

**THE GLASS SITE AgHb-5 OXBOW TRACT,
BRANTFORD TOWNSHIP, BRANT COUNTY, ONTARIO**

DAVID M. STOTHERS

ABSTRACT

The Glass Site represents a component of the earliest phase of the Grand River focus of the Princess Point Complex. This site represents a previously unknown and undefined archaeological manifestation centered in southwestern Ontario. The Princess Point Complex appears to be an early Late Woodland manifestation characterized by ceramics decorated by cord-wrapped stick impressed designs on the rims; large circular, exterior punctates around the neck; and globular cord-roughened bodies with semi-conical bases. The earliest known remains of maize in Ontario have been found on several Princess Point Complex components.

INTRODUCTION

During April 1971 the author visited Mr. George W. Marshall, R. R. 7, Brantford. Mr. Marshall lives in Cainsville, on the southeast side of the 'Oxbow' in the Grand River. While visiting, the author was kindly permitted to study, analyze, record, and photograph material recovered from an eroding riverbank midden on the property of Mr. Reginald Glass, R. R. 7, Brantford. Accordingly the site has been named after Mr. Glass and has been recorded in the files of the National Museum of Canada. The site has been assigned the Borden number AgHb-5.

THE SITE AREA

This site is located along the western bank of the Grand River, within the oxbow of the river, at 80°12'E, 43°8'30"N on the Brantford 40 P/1 East^{1/2} topographic map. The site area is composed of clay-silt floodplain, deposited by repeated or reoccurring flooding of the Grand River. The terrain within the oxbow is flat and lower in elevation than the surrounding topography. The eroding riverbank midden produced not only the material described in this report, but large amounts of ash and fire-cracked rock.

DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF ARTIFACTUAL MATERIAL

RIMSHERDS

Thirty-five rimsherds representing 26 vessels were recovered and analyzed. The following is a listing of attributes for each of the rimsherds. Rimsherd Attribute Code: OB.—oblique; HOR—horizontal; CWS—cord-wrapped stick; R.—round; EP—exterior punctate; IB—interior boss; NEB—no exterior boss; ENC.—encircling; C.I.—cord impressed; V.—verticals; P.—plain; C.R.—cord roughened; In.—incised; Sm.—smooth.

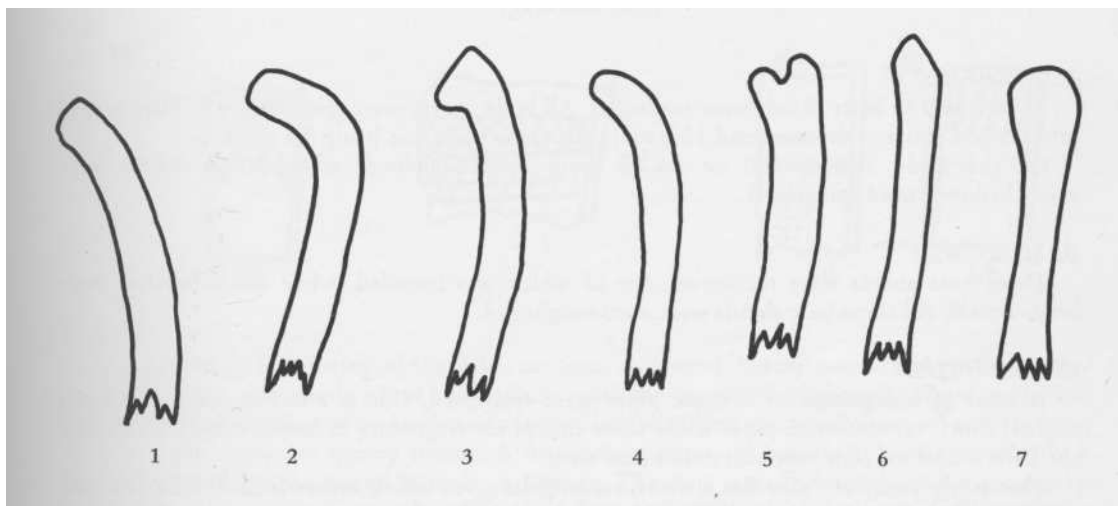
Rimsherd No.	Exterior Motif Technique	Interior Motif Technique	Lip Motif Technique		Castellation Shape	Punct. - Boss
1	2 rows OB. CWS above HOR.	3 rows of OB. CWS	OB.	CWS	R.	EP-IB
2	OB. above HOR.	OB. CWS	OB.	CWS	R.	-----

Rimsherd No.	Exterior Motif Technique	Interior Motif Technique	Lip Motif Technique	Castellation Shape	Punct. - Boss			
3	OB. above HOR.	CWS	OB.	CWS	2 encl. lines	C.I.	-----	EP-IB
4	HOR. above V. plats	CWS	OB.	CWS	P.	C.R.	-----	IP-NEB
5	OB. above HOR.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	EP-IB
6	OB. above HOR.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	EP-IB
7	OB. above HOR.	CWS	2 rows OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	EP-IB
8	HOR.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	EP-IB
9	OB. above HOR.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	-----
10	OB. above HOR.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	EP-IB
11	OB. above HOR.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	EP-IB
12	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	EP-IB
13	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	-----
14	V.	In.	P.	Sm.	P.	Sm.	-----	EP-IB
15	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	R.	-----
16	HOR.	CWS	P.	Sm.	P.	Sm.	-----	-----
17	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	EP-IB
18	OB. above HOR.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	EP-IB
19	OB.	CWS	P.	Sm.	OB.	CWS	-----	-----
20	OB.	CWS	P.	Sm.	OB.	CWS	-----	-----
21	OB. above HOR.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	EP-IB
22	OB. above HOR.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	EP-IB
23	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	-----
24	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	-----
25	OB. above HOR.	CWS	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	-----	EP-NIB
26	OB.	CWS	OB.	CWS	P.	C.R.	-----	EP-IB

Large circular punctates are present on 18/26 (69.2%) of the vessels. All of the punctates are located on the neck and all are exterior punctates with the exception of 1/18 (5.5%) which is an interior punctate. The interior punctate did not produce an exterior boss or node while all the exterior punctates with the exception of one (1/17; 5.2%) produced interior bosses or nodes.

The punctates range in diameter between 2.0 and 5.0 mm., having a mean diameter of 3.7 mm. The punctates are spaced between 9.0 and 20.0 mm. apart, the mean distance of separation being 13.9 mm. The punctates are placed between 6.0 mm. and 24.0 mm. below the lip, the mean distance below the lip being 16.3 mm.

Rimsherid lip thicknesses range from 5.0 mm. to 11.0 mm., the mean thickness being 7.5 mm. The sample contained 7 rimsherid profile varieties (see below). Of these various profiles, 13 (50.0%) were of variety 1; 5 (19.23%) of variety 2; 2 (7.6%) of variety 3; 3 (11.5%) of variety 4; and 1 (3.8%) each of varieties 5, 6 and 7.



RIM PROFILES

All but one (96.2%) of the rimsherds displayed the exterior motif executed over an underlying cord-roughened surface. The single exception had a smooth surface.

Three (11.5%) of the rimsherds displayed simple rounded castellations as a decorative motif along the lip.

Thirteen (50.0%) of the rimsherds are decorated with obliques above horizontals as a motif; 9 (34.6%) are decorated with obliques only; 3 (11.5%) are decorated with one or more horizontals only; while only one of the rimsherds displays a motif of incised verticals.

Of these 26 vessels, 25 are decorated with cord-wrapped stick impressed designs (96.2%) applied over an underlying cord-roughened surface.

NECKSHERDS

A total of 27 necksherds were recovered. All of these necksherds had the design or motif executed over a cord-roughened or smoothed-over cord-roughened surface.

The following is a list of the motifs and corresponding techniques recorded for the analyzed necksherds.

The following is a list of the motifs and corresponding techniques recorded for the analyzed necksherds.

Motif	Technique	No	Percent
Horizontals	cord-wrapped stick	16	59.3
Vertical plats	cord-wrapped stick	6	22.2
Horizontals above plats	cord-wrapped stick	3	11.1
Horizontals	push-pull (stab and drag)	2	7.4

BODYSHERDS

A total of 190 body sherds were recovered. All body sherds were grit tempered. They ranged in thickness between 6.0 mm. and 15.0 mm., the mean thickness being 8.5 mm.

Of the body sherds, 160 or 84.2% were cord-roughened, while 30 or 15.8% were smoothed-over cord-roughened.

BASE SHERDS

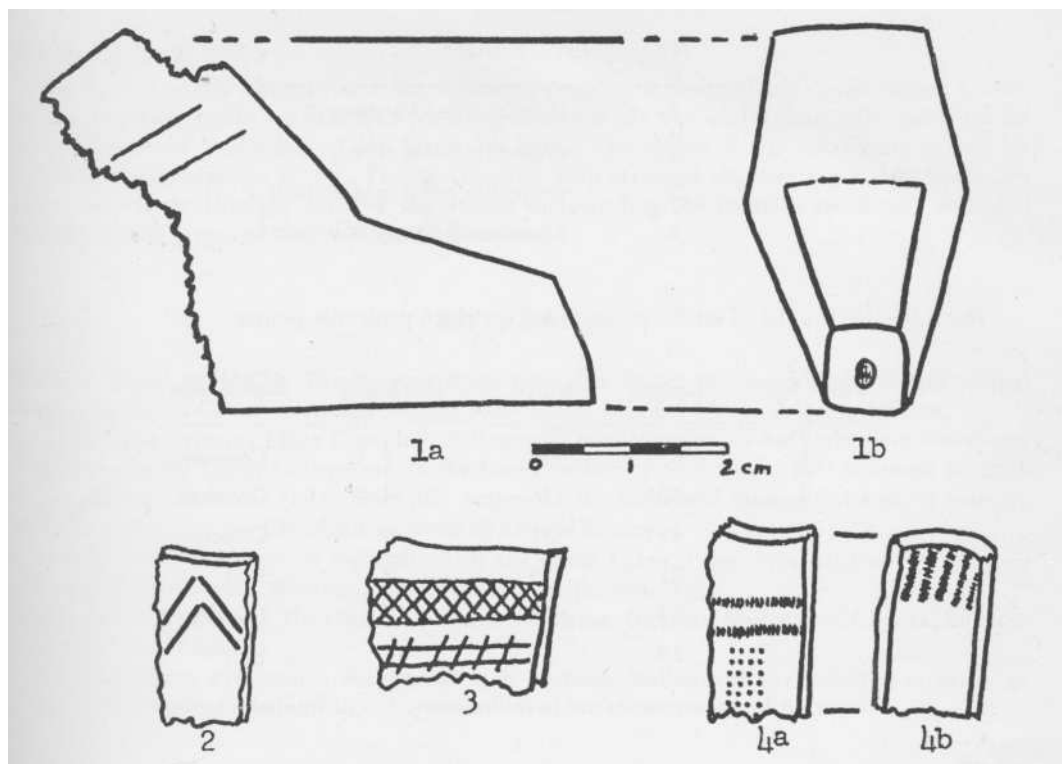
Three base sherds were recovered, one of which was rounded, while the other two were semi-conical. All three base sherds were cord-roughened.

CERAMIC PIPES

A total of 5 segments of ceramic pipes were recovered. One is a nearly complete obtuse angled, short, tapered stem pipe, while three others are fragments of barrel shaped bowls, and the fifth is a short, plain smooth, round pipe stem.

The nearly complete pipe has a short, rectangular stem which tapers from the bowl to the stem bit. The elbow of the pipe (fig. 1b) is obtuse, the bowl meeting the stem at a 140 degree angle. The stem and bowl of this pipe are both plain and smooth with the exception of two crudely incised lines on the bowl horizontal to the lip.

Of the three pipe bowls, two are decorated with incised motifs (figs. 2, 3), while the other is decorated with cord-wrapped stick impressions and dentate stamp (or pointille) (figs. 4a, 4b). One of the incised pipe bowls (fig. 2), displays a motif consisting of two parallel lines forming a zig-zag pattern around the exterior. The other (fig. 3) incised bowl fragment is decorated with two parallel horizontal bands, the superior one consisting of a filled criss-cross motif, while the inferior one is a horizontal 'ladder' motif. The third pipe bowl (fig. 4a, 4b) is decorated on the exterior with two horizontal bands executed in cord-wrapped stick. These corded horizontals are above vertical plats of dentate stamp or pointille. The interior of this same pipe bowl is decorated with cord-wrapped stick obliques.



LITHICS

The following is a listing of the lithic artifacts recovered. Much fire-cracked rock was also present but was not saved. All of the artifacts, with the exception of the celts, the ovate biface and projectile point No. 6 were fashioned of grey-blue Bois Blanc chert and appeared to have been derived from a primary quarry source. A few such quarries are known to have existed only a few miles south on the Grand River near Cayuga. The celts were fashioned from a green-grey gabbro and were polished smooth, while the biface and projectile point were fashioned of a poorer quality grey-white Ancaster chert, derived from the Ancaster formation in the nearby Niagara escarpment.

The remainder of the artifacts were as follows:

No.	Artifact
2	random block cores
1	bifacial core
18	core and shatter fragments
1	ovate biface
2	cabro celts
ca. 200	flakes
1	retouched spokeshave flake
1	flake side-scraper
1	unifacial flake drill

No.	Artifact
3	thumbnail end-scraper
2	projectile point tips
2	projectile point midsections
6	Levanna-like projectile points

The following is a list of attributes recorded for the 6 projectile points:

Point No.	Length	Width	Thickness	Base Shape
1	57*	47	4	Concave
2	40*	36	4	Concave
3	47*	31	6	Concave
4	21	19	3	Flat
5	37	24	4	Concave
6	19	15	4	Flat

Note: All measurements are in millimeters. * — estimated length.

BONE

Faunal material included substantial amounts of deer, rabbit, fox, other small mammals, and fish, and clam. Only 7 bone artifacts were recovered. These included:

- 4 antler tines (possible flakers)
- 2 antler tine punches or drifts
- 1 conical antler tine projectile point (39 mm. long, 15 mm. wide)

CONCLUSIONS

The Glass site represents a component of the earliest phase of the Grand River focus of the Princess Point Complex (Stothers 1971, 1972; Wright 1972) (see map 1). The people who inhabited the Glass site were probably a small band of wandering hunters and gatherers, who moved periodically to exploit seasonably variable resources of the natural environment. Although no agricultural remains (or floral remains of any sort) were recovered, the Princess Point people are known to have been cultivating maize (Stothers 1971, 1972, 1973) —probably on a developmental-experimental base at other riverine flood plain sites further south on the Grand River and near the western end of Lake Ontario.

Maize agriculture became ever more prevalent through time and by the terminal phase of the Grand River focus of the Princess Point Complex large amounts of maize were being cultivated. Social groups were becoming sedentary and living in permanent palisaded villages containing incipient longhouses. These later sites show a shift away from the riverine floodplains to the well-drained sandy hills further inland. An example of such a late phase agricultural village site, is the Porteous site located about 3/4 mile inland on the summit of a well-drained sandy hill.

The Princess Point Complex developed into Glen Meyer (Stothers 1972; Wright 1966, 1972) as a settlement-subsistence shift slowly took place in a westward direction into the Norfolk sand plains—a region more amenable to maize agriculture.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank the following people for their aid and co-operation. To Mr. George Marshall thanks are extended for being able to study and analyze the collection, and for being offered the hospitality of Mr. Marshall's home. The author would also like to extend his thanks and appreciation to Mr. Thomas Kenyon who arranged the meeting at Mr. Marshall's home. Mr. Scott Horvath assisted the author in recording the ceramic attributes, and Miss Therese Neuser prepared the excellent illustrations.

REFERENCES

- Stothers, David M. (1971) The Princess Point Complex. Paper presented at the fourth annual meeting of the Canadian Archaeological Association. Mimeo, 15 pp. Calgary, Alberta. (1972) The Princess Point Complex. A Regional Manifestation of an Early Late Woodland Horizon in the Great Lakes Area. In the Late Pre-History of the Lake Erie Drainage Basin: a symposium. D. Brose (ed.). Scientific papers of the Cleveland museum of natural history. To be printed by the Cleveland museum of natural history.
(1973) Early Evidence of Agriculture in the Great Lakes. Paper Presented at the Iroquois Research Conference. Mimeo, 19 p.p. Rensselaerville, New York.
- Wright, James V. (1966) The Ontario Iroquois Tradition. National Museum of Canada, Bulletin 210. Ottawa, Canada.
(1972) Ontario Prehistory: An 11,000 year Outline. Bulletin of the national museum of Canada. Ottawa, Canada.

