favour of much better pickings at Nanaimo. The Hunts returned to Fort Rupert in 1872, and by 1882 the HBC had abandoned the fort at Beaver Harbour, Subsequently, Robert Hunt was able to purchase the entire site of the fort property in 1885, for the sum of $1,500. The Hunt family continued to own and run a store and provisioning businesses on the site, eventually passing ownership to the Cadwallader family through marriage and inheritance arrangements (Judd et al. 1989b).

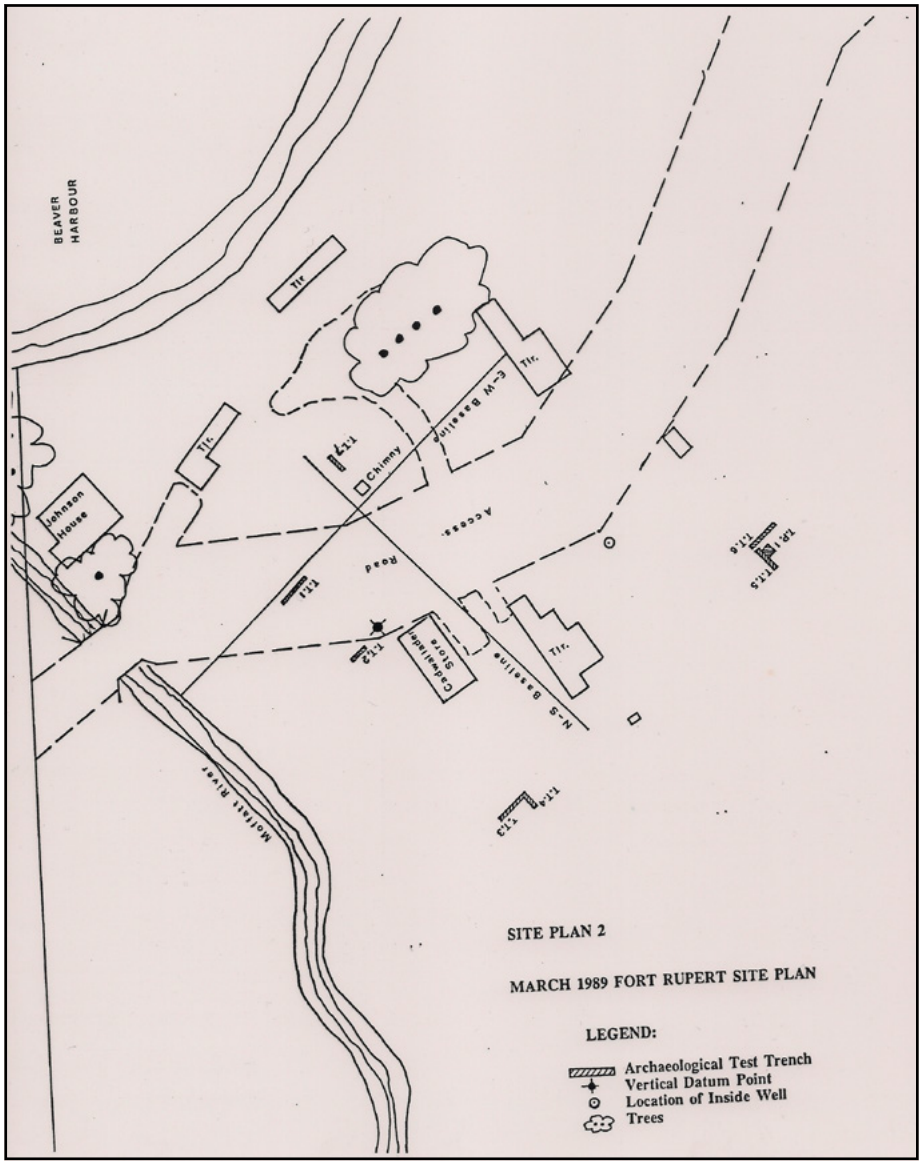


Diagram 2, Site Plan 2: Bastion Group sketch plan of site features and archaeological test excavation locations, as recorded in 1989. (B. Simonsen sketch).

Archaeological Component

The 1989 archaeological test excavations at the site of Fort Rupert were designed to provide information about the nature and condition of the remains of the old Fort Rupert establishment. This would include an evaluation of the site's potential for future, more in-depth archaeological investigations that might aid in future site restoration and/or an interpretation process and determine the location of original features by means of both surface and sub-surface examinations. The brevity of the proposed archaeological program—totaling only five days with a field crew of three individuals—imposed serious restrictions on both the quality and quantity of work to be carried out. However, in the view of the authors of this report, the results of the 1989 preliminary archaeological investigation provided sufficient information to fulfill the original project objectives.

Harlan I. Smith's association with Fort Rupert began in the course of a chance encounter with George Hunt

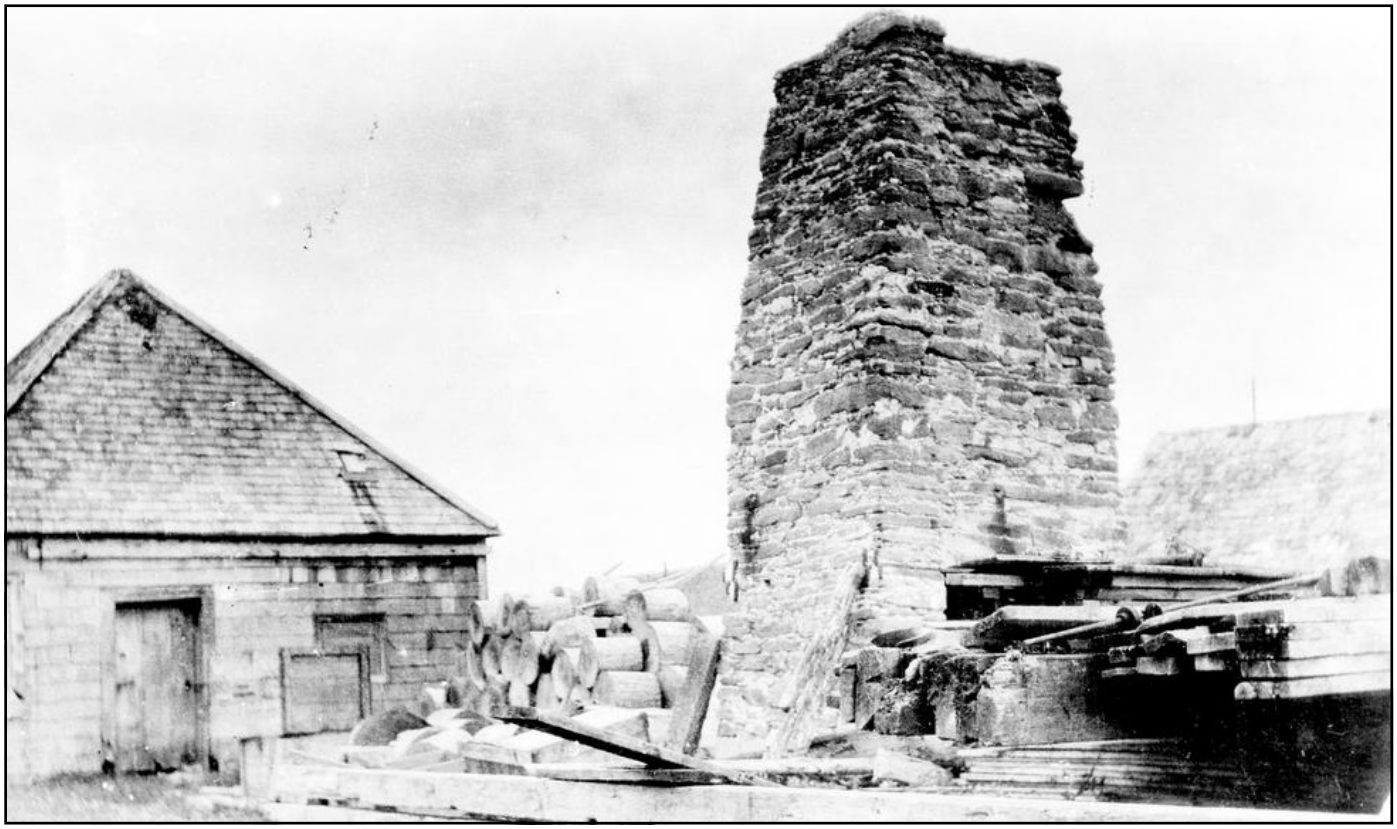


Figure 8: View to the Northwest from the year 1929 after the Factor's House had been fully demolished by the Hunt family. The small building to the left served as the Provision House for the HBC establishment. Source of photo is unknown. (BC Archives image (PABC), HP 11056).

Figure 9: View to the northeast showing the still intact stone chimney at the site of the Factor's House. Color photo taken by B. Simonsen during 1989 archaeological test excavations at Fort Rupert.

in early August of 1897 when, in the company of Franz Boas and American Ethnologist, Livingston Farand, at Bella Bella (Thom 2001). Following this chance encounter, Smith accompanied George Hunt south to Fort Rupert to begin his ethnographic and archaeological investigations among the various Indigenous groups who had by then established themselves around the site of the fort. His presence at Fort Rupert continued sporadically over the next decade.

Unfortunately, time did not permit any in-depth research into H.I. Smith's investigations at Fort Rupert beyond an examination of his somewhat vague notes from his visits to Fort Rupert, none of which mention any excavation work within the Fort Rupert establishment's actual site. The reader is directed to Brian Thom's excellent 2001 report on Harlan I. Smith's fieldwork along the B.C. coast in the course of his research for the "Jessup North Pacific Expedition for 1897 to 1902" (Thom 2001). Numerous copies of Smith's excellent photographic collection from this project are presently housed at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria, B.C. (for example, see Figures 6 and 7).

Description of the Fort Rupert Site

For much of its history, the Fort Rupert archaeological site

(EeSu-03) has been occupied by a number of modern and historic structures (See Diagram 2, Site Plan 2). At the time of our 1989 in-field investigations, these included four mobile homes (with attached sheds and outbuildings), a circa 1920s house, an outhouse, the Cadwallader Store building and the standing chimney from the 1849 HBC Factor's House, the latter of which represents the last standing structure that can be directly associated with the original Fort Rupert establishment (see Figures 1 and 2). This structure (shown in Figures 8 and 9) has continued to physically deteriorate over the years, to the point of it being almost non-existent due to the effects of natural wear and continued vandalism over the ensuing two decades.

The following list shows the various archaeological components that could be expected in the course of a detailed archaeological excavation project at the site:

- Remains of stockade trenches*
- Foundations of two bastions*
- Foundations of several outbuildings*
- The foundations of chimneys, ovens and a blacksmith shop
- The remains of two wells*
- Evidence of drainage fields
- Artifacts and other articles from the HBC period*
- Faunal remains representing the foods consumed by the fort's inhabitants*
- Evidence of fences and other enclosures both within and outside the stockade area
- Evidence of the coal and wood yards and ships' deck outside the north stockade
- Evidence of a "prehistoric" cultural component.

  (Note: * indicates known remains identified in the course of the 1989 excavation project)

The fort site originally consisted of a square stockade measuring 202 feet across the front (north-west side), 207 feet on the north-east side, 202 feet along the south-east side, and 200 feet along the south-west side (paralleling the Moffatt River), as shown in Diagram 2 earlier in this report. A bastion stood at both the north-west and south-east corners. Several shelters were also constructed along the elevated gallery which ran around the inside of the stockade. The interior of the fort included an officers' house, two stores, a factor's dwelling, a large men's house, a provision house, and an oven.

Outside the stockade were a number of structures and areas that related to servicing and provisioning the fort and for storing coal and wood that were extracted from natural resources adjacent to the fort site. Other structures and features included two wharves, a coal and wood yard, kitchen gardens, a 'fowl house,' a kitchen (outside the rear stockade), pig pens, and various fences. The fort's main well was constructed at the rear of the fort (see Figure 10 following).

Objectives of the Archaeological Excavation

The 1989 Archaeological project managed to carry out the following tasks and objectives:

- The systematic excavation of seven test trenches and two test pits;
- Production of stratigraphic profiles from seven excavation trenches;
- Locating and recording of two wells;
- A thorough record of main structural features within the fort site;
- Determining the foundation structure of the extant chimney;
- Determining the location of all stockade trenches and the intersection of stockade walls;
- Assessment of possible prehistoric archaeological deposits; and
- A cursory remote sensing survey (proton magnetometer)

  (see Diagram 1, Site Plan 1)

The completion of the above work enabled us to assess and evaluate the archaeological remains at Fort Rupert in order to make recommendations about the feasibility of carrying out future archaeological work at the site to aid in possible site reconstruction and/or interpretation.

Archaeological investigations at the Fort Rupert site were greatly aided by archival research carried out prior to field work. This included careful study of all available documents (e.g., fort journals and fort plans) that described the layout and construction of the fort. As well, a thorough examination of archival (and recent) photographs and other illustrations relating to Fort Rupert was carried out, based on the excellent collections of the Royal British Columbia Museum and British Columbia Provincial Archives. Lastly, additional research was carried out using standard ethnographic and archaeological reference sources for the North Island–Kwagiulth cultural area of coastal B.C.

Once at the site, a very thorough visual ground examina-

Figure 10: View to the west looking downhill over the Fort Rupert site as it looked in 1966. Note the large house on the left. This was the Cadwallader family home after their purchase of the site from the Hunt family, with the Hunt Family Cemetery shown on the right. Of particular interest here is the small white building in the middle of the field. A rock lined water well was found inside this small building and was later confirmed as the original water source inside the fort area. An earlier fresh water source was also found along a poorly drained area just outside the west side of the Stockade (see Figure 11). (B.C. Archives Image (RBCM), PN 7348).

tion was made. This included noting any evidence of historic features (such as depressions, trenches, rock alignments, etc.) that could be seen on the surface of the site. Any natural or man-made ground exposures were also examined.

There are several examples of how information from early journals from the construction of the fort aided in both the archaeological field work and in the interpretation of our findings during the analysis stage of research. These include an account written by Dr. John Helmcken, who arrived at Fort Rupert in 1850, which describes the floor of Charles Beardmore's house as being "covered with a few inches of sea-broken, sea-washed, white clam shells" (Helmcken 1890; see also Judd et al. 1989b: 22). We note here, that our 1989 archaeological excavation work at the site, confirmed the presence of prehistoric shell midden deposits. These deposits were generally shallow in depth (up to 30 cm below surface) and were considered fairly recent, estimated at circa 500 to 1,000 years in age.

A reference from the Fort Rupert post journal tells us that the pickets forming the fort's palisades were *"17 feet clear of the ground, mostly of hemlock and provides the diameter of pickets as well as how deep they were set into the ground"* (Fort Rupert Post Journal 1849-1850, July 21, 1849).

Results of In-Field Archaeological Investigations From 1989

Following the visual site examination, a planometric site plan was produced by surveying the site area. This was accomplished by a two-person crew using a surveyor's level, 200-foot measuring tape and a handheld compass. The site plan also incorporates an earlier plan commissioned by the Fort Rupert Historical Society (see Diagram 2 and Site Plan 2) that includes north-south and east-west oriented baselines, as well as the location of all excavation units, and indicates the locations of extant historic features and structures. The locations of the four stockade walls were determined by measuring out from the centre of the standing chimney (using scaled distances taken from Diagram 1) and confirming these points from the presence of either ground depressions (indicating stockade trench locations), sudden changes in ground contours (e.g., terracing) and, finally, from archaeological profiles observed in the walls of test trenches that bisected stockade trench areas.

Based on our detailed examination of the site surface, together with what could be observed from natural and man-made exposures, it became evident that a number of surface features correspond to structural components of the 1849 fort establishment. This included sections of the four stockade trenches which show up as linear depressions. These were particularly in evidence along a portion of the north-west stockade in the vicinity of the standing chimney and along the southern half of the north-east stockade line (beginning near the road) at the rear stockade line (south-east). Other above ground evidence for the location of the stockades exists along the south-west stockade line on either side of the then present (1988) access road through the site. A pronounced terracing effect can be no-

Figure 11: View of cribbed sump well located just outside the west stockade near the west wall of the Hunt store. This well was likely the earliest fresh water source at Fort Rupert. (B. Simonsen, photo, 1989).

ticed at the point where the south-west stockade separated the interior and exterior areas of the fort locale. The interior side of the stockade line is level but a pronounced drop in elevation occurs on the exterior side. This terracing effect would be expected as a result of the extensive amount of leveling which was carried out at the time of the fort's construction. For example, the July 9 entry in the Fort Rupert post journal mentions "a vast number of Indians at work employed drawing out stumps and leveling the Fort …" and on July 21, 1849 "… making a water closet and the remainder [of labourers] at work banking against the pickets SW side" (Fort Rupert Post Journal 1849-1850).

In fact, today most of the area upon which the fort was constructed appears as a large terraced area that has been built up artificially from the original ground, which tends to slope from east to west in this area. A third historical account of ground preparation within the stockade is provided by Charley Beardmore in correspondence to William Tolmie: "The place outside the fort is also getting cleared … the inside is getting leveled with dirt from the outside" (Fort Rupert Post Journal 1849-1850, July 30, 1849). An additional passage from Beardmore's journal further emphasizes the scale to which the area was artificially constructed: "Inside the fort stood 220 stumps many taking 10 or 15 men 2 days to uproot, then 70 or 80 Indians to run over with a tackle and then 1 quart of powder to blow up" (Fort Rupert Post Journal 1849-1850, July 21, 1849).

Also discovered during our ground reconnaissance was the location of the well that served the fort until a new one could be constructed inside the stockade area. The location of this first well is approximately where it is shown on the 1857 HBC Fort Rupert Plan, but its actual location is directly behind (south of) the south-west corner of the fort at 110 feet south. It is situated in a marshy area and appears to have been fed by a spring. The well is completely lined and floored with large blocks of sandstone and measures three feet in diameter with a depth of three feet (measured from the top course of stones). At one time this well was enclosed by a two by ten-inch lumber casing, and there is evidence of this being covered by a lid (Figure 11).

A second well was discovered later into the project, within the original stockade area. This well, now enclosed inside a modern pump house (Figure 10), is assumed to be the second well dug at the fort. It measures four feet in diameter and is 18 feet deep. Like the first well, this one is also completely lined with sandstone blocks.

An examination of exposed surface areas in the vicinity of the chimney structure and access road cut-bank, revealed a considerable amount of crushed and broken shell fragments similar to what would constitute the matrix of a prehistoric shell midden site. A pure shell matrix was also found exposed in a series of recently dug fence post holes just south of the chimney feature. The nature and origin of this matrix is discussed in the following section of the article (see also Judd et. al. 1989b).

Lastly, it should be noted that two areas of the fort site exhibit surface evidence of what appear to be building outlines–possibly foundations. One such area is around the standing chimney structure where a series of linear depressions can be seen. It is postulated that these features represent the outline or foundations of the Factor's House since they form a rough rectangle around the chimney feature and the size of the rectangular pattern approximates the original dimensions of the Factor's House (at 45 feet x 22 feet) and of the adjacent small provision house (20 feet x 20 feet) as shown in the 1857 Fort Rupert Plan (Diagram 1, Site Plan 1).

A second distinct feature is located in the area just outside of where the SE stockade and bastion would have been situated. Although the 1857 Fort Rupert Plan does not show any structures in this location, the 1863 plan of the fort (not included here) does indicate a picket fence (or similar enclosure) at this location. Subsurface probing with an Oakfield soil probe indicated the ground in this area to be extremely hard and rocky. This may indicate its former use as a paddock or livestock area–either during the HBC occupation of the fort or by subsequent occupants, such as the Hunts or Cadwalladers.

Results of Subsurface Investigations

A total of seven shallow test trenches and two test pits were excavated during the 1989 archaeological investigations at the Fort Rupert site. As has already been noted, a primary objective of these excavations was to verify assumptions made from observations of ground features and original plans of the fort, vis-à-vis the location of specific structural components. Another important objective was to verify the location of the four stockade trenches and to determine whether these contained any remains of pickets or other structural information.

Trench #5 was situated at the east end of the south-east stockade line, while Trench #6 was located nearby at the south end of the north-east stockade. The intersection of the north-east and south-east stockades was the location of the north-east bastion of the fort, and it was hoped that these trenches might yield some evidence of this structure as well as providing verification for the location of the stockade lines. Unfortunately, none of the documentary sources consulted for this project provided any details

Figure 12: Exposed archaeologically excavated quadrat at the location of the Southeast Bastion at Fort Rupert. Note the use of beach cobbles and gravel to create a relatively flat rectangular foundation on which to build the Bastion structure. (B. Simonsen, 1989 photo).

Figure 13: Two fences intersect at the Southwest corner of two stockades. (B. Simonsen photo, 1989).

about the foundations upon which either of Fort Rupert's bastions rested. It could be assumed, however, that each of these structures would have required a solid rock or stone foundation. After stripping off the shallow (up to two inches) sod level in Trenches #5 and #6, a very compact matrix of dark brown sandy soil and rounded cobbles was encountered. Further testing with the Oakfield soil probe indicated that this matrix continued for at least ten inches below the surface. As such, excavation in these trenches was halted at an average depth of four inches. The floor of each trench at this depth consisted of tightly packed and rounded cobbles and very little soil. Two interpretations are offered for the nature of this matrix.

1. The compact cobble surface represents the original foundation work to provide a base for the north-east bastion;
2. The compact cobble ground could be the result of continued grazing and trampling of the area by livestock associated with the Hunt and Cadwallader occupation periods when this land was used for grazing cattle.

In order to explore this area further, a five-foot by five-foot test pit, Test Pit #1, was excavated in the area between Trenches #5 and #6. The selection of this location was based on the presence of a pronounced mound which, upon probing, appeared to be a rock pile or rock formation. The sod level was stripped off and a thin layer of soil removed by trowel. This revealed a large concentration of rounded cobbles, similar to those found in the adjacent test trenches (Figure 12). As the stone feature is situated at the approximate intersection of the north-east and south-east stockades, it is possible that it represents the foundation for the north-east bastion. However, this interpretation must remain inconclusive, pending further archaeological investigations.

Finally, it should be noted that there was ample evidence that Test Trenches #5 and #6 cut across the south-east and north-east stockade line (respectively) as a pronounced linear depression was observed both on the ground (Figure 13) and in trench profiles for both excavation trenches.

Trench #7 was placed across the linear depression feature previously identified as likely representing the front (north-west) stockade of the fort. This trench was situated just west of the standing chimney structure in an area which appeared to have a shell midden matrix directly below the sod level, based on observations made from a series of recent posthole excavations.

Upon removal of the sod, it was confirmed that the southern half of the ten-foot-long trench contained a matrix of pure crushed shell (predominantly barnacle). However, this matrix ended abruptly at the point where the trench intersected the NW stockade line. Upon further excavation, this pattern of matrix deposition was confirmed, and it was also determined that the pure shell fill ended at a uniform depth of nine inches below the surface. The actual thickness of the shell horizon was about six inches.

Figure 14: Artifacts found in the course of the 1989 Fort Rupert archaeological excavation project. The large hinge was found very near where an original access/exit gate through the south stockade wall, suggesting that this item was part of this particular fort entry point.

Our initial assumption–based on ground observations only–regarding the presence of shell matrix at the fort site, was that this represented the remains of a prehistoric shell midden. However, upon reflection, our final interpretation is that this represents shell transported to the fort from outside (probably Shell Island) and which was used to create a clean pavement in this area of the fort. Our reasons for this interpretation are as follows:

- The pure shell nature of the fill;
- The almost pure barnacle composition of the matrix (unlike most shell deposits from shell middens in this area of the coast (see Capes 1964 and Chapman 1982));
- The fact that the shell matrix ends suddenly at the stockade line and does not extend to the area outside the stockade;
- The uniform depth of the shell layer; and
- The fact that this area of the fort represented a high profile area, being the location of the main gates, Chief Factor's house and the main trading store.

It is also noted that other evidence of intentional ground preparation within the fort was uncovered in Trench #2, where a "floor" of pea sized pebbles and crushed shell was observed. A large forged hinge and iron spike were also discovered in the first level excavated (Figure 14). Finally, it should be noted that excavation of Test Trench #7 also yielded quantities of round and squared nails, bits of pottery and china, and a considerable amount of faunal bone (mammal and bird) remains. Some of the bone remains were recovered from the pure shell matrix but the majority of both bone and artifacts came from the sod level or the western (non-shell) half of the trench.

A small diameter (20 inches x 20 inches) test pit, Test Pit #2, was excavated immediately beside the south west corner of the standing chimney feature. This was done in order to determine the nature of the chimney foundation. The chimney structure was built on a shallow foundation of rounded cobbles which only extended out from the chimney base some 12 to 18 inches. The top of the foundation pad was encountered at depth of eight inches below the surface.

Assessment and Evaluation of Archaeological Features

Archaeological and related investigations at the site of Fort Rupert have revealed a number of features and structural remains that, if adequately excavated and documented, could add immeasurably to our current knowledge about this important link with our past.

The most obvious archaeological remains that were located and identified in the course of the 1989 excavations at the site of Fort Rupert, include the following:

- Stockade trenches and construction details;
- The (possible) outline of various structural foundations (Factor's House, provision house, etc.)
- The foundations of the north-east bastion;
- The location of two original wells that that provided a source of potable water for the site;
- Evidence of pavements of stone and shell at different locations within the stockade area;
- Presence of numerous artifacts and faunal bone remains, possibly representing both the occupation period of the fort by the HBC, and the equally important post-HBC period;
- Evidence of ground terracing and other means of leveling the interior of the fort.

All of the above features are now known to be present at the fort site and this knowledge constitutes a valuable body of data and potential archaeological information. We also note that if subjected to a more substantial archaeological excavation program, the site would yield much additional information and structural remains that could be used in a future site reconstruction and interpretation program, including:

- The remains of various structures like ovens, the blacksmith shop, the trading house, the men's house and the officers' house;
- Evidence of the placement of the wharves and coal and wood yards;
- Foundations of other chimneys;
- The location and foundations of the NW bastion; and
- Possible evidence of the use of areas outside the fort for such activities as gardening, animal husbandry, etc.

Conclusions and Recommendations

What can be concluded from this brief and cursory archaeological investigation project? We have shown that the location of the four stockade walls correlates (more or less) with linear trench and terrace-edge features that are observable on the ground. We have also shown that, although there does not appear to be anything remaining of the actual stockade pickets, there is some presence of stockade construction detail (e.g., rockwork for support, stockade trenches, etc.). The project also found evidence

of ground pavements inside the stockade and the location and construction details of the two wells were documented.

There seems to be little evidence of undisturbed prehistoric archaeological shell midden deposits at the site. Although it is possible that the shell-bearing matrix found in Test Trenches #1, #2, #3, #4, and #7, represents disturbed deposits from a pre-HBC occupation period, it seems more likely that this material was imported at the time of the fort's occupation. It is also possible that both of the above scenarios occurred at the site.

Any further archaeological investigations at the Fort Rupert site should investigate fully the above question.

Other tasks and research questions that should be addressed by future work, include:

- A thorough systematic remote sensing survey of the site and surrounding area;
- Final verification, by means of more extensive excavations, of
    - The location of stockade lines;
    - The location and foundations of both bastions; and
    - Examination of all building foundation areas
- Examination of the contents and construction details of both wells;
- Verification of the surface treatment of the interior of the fort; and
- Detailed examination of the area outside the NW stockade for evidence of wharves and coal and wood yards.

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Carol Judd

A now-retired historian who focused on fur trade history, Carol Judd began her career in Toronto as historian-editor for the Dictionary of Canadian Biography. She then spent several years with the federal government researching and interpreting fur trade history. Finally, she worked for many years as a fur trade history consultant to the federal government as well as both the Ontario and British Columbia provincial governments. Throughout her adult life Carol has also enjoyed running, swimming and bicycling, including twice bicycling across Canada.

Bjorn Simonsen

Bjorn Simonsen has been involved in cultural resources management projects for over 50 years, beginning in the early 1960s while an Anthropology Grad Student at UBC and UVic. In the course of his career he has been involved in numerous museum and heritage site development studies throughout B.C., the north and nationally. Bjorn was appointed as B.C.s first Provincial Archaeologist in 1971, a position held for 10 years, prior to becoming a Victoria based Cultural Heritage Consultant, where he is now retired. He is a well known and respected heritage professional whose focus over the past 50 years has been in archaeology, Indigenous heritage management and local museum development.

Tree Burials at Tsaxis

by Quentin Mackie

"Arriving for a tree burial by canoe, in British Columbia, a traditional Indian ceremony", c. 1920. Watercolour by Joanna Simpson Wilson.

(originally posted to Northwest Coast Archaeology on qmackie.com, 24 Jan 2010)

One of the most distinctive burial methods on the Northwest Coast was the creation of platforms in trees, on which coffins would be placed. While the practice is commonly recorded and discussed in the Anthropological literature, photographs of tree "burials" are rare — and even if they were not, then reproduction of these images might well be problematic.

I recently ran across the image above by the little-known Canadian author Joanna Simpson Wilson (1896-1987), which shows numerous bentwood boxes attached to trees as a throng of mourners gathers below. The platforms are rather insubstantial and the coffins are stacked several-high in places, with red cloth attached — perhaps the remains of blankets. After a number of years, the boxes would deteriorate and the remains of the body would fall from the tree. At this time, a secondary burial at a village site cemetery or other place might be performed. I have seen the remains of several tree burials in the field, with human remains scattered beneath the branches of a large spruce — looking up, there are large branches with ring-like pathologies where the bark grew around rope, and other evidence of cultural modification. Archaeologically, there is a trend over the long term along the coast for inhumation of human remains to give way to sky burials or mortuary houses.

According to the site firstnations.eu, the setting of the painting is the Kwakwaka'wakw village of Tsaxis (near Fort Rupert / Port Hardy on Vancouver Island), specifically a place called Storey Beach.

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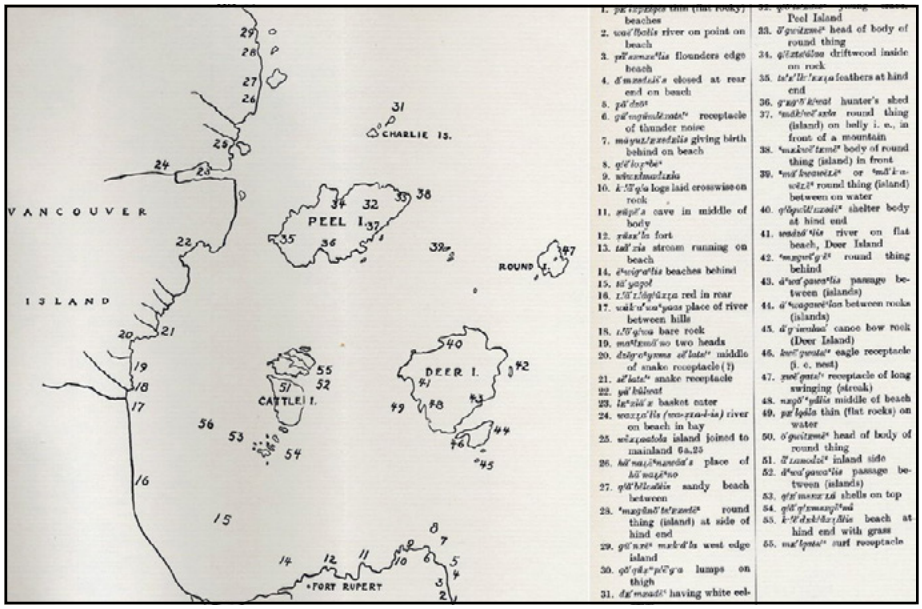

Figure 1: Boas 1934: Geographical Names of the Kwakiutl Indians. Strangely, Tsaxis (#13) is not plotted on the map.

Managing the Loss of Cultural Heritage in the Face of Climate Change

by Erin Willows and Matt Begg

(originally published under 'Dig It' column in Kamloops This Week, 16 Oct 2019)

From unpredictable weather, changing coastlines, and wildfires, we're experiencing challenges that recent generations have not faced before. Archaeology is not immune to these changes, and as archaeologists, we're discovering many occurrences where archaeological sites are being affected by climate change.

Past Dig It columns have reviewed melting glaciers in alpine environments, and how archaeological sites, often with well-preserved bone and wood tools, are being uncovered, or, how archaeologists and Indigenous communities are surveying and assessing the impact of wildfires on archaeological sites.

These valuable studies are ongoing, but it's proving difficult to keep up with the rapid changes to our landscapes. A broader, more cohesive approach to managing the effects of climate change to archaeological sites has not yet been developed, but is necessary, likely, as we observe increasingly rapid changes.

Earlier this year, Parks Canada hosted a workshop to advance the understanding of climate impacts to cultural resources in B.C. and how the archaeological industry is or should adapt to the changes. The key questions identified during the workshop were: how are archaeological sites impacted by climate change? What are some of the impacts we are seeing, now? What kind of impacts are we likely to see more of? What are some of the responsive actions we are seeing, already? What are other actions we should be taking?

There was no disagreement that climate change is affecting archaeological sites, instead the conversation focused on the different types of impacts we are seeing in different parts of the province: storm surges on the coast, melting permafrost in the north, and melting glaciers and wildfires throughout B.C. Here in Kamloops, we have seen the effects of widespread wildfires over the past few years, Gwaii Haanas was hit by severe storms this past winter causing coastal shell middens to erode at an

increased rate, and permafrost is melting at an accelerated rate in northern B.C., exposing sites and making them vulnerable to degradation.

What kind of actions are we seeing? These are mostly reactive as we try and respond, but the problem can seem overwhelming when we see the rate at which these impacts are occurring.

The effects of wildfires on archaeological sites are being managed through Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) of recently-burned landscapes. Archaeologists and First Nations that are leading these AIAs are finding a high volume of archaeological sites on exposed, burned ground surfaces created by the fires. These studies are ongoing.

The effects of storm surges on archaeological sites located along coastlines are managed by a similar, reactive process. The process requires that these sites are known and can be monitored, but given the wide, rugged span of coastline, this might be an insurmountable task.

What we're learning from the reactive response to climate change, is that the increasingly rapid rate of change requires us to prioritize what landscapes we inspect, and what sites we plan to manage, first.

Who makes these decisions, and how do we go about prioritizing the necessary studies?

We don't have answers to these questions, but it's an important dialogue to have. It would be great if we could say "x-many" sites were lost while you read this article to put things in perspective, and provide some solid numbers, but, unfortunately, nobody actually knows.

Indigenous groups, regulatory agencies, educational facilities, the consulting world, and the broader communities should play an important role in how these decisions are made. The first step is developing a strategy on how these sites will be prioritized. Other than halting human-caused climate change, the next step is developing strategies to collect data before destroyed, and protect/preserve where possible and practical.

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